

Connecting People, Place, and Stories:
Montgomery County's Historical African
American Communities

October 7, 2017

George W. McDaniel, President
McDaniel Consulting, LLC

Celebrating the Renovation of the Loving Charity Hall , Warren Historic Site

- Thanks to ancestors for their vision, hard work, and talents in creating the Hall
- Thanks to Elsie Thomas, Otho Thompson, and others from Martinsburg
- Thanks to Heritage Montgomery and others, especially Sarah Rogers

Celebrating the Renovation of the Loving Charity Hall , Warren Historic Site

- Gwen Reese and Suzanne Johnson from Sugarland, Nanette Hunter from Boyd's
- Gail Rothrock
- Lemuel Graham, Evelyn Herbert, John Thompson, and others in Martinsburg who informed and inspired my work in history

“Travel is the enemy of prejudice”
and the path to understanding

History is travel
through time and place

Montgomery County Countryside



Connections to History

- Book
- People, Stories, Oral History
- Places: Buildings, Landscapes, Cemeteries
- Historical photographs
- Maps and site plans
- Artifacts
- Music
- Foodways (Heritage Cookbook)

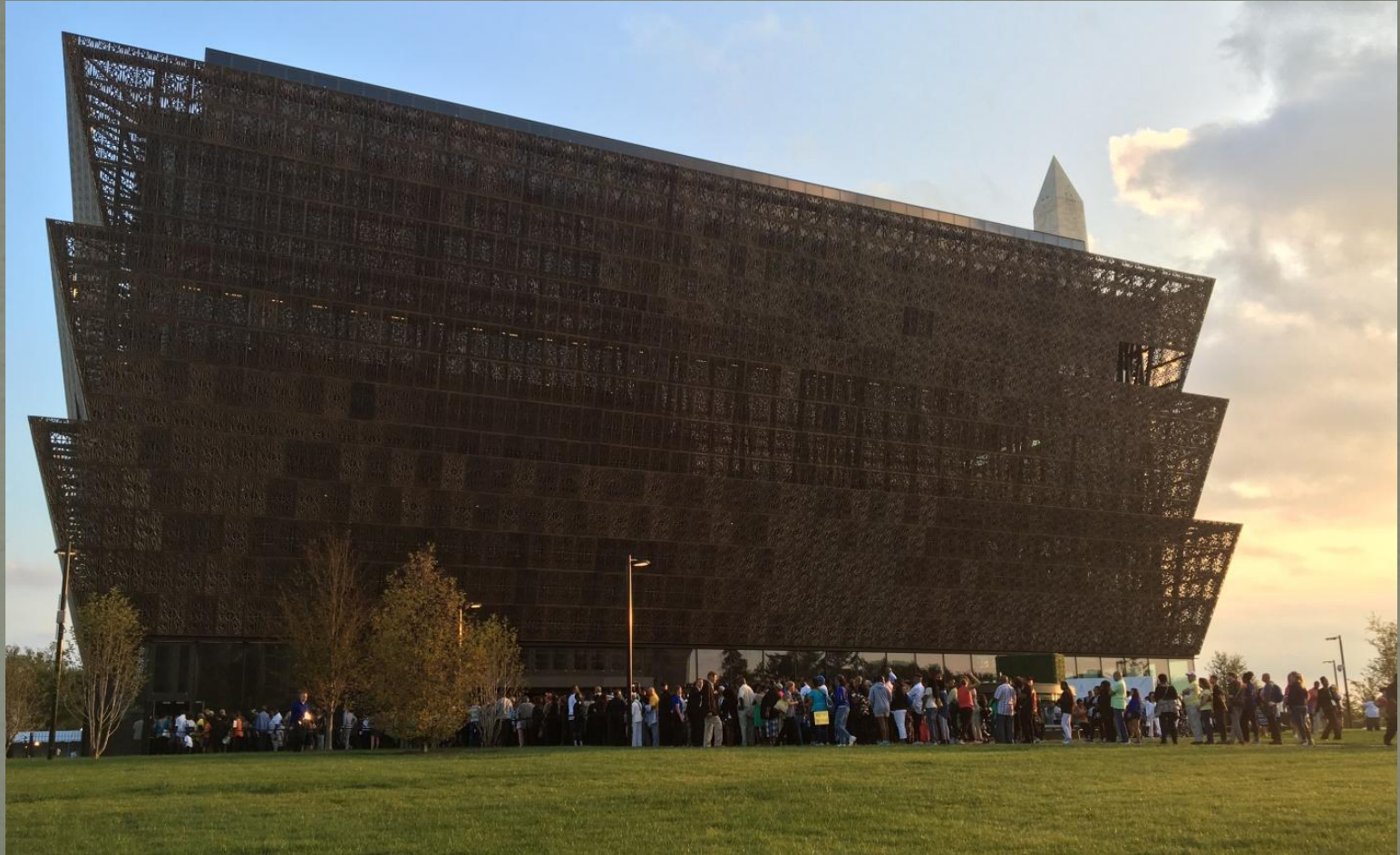
Our Travel Across Space



Nat'l Museum of African American History and Culture



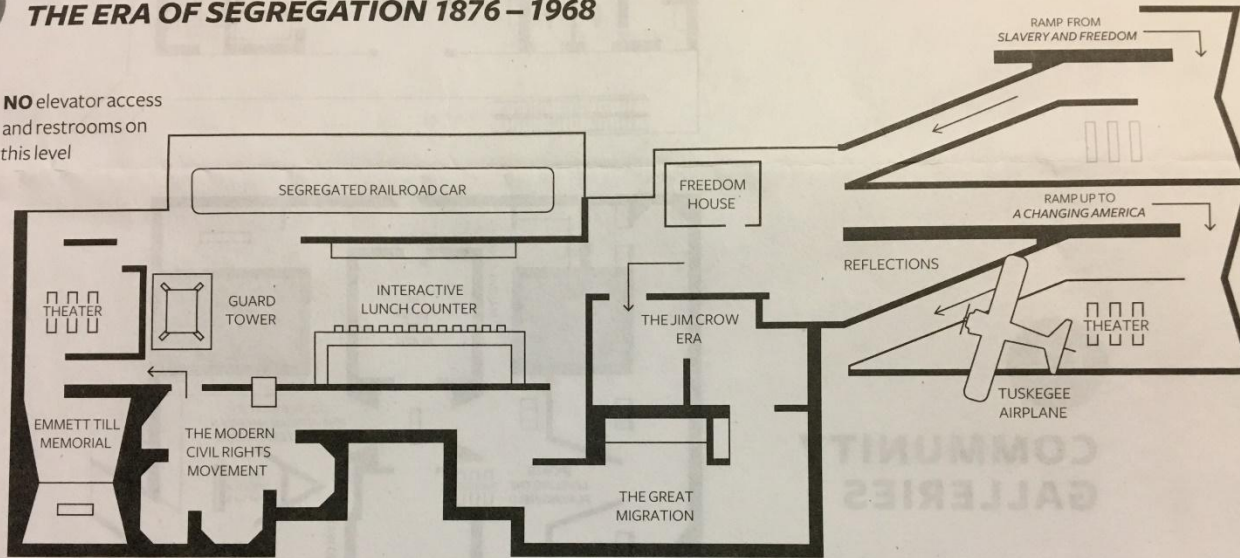
Most Popular Museum in America



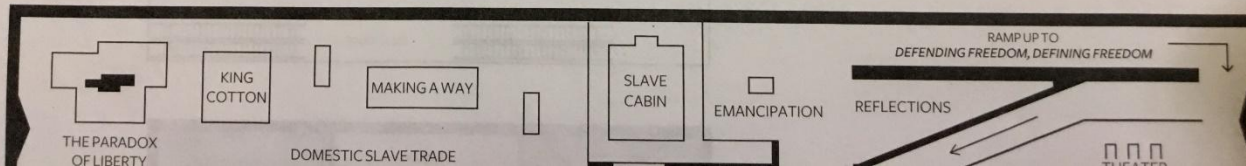
The Freedom House

2 DEFENDING FREEDOM, DEFINING FREEDOM: THE ERA OF SEGREGATION 1876 – 1968

NO elevator access
and restrooms on
this level



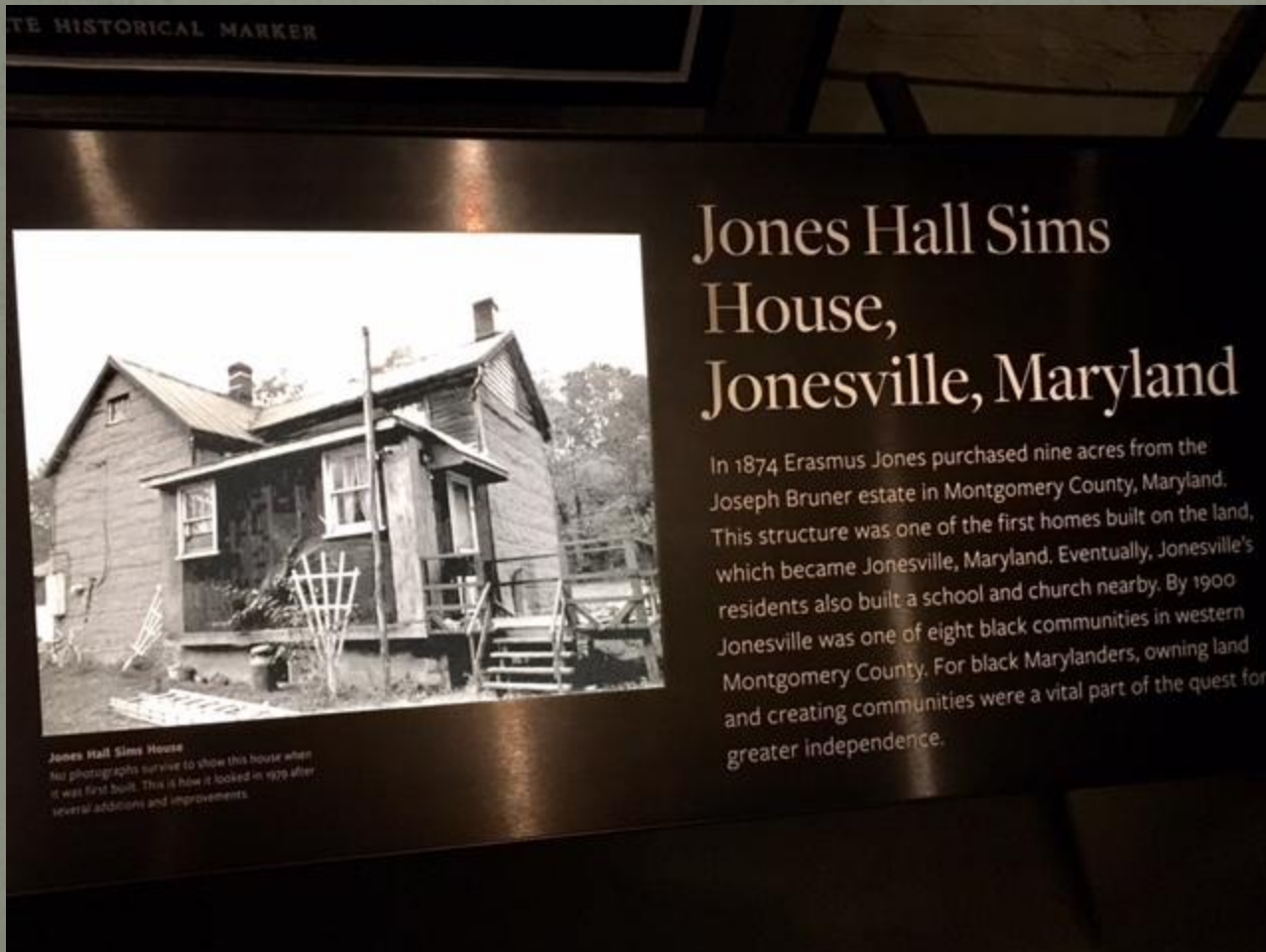
SLAVERY AND FREEDOM 1400 – 1877



Inside the Museum: Freedom House from Montgomery County Connects People from across World to African American History: Struggle for Freedom



At the Smithsonian: The Freedom House from Montgomery County, MD (Jonesville)



One of most highly visited African American homes in the world



Montgomery Co. Residents Contribute Photographs

Sugarland Ethnohistory
Project Inc.



African American Life in Montgomery County

By 1900 there were at least eight African American communities in Montgomery County, Maryland. Unlike many rural African Americans, the residents were not tenant farmers—they owned their property and homes. This gave them greater control over the land and the crops they produced. They also directly benefited from improvements to their homes, which was an incentive to make additions and to stay in place. Descendants of these early settlers still live in these communities today.



