

Juneteenth Celebration

June 16, 2007

Freedom Park

Lexington Park, Maryland



A deaf friendly event . . .



*Special Appearance:
Miss Maryland USA*





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UNIFIED COMMITTEE FOR AFRO-AMERICAN CONTRIBUTIONS

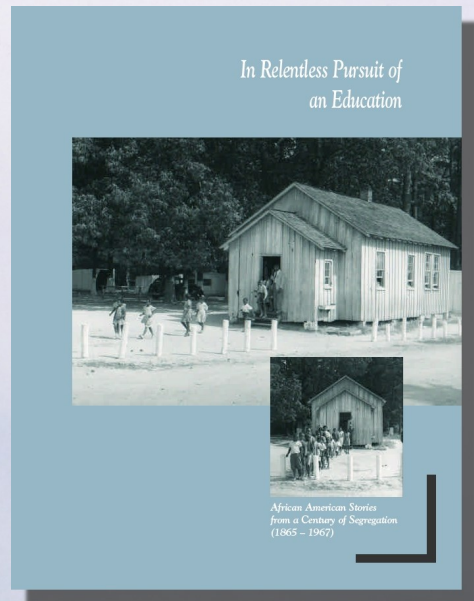
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In Relentless Pursuit of an Education

UCAC's Award-Winning Book is Available at Local Libraries and Bookstores.



Reserve your brick today at UCAC's table.

BUY A BRICK

Celebrate the contributions of those whose shoulders we stand upon or acknowledge the support and honor the commitment of St. Mary's County's people, organizations, and businesses by purchasing a brick for the

African American Monument Walkway.

Juneteenth Celebration is an annual program of the Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions in partnership with St. Mary's County government and the St. Mary's County Commissioners.

Visit our web site: [www. UCAOnline.org](http://www.UCAOnline.org)

Juneteenth Celebration

UCAC's Mission: To increase understanding of and to foster African American contributions to the history and development of St. Mary's County.

CELEBRATE JUNETEENTH!

117 years of history...all in one location: The Drayden One-room Schoolhouse.



In 2000 CSC helped fund the maintenance that was necessary to restore the Drayden One-room Schoolhouse which had been gifted to the county the previous year. CSC values the history in our local Southern Maryland Community and believes that there is no better way to ensure a bright future than to learn from our past. It is with this in mind that we enthusiastically join in the celebration of the Juneteenth Holiday on this day, the Sixteenth of June.

Drayden Schoolhouse

1890-1944

The Drayden Schoolhouse stands on its original site, land donated by Mary Ellen and Daniel A. Gross in 1889. The simple one-room design is characteristic of practical Victorian architecture, and of other one-room schools in the county at that time. Its most unique feature is the diagonally beaded, hand-run paneling and original green paint in the interior. Although exterior paint was not found on early schoolhouses, the building was painted in 2000 in order to preserve the original siding planks.

When it opened its door in 1890, Drayden was one of three schools for African American children in the Valley Lee District, a district containing nine

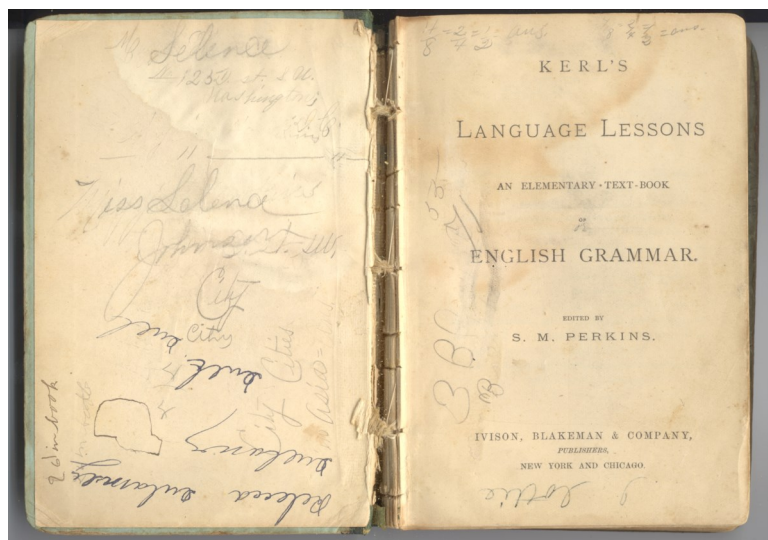
white schools. One teacher taught grades one through seven, with sometimes as many as forty or more students in the single room.

There were no public high schools open to African American students until 1934, and before that time most students had no way to continue their schooling after the seventh grade. In 1944, when Drayden closed its doors, there were two public high schools available to African American students, Banneker and Jarboesville. County schools ended the dual segregated system in 1967.



A School Day at Drayden

Excerpts from *In Relentless Pursuit of an Education*



See, we had seven classes there, from 1st to 7th grade. We had two kids to lead the morning devotional. We sang songs like: "Yes, Jesus Loves Me", "Onward Christian Soldiers." Mostly spiritual songs. Then we would say the Lord's Prayer and we would Pledge Allegiance. I remember some of the kids that I was in class with, but the exact number I don't know. I know it was quite a few kids 'cause when that school door would open and the bell would ring for us to come out, man, they were just rolling out—probably around thirty-some or forty. The teacher would have to try to get around to all these classes in the same day.

Sarah Dyson Clay

The slavery was over, but it was hard for colored people to get jobs because they didn't want you unless you could work on the farm. And, this is the truth, the white kids had school open early and the colored kids didn't go to school 'til later 'cause they wanted us to have a chance to work on the farm. Of course we didn't want it, but that was the way it went. I was born at the edge of slavery. Slavery wasn't here when I got here. It was all over with, but I could still feel what was left of it. Oh, yeah, you could feel it!

Pearl Furey, teacher

In later years I realized how bad it was. At the time, it wasn't no big thing, because you really didn't have nothing else to compare it to. And we did learn how to read and write and add and subtract and so that's better than the old folks had it. My grandfather, he couldn't read or write either one, and to see the kids at least learning to read and write, I mean, it was something that they were happy about.

Clarence Smith

Drayden African American Schoolhouse c. 1890

Available for tours by pre-arrangement through the St. Mary's County Museum Division by calling **301-769-2222**.
www.stmarysmd.com/recreate/museums



Board of Commissioners for St. Mary's County

Pioneers among us—Elmer Brown

Elmer Brown was born in Drayden, Maryland but grew up in Washington, DC. In 1968 he moved back to St. Mary's County to stay, and this has proved a blessing indeed for the county. Elmer was the first African American to serve on the First National Bank Board of Directors and the first African American to serve on the St. Mary's County Housing Authority Board. In addition, he was a founder of Minority Business Alliance, Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions (UCAC), and, with co-founder Ed Cox, Salt & Pepper.

Coming full-circle, Elmer resides once again in Drayden with his wonderful wife and partner Johnie. He has seven children, fifteen grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren. Throughout his life, Elmer has enjoyed providing services for those in need and has been an active worker for the betterment of the community. Outside of his job as director of the county's Housing Authority from 1980-94, for example, he was active in more than a dozen community organizations and boards.

His work in county government brought him joy because he was able to help many families go from renters to home owners. Since retiring, Elmer has continued to be active in many community organizations, including Salt & Pepper and UCAC.

Elmer was instrumental in bringing together the former

owners of the Drayden one-room schoolhouse and St. Mary's County government, which culminated in the county's acceptance of the schoolhouse and one-acre lot as a gift. Elmer sought the help of Christmas in April and Computer Science Corporation (formerly Dyn Corp) in order to fund and complete the first phase of a restoration. Today the schoolhouse is a part

of the County's museum system and visitors can call the Potomac River Museum (301-769-2222) to make an appointment to view the interior of the schoolhouse.

Of his many accomplishments, Elmer is most proud of the development and completion by UCAC of the African American Monument in Freedom Park located in downtown Lexington Park.

The Monument was a dream of Elmer's that was inspired by his realization that African Americans were being overlooked for their contributions in southern Maryland. Sharing the dream with others led to the creation of UCAC. This fourth annual Juneteenth Celebration is an outgrowth of Elmer's goal of celebrating the contributions and struggles of those who came before us.

Today we can sit back and enjoy the celebration due to the foresight of



Elmer's dream.



The African American Monument was dedicated July 29, 2000. It is located in Freedom Park, on the corner of Tulagi Place and Three Notch Road in downtown Lexington Park, Maryland.



Potomac Jazz & Seafood Festival

Sat. July 14
301-769-2222

St. Clement's
Island Museum
Coltons Point, MD
Www.



George G. Forrest—Pioneers among us

George Forrest is a nationally sought after consultant the areas of leadership development, team building, conflict resolution, school-to-career partnerships, at-risk teens, gang awareness, African American male issues, and insights on the Vietnam War.

He retired as the County Administrator, the chief operating officer for the Board of County Commissioners of St. Mary's County, Maryland in January 2007—the first African American to hold this position. Prior to serving as County Administrator, George was technical director for retention and recruiting for MANTECH System Engineering Corporation, a consultant organization with the Naval Air Warfare Center/Aviation Division (NAWCAD). In this position, he developed a retention/recruiting plan that put MANTECH on the cutting edge in human resources management.

