



# TOWN OF HUNTINGTON AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORIC DESIGNATION COUNCIL (AAHDC)



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## AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORIC DESIGNATION COUNCIL (AAHDC)

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Melisa Rousseau
Crystal Roberts

Robert C. Hughes, Town Historian



#### Dear Residents:

For thirteen years, Town of Huntington's African American Historic Designation Council (AAHDC) has been charged with the task of preserving our history, specifically as it pertains to the recognition of prominent African-American leaders. The AAHDC has worked closely with the Town's Historic Preservation Commission, the Town Historian and many of you to create a more thorough narrative of the legacy of African Americans in Huntington.

Over the past thirteen years, the AAHDC has published booklets chronicling Huntington's rich African American history, highlighting the development of African American neighborhoods, churches that remain vibrant even today, and notable residents, including Booker T. Washington, who had a house in Fort Salonga; jazz legend John Coltrane, who lived for a time in Dix Hills; Jupiter Hammon, America's first published African American poet, who lived in Lloyd Harbor and Huntington; Samuel Ballton, Greenlawn's Pickle King; and Richard Robertson III, Huntington's first African American police officer. The AAHDC has also spearheaded the placement of historic markers at many important sites, including the most recently installed markers recognizing the contributions of Samuel Ballton.

The African American Historic Designation Council has updated their compilation of historical booklets to celebrate their thirteenth anniversary. On behalf of the Town Board, I commend the AAHDC for this effort and look forward to learning even more about Huntington's African American history as the council continues its work.

Sincerely,

CHAD A. LUPINACCI

Chad A. Fuprace

Supervisor

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#### **FOREWORD**

The African American Historic Designation Council (AAHDC) is proud to present this booklet commemorating its thirteenth anniversary. In keeping with the Council's goals and objectives to educate and increase public awareness of values and contributions of African Americans in the Town, the Council's booklets are also included on the Town's web site, libraries and schools throughout the Town. This booklet includes the Council's first newsletter and a compilation of volume one thru four of the Council's booklets highlighting some of the sites and contributions of African Americans in the Town.

Some of the Council's activities over the past ten years are listed below:

- \*Sponsors tours including the Old Burying Ground and the Village Green historic district
- \*Participates in the Huntington Awareness Day Parade and Festival
- \*Sponsored a successful Octogenarian Forum with seniors and their grandchildren
- \*Sponsors exhibit at the Huntington's train station highlighting African Americans' sites and people in the Town.
- \*Sponsored traveling exhibits showcased at: Huntington and South Huntington High Schools, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Huntington and the Town of Huntington Black History Program during Black history month
- \*Participated in the Hofstra University Archaeological Research Project at the Joseph Lloyd Manor site during the summers of 2008 and 2009
- \*Sponsors essay and poetry writing contests in conjunction with the school districts in the Town
- \*Sponsored workshop highlighting the Council's research for the newly hired teachers in the Huntington School District
- \*Sponsored educational forum for the junior high school students in South Huntington School District.
- \*Made presentations to students in the African American Heritage Club at Walt Whitman High School
- \*Published two calendars highlighting the Council's research
- \*Responsible for installation of markers at the following locations:
  - -Allen A.M.E. Church of Northport (founded in the earlier 1900s)
  - -Home site in Huntington Village of Jupiter Hammon prior to his death in c1806
  - -Two Samuel Ballton's markers recently installed in front of houses built by Ballton in Greenlawn also highlighting his contributions to the community.

The above is a list of some of our accomplishments and others are highlighted in our booklets on the Town's Web Site.

On behalf of the Council I would like to thank the Town Board and members of the community who aided in our research projects.

Sincerely,

Irene Moore, AAHDC Chairperson Charleen Francis Reverend Glorious Logan-Artis Melisa Rousseau Crystal Roberts

#### HISTORY OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORIC DESIGNATION COUNCIL

The African American Historic Designation Council (AAHDC) was established in 2005 to meet, as articulated by J. Stewart Moore, Esq., the community's need for an organization devoted to preserving the unique cultural history of African Americans in the Town of Huntington. Councilman Mark Cuthbertson and Councilwoman Susan A. Berland sponsored Town Board Resolution 2005-596 to establish the Council. The AAHDC first assembled in March of 2006 and the meeting was hosted by former Councilwoman Glenda Jackson shortly after her appointment to the Town Board in February of 2006. The Council is comprised of appointed individuals who are dedicated to and passionate about preserving Huntington's African American history. The first members appointed by the Town Board were: Irene Moore, John Johnson, Jerry Brown, Sr., Thelma Jackson-Abidally and Gennifer Ellis. Rex Metcalf served as advisor to the Council. Richard H. Robertson, III, Charla Bolton and Cheresse Rogers were appointed to the Council at a later date. The current members are: Irene Moore, Chairperson, Charleen Francis, Reverend Glorious Logan-Artis, Melisa Rousseau and Crystal Roberts. Robert Hughes serves as the Town's Liaison.

#### AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORIC DESIGNATION COUNCIL (AAHDC) MANDATE

The African American Historic Designation Council will assist the Town in identifying and researching historic sites having ties to the African American heritage in the Town of Huntington and explore the many potential undiscovered noteworthy locations in the Town which deserve to be celebrated and protected. Some of the Town Board's historic designated landmarks include the John Coltrane House in Dix Hills, where he wrote "A Love Supreme", and the Booker T. Washington House in Fort Salonga, where his family spent a few summers before his death in 1915. The AAHDC will help to further the endeavor of the Town to preserve and celebrate black history.

The African American Historic Designation Council will engage in the significant task of ensuring proper recognition of all sites that hold historical value to African American history in the Town. The Council will locate and research important areas, which have been key to the legacy of African Americans in Huntington, and make recommendations, where appropriate, for landmark designation under the Town Code.

**The African American Historic Designation Council** is comprised of five (5) members. Each Town Council Member, along with the Supervisor, appoints one person to the Council. Such appointees are chosen due to exemplification of leadership within the Town of Huntington as well as their interest and concern for the African American history that the Town possesses.

The African American Historic Designation Council will serve as a subcommittee of the Huntington Historic Preservation Commission and the Town Historian shall serve as an ex officio non-voting member and as Secretary of Council.

The members of the Council serve without compensation.

#### Goals and Objectives:

To locate, research, and preserve African American history and culture through collecting and documenting information, and sponsoring programs that will enhance research and promote public interaction.

To become an outstanding resource for African American historical information.

To educate and promote an understanding and appreciation of history through collections, exhibitions, and programming.

To conduct and develop programs using various interdisciplinary initiatives to educate and inform the community.

To preserve and tell the story of Huntington through informative and engaging exhibits.

## A COMPILATION OF AFRICAN AMERICANS AND HISTORIC SITES IN THE TOWN OF HUNTINGTON

## Presented by THE AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORIC DESIGNATION COUNCIL (AAHDC)





#### John William Coltrane

On Candlewood Path in Dix Hills, New York. obscured among overgrown trees, sits the home of jazz legend John Coltrane, a worldwide jazz icon. Born on September 23, 1920, in Hamlet, North Carolina, Coltrane followed in the foot steps of his father who played several instruments. He learned music at an early age, influenced by Lester Young and Johnny Hodges and others which led him to shift to the alto saxophone. He continued his musical training in Philadelphia and was called to military service during World War II, where he performed in the U.S. Navy Band.



After the war, Coltrane continued his zest for music, playing the tenor saxophone with the Eddie Vinson Band, performing with Jimmy Heath. He later joined the Dizzy Gillespie Band. His passion for experimentation was beginning to take shape; however, it was his work with the Miles Davis Quintet in 1958 that would lead to his own musical evolution. He was impressed with the freedom given to him by Miles Davis' music and was quoted as saying "Miles' music gave me plenty of freedom." This freedom led him to form his own band.

By 1960, Coltrane had formed his own quartet, which included pianist McCoy Tyner, drummer Elvin Jones, and bassist Jimmy Garrison. He eventually added other players including Eric Dolphy and Pharaoh Sanders. The John Coltrane Quartet, a novelty group, created some of the most innovative and expressive music in jazz history, including hit albums: "My Favorite Things," "Africa Brass," "Impressions," and his most famous piece, "A Love Supreme." "A Love Supreme," composed in his home on Candlewood Path, not only effected positive change in North America, but helped to change people's perception of African Americans throughout the world.

In 1967, Coltrane succumbed to liver disease leaving behind a legacy of successful accomplishments, many of which are heard in motion pictures, television, and radio throughout the world. His legacy continues with people embracing his music from all walks of life. In 1972, "A Love Supreme" was certified gold by the RIAA for exceeding over 500,000 copies sold in Japan. "A Love Supreme." and the classic album "My Favorite Things," were certified gold in the United States in 2001. In 1982, the RIAA posthumously awarded John Coltrane a Grammy Award for "Best Jazz Solo Performance" for the work on his album "Bye Bye Blackbird," and in 1997 he received the Lifetime Achievement Award. (3)

Coltrane and his wife Alice moved into the house on Candlewood Path in 1964 where their children were born and his family continued to live until 1973. Mrs. Coltrane, a pianist and composer, recorded albums in the basement of their home. Councilwoman Susan Berland and Councilman Mark Cutherbertson proposed legislation in May of 2004 to declare the house a historic landmark, which was unanimously passed by the Town Board. This resolution was introduced to the Town Board by Steve Fulgoni, who was instrumental in saving the Coltrane home from demolition. The house was purchased by the Town through the Environmental and Open Space and Park Fund and is currently cared for by Friends of the Coltrane Home in Dix Hills.



On June 18, 1983, Mrs. Alice Coltrane received an invitation to The White House from former President and Mrs. Clinton in appreciation of John Coltrane's historical apper-





ance at the Newport Jazz Festival. On Friday, January 12, 2007, Mrs. Coltrane died of respiratory failure in West Hills Hospital in Los Angeles, California.

## **Booker Taliaferro Washington**

Perched on a hilltop on Cousins Lane in Fort Salonga, Long Island overlooking the Long Island Sound, sits the summer home of Booker Taliaferro Washington, founder of Tuskegee Institute, and one of the most prominent blacks during his time. Although the house is in desperate need of renovation, the structure is sound and very little changes have been made since Washington and his family purchased the house in 1911 and resided there during the summers until his death in 1915.

Washington was born into slavery on the tobacco farm of James and Elizabeth Burroughs in Franklin County, Virginia on April 5, 1856. His mother was a cook for the



Burroughs and his father was a white man from a neighboring farm. He was freed from slavery at age nine and moved to Malden. West Virginia with his mother Jane, his brother John, and his sister Amanda. His family joined his stepfather who had been rescued earlier from a nearby farm by a party of 'Yankee' raiders shortly after the declaration of the Emancipation Proclamation, "a proclamation issued by Abraham Lincoln. President of the United States, proclaiming "That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free." ... (4) Booker T. Washington learned to read and write while working as a manual laborer, which included working in a salt mine at 4 a.m. so he could attend school later in the day. Within a few years, he was taken in as a houseboy by a wealthy town-woman who further encouraged his longing to learn. At age sixteen, he entered Hampton Institute to train as a teacher. He paid for his education and earned his living by performing menial tasks and later became an instructor at Hampton. In 1881, he founded and was named the first leader of Tuskegee Institute, a vocational school located in Tuskegee, Alabama. He was granted an honorary Masters of Arts degree from Harvard University in 1896 and an honorary Doctorate degree from Dartmouth College in 1901. (5)

Washington dined at the White House with Theodore Roosevelt. President of the United States, and informally advised both Presidents Roosevelt and Taft during their tenure as presidents. Other significant roles in American history included his speech at the September 1895 Cotton States and International Exposition in Atlanta where he urged blacks to remain in the South. Mr. Washington's proposition that black people give up their political power, insistence on civil rights, and the higher education of Negro youth, so that they could concentrate their energies on industrial education, the accumulation of wealth, and the conciliation of the South, was met with approval from some and criticism from others, including William Edward Burghardt Dubois, educator/ historian, and the first black American to graduate from Harvard with a doctoral degree in History. Washington's position on those issues overshadowed some of his accomplishments. He was a renowned educator, orator, prolific writer and author and is best remembered for helping black Americans overcome economic slavery that held them down long after they were legally free citizens. (6)

While staying at Fort Salonga, Washington often worshipped at Bethel A.M.E. Church in Huntington, where he served as a Sunday School teacher. He frequently visited the downtown area in Northport. He was invited by the pastor to speak at St. Paul Episcopal Methodist Church in Northport, which infuriated some of the members; however, his eloquent speech was well received and enormously changed the attitudes among the congregation in the community. (7) He also spoke at the Huntington Opera House and donated proceeds from three of his speeches given in Huntington to the Huntington Sewing and Trade School, which is owned by and houses the offices and archives of the Huntington Historical Society.

On May 21, 2003, the Town of Huntington installed a historic marker on Cousins Lane commemorating the location where Washington and his family spent their summers. Thelma Jackson-Abidally was responsible for this accomplishment. She received a proclamation from the Town for her efforts.







## **Evergreen Missionary Baptist Church**

The Evergreen Missionary Baptist Church was founded and organized in 1910 by Reverend William H. Roper, and on April 10, 1914, it was incorporated in the Town of Huntington, County of Suffolk, State of New York. Among the first trustees elected were Brother Albert Gregory, Brother Edward Brown, and Brother Benjamin Ballton.

Reverend Roper was succeeded by Reverend William Alston, Reverend George Abbot, Reverend Ruben Green, and the Reverend Dr. William F. Houston. Reverend Houston pastored at Evergreen for twenty-seven years at the original site, 302 Spring Road, in Huntington, New York. Under his leadership, the church was remodeled, architectural plans for a new Church were drawn and land for the new edifice was purchased. Upon the death of Reverend Houston, Reverend William F. Bailey served as Interim Pastor from 1967 until September 1969.

The Reverend A.B. Harris, Associate Minister at the Hollywood Baptist Church in Amityville, New York, was called to serve as pastor of the Evergreen Missionary Baptist Church. The Church was reorganized, the building program was reinstituted, and ground was broken in 1970 for land rededication. Construction

proceeded in December 1971, and on June 10, 1973, the congregation marched from the Church on Spring Road to the new edifice located at 17 Woodhull Road, in Huntington. In 1974, the old Church was sold.

In the fullness of time, on March 9, 1985, Reverend A.B. Harris passed away. A special Church meeting was called, and the Reverend Larry Washington was elected to serve as Interim Pastor during the mourning period of one year. Reverend Larry Washington was elected on June 13, 1986 to serve as pastor, becoming the eighth pastor to lead the oldest and largest African American Baptist Church serving the community in Huntington. Under his leadership, which was in the making during his one-year tenure as



en Missionary Baptist Church lington, Long Island, New York Interim Pastor, the Church grew spiritually, physically, and financially. Outreach programs were implemented along with the ordination of Deacons, and the consecration of Deaconesses. The Music Department was enhanced and Assistant Pastors were added to the pastoral staff. (8)

On April 9, 2006, Evergreen Missionary Baptist Church celebrated its Ninety-Sixth Anniversary under the leadership of the Reverend Dr. Larry Washington.

Addendum: In April of 2018, Evergreen's membership celebrated its 108th Anniversary.

## **Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church**

Bethel A.M.E. Church, the oldest African American Church in Huntington, was incorporated in 1843. The Church has served as a beacon of the African American community for over 163 years. Some of the original incorporators of the Church were said to be brickyard workers employed in the Crossman Brickyards in West Neck currently known as Lloyd Harbor. It has also been noted that the founders of the Church and their families are buried in the small cemetery behind the Church.