A Maryland freedman's cabin
Courtesy of the Maryland Historical Society, PPH3.118



Sugarland Seneca Quarry
Remains of Sugarland with the nearby Seneca Quarry. Project Inc.



Artifacts from Former Residents



Chanell Kelton, Her Daughter Blessing, Paul Gardullo with Me at Opening of NMAAHC



In the late 1970s, I Researched the Area and Documented
the Jones-Hall-Sims House for Sugarloaf Reg. Trails and
MD Historical Trust



Jonesville Today: History as Mystery, Detective Work



Jonesville Today: History in Your Own Backyard



Jones-Sims House and Martinsburg tell of that moment of transition from slavery to the promise of freedom and onwards

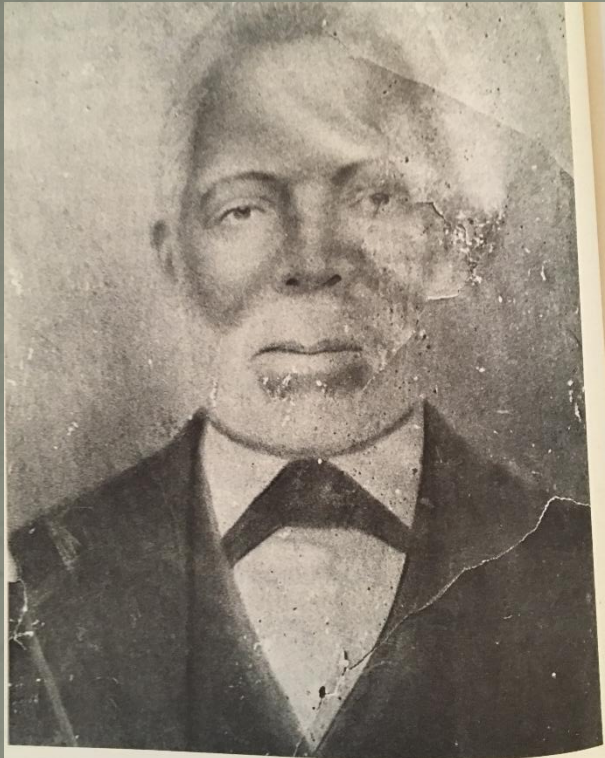
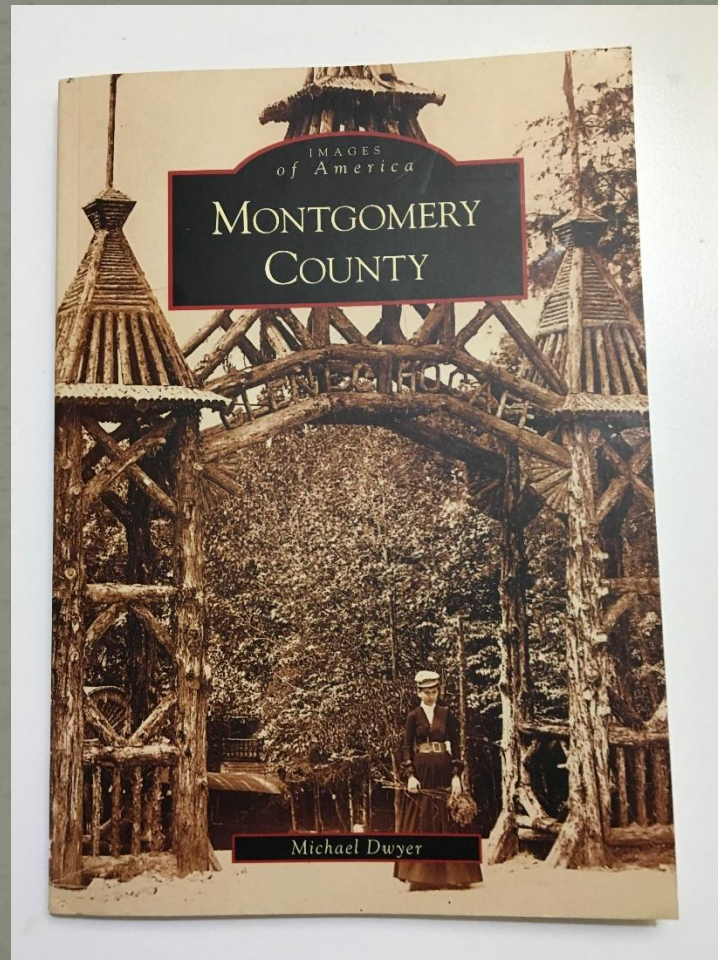


Figure 19. Portrait of Albert Thompson, Martinsburg. A former slave born in 1817, Thompson was one of the founders of the black community in Martinsburg. His residence is shown on the Hopkins Atlas of Montgomery County of 1879, map 2. His son Charles was a blacksmith in Martinsburg, and his granddaughter, Evelyn Herbert, taught school there.



John Peters, grandfather to Jones family

Little to no African American Presence in Too Many History Books

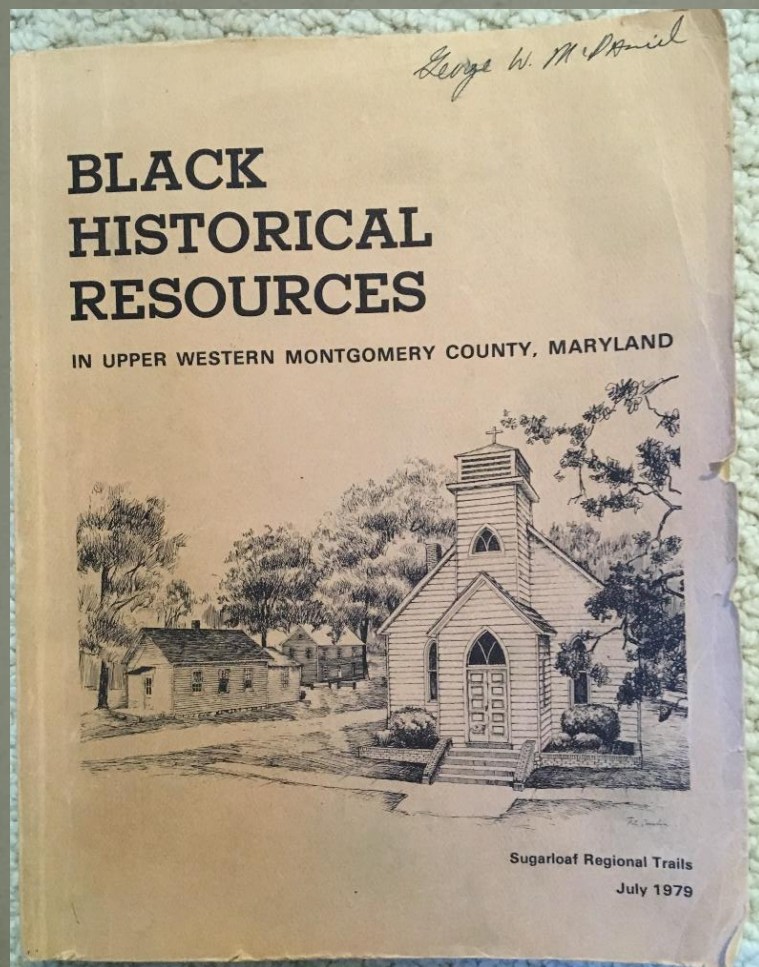


Importance to the Present and the Future

- Bob Stanton, Director of U. S. Park Service during Clinton's administration:
- "If you don't tell them, they won't know."

- Martin Luther King, Jr.:
- "He who controls my mind controls my body. He who controls my history controls my mind."

Resource for Today: My Research, Documentation, Writings of 1978-79 for Sugarloaf Regional Trails and MD Historical Trust



BLACK HISTORICAL RESOURCES
IN UPPER WESTERN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

George W. McDaniel
Sugarloaf Regional Trails
July 1979

My Survey Area: 13 Historical African American Communities in Upper Western Montgomery County



Support: Diverse Sources

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The Montgomery County Chapter of the N.A.A.C.P. and the Maryland Committee for the Humanities, Inc. contributed to the printing costs of this document.

