

Genealogical News

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THE MULTICULTURAL GENEALOGICAL

CENTER

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

ADA WOODSON ADAMS

Keeping you informed of what is going on in your organization is one of the responsibilities of your president. Since the last *Newsletter* in January, much has taken place. The Multicultural Genealogical Center (MGC) has been very active.

The History Challenge in our last newsletter was answered first by our new board member, **Kay Harris**. The second correct respondent was Elnora Faulks. They will receive a copy of the book "Significant Presence."

We have had a number of excellent presentations at our monthly meetings. Ron Luce did a reading of poems, speeches, and stories from Black Literature for Black History Month. The following month, Rev. Evan Young, campus minister at United Campus Ministry, an ecumenical and interfaith ministry on the campus of Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, and student Ryant Taylor presented "A Letter from the Birmingham Jail" written by Dr. Martin Lu-

ther King, Jr. Those who attended were involved in an excellent discussion. The following month, Dr. Anita Jackson, Ph.D., PCC-S, Emerita Professor, Kent State University, Counseling and Human Development, and Education Chairperson for the Nelson T. Gant Foundation of Zanesville, Ohio, presented the film "Freedom Riders, Mississippi Freedom Summer" with audience participation after the film viewing. Jack Wright, with the aid of his wife, Sharon Hatfield, presented a slide presentation on coal mining songs covering the historical spectrum of that music from the Appalachian coalfields since 1908. He shared audio from the two-CD set he produced and included him playing and singing songs related to the topic. Our August program was presented by Charles Howard of Washington, DC. Mr. Howard is the immediate past president of both the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society and its Washington, DC, chapter. He is a life member of MGC and a member of the Athens County (Ohio) Historical Society and Museum, the Ohio Genealogical Society, the Ohio Historical Society,, the Gallia (Ohio) Genealogical Society, and the

Albemarle County (Virginia) Chapter of AAHGS. He is a life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., the Historian of the Washington (DC) Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, and the Treasurer of the Historic Kappa House Restoration Foundation. His presentation was on "The Impact of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands." (We do not have membership meetings in July or September.)

Upcoming monthly membership programs are as follows: The October program will be presented by Dr. Cathy Perdreau, "Tracing Families with Complicated Family Dynamics. November's program will be presented by Dr. Washburn, Ohio University Retired Professor, who will talk about Women Correspondents during WWII. In December we will have our annual holiday meeting.

We have done three Underground Railroad Tours. One was organized with the help of United Campus Ministries (Spring Tour); another was Ohio University's second annual "Ohio University Alumni On The Green" offering at the end of May for which we had 20 alumni participants; a private

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This issue is dedicated to the memory of our beloved member and friend

Virginia "Ginger" Norris

A TRIBUTE TO VIRGINIA TATE NORRIS

BY ADA WOODSON ADAMS



In the African word for death, you hear the word "late" and even today I find myself saying, my "late" sister, brother, husband or whoever in my life has died. On December 21, 2013, Virginia Tate Norris became "late."

Virginia was born March 1, 1932, in Greens Run, Glouster, Athens County, Ohio, to Leo James Tate and Feral Harris. Virginia was one of thirteen children, the oldest girl to live. Two sisters who had come before her died. Both of Virginia's parents were born in Ohio and Leo worked in the mines in the Glouster area for a time. He moved his family to Bartlett when Virginia was just a baby. Virginia, like all the locals, called the place she grew up in as "Back In." (It was really named "Cory Hollow.") The family moved many times, but eventually ended up on the Fawcett farm when Virginia was about nine. She attended school in Bartlett. She often said, "Bartlett was a good place to live, and the folks got along real nice." At one point, she

attended the Chesterhill School; she told a story that, while there, a white boy pushed her face into the water spigot when she was getting a drink of water.

Later, she attended the Washington County Vocational School in Marietta and studied nursing.

Virginia married Russell Norris, and they had a daughter Karen. A ten-year-old niece, Candy, was taken in by Virginia and Russell after her mother became "late" due to a brain tumor. Candy's father, Ralph, was a truck driver and on the road and couldn't care for his daughter. Virginia always thought of Candy as her daughter.

Virginia believed education opened doors to opportunity, so she continued to study nursing after her marriage to Russell and after Karen was old enough to care for herself. She also attended Hocking County Vocational School to take pharmacology.

She worked at Marietta Memorial and O'Bleness Hospital, as well as at the Center Nursing Home. As a neighbor and friend, Virginia was asked to help out. Once she was asked to attend a mother in childbirth, but was given the address for the wrong house. Whatever the need, if asked, Virginia would answer the call. She helped nurse and care for the sick and never complained about her lot in life. She was always positive and supportive. She loved people and had a unique ability to listen and comfort.

Virginia was a member of MGC since its beginning and truly loved the organization

and did everything she could to help it grow. She wore many hats and participated in, organized and helped in any way she could to carry out the mission and goals of the organization.

Virginia would come to meetings and work sessions and park at the bottom of the hill behind the building. When asked, "Why do you park at the bottom of the hill?" and told "You can park in the handicap spot at the Center," she would say she wanted to save that spot for others; she was saying this when she was 79 or 80 years old! Virginia was with us when we pulled staples out of the floor—down on her hands and knees pulling away and talking about something in her life that related to the job at hand. At 80 years young, Virginia said she would be OK painting from a ladder. That was Virginia. She had a work

ethic that said "I can do."

Virginia served as the Secretary of MGC for many years, spearheaded the ODOT Fundraiser, worked on committees and served on the Social Committee. She often provided a pulled pork dish—one of our favorites—for events to rave reviews from all who tasted it.

