



# FOOTPRINTS

Traces of Black History  
in Richmond, Kentucky



# FOOTPRINTS: Traces of Black History in Richmond, Kentucky



Footprints are a fascinating aspect of human history, as they provide connections to the past and help trace the movements of our ancestors. When we walk in the same places where our ancestors once walked, we literally are following in their footsteps and experiencing a small piece of their lives. Footprints remind us that we are contributors to human history and that our own actions will one day leave a mark on the world.

Buildings have been demolished, memories have dimmed, elders are now deceased... **only traces of Richmond's rich Black heritage remain.**



[VisitRichmondKY.com](http://VisitRichmondKY.com)

As a lifelong resident of Richmond, Kentucky, I take great pride in being able to make this acknowledgement of the work done by the committee to update awareness of the African American presence in Richmond. I have been privileged to serve as Richmond's only African American City Commissioner to date, after a tenure of 16 years (eight terms). At present, I am serving a second term as Mayor, the only African American mayor of Richmond to date. What an honor and privilege!

This guide is not just a collection of facts and figures, but a testament to the enduring contributions, resilience and indomitable spirit of the African American community in our beloved city. Although it is not exhaustive, it can serve many purposes in the days to come. It certainly can be the beginning of further research and inquiry.

Our city's history is a tapestry woven with threads of diverse cultures, experiences, and voices. From the earliest settlers to more contemporary leaders, their stories are interwoven with the very fabric of our community.

As we explore this guide, let us remember that it is not just a reflection of the past; it is an inspiration for the future. It is a reminder of the countless individuals who overcame adversity, broke down barriers, and paved the way for progress, justice, and equality.

In the pages that follow, you will find a captivating journey through neighborhoods, landmarks, and cultural institutions that have been instrumental in preserving and sharing our African American heritage. From



historic churches to influential civic leaders, we will uncover the tapestry of stories that make our city so unique.

The guide is not just a repository of knowledge; it is a call to action. It is a reminder of the work yet to be done. It invites us to engage with our history, to learn from it, and to apply those lessons learned to create a brighter and more inclusive future.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all those who contributed to the creation of this guide, from historians to community leaders and staff. The dedication of all these and more to preserving and celebrating our African American heritage is an invaluable gift to our city.

So, let us embark on this journey together with open hearts and open minds. Let us honor the past and work together to build a future where the contributions of every community member, regardless of their background, is acknowledged, valued, and celebrated.

Thank you, and may this guide be a source of inspiration, education, and unity for our city for generations to come.

**FOR OUR FUTURE,**  
**Robert R. Blythe,** Mayor  
City of Richmond, Kentucky

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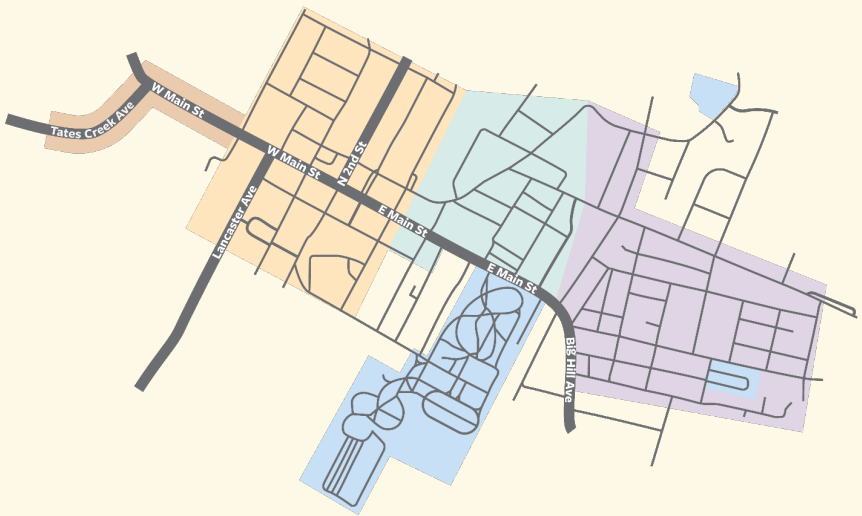


# A Note on Maps

Each section of this guide includes a map. Each map is marked with many locations which represent the vibrant and energetic African American community that existed in Richmond in the middle 1900s. Some map numbers contain multiple listings, indicating that the structure contained multiple business occupants.

Many of the locations marked no longer exist for one reason or another. In some cases business ventures were not taken up by younger generations. In other cases, clubs and organizations relocated to better or more convenient facilities. In several cases, the merger of the Richmond African American community with the white community that began with desegregation in the 1950s and 1960s brought an end to many of these establishments as the need for separate “White” and “Black” establishments faded.

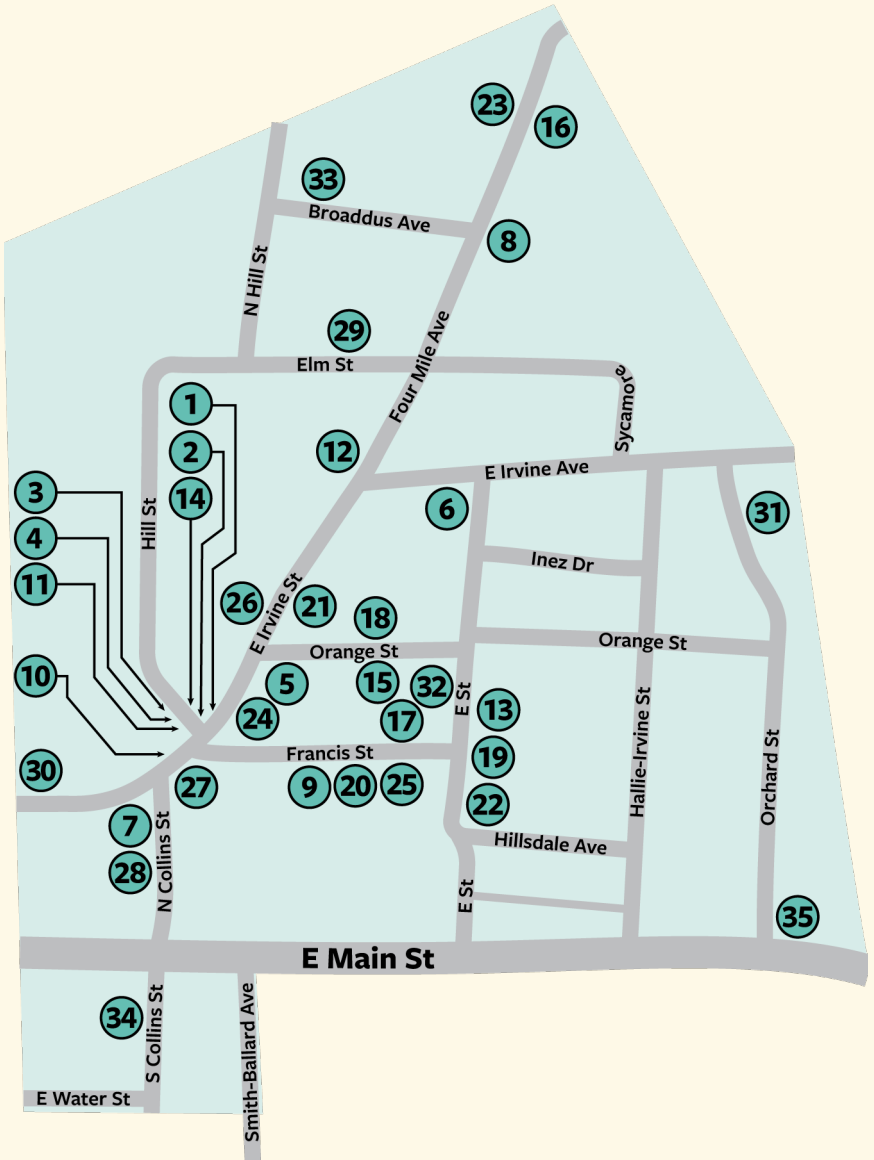
While some of these locations remain, this map and many of the stories about the people and locations marked are merely memories, tracings, footprints of the past.



# The Hill

Truly the heart of African American life in segregated Richmond, *The Hill* was bordered by “B” Street (Now Madison Avenue), Main Street, Four Mile Road, and the railroad. The Hill was referred to as “Downtown” by the African American community as it contained over 20 African American owned businesses, four major community churches, and most of the African American civic organizations. This section of town centers on the intersection of East Irvine Street, Hill, Collins, and Francis Streets.

- 1 Dunc’s Ice Cream Parlor
- 2 Ma and Pa’s
- 3 Blythe’s Sandwich Shop
- 4 Arthur “Wren” Fox Restaurant
  - a. Ambrose/Hunt’s Pool Hall
  - b. Larkin’s Lounge
  - c. American Legion - LuJaine Post
- 6 Smitty’s Southern Barbecue
- 7 The Regal
- 8 Harry Bell Walker’s Restaurant
- 9 a. Dr. John Gwynn  
b. Martin Matthews’ Barbershop
- 10 J.W. Parks’ Barbershop
- 11 Homer Huguely Barbershop
- 12 Jim Grubbs’ Barbershop
- 13 a. Wearren & Franklin Barbershop  
b. Gordon Wearren Real Estate
- 14 Ollie Stone’s Beauty Salon
- 15 Sarah Farris’ Beauty Salon
- 16 Doc McDaniel Auto Repair
- 17 Lake Baxter Red Top Taxi | Coal Yard |  
Garbage Pickup
- 18 Tommy Willis Bicycle Repair
- 19 Watts’ Bicycle Repair
- 20 George Morgan’s Auto Repair
- 21 Rankin & Son Funeral Home
- 22 Bob Blythe Carpentry
- 23 Doc McDaniel Tombstone Sales
- 24 a. Ashlar Lodge No. 49, F&AM (Original)  
b. Phyllis Wheatley OES 39 (Original)
- 25 a. Ashlar Lodge No. 49, F&AM (Current)  
b. Phyllis Wheatley OES 39 (Current)
- 26 Order of the Elks
- 27 First Baptist Church
- 28 First Baptist Church Parsonage
- 29 Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church
- 30 Richmond Predestinarian Church
- 31 St. Paul A.M.E. Church - First Meeting  
Site
- 32 St. Paul A.M.E. Church
- 33 St. Mark Church of God
- 34 a. Buster Blythe Shoe Repair  
b. Robert Gilbert Shoe Repair
- 35 Harvey Gentry Tailor



# Restaurants

## 1 Dunc's Ice Cream Parlor Corner of Irvine & Hill Streets

Dunc's was a household name to those born in the 1940s, 50s, and 60s. Founded by Merritt Duncan and later purchased by Wade and Garnetta Warren, Dunc's, as it came to be known, stood as a safe place for African Americans to enjoy the same entertainment that was denied them on Main Street in Richmond: a dance floor, juke box, soda fountain, comic books, magazines, and a lunch counter. Weekdays were busy with workers trying to get lunch and return to work. On weekends, Dunc's was filled with children learning to socialize, going on dates, and grabbing after movie refreshments. Everyone knew, especially the parents, it was a safe place to be. The building that housed Dunc's Ice Cream Parlor was later torn down to make way for an apartment building, but many over the age of 45 can recall fond memories of Dunc's.

### Dunc's Ice Cream Bar

Corner of Hill and Irvine  
Fountain Service Our Speciality

We Have All Your Necessities

Drugs-Short Orders-Cosmetics-Tobaccoes-

And For The Teen-Agers  
The Best Records In Town

*Memories and  
pictures of*

**RICHMOND  
KENTUCKY**



Photographer Johnny Smith 'snapped' Mr. L. Duncan, proprietor of Duncan's Lounge while he was conversing with patrons Sara Huguely, Luvenia Ross, Margarette Warren and Eleanor Boyd

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And for the Teen-Agers

The Best Records In Town



## 2 Ma and Pa's, AKA Ms. Alma's Hill Street

Ma and Pa's was owned by Alma and Jeff Kavanaugh. Mrs. Kavanaugh was well known for her cooking skills at Johnny Allman's restaurant on the Kentucky River and the Glyndon Hotel. Ma and Pa's was known for taking care of ECU students by providing home cooked meals and keeping a tab for them if they were unable to pay right away. Mrs. Kavanaugh developed many warm friendships with students who often asked her to be a witness at their weddings. Many sent her birthday cards and others kept in touch by telephone and by letters.

## 3 Blythe's Sandwich Shop Hill Street



Georgetta Blythe

## 4 Arthur "Wren" Fox Restaurant Hill Street

Wren made the *best* chili. Juke box music and drinks were for adults only. Minors could eat and listen to music, but no alcohol was served and they had to be out at 6:00 p.m., which was strictly enforced.

## 5 a Ambrose/Hunt's Pool Hall b Larkin's Lounge c American Legion - LuJaine Post Corner of E Irvine & Orange Streets

Operated at various times as Larkin's Lounge and the Sportsmen's Club. The Pool Room had tables in front and card games in rear room - the American Legion was located upstairs.

## 6 Smitty's Southern Style Barbecue - Currently Open! E Irvine Street

## 7 The Regal Collins Street

## 8 Harry Bell Walker's Restaurant Four Mile Avenue across from Broadus Avenue

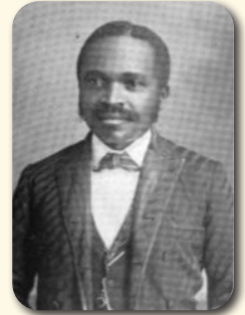
Served only food - Reverend Walker was also a Methodist Minister.

# Medical Services

## 9 a John Austin Gwynn, M.D.

312 Francis Street

Born in 1857 of slave parents, near Yanceyville, North Carolina. At age 16, John Gwynn attended school for the first time and by 1879 Gwynn graduated from the Normal and Agricultural Institute, Hampton, Virginia and had begun teaching. After teaching for several years, Gwynn entered Howard Medical College, graduating with his M.D. in 1889. He went to Bellevue Hospital Medical in New York City for post graduate work.



Dr. Gwynn began practicing medicine in Ashland, Kentucky. In 1892, he had settled in Richmond, Kentucky, where he began practicing medicine. In addition to his medical practice and responsibilities, Gwynn founded an African American newspaper, *The Sentinel*, in Madison County acting as both reporter and editor. Dr. J. A. Gwynn died January 1917 in Richmond and is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery.

### A Hustler.

Dr. J. A. Gwynn, editor of the Richmond Sentinel was in Winchester several days the first of this week putting in some good work for his paper. The Doctor is a hustler and his paper is now one of the leading papers in the state for colored people—owned and edited by them.

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# Barber Shops & Beauty Salons

## 9 b Martin Matthews' Barbershop

312 Francis Street

## 10 J.W. Parks' Barbershop

Irvine Street

## 11 Homer Huguely Barbershop

Hill Street

## 12 Jim Grubbs' Barbershop

Irvine Street

## 13 a Wearren & Franklin Barbershop

"E" Street

**14 Ollie Stone's Beauty Salon**  
Hill Street

**15 Sarah Farris' Beauty Salon**  
Orange Street



## Transportation Services

**16 Doc McDaniel Auto Repair**  
Four Mile Avenue

The garage was located near the Four Mile Avenue railroad crossing; Reverend McDaniel was also a Baptist Minister.

**17 Lake Baxter Red Top Taxi | Coal Yard | Garbage Pick-up**  
Property ran from Francis Street to Orange Street

**18 Tommy Willis' Bicycle Repair Shop**  
Orange Street

**19 Watts' Bicycle Repair & Sales**  
"E" Street

**20 George Morgan's Auto Repair & Garage**  
Francis Street

George's shop primarily did repair work and seldom charged for it.

## Funeral Homes

**21 Charles Rankin & Son Funeral Home**  
East Irvine Street

## Businesses

**13 b Gordon Wearren Real Estate**  
"E" Street

**22 Bob Blythe Carpentry**  
"E" Street

Bob was a professional carpenter who specialized in custom work.