As indicated in the "Historical Sketch," written by the former pastor, Reverend Chas E. Wilson, the earlier records of the Church are said to have been destroyed by fire. However, "in 1845, Bethel A.M.E. Church had a considerable membership" and according to oral history, earlier prayer meetings and religious services were held in the homes of members living in the Wall Street area. (9)

"On June 5, 1843, the incorporation was affected. The certificate of incorporation, found on record at the County seat, in Riverhead, L.I., shows that the male members of the African Methodist Episcopal Ebenezer Church, in the village of Huntington, met in the Methodist Episcopal Seminary of said village for the purpose of electing five Trustees for the said Church." (10)

BETHEL A.M. E CHURCH
INCORPORATED IN 1843.
MOVED IN 1845 TO THE
BUILDING CALLED "THE
SEMINARY" STANDING HERE
AT THAT TIME.

AUTHORIZED THE
SEMINARY STANDING HERE
AT THAT TIME.



This was the first incorporation of the congregation: Charles Burch was the secre-

tary of the meeting and Reverend William Moore, was Elder in charge and presided. The Trustees elected were, Smith Green for one year, Peter Crippen and Oliver Strong for two years, and Nelson Smith and Joseph Lawrence for three years. The incorporation was recorded November 27, 1843. This was just twenty-seven years after the A.M.E. Denomination was organized in 1816. On November 2, 1844, the congregation purchased a new plot known as "The Seminary." It is not clear when the name Bethel was adopted; nevertheless, some time between November 2, 1844 and March 13, 1854, Ebenezer was dropped and the Church became known as "The African Methodist Episcopal Church of Huntington." (11)

The Reverend William Moore, listed as the first Pastor of the Church in 1843 was succeeded by a long list of pastors throughout the years, including more recently the late Reverend Clarence B. Johns, Jr. Bethel A.M.E. Church was included in the Old Huntington Green Historic District in 1980, and listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1985.

On May 7, 2006, the faithful members of Bethel, under the leadership of Reverend Michael D. Washington, realized their dream as a caravan of close to fifty cars lead by police escort traveled through the streets of Huntington to their new Church located at 1841 New York Avenue in Huntington Station.

Addendum: Bethel's membership returned to its former church site at 291 Park Avenue, Huntington, New York, in April, 2007.





## Samuel Ballton, "The Pickle King"

Samuel Ballton, one of nine children, was born into slavery on the plantation of Vincent A. Marmaduke, in Westmoreland County, Virginia on January 1, 1838. In 1861 he married Rebecca, a slave from a neighboring plantation. He and other able-bodied slaves were hired out to work as section-hands on the Virginia Central Railroad in the Blue Ridge Mountains. When the Civil War broke out, Ballton managed to escape and was able to secure a job as a cook with the Sixth Wisconsin Regiment at Fredericksburg. Although he risked capture, he stole back to see his wife several times, and was eventually able to take her to freedom. Early in 1864 Ballton went to Boston, Massachusetts, where he enlisted in the Fifth Massachusetts Cavalry and was active in the service. He was honorably dis-



charged on November 30, 1865. (12) "Ballton came to Greenlawn in 1873, where he started out as a tenant farmer and went on to become a comfortable landowner. Ballton settled in Greenlawn after the Civil War and became one of its most prominent citizens by the turn of the century. His first job in the Greenlawn area was as a farmer for one of the town's wealthiest landowners. He established a reputation for diligent and industrious work. Later he was employed as a shareholder for Alexander Gardiner, owner of the largest farm in Greenlawn, and gained much notoriety by growing record numbers of cucumbers and cabbages. He was nicknamed Greenlawn's "Pickle King," as a result of growing and processing 1.5 million pickles in one season." (13)

"Moving beyond tenant farming, Ballton was able to acquire some capital as a buying agent for a large Boston pickle house. With his own capital and loans from white neighborhood farmers, Ballton began to buy land and build houses near the new railroad line. Sixteen years after moving to Greenlawn with no money, friends, or formal education, Ballton became a successful landowner and entrepreneur. He is still remembered in the village as an outstanding founding member of the Greenlawn Community." (14)

Samuel Ballton and his wife, Rebecca, celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in one of the houses he built in Greenlawn on Boulevard Avenue Extension. He built other houses in Centerport and Northport. Leaving behind a legacy of success stories, Ballton died on April 30, 1917, at the age of 79. His funeral was held at the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Huntington, with the pastor, Reverend J.M. Procter officiating. He was buried in the Huntington Rural Cemetery. (15)







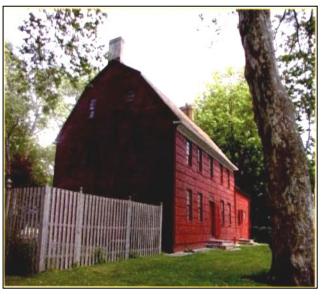
## Elijah

Elijah was born in 1750 during Slavery and the Manumission Period (1653-1827), at 647 Main Street, in Northport, New York. He was baptized on December 6, 1750, at Old First Church in Huntington. Elijah, the son of Sampson and Sarah, was a slave, owned by John Scudder. Elijah's mother Sarah was possibly Choctaw, a Native American Indian, captured on the Carolina frontier, sold in Charleston as a child, purchased by a New York slave dealer, and then sold to Timothy Scudder. Elijah's parents had five children, all of whom were baptized at Old First Church. They were Sampson Jr. (1738), twins Ruth and Daniel (1742), Elijah (1750), and Sarah (1757). He received a basic education and was sold in 1770 to Mary (Carll) Platt, widow of Obadiah Platt, Esq. of Platt's Tavern, and lived next door to Latting's Hundred, currently known as 424 Park Avenue. (16)\*

In 1779, Elijah became a celebrated hero known as "the man with the bullet proof head," after the well-publicized attack on Platt's Tavern during the American Revolution by British Troops, where he wounded an attacker with a hatchet. He saved the life of Gilbert Platt, and miraculously survived a gunshot wound to the head. (17)

Elijah, an accomplished musician and fiddler, was in great demand providing music at local festivities. He earned income as a celebrity attraction and musician. He frequently visited his family at Latting's Hundred and worked there as a musician. He is listed in the 1790 Census and was bequeathed to Gilbert Platt in 1793. Elijah lived to see the New York State Manumission Act of 1799, but was too old to gain his own freedom. (18) He died in 1810 and is buried in the Old Burying Ground on Main Street in Huntington in section three, in the Platt Family plot, at the head of Mary (Carll) Platt. (19)

\*Many local slaves gained their freedom at Latting's Hundred, pursuant to the provisions of the New York State Manumission Act of 1799, under the authority of Samuel Fleet, Sr., who served as Overseer of the Poor from 1805 to 1823. Samuel Fleet purchased Latting's Hundred in 1793 and conducted his official business in the parlor. Manumission papers, or "Freedom Papers," were issued in the parlor to each freed person and copies were entered into the Town Records.





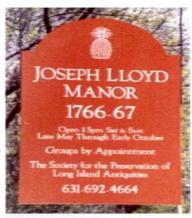


## **Jupiter Hammon**

Jupiter Hammon, America's first African American published colonial Poet, was born on October 17, 1711, in Lloyd Neck (originally Caumsett, meaning, "place by sharp rock," named by the Matinecock Indians), Long Island, on the property of Henry Lloyd. Jupiter's father, Obium, was a slave belonging to Henry Lloyd and his wife, Rebecca. (20)

James Lloyd, a Boston merchant, bought the peninsula that now bears his name. He won a royal land grant in 1685 that made it the "Lordship and Manor of Queens Village." Although he never left Boston to visit the property, at his death, his son, Henry, took over the land and built the first manor house. Henry's four surviving sons, Henry II, John, Joseph and James, inherited the estate in 1763. (21)

"Jupiter shared a close relationship with the Lloyd family. It is stated that he was referred to as 'brother Jupiter.' He lived in the Manor house with the family and went to school with the Lloyd children. Jupiter worked alongside Henry in his business, and was often sent to New York City to negotiate trade deals. Henry credited Jupiter with being an astute negotiator, as well as being scrupulously honest. Henry's reliance on him indicated that Jupiter's education went far beyond the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic." (22) Upon the death of Henry Lloyd in 1763, Jupiter went to live with Henry's son, Joseph, who built a larger manor house in 1766. During the American Revolution, Joseph, a patriot, fled to Connecticut, taking Jupiter with him. They returned after the war and Jupiter continued to write poetry and prose, later becoming a leader in the African American community. (23)





As indicated in the African American Archive by Kai Wright, Jupiter Hammon became the first African American to publish a poem. His liturgical "An Evening Thought, Salvation by Christ with Penetential Cries," was released on Christmas Day in 1760. Hammon was deeply religious, reflecting the general mood of the time, and his poetry dwelled on Christian spirituality. He would publish three more poems and four works of prose before his death sometime after 1790. When Jupiter published his second poem, "An Address to Miss Phillis Wheatley," he chose to honor Phillis Wheatley, one of the first recognitions of Wheatley as the originator of African American literature. (24)

"In the twilight of his life, Jupiter Hammon published an essay ostensibly aimed at his fellow African Americans, both slave and free. The 1787 essay An Address To The Negroes Of The State Of New York,' characteristically laden with Christian appeals, both uplifts and scolds the new nation's black population. Hammon warns slaves not to be overly concerned with attaining temporal freedom, but rather to focus on salvation in the Christian afterlife. He urges both free and bonded blacks to remember Christian principles, and to mind their behavior in the face of the oppression of slavery. Yet, he also assures his audience of the divine justice white slave owners will ultimately face and prays for emancipation, though he states that he believes himself to be too elderly to handle freedom." Hammon's address is credited with inspiring later efforts toward the ultimate manumission of slaves in New York State. (25)

Jupiter Hammon spent his final years prior to his death c1806, in the house located at 73 West Neck Road, in Huntington Village. It is the first home purchased by an African American in the Town of Huntington. A historic marker sponsored by the Town of Huntington African American Historic Designation Council was erected in 2015.







#### December 8, 2015 - Huntington Unveils Historic Marker at Jupiter Hammon House

The Huntington Town Board joined members of the Town's African-American Historic Designation Council December 8, 2015, in unveiling the historic marker in front of the house where Jupiter Hammon, America's first African-American published poet, spent the last years of his life.

Hammon (1711-c.1806) is considered the first African-American writer to be published in the United

States. His first poem was published in 1761. He published three other poems and three essays.

Hammon was born into slavery in Lloyd Neck and shared a close relationship with the Lloyd family. He went to school with the Lloyd children and worked alongside Henry Lloyd. After Henry Lloyd's death, he went to live with Henry's son, Joseph. Patriots, they both fled to Connecticut during the American Revolution and returned after the war. Hammon continued to write



poetry and prose and became a leader in the African American community.

The house, at 73 West Shore Road, was built between 1790 and 1795. It was purchased by Hammon's great-nephew in 1799. The marker notes it was the first house purchased by an African-American in Huntington. The 1800 census lists Hammon as head of the household.

Last year, at the request of the Historic Designation Council, the Town Board placed a historic designation on the house, preserving it.



In the photo (I-r): Councilwoman Tracey A. Edwards; Councilman Eugene Cook; AAHDC board member Charleen Francis; Supervisor Frank P. Petrone; Alexandra Wolfe, executive director of the Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities; property owner Gerardo Fuschetto; Councilman Mark Cuthbertson; AAHDC member the Rev. Glorious Artis, AAHDC chair Irene Moore; Town Historian Robert Hughes.

Addendum to September 2018 publication / taken from Town of Huntington's website.

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- (9) An "Historical Sketch," Reverend Chas E. Wilson, Pastor, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E) Church. Huntington, New York. July 29, 1948. Huntington Historic Society, 209 Main Street, Huntington, NY.
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- (17) Ibid. The New York Manumission Act of 1799 provided for the abolition of slavery in New York State.
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- (24) Ibid.

### **Photograph Captions and Credits**

- Front Cover Allen Family Children. Huntington. c. 1905. (Photograph courtesy of the Huntington Historical Society.)
- Page 8 top I The Coltrane Home. Photograph by Steve Fulgoni.
- Page 8 bottom I John Coltrane with Soprano Saxophone.
- Page 8 bottom c John Coltrane with Tenor Saxophone.
- Page 8 bottom r John Coltrane with Cello.
- Page 9 top Booker T. Washington Historic Site Marker. Photograph by Irene Moore.
- Page 9 bottom | Booker T. Washington Home back. Photograph by Irene Moore.
- Page 9 bottom c Booker T. Washington, timesdispatch.com, Article Booker Taliaferro Washington. February 1. 2002
- Page 9 bottom r Booker T. Washington Home front. Photograph by Irene Moore.
- Page 10 top I Former Evergreen Missionary Baptist Church —Photograph by Irene Moore.
- Page 10 bottom r Evergreen Missionary Baptist Church Photograph by Alan Mills.
- Page 11 top | Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church Historic Site Marker. Photograph by Robert Hughes.
- Page 11 center I Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church. Photograph taken from web page.
- Page 11 bottom I Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church's Sanctuary (old ).
- Page 11 bottom r Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church's Sanctuary (new).
- Page 12 top Samuel Ballton. Courtesy of Greenlawn-Centerport Historical Association.
- Page 12 bottom | Samuel Ballton in uniform.
- Page 12 bottom c Samuel Banton Home. Photograph courtesy of Greenlawn-Centerport Historical Association.
- Page 12 bottom r Samuel Ballton Pickle Plant. Photograph courtesy of Greenlawn-Centerport Historical Association.
- Page 13 top I Latting's Hundred (currently known as 424 Park Avenue.) Photograph by Rex Metcalf.
- Page 13 center l Parlor at Latting's Hundred. Photograph by Rex Metcalf.
- Page 13 bottom r Tap Room at Latting's Hundred. Photograph by Rex Metcalf.
- Page 14 top I The Joseph Lloyd Manor Historic Marker. Photograph courtesy of the Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities, Cold Spring Harbor, New York.
- Page 14 center l The Joseph Lloyd Manor House. side. Photograph courtesy of the Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities.

  Cold Spring Harbor, New York.
- Page 14 bottom I The Joseph Lloyd Manor House, front. Photograph courtesy of the Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities, Cold Spring Harbor, New York.
- Page 14 bottom c The Henry Lloyd Manor House. Photograph courtesy of the Lloyd Harbor Historical Society, Lloyd Harbor, New York.
- Page 14 bottom r Slave Quarters at Joseph Lloyd Manor House. Photograph courtesy of the Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities, Cold Spring Harbor, New York.

### **Acknowledgements**

The African American Historic Designation Council would like to extend its sincere appreciation to those individuals who contributed their time and effort in helping to ensure the successful completion of this booklet. Special thanks to the Town Board, especially Councilwoman Glenda Jackson; Robert Hughes, Town Historian; Charla Bolton and Rex Metcalf, Huntington Historic Preservation Commission; J. Stewart Moore, Esq.; Susannah Mrazek, Legislative Assistant to the Town Board; Jose Caceres, Image Artist; Julian J. Moore, Esq., Editor; the staff of the Huntington Station Enrichment Center; the staff of the Town of Huntington Printing Office; the staff of the Huntington Historical Society; The Lloyd Harbor Historical Society; the Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities (SPLIA); and The Greenlawn-Centerport Historical Association.

Compiled by The African American Historic Designation Council Edited by Julian J. Moore, Esq.