She had many hobbies, including quilting, crafts and cooking. Along with her volunteer work with MGC, Virginia volunteered as part of the Marietta Memorial Hospital Ladies Aid and the Cutler Community Ladies Aid.

Virginia was a shining light in the lives of many people. The Multicultural Genealogical Center (MGC) board, members and friends honor her memory. Though she is now "late," we continue to remember her and the impact she had on her family, friends, loved ones and the community at large.

IN MEMORY OF VIRGINIA TATE NORRIS

To My Ginger:

"Ginger," as I always called, her was my oldest sister . . . kind of like another Mom. I always thought of her as a "mystery" family member. I knew she wasn't my Mom. We never really lived in the same house, but she was always "there."

When you are little, you just can't comprehend all of this. Later in life we became the bookends to our family. She the oldest and I the youngest. My fondest memories of her were about our travelling. We went to the Smokies a lot

and Nashville (The Grand Ole Opry)

To my Ginger. I miss you!

Rita

My Mom:

My Mom loved the Multicultural Genealogical Center (MGC) and working with the members. She loved people. She never said "no" when anyone asked her for help. She was a wonderful mother and my best friend.

Her daughter,
Karen Norris Blair

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IN MEMORY OF VIRGINIA TATE NORRIS
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

Remembering Virginia:

Virginia was a very good friend to me. I have known her for many years. When I was growing up, we went to church together, and I knew all her family. Her brother, Paul, was in class with me in school.

When I graduated from high school, I got married and moved to Charleston, West Virginia. I didn't get to see her much, but when I moved back to Cutler, Ohio, in 1997, we became close friends again.

I started going to church, and she was my Sunday School teacher. We sang in the church choir, and I joined the Ladies Aid group, and Virginia was the president of Ladies Aid. Then I joined the Multicultural Genealogical Center, and Virginia was on the Board. She was the Secretary. Virginia was also Chair of the Social Committee and helped Dessie Workman and me carry out the work. She also set up the ODOT Fundraising coffee break weekends on the interstate rest stops.

Virginia was fun to be with always wanting to help everyone. We would have a good conversation on the telephone. I was there the day she passed away. I loved her and have missed her so much.

Kay Kennedy Harris

Gracious, Loved and Respected:

I was in the same grade with Virginia's sister, Franny, at Bartlett Elementary and Junior High School and at Warren High School and knew Virginia through her many associations in the Cutler Community and through other activities such as the Multicultural Genealogical Center (MGC), Ladies Aid, Senior Citizens, and Cutler Commu-

nity Church.

Virginia was a close friend of my late wife Christy Brant. They volunteered for many activities at the Cutler Community Center. Virginia was one of the most gracious people I knew. She was loved and respected by everyone.

Mike Brant

What a Friend Means to Me:

I learned what real friendship means through Virginia Norris. I met her in 2000 when I moved to Cutler, Ohio. I had started in a church. I had met a few people; one was Virginia. She was my Sunday school teacher. We hit it off great. She wanted to meet the people at the Ladies Auxiliary. So we had learned that different people have different talents. We had cooking classes and making crafts, but best of all she showed me how to make a nine-match quilt and how to knot it. We worked on cutting out five squares and lined them up to make a square, three in each row of three. Later on we did a lot of baked sales and went on bus tours together and sharing ideas. Virginia talked about what she liked to do, and we worked things out together. She was an old fashioned friend and a partner in my life. If you met this woman you would know what I mean. But, she also had this other lady friend, Pauline Walker. People called us the three amigos in Cutler, Ohio. We laughed and joked with each other all the time. I surely do miss her a lot. She was always there for everyone. She liked to meet people and gain the world's wisdom and to learn more about the past and present of our cruel world. She might have been old fashioned;

she knew right from wrong. I loved her very much like an Aunt or Grandma. I had her as a friend and know I was so lucky to have the time I had with her and to learn the skills of life she taught me.

Your Special Friend,
Linda Heeter

Mutual Friends:

I first became acquainted with Virginia Norris in late November 1958. She came into our home to assist in the care of a new baby boy, and what a blessing she was! So considerate, soft spoken, and an excel-

lent cook.

She was also in charge of another two-year-old little boy. All this Virginia managed without raising her voice. I don't recall exactly how long she helped us, but it wasn't nearly long enough!

Our paths would cross from time to time over the years, and she never failed to ask about Timmy and Tracey. I am so thankful to have known Virginia, and I hope the feeling was mutual.

Barbara Fischer

VIRGINIA NORRIS

3/1/1932 - 12/21/2013

OBITUARY

Virginia Lee Norris, 81, of Cutler died on Sat. Dec. 21, 2013 at her residence. She was born on March 1, 1932 in Greens Run, Ohio near Glouster to the late Leo James and Fearl B. Harris Tate. She graduated from Bartlett High School and then attended Nursing School. She worked as an LPN at O'Blenness Hospital in Athens, Marietta Memorial Hospital in Marietta and retired from the Convalescent Center in Marietta. She was a member of Bethel Wesleyan Church near Amesville, the Multicultural Genealogical Center in Chesterhill, the Cutler Community Ladies Aid, Bartlett Senior Citizens and volunteered at Marietta Memorial Hospital. She is survived by her daughter, Karen (Tim) Blair of

Cutler; a niece that she raised, Candy Norris of Cutler; 2 brothers, Paul Tate of Canal Winchester and Don Tate of Columbus; 3 sisters, Cathy Davis of Canal Winchester, Judy Smith of Belpre and Rita Tate of Groveport. She is preceded in death by her parents, husband, Russell Norris, 2 brothers, Dwight and Jimmy and 2 sisters, Esther and Franni. Services will be held on Friday, Dec. 27, 2013 at 12:00 P.M. at the Bethel Wesleyan Church near Amesville. Burial will follow in the Southland Old Quaker Cemetery. Friends may call on the family on Thursday, Dec. 26, 2013 from 3-7 P.M. at the Stone-Matheney Funeral Home in Chesterhill and 1 hour prior to the services at the church.



