

**Board of Historic Resources Quarterly Meeting
17 June 2021**

Sponsor Markers – Diversity

1.) Angel Visit Baptist Church

Sponsor: Angel Visit Baptist Church

Locality: Essex County

Proposed Location: 29566 Tidewater Trail

Sponsor Contact: Bessida Cauthorne White, angelvisitbaptistchurch@gmail.com

Original text:

Angel Visit Baptist Church

Angel Visit Baptist Church, one of the oldest African American churches in Essex County, was formed in 1866 by African American members of Ephesus Baptist Church. A modest building was erected on land purchased in 1867. At the time Angel Visit was the only black church in southern Essex so some members traveled many miles for church. More land was purchased in 1893 and a larger church was built. That church burned in 1917 and the present building, with a 350-seat sanctuary, was dedicated in 1919. In the early twentieth century Angel Visit was the place of worship for students and faculty from Rappahannock Industrial Academy, a nearby Baptist-run boarding school.

111 words/ 670 characters

Edited text:

Angel Visit Baptist Church

Angel Visit Baptist Church, one of the oldest African American churches in Essex County, was formed in 1866 when African American members withdrew from white-led Ephesus Baptist Church after Emancipation. The congregation purchased land here in 1867 and erected a sanctuary, which they replaced with a larger building after acquiring an adjoining lot in 1893. Ozeana School, one of the county's first public schools for African Americans, stood just south of the church for decades. The church burned in 1917, and the present 350-seat sanctuary opened in 1919. In the early 20th century, students and faculty from Rappahannock Industrial Academy, a nearby Baptist-run boarding school, worshiped here.

107 words/ 700 characters

Sources:

Deed to Trustees of Angel Visit, Essex County Deed Book 51:775-776 (12 July 1867).

Deed to Trustees of Angel Visit, Essex County Deed Book 57:241 (21 July 1893).

Deed to Trustees of Angel Visit, Essex County Deed Book 83:14 (7 Dec. 1937).

“History of Angel Visit Baptist Church,” (handwritten), 1928.

Angel Visit Baptist Church Sesquicentennial Banquet Program (13 Aug. 2016).

Elaine Morris Ragland, *Herstory: An Autobiography* (Winston-Salem, NC), 30-34.

Lillian H. McGuire, *Uprooted and Transplanted From Africa to America* (New York: Vantage Press, 1999), 44-48, 88.

DHR site 028-0374 Architectural Survey Form

2.) Rappahannock Industrial Academy

Sponsor: Rappahannock Industrial Academy Alumni Association

Locality: Essex County

Proposed Location: 28861 Tidewater Trail

Sponsor Contact: Bessida Cauthorne White, cauthornewwhite@gmail.com

Original text:

Rappahannock Industrial Academy

The Southside Rappahannock Baptist Association established the Rappahannock Industrial Academy here in 1902 to provide high school education for African Americans at a time when it was not offered by area public schools. A boarding school supported by churches, individuals, and the sale of timber and produce, it primarily served students from Essex, Middlesex, and King and Queen Counties. Its nearly 300-acre campus was a working farm and had two three-story buildings with classrooms, dormitories, offices, a library, and a chapel. Accredited by the state in 1934, the school offered a range of academic courses and extracurricular activities. The establishment of public high schools in the region led to declining enrollment and the school closed in 1948.

117 words/ 761 characters

Edited text:

Rappahannock Industrial Academy

The Southside Rappahannock Baptist Association opened the Rappahannock Industrial Academy here in 1902 to provide secondary education for African Americans at a time when no public high schools were available to them in the area. Supported by churches, individuals, and the sale of timber and produce, the school served boarding and day students primarily from this region but also from other parts of Virginia and beyond. It offered a range of academic courses and extracurricular activities and was accredited by the state in 1934. Its nearly 300-acre campus included a working farm. Enrollment declined after public high schools were established, and the school closed in 1948.

106 words/ 680 characters

Sources:

W. Edward Robinson, "Historic Sketch of the Southside Rappahannock Baptist Association..." (1927).

Lillian Hill McGuire, *The Vista of a Century: Historic Highlights of The Southside Rappahannock Baptist Association and Allied Bodies* (Brentwood, MD, 1977).

Essex County Deed Book 60:462, 70:400, 75:48.

Catalogue of the Rappahannock Industrial Academy, Session of 1938-39, 1939-40.

Richmond Times-Dispatch, 29 May 1906.

Norfolk Journal and Guide, 5 Aug. 1939, 6 March 1948.

Irrington Virginia Citizen, 2 Oct. 1903.

Cleveland Gazette, 13 Dec. 1913.

Lillian H. McGuire, *Uprooted and Transplanted from Africa to America* (New York: Vantage Press, 1999).

James B. Slaughter, *Settlers, Southerners, Americans: The History of Essex County, Virginia 1608-1984* (Essex County Board of Supervisors, 1985).

3.) The African Church of Manchester

Sponsor: First Baptist Church of South Richmond

Locality: Richmond

Proposed Location: corner of 7th and Perry Streets

Sponsor Contact: Pamela Johnson Branch, pjjbranch@gmail.com; Tonya Scott-Hickman, tscotthickman@yahoo.com

Original text:**The African Church of Manchester**

Near this location, the congregation of the African Church of Manchester, constructed a brick meeting house, 40 x 60 near where the Methodist Church building they had purchased and were currently meeting, near 7th & Perry, between Porter and Perry Sts. This was the first church building erected by the congregation, while under the leadership of a white pastor, Rev. Levi Horner. Dr. Anthony Binga, was the first African American Pastor to preach from this pulpit, as the leader of the congregation.

