

Belva's Museum Artifacts

The news articles about
Frederick & African American History

Frederick Events

Dr. Ulysses Bourne

Dear Old Faithful Lincoln

African American History in Frederick

Civil War Era in Frederick

Black Cowboys

Fort Frederick Colored School

Julius Pickney

April 2020

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African American Community Calendar
Updated March 7, 2019

(Includes only activities in Frederick, MD and nearby areas that are open to the public)

(This calendar is a community service project of the Negro Business & Professional Women's Frederick Club)

(If you wish your group's public event/activity added to this African American Community Calendar, send to rodoch@aol.com. Also please email any corrections!

2020

MARCH

- 14** **“Paint Party: Study, Share, Serve”** - Buckeystown Woman's Ministry Fundraiser. Bernard Brown Community Building. Time: 1-4pm. \$35.00 (cash only) Includes: paint supplies, refreshments, fellowship and FUN! No experience necessary! Bring your mommas, daughters, sisters aunties and cousins! Space is limited so reserve your spot. Please call 240-674-6926. **SOLD OUT!**
- 14** **“Unveiling: Facial Reconstructions of Two Enslaved Africans”** - Delaplaine Center in Frederick by Catoctin Furnace Historical Society. 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM. General Admission (includes 1 year membership in CFHS): \$50. Current CFHS and AARCH Members: \$25. Tickets available on Eventbrite.
- 15** **“Jazz with Strings Attached Focus”** - New Spire Stages, 15 W Patrick St. 2 pm. \$32. <https://newspirearts.org/events/>
- 15** **“Women's Day”** - Wayman AME Church. "My Secret Garden". 10:00am Preacher: Rev. Sakima Romero-Chandler, Wayman AME; 3:00pm Preacher: Pastor C. Michele Langston, Mount Pisgah AME Church. Fellowship Meal 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm. Everyone is welcome: Women, Men and Youth! For more information, call Ernestine Boyd: 301-304-2089
- 19** **“Race Relations Conversation”** – Asbury & All Saints Episcopal Churches invites the community to join them. The format includes a short video followed by discussion. 7 pm at Asbury UMC.
- 21** **“Spring Into Wellness Health Fair”** – Strong Tower Christian Church, 467 W. Patrick St. 10 am – 3 pm. Free health screenings, vendors, food & fitness demos. Health talks, door prizes, giveaways. Free admission. Contact Daphnie Freeman at 301-693-8200
- 21** **“Author Event: 10 Weeks on Jonathan Street”** - In her fifth book, Bowman presents a wealth of hidden stories that begin to re-write the history of Washington County. Bowman is a member of Maryland's Commission on African American history and culture. Her publications document the underrepresented history of Western Maryland's Black communities. Co-sponsored by Frederick County Libraries & AARCH. 2:00pm to 3:00pm. C. Burr Artz Library:
- 28** **“GARBO 40th Anniversary Spring Ball”** - Urbana Volunteer Fire Department Banquet Hall, 3602 Urbana Pike, Frederick, MD. Featuring D.J. Donnie Young Cost: \$50; Open Bar and Dinner. Raffle: 50/25/25 ---- Dress is Semi- Formal Attire – For tickets, see any GARBO member.
- 28** **Honoring Women Trailblazer Award Dinner”** – 6-9 pm. C. Burr Artz Library. Contact: 2020forwomen@unescocenterforpeace.org/www.unescocenterforpeace
- 28** **“Fearless Conversations with a Limitless God - Faith Reigns”** Treasures of the Heart Worship Center Women's Ministry presents award winning author, life coach, speaker and friend, Dr. Veirdre Jackson from Living Strong Consulting, LLC of Philadelphia, PA. Fearless Conversations will bless women from near and far with an open, safe space to share and fellowship with women at different places in their journey; all while seeking an opportunity to grow, connect and heal. Light lunch will be provided. Cost: early bird rate \$25 until March 7, \$35 after. Registration required.

APRIL

- 4** **“Dinner and a Sermon in Song”** – Featuring The Spiritual Harmonizers. Dinner: 1 pm. Hopehill UMC, 7647 Fingerboard Road, Frederick. Dinner will be at 1 p.m. Adults \$25, Youth 11 & under \$10. Concert will follow at 3 p.m. Contact Sis. Christy Miles at 301-305-6864
- 4 & 5** **“National Black Memorabilia, Fine Art & Crafts Show & Sale”** - Montgomery County Fairgrounds, 501 Perry Parkway, in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Show hours are Saturday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$7 and all students are admitted free. The show is indoors. There will be many vendors, educational exhibits, book signings, and celebrity autograph sessions. Celebrity autograph sessions guest include Tuskegee Airman General Charles E. McGee, Darius McCrary (Eddie Winslow) and Kellie Shanygne Williams (Laura Lee Winslow) who starred in the long-running popular TV series "FAMILY MATTERS", Fred "The Hammer" Williamson, the movie/TV actor, director, writer and producer who starred in the movie "Black Caesar", and Negro League Baseball Players. Educational exhibits include Slavery Artifacts, Jim Crow, Buffalo Soldiers, Marcus Garvey, Black Panther Party, Malcolm X, George Washington Carver, Negro League Baseball, Nannie Helen Burroughs, Frederick Douglass, Hip-Hop and others. This is an educational event on 400 Years of African American History and Culture. For additional information call (301) 649-1915 or view www.johnsonshows.com or wwwfacebook.com/.blackmemorabiliashow
- 16** **“Race Relations Conversation”** – Asbury & All Saints Episcopal Churches invites the community to join them. The format includes a short video followed by discussion. 7 pm at Asbury UMC.
- 18** **“Clean & Classy Back in the Day Old School Jam”** – Frederick’s Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. 7 pm -11 pm at the Urbana Volunteer Firehouse Banquet Hall located at 3602 Urbana Pike 21704. There will be a buffet, a item raffle and a 50/50 raffle and of course good music. This is a BYOB event. Guest should come dressed in their favorite decade. Tickets are 35.00 and can be purchased on Eventbrite or through a member. Any questions can be sent to erik.jones@hotmail.com.
- 18** **“Informational Membership Meeting”** – Invitation from Beta Alpha Sigma Zeta Chapter of Frederick County MD, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc to all women who are interested in Finer Womanhood. 1:30 PM; C. Burr Artz Library, 110 E. Patrick Street. Attire: Business. **RSVP: By April 11, 2020.** sbelcher1920@gmail.com. Resume Required
- 20 & 21** **“Frederick Speaks Presents Wes Moore”** - Moore is currently touring the country to promote his latest work, "*Five Days: The Fiery Reckoning of an American City*," a kaleidoscopic account of five days in the life of a city on the edge, told through eight characters on the frontlines of the protests that overtook Baltimore after the death of Freddie Gray. 4/20: 7:00 PM. at the Weinberg Center for the Arts. 4/21: 11:15 AM at the Jack B. Kussmaul Theater at Frederick Community College Sponsored by Frederick County Libraries. *Tickets are free, but required.*
- 26** **“Spring Jubilee”** – Sunnyside New Life Community Church. Musical guests. 3 pm. Benefit: building restoration fund. Contacts: Jeff Thompson, 301-639-3925 or Roxanne Lee, 443-500-3804.

MAY

- 16 **“5th Annual Evening of Elegance”** – Theme” “Taking off the Mask”. EmPowerment Consulting Services. An empowering event designed for all women. It will nourish your mind, body, and soul in a spirit-filled, uplifting atmosphere. It is a night to let your hair down and experience first class treatment. You will savour the taste of fine dining, and be inspired, and energized through entertainment, activities, and more **as we** celebrate the worth, the value, and the importance of you. 7:00 - 11:00 PM; PB Dye Golf Club, 9526 Dr Perry Rd, Ijamsville, MD 21754. Early bird rate: \$68, until Monday, March 8. Register at <https://www.empowermentcsllc.com/events-1/evening-of-elegance-2020-1>
- 16 **“Queen Esther” Sight & Sound Theater Trip**” - The Frederick County Alumnae Chapter (FCAC) of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. \$107.80 for bus and ticket. **The reservation and cancellation deadline is April 1st.** Payment can be made by mailing a check to the chapter or submitting payment electronically via PayPal. Friends, family, and community members are all welcome to attend. An additional PayPal fee will be charged for purchases made with PayPal. PayPal fees are non-refundable. Cost includes round-trip bus transportation and play ticket ONLY. Trip itinerary includes departure from Frederick, MD at 2pm, dinner in Lancaster, PA at Good and Plenty restaurant, play at 7 pm, and return to Frederick, MD 10:30-11pm. Reservations must be made at Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dstfcac-presents-a-sight-and-sound-theater-event-queen-esther-registration-80114932921>. Payments mailed to FCAC should be sent to: P.O. Box 1234, Frederick, MD 21702. All payments must be received by April 1st. FCAC PayPal can be accessed from the FCAC website (<https://www.dstfcacmd.org/>) or from Eventbrite. Additional details are available at Eventbrite. Contact FCAC with questions at memserv.fcacmd@gmail.com
- 17 **“Believing in the Cure Gospel Celebration”** – Faith Striders. Trinity United Methodist Church located at 703 West Patrick St., Frederick, MD 21703. The program will begin at 3pm. It will consist of soloist, choirs, praise teams and dance teams rendering praise and worship unto God. Those in attendance who have been touched by cancer will receive a special token on behalf of the Faith Striders.
- 17 **“Women’s Day Service”** – Asbury UMC. 10:00 am service. Dinner served following service,
- 21 **“Race Relations Conversation”** – Asbury & All Saints Episcopal Churches invites the community to join them. The format includes a short video followed by discussion. 7 pm at Asbury UMC.

JUNE

- 18 **“Race Relations Conversation”** – Asbury & All Saints Episcopal Churches invites the community to join them. The format includes a short video followed by discussion. 7 pm at Asbury UMC.
- 20 **“Asbury Block Party”** – Info TBA
- 29 **“Monday Night Motivation”** - Donna Scott Ministries. 6:30 PM (EDT). **Dutch's Daughters**, 581 Himes Avenue, Frederick, MD 21703. Empowerment For Every Woman! Every Woman is invited to join us on 5th Mondays for Monday Night Motivation! Speaker: Theresa Cooper. Register at MNM.EVENTBRITE.COM

JULY

- 18 **“JHU Uptown Reunion”** - Ballenger Creek Park Building at 5420, Ballenger Creek Pike, Frederick MD. We welcome all donations to assist with covering the expenses for food, drinks, and entertainment. Please contact Rhonda Jackson, (301) 471-1759 or Maria Boffman, (240) 620-5791. To volunteer your help or to ask questions

AUGUST

Thank you Rose

Blacks establish hospital in 1919

(Continued from Page A-1)

or eggs. Bourne was interested in "getting good health care for people who had been stigmatized in study after study," said Nickens, and therefore sought to establish the black hospital with Brooks. Even after Frederick Memorial began to accept black patients, black doctors were not allowed to practice at the hospital, Nickens said. "They had to turn the patient over to a white doctor." Yet with such obstacles, "you didn't see an angry, militant man who let this destroy his life," said Bourne's daughter. In fact, Bourne's patients reflected

Frederick's population and were predominantly white, she said, recalling that patients both black and white sat together in the waiting room at her father's office at 30 W. All Saints St. Nickens noted that the "emergency" hospital, a building behind the Montevue Home on Rosemont Avenue that will soon be occupied by the county extension service, served as a hospital for blacks beginning in the early to mid-1930s. The black community subsequently raised \$25,000 to help build the Baker wing at Frederick Memorial for black patients, he said, but even after the "black" section of the hospital was constructed, black maternity cases were directed to the facility at Montevue.



LORD NICKENS



DR. BLANCHE BOURNE



NORINE GOE



Staff photo by David Rice

The Elks Club building on West All Saints Street served as a black

EDITOR'S NOTE — Local organizations are now planning the following observances of Black History Month:

- The Mount Olive Baptist Church youth group will conduct a service at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23.
 - Winners in a black history essay contest for sixth-to eight-graders at New Market Middle School will be greeted at a 1 p.m. reception on Feb. 27.
 - A religious dance group from Coppin State College will conduct two performances, at 1 p.m. and 2 p.m., on Feb. 28 at New Market Middle School.
 - Frederick City will proclaim Black History Month this week in a brief ceremony at Asbury United Methodist Church.
 - A black history display will soon be erected at the Frederick Community Center, complete with writings, pictures, and biographical sketches important in black history.
- Other groups planning to observe Black History Month should contact the

The Frederick News-Post
We've Got Frederick
Written All Over Us

In the world of white medicine, blacks began their own hospital

By DAVID RICE
News-Post Staff

Third in a series

FREDERICK — The year is 1918. You're "colored," as they say, and you don't know why your two-year-old has a fever and can't keep food down. Where do you take your child?

Here in Frederick, there's not much you can do.

Frederick Memorial Hospital doesn't admit "coloreds."

You can wait for one of two black doctors in town to get around to your home as they make their house calls, each in a horse and buggy. But you don't know how soon one of the busy doctors will arrive.

Or you can try to find a sympathetic white doctor who will examine your child at his office. But you know in advance that you can't sit in his waiting room. You must stand, clutching the 25-pound toddler to your breast, until the doctor gets around to you. And you don't know how on earth you'll pay the doctor's bill.

Because of their familiarity with situations such as this — because sick blacks seemed to merit no medical attention in Frederick — the town's two black physicians took community health care into their own hands in 1919.

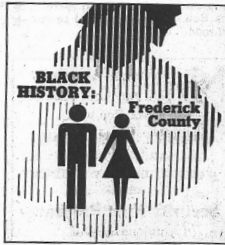
Dr. Ulysses Grant Bourne Sr. and Dr. Charles Brooks established a hospital for blacks on West All Saints Street, in the building that presently houses the Elks Club. For two years, until Frederick Memorial began to admit blacks on a limited basis, the doctors and two nurses operated the 15-bed hospital, treating any illness that occurred in Frederick's black community.

"Any ailment that you had, they were able to take care of it," said Norine Goe, 87, a friend of the Bourne family and a Frederick resident for 70 years.

And the hospital was more than just a nice thing to do for black society, Mrs. Goe said. A hospital is a weighty financial undertaking.



DR. ULYSSES GRANT BOURNE SR.



"Now you get grants and you get (financial) help, but in those days they did it on their own," she said.

But for Bourne, health care was only one among many areas from which blacks in Frederick were barred. And Bourne, who died in 1956, confronted those barriers head-on on a daily basis, according to friends, family and observers of the black physician's career.

After graduating from Leonard Medical College in Raleigh, N.C. in 1901, Bourne came to Frederick and was one of 18 black physicians in Maryland when he received his license to practice in 1903. He later organized the Maryland Negro Medical Association and served as its first president.

With his son, Ulysses Grant Bourne Jr., he also joined the all-white Frederick County Medical Society, to the chagrin of a number of members.

When he could not enter the front door of a theater in downtown Frederick, Bourne opened one of his own on He Saints Street.

He was instrumental in founding Frederick County's chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and successfully sought equal pay for black teachers in the county's segregated school system.

A Republican, Bourne was

first black from Western Maryland to run for the Maryland House of Delegates, conducting an unsuccessful campaign once during the 1930s.

Above all, though, "he wanted some place where his people could get better treatment," said Lord Nickens, president of the Frederick County chapter of the NAACP and an admirer of Bourne.

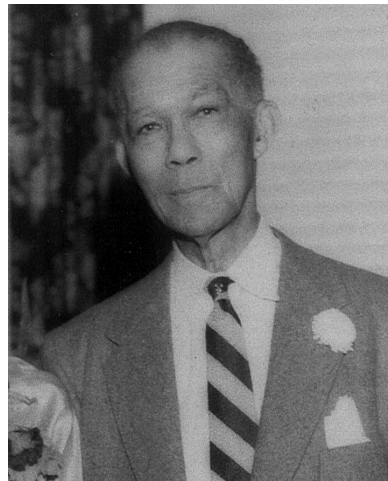
A memorial editorial from the Baltimore Afro-American estimates that the doctor delivered some 2,600 babies during his life.

Nickens explained that insurance companies in the early part of the 20th century listed blacks as high-risk customers, claiming they had a predisposition for tuberculosis. As a result, he said, few blacks could obtain medical insurance and even fewer physicians were anxious to treat someone who had little means to pay for their services.

Bourne's daughter noted that her father's income didn't always take the form of greenbacks.

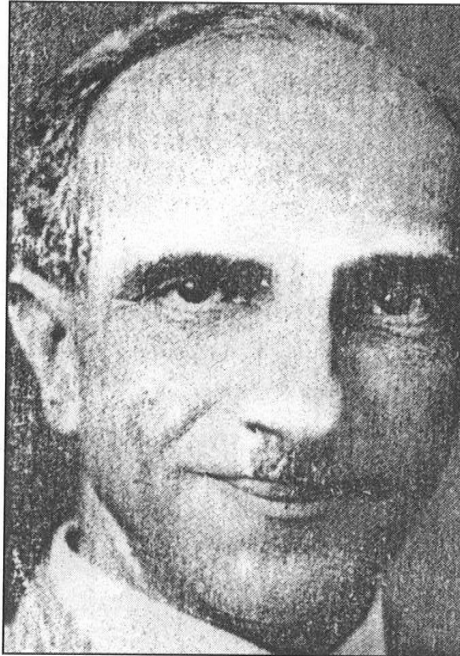
"In his time, money didn't matter. You gave service," said Dr. Blanche Bourne, who recently retired from her own career in public health service and resides near Frederick. Payment often came in the form of vegetables, butter, milk

(Continued on Page A-9)



Dr. Bourne, Sr.

Reprinted with the permission of the Frederick News-Post published on February 16, 1986.



*John W. Bruner deserves our gratitude
for being a daring pioneer in blazing
a wide path for others to follow.*

Professor John William Bruner
Educator, Community Activist, Humanitarian
August 7, 1880 - October 14, 1950
Bio By: Kermit E. Bruner, Jr. (Grandson) and Mildred Bruner-
Bowins (Daughter)

Born in Burkettsville, Maryland on August 7, 1880, he was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel Bruner and grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Noah Bruner, formerly of North Carolina and Virginia.

He began his education in the public school system of Frederick City and completed high school by attending Storer College in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia; because there was no high school for "colored" children in Frederick City. This early childhood educational experience was never forgotten by Mr. Bruner! In preparation for his career, he attended Bowie State Teachers' College, Howard University and Hampton Institute;

eventually obtaining the highest certification and degrees available to “colored” citizens at that time.

John W. Bruner met and married Jeanette Celestine Offord of Frederick City and, from that union came six children: Mildred Bowins, Kermit, Sr., Drexall Harris, Marguerite Cain, Gladys Bruner, and Geraldine Waters. Mr. Bruner saw to it that all of his children were college-trained and all six taught in public schools for brief periods.

Mr. Bruner was the first of his race to be hired, as a professional employee, by the Western Shore counties of Maryland. He began as a Manual Arts (vocational) teacher and was later promoted to Supervisor of all “schools for colored children” in Frederick County. This later position, which he held for 30 years (1899-1940) gave him the opportunity to observe, up close and personal, the substandard conditions under which our children were being educated throughout the county. Remembering his own experiences and the conditions, under which his family had suffered, he began his “crusade” to acquire a high school, for colored children, making it unnecessary to leave the city.

Upon learning of Hampton institute in Hampton, Virginia, Prof. Bruner decided to go there and find out more about the school and its curriculum. After meeting and talking with Hampton’s president, he found out that the school had a program that would admit students (6th graders) to finish high school. The program lasted six years instead of four. Upon returning home, he immediately began to contact a number of parents of sixth-graders. With his guiding help and the sacrifices of the parents, a number of sixth-graders left for Hampton Institute. But Prof. Bruner was not satisfied with these accomplishments because he observed that there were many more colored students that were unable to venture that far from home.

In 1920, he decided to make an appeal to the Frederick County Superintendent of Schools, G. Lloyd Palmer, to organize a “Negro High School.” This marked the beginning of a new Educational Era for the Negro students of Frederick County. In 1920, plans for the “new” high school were com-

pleted. Prof. Bruner solicited the aid of all other prominent citizens of Frederick City and Frederick County; as well as all parents and wellwishers.

A one-room building, located on West All Saints Street, was purchased as a beginning. In a very few years it was determined that a much larger facility was needed. Mr. Bruner collected \$950.00, from the colored citizens, toward this effort. Around 1922, a much larger building was constructed on Madison Street and named "Lincoln High School." The very first class to be graduated from that school was in May of 1924.

In addition to his work in the field of public education, Prof. Bruner was also a summer instructor at such institutions as: Storer College, Bowie State Teachers' College, Morgan State College and Hampton Institute; to prepare colored teachers. He further used his influential position in Frederick City, as an advocate of hiring "Negroes" to work in various downtown stores.

Prof. Bruner was a devoted and active member of Quinn A.M.E. Church on East 3rd Street in Frederick. He joined Quinn after leaving Burkettsville and established his home at 109 East 5th Street; where he and his family resided until his demise in 1950.

Notes about the biographer: Kermit E. Bruner, Jr. of Vineland, New Jersey, is the only ancestor of Prof. Bruner to follow in his footsteps! Kermit, Jr. is currently a retired educator; having completed 32 years in the classroom and 8 years in administration. He also was responsible for helping establish Livingston College at Rutgers University, Stockton College in Atlantic County and the six Southern New Jersey Community Colleges.