**23 Doc McDaniel Tombstone Sales**  
Four Mile Avenue

**34 a Buster Blythe Shoe Repair**  
**b Robert Gilbert Shoe Repair**  
S Collins Street

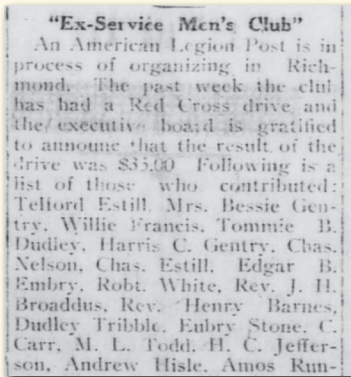
Irvine "Buster" Blythe apprenticed under Robert Gilbert and sold the business to him when he retired.

**35 Harvey Gentry Tailor**  
707 E Main Street

# Lodges & Benevolent Societies

## 5 American Legion - LuJaine Frances Post WWI Veterans Irvine Street

The post was named for LuJaine Frances, an Army veteran who died in France in 1919. These WWI vets sponsored and co-sponsored many events including the Colored Chautauquas. Frances is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery.



### “Ex-Service Men’s Club”

An American Legion Post is in process of organizing in Richmond. The past week the club has had a Red Cross drive and the executive board is gratified to announce that the result of the drive was \$35.00. Following is a list of those who contributed:

## 24 a Ashlar No. 49: Free & Accepted Masons, PHA b Phyllis Wheatley OES No. 39 *Original Location* - Corner of Francis & Irvine Streets

## 25 a Ashlar No. 49: Free & Accepted Masons b Phyllis Wheatley OES No. 39 *Current Location* - Francis Street





Ashler Lodge No. 49, F & AM, Richmond, Kentucky was chartered in May 1879 under the jurisdiction of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Kentucky, Inc. Early meetings were held at the Lodge Hall located at the corner of Francis and Irvine Streets. Later, members of Ashler No. 49 F & AM and Phyllis Wheatley No. 39, OES together purchased a building at 432 Francis Street where both organizations currently meet.

### ■ Order of the Eastern Star - Phyllis Wheatley No. 39



Phyllis Wheatley No. 39 is a service organization chartered in 1910 under the Cecelia Dunlap Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star of Kentucky, Prince Hall Affiliation. Phyllis Wheatley No. 39, OES, has a strong working relationship with Ashler Lodge No. 49, Free and Accepted Masons of Kentucky, Inc. While the first meetings were held in homes, Phyllis Wheatley No. 39 soon began meeting in Ashler No. 49 Lodge Hall at the corner of Francis and Irvine Streets. Today the Chapter meets at the Ashler Lodge Hall on Francis Street.

Together these two groups have organized many community projects. For over 35 years, Phyllis Wheatley Chapter No. 39, OES has held an Annual Color Tea as their yearly fundraiser. Funds raised through this event go toward helping people throughout the Richmond community.

## 26 Improved Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of the World

East Irvine Street

The Elks is an African American fraternal order established before the Civil War to provide a means of economic and personal advancement. In addition to its charitable services, it was a place for social events for African Americans during the period of a racially segregated society in Richmond.

### ■ The Grand United Order of the Odd Fellows



A benevolent society, the Odd Fellows' vows were made to remain sober, honest, industrious and benevolent, a good husband, a kind father, and a loyal and virtuous citizen. The Richmond chapter GUO of OF was, over the years, headed by prominent citizens including Reverend Green B. Miller and Attorney Emmett Embry. In 1914, the Odd Fellows sponsored a Grand Conclave parade with over 2,000 in attendance. The conclave represented members from the entire state.

# Churches

At the heart of “The Hill” are its churches. Origins of faith, differing practices, and humble beginnings, the churches have served as pillars of the Black community. The role of these churches can never be overstated. They were the early educators and often housed the first formal schools. They were the leaders of the Black community in their struggle to obtain fairness and equality. The churches prepared our youth for leadership roles, providing a venue for moral and spiritual growth. By-products of their existence are our educators, business owners, and community leaders. Both then and now, Richmond’s Black citizens have deep roots stemming from those “Churches on The Hill”.

**1843 – First Baptist Church (formerly United Colored Baptist)**

**1868 - Richmond Predestinarian Baptist Church**

**1868 – Elizabeth Missionary Baptist  
(formerly Elizabeth Predestinarian Baptist)**

**1872 – St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church**

## ■ Reverend Madison Campbell

In 1823, Madison Campbell was born enslaved in southern Madison County on the farm of Edy Campbell, from whom he got his name. He was baptized in the Methodist Church in 1842 and remained there until 1856 when he was convinced that immersion was necessary and that falling from grace was a false doctrine which led him to be baptized into the Baptist Church. He was sold once, but purchased his freedom in 1863. Reverend Campbell served as pastor of the United Colored Baptist Church, now known as First Baptist Church from 1856 - 1896. He was instrumental in developing several area churches including New Liberty Baptist (Bobtown), Mt. Pleasant Baptist (Kirksville), Mt. Nebo, and Otter Creek Baptist. He was an organizer of the Mt. Pleasant District Association for affiliated churches located south of the Kentucky River. He received a Doctor of Divinity degree from Simmons University in 1892.



Reverend Campbell owned property as early as 1876 at the corner of North First and East Irvine Streets which extended to Hill Street. He was married to Polly Ballard, mother of his 14 children and after her death, to Roxanne Moberly.

Upon his death in 1897, the City of Richmond paid him tribute by closing its offices on the occasion of his funeral. Reverend Madison Campbell has an impressive tombstone and is buried in Old Soldiers Cemetery.

## 27 First Baptist Church of Richmond

Corner of Francis & N Collins Streets

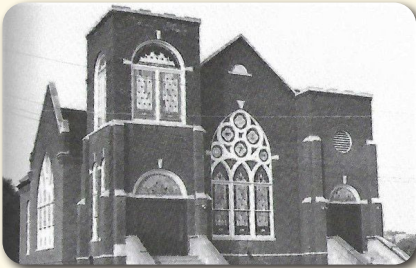
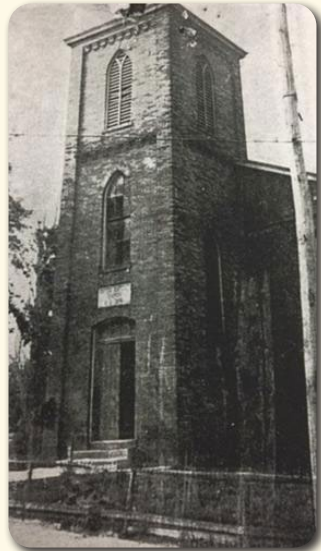
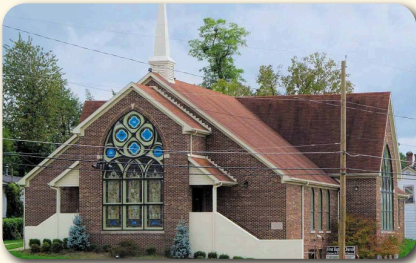
## 28 First Baptist Parsonage (Demolished)

N Collins Street

In 1843, a group of individuals, led by Madison Campbell who was at the time still enslaved, organized themselves into a church. The first church built was constructed of log. In June 1858, Madison Campbell was called pastor of the United Baptist Church, Colored, of Richmond. The ground where the church stood was bought and deeded to the Baptist congregation by Edmond Martin.

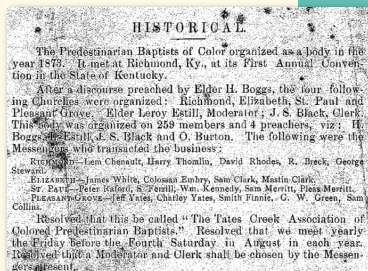
When the log church became too small, Reverend Campbell and his congregation built a new church of brick construction. In 1859, the first baptizing was held when Reverend Campbell baptized 59 converts in the Bronston pond. From the first 173 members, by 1873 the membership had increased to 500 members. Again outgrowing the building, the congregation raised money, opened a brickyard, made and burned the brick on the grounds and in 1894, they tore down the old church and built a new one costing \$9,000. Reverend Campbell pastored the First Baptist Church, Richmond for over 35 years.

The Sunday School was the first auxiliary organized. Among the many superintendents were Rev. G. B. Miller, Rev. J. O. Whittaker, Prof. James A. White, Prof. A. R. Cobb, Dr. J. A. Gwynn, Rev. R. T. Kennedy and Miss Georgia Walker. The BTU (Baptist Training Union) began in 1906 to train the youth of the church. Recorded pastors of the First Baptist Church at Frances & Collins are the Reverends Madison Campbell, Thomas H. Broaddus, J. Welby Broaddus, Titus Bennett, Oliver A. Williams, Andrew C. Goodloe, and Robert R. Blythe.



# Minutes of the First Predestinarian Baptists of Color Convention - 1878

This document outlined the founding resolutions of *The Bates Creek Association of Colored Predestinarian Baptists*, which included the Elizabeth Missionary Baptist and Richmond Predestinarian Baptist Churches.



## HISTORICAL.

The Predestinarian Baptists of Color organized as a body in the year 1878. It met at Richmond, KY at its First Annual Convention in the State of Kentucky

After a discourse preached by Elder H. Boggs, the four following Churches were organized: Richmond, Elizabeth, St. Paul and Pleasant Grove. Elder Leroy Estill, Moderator; J. S. Black, Clerk. This body was organized on 259 members and 4 preachers, viz: H. Boggs, L. Estill, J. S. Black and O. Burton. The following were the Messengers, who transacted the business:

RICHMOND - Lem Chenault, Harry Thomlin, David Rhodes, R. Breck, George Steward.

ELIZABETH - James White, Colossan (Coleman?) Embry, Sam Clark, Mastin Clark.

ST. PAUL - Peter Raford(?), S. Ferril(?), Wm. Kennedy, Sam Merritt, Pleas Merritt.

PLEASANT GROVE - Jeff Yates, Chatley Yates, Smith Finnie, G. W. Green, Sam Collins.

Resolved that this be called "The Bates Creek Association of Colored Predestinarian Baptists." Resolved that we meet yearly the Friday before the Fourth Saturday in August in each year. Resolved that a Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by the Messengers present.

## 29 Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church

305 Elm Street

Founded by Elder James Black, the first sanctuary of Elizabeth Predestinarian Baptist Church was built in 1868 in the community of Silver Creek on a one acre plat of land donated by Elder Anderson Parks. African Americans and whites worshiped together and organized the Colored Predestinarian Baptist Association. In August 1873, the white congregants withdrew from the association while the African Americans continued to meet. The congregation celebrates this date as their official beginning. The congregation moved from Silver Creek to the present location at 305 Elm Street in Richmond in 1949. In 2002 the congregation was renamed Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church after leaving the Predestinarian body.

## 30 Richmond Predestinarian Church (1868)

Irvine Street

Reverends Currin Deatherage and Leonard B. Turpin were former pastors of Richmond Predestinarian Baptist Church.





## 31 **First Meeting Site: St. Paul AME Church**

Old Train Depot

St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1872 by Mr. and Mrs. Henry McClanahan and their daughter Malinda. The first meeting was held in a boxcar on the L & N Railroad track near the site of the old depot. Reverend C. T. Shaffer, a Berea College student, walked to Richmond each Sunday to serve the newly organized congregation.

## 32 **St. Paul AME Church (1872 - Present)**

437 Francis Street

As the congregation grew, it worshiped in a log cabin on Powell's Alley, now Water Street. In 1887, it bought a parcel on Hill Street and built the first permanent building. In 1898, the church bought a lot on the corner of "E" and Francis Streets and built its current brick edifice.

The Crossland Heirs, a noted local singing group, were members of the St. Paul congregation.



## 33 **St. Mark Church of God**

Broadbudd Avenue

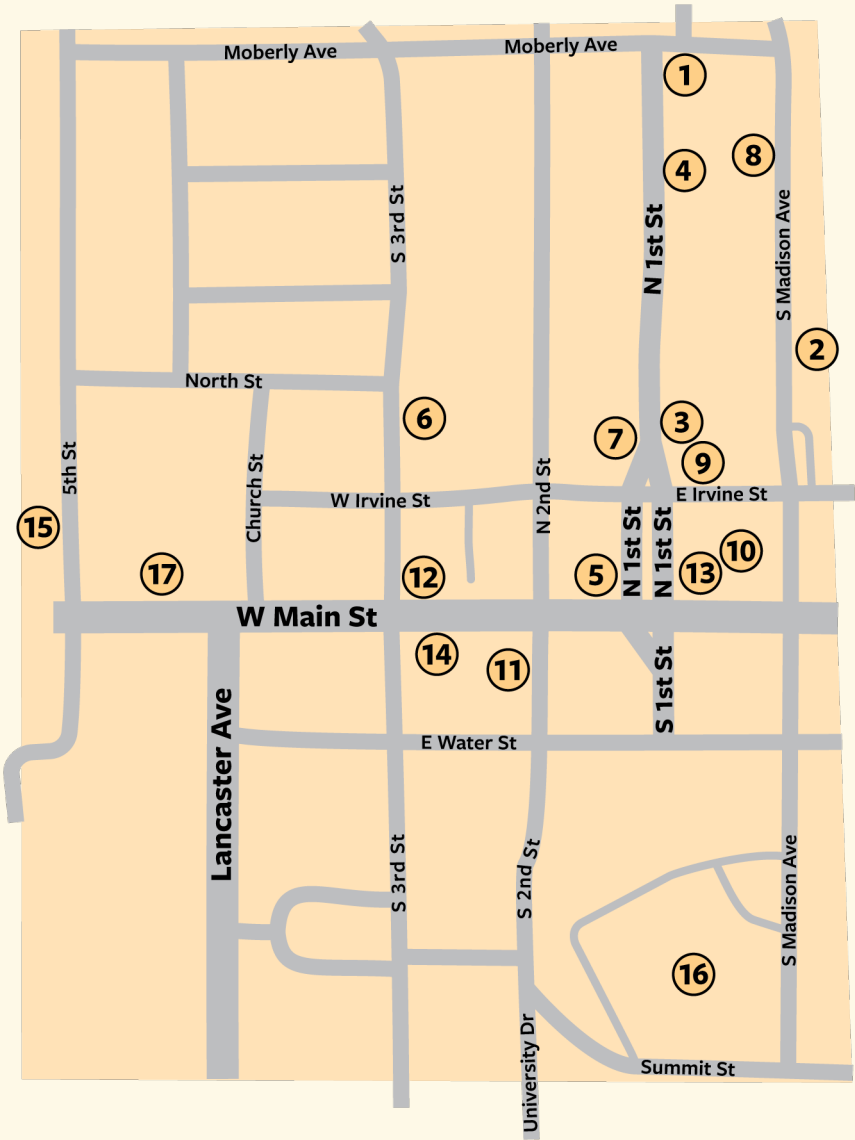
This congregation now worships as the House of Jacob on Linden Avenue.



# Uptown

Crossing west over “B” Street meant going from “Downtown” to “Uptown” in segregated Richmond. The section of town from “B” Street (now Madison Avenue), west to Fifth Street and from Moberly Avenue in the north, and then south to Water Street, was home to several medical professionals, tailors, seamstresses, and other service-based industries which catered primarily to white clientele. Uptown was also the interface between African American and white Richmond. As such, it was often the site of parades led by numerous Black social and civic organizations as well as demonstrations, marches, and sit-ins during the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 60s.