He retired from the United States Army after 21 years of active duty. During his military service, he served as commander of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers, Arlington National Cemetery, combat company commander of an infantry rifle company in Vietnam, taught Military Science at St. Norbert College, strategic planner for North American Treaty Organization (NATO), and author/instructor at the Army Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. His military decorations include the Silver Star for heroism, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star for valor (awarded twice), Republic of Vietnam Cross For Gallantry (3 awards), Combat Infantry Badge, and Parachute Badge.

After retiring, he worked as a program planner and training advisor for the Saudi Arabian Government. From 1982-1990, he was assistant head coach and defensive coordinator for men's varsity football at Morgan State University. He was Dean of Students at St. Mary's Ryken High School where he also served as head varsity basketball coach for three years. From 1993 to 1997, he was Principal/Supervisor of Career and Technology Education Programs for St. Mary's County Public Schools.

His clients include: European Union, US Departments of

Education and Labor, Illinois Public Schools, New York Department of Veteran Affairs, Departments of the Army, Navy and National Guard of Maryland. Also on this list are Booz, Allen Hamilton, ABC News "Day One", "Good Morning

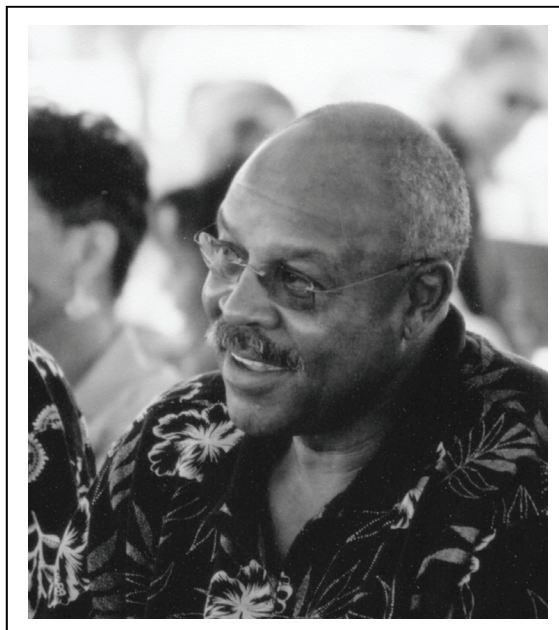
America", The History Channel (History vs. Hollywood) and CNN "Cold War" series. His story and that of other members of the The First Cavalry Division in the Battle of the Ia Drang was the subject of Mel Gibson's movie, "We Were Soldiers".

He has been a guest lecturer at Yale University, Virginia Commonwealth University, Morgan State University, United States Military Academy (West Point), United States Naval Academy, and Navy War College. He works with local school, church, government and community programs for at risk students and teen parents.

George is a graduate of Morgan State College, the Command and General Staff College, NATO Defense/leadership College, Maryland Teacher Education Program.

He has served on the board of directors for St. Mary's Hospital, Tomorrow's Child, Sotterley Historical Foundation, and the Governor's Southern Maryland Higher Education Center. He is a member of Congressman Hoyer's Military Service Academy Selection committee, College of Southern Maryland Foundation Board and is former chairman of the Business, Education Community Alliance (BECA). He holds membership in Rotary International (Leonardtown chapter), the NAACP, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Associations of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers, First Cavalry and First Infantry Divisions Associations, and the IA Drang Valley Survivors (Band Of Brothers). He was inducted into the Morgan State University ROTC Hall of Fame in 1992 and was Rotarian and LINKS Man of the Year in 1994. He represented Maryland as a TORCHBEARER for the 1996 Olympic Games. He was honored in 2002 by the Senate of Maryland for his heroic service to the State and the Nation.

George continues to help young people work on skills to help them make a successful transition from where they are to a rewarding life through preparation, hard work, and love of self and community.



I'm from one of these families that I think God has chosen as the ones that he's going to smile on, because both my parents are still alive. My father is 92; my mother is 86. And they live in the house that I was born in.

George G. Forrest—June 2003

Pioneers among us — Elizabeth Barber Walker

In 1962, Elizabeth Barber (Walker) made history by entering St. Mary's Junior College (now St. Mary's College of Maryland), the first African American student to enroll since the founding of the College as a female seminary in 1840. Her words in the excerpted oral history below convey something of the challenge, pain, and sense of accomplishment she experienced in breaking the color barrier at St. Mary's.

After graduating in 1964 with a diploma in English, Liz went on to graduate from Hampton University with a degree in speech therapy. She completed a successful, three decade teaching career in the public schools first in St. Mary's County and then in Norfolk, Virginia. She continued to substitute after retirement, primarily with middle-school students with special needs, and she is still finding ways to help children discover the rewards of an education. She recently established an academic challenge program for students in Norfolk, where she resides with her daughter Knaron. Liz was honored by St. Mary's College in 2006 and a plaque recognizing her role in the history of the College was placed in the Library. Also in 2006, she received a Legacy Award of Excellence from the Norfolk Chapter of the National Council of Negro Women.

DREAMING OF COLLEGE

I started to think about college when I was starting 12th grade. I thought about it, dreamed about it, but had no idea how I'd go. Mrs. Fleming, my French teacher at Carver, discovered that I did want to go to school but we didn't have any money for it, and she went home and did some homework about places I could attend. She found out that St. Mary's Junior College was a state-supported school. Up until 1962, we all in the community thought that it was a private school.

Mrs. Fleming came to me and said, "Why don't you go to St. Mary's?" and she procured an application. Some of the information we left off . . . the race part. When I got the acceptance letter we had to go down to the College for an initial meeting. We walked in, Mrs. Fleming and Mrs. Gaskin with me, and there were people sitting around a table. . . . It was a surprise.

Once it became known that I was accepted there was support from the black community. Mrs. Gaskin was a big support to my family and me. Mrs. Fleming used to check my assignments and papers to be sure I was doing them well. I was being watched, I was in a fishbowl. "Is she going to make it?" "Will there be a riot?"

Mrs. Fleming told me later that my parents were threatened. "You just don't know! We couldn't let you know that."

I didn't sleep one bit the night before that first day. My dad drove me there in his pick-up. He was scared for me. I knew no one. I had a "Big Sister" though. Of course she did-

n't have any trouble finding me. At least I had that one contact. Walking the campus, no one comes up to speak to you, it's kind of tough. And it's lonely.

Some of the professors were kind to me. But there were incidents. Once, when the professor stepped out of the class, some paper was thrown, a few books were thrown past me. And once my books were knocked out of my hands.

At graduation, we were sitting on stage, and when I walked up to get my diploma, someone removed my chair. Maybe several people had helped remove it. Perhaps they were trying to tell me that I had worn out my welcome. I remained standing as everyone took their seats until finally someone found a chair and several students helped pass it up to me.

I will say that the exposure I got there was very good. I got to participate in activities that I had never had access to - field hockey, cultural arts, concerts. It made me want to have more. It also made me realize that I had a right to have more

and should have had it all along. It made me decide that, hey, I'm going to get more, and I'm going to tell what I know and I'm going to share what I learned.

I had opened a door, cracked the ice. And if other minorities were going to come here, I had to see that that door stayed open.

Elizabeth Barber Walker—Fall 1999

Excerpt from the book: *In Relentless Pursuit of an Education*, UCAC 2006.



African American History Timeline

Looking Back Ten Years, Twenty Years, Thirty Years . . .
Noting important events happening in years ending in 7.

Provided via the generosity of WLP Consulting.

1997

- Director Spike Lee releases his documentary *4 Little Girls* about the 1963 16th Street Baptist Church bombing.
- Tiger Woods is the first African American to Win the Masters Golf Tournament.

1987

- The Public Broadcasting System's six-part documentary *Eyes on the Prize* is first shown, covering the years 1954-1965.

Human Relations Commission Awardees

Marguerite R. Morris

Marguerite R. Morris grew up in a community of very modest means in Laurel, Maryland. When her family moved into public housing in Anne Arundel County, she considered it a step up. Reverend Morris's challenges growing up set the course and motivation for her life's paths.

In 1996 following a military retirement and relocation back to Maryland, she and her husband pastored the Shekinah Temple of Jesus Christ in Odenton, MD and worked extensively with the homeless and the disadvantaged. The Morris' relocated to St. Mary's County in 2001 and she became the pastor of New Beginnings Christian Worship Center.

Reverend Morris has worked with numerous non-profits, including Nazareth Ministries in Colton's Point, Sharing God's Word Ministries in Baltimore, MD, Ministerio de Amor en Cristo Baptist Church in Lexington Park, and Park Hall True Holiness in

Park Hall, Maryland. Locally she helped to establish the Food for A Friend Program, which, through the coordination of volunteers and community partners, moves over \$100,000 in donated food products throughout St Mary's county every year. She spearheaded the forming of Positive Reinforcement of Our Future (P.R.O.O.F.) a youth group offering positive alternatives (every Friday night) to at-risk youth 7 -20 years of age. In addition, as a joint collaborated effort between Ministerio de Amor en Cristo, Lighthouse Church and the New Beginnings Christian Worship Center, Reverend Morris assisted in the establishment of The New Hope Mission located on Great Mills Road in Lexington Park. In 2005, responding to a community need Reverend Morris founded Leah's House, a shelter for Women and Children.