“Providing worldwide students with practical and relevant skills to become effective Social Entrepreneurs”

March 4, 2020

Belva King
Belva's Museum Artifacts
Frederick, Maryland

Re: UNESCO Center for Peace 2020 Community Service Award - 2020 International Women Month

Dear Belva King,

UNESCO Center for Peace, the flagship member of the U.S. Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centers and Associations with a special consultative status with United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), has set up a number of events to commemorate the 2020 International Women Month in the Washington, D.C. Metro area.

As stated by the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW64), 2020 is set to be a pivotal year for the accelerated realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, everywhere. This year will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995).

To commemorate this milestone in our region, we are planning a set of events that include the following:

- A Multimedia Competition for High Schools Students on SDG # 5 on Gender Equality
- A Women Empowerment Workshop outlining available Resources for aspiring Women Entrepreneurs
- An Award Dinner Honoring Women Trailblazer

Giving your commitment to African American History & Culture in Frederick and your quest for Racial Equality, I am happy to inform you that you have been selected as one of our 2020 Community Service Award Recipient. As honoree, you are invited to attend our Trailblazer Award Dinner on March 28 during which you will receive your award.

Your organization support for this Project will truly make this annual event a resounding success.

Sincerely,



Guy Djoken
Executive Director UNESCO Center for Peace
President U.S. Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centers & Associations
Permanent Representative of the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs Centers and Associations to ECOSOC/UN DPI

THE FREDERICK COUNTY LEADER

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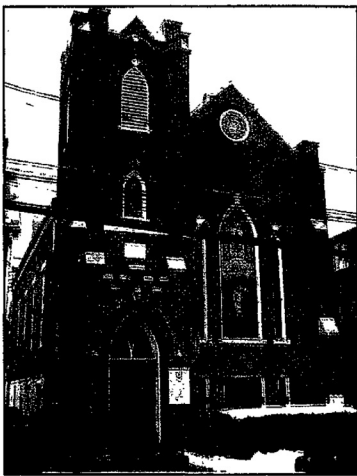
Frederick, Maryland 21705

Friday, January 25, 2002

www.fredericknewspost.com

25¢

African-American history in Frederick



Staff photo by Bill Green
The congregation of Quinn Chapel African Methodist

By KAREN GARDNER
Assistant Family Editor
kgardner@fredericknewspost.com

African-American history in Frederick County runs almost as deep as that of European settlers, but until recently it's a history that has largely been ignored.

The Frederick Historic Sites Consortium has just published "African-American Heritage Sites in the City of Frederick and Frederick County, Md.," a brochure with a list of 20 sites that commemorate the contributions of blacks in the past two centuries.

Many of the sites in Frederick can be seen on a half-day walking tour, according to Elizabeth Shatto, coordinator of the Historic Sites Consortium, part of the Tourism Council of Frederick County. The remaining sites, scattered around Frederick County, could be visited in a half-day's drive, she said.

The walking tour includes the first library for black men, a one-time dance hall and all-around entertainment venue known as the Pythian Castle, the first hospital for African Americans, churches, cemeteries and a slave quarters.

The driving tour also includes several villages that materialized during Reconstruction, and the churches in these communities. Most of the churches

"We are getting more and more requests at the Tourism Center for multicultural tourism offerings," Ms. Shatto said.

"I think it's long overdue," said Joy Onley, a member of the African American Research Cultural Heritage, or AARCH, Committee. The committee began meeting in May 2000 to plan the brochure. Historian and writer Marie Anne Erickson, of Braddock Heights, compiled the brochure from information gathered by committee members.

"As long as I've been with the consortium there's been a desire to do more with African-American resources," Ms. Shatto said. "Maryland is one of the top destinations for African-American tourism. There's a rich history in the state. It was the home of Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass."

The Frederick tour includes five stops on West All Saints Street, and one around the corner on Ice Street. All Saints Street was the commercial hub of African-American life in the early 20th century, Ms. Shatto said. "Walk down All Saints Street and there you can get the flavor of what it was like when Frederick was segregated," she said. "It was busy, it was bustling."

Frederick, like many other communities south of the Mason-Dixon line, segregated many of its public facilities before the 1950s, including schools

of Frederick's black community was clustered in the area of All Saints, Ice and South streets.

One of the tour stops is the residence and office of Dr. Ulysses G. Bourne, Frederick's first black doctor, at 30 W. All Saints St. He practiced medicine in Frederick from 1880 to 1953. He was also the founder of the Maryland Negro Medical Society.

Also on the tour is the site of the building that once stood at 113 Ice St., which served as the Free Colored Men's Library until 1932. It started as the Young Men's Colored Reading Club of Frederick City in 1913.

The Pythian Castle, with elements of Italianate and Greek Revival building styles, is at 111-113 W. All Saints St. Banquets, dances, movies and live music all took place in the building. In the 1920s and '30s it was the site of meetings for many social and service organizations, including the Elks Club and the Masons.

Elements of Frederick's slaveholding past are evident in the slave quarters behind the historic Ross House and the Mathias House. The slave quarters, at 114 W. Second St., are located behind the Council Street mansions, and were built in 1817. The red brick buildings with lateral gabled roofs would have provided cramped housing for up to 20 house slaves.

Asbury United Methodist Church

African-American history

(Continued from Page 1)

and the Quinn African Methodist Episcopal Church were used as hospitals after the Battle of Antietam during the Civil War.

Other sites in Frederick County include churches and schools in villages where black Frederick Countians clustered. Bartonsville is the home of the St. James AME Church and the Jackson United Methodist Chapel, two African-American churches. It was also the home of the Bartonsville Cornet Band.

The musical heritage in Bartonsville runs deep. The community spawned musical progeny Lester Bowie. The legendary jazz trumpeter, who spent most of his adult life in Chicago, learned his art from many of his older relatives who played for the Bartonsville Cornet Band. Bowie, who died in 1999, is a member of the Down Beat Hall of Fame.

Another famous African-American who had an early start in Frederick was the turn-of-the-20th

century expatriate artist Henry O'Tanner, whose father, Benjamin Tucker Campbell was the principal at the 19th-century freemen's school.

Catoctin Furnace and the Brunswick Railroad Museum both detail a segment of black history that is little known. Black slaves worked at the iron furnace, which was built in 1775. A museum at the Thurmont site details the contributions slaves made to the furnace. African Americans also worked on the railroad and the C&O Canal, and those contributions are outlined at the Brunswick Railroad Museum.

"To know the history here and to have it outlined in a brochure in organized form is something we have been working on for a long time," said Alfernia Dailey, an AARCH committee member. "It should be very meaningful to everyone."

"It seems like there has been nothing offered for black people coming into Frederick, while many other places often have (African-American) tours," Ms. Onley said.

She is the author of "Memories," a memoir about growing up in segregated Frederick during the 1950s. Ms. Onley was one of the first black students at the formerly all-white Frederick High School in the early 1960s.

At a press conference touting the tour on Monday, the day Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday was celebrated, a collection of memorabilia accompanied literature on the tour. Along with photos, there was a booklet of by-laws for the African American Building and Improvement.

There was also a 1934 petition signed by a dozen African-American voters asking city leaders to consider lights for Lincoln High School, Frederick's high school for blacks, jobs for black men, a pool at Mullinix Park and better pavement in streets and alleys in the African-American neighborhoods. Signers included Dr. U.G. Bourne, William Fletcher, William Diggs, Samuel Stroud, James Dorsey and Robert Henderson.

There was also a three-ring note-

book containing a history of Lincoln High School from 1920 to 1962, and a collection of badges from the various lodges that met regularly at the Pythian Castle. One of those organizations was the Emancipation Association.

"This is one half of a dream I've had for 20 years," said William O. Lee, a former Frederick alderman and the chairman of the AARCH museum feasibility study task force. "The other half is a museum of African-American history in Frederick." The committee, as the name states, is investigating that possibility.

"This is a culmination of meetings about how we can do what we like to do, which is share stories," said John Fieseler, director of the Tourism Council of Frederick County.

"Frederick is a really nice place to come," Ms. Onley said. "By having an (African-American) tour, we're saying we do have something to offer everyone."

Featured inside today

A controlled hunt,
just bear necessities
Page 3

get
Quick
CASH!
sell your stuff
with
people reaching
classifieds

301-662-1162

The Frederick News-Post
www.fredericknewspost.com

-----Original Message-----
From: ROSE CHANEY <rodoch@aol.com>
Sent: Sat, Mar 7, 2020 10:01 am
Subject: Fwd: Maryland Poor People's Campaign Newsletter

The following is offering a roundtrip bus from Frederick for \$25.



Dear Annette

MARYLAND POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN NEWSLETTER FOR MARCH 2020

NATIONAL REMINDER:

"On June 20, 2020 we will rise together as a powerful moral fusion movement in a Mass Poor People's Assembly and Moral March on Washington to demand the implementation of our Moral Agenda! The question isn't how much it costs to address these moral issues, but what it costs us not to address 140 million Americans living in poverty and low-wealth. We are building power for an agenda that lifts all people by challenging the interlocking injustices of systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, the war economy and the false moral narrative of religious nationalism! RSVP for your attendance at the Mass Poor People's Assembly and Moral March on Washington by visiting bit.ly/MoralMarch2020! If you need transportation, we'll have buses leaving from across our state that head straight to the march."

To reserve your seat on a bus Poor People's Mass Assembly and Moral March on Washington

Rev. Janelle Bruce

Neighbors

THE FREDERICK NEWS-POST

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2016

C4



Courtesy photo

The African American Resource Culture and Heritage Society in Frederick recently recognized seniors ages 90 and older during the annual Living Treasures banquet. From left, front row, are Fern Brown, Odiemae Harris, Imogene Brown and Kenyon Parker; second row are Alfernia Daily, Anna Weedon, Catherine Sappington, Catherine Moore, Helen Lee and Hanford Thomas; third row are Carolyn Dorsey and Warren Dorsey.

Seniors honored during Living Treasures banquet

FOR THE FREDERICK NEWS-POST

A few entered the venue in wheelchairs, a small number assisted with walkers, some simply guided by the arm of a family member, most able to walk independently with no assistance. Born into a segregated society that attempted to deplete them of their dignity, their dreams, they looked forward to a Saturday afternoon event created just for them.

African American Resource Culture and Heritage Society of Frederick County (AARCH) annually celebrates their history, tells their stories, and highlights their accomplishments. These 90 and older seniors looked forward to the meal provided by the Libertytown Fire Hall banquet staff, the table décor created for the special occasion and the fellowship of their descendants, family and friends.

City/county officials came to

honor and recognize their longevity, and their tenacity. Present to celebrate and participate in the program were County Executive Jan Gardner, executive director of the Historical Society of Frederick County Mary Boswell, Government Affairs and Policy Director Roger Wilson, and chairwoman for the Department of Aging Dianne Lewis.

The age 90-plus seniors also received certificates of recognition

provided by the mayor of Frederick for city residents and from Jan Gardner's office for both city and county residents. Additionally, new participating Living Treasures Anna Weedon, Catherine Moore and Odiemae Ambush Harris received AARCH certificates of recognition and gold pins that identified them as Living Treasures. A total of 12 seniors were present, including 104-year-old Catherine Sappington.

Throughout the program, pictures and brief biographies of all honorees were projected on a large screen to view. AARCH board of director member Mary Harris updated the audience on the extensive involvement of the organization for the past year. Tyrone Burwell provided music in song. Barbara Thompson, chairwoman of the event, praised the concerted effort of the committee and all involved who made the day a huge success.

Take a walk back to Civil War-era Frederick

By KAREN GARDNER
Assistant Family Editor

History buffs can walk around downtown Frederick and take in a little Civil War history at the same time in a new guided Civil War Walking Tour being offered each weekend starting this Saturday, May 13.

A half-dozen tour guides are full of anecdotes about Frederick and its people during that time. Those stories can be heard Saturdays and Sundays during the 90-minute walking tours, which cover more than a dozen city blocks. The tour is meant to show the war through the eyes of one small city.

There was Enoch Lowe, governor of Maryland from 1851 to 1854, who was a Southern sympathizer. He and Bradley T. Johnson, another Frederickian, boasted that they would offer the services of 50,000 volunteers from Maryland to Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee.

But he was "a bit of a flake," according to Dr. Jim Hammond, one of the tour guides. "He left his family



Staff photos by Bill Green

Civil War Guide Dr. Jim Hammond explains the role that Frederick City Hall, once the Frederick County courthouse, and other buildings in Courthouse Square played in the Civil War.

here and never returned," Hammond said. He also never met with Lee, and he was a little off with his numbers.

"There were not more than 500 who provided support for that (Southern) cause," Hammond said.

Hammond, a retired Army medical doctor, hopes the tours drum up interest in the city's Civil War history, and in the new National Museum of Civil War Medicine, which is co-sponsoring the tours along with the Tourism Council.

Frederick's location, along a major north-south route and a major east-west route, made it a pivotal location during the war fought between northern states and southern states. And the city was less than 25 miles from the bloodiest one-day battle of the war.

"In 1862, there were 8,000 residents of Frederick, and there were 6,000 wounded soldiers being treated," he said. Nearly every church in Frederick, about six at the time, served as a hospital after the Battle of Antietam.

The tour starts at one of those hospitals, the Evangelical Lutheran Church. The church was converted to a hospital by laying boards on top of pews.

Almost every other church in town served as a hospital, as well. St.

John the Evangelist Catholic Church was instead a prison for Confederate soldiers. The church's high windows and thick walls made it ideal for a prison.

"A lot of people have the idea that only crude medicine was practiced during the Civil War, things like amputations without anesthesia, but there was some anesthesia then," he said. "Actually the Civil War was the spark for medicine to become much more sophisticated."

Nursing also got its start in the Civil War, and groups of Frederick women played a role in this. "There wasn't a corps of nurses back then," Hammond said. "It was taboo for women to be taking care of the wounded, but that was overcome during that time."

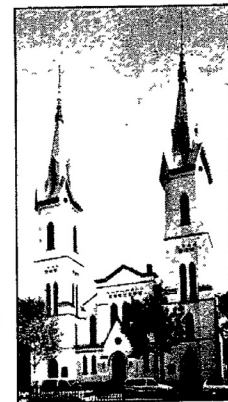
The Sisters of Charity came down from Emmitsburg after Antietam to care for the wounded. They worked out of the Jesuit Novitiate, across from the Visitation Academy on East Second Street.

The Sisters of the Visitation, a cloistered order, did their part by continuing their school during the war. Many students were from southern states, and they stayed at the school during the course of the war.

Many other downtown churches on the tour, including what was then the

Methodist Episcopal Church and the All Saints Episcopal Church, also served as hospitals during the war.

A building on East Second Street



The Evangelical Lutheran Church on East Church Street was used as a hospital after the Battle of Antietam.

near Market Street once known as Junior Hall was also a hospital, and in earlier times had been a Tory jail. "But that's not in our time period," Hammond said.

At the old City Hall on North Market Street, Hammond told the story of Jubal Early's ransom on the Frederick city government. On the morning of July 9, 1864, Confederate Gen. Jubal Early presented to city officials a ransom note demanding \$200,000. If not paid, he threatened to burn the city.

Early was willing to bargain, saying he'd take four \$50,000 increments of food, clothing and other stores. But the city didn't have the money or the supplies. Banks finally pitched in, delivering the sum to Early's subordinates on the steps of City Hall.

The story is that the subordinates treated themselves to a new confection being served at a shop across the street called ice cream before they delivered the money. "We don't know whether they used the ransom money to pay for the ice cream," Hammond said.

The tour also passes by Kemp Hall, where the Maryland legislature met for several months in 1861 and where the decision was made not to secede. Before the Evangelical Reformed Church on West Church Street, Hammond said this church kept offering services while the others were serving the war cause. The church's minister, a Rev. Zacharias, was a strong Unionist.

The story goes that Confederate Gen. Stonewall Jackson attended services there one Sunday evening. The Rev. Zacharias was asked to tone down his normally strong rhetoric, but the minister did nothing of the sort. Still, Jackson shook hands with the minister after the service and informed him it was a fine sermon. Some say Jackson slept right through it, as he was known to do.

All Saints Episcopal Church on West Church Street was where the Rev. William Nelson Pendleton delivered his sermons from 1847 to 1853. He left Frederick for Virginia Beach, and returned during the war as chief of artillery.

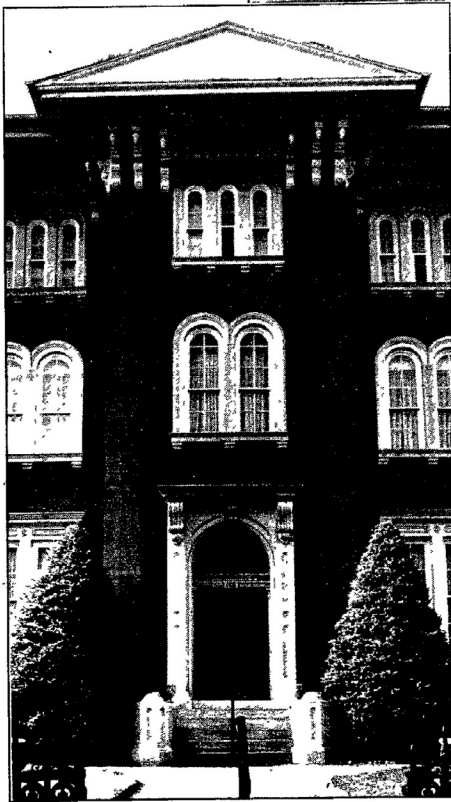
One other notable Frederickian, Bradley T. Johnson, descendant of Gov. Thomas Johnson, served as provost marshal to the Confederacy.

Johnson once lived up the street from the Courthouse, at that time in Court Square. The house where he lived on North Court Street is gone today. A few houses down were the one-time law offices of Francis Scott Key and Roger Brooke Taney. Taney was the Supreme Court justice who handed down the infamous Dred Scott decision just before the war.

Also on Court Square were the homes of the Ross family and Potts family, two prominent Frederick families with Southern sympathies. Family members would send care packages to Confederate soldiers imprisoned at Camp Delaware.

Across the square is the Ramsey House. While wounded soldiers were usually treated in makeshift hospitals, officers were often treated in private homes. One such general was treated at the Ramsey home, and Lincoln paid him a visit.

(Continued on Page B-8)



The Trail family lived in this home on East Church Street that now houses the Keeney and Basford Funeral Home. Members of this family, like other families in Frederick, took opposing sides in the Civil War.

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Peter Franchot
Comptroller

January 15, 2020

Ms. Belva King
805 Stratford Way
Apartment D
Frederick, MD 21701

Dear Ms. King:

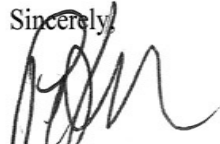
Belva,

Congratulations on being presented the award for Historic Preservation by *The Daily Record*. You must be pleased that your exceptional work on the newsletter, **Belva's Museum Artifacts**, has been recognized with this prestigious honor.

As you well know, our Maryland communities embody a unique quality of life and our African-American history has an enormous impact on the tourism industry. Thank you for your work in championing historic preservation and maintaining this heritage for future generations. I truly appreciate all you do to make Maryland the wonderful place it is to live, work and play.

Again, I extend my congratulations and if I can ever be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me. In the meantime, you have my best wishes for continued success you endeavor with **Belva's Museum Artifacts**.

Sincerely,


Peter Franchot
Comptroller

Congrats!

PF/bes

-----Original Message-----

From: Evelyn Lee-Lucas <elleelucas@msn.com>

Sent: Wed, Feb 19, 2020 8:02 am

Subject: Destiny

Good morning Family,

Little known Black History Fact

One in four cowboys was Black, despite the stories told in popular books and movies.

In fact, it's believed that the real "Lone Ranger" was inspired by an African American man named Bass Reeves. Reeves had been born a slave but escaped West during the Civil War where he lived in what was then known as Indian Territory. He eventually became a Deputy U.S. Marshal, was a master of disguise, an expert marksman, had a Native American companion, and rode a silver horse. His story was not unique however.

In the 19th century, the Wild West drew enslaved Blacks with the hope of freedom and wages. When the Civil War ended, freedmen came West with the hope of a better life where the demand for skilled labor was high. These African Americans made up at least a quarter of the legendary cowboys who lived dangerous lives facing weather, rattlesnakes, and outlaws while they slept under the stars driving cattle herds to market.

While there was little formal segregation in frontier towns and a great deal of personal freedom, Black cowboys were often expected to do more of the work and the roughest jobs compared to their white counterparts. Loyalty did develop between the cowboys on a drive, but the Black cowboys were typically responsible for breaking the horses and being the first ones to cross flooded streams during cattle drives. In fact, it is believed that the term "cowboy" originated as a derogatory term used to describe Black "cowhands."

As we close out this year Black History month (but not Black History awesome daily accomplishments) this Sunday we will be honoring the occasion with the wearing of your African attire. Last year we looked great so this year we will be just as outstanding. Please come dress to impress, including our little people. Don't forget to pass the word. Thank you sister Barnes for the reminder.

Sister Belva's black history presentation will be held right after church service this Sunday. Please be prepared to stay and support all the effort she does to keep our "Little Known Fact" present in our consciousness. The more we learn the more we appreciate our freedom.

