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### Special Programs for Martin Luther King Day

By [Deborah Hornblow](#)



East Hartford storyteller and museum interpreter Tammy Denease portrays a slave who earns her freedom in Old Sturbridge Village's "The Mumpet Story." Credit Old Sturbridge Village

#### **One Slave's Story at Sturbridge Village**

To honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Old Sturbridge Village in Sturbridge, Mass., presents *Honoring a Slave Heroine: The 'Mumbet Story'* featuring East Hartford-based storyteller and museum educator Tammy Denease. The *Mumbet* performance is based on

the true story of Elizabeth "Mumbet" Freeman, a young woman who was a slave for 30 years before hiring a lawyer and winning her freedom in court in 1781. Storyteller Denease grew up in Mississippi listening to stories told by her great-grandmother, a former slave who lived to the age of 125. "It's amazing to me that living now, nearly 150 years after the Emancipation Proclamation that, I personally knew – and loved dearly – someone who survived slavery," Denease says. "I draw on my great-grandmother's own life story for inspiration when portraying Mumbet." In addition to the *Mumbet* story, Old Sturbridge Village also presents a portrayal of famous suffragist and anti-slavery orator Abby Kelley Foster, whose Worcester, Mass., farm became a stop on the Underground Railroad.

*Old Sturbridge Village is open year-round, but hours vary seasonally. The museum is at 1 Sturbridge Village Road, Sturbridge, Mass. For more information and directions, visit [www.osv.org](http://www.osv.org) or call 800-SEE-1830.*