Reverend Morris has received local recognition for her work with foster children, and caring for individuals with terminal

illnesses through Hospice of St Mary's County. Official citations were awarded from the Senate of Maryland for her work with Hospice, and from the St. Mary's County Commissioners for her Food For A Friend program. Recently Reverend Morris received the Church of Distinction Award from the Pastor's and Church Leadership Summit, held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Reverend Morris holds a degree in Business Administration along with multiple certifications in Christian Studies.

She so eloquently quotes: "A person's past does not necessarily determine their future."

Reverend Morris also reflects personally on the things that are mostly important to her, God, her husband Joe, and her daughter Kathy. Morris says "A generous smile, a compassionate hug, and words of encouragement go a long way when you're empowered by the word of God, and aids in making the tasks at hand bearable."

Eve Moyle

Eve Moyle is a graduating senior at Great Mills High School who exemplifies high academic standards and genuine concern for her community. Aside from academic prowess and maintaining a 4.0 GPA, Eve Moyle is clearly a very special person. Her teachers describe her as having integrity, sincerity, and enthusiasm for everything she does. She is a leader in many clubs, serving as the president of the National Honor Society, and Best Buddies Club, which is a school program that pairs community based students with learning disabilities with other students at Great Mills High School for an enriching experience. Eve is active with several fundraising efforts including Katrina Relief, the American Cancer Society, St. Jude's

Hospital, Holt International Adopt-A-Child Program, and the 2007 Avon Walk for Breast Cancer for which she is in the process of raising \$1,800. She has been recognized for her academic achievements, her sportsmanship, and her work in peer mediation. When she isn't fundraising, Eve may be found playing volleyball or running track for Great Mills High School. She is involved in several other clubs and sports and still manages to balance the demands of a part time job.

Eve's future goals include obtaining a degree in graphic design combined with marketing and advertising from either Towson University or the University of Maryland. Eve has expressed an interest in working in advertising for a nonprofit organization.

Eve says, "I want to become a graphic designer because I am interested in art and computers. Both components will provide me with a job that I will enjoy."

Eve is a young humanitarian with serious ambitious to make a positive contribution to her community. She summarizes her future aspirations by saying, "I hope to help educate people on how they can be a part of a social movement to better the world. I believe that we can do more than we think we can. Information needs to be spread and graphic designers will help do this."

Both biographies reprinted with permission from the St. Mary's County Human Relations Commission breakfast program.

1967

- St. Mary's County ends the segregated school system by terminating the "Negro"-only schools.
- Thurgood Marshall is appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

1957

- Southern Christian Leadership Conference is formed and Martin Luther King is named chairman.
- The Little Rock Nine become the first African Americans to integrate an Arkansas high school.

1947

- Jackie Robinson plays his first game for the Brooklyn Dodgers, becoming the first black baseball player in professional baseball's "white" league in 60 years.

1937

- William H. Hastie becomes the first black federal judge.
- Joe Louis becomes the heavyweight boxing champion by defeating James J. Braddock.

Human Relations Commission Awardees:

Rob Martin

Rob Martin has been a dedicated and extremely active member of the Life Community Church of God on Chancellors Run Road for over 20 years. During that time he has served as a leader in the Men's Ministry and the Pioneers in Christ Youth Ministry. He also coordinated a volunteer tutoring program for youth in English and math.

He has been a volunteer for Christmas in April, which repairs homes for low-income, disabled, and elderly residents. He has also demonstrated his concern for those less fortunate by collecting and distributing clothes for families in need of assistance. He has been an advocate for National Night Out and the United Way Day of Caring.

In his travels to Central America, Rob helped communities and was an ardent fundraiser in support of missions. More recently, he made two trips to Mississippi to provide relief to those affected by Hurricane Katrina. Rob worked in the food and

clothing distribution center, as well as, voluntarily laboring to clear debris, cut trees and reconstruct homes. Additionally, he and his wife, Laura, traveled to Tyler, Texas to cook Thanksgiving dinner for 100 missionary academy students who couldn't get home for the holiday.

Rob is a long time supporter of the Boys and Girls Club and sits on the Board of Directors. He assists in fundraising activities for the club and helps with the after school program at the Lexington Park Elementary School. His passion for helping young people motivated him to become a therapeutic foster parent for the past eight years through the St. Mary's County Alternatives for Youth and Families. Through this opportunity, Rob has directly affected and enhanced the lives of young people by providing guidance, structure, love and a sense of family. Over the years, he and his wife have opened their hearts and home to over 100 foster children.

Rob Martin is a community activist who works with others to organize and support activities that bring people together to build pride in their community. Last year he served as an active force in the coordination of the Community Family Fun Day held at Nicolet Park in Lexington Park, an alcohol-free event. Approximately thirty-two businesses, organizations, churches, and agencies joined forces to provide an event to inform the surrounding communities of the many local resources available to help families and youth. The second goal of the event was to provide a safe, fun activity families could enjoy together.

Rob says his commitment to community work and reaching out to improve the lives of others is something he takes great pride in and intends to continue for many years to come.

Reprinted with permission from the St. Mary's County Human Relation Commission breakfast program.

History of Juneteenth

On June 19, 1865, two years after President Lincoln's signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, General Gordon Granger of the Union Army sailed into Galveston harbor and noticed that black people were still working as slaves. He promptly issued General Order No. 3 stating, "... all slave are free." He also ordered all slave owners to provide food, shelter, and monetary compensation to all of their former slaves. Granger did not want to leave the former slaves without food and shelter and he did not want the plantation

owners to suffer from a lack of labor to harvest their summer crops.

Since then, African Americans along with other interested citizens around the country have celebrated this event as Juneteenth.

Juneteenth became an official Texas state holiday on January 1, 1980 through the efforts of Al Edwards, an African American state legislator. The successful passage of this bill marked Juneteenth as the first emancipation celebration granted state recognition.

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s,

Juneteenth has continued to enjoy a growing and healthy interest from communities and organizations throughout the country.

Juneteenth today celebrates African American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures. As it takes on a more national and even global perspective, the events of 1865 in Texas are not forgotten, for all of the roots tie back to the fertile soil from which a national day of pride is growing.

1917

- Three hundred thousand blacks serve in WWI, 1400 as officers.
- At least 40 blacks are killed in an East St. Louis race riot, and three weeks later, the NAACP organizes a silent march of 10,000 to protest racism.

1887

- In Plessy v. Ferguson, the Supreme Court rules that "separate but equal facilities" are proper under the 14th Amendment.

1877

- Reconstruction, a period of reuniting and rebuilding the Union after the Civil War, ends with the termination of Federal support and the defeat of Republicans in the Southern states.

1867

- President Andrew Johnson approves the charter to establish Howard University.
- Congress grants the black citizens of the District of Columbia the right to vote.

Michaé Holloman—Miss Maryland USA



Michaé Holloman is a 25 year-old communications consultant for an international management consulting firm. She is a 2003 graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park, where she obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Communication specializing in Public Relations. She also has a certificate of study in dance, and has an extensive dance background that includes studying at such reputable companies as the Dance Theatre of Harlem Residency Program and the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Summer Intensive Program.

Michaé is also a 5-year veteran Washington Redskins Cheerleader. In addition to performing in front of 92,000 fans during each home game of the football season, she has traveled to such countries as

Japan, Italy, and Cuba to perform for our troops stationed overseas. Michaé feels that one of the best rewards of being a Redskins Cheerleader is the friendships that she's made with her fellow teammates.

In September 2005, Michaé auditioned for a small dancing role in the movie, "Step Up," which was filmed entirely in Baltimore, Maryland and released in August 2006. Michaé was called in to be a "featured extra" in the movie and can be seen in one of the climatic scenes!

Michaé's hobbies include dancing, working out, catalog shopping, dining out and decorating. Her future goals are to continue developing her career as a public relations professional and to someday have a family!

<http://www.missmarylandusa.com>

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1857

- Dred Scott decision by U.S. Supreme Court holds that a slave does not become free when taken into a free state, Congress can not bar slavery from a territory, and blacks can not be citizens.

1847

- Frederick Douglass begins publication of the abolitionist newspaper the *North Star*.
- Liberia, promoted as a country for freed American slaves to return to Africa, declares independence from the United States.

1837

- The U. S. Congress enacts a gag law to suppress debate on the slavery issue.

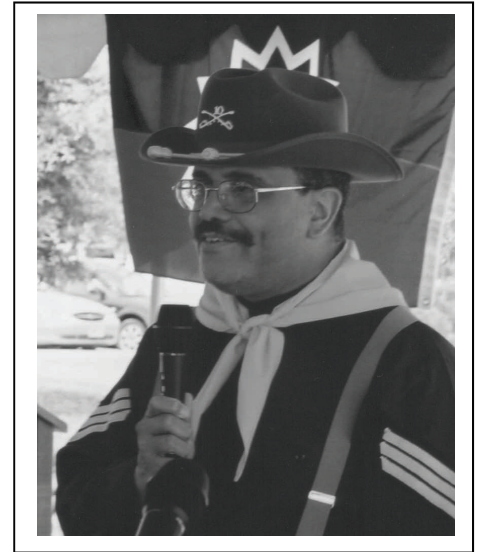
1827

- New York frees all remaining slaves.