Our History, Our Heritage

The Maryland Historical Trust Blog

FEBRUARY 4, 2020 BY BFISHERMHT

Hidden in Plain Sight: The Fort Frederick Colored School

By Peter Morrill, Curator Program Manager, Department of Natural Resources

Along the south side of Big Pool Road in Washington County, Maryland, sits a non-descript vacant house. It's easily overlooked by passersby, but hidden beneath additions, layers of asphalt "brick" and aluminum siding, lies a 19th-century one-room schoolhouse built to serve the area's African American community. Though it is not immediately recognizable by the casual observer as a school,

a closer look reveals that much of the school's original fabric remains intact and waiting to be restored in order to tell its story about Maryland's racially segregated past and one of the county's most interesting families.



The Fort Frederick Colored Schoolhouse, or the Williams Schoolhouse as it is also known, survives despite later alterations, including the porch and two-story addition at right.

In 1857 Nathan Williams, a free black man, purchased about 115 acres of land in Washington County, including the remains of the colonial Fort Frederick, and began what would become a successful farming operation. Beginning in the 1870s, the family operated a schoolhouse for local African American children; family members also taught at the school. By 1892, a 36' by 24' by 12' frame school had been constructed by the county and was designated the "colored" school for the Indian Springs Election District, #11. The teacher was Charles A. Williams, and the school enrolled 14 pupils. By 1895, it was determined that this schoolhouse was unsatisfactory and that a new one should be built. For \$3, the Williams family deeded a quarter-acre parcel of their land to the county for the erection of a new school. This school was completed by 1900 for a cost of \$297.76 and remained in service until 1914, when it became a residence. Over the years, the original one-room schoolhouse became virtually unrecognizable: the door was relocated, porches were added, and the interior was divided into three rooms. A two-story addition was also added to the west, further obscuring the tiny school's historic form. The house has long been known as the Hornbaker House after the family who owned the house from 1950 until 1973, when they sold it to the State for inclusion into Fort Frederick State Park, which had been formed in 1922. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources rented the property as a residence for a number of years, but it is now vacant.



DNR staff, including Charlie Mazurek, Historic Preservation Planner (second from left), and Peter Morrill, Curator Program Manager (right), have been instrumental in raising awareness of the importance of this structure and in seeking funding for its preservation.

Thanks to a generous grant from the [African American Heritage Preservation Program\[AR1\]](#), donations from the Friends of Maryland State Parks and the Hagerstown-Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Department of Natural Resources will begin to peel back the layers and restore the schoolhouse to its circa 1900 to 1914 appearance. In collaboration with staff from the Maryland Historical Trust, selective demolition has been carried out to begin to identify the original locations of windows and doors, identify later additions to the structure, and document these changes prior to the beginning of restoration work. In the coming months, later additions will be removed and the exterior of the schoolhouse will be returned to its former appearance for the first time in over 100 years. Once complete, the school will serve as a gateway to Fort Frederick State Park and an educational center to interpret the rich history of the Williams Family and the experience of African American families living in Washington County after the Civil War and emancipation.



Curator Program Manager Peter Morrill looks for physical evidence of the schoolhouse's historic form and finishes.

Further reading:

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties form:

<https://mht.maryland.gov/secure/medusa/PDF/Washington/WA-V-206.pdf>
(<https://mht.maryland.gov/secure/medusa/PDF/Washington/WA-V-206.pdf>)

Preservation Maryland Six-to-Fix: Historic Resources in Maryland's State Parks:

<https://www.preservationmaryland.org/programs/six-to-fix/projects/current-projects/historic-resources-in-marylands-state-parks/> (<https://www.preservationmaryland.org/programs/six-to-fix/projects/current-projects/historic-resources-in-marylands-state-parks/>)

[AR1]Link to: https://mht.maryland.gov/grants_africanamerican.shtml
(https://mht.maryland.gov/grants_africanamerican.shtml)

This entry was posted in [African American](#), [Washington County](#) and tagged [Maryland State Parks](#).
Bookmark the [permalink](#).

-----Original Message-----

From: Evelyn Lee-Lucas <elleelucas@msn.com>

Sent: Tue, Feb 25, 2020 12:13 pm

Subject: A Story To Be Shared



Kashay Chamise Barnes

kashay, daughter of Cherylene L. Barnes and Jeffrey C. Ramey, granddaughter of proud grandmothers Linda Barnes and Edna Ramey graduated on February 07, 2020 from the Recruit Training Command Naval Station in Great Lakes Illinois.

She is now in training at the Naval Station in Pensacola Florida. She will then transfer to the Naval Air Station Base in Lemoore California for three years.

While in the Navy she plans to pursue a career in Engineering or Electronic Technology.

Kashay is also a graduate of Frederick High School where she excelled as an outstanding basketball player. She went on to play basketball for Potomac State in West Virginia and later transferred to Monroe College in New Rochelle, New York. There she was honored and received the Most Valuable Player (MVP) after winning the NJCAA Division II National Basketball Championship. At Monroe she earned her degree in Business Management.

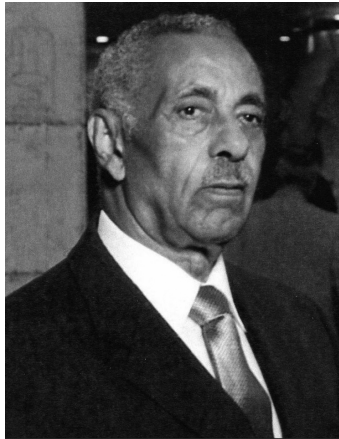
She has one brother, Denzel Ziegler and three sisters Rochelle, Shawntelle, and Shante' Ramey.

She is one of our own- a member of St. James AME Church Bartonville Maryland. Along with her family we are also very proud of all her accomplishments and do not take lightly her commitment to serve our country in this most dedicated **ACT**. When our young people excel we know that our future will continue to strive and We are forever thankful. We will lift up prayers continually for Her and will welcome her when she comes home for a visit.



Julius C. Pinkney

Baltimore native and retired postal official researched his family's role in historic 19th century segregation case



By Frederick N. Rasmussen

Julius C. Pinkney, a retired postal official and genealogist whose research showcased his family's role in a historic 19th century segregation case that was later cited in the infamous 1896 Supreme Court decision *Plessy v. Ferguson* that upheld the doctrine of "separate but equal," died Jan. 21 at Gilchrist Center in Towson of respiratory failure.

The Windsor Mills resident was 93.

Julius Clifton Pinkney, son of Willard A. Pinkney Sr., an L.C. Smith Typewriter Co. repairman, and his wife, Fannie Johnson Pinkney, a homemaker, was born in Baltimore and raised on Madison and Monroe streets.

He was a 1944 graduate of Carver Vocational-Technical High School, where he majored in the trowel trades, including bricklaying, plastering and cement finishing, and where he and his classmates constructed a brick wall and front steps at the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church.

In 1945, he was drafted into the Army and served in the Philippines as a truck driver and POW guard until being discharged in 1946 with the rank of corporal.

Mr. Pinkney began working in 1946 as a bricklayer at Bethlehem Steel Corp.'s Sparrows Point plant, where he remained until 1957 when he joined the U.S. Postal Service. He rose through the ranks to become general supervisor of the main Baltimore Post Office, first on Calvert Street, and later after its move to East Fayette Street.

After retiring in 1986, he pursued his hobbies, which included photography, fishing, collecting jazz and blues recordings, and genealogy, which ultimately became his avocation as he researched his family's roots.

"As a young child, Julius remembered his mother telling him and his siblings of their grandmother and great aunts successfully suing a steamboat company in the 1880s for being denied first-class accommodations after purchasing first-class tickets," a nephew, Clint Thomas of Baltimore, wrote in a biographical profile of his uncle.

"Julius recalled his mother saying, 'If you don't believe me, then go find out for yourself,'" Mr. Thomas wrote. "He remembered his father telling him the name of the steamboat was the Sue."

Thus, began a journey that took Mr. Pinkney to the National Archives and the Maryland State Archives, and it was while researching at the National Archives that he located the 1884 trial transcripts of the "Stewart vs. Steamer Sue" case, considered to be an early documented civil rights case.

The Stewart Sisters — Martha Stewart, Mary Stewart Johnson, (Mr. Pinkney's grandmother), Lucy Jones and Winnie Stewart — had purchased \$3 first-class tickets Aug. 15, 1884, to sail on the steamer Sue of the Baltimore, Chesapeake & Richmond Steamboat Co. from Baltimore to Kinsale Landing, Virginia, on the Potomac River, and then on to Westmoreland County, Virginia, for their yearly visit with their mother.

Cabins were segregated, with white women being accommodated in the aft end of the steamer while African Americans occupied forward cabins, and even though the women held first-class tickets, they were assigned to second-class cabins that were "offensively dirty with defaced mattresses, soiled sheets, no blankets and no conveniences for washing," according to johnspinkstew, a family website.

A year earlier, in 1883, the women, who were traveling with their Aunt Pauline "Polly" Braxton, staged a "sleep-in" aboard the Sue after occupying a white women's cabin, which in contrast was clean, pleasant, comfortable and inviting.

Four of the women were undressed and in bed when a ship's officer ordered "all colored passengers to vacate" the cabin. They refused, and two of the women, Martha and Winnie, were forced to leave and spent the night and the remainder of the voyage sitting in chairs in the saloon, which is a large common area used by passengers, while the others remained in the cabin.

On their 1884 trip, the women deliberately placed their baggage in a white women's cabin and then went to an upper deck. Later, a chambermaid removed their possessions and placed them before them, explaining that the captain had ordered the bags removed and then had the cabin locked. He then "directed that no colored passengers were to be allowed to sleep there."

Rather than accede to the captain's orders that they return to the second-class cabins, the women spent the night in the Sue's saloon sitting in chairs.

On their return trip to Baltimore on the Sue, the captain again refused to honor the women's first-class tickets because of their race.

On Sept. 14, 1884, with assistance from their minister, the firebrand Rev. Harvey Johnson, who was the pastor of Union Baptist Church, an early civil rights leader and founder of the Mutual United Brotherhood of Liberty, filed a libel lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for Maryland against the steamship company.

"When the women filed their lawsuit they wanted the judge to rule on two issues: first the legality of separating passengers by race and second whether the conditions of the cabins in this particular case were truly equal," wrote Dennis Patrick Halpin, a professor of history at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, in a 2018 National Archive post.

"In the 1880s, Jim Crow was in its infancy and had not yet become settled law," wrote Halpin, the author of "A Brotherhood of Liberty" Black Reconstruction and Its Legacies in Baltimore, 1865-1925," who cited Mr. Pinkney's research and documentation of the Sue case in his book.

"Up to this point, common carriers [which we would call mass transportation today] could legally separate people by race if their rules were clearly stated and the accommodations truly equal. The judge decided not to rule on the first question, which would have had larger implications concerning the legality of racial separation, instead arguing that it was the job of Congress to regulate interstate travel," he wrote.

On Feb. 2, 1885, Judge C.J. Morris pronounced his verdict in favor of the Stewart sisters, who were each awarded \$100 in damages.

"Judge Morris reaffirmed the right of the steamboat operators to provide separate accommodations but only if they were equal," Halpin wrote in his book.

The results of the Sue case and the doctrine of "separate but equal" reverberated down to the Supreme Court case of *Plessy v. Ferguson* in 1896, which upheld racial segregation laws for public facilities. It wasn't until *Brown vs Board of Education* in 1954 that "separate but equal" was declared unconstitutional.

Mr. Pinkney's research regarding the "Stewart vs. Steamer Sue" case has since 2014 been a part of the permanent civil rights display at the U.S. District Court for Maryland in Greenbelt, his nephew said.

Mr. Pinkney was able to trace his family back to the 1770s, documenting that members of his family had been slaves, Buffalo Soldiers, Tuskegee Airmen, civil rights and community activists, educators, firefighters, administrators and homemakers.

"I picked up the mantle of our family history from him. He taught me well," Mr. Thomas said. "He was a very quiet and gentle man, and he'd go out of his way to help anybody. That's why his friends called him Buddy."

Mr. Pinkney played an active role in the Johnson-Pinkney-Stewart Family and its website, and participated in annual reunions that began in 1978 and drew hundreds of family members from Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

In a statement announcing Mr. Pinkney's death, the Armstead Tasker Johnson Museum and African American Educational Center in Montross, Virginia, said, "Had Julius Pinkney not lived, we in Westmoreland County may not have received a comprehensive chronicle of his ancestors' journey and their contributions that have impacted not only our county but the world in general."

Services were held Feb. 3 at the Wylie Funeral Home in Randallstown

In addition to his nephew, he is survived by his daughter, Gina Pinkney of Greenbelt; stepson, Marcelino Conway of Windsor Mills; three stepdaughters, Thelma Gladden of Pikesville, Michelle Landen of Baltimore and Carolyn Williams of Upper Marlboro; a brother, Andrew Pinkney of Baltimore; a sister, Fannie Thomas of Baltimore; and other nieces and nephews. An earlier marriage to the former Thelma Burkett ended in divorce.

Thank you BAAHGS for sharing this interesting article.

A lifetime of activism

Groups join to honor local champion of civil rights

By NANCY HERNANDEZ

News-Post Staff
nhernandez@fredericknewspost.com

ADAMSTOWN — Lord Dunmore Nickens has lived in Frederick County for most of his nearly 94 years. For much of that time, he has worked to break down racial barriers and bring together people of all colors.

He was one of the first five Frederick residents — two black and three white — to join

the U.S. Army in 1940 under the Selective Service Act. After his honorable discharge from the Army in 1945, Nickens returned to Frederick and began championing civil rights for black people.

"It always seemed asinine to me that people who were subjected to tyranny would find ways to then dominate another person because of skin and hair color," he said, referring to America's white settlers who fled their home countries to

escape religious discrimination.

Nickens served as president of the Frederick branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for more than 20 years and remains an active member today.

He rallied against drug dealers and hate groups. He pressed for equal opportunities in politics and housing. He faced death threats and led boycotts.

(See RIGHTS A-12)



Staff photo
by Skip Lawrence

Lord Dunmore Nickens has spent much of his life fighting racial barriers. He will be honored for his work during a tribute ceremony at Hood College on Saturday.

Rights

(Continued from A-1)

He researched history and documented burial sites of black residents in Frederick County. He participated in a discussion group in the 1960s that brought white, black and Asian Frederick County residents together to learn more about one another.

Today, he shares his experiences with young people and mentors new leaders.

He will be honored for his life's work with a day-long celebration Saturday at Hood College.

Members of the Frederick Branch of the NAACP, African-American Resource and Cultural Heritage Society of Frederick County, Maryland (AARCH) and Hood College's Office of Multicultural Affairs & International Student Programs organized the tribute, which takes place from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. at Hood's Whitaker Campus Center.

The event is the brainchild of Belva King, a Frederick resident who has admired Nickens since she was a teenager.

"I always thought he was brave," King said. "There was a lot of racism in Frederick County. He stuck his head out there and I really appreciate what he did."

She considers Black History Month a wonderful time to pay tribute to a man who influenced local history and helped improve life for black people, King said.

Nickens' passion for civil rights began with his introduction to Frederick County, he said.

The seventh of 13 children, Nickens was born Aug. 6, 1913 in White Post, Va., to Reuben Lawyer and Mary Frances Nickens. The family spent a few years in Lucketts, Va., and then moved to Frederick in December 1919.

During a stop at the Point of Rocks train station on their way to Frederick, 6-year-old Nickens got kicked in the back by a white conductor.

Nickens had asked his mother where the restroom was and tried to follow her directions. Unable to read yet, he entered a bathroom designated for white males. The conductor

screamed a racial slur at Nickens and kicked him square in the back to knock him out of the bathroom.

"My mother jumped him," Nickens said. "You didn't mess with mom."

Another white conductor came and dragged Nickens' mother off the man and slapped the first man's face, he said. The mark, however, stayed with Nickens and influenced the course of his life.

"Ever since I got kicked in the slats at the train terminal, I tried to find out what groups I could join to throw out the separate but equal doctrine," he said.

As a pre-teen, he joined an integrated group similar to the Boy Scouts of America. The children would perform service acts, like running errands or pulling weeds for elderly people.

"As a Boy Scout, you could touch white people to help and not be ostracized," he said.

One white woman would wait on a Frederick corner each afternoon for Nickens to walk her across the street, even when other people offered to help her, he said.

"She would always say she didn't believe in how the government allowed black people to be treated," he said.

As a teen, he and his friends also tried to persuade younger black children not to react violently when they experienced racism.

Long before he heard the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. preach on nonviolent activism, he believed in turning the other cheek as a way to influence positive change, Nickens said.

"I realized we will meet the opposition again someday," Nickens said. "Maybe (acting kindly and patiently) will inspire the opposition to see things, at least partly, the way you do."

Editor's note: To read about what actions Nickens took and the dangers he faced to help achieve civil rights for Frederick County's black residents, see Saturday's edition of The Frederick News-Post.

Black history museum

When well-known local public servant and educator William O. Lee Jr. died in 2004, we editorialized that his unfulfilled dream of establishing a black history museum in Frederick should be realized.

Mr. Lee was intensely interested in the rich and varied black culture of Frederick County. He had amassed many artifacts, documents and other historical items that could serve as the core collection for a museum.

As reported in a June 10 front-page *News-Post* story, in 2000 Mr. Lee established an informal committee to begin planning for this facility. After his death, that group, the African American Resource and Cultural Heritage Society of Frederick County, Md., lost its momentum for a time. In the fall of 2005, however, Mr. Lee's widow, Cynthia Lee, and the Historical Society of Frederick County began a campaign to reinvigorate the group and its mission.

The goal of AARCH is to become a non-profit organization, which would allow donations of funds to establish and operate the museum. The interest of local minister, the Rev. Samie Conyers, in the project has helped move it along. He accepted Ms. Lee's request that he head up

AARCH and is now working to establish the group's operating charter and trying to interest city and county officials into donating space for the museum. "It'll be the right thing to do," says the Rev. Conyers. We agree.

We believe Frederick would be an ideal place for such a museum for several reasons. First, as a city that represents and celebrates hundreds of years of American history, a black history museum would be highly appropriate, as it would fill in an important gap in recording the area's past. It would also provide perspective on the life and times of residents in a region whose loyalties were divided before, during and after the Civil War.

The renaming of South Frederick Elementary School to the Lincoln School during ceremonies last Sunday relates to a key chapter of local black history — segregated schools that existed into the middle of the last century. There are many black Frederick area residents for whom that time is more than a mere history lesson learned from a textbook. They lived it. And so did white Frederick.

We encourage city officials to get behind this important project by helping site and support a black history museum. We believe once such a place becomes a reality that valuable donations of great historic significance will flow in from area residents. A good location and high-quality facility with adequate space will encourage such donations. To modify the popular expression a bit: "Build it and they will donate."

With proper management and nurturing, a museum of black history could become another reason for people with an interest in history to visit Frederick, and could take its place among the area's existing collection of museums and historic places.

A good look at black history over the past couple of hundred years will not be a light or altogether pleasant experience, but like all history, it will be enlightening — a way for residents of this city and county to better understand the journey that brought them to the present.

News-Post EDITORIAL

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Reprinted with the permission of the Frederick News-Post published on June 16, 2006

2ND EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ASAE 2nd
Annual Meeting

James L. Gant, Special Bishop
Acts & Ours, WMAScope.org

LEGACY

"I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT ON ALL PEOPLE..." Acts 2:17

28 MAY
SPECIAL GUEST PRAISE & WORSHIP SERVICE

7:00PM
"Selected To Serve"
Ebenezer AME Church
7707 Allentown Road, Fort Washington, MD 20744

29 MAY
SPECIAL GUEST PRAISE & WORSHIP SERVICE

11:00AM
"Kingdom Building"
7610 Pennsylvania Avenue
Foreville, MD 20747

7:00PM Ebenezer AME Church
"Political Emphasis"
REV. AL SHARPTON
SPECIAL GUEST PRAISE & WORSHIP SERVICE

30 MAY
SPECIAL GUEST PRAISE & WORSHIP SERVICE

10:00AM
"The Outpouring!"
PENTECOST EXPLOSION WORSHIP
FEATURING:
THE 2ND DISTRICT MASS CHOIR
DC ARMORY ARENA
2000 Capital SQ, Washington, DC 20003

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER
REV. DR. GRAINGER BROWNING

SPECIAL GUEST DIRECTOR
DR. RICKY OLLIARD

SPECIAL GUEST PRAISE & WORSHIP LEADER

SPECIAL GUEST ARTIST
BISHOP HEZEKIAH WALKER

EVENTS

AARCH receives donation



The Randall Charitable Trust recently made a significant donation to The AARCH Fund (African American Resources and Cultural Heritage Society), a component fund of The Community Foundation of Frederick County. The donation was given to assist with the society in its mission to identify, collect, preserve, exhibit and disseminate the history and culture of African-Americans in Frederick County to provide an understanding of how the past shapes, and enriches the present and the future for all citizens. Pictured, from left, are Kay Gant, AARCH president; Alexander Hardy, AARCH board member; Mary Harris, AARCH secretary; David Key, AARCH vice president; Frances A. Randall and Ruth Ann Randall, representing The Randall Charitable Trust; and Joy Onley, AARCH board member.

Courtesy photo

Reprinted with the permission of the Frederick News-Post published on May 29, 2011.

Belva's Museum Artifacts

The news articles about
Frederick & African American History

Frederick Events

Dear Old Faithful Lincoln

Genealogy

Frederick History

Abolitionist Tried in Frederick

Catoctin Furnace Cemetery

Silver Oak Academy

May 2020

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By John P. Read ©
Published March 18, 2020

No more shaking hands.
Don't touch your face.
Never stand too close
In a crowded place.

A virus is amongst us.
It's roaming around our land.
It contaminates and does us
harm
By the simple touch of our
hands.