82 words/ 500 characters**Edited text:****The African Church of Manchester**

The African Church of Manchester, later known as First Baptist Church of South Richmond, originated ca. 1821 when a group of free African Americans began meeting for worship in a private home near here. The congregation acquired a meetinghouse just south of here in 1823. Led by a white pastor, as required by Virginia law after 1832, they completed construction of their first sanctuary on this site in 1858. The Rev. Richard Wells was the church's first African American pastor after the Civil War. Under the leadership of Dr. Anthony Binga, pastor for nearly 50 years, the rapidly growing congregation dedicated a new church here in 1881 and relocated to 15th and Decatur Streets in 1892.

116 words/ 691 characters**Sources:**

Dr. Laverne Byrd Smith, *Traveling On: First Baptist, South Richmond Today and First Fifty Years, 1821-1871* (Vol. 1 of Comprehensive History of First Baptist Church, South Richmond, 1821-1993 (Richmond: The History Committee of the First Baptist Church of South Richmond, 1993).

Dr. Laverne Byrd Smith, *Traveling On: First Baptist, South Richmond, The 133-Year Journey After the Civil War (1865-1998)*, vol. 2 (Richmond: Northlight Publishing, 1999).

Dr. Laverne Byrd Smith, *A Historical Chronology (1821-1992): Preview of the Comprehensive History of First Baptist Church, South Richmond* (Richmond, History Committee of the First Baptist Church of South Richmond, 1992).

Richmond Planet, 23 Aug. 1890, 10 May 1919, 1 May 1920, 7 May 1921, 13 May 1922.

Richmond Dispatch, 27 July 1892.

Negro Baptist Churches in Richmond (Richmond: Historical Records Survey of Virginia, 1940), 22-24.

John Kneebone, "Binga, Anthony, Jr. (1843–1919)" *Encyclopedia Virginia*. Virginia Humanities, (12 Feb. 2021).

4.) First Baptist Church of South Richmond

Sponsor: First Baptist Church of South Richmond History Committee

Locality: Richmond

Proposed Location: 1501 Decatur Street

Sponsor Contact: Pamela Johnson Branch, pjjbranch@gmail.com; Tonya Scott-Hickman, tscotthickman@yahoo.com

Original text:

First Baptist Church of South Richmond

On July 26, 1892, the cornerstone for this location of The First Baptist Church of South Richmond was established under the leadership of its second African American pastor, Dr Anthony A. Binga, who served until 1919. Dr Binga was instrumental in designing the building and personally financed part of the building. In 1969, Dr William L. Ransome would later build an annex for church school and other activities. In 2021, First Baptist Church of South Richmond celebrates 200 years as one of the oldest African American congregations in the Commonwealth of Virginia with a rich history of visionary ministry and service to the community.

104 words/ 638 characters

Edited text:

First Baptist Church of South Richmond

The First Baptist Church of South Richmond, originally known as the African Church of Manchester, traces its origins to 1821, when a group of free African Americans began meeting for worship. Under the leadership of Dr. Anthony Binga, pastor from 1872 to 1919, the congregation relocated from 7th and Perry Streets to a new sanctuary here in 1892. Binga played a central role in designing the Romanesque Revival building. Dr. William L. Ransome, pastor for five decades and a local civil rights leader, oversaw the construction of an annex in 1969. For more than two centuries, the church has been distinguished by strong ministerial leadership and service to the community.

110 words/ 674 characters

Sources:

Dr. Laverne Byrd Smith, *Traveling On: First Baptist, South Richmond Today and First Fifty Years, 1821-1871* (Vol. 1 of Comprehensive History of First Baptist Church, South Richmond, 1821-1993 (Richmond: The History Committee of the First Baptist Church of South Richmond, 1993).

Dr. Laverne Byrd Smith, *Traveling On: First Baptist, South Richmond, The 133-Year Journey After the Civil War (1865-1998)*, vol. 2 (Richmond: Northlight Publishing, 1999).

Dr. Laverne Byrd Smith, *A Historical Chronology (1821-1992): Preview of the Comprehensive History of First Baptist Church, South Richmond* (Richmond, History Committee of the First Baptist Church of South Richmond, 1992).

Richmond Planet, 23 Aug. 1890, 10 May 1919, 1 May 1920, 7 May 1921, 13 May 1922.

Richmond Dispatch, 27 July 1892.

Richmond Times-Dispatch, 2 May 1970, 3 Jan. 1975.

5.) Lee Street Baptist Church

Sponsor: Bristol Historical Association

Locality: Bristol

Proposed Location: Cumberland Park, near the corner of Lee and Cumberland Streets

Sponsor Contact: Sid Oakley, soakley@btes.tv

Original text:

Lee Street Baptist Church

In 1865, at the dawn of their freedom from slavery, 39 members of Bristol (now First) Baptist Church, organized the Anglo-African Baptist Church of Bristol. The members of that church met in a number of buildings with various names until, in 1905, under the leadership of Rev. Charles Henry Johnson, Lee Street Baptist Church was built on the opposite side of this street. Rev. Johnson served the congregation until his death during his 42nd year as the church pastor in 1932. In 1965, the new Lee Street Baptist Church was dedicated at 1 West Mary Street. After 60 years here, the original brick veneer church weakened by the ravages of time and the flooding of adjacent Beaver Creek and was razed.