Buffalo Soldiers

The Baltimore Chapter of the 9th and 10th Horse Cavalry Association (The Buffalo Soldiers) was chartered in 1996. The current chapter president is Trooper Lloyd Bowser. Also located in Baltimore is national Association president Trooper Richard Robinson. Their mission is to perpetuate the memory of comrades who have passed on...and the history, contributions, and many accomplishments of the Ninth and Tenth Cavalry Regiments in the defense of our country.

The Ninth and Tenth Horse Cavalry have a rich legacy of courage, valor, bravery, patriotism, achievements, and contributions. This proud legacy is accurately detailed, documented, and preserved in lectures, presentations, photo and historic picture displays, and cavalry memorabilia. Members are available to visit schools, churches, and community centers to talk about this forgotten piece of our history.



Tuskegee Airmen

The Tuskegee Airmen were dedicated, determined young men who enlisted to become America's first black military airmen at a time when there were many people who thought that black men lacked intelligence, skill, courage, and patriotism. Many of them came from New York City, Washington, Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia and Detroit. Each one possessed a strong personal desire to serve the United States of America at the best of his ability.

Those who possessed the physical and mental qualifications were accepted as aviation cadets to be trained initially as single-engine pilots and later to be either twin-engine pilots, navigators, or bombardiers. Most were college graduates.

No standards were lowered for the pilots or any of the others who trained in operations, meteorology, intelligence, engineering, medicine or any of the other officer fields.

The black airmen who became single-engine or multi-engine pilots were trained at Tuskegee Army Air Field (TAAF) in Tuskegee Alabama. The first aviation cadet class began in July 1941 and completed training nine months later in March 1942.

From 1942 through 1946, nine hundred and ninety-four pilots graduated at TAAF, receiving commissions and pilot wings.

Four hundred and fifty of the pilots who were trained at TAAF served overseas in either the 99th Pursuit Squadron (later the 99th Fighter Squadron) or the 332nd Fighter Group. The 99th Fighter Squadron trained in and flew P-40 Warhawk aircraft in combat in North Africa, Sicily and Italy from April 1943 until July 1944 when they were transferred to the 332nd Fighter Group in the 15th Air Force.

The outstanding record of black airmen in World War II was accomplished by men whose names will forever live in hallowed

memory. Each one accepted the challenge, proudly displayed his skill and determination while suppressing internal rage from humiliation and indignation caused by frequent experiences of racism and bigotry, at home and overseas. These airmen fought two wars - one against a military force overseas and the other against racism at home and abroad.

SOURCE: <http://www.tuskegeeairmen.org/>



1807

- The United States House and Senate adopt an act prohibiting the importation of slaves into any port or place within the U. S.
- Slave trading is abolished in the British Empire.

1787

- The Constitutional Convention declares that slaves are to be counted as three-fifths of a free man for purposes of representation and taxation

1777

- The Vermont Republic outlaws slavery.
- Rhode Island forms a black battalion of 300 former slaves, compensates them equally to white soldiers, and promises freedom after the war.

1727

- The Junto, a benevolent association founded by Benjamin Franklin, opposes slavery.

Estevanico Dorantes the untold story . . .

Estevanico was a native of Azamor, on the Atlantic shore of Morocco, who became the personal slave of Andrés Dorantes de Carranza in Spain sometime before 1527. Though Estevanico, also known as Estevan, Esteban, Estebanico, Black Stephen, and Stephen the Moor, is usually referred to as a Negro or African black, records indicate that Diego de Guzmán, a Spaniard, referred to him in 1536 as “brown.” Sailing from Spain in 1527 with the Spanish expedition Narváez, which landed in mid-April 1528 near what is now called Tampa Bay was the slave Estevanico accompanied by his master. After a futile attempt to march along the Gulf Coast, the explorers built five makeshift barges—the boat containing Estevanico was placed under the joint command of Dorantes and Alonso Castillo Maldonado—and sailed northwest along the Gulf coast. Soon after, a hurricane wrecked the boats on or near western Galveston Island and three survivors, Estevanico, Dorantes, and Castillo, were separated from the others and set out on foot to Matagorda Bay. Coastal Indians were hostile and only the faith healing skills of Maldonado and the men’s claim to be friendly kept the natives from killing them. For six years the three wandered westward living precariously from day to day when a fourth survivor, Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, joined them. During this time Estevanico learned the art of faith healing and the language of the natives.

In the company of his master, Estevanico traveled a west-by-northwest route from the site of San Antonio to that of Pecos becoming the first African-born slave to traverse what is now Texas. In March 1536, the four survivors were reunited with their countrymen north of Culiacán in Nueva Galicia, where Dorantes sold Estevanico to Viceroy Antonio de Mendoza. At Mendoza’s request, Estevanico then traveled with the Franciscan, Fray Marcos de Niza to Río Mayo in what is now Sonora. There Estevanico, restless over the slow progress of the friar’s expedition, was sent ahead as an advance scout. Separated by several days travel from Niza, Estevanico approached Cibola, thought today to be the pueblo village of Hawikuh (New Mexico), and announced his intentions to make peace and heal the sick. He told the villagers that he had been sent by white men who would soon arrive and instruct them in divine matters. The village elders, suspicious of his claims because he was dark, killed him when he attempted to enter the village.



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1717

- Maryland passes a law that if any free Negro or mulatto marry a white, such Negro or mulatto shall become a slave during life.

1667

- A Virginia act declares that “Baptisme doth not alter the condition of the person as to his bondage or freedom.”

1587

- The Spanish settle in southeastern North America with slaves of African descent—and become the “lost colony”. Many believe the slaves moved in with the southern Appalachian Cherokee natives.

1527

- Estevanico, the personal slave of Spanish explorer, Andrés Dorantes de Carranza, sails on the Narváez Expedition and is believed to be the first enslaved person of African descent to set foot in mainland North America.

UCAC Oral History—Guffrie Smith

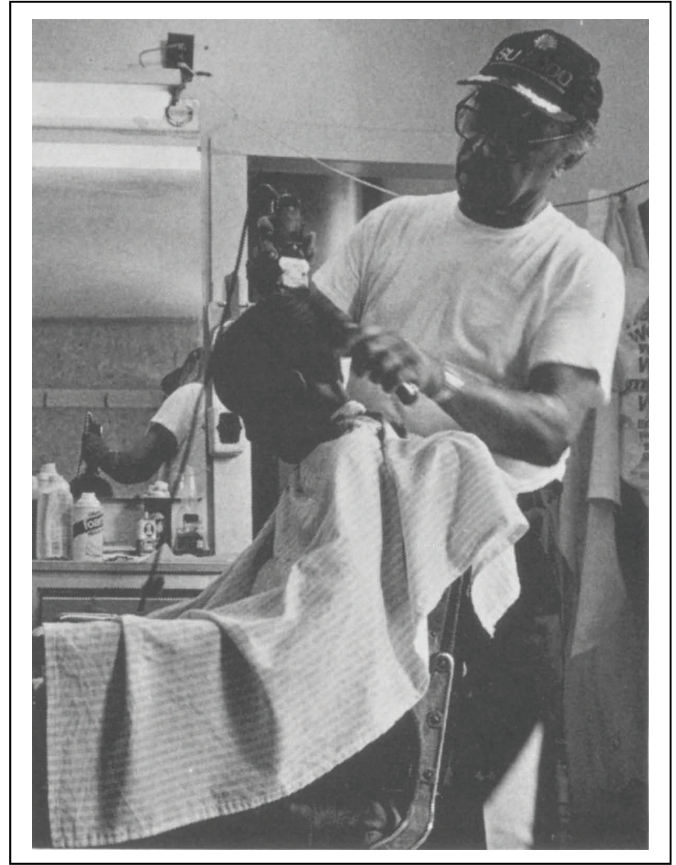
Guffrie Smith is a life-long St. Mary's County resident who has been very active in his church, 4-H, and other civic organizations. During the years he and his wife Parthenia reared their seventeen children he was also active in the PTA. He speaks here about his early years and multifaceted work life.

My family, James Holly and Ada, they got me on the right track, because my mother died when I was young, you know. Then I got with the Hollies, 'cause my mother was a Holly too. Oh, they were good to me. My sister Blanche, she took care of us like she was our mother. She lived with my uncle, then she went to Baltimore and she had a family up there. But I never did get up that far. I stayed in the county. And I stayed right down here, until I went to the war.

Got over into Italy, went on up into all those places and everything. But we didn't get to fight the enemy until later on, after we'd been there a while, you know. But we—we did all we could, but that was the last battle of the war. I was wounded. Yeah, I'm a Purple Heart. I don't like to talk about it too much.

Wasn't much money then? Well, the worst time was before the war. But I worked at St. Mary's City [St. Mary's Female Seminary]. That was one of the better jobs at that time. It was a good place. You know, you'd carry the food in to the students, then clean up the place, the dining room and all that. That's what I did. But I was young then, you know. I didn't pay much attention to what was going on, other than I had a place to eat and sleep. But I always felt that I had the better things in life, as I grew up.

