

Belva King YouTube Video Uploads

Note: All videos are in the “African American History in Frederick County” playlist.

1. Interview with Reginald Bernard Davis Sr. (11/2/2011)

This video, produced by Belva King, presents an oral history given by Reginald Bernard Davis Sr. Reginald was a Frederick County, Maryland, resident and musician. In this video, he talks about his life as an African American musician.

This video was uploaded with the permission of Belva King, the producer. Belva is a native resident of Frederick County, Maryland. She is also a dedicated local historian. Belva has made instrumental strides in documenting and preserving African American history in Frederick County.

2. African American Family History Workshop (2005)

This video, produced by Belva King, documents the African American Family History Workshop. This workshop took place on July 23, 2005, in Frederick, Maryland. The recorded workshop session gives information on how people can use Maryland State Archive resources to research family histories. Other sessions from this workshop were unable to be uploaded due to issues with the source file.

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3. The Legacy of Bishop William Paul Quinn

This video, produced by Belva King, explores the history of Quinn Chapel AME Church in Frederick City. Founded in 1799, the Church has played an integral and active role in the African American community through various ministries. The church is named after Bishop William Paul Quinn, who was an influential leader in the AME church in the 19th century. The church hosted the first African American school in Frederick City.

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4. A Visit with Mrs. Edith Jackson and Mrs. Margaret Butler

This video, produced by Belva King, records the oral histories of Mrs. Edith Jackson and Mrs. Margaret Butler. Mrs. Jackson and Mrs. Butler share their school experiences, family lives, and their interactions with the African American community in Frederick County, Maryland.

These rich oral histories provide a glimpse into the everyday experiences of African Americans in Frederick County, Maryland, during the twentieth century.

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5. Remembering the Bartonsville Band and the Late Walter Bowie

This video, produced by Belva King, explores the legacy of the Bartonsville Band and the life of musician Lester Bowie. Jazz has always been a uniquely American musical genre with deep roots in the African American community. Belva King's video records how Jazz music impacted the African American community of Frederick County, Maryland.

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6. Reaching for Our Roots (A Presentation by AARCH and Keynote Speaker Chris Haley)

As a Black History Month lecture presented by AARCH in 2006, Mary Harris and Chris Haley outlined the religious and social history and contributions of the African American community in Frederick County, Maryland. The presentation took place at Frederick Community College in Frederick, Maryland.

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7. Shab Row

Shab Row, clustered around East Street and East Church Street in historic Frederick City, was traditionally a thriving African American community of homes and businesses. Centered around heavy industry, it is likely some Shab Row residents were descendants of skilled ironworkers formerly at Catocin Furnace.

In this 48 minute video made in 2010, Ms. Belva King narrates a walking tour as she reminisces about the area through her memories beginning in 1950 when her family moved to 315 East Church Street. The area was also known in the African American community as "Over the tracks" which referred to the train track that ran down the center of East Street and to

distinguish the area from All Saints Street which had more businesses such as barber shops, restaurants, beauty shops, and two churches.

Belva brings the past to life with her rich memories and detailed research, linking dwellings and businesses to the families who once lived there. Businesses such as Everedy Company, Duraclean, Lincoln Tailoring, Moore's filling station, Bernard (Benny) and Harriett Stewart's Corner Market, Crummitt's Grocery, and a laundry are described and documented.

Belva describes the structures and residents of Shab Row as she visits the former dwellings. These include Belva's childhood home at 315 East Church Street; Mr. John Hughes at 321 East Church Street; Carrie Lee; Jessie Johnson (she worked at the post office); the Snowden and Fisher families; Carrie Anne Smith; Alice Palmer (she cooked for President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and her brother was the President's chauffeur) at 112 East Street; Mrs. Margaret Lyles (she dressed shopfront mannequins and Belva recalls Margaret was the "Queen of Shab Row" with her amazing parties) at 114 East Street; Sophie Norris; Mr. Bernard (Benny) & Harriett Stewart at 138 East Street; Mr. Daniel Williams at 117 East Street; Mr. and Mrs. Bookie Palmer (Bookie worked at the Francis Scott Key Hotel); Mr. Jim Bowie (one of the first African American supervisors at Everedy Company); Mr. Roy Brown (he went fishing every day); Mr. John Bowens (he tragically died of injuries resulting from a fire); and many others.

Belva's rich descriptions of the area include some buildings now missing as well as the beautifully restored structures that now house shops and restaurants, many owned by Mr. Burt Anderson who began restoring the area in 1973. This video is a companion to a recording of Ms. Naomi Naylor 88th birthday party. Ms. Naylor was a long time Shab Row resident whose house was the largest in the area and is now gone. This video was made by King Video Productions with permission to publish to the CFHS YouTube Channel by the owner Ms. Belva King.