**Co-edited by Irene Moore** 

**Image Artist, Jose Caceres** 

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Volume 1, Issue 1 February 2008

## Town of Kuntington African American Kistoric Designation Council Newsletter

GREETINGS PETER CRIPPEN HOUSE

The African American Historic Designation Council (AAHDC) is delighted to share this newsletter with you about historic African American people and sites in the Town of Huntington. The Council had a very eventful and productive year in 2007. In addition to visiting the homes of Peter Crippen, former owner of a house built in Huntington Village dating back to the 17th century, and the home of John Coltrane, a worldwide jazz icon, we witnessed first hand the unearthing of artifacts on the site believed to be the home of enslaved African Americans housed on the grounds of Joseph Lloyd Manor during the eighteenth century. Professors Christopher Matthews and Jennifer Coplin from Hofstra University's Anthropology Department along with their students were invited by the Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities (SPLIA) to excavate for artifacts at the Joseph Lloyd Manor House during the 2007 summer semester. Christopher and Jennifer extended an invitation to the Council to share this historic event with them. A reception co-sponsored by SPLIA, AAHDC, NAACP Huntington Branch, and Hofstra African Studies Department was held at the

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Submerged in mud on Creek Road in the village of Huntington, the Peter Crippen House stands slowly deteriorating from neglect and the forces of nature. The Peter Crippen house, (believed to be partially built from lumber taken from the first grist mill in the Town of Huntington) built during the seventeenth century was occupied until 1985 by Raymond Carmen, Sr. (great - great grand son of Peter Crippen) and his son Raymond (Kip) Carmen, Jr.

An historical background compiled by the Huntington Historic Preservation Commission, dated May 19, 2005 stated that "Preliminary analysis of the framing of the house at 61 Creek Road by John Stevens, who is an expert on colonial Dutch buildings, confirms that this was constructed as an industrial building rather than a residential building. According to Mr. Stevens, the dimensions and proportions of the Crippen house frame are not typical of the residential Dutch frame. However, they are typical of the industrial Dutch frame, as found in the Huntington Arsenal and about a half dozen Dutch framed mills that he has documented."

Writing in 1985, Rufus B. Langhans, former Town Historian, states that "The significance of the building and site continue into more recent history with its association with an (early black Huntington family, the Crippens, who purchased it in 1864 from Elbert and Elizabeth Walters." Peter Crippen at age 30, first appeared in the 1850 census with Clarissa, age 28, and three children: Harriet, age 10, William H, age 8, and Sarah, age 4. William H is buried in the Huntington Rural Cemetery on New York Avenue. Crippen is listed concurrently in the census as a laborer in 1850, a fisherman in 1860, and as a farm laborer in 1870. The 1860 census also states that his place of birth is Virginia.

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Crippen House, circa 1676 &1880

**GREETINGS** 

Continued from page 19

end of the semester. Program participants, community groups, and other guests were taken on a tour of the Joseph Lloyd Manor House and the site of the excavations. Dr William Perry, Archaeologist and Professor at Central Connecticut State College, was the keynote speaker. In attendance from the Town of Huntington were Councilwoman Glenda Jackson, Town Clerk Jo-Ann Raia, Town Historian Robert Hughes; Charla Bolton and Reginald (Rex) Metcalf from the Huntington Historic Preservation Commission; and Irene Moore, Gennifer Ellis and Thelma Jackson Abidally from the African American Historic Designation Council, A follow-up forum on "Community Dialogue, Archaeology and History at the Joseph Lloyd Manor" was held at the same location on October 13, 2007. The guest speakers were Thelma Jackson Abidally, author of African Americans in Northport — An Untold Story, and Dr. Kathleen Velsor, Professor at Old Westbury College. Thelma's presentation was on African American History in the Town of Huntington followed by Kathleen's presentation on Long Island's Underground Railroad. Workshops were presented on: Genealogy by Julius and Joysetta Pearse, and on Researching African Connections by Dr. John Pulis. The presentations and workshops were both educational and informative.

In collaboration with the Huntington Historic Preservation Commission and the Town Historian, the Council assists the Town in identifying and researching historic sites having ties to African American heritage in the Town and explores the many potential undiscovered locations which deserve to be celebrated.

We have enclosed an insert in this newsletter for your convenience that will allow you to share your family history with us. Please complete the insert and forward it to the address listed on the form. Sharing your information will help facilitate the Council's mandate. It will be researched, catalogued and preserved in the Town's Archives for future generations.

Thank you for your cooperation. We look forward to a favorable response.

Sincerely,

#### **African American Historic Designation Council**

#### AFRICAN AMERICAN WHALERS

American whaling began around 1670, when the Colonists developed a boat-show fishery for the Atlantic right whale. In those days the Atlantic right whale was abundant on the coast, especially off Long Island and in Delaware Bay.

Through the years the American whaling industry grew to enormous proportions, more than doubling the fleet of other nations, and by 1846 reached its maximum with 729 vessels. African Americans played a prominent role as whalers, sailors, and ship-builders. Lynda R. Day, in her book  $Making\ A\ Way\ to\ Freedom$  -

Freedom - A Story of African Americans on Long Island stated that "By 1859, more than half of the 25,000 seamen in the United States were Blacks, including 2,900 employed in American whale fishery. Of these, a high percentage came from Long Island, sailing out of Sag Harbor, Cold Spring Harbor, Jamesport, and Greenport. The Abigail sailed in 1819, with seven African Americans among a crew of fifteen, and the Tuscarora in 1841 listed seven Blacks in its crew of thirty-two."

Day stated that "The Shinnecock Indians had hunted whales since ancient times, and their descendants were prominent among the whales men described in ships' logs as 'colored.' The names of many of these men such as Bunn, Cuffee, and Arch are still common among the Black/Indian families of Southampton and attest to their mixed African and Shinnecock ancestry."

She also mentioned that "Pyrus Concer is perhaps the most famous of the Long Island seamen. Born into slavery in Southampton in 1814, Concer gained some international attention as the first African American to visit imperial Japan during the years it was closed to foreigners."

Additional information is available in the Cold Spring Harbor Whaling Museum, and in the Kendall Whaling Museum, in Sharon, Massachusetts.

#### ALLEN A.M.E. CHURCH OF NORTHPORT

As indicated in African Americans in Northport-An Untold Story by Thelma Jackson Abidally "Land to build the Church was secured on a wooded slope on the east side of Church Street, then known as Railroad Street. During the 1800s, camp meetings were held in the summer on this slope and the area became known as 'the Camp Ground.' Weekly services were held outdoors on the site of the unfinished Church. The A.M.E. Church in Northport, then known as the Allen Mission, held a conference at the Bridge Street A.M.E. Church in Brooklyn to discuss the future of the Northport A.M.E. Church. The results were positive; fundraising for the Northport A.M.E. Church resumed in November 1906 and picked up speed in 1908." Jackson Abidally mentioned that a former member of the Church stated that the original building was cut in half and transported up Main Street to its current location on Church Street, where the foundation had been laid previously. She also stated that "On November 29, 1908, the new Allen African Methodist Episcopal Church was dedicated and the cornerstone was laid. The Ceremony was carried out by Reverend William B

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## HOFSTRA ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH PROJECT

The Hofstra University Archaeological Research Project will commence during the summer of 2008. Professors Christopher Matthews and Jennifer Coplin along with their students will continue excavating for artifacts at the Joseph Lloyd Manor site in Lloyd Harbor, Huntington, New York. The Research project is sponsored by Hofstra University, Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities, and the New York Council for the Humanities.

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NAACP LONG ISLAND ANNUAL REGIONAL LUNCHEON, PLACE: MELVILLE MARRIOTT, MEL-VILLE, N. Y., TIME: 11:30 A.M. DATE: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2008

LECTURE: "AFRICAN AMERICANS IN HUNTING-TON'S HISTORY", PLACE: DAVID CONKLIN FARMHOUSE MUSEUM BARN, 2 HIGH STREET, HUNTINGTON, TIME: 1:30 P.M., DATE: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2008

NAACP HUNTINGTON BRANCH BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION: COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF "THE LITTLE ROCK NINE", PLACE: SOUTH HUNTINGTON LIBRARY 145 PIDGEON HILL ROAD, HUNTINGTON STATION, TIME: 7:30 P.M., DATE: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2008

TOWN OF HUNTINGTON BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM, PLACE: TOWN HALL, 100 MAIN STREET, HUNTINGTON, NY, TIME: 7 P.M. DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2008, SPEAKER: GIL NOBIE, HOST "LIKE IT IS" (CHANNEL 7).

NAACP HUNTINGTON BRANCH SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON, PLACE: THE COOKE'S IN 767 NEW YORK AVENUE, HUNTINGTON, TIME: 12 P.M — 3 P.M., DATE: SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2008, CONTACT: (631) 421-2433; (631) 427-2001

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN LUNCHEON, PLACE: HUNTINGTON HILTON, TIME:12:00 NOON, DATE: SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2008

HUNTINGTON 2008 TULIP FESTIVAL, PLACE: HECKSCHER PARK, TIME: 11 A.M. — 4 P.M, DATE: SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2008

#### **CRIPPEN HOUSE**

Continued from page 19

Langhans' letter also mentioned that Crippen was one of the seven founders and trustees of the African Methodist Ebenezer Church founded in 1843, currently known as the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church located at 291 Park Avenue in Huntington.

Research on the property indicates that the Crippen family was in residence on the property for over 120 years and the property is still owned by family members.

#### MT. CALVARY HOLY CHURCH

In August 1929, Bishop Brumfield Johnson, founder, was invited to Huntington Station by Mother Alice Arrington to hold a tent revival on the corner of Depot Road and East 11th Street. By September 28, 1929, Mt. Calvary Holy Church of America, Inc. became an official organization.

Under the Pastorship of Reverend William Bryant, a mission was set up in a small storefront on New York Avenue where services were held from 1931 until 1933. By 1934 a larger place was needed and the church moved to Bolton's Hall on Church Street. In 1937 the Church purchased a building on Academy Place, which they renovated and later demolished to construct a new edifice.

The Long-Islander dated May 25, 2006 indicated that Reverend Dr. Agnes Amelia Hiller joined Mount Calvary in 1932. In 1950 Pastor Bryant appointed Mother Hiller to the position of Assistant Pastor. When he passed away in 1951, Bishop Brumfield Johnson assumed the position of Pastor.

The Huntington Township Urban Renewal Program made it necessary for the Church to relocate and on June 6, 1971 under the Pastorship of Bishop Johnson with Mother Agnes Hiller assisting, they led a march of the congregation and friends into the present location.

In 1972 Bishop Brumfield passed away and Mother Agnes Hiller assumed the position of Pastor until her retirement in 1994. As a result of her retirement, the International Prelate, Bishop Harold I. Williams appointed Reverend William Bennett as interim pastor and he served until 1996. In March of 1996, Bishop Frank H. Mixon assumed the position of Pastor. Currently he is serving as Senior Pastor with his wife Elder Gloria J. Mixon, appointed Pastor, and his daughter Elder Dawn Williams, Assistant Pastor.



Mt. Calvary Church

Mt. Calvary, a stalwart in the Huntington community, sponsors a variety of programs for the needy. In 1997 the name of the Church was changed from Mt. Calvary Holy Church of America, Inc. to Mt. Calvary Holy Church of Huntington.

#### HUNTINGTON TOWN BOARD

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Susan A. Berland, Councilwoman

Stuart Besen, Councilman

Glenda A. Jackson, Councilwoman

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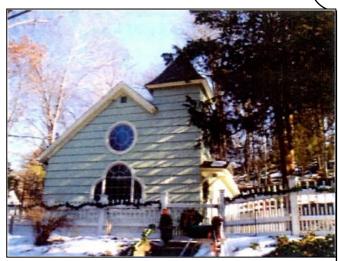
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## AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORIC DESIGNATION COUNCIL

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Gennifer Ellis
Thelma Jackson Abidally
John Johnson
Phyllis Pottinger
Robert C. Hughes, Town Historian



Former Allen A.M.E. Church

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#### ALLEN A.M.E.CHURCH

Derrick, Bishop of the First District of the A.M.E. Church. The Church held fundraisers and on May 7, 1922, a mortgage-burning ceremony was held. The Church's first pastor was the Reverend William Edwards, who was born in Brooklyn and ordained a minister in 1898. The last pastor was the Reverend Herman David Floyd when it was dissolved in 1955, and in 1967, the church was sold to Fort Ridge Builders."

Barbara and Terry McNally, current owners, and their children reside in the building that housed the Church.

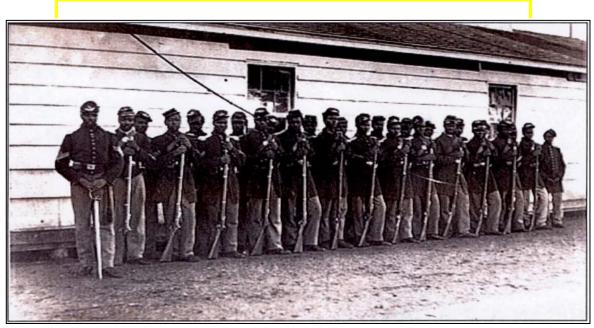


Members of the AAHDC, from left to right, Rex Metcalf, Irene Moore, Phyllis Pottinger, Gennifer Ellis,
Councilwoman Glenda Jackson, Charla Bolton, Thelma Jackson Abidally and Town Historian Robert Hughes

# A COMPILATION OF AFRICAN AMERICANS AND HISTORIC SITES IN THE TOWN OF HUNTINGTON

THE AFRICAN AMERICAN
HISTORIC DESIGNATION COUNCIL (AAHDC)

PRESENTED BY





VOLUME II
TOWN OF HUNTINGTON
NEW YORK
FEBRUARY 2009

#### ONE HUNDRED WONDERFUL YEARS! A 2008 HUNTINGTON CENTENARIAN

#### by Phyllis Pottinger

Lynnette Vassall-Crawford, a resident of Huntington for more than half-a-century, celebrated her 100th birthday on Saturday, June 7, 2008. Family, friends and parishioners celebrated with Lynnette at a special Mass at her church, St. Francis of Assisi in Greenlawn. Lynnette was presented with a Proclamation from the Town of Huntington, presented to her by Councilwoman Susan Berland. Following the Mass a birthday party was held in Lynette's honor.



Lynnette is a graduate of New York University College of Nursing, BS Class of 1945. She hails from Jamaica, West Indies, one of four girls born to William and Septina Vassall. Lynnette came to the United States of America at age 7, residing in Brooklyn for years, until she purchased property in Huntington where she has lived for half-a-century.

Her father, Dr. William Vassall, was a headmaster, civil engineer and author of two books: <u>Under the Skin</u>, published in 1932 and <u>The Origin of Christianity</u>, published in 1952. <u>Under the Skin</u> was reviewed by several newspapers including the *Amsterdam News*.

Lynnette, the third of the Vassall's four daughters, is the last surviving one. One of Lynnette's sisters was a teacher, one was a physician and the oldest sister Lurline was a nurse.

Lurline and their father were instrumental in the development of the Harlem Nursing School after Lurline was denied admission to other nursing

schools because she was African American. Once the nursing school was opened it remained an institution in the community. Lynnette followed the career path of her sister Lurline and became a nurse. She graduated from the Harlem Hospital School of Nursing, receiving her nursing diploma in 1932.