121 words/ 700 characters

Edited text:

Lee Street Baptist Church

In 1865, at the dawn of their freedom from slavery, 42 former members of the white-led Goodson (now First) Baptist Church organized the Anglo African Baptist Church. The congregation met in a series of buildings until, under the leadership of the Rev. Charles Henry Johnson, they built a new edifice just across the street from here in 1905. The Rev. Johnson served the church, later renamed Lee Street Baptist, until he died during his 42nd year as pastor in 1932. After six decades here, the original brick-veneer church, weakened by the periodic flooding of adjacent Beaver Creek, was razed. In 1966, the congregation moved into a new building at 1 West Mary Street.

113 words/ 669 characters

Sources:

W.A. Johnson, ed., *A Historical Outline of Lee Street Baptist Church, Bristol Tenn.-Va., 1865-1973* (1973).

Chicago Defender, 17 April 1915.

Norfolk Journal and Guide, 23 Jan. 1932.

Bristol Herald Courier, 13 July 1949, 17 Dec. 2017, 18 April 2019.

First Baptist Church, National Register of Historic Places nomination, 2015
<https://www.nps.gov/nr/feature/places/pdfs/15000905.pdf>

H.G. Noffsinger, *History of First Baptist Church, Bristol, Virginia 1859-1949* (Bristol, VA: King Publishing Company, 1949).

6.) U.S. Colored Troops in the Overland Campaign

Sponsor: The Freedom Foundation

Locality: Culpeper County

Proposed Location: Intersection of Old Brandy Road and Alanthus Road

Sponsor Contact: Howard Lambert, howstory1@aol.com

Original text:

Army of the Potomac, 4th Division, 9th Corps

The Army of the Potomac occupied Brandy Station during the winter of 1863 prior to Ulysses S. Grant Overland Campaign. In 1864, the Army would be joined by, for the first time, the Colored 4th Division, 9th Corps composed of the 19th USCT, 23rd USCT, 27th USCT, 30th USCT, 39th

USCT, 43rd USCT, and the 30th Connecticut Colored Infantry. The Regiments included soldiers who listed Culpeper, Virginia as their place of birth. In May 1864, members of the Division guarded the Union supply line from Warrenton to Brandy Station including the Supply Depot behind this marker. The depot served as the main source of supply for the Army of Potomac before moving to Belle Plains, in Stafford, Virginia. On May 6th, 1864, soldiers in the Division marched south to the town of Culpeper. They returned on May 7th, 1864 and would soon depart Culpeper for the last time. Over the next 11 months, the men fought gallantly during an engagement near Spotsylvania Court House, the Battle of the Crater and the Battle of Appomattox Court House.

176 words/ 1,027 characters

Edited text:

U.S. Colored Troops in the Overland Campaign

On 5 May 1864, thousands of United States Colored Troops entered Culpeper County at Kelly's Ford, six miles southeast of here, marking the first time Black troops served alongside the Army of the Potomac. These men, including some who had escaped slavery in Culpeper and nearby counties, served in the 19th, 23rd, 27th, 30th, 39th, and 43rd USCT and the 30th Connecticut Colored Infantry, which made up the 4th Division of IX Corps. After a brief stay in Culpeper County, the troops marched south across the Rapidan River to join Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's Overland Campaign. While in Culpeper, at least three Black soldiers were captured by Confederates and summarily executed along the roadside.

115 words/ 698 characters

Sources:

Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, 36 (1), 987-988.

OR 36 (2), 387.

Military Records, Civil War African Americans, National Archives.

Mysteries & Conundrums blog:

<https://npsfrsp.wordpress.com/2012/02/13/a-rare-photograph-of-uscts-on-the-eve-of-the-overland-campaign/>

“Petersburg, Virginia. Field and staff officers of 39th U.S. Colored Infantry,” Library of Congress

<https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2018672501/>

Clark B. Hall, “Free Black Men Come to Culpeper as Civil War Soldiers” (2008).

Gilbert Thompson diary, 30 April 1864.

Byrd C. Willis diary.

Richmond Dispatch, 9 May 1864.

Kelly D. Selby, "The 27th United States Colored Troops: Ohio Soldiers and Veterans," Ph.D. diss., Kent State University, 2008).

Daniel E. Sutherland, *Seasons of War: The Ordeal of a Confederate Community, 1861-1865* (New York: The Free Press, 1995).

Emerging Civil War blog:

<https://emergingcivilwar.com/2014/05/15/the-23rd-usct-at-spotsylvania/>

7.) Blackhead Signpost Road

Sponsor: Citizens for Change

Locality: Southampton County

Proposed Location: Intersection of Route 658 and Route 35 (Meherrin Road)

Sponsor Contact: Michelle Covington, michelle.covington05@gmail.com

Original text:

Blackhead Signpost Road

In the days following Nat Turner's Insurrection of 1831, over 200 enslaved, free, guilty, and innocent Blacks were killed in retaliation in Southampton and surrounding counties. At this intersection, a severed head was displayed and left to decay to intimidate and deter others from rising against slavery. It is likely that the beheaded man was Alfred, the slave of Levi Waller. Alfred was not involved in Turner's Insurrection. This road became infamously known as Blackhead Signpost Road and is the only relic of the barbaric backlash that followed the insurrection. The road name was changed to Alfred Road in 2020.

