

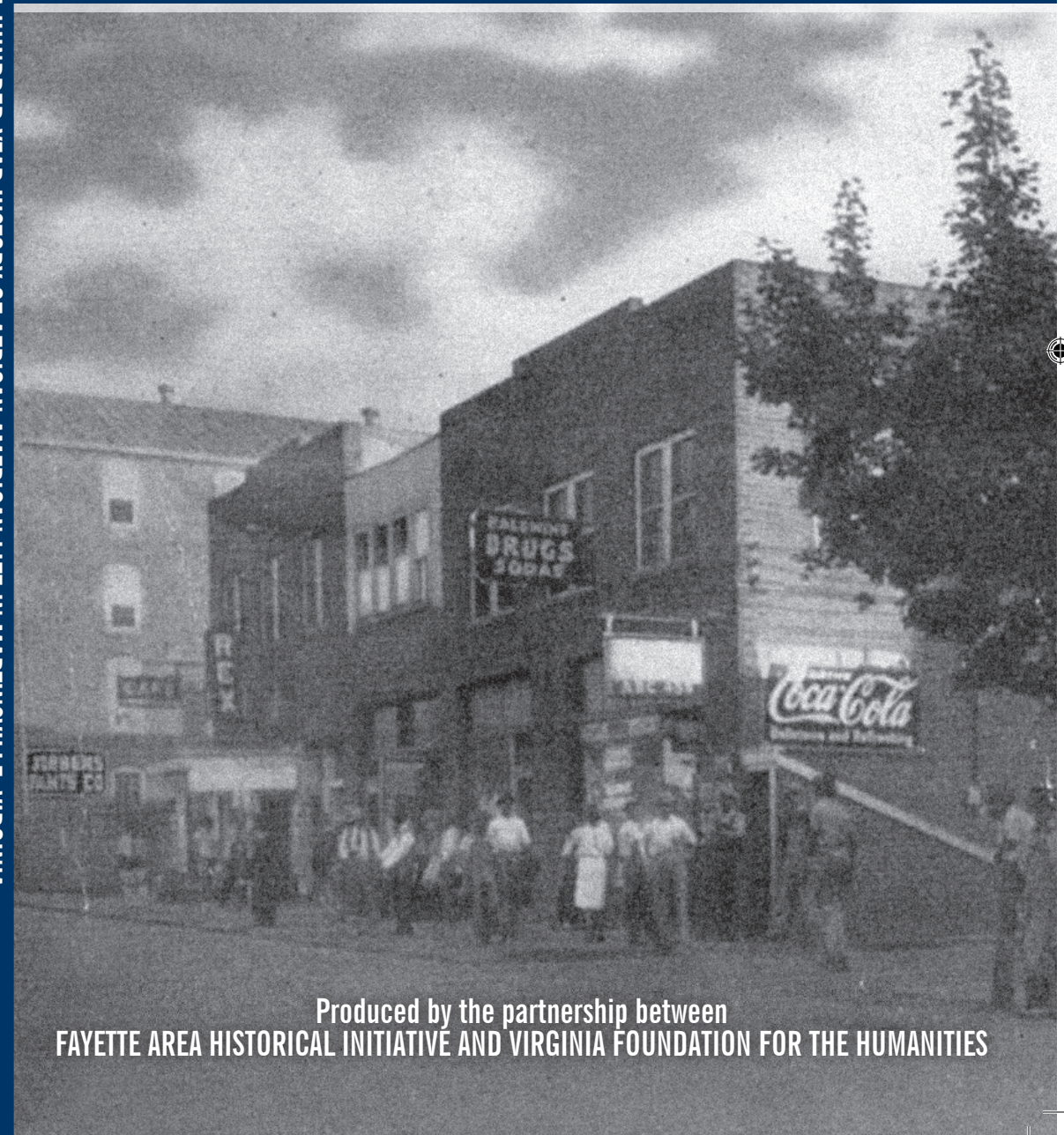


FAYETTE STREET

A HUNDRED-YEAR HISTORY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE IN MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA

1905-2005

FAYETTE STREET: A HUNDRED-YEAR HISTORY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE IN MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA



Produced by the partnership between
 FAYETTE AREA HISTORICAL INITIATIVE AND VIRGINIA FOUNDATION FOR THE HUMANITIES

vfh FAHI

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The Virginia Foundation for the Humanities (VFH) and the Fayette Area Historical Initiative (FAHI) wish to thank all those who have contributed to the publication *Fayette Street: A Hundred-Year History of African American Life in Martinsville, Virginia*. This publication represents the end of a two-year project made possible by the Martinsville based Harvest Foundation and the Public Welfare Foundation. It also accompanies the exhibition *Fayette Street: A Hundred Years of African American Life in Martinsville, Virginia 1905-2005* produced in June 2006 by the VFH/FAHI partnership. This publication was edited by Christina Draper, African American Heritage Director and written by Jeanne Nicholson Siler, Project Historian, with the invaluable aid of Gladys A. Hairston, Historical Assistant. Photographs and oral historical accounts were collected by Linda Strange-Dillard, Project Coordinator, the FAHI Board of Directors and members of the Martinsville/Henry County community.

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While care has been taken to trace and acknowledge proper credit for information and photographs collected in this publication, if any information has been inadvertently overlooked, please accept our apology.