The Center is open
by appointment
740-448-1305, 740-662-5701
or email:
Ada Woodson Adams at
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AFRICAN-AMERICANS IN THE EARLY DAYS

Slaves in Ohio

In looking over documents in the office of the state sinking fund commission, Secretary Malcolm Jennings came across an old compendium of the federal census of 1840. It shows that there were at that time three slaves in Ohio. One was in Lawrence, one in Morgan and one in Noble county. It has been frequently asserted that there never were any slaves in this state. This would seem to controvert that. The slaves listed in this census had probably been brought by their owners from southern states on moving to Ohio.

Marietta Daily Leader, December 15, 1896, Tuesday, first edition

Probate Court.

Judge KENT furnishes us the following statement of the business of the Probate Court for the past week, to-wit:

MARRIAGE LICENSES.

James W. Lindsey and Fannie Wigall.

John P. Woodson and Barbara A. Gee.

James A. Cart and Lydia M. Sheets.

Wm. J. Sheets and Indiana W. Halley.

Wm. A. Gothard and Sarah S. Saunders.

Charles Russell and Rebecca Bowman.

Wm. L. Maguire and Maggie E. McGhee.

David Rhodes and Byrd Co-trill.

One withheld from publication by request.

Gallipolis Journal (Gallipolis, Ohio), Thursday December 25, 1873, first edition

Our Race at the Capitol

J. H. Beadle, the well-known Washington correspondent, speaking of our race at the nation's capitol says: "Among their noted men are Frederick Douglass, John M. Langston, John R. Lynch, Robert H. Terrell, Milton M. Holland and James H. Smith—all lawyers except the first named. Among their eminent and learned ministers are Francis J. Grimke, Presbyterian; Alexander W. Crummell, Episcopalian; Walter H. Brooks, Baptist; and Rev. Dr. Jenifer, Methodist.

U.S. African American Newspapers 1829-1947
Wichita, Kansas, May 31, 1894

FORTRESS MONROE, Jan. 18. — A detachment of the 11th Pennsylvania Cavalry returned yesterday from a raid through eastern North Carolina. They report that they found the body of a soldier hanging at Smith's Mills on the 14th instant, with the following words upon it: "Here hangs private Jones of the 5th Ohio regiment, hung by order of Major General Pickett, in retaliation for private David Bright, of the 62 Georgia regiment, hung December 19th by order of Brigadier Gen. Wild."

Gallipolis Journal,
January 28, 1864, Thursday first edition

Smart at 117

Philip Burrows, for over 20 years an honest and respected citizen of Rutland, will, according to his own statement, celebrate his one hundred and seventeenth birthday anniversary on April 1. Burrows was borne on the famous Dickinson-Shrewsbury estates, in Virgin-

ia, as a slave, and remained there until Lightburn's retreat during the late war, when his freedom was forcibly declared, and he was taken into West Virginia, from whence he came on into Ohio and settled at Rutland.

The old colored gentleman has wonderful strength and vitality. He has a little log cabin and a few acres of land, upon which he spends his entire time cultivating vegetables, and may be seen at work every pleasant day in the year. — [Pomeroy Trib. Tel.

Marietta Daily Leader,
March 20, 1896, Friday, first edition

Our Negro Soldiers.

Many of our readers will remember the company of colored soldiers, to whom a flag was presented on the Court house steps, something over a year ago, by Lt. Col. D. H. Moore, in behalf of the ladies, and that was accepted by Mr. Langston, who pledged in behalf of the company, that "it should be carried into the thickest of the fight, and though it should be borne back in tattered shreds, with broken staff, it should never be lowered to the foe, or stained with dishonor." This company was recruited and commanded by Milton M. Holland of Albany, formerly a Texan slave, and since the breaking out of the war, a servant of Col. N. H. Van Vorhes during his stay in the army. His color had excluded him from the ranks till this time, and he had embraced the first opportunity of volunteering under the auspices of the State of Massachusetts.—Dur-

ing his stay at camp here, it was discovered that their pay was to be but 11 dollars per month, including clothing, instead of the pay and bounty of white soldiers they were let to expect, but owing to the influence of himself and Mr. Langston, the company was persuaded to hope on, and they remained. During their stay at Camp Delaware, Ohio, Sergeant Holland was their drill-master and was virtually in command of the regiment. Near Fortress Monroe, the regiment formed the first line of battle under the flag presented here, and everywhere since, as if to verify Langston's promise and proud boast that "no traitor was ever found encased in ebony," the 5th U. S. C. T. has done its duty nobly. One or two letters from Mr. Holland published in the Messenger, have given the history in part, and the following extract from General Butler's congratulatory order, will tell the rest. It will be remembered that each of these acting captains are debarred from a commissioned office by their color:

Lieut.-Col. C. W. Shirtliff, 5th U. S. colored troops, gallantly led his regiment to the assault of the 26th, although at the commencement of the charge he was shot through the wrist, and again wounded, until he received a third and probably mortal wound, close to the enemy's works. He has nobly earned his promotion and his commission as Colonel of his regiment, to date from the 39th of September, subject to the approval of the President.