JERUSALEM:

Beulah Clarke
Cora Harper
Joshua and Fannie Hamilton
Joe and Evelyn Harper
Howard Lyles
Ora Lyles
Charles and Henrietta Moore
William and Cora Moore
Frances Thompson

JONESVILLE:

Betty Genus
Hannah Jones
Virginia Owens
John Sims
Paul and Barbara Sims

MARTINSBURG:

Lemuel Graham
Evelyn Herbert
George Naylor
John Thompson

MT. EPHRAIM:

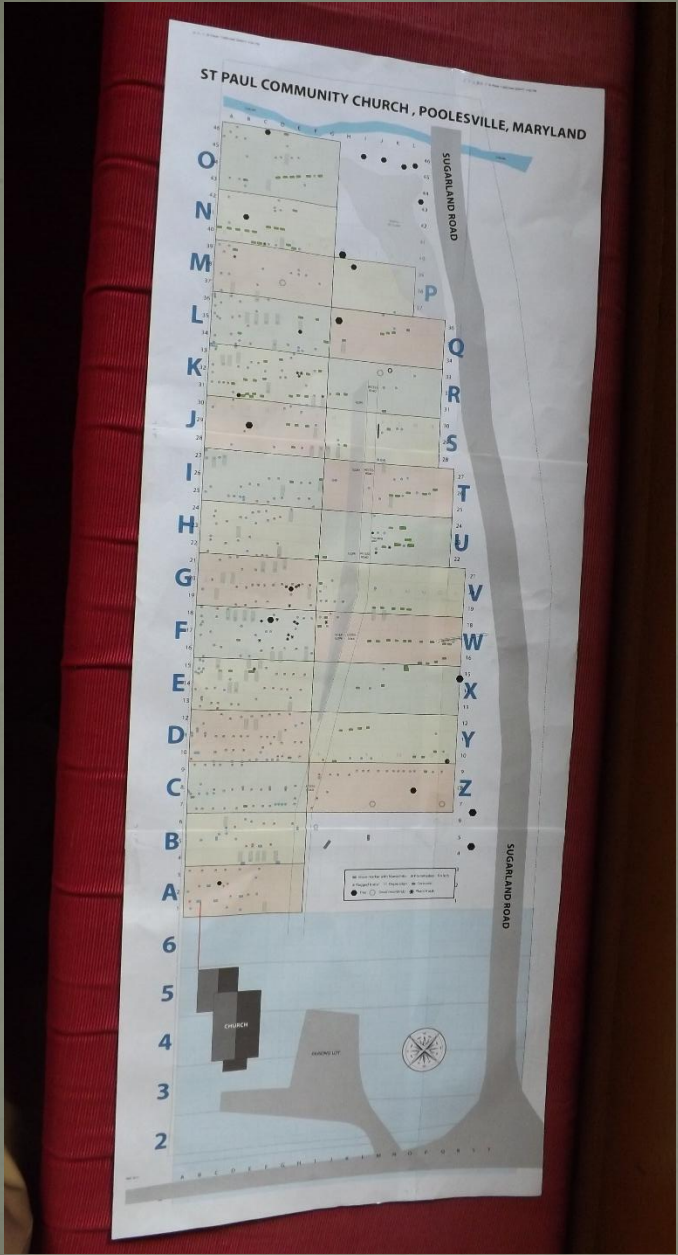
Charlotte Ambush
Frances Bowie
Fritz and Polly Gutheim
Clarence Naylor
Barbara Wilson
John Wilson
Paul Wilson

SUGARLAND:

Tilghman and Bessie Lee
Bill Lyles
Richard Lyles

Partnerships in Preservation: Can't Do It Alone





- Martinsburg: Evelyn Herbert and Lemuel Graham

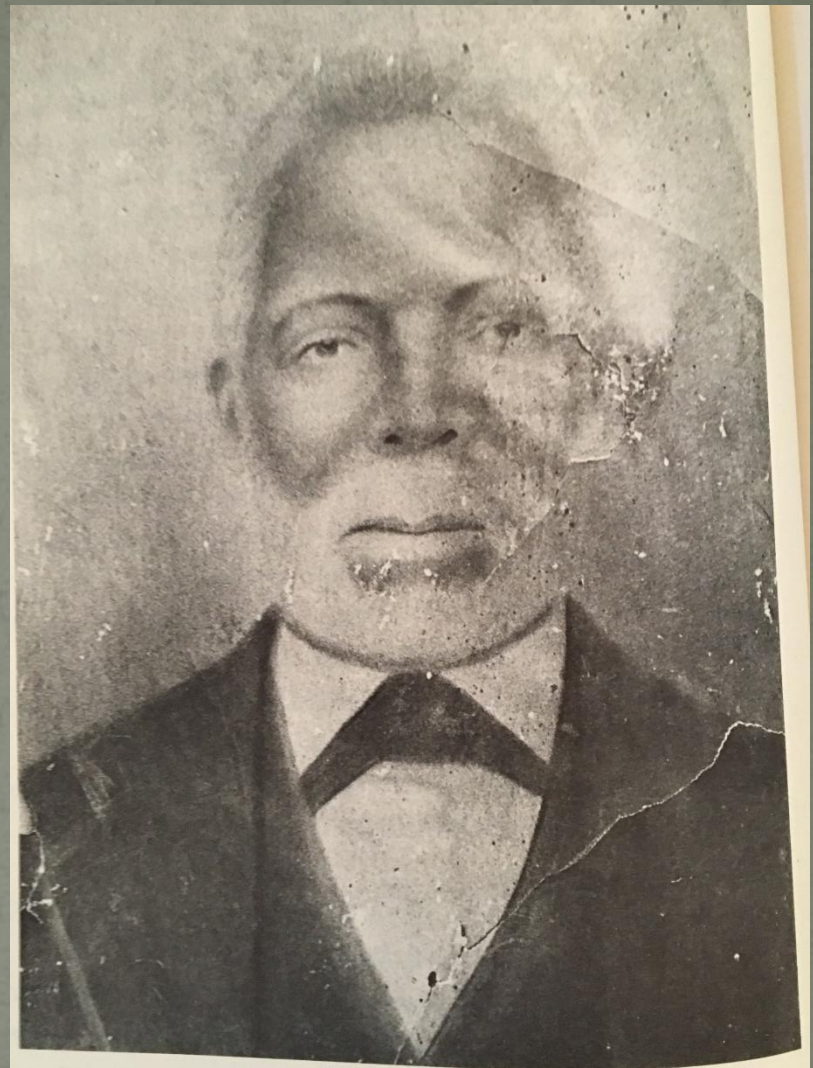


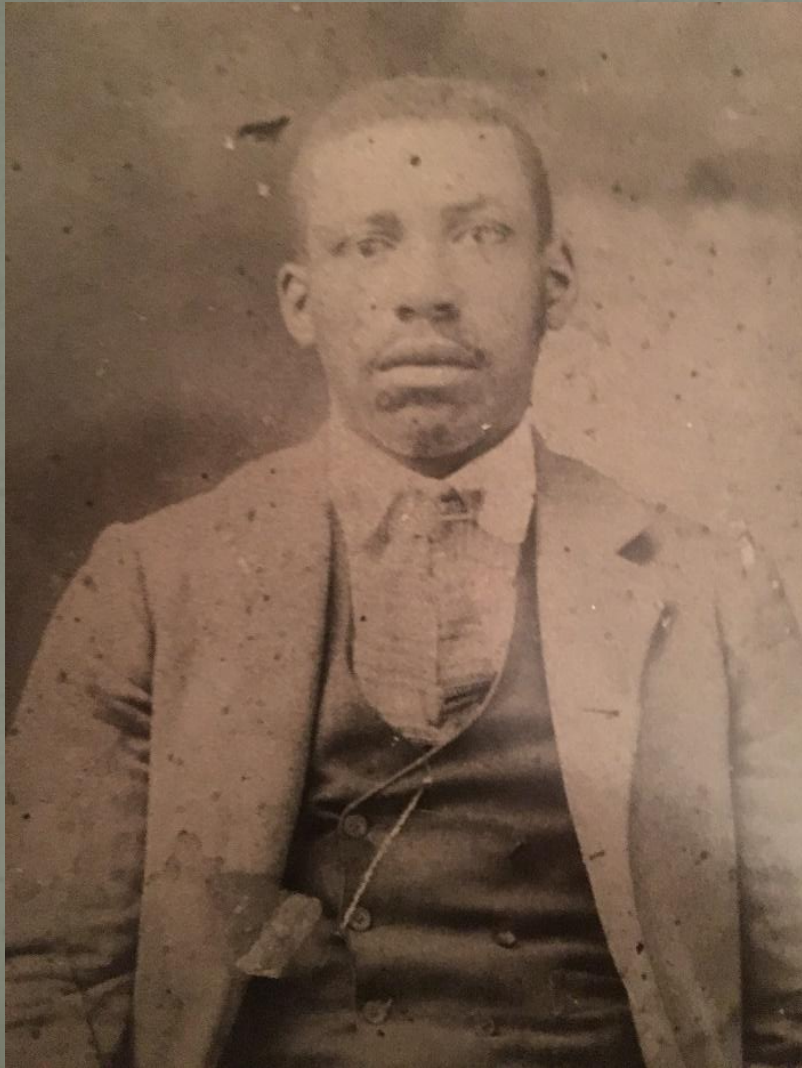
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Grandmother, Dorsey-Ann Lugardas Brown, born
1850;

Evelyn Herbert, Born 1905, Former Mont. Co. Teacher



Evelyn Herbert's Father, George Columbus Hood, born 1875; , House Built by Her Father, in which she lived



Lemuel Graham, Martinsburg house, an archives of history



John Peters, Graham's grandfather,
prominent blacksmith and landowner in
Martinsburg; extended family, Jonesville





Florence Peters Graham,
daughter of John Peters



Evidence: Service to Community, Nation;



Lemuel Graham, veteran
of World War I

Albert Thompson House, with John Thompson in front. Original log house, 1877; frame addition to front and sheathed in weatherboards, 1916 by Otho Thompson, John's father



Martinsburg: only community in MD with 3 key institutions still in center of community:
church, school, lodge

George W. McDaniel

BLACK HISTORICAL RESOURCES

IN UPPER WESTERN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND



Sugarloaf Regional Trails
July 1979



Loving Charity Hall, 1914, by Scott Bell



- Scott Bell built Warren M.E. Church, 1903
- Community benefit society headquartered in Richmond with chapters in Maryland, even MS
- Insurance, burials, orphans, widows
- Center for dances, plays, meetings, etc.