- 1 Dr. S.R. Gholston
- 2 Dr. John Oden Harris
- 3 Richmond Colored Hospital
- 4 Boyd Funeral Services
- 5 Mammy Lou of Miller’s Tavern
- 6 Emmitt Patton’s Blacksmith Shop
- 7 a. Mammoth Life & Accident Ins. Co.  
b. Neal’s Pharmacy
- 8 T.C. Maupin’s Plumbing and Electric
- 9 Hayden Estill Grocery
- 10 A.J. White’s Tailor Shop
- 11 Darryl Ballard’s Tailoring
- 12 Irvine Brothers’ Tailor Shop
- 13 J.W. Cobb’s Tailor Shop
- 14 The Glyndon Hotel
  - a. Dr. C.B. Dotye
  - b. J.T. Ballew’s Tailor Shop
  - c. Macon Shoe Shop
  - d. Joel Mackey’s Barber Shop
  - e. Margaret Mackey’s Ice Cream Parlor
- 15 B&B Taxi
- 16 Madison High School
- 17 Belle Bennett’s Residence



# Medical Professionals

## 1 Dr. S.R. Gholston

Corner of N First Street & Moberly Avenue



Dr. Gholston was born in Paducah, Kentucky on 28 October 1880 and was a 1903 graduate of Meharry Medical College. By 1905 Dr. Gholston had opened his medical practice on the corner of N First Street and Moberly Avenue in Richmond. He died in 1953 and is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery.

## 2 Dr. John Oden Harris

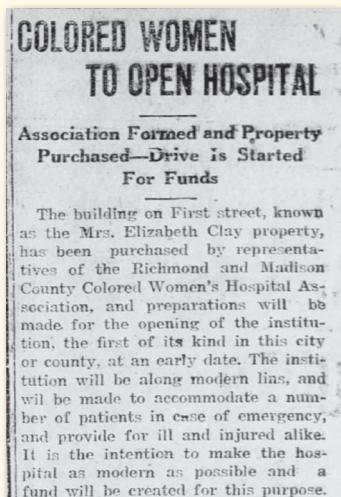
219 N Madison Avenue

Dr. Harris was born 27 May 1897 in Washington D.C. He lived at 219 “B” Street (now Madison Avenue), Richmond in 1940. By 1950, Dr Harris returned to Washington D.C. and continued in private practice. Dr. Harris’ death date and burial location are not known.

## 3 Richmond Colored Hospital

Corner of N First & E Irvine Streets

In the early 1920s, the Pattie A. Clay Infirmary on Glyndon Avenue had a separate ward for Blacks which could accommodate only four or five patients. A group named the Hospital Club was formed in 1920, purchased “the old Lizzie Clay property” on North First Street for \$3,000. It was thought that with its two stories and nine rooms, it would be adequate for a hospital. Rooms were provided for live-in nurses. The Colored Hospital was on North First Street across from *The Ark* building.



### RICHMOND DAILY REGISTER

- August 16, 1920

The building on First street, known as the Mrs. Elizabeth Clay property, has been purchased by representatives of the Richmond and Madison County Colored Women's Hospital Association, and preparations will be made for the opening of the institution, the first of its kind in this city or county, at an early date. The institution will be along modern lines [sic], and will be made to accommodate a number of patients in case of emergency, and provide for ill and injured alike. It is the intention to make the hospital as modern as possible and a fund will be created for this purpose.



# 14 a Dr. Christopher Benjamin “C.B.” Dotye

W Main Street

Dr. Dotye was born in 1902 in Richmond, Kentucky and was a graduate of Richmond High School. He obtained degrees from Central Tennessee College and Meharry Medical College in 1930. His practice included surgery. Dr. Dotye is the only African American doctor who was both born in and practiced in Richmond. He is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery. (Residence: 1413 W Main, next to J.T. Ballew’s Tailor Shop)

## Funeral Homes

# 4 Charles Boyd Funeral Services

N First Street



Charles Boyd, a mortician by trade, was the founder, funeral director, and embalmer of Boyd Funeral Services. The white house with the large bay window still stands today. Known for his dapper attire, great sense of humor, and abundant generosity, Boyd often accepted payment in hams, cakes, pies, and fresh produce rather than turn away a family in need of funeral or burial services.

## Restaurants

# 5 Mammy Lou of Miller’s Tavern

N First & W Main Streets

Sunday, November 24, 1996 The Richmond Register Page B1

### Clever cook's corn breads purchased freedom for herself and her family

In the early years of the 19th Century there was a public parkhouse, actually a long row of roofed booths along the First Street side of the Madison County Courthouse.

Persons who had actually grown or made the products they wanted to sell could rent a booth from the county—some for a day, others for months at a time.

There they could compete with others who had everything from pottery, fresh fruits and vegetables in season, dressed chickens, handmade harness to back baskets, fresh-killed squirrels and rabbits, and salt-cured country ham.

**MADISON'S HERITAGE**

**DR. ROBERT GRISE**

There was one exception to the county court rule that you had to have grown or made what you sold in the market-house. In the center of that long row was a 10-foot booth operated on weekends and court days for several years by Mammy Lou, John Miller's slave woman who was the regular cook at Miller's tavern at the corner of First and Main. John Miller, you will remember, was the founder of Richmond who gave the land for the courthouse square.

Mammy Lou was said to have been a physically large woman with much stamina who split firewood for the stove as well as doing wonderful cooking for the guests at the tavern. She was said to nearly always have a big smile, and according to several items in the old Richmond newspapers, she was sometimes called "Mammy Blue" because her skin was said to be so black that in certain light it had a blue cast.

Mammy Lou was not only strong and skilled in cooking, but she was also smart and ambitious. She persuaded Miller to give her permission to operate her cornmeal booth on weekends, and he even providing her with the cooking utensils and her first barrel of cornmeal. Miller allowed Mammy Lou to use all she earned at the market-house toward buying "freedom from slavery" for her two children and herself.

Among the white cornmeal products Mammy Lou became popular for were cornsticks, fritters, muffins, hoecakes, cornpone, egg-batter bread, and spoonbread.

Old newspaper accounts revealed that folks would gather around her booth just to watch her seemingly magic motions which produced the delicious cornbreads that were so eagerly sought after by the public. There was a pinch of salt, a dab of butter, a sprinkle of sugar, a few drops of molasses, and a bit of cinnamon or other spice which in some wonderful way made her fresh hot breads so delicious. It was said that even people who lived in the big houses on West Main and Lancaster Avenue sent for these remarkable breads.

Her outstandingly delicious spoonbread, wrote the 1940's local historian Green Clay, was made in a large piepan and had coarse cornmeal with some finely powered cornmeal which she made with a mortar and pestle that a Richmond druggist had given her.

A bit of yellow cornmeal for flavor, water, salt, sugar, and a little sorghum or maple molasses were added and the mix was cooked.

Mention of Mammy Lou's wonderful—spoonbread—was occasionally found in the newspapers long after she had purchased her freedom and that of her children and had moved to Lexington.

Mammy Lou was enslaved to John Miller, son of the founder of Richmond, who gave the city land for the court house. Mammy Lou was the cook at Miller's Tavern. Mammy Lou's cornbreads grew in such popularity that people from all over the area, rich and poor, would purchase her bread from a booth she set up on N First Street in the very early days of Richmond. Mammy Lou was allowed to keep the profits from her enterprise and eventually purchased her freedom and the freedom of her two children before moving to Lexington, Kentucky.

## Businesses

### 6 Emmitt Patton Blacksmith Shop

N Third Street

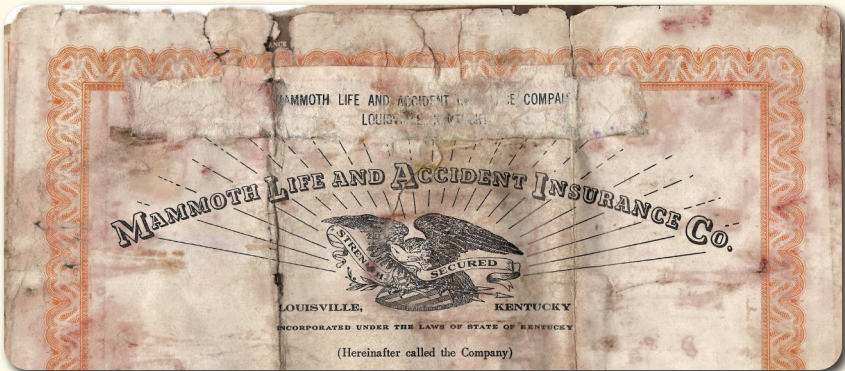
Emmitt Patton, born in Lincoln County, Kentucky was known as the last local village blacksmith. He repaired all types of metal objects. As a farrier, his workshop was located in his home on Lake Street and moved to 217 North Third Street in the early 1900s. Farmers and racehorse folk alike came into his shop. His son Stewart also learned the trade and began a mobile farrier business serving Madison and surrounding counties. The building on North Third Street later became an auto body shop.

### 7 a Mammoth Life & Accident Insurance Company

Corner of W Irvine & N First Streets

Mammoth Life and Accident Insurance Company was located on First Street in a building known as *The Ark*. Mammoth later moved to Hill Street.

Founded in 1915 in Louisville, Mammoth Life was one of the largest Black-owned and operated companies in Kentucky's history. The corporation was central to the Black community during the height of segregation offering affordable policies. The company had as many as 750 employees and assets of \$30 million. In 1992, Mammoth Life merged with Atlanta Life Insurance and the Kentucky office closed. C.C. Hall, Ernest E. Stewart, McGustor Estelle, Oscar Deatherage, Nancy Blythe Deatherage, and Lawrencetta Jenkins were agents in the Richmond area.



### 7 b Neal's Pharmacy

Corner of W Irvine & N First Streets

"A new drug store, under the management of Mr. Neal, of Mississippi, has been opened for business in the Ark building on First Street. Mr. Neal is a graduate of Wilberforce University and was the highest honored student of Meharry Medical College. The formal opening will be March 16th" - Grand Opening Announcement in *The Hilltopper*

## 8 T.C. Maupin's Plumbing and Electric "B" Street (now N Madison Avenue)

Thomas "T.C." Maupin apprenticed with several local plumbers and electricians, and became a Master in both trades before going into business for himself. Maupin also worked on the construction of the intramural fields on Eastern Kentucky University's campus.

## 9 Hayden Estill Grocery E Irvine Street

### Tailors & Seamstresses

## 10 A.J. White's Tailor Shop (Currently a USPS Office) "B" Street (Now N Madison Avenue)

## 11 Darryl Ballard's Tailoring S Second Street

## 12 Irvine Brothers' Tailor Shop W Main Street

## 13 J.W. Cobb's Tailor N First Street

## 14 The Glyndon Hotel W Main Street

### a Dr. C.B. Dotye

### b J.T. Ballew's Tailor Shop

J.T. Ballew and Tussey Walker – operated as Glyndon Tailor Shop

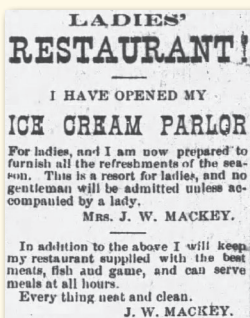
### c Macon Shoe Shop

Operated inside the tailor shop – Macon loved to take photographs

### d Joel Mackey's Barbershop

### e Margaret Mackey's Ice Cream Parlor

Mrs. Margaret Mackey's Ice Cream Parlor operated on Main Street in the mid 1880s. Mrs. Mackey is buried in Richmond Cemetery.



For ladies, and I am now prepared to furnish all the refreshments of the season. This is a resort for ladies, and no gentleman will be admitted unless accompanied by a lady.

MRS. J.W. MACKEY.

In addition to the above I will keep my restaurant supplied with the best meats, fish, and game, and can serve meals at all hours.

Everything neat and clean.

J.W. MACKEY

## Shoe Repair & Shoe Shine

**14 c** **Macon Shoe Shop**  
W Main Street

### Cleo Macon, 86, figure at barbershops, dies

#### HERALD-LEADER STAFF REPORT

Cleo Macon, a familiar figure at various Richmond barbershops for decades, died Wednesday at Richmond Center for Health & Rehabilitation - Madison. He was 86.

Mr. Macon shined shoes for many years at several barbershops, including Willie Green's Barbershop and the Glyndon Hotel Barbershop, before his retirement several years ago.

Friends described him as a dignified, polite man and an impeccable dresser who often wore pendants around his neck and carried a red, white, and blue cane.

"He wore a tie about every day" and a lot of jewelry, said former Glyndon Hotel barber Sylvester Francis. "He knew everybody in town - at least they knew him. He shined shoes, I think, since he was about 16 years old," he said. "He took pictures of everybody that came in the shop. He took all the kids' pictures. ... He didn't have much education, but he got by good. Everybody liked him," Francis said.

Mr. Macon, who formerly lived on East Irvine Street in Richmond, is survived by a sister, Elizabeth Macon.

Funeral arrangements were pending at Williams Funeral Home in Berea.

## Barbers & Beauticians

**14 b** **J.T. Ballew's Tailor Shop**  
First Street

**14 d** **Joel Mackey's Barbershop**  
W Main Street

## Transportation Services

**15** **B & B Taxi Service**  
First Street

Operated by Robert Blythe and Russel Behanon

## Education

### 16 **Madison High School (1923 - 1989)** 101 Summit Street

Madison High and Elementary was a public school in Richmond, Kentucky. The school's enrollment never exceeded 400 and it never graduated a class of more than 85 students. Grades 1 - 12 were taught through the 1971 - 1972 school year.



The transition from private to public school was rather gradual in Richmond. Between 1789 and 1910, several prominent academies flourished, but the public school system generally began on May 20, 1890, in an act of the General Assembly of Kentucky. In that year the Richmond City School acquired the Madison Academy property, on which a new eight room building was dedicated in 1894. Several years later, two more rooms were added; and this building, known as Caldwell High School, was used for school purposes until 1921, when it was destroyed by fire.

**High atop the 'hill' historic,  
... bold against the sky.  
Proudly stands our alma mater,  
...dear old 'Madison High'.**

On July 5, 1919, the Richmond City Board of Education leased the property of the Madison Female Institute for ninety-nine years. The Female Institute had been a famous southern finishing school for girls. Following the 1862 Civil War Battle of Richmond, the building was used for hospital wards where both Union and Confederate soldiers were cared for by teachers and students.

Through the 1955 - 1956 school year, Madison High was a segregated school. Richmond's African American students attended Richmond High School. In the fall of 1956, Richmond High was integrated into Madison as the Richmond City Board of Education carried out the U.S. Supreme Court's *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. A gradual integration program was initiated that year as sophomores, juniors, and seniors from Richmond High were enrolled at Madison. By 1960, freshmen were admitted as well.

The Richmond City Board of Education received national recognition for this innovative move which integrated the entire district. In 1989, the Richmond City Schools were taken into the Madison County School District and Richmond High became Madison Middle School.

### 17 **Belle Bennett's Residence** 101 Summit Street

Read about Miss Bennett on (p. 45)



# East End

The East End area extended from Four Mile Avenue eastward to Race and Keri Ann Streets and from Lake to Estill & “K” Streets which marked the boundaries of the African American community.

The East End served Richmond’s African American community in many ways. It was home to many professionals and in-home businesses. To the Black community of Richmond, the East End was an area of education. It was home to Richmond High School. People could catch a race on the old racetrack (where Race Street is now located) or attend community events held at Richmond High School. Sporting events such as ball games and races were held at or near the racetrack on Race and Altamont Streets.

The East End bore witness to the victories and heartbreaks of not only sporting events and live entertainment, but of desegregation. It will continue to bear witness to modern struggles as well. For many, the East End was their final resting place with both of the major African American cemeteries lying in the East End.