100 words/ 620 characters

Edited text:

Blackhead Signpost Road

In Aug. 1831, following the revolt led by enslaved preacher Nat Turner, white residents and militias retaliated by murdering an indeterminable number of African Americans--some involved in the revolt, some not--in Southampton County and elsewhere. At this intersection, where Turner's force had turned toward Jerusalem (now Courtland), the severed head of a black man was

displayed on a post and left to decay to terrorize others and deter future uprisings against slavery. The beheaded man may have been Alfred, an enslaved blacksmith who, though not implicated in any revolt killings, was slain by militia near here. The name of this road was changed from Blackhead Signpost to Signpost in 2021.

112 words/ 697 characters

Sources:

Patrick Breen, *The Land Shall be Deluged in Blood: A New History of the Nat Turner Revolt* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015).

Alfred L. Brophy, "The Nat Turner Trials," *North Carolina Law Review*, vol. 91, no. 5 (2013): 1817-1880.

Patrick Breen, "Nat Turner's Revolt: Rebellion and Response in Southampton County, VA," (Ph.D. diss., University of Georgia, 2005).

Alfred Brophy, "Blackhead Signpost Road Needs Another Sign," *Tidewater News*, 15 Aug. 2015.

<https://www.thetidewaternews.com/2015/08/15/blackhead-signpost-road-needs-another-sign/>

Southampton County Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes, Feb. 2021

<https://www.southamptoncounty.org/BOS%20Agendas%202021/BOS%2002%20February%2021/No.%20-%20-%20Approval%20of%20Minutes.pdf>

Henry Irving Tragle, *The Southampton Slave Revolt of 1831* (New York: Vintage Books, 1973).

Sarah Roth, *The Nat Turner Project* (Raleigh, N.C., 2019).

Kenneth Greenberg, ed., *Nat Turner: A Slave Rebellion in History and Memory* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003).

8.) Thomas Washington Lynched

Sponsor: Mr. Reginald Carter

Locality: Essex County

Proposed Location: 20 yards south of 31248 Tidewater Trail

Sponsor Contact: Reginald Carter, 8mr.carter8@gmail.com

Original text:

Thomas Washington Lynching

According to newspaper accounts, Thomas Washington, a black man thought to be from Richmond County, was lynched near here on 23 Mar 1896, for the alleged attempted assault of the young daughter of a prominent white citizen. A boy found the body hanging from the limb of a tree about 50 yards west of the public road between Cedar Fork and Centre Cross. A jury impaneled by a justice of the peace serving as a coroner found the cause of death to be hanging at the hands of parties unknown. The body was buried near the tree where it was found, but was taken up the next day by relatives and given a proper burial. Although the case attracted considerable publicity around the state, no one was ever brought to justice for Mr. Washington's murder.

135 words/ 745 characters

Edited text:

Thomas Washington Lynched

Thomas Washington, an African American man, was lynched on 23 March 1896 for allegedly attempting to assault the young daughter of a prominent white citizen. A boy found Washington's body hanging from a tree about 1/8 mile southwest of here. A coroner's jury did not identify the killers. The body, buried near the tree, was later given a proper burial by relatives. This was the only documented lynching in Essex County. The case attracted publicity across the state, but no one was ever brought to justice. More than 4,000 lynchings took place in the U.S. between 1877 and 1950; more than 100 people, primarily African American men, were lynched in Virginia.

111 words/ 660 characters

Sources:

Richmond Planet, 28 March, 4, 18 April, 9 May 1896.

Richmond Dispatch, 25, 29 March 1896.

Norfolk Landmark, 26 March 1896.

Norfolk Virginian, 26 March 1896.

Highland Recorder, 27 March 1896.

Baltimore Sun, 1 Jan. 1897.

Weekly Virginian and Carolinian (Norfolk), 26 March 1896.

"Racial Terror: Lynching in Virginia" database, James Madison University:

<https://sites.lib.jmu.edu/valynchings/va1896032301/>

U.S. Census, 1870, 1880, 1900.

Sponsor Markers

1.) Morgans Baptist Church

Sponsor: Morgan's Baptist Church

Locality: Bedford County

Proposed Location: 2086 Morgans Baptist Church Road

Sponsor Contact: Peter A. Fiset, themayorofsm1@yahoo.com

Original text:

Morgan's Baptist Church

In May 1771, twenty-four people came together to start a Baptist Church in Bedford County. It is the oldest Baptist Church in continuous existence in Bedford County. First called Goose Creek Church the church met in several buildings until finally moving to this location in 1882. It was also around this time that the church officially became known as Morgans Baptist Church. The first location was located near the Davis Mill area of Goose Creek. During the pre-Civil War era, both blacks and whites would worship together. In 1841, the church split over the issue of missionary support. Due to this split, James Burroughs moved his family and slaves to Franklin County, VA where Booker T. Washington would be born in 1856. It houses one of three remaining sign rocks in Bedford County showing the mileage to Hales Ford and other places.