I had different jobs, you know. I was twenty-one when I went into the Service. I stayed in there four years and [when] I came back, I became a barber. I cut hair for years. I worked on the Base, I sold wood, and I drove the bus. I had three jobs! That's right! That's the way I bought this place here, that place over there, and the place down the road. I was in the bus [as driver and independent contractor] forty-nine years. I made pretty good money. Never was fired from a place. So I don't have nothing to complain to nobody about. They've treated me just right. I've been progressed enough to be satisfied. I didn't expect to have what I have now, years ago. I kept on pushing, working night and day. But I don't have no regrets now. Just depending on the Lord, and everybody, everybody treated me just right.



Guffrie Smith was interviewed at his home in Scotland, Maryland on July 19, 1999 by Merideth Taylor for the Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions oral history documentation project.

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Elvare Smith Gaskin—UCAC Oral History

Elvare Smith Gaskin (1919 - 1999) had a distinguished forty-six year career as an educator in the St. Mary's County Public Schools. Even in retirement she continued to mentor students. She served leadership roles in the Maryland Retired Teachers' Association, the Eastern Stars, and her church, and she received many, many awards over the years for her contributions to the community.



Elvare Smith Gaskin was interviewed at her home in Ridge, Maryland on July 19, 1999 by Merideth Taylor for the Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions oral history documentation project.

In commenting on the quality of life today in comparison with the past, Ms. Gaskin had this to say:

In some instances, there's been much improvement in the way of life. Yet, I don't see the closeness of communities as they used to be. Maybe it's because the communities have grown so much larger and so many people are moving into the area, but there doesn't seem to be the caring that there used to be. Everybody's on their own little turf.

There are better jobs. Improvement in the area of living quarters. More people are buying homes. A lot of times, back then, people lived on other people's farms, had a house on the farm. They didn't own their own homes. Now, a lot of younger people are becoming homeowners. But, I sometimes wonder why they just seem to get so far apart, as far as caring for one another.

Like somebody's sick: "Oh, you know so-and-so's sick and in the hospital." "Oh, are they? How long have they been sick? Oh, I'm sorry," but they go on their merry way. At one time, if somebody was sick, it was "Oh, who's home with those children? Who's doing for those children? How they being taken care of? What can I do to help them?"

I'm not talking just about Afro-Americans. I'm talking about all people. I dread to think that Afro-Americans would all come together and they would share and leave everybody else out. I'd like to see people getting along together as people regardless of color. Sharing with one another, regardless of color. Doing things together, you know, regardless of color.

I feel that race relation problems come from a lack of communication. You don't know how I am, what I feel until you can talk to me; I can talk to you, and we can see that maybe we have the same, common ideas, the same things. We're still striving for the same things.



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Emcee — Cynthia Brown

Cynthia Brown is the Community Services Division Manager for the St. Mary's County Department of Recreation, Parks and Community Services. Her career with St. Mary's County Government has been devoted to the coordination and implementation of programs and events pertaining to human and civil rights, cultural diversity, education, highway safety, crime prevention, youth and family issues, and substance abuse prevention. Under Ms. Brown's direction, the Community Services Division has collaborated with other local entities to support the Teen Court Program, the Dr. Martin Luther King Prayer Breakfast, and Study Circles on race relations. Additionally, Ms. Brown is particularly proud of the following popular programs she and her staff have delivered over the years: The Christmas Caring Program providing gifts for families during the holiday season, the July 4th Freedom

Fest and fireworks show and the Maryland You Are Beautiful Volunteer Program. She has received recognition for her work from the St. Mary's County Commissioners for , the Maryland House of Delegates, the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

Ms. Brown was designated the first ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990) Coordinator for St. Mary's County. She was instrumental in establishing the St. Mary's Commission on People with Disabilities and increasing participation of people with disabilities in County Government, as well as encouraging program accessibility. In addition to her other duties, she currently acts as liaison between the Board of County Commissioners and the St. Mary's Mental Health and Addictions Council, the St. Mary's Commission for Women, and the St. Mary's Human Relations Commission. She also represents the County Com-

missioners on the St. Mary's Community Health Advisory Committee, the St. Mary's Drug and Alcohol Council, and the Local Management Board of St. Mary's.

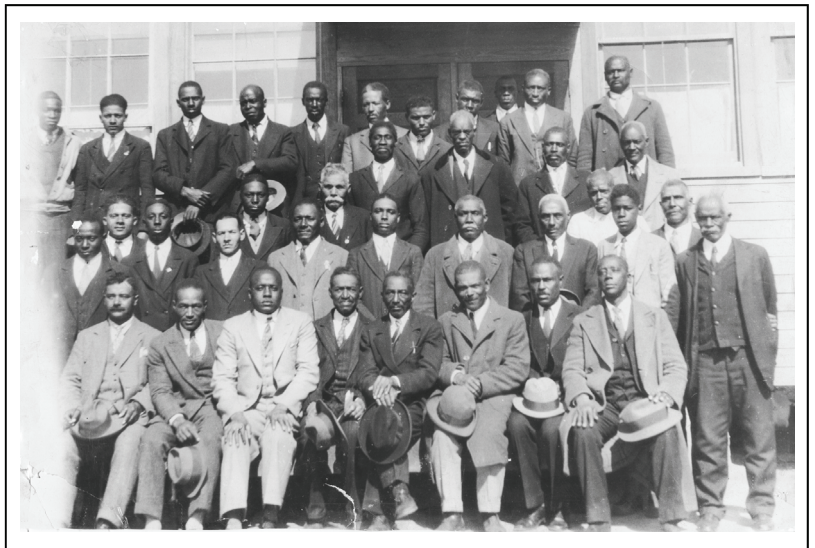
Away from work, her interest in community service continues as she has served as a volunteer youth mentor for girls, the past Education Committee Chairperson for the St. Mary's County NAACP, and was appointed to the St. Mary's Economic and Community Development Commission.

Ms. Brown's personal interests include reading and a great love for music and the performing arts. She enjoys travel and has visited Italy, England, Germany, France, Switzerland and several islands in the Caribbean. Ms. Brown continuously describes the joy and blessing of her life as her two children, son Andre, age 12 and daughter Kyann Faith, age 6.

Emcee — Ken Garvin

Ken Garvin was born in Harlem and is a graduate of City College in New York City. Although he is a native New Yorker, he calls southern Maryland home. He has a lovely wife, Connie, and two wonderful children, Anthony and Mackenzie. Mr. Garvin came to southern Maryland to DJ at a local radio station. After working in advertising and gaining experience at the local cable television station Mr. Garvin ventured into his own successful advertising company.

In his spare time, Mr. Garvin is a successful playwright having presented three plays in southern Maryland—*The Project*, *Trust in the Lord*, *Husbands and Wives Revisited*. He is working on a fourth play, *The Moment*, which he hopes to present next summer. Mr. Garvin's favorite pastimes are talking about the Lord and playing golf.



United Parent Trustee Association, ca.1925; Courtesy of Catherine Thompson. Known members of the United Parents Trustee Association: Web Baker, Bradley Bankins, Leonard Bankins, Sam Bankins, Rhoda Barnes, Herbert Blackistone, Peter Briscoe, James Bush, Mr. & Mrs. Abraham Butler, Charles Butler, Xavier Butler, William Clarke, Mr. Curtis, Clem Dyson, James & Harriett Forrest, John Frederick, Joseph Handy, Scanalon Herbert, Forrest Holley, Lancaster Holley, Jarrard Jameson, Thomas Mack, John Milburn, Daniel Morgan, John Shelton, Benedict Smith, Dave Smith, Deli Somerville, John T. Somerville, Frank Stevens, James H. Stewart, Frances Swales, Herbert Taylor, George Thomas, William B. Thompson, Grant Turner, Paul Young, Stephen Young.

From the book: *In Relentless Pursuit of an Education*, UCAC 2006.