- 1 a. Henry Allen Laine  
b. Richard “Frank” Parks Funeral Home
- 2 Dr. Thomas Biggerstaff
- 3 Dr. Walker Parker
- 4 Squire Collins Funeral Home
- 5 O.Z. White Funeral Home
- 6 East End Grocery
- 7 Old Folks Home
- 8 Betty Miller Center
- 9 Bill Hill Coal Yard
- 10 Wallace Singleton TV Repair
- 11 a. Sam Miller Seafood  
b. Jennings Harris’ Taxi Stand
- 12 City Shoe Shop
- 13 J.C. Boggs’ Shoe Repair
- 14 Joe Bronston’ Restaurant
- 15 Clara Parks’ Beauty Salon
- 16 Randall Hinton’s Beauty Salon
- 17 Gilbert Burnam Taxi Service
- 18 Linden Street Baptist Church
- 19 House of Jacob
- 20 Frank “Doug” Walker’s House
- 21 Beatrice Smith Huguely Residence & Inn
- 22 Miss Lizzie’s Kindergarten
- 23 Richmond High School
- 24 Emmett Embry Home & Office
- 25 Pioneer Park



## Medical Services

### 2 **Dr. Thomas Biggerstaff** 1012 E Main Street

Dr. Biggerstaff began a dental practice in Richmond, Kentucky prior to 1930. In 1940 he was practicing dentistry in Richmond and was listed as a dentist in the 1943 Lexington Business directory. In 1948 he was listed in the Danville and Frankfort business directories. By 1950 he had returned to Lexington where he practiced until his death in 1966.

### 3 **Dr. Walker “Doc” Parker** 1505 E Main Street

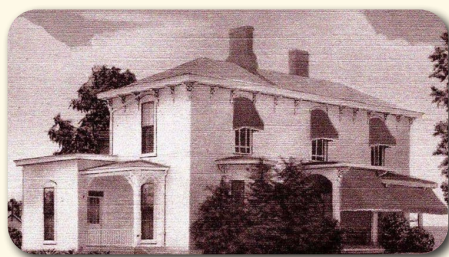
*Dr. Parker, a dentist, and father of Peggy Jarvis Edwards of Washington, D.C. died Saturday at Madison Manor Nursing Home. Services 10 am Thursday at St. Augusta Catholic Church, Washington. Jarvis Funeral Home in Washington in charge of arrangements. - Excerpt from obituary, publication unknown.*

## Funeral Homes

### 1 **Richard “Frank” Parks Funeral Home** E Main Street

Parks & Hughes Mortuary was the last African American owned funeral business in Richmond.

### 4 **Squire Collins Funeral Home** 908 E Main Street



The proprietor, Squire Collins, is buried in Richmond Cemetery.

### 5 **O.Z. White Funeral Home** E Main Street

The proprietor, Owen “O.Z.” White, is buried in Richmond Cemetery.

## Businesses

### 6 **East End Grocery Store** E Irvine Street



**7 Old Folks Home** [redacted]  
Pine Street

Now called the Mt. Pleasant District Shelter

**8 Betty Miller Park - Richmond Neighborhood Community Center** [redacted]  
N Estill Avenue

**9 Bill Hill Coal Yard** [redacted]  
Holly Street

Bill Hill sold coal by the bushel or ton. It was 50¢ for inside-home delivery.

**10 Wallace Singleton TV Repair, Electrical, and Plumbing** [redacted]  
E Irvine Street

**11 a Sam Miller Seafood** [redacted]  
Holly Street

This structure was originally Jennings Harris' Taxi Stand.

## Shoe Repair

**12 City Shoe Shop** [redacted]  
E Irvine Street

**13 J.C. Boggs' Shoe Repair** [redacted]  
E Main Street

## Restaurants

**14 Joe Bronston's Restaurant** [redacted]  
Race Street across from Steep Street

The restaurant served food and drinks to "Adults Only".

## Barbershops & Beauty Salons

**15 Clara Parks' Beauty Salon** [redacted]  
E Irvine Street

**16 Randall Hinton's Beauty Salon** [redacted]  
E Main Street

## Transportation Services

### 11 **b Jennings Harris' Taxi Stand**

Holly Street

This structure later became Miller's Seafood Shop.

### 17 **Gilbert Burnam Taxi Service**

Irvine Street

Mr. Burnam also sold and repaired bicycles, and built a scaled-down railroad train by hand.

## Churches

### 18 **Linden Street Baptist Church**

Linden Street

### 19 **House of Jacob (Formerly St. Mark House of God)**

Linden Street

## Notable Homes

### 20 **Frank "Doug" Walker's House**

E Main Street

### 21 **Beatrice Smith Inn**

E Main Street

Served as an inn for African American travelers.

## Education

### 22 **Miss Lizzie's Kindergarten**

Lake Street



Elizabeth Chenault is best known for operating the only private kindergarten open to African American children in Madison County. Operating from her home, children learned how to play together, sight read words, speak in public, and what to

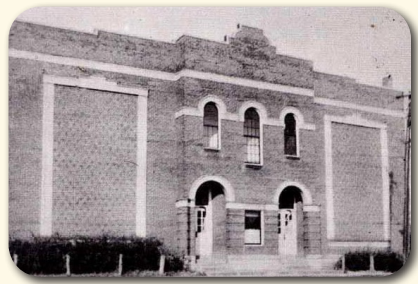
expect in regular school. Children participated in elaborate plays and events produced for the parents and the community. Graduations were held each year and a class photo was taken for each family to receive a copy. A woman of many talents, Mrs. Chenault also operated a beauty shop out of her home. Mrs. Elizabeth Chenault died in Fayette County in 1975 at the age of 73.



## 23 Richmond High School (1896 - 1973)

1100 E Main Street

In 1896, the building on this site first opened as the Richmond City Colored School under the leadership of Professor J.D.M. Russell. After the closing of Berea College to Black students in 1904, this school became the only high school in Madison County open to African Americans. By 1910 it became known as Richmond High School.



Several changes to the physical structure occurred in its long history. In 1929, the Rosenwald Foundation<sup>1</sup> partially funded a \$24,000 manual training facility or “shop”. Two lots were purchased between 1933 and 1936 by the Women’s Literary Club and the Ladies Art Club for use as a playground and football field. In 1939, the Work Progress Administration sponsored the construction of a gymnasium.

Richmond High was a hub of activity in the African American community. It was the site of plays, club meetings, concerts, and beginning in 1942 was home to the public Richmond Colored Branch Library. Richmond High became a basketball power and was a member of the Kentucky High School Athletic League. Under Coach Joseph G. Fletcher, the Richmond Ramblers won Kentucky State basketball titles in 1940, 1942, and 1943.

After the passage of the Supreme Court’s *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954, the Richmond City Board of Education began integrating Richmond High into Madison High. The last high school graduating class at Richmond High was in 1956, after which the building became the Richmond Junior High through 1973, when it closed its doors as a public school forever. In 1973, the building was purchased by the Telford Community Center and later became a chapter of the Young Men’s Christian Association (YMCA).



In spite of the building’s connections to national and local history, in 2019, the 122 year-old school building was demolished. Today the gymnasium is all that remains of the original building and continues to be used by the YMCA.

<sup>1</sup> See Appendix of Terms for more information on the Rosenwald Foundation/Rosenwald Schools

# Richmond High Class of 1911



## Reverse of Class Photo Reads

June 6, 1979

Richmond High School  
Class of 1911

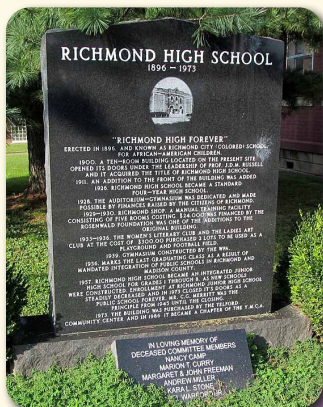
*June 6, 1979*  
 Richmond High School  
 Class of 1911  
 To Elmer Harris  
 From Marie Harris Walker  
 Mollie Harris second row third from  
 left  
 Mary & Charles Irvine 3rd row 6 & 7th  
 from left  
 Mr. George Parks our history  
 teacher 1st row 4th from left  
 Aunt Hattie Turner third row  
 3rd from left. Mr. C. D. Russel French

To Elmer Harris  
From Marie  
Harris Walker

Mollie Harris second row third from the left  
 Mary & Charlie Irvine 3rd row 6 and 7th from the left  
 Mr. George Parks our history teacher, 1st row 4th from the left,  
 Aunt Hattie Turner third row, 3rd from left, Mr. CD Russel French

# Richmond High Ramblers

1942 State Championship Basketball Team, pictured left to right; Harry Morgan, Stanley Williams, Herman Dudley, Reginald Mackey, Walter Black, Leroy Smith, Billy Lease, Allen Hughley, Thomas Allen Kennedy, William David Turner, and Coach Joseph G. Fletcher.



**PLAQUE**  
 IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
 DECEASED COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
 NANCY CAMP  
 MARION T. CURRY  
 MARGARET & JOHN FREEMAN  
 ANDREW MILLER  
 KARA L. STONE  
 HAZEL WARFORD JR.

## “RICHMOND HIGH FOREVER”

Erected in 1896. And Known as Richmond City (Colored) School For African - American Children.

1900. A Ten-Room Building Located on the Present Site Opened Its Doors Under The Leadership of Prof. J.D.M. Russell And it Acquired the Title of Richmond High School.

1911. An Addition to the Front of the Building Was Added.

1926. Richmond High School Became a Standard Four-Year High School.

1928. The Auditorium-Gymnasium Was Dedicated and Made Possible by Finances Raised by the Citizens of Richmond.

1929 - 1930. The Women's Literary Club and the Ladies Art Club at the Cost of \$300.00 Purchased 2 Lots to be Used as a Playground and Football Field.

1939. Gymnasium Constructed by the WPA

1956. Marks the Last Graduating Class as a Result of Mandated Integration of Public Schools in Richmond and Madison County.

1957. Richmond High School Became an Integrated Junior High School for Grades 1 Through 8. As New Schools Were Constructed, Enrollment at Richmond Junior High School Steadily Decreased and in 1873 Closed its Doors as a

Public School Forever. Mr. C.G Merritt was the Principal from 1945 until the Closing.

1973. The Building was Purchased by the Telford Community Center and in 1986 it Became a Chapter of the Y.M.C.A

## ■ Professor James S. Hathaway

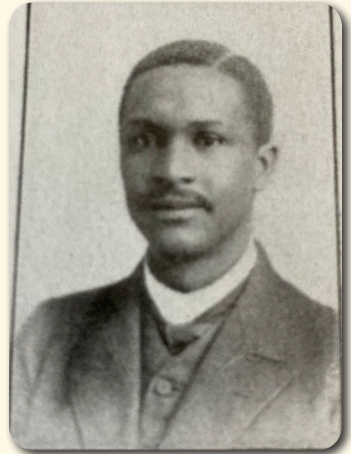
A Mt. Sterling native, Professor Hathaway was the principal of Richmond High School in Richmond, Kentucky until his death in 1930.

Hathaway graduated from Berea College in 1884 with degrees in Latin and Mathematics and became an instructor at the college for ten years. Upon leaving Berea College, he became the third and sixth president of Kentucky State Institute for Negroes (now Kentucky State University). He organized and established The Standard Printing and Publishing Company in Lexington.

Hathaway was elected president of the newly formed State Association of Colored Teachers in 1889. It was later renamed Kentucky Negro Educational Association and provided yearly in-service training for African American teachers throughout the state.

At the Kentucky State Institute for Negroes, he invited colored farmers and gardeners from across the state to meet to encourage farming and emphasize farming principles.

Professor Hathaway, along with Reverend T. H. Broaddus and R. B. Haley, filed Articles of Incorporation with the Secretary of State to establish the Madison Mutual Industrial Corporation with a capital stock of \$10,000. The object of the company was to establish training farms where young men of color could learn scientific principles of farming. Hathaway is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery.



## ■ Cabel G. Merritt



Cabel G. Merritt led Richmond High, and then Richmond Junior High School, for 27 years. He served as the assistant principal at Madison High School for five years until his retirement in 1977.



# School Desegregation



Prior to 1961, public elementary schools in Madison County were racially segregated. Many Black children rode for hours daily, often on small, narrow back roads, under the “separate but equal” policy. In 1954, the Supreme Court unanimously ruled that “separate but equal” public schools for blacks and whites were unconstitutional.

However, in the early 1960s the Madison County Board of Education built six new “state of the art” neighborhood schools that spread across the county, earmarked for white students. These new schools were minutes away from their homes. When questioned by African American parents, the school board’s response was that the status quo was acceptable and had no plans for integration and the students would need to continue commuting for several more years as the school board worked on a plan.

Believing education to be the key to success and that a level playing field would improve their children’s chances for better economic success and social status, three families together sued the Madison County Board of Education. Those families, Oliver and Lela Cunningham, Andrew and Arnetta Turner, and Floyd and Ollie Chenault, together with their eleven children formed the legal means of challenging segregation in the Madison County Public School System. The case was heard, and the families prevailed. In the autumn of 1962, those eleven children were picked up at their doorsteps, on regular route buses, rode with their white neighbors, and were admitted to Daniel Boone Elementary School. They were the first elementary aged students to desegregate Madison County Public Schools. The following year, all schools in the county were integrated.

## ■ Impact of School Integration on Teachers

As a result of the school desegregation in 1963, the Madison County Board of Education mandated the closing of the African American elementary schools at Brassfield, Concord, Middletown, and Grapevine. This resulted in those Black teachers losing their employment as Madison County Board policy did not allow them to teach in classrooms of white schools. They were forced to either resign, retire, or re-train and receive certification as school librarians. All of these teachers had over 30 years of teaching experience and some held Masters degrees. Affected were Robert Blythe, Teacher/Principal (Middletown); Dorothy White Miller (Brassfield); Mollie Hatton Turner (Concord); Nancy Deatherage (Middletown); Miss Charles Irvine (Grapevine).



## ■ Mrs. Dorothy White Miller



Dorothy White Miller was born and educated in Richmond, Kentucky, graduating from Richmond High School in 1932 as class salutatorian. She began attending Knoxville College and eventually earned a B.A. from Kentucky State College, and an M.A. from the University of Kentucky.

Miller was employed in the Madison County School System for forty-one years. Her experience mirrors many of the African American teachers of the area during the 1940s - 1980s. Prior to integration, she taught at Calloway's Creek, which she had attended as a student and later taught at Middletown and Brassfield Elementary

Schools. Under the "separate but equal" policy, in order to maintain employment after integration, she was assigned to Whitehall Elementary as Librarian.

A member of many community organizations, in addition to her inspiring teaching career, Mrs. Miller was commissioned a "Kentucky Colonel" and was named Distinguished Citizen of Richmond and Madison County.

## ■ Mrs. Nancy Blythe Deatherage

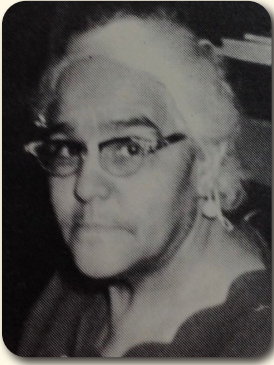


Nancy Blythe Deatherage was a Berea native who attended Richmond High School, but completed her high school education and earned an Associate Degree from Kentucky State Normal and Industrial Institute. In 1926, with a "Certification to Teach in the Colored Schools of Kentucky" in hand, she began her teaching career at Concord, followed by Peytontown. She continued her education and graduated from the University of Cincinnati in 1938.

She taught the primary grades at Middletown Consolidated Rosenwald School until 1963 when all African American schools in Madison County were

closed. Mrs. Deatherage chose to return to school, received library certification from the University of Kentucky, and was reassigned as librarian at Silver Creek Elementary until her retirement in 1970. Mrs. Deatherage was also employed as a Mammoth Life Insurance agent for over 25 years.