142 words/ 839 characters

Edited text:

Morgans Baptist Church

Morgans Baptist Church, earlier known as Goose Creek Church, was organized in 1771 and is the oldest-existing Baptist church in Bedford County. The congregation, consisting of black and white members until the 1860s, met along Goose Creek and in several other locations before moving here in 1882. James and Elizabeth Burroughs, on whose Franklin County plantation Booker T. Washington was born into slavery in 1856, were members of this church who departed in 1841 when the congregation split over the issue of supporting missionaries. The present sanctuary opened in 1925. At the northwest corner of the cemetery is a 19th-century sign rock directing travelers to Greer's Ford and Hales Ford.

111 words/ 694 characters

Sources:

Harold B. Oyer, *A History of Morgans Baptist Church, 1771-1971* (Paragould, AR: White Printing Co., 1971).

Robert B. Semple, *A History of the Rise and Progress of the Baptists in Virginia* (Richmond, 1810).

John Aspund, *Universal Register of the Baptist Denomination in North America* (Boston, 1794).

Lula Jeter Parker, *Parker's History of Bedford County, Virginia* (Bedford: Hamilton's, 1988).

Kenneth E. Crouch and 200th Anniversary Committee, *The Early Trails of the Baptists: A History of the Strawberry Baptist Association, 1776-1976* (1976).

Ann B. Miller, "A Survey of Early Virginia Road Stones: Sign Rocks, Milestones, and Related Objects" (Charlottesville: Virginia Transportation Research Council, 2009).

<https://rosap.ntl.bts.gov/view/dot/20217>

Carole F. Lacy, "Bedford's Historic Sign Rocks," *Bedford Genealogical Society Quarterly*, vol. 30, no. 1 (Feb. 2016).

Richmond Dispatch, 1 July 1900.

Morgan Edwards, *Materials Toward a History of the Baptists in the Province of Virginia* (1772).

2.) William Langhorne Bond (1893-1985)

Sponsor: Pegram Johnson

Locality: Petersburg

Proposed Location: southwest corner of Adams and Washington Streets

Sponsor Contact: Pegram Johnson, wpjoh3@gmail.com

Original text:

William Langhorne Bond

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words/ characters

Edited text:

William Langhorne Bond (1893-1985)

W. Langhorne Bond, aviation executive, grew up in this neighborhood. He served in the U.S. Army during World War I. In 1931 he became manager of the China National Aviation Corporation, founded as a joint venture between the American aircraft company Curtiss-Wright and the Chinese government. During World War II, Bond was the driving force behind organizing and promoting the high-altitude air route between India and China known as “the Hump,” which provided an essential link to China after the Japanese shut down other points of access. Over this difficult route the U.S. delivered nearly 740,000 tons of supplies, fortifying American troops and enabling China to remain in the war against Japan.

112 words/ 701 characters

Sources:

W. Langhorne Bond, *Wings for an Embattled China*, ed. James E. Ellis (Bethlehem, PA: Lehigh University Press, 2001).

John D. Plating, “Keeping China in the War: The Trans-Himalayan ‘Hump’ Airlift and Sino-US Strategy in World War II (Ph.D. diss., The Ohio State University, 2007).

William W. Leary, “Bond, William Langhorne,” *Dictionary of Virginia Biography*, 2:75-76

Register of the W. Langhorne Bond Papers, Stanford University
<http://pdf.oac.cdlib.org/pdf/hoover/bondwlan.pdf>

National Museum of the United States Air Force, “First Over the ‘Hump’: The China National Aviation Corporation” (29 April 2015).

<https://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/Visit/Museum-Exhibits/Fact-Sheets/Display/Article/196206/first-over-the-hump-the-china-national-aviation-corporation/>

Richmond Times-Dispatch, 28 July 1985.

New York Times, 27 July 1985.

Governor’s Black History Month Contest Winners

1.) Dangerfield and Harriet Newby

Sponsor: DHR

Locality: Culpeper County

Proposed Location: Route 211 at intersection with Route 229

Dangerfield and Harriet Newby

Dangerfield Newby (ca. 1820-1859), born enslaved, grew up about nine miles southwest of here. He became free in 1858 when his white father and enslaved mother took their children to Ohio. Working as a blacksmith, Newby saved money to buy his wife, Harriet (d. 1884), and their children, who remained enslaved in Virginia and were in danger of being sold to the Deep South. When negotiations for the purchase failed, he joined the abolitionist John Brown in planning an attack designed to incite a slave revolt. During the raid on Harpers Ferry in Oct. 1859, Newby was the first of the raiders to be killed. Harriet and the children were sold to Louisiana but returned to Virginia after the Civil War.

121 words/ 700 characters

Sources:

Eugene L. Meyer, “The Heartbreaking Love Letters that Spurred an Ohio Blacksmith to Join John Brown’s Raid,” <https://piedmontlifestyle.com/history/the-newby-families/>

Eugene L. Meyer, *Five For Freedom: The African American Soldiers in John Brown's Army* (Chicago Review Press, 2018).

John Toler, “The Newby Families”: <https://piedmontlifestyle.com/history/the-newby-families/>

Jon-Erik Gilot, “The Newby Family Fights for Freedom,” <https://emergingcivilwar.com/2019/02/21/the-newby-family-fights-for-freedom/>

2.) Dr. Edwin Bancroft Henderson (1883-1977)

Sponsor: DHR

Locality: Falls Church

Proposed Location: 307 South Maple Ave.