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NAT TURNER'S SON LIVED IN ZANESVILLE

BY NANCY E. AIKEN, MICHEL S. PERDREAU AND ADA WOODSON ADAMS

[CONTINUE FROM THE LAST
EDITION OF THE NEWSLETTER]

Another Career for Gilbert Turner

The foundry work was gone, and Gilbert's age and color made it difficult-to-impossible to find work, so he turned to the trade of putting iron hoops on wooden wash tubs, a trade that he had learned long before on the Virginia plantation. Since few other slaves could measure accurately enough to fit the hoops so the tubs would be watertight, Gilbert earned a little money hooping tubs on neighboring plantations. Turner had a "voice of remarkable beauty and carrying power. It had the clearness of a clarion and the ring of a bell. Once lifted, his voice could set the echoes reverberating from hill to hill, and his cry could be heard for ten or more miles, among the hills." His cry "Any washing tubs to hoop?" could be heard all over Zanesville and all of the children loved it. They insisted that their parents give him some work. As adults, they regretted that no effort had been made to record his voice (Turner, 1955: 146).

As a student at Zanesville High School in the late 1800s the Rev. David LeRoy Ferguson, who was rector of St. Cyprain's Church in Boston, Massachusetts in 1949, began publishing poetry. One of his poems was about "Tubs to hoop" Turner:

*"There works near a bridge in
Old Clay Town*

*A man whose voice has much
renown*

*'Tis queer and old and very
strange*

*With wondrous depth and star-
tling range*

*And every morn with great sur-
prise*

*His voice we hear with boldness
rise:*

*"En-y wash-in tubs to h-o-o-p!"
How close it seems and loud the
cry*

*When... soon the sound seems
floating by...*

*'Tis heard afar...then in the rear
The voice is heard by the listen-
ing ear:*

*"En-y wash-in tubs to h-o-o-p?"
A man this voice leaves us to
view*

*We see him not --- we see him
too*

*His dress we fancy is just each
morn*

*The same as always -loose and
torn*

*First low, then high, then sweet
to me*

*The voice a-shouting seems to
be*

*Rising in pitch to a long high
tone*

*Vanishing slowly at heights
unknown*

*Many a lad and lassie sweet
Recall that cry far down the
street*

*Of the hooper man proclaiming
his trade*

*In tones that fall, and rise, and
fade*

*"En-y wash-in tubs to h-o-o-p?"
Handles and hoops we see him
bear*

*And up the street with a swing-
ing air*

*His steps we see a-keeping time
With the voice that rises like a
chime*

*"En-y wash-in tubs to h-o-o-p?"
At last the voice was borne
away*

*The man was hush'd and the
herald day*

*Came forth with its stir, its work
and strife*

*And with it bore the Hoopman's
life*

*So send abroad both far and
wide*

*The way to me his voice doth
glide*

*And if you o'er this taken sigh
Forever may the hoopman cry*

*"En-y wash-in tubs to h-o-o-p?"
(Schnieder, 1949: 6)*

Gilbert and his wife had young children to feed, clothe, and send to school. She would do laundry for people as needed, but Gilbert's hooping trade was soon to be doomed by new zinc wash tubs. His supplementary trade of white washing was being replaced by wall paper and paint. He decided to trade his house in town for a twelve-acre farm on Coopermill Road, a quarter mile from town. It had fruit trees and a two-story house, hot house, a brook, fertile land in the front and coal and building stone in the hill behind. The girls walked to school in Zanesville. The family made the move in April, 1892, but fire destroyed the house and all of their possessions in November of that year. The Zanesville Weekly Signal for November 28, 1892, noted that "the frame residence of 'any washing-tubs-to-h-o-o-p' Turner, a mile west of the fairgrounds, was destroyed by fire last night. Only a chair and table were saved. Everything else that the old man owned (about \$1,000)—the saving of a lifetime—was destroyed in a few minutes" (reprinted in the Zanesville Signal, May 1, 1950, p. 5). As Lucy Mae Turner pointed out, when a family was left homeless and penniless in 1892, there was no Social Security or welfare—especially if you were colored. You simply starved or froze to death. If your misery became shameful to your more prosperous neighbors, you were sent to

the poor house "so as not to constantly remind the rich of their religious duty to practice the Golden Rule" (Turner, 1955 II: 155).

However, Gilbert was down but not finished. He found a large, abandoned house in Zanesville which he could buy for the price of the lumber. He was nearly 70-years-old, but he tore it down by himself. Lucy sat in the yard so, if the house fell on him, she could run for help. Luckily, the house did not fall, and soon the family was back in a new home built of old lumber. Lucy and Fannie enjoyed the country, and they learned that the "snakes" they saw in the city were, in fact, only fishing worms (Turner, 1955 II: 155).

Lucy Mae and Fannie attended the integrated grade and high school and the Union Baptist colored church, and formed lasting friendships with both white and black children and adults. However, many of the whites were disgruntled over the loss of the money that the slaves would have brought them, and northern-born blacks snubbed former slaves (Turner, 1955 II: 155). Lucy noted that the Turner family "openly proclaimed that they had come up through the trials and tribulations of slavery." Her grandfather, Rev. Isaac Jones left Virginia in the 1840's (apparently running away from slavery), and, of course, Gilbert had been held in slavery for nearly 40 years. Gilbert was friends with ex-slaves and opened his home to any newly arrived ex-slave who needed help. They would visit the

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THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

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group of OU alumni requested one of our tours as well. We are in the process of organizing our Fall Underground Railroad tour, but a date has not been set. Contact Melissa Wales at melissa@ucm.athens.org or call 740-593-7301 to add your name to the list if are interested in going on a tour.