Lynnette, an outstanding citizen, philanthropist, fundraiser and professional nurse worked tirelessly to improve the lives of individuals, families and communities until her retirement at age 55 in 1963. She held her first job as a Child Health Station Nurse with the New York City Department of Health. She also worked as a Visiting Nurse, a School Nurse, and a Chest Clinic Nursing Supervisor, in addition to her service as a nurse, Lynnette served as a founding member of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Greenlawn. Lynnette demonstrated leadership, motivation, determination, dedication, and devotion to fundraising with other parishioners for the building of the church in its early years.

Lynnette has traveled the world and recalls memories of people and favorite places, including Medugorje, a town located in Bosnia and Herzegovina, best known due to reported apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary and which is now visited by pilgrims from around the world as a shrine. (<a href="www.wikipedia.org">www.wikipedia.org</a>)

At the interview, I asked her what she believes contributes to her longevity. Without hesitation she said, "I like to help people and try to be nice to all people." What message will she pass onto the future generations? "Be nice to one another, love one another and *help* one another," says Lynnette. She firmly believes that when we do this and live this way it will be a beautiful world.

One of Lynnette's most treasured possessions is a poem written by her father dedicated to her. He uses each letter of her name to describe her in glowing terms. Lynnette's favorite song is "Let Me Call You Sweetheart." How fitting! Lynnette is a sweetheart to so many. She will always be remembered as thoughtful, caring, loving, giving and considerate.

Lynnette - Enjoy your magnificent and memorable milestone!

#### **ALEXANDER RICHARDSON**

by Gennifer Ellis

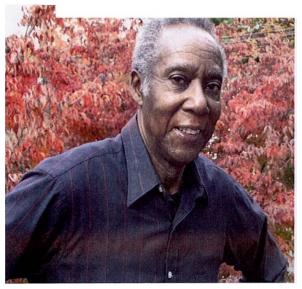
Alexander Richardson was born on December 29, 1930, to Thomas and Madeline Richardson. Thomas Richardson had migrated from St. Martin, French West Indies in 1918 and his wife Madeline joined him two years later.

Their union produced three sons, the late Conrad, Thomas and Alexander. Alexander graduated from St. Patrick's Elementary School in Huntington, and St. Dominic's High School in Oyster Bay.

Alexander enlisted in the United States Air Force in March 1949. After basic training, he was assigned to the U.S. Air Force Band School in Washington, D.C. Upon completion of this program, he was assigned to the 64<sup>th</sup> Air Force Band in Waco, Texas. Alexander received an Honorable Discharge in November 1952.

Mr. Richardson was married to the late Agnes Richardson, who passed away on April 24, 1964. He is the proud father of two children: Debra Ann Richardson-Pippinger and Alexander, Jr., and the grandfather of two grandchildren: Donovan A. Richardson, age 12, and Savannah A. Richardson, age 11.

Alexander joined the Huntington Police Department in November 1954. He was the fourth African American assigned to the Police Department. The Department merged into the Suffolk County Police Department in January 1960. His duties included various traffic posts in Huntington, Cold Spring Harbor and East Northport. He also served at the Babylon sub-station (1<sup>st</sup> Pct.) until August 1963. Mr. Richardson retired on May 10, 1966 after he was injured while on duty.



Mr. Richardson is proud of his accomplishments throughout his life, one in particular is marching with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the March on Washington, D.C., in August 1963.

He was a member of the Huntington Township Concert Band where he played the Trombone for 12 years.

In 1968, Mr. Richardson became the first black District Sales Manager for Knickerbockers Liquor Company in the New York Metropolitan area. He served ten years in this position. While on vacation in Jamaica, West Indies in 1978, Alexander was featured in Jet and Ebony Magazines.

Mr. Richardson currently splits his time between Huntington and Chesapeake, Virginia. He enjoys reading, traveling, gardening and listening to different types of music. His daily activities include walking, and cycling.

#### RICHARD H. ROBERTSON, III

by Irene Moore

Richard H. Robertson, Ill, the first African American policeman in the Town of Huntington, was born in Huntington, New York on October 18, 1923. Mr. Robertson excelled in school and was known throughout the metropolitan area for his athletic skills in sports especially baseball, softball, and football. After graduating from Huntington High



School, Mr. Robertson enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and received an honorable discharge after serving three and one half years during World War II. He traveled across the world serving in Africa, Italy, India and China.

Upon returning home he was signed up for the Brooklyn Dodgers by Branch Rickey, the owner, where he played professional baseball with Jackie Robinson, the first African American to play baseball in the major leagues. Not only was Jackie Robinson one of the most historically-significant baseball players during his era, he gained national recognition for breaking baseball's color barrier in 1945.

Unfortunately, Richard's dream of playing professional baseball was cut short because of an injury. Richard and his wife maintained friendship with Jackie and his wife and were in attendance at his funeral in October 1972.



Mr. Robertson worked as a laborer, in construction, and was also owner of Jack Rob Trucking Corporation. He and his partner transported topsoil, sand, gravel, and asphalt throughout the metropolitan area. He later passed the policeman test and was called to serve in 1949. He retired from the police department as sergeant in 1969 after twenty years of dedicated service. Richard received many accolades for his contributions to the Town of Huntington including a bronze plaque from Town Supervisor Walter Fasbender as well as

commendations and certificates from organizations throughout the Town. In April 2005, he received the "Lifetime Achievement. Award" from NBLSA at Touro Law Center for hard work and dedication in promoting diversity in the community. He is currently employed as a building assistant at Touro Law Center. He enjoys opera, jazz, and classical music and travels often to Lincoln Center to take in performances.

Mr. Robertson is the son of Richard Robertson II, and Blanche Pollard Robertson Lee. He is the grandson of Richard and Jennie Robertson Lee and the great grandson of Benjamin Ballton. Benjamin is the son of Samuel and Rebecca Ballton. Richard was raised by Jennie Robertson Lee and her second husband John Lee.

Mr. Robertson's great, great grandfather Samuel Ballton and his wife Rebecca were formerly enslaved in Westmoreland, Virginia. When the civil war broke out, Samuel escaped, secured a job as a cook



with the Sixth Wisconsin Regiment at Fredericksburg, Virginia; and eventually returned to Westmoreland for his wife and was able to take her to freedom. Early in 1864, Ballton moved to Boston, MA, where he enlisted in the Fifth Massachusetts Cavalry. He was honorably discharged on November 30, 1865. He moved to Greenlawn in 1873 where he became a prominent entrepreneur and farmer and was known as the "Pickle King of Greenlawn" because of the enormous amount of pickle he grew in one harvest. ("The Pickle King is Dead." *The Long -Islander*, Friday, May 4, 1917)

Richard resides in Huntington with his wife Corinne Jackson Robertson. Their son Richard IV, his wife Linda and their two children, Richard V and Crystal also reside in Huntington.





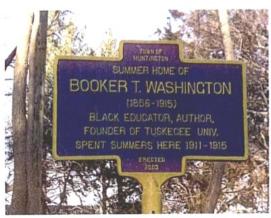


#### **AFRICAN AMERICAN SITES**

















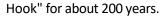




#### **EARLY RESIDENTS OF "THE HOOK"**

by Rex Metcalf

Some of Huntington's earliest and best documented African American residents lived at the ancient homestead that we know today as the former "Cow Harbor Inn." This property marks the eastern gateway to the Incorporated Village of Northport, at the northwest corner of Route 25A and Waterside Road. This neighborhood was known as "the





Our first recorded African American resident came from the island of Barbados to Huntington in 1657, as the servant of Thomas Matthews, a wine merchant. He lived at Huntington Harbor, just north of the Town Dock, from 1657 to 1673 and then lived at this Northport property into the late 1680's.

The homestead was later owned by the Scudder family and several generations of their African American servants lived here with them. A husband and wife, living here before 1710, are mentioned

in surviving family papers as being African born "Coromantee", a faction of the Akan people of present day Ghana. They were brought from Barbados to Long Island and then sold to the Scudder family. They had three children here, Sampson, Rachel and Sterling, and eventually died here before 1750.

Sampson (1710-1760) was baptized at the Old First Church in Huntington, in 1732. He married Sarah (an American Indian servant, also living here) in 1737. They had five children, also baptized at the Old First Church. They were Sampson Jr. (1738), twins Ruth and Daniel (1742), Elijah (1750) and Sarah Jr. (1757).



Scudder House South Facade, 2003

Photograph by Henry Tobin

Rachel (1713-1789) lived here for 18 years. She then became a servant of Abigail Scudder (who married Capt. Joseph Lewis Esq.) and moved to Huntington Village. Rachel later became a successful innkeeper.

Sterling (1715-n1t1790) was admitted to full membership at the Old First Church in 1750. He was later married here, to his brother's widow Sarah (the Indian), on December 30, 1760, by Rev. Ebenezer Prime.

Elijah (1750-1810) lived here for 20 years. He then became a servant of the widow Mary Platt, at her tavern on Park Avenue in Huntington

Village. He later became a local Revolutionary War celebrity, as well as a popular musician.

Betsy (1792-?), a servant of Henry Smith, was sold to John B. Scudder about 1801. She lived here until given her freedom in 1810, at age 18. She then married Paul Ruggles and had three children. Her husband died suddenly and Betsy Ruggles, left lame and destitute, became a dependent of the Town in 1822. The Scudder Homestead (c1790) may soon be demolished and replaced by a TD Bank building.

Selected Bibliography: Street, Charles. "Huntington Town Records", Volume I; the Towns of Huntington and Babylon, NY, 1887; Reprinted 1975. Rev. Edward J. Humeston Collection of Documents and Manuscripts. Rediker, Marcus. The Slave Ship: A Human History"; the Penguin Group, New York, NY, 2007. Scudder, Moses. "Records of the First Church in Huntington, Long Island, 1723-1779"; Private printing for M. Scudder, 1898. Platt, Henry. "Old Times in Huntington"; Long Islander Print, Huntington, NY, 1876, pp. 49-50. 1810 United States Federal Census, Town of Huntington, Suffolk County, New York. Langhans, Rufus. "Town of Huntington: Records of the Overseers of the Poor, 1805-1861"; Town of Huntington, NY, 1986, pp. 119-120.

#### THE AARON FRAZIER FAMILY

by Charla Bolton and Rex Metcalf

The Frazier Family is believed to have come from Rappahannock, Virginia and settled in Huntington shortly after 1830. John and Tamar Frazier had five known children: Aaron, Charles T, Jeremiah, Jacob and Adeline. They lived about a mile south of the Cold Spring Harbor village center. Tamar Frazier was a prominent figure in the founding of the Bethel AME Church in Huntington, in 1843.

Aaron Frazier (1808-1869?) and his wife Charity (b1810) were married about 1835 and first lived a short distance to the north of his parents' home. They had children: Charles (1836), John (1839), Tamer (1841), Elizabeth (1843), Henry (1845), Sylvester (1848), Richard (1855) and Aaron Jr. (1858).

By the late 1840's, Aaron Frazier was employed as a farm laborer by William Hewlett, who owned a large farm on West Neck, about a mile north of the Cold Spring Harbor business district. The large Hewlett farmhouse still stands on the east side of Goose Hill Road and now serves as the Kehillath Shalom Synagogue. The farm acreage originally occupied both sides of the road.

About 1849, William Hewlett built a new tenant house for his workers, on the opposite (west) side of Goose Hill Road, a short distance south of the main house. Its chimney was built to serve an iron heating stove in the parlor and an iron range in the lean-to kitchen. This was the latest thing in home technology in 1849. The stairs behind the front entrance led up to the loft. The U.S. Federal Census records enumerate the early occupants of the tenant house, which is known today as the Hewlett-Taylor House.

The 1850 Census shows that Aaron and Charity Frazier were living here with Aaron's brother, Jacob and his new bride, Nancy, as well as an unrelated young couple, named Henry and Marget Carll. It also enumerates six of Aaron and Charity's children, including their three eldest children, who were apprenticed to William and John







**The Hewlett-Taylor Tenant House** 

Gardiner of Eaton's Neck. Typically, apprentices were provided by their masters with lodging, clothing, meals, education and job skills, in exchange for their service from age 6 to 21. When they completed their indentured service, they were usually given two suits of new clothes and a Bible.

In 1860, Aaron Frazier and his wife were living here with four children, namely Elizabeth, Henry, Richard and Aaron Jr. Aaron Frazier is believed to have died in 1869 and by 1870, his remaining family had apparently moved elsewhere, after occupying this house for twenty years. The Hewlett House and the Hewlett-Taylor House are both designated historic landmarks.

Selected Bibliography: Bolton, Charla\_ "FOUNDING FATHERS AND MOTHERS: African American Settlement in the Post-Manumission Period - Town of Huntington, New York. 1790-1870"; Huntington. NY, March 19. 2008.

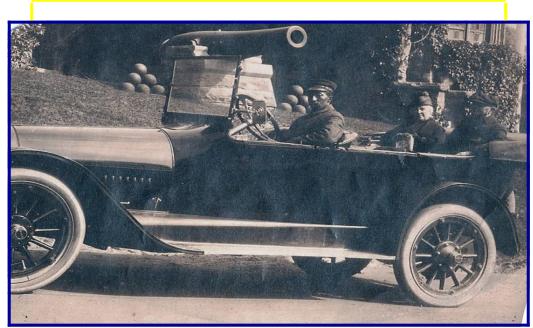
#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The African American Historic Designation Council (AAHDC) would like to extend sincere appreciation to those individuals who contributed their time and effort in helping to ensure the successful completion of this booklet. Special thanks to Councilwoman Glenda Jackson; AAHDC members; Robert Hughes, Town Historian; Charla Bolton and Rex Metcalf, Huntington Historic Preservation Commission members; the Huntington Historic Society; Susannah Mrazek; Thelma Jackson-Abidally; and the Town of Huntington Printing Office.

## A COMPILATION OF AFRICAN AMERICANS AND HISTORIC SITES IN THE TOWN OF HUNTINGTON

**PRESENTED BY** 

THE AFRICAN AMERICAN
HISTORIC DESIGNATION COUNCIL (AAHDC)





VOLUME III
TOWN OF HUNTINGTON
NEW YORK
FEBRUARY 2010

#### PETER J. NEWMAN

by Irene Moore



Peter J. Newman was appointed District Court Judge by Suffolk County Executive Patrick Halpin in March 1989. Later that year, Newman received bi-partisan support to become the first African American candidate elected District Court Judge town-wide in the 300 year history of the Town of Huntington. Judge Newman retired from that position in 1997. Newman's reputation for scholarship and fairness as a no-nonsense Judge followed a lifelong career in law enforcement and jurisprudence. He attributes his success to others too numerous to name; however, he states that he would be remiss if he did not mention and give credit to three individuals who assisted in making his judgeship possible, namely, Paul Johnson, Joe DeVincent, and the late William Brazier.

Prior to becoming District Court Judge in Huntington, Peter Newman was a defense attorney in private practice for twenty-six years. While in private practice, Newman challenged the fairness of the Suffolk County's Jury Selection Process. At the conclusion of an evidentiary hearing, the court concluded that the Office of the Suffolk County Commissioner of Jurors, intentionally, deliberately and illegally discriminated against young African Americans in the selection of jurors. This precedent setting case resulted in the County revamping its procedure in selecting jurors, and in so doing, reduced racial discrimination in jury selection.

Some of Newman's accomplishments during his tenure as a judge included: winning a precedent setting case that established a new law in Suffolk County that protected homeowners, many of whom are minorities, from inequitable foreclosure proceedings by County Government; and chairing the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Bust Acquisition Committee, which was responsible for placing a seven foot bust of Dr. King in the Suffolk County's H. Lee Dennison Building in Hauppauge, New York on January 15, 1992.