Dr. Edwin Bancroft Henderson (1883-1977)

E. B. Henderson, whose pioneering work fostered African American participation in athletics early in the 20th century, lived in Falls Church from 1910 to 1965. After studying physical education at Harvard, he popularized basketball in his hometown of Washington, D.C., organized leagues and associations for Black athletes and referees, and wrote *The Negro in Sports* (1939). He helped organize the NAACP’s first rural branch, in Falls Church, was president of the Virginia NAACP, and fought segregation in education, housing, and public facilities. Known as the “Father of Black Basketball,” he was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2013.

102 words/ 667 characters

Sources:

Leon Coursey, "The Life of Edwin Bancroft Henderson and his Professional Contributions to Physical Education," Ph.D. diss., The Ohio State University, 1971.

David K. Wiggins, "Edwin Bancroft Henderson: Physical Educator, Civil Rights Activist, and Chronicler of African American Athletes," *Research Quarterly for Exercise and Sport*, vol. 70, no. 2: 91-112.

Dr. Edwin Bancroft and Mary Ellen Henderson House, NRHP nomination (2012).

Washington Post, 5 Feb. 1977, 6 Sept. 2013.

Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame: <https://www.hoophall.com/hall-of-famers/eb-henderson/>

Library of Virginia Changemakers: <https://edu.lva.virginia.gov/changemakers/items/show/300>

3.) Lt. Col. John Lyman Whitehead Jr. (1924-1992)

Sponsor: DHR

Locality: Brunswick County

Proposed Location: U.S. 58 near Airport Drive, Lawrenceville

Lt. Col. John Lyman Whitehead Jr. (1924-1992)

John L. Whitehead Jr., fighter pilot, was born in Lawrenceville. He joined the U.S. Army Air Forces during World War II at the age of 19, completed pilot training at Tuskegee Army Air Field in Sept. 1944, and was deployed to Italy with the 301st Fighter Squadron. In 1949 he became one of the U.S. Air Force's first African American jet pilot instructors. After flying more than 100 combat missions in Korea early in the 1950s, he became the Air Force's first Black experimental test pilot. Whitehead flew combat missions in Vietnam before retiring in 1974. He later served as national president of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., an organization dedicated to preserving the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen.

117 words/ 696 characters

Sources:

Afro-American, 21 Nov. 1953.

Norfolk Journal and Guide, 23 Sept. 1944, 17 Oct. 1953.

Cleveland Call, 23 Sept. 1944.

Philadelphia Tribune, 19 May 1953.

“Mr. Death,” *Ebony*, Jan. 1951 :28-30, 32-34.

Charlie Cooper and Ann Cooper, *Tuskegee's Heroes: Featuring the Aviation Art of Roy Lagrone* (Osceola, Wis: Motorbooks Intl., 1996).

Betty Kaplan Gubert, et al., *Distinguished African Americans in Aviation and Space Science* (Westport, Conn., Oryx Press, 2002): 291-293.

West Virginia State College Homecoming Convocation and Reserve Officers Training Corps Hall of Fame Ceremony (1989).

Bobby Conner, “John L. Whitehead Flew to Great Heights,” *Brunswick Times-Gazette*, 21 Feb. 2017.

Scott B. Thompson, “Col. John Whitehead,” Pieces of Our Past blog, 19 Feb. 2014 (<http://dublinlaurenscountygeorgia.blogspot.com/2014/02/col-john-whitehead.html>)

4.) Mary Richards Bowser Denman

Sponsor: DHR

Locality: City of Richmond

Proposed Location: TBD

Mary Richards Bowser Denman

Mary Richards Bowser Denman was born enslaved in Virginia ca. 1840. Given de facto freedom by Elizabeth Van Lew, whose family enslaved her, she was educated in New Jersey and sent to live in Liberia before returning to Richmond in 1860. During the Civil War, she participated in a secret network of free and enslaved African Americans and pro-Union whites, including Van Lew, who assisted federal prisoners of war and passed intelligence to the U.S. Army. Denman, who used various names throughout her life, later taught in schools for the formerly enslaved in Virginia, Florida, and Georgia, gave lectures in the North, and was an activist for equal rights and full citizenship for black Americans.

115 words/ 699 characters

Sources:

Lois Leveen, “She Was Born Into Slavery, Was a Spy and Is Celebrated as a Hero—But We're Missing the Point of the 'Mary Bowser' Story,” *Time*, 19 June 2019.

<https://time.com/5609045/misremembering-mary-bowser/>

Lois Leveen, “The Vanishing Black Woman Spy Reappears,” *Los Angeles Review of Books*, 19 June 2019. <https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/the-vanishing-black-woman-spy-reappears/>

Elizabeth L. Varon, *Southern Lady: Yankee Spy: The True Story of Elizabeth Van Lew, A Union Agent in the Heart of the Confederacy* (Oxford University Press, 2003).

Lois Leveen, "Bowser, Mary Richards (fl. 1846–1867)," *Encyclopedia Virginia* (Feb. 2021).
<https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/bowser-mary-richards-fl-1846-1867/>

5.) Samuel P. Bolling (1819-1900)

Sponsor: DHR

Locality: Cumberland County

Proposed Location: Route 45 just north of Farmville

Samuel P. Bolling (1819-1900)

Samuel P. Bolling was born enslaved in Cumberland County and became a skilled mechanic. After the Civil War he purchased several lots in Farmville, where he established a successful brickyard by 1874. He later acquired more than 1,000 acres in Cumberland. About 1880 he aligned with the Readjuster Party, a biracial coalition that refinanced the antebellum state debt to pay for public education and other services. In 1885 he was elected to represent Buckingham and Cumberland Counties in the Virginia House of Delegates; his son, Philip S. Bolling, had won this seat in 1883. Bolling later donated land to establish a school. His daughter, Eliza Bolling, was a noted local educator.