8. From Slavery to Freedom in America: Tribute to Lord Nickens

Belva King has shared this February 17, 2007 video tribute to Lord Dunmore Nickens. Mr. Nickens was a prominent civil rights leader in Frederick whose decades-long activism helped integrate schools, open bars and restaurants to blacks, and combat the Ku Klux Klan. As a place of dark and difficult history, Catocin Furnace humbly shares this tribute video that demonstrates what Mr. Nickens meant when he famously stated to a Klan member: "We are all one people under one flag."

Lord Dunmore Nickens was born during 1913 in Clarke County, Virginia. It is of interest that the first recorded enslaved persons at Catocin were also from Virginia. These four individuals: Jack (35), Jaines (18), Phil (13) and Milly (37), recorded as the mother of Phil, were purchased by Thomas Johnson from John Rawlings in 1788. The connection with slavery was immediate for Mr. Nickens...his father was born into slavery.

Lord Dunmore Nickens' namesake is likely John Murray, 4th Earl of Dunmore. Lord Dunmore is noted for Dunmore's Proclamation, also known as Lord Dunmore's 1775 Offer of Emancipation which offered freedom to enslaved people who abandoned their Patriot masters to join the British during the Revolutionary War. An estimated 800 to 2000 escaped enslaved

people sought refuge with the British under this proclamation. Some were organized into a fighting unit known as Dunmore's Ethiopian Brigade. On their tunics they wore the slogan, "From Slavery to Freedom."

Following Lord Dunmore's Proclamation, the Philipsburg Proclamation granted liberty to all formerly enslaved African Americans who reached the British lines before November 30, 1782, the date marking the first peace agreement.

During the Revolution, at least three men sought their freedom from Catocin Furnace: Phil on February 7, 1780; and Peter Dorsey & Gabriel on September 8, 1782. Perhaps encouraged by either Lord Dunmore Proclamation or Philipsburg's Proclamation, we do not know the fate of these men and their quest for freedom.

As part of our annual "In Their Own Voices" programming, we share Belva King's carefully curated and edited tribute to a pillar of Frederick County, Lord Dunmore Nickens.

9. Lester Bowie 's Brass Fantasy - Night Time (Is the Right Time)

This song was written and performed by Lester Bowie's Brass Fantasy in 1992. This video is uploaded with the permission of Belva King, a native resident of Frederick County, Maryland. Belva is a relative of Lester Bowie. She is also a dedicated local historian. One of Belva's greatest achievements is the publication of a seven-volume set of her newsletters, totaling over 2,000 pages, that showcase African American history in Frederick County, Maryland.

10. Lincoln High School Class of '63 Thirtieth Class Reunion

This video shows the 30th reunion of the Lincoln High School class of 1963. Prior to the school's opening in 1923, there was no high school for African-American students in Frederick County, Maryland. After the seventh grade, African-Americans could either seek jobs in the community, seek jobs outside of the county, or continue their education outside of the county. After Liberty's opening, students were bussed from all over the county to attend school.

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11. Lincoln High School Class of 1963 Fortieth Class Reunion

This video shows the 40th reunion of the Lincoln High School class of 1963. Prior to the school's opening in 1923, there was no high school for African-American students in Frederick County, Maryland. After the seventh grade, African-Americans could either seek jobs in the community, seek jobs outside of the county, or continue their education outside of the county. After Liberty's opening, students were bussed from all over the county to attend school.

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12. GospelFest February 2009

The 2009 GospelFest occurred in February of 2009 at the New Dimension Worship Center in Frederick, Maryland. This event was one of the first that was hosted by the African American Resources Cultural and Heritage Society (AARCH). The event chairperson was Belva King.

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13. African American Family History Workshop February 2006

This video, produced by Belva King, documents the African American Family History Workshop. This workshop took place on February 25, 2006, in Frederick, Maryland. The recorded workshop session gives information on how to research African American family history using a variety of resources. Other sessions from this workshop were unable to be uploaded due to issues with the source file. This video is the second part in a two part series, the first workshop occurred on July 23, 2005.

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14. Belva's Wall-Less Museum Displays

This video showcases the handmade displays that were part of Belva King's wall-less museum. Belva's museum was made out of donated photographs, letters, and artifacts. She would display the collection at various venues around Frederick County, Maryland. Her aim was to educate people about African American history in Frederick County.

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15. Bowie-Thomas Reunion Song

This song was written by Joe and Byron Bowie as a thank you to Rev. Luther Brown for attending the thirtieth Bowie-Thomas family reunion.

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16. 2005 NAACP Meeting in Frederick, MD

This video shows an NAACP meeting in Frederick, Maryland. The meeting took place at Cafe 611, a family-owned restaurant in Downtown Frederick.

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