Dark days are fast ap-
proaching.
We have to be aware.
Hygiene is our only shield
To this demon who waits out
there.

Our world is now at war
With an enemy that's un-
seen.
But we can beat the invader
If we all keep our hands
squeaky clean.

Thank you John Read for this poem that describes our lives in these virus days.
Belva, Michael, and Rick wish all of our readers the best of health and pray that
you will keep safe.

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR CARNEGIE HALL

MORGAN STATE COLLEGE
BALTIMORE, MD.

November 8, 1940

Mr. Charles Henson, Principal
Lincoln High School
Frederick, Maryland

Dear Mr. Henson:

This is to acknowledge the receipt of an invitation to attend a reception in honor of Mr. John W. Bruner, under the auspices of the teachers of Frederick County, to be held in Frederick on Friday evening, November 15. It is unfortunate that we have scheduled for that day and evening our Annual Homecoming. We expect a large number of alumni to return to Morgan and as a member of the committee on arrangements I shall find it impossible to attend this reception. Were it not for this, I would certainly be present in order to show my respect and appreciation for the long and effective services of Mr. John W. Bruner.

I would like to add this testimony of Mr. Bruner's services:

The first summer session held at Morgan College was in 1920. The course of study was arranged primarily for Baltimore city teachers. After the first two sessions Mr. Bruner was a student in our summer school. Being a supervisor of rural schools Mr. Bruner felt the need for courses in rural education. He felt that the teachers in his county and other counties in Maryland should be able to secure rural methods that would help them with their work. When this matter was brought to the attention of the administrative officers of Morgan College they immediately began a search for a man to inaugurate this great movement. After consulting members of the faculty the name of John W. Bruner was presented. Beginning with the summer session of 1923 he taught courses in rural methods for five summer sessions. We can designate him as the father of rural education in the Morgan College summer school.

Again expressing my regrets at not being able to attend the reception, I am

Sincerely yours,
Edw. N. Wilson
Registrar

ENW/eh

15

John W. Bruner

In 1917 I began to work with Mr. John W. Bruner, then supervisor of colored schools of Frederick County. At that time he stood in the forefront of the county supervisors, being in the class with the late Phineas E. Gordy of Wicomico County. In fact, he was employed in a few other counties in 1917-18 and 1918-19 to do institute work for the colored teachers.

I rejoice that he has been able to carry on until he has reached the age at which he can lay down his burden of traveling, of directing, of teaching, of re-teaching.

During all these years I have enjoyed my professional association with him.

It is therefore with great pleasure that I add my testimony to the worth of John W. Bruner and say without hesitation that he has rendered a genuine service to the State of Maryland through his activities in the public schools of Frederick County.

I salute him not as one dying but as one beginning to live on "easy street" and hope that his future may be pleasant and joyous.

J. W. Huffington
J. W. Huffington
Supervisor Colored Schools



At the occasion of the Reunion of the Class of 1938, Superintendent Jack Dale read and presented a Proclamation from Frederick County Public Schools, acknowledging and commending the legacy of Lincoln High School. "I became aware of Frederick County's rich heritage when I moved here two years ago," said Dr. Dale. "Hearing the legacy of Lincoln has been a humbling experience."

17

***Proclamation
September 19, 1998***

WHEREAS, Many variables contribute to the progress of a democratic society, no variable is as important as the education of not only students, but the entire citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Frederick County owes a great deal to Dr. John W. Bruner for service to the community, especially to the black community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. John William Bruner was the first of his race to be hired, as a professional employee, by the Western Shore counties of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bruner began his educational career as a Manual Arts teacher and later was promoted to Supervisor of all schools for colored children in Frederick County; and

WHEREAS, He served as Supervisor for thirty years; and

WHEREAS, He began a "crusade" to have a high school established for colored children; and

WHEREAS, In 1920, he appealed to the Superintendent of Frederick County Schools for assistance in developing a Negro High School; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of Frederick County Maryland, hereby acknowledges and celebrates the career of Dr. John W. Bruner on the occasion of the 60th Celebrated Reunion of the Lincoln High School Class of 1938.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Jack Dale, Superintendent, on behalf of the Board of Education, Frederick County Public School System, State of Maryland, do hereby extend a very special tribute to:

Professor John William Bruner



for his successful “crusade” for equal educational opportunities for all Frederick County students.

Mr. Maurice Reid

Lincoln High School’s first principal was an inspiration to all. Married and the father of three, Mr. Reid took hold of the vision and the seed planted in 1920. He nurtured it with courage, curiosity and fairness until 1936, always honoring its founding principles—even during the tough times. He will always be remembered as a very patient, dedicated and kind-hearted man. A great pillar in our community who was truly devoted to the educational advancement of the black child.



Mr. Howard Pindell

Although he was only here for two years, Mr. Pindell made a big impact on many young lives. A great believer in discipline, he straightened out a lot of kids who were headed in the wrong direction. Mr. Pindell continued the nurturing which Mr. Reid began and Lincoln students saw in him another fair, dedicated, compassionate man, who led us successfully from 1936 until 1938.

We will always cherish your values.

To be continued...

Slavery Abolished Here Long Before Civil War

By **WILLIAM I. HOPWOOD**
Staff Writer

An historical document found by Pierce H. Gaver, county archivist, in the courthouse attic proves that Frederick County land owners were freeing their slaves as early as 1790.

Slavery was still an established institution in the border state of Maryland more than 70 years before the Civil War when Daniel Dorsey signed the document which freed his slaves.

It has not been established as yet if this pioneer in freeing his slaves was an ancestor of Lawrence A. Dorsey, the current county commissioner.

Gaver says he will try to trace Dorsey's family tree to find any relationship.

The yellowing legal document, about to fall apart from lack of care in the courthouse attic,

gives Daniel Dorsey's reasons for freeing his slaves and lists their names and the dates of their liberation.

Today, Lincoln's Birthday, archivist Gaver and Miss Billie Royer, secretary to the county commissioners, read these words written 175 years ago by one Frederick County landowner

as the reason for freeing slaves: "Having maturely considered the nature of slavery, I am convinced that it is contrary to the fundamental principals of the Christian faith.

"Desirous of being obedient to the will of God and of doing unto all men as I would they should do unto me. I do hereby let at full liberty all of my slaves, freeing them from all bondage and servitude unto myself or my heirs," Dorsey wrote.

Gaver has found many other documents in the courthouse attic freeing slaves in the last 10 years of the 1700s and in the first 10 years of the 1800s indicating that Slavery was unpopular here 70 years before the Civil War.

Reprinted with the permission of the Frederick News-Post publisher on February 12, 1965.

Greetings all,

Back in 1990 I wrote an article for Agnes Callum's Flower of the Forest Journal on the above subject. I am revisiting it for my dissertation. As a disclaimer, I joined DAR in 1993, I have since moved from Caton Avenue, and I transcribed and published the original register.

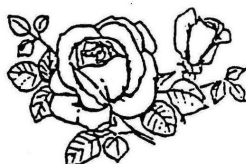
I made the request: "If you know of the final whereabouts of any of these people, please transcribe, document, and submit that information"

If you can help, please respond to this email, or if you know by then, please share at the meeting on the 14th.

The article is attached as a Adobe pdf file. Thanks,

Karen E. Sutton

BLACK GENEALOGICAL JOURNAL



1990

Agnes Kane Callum
Founder and Editor

Exodus of Free Persons of Color
From
Northumberland County, Virginia
by
Karen E. Sutton

While researching my own Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) application, I found a very interesting entry. I have known for several years now that my great-great-grandfather, Robert Nickens sold his land in Northumberland County, Virginia, and moved to Baltimore, Maryland in 1850.¹ Until a few days ago, I didn't know why.

"October 14, 1850"

It appearing to this court by satisfactory evidence that there are a number of free negroes about to removed from this county out of the commonwealth of Va. at their own coast and whence by our making .ppropriations for the removal of free persons of color and for other purposes passed the 11th. March 1850 which ---- ----directs that it shall be the duty of the county and cooperating courts to charge the legal tax for the seal of the court and ---- of every copy of registration by them to every free negro and to acco: (accommodate) with the auditor of such tax being to raise a fund for the removal of free negroes out of this Commonwealth. Therefore the court dot direct its clerk: not to charge the tax aforesaid to any free negro who obtains his papers for the purpose of removing out of the Commonwealth at his or her own costs.²

On the next day, 145 "free persons of color" went to the Courthouse to register themselves; presumably for the purpose of leaving "the Commonwealth." The Order Book merely lists names and numbers. The actual Register is in the custody of the Northumberland County Historical Society; it includes, age, height, complexion and any distinguishing marks on each person.

Tuesday, October 15, 1850

Name

Spencer Thomas	561	Mary Moore	562
Winny Jones	563	Susan Moore	564
Margaret Moore	565	John Hurst	566
Nancy Kelly	567	Susan Kelly	568
Martha Kelly	569	Jo Ella Kelly	570
John Nathaniel Kelly	572	Judith Nickins	573
Barton Andrew Nickens	574	Sophonra Ellen Nickens	574
Lombard Lucious Nickens	576	Bartholomew Carter Nickens	574
Robert Overton Nickens	576	Judith Ritch	579
Nancy Veny	580	Sally Kelly	581
Morduci Veny	582	Ashwell Veny	583
Maranda Ann Veny	584	Catherine Veny	585
Simon Veny	586	Nancy Veny	587
Eliza Hurst	589	James L. Hurst	589
Henry A. Hurst	590	Novella A. Hurst	591
Fanny Sorrell	593	Sally Spriddle	594
Nancy Ticer	597	Harriett Ticer	598
Hester Ann Ticer	599	Walter Ticer	600
John Ticer	601	Susan Cassty	602
Roxy Sorrell	603	Eliza Sorrell	604
Hiram Sorrell	605	James Sorrell	606
Nancy Garnton	607	William James Garnton	606
Ann Thomas	609	Mary Sank	610

Exodus of Free Persons of Color
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While researching my own Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) application, I found a very interesting entry. I have known for several years now that my great-great-grandfather, Robert Nickens sold his land in Northumberland County, Virginia, and moved to Baltimore, Maryland in 1850.¹ Until a few days ago, I didn't know why.

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Roxy Ann Weaver	676	Mary Francis Weaver	675
Whittendon Weaver	678	Mary Hubbard	679
Agnes Hubbard	680	Robert Hubbard	681
John Nathaniel Hubbard	682	Sally Coles	683
Morris Jackson	684	Mary Jackson	685
Margarett Jackson	686	Elizabeth Owens	687
Frances Armstead	688	John Blundon	689
Samuel Blundon	690	Virginia Blundon	691
Sarah Ann Blundon	692	Jane Thomas	693
Benjamin Thomas	694	Alex. Carpenter	695
William Day	696	Elizabeth Ewell	697
Mary Ann Ewell	698	Warner Ewell	699
Elizabeth Ewell Glido?	700	Eliza James Ewell	701
Lavalia Ann Ewell	702	Francis Ewell	703
Roxy Ewell	704	Mathias Ewell	705
Wm. Henry Ewell	706		

Again through my Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) research, I know that many of these people moved to Baltimore City, Maryland. That information will be shared in future articles. If you know of the final whereabouts of any of these people, please transcribe, document, and submit that information Karen E. Sutton, 3324 Caton Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland, 21229.

Footnotes

¹Deed of Robert Nickens and Judy his wife of Baltimore City to Charles Lattimore, December



FOOTNOTES

¹"Deed of Robert Nickens and Judy his wife of Baltimore City to Charles." December 27, 1850. Deed Book A, p. 381, Northumberland County Courthouse, Heathsville, Va., 22473.

²"Tax for removing free negroes." Order Book 1844-1852, pp. 364, 365, Northumberland County Courthouse, Heathsville, Va., 22473.

³The address is Northumberland County Historical Society, Heathsville, VA., 22473, Attn: Mr. Robert N. McKenney, Executive Director.

⁴"Register of free negroes." Order Book 1844-1852, Northumberland County Courthouse, Heathsville, Va., 22473. (Note: In the actual document names are recorded one behind the other in text, I have transcribed them in table form, as well as, as added heading for ease in reading).



Karen E. Sutton is an ardent researcher and genealogist. Several of her ancestors fought in the Revolutionary War, therefore, she is seeking admission to the Daughters of the American Revolution.



AARCH to honor 'living history' elders at banquet

By NICHOLAS C. STERN

News-Post Staff
nsterp@fredericknewspost.com

Local history is often studied in terms of the deeds of people who have died.

But for Joy Hall-Onley, a member of the African American Resources Cultural and Heritage Society, hearing the stories from the mouths of elders in the community is just as

valuable a historical resource. On Dec. 19, AARCH will hold its second annual Living Treasures Banquet at Dutch's Daughter restaurant in Frederick, where it will honor a group of Frederick African-Americans 90 years of age and older.

"They are our living history, and we want to honor them in that way," Hall-Onley said. Seventeen of the 18 hon-

orees — whose median age is 93 — attending the banquet are from Frederick, Hall-Onley said, though most are not as well-known as Lord Nickens, a former president of the local NAACP and civil rights leader.

"These are people who've not been in the limelight, but who've made names for themselves in their families and local churches," she said. AARCH has been and con-

tinues to collect their stories for posterity, Hall-Onley said. If all goes according to plan, those stories will be placed in a Frederick County African-American History Museum, part of the mission of AARCH.

"They're beacons of light for those coming after them, they hold a lot of wisdom for the younger generation," Hall-Onley said. The banquet will also fea-

ture the Who So Ever singers, who will lead a singalong at the event.

The Living Treasures banquet will start at noon. Admission is \$25. Proceeds will mostly go to the honorees, along with other monetary donations and gift cards given by local businesses, Hall-Onley said.

For details, call Hall-Onley at 301-663-4078.

Reprinted with the permission of the Frederick News-Post published on December 12, 2009.

A vanishing legacy

Almost without fail, anyone visiting me for the first time gets the Grand Tour of Bartonsville, a historic hamlet three miles east of Frederick. On the "tour," family homes that have been standing for well over 100 years, the old schoolhouse that was moved to the main road, the cemetery and the churches are high points.

The inspiration for this commentary comes from the role that one of the two churches has played in the lives of ancestors and their descendants — and recent actions taken by the United Methodist Church. The establishment of a church in Bartonsville was a result, no doubt, of the villagers' simply wanting to have a discrete place of worship. And so through the generosity of an interested party and by their own sweat, the church came into being.

Jackson Chapel was built on land donated by a black couple, Cato and Leathy Adams, in 1878. Deeded to Adams, Samson Miles and William Dorsey, the church building was completed and dedicated in October 1879. Until St. James AME Church was established over the hill in 1883, all the black families in the village attended Jackson.

Today one will find a few proud descendants still residing there: Bowies, Davises, Diggs, Hills and Knights. At one time, resident surnames included Bowins, Brooks, Brown, Butcher, Caesar, Collins, Dorsey, Edwards, Hurd, Jackson, Ross, Snowden, Tyler and West, to name a few.

These are the families who, over the years since the founding of Jackson Chapel, have maintained, improved and carried the burden of operating costs. Improvements have ranged from building concrete steps (c.1915) and installing electricity (c.1925) to remodeling the kitchen and retiling the rest rooms (c.1998). Every 10-year-cycle report includes a list of major projects.

The recorded deed of ownership of Jackson Chapel should be considered sufficient documentation in the event ownership of the



BEVERLY FORD

COMMENTARY

church is ever brought into question. Thanks to the leadership of the pastors, the wherewithal of its members and, not least, the grace of God, Jackson has not, like some, fallen under the mantle of "small church" when they tried to disassociate from the UMC.

They've been told that they may do so on one of two conditions: Depart but surrender the building, any other property and all assets, including bank accounts; or remain but pay a ransom of thousands of dollars. This, reader, is not an opinion; it is fact.

Jackson is not in the same position as these churches, but knowing this does little to allay fears that the heritage and sense of alliance begun in 1878 could be coming to an end. Several months ago Jackson's pastor and congregation were permanently installed in a church where he had been serving as copastor. The scary part is that the original name of that church was replaced with "Jackson Chapel United Methodist Church." It makes me wonder what will become of the "old" Jackson Chapel, now known by a different name. Will the integrity of a long and strong heritage be compromised? Perhaps this is a question that only time can answer.

Beverly Ford writes from Walkersville and offers this disclaimer: All opinions are solely her own and do not represent those of the pastor or members of Jackson Chapel.

Recently Home



Pfc. Ralph Tilghman

Pfc. Tilghman was recently home on furlough at which time he visited his wife, Mrs Helen G Tilghman, Lincoln apartments, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs Arthur Tilghman, West All Saints street. His address is: Pfc. Ralph Tilghman, Def 415th Bkry. Co., APO 182, care Postmaster, Coachella Depot, Los Angeles, Calif.

Reprinted with the permission of the Frederick News-Post published on March 6, 1944.

Reprinted with the permission of the Frederick News-Post published on April 10, 2010.

Decaying buildings

Church seeking solutions

By LINDA NORRIS
News-Post Staff Writer

The windows of three abandoned buildings on All Saints Street look over Asbury Methodist Church with what appears to be a vacant, unblinking stare.

The windows seem to dare the congregation which owns the buildings to take steps to make them a functional part of the historically black community.

Once the buildings were home to Frederick residents, in the days when the area was a vibrant and self-contained place.

But at a price tag of more than \$500,000, renovation of all three buildings is too steep for the small congregation of 250. They have chosen, instead, to renovate just one building for a new church hall at the corner of Ice and All Saints streets. And they plan to tear down two buildings to make room for a parking lot.

But their decision has raised the eyebrows of the city's Historic District Commission, whose members are not enthusiastic about the church's plans for tearing down buildings in Frederick's historic district.



The Rev. Maurice Moore listens to a hymn during a Sunday service at Asbury United Methodist Church. He said, "The church has more to offer than a Sunday service. It has to provide some service to the community."

In turn, the congregation is alarmed at the HDC's zeal for structures they cannot afford to preserve — especially since church members argue that the aim of their project is preservation of the street's black culture, in the face of increasing pressure by developers for lucrative lots on Carroll Creek.

"Everything in that area is going. As a people, we want to hold onto something that is our heritage," said Walter Collins, the

chairman of the church's building fund. "We can understand the historic commission, that they want to preserve architecture. But sometimes you must weigh today's human needs against preservation of yesterday's past."

The church began in 1818 when William Hammond sold a lot on East All Saints Street to the white All Saints Episcopal Church, for use by slaves and free blacks. Called the Old Hill Church, it was

replaced in 1922 with the existing Asbury Church on the corner of Court and All Saints streets.

The tiny, drafty basement under the church that served as gym and home to black basketball teams in the days of segregation is still the only place where community members and parishioners can hold Sunday school, wedding recep-

Continued on Page 4

Reprinted with the permission of the Frederick News-Post published on April 1, 1963

A church's dilemma

Continued from Page 1

tions, dances, club meetings and other large functions.

Because it is so small and old — built in the 1920s, church members say — people from the church and the black community are looking outside All Saints Street for places to have their celebrations.

"If we develop the new building, it will bring back things that are black oriented: weddings, receptions," says Kay Gant, the church's education director. "Those things are important, to have a place where we can go — black congregations are known for celebrating the things that happen to us, things we don't under-

stand."

The congregation originally wanted to renovate all three buildings, bought from Julien Delphay three years ago and mortgaged for \$125,000. The three buildings are on the south side of West All Saints Street, lined up one next to the other beginning at Ice Street.

The congregation wanted to convert the most historic of the three, a dilapidated log cabin, into a black history museum. But the high cost of renovating it, plus the danger it posed to other buildings near it, forced a more practical choice: a parking lot.

"The commission is concerned about losing the historic fabric of

the right thing for the church and the community."

The church is already reaching out to the black community in ways that are not always strictly religious, says the Rev. Maurice Moore, who has been pastor of the church for the last three years. His transfer to the church was a homecoming of sorts. When his father got a teaching job in Frederick, his parents attended Asbury.

"I've heard stories about All Saints Street all the time I was growing up," he says. "The church has to offer more than a Sunday service; it has to provide some service to the community," the Rev. Moore says.

"One of the greatest deterrents to drugs is if kids feel they are part of the community."

That service is coming in a variety of ways.

The church's youth group

decided in its bi-monthly meetings to do what it could to clean up All Saints Street and the south Frederick community. They're planning to ask Frederick's Mayor and Board of Aldermen to replace trash bins that were taken away during road reconstruction, and the kids themselves plan to paint their slogan, "Ditch the Dirt," on the bins.

"Our church is surrounded by this community, and it's kind of dirty," says Angel Carroll, a 17-year-old Brunswick senior in the youth group. "We're proud of our church, and we don't want to have to look at that on Sundays."

A local school counselor looking for a place for parents of at-risk students to meet turned to the church when she couldn't find anywhere else, the Rev. Moore says. A multi-purpose church hall would provide a larger place, and started soon.

make the church more available for community needs, he says. "It's the feeling that people come to us when they have a need, the feeling the church instills, that matters," he says.

The church has hosted a series of black history seminars this year that has been, for some children, their first clear picture of segregation in the Frederick community, church members say.

A new church hall would be an opportunity to open up black history discussions to an even wider segment of the community, the Rev. Moore says. "This has been a natural role for the black church to provide, what the community agencies have missed," he says.

The Rev. Moore worries about the future of Asbury — and churchgoing young folks — if some kind of building program isn't started soon.