In 1975, Newman served as Chief of the District Court Bureau, becoming the first African American to serve in the history of the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office. He served in that capacity until 1978 when he resumed his private practice.

#### **PETER J. NEWMAN** (Continued)



In 1964, Newman received a bit of notoriety when he traveled to Birmingham, Alabama to test

the Public Accommodations Clause of the Civil Rights Act and registered in a downtown Birmingham hotel. This was a first for Birmingham and perhaps for Alabama. During the 1960s, in the capacity of attorney for the NAACP, Newman handled a case that led to the Amityville Volunteer Fire Department accepting an African American as a volunteer fireman. This was a first and opened the door for the subsequent integration of African Americans as volunteers in Fire Departments throughout Suffolk County.

Some of Judge Newman's past affiliations include: member of the NAACP Central Long Island Branch, NAACP Huntington Branch's Advisor; Suffolk County Criminal Bar Association; Suffolk Black Bar Association (Amistad) and one of its founders; New York State Conference of NAACP Branches; American Legion of Suffolk County; Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Catholic Church; Wyandanch, North and West Babylon Kiwanis Club (Played a key role in purchasing and putting into operation the Wyandanch Rescue Ambulance); Congressman Bob Mrazek's Task Force on Drug Abuse, and Belmont Lake Civic Association. Some of his awards include: Honorary Guardian of the Year, Long Island Guardians; Exemplary Leadership, Suffolk County Black Caucus; Outstanding Achievements as Pro Bono Attorney, Suffolk County Bar Association; Community Achievement, Grace Church; Outstanding Service as Kiwanis Club President and Treasurer; Man of the Year, Chi Rho Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, and others too numerous to mention.

Judge Newman graduated from New York University with a B. S. degree in Accounting and from Brooklyn Law School with a L.L.B. He is also a graduate of the U.S. Treasury Law Enforcement Officers Training School in Washington, D.C.

He and his wife Jane Newman, former residents of Dix Hills, New York, relocated to Cape Cod, Massachusetts. They are the proud parents of three children: Debra, a retired Assistant U.S. Attorney, presently teaching special education; Dr. Lisa Newman, Director of the Breast Cancer Clinic at Medical Center at the University of Michigan, and Peter, Jr., employed in the private sector. They have two grandchildren: Anthony, a student at St. Francis College, and Robert, a student in Michigan's public school system. (1)

#### THOMAS WATKINS

by Gennifer Ellis and Irene Moore

Thomas Watkins was born in Aquebogue, New York in 1917. He attended Roanoke Elementary and Riverhead High Schools, and graduated from Riverhead High School with the class of 1936, the last class to graduate from the

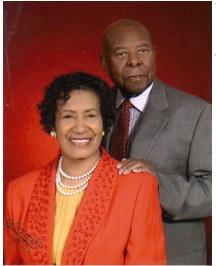


old school. He is the son of Thomas and Sally Watkins, formerly of Virginia. He is the brother of Howard, Ralph, Dora, and Grace Watkins. He is the stepbrother of Kathleen, Barbara, Adeline, and Jenny.

Thomas was drafted on 10 November 1942 at Camp Upton which is now the site of Brookhaven National Laboratory.(2) He trained at Fort McClellan in Alabama, and Camp Robertson in Arkansas. He was assigned during World War II to the all-black 92<sup>nd</sup> Infantry (part of the Buffalo Soldiers, a superb group, who fought in the Indian Wars of the American West, the Spanish American War of 1898, WWI, and WWII), and stationed in Italy where 616 black soldiers were killed in action and 2,187 were wounded. (3) Thomas was stationed 40 miles north of Genoa and his Infantry fought at the Arnold River Crossing. He mentioned that the black soldiers were treated poorly in Italy by the Germans and the Italians. One of the highlights of his stay in Italy was being selected to attend the Opera, which he

enjoyed. Thomas was honorably discharged in January 1946 after more than three years of service.

Mr. Watkins secured a job at Northport Veterans Affairs Medical Center and the F. A. A. Eastern Region Federal Credit Union in Melville, where he would spend the next forty years of his life serving in several capacities. Initially, he commuted from Riverhead to Northport but moved to Huntington in 1948. After retiring from the Northport V. A., he continued to assist with the Credit Union for many years. He was hired as an evening foreman with the Town of Huntington and retired after twenty years of service, with a total of sixty years of work experience.



Thomas, an avid golfer in his leisure time, caddied for Arnold Palmer when he played on Long Island.

Thomas is currently the oldest member at the Bethel A.M.E. Church. He is an honorary trustee, former class leader, and a member of the Lay Organization, and Senior Choir. He received a commendation from President Barack Obama and was recognized at a recent celebration for seniors at Bethel. He is married to Emma Yount Alston Watkins formerly of Lenoir, North Carolina, where she graduated from Freedman High School. Emma, a C.W. Post graduate, retired from Huntington Hospital Laboratory Department after twenty years of service in 2007. She is proud of her position at Bethel A.M.E. Church as President of the Missionary Board for more than eighteen years. She is also President of the Stewardess Board, former Sunday School Teacher, and member of the Tabernacle Choir.

Thomas and Emma, residents of Huntington, New York, are proud of their children: Jesse, Karen, Norman, Robert, and Oscar Ronald, as well as their grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. (4) "I'm just a Buffalo Soldier in the heart of America, Stolen from Africa, brought to America, Said he was fighting for arrival, fighting for survival; Said he was a Buffalo Soldier, win the war for America." Bob Marley (5)

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM HUNTINGTON'S AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORIC DESIGNATION COUNCIL (AAHDC) 2010 EXHIBIT HUNTINGTON TRAIN STATION



### HIGHLIGHTS FROM HUNTINGTON'S AFRICAN AMERICAN

### **HISTORIC DESIGNATION COUNCIL 2010 EXHIBIT**

**HUNTINGTON TRAIN STATION** 

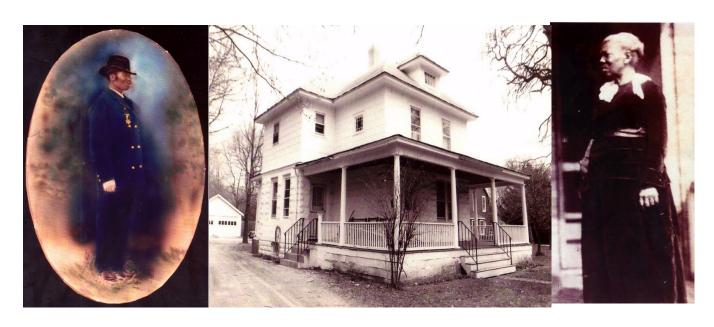
January 2010 - April 2010



**PICTURE OF OLD EVERGREEN** 



**PICTURE OF CURRENT EVERGREEN** 



BALLTON AND HIS WIFE ANN REBECCA. ALSO PICTURED IS THE HOUSE HE BUILT, IN WHICH THE COUPLE CELEBRATED THEIR 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY.

### **ABRAM ALLEN STOKELY**

### Early Bethel A.M.E. Church Trustee

### By Charla E. Bolton

Abram Allen Stokely was one of five Trustees elected at the second incorporation, on March 13, 1854, of the Bethel A.M.E. Church, Park Avenue, Huntington, then known as the First African Methodist Episcopal Church. The following is a recounting of the life of Abram Allen Stokely as it is presently documented. Abram Allen Stokely, also known as Allen Stokely, originally called Abram Stockley, was born free on June 7, 1806 in Accomack County, Virginia, located on Virginia's Eastern Shore. Based on research conducted there by the author, it is most likely that he was born to Lucy Stockley, a slave freed



Contemporary view Kendal Stockley Plantation

on January 27, 1789, by Kendal Stockley. Kendal Stockley owned a total of 10 slaves, 5 over the age of 16 according to a count contained in the 1787 Census of Virginia.

Noted on a partition survey dated December 17, 1807, the land is located west of the present day village of Withams, and slightly northeast of the village of Jenkins Bridge, on the north and south sides of Withams Road. Much of the Stockley plantation is still farmed, although there is no evidence of the original main house or other structures.

According to Kendal Stockley's (in some documents spelled Stokely) Deed of Manumission, Lucy was 25 when she was freed, and approximately 42 years old when Abram Allen was born. His father thus far has not been conclusively identified, although Isaac Stockley, later freed from the same plantation, and Judd Stockley, listed as Free Negro in the 1800 Federal Census, appear to be possibilities.

No record of Lucy Stockley is found in the Accomack County records until she is enumerated in the 1820 Federal Census, as head of a household of two males under the age of 14, 1 female between 14 and 26 and 1 female 45 plus. One of the 2 males under age 14 is most likely Abram. He would have been close to 14 at the time the census was taken in 1820.

In 1823, Abram Stockley was deposed, as was a James Stockley, possibly Abram's brother, as well as Lucy Stockley in a murder trial. Mary Stockley is mentioned in Abram's deposition. All three were witnesses to a murder that took place in and around the Wagram Mill Pond and storehouse. (Accomack

### **ABRAM ALLEN STOKELY (Continued)**

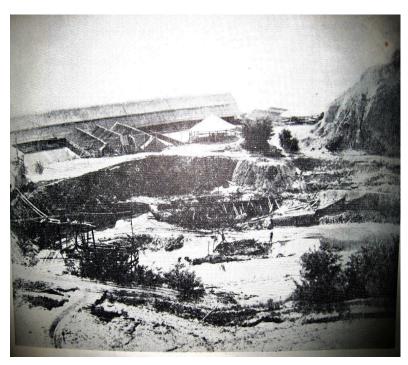


Historic view of Wagram Mill, Wagram, VA

Court Orders, 1822-1824,4/10/1823, 187). Wagram was a small village located on the Maryland-Virginia border about a mile west of present day Route 13, and about 3.5 miles from the Kendall Stockley plantation. Photographs of the Wagram Mill (also known as Dennis' Mill) and storehouse survive in the photographic collection at the Eastern Shore Public Library, in Accomack, Virginia.

It appears that Lucy, James, Abram and Mary were living together as a household in Wagram, and Isaac Stockley was their nearest neighbor based on the order of

the 1820 Census enumeration. The mill and storehouse may have supplied some form of employment to sustain their family, but the Census does not detail occupational classifications until 1840,



Crossman Brickyard, circa 1900, West Neck, Huntington, NY

which leaves occupation as well as other details of Abram's family a mystery. This is the last known record of Abram Allen Stokely in Accomack County.

Between 1823 and 1832 there is no known record of his life. Stokely began working at the Crossman Brickyards in West Neck, Huntington, on April 28, 1832. At that time, he would have been about 26 years old. Also working at the brickyards when he started, were at least two other Accomack free blacks, George and Levin Nedab (also called Medad) and several white men from Accomack County—Harvey Bloxom (also spelled Blocksome),

Samuel Riggs, William Brimer, Richard Sparrow and James Crowson.

Stokely most likely was "recruited" by Sparrow and Crowson, to whom Gilbert Crossman Sr. had tendered a Letter of Interest to take to Modest Town, in Accomack County in October 1827. Modest Town, although miniscule by today's standards, was the third largest town in Accomack County in 1830.

### **ABRAM ALLEN STOKELY** (Continued)

Abram married Louisa E. Mills in or about the year 1835. According to Louisa's obituary in the *Long Islander*, she was born at Jerusalem (Wantagh/Island Trees), Long Island and came to Huntington as a young child. Louisa was about age 20 when they married. George A. Mills is indicated as the brother of Abram's wife Louisa. George Mills began working at the brickyard in the spring of 1830. He was also elected a trustee of the Bethel A.M.E. Church at its 2<sup>nd</sup> incorporation in1854. Undoubtedly George Mills introduced his sister Louisa to Abram Allen. A number of references in the Crossman Account records indicate that Allen Stokely and George Mills worked together at various labors.

Stokely was not enumerated in the 1840 Census of Huntington. However, the Crossman accounts indicate that he was living at the brickyards. There are entries in the account books regarding the payment of house rent through April 2, 1855, and numerous examples of food, clothing and household items obtained at the company store.

By 1840, there were indications that Stokely was beginning to have a more autonomous life as a laborer at the brickyards. The accounts list such items as "Feb 28- by 1/3 days labor found himself," "March 12- by 5 days labor 4/ found himself," and "March 18 by 3 ½ days work (boarding himself)." One interesting item notes "cash for liverwort," suggesting that Stokely may have been suffering from a liver ailment. Liverwort was traditionally used for treating liver complaints.

An item in *The Long Islander* dated November 26, 1841 highlights the prodigious amount of work done by the men working for Gilbert Crossman:

A few days since, two colored men in the employ of Mr. Gilbert Crossman, of this Town, named George Mills and Allen Stokely, husked and placed in a wagon, from sun to sun,100 bushels of corn each. This is the greatest day's work we have heard of...and we doubt if it can be beaten.

This news item corroborates the close working relationship between Allen Stokely and George Mills.

By 1850 Stokely, aged 43, is enumerated in the vicinity of Cold Spring Harbor Village, not only with his own large family consisting of his wife, Louisa, aged 34, and five daughters, but with two other families as well: Clarissa Mills, Louisa's mother, aged 59, the head of a separate household of three, and Julia Jackson, aged 42, with a household of 11 children. A total of 21 persons are living under the same roof, although possibly in divided quarters. Stokely's oldest daughter, Mary J., is 14 at the time of the 1850 census, placing her birth when Abram was approximately 29 and his wife, Louisa, about 20.

### **ABRAM ALLEN STOKELY** (Continued)

For most of the 1850s, he continued to work at the brickyards. The last entry in the Crossman Account records mentions that he was paid for shearing sheep on June 7, 1859. Sheep shearing appears to be a job given to older workers, who could no longer do the heavier work involved in brick making, or farm labor.

By 1860, Stokely's family had grown to include three sons, as well as his wife Louisa E., aged 44, and his five daughters. He had moved to the vicinity of Main Street, Huntington Village, near Ezra Prime's thimble factory, which was located on the northwest corner of Spring Road and Main Street. Prime's house was located in what is now Heckscher Park, facing Main Street. Stokely's occupation is listed as farm laborer, and his wife's as "washer & ironer." His age is 54.