Program

12:00 - 1:30 — Grand Opening of Juneteenth Celebration (Monument Stage)

Mistress of Ceremonies—Cynthia Brown

Invocation—Reverend Irving Beverly, Bethesda United Methodist Church

Posting of Colors—St. Mary's County Sheriff's Department

Welcome—Mike Brown, Event Director

Proclamations—Alma Jordon

Recognitions—Janice Walthour and Miss Maryland USA, Michae' Holloman

“Making a Difference in the Millennium”

Juneteenth Essay Contest—St. Mary's County Public Schools

Human Relations Awards Recipients Honored

“Pioneers Among Us”- Brick Presentations

Elmer Brown

Elizabeth Barber Walker

George Forrest

1:30 - 2:00 — Gospel Singing (Local Choirs)

St. Peter Claver Catholic Church Gospel Choir—Roy Johnson, Director

First Missionary Baptist Church Choir—Sherrie Fenwick, Director

Zion United Methodist “True Victory” Choir—Ike Harris, Director

2:00 - 7:00 — Master of Ceremonies—Ken Garvin

2:00 - 5:00 — Walk Around Magic

Reggie the Magician

2:00 - 2:45 — Gospel Concert

Winfield Parker & Praise (Main Stage)

2:45 - 3:30 — Hip Hop Dancers and Steppers (Three Notch Theater)

BodyShakers—Donna Jordan

3:30 - 4:30 — Jazz Concert

Brian Lenair (Main Stage)

4:30 - 5:15 — Rap Performance

No Puff Daddy (Three Notch Theater)

5:30-6:30 — African Dancing and Drumming (Monument Stage)

The Imani Dancers—Sonya Mann

Jumbe' Drummers—Mike Friend and the Global Village Dancers

7:00 — 50-50 Raffle Drawing (Main Stage—need not be present to win)

7:00 - dark — Jazz Concert

MAD Jazz Poetry Productions (Main Stage)

Rap Artist—No Puff Daddy

Sterlen Barr is on staff at the Health Promotion Council of Southeastern Pennsylvania, Inc. (HPC), and the Tobacco-free Education and Action Coalition for Health (TEACH). He is also the CEO of Rapping About Prevention, Inc. As a health educator and motivational rap artist, he educates, inspires, motivates and encourages youth to stay healthy and tobacco-free. He delivers a high-energy presentation using facts, humor, personal experience, audience participation, and a live rap performance.

Sterlen started writing health raps as a way to motivate at-risk high school students enrolled in the “VIP’s for Health” program in the Philadelphia Public Schools. Since then, his reputation has spread widely; with many requests coming for him to perform at schools, youth programs, and conferences throughout the Mid-Atlantic region, as well as nationally. In 1992, Sterlen produced a rap video and audiocassette tape, *I’ve Got A Story To Tell So Listen Up*, which targets high-risk African-American teens.

His tape includes raps about smoking, drinking and driving, high blood pressure, nutrition and dealing with hard times. Sterlen has recently produced a brand new Anti-Tobacco Rap CD entitled *Unfiltered Facts*.

Sterlen is currently working with two small theatre troops where he educates youth and young adults through plays, skits, songs about Date Violence, Drugs and Alcohol, and STD/HIV prevention. His acting talent landed him a small role in an independent film entitled “A Hungry Woman.” Sterlen continues to pursue acting as well as a Masters Degree in Public Health. He is very active in the Philadelphia community, acting as a mentor and providing youth with positive alternatives.

In addition, Sterlen has a personal interest in boxing. He won the 1990 National Collegiate Boxing Championship and the 1994 Southeastern Regional Golden Glove Championship. Sterlen continues to train and plans to one-day train young kids.



Jazz Artist—Brian Lenair

Jazz/R&B sax man Brian Lenair recently released his debut album, *The Journey*. For the past 15 years, Brian has been the front man for Washington-DC based Jazz/R&B band, *Spur of the Moment*, whose previous CDs entitled, *Spuraddict* and *Out of the Shadows*, prevalently feature Brian’s talents. This experience has taught him how to combine lush Jazz with silky R&B to create a sultry ballads and funky smooth Jazz songs.

He has toured and played with many legendary Jazz and R&B recording artists including George Benson, Grover Washington, Jr., Al Jarreau, Peabo Bryson, Will Downing, and Jean Carne, to name a few. Brian’s musical journey has also afforded him the opportunity to showcase his talents with the Westminster Choir College Jubilee Singers and as a featured soloist with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra.

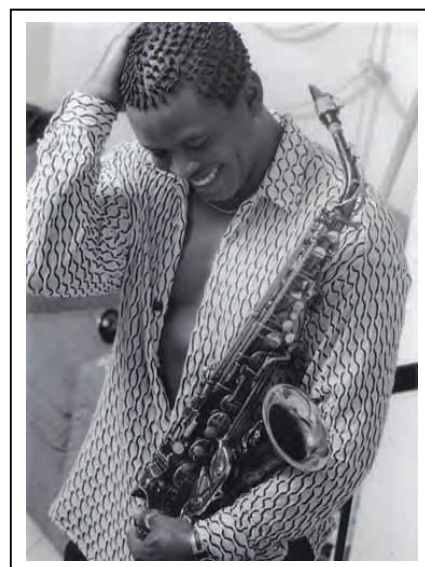
The Journey also showcases Brian’s talent as a producer and songwriter. “I was fortunate enough to have a great deal of creative input on my first solo record”, said Lenair. “I

wrote nine tracks which allowed me to put my inner thoughts and feelings to music.”

With production help from John Stoddart and Eric Valentine, he has managed to take his musical influences ranging from sax greats Grover Washington, Jr. and Stanley Turrentine to the emotional styles of Aretha Franklin and Earth, Wind & Fire, and blend them into a unique sound that encompasses all styles of music. As a result, *The Journey* is a true testament of Brian’s dedication to his work.

In April, Brian released a Gospel Jazz CD titled *Inspirations, Vol 1*. Included on the CD are the very popular Inspirational songs: “Total Praise,” “Stand”, “Praise is What I Do,” and “Center of My Joy” to name a few.

Brian Lenair has embraced the opportunity to share his gift with the world. With this gift he believes, “the audiences will have the much-awaited chance to live the music, feel the music, and love the music.”





Donna Jordan—Hip Hop & Step

Donna Jordan is founder and director of Donna's BodyShakers, an organization dedicated to revolutionizing dance. She is a graduate of Old Dominion University and has traveled abroad in her pursuit of dance and

enlightenment. Her love of dancing began at the age of 2. Her experience consists of several years of instruction in, funk, African, hip hop, step and Latin dance. She is just as eager to be a student as a teacher and her love of dance is apparent to all.

Michael Friend—African Drummer & Vocals



Michael began his music and acting career in 1969 with the world renowned Arthur Hall Afro-American Dancers and Theatre Advocate Company of Philadelphia. He has performed in numerous Washington, DC regional theatrical productions including: Dreamgirls, Purlie, The Wiz, and a Raisin in the Sun. In 1989 Friend wrote his first play entitled "We Are Africa" in response to the growing number of racial disturbances on college campuses across the country.

Michael studied at Fisk University and Howard University where he received

his B.A. degree in Communications in 1980. He went on to perform nationally and internationally, including a jazz tour in 1989 to Cameroon, West Africa.

Michael performed in the Arena Stage production of Douglas Walcott's The Odyssey and at the Kennedy Center (1997), with the Dance Theatre of Harlem, as a drummer during the dance "Dougl". Michael is currently the percussionist for the Four Kings of Rhythm & Blues featuring Lloyd Price, Jerry Butler, Gene Chandler, and Ben E. King.

<http://www.soulinmotionplayers.org>

Imani Edu-Tainers—African Dance Company

IMANI, meaning faith, is the symbol of the "AKUABA" doll, representing healthy children. The term "edu-tain" describes the organization's mission: to receive and provide training, education, and cultural enrichment in African traditions, with an emphasis on youth participation.

Imani Edu-Tainers is a not-for-profit dance company founded in 1992 by Sonya Mann-McFarlane in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Sonya relocated to Lancaster, Pennsylvania 1993 and continues to promote community awareness, appreciation, and understanding of African culture and community enlightenment. The company has received rave reviews for performances and presentations throughout the mid-Atlantic region.

African dance/drumming classes and other cultural enrichment activities are offered to children, teens and adults. These activities facilitate increased community involvement with youth, improve community relations, and promote a better understanding and appreciation of African culture and its contributions to today's society.

Imani Edu-Tainers African Dance Company is a "sister" organization to The Cultural Movement African Dance Company, which is based in Goldsboro, North Carolina, where Sonya received a considerable amount of her training.
<http://www.imaniafricandance.org>



Juneteenth Essay Winners—Claire Weber & Kellen Greenwell

Leonardtwn Middle School—grade 8

Teacher: Mrs. Roberts

Claire Weber

It is evident that events in history have shaped this country and the lives of its inhabitants. Alonzo Gaskin and Ralph Ignatius Butler are famous for quotations that depict how history has impacted our past, present, and eventually our future. These quotations can be found on the cover of *In Relentless Pursuit of an Education: African American Stories from a Century of Segregation*. Quotations like these allow myself to reflect on how history has impacted my life.

As I reflected on Gaskin's quotation, I realized that this quotation truly symbolized Juneteenth Day. I interpreted this quotation to be how it is vital for us to know our history so that we are allowed to learn from other's mistakes. Instead of repeating past mistakes, this quotation encourages the audience to learn from other's past mistakes so that it is possible to make progress and move forward. In fact, one might say that it is *impossible* to move forward until our community acknowledges the mistakes and experiences of past generations. Gaskin also stresses that our country made great sacrifices to evolve to what it is today, suffering from death, lack of food, or lack of finances. Others have suffered the same troubles as our country has, but our country was able to withstand these hardships into what we are today. In short, Gaskin seemed to say that humankind is destined to repeat its past mistakes unless it can learn from them.

Like Gaskin's quotation, Ralph Ignatius Butler's quotation is able to capture the spirit of Juneteenth day. The theme of this quotation, as I interpreted it, was that our past reveals the true nature of us. Upon further reflection, I also realized that Butler seemed to say that those who do not take heed of their past will commit the same mistakes and receive the same misfortunes of those before. My father often says, "Insanity is classified by repeating the same thing while expecting a different result." Both quotations express the need to examine our past and learn from it.