Courtesy photo

Asbury United Methodist Church donates historical items

The trustees of Asbury United Methodist Church in Frederick recently donated a Lincoln High School trophy case and Lincoln sport trophies to African American Resources – Cultural and Heritage. The case and trophies have been housed at Asbury since 1962, when Lincoln High School closed and became South Frederick Elementary due to integration. The school reclaimed the Lincoln name in 2006. The donation will be added to the resource organization's growing collection of African-American historical artifacts. Some of the trophies are being displayed at Lincoln Elementary School, along with other Lincoln High School artifacts. From left, front row, are Theresa Brown, AARCH director; LaDelle Brooks, Asbury Church pastor; and Iva Wright and Bonnie Swann, Asbury trustees; middle row are the Rev. Joseph Foster and David Key, AARCH officers; back row are Earl Page and Charles Wars Jr., Asbury trustees.

Reprinted with the permission of the Frederick News-Post published on January 27, 2013.



Dr. Ulysses G. Bourne, who practiced medicine in Frederick for 50 years, was dedicated to providing quality medical care to his patients and improving life in the black community. In this photo Dr. Bourne was approximately 50 years old.

upbringing instilled in him a great love for all living things. This love plus a great aptitude for service helped lead him into the medical profession. In 1902 Dr. Bourne graduated from Leonard Medical College in North Carolina, which later became known as Shaw University.

Early Abolitionists Tried in Frederick

By MAXINE HATTERY

In Maryland newspapers before the Civil War, slaves were advertised for sale along with other farm and household equipment. According to T. J. C. Williams in his history of Frederick County, "There were slaves in every house and it was within the power of the negroes to destroy their owners by poison, by fire or by murdering them while asleep."

During the same period, the Methodist Episcopal Church opposed slavery. It favored gradual abolition and no Methodist minister was allowed to own slaves. One such preacher from Pennsylvania gave a sermon from a parked wagon in the summer of 1818 in Washington County, Maryland to a crowd of 3,000, including about 400 Negroes who listened from behind the wagon.

In an emotional appeal the minister "commit acts of mutiny and rebellion, in contempt and in open violation of the

laws, good order, and good government of this State, and to the evil and pernicious example of all the people in like cases offending, and against the peace, the honor, and dignity of the State."

Frederick's brought to his trial in 1818. He requested his trial be held, possibly hoping the news had reached town and knowing he would get hostile juries in Washington County. The jury nevertheless included several slaveholders.

Roger Brooks Tanev, who later, as Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, returned a runaway slave to his owner in the "Dred Scott Case," was the lawyer who defended Gruber against the angry and frightened slave owners. Tanev was surprisingly opposed to slavery. He had freed his own slaves and favored their gradual abolition.

After witnesses from both sides testified on what Gruber had said in his

speech, Tanev concluded with an eloquent summation. He pointed out that since the slaves had been forced to listen to the minister behind the pulpit, it was only to the white audience that he spoke directly. The possibility that Gruber's sermon may have been inflammatory, he said, was not under question. Criminal intent had to be shown. Except for that, Gruber was protected by the "civil and religious rights of free speech."

That he was merely expressing an opinion without an intent to incite to violence was evidenced by the view of his denomination: "its belief in the 'gradual and peaceful abolition of slavery.'"

Tanev continued: "Their preachers are accustomed, in their sermons, to speak of the injustice and oppression of slavery. The opinions of Mr. Gruber on any subject do not sound odd, and, if any slaveholder believed it dangerous to suffer his family or the community to be unjust and oppressive, and persuade him, sell that they could not, of themselves, be able to make the discovery it was in his power prevent them from attending the assemblies where such doctrines were likely to be preached. Mr. Gruber did not go to the slaves; they came to him. They would not have come if their master had chosen to prevent them."

Tanev concluded his summation to the jury: "There is no law which forbids us to speak of slavery as we think of it. Any man has a right to publish his opinions on that subject, whenever he pleases. It is a subject of national concern, and may, at all times be freely discussed."

"Mr. Gruber did quote the language of our great act of national independence, and insisted on the principles contained in that venerated instrument. He did rebuke those masters, who, in the exercise of power, are deaf to the calls of humanity; and he warned them of the evils they might bring upon themselves. He did speak with abhorrence of those reptiles, who live by trading in human flesh, and enrich themselves by tearing the husband from the wife, the infant from the bosom of the mother; and this, I am instructed, was the head and front of his offending."

"Shall I content myself with saying he had a right to say this? That there is no law to punish him? So far is he from being the object of punishment, in any form of proceeding, that we are prepared to maintain the same principles, and to use, if necessary, the



An early postcard shows a typical sharecropper's cabin about the turn of the century.

same language here, in the temple of justice and in the presence of those who are the ministers of the law."

Tanev continued, repeating Gruber's sentiments as his own: "A hard necessity, indeed, compels us to endure the evil of slavery for a time. It was imposed upon us by another nation, while we were yet in a state of colonial vassalage. It cannot be easily, or suddenly, removed. Yet, while it continues, it is a blot on our national character, and every real lover of freedom confidently hopes that it will be wiped away, and earnestly looks for the means by which this necessary object may be best attained. And until it shall be accomplished, until the time when we stand forth without a blush to the language held in the Declaration of Independence, every true and humane man will seek to lighten the falling chain of slavery, and hasten to the earliest opportunity the best method of improving the wretched condition of the slave."

"There was a great crowd, great curiosity and great excitement at the Court," according to the History of Frederick County. The jury returned a verdict of "not guilty." Gruber was free to continue working the slaveholding population. The day after he was newly protected freedom of speech to repeat his beliefs in a letter to the editor of a Frederick newspaper: "I hope," he wrote, "while I keep my sense, I shall consider involuntary perpetual slavery miserable injustice; a system of robbery and theft."



NEGROES WANTED

CASH will be given (in Baltimore notes) for LIKELY YOUNG NEGROES of either sex. Apply at Mr. Mayberry's tavern, Frederick-town. May 25.

Milestones

1781 — The Rev. Thomas Bacon, an Englishman, opened a school for blacks in Frederick. By this date the Baptist Church in Frederick had several black members. William Ware, a black man from Pipe Creek near Union Bridge, nearly precipitated a war between the United States and Great Britain. During this time, England ruled the waves and was stopping American vessels to find deserters from the British Navy. In 1793, the American ship "Chesapeake" on the high seas, they found one such deserter and executed him, but they also took three American seamen, including Ware, and forced them to work on the British ship. Such violations of the sea laws raised a furor in the United States and eventually led to the War of 1812.

1839 — A Frederick delegate to a Baltimore slave-holders' convention suggested restrictive legislation to limit the number of free blacks coming to Maryland. The Fairview Free African School was incorporated beside the Fairview M.E. Church, between Liberty and Taylorsville. As the trustees of the school were black, this may have been an independent school established by blacks. World War II — Mrs. Lurwood Frazier may have become the first black woman in Maryland to join the Women's Army Corps, where she served during the war.



FOR SALE

A likely young Negro Man accustomed to work on a farm. He has 12 years to serve. Enquire of the printer. June 8.



The overseer's cabin stood behind the main plantation house on this New Market farm.

Reprinted with the permission of the Frederick News-Post published on February 20, 1976.

Black history museum

When well-known local public servant and educator William O. Lee Jr. died in 2004, we editorialized that his unfulfilled dream of establishing a black history museum in Frederick should be realized.

Mr. Lee was intensely interested in the rich and varied black culture of Frederick County. He had amassed many artifacts, documents and other historical items that could serve as the core collection for a museum.

As reported in a June 10 front-page *News-Post* story, in 2000 Mr. Lee established an informal committee to begin planning for this facility. After his death, that group, the African American Resource and Cultural Heritage Society of Frederick County, Md., lost its momentum for a time. In the fall of 2005, however, Mr. Lee's widow, Cynthia Lee, and the Historical Society of Frederick County began a campaign to reinvigorate the group and its mission.

The goal of AARCH is to become a non-profit organization, which would allow donations of funds to establish and operate the museum. The interest of local minister, the Rev. Samie Conyers, in the project has helped move it along. He accepted Ms. Lee's request that he head up

News-Post EDITORIAL

AARCH and is now working to establish the group's operating charter and trying to interest city and county officials into donating space for the museum. "It'll be the right thing to do," says the Rev. Conyers. We agree.

We believe Frederick would be an ideal place for such a museum for several reasons. First, as a city that represents and celebrates hundreds of years of American history, a black history museum would be highly appropriate, as it would fill in an important gap in recording the area's past. It would also provide perspective on the life and times of residents in a region whose loyalties were divided before, during and after the Civil War.

The renaming of South Frederick Elementary School to the Lincoln School during ceremonies last Sunday relates to a key chapter of local black history — segregated schools that existed into the middle of the last century. There are many black Frederick area residents for whom that time is more than a mere history lesson learned from a textbook. They lived it. And so did white Frederick.

We encourage city officials to get behind this important project by helping site and support a black history museum. We believe once such a place becomes a reality that valuable donations of great historic significance will flow in from area residents. A good location and high-quality facility with adequate space will encourage such donations. To modify the popular expression a bit: "Build it and they will donate."

With proper management and nurturing, a museum of black history could become another reason for people with an interest in history to visit Frederick, and could take its place among the area's existing collection of museums and historic places.

A good look at black history over the past couple of hundred years will not be a light or altogether pleasant experience, but like all history, it will be enlightening — a way for residents of this city and county to better understand the journey that brought them to the present.

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Frederick News-Post published on June
16, 2006.

FREDERICK SOLDIER MISSING IN ACTION

Pfc. Norman R. Thompson, Colored, Unreported Since September 1

Pfc. Norman R. Thompson, 27, colored, has been reported missing in action in Korea, the Department of Defense has notified his uncle, Osborne Thompson of 105 West Fifth street.

Pfc. Thompson, according to the message, has been missing since September 1. In the Army the last three and a half years, the soldier went to Korea from Fort Dix, N. J. in July, his brother, Leroy Thompson, said last night. He was with the Ninth Infantry Regiment.

A letter was received from Pfc. Thompson, postmarked August 28, in which he stated the "action is pretty rough," and said his buddy had been killed in action. He said the "Gooks have no fear of death and I wonder where they all come from."

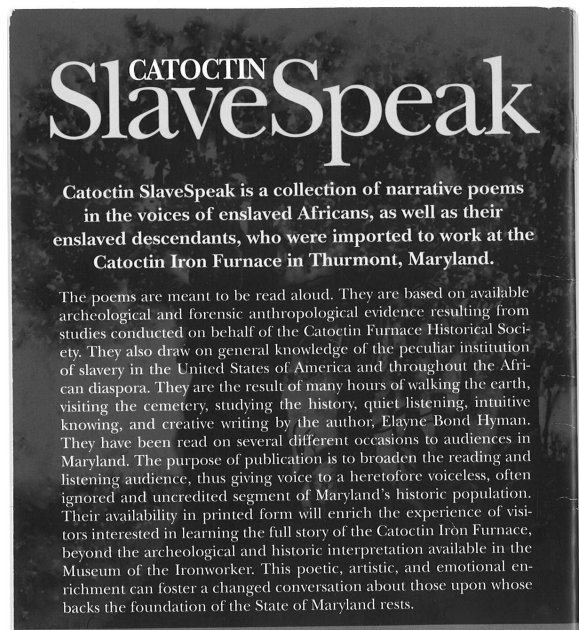
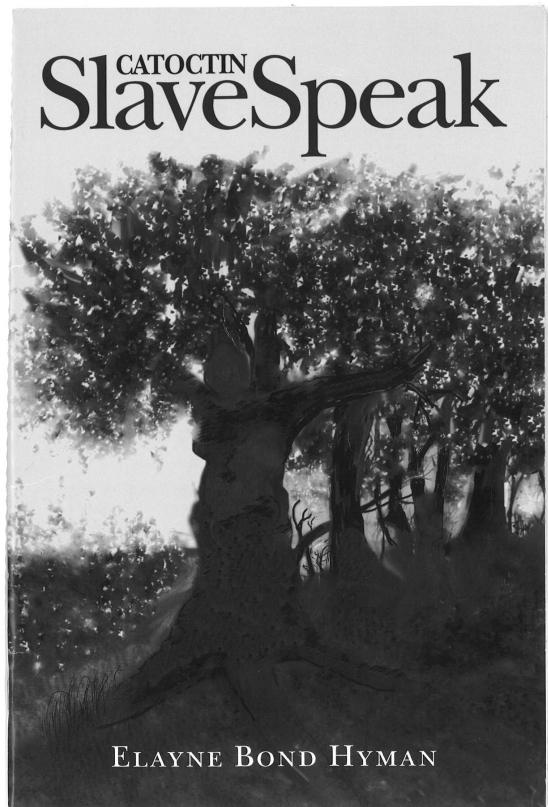
The soldier is a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles Thompson and was engaged in construction work in Frederick and Baltimore before joining the Army. He was unmarried.

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published on October 24, 1950.



KILLED IN KOREA—Mr. and Mrs. Howard R. Sewell, New Market, have been notified by the Defense Department of the death in Korea of their son, Paul Sewell. Sewell's death resulted from "fragment wounds of the head, chest, and abdomen," sustained in an accident when a hand grenade exploded, the parents were informed.

Reprinted with the permission of the Frederick News-Post published on January 4, 1952.



CATOCTIN FURNACE
CATOCTIN FURNACE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
 12525 Catoctin Furnace Road
 Thurmont, Maryland 21788-3006
www.catoctinfurnace.org

MSAC
 MARYLAND STATE ARTS COUNCIL
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\$14.95
 ISBN 978-0-578-61731-2 51495>

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All proceeds from the sale of this volume go directly to efforts giving voice to the voiceless enslaved Africans of Catoctin Furnace.

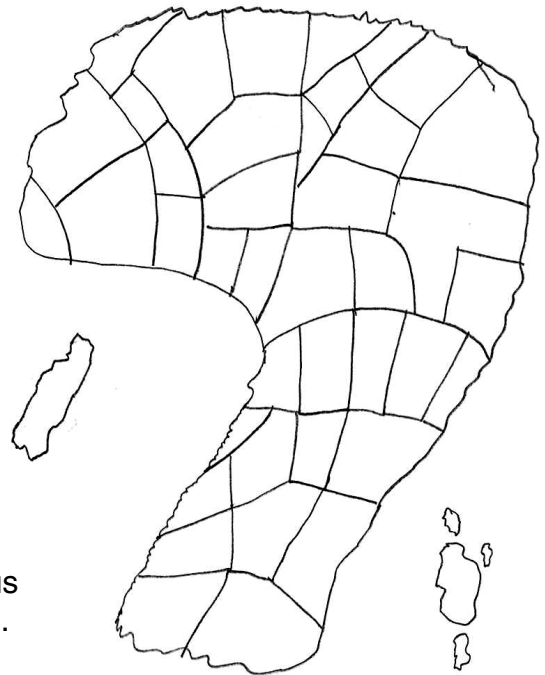
Cemetery History

The African-American burial ground at Catoctin Furnace was excavated in 1979-1980 as part of the planned expansion of Route 15. The section of the cemetery investigated during this time yielded 35 graves and 33 remains (2 graves did not contain any skeletal remains, probably due to the presence of acidic soils). The skeletal remains were immediately identified as having African origin and were taken to the Smithsonian Institution for analysis and curation, where they are curated today.

In 2015, the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc., received grant funding to reanalyze the remains utilizing technologies not available at the time of the initial excavation and analysis, as well as to conduct detailed historical research. We recognized that much was known about the owners of the complex, including their names, affiliations, domiciles, and actions. However, the absence of the story of the enslaved persons and free black labor force at the furnace was an example of the tragedy of slavery writ large: namely, the lack of a descendant community and the erasure of the black population and collective heritage from the area. One 87-year-old local oral history informant at Catoctin Furnace recently characterized it in this manner while discussing the cemetery (which he had never heard about until a few years ago): "I saw WWII German soldiers before I saw a black man. There were no black people in the area." A more inclusive narrative is now possible and is a unique and important aspect of the interpretation at Catoctin Furnace. This narrative now includes the valuable contribution of Africans and African-Americans to the United States as well as an understanding of the tragedy of slavery and the legacy of slavery still manifest in economic and social inequality.

The rediscovery process has been several years in development. Our partnership with the Smithsonian Institution and the Department of Genetics, Harvard Medical School, has successfully sequenced the human genomes of 29 of the individuals from the Catoctin cemetery. The stated goals of the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc., in undertaking this research, are to identify a descendant community for the

Catoctin African-American workers (enslaved and free); to connect the individuals within the cemetery to their ancestral roots in Africa; and to share the discovery process and its results with the public, including information about social status, region of origin, historical ethnicity, familial relationships, working life, dress, health, disease, overwork, diet, birth, and death. The narrative poems written by Elayne Bond Hyman are an inspiring and compelling part of the rediscovery of the lost legacy of African Americans in Catoctin Furnace. Thank you to the Maryland State Arts Council Creativity Grant staff for their support of this challenging work.



We thank Catoctin Furnace Historical Society for letting us include a few pages from its book "Catoctin Slave Speak". The book has 22 poems and illustrations.

S/A: Elayne Bond Hyman

Report Local GI Was Killed



Pfc. Harvey E. Luby

Missing in action in Korea since July 26, 1950, a local colored youth has been reported officially as killed in action, it was learned yesterday.

The Defense Department has informed Webster Luby, an employe on the Dr. Charles L. Mullen farm on the Gas House Pike, his son, Pfc. Harvey E. Luby, 19, has been definitely determined as killed in action.

No explanation of the transfer from missing to killed in action files has been received to date.

Pfc. Luby, a graduate of Lincoln High School and a former part-time employe at Frederick Memorial Hospital, was the third countian reported missing in the early days of the Korean war. His father was notified in November of 1950 that he was listed as missing.

One Of 13 Children

He was one of thirteen children in the family which includes: Elizabeth Luby, Mrs. Charles Grooms, Mrs. Frances Weedon, Ernest and Webster, Jr., this city.

The last word the family received from the soldier was a letter dated June 22, 1950, in which he told of sailing from Seattle on May 24, and landing safely in Korea.

He had enlisted in the Army in June of 1948 immediately after finishing high school. His family had resided at 13 East Sixth street for some years.

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of the Frederick News-Post
published on April 28, 1953.

Pfc. Thompson Killed In Korea

Previously reported missing in action in Korea Pfc. Norman R. Thompson 26 former colored life-guard in Mullinix Park has been officially reported killed in action by the Defense Department.

An uncle Osborne Thompson 100 West Fifth street was first advised Tuesday of his nephew's death, which was further confirmed in a letter from the Defense Department, received yesterday.

Pfc. Thompson is the second Frederick colored youth to die in action in the Korean hostilities and the third county resident reported killed in action. Pfc. Charles A. Brandenburg, Ellenton and Pfc. William Thomas, this city were the first two countians reported killed.

A native of Centerville Pfc. Thompson was a son of the late Charles and Maggie Thompson. He attended the old South Bentz street school and was enrolled for sometime in the Civilian Conservation Corps where he qualified as a Red Cross Life Saving instructor.

He was one of the outstanding colored athletes here and served as a life-guard at the Mullinix Park swimming pool prior to returning to military service. He had completed one three-year enlistment last summer when he re-enlisted.

He visited relatives here last July and was sent to Korea the latter part of July. Relatives feared that he was a casualty when they failed to hear from him last fall and their fears were confirmed when the Defense Department reported him missing as of last September 1. The telegram received Tuesday dated his death the same. When last heard from Pfc. Thompson was with the Ninth Replacement Infantry Battalion.

Besides his uncle, he is survived by these sisters and brothers: Mrs. Helen Tilghman, this city; Charles O. Thompson, West Chester, Pa.; Mrs. Dorothy Brooks, this city; John Ed Thompson, West Chester, Pa.; and Leroy Thompson, this city.

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published on January 20, 1951.



Hello JassOdyssey fans. As you remember in Book 3, Park, Marie, and Huddlestone left Albuquerque, the Capital of New Mexico, in a hurry. It seems that someone mysteriously died, and the police considered Marie their prime suspect. To flee the city, they became stowaways on a train headed for L.A.. But the ride was not pleasant--they ended up spending a night in the desert surrounded by creatures that were willing to take a 'bite out of crime.' And yes, our three weary travelers were sitting around a campfire, considering their next move. That's why this song is called "Desert Campfire." Hope you enjoy it (watch out for the scary creatures).

Also, this song will soon be available on streaming services such as Spotify, iTunes, Google Play, and other musical locations.

Have fun and stay safe! As Always, Take the Test, Take the Journey!

jarollins



HURRICANE SWEEPS OVER COUNTY.

Demolishing barns and small buildings, damaging property, uprooting trees and fences and twisting the corn off close to the earth, a hurricane, which at times reached the velocity of a western tornado, swept over Frederick county Saturday afternoon during the heavy rainstorm. Sweeping into Frederick county at Hyattstown from the south, the tornado whirled across the county, and it is believed entered Pennsylvania, causing more than \$100,000 damage in Hanover, Pa.

Terrorized by the strange noise caused by the hurricane and by the sight of trees swirling hundreds of feet in the air, people rushed to their homes for safety. Some took to cellars in much the same manner that westerners are said to act during the violent tornadoes.

As is characteristic of hurricanes the tornado passed over the county in an irregular route, leaving a path of destruction from 90 to 200 feet wide. So violent was the hurricane that large trees were snapped off and carried into the air. Fences disappeared as if they were so many pieces of paper.