Stokely died on May 1, 1864, at the age of 57 years, 10 months and 24 days. His headstone inscription reads, "Happy Soul! The dawn ended." His wife, Louisa, about 18 years after his death, married William Edward Taylor. She and two daughters, and a son are also buried in the A.M.E. Cemetery. A single marker includes all of their names. The marker indicates that Louisa was born on October 16, 1816, and died on Feb. 25, 1896. His daughter, Mary J. Stokeley, born Sept. 24, 1835, died on Feb. 11, 1897; his daughter, Catherine L. Stokeley, was born Nov. 8, 1849, and died Dec. 28, 1899. His son, Isaac A. Stokeley, born Dec 24, 1855, died September 26, 1894. The children's grave marker spells the name Stokeley rather than Stokely as on Abram Allen's marker. The headstone inscription is "Jesus Doeth All Things Well." These burials, long after the death of Abram Allen, suggest the family's continued involvement with the A.M.E. Church. (6) For space reasons a list of sources is not included, but is available from the author upon request, through the Huntington Town Historian's Office, 228 Main Street, Huntington, 631-351-3244. (6)





### THE OLD BURYING GROUND CLEAN-UP CREW—October 31, 2009 SPONSORED BY COUNCILWOMAN SUSAN BERLAND





### TOWN OF HUNTINGTON

### **AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY TOURS**

**SPONSORED BY** 

# THE TOWN OF HUNTINGTON AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORIC DESIGNATION COUNCIL THE OLD BURYING GROUND

(RAIN OR SHINE)

SATURDAY, MAY 8, 2010 AND SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2010

### WALKING TOUR STARTS AT 2:00 PM AND LASTS ABOUT ONE HOUR

ASSEMBLE AT THE SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MEMORIAL BUILDING

228 MAIN STREET, HUNTINGTON, NEW YORK

HUNDREDS OF AFRICAN AMERICANS ARE BURIED HERE AMONG HUNTINGTON'S EARLY RESIDENTS. THEY INCLUDE THE FIRST RECORDED AFRICAN AMERICAN, WHO ARRIVED HERE IN 1657, A REVOLUTIONARY CELEBRITY CALLED "THE MAN WITH THE BULLET PROOF HEAD" AND A CHURCH FOUNDER, WHO WAS THE LAST AFRICAN AMERICAN TO BE INTERRED HERE. THESE EARLY RESIDENTS ARE PART OF A SIGNIFICANT ASPECT OF THE HISTORY OF HUNTINGTON.

TOUR GUIDE, REX METCALF

### THE VILLAGE GREEN

(RAIN OR SHINE)

SUNDAY, MAY 16, 2010 AND SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2010

### WALKING TOUR STARTS AT 2:00 PM AND LASTS ABOUT TWO HOURS

ASSEMBLE AT THE HUNTINGTON TOWN HALL PARKING LOT, 100 MAIN STREET

ONE QUARTER OF THE EARLY AFRICAN AMERICAN POPULATION OF HUNTINGTON LIVED HERE AT THE "TOWN SPOT", WHICH SERVED AS THE CENTER OF COMMUNITY LIFE FOR TWO CENTURIES. MANY AFRICAN AMERICAN LANDMARKS AND SITES ARE LOCATED IN THIS HISTORIC DISTRICT AND THEY REFLECT THE AFRICAN AMERICAN PRESENCE AND EXPERIENCE IN HUNTINGTON FROM THE EARLY SETTLEMENT TO THE PRESENT DAY.

TOUR GUIDE, REX METCALF

### ALBERT IRVINGTON FOULKE AND

### **LOTTIE MAE SMITH-FOULKE**

By Irene Moore





Albert Irvington Foulke, patriarch of the Foulke family was born in Smithtown, New York on May 10, 1884. Albert is the son of James H. Foulke formerly of Virginia and Emma Floyd of Smithtown, LI. He had two sisters, Edith and Daisy Foulke; and one brother, John. According to the 1900 Census, Daisy Folk (Foulke) was born in 1886 in Smithtown, New York. She lived with Ethelbert Arthur, a local merchant, and his wife Ellen and their children: Ethel, May, and Lawrence. Her occupation was listed as attending school. In the 1920 Census, she was enumerated as a member of Edwin and Mary B. Rowley's household and her occupation was listed as a servant for a private family. It is not clear where Ethel and John were living at that time.

Emma Floyd was enumerated under Free Inhabitants in the town of Smithtown 1860 census at age ten with her parents Silas Floyd, age 50, Lydia Floyd, age 45, and her sister Isabella Floyd, age 12. (7) Silas Floyd was also enumerated in the township of Smithtown 1840 census under free colored persons with a total of 4 in his household, 2 males under ten, one male between twenty-four and thirty-six, and one female between ten and twenty-four. (8)

Lottie, matriarch of the family was born in Northport, New York in 1890. She is the daughter of Elliot Randolf Smith and Dolly Anne Newins-Smith of Smithtown. (9) Albert was united in marriage to Lottie

Mae Smith on June 3, 1909 in Northport, New York. Reverend Chas. E. Cragg officiated at their wedding. Albert and Lottie had ten children: Lillian M., Bessie E., Albert I. Jr., James Harold, Mildred M., Elinora (Eleanor), Arthur, Charles, Richard Edward, and Marjorie. Albert filed a World War I Draft Registration Card on September 15, 1918 at the age of thirty-four. He and Lottie were proficient in reading and writing. (10)

Albert (Fluke) Foulke, his Wife Lottie, and their daughter Lillian are listed in the 1910 Census as residents of Northport Village. Albert's occupation is listed as a chauffeur (as indicated in the picture on the cover page) for a private family, and his wife Lottie, a housewife. They lived with Lottie's parents and her brother Royal Smith. Lottie's father's occupation was also listed as a chauffeur and her brother's occupation was listed as a laborer. In the 1920 census, Albert and Lottie are listed as residents of Huntington Village with their children: Lillian M., Bessie E., Albert I. Jr., James Harold, and Mildred M. His occupation is also listed as a chauffeur for a private family. (11) In the 1930 census, Albert and Lottie are listed as residents in the Village of Northport with their children: Bessie E., Albert I. Jr., James Harold, Mildred M., Elinora (Eleanor), Arthur, Charles and Richard Edwards. Albert's occupation is

### ALBERT IRVINGTON FOULKE AND LOTTIE MAE SMITH-FOULKE (continued)



168 Bayview Avenue, Northport, N.Y



806 Fort Salonga Road, Northport, N.Y

listed as a chauffeur for a lumber yard. Their daughter Lillian M. is listed with er husband James L. Green formerly of Virginia, and their son Lloyd (Loyd) Albert. James occupation is listed as a herdsman for a cattle farm. William Carlson (age 42) formerly of Virginia is listed with the family as a boarder and his occupation is listed as a laborer for a private estate. (12)

Arthur Foulke, Albert and Lottie's son stated that in addition to working as a chauffeur for many years, his father was a truck driver for the Brush Lumber Company and drove a school bus for the Northport School District until his death in 1945. Lottie died in 1976. Arthur, a World War II veteran, served in England, France and Germany. He is retired and lives with his wife Mary Ellen in Amityville, New York. (13)

In an interview with Michele Foulke and Gloria H. Green, Albert and Lottie's granddaughters, they stated that for many years the Foulke Family lived along the waterfront of Northport Village at 168 Bayview Avenue, a rental property owned by the Brush Family who also lived on Bayview Avenue. After the death of Albert I. Sr., the family moved to 806 Fort Salonga Road in 1946. They also said their grandparents, Albert and Lottie; aunts, Lillian Green, and Bessie Hendrickson; uncle, Ben Hendrickson; older sister, Barbara (Foulke) Wilson; cousins, Gloria H. Green, Benjamin Green, Edward Green and Betty Ann Green attended Allen A.M.E. Church located on Church

Street, now a private residence. Some of their family members attended the local elementary school and graduated from Northport High School formerly located at 158 Laurel Avenue, the current location of the William J. Bronsan School which houses the Northport School District Central Administration Office. Northport High School is currently located on Laurel Hill Road. (14)

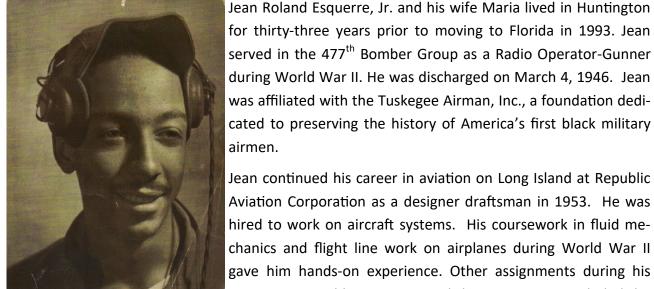
Their grandparents Albert I. and Lottie along with an aunt, and uncle are buried in the Genola Cemetery located at 140 Laurel Avenue in East Northport. They are currently researching the family records and believe that there may be other unidentified family members buried there without grave markers in the open space near the family site.

Michele states that at a recent family reunion at Belmont State Park, more than one hundred and fifty family members attended from the Towns of Huntington, Babylon, various other locations throughout New York State, Virginia, Georgia and Florida. She attributes her family perseverance, and survival oftentimes against the odds to the love that was always prevalent when you walked through the doors of her Grandparents' home. In closing she said: "We cherish our resilience, honor our grandparents, parents, aunts, and uncles too numerous to name and find comfort within the embrace of our family where love, acceptance, and strength give us a renewed sense of purpose." (15)

### **EXCERPTS FROM THE JEAN ROLAND ESQUERRE STORY**

Written by Jean Roland Esquerre for the Long Island Forum in the spring of 1990

Submitted by: Irene Moore



Jean Roland Esquerre, Jr. and his wife Maria lived in Huntington for thirty-three years prior to moving to Florida in 1993. Jean served in the 477<sup>th</sup> Bomber Group as a Radio Operator-Gunner during World War II. He was discharged on March 4, 1946. Jean was affiliated with the Tuskegee Airman, Inc., a foundation dedicated to preserving the history of America's first black military airmen.



hired to work on aircraft systems. His coursework in fluid mechanics and flight line work on airplanes during World War II gave him hands-on experience. Other assignments during his tenure at Republic as a principal design engineer included design work in the Hydraulics Group on the original F-105's, Republic's newest Air Force fighter, working on fluid systems for rocket engines for the Aviation programs in the Missile Division, the Swallow drone, the pinch plasma engine, and supersonic aircraft systems. Additionally Jean worked as a job shopper for the Atlantic Design Company at AMF Corporation in Connecti-

Jean was approached by Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation through Oswald Williams, a former neighbor, who with Douglas Watson, both African Americans, had designed the P-47D during World War II. Grumman at that time had just gotten the contract to build Lunar Modules and was in need of experi-

enced engineering and technical staff with supersonic and space experience. Jean's prior experience for the Atlantic Design Company at AMF on the Minuteman and Atlas Missiles and his extensive experience as a principal design engineer at Republic made him an excellent candidate for the job. Grumman hired Mr. Esquerre as a Fluid Power Design Engineer, first in the ground support area; then Ozzie Williams facilitated his transfer to the Reaction Control System Department that he was managing. Jean became Assistant Test Director, then Test Director of the LEM-4 space vehicle, the first lunar module to circle the moon; ultimately becoming the Cognizant Systems Engineer for all the LEM vehicles. After his supervisor Mr. Williams moved on to marketing, he replaced him as supervisor of Reaction Control Subsystems Design and Installation.

### **EXCERPTS FROM THE JEAN ROLAND ESQUERRE STORY** (Continued)

During that time Grumman had committed to having an Equal Employment Affirmative Action Program to ensure compliance with the Federal Government regulations' for contractors. Jean was asked to assist with developing the program which was accepted by the company.

He was then asked to run it with a staff of whom he credited with making it succeed, especially Bill Voorhest. Jean stated that immediately after, the company began to see the benefits of the programs both to the employees and to the company. Jean served on the Board of Directors at Grumman and later on several other Grumman Corporation subsidiaries until his retirement in 1987.

One of the highlights of Jean's career was assisting with developing, and providing oversight for the Equal Employment Affirmative Action Program at Grumman. It helped him to realize that in spite of racism and the inhuman treatments he experienced in the military from those he was fighting with and for, that there was still hope in America. Another project he took pride in was his affiliations with the national and local chapters of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. He was also President of the Suncoast Chapter of the Grumman Retiree Club.

Jean was active in the Huntington community. He served on the Huntington Hospital Board of Directors, and on the NAACP Huntington Branch's Executive Committee. He reached out to youth council members and made presentations on the role that black airmen played in the history of Aviation. He continued to do community service after his retirement and was also active in the Tampa community. He did volunteer work for Village Presbyterian Church and served on several committees including: Promise Keepers; Mission of Evangelist Men of the Church; Veterans Relief Fund; Urban League Task Force; the Seminole Heights Community Center; and the Chappie James Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. As



indicated in the picture below presenting former President Ronald Reagan with a Tuskegee Airman's jacket, Jean was recognized by Reagan for his commitment to making the world a better place to live in for all. A synopsis of his life was included in the obituaries section of Newsday, on July 4, 2009.

Mr. Esquerre was born in Yonkers, New York in December 1923. He is the son of Jean and Marie Esquerre. He graduated from P.S. 31, Clark Junior

High and Morris High Schools in the Bronx. Jean is also a graduate of Empire State College. He and his wife Maria have two children, Johanna and Malin Elisabeth. Jean died at age 85 of Alzheimer's disease on June 27, 2009, at Sun City Center Hospice in Ruskin, Florida. (16)

### 1006 NEW YORK AVENUE - ODD FELLOWS-BALLTON HALL

by Irene Moore and Robert Hughes

The following summary is based on information taken from the 1880 U.S. Census along with a telephone interview conducted in the spring of 2008 by Irene Moore with Richard H. Robertson, III, the great grandnephew of Charles and Bertha Ballton, and research conducted at the Suffolk County Clerks' office, as well as data taken from *The Long Islander* by Robert Hughes, Huntington Town Historian.



Located in Huntington Station less than one mile from the Long Island Rail Road train station on the right of New York Avenue; sits Brothers Barber Shop formerly known as Odd Fellows Hall, and later named Ballton Hall after former owners Charles H. and Bertha I. Ballton. Charles is the second son of Samuel and Ann Rebecca Ballton formerly of Westmoreland County, Virginia. Samuel Ballton, a prominent farmer, builder, and entrepreneur was called the "Pickle King" of Greenlawn because of the enormous amount of pickles he harvested in one season, said to be over 1.5 million. As indicated in the 1880 Census, Charles was born in approximately 1868, and Bertha was born in 1873. Charles was known as one of the wealthiest African American

businessmen in the Town of Huntington. In addition to owning Odd Fellows-Ballton Hall, he and his wife Bertha owned Rosetta Hall on Church Street and property on Spring Road. Rosetta Hall housed at different times a dance hall, restaurant, barber shop, and a pool room with apartments on the top floors. He also owned a moving and trucking company along with a sand, gravel, and refuse removal business.

Ideally located in the heart of Huntington Station, Odd Fellows-Ballton Hall served as the meeting place and center for social activities for African Americans in the Town. The trolley car traveling from Halesite to Amityville, with a stop in front of Ballton Hall, was the major source of transportation for African Americans. The hall was used as a meeting place for fraternity and sorority organizations including the Masons, and the Elks. It was also used for church gatherings, Boy Scout meetings, Odd Fellows meetings, as well as social groups. The Boy Scouts, an all black group known as unit #106 was headed by McKinley Jones, Scout Leader. Richard H. Robertson, III, the first African American policeman in the town of Huntington was a member of that unit. Currently the building houses a barber shop with apartments in the rear of the building and on the second floor. (17)

On October 12, 1906, Louis M. Brush filed a map with the Suffolk County Clerk for a large tract of land on the east side of New York Avenue south of Olive Street. The subdivision of 337 lots was known as Highland Park. The subject property, 1006 New York Avenue, is comprised of lots 31 and 32 of the subdivision. On August 23, 1909, Brush conveyed lots 31 and 32 to Charles W. Fox (Liber 708. page 563). Shortly thereafter, on September 4, 1909, Fox conveyed the property to Emma Paulding pending

### **1006 NEW YORK AVENUE – ODD FELLOWS-BALLTON HALL** (Continued)

payment of a \$2,000 loan due on September 4, 1912 at

an interest rate of 6%. Under the term of the transaction, Fox was obligated to insure the buildings on the property, indicating that buildings existed in 1909. Although the 1909 atlas does not show any buildings on the property, an item in *The Long Islander* October 2, 1909 edition indicates that Mr. and Mrs. Jurgensmaier had broken ground on a new residence in Highland Park. The 1917 atlas identifies the owner of the property to the south of the subject property as Jurgensmaier. Neither structure is shown on the 1909 atlas, but both appear on the 1917 atlas. The reference in the mortgage and the development of the adjoining property point to a construction date of about 1909 for the subject premises...the same date as the new Huntington train station built a few blocks to the south. (18)

Over the next decade, the property changed hands several times among the children of builder George W. Fox. (19) Charles Fox sold the property to Elizabeth B. Gardiner. (20) Elizabeth then sold the property to Oscar W. Fox (21), who transferred it back to her. (22) Finally, she transferred it back to Oscar W. Fox one last time. (23) The property left the family in 1917 when Oscar Fox sold it to Cecelia Kehoe. (24) Apparently, George Fox had given the purchasers a loan to purchase the property and they defaulted ending in foreclosure and sale of the property. (25) However, it appears that the original mortgage from Emma Paulding had never been satisfied. An action between Emma Paulding and members of the Fox family resulted in a judgment for Paulding in the amount of \$2,532.36 and the transfer of ownership of the property to George Fox (Liber 965, page 477). George Fox then sold the property to Charles H. Ballton on April 19, 1920 (Liber 997, page 366).