Loving Charity Hall, Survival and Vision



Documented Resources
in Families and Communities: Jerusalem, Howard Lyles;
Ora McPherson Lyles



World of Work



Figure 30. Black workers at the Dickerson Stone Quarry. The man on the far right has been identified as Bene Hallman. This is one of the few photographs of Montgomery County work scenes which



Figure 31. Sawyers at saw mill near Sugarloaf Mountain. Black and white sawyers worked together around the turn of the 20th century. An oral informant recalls that

Get Students Engaged in History beyond the Classroom



Contents: Methodology; Engaged Students, Student Service Learning

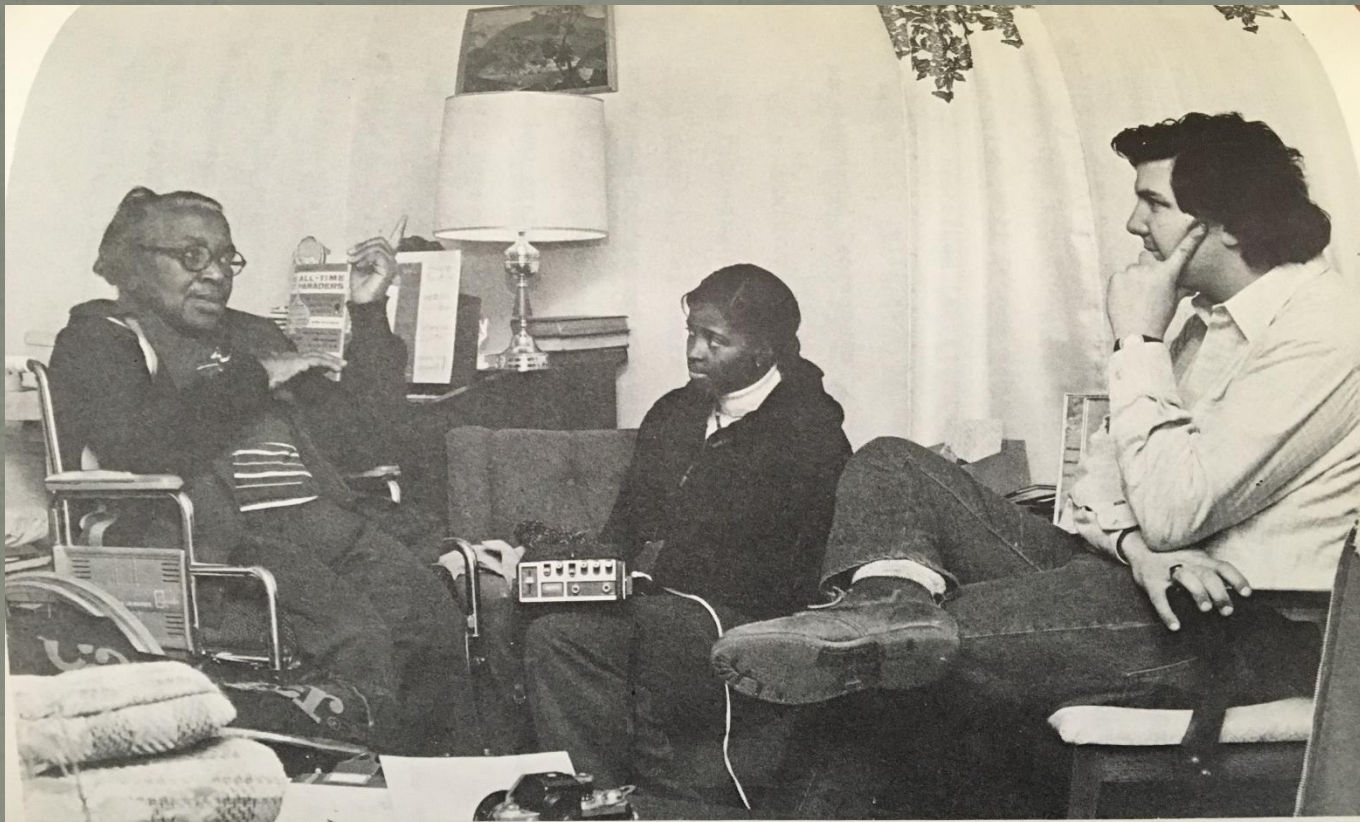
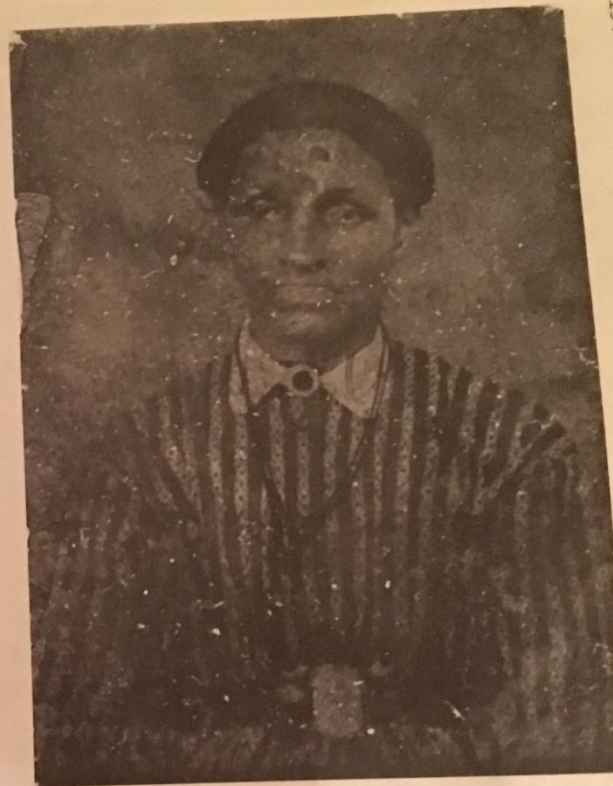
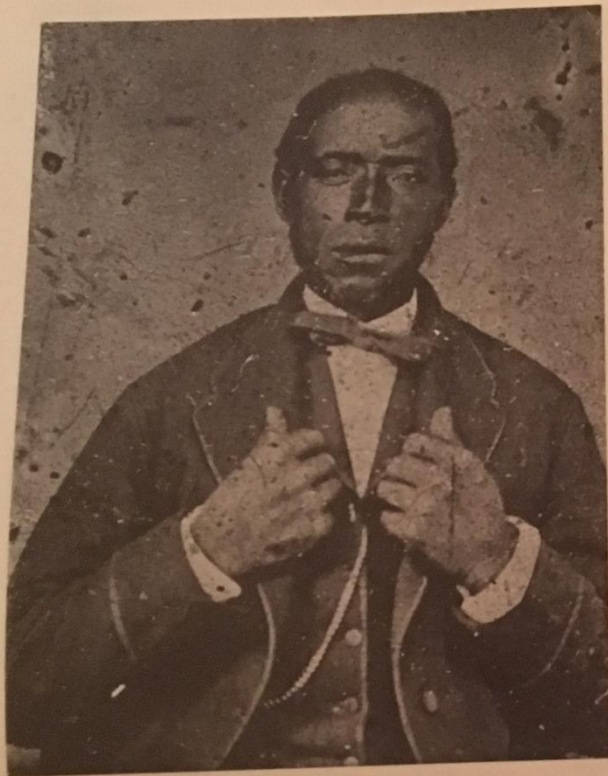


Figure 46. Taping oral histories. Clarksburg community historian Ethel Foreman (left) explains the history of her community and family to research assistant, Karen Sewell, and to historic sites surveyor, George McDaniel.

Photographs, Free Blacks , born 1815 and 1823. Tell More Complete Story



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Figure 35. James & Caroline Spencer, Mt. Ephraim. They were born in 1815 and 1823, respectively, as free blacks. The "James Spencer" who founded the Big Woods community in 1814 was probably the father of this man. His granddaughter was Barbara Spencer Hallman of Mt. Ephraim. Other than photographs of prominent black leaders, there are virtually no photographs of identified blacks from Maryland born earlier than this couple.

Martha Mariah Spencer, Mt. Ephraim.
For You or Students:
How Would You Describe Her Personality?



My Unpublished Manuscript: Part I Is New, 150 Pages

REFLECTIONS OF BLACK HERITAGE:
AN ARCHITECTURAL AND SOCIAL HISTORY
OF BLACK COMMUNITIES IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

George W. McDaniel

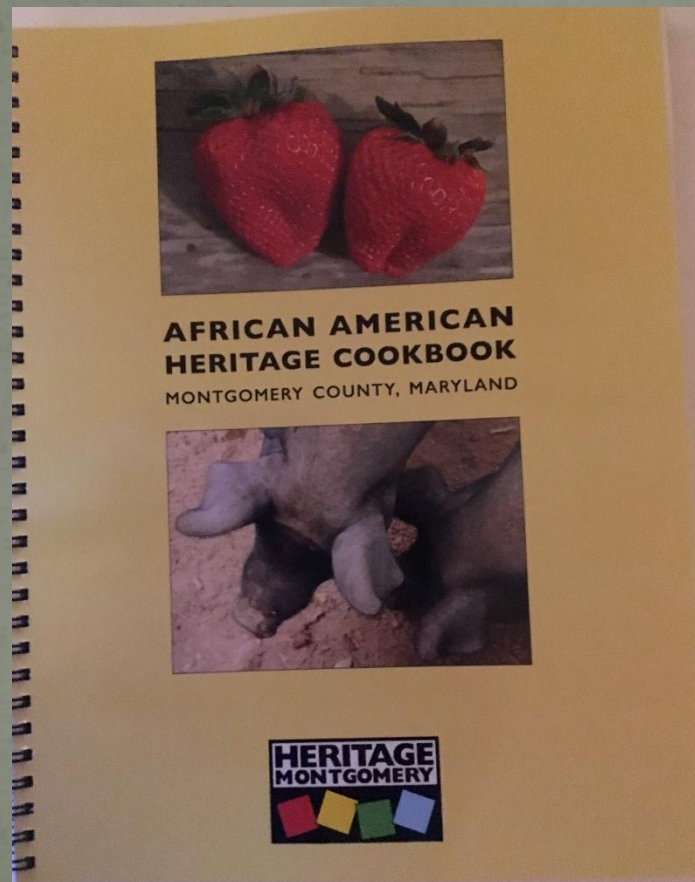
Sugarloaf Regional Trails

September, 1979

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Heritage Montgomery: Heritage Cookbook Brings History into Your Kitchen with My Narrative of 1979 with Updates and Photos



AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE COOKBOOK MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

HERITAGE MONTGOMERY

Historical Excerpts by Dr. George McDaniel
Larkin Rogers, Chef/Curator
Sarah L. Rogers