The barn of Columbus Buoy, of Bartonville, was lifted into the air, carried about 200 yards and smashed against the Pearl Bargain House, at Pearl. Part of the roof of the Pearl Bargain House was lifted off and carried away. One end of the building was pushed in.

With the exception of a few timbers there is nothing now on the Buoy property to show that a barn existed. A cow, which stood in the stable was uninjured, according to reports from Bartonville. Buoy's loss will amount to several hundred dollars.

Corn on the farm of former County Commissioner Charles W. Zimmerman, east of Frederick, was badly damaged. Mr. Zimmerman said yesterday that a track of his fields, nearly 200 feet wide in some places, is almost totally destroyed. Other sections of the field were not struck by the hurricane. The corn, explained Mr. Zimmerman, was torn from the ground, twisted off in some places and in others fattened to the earth.

"It made an awful noise," said Mr. Zimmerman, in talking about the storm. "It just looked like a big black cloud, with debris flying in the air."

George L. Kaufman, near Frederick, reported some damage to his growing crops.

John Bitzler and family, tenants on the farm of Mr. Kaufman, took a glance at the approaching hurricane yesterday afternoon and then moved into the cellar. The Bitzler family did not show itself above ground until after the storm had passed.

The hurricane caused considerable excitement and terror in the vicinity of Hyattstown. It was reported from that place on Saturday evening that with the exception of demolished fences and small buildings smashed, no extensive damage was caused to property.

The rainfall in Frederick was particularly heavy. At about 4 o'clock rain began to fall in torrents and continued to descend for nearly an hour.

The rain was general throughout the county. Highways were badly washed and the smaller streams converted into torrents, flooding adjoining meadows and lowlands.

With the exception of the house all buildings on the property of Calvin Renner, New Midway, were smashed by the hurricane which passed over that section of Frederick county at about 5 o'clock. The chicken house, a small barn, a hog pen, and other outbuildings were swept away. At one time it was feared the house would collapse.

On the farm of Amos Eyer, near New Midway, the cattle sheds, hog pens and other outbuildings were demolished.

"The tornado played havoc on the farm of Samuel Strine, near New Midway. The farm is tenanted by Herbert Cauliflower. The outbuildings were wrecked, the barn doors blown in and many trees uprooted. The Cauliflower children who were in the home also at the time were badly frightened.

It is not known just how great was the damage in money in Frederick county caused by the storm, but it will probably mean a loss of thousands of dollars.

Citizen news,
June 27, 1915



Courtesy photos

Members of the Silver Oak Academy Student Government Association presented 105-year-old Ruth Onley with the Lifetime Achievement Award on Feb. 25 during the academy's Black History Month program. Pictured from left are Aden McClure, Adrian Sifler, Jordan Lopez, Ruth Onley, Delonte Leary and Emiliano Alonso.

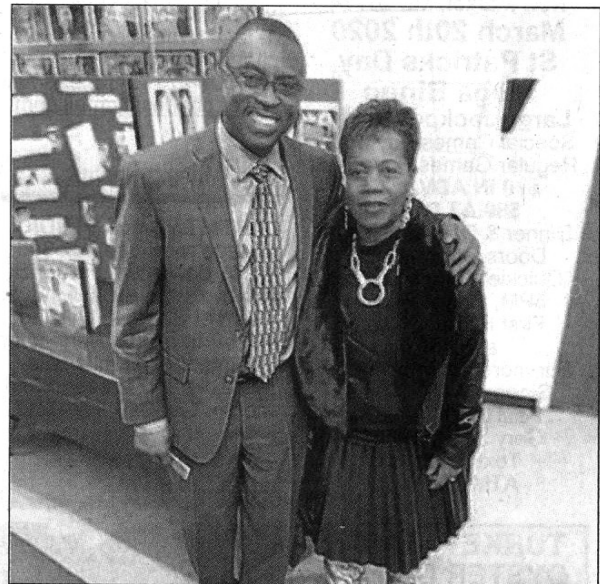
Silver Oak Academy program honors Black History Month

FOR THE FREDERICK NEWS-POST

Silver Oak Academy, in Keymar, held its annual Black History Month program Feb. 25.

The program theme was "Maryland Unity" and included music by Who So Ever Will, Daryl Boffman, Angela Spencer and Christian rapper Troy Salmond. Keynote speakers were the Rev. Kenneth Mitchell, pastor of Emmanuel Church in Walkersville, and author Shaneen Woodson. Local black historian Belva King showcased Black memorabilia and Wendell Poin-dexter, art director at Frederick Community College, exhibited some of his works.

Members of the all-male residential high school's Student Government Association presented Ruth Onley, 105, with a Lifetime Achievement Award and a cake.



Daryl Boffman, left, was a vocalist in the Black History Month Program at Silver Oak Academy. Pictured with Boffman is Sheila Leatherbury, event coordinator and an educator at the academy.

Reprinted with the permission of the Frederick News-Post published on March 8, 2020.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN GENEALOGY CHEAT SHEET

COMPILED BY SUNNY JANE MORTON & DIANE HADDAD

RESEARCH TIPS

6 Keys to Tracing African-American Ancestors

1 IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE. After the Civil War, researching African-American ancestry is similar to that of other heritage groups. Tracing enslaved relatives is difficult, though, due to the scarcity of historical records naming slaves and the practice of giving slaves only first names. But with help from the resources described in this guide, it is possible to learn more about enslaved ancestors.

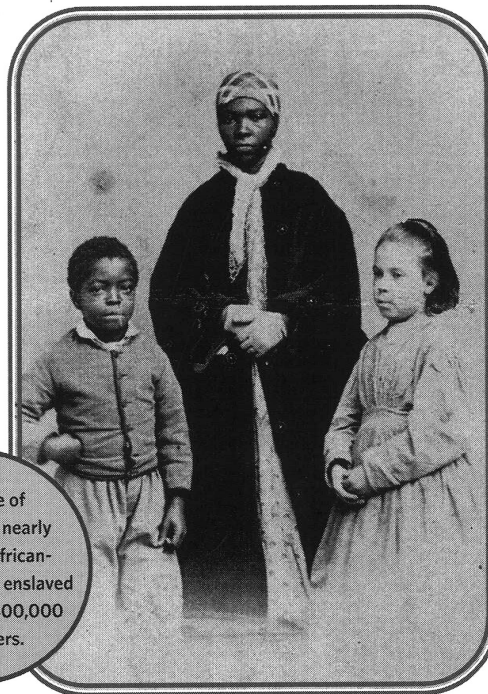
2 TRACE YOUR FAMILY BACK TO THE CIVIL WAR. Start with yourself and work back in time using typical genealogical sources and methods. Ask relatives what they know and search for ancestors in censuses, vital and other records to confirm births, marriages, deaths, parents' names, and other family relationships. You may need to search for segregated government records, such as a "colored" marriage register, or records from segregated institutions such as schools, churches, funeral homes and cemeteries.

3 STUDY MIGRATIONS. During the 20th century, millions of African-Americans in the South moved to other parts of the United States. If yours did, ask older relatives why the family moved and where the family lived previously. Use censuses and city directories to track migrating families.

4 FOLLOW THE FREEDOM TRAIL. About 90 percent of African-Americans were enslaved at the time of the Civil War. They weren't named in censuses or government vital records. Civil War-era African-American ancestors who don't appear in the 1860 or 1850 censuses likely were enslaved. Free blacks often do appear on census schedules and may appear in other records, as well.

5 IDENTIFY SLAVEHOLDING FAMILIES. Enslaved people didn't have legal surnames. Freed slaves sometimes (but not always) took the surname of a former slaveholder. If this was the case for your family, the name may lead you to their slaveholding family. Follow tips later in this guide to using an ancestor's name in the 1870 census to trace them back into the slave era. Then it may be necessary to use records of the slaveholding families, such as wills and estate inventories, to trace your enslaved ancestors' whereabouts.

6 GO OFFLINE. You'll almost certainly need to research in records that aren't available online and use more-advanced research techniques to learn about African-American ancestors before 1865.



At the time of the Civil War, nearly four million African-Americans were enslaved to fewer than 400,000 slaveholders.

Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, LC-DIG-ppmsca-11244

CHECKLIST FOR GETTING STARTED

- Ask every relative you can about your family history.
- Try to learn each relative's name, parents' names, birth date and place, date and place of marriage(s), spouse's name(s), date and place of death, and burial place.
- For all relatives, search for records of birth, marriage and death as well as their appearances in every federal census (every 10 years).
- Fill out a family tree with all the details you learn. Do this online, in a chart or in software.
- Learn what you can of the circumstances and stories of your ancestors' lives. Adoption, divorce, military service and other events suggest records to search for.
- Try to find obituaries and other articles about relatives in both mainstream and African-American newspapers.
- As you research back in time, watch for clues that may identify an ancestor's slaveholder. This can be the key to learning more about any ancestors who were enslaved.

familytree

<www.familytreemagazine.com>

Early efforts to provide opportunities for African-American youth

An undated image from the city's digital collection of students at the West Seventh Street School. It may be depicting the former Salvation Army barracks that was temporarily used as a schoolhouse until the current structure was built around 1898.

Submitted photo



The building at 16 W. Seventh St. stands apart from the collection of two-story brick row houses that face the street. Featuring a modest setback, this 2½-story structure is oriented so that the main entrance is on the side. From the sidewalk, the casual observer will note the splayed jack arches above the windows, an exterior end-chimney and denticulated molding with cornice returns at the roofline.



Christina Martinkosky

This simply styled and handsome building is historically important as it

Preservation MATTERS

provides a tangible link to Frederick's African-American heritage and educational system in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It is important to acknowledge that for much of Frederick's history, there was extremely limited access to educational opportunities for black youth and this building represents the first efforts to provide public education.

The earliest-known school for black children was established at the

(See PRESERVATION A7)

Preservation

(Continued from A5)

Quinn African Methodist Episcopal Church on East Third Street. In the records of an A.M.E. conference in 1845, the church is listed as having a Sabbath school with two teachers and 25 scholars. Although this was a monumental achievement, the school was not publicly funded, and the vast majority of free and enslaved children were left without access to education.

In 1872, the state of Maryland required that the board of county school commissioners establish one or more public schools in each election district for black youths between the ages of 6 and 20. Admission to the segregated schools was free. The new regulation also established that African-American schools were under the direction of a special board of trustees that appointed by the local county board of school commissions.

In response to the new regulations, the city constructed two school buildings to serve Frederick's black students, including the West Seventh Street School and South Bentz Street School. The West Seventh Street School was built around 1898. It replaced a one-story building that was originally designed as a segregated Salvation Army Barracks but was adaptively reused as a "colored public

school" for a few years before being torn down.

A previous Preservation Matters column by Marshall Brown covers the history of the Bentz Street School, which housed the first high school classes in the city starting in 1917. Unfortunately, this building has been lost and the West Seventh Street School is the only remaining structure representing this era of school building and educational reform.

Perhaps one of the most prominent educators from the West Seventh Street and South Bentz schools was John W. Bruner. Born in 1880 in Burkittsville, Bruner was the son of Noah and Emma Brunner. Although census records show the Noah was a farm laborer who had little or no education, his wife, Emma, could read and write and may have been a champion in educating her children as John and at least two of his sisters became teachers. John Bruner was engaged in the county school system for 41 years.

During his tenure he served as teacher, principal, and supervisor of black schools. Bruner was responsible for successfully advocating for a local high school to educate black youth. He retired in 1940 and died 10 years later. His home at 109 E. Fifth St. still stands.

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Submitted photo

The West Seventh Street School as it looks now.

Belva's Museum Artifacts

The news articles about
Frederick & African American History

Juneteenth

William Lee, Jr.

1918 Spanish Flu

Frederick History

Emancipation and Abolition

Museum of the Ironworker

June 2020

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Juneteenth: Right On Time (Poem)

Alicia Lorraine [Follow](#)

May 31, 2017 · 2 min read

by Alicia L. Moore, 2012

In Texas, in June of 1865,
In a time that for blacks was ever **drear**,
Came the dawn of a new era through
A message of hope ringing loud and crystal **clear**.

A message of hope born of Abe Lincoln's ideas,
He was a president with change in his **sights**
He wrote a proclamation for Black independence,
A precursor to the journey for civil **rights**.

The announcement contained a decree of liberation,
Tardily delivered in Galveston that hot June nineteenth **day**;
When General Gordon Granger read a message of freedom,
Much to the Lone Star State slaveholders' **dismay**.

The Union General's words **also** caused fits of great joy,

As he recited this decree, hopeful and **strong**.
It gave Blacks in Texas cause to lift their voices and sing
And dreams of a new freedom's **song**.

Words that enslaved Blacks had long-awaited to hear,
Were spelled out in "*General Order Number 3*."
These words were particularly important, for without them,
Neither a freedman, nor citizen would they **be**.

These **important, liberatory** words waxed poetic:
**"All who live in bondage here shall henceforth and
forever be free"**.

Words that transcended antiquity's dark past,
And changed the course of our Nation's **history**.

Known as the Emancipation Proclamation, it severed shackles
And caused cheers of freedom to **resonate**
And though originally granted in January of 1863
Texans knew this message was two and a half years **late**.

But deferment did not destroy the significance of this message,
And the beginning of a new and brighter **day**.
Because God had shattered man's plans for further
enslavement,
And had shown grace and mercy that overshadowed that **delay**.

I don't know about you, but I question the will of man

And think that the freedom of Blacks was preordained by **God**.
And that the idea of Black freedom may not have been
conceived,
By a human being, as we are all **flawed**.

I believe that the gift of freedom from bondage,
Was a gift that was wrapped in a proclamation and Heaven
sent.

And its yield, though 145 years later,
Was the election of our first Black **President**.

Though your political views may not jive with President
Barack's,
His historic run and win was deeply rooted in the American
dream.

Through the self-evident truth that the blood, sweat and tears
of those gone before,
Were not shed in vain, but gifts of ancestors held in high
esteem.

I hope that this poem has been a valuable teaching tool,
And an enjoyable and informative **rhyme**.
But most of all, I hope you'll remember that freedom may not
come when you want it,
But God will always free you right on **time**.



Courtesy photo

William O. Lee Jr.

Collection available to researchers

FOR THE FREDERICK NEWS-POST

The Historical Society of Frederick County has announced that the William O. Lee Jr. Collection is available for use by researchers.

The collection includes Lee's personal and professional papers, and a variety of materials that document the African American experience in Frederick County in the 20th century. The William O. Lee Jr. Collection was donated to the Historical Society by the Lee family in January 2006.

The collection includes personal papers, organizational records, photographs, programs and bulletins and memorabilia. In addition to providing a chronicle of Lee's life and causes of interest to him, the collection documents the activities of African American churches, civic organizations, educational institutions, religious groups, businesses and athletic associations.

Friends of Lee worked with him before his death in January 2004 to arrange the collection. It served as the principal resource for the book, *Bill Lee Remembers*, published in 2003.

Since acquiring the collection

Remembers, published in 2003. Since acquiring the collection in 2006, the Historical Society hired a University of Maryland student studying archival sciences who conducted a nine-month internship to arrange and describe the collection, employing archival principles. The internship, which was completed in May 2007, was funded through the Institute for Museum, Preservation, Archaeology, Research and Training, a program administered jointly by the Maryland Historical Trust and the Maryland Higher Education Commission. Final work on the processing of the collection and its inclusion in the Frederick County Archives and Research Center's information management system continued after the internship and was completed earlier this year.

William O. Lee Jr. was born in Frederick on May 8, 1928. After graduating from Lincoln High School in 1945, he attended Howard University, where he received his bachelor's degree. He returned to Frederick for a long career as an educator with the Frederick County Public Schools; he retired as principal of West Frederick Middle School in 1983. In addition to his work with schools, Lee was actively involved with dozens of local organizations and received countless awards and recognitions for his efforts. In October 2006, the City of Frederick named the suspension bridge over Carroll Creek in his memory.

The William O. Lee Jr. Collection is accessible at the Historical Society's Frederick County Archives and Research Center, at 24 E. Church St. in Frederick. Although not required, prior notification is requested. To inquire about the collection or to arrange to use it, contact Elizabeth Conn at 301-663-1188 or lconn@hsfcinfo.org. For information about programs and services of the Historical Society of Frederick County, visit www.hsfcinfo.org.

Reprinted with the permission of the Frederick News-Post publisher on February 13, 2008.

ELECT

WILLIAM O. LEE, JR. FOR ALDERMAN

The "We Are The People" Candidate



William O. Lee, Jr.

I am a candidate for alderman because there is a need for someone to provide responsive representation to all the people in the halls of local government. I pledge to you all my energies in providing such representation.

Government has not been in the past, is not now, and should never be an entity unto itself. Government exists at the consent of the people and for their common good. The slogan of the government should be always, "We are the people". To this end, I will be an effective and aggressive voice of the people. I could have no more humble calling than to serve the people; I could aspire for no more noble task than to translate your mandate into fair, impartial and prudent actions.

The major focus of my adult life has been directed toward attending to the needs of the people by molding the futures of our most precious treasure — our children. I have been a student, a teacher, and an administrator in the local schools. I have been successful in welding together the needs of the students, the aspirations of the parents, and the directives of the board. I have listened prayerfully to all three and I have acted in the interest of students; with due recognition of parent concerns, and with disciplined regard for board policy. I have served 20 years as chairman of the City Housing Authority, and 10 years as the financial director of my church, with the same resolve.

As your alderman, my approach to serving the people will feature similar elements of planning and execution. I will seek your ideas and counsel on all matters vital to your interests. I will translate your input into governmental actions, with your interests as my primary guide. I will hold myself up for your examination on all matters for which I have been the responsible initiator.

HONEST • DECISIVE • FAIR • ACCESSABLE

As your alderman, I will be affirmative in pursuing all matters that come before the City. However, I have selected three issues vital to you that I am detailing in some depth:

1. Prudent fiscal responsibility
Can government make more effective use of your tax dollar?

Can the tax rate be reduced?

The answer to more and better municipal services does not have to be more taxpayer dollars. The challenge to the present and future boards of aldermen, is to maximize services within the framework of existing funding, staffing and facilities. The goal of government must be to meet this challenge, and exceed it by possibly reducing the tax rate. Government must be aware, at all times, that it is only the trustee of the people's domain, and only a steward of the people's dollars. The trust that the people extends to its government must be responsive to their mandate and the actions of that government must be open to examination by them.

As your alderman, I intend to sponsor a comprehensive evaluation of efficiency in every department of government. This is a minimum prerequisite to the introduction of innovative approaches to effecting fiscal restructuring. I will push for consideration of a process of competitiveness where both governmental departments and private contractors will compete for providing many of the services now performed exclusively by government. It is quite possible that savings of tax dollars can be achieved, without

sacrificing quality, by encouraging the most cost-effective methods in service delivery, whether it be by governmental department personnel or by private contractors. Such an approach has been used successfully by other municipalities across this nation. Savings have been achieved in such service areas as janitorial services, fire protection, building, electrical and plumbing inspection, refuse collection, public works, street maintenance, and bill processing.

The proposal for cost cutting and increased governmental efficiency that I am introducing, will produce no losers — only winners. No city job holders are necessarily threatened. We are taxpayers so we stand to reap the benefits while seeing our city continue to develop and prosper.

2. Openness in government
Do you know the details of government actions?

Openness in government is the most logical proposition for government to embrace if it is to create a feeling of ownership by the citizens for city actions. Regardless of who occupies the seats of government, there should be a deep sense of citizen pride for, and citizen support of, local government. This will never happen when citizens feel frustrated and left out. A city should be an on-going process to keep the citizens informed on all matters that affect their lives, and to encourage citizen input before decisions of government encumber their lives.

3. Equal opportunity in employment and appointment to Commissions and Committees.

Is government encouraging participation by all citizens?

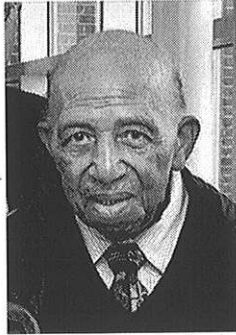
The City government should provide the maximum opportunity for citizens for all socio-economic, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds to be partners in government through employment and membership in commissions and committees. Where there is little or no broad-based representation of the citizenry — from policy making to the delivery of services — the responsibility is with the proper department of government to take steps in rectifying the situation. It may require an aggressive effort of recruitment referral and training to find, and place, the most qualified peoples representative of all citizen groups. Unless, and until, such a program is put into action, the city is deprived of the diversity of experience and training available and the question of fairness of government to extending opportunities to all citizens will remain. As your alderman, I intend to pursue a course of action that will make Frederick a model city in utilizing the diversity of talents from many backgrounds in moving this city forward.

Whether I have the opportunity to crusade for you in the city government is up to you. **Vote for William O. Lee, Jr. on September 10, 1985.**

By Authority of Bernard Brown, Treasurer

William O. Lee, 75, dies of cancer

Reagan Haynes News-Post Staff
Jan 12, 2004



William O. Lee

FREDERICK -- William O. Lee Jr., who dedicated his life to his family, church and community as a politician and historian, died Sunday after losing his battle with lung cancer. He was 75.

"He's a real icon in our community. He was just a remarkable individual," said John Ashbury, a community activist who recently helped Mr. Lee compile a book focused on black history in Frederick County called "Bill Lee Remembers."

Mr. Lee, who died at his McMurray Street home where he lived with his wife Cynthia, served on the Frederick Board of Aldermen for two terms, from 1986 to 1994.

Born on West All Saints Street, he graduated from the all-black Lincoln High School in 1939. After spending four years in the military and then earning a degree from Howard University in Washington, he returned to Frederick in 1954 and taught physical education at Lincoln.