The deed refers to a \$2,000 mortgage, but the earlier mortgage had been discharged and no record of a mortgage given by Charles Ballton was found in the County Court records. Less than two years later Ballton conveyed the property to John H. Plummer, George Allen and Charles H. Ballton as trustees of the Crispus Attucks Lodge No. 9055 of the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows on December 31, 1921 for \$3,200 (Liber 1033, page 595). The Grand United Order of Odd Fellows was a fraternal organization first chartered in this country in 1843 when a lodge in Philadelphia was established with a charter from the



Charles H. Ballton

Grand Lodge in Manchester, England. In this country African Americans generally were members of the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows and whites were members of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Crispus Attucks, for whom the Huntington lodge was named, was one of the five people killed in the Boston Massacre in 1770. (26)

On January 17, 1945, the trustees of the Lodge (Charles Ballton, President; John Plummer, Secretary; and George Allen) conveyed the property to Max and Clara Herman for \$3,875 (Liber 2419, page 139). Following Max Herman's death in February 1965, Sam Raskin, as executor of the estate sold the property to Brun-Wal Corp. of 780 New York Avenue (Liber 5764, page 1574). The corporation than conveyed the property to James F. Straub on

December 22, 1970 (Liber 6860, page 301). Straub conveyed the property to the current owner, Rehab Investors, on May 25, 1979 (Liber 8670, page). (27)

### **SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY AND ARTICLES**

- (1) Excerpts taken from documents submitted by former Judge Peter J. Newman.
- (2) National Archives and Records Administration. U.S. World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946, Provo, UT. The Generations Network. Inc., 2005.

  Ancestry.com
- (3) www.The Buffalo Soldiers National Museum, circa 1866.
- (4) Interview with Thomas and Emma Watkins on October 29, 2009.
- (5) <u>www.last.fm/music/bob+marley</u> Excerpts from Bob Marley & The Wailers Buffalo Soldier from Legend.
- (6) For space reasons a list of sources is not included, but is available from the author upon request through the Huntington Town Historian's Office, 228 Main Street, Huntington, New York, 631-351-3244.
- (7) 1860 Census. Ancestry.com
- (8) 1840 Census. Ancestry.com
- (9) Inset from the Town of Huntington: Marriages Volume 1908 1922.
- (10) National Archives and Records Administration. U. S. World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918, Provo, UT. Ancestry.com
- (11) 1920 Census. Ancestry.com
- (12) 1930 Census. Ancestry.com
- (13) Interview with Arthur Foulke, Albert and Lottie's son.
- (14) Interview with Michele Foulke and Gloria H. Green, Albert and Lottie's granddaughters.
- (15) Interview with Michele Foulke, Albert and Lottie's granddaughter.
- (16) Excerpts taken from The Jean Roland Esquerre Story written by Jean Roland Esquerre for the Long Island Forum in the spring of 1990. Submitted by Irene Moore.
- (17) 1880 U.S. Census and excerpts from interview during spring 2008 with Richard H. Robertson, III, by Irene Moore.

### **SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY AND ARTICLES**

- (18) Research conducted at the Suffolk County's Clerk Office by Robert Hughes, Town Historian on July 7, 2008.
- (19) George W. Fox had six children, Chauncey, Harry, Charles, Oscar, Lillian and Elizabeth. (*The Long Islander*, October 31, 1924, page 8). Elizabeth is identified as Elizabeth Romano in an item in *The Long Islander*, November 30, 1923, page 8, and a year later as Elizabeth Gardiner, *The Long Islander*, December 5, 1924, page 18.
- (20 27) For space reason, a list of sources is not included; however, sources are available in the Town of Huntington's Historian Office.

### **PHOTOGRAPH CAPTIONS AND CREDITS**

Front Cover	Albert I. Foulke, chauffeur for the Arthurs. Picture taken on Main Street in Huntington Village in front of the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building. Courtesy of the Foulke Family.
Page 34 - top c	Peter J. Newman. Courtesy of Peter J. Newman.
Page 35 - top c	Peter J. Newman. Courtesy of Peter J. Newman.
Page 36 - top I	Thomas Watkins. Courtesy of Thomas and Emma Watkins.
Page 36 - bottom l	Thomas and Emma Watkins. Courtesy of the Watkins Family.
Page 37 - top r	Bethel A.M.E. Church Historic Marker. Photograph by Irene Moore.
Page 37 - top I	Bethel A.M.E. Church. Photograph by Robert Hughes.
Page 37 - center r	Booker T. Washington House Historic Marker. Photograph by Irene Moore.
Page 37 - center l	Booker T. Washington House. Courtesy of Friends of Booker T. Washington House.
Page 37 - bottom r	The Coltrane Home Historic Marker. Photograph by Robert Hughes.
Page 37 - bottom l	The Coltrane Home. Photograph by Robert Hughes.
Page 38 - top c	Old Evergreen Missionary Baptist Church. Photograph by Irene Moore.
Page 38 - center c	Evergreen Missionary Baptist Church. Photograph by Irene Moore.
Page 38 - bottom	Samuel and Ann Rebecca Ballton with house they celebrated their 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary in. Courtesy of the Greenlawn-Centerport Historical Association.
Page 39 - center l	Contemporary view of Kendal Stockley Plantation. Courtesy of Charla Bolton.
Page 40 - top I	Historic view of Wagram Mill, Wagram, VA. Courtesy of Charla Bolton.
Page 40 - bottom I	Crossman Brickyards, circa 1900, West Neck, Huntington, N.Y. Courtesy of Charla Bolton.
Page 42 - bottom l	Tombstone of Abrams Allen Stokely. Courtesy of Charla Bolton.
Page 42 - bottom r	Tombstone of Abrams Allen Stokely's family. Courtesy of Charla Bolton.
Page 43 - top l	Old Burying Ground Clean-up Crew. Courtesy of Irene Moore.
Page 43 - bottom I	Bethel A.M.E. Church. Photograph by Robert Hughes.
Page 43 - bottom c	Rex Metcalf's house. Photograph by Rex Metcalf.
Page 43 - bottom r	First Presbyterian Church: Photograph extracted from <a href="https://www.oldfirstchurchhuntington.org">www.oldfirstchurchhuntington.org</a>

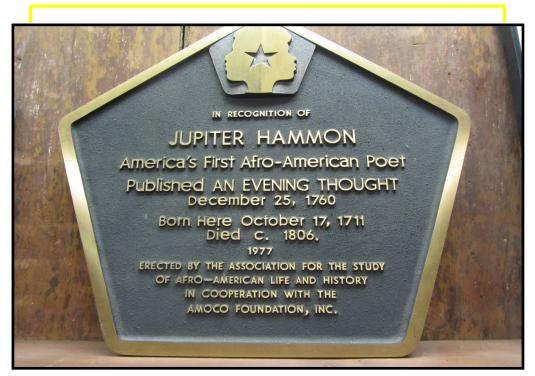
### **PHOTOGRAPH CAPTIONS AND CREDITS**

Page 45 - top l	Albert I. Foulke. Courtesy of Gloria H. Green.
Page 45 - center l	Lottie Smith-Foulke. Courtesy of Gloria H. Green.
Page 46 - top l	Albert I. and Lottie Foulke's house, 168 Bayview Avenue, Northport, N.Y. From lt.to rt.: Marjorie Foulke, Lloyd Green, Barbara Foulke, Gloria H. Green, and Betty Ann Green Courtesy of Gloria H. Green.
Page 46 - center l	Albert I. Jr. and Lottie Foulke's House, 806 Fort Salonga Road, Northport, N.Y. Courtesy of Gloria H. Green
Page 47 - top l	Jean Esquerre in Radio Operator - Gunner Uniform. Courtesy of Jean Esquerre Family.
Page 47 - center l	Jean Esquerre in uniform. Courtesy of Jean Esquerre Family.
Page 48 - bottom l	Jean Esquerre with former President Ronald Reagan. Courtesy of Jean Esquerre Family.
Page 49 - top I	Odd Fellows – Ballton Hall. Photograph by Irene Moore.
Page 50 - bottom l	Charles H. Ballton. Courtesy of the Greenlawn – Centerport Historical Association.

## THE AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORIC DESIGNATION COUNCIL (AAHDC)

**PRESENTS** 

# A TRIBUTE TO JUPITER HAMMON AMERICA'S FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN PUBLISHED POET





VOLUME IV
TOWN OF HUNTINGTON
NEW YORK
FEBRUARY 2011

### JUPITER HAMMON'S FIRST PUBLISHED POEM - DECEMBER 25, 1760

### "AN EVENING THOUGHT, SALVATION BY CHRIST WITH PENETENTIAL CRIES"

Salvation comes by Christ alone, The only Son of God; Redemption now to every one, That love his holy Word.

Dear Jesus, we would fly to Thee, And leave off every Sin, Thy tender Mercy well agree; Salvation from our King.

Salvation comes now from the Lord, Our victorious King; His holy Name be well ador'd, Salvation surely bring.

Dear Jesus, give thy Spirit now, Thy Grace to every Nation, That han't the Lord to whom we bow,

The Author of Salvation.

Dear Jesus, unto Thee we cry, Give us the Preparation; Turn not away thy tender Eye; We seek thy true Salvation.

Salvation comes from God we know, The true and only One; It's well agreed and certain true, He gave his only Son.

Lord, hear our penetential Cry: Salvation from above; It is the Lord that doth supply, With his Redeeming Love.

Dear Jesus, by thy precious Blood, The World Redemption have: Salvation now comes from the Lord, He being thy captive slave. Dear Jesus, let the Nations cry, And all the People say, Salvation comes from Christ on high, Haste on Tribunal Day.

We cry as Sinners to the Lord, Salvation to obtain; It is firmly fixed, his holy Word, Ye shall not cry in vain.

Dear Jesus, unto Thee we cry, And make our Lamentation: O let our Prayers ascend on high; We felt thy Salvation.

Lord, turn our dark benighted Souls; Give us a true Motion, And let the Hearts of all the World, Make Christ their Salvation.

Ten Thousand Angels cry to Thee, Yea, louder than the Ocean. Thou art the Lord, we plainly see; Thou art the true Salvation.

Now is the Day, excepted Time; The Day of the Salvation; Increase your Faith, do not repine: Awake ye, every Nation.

Lord, unto whom now shall we go, Or seek a safe abode? Thou has the Word Salvation Too, The only Son of God.

Ho! every one that hunger hath, Or pineth after me, Salvation be thy leading Staff, To set the Sinner free. Dear Jesus, unto Thee we fly; Depart, depart from Sin, Salvation doth at length supply, The Glory of our King.

Come, ye Blessed of the Lord, Salvation greatly given; O turn your Hearts, accept the Word, Your Souls are fit for Heaven.

Dear Jesus, we now turn to Thee, Salvation to obtain; Our Hearts and Souls do meet again, To magnify thy Name.

Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove, The Object of our Care; Salvation doth increase our Love; Our Hearts hath felt they fear.

Now Glory be to God on High, Salvation high and low; And thus the Soul on Christ rely, To Heaven surely go.

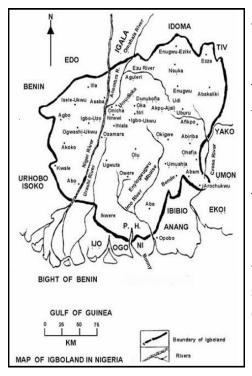
Come, Blessed Jesus, Heavenly Dove, Accept Repentance here; Salvation give, with tender Love; Let us with Angels share.

Finis

#### TRACING THE FAMILY OF JUPITER HAMMON

By Rex Metcalf and Charla Bolton

Jupiter Hammon is well known as America's First African American Published Poet. His literary work, however, is not the focus of this article. It focuses instead upon the history of his family from its West African origins through seven generations on Long Island. The Hammond family is one of the best documented African American families. Recent research has been intense and some of our latest discoveries are included here.



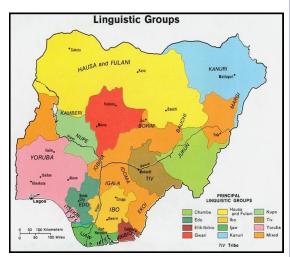
A comparison of plantation records with African trading company records, together with certain other evidence, has enabled us to piece together a glimpse into the lives of Jupiter's grandparents, Tamero and Oyo. Positive proofs are impossible, but based on extrapolation of the facts that we have, the following assumptions probably as close as we can get to their life story.

Tamero, the progenitor of the Hammond family, was born about 1650, probably among the Ibo people in the ethnic region of Igboland in eastern Nigeria, West Africa. He was likely enslaved by the Aro people, taken to the trading port of Old Calabar and transported on a Spanish slave ship to Havana, Cuba. He was baptized Catholic, given the name Tamero, and sold in c1665 to an English merchant named Thomas Rous, to work on a Barbados sugar plantation in which Rous was a partner.

Oyo, the wife of Tamero, was also born about 1650, but apparently in the kingdom of Oyo in the ethnic region of Yoruba land, in western Nigeria. Oyo was likely enslaved by the Fon people of Dahomey, taken to the trading port of Wydah and transported on an

English slave ship to Barbados. Among the English at this early period, some Africans were identified by ethnicity and place of embarkation, such as Oyo of Wydah. Oyo was sold in c1665, apparently to the same Thomas Rous.

In addition to the Barbados sugar plantation, the partnership also owned a provisioning plantation located on the east end of Long Island. Tamero and Oyo were transferred there, possibly by 1669, and were listed as husband and wife in the records of the Sylvester Manor. They raised four children and died there, apparently by 1697.



### TRACING THE FAMILY OF JUPITER HAMMON continued

It has long been assumed that Obium, the eldest son of Tamero and Oyo, was born at the Sylvester Manor in c1670. He was removed to Boston, MA in 1687 as the servant of James Lloyd, returned to Long Island in 1709 as the servant of Henry Lloyd and remained thereafter on the Lloyd Manor, adjoining the Town of Huntington. He apparently married his wife Rose there in 1710 and had sons Jupiter and Obediah.

Jupiter, the poet and eldest son of Obium and Rose, became butler and senior servant of the manor. Mr. Lloyd's second wife,

THE SYLVESTER MANOR HOUSE, SHELTER ISLAND. WHERE MY AUNTS LIVED—BUILT 1733.