## ■ Miss Charles M. Irvine



Miss Charles M. Irvine was a 1913 graduate of Richmond High. She received teacher certification from Knoxville College and had advanced studies at the Kentucky State Normal and Industrial Institute (Kentucky State University). Miss Irvine taught at the Four Mile, Middletown Consolidated, Grapevine, and Concord Elementary Schools. Unable to teach any longer when the African American schools were closed in 1963, she attended Eastern Kentucky University and received certification as a school librarian. Until retirement, she was assigned as librarian at Madison Central High. Miss Irvine came from a family of teachers including her siblings, Miss Bessie Irvine and Mrs. Mary Irvine Turner. (See more at Early Arrivals – the Irvine Family, p. 52)

## ■ Mrs. Mollie “M. L.” Hatton Turner



Mollie Hatton Turner was born to a farming family in northern Madison County. She received her elementary education in the Colored public schools and graduated from Richmond High School and Kentucky State College. She was the first African American from Madison County selected to receive a grant for her Masters work at the University of Cincinnati. Mrs. Turner taught at Grove Hill and was principal and only teacher of the Brassfield school. She spent a total of 35 years as a teacher including eight years as librarian at Kit Carson Elementary until her retirement in 1971.

Like many female teachers of the day, Mrs. Turner had no children of her own, but worked diligently with boys and girls throughout her life, training them to be of service to the community.

## ■ Mr. Robert H.C. Blythe



Robert Henry Clay Blythe graduated from Richmond High and Kentucky State Normal and Industrial Institute (now Kentucky State University). In 1927, he became the first and only principal of the Middletown Consolidated Rosenwald School in Berea until its closing in 1963. At Middletown, he successfully organized Farm Days, attracting farm families county-wide. His wife, LenaMae, taught several years at Richmond High, and was the first Black teacher to integrate Richmond City schools.

Early Arrivals

Uptown

T



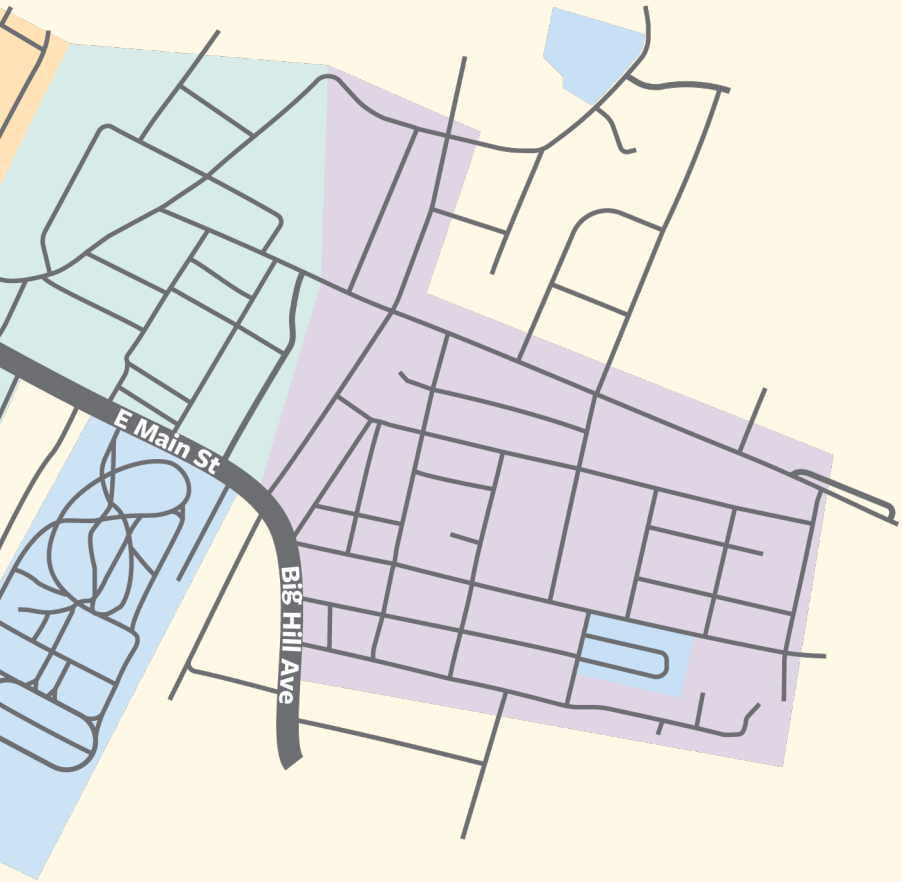
the Hill



Cemeteries

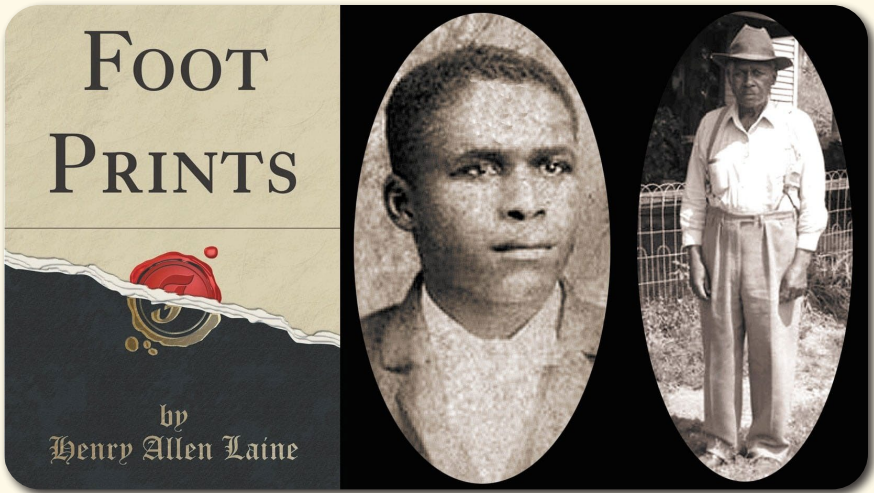


East End



# 1 Henry Allen Laine

E Main Street across from Maple Grove Cemetery



— Based on the work of Dr. Fred Engle

Professor Laine (1870 - 1955) was born in the Old Cane Springs community of Madison County. He later attended Berea College. He earned a teaching certificate and taught in Madison County for 21 years. He was chairman of the Colored Teachers Association in Madison County for 20 years. In 1915, he organized a Madison County farmers club consisting of 50 Negro charter members, and in 1916 helped organize the first Colored Chautauqua.

In 1917, Professor Laine became Industrial Supervisor of the Madison County Colored Schools. Soon thereafter, he was appointed the first county extension agent in the commonwealth. He retired in 1940, and was honored by the University of Kentucky Extension Service.

Laine is perhaps best known as a poet. His book of poems, "Foot Prints", was printed three times, in 1914, 1924, and 1947. He often participated in readings, including one called "An Evening With Kentucky Negro Poets", with Professor Paul W. L. Jones and Professor Joseph S. Cotter.

In 1947, Richmond High School named Mr. Laine "Man Of The Year." Among his friends who spoke in his honor were Professor Merritt; the school principal, Mrs. Katherine Taylor, Mrs. Maggie Wilson, and Talbert Miller. One of his daughters, Mrs. Helen L. Phelps, gave "A Tribute To Father."

Mr. Laine died in 1955 at the age of 85 in Richmond, Indiana.



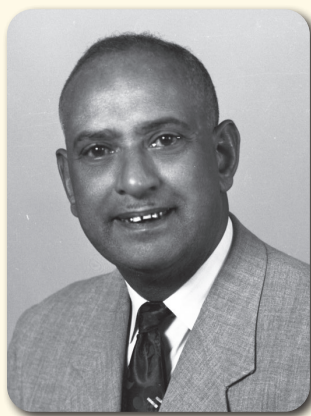
# Eastern Kentucky University

In 1906, legislation established the Eastern Kentucky State Normal School No. 1. By 1922, the normal school became Eastern Kentucky State Normal School and Teachers College and was known for producing students who would go on to serve as teachers all over Kentucky. However, it was not until 1958 that the first African Americans were admitted as students. In 1966, the school was officially renamed Eastern Kentucky University.



## EKU's African American Firsts

### ■ Andrew Miller – First Graduate Student



Andrew Miller was a music teacher, songwriter, and musician. After graduating Richmond High School, he attended the University of Cincinnati and the University of Kentucky. Returning to Richmond, he became an elementary music teacher and penned the school song “Richmond High Forever.”

In 1948, Mr. Miller wanted to complete his Master's degree and began a letter writing campaign to ECU President, William O'Donnell. After his admission was denied, Miller repeatedly petitioned O'Donnell to approach the Board of Regents about the admission of African American students to the school. After a seven year letter writing campaign, Mr. Miller was finally admitted to a graduate course in the summer of 1956. His enrollment marked the end of ECU as a racially segregated campus. After his non-violent integration at the university, Mr. Miller received his Master's degree in June of 1958, and became the first African American graduate of ECU. Miller also served as the primary musician at First Baptist Church for 50 years, sharing his musical gifts by teaching many children in Richmond to play piano.

### ■ Garfield Smith - First Basketball Player

Garfield Smith, from Campbellsville, Kentucky, was ECU's first African American basketball player. The 6'9" center played on the team from 1964-1968. Smith played in 67 games and remains the school's third all-time leading rebounder.



## ■ Dr. Ann Peyton Spann - First Undergraduate



Dr. Spann became the first African American student to earn an undergraduate degree from EKU, on June 1, 1961. She majored in elementary education and was on the Dean's List all four years that she attended EKU.

Dr. Spann was a native of Madison County and a member of the family that founded Peytontown, a predominately African American community, which existed prior to the Civil War.

## ■ George Lee - First Football Player

George Lee, a native of Dayton, Ohio, became the first African American football player at EKU in 1961. A graduate of Dayton's Roosevelt High School, he was one of five African American athletes brought to EKU by track and football coach Floyd Norman, who had led RHS to the Ohio state high school track championship. Lee was a star football player at EKU. During his first year at EKU, Lee was with his teammates when he was denied entrance to a movie theater because of his race. Forty members of the football team walked out of the theater in protest. Lee went on to recount this day at the 2000 EKU graduation ceremony.

## ■ James Sherman Way - First Faculty Member



James Way, a native of Cynthiana, Kentucky, was a graduate of Central State University and EKU. He became his alma mater's first African American faculty member in 1967. Professor Way taught industrial technology. His children - James, Jannette, William, and Melissa - were the first African American children to enroll in EKU Model Laboratory School.

A gifted athlete, Way played baseball for the Lexington Hustlers. Founded as a Negro League Baseball team, by 1949 the Hustlers were the first integrated baseball team in the South. Way was also named to the Harrison County Kentucky Football Hall of Fame.

## ■ Kara Lynn Stone - First Female Faculty Member

Kara Stone, born in Louisville Kentucky, grew up in Richmond and graduated from Richmond High School. Earning a degree from Knoxville College, Stone taught at various schools before joining the Women's Army Corps. As a WAAC, she spent three years in France before returning to Richmond to pursue a Master of Arts degree at EKU. She taught in EKU's Central University College from 1967 - 1969 and was officially hired in 1969 as EKU's first African American female faculty member.



Stone also served as Richmond-Madison County NAACP president, frequently speaking out against racist statements made by local citizens and government officials. She diligently worked to end discrimination in local and federal agencies overseeing housing, education, and public utilities. Ms. Stone is one of only two female military service members buried in Maple Grove Cemetery.

## ■ John Boggs Black-First Building Named for an African American



The John B. Black Building is the first structure named for an African American on EKU's campus.

Born in 1882 in Richmond, Mr. Black was known to have exceptional skills in maintaining and repairing almost anything. His work ethic and extraordinary mechanical skills led to a 39-year career at EKU. The John Black Building is one of three buildings that make

up the Neal Donaldson Service Complex. Black was honored posthumously by EKU's Office of Diversity. A commemorative display in front of the Keen Johnson Building honors Mr. Black and other African Americans who broke barriers at EKU.

# Civil Rights & Civic Leaders

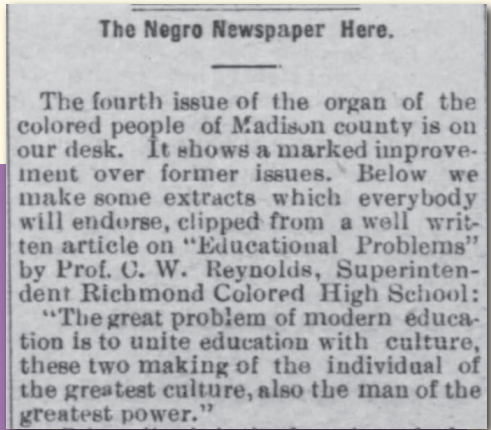
## 24 Emmett Embry 214 Big Hill Avenue

Emmett Embry was the first African American attorney admitted to the Madison County Bar. He was president of the Colored Chautauqua and of the Odd Fellows which sponsored a convention and parade of over 2,000 in 1914. Embry was a mail carrier and would become the editor of *The Rambler*, a local Black newspaper.

### The Negro Newspaper Here.

The fourth issue of the organ of the colored people of Madison county is on our desk. It shows a marked improvement over former issues. Below we make some extracts which everybody will endorse, clipped from a well written article on "Educational Problems" by Prof. C.W. Reynolds, Superintendent Richmond Colored High School:

"The great problem of modern education is to unite education with culture, these two making of the individual of the greatest culture, also the man of the greatest power."



## 21 Beatrice Smith Huguely Residence & Inn E Main Street



Mrs. Beatrice Smith Huguely was born in the Kirksville area. She was a teacher and was heavily involved in efforts to desegregate the school system and in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. As president of the Madison County Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), she participated in non-violent sit-ins at lunch counters, coordinated equal rights marches, and protested Jim Crow business practices at Rexall Drug, Ben Franklin, Begley's Drugstore, Penney's, Burd's Drugstore in the Glyndon Hotel, and various other merchants in Richmond. She worked tirelessly in voter

registration drives and was instrumental in reorganizing the Richmond-Madison County Branch of the NAACP in 1978.

She participated in the March on Frankfort with Reverend Martin Luther

King, Jr. in 1964. She later recounted that “the march was the ‘high point’ of her efforts. The March was attended by over 10,000 persons. We handled our accomplishment with humility because this was what we had been working for with the boycotts and marches”.

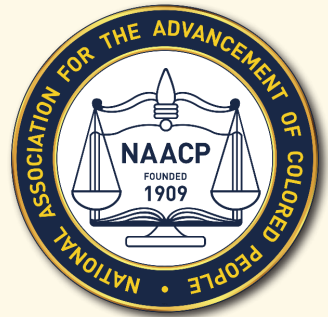


*Pickers march on Richmond’s Main Street in the early 1960s to protest businesses’ refusal to treat Black customers the same as whites and to serve them at lunch counters.*

- Richmond Register; February 26, 2015

## **National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)**

Richmond-Madison County Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was reorganized in 1978. The NAACP is a civil rights organization formed in 1909, aimed at securing for all people the rights guaranteed in the 13th, 14th, and 15th Constitutional Amendments which promised an end to slavery, provide equal protection of the law, and the right for all men to vote. Dr. W.E.B. DuBois, one of the NAACP’s original organizers attended Richmond’s first Colored Chautauqua in 1915.



## **Congress of Racial Equality (CORE)**

CORE was a civil rights organization founded in 1942 by a group of Chicago students, but came into local prominence in the 1960s. CORE was inspired by Mahatma Gandhi’s protest strategies of nonviolence and civil disobedience. They took a leading role in sit-ins, picket lines, the Montgomery Bus Boycott, Freedom Rides, and the 1963 March on Washington and the 1964 March on Frankfort.