MGC, along with Little Cities of the Black Diamonds, Morgan County Commissioners, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Perry County CIC, and others, participated in a conference called "Gateway to Public Lands Collaboration" at Burr Oak. We learned how others are succeeding in bringing their assets to public awareness and gaining economic success within their communities. We also joined with the Cutler Community Center to hold a Heritage and Legacy Day at Cutler, Ohio. This is an annual event that showcases local history. The Athens Foundation asked me to present a program to their Leadership Athens County class. I was asked to participate in Zane State College and Ohio University, Zanesville's, Black History Month program entitled "Personal Struggles." Dr. Francine Childs, retired professor of Ohio University, and I were keynote speakers.

The 21st century is giving us opportunities to access large amounts of data via the internet and social media. I am finding that families, organizations and others are putting detail and pertinent data out on the internet, which is wonderful, but I am worried that this data will be lost/deleted/no longer accessible on the internet and, hence, not rec-

orded in permanent print form. Books and other (hard copy) data once collected, saved, printed, and stored will last and be accessible for generations to come. We need volunteers to collect this data that is being shared on the internet for the MGC repository.

The Center is open by appointment: Call: 740-448-1305, 740-662-5701 or email: Ada.Woodson.Adams@gmail.com.

On a personal note: As you know, this *Newsletter* is out later than it should have been, and I am part of the reason. I knew that I was slowing down on completing activities, but I thought it was because I was taking on too much and because of my age. It turns out that it was a health issue. In July I was diagnosed as having Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (CML). It is a form of cancer, but one that is very treatable. I have a positive outlook and know that remission is just around the corner. My energy level is not as high as in the past, but I still have energy to carry on. This illness presents an incentive for you as members and supporters on the to step up and offer your leadership to the organization. I have committed to this organization on behalf of our founders and on behalf of the membership and our supporters. As a founding member in 2000 and president the past ten years, I look forward to working with those willing to become the next leaders. Contact us at mgccenter7540@gmail.com if you want to be a part of the MGC leadership.

NEXT MEMBER MEETING OCT. 3RD

OUR NEGRO SOLDIERS (continued from page 4)

Milton M. Holland, Sergt.-Major, 5th U. S. C. T., commanding Co. C; Jas. Branson, 1st Sergt. Commanding Co. I, wounded; Powhatan Beatie, 1st Sergt., commanding Co. G, 5th U. S. C.T.—all these gallant colored soldiers were left in command, all their company officers being killed or wounded, and led them gallantly and meritoriously through the day. For these services they want most honorable mention, and the Commanding General will cause a special medal to be struck in honor of these colored soldiers.

It is also recommended that the 1st, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 22d U. S. C. T. have the word "Petersburg" inscribed on their banners, for their gallantry in capturing the line of works and the enemy's guns on the 12th of June, 1864, at that place.

That the 1st, 4th, 5th, 6th, 22d, 36th, 37th and 38th U. S. C. T., and the 2d U. S. C. Cavalry, have the words "New Market Heights" inscribed upon their colors, for their gallantry in carrying the enemy's works at that point on the 29th of September.

The Quartermaster is directed to furnish a new stand of colors to each of these regiments, with the inscription ordered.

The Athens Messenger,
November 3, 1864, 21.44, p. 3, col. 4

When one realizes the wonderful development of the country one can hardly conceive that it is but sixty-four years since the machinery of politics in the republic evolved the national convention and that at the time of the first convention not a single delegate was transported to the place of meeting in a car drawn by a steam engine. It was at that very moment that the country

MGC

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was entering upon the steam age, and it was but a few years after that the locomotive became a familiar object. According to the census of 1830 Boston had but 61,000 inhabitants, Providence 17,000, New Haven 10,000 and Hartford 7,000. The "peculiar institution" was still in vogue in New England and Rhode Island is credited with 14 slaves and Connecticut with 23. The population of New York city was only 178,000, while Buffalo, the now great city of the lower lakes, was a country town with about 8,000 souls. Upwards of one hundred slaves were still held in bondage in the Empire State at that time.

Philadelphia had about 80,000 inhabitants and twelve slaves, while the county outside the city had 108,000 population and nine slaves. Pittsburg had 12,5000 inhabitants, and the total population of Allegheny county was about 38,000, which included 30 slaves, and the entire Keystone State was credited with about 400 slaves.

Slaves composed more than one-half of the population of Maryland at that time. In the Eastern district of Virginia the slaves outnumbered the white

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WHEN ONE REALIZES (continued from page 6)

population by about 40,000, and in South Carolina there were 316,000 slaves to 258,000 whites.

Cleveland was then a village of 1,000 inhabitants. Chicago is not mentioned in the census report, and all of Clark county had but about 6,000 population. Cincinnati, however, had nearly 25,000 inhabitants, and St. Louis, the metropolis of the Territory of Missouri, had about 15,000. Ohio had no slaves, but Illinois is credited with 746, and even the northern Territory of Michigan, not then in the Union, had its slaves to the number of 32. Detroit was a village of 2,222 souls, and the entire Territory had a population of less than 33,000.

The District of Columbia then had a total population of about 40,000, including slaves to the number of 6,000 and free negroes as numerous. The population of the entire country was less than 13,000,000, upwards of 2,000,000 of whom were slaves.

*The Times, June 28, 1896,
Sunday, page 29*

That Slave

It Was Kate, the Dusky Maiden of Big Bottom.