Much More to Research and Preserve



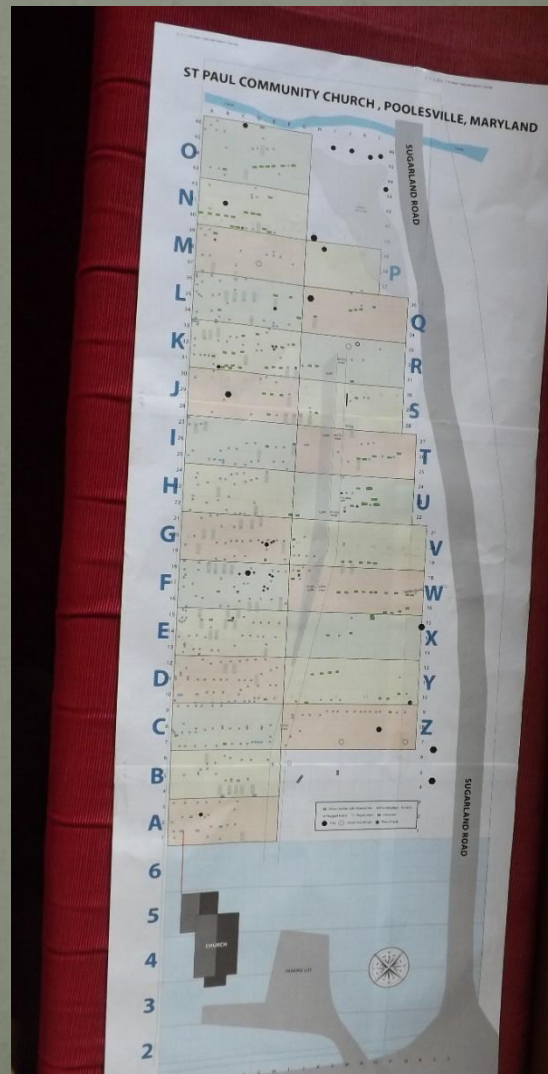
Traditional Practices: Hog Killing and Butchering,
Homestead Farm, gift of Anne Allnutt. Her father.



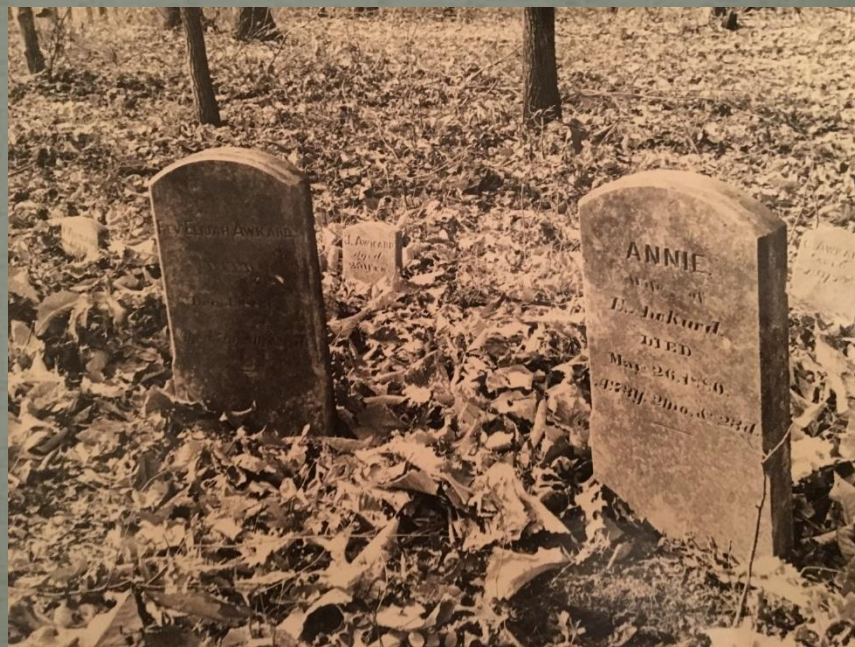
Much More to Research and Preserve



Cemeteries: Mapping, GPS. Enter Locations on Internet, Find A Grave. Wonderful Resource. Volunteers



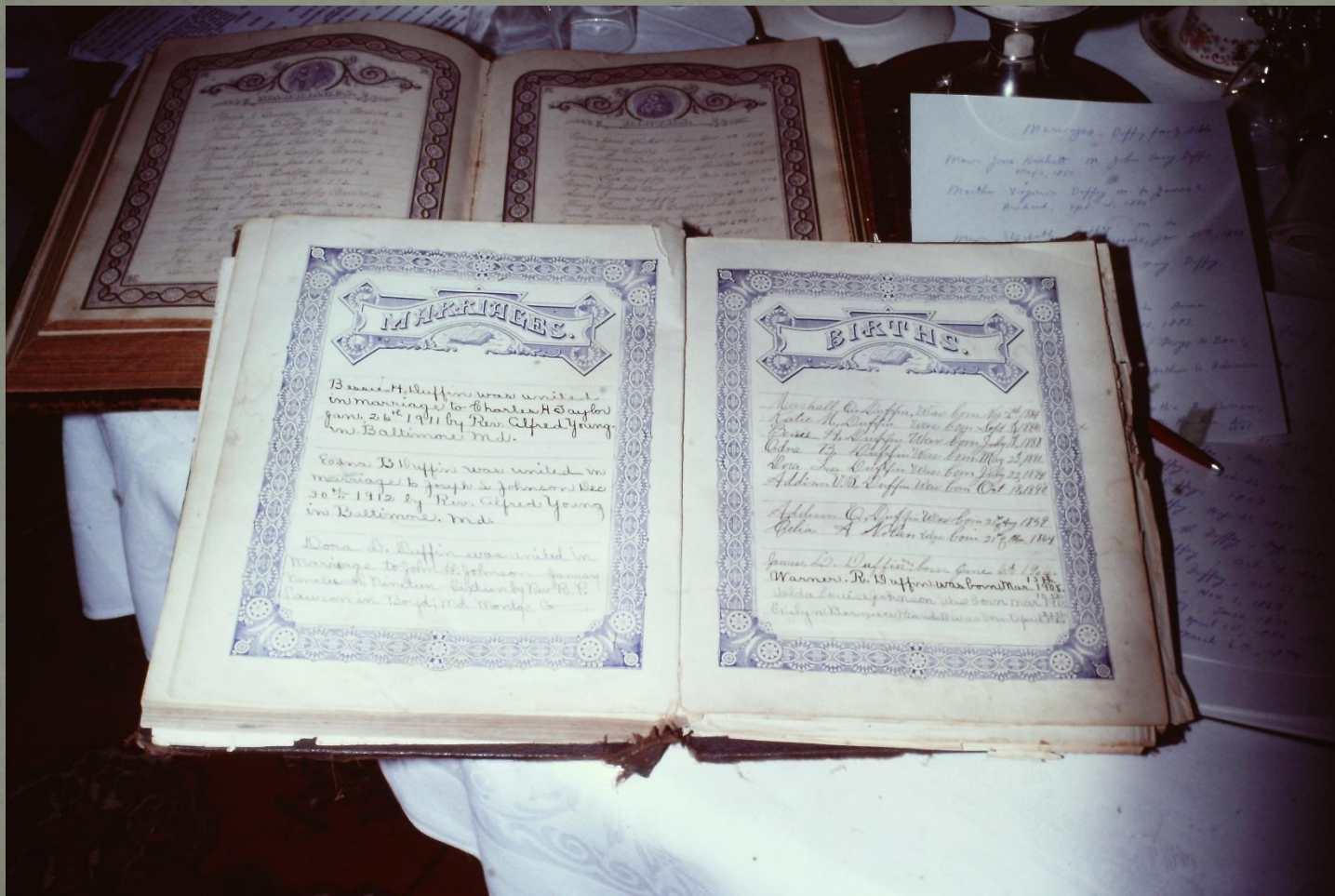
Elijah's Rest Methodist Church, Jerusalem, Jonesville: The Rev. Elijah Awkard, Born a Free Black.



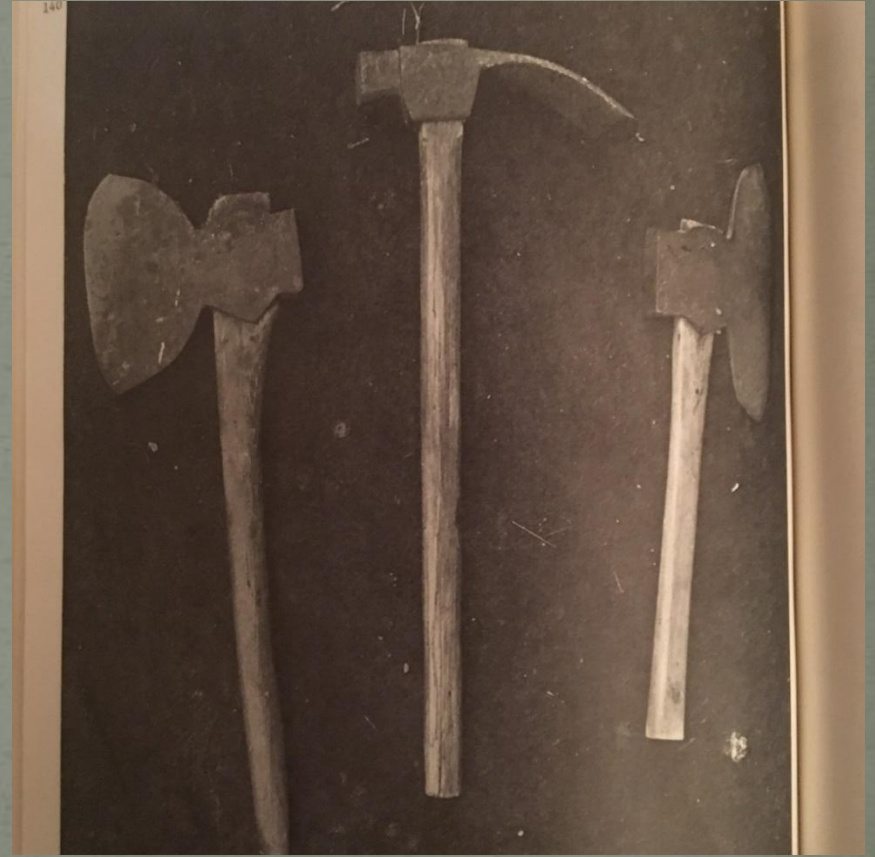
Families and Marriages: One of Top Priorities After Freedom



Family Bibles, Births, Marriages: Duffin Family. What evidence remains?