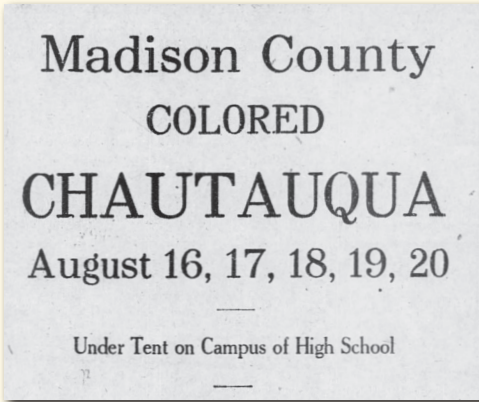


## 25 Pioneer Park

214 Big Hill Avenue

### “Colored Chautauqua”

Corner of Race Street & Big Hill Avenue



The first Colored Chautauqua in Richmond was held August 4-8, 1915 at the city ballpark on Big Hill Avenue. It was supported by the white Methodist lay leader and social reformer Belle Bennett (Belle Bennett's Home is at location 17 in the Uptown section). According to newspaper accounts, the Chautauqua drew fifteen hundred African American participants and around twenty whites. It featured nationally

known speakers, including W.E.B. DuBois, Henry Hugh Proctor, and George Washington Carver. The recommended reading list in preparation for the Chautauqua included Black newspapers, Carver's bulletins, books by DuBois, Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Matthew Henson, and others. Carver and DuBois returned to Richmond again in 1919 to speak at the Colored Chautauqua that coincided with the Madison County Institute for Colored Teachers.

### Belle Bennett

W Main Street



Belle Harris Bennett, born to a wealthy Kentucky family in 1852, had a strong sense of egalitarianism and social justice; she was passionate about the work of anti-racism and the full inclusion for women in the church. Through sheer tenacity, Bennett founded the Scarritt Bible and Training School in Missouri to equip Christians for mission work, in conjunction with the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society.

Miss Bennett was instrumental in the education of African Americans in Richmond, Kentucky. In 1915, she helped establish the Madison County Colored Chautauqua that brought George Washington Carver and W.E.B. DuBois to the county. Chautauqua programs were held at the Black Fairgrounds on Altamont Street. For three years, at the request of Reverend A.W. Jackson, Belle taught a Bible class on Sunday afternoons at the St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church. Attendance at these classes is reported to have ranged upwards of 500 people. Upon her death, the Methodist State Convention paid tribute to her generosity and support.

# Sports Highlights

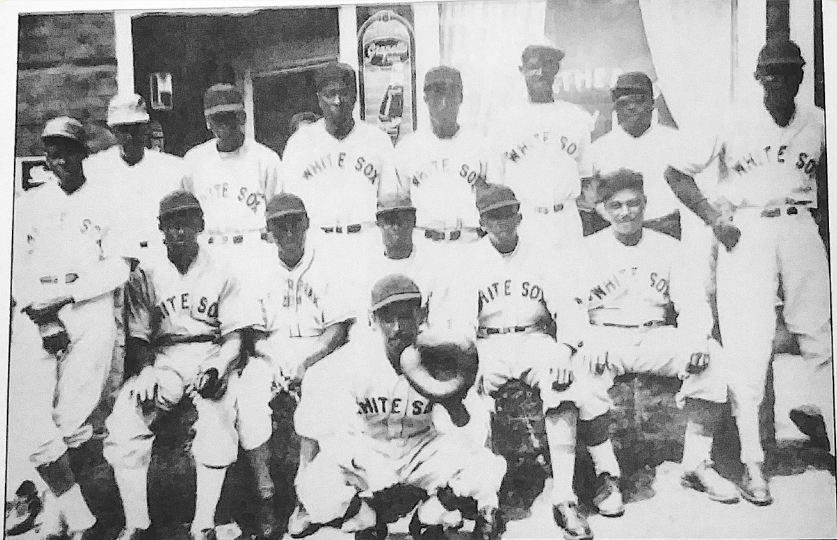
## ■ The Richmond Browns

The Richmond Browns were a semi-pro baseball team, which was a member of the Blue Grass Colored Baseball League that began organizing in July 1899. The Richmond “colored nine” had been playing since 1888. The last mention of the Browns was in July 1931 when they lost their first game, having been defeated by Danville. Unfortunately,

there are no known existing records of the Browns which list all team members. Box scores in local papers list only the last names of a few of the Browns’ players which include Estill, Blythe, Kavanaugh, Tye, White, Ballew, Mason, Palmer, Phelps, Doty, Spillman, Pollard, and Glover. Other baseball teams mentioned in news articles include the Richmond White Sox and the Lexington Hustlers.

### COLORED BASEBALL TEAM PLAYS WINCHESTER SUNDAY

The Richmond Browns will cross bats Sunday with the Winchester Hustlers at Winchester. The Browns have not been playing much this season, but are now ready to tackle as comers. This is the first time for these two well known colored teams to get together this season and there is much interest centered in the contest.



Richmond’s White Sox baseball team played games in nearby cities during the 1940s. Pictured are, from left to right, (first row) William “Utsie” Martin (catcher); (second row) Allen Huguely, George Tevis, ? Martin, Ambrose Irvine, and Wallace “Possum” White; (third row) Gene Gentry, unidentified, Pugh Bosley, T. K. Covington, unidentified, Clarence Stone, Sonny Ransom, and Bobby Grubbs. Team members are outside Blythe’s Restaurant, a black-owned business. (Courtesy Paul and Ruth Ferrell.)



# Entertainers & Events

## ■ Jordan A. Embry (1896-1972)



Jazz musician, and leader of the Jordan Embry Band. In 1900, Embry lived with his family on B Street and later, according to his WWI draft card, lived in Richmond, Indiana, where he owned a shoe shining parlor. He was the grandson of religious leader, Reverend Madison Campbell. Embry returned to Kentucky after World War I, and in the 1940s Clarence “Duke” Madison joined his band. The band, referred to as an orchestra, named Jordan Embry and His Big Blue Entertainers played at the Rose Garden on Russell Cave Pike in Lexington, Kentucky\*. The band recorded the song “Wotta Life” in Richmond, Indiana on March 20, 1929, a Gannett record which was not issued.

\*“Colored Notes,” *Lexington Leader*, *Jordan Embry’s Blue Bird Entertainers are listed in Jazz and Ragtime Records (1897-1942): A-K*, by B. A. L. Rust and M. Shaw, p. 554.

## ■ The Crossland Heirs

A noted local singing group, The Crossland Heirs were members of the St. Paul congregation and descendants of Reverend T.H. Crossland, pastor of St. Paul AME in 1915.

## ■ The Gordon Brothers

Two brothers, Preston Harris Gordon and Tom Harris Gordon were drummers whose musical skills spanned nearly a century. In a March 1896 article of the *Richmond Climax* under the heading of “Paralyzed”, it gives the following information of Tom Harris.

“Tom Harris, the old-time colored drummer, was paralyzed yesterday morning and is in a serious condition. He is 80 years old. In the long ago, before interior Kentucky had brass bands, music was furnished by fife and drum corps. Tom Harris, or Tom Gordon as he is by some known, was a bass drummer, and with his brother Pres, now several years deceased, was present at all the militia musters, 4th of July and Masonic celebrations, and other events, such as the dedication of the Henry Clay monument and similar events. He and Pres. were at the great Boonesborough celebration 56 years ago, and accompanied Gen. John Speed Smith, orator of the delegation, that crossed the river to meet Mrs. French, of Winchester, who was an occupant of the fort during the great siege of 1778.”

## ■ Allen Zack Whyte Sr. (1898 - 1967)

Born in Richmond, Kentucky, Zack played the banjo and piano and was also a bandleader. He was a member of Horace Henderson’s student band while he was enrolled at Wilberforce College (now Wilberforce University), forming his own band in 1923.

He would become the leader of the group known as the Chocolate Beau Brummels, a very successful band. Some of the group's recordings include *Good Feelin' Blues*, *It's Tight Like That*, and *Mandy*. Group members included Herman Chittison, Al Sears, Bubber Whyte, and Henry Savage. The band was ranked fourth in the nation's Top 10 by Savoy Ballroom and Moe Gage Agency. Zack Whyte was also the first to have a Negro band with a regular program on station WLW in Cincinnati, Ohio. He retired from music in 1942.

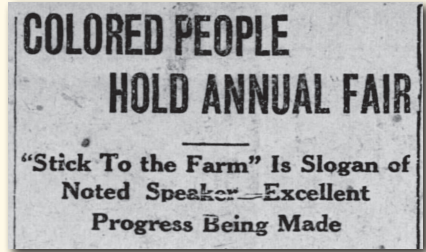
### ■ Other Musical Groups

- The Crossland Sisters
- The Little Wings
- The Covingtons
- Little Four Quartet
- The Traveling Five
- The Chenault Singers
- Masonic Male Chorus
- Wings over Jordan
- Big Four Quartet
- The Gospel Travelettes
- The Heavenly Echoes
- The Tech

### ■ Annual “Colored” Fair

The Colored County Fairs were annual events which highlighted the agricultural products and industrial skills of the Black community. Early fairs were conducted under the direction of Henry Allen Laine, the first African American County Extension Agent in Kentucky.

The fairs often featured baking contests, livestock judging, games such as “hog calling” and “greased pig” contests. Horseracing and live musical entertainment were an integral part of these events. The Colored Chautauquas were an outgrowth of the Colored Fairs.



### ■ Circus Trains

East End- Where Four Mile Avenue Meets Railroad

Circus trains gained national popularity in the late 1800s. They introduced exotic animals and live circus performers to thousands across the country. The circus trains brought fascinating entertainment which was affordable, and transcended racial and economic barriers. Newspaper accounts record the Walter L. Main Circus train stopping in Richmond on several occasions in the early 1900s.



# Early Arrivals

Tates Creek Avenue - West Main Street

## Domestics: “The Help”



Often overlooked when honoring African Americans, household employees are our unsung heroes. Maid, cook, seamstress, servant, housekeeper, nannie, nursemaid, laundress, or washerwoman, gardener, chauffeur or driver... called by any name, “the help” have always been an essential part of Richmond’s long and rich history.

They were the early arrivals, the support staff, allowing the creation of a vibrant community. They lived and worked in the heart of Richmond, working alongside city leaders, but in the shadows. Seldom have they been acknowledged with the

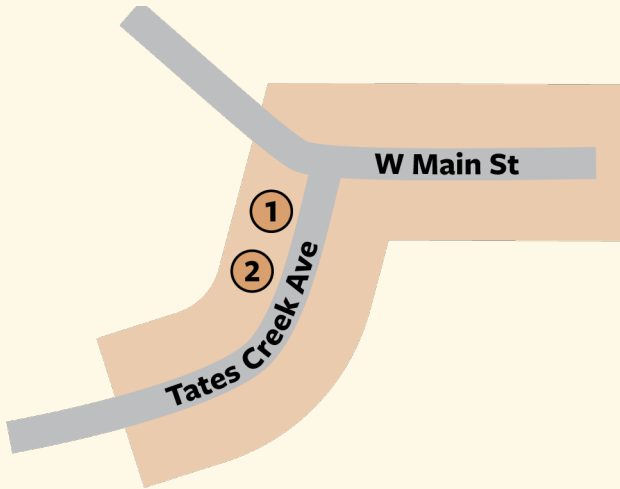
deference deserved. Their “work” has gone unrecognized as employment, with neither their pay, nor their duties ever standardized. After long hours running the households of others, they returned to the same responsibilities at home.

A lone monument in the Old Soldiers Cemetery honors “*Aunt Mahala, Faithful Servant of Judge Daniel Breck*”. There is no surname nor dates of birth or death. It was known only that on a visit to Richmond, two of Judge Breck’s daughters had the stone erected.

Was Mahala just a “faithful servant” or was she also a family member, a friend, and a confidant?



Photos courtesy of EKU Special Collections & Archives



① Mackey Family

② Irvine Family

This monument in the Old Soldiers Cemetery stands as a tribute to those unsung heroes whose essential labor literally “ran the households” of Richmond’s gentry citizens.



Aunt Mahala  
A Faithful Servant in  
Judge Daniel  
Breck's Family  
For me to Live is Christ and to Die is Gain



# Purchase of A Wife

To share his liberty,  
a freed Kentucky slave  
bought his own family

By GREEN CLAY  
Richmond, Ky., Free-Lance Writer

*"I have this day purchased my wife —"*

**H**ER name is Margaret and the purchase also includes her three children, Joel, Lorina and Albert for the sum of \$2,500, legalized under a decree of the Madison County (Ky.) Circuit Court, the document continued.

Yes, it was a slave deal, consummated on October 3, 1853. Furthermore, this same strange document mortgaged Albert Mackey's wife and her three children as sureties to Joseph Turner and Joel J. Walker to secure a note given the bank in order to borrow the money Mackey drew to buy his own wife and three children.

One year later another document was filed:

Whereas I have this day purchased my daughter named Maria under a decree of the Madison Circuit Court on the petition of Mrs. Martha E. Clarke, for and in consideration of the sum of \$1000 which I have borrowed of the branch of the Northern Bank of this place and have given Joseph Turner and Joel J. Walker as my securities to said bank for the \$1000.



Barbering was one of Albert Mackey's arts.

and his children from slavery was uppermost in his mind and heart. He inherited the American spirit of justice and the will to do. Obstacles and handicaps he overcame.

Born the slave of Alexander Mackey, of Madison County, in 1812, he became the legal property of Mrs. Jane Mackey upon the death of her husband.

The records do not show that he purchased his own freedom. If he did, the obligation was paid in full.

## 1 The Mackey Family 116 Tate's Creek Avenue

**Albert Mackey** was among the first African American business owners in Madison County and was considered a "jack of all trades". Albert was born a slave in Lincoln County, Kentucky, in around 1815. At age 12 he was brought to Richmond and sold to a widower, **Jane Mackey**, from whom he took his name. Jane Mackey allowed him his own time at \$100 per year. When Miss Mackey decided to move to Iowa, Albert proposed to buy his freedom at an agreed price of \$800. She returned \$100 to him saying he could have that for a new beginning in the world.

The following entries were made in Madison County Court records:

**On May 31, 1841**

*“A deed of emancipation from Jane Mackey emancipating her Negro man slave named Albert aged about 25 years was produced in the open Court...”*

**On July 6, 1841**, the court formally emancipated Albert Mackey.

*“July 6, 1841 This day came Albert MacKey a negro man slave the property of Jane MacKey and on his own — and appearing to the court that a deed of Emancipation from said Jane MacKey emancipating the said slave Albert was duly proved and filed... that said Albert MacKey be emancipated and set free to all ... and to said Albert MacKey a certificate accordingly.”*

Albert married **Margaret A. Embry** who was enslaved to **William Wallace Embry**. When the Embrys moved to Missouri in 1853, Albert was allowed to purchase his wife and her three children, Joel, Louvina, and Albert Jr. for \$2500 to be paid in three months. To secure the loan, he mortgaged his wife and her children with all his other possessions. His friends **Joel Walker** and **Joseph Turner**, two prominent citizens, went his security. A year later he purchased his daughter **Maria** (1840-1859) from Mrs. Martha E. Clark for \$1000, which he borrowed from the Northern Bank.

*“Ambition to free his wife and children from slavery was uppermost in his mind and heart. Albert accumulated considerable property and at one time reportedly worth \$20,000. He was a barber by trade, but was also a painter. He was one of the men who put the first coats of paint on the Richmond Courthouse. Between the mid 1860’s and the mid 1870’s, he owned a tavern along First Street in Richmond. The tavern later gave way to a very successful bakery, making cakes and candies, which Albert’s son, Joel later owned. By the mid 1880’s he returned to barbering which he did up to the time of his death in 1888.”*

## 2 The Irvine Family

124 Tate's Creek Avenue

### ■ Charles Irvine

Charles was born into slavery around 1845, and is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery. He was a veteran of the Civil War, serving in Company D, 119th United States Colored Infantry. A compensation claim filed by Madison County Attorney and County Clerk stated that, “He [Charles] was born my slave. I owned his mother at the time of his birth and she was my property, and said Charles Irvine never belonged to any other person.”

Charles worked as a grocer until his death in 1896, leaving Sallie, his wife, to raise seven children. She supplemented her widow’s military pension by working as a private family domestic. All the Irvine children were raised in the family home at 124 Tate's Creek Road, where most lived until their death.