Mr. Lee went on to become principal of the school. In September 1962, Lincoln became racially integrated, and eventually was expanded and renamed West Frederick High.

As he would continue to do throughout his life and his career, Mr. Lee touched several lives at the school.

One former Walkersville High School basketball player told Mr. Ashbury a story that captured how Mr. Lee worked, Mr. Ashbury said. Bill Talley, the basketball coach at Walkersville, and Mr. Lee, the Lincoln basketball coach, felt the schools should play each other. It was after the landmark Brown vs. Board of Education case that ruled "separate but equal" as illegal, but it was before integration had begun in Frederick County.

"Bill Lee and Bill Talley never said one word to us about how to get along with black players," the student told Mr. Ashbury. "They just set an example, and there was never a problem."

Friends of Mr. Lee say his home is packed with memorabilia and history regarding the black community in the area.

Mr. Ashbury remembered Mr. Lee's "massive collection" of artifacts. "His book just scratched the surface of that," he said.

Recording local black history "was very close to his heart," said the Rev. John Ford, former pastor at Asbury United Methodist Church on West All Saints and Court streets, where Mr. Lee was a lifelong member.

"He was a historian and kept many records and he was interested in a black history museum, which he wasn't able to achieve in his lifetime, but that was always on his mind," the Rev. Ford said. "He has a number of black literature and posters and paper clippings and so forth that he kept, and I think that he mentioned quite a number of them in his book."

Mayor Jennifer Dougherty said Mr. Lee left her with many ideas about how important a black history museum would be to Frederick.

"His memory will only be served if we keep working in the way he worked, in that gentlemanly way," Ms. Dougherty said. "I for one will keep his gentle prodding for an African-American museum here in Frederick as something that I want to help deliver, because he thought it was important for many reasons, and he convinced me of that too."

The Rev. Ford said Mr. Lee's presence will also be greatly missed in the church.

"You could always count on William O. Lee to be present in church every Sunday morning, sitting in the same pew, and he will be greatly missed," the Rev. Ford said.

Mr. Lee served on the financial committee at the church, and kept meetings short, to the point and full of humor, the Rev. Ford said.

"He was a great family man; he and his wife Cynthia worked together as a team, and she was very attentive to him during his illness and he often mentioned that," the Rev. Ford said.

In addition to Mrs. Lee, he leaves behind two children.

"His death is a great loss to the Asbury Church and the community, and the other organizations in the city he was involved in," the Rev. Ford said. "In most of the organizations he was in, he was very active."

Mr. Lee was a member of the Kiwanis Club and helped push through the restoration of the Laboring Sons Memorial Park and the Chapel Alley cemetery, where 114 black residents are buried.

Bill Hall, who is the only black now serving on the city board of aldermen, on Sunday recalled the day Mr. Lee called him and tried to convince him to join the city planning commission.

"Bill basically got me into politics. He called me when I was manager for Eastalco Aluminum Company and asked me would I consider getting a seat on the planning commission," Mr. Hall said. "And at the time I thought, 'No, I don't think I would like that at this time,' and he just kept on asking me and before I knew it, I was appointed to the planning commission."

Mr. Lee gave some much-needed "balance" to the board of aldermen during his tenure, Mr. Hall said.

"Bill Lee and I were born in an era of segregation. Some of the things we aspired to weren't available to us," Mr. Hall said. "We had a small window of opportunity of things we could do or wanted to do. That's our background, and that's what we bring to the table."

Ms. Dougherty remembered how healthy Mr. Lee looked when he delivered some copies of his book to her, which she had requested for Christmas presents.

"He was so strong," she said. "I know we'll all miss him on the street and we'll look forward to him prodding us from above. I think to have known him is a good thing. He marked a lot of people in a good way, so I feel better for having known him."

It was a sentiment echoed by Mr. Lee's friends Sunday night.

"The bottom line is, he's a friend of mine; we go to the same church and he's a part of my upbringing, it's as simple as that," Mr. Hall said. "We live in the same town, we grew up in the same neighborhood -- I'm sorry to see his demise, but I guess that's a part of life. He left his mark."

Gary L. Rollins Funeral Home will announce funeral arrangements.

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- Plain Air Artists at Work
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FREDDIE GRAY AND THE BALTIMORE UPRISING

FIVE YEARS LATER



GRAY IN BLACK AND WHITE: J.M. GIORDANO AND DEVIN ALLEN

Current Voices: Uprising + 5
Thursday, May 7 at 7 p.m.

It's been five years since the Baltimore Uprising - a direct response to the death of Freddie Gray in police custody. To reflect on this milestone, the Lewis Museum will host a collaborative discussion between two Baltimore photographers who captured images on the front lines, **J.M. Giordano** and **Devin Allen**. They will discuss their work, the anniversary and what lessons still need to be learned.

Registration will get you access to the talk and the ability to ask questions. The event will be streamed on the **Reginald F. Lewis Museum Facebook page**.

Health Tips from Our Ancestors: The 1918 Flu Pandemic

•All

By [Mary Harrell-Sesniak](#) March 24, 2020

Introduction: In this article, Mary Harrell-Sesniak searches old newspapers to learn health and safety tips that our ancestors used to cope with the 1918 Flu Pandemic. Mary is a genealogist, author and editor with a strong technology background.

My mother used to tell me that when the flu was prevalent, her family, and her family before her, would get out of Philadelphia. That was good advice, given how virulent the outbreaks were – especially the 1918 Flu Pandemic that lasted three years and killed around 50 million people worldwide.

My family was always adamant about other procedures, most under the classification of manners, such as using napkins, not chewing with your mouth open, not putting elbows on the table, and oh yes, washing your hands with a paper towel and *throwing it away*. This last one may have had to do with the family working in the paper industry.

Many people do not know that the modern version of the paper towel was invented by Arthur Hoyt Scott of Scott Paper Company in 1915. Here is his patent.

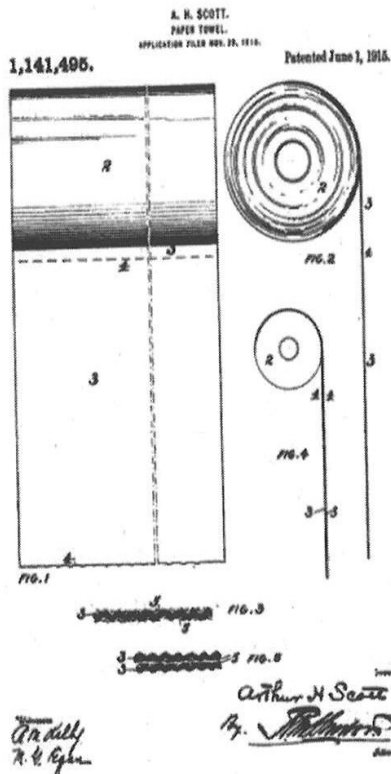


Photo: 1915 patent for the modern paper towel by Arthur Hoyt Scott of Scott Paper Company. Credit: Google Patents.

The story I heard from my mother and grandmother was that a Philadelphia teacher was concerned about her students using their clothing to wipe their noses – and that led Scott to the manufacture of the modern version of the paper towel, which also led to disposable tissues.

Scott Tissue Towels, paper, are on sale at the Pioneer Office. Every school, public building and public washroom should be supplied and they are very handy in the home. 40c per carton.

If you think about it, the practice of not using handkerchiefs or shared cloth towels may have contributed in a positive way to getting past the 1918 Flu Pandemic, which some experts believe actually began in 1917 or perhaps even earlier.

Curious as always, the current global coronavirus crisis led me to take a look in GenealogyBank's [Historical Newspaper Archives](#) to see what was going on in 1917 regarding hand washing. There are some good lessons in these reports and, not surprisingly, much of the old-time advice still applies today.

Hand Washing Lawsuit

I'm guessing from this lawsuit, filed by Mrs. Pearl Holstoff, that handwashing was considered important. As the first female barber in New Bedford, Massachusetts, she filed for support because her husband Jacob did not wash his hands. The motion was granted and this oversight cost him \$2 a week in support plus expenses.

MAN OF 70 DID NOT WASH HANDS; WIFE WINS SUIT

[Special Dispatch to the Herald]

NEW BEDFORD, Feb. 14—Mrs. Pearl Holstoff, aged 31, who, for her third husband, married Jacob Holstoff, aged more than 70, won a decision in a separate support case, before Judge Hopkins, in the probate court here, today. She charged that her husband did not wash his hands. Mrs. Holstoff has been a barber, the first woman barber in the city. She testified that she helped her husband in his shop. The court granted her \$2 a week, \$15 counsel fees and \$4 expenses.

Boston Herald (Boston, Massachusetts), 15 February 1917, page 13

Letter to the Paper

You can also see how this trend took off by reading this letter to the newspaper in Boston. Mrs. D. E. Hayner of Cambridge, Massachusetts, preferred paper towels for cooking and cleaning because they do "away with the soiled, ugly looking roller towel."

Paper Towels

I get great satisfaction from using paper towels. I have a roll on the side of my kitchen table. Many times during the process of cooking and baking it is necessary to wipe the hands. I also use a small piece of the paper toweling for greasing pans, etc., for baking.

By using these towels my kitchen looks much neater, as it does away with the soiled, ugly looking roller towel.

MRS. D. E. HAYNER,
23 Inman st., Cambridge.

Boston Journal (Boston, Massachusetts), 12 March 1917, page 11

Health Tips for Students

It's interesting that many of the health tips for students really haven't changed.

In addition to a hearty breakfast, students had to wash their hands and face with soap at noon. If you're like me, I'm wondering when the noontime cleansing routine stopped, and why wasn't it also done at night. Perhaps playing and sleeping out of doors were deemed more important.

HEALTH CHART FOR PUPILS IS RECOMMENDED

Assistant Health Officer Peters will ask School Supt. Condon to place a chart containing a daily health guide for boys and girls in every classroom in the public schools. The chart reads.

MORNING: Eat slowly. Walk (don't run) to school.

BREAKFAST: Fruit, cereals and plenty of milk, eggs, bread and butter. No coffee or tea at any meals. Brush teeth.

School: Going and coming take 10 deep breaths slowly with shoulders straight and head up. Don't sneeze near another person. Use your handkerchief. Don't spit.

NOON: Wash hands and face. Use soap. Glass of water before eating.

DINNER: Besides meat and potatoes, or rice, eat plenty of vegetables. Eat plain puddings or fruit. Chew each mouthful thoroughly.

AFTERNOON: Walk slowly after eating. Keep cheerful. Play out of doors after school.

EVENING: Clean up. Glass of water.

SUPPER: Plenty of milk, fruit. Eat fish or eggs instead of meat. Fried foods are hard to digest.

NIGHT: Windows open top and bottom. Sleep out of doors when you can.

Cincinnati Post (Cincinnati, Ohio), 19 March 1917, page 3

Military Rules

Among the military rules was to wash hands thoroughly before ALL meals. Bathing was only required two times a week, but preferable on a daily basis. Canteens were not to be shared, and there were cautions about ice. A stronger warning was issued about flies both for the soldiers and for the cooks.

Anyone violating these rules could find a reduction in their month's pay.

Some Military Life.

The following are taken as excerpts from some of the rules of army regulations:

RULES FOR SOLDIERS.

1. The first requisite of health is cleanliness of person and clothing. The soldier should bathe at least twice weekly—daily if possible—or where this cannot be accomplished wash the face, hands, armpits, sides of thighs and feet.

2. Wash hands thoroughly before each meal.

3. Uniforms should never be worn in bed.

4. Eat sparingly of fruit and see to it that it is thoroughly ripe. The use of milk procured along the road is absolutely prohibited. Don't buy food from stands.

5. Use of water from any source except that which has

been declared fit by the medical department is dangerous and should be prohibited.

6. Don't interchange canteens.

7. Mess utensils must be thoroughly washed after every meal in boiling hot soap water.

8. The first sergeant of your troop is supplied with mild cathartic pills. Use them.

9. Don't eat food that has been exposed to flies. Don't throw food on the ground to attract flies and don't allow horses in the troop streets or near the cook and mess tents.

RULES FOR COOKS.

Remember that cleanliness is next to godliness, both in person and kettles.

Allow no flies in the tent on food, on utensils or on tables.

Keep ice box dry, clean and raised from the ground, and sun

raised from the ground it occasionally.

Boil all fresh milk.

Never put ice in the water until you have the approval of the medical staff.

Don't serve or pre-prepare suspicious or tainted food.

Do not cook any meat, or handle it without first washing the hands.

Remember that dirt and flies indicate the presence of germs and destroy the good bacteria.

Any soldier caught violating these rules is fined a part of his month's pay.

Hayti Herald (Hayti, Missouri), 19 April 1917, page 5

Today we shouldn't waste or hoard paper (including emptying the shelves of toilet paper), a lesson stressed over 100 years ago as well.

SAVE EVERY SCRAP OF WASTE PAPER

Your country needs waste paper for making munitions. The U. S. Government wants you to save, bale and sell every scrap of waste paper that accumulates in your place of business and your home. Every pound of paper which you waste represents from two to three pounds of coal wasted.

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SCOTT TISSUE TOWELS and TOILET PAPER

Evening Journal (Wilmington, Delaware), 26 September 1918, page 6

Combating the Flu

In October of 1918, with the flu raging, the Surgeon General issued these safety tips.

Safety First Tips.

The office of the surgeon general has issued a circular containing the following helpful hints for prevention and control of the malady:

1. Avoid needless crowding—influenza is a crowd disease.

2. Smother your coughs and sneezes—others do not want the germs which you would throw away.

3. Your nose, not your mouth, was made to sneeze through—get the habit.

4. Remember the three "C's"—a clean mouth, clean skin, and clean clothes.

5. Try to keep cool when you walk and warm when you ride and sleep.

6. Open the windows, always at home at night; at the office when practicable.

7. Food will win the war if you give it a chance—help by choosing and chewing your food well.

8. Your fate may be in your own hands—wash your hands before eat-

ing.

9. Don't let the waste product of digestion accumulate—drink a glass or two of water on getting up.

10. Don't use a napkin, towel, spoon, fork, glass, or cup which has been used by another person and not washed.

11. Avoid tight clothes, tight gloves—seek to make nature your ally, not your prisoner.

12. When the air is pure, breathe all of it you can—breathe deeply.

Daily Register-Gazette (Rockford, Illinois), 1 October 1918, page 9

I wish everyone luck during this health crisis. Remember to wash your hands – and if it helps anyone, feel free to share this "Please touch my heart, but not my hands" collage I made using Adobe Spark.

Hello Everyone!

The Mount Airy congregation leaders of Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints want to continue to offer the community genealogy classes - especially in this difficult time to help us connect. We will be offering a live virtual genealogy class on **Thursday, April 30th at 7 pm**. Our topic will be "Defining Hope: Separating Men of the Same Name," where we talk about at least six men of the same name in early Maryland and D.C.

I will be on about 10 minutes earlier to help anyone with any technical issues, but it is important to use the tutorial and download the app/software previous to the meeting to make it smoother for everyone.

To join the meeting, use the first link below. Again, BEFORE the first session, please use the link for "New to GoToMeeting" to become accustomed to the platform:

Group Meeting

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/707194541>

You can also dial in using your phone.

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Access Code: 707-194-541

New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/707194541>

If this works, we can try and continue through the extent of the travel restrictions. *Please feel free to pass on this information to anyone you think may wish to join.*

See you there!
Rebecca

Rebecca Whitman Koford, CG, CGL*
Rebecca Whitman Koford Genealogical Research, LLC

Executive Director, Board for Certification of Genealogists
<https://www.bgc certification.org/>

ProGen Administrator
<http://progenstudy.org/>

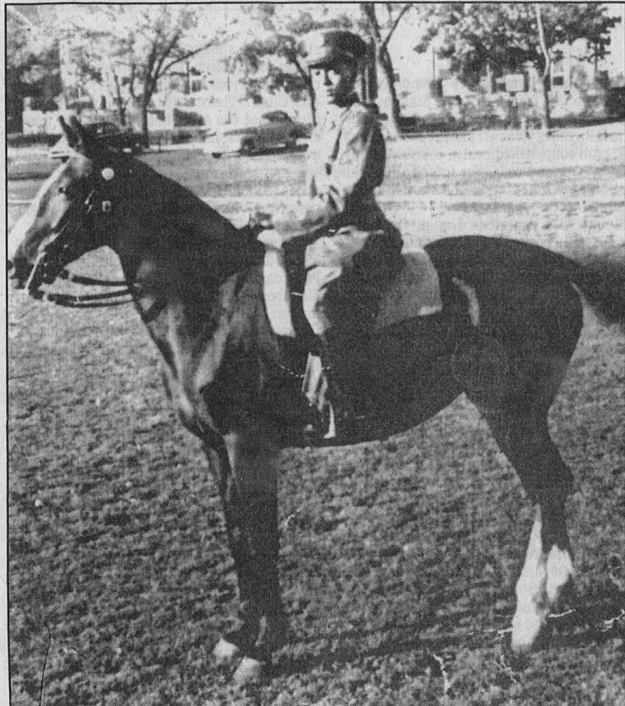
BUFFALO SOLDIER



Courtesy photos

Presentation on Buffalo Soldiers given

Frederick Wilson Ambush, right photo, sits astride his horse, Jolly Girl, in 1943. Ambush, a member of a calvary regiment in World War II, was among the men known as Buffalo Soldiers. Buffalo Soldiers is a nickname - legend has it American Indians coined the term - for several U.S. Army units created in 1866 that were comprised entirely of black soldiers, according to a website of the National Park Service. The nickname was applied to all-black military units through the early 1950s. Ambush, above right, now 85, of Washington, attended a recent presentation on Buffalo Soldiers at Rose Hill Manor Park in Frederick, that was given by Erwin Polk, above left, descendant of Thomas Elzey Polk a Buffalo Soldier. The free event was sponsored by The African American Resources and Cultural Heritage Society of Frederick County to generate interest in building a black history musuem in Frederick County.



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october 7.

Trustee.



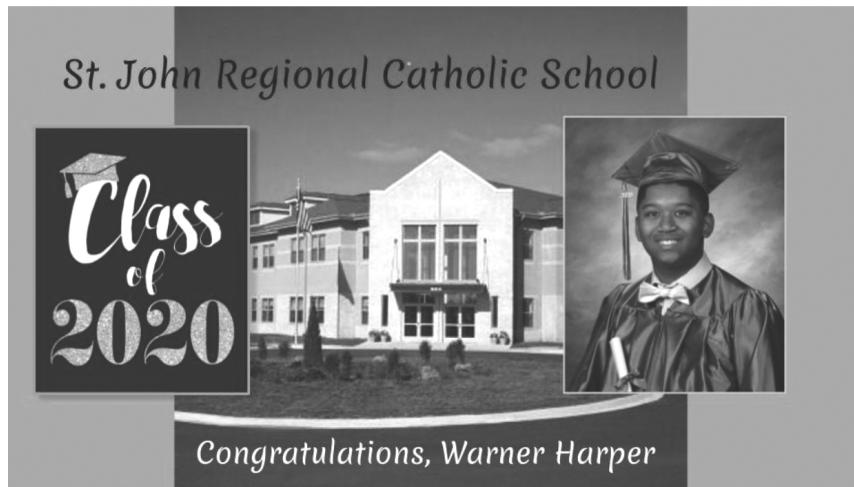
St. John Regional Catholic School



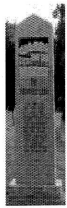
Sunday at 9:00 AM · 🌐

We Salute Our Graduates!

Today, we are highlighting 8th grader Warner Harper. Warner will be attending St. Maria Goretti High School in the fall. While at SJRCS, he has been a member of the bell choir and has also served as a sacristan for the past two years. We wish Warner the best of luck in high school and beyond.



On behalf of Pastor, First Lady, Ministry Staff, Officers, and Representatives of the entire St. James Family, we want to say Congratulations!



Burlington 37



Profile Images

Date: [unknown] [unknown]

Location: Burlington, Ohio 9

Surname/tag: THYMAN, SMITH

Profile manager: Lucy Selvaggio-Diaz [\[send private message\]](#)

This page has been accessed 619 times.

Ironton Register, Thursday, March 05, 1896

In the fall of 1849, 37 slaves were set free, and moved to just above our town of Burlington on the farm purchased from Isaac Frampton. They were owned by [James Twyman](#) and were manumitted by him in his will, in the county of Madison, Virginia.

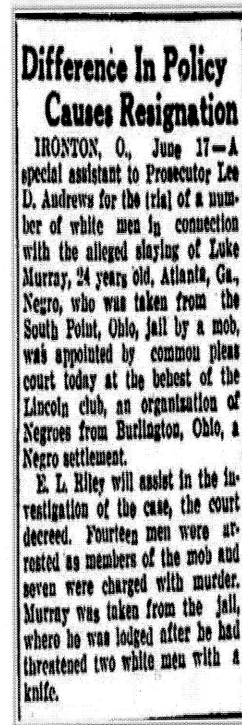
The farm purchased for them was about 640 acres, hill and bottom land, with one large frame house and several small tenant houses on it. There were 20 males and 17 females. Some of them were old men and woman, who had given the best part of their lives in toil for their master, in the accursed bond of slavery. Their bowed forms, hard callused hands told all too plainly what they had undergone. The best part of their lives had been given for someone else. When the news was brought by the servants from the big house to the quarters, that "Ole Marse" had set them free and that they were to be taken to Ohio, where a home and land was provided for them, a home in reality, they could hardly believe it; the news was too good. The mothers looked upon their children and thought, can it be that these sons and daughters of mine will be free and not have to toil as I have done without recompense, without hope? "Glory to our heavenly Master, it is too good to be true," but true it was, and before long they were on their way to the promised land big and little, old and young, carrying with them, like the Israelites of old, their little belongings which they cherished as from their old "Virginny home."