Are there any more log houses still standing? Tools?



Historical Frame Houses



Jones House: Montgomery County History Gives Better Understanding



As You Travel Across Montgomery County Now, What Evidence Remains of These Decisions from 1865

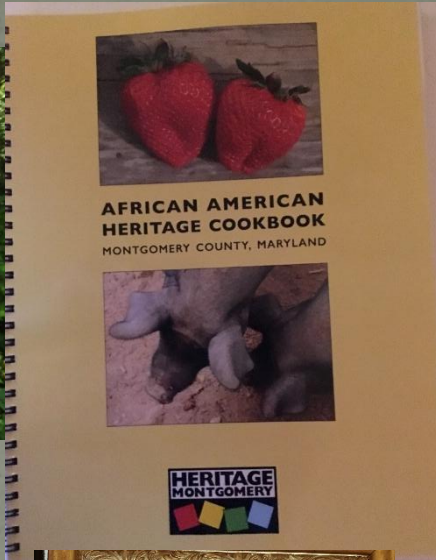
- Look around you today
- Where did names come from?
- History is around you
- The community foundation remains
- How might you help preserve this history for the future?

Reason for Celebration: History Now Has a Home



- Community Center
- Education
- Heritage Tourism
- Family Reunions
- Public Programs
- Thanks to All

You Can't Do It Alone



- QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION



African American Landowning Communities Founded Across the County: Resources Today, Button Farm, Josiah Henson



History, Empathy, and Imagination: When Freedom Came, What Would Have Been Your Priorities?

- 1. Choose a name for yourself
- 2. Get legally married. To whom?
- 3. Buy land and build a house
- 4. Establish a church so you could worship freely as you wished. No more “stealing away” to pray and worship
- 5. Establish a school to free your mind
- 6. Establish a community of family and friends
- 7. Devise strategies of self-sufficiency, agency, and self esteem amidst a Jim Crow environment

Imagination: Choices after Freedom

The questions they face and they answer can be compared to questions immigrants face in America over time, even today.

Are different but also similar, offering teachable moments

Could enhance cross-racial and cross-cultural understanding and tolerance





Seemingly Ordinary House that Can Tell a Story: The Jones-Hall_Sims House at the NMAAHC