## Vulcan Irvine



Born in 1881 in Richmond, Vulcan was a veteran of two wars, a successful tailor, and a highly respected business owner. As a teenager, he carried Calcast mail, but resigned in 1898 to enlist in the Army during the Philippine-American War in a unit commonly referred to as Buffalo Soldiers.

After his discharge in 1901, land was to be given away in the “new territory” of Oklahoma through a land lottery. Within weeks after returning from the Philippines, Vulcan won 154 acres in the lottery, purchased the land for \$13.86, but did not settle there. Vulcan returned to Richmond and established a tailor shop with his younger brother, Xenophon.

In 1905, Vulcan Irvine and Xenophon Irvine established one of the most successful African American tailor shops in Richmond, the “Irvine Bro’s Tailor Shop.” The shop was located above Whittington’s Jewelers at 229 West Main Street, currently the location of Richmond City Hall.



The services offered dry cleaning, pressing, and alterations of clothing. The Irvine Bro’s Tailor Shop gained a reputation as being

*“... an establishment that makes people of Richmond to dress with that same discriminating distinctiveness that characterizes people of the metropolitan centers.”*

— Richmond Daily Register 23 August 1921, Page 4

Vulcan never married. He managed his tailor shop up until his death in 1944, gaining a reputation *“for his straightforwardness methods of doing business and is meeting business success by deserving it.”*

After the outbreak of World War I, Vulcan again entered the military. Upon returning, he assisted in organizing an American Legion Post “Ex-Service Men’s Club,” and was a member of the Knights of the Pythias. An exceptional athlete, he was a full back on the Richmond Colored football team.

### ■ **Xenophon Irvine**

Xenophon never married and died in October 1916, leaving Vulcan as sole owner. Both are buried in Maple Grove Cemetery.

## Other Irvine Siblings

### ■ **Bessie D. Irvine** - 124 Tates Creek Road (1882-1965)

Miss Irvine was a graduate of Richmond High and Kentucky State College. She taught 6th & 7th grades in Madison County Schools and was on the Madison County School Board. Miss Irvine taught over fifty years in the public schools of Kentucky.

### ■ **L. Venus Irvine Chenault** married **Arthur John Chenault**

The family lived in Mount Healthy, Ohio and were parents of five known children. Venus is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery. Their children were also successful.

### ■ **Hortenius Chenault** (1910-1990)

Hortenius graduated from Morehouse College and from Howard University College of Dentistry. He received a Guggenheim Award and did postgraduate work in children’s dentistry.

### ■ **Mary E. Irvine Chenault** (1892-1967)

A 1913 graduate of Richmond High School and Knoxville College (Tennessee), she was a seamstress and a dressmaker, and assisted her brothers in the tailor shop.

### ■ **Miss Charles M. Irvine** (1892-1973)



Charles was a 1913 graduate of Richmond High School, attended Knoxville College, and Kentucky State College. She taught in the Madison County School system at schools including Four Mile School, Middletown, and Grapevine. When Madison County schools were integrated, Miss Irvine was reassigned to Madison Central High as a librarian. Charles M. Irvine is buried alongside her twin, Mary, in Maple Grove Cemetery.

# Cemeteries

## OUR MILITARY - THEY SERVED

In all branches, in many units, under many names at home and abroad, the heroes and the unsung. Killed In Action, Missing In Action, and Wounded In Action, both men and women ... *they served*. For many, our local cemeteries are their final resting places.

### Civil War: 1861-1865

United States Colored Troops  
Grand Army of the Republic  
Women's Relief Corps  
Buffalo Soldiers  
Simpsonville Massacre

### World War II: 1941-1945

Tuskegee Airmen  
Red Ball Express  
Women's Army Corps  
Six Triple Eights  
Blue Grass Ordinance

### Phillippine - American War: 1899 -1902

### Korean Conflict: 1950 - 1953

### World War I: 1917-1918

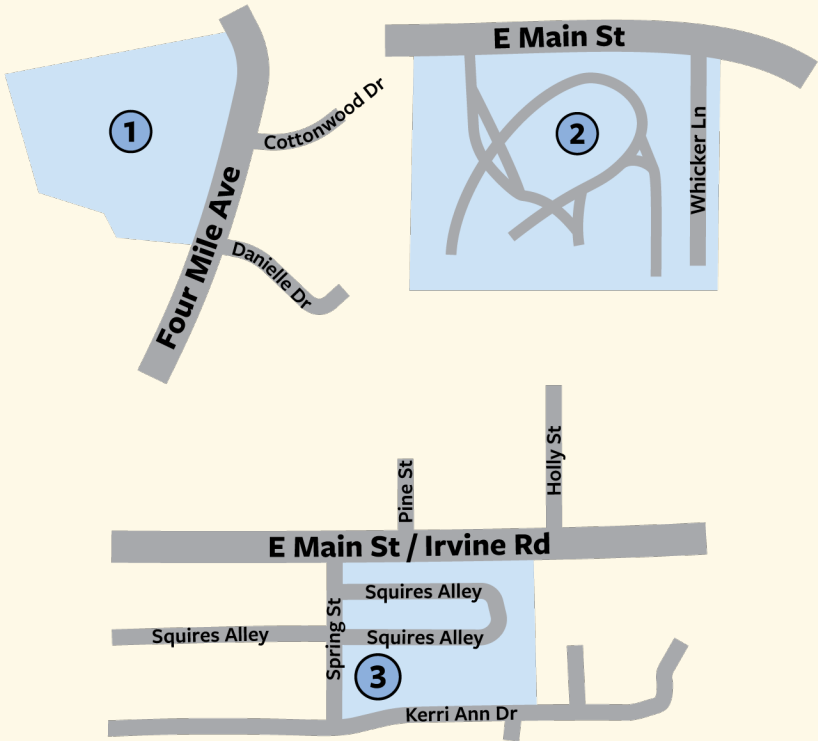
Killed in Action  
Harlem Hellfighters  
Red Cross Hospitals

### Vietnam War: 1960 - 1975

### Persian Gulf War: 1990 - 1991

American Legion  
Veterans of Foreign Wars

- 1 Old Soldiers Cemetery
- 2 Richmond Cemetery
- 3 Maple Grove Cemetery



# 1 Old Soldiers Cemetery

528 - 598 Four Mile Avenue

In 1867, a plot of land located on Four Mile Road was donated by the white Richmond City Cemetery Board for the burial of African Americans as the Richmond Cemetery began to segregate its burials. This area, known as Old Soldiers Cemetery, became the burial place for some of the oldest African American families in Richmond, including Civil War Veterans, former slaves, and Reverend Madison Campbell, organizer and pastor of many of the first churches in the area.



In the first decades of the cemetery, the Grand Army of the Republic and its auxiliary, the Women's Relief Corps, often sponsored Decoration Day celebrations including a dinner served to the old soldiers present.

With the opening of Maple Grove Cemetery in 1903, the cemetery on Four Mile Road became neglected and overgrown. Trash was dumped and many headstones were broken or carried off. With no overarching organization to manage the land, the cemetery upkeep often fell to the families of those buried there. As descendants moved away over the years, concerned groups have striven to clean and care for the cemetery with varying degrees of success and longevity.

Due to the years of neglect, the exact number of burials at Old Soldiers is unknown. Many headstones have been damaged or stolen and only field stones marked the graves of others.





# Notable Burials In Old Soldiers Cemetery

## John Green

First Caretaker of Old Soldiers Cemetery

John Green was born into slavery around 1832 in Madison County. He got his name from his enslaver, Irvine T. Green, a successful blacksmith and carriage maker in Richmond. It was from him that John acquired skills as a blacksmith. John served in the 12th United States Colored Heavy Artillery from 1864 to 1866. After the war, he returned to Richmond and established his own successful blacksmith shop. John Green is considered the first officially

recognized caretaker of Old Soldiers Cemetery. It was he who dug the graves, inscribed, and erected the limestone rocks used as grave markers. Upon his death, John Green was buried at Old Soldiers Cemetery, which he had cared for through so many years.



## Green B. Miller, aka Green Cobb

A soldier, preacher, and teacher, Green was born in July 1846 enslaved to Richard Cobb in Madison County. He enlisted at Camp Nelson, Kentucky in 1864, and he served in the 114th United States Colored Infantry.

After his 1867 discharge, he enrolled in primary school at Berea College. Green took his father's surname, Miller, after emancipation.

Listed as a domestic servant in the 1870 census, he became one of the most successful Baptist ministers in the African American community. He helped establish the first Colored Sunday schools in Richmond and the Mt. Pleasant District Association.

Reverend Miller was heavily involved in Richmond's growing African American community. He was a charter member of the Ashlar #49 Masonic lodge; the Grand United Order of the Odd Fellows New Tane Lodge #1640; and the Sedgewick Post #130 of the Richmond Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). Along with his wife, Lucretia Miller, a Berea graduate, Green taught and assisted in organizing the Madison County Colored Teachers Association. Reverend G.B. Miller died on October 22, 1922, and is buried in Old Soldiers Cemetery.

### Colored G. A. R.

Elder T. H. Broaddus delivered a powerful address at the Colored Baptist Church of this city to the G. A. R. Elder Broaddus is a good speaker, a deep thinker and a fine, all round citizen.

Rev. Green B. Miller will deliver the address on Decoration Day at the graves of the veterans. Rev. Miller is one of the ablest members of the pulpit and is also a splendid teacher. He has done much for the cause of humanity.

Those who are so fortunate as to hear him will be treated to an eloquent and able address.



## ■ Douglas Mitchell, aka Douglas Grimes

Douglas Mitchell (aka Douglas Grimes) was born into slavery in around 1815 in Fayette County, Kentucky. He is listed as a member of Company F, 1st Kansas Colored Infantry Regiment, 75th U.S. Colored Infantry, the first Black military fighting unit to be organized in a northern state, and the first Black unit to see combat during the Civil War. Grimes is listed on the African American Civil War Memorial Plaque (C-86) in Washington D.C. Douglas Mitchell and his wife, Mary Embry Mitchell, were the great grandparents of William and Frank Douglas Walker Jr., famed Tuskegee Airmen of World War II.

## ■ Preston Harris Gordon

Regimental Drum Major - 114th United States Colored Infantry

Preston Harris Gordon, commonly referred to as Pres Harris, was born into slavery in Madison County on the farm of John “Jack” Harris near Whites Station in around 1817. As a young child, Preston had a mania for beating on tin pans, buckets, and barrels. In 1829, after he drummed for a militia in nearby Foxtown, his reputation spread and for the next eighteen years, Pres drummed beats for various regimental and battalion musters in the area. Preston stirred the emotions of crowds at Fourth of July parades and Masonic ceremonies. It seemed that a corner stone could not be laid, or an anniversary celebrated that Pres, and his drum, were not there. Preston most fondly recalled the laying of the cornerstone of Henry Clay’s monument at the Lexington Cemetery. On that occasion, he drummed the beat for a procession of 5,000 soldiers, national and local political leaders, which formed on Main Street, with the head of the column at the Phoenix Hotel and the rear far out by Ashland, the home of Henry Clay. At the cemetery gate, Pres and others with drums and fifes were stationed to beat the cadence while the long procession passed into the cemetery. In recalling the occasion, Pres would say, “I hit that little drum till I got so hot I got cold.”

In 1864, Preston enlisted in the 114th United States Colored Infantry and was appointed drum major. His regiment was sent to the Army of the Potomac where just before the fall of Richmond, Virginia, a hundred regiments passed in review before General Ulysses Grant and other distinguished persons. He was awarded a gold headed baton as prize for the “best drilled and most accomplished drum major”. In 1867, when the 114th USCT was mustered out, his regimental comrades presented him with a fifty-five dollar drum as a token of their regard.

After the war, Preston returned to Richmond, received a military pension and supplemented his income working as a carpenter. Upon his death in 1891, the drum presented to him by the regiment was given to the Richmond Post No. 130 of the Grand Army of the Republic<sup>1</sup> of which he was a charter member and was carried in his funeral procession. His widow, Caroline, kept the baton presented to him by General Grant. Preston Harris Gordon is buried in Old Soldiers Cemetery.

<sup>1</sup> See *Appendix of Terms for more information on the Grand Army of the Republic and the Women’s Relief Corp.*

## 2 Richmond Cemetery

606 E Main Street

Richmond Cemetery was chartered in 1848 and dedicated in 1856. Prior to 1867, this was the final resting place for Richmond citizens regardless of race. Records show the Mackey family, early African American residents of Richmond, owned a portion of this land before its 1848 charter. A lawsuit was brought when they were refused burial rights in the cemetery. The suit was settled in favor of the Mackey family and their burials were allowed in Richmond Cemetery.

In February of 1867, the Richmond Cemetery board authorized a piece of ground within a convenient distance of Richmond containing from two to four acres be purchased as a burying ground for the colored population. The location chosen was on Four Mile Avenue, known today as Old Soldiers Cemetery.

Notable African Americans buried in Richmond Cemetery include the Mackey family, and Richmond funeral directors, Squire Collins and Owen Z. White. Notable white Madison County residents buried here include Isabelle “Belle” Harris Bennett, abolitionist Cassius M. Clay, and others who were enslavers or employers.

## 3 Maple Grove Cemetery

102 Spring Street

Maple Grove Cemetery is the largest African American cemetery in Madison County. The earliest headstone is that of Sarah Clay in 1889, but the cemetery was not formally incorporated until 1901 by four prominent African American men; Grandison Boggs, B.P. Langford, Thomas H. Broaddus, and John L. Francis. Today there are over 1700 gravestones and many unidentified gravesites within the cemetery including over 250 military members representing the Buffalo Soldiers, U.S. Colored Troops, U.S. Navy, U.S. Army, U.S. Army / Air Corps (Tuskegee Airmen and support staff); U.S. Army Reservist, U.S. Marine Corps, and the U.S. Coast Guard. Two of these military members are female.



The Friends of Maple Grove Cemetery, Inc., a nonprofit organization are caretakers of the grounds. The group works diligently to research the contributions of those buried there and have placed historical markers at over 67 gravesites. Maple Grove Cemetery is open year round and visitors are always welcome.

# Notables Buried in Maple Grove Cemetery Representing Military Units

## **First Sergeant Daniel Scott Collins**

Buffalo Soldier

The highest ranking non-commissioned officer buried in Maple Grove Cemetery. He enlisted in 1899 into Company B, 9th U.S. Colored Cavalry, a unit known as the Buffalo Soldiers<sup>1</sup>. Collins continued to re-enlist after each tour for 27 years. Most of his career was spent at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. His ability to reach the rank of First Sergeant in a segregated, often white officer-run military is remarkable.

## **Private Robert Ballard**

Buffalo Soldier and the Indian Wars

Born in 1855, his headstone indicates he participated in the Indian Wars. Ballard served in Company M, 10th U.S. Cavalry which faced frequent clashes with Native Americans. Buffalo Soldiers<sup>1</sup> spent their time west of the Mississippi River because many whites did not want to see armed Black soldiers near their communities.

## **Corporal Creed Vulcan Irvine**

Buffalo Soldier & World War I

Enlisted in the 10th U.S. Cavalry and the 48th U.S. Volunteer Infantry, both units known as Buffalo Soldiers. Upon the outbreak of World War I, Vulcan, at age 34, re-enlisted in the military in 1918, serving in Company M, 24th U.S. Infantry mustering out in 1919. He was a very successful businessman. He is buried next to his brother Xenophon.

## **Private Clayborn Fox**

Simpsonville Massacre Survivor

Enlisted in the 5th U.S. Colored Troops at Camp Nelson, Kentucky, on January 25, 1864. Fox, along with about 80 other freed slaves turned soldiers, were attacked about four miles outside of Simpsonville as they drove 900 head of cattle to Louisville. The soldiers were attacked by Confederate guerrillas. After the attack, locals came out, gathered the dead, and buried them in two mass graves. Private Fox was injured, but survived. Benjamin Lewis and Shelby Phelps also from Madison County, were killed.