Their journey was made in fear and dread; fear that something might happen to prevent their reaching the haven of rest; dread that some shrewd, lawyer might pick out some flaw in the papers and that they would be remanded back to await the tedious motions of the law's delay. But nothing intervened to stop them, and bye and bye, they came to the banks of the Ohio River, the barrier to freedom which they had long known of, but had never seen before. One of them informed me, that he thought it was the sea, and their wonderment was great as they looked upon the mighty river for the first time in their lives, and thought how was it possible for anyone who ran away to ever get across its swollen stream; and like the children of Israel, at the Red Sea, where and how they are to get across the mighty flood. My informant also says, that at this time, a steamboat came along, and the wonderment grew and they could not see enough of it. It was something; they had never heard of in their inland home, a moving house propelled by some invisible power belching forth great clouds of smoke and steam and moving through the water as a thing of life. And many days after they had reached their home, on the banks of the beautiful Ohio, did they clasp their children close, as one of those monsters, breathing fire and smoke, went rushing by with the rapidity of the wind and it was many days before they got accustomed to them.

Images: 2

Differences In Policy Causes

Resignation



The Promised Land - Burlington 37

I was about eleven years old when they came, and as my father was a friend to the poor black man, having left Virginia on account of slavery, they came to him for advice and counsel which he freely gave them, and employed them in various ways. I used to go up to see them and hear them recount their tales of slave life and sing their weird songs, and hymns which had a touch of pathos which brought tears to my eyes, as "Swing low, sweet Chariot," "The Resurrection Day, Behold Zion, when the Bridegroom Comes &c. They also had a hymn of which I will give one verse and the chorus, which for pathos and a trust in the heavenly master is hard to be excelled. We leave the reader to judge.

But Jesus sees me when I fall,
And Jesus hears me when I call,
But nobody knows the trouble I see,
The trouble I see, but God.

Chorus.

Nobody knows the trouble I see
The trouble I see, the trouble I see,
Nobody knows the trouble I see,
The trouble I see, but God.

It was this unwavering faith and trust in the Lord which enabled them to endure the horrors of slavery so long and these hymns lightened the burden.

Most all of the old men and women have passed away, with the exception of Uncle Walker Fry, who is known almost to everyone in the county. Also the mother of W. T. Smith, who has been bedridden for six years, but whose faith and trust in her Redeemer would put to blush the most hardened sinner in the land. The younger ones born and reared in freedom are abreast with any, and are becoming educated, fitted to fill any position to which they may be called. The teachers inform me that most of them are easily controlled and learn rapidly. The curse of caste is being eliminated from the whites, and before another century it will be entirely gone. G.

Contents

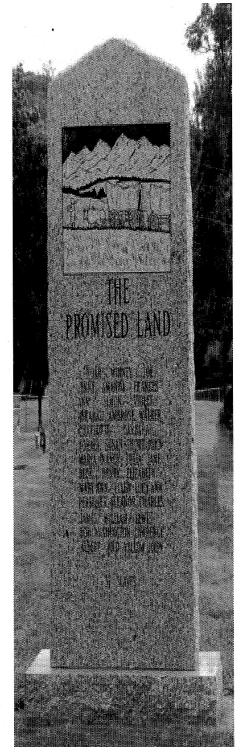
[hide]

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Names From the Monument

This list is from the face of the monument erected at the Burlington 37 Cemetery. It contains exactly 37 names, but just first names, which would be what they would have until they chose surnames. There are a couple of names that do not seem to appear in other lists. It has been reported that Washington died enroute.

Name	Name	Name
Noah	Winney	Joe
Jenny	Amanda	Frances Ann



Collaboration

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Public Comments: [Login to post.](#) (Best for messages specifically directed to those editing this profile. Limit 20 per day.)

Emancipation and Abolition—Their Meaning.

EMANCIPATION and ABOLITION, according to the best lexicographers in the world, are **SYNONYMS**, or words which have the same or a similar signification. **WEBSTER** defines the word **EMANCIPATION** thus:—The act of setting free from slavery, servitude, subjection, or dependence; deliverance from bondage or controlling influence; liberation; as, the emancipation of slaves by their proprietors; the emancipation of a son among the Romans; the emancipation of a person from prejudices, or from a servile subjection to authority. **EMANCIPATIONIST**—an advocate for the emancipation of slaves.

The same author defines **ABOLITION** as—The act of abolishing; or the state of being abolished; an annulling; obrogation; utter destruction; as the abolition of laws, decrees, ordinances, rites, customs, debts, &c. 2. The putting an end to slavery; emancipation. **ABOLITIONIST**—a person who favors abolition, or the immediate emancipation of slaves.

WORCESTER defines **EMANCIPATION** thus:—The act of emancipating; deliverance from Slavery or from civil or other restraint; manumission; liberation; enfranchisement. **SYN.** The emancipation of slaves; abolition of slavery. **EMANCIPATIONIST**—an advocate for emancipation.

The same author defines **ABOLITION** as—Act of abolishing; destruction; annihilation; abrogation. **SYN.**—Abolition of Slavery; emancipation of slaves. **ABOLITIONIST**—one who attempts to abolish something, especially slavery.

From the above quoted authorities it would seem that the Emancipationist bears about the same relation to the Abolitionist that the Varioloid does to the Small-Pox. Emancipation has for its end and object the abolition of Slavery, and the Emancipationist is therefore an Abolitionist of the milder type and modified form. They both strike at the institution of slavery. The first, it may be, is in favor of the gradual extinction of Slavery, whilst it is well known that the latter is in favor of its immediate destruction. Abolition is a broad term and more clearly applicable to those who wish to abolish slavery or arrest its progress, than any other. We do not say this with the view of offending any of those overly sensitive gentlemen who have marshalled themselves under the Republican Flag, or the Emancipation Banner, and dislike to be classed as Abolitionist; all we intend by it is simply this—that the term being more comprehensive and general in its signification, is therefore, according to the best authorities upon the subject, the most suitable.

Reprinted from the
Mayland Union,
newspaper,
Frederick, MD,
June 12, 1862.

From: beldking99@aol.com,

To: saddlepals@aol.com,

Subject: Fwd: May CFHS meeting minutes, log house restoration plans, and thank you to Governor Hogan, Senator Hough, Delegate Pippy, and the entire Frederick County delegation

Date: Mon, May 18, 2020 11:10 am

Attachments: Minutes_CFHSMay2020Meeting.pdf (234K), May 5 Easement_Change_Alteration_Application.pdf (2637K)

From: Elizabeth Comer <ecomer@catocinurnace.org>

Date: Sunday, May 17, 2020

Subject: May CFHS meeting minutes, log house restoration plans, and thank you to Governor Hogan, Senator Hough, Delegate Pippy, and the entire Frederick County delegation

Dear Members and Friends,

First, we hope you are staying safe during this time. As I write this email, I am reminded that right now we would be wrapping up the second day of the Maryland Iron Festival, grateful for beautiful weather and the opportunity to share the important history of iron making with friends and visitors. Alas, it was not to be but we are hoping our August 22 & 23 weekend will allow us to welcome you again. In the meantime, we have some exciting virtual activities planned so stay tuned for those! And, as you will see in the minutes, we are making masks to give to all our visitors when we can open. If you are able to help us sew some, please contact me.

Planned restoration of the ca. 1820 log collier's house is proceeding and the detailed application is attached. The log house is a Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) easement property which means that all changes or alterations must be approved by the MHT easement committee and must adhere to the Secretary of the Interior standards and guidelines for historic properties. The planned restoration will ensure that the building is safe as it begins its 3rd century!

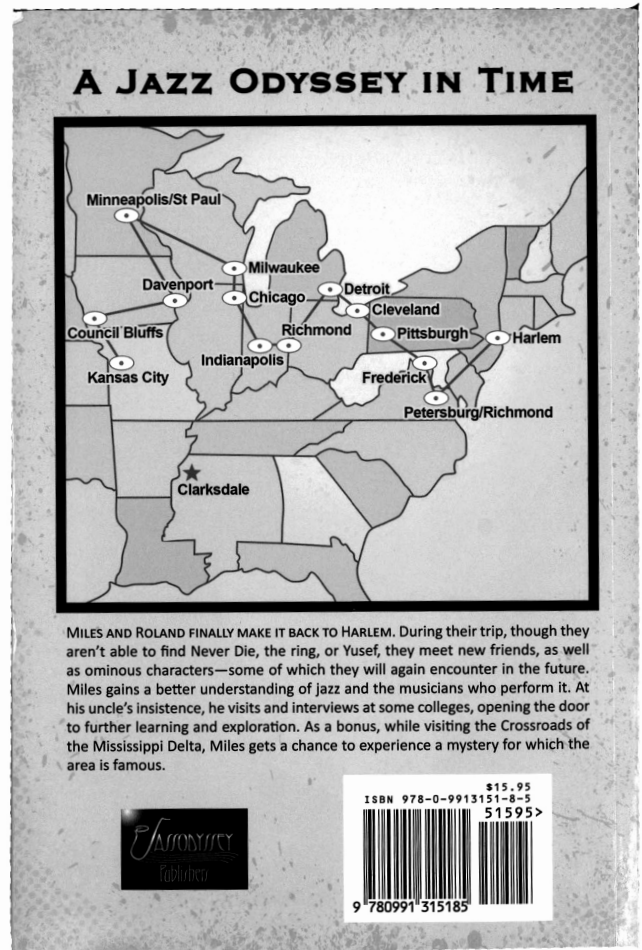
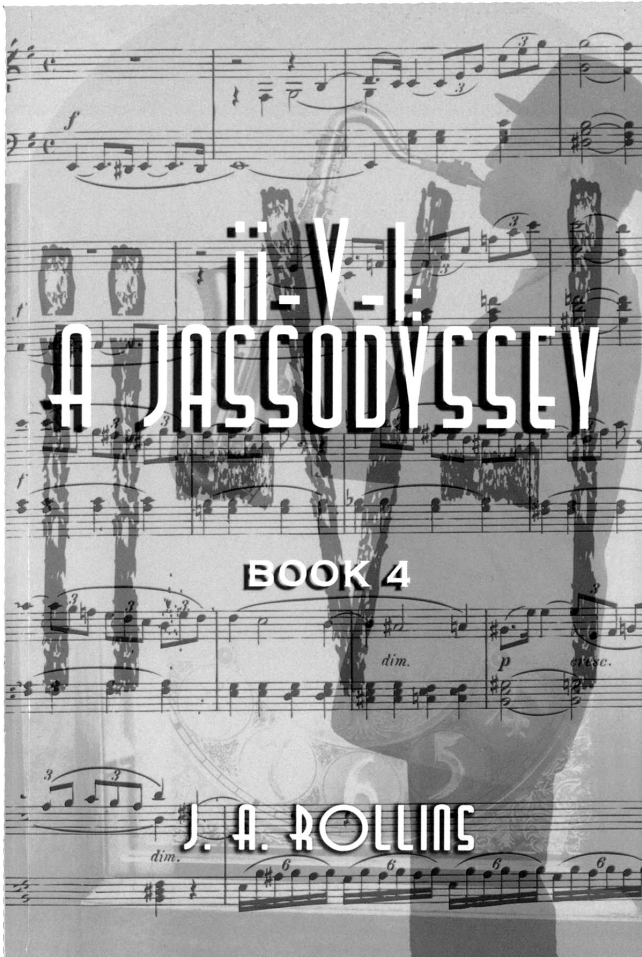
And finally, we are so very grateful for the funding from the Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond 2020 to complete the Museum building restoration. As informal learning environments, museums and sites of commemoration educate and entertain visitors of all ages and interests. In doing so, they generate significant return on investment by attracting out of area tourists who spend money and time in the community. Governor Hogan, Senator Hough, Delegate Pippy and the Frederick County delegation, understanding this economic and social equation, supported the Catocin Furnace Historical Society's request for a \$50,000 bond initiative to complete the Museum of the Ironworker in Catocin Furnace. This funding will complete the restoration/renovation of 12610 Catocin Furnace Road and open this state owned building with exhibits-- including state-of-the-art forensic facial reconstructions of two enslaved ironworkers, that tell the story of the workers who helped make Maryland and this country. When complete, the structure will serve as the museum and visitors' center for the Catocin Furnace area of Cunningham Falls State Park, attracting group and individual visitors to the area.

Delegation members recognized that the new museum will encourage and attract new audiences to northern Frederick County and the surrounding Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area. The stated goal of the historical society is to increase visitor ship to the larger Catocin area. Visitors who come to the Museum of the Ironworker will presumably also be interested in seeing the larger scenic landscape in which the ironmaking industry developed and thereby spend additional time and resources in Frederick County, as well as surrounding Maryland counties.

The Museum of the Ironworker is something for the public to look forward to in these trying times. Historically, the citizens of Catocin Furnace survived many hardships, mentally and physically. Their stories provide hope for all of us. The Catocin Furnace Historical Society, Inc., an all-volunteer organization, will

ensure that the taxpayers of Maryland are proud of this achievement and the new Museum of the Ironworker. Again, we are immensely grateful to Governor Hogan, Senator Hough, Delegate Pippy, and the entire delegation for their vision and unfailing support. We look forward to welcoming you to the Museum of the Ironworker!

Best,
Elizabeth A. Comer,
Secretary
Catoctin Furnace Historical Society, Inc.
12525 Catoctin Furnace Road
Thurmont, Maryland 21788-3006
443-463-6437
www.catoctinfurnace.org



WILLIAMSPORT SUN-GAZETTE

BREAKING NEWS 10 percent of US labor force now out of work

Margaret A. Hagan, electrician An entrepreneur's path to success in 19th century Williamsport

Margaret Hagan probably is the most flamboyant of the local women featured in this series. She also is one of the few women of her era about whom we know more than we do about her husband. Margaret was an entrepreneur. In an advertisement for one of her Williamsport businesses, she described herself as "one of the most practical and shrewd business women here."

Margaret Mahamitt Hagan lived in Williamsport for 50 years – from the 1860s until the early 1900s. In the 1880s, Margaret opened “The Electric Baths,” a 17-room sanitarium on East Third Street, where she administered electrotherapy, a very popular medical treatment at the time. Prior to that, she owned and operated Star Laundry, also on East Third Street, a business that had several employees and that, in Margaret’s words, was “patronized by the first families” of Williamsport. She also provided the elite women of Williamsport with fashionable women’s furnishings from a small shop adjacent to the laundry.

Who was this bold, gutsy lady, who called herself “colored” and was the daughter of an “Arab” from the island nation of Madagascar and the granddaughter of a former slave and a Supreme Court judge? How did she establish and maintain successful businesses in Williamsport, where female business owners and medical practitioners were uncommon and businesses owned by African American or mixed race women were even more uncommon?

Two articles, available online in the Lycoming County Women’s History Collection (www.lycoming.edu/library/orgs/lcwhc) brought Margaret to my attention – the first article is from the Williamsport Daily Gazette and Bulletin found in the files of the Lycoming County Historical Society. The other article, “Margaret Mahamitt of Maryland” by Sheila Gregory Thomas, Margaret’s great-great-granddaughter, was published by the Association of the Study of African American History and Life for Black History Month in 1984.

Electrotherapy

Electrotherapy was widely practiced at the time, but Margaret’s clinic seems to have been the only one in the area. Electricity, generated by batteries, was applied to treat many ailments, including headaches and muscle pain. In an “electric bath,” a patient was connected by wire to a source of electricity, and then a low charge of electricity was made to travel throughout the body and “bathe” the patient, inducing calm, reducing pain and stimulating sluggish organs. The medical practitioner

was called an electrician.

During her years in Williamsport, Margaret Hagan and her electrotherapy practice made headlines a number of times. The Washington Bee, a Washington D.C. newspaper distributed nationally, headlined a June 22, 1887 article on Hagan “MODERN MIRACLES (sic) WONDERS OF ELECTRICITY DEMONSTRATED BY MRS. HAGAN. Persons Literally Snatched from the Grave.” The Williamsport Gazette and Bulletin, the local newspaper of that time period, published several news stories about Hagan. Headlined “Mrs. Margaret A. Hagan, Well Known and Successful Electrician,” a June 29, 1895, article went on to say, “Mrs. Margaret A. Hagan, proprietress of the Electric Bath rooms, 581 East Third Street, is a living example of what a woman can accomplish when imbued with energy and determination.” According to the article, Margaret also had a practice in the summer months in the young resort town of Eagles Mere.

What was especially impressive, according to the article, was that Margaret Hagan was able to accomplish so much despite her race – she was, in her own words, “colored” and she was “born in obscurity and reared in poverty during that dark period when her race was withering under the slave driver’s whip.”

Mahamitt Family History

Margaret might have embellished on her poverty-stricken upbringing as good sales copy, because actually, according to her great-great-granddaughter, Sheila Gregory Thomas, Margaret was a free person from birth, well-educated and a landowner. According to family oral history, Margaret’s father, Jeremiah (or Po) Mahamitt, came to this county from Madagascar on an educational tour in the early 1800s. He purchased Margaret’s mother (a mulatto) from a Frederick family and they were married. Family oral history states that Margaret’s mother, Serena, was a daughter of Supreme Court Justice Roger Brooke Taney. While the truth of this may never be known, it is a fascinating bit of history, because Judge Taney is best known for the Dred Scot decision, handed down by the Supreme Court in March 1857.

In that decision, Taney decreed that African Americans were not citizens and “had no rights which the white man was bound to respect.”

Margaret came to Williamsport just after the Civil War with her second husband, George Washington Hagan, an African American. According his obituary in the Gazette and Bulletin of Aug. 27, 1903, Hagan had been slave in Frederick, Md., apprenticed to a blacksmith.

During the Civil War, he became acquainted with Philip A. Moltz of Williamsport. Both Hagan and Moltz were soldiers. After the war, Hagan relocated to Williamsport and worked for Moltz as a blacksmith. Later he went into business for himself. George Washington Hagan was a prominent and well-respected businessman and citizen; he is buried in the Veterans Circle at Wildwood Cemetery.

The family lived and worked on East Third Street – the section of town that was quite “in” before Millionaire’s Row on West Fourth Street was developed by Peter Herdic. Neighbors of the Hagans included the L.L. Stearns, the James V. Browns, the Pages, the Metzgers, Dr. Jean Saylor Brown and other prominent families. The Hagans were members of Christ Episcopal Church along with other leading Williamsport families.

Margaret’s Children

It appears that Margaret had three children with her first husband Isaac Whiting -John, Fannie Emma and Eleanor Whiting – and two with George Washington Hagan – George Washington Jr. and James Taney Hagan.

Son John, who was born in Frederick, Maryland, about 1851, came to live in Williamsport and worked with his stepfather as a blacksmith. He too had an interesting history. A newspaper article about him says, “At the age of nine or ten years, he left Frederick City with the first regiment of Union soldiers that passed through and went with them to Harper’s Ferry.”

In the 1860s, when daughter Fannie Emma was school age, Williamsport schools were not open to African Americans. “Colored” students were taught in rented rooms, and the school term was three months long, not the eight months of schooling available to white students. Nonetheless, in 1871, when Fannie was about 16, she enrolled at Howard University, the newly established college for African Americans in Washington, D.C. There, Fannie met her future husband, Oberlin graduate and Howard University professor James Monroe Gregory. According to Christ Church records, the Rev. William Paret married the couple in Williamsport on Dec. 29, 1873. The many contributions of Fannie and James and their descendents to education in America, especially for African Americans, is a rich story for another day.

Sheila Gregory Thomas

In her article, Sheila Gregory Thomas paints a vivid portrait of her great-great-grandmother. Margaret was headstrong, proud and seemingly fearless. She studied at Hosford’s Sanitarium in Washington, D.C., and in Baltimore and Philadelphia. She stood up to people in high places in Williamsport and wherever she was. She would not tolerate discrimination. She took on a medical school in Philadelphia she felt discriminated against her restaurant owners, who refused to serve her, and city fathers who did not want to put a trolley stop at her business.

Thomas visited Williamsport in the fall of 2011 and together we visited the sites of the Hagan family’s various homes, business and churches – all places that Thomas’s father had visited on “vacation” with his grandmother in Williamsport. Margaret looms large in family lore.

In 1903, when she was about 77, Margaret moved to Bordentown, N.J., to be with her daughter Fannie. By that time, Fannie’s husband, James, had earned his master’s degree at Harvard and was the headmaster of the Bordentown School, a residential high school for African American students. Bordentown School would later become known as the “Tuskegee of the North.” Margaret died in 1914 in New Jersey and is buried there.

Fannie and James had several children, among them Thomas Montgomery Gregory. And it was his granddaughter, Sheila Gregory Thomas, who brought to light the story of Margaret's notable achievements – and a sense of what was needed in Lycoming County at the end of the 19th century to rise above the limits generally placed on its “colored” citizens.

Sieminski is project manager for the women's history initiative that is a cooperative community undertaking between Lycoming College, the James V. Brown Library and the Lycoming County Historical Society.

Visit online at www.lycoming.edu/orgs/lwhc. Her column is published on the second Sunday of each month. To contact her, email lwhcmanager@gmail.com.

NEWSLETTER

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