The statement having been made that there were at one time three negro slaves owned in Ohio, one each in Morgan, Noble and Washington counties, created some discussion and brings out a history of the Morgan county case from Mr. C. C. Cheadle, of Roxbury, up the Muskingum. He says: "Paddock Cheadle, born in Barnard, Windham county, Vermont, May 14,

1780, moved to Ohio in the year, 1800 and settled on Big Bottom, in Windsor township, on the farm now occupied by Henry Blackner. Paddock Cheadle married Rachel Ankrum, of Virginia, in 1827, whose parents were wealthy slaveholders, and among the many gifts presented to the bride to set her up housekeeping in her new Ohio home, was Kate, a slave, then a young girl in her teens, from her looks a full blooded Negro of the darkest type. Kate proved to be a valuable part of the outfit to housekeeping. Whether she ever knew that she was free when she crossed the Ohio river we cannot say. However, she seemed reconciled to her new home and lived with the family all her days, content and happy. They sold their farm on Big Bottom and moved to Linn county, Ia., taking Kate with them. Whether this is the slave referred to or not it seems to fit the case. Perhaps others can give parallel cases of slaves being held in Morgan county."

*Marietta Daily Leader, January 11,
1897, Monday, first edition*

NOTE: Paddock was Rial Cheadle's uncle, a brother to Rial's father, John Cheadle.

The New Hope Baptist Church have extended a call to Rev. J. H. Taylor, formerly pastor of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church, of Athens, Ohio. Rev. Mr. Taylor has been conducting a series of meetings here. He will accept the proffered pastorate and move his family to this city. He will be warmly welcomed by the colored people of Hillsboro, among whom he is very popular.

*The News-Herald (Hillsboro, OH)
Feb. 21, 1895, First Edition*

At a convention of Ohio blacks in 1858, William H. Day declared that resistance by force of arms was their right and duty.

FORT PILLOW

BY HENRY ROBERT BURKE

The Civil War's first shots were fired upon Fort Sumter at Charleston Harbor, South Carolina on Apr. 12, 1861. When the Union Army responded, the North was anxious to portray that the North was not fighting to free slaves, but only to reserve the Union. For this reason, free blacks living in the North were not accepted as soldiers in Union Army at the beginning of the Civil War.

On Jan. 1, 1863, U.S. President Abraham Lincoln declared that all slaves residing in states in rebellion against the federal government were freed. The Emancipation Proclamation did not apply to slaves in border states fighting on the Union side; nor did it affect slaves in southern areas already under Union control. Naturally, the states in rebellion did not act on Lincoln's order. But the proclamation did show Americans that the Civil War was now being fought to end slavery, and along with it came Lincoln's authorization to form the United States Colored Regiments to fight with the Union Army.

The news of black troops fighting for the North infuriated many in the Confederacy. Some Confederate commanders warned that they would not respect the courtesy of surren-

der for Negro troopers, and vowed to shoot any black prisoners that were captured by the South. One of the most publicized incidents where black soldiers attempting to surrender were murdered by Confederate forces occurred at Fort Pillow, Tennessee.

Fort Pillow was on the Tennessee side of the Mississippi River, about forty miles north of Memphis. A long sandbar extending into the river from the Arkansas side, forced all river traffic to come close under the high bluffs of the eastern shore.

At the beginning of the American Civil War a Confederate general named Gideon Pillow realized the strategic importance of the spot and caused a fort to be built there, which was named after him.

In June 1862 Memphis was captured and the Confederates abandoned Fort Pillow. From then on Union forces comprised of both black and white soldiers were garrisoned there.

Fort Pillow seemed like a mere back water post until April 12, 1864, when a Confederate force commanded by General Nathan Bedford Forrest attacked. Nathan Bedford Forrest was born on July 13, 1812, and died October 29,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 9)

HISTORY CHALLENGE: Who said this?

"No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite."

If you think you know the answer, send us an email at

adams1803@gmail.com

NAT TURNER'S SON LIVED IN ZANESVILLE

Turner house and talk of slavery and the Civil War. Some of the older ones served on George Washington's plantation and had faint memories of him. Stories that never made it into the history books were told of well-known men such as Lee, Clay, Calhoun and Jefferson Davis. Lucy Mae pointed out that Negro history was never discussed in polite society in those days. It was also not wise to mention the name of Nat Turner (Turner, 1955 II: 156).

An education for the Turner daughters

Both Lucy Mae and Fannie graduated from Zanesville High School, and Lucy won a tuition scholarship to Ohio State University. Unfortunately, room, board, books and transportation would amount to \$40 or \$50 dollars a month. Her father was too old to do much except the farming it took to feed the family, and her mother earned only about a dollar a week doing laundry, so it was impossible for her to accept the scholarship. Lucy hoped some civic group might help her since some black boys had received such assistance in the past. However, help did not arrive, and she concluded that she had two strikes against her: she was both black and a female. As a colored girl, she saw the life society designed for her was as a washer and scrub woman. This she did for three years until she had enough money to enter Wilberforce University in Xenia, Ohio. She studied hard while her parents and sister worked to help pay her expenses. The first black teachers she ever had were at Wilberforce and they showed her the door to

success if she had the grit to prepare herself. She graduated in 1908 and taught one year in Lincoln High School, Paducah, Kentucky, and one and a half years in Sistersville, West Virginia. In the spring of 1911 she began teaching in the East St. Louis, Illinois, city schools and remained there until her retirement (Turner, 1955 II: 156).