S



Community Connections

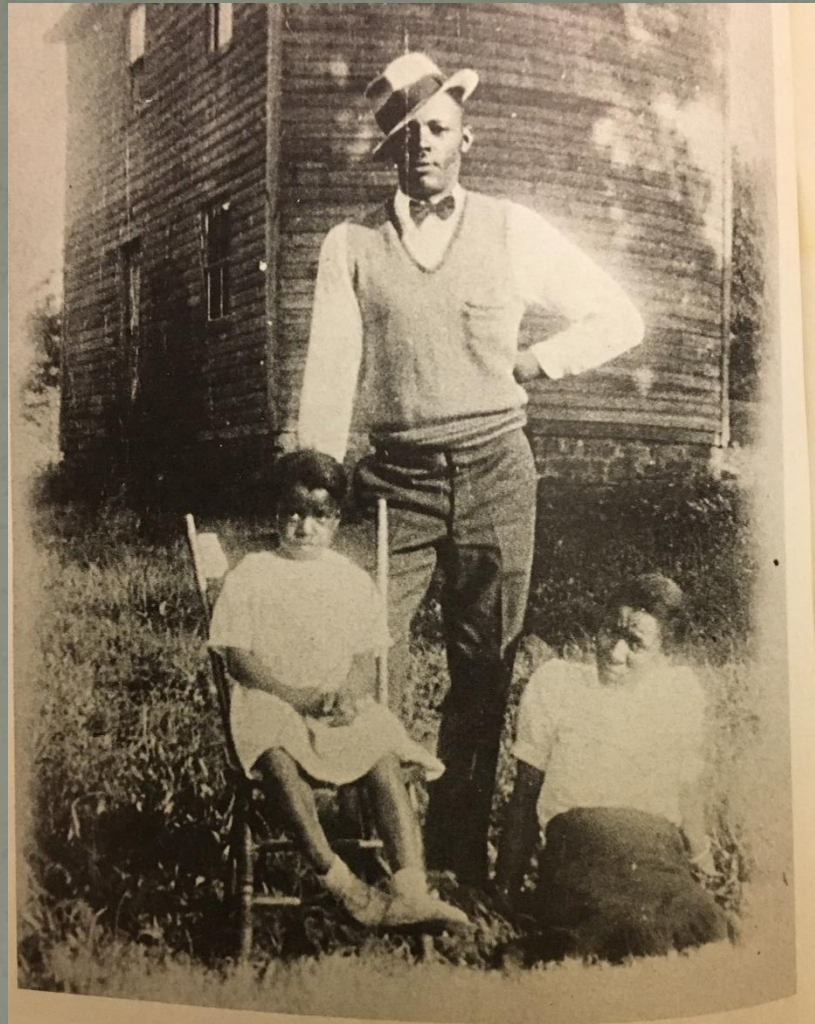
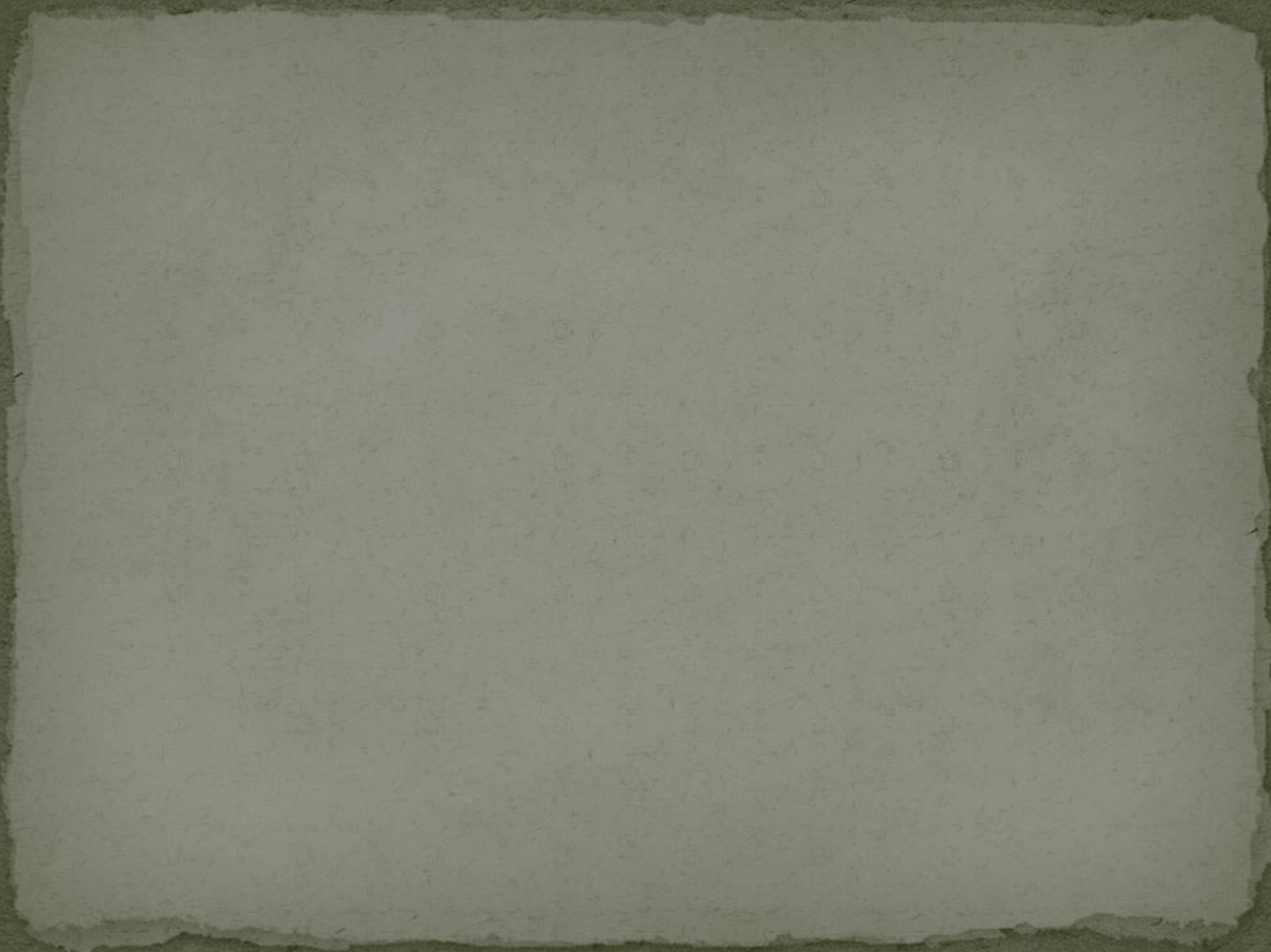
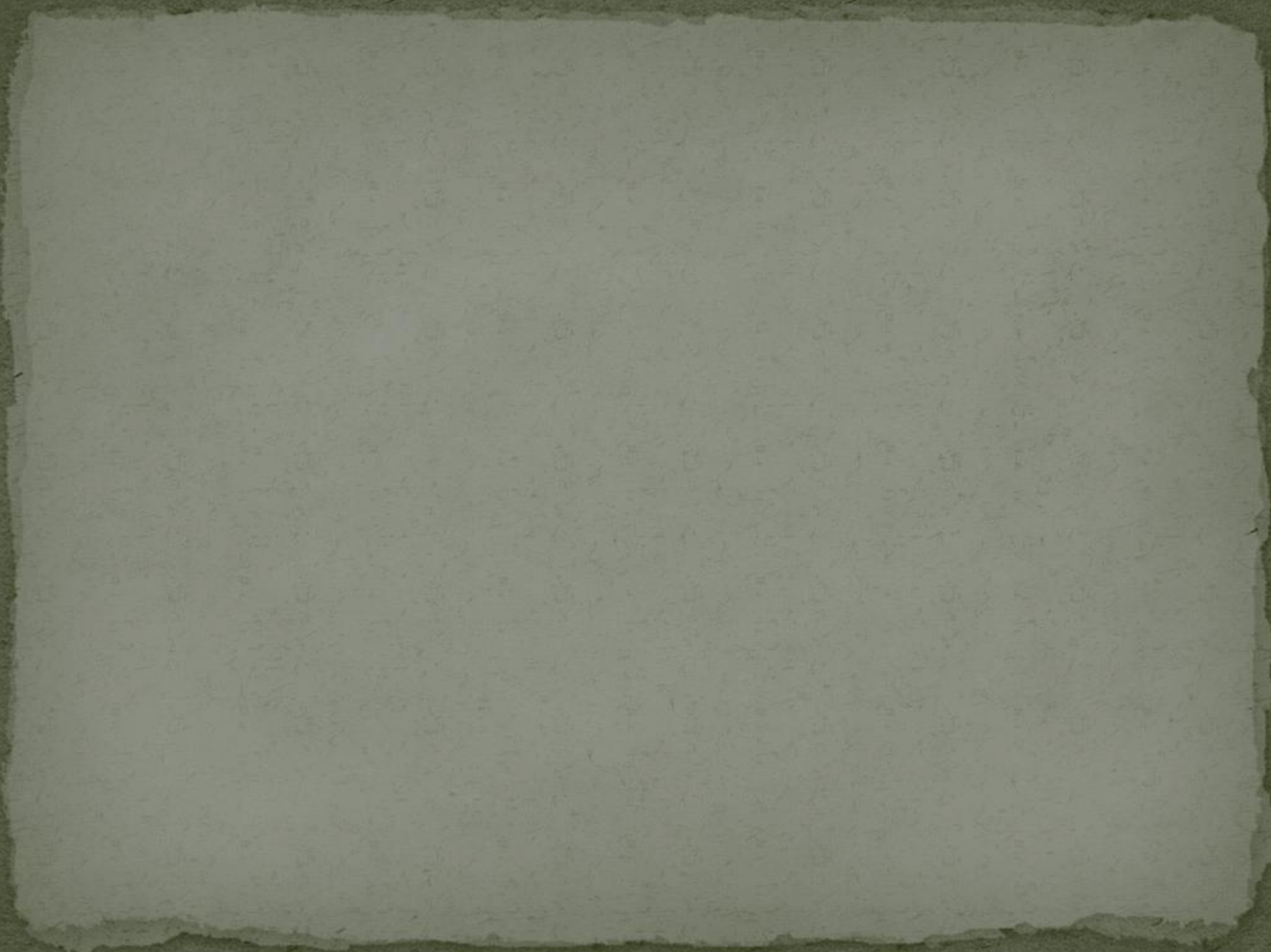
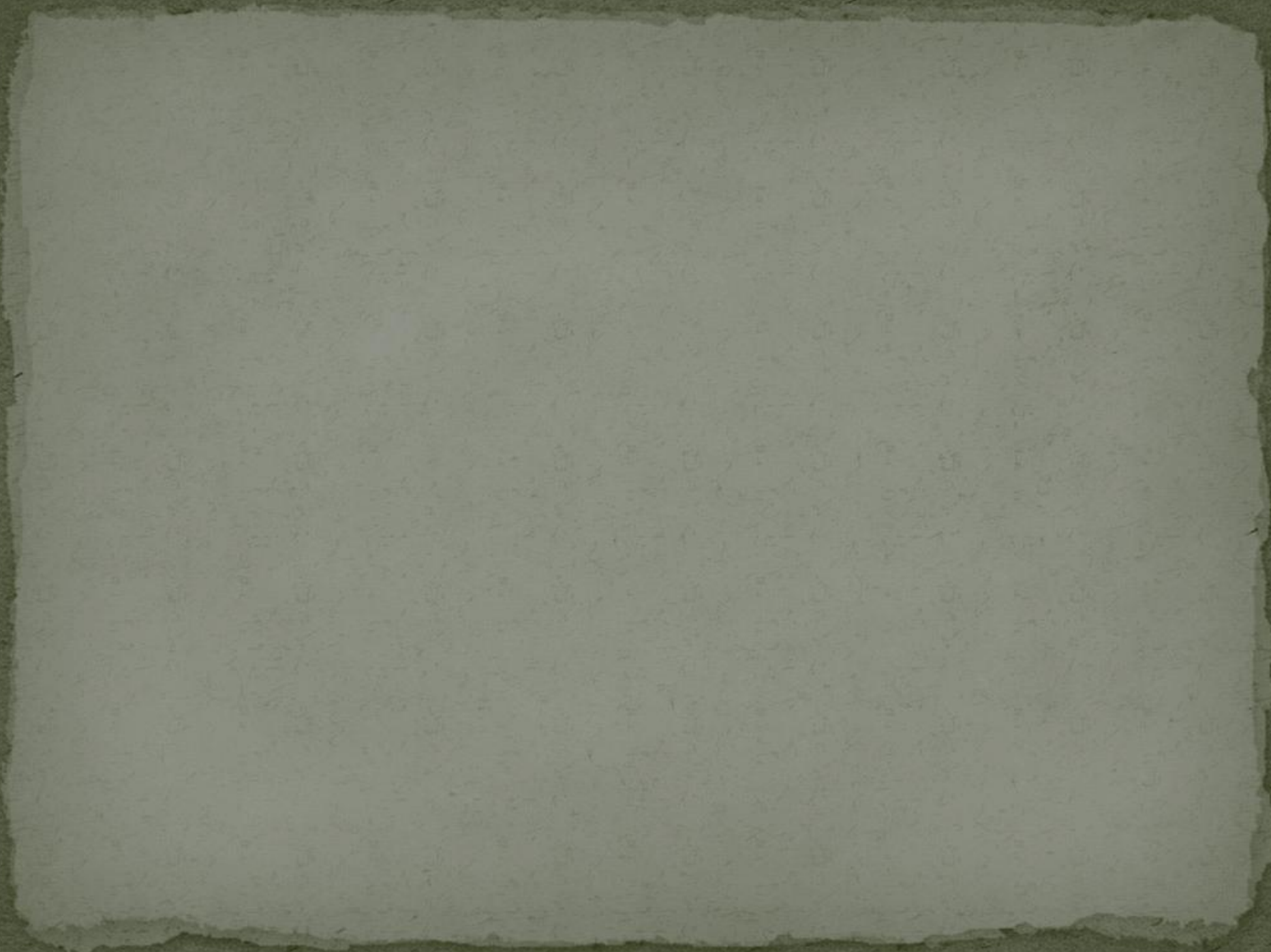
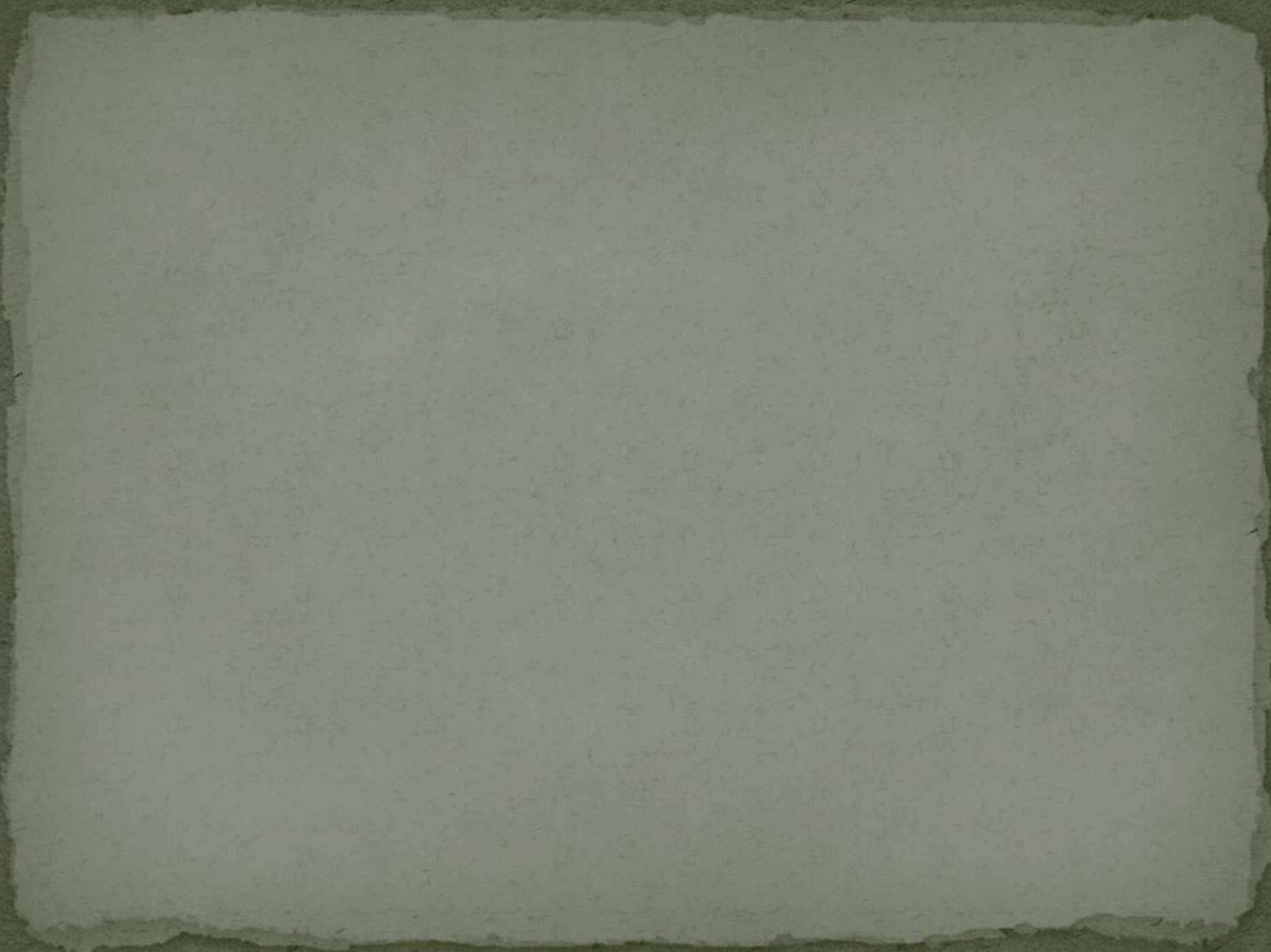


Figure 15. Descendents of two communities. Standing: Lawrence Turner of Jonesville; Virginia McKilroy in the chair; and Evelyn Moore (Harper) of Jerusalem. Behind them is the two story frame house of William Moore, built in the 1890's in Jerusalem as the replacement of his original log house. This succession of house types was typical in black communities.