Some say that our history does not define us, but in all truth it does. Although I do believe that you have the power to change your future, in order to do that one must examine their past. History spares no one. For example, if the bold parents involved in the famous case, *Brown vs. Education*, had not stood up for what they believed was unjust, then it would be very likely that we would all be sitting in segregated class rooms even today. If Jackie Robinson had not fought to be the first African American in modern major league baseball, then African Americans could possibly still be forbidden to play on a Major League baseball team. These events have paved the way for African Americans to be treated with equality, but more importantly, African Americans were starting to be treated like fellow Americans.

It is evident that events in history have shaped this country and the lives of its inhabitants. Juneteenth Day is one of those events. It is often said that knowledge is power. If one is to succeed in life, one must learn things the "easy way", by taking heed of their history.

Kellen Greenwell

Gaskin and Butler refer to the course of history and how those that forged the way and contributed to our country's success created a map for us to follow. Those that have studied history have a better understanding of current events and sometimes use that knowledge to avoid conflict and plan for a better future.

To me, Alonzo Gaskin's statement says that history can repeat itself. When Gaskin says "If you don't know your history, you're destined to live it again," suggests to me that you should learn from your mistakes. Knowing what has happened in the past will help you figure out why this country is the way it is. There were people from many ethnic groups that helped start the USA. Many don't remember that it wasn't only our founding fathers that created this country, but also, African Americans and many other ethnic groups that have made us what we are today. In the end, knowing your historical facts and events can help you understand what sacrifices were made and who made them.

My interpretation of Butler's quote is that it takes steps to get to and complete a task. If you keep track of where you have been, you will not have to redo what has already been done. Keeping records of what our predecessors have done gives us an opportunity to continue the work that those before us started. Butler uses the word *reflect* in his quote. A reflection helps you know where you are in the scheme of things. It is fitting then that upon reflection of our country's history we can plan for a successful future.

Everything that has occurred in history has impacted not only my life but those who are part of the time line. If one event didn't happen or something extra happened, it could have changed any part of my life. I believe that life would not be the same if history did not happen the way it already has. I am thankful that America's future plans include freedom and a chance for peace. I am sure that lessons learned from the past will be the key for our nations' success.




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Matthew Randall—Juneteenth Essay Winner

Teacher: Ms. Offenbacher

Great Mills High School—Grade 10

If American contributions were to be divided by race and weighed, no side would outweigh the other. If this is true then why does the American history book act as a moon and eclipse African American advancements. From what I gathered from his quote, Alonzo Gaskin had the same sentiments. Throughout my life I felt this way. The inadequate history forced upon us excludes lesser known black advancements. I am now forced to comply with the teachings of “white America.”

It is true: whites have helped to shape America, but so have blacks. Some of our most famous inventions are made by blacks: traffic lights, the cotton gin, and also the broom. Whites believe that if they do not go into detail about black advancements they will simply disappear. If they disappear whites can maintain their false sense of superiority and prove it to the average uneducated citizen.

By keeping these successful African Americans covered by unessential “white history”, young blacks are tricked into believing that an influential black is very rare. African American youth then begin to think they can only succeed in music and sports. I know that throughout history many blacks have felt the same way. The quote expressed by Alonzo Gaskin has given me great motivation to educate myself. I want to become a great leader of sorts. I want to be an idol to my disenfranchised peers, to show them that I can achieve success despite my color. I want to be remembered in history in the same vein as Malcolm X and Martin Luther King. Throughout my lifespan I've read many books about black history and black advancements. I feel as though the more that

I read, the more I shed light on the truth and brighten my future. I try my best to pass my extensive knowledge, but, because of the way that our history has been hidden from the uneducated black masses, my plan fails.

Today, the crisis is due once again to low awareness by the black community. This also is a repeat of the same issues blacks had as a whole in the 40's and 50's. Because so many negative images were embedded in the everyday society, blacks were stuck in a mentality where the white stereotypical image was essential to being beautiful. Black citizens would get perms to

In this day and age the problem is reversed almost, but has the same outcome: self hatred. The black man that is portrayed today is actually endorsed. But the black man that is endorsed is very primitive. He is shown giving into the most primal instincts such as killing and praising money. These views are spread through the mainstream by way of movies and music where the black man is often a thug and an addict of expensive jewelry and cars. The youth looks up to these Idols and feel as though the black man is supposed to be this way. They are further pushed by black parents who are aware of

the content and allow their children to listen to the “50 cents” and “Lil’ waynes” of the world. It saddens me that the youth cannot see past these obvious ploys to “brain wash” them.

Though I've only begun to scratch the surface of the meaning of the quote, I must end. Alonzo Gaskin's quote has empowered and influenced me to venture on my own to study my people's great and influential past. I live my life by the quote and will die with the history of my ancestors' achievements firmly grasped in my consciences.

If you don't know your history, you're destined to live it again. People made great sacrifices for this county to be where it is today. And, it's universal sacrifice on both sides of the fence. But unfortunately, our history has reflected more of one side than the other. People need to understand the contributions that have been made to make this country what it is.

Alonzo Gaskin

We can best project where we're going if we first reflect on where we've been.

Ralph Ignatius Butler

Excerpts from: In Relentless Pursuit of an Education, UCAC 2006.

straighten their hair and also denounce black girls of darker complexions. Around the 60's and 70's, the black awareness movement penetrated the ears of a lot of people who were deafened by the waters of the mainstream. The black man then left behind the processes and white fantasies and became in tune with the original Negro.

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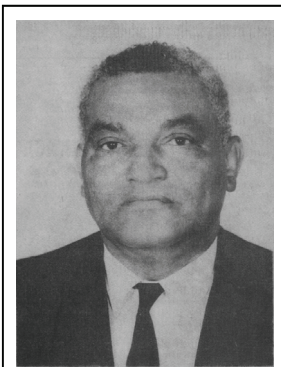
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Pioneers among us—St. Mary's County NAACP

The race riots of 1908 in Springfield, Illinois led William English Walling to write an article for the Independent entitled "Race War In The North" which ended with *Yet who realizes the seriousness of the situation, and what large and powerful body of citizens is ready to come to their aid?* Mary White Ovington, suffragette, socialist, and journalist, responded by setting up a meeting with him and Dr. Henry Moskowitz where they decided to call for a national conference on the civil and political rights of Negroes. On February 12, 1909, the National Negro Committee, as the NAACP called themselves at first, was born. During that same period the Niagara Movement, founded in 1905 and led by W. E. B.



STEPHEN R. L. YOUNG

DuBois, had a lot of experience working on equality for the Negro and had chapters in several states but was struggling financially.

In the 1930s, several St. Mary's County residents were contacted by NAACP staff from Baltimore, Maryland. NAACP lawyers, including the youthful Thurgood Marshall, came to St. Mary's County and met with county educators and community leaders to discuss the county's substandard public education facilities. Noticing the huge discrepancy in teacher salaries, the NAACP lawyers continued to monitor the program and advocate for improvements.

As a result of the NAACP's interest locally, the St. Mary's County Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was chartered on

January 7, 1946. St. Mary's County was not chosen as a plaintiff in a lawsuit that could lead into the Supreme Court appeal, *Brown v Board of Education*. But St. Mary's did become the plaintiff for a follow-up lawsuit filed in 1956, *Groves v Board of Education*. The lawsuit asked the local Circuit Court to uphold the Supreme Court decision, which directed all public schools to be desegregated, and to allow Joan and Conrad Groves to attend Great Mills High School. The judge ruled in the Groves' favor. St. Mary's County Board of Education appealed the case in *Board of Education v Groves* and the Maryland Court of Appeals upheld the lower Court's decision.

The Groves children enrolled in Great Mills High School in the fall of 1958. Joan Groves graduated in the spring of 1959 from Great Mills High School—the first African American to do so.

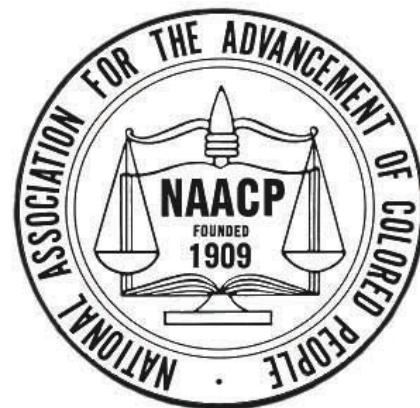
Under the leadership of Stephen R. L. Young and subsequent presidents, the St. Mary's County NAACP is committed to carrying out the NAACP's mission to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.

Some current activities:

- Working with the school system on eliminating the achievement gap and to increase the number of minority teachers and staff members.
- Holding a Community Awareness Day to discuss the status of education and the African American male in Maryland.
- Holding meetings with black ministers to discuss the state of the church as it relates to public education.
- Participated in Juneteenth Celebration.
- Preparing an informational flyer on interacting with law enforcement officers.
- Conducting voter registration drives.

The officers, executive committee, and members congratulate UCAC on your Fourth Annual Juneteenth Celebration.

William (Nace) Bowman—President
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Monthly meetings are the last Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM at the SMECO Building on Hollywood Road in Leonardtown. Visit our website www.stmarysnaacp.org for more information.