NOW IN THE POSSESSION OF MISS CORNELIA HORSFORD, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Sylvester Manor House, Shelter Island - Built 1733, by Brinley Sylvester. Mary Dering, daughter of Brinley, inherited the Manor from her father. She was married to Thomas Dering of Boston, MA.

Mary, influenced Jupiter to become a profoundly devout Christian and lay preacher to the local community. He purchased a Bible via his master in 1733. Bibles printed at that time contained a glossary defining Hebrew and Classical words found in the text. We believe that Jupiter found his name listed as a synonym for salvation, along with the word hammon, listed as a synonym for preparation. He apparently adopted the name Jupiter Hammon (Salvation Preparation), perhaps thinking of it as



Amelia Lloyd House (1784), 187 Park Avenue, Huntington. Benjamin and Phoebe Hammond worked here for Mrs. Lloyd, until her death in 1818.

a perfect definition of himself. The Lloyds' referred to him by that name from then on.

Obediah, his brother, had a wife who has not been identified and children Richard, Cato and Ruth. After Jupiter adopted the surname Hammon, Obediah used Hammond (with a "d"), conforming to English usage. Decades of research have determined that there was no connection with any other Hammond family.

It appears that Richard Hammond, the eldest son of Obediah, had a wife named Cloe, whose family also came to the Lloyd Manor in 1709, and they had children Benjamin Sr. and Boston.

Benjamin Hammond Sr., the eldest son of Richard, was freed in 1793. He and his wife Phoebe had children Benjamin Jr., Samuel and Nancy.

#### TRACING THE FAMILY OF JUPITER HAMMON continued

Benjamin applied to the Town for temporary financial aid in January 1821. His sworn deposition establishing legal residency is a valuable surviving document. In it, he mentioned his homestead, described above, and also stated that he was formerly the bondservant of Henry Lloyd Sr., Joseph Lloyd and John Lloyd and was manumitted (set free) by the widow Amelia Lloyd in Oyster Bay in June, 1793. He fur-



Brown-Hammond House (c1790), 73 West Shore Road, Huntington. This house, now much altered, was purchased in 1799 by Benjamin Hammond Sr., whose family lived here for 30 years.

ther stated that he had been working in Huntington, except for fifteen months as a hired hand for John N. Lloyd of Oyster Bay, and that he had a wife and three children. Other records indicate inconclusively that he was probably employed most of the time at the town house of Mrs. Lloyd, which still stands at 187 Park Avenue. It is noteworthy that his surname was spelled Hammon (without the "d") in this document.

Boston, his brother, was freed in 1791. He and his wife, Penny, had five children, not yet identified. They worked as hired hands for Matthias Abbot, a

tenant farmer on the manor, probably until 1806, and then relocated to Huntington. Penny died there a widow in 1838. This branch of the family has not been traced further.

Benjamin Hammond Jr. and his wife had a son, Daniel, in 1814, but both parents died soon afterward. Daniel was raised by his grandparents and died in 1838. Samuel Hammond, the younger son of Benjamin Sr. and Phoebe, was single and living with his parents in 1810. By 1820 he had a wife named Charity and they were living on Park Avenue. The Census record lists him between Capt. Alexander Mather and Isaac Losee, which probably places him in the tenant house that once stood at 325 Park Avenue, next to the old



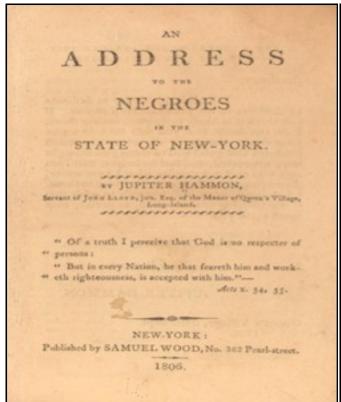
Title Page from one of the publications of Jupiter Hammon.

St. John's Episcopal Church. They gave birth to a daughter there in 1820, after the Census had been taken. Their household included an elderly female, who may have been Charity's mother. By 1830, Samuel and his parents, Benjamin Sr. and Phoebe, were deceased. The Census for that year shows that Charity Hammond had relocated nearby to the vicinity of Creek Road, where she was living with her ten year old daughter and, again, possibly her mother.

Since there were several unidentified children of Boston and Samuel Hammond living in Huntington in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, it is possible that their more recent descendants may be living here today. If further research enables us to document those

later generations to the present, their kindred will acquire a family history that spans across five centuries, to their roots in Africa.

### A COLLAGE OF DOCUMENTS AND ARTIFACTS



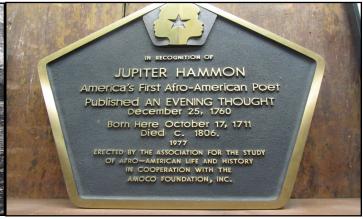


Jupiter Hammon's "Address to the Negroes of the State of New York" - 1806.

Dr. J. Ruppert Picott and Lloyd Harbor Historical Society member, Mrs. Robert Osann, plaque presentation, June 25, 1977.



Joseph Lloyd Manor in 1910

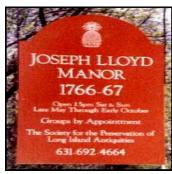


Plaque given to the Lloyd Harbor Historical Society by the Association of Afro-American Life & History.



Pictured on the left, photo of The Joseph Lloyd Manor House.

Pictured on the right, photo of The Joseph Lloyd Manor House Historic Marker.



### A COLLAGE OF DOCUMENTS AND ARTIFACTS continued



The Joseph Lloyd Manor House



The Henry Lloyd Manor House, birthplace of Jupiter Hammon



Candlestick, brass, late 18<sup>th</sup> Century. This Candlestick was used in the Root Cellar of the Brown-Hammond House and probably belonged to the Hammond family.



Slave Quarters at The Joseph Lloyd Manor House.



Rev. William Schenk House (1802), 324 Park Avenue, Huntington. Clarissa, an indentured servant of Rev. Schenk, lived here from 1805 to 1817. Capt. Alexander Mather lived here from 1817 through the 1820's. Samuel and Charity Hammond lived directly across the street from Capt. Mather

### AN ADDRESS TO MISS PHILLIS WHEATLY

Composed by Jupiter Hammon, August 4,1778 - "An Address to Miss Phillis Wheatly [sic], Ethiopian Poetess, in Boston, who came from Africa at eight years of age, and soon became acquainted with the gospel of Jesus Christ" Miss Wheatly; pray give leave to express as follows:

I	II	III.
O come you pious youth! adore	Thou mightst been left behind	Fair wisdom's ways are paths of peace,
The wisdom of thy God,	Amidst a dark abode;	And they that walk therein,
In bringing thee from distant shore,	God's tender mercy still combined,	Shall reap the joys that never cease,
To learn His holy word.	Thou hast the holy word.	And Christ shall be their king.
IV	V	VI
God's tender mercy brought thee here;	While thousands tossed by the sea,	That thou a pattern still might be,
Tossed o'er the raging main;	And others settled down,	To youth of Boston town,
In Christian faith thou hast a share,	God's tender mercy set thee free,	The blessed Jesus set thee free,
Worth all the gold of Spain.	From dangers that come down	From every sinful wound.
VII	VIII	IX
The blessed Jesus, who came down,	That we poor sinners may obtain,	
	, , ,	Come you, Phillis, now aspire,
Unveiled his sacred face,	The pardon of our sin;	And seek the living God,
To cleanse the soul of every wound,	Dear blessed Jesus now constrain,	So step by step thou mayst go higher
And give repenting grace.	And bring us flocking in.	Till perfect in the world.
X	XI	XII
While thousands moved to distant shore,	Thou hast left the heathen shore;	I pray the living God may be,
And others left behind,	Through mercy of the Lord;	The shepherd of thy soul;
The blessed Jesus still adore,	Among the heathen live no more,	His tender mercies still are free
Implant this in thy mind.	Come magnify thy God.	His mysteries to unfold.
XIII	XIV	XV
Thou, Phillis, when thou hunger hast,	The Bounteous mercies of the Lord,	These bounteous mercies are from God.
Or pantest for thy God;	Are hid beyond the sky,	The merits of His son;
Jesus Christ is thy relief,	And holy souls that love His word,	The humble soul that loves His word.

Thou hast the holy word.

Shall taste them when they die. He chooses for His own.

### AN ADDRESS TO MISS PHILLIS WHEATLY continued

XVI

Come, dear Phillis, be advised,

To drink Samaria's flood;

But Christ's redeeming blood.

There nothing that shall suffice

XVIII

When God shall send his summons down,

And number saints together,

Blest angels chant, (triumphant sound),

Come live with me forever.

XX

Behold! the soul shall waft away,

Whene'er we come to die,

And leave its cottage made of clay,

In twinkling of an eye.

XII

While thousands muse with earthly toys;

And range about the street,

Dear Phillis, seek for heaven's joys,

Where we do hope to meet.

XIX

The humble soul shall fly to God,

And leave the things of time,

Start forth as 'twere at the first word,

To taste things more divine.

XXI

Now glory be to the Most High,

United praises given,

By all on earth, incessantly,

And all the host of heav'n.



**Engraving of Phillis Wheatly** 

### AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY TOURS OF 2010 IN REVIEW

By Rex Metcalf and Phyllis Pottinger

African American history was the focus of our guided walking tours of the Old Burying Ground and the Village Green in Huntington. More than one hundred people of all ages and backgrounds attended the program.



The Old Burying Ground Tour Participants.



The Old Burying Ground Tour

A.M.E Church in Huntington. This was a moment of particular emotion for one lady in the group, who did not know until then that it was the grave of her great, great grandfather, Nelson Smith, the last African American to be interred in the Old Burying Ground.

Touring the Village Green, visitors learned that African Americans have always been an active part of this original core of the community, long known as the "Town Spot." In the 1700s, the vast majority regularly attended the Old First Presbyterian Church, which stands on Main Street, opposite the Town Hall. A small number attended

Touring the Old Burying Ground, visitors learned that about 400 African Americans were interspersed evenly among the other early residents of the Town who were interred there. Typically, their graves were marked with "Jacob's Pillow" field stones, although several inscribed tombstones have survived from the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The earliest African American burials took place there in the late 1600s and the last one took place in 1888. Visitors learned that one-fourth of the African Americans were born in Africa and transported mostly to Barbados before they came to Long Island. Half of them were born locally and spent their lives as enslaved bondservants. After New York passed the Manumission Act of 1799, another fourth lived here as free residents. At the grave of Rachel, the innkeeper, visitors discovered how she preserved some of the African beliefs and customs of her parents, who both came from the Ashanti Kingdom, in modern-day Ghana. The group was able to see and touch a genuine Sankofa, a symbol of respect to the spirits of her ancestors, which belonged to Rachel more than 250 years ago. Visitors also paused at the grave of a cabinetmaker and co-founder of the Bethel



Mounting Block (c1750), 184 South Woodhull Road, Huntington. This stone block was set in place by African Americans to mount horses and farm wagons. It is the last remnant of the old Bunce Homestead.

### AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY TOURS OF 2010 IN REVIEW continued

the St. John's Episcopal Church on Park Avenue. Although the building is now gone, the St. John's Cemetery remains. The Bethel A.M.E. Church was founded by African Americans in 1843. Their church building, parsonage and cemetery occupy the land on Park Avenue that they purchased from the Episcopal Congregation in 1854. Visitors also heard the stories of dozens of African Americans, who have lived, worked and played in the Village Green neighborhood over the centuries. Many of those stories are associated with at least ten historic buildings, which still stand there today, not counting the church and school buildings. Those who attended were also shown a few personal



The Bethel A.M.E. Church (1926), 291 Park Avenue, Huntington. This church still serves the African American community on land purchased in 1854.

artifacts, which belonged to African Americans who lived in the neighborhood long ago.

These African American History Tours planned by the Council, an educational goal for 2010, had never before been offered to the public. AAHDC member Phyllis Pottinger, was the Mistress of Ceremonies, and visitors were welcomed by the Honorable Glenda Jackson, Huntington's first African American Town Councilwoman. Council Advisor Rex Metcalf, who served as the Tour Guide, provided everyone with handouts. Attendees came from all geographical parts of Huntington and from as far away as Stony Brook and Bayside, Queens. They included young children, high school students, educators, historians and members of churches and other organizations.



AAHDC member Phyllis Pottinger Mistress of Ceremonies, and AAHDC Advisor Rex Metcalf Tour Guide at the Old Burying Ground.



The Village Green Tour participants saw, heard and touched the rich legacy of the African Americans who lived at the "Town Spot."

### **AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY TOURS OF 2010 IN REVIEW continued**



Huntington Village Green South Meadow



Before public schools were established, Clarissa earned her education as an indentured servant in the home of Rev. William Schenk..



The Old First Presbyterian Church (1784), 125 Main Street, Huntington. African Americans attended this church regularly, until the Bethel A.M.E. Church was organized in 1843.



The Baptismal Font in the Old First Church sanctuary.

Fifty seven African Americans were baptized here.



Heckscher Park, Huntington, New York.



2010 Tour group participants

### **HUNTINGTON UNITY DAY PARADE AND FESTIVAL**

### **OCTOBER 2, 2010**





Pictured from left to right: AAHDC Chair Irene Moore, AAHDC Member Charla Bolton, and AAHDC Advisor Rex Metcalf.

Missing from photo: AAHDC Member Richard H. Robertson, III.

### **TOWN OF HUNTINGTON**

### **AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY TOURS**

SPONSORED BY

### THE TOWN OF HUNTINGTON AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORIC DESIGNATION COUNCIL

### THE OLD BURYING GROUND

**RAIN OR SHINE** 

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2011 SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2011

### **WALKING TOUR**

### STARTS AT 2:00PM AND LASTS ABOUT ONE HOUR

ASSEMBLE AT THE SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MEMORIAL BUILDING,

228 MAIN STREET

**HUNTINGTON, NEW YORK** 

HUNDREDS OF AFRICAN AMERICANS ARE BURIED HERE AMONG HUNTINGTON'S EARLY RESIDENTS. THEY INCLUDE OUR FIRST RECORDED AFRICAN AMERICAN, WHO ARRIVED HERE IN 1657; A REVOLUTIONARY CELEBRITY CALLED "THE MAN WITH THE BULLET OF CHURCH FOUNDER, WHO WAS THE LAST AFRICAN AMERICAN TO BE INTERRED HERE. THESE EARLY RESIDENTS ARE PART OF A SIGNIFICANT ASPECT OF THE HISTORY OF HUNTINGTON.

TOUR GUIDE, REX METCALF

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### **PHOTOGRAPH CAPTIONS AND CREDITS**

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Baptismal Font, The Old First Presbyterian Church. Photograph by Charla Bolton.
Heckscher Park, Huntington, New York. Photograph extracted from <u>www.commons.wikimed-a.org.</u>
2010 AAHDC Tour Group Participants. Photograph by Robert Hughes.
AAHDC Logo. Photograph courtesy of Michele Foulke.
AAHDC Members, Huntington Unity Parade and Festival. Photograph courtesy of Irene Moore.
AAHDC Members. Photograph by Toby Kissam.



Pictured from left to right: Town Historian Robert Hughes, AAHDC Member Charla Bolton, AAHDC Member Phyllis Pottinger, Councilwoman Glenda A. Jackson, AAHDC Chair Irene Moore, AAHDC Member Gennifer Ellis, and AAHDC Advisor Rex Metcalf.

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