Meanwhile, Fannie took the West Virginia State Teachers' Examination and, after passing it, began teaching in West Virginia a few years after Lucy began teaching. They sent money home to make their father comfortable in his last years. Gilbert was still active. A report in the *Zanesville Signal* for August 28, 1933, carried a "Do You Remember" article describing Zanesville's first homecoming celebration on September 16, 1904, at which "Gilbert Turner favored the crowd with his never-to-be forgotten 'Enny Washin' Tubs to Hoop" cry. When the 1910 federal census was taken, the Turner family was listed in Springfield Township, South Zanesville. Gilbert was 87 years old, and his occupation was given as a retired blacksmith. Sarah, his wife, was 56 and their daughter, Frances, was 25. Lucy was away teaching. Lucy reported that her father was friends with town leaders who visited him and who gave him rides in their automobiles to church (Turner, 1955 II: pp. 156-157). Gilbert died November 28, 1914 (Ohio Death Index). He is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, Zanesville (*Zanesville Signal*, 28 Dec 1944:7).

After Gilbert's death, his wife ran the farm for a while alone. Meanwhile, Fannie had

earned college credits from Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, and Normal University, near Bloomington, Illinois. She also obtained a teaching job in the East St. Louis school system where her sister was teaching. The two sisters purchased a house in East St. Louis and brought their mother there in 1918. The three women lived together in East St. Louis until Sarah died in November, 1935 (Turner, 1955 II: 157).

Meanwhile, Lucy took summer courses at Ohio State University and earned a B.S. degree from Ohio State in 1934. She finally accomplished the degree from Ohio State that she had hoped for after high school. Then, she earned a Master's degree from the University of Illinois in 1942. In 1946 St. Louis University opened the doors of its law school to blacks. It was the first university in Missouri to allow colored students to take a law course; and, although Lucy had long wanted to go into the study of law, her color barred her entrance to legal training. She began courses on the opening night of the Evening School and never missed a session until she graduated from the Law School in June, 1950. She was the only black woman in the class and the first to graduate from the St. Louis University Law School (Turner, 1955 II: 157). The June 12, 1950 issue of the *Zanesville Times Recorder* published the notice of her graduation.

Lucy wrote that when she graduated from law school she had high hopes, as she did when she graduated high school, of being useful in her community, to her race, and to her country, but she hit the same wall that stopped her years earlier. Then she was stopped by being black and a

woman. This time she was stopped by being black, a woman, and by having no influence in high places (Turner, 1955 II: 157). Apparently, she was never admitted to the bar.

Lucy and Fannie continued to teach school in East St. Louis. A 1969 article in the *Zanesville Times Recorder* mentioned that Lucy and Fannie, daughters of the well-known former slave, Gilbert Turner (known for his "tubs to hoop" cry) were prominent graduates of Zanesville High School and that Lucy was the first black woman to graduate from the St. Louis University School of Law. She also wrote a book of poems called "Bout Cullud Folkses" (Schneider, 1969: 5), which was published by Harry Harrison, New York, in 1938. She also wrote a couple of novels that were not published (*Zanesville Times Signal*, 29 August 1954). She was still teaching at Attacks School in 1955 according to the *East St. Louis City Directory* for that year. She and Fannie, who may have retired by then, lived at 1918 Bond Avenue. Lucy was listed in *Black American Writers Past and Present* by Theresa Gunnels Russ, et al (1975), *Harlem Renaissance and Beyond: Literary biographies of 100 black women writers, 1900-1945*, by Roses and Randolph (1990) and *Ohio Authors and Their Books* edited by William Coyle (1962).

NOTES: Attempt to establish other descendants of Nat Turner who might link to Gilbert Turner—

This describes an attempt to follow backwards the assertions that Alvin Turner and Evelyn Hawkins are descended from Nat Turner according to an article in the *Tidewater News* (<http://www.tidewaternews.com> - 10 Feb 2011). Alvin was the grandson of Sidney Turner, who was born to Laura Turner in 1884. The family stayed in Southampton County, Virginia. Laura

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NAT TURNER'S SON LIVED IN ZANESVILLE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8)

was born 1849-1850. In the 1870 census a John Turner, black, age 65, had a Laura Turner, age 19, in his household. Presumably, she was his daughter. Unfortunately, the story ends there because in 1860 he was probably listed as someone's slave. John would have been born in 1805 and was a contemporary of Nat Turner. He could have been Nat's brother, but that is pure speculation. According to Lucy Turner, Gilbert said that he, Gilbert, had an older brother named John (Turner, 1955: 130).

Another Laura, age 20 in the 1870 census for Southampton County, appeared to be the daughter of Hal Wright, age 56 and black. A researcher who posted a tree on Ancestry.com seems to think this Laura was the mother of Sidney Turner; however, there is no indication of how she became a Turner. Again, the 1860 census is no help.

If Laura was the daughter of John Turner, at best she could have been Nat's niece. If Laura was the daughter of Hal Wright, we have no way to get to Nat Turner.

An attempt to establish the identity of "Miss Mary"

Samuel Turner mentioned a daughter, Polly, who was under 18-years-old when he wrote his will. Perhaps, Polly Turner was the Miss Mary who gave Nat his Bible and who bought Gilbert off the auction block? However, after some research on Ancestry.com, it appears that Mary "Polly" Turner married Thomas Dupree Brown, 22 Sep 1823, in Greensville County, Virginia. They had two children, John and Samuel. It appears that Mary, her two sons, and her step-mother, Elizabeth Reese Turner, widow of Samuel Turner, were all killed by Nat Turner and his comrades because they all died on that fateful day.

Chuck Martin's Zanesville *Times-Recorder* article of 6 Feb 1999 states that Gilbert grew up in Farmville, Prince Edward Co., Virginia. I tried to find a Mary, who married a lawyer, in Farmville without luck. The most promising possibility for Mary and her family in Prince Edward County in 1850 was the Thomas F. Venable family (p. 37). He was 37 years-old and a "farmer" whose real estate was valued at \$11,000. He had married Mary P... 10 July 1834; she was also 37 years-old. They had five sons—four of whom served in the war. Two were in the same unit: Co. F, 18th Virginia Infantry. All but one of these men were mustered out before the war ended. The father may have served also, as a

Thomas Venable served in the 21st Cavalry, the 22nd Cavalry, and a Lt. Artillery unit.