## **Private George P. Cobb**

U.S. Army National Guard

Enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1917 into Company H, 372nd Infantry Regiment, 93rd Division. This unit was one of three All-Black National Guard Regiments which fought in WWI. The 370th was known as the “Black Devils” from Illinois, the 369th was known as the “Harlem Hellfighters” from New York and the 372nd was from Ohio. The National Guard’s history is filled with examples of African Americans who served with distinction.

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<sup>1</sup> See *Appendix of Terms* for more information on Buffalo Soldiers.

## First Lieutenant Frank “Doug” Walker

Tuskegee Airman



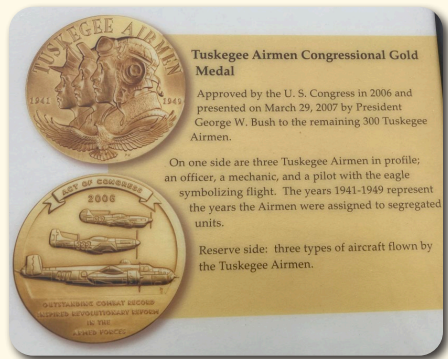
Selected in 1938 to attend the Tuskegee Institute where he became a pilot assigned to the 332nd Fighter Group, 301st Squadron. The 332nd Fighter Group<sup>1</sup> were heroes in WWII and flew over 15,000 sorties during the war. Lieutenant Walker flew 55 missions himself in the Po Valley, Rome and other parts of Italy. The Tuskegee Air Group also escorted bomber aircraft to and from their missions. Lieutenant

Walker successfully recovered from his injuries received when his aircraft had a failure on the runway during take-off. Lieutenant Walker was honored with the Gold Congressional Medal of Honor in 2007. Lieutenant Walker is depicted on the mural on the wall of the Madison County Public Library.

## Staff Sergeant Wallace “Possum” White Jr.

Tuskegee Airman Trainer

Enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Force in 1932 and served seventeen years. During WWII, White was assigned to the 332nd Air Base Group, Army Air Force. This unit was a part of the Tuskegee Airmen group which trained the famous Tuskegee Airmen Fighter pilots. White was also a member of the 1940s African American baseball team, the White Sox from Richmond, Kentucky.



## Private Leonard Broaddus Turpin

Red Ball Express

Enlisted in the Army in 1943, his oral history, housed at ECU Library Archives, recounted his participation in WWII. He landed on Utah Beach the day after D-Day and served in General Patton’s 3rd Army as one of the drivers in the Red Ball Express, a massive fleet of 6,000 2 ½ ton cargo trucks. In 1944, 23,000 American truck drivers and cargo loaders, 70% of whom were Black – moved more than 400,000 tons of ammunition, gasoline, medical supplies, and rations to battlefronts in France, Belgium, and Germany. These Red Ball Express trucks and the Black men who drove them earned a reputation as tireless and fearless troops. Many of the white American soldiers who relied on supplies delivered by the Red Ball Express recognized the drivers’ valor at the time.

<sup>1</sup> See Appendix of Terms for more information on the Tuskegee Airmen

## Women in War



### **Private First Class Kara Lynn Stone**

Women's Army Auxilliary Corps

Private First Class Stone taught for several years before joining the Women's Army Auxilliary Corps, a part of the U.S. Army. The WAAC was designed to make available the knowledge, skill, and special training of women while also giving women the rank, privileges, and benefits of their male counterparts. Private Stone is one of only two female service members buried in Maple Grove Cemetery. (See her story in the East End section; p.42)

### **Corporal Jennetta Schooler Blythe**

Women's Army Auxilliary Corps

Corporal Schooler entered the Women's Army Auxilliary Corps in 1943 and was assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion. The 6888th was the only predominantly African American, all-female unit sent overseas during World War II. During the war, there was a significant shortage of soldiers who were able to manage the postal service for the U.S. Army overseas. The women kept mail flowing to nearly seven million soldiers in the European Theater of Operations. The group arrived in Europe in 1945, with approximately 850 officers and enlisted personnel. Their motto was "No mail, low morale".

In April 2021, the U.S. Senate awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to members of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, also referred to as the "Six Triple Eight." Corporal Schooler was one of eighteen women from Kentucky. A documentary was produced in 2019, *The Six Triple Eight*. Schooler returned to Richmond after the war and worked at the Bluegrass Ordinance. Most of the community was unaware of her exemplary contribution to the World War II effort. She is one of only two female service members buried in Maple Grove Cemetery.



## Decoration Day

General Logan, Commander in Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), ordered a specific day each year, May 30, to be set aside to honor the Union Army's war dead. General Logan explicitly cited emancipation as a reason for this commemoration. Northern "soldiers' lives," he explained, "were the reveille of freedom to a race in chains". The African American post and its associates enthusiastically participated in Decoration Day activities, such as church services, graveside ceremonies, and parades. Segregated observances allowed the African American GAR circle, particularly the Women's Relief Corps, to shape the message of Memorial Day. They had an invaluable tool to construct their own version of Civil War memories.

Decoration Day observances were often held in churches. Mainstream newspapers frequently reported on the sermons given at Black churches on this day. Some chose a few quotes while others printed the minister's remarks in their entirety.

The May 27, 1913 edition of the *Madisonian* newspaper wrote:

*"Colored GAR" – "Elder T.H. Broaddus delivered a powerful address at the Colored Baptist Church of this city to the GAR, Elder Broaddus is a thinker and a fine, all round citizen. Rev. Green B. Miller will deliver the address on Decoration Day at the graves of the veterans. Rev. Miller is one of the ablest members of the pulpit and is also a splendid teacher. He has done much for the cause of humanity. Those who are so fortunate as to hear him will be treated to an eloquent and able address."*

The *Climax-Madisonian* newspaper of May 19, 1915, published notice of Memorial Day activities for the Sedgwick Post:

*"On May 23, a memorial service will be held at the AME Church ... Attendees are requested to bring flags and flowers in honor of the deceased veterans. The principal "orators of the day" are Rev. T.H. Broaddus and Professor (Joshua) Crenshaw, with Green B. Miller as Master of Ceremonies."* The Colonel Sedgwick post, Women's Relief Corps (WRC) Auxiliary also prepared a meal for the occasion.

The June 2, 1915 edition of the *Climax-Madisonian* reported:

*"The colored people of this city in accordance with their custom fittingly observed this day on Monday. The orator of the day was Rev. Green B. Miller assisted by Prof. (Joshua) Crenshaw ... one beautiful feature of the exercises was a flag drill by about thirty girls. Mrs. Fannie Gwynn read Lincoln's Gettysburg address. The music by the church choir consisted of military and patriotic songs. A splendid lunch was furnished by the Women's Relief Corps."*

# Neighboring Places of Interest

## White Hall State Historic Site

500 White Hall Shrine Road



It is believed that approximately ninety-three slaves worked at one time on General Green Clay's estate probably in the production of tobacco, corn, hemp, and livestock as well as providing domestic labor. A reproduction of the work buildings can be seen on the grounds behind the house and the foundations of what is believed to have been slave quartets are near the main

house. Guided tours are available, which detail the early workings of the estate, but little is known about the individual slaves beyond folklore.

White Hall's most famous owner was Cassius Marcellus Clay, a well-known, outspoken abolitionist and son of General Green Clay. Clay was well respected for his stance by African Americans in Kentucky.

One of Cassius' most dramatic attempts at ending slavery in Kentucky was printing the *True American* newspaper beginning in June 1845. The newspaper was moved to Cincinnati in August 1845, and later moved to Louisville due to pro-slavery attacks. It was renamed *The Examiner*.

Clay took another step in changing the course of the history of African Americans in Kentucky when he gave land to the Reverend John G. Fee in 1858. Reverend Fee established a school on the property based on abolitionist principles. This school was Berea College, the first multi-racial college in the South.

White Hall State Historic Site is open for tours from April through October. For more information call (859) 623-8753 or visit: [whitehall.eku.edu](http://whitehall.eku.edu).

## Fort Boonesborough State Park

4375 Boonesboro Road

Fort Boonesborough was established in 1775 when Daniel Boone led a group of settlers into Kentucky, including several male black slaves. Monk Estill played an important role in the protection of subsequent settlers.

Monk Estill, one of several male black slaves at Kentucky's second oldest settlement, manufactured gunpowder which was used to defend against

Indian attacks. In 1872, Monk Estill was granted freedom for his acts of heroism. It is thought that he was the first freed slave in Kentucky. A historical marker recognizing Monk Estill and his importance to the early settlement of Kentucky is located on U.S. Highway 25 south of Richmond.

Fort Boonesborough is open April through October. For more information call (859) 527-3131 or visit:

[www.parks.ky.gov](http://www.parks.ky.gov)



## Berea College

101 Chestnut Street, Berea, Kentucky



Founded in 1855, Berea College was the first college in the South established for the purpose of multiracial education and the education of the Appalachian poor. One of Berea College's most important contributions to African American education in Kentucky came in training teachers for Kentucky's Black schools.

From 1866 to 1889, at least half the student body was African American. The school remained the only integrated school in Kentucky until 1904 when Kentucky passed the Day Law forbidding simultaneous biracial education. It was not until 1950 that the Day Law was amended to allow biracial education.

Notable African American graduates of Berea College include: the "Father of Black History" Carter G. Woodson (class of 1903), and Richmond's own Henry Allen Laine, poet laureate. Berea College alumni, J.D.M. Russell and James Hathaway, were the first two principals of Richmond High. Hathaway was also president of Kentucky State College. Nobel prize-winning author, Alex Haley, served for a time as a Berea College Trustee.

Berea College was founded by Kentucky abolitionist Reverend John G. Fee, on land donated by Cassius Marcellus Clay (see White Hall listing in this section). They opened Berea College determined to educate former slaves and the children of the Appalachian poor. After the Civil War began, Fee played a significant role as a volunteer at Camp Nelson in Jessamine County, the primary military base for African Americans in Kentucky during the Civil War. After the war, Fee invited many of those at Camp Nelson to settle in Berea, promising them educational opportunities, land, and a better way of life. His vision became a reality when on March 6, 1866, the first biracial classes were held.

# Appendix of Terms

## ■ Rosenwald Foundation/Rosenwald Schools

The Julius Rosenwald Fund helped to fund rural school buildings for African American children across the country. Local communities were required to raise funds or donate property and labor to construct the schools with matching funds provided by the Rosenwald Foundation. Richmond High was one of more than 5,000 schools, one of four in Madison County, and training shops nationally designed by Tuskegee Industrial Institute to receive funding. The National Trust for Historic Preservation estimates that only 10 - 12 percent of all Rosenwald schools are still standing, and in 2002, placed Rosenwald Schools on their 11 Most Endangered Historic Places list.

## ■ United States Colored Troops (USCT)



The United States Colored Troops were regiments in the United States Army composed primarily of African American (or Colored) soldiers, although members of other minority groups also served within the units. They were first recruited during the American Civil War and by the end of the war in 1865, the United States Colored Troops

contained 175 regiments which constituted about one tenth of the manpower of the Union Army. About 20% of the Colored Troops died during the war. Many of the Colored soldiers fought with distinction, and received numerous honors, including 16 Medal of Honor winners. The U.S. Colored Troops were precursors to the Buffalo Soldiers regiments which served in the American west.

## ■ Grand Army of the Republic (GAR)



The Grand Army of the Republic was the nation's first interracial fraternal organization, consisting of honorably discharged veterans of the Union Army, Navy, and Marines. It was among the first organizations to support voting rights for Black veterans and to make Memorial Day a national holiday. Locally, the Grand Army of the Republic Thomas D. Sedgwick Post No. 130 in Richmond was organized in 1888 with twenty-one charter members including many of Richmond's African American leaders. The post was named in honor of Colonel Thomas D. Sedgwick, who had commanded many of the old veterans living in the area. It was one of four GAR posts in Madison County.

The Colonel Sedgwick post was active for thirty years, organizing and providing memorial services for veterans, assisting comrades applying for military pensions, and providing help for widows and families of Civil War veterans. They originally met at the United Baptist Church “Colored” at Francis and Collins, and later at the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Green B. Miller held elective state offices as Kentucky Chaplain and Deputy Junior-Vice Commander. Nationally the GAR continued until it was dissolved in 1956 when the last member passed away.

### ■ **Woman’s Relief Corps (WRC)**

The Woman’s Relief Corps was the woman’s partner organization to the GAR. The objectives of the Woman’s Relief Corps as outlined in the Rules and Regulations manual, were to aid and assist the GAR, to perpetuate the memory of their heroic dead, to assist Union veterans in any possible way, to extend needful aid to their widows and orphans, and to promote patriotism.

### ■ **Buffalo Soldiers**

The 9th and 10th U.S. Cavalry were all-Black cavalry regiments authorized by Congress in 1866 at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. They were the original “Buffalo Soldiers” regiments in the post-Civil War regular army. The regiment consisted of enlisted African American men and white officers. The Buffalo Soldiers served in the Indian Wars in the western United States and participated in most of the military campaigns in these areas. Buffalo Soldiers were the first protectors of the land that would become our National Parks. Thirteen enlisted men and six officers from the Buffalo Soldiers regiments earned the Medal of Honor during the Indian Wars.

### ■ **Tuskegee Airmen**

On March 19, 1942, the U.S. War Department established the 99th Pursuit Squadron which, along with a few other squadrons, were better known as the Tuskegee Airmen. The Tuskegee Air Group consisted of America’s first Black military pilots and support personnel.

### ■ **Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC)**

The Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps was created as an auxiliary unit in May 1942, for the purpose of making available to the national defense the knowledge, skill, and special training of women to the nation. In 1943, it was made part of the Army of the United States and the name was changed to the Women’s Army Corps (WAC). This gave women all of the rank, privileges, and benefits of their male counterparts.





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The size of the committee changed and evolved over time with numerous people locating primary source photos, newspaper articles, books, yearbooks, and personal collections. Others were giving of their personal knowledge, experiences, and remembrances of parents and grandparents, businesses, organizations, churches, and community activities. We are especially indebted to Gary Noland for creating a personal walking tour of the neighborhoods, complete with stories of the locations. Ben Nichols organized this data into coherent digital formats for maps to lead readers through Richmond.

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Catherine Williams

# Lift Every Voice and Sing

*Lift ev'ry voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,  
ring with the harmonies of liberty.*

*Let our rejoicing rise, high as the list'ning skies,  
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.*

*Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us.*

*Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.*

*Facing the rising sun, of our new day begun,  
let us march on till victory is won.*

*Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod,  
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet  
come to the place for which our people sighed?*

*We have come over a way that with tears has been watered.*

*We have come, treading our path thro' the blood of the slaughtered,  
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last  
where the bright gleam of our bright star is cast  
God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way,  
thou who hast by thy might, led us into the light,  
keep us forever in the path, we pray.*

*Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;  
lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;  
shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,  
true to our God, true to our native land.*

- James Weldon Johnson

Often referred to as “The Black National Anthem,” Lift Every Voice and Sing was a hymn written as a poem by NAACP leader James Weldon Johnson in 1900. His brother, John Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954), composed the music for the lyrics. A choir of 500 school children at the segregated Stanton School, where James Weldon Johnson was principal, first performed the song in public in Jacksonville, Florida to celebrate President Abraham Lincoln’s birthday. At the turn of the 20th century, Johnson’s lyrics eloquently captured the solemn yet hopeful appeal for the liberty of Black Americans. Set against the religious invocation of God and the promise of freedom, the song was later adopted by NAACP and prominently used as a rallying cry during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s.

**“... African American history is not somehow separate from our larger American story, it’s not the underside of the American story, it is central to the American story.**

**That our glory derives not just from our most obvious triumphs, but how we’ve wrested triumph from tragedy, and how we’ve been able to remake ourselves, again and again and again, in accordance with our highest ideals.**

**I, too, am America.”**

**- President Barack Obama**  
at the dedication of the  
National Museum of African American  
History and Culture, 2016



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