111 words/ 684 characters

Sources:

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<https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/bolling-samuel-p-1819-1900/>

Luther Porter Jackson, *Negro Office-Holders in Virginia, 1865-1895* (Norfolk: Guide Quality Press, 1945).

Southern Workman, vol. 26, no. 4 (April 1897), vol. 30, no. 12 (Dec. 1901), vol. 40, no. 9 (Sept. 1911).

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DHR-initiated Markers

1.) Lylburn Downing School

Sponsor: DHR

Locality: Lexington

Proposed Location: 300 Diamond St.

Lylburn Downing School

Lylburn Downing School opened here in 1927 after the Home and School League, an organization of local Black parents and citizens, campaigned for equitable schools. Built with financial support from the Black community, Rockbridge County, and the Rosenwald Fund, the countywide school first served grades 1-9 and expanded to include a high school in the 1940s. Desegregation closed the original edifice in 1965, but the newer buildings became Lexington's middle school. Lylburn Downing (1862-1937) was born enslaved in Lexington, attended Lincoln University, and was pastor of Roanoke's Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church for more than 40 years. He was a longtime advocate for African American education.

105 words/ 701 characters

Sources:

Fisk Rosenwald Database

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Michael E. Blankenship, "The Founding of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church" (2018).

Chicago Defender, 24 Sept. 1927.

Norfolk Journal and Guide, 15 Oct. 1949.

Lexington News-Gazette, 9 Oct. 2019. <https://www.thenews-gazette.com/content/man-behind-name>

<https://www.5thavepresbychurchroanoke.com/church-history>

2.) Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground

Sponsor: DHR

Locality: Richmond

Proposed Location: N. 5th St., just north of intersection with Hospital St.

Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground

The City of Richmond opened the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground here in 1816 to replace the Burial Ground for Negroes in Shockoe Bottom. The new cemetery, laid out along the northern end of Fifth Street near the city's poorhouse, began as two adjoining one-acre plots, one for free people of color and one for the enslaved. The grounds expanded greatly over time, eventually spreading down the slopes and into the valley. With an estimated 22,000 interments, it was among the largest cemeteries for free and enslaved African Americans in the U.S. during its era. After closing the cemetery in 1879 due to overcrowding, the city repurposed the site, making the burial ground unrecognizable today.

115 words/ 699 characters

Sources:

Shockoe Hill Burying Ground (127-7231) Preliminary Information Form (2020).

Ryan K. Smith, "Disappearing the Enslaved: The Destruction and Recovery of Richmond's Second African Burial Ground," *Buildings and Landscapes*, vol. 27, no. 1 (Spring 2020): 17-45.

<https://www.richmondcemeteries.org/potters-field/>

Lenora McQueen, "Honoring Ancestors," *Style Weekly*, 20 Oct. 2020.

Richmond Enquirer, 22 Feb. 1816.

Richmond Dispatch, 1 Jan., 3 June 1879.

Replacement Markers

1. Greene County

Sponsor: Greene County and Rockingham County

Location: Eastbound US Route 33 at Greene/Rockingham county line

Original Text:

Greene County

Formed from Orange County in 1838, this rural Piedmont county was named for Gen. Nathanael Greene, Revolutionary War military hero. The county seat of Greene County is Stanardsville. William Donoho and William B. Phillips, master builders who had learned the classical

vocabulary from Thomas Jefferson while constructing the University of Virginia, designed the Greene County Courthouse in 1838.

58 words/ 396 characters

Edited Text:

Greene County

Formed from Orange County in 1838, this rural Piedmont county was named for Maj. Gen. Nathanael Greene, Revolutionary War hero. In 1722, Lt. Gov. Alexander Spotswood issued the Octonia land grant to eight Virginians; the Octonia Stone, five miles southeast of here, is a rare stone boundary marker that designates the westernmost edge of this 24,000-acre grant. William Stanard, heir to a portion of this grant, founded Stanardsville, the county seat, in 1794. The county's courthouse, built in the Roman Revival style popularized by Thomas Jefferson, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In the 1930s, 15% of Greene County's land was acquired to form Shenandoah National Park.

110 words/ 695 characters

2. Rockingham County

Sponsor: Greene County and Rockingham County

Location: Eastbound US Route 33 at Greene/Rockingham county line

Original Text:

Rockingham County

During its October 1777 session, the Virginia General Assembly carved Rockingham County out of a large portion of Augusta County. The first court was held on 27 April 1778. Rockingham County was named for Charles Watson Wentworth, second marquis of Rockingham, a British prime minister who helped secure the repeal of the Stamp Act. During the Civil War, Stonewall Jackson concluded his famous Valley campaign with victories at Cross Keys and at Port Republic, 8–9 June 1862. Rockingham County is known for its poultry industry, particularly its turkey production.