Nat Turner's Bible

Nat Turner's Bible was donated to the National Museum of African American History by Lavinia French's descendants, Maurice Person and Noah and Brooke Porter. The Bible had been found in the Southampton County Courthouse when it was being renovated in 1912. Members of the Person and Francis families were among the estimated 55 white people killed by Turner and his followers. Lavinia was a slave owner who survived the rebellion. Lavinia was the wife of Nathaniel Francis (1805-1849) who went to his sister's farm when he heard all of the whites had been killed there early 22 Aug 1831. His sister would have been Sarah W. (ca. 1801-21 Aug 1831) who married Thomas Moore and then Joseph Travis. According to tradition, Lavinia, who was eight months pregnant, was hidden by a slave named Red Nelson who appeared to join in the search for her when Turner's men came (<http://newsdesk.si.edu/photos/changing-america-nat-turner-s-bible-1831> and "Nat Turner's Trial" in "Personal Quest: Man who lost Ancestors Keeps History," *The Virginian-Pilot*, Norfolk, VA 26 Mar 2000). This last article is about Rick Francis, mayor of Boykins in Southampton County, whose great grandfather was the baby born 7 Sep 1831 to Lavinia and Nathaniel Francis. Nearly all of his other ancestors from that time were killed in the rebellion).

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FORT PILLOW

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

1877. He was especially known for his brilliant cavalry tactics. A wealthy businessman in his native Tennessee, he joined the Confederate Army in 1861 and had become commander of a cavalry battalion raised and equipped at his own expense. To his credit, Forrest did win repeated victories over Union forces that outnumbered him.

During the attack on Fort Pillow his Confederate force overwhelmed the Union defense. Black Union soldiers attempting to surrender were

shot by Forrest's men.

As the news of this incident spread among the black Union soldiers, their battle cry became "Remember Fort Pillow!" A stanza from a song sung by the Massachusetts 54th US Colored Regiment, goes like this:

*Old Jeff says he'll hang us if we dare to meet him armed,
He'd surely like to scare us, but we are not alarmed.
For he first has got to catch us before the way is clear,
And that's his biggest problem with the colored volunteer!*

Forrest was charged with

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 12)

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RENDVILLE, OHIO: THE STORY OF HOMER SMITHERS

BY O. LESTER SMITHERS, JR., OF ENON, OHIO

Although Homer and his wife, Laura, had no children of their own, they raised my grandfather, Walter Garfield Smithers, from infancy. Walter's birth father was Homer's brother, Edward. His birth mother was Elsie, who was Laura's sister. Elsie reportedly died in, or shortly after childbirth.

Homer Smithers married Laura F. Pack on October 26, 1876, in Hinton, West Virginia. (Summers County)

Edward Smithers married Elsie Pack Johnson on April 24, 1884, in Kanawha, West Virginia. Elsie, who was born in Franklin County, Virginia, was a 22-year-old widow at the time she married Edward.

The 1880 Census shows

Homer, age 26, and his wife Laura, age 20, living in the Greenbrier District of the Town of Hinton, WV. His occupation is listed as a Bateaux man. This means he operated a Bateaux boat on the New River in Hinton. A number of other blacks in the area are also listed as bateaux boat men.

Homer's next door neighbors in this 1880 census are James H. Johnston, age 55, his wife Amanda Jane Pack, age 46, and their son Robert Henry Pack, age 24.

Amanda is Laura's mother; Johnson is her father. James H. Johnson and his son, Robert Henry Pack were also Bateaux men.

As the railroads became established, the bateaux boats

days were numbered in Hinton on the New River.

Meanwhile 200 miles to the north in Perry County, Ohio, the abundance of coal in the Hocking Valley was creating a boom for the area.

Black miners, from Hinton, WV, in the New River region were recruited by Ohio Central Coal Company and Colonel William Rend. In addition to the coal mines, many African American men were coming to the area in hope of finding work laying rail for the Columbus Sandusky & Hocking Valley Railroad (CS&HRR) from Burr Oak to Sandusky, Ohio. This is what brought my ancestors, Homer Smithers, Edward Smithers, Henry Pack and others from Hinton, WV, to Rend-

ville, Ohio, to work in number 3 and 9 mines in the 1880's.

Homer Smithers purchased a house on top of Scotch Hill across from the cemetery in Rendville in the 1890's. The house still stands and is owned and used by the Smithers Family Heritage Association, Inc., today.

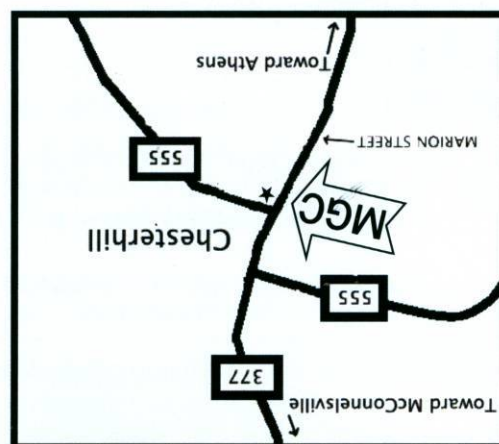
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FORT PILLOW
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

the responsibility for the massacre of the black Union soldiers at Fort Pillow but was never prosecuted. After the war Nathan Bedford Forrest became a founder and leader of the Ku Klux Klan.

Marietta Times, "Windows to the Past," 3/6/99

Judith Daso
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