WLP
walk lightly in peace . . .

The future can be foreseen through the desires and passions of today's youth. We are pleased to know that the Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions is shaping the lives of today's youth by exposing them to their local history, to their African American legacy, and to the cultural richness of our country.

For this, we are truly grateful.

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Join St. Mary's County Race Relations Study Circles



**Reduce
Racism
in St.
Mary's
County**

The goals of race relations study circles are for people of all racial and ethnic backgrounds to agree on local solutions to racism and to take action to end specific racial problems in our community.

To do so, they learn to: listen respectfully to one another, look at different sides of an issue and explore common concerns, come up with practical ways to address racism locally, take action on their ideas, and test their solutions over the long run.

Race Relations Study Circles are groups of eight to 12 people from different backgrounds and viewpoints who meet two hours a week for six weeks to explore race relations. The groups are moderated by trained leaders and focus on local race-relations issues deemed important by the group's members. Study circles are a democratic dialogue, organized on a large scale.

St. Mary's College of Maryland, St. Mary's County Public Schools (SMCPS), and the St. Mary's County Human Relations Commission are sponsors of this effort.

If you would like to participate in the next round of Race Relation Study Circles contact Marc Apter at mlapter@smcm.edu or 301-904-3690.

**For information about summer events, visit our website
www.smcm.edu or call 240.895.2000**

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Winfield Parker & Praise

Winfield Parker,

a well-known balladeer began singing gospel music in 1985. His songs and his testimony have inspired him to deliver his musical message throughout the east coast.

With being blessed with all the Lord's praises, Winfield Parker decided to add a fantastic group of backup singers called

Praise,

consisting of three strong harmonious voices counterpointing and embellishing the Lord's message in song. The voices of Praise are Vanessa Hunter, Emily

Watson, and Sarah Parker.

Winfield Parker and Praise has appeared on The Bobby Jones TV show in Atlanta where they performed with John P. Kee, Douglas Miller, Dorothy Norwood, Albertina Walker, and Frank Williams. Other famous artists that they have performed with include the nationally recognized *Mighty Clouds of Joy*, *Vicki Winans*, *Jackson Southernares*, *Luther Barnes*, *Lee Williams*, and *Slim and the Supreme Angels*.



MAD Jazz Poetry Productions

MAD Jazz Poetry is a collaboration effort put together by CEO Charles Drain. The Group provides a unique style of music and poetry.

MAD Jazz Poetry is a Washington DC-based group of musicians, poets, and singers. Their music and poetry is a creative recipe of R&B, gospel and other urban styles, skillfully woven into an instrumental up-tempo jazz genre.

Primarily performing original poetry and cover tunes, MAD Jazz Poetry is carving their space into both poetry and music scenes. Each member embodies enough individual talent to

stand-alone. As a group, they deliver a dynamite performance.

Some of the most noted artists that individual members of the group have had the pleasure to perform or share the stage with are jazz greats including: Najee, Marcus Johnson, Patti Austin, Frank McComb, Def Poetry Jam, Comedian Jus June, Darrell Grant, Mel Brown, and Ben Tankard. Their popularity and notoriety is increasing and Mad Jazz Poetry is no longer the best kept secret in the DC Metro area.

The Band Members are: Sax – Haasan Fa-

bree; Keyboard and Keyboard Bass – Marcus Young; Lead & Rhythm Guitar – Tom Newman; Drums – Ignatius Mason; Bass – Chuck the Pluck. Vocals: Calvin Keller, Pam Ward, and Jay Hill

Poets: Benny Blaq, Desire Johnson, KeKe Johnson.



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African American Tourism in St. Mary's Coun-

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African American Monument in Freedom Park

At the corner of Route 235 & Tulagi Place, Lexington Park, MD

Dedicated in 2000, the monument recognizes African Americans and African-American organizations that have made significant contributions to St. Mary's County. Bronze plaques note the contributions of African Americans in the fields of religion, arts/entertainment, farming, trades, business, industry, technology, politics, education, domestic service, government, military service, community service, health, sports, law enforcement, and community service. See: www.ucaonline.org/monument.html

Cardinal Gibbons Monument

Cardinal Gibbons Memorial Park
48913 Seaside View Road, Ridge, MD

Established in 1924 by Jesuit Father John LaFarge as a vocational institute under the auspices of the Baltimore Diocese, and operated by educators from the Tuskegee Institute, the co-educational school for African-American students operated until 1967. It was named for Archbishop James Cardinal Gibbons of Baltimore who donated money for purchase of the land. A monument marks the site where the institute once stood. Park hours: dawn to dusk.

Drayden School

18287 Cherryfield Road, Drayden MD

One of the best preserved African-American schoolhouses in the country, it still occupies its original site and has not been significantly altered. The structure marks the era of segregated schools in St. Mary's County. Built in the late 1800s it was in use until the early 1940s. Tours by advance arrangement; call 301-769-2222 See: www.ucaonline.org/draden.html

Historic St. Mary's City

Rt. 5 and Rosecroft Road, St. Mary's City, MD

When the first permanent English settlement in Maryland was established at St. Mary's City, Mathias de Souza, often recognized as the first individual of African descent to settle in Maryland, was there at its founding. He arrived as an indentured servant. He later became a merchant and participated in the Maryland Assembly. A plaque commemorating de Sousa may be found at St. Mary's City, now an outdoor living history museum. Summer hours: Wednesday - Sunday, 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. See: www.stmaryscity.org
Phone: 240-895-4990

Old Jail Museum

41680 Tudor Place, Leonardtown MD

National Park Service Underground Railroad "Network to Freedom" site. This small jail, built in 1858, operated through the early 1940s. It played a central role in the story of slavery and flights to freedom in St. Mary's County. It was common for runaways to be held in a public jail until their owner retrieved them or they were sold for cost of care. The Jail is related to at least five stories of runaway slaves and their capture. Today the building houses local historical society collections and serves as a county visitor information center. Jail Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10:00am - 2:00pm or by appointment. 301-475-2467

Point Lookout State Park

11175 Point Lookout Road, Scotland MD

National Park Service Underground Railroad Network to Free-



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dom site. Now a state park, Point Lookout was a federal hospital and then prison camp for captured Confederate soldiers during the Civil War. At least three units of the United States Colored Troops served as guards there, while at Hammond Hospital, doctors and nurses assisted with the escape of several Maryland slaves. Just outside of Point Lookout stood a "Contraband Camp" where thousands of runaway slaves who crossed the Potomac River from Virginia, took refuge under the protection of federal authorities. Phone: 301-872-5688 See: <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/southern/pointlookout.html>

St. Jerome's Hall

17765 Three Notch Road, Dameron, MD

Built by the Knights of St. Jerome, the oldest Catholic fraternal organization in the Archdiocese of Washington, St. Jerome's Hall served as a meeting place for the organization. In the late 1880s the hall served as the first parochial school for black children in St. Mary's County. Call for an appointment to tour: 301-872-4566

Sotterley Plantation

44440 Sotterley Wharf Road, Hollywood MD

Sotterley Plantation retains an 1830's slave cabin that exemplifies typical slave housing in the Tidewater region yet also features unique architectural elements. The plantation's interpretive program incorporates elements of the documented and oral histories of the Kane Family's sojourn at Sotterley which spanned the pre and post Civil War Eras. The ninety-acre site also features a manor house and numerous outbuildings dating from the early 18th through the early 20th centuries. Grounds open year round. Tours: May - October, Tuesday - Sunday, 10 AM - 3 PM. Gift Shop is open during tour season. Phone: 301-373-2280

St. Clements Island and Potomac River Museum

38370 Point Breeze Road, Coltons Point, MD

Mathias de Sousa, often recognized as the first individual of African descent to settle in Maryland, was part of the first group of 140 colonists to land at St. Clements Island in 1634. He was initially an indentured servant under the Jesuits and later, he became a free man. The little that is actually known about de Sousa is included in the museum's displays, which relate the story of Maryland's founding. See: www.stmarysmd.us/recreate/potomac.htm
Phone: 301-769-2222



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 **BOEING**



LOTT Enterprises of Maryland, Inc.

The Lexington Park Hampton Inn is the fulfillment of a bold entrepreneurial idea spearheaded by J. Ogden Thomas and Leroy J. Thompson in the late 1980's. A group of thirty African American investors from St. Mary's County, Maryland formed LOTT (Leroy Ogden Thomas Thompson) Enterprises, Inc. to promote business and employment opportunities in this community. Working with a great partner, Waring Hotel Inc., LOTT Enterprises formed Lexington Park Hotel Partners, LLC with LOTT as majority owner.

In addition to the Lexington Park Hampton Inn, LOTT has expanded its investments with interest in the Lexington Park Fairfield Inn Marriott, Waldorf Hampton Inn and the Hilton Garden Inn Solomons in Solomons, Maryland. LOTT is very optimistic about its future.

Congratulations to the Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions of St. Mary's County Incorporated (UCAC) for launching this historical annual Juneteenth Celebration in St. Mary's County.



LOTT Enterprises of Maryland, Inc.
PO Box 1591
Lexington Park, MD 20653
(301) 866-0868