- Martinsburg: Evelyn Herbert and Lemuel Graham

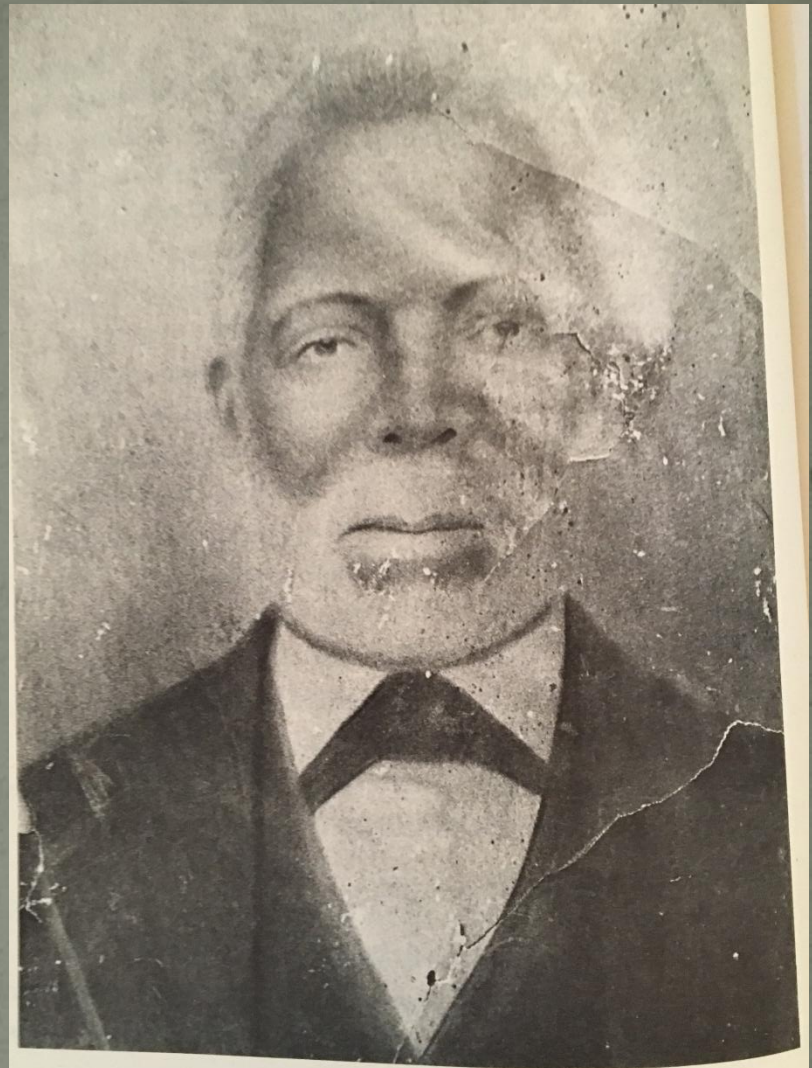
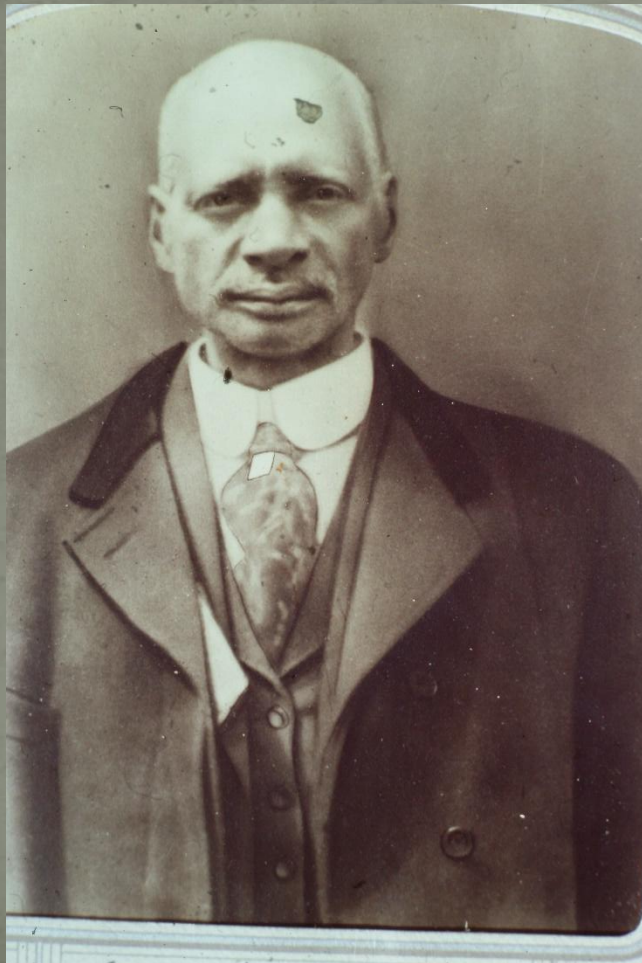


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Jones-Sims House and Sugarland tell of that moment of transition from slavery to the promise of freedom and onwards





Tilghman Lee sitting on his front steps with George W. McDaniel author of, "BLACK HISTORICAL RESOURCES IN UPPER WESTERN MONTGOMERY COUNTY MARYLAND."



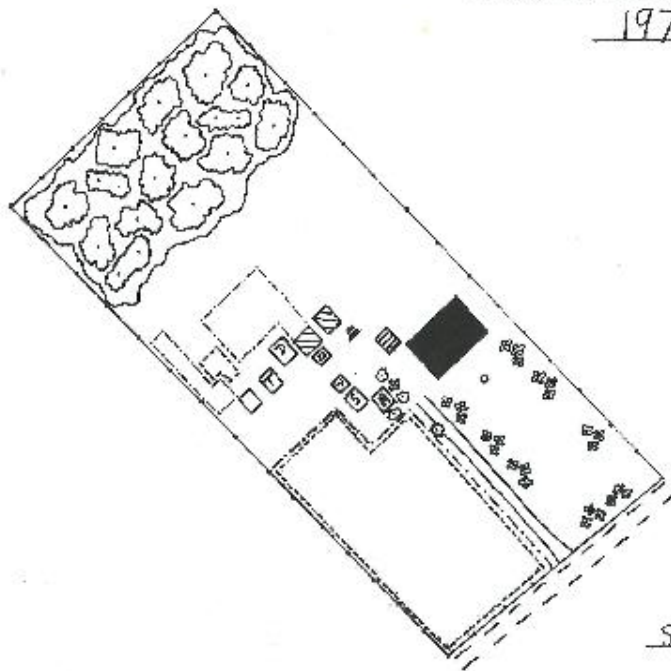
Sugarland in 1978, Tilghman Lee



THE TILGHMAN LEE HOMESTEAD
SUGARLAND,
1979



BARNS	[Solid black square]
RAIL DEPOT	[Square with diagonal lines /]
RAIL DEPOT	[Square with diagonal lines \]
POOL BUILDING	[Square with horizontal lines]
POOL AREA	[Square with vertical lines]
COURT YARD	[Square with 'S' symbol]
DRIVE	[Square with 'P' symbol]
DIG PILE	[Square with 'X' symbol]
LOG PILE	[Square with 'L' symbol]
WEEK CAR	[Square with 'C' symbol]
WOOD PILE	[Square with 'W' symbol]
SHED	[Square with 'S' symbol]
BARBER SHOP	[Square with 'B' symbol]
BATH HOUSE	[Square with 'B' symbol]
WELL	[Circle with 'W' symbol]
RAILROAD	[Line with cross-ticks]
TRACT BOUNDARY	[Dashed line]
TRAIL	[Dotted line]
DRIVE ROAD	[Line with short dashes]
LAKE	[Wavy line]
CHICKEN LOT	[Square with 'K' symbol]
DOG LOT	[Square with 'D' symbol]
WALLS AND CURBING NOT KNOWN TO SCALE	

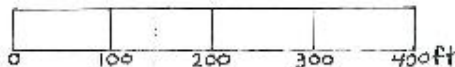


Sugarland Lane

Source
Steven Doolittle
Sugarland Regional Trails

Oral Informant
Tilghman Lee

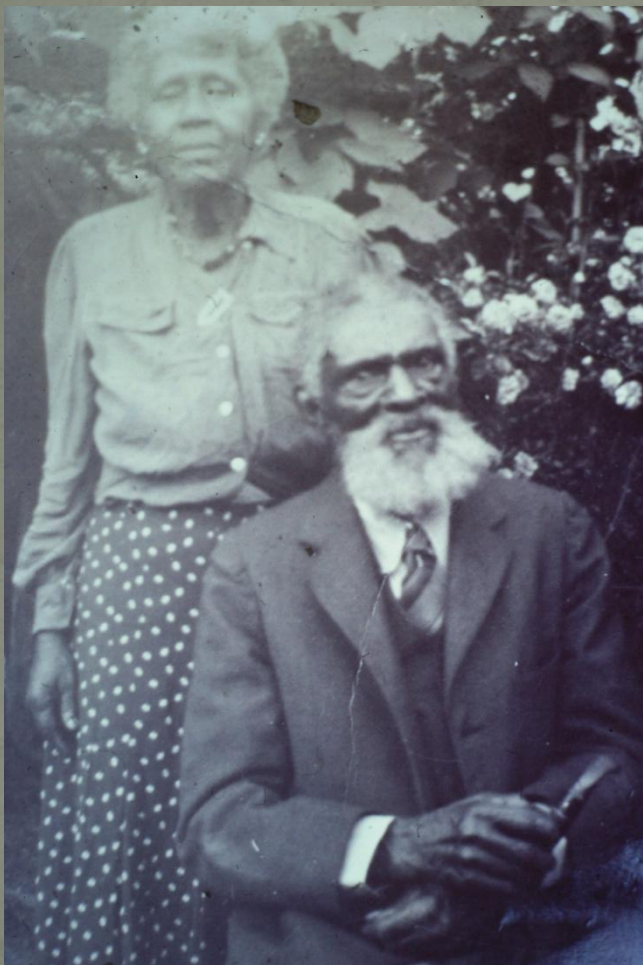
Scale



Log Houses of Late 1800's



Frank and Mollie Dorsey; Harriet Dorsey



Chanel Kelton, Daughter Blessing Stand on a History that Deserves to Be Told and Respected



Jonesville House: A Home



Historic Preservation Is Often More About the Future Than the Past. History Is a Resource that Keeps on Giving

- sh my manuscript
- School programs, K_12; undergrad and grad schools
- Get students and teachers to travel via history, meet older people, become detectives
- Encourage partnerships with other organizations
- History as a Resource to promote cross-racial and cross-cultural understanding and tolerance and respect