90 words/ 564 characters

Edited Text:

Rockingham County

Rockingham County was formed from Augusta County in 1777. Harrisonburg was established as the county seat in 1780. Settlers migrating south and west along the Great Wagon Road, a route first developed by Native Americans, encountered the natural bounty of the Shenandoah Valley. The earliest European immigrants were predominantly German-Swiss, Scots-Irish, and English. During the Civil War, Confederate Maj. Gen. Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson concluded his Valley campaign at Cross Keys and at Port Republic, 8–9 June 1862. Agricultural enterprises, Mennonite and Church of the Brethren refugee resettlement programs, and colleges and universities later attracted new community members.

99 words/ 688 characters

3.) Culpeper County

Sponsor: VDOT, via insurance claim

Location: Southbound US Route 522 at Culpeper/Rappahannock county line

Original Text:

Culpeper County

Formed from Orange County in 1749, Culpeper County originally included the territory that now comprises Culpeper, Madison, and Rappahannock Counties. The legendary Culpeper Minute Men battalion was formed here in 1775 at the beginning of the Revolutionary War. A number of Civil War battles and engagements took place here, including the Battle of Cedar Mountain on 9 Aug. 1862 and the Battle of Brandy Station on 9 June 1863. The county seat is Culpeper.

74 words/ 455 characters

Edited Text:

Culpeper County

Formed from Orange County in 1749, Culpeper County originally included present-day Culpeper, Madison, and Rappahannock Counties. George Washington was appointed the first surveyor of the county in 1749 at the age of 17. The legendary Culpeper Minute Men battalion was formed here in 1775 at the beginning of the Revolutionary War. A number of Civil War battles and engagements took place here, including the Battle of Cedar Mountain on 9 Aug. 1862 and the Battle of Brandy Station on 9 June 1863. The county seat is Culpeper.

87 words/ 525 characters

4.) Rappahannock County

Sponsor: VDOT, via insurance claim

Location: Southbound US Route 522 at Culpeper/Rappahannock county line

Original Text:

Rappahannock County

Scenically situated along the Blue Ridge Mountains, Rappahannock County was formed from Culpeper County in 1833. It was named for the Rappahannock River, which forms its northern border. The Rappahannock River received its name from the Indian tribe that lived along its banks. The county seat is Washington, whose name honors George Washington, who platted the grid plan for the community in 1749. Malcolm F. Crawford, who had worked at the University of Virginia, constructed the Roman Revival courthouse there in 1833.

82 words/ 521 characters

Edited Text:

Rappahannock County

Scenically situated along the Blue Ridge Mountains, Rappahannock County was formed from Culpeper County in 1833 and has an area of 267 square miles. It was named for the Rappahannock River, which forms its northern border. The Rappahannock River received its name from the Indian tribe that lived along its banks east of the fall line. The county seat is Washington. Malcolm F. Crawford, one of the builders of the University of Virginia, constructed the Roman Revival courthouse there in 1833.

81 words /494 characters

5.) Nat Turner's Insurrection

Sponsor: VDOT

Location: Route 35 (Meherrin Road), south of the intersection with Route 665 (Cross Keys Road), Southampton County

Original Text:

Nat Turner's Insurrection U-122

On the night of 21-22 August 1831, Nat Turner, a slave preacher, began an insurrection some seven miles west with a band that grew to about 70. They moved northeast toward the Southampton County seat, Jerusalem (now Courtland), killing about 60 whites. After two days militiamen and armed civilians quelled the revolt. Turner was captured on 30 October, tried and convicted, and hanged on 11 November; some 30 blacks were hanged or expelled from Virginia. In response to the revolt, the General Assembly passed harsher slave laws and censored abolitionists.

90 words/ 557 characters

Edited Text:

Nat Turner's Insurrection U-122

On 21 Aug. 1831, enslaved preacher Nat Turner began an insurrection five miles west of here with a force that grew to about 60 men. They killed nearly 60 white people before the revolt was suppressed within two days. In retaliation, white residents and militias killed an indeterminable number of African Americans in Southampton County and beyond. Thirty-one black people were later convicted in court of supporting the revolt; 19 were hanged. Turner was captured on 30 Oct., tried and convicted, and hanged on 11 Nov. In 1832, responding to the nation's deadliest slave revolt, the Virginia General Assembly debated proposals for gradual emancipation but instead tightened laws governing black Virginians.

111 words/ 707 characters

6.) Potts-Fitzhugh-Lee House

Sponsor: Oronoco, LLC

Location: Oronoco Street east of North Washington Street, Alexandria

Original Text:

Lee's Boyhood Home

Robert E. Lee left this home that he loved so well to enter West Point. After Appomattox he returned and climbed the wall to see "if the snowballs were in bloom." George Washington dined here when it was the home of William Fitzhugh, Lee's kinsman and his wife's grandfather. Lafayette visited here in 1824.

54 words/ 307 characters

Edited Text:

Potts-Fitzhugh-Lee House

This Federal-style townhouse and its adjoining twin were built ca. 1795. Original owner John Potts Jr., secretary of the Potomac Company, deeded the house in 1799 to William Fitzhugh of Chatham, member of Virginia's Revolutionary Conventions and the Continental Congress. George Washington visited his friends and business associates Potts and Fitzhugh here. Maj. Gen. Henry "Light-Horse Harry" Lee, Revolutionary War officer, governor of Virginia, and member of the U.S. Congress, moved here in 1811. His son Confederate general Robert E. Lee

grew up here and studied at Benjamin Hallowell's school next door. Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and playwright Archibald MacLeish lived here in the 1940s.

104 words /697 characters