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Professor Annette Gordon-Reed to Give Lectures on The Hemings Family of Monticello in Madison and Milwaukee This October

Madison, Wis. – The Wisconsin Historical Society (Society), the Center for the Study of the American Constitution at the University of Wisconsin – Madison (CASC) and University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee Libraries are pleased to welcome Professor Annette Gordon-Reed as the speaker for the 2017 James Madison Lecture Series.

“Drawing upon her legal training and deft storytelling, Professor Gordon Reed’s historical studies of Thomas Jefferson have garnered the respect of both scholars and serious readers of history,” commented Matt Blessing, director of the Wisconsin Historical Society library, archives and museum collections.

Gordon- Reed who re-framed our understanding of the relationship between Thomas Jefferson and the enslaved Sally Hemings in her 2008 book “The Hemings Family of Monticello” has been called one of the most astute, insightful, and honest historians of this generation. She will offer her thoughts on this important American family.

She will present the same lecture twice, once in Madison and once in Milwaukee; both are free and open to the public. Tickets can also be purchased for post lecture events.

In Madison, the free lecture will take place on Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2017 at the Wisconsin Historical Society auditorium from 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm. Guests may also purchase tickets to take a bus tour to Forest Hill Cemetery to see Eston Hemings Jefferson’s grave and enjoy a private reception back at the Society afterwards.

In Milwaukee, the free lecture will take place on Thursday, Oct. 12, 2017 at the Helene Zelazo Center for the Performing Arts in the Helen Bader Concert Hall at UW- Milwaukee from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm. Guests can purchase tickets to attend a private reception and dinner after the public lecture.

Space is limited for the ticketed private receptions; purchasing tickets in advance is recommended. For registration and more information, wihist.org/jmlectures2017.

Dr. Annette Gordon-Reed is the Charles Warren Professor of American Legal History at Harvard Law School. She won the Pulitzer Prize in History in 2009 for “The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family” (W.W. Norton, 2009). Her most recently published book (with Peter S. Onuf) is “Most Blessed of the Patriarchs’: Thomas Jefferson and the Empire of the Imagination” (Liveright Publishing, 2016). Her honors include a fellowship from the Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Scholars and

Writers at the New York Public Library, a Guggenheim Fellowship in the humanities, a MacArthur Fellowship, the National Humanities Medal, the National Book Award and the Woman of Power & Influence Award from the National Organization for Women in New York City.

The James Madison Lecture is an annual lecture series on early American history co-presented by the Wisconsin Historical Society and the Center for the Study of the American Constitution at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. The Lectures honor the scholarly work of Dr. Merrill Jensen (1905-1980), an influential scholar of the American Revolution, beloved mentor and longtime faculty member of the University of Wisconsin Department of History. Funding for the Lectures is provided by the James Madison Lectures endowment which has been made possible by a generous bequest from the Estate of John A. Peters and many private donors.

About Wisconsin Historical Society

The Wisconsin Historical Society, founded in 1846, ranks as one of the largest, most active and most diversified state historical societies in the nation. As both a state agency and a private membership organization, its mission is to help people connect to the past by collecting, preserving and sharing stories. The Wisconsin Historical Society serves millions of people every year through a wide range of sites, programs and services. For more information, visit wisconsinhistory.org.

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