FAHI

Fayette Area Historical Initiative
504 Fayette Street
Martinsville, VA 24112
276.732.3496

vfh

Virginia Foundation for the Humanities
145 Ednam Drive
Charlottesville, VA 22903-4629
434.924.3296

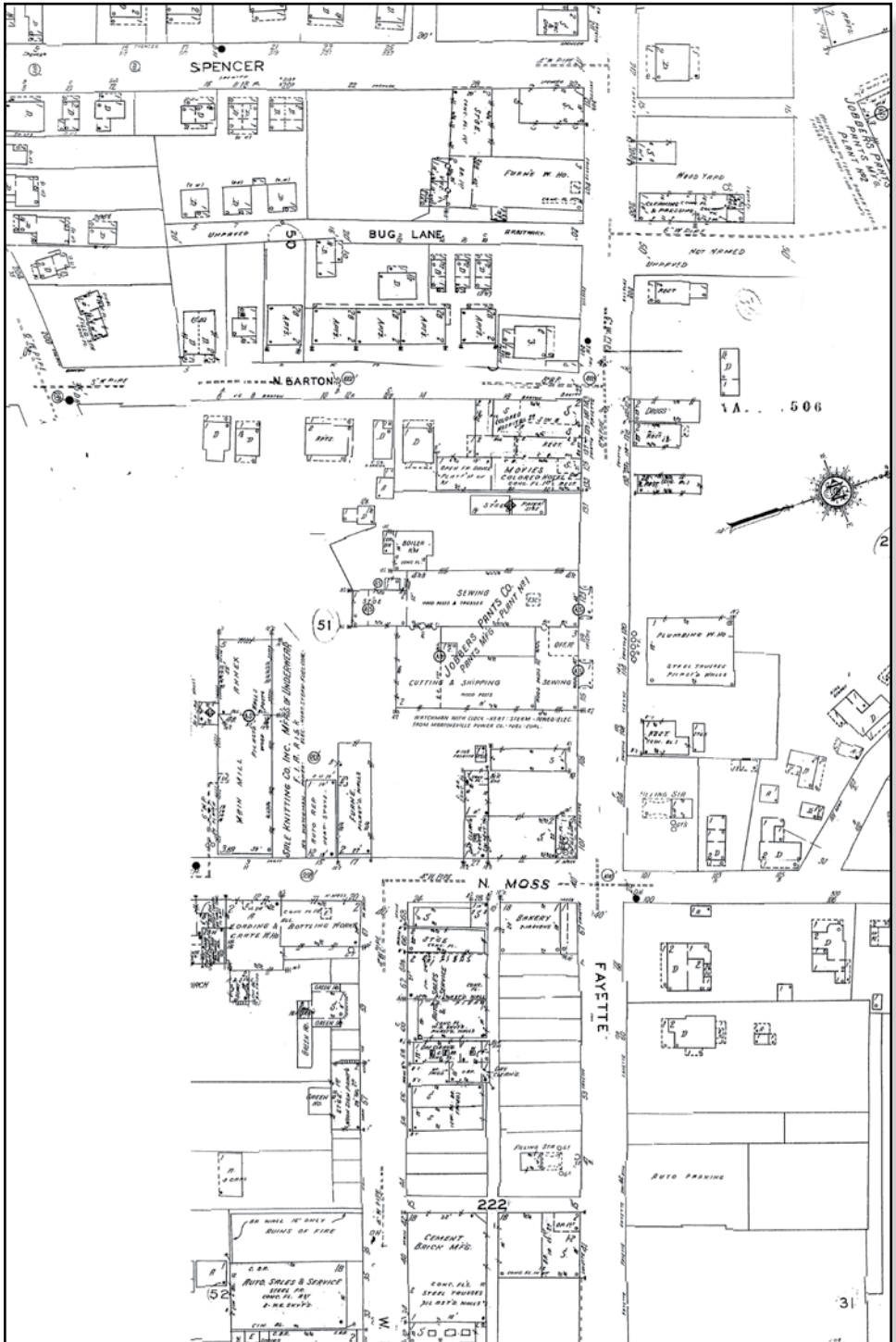
Cover: c. 1930s Graycraft
Postcard Co., Baldwin Business
Center postcard

Back cover: Clockwise, from top
left, *courtesy of Thomas T. Hodge,
Sr.; Martha Spencer King; Henry B.
and Barbara Ingram; Mt. Zion AME
Church; John P. Bing; A.M. Hairston;
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Meadowbrook AME and Shiloh
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1949 Sanborn fire insurance map © 2001
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“In all the books you have studied you never have studied Negro history, have you?” an ex-slave asked an interviewer from Fisk University. “If you want Negro history,” he insisted, “you will have to get [it] from somebody who wore the shoe, and by and by from one to the other you will get a book.”

— from *Black Culture and Black Consciousness*, by Lawrence W. Levine¹

Thousands of shoes have walked thousands of times up and down the length of Fayette Street, in Martinsville, Virginia. Yet because of the passage of time, the limitations of geography, or the rules of social segregation, many do not know the pleasures of that walk. Not everyone has had the chance to walk past Edna's Cafe and Grill and hear the inviting beat of a jukebox, or to wave to friends beckoning outside Bannister's Cab. Nor do they know the strain of hurrying back up the rise to Smith Road after lunch for Mrs. Woodward's classes at Albert Harris Elementary, or the kind of leisurely stroll that leads to Reynold's Barber Shop for a shave and conversation. Without a record of the common memories shared by the African American men, women and children who wore those thousands of shoes, the importance of Fayette Street to the city and citizens it connected is in danger of fading away like a poorly kept photograph. With patience and diligence, however, it is possible to reach back and recover what it was like to haul water from the pump in the middle of Third Street, to listen to the Morris' brothers gospel show on radio WHEE, or to enjoy happy afternoons spent at the Rex Theater. It may no longer be safe to roller skate down Koehler hill, and no longer possible to catch the sure smell of autumn during hog slaughters near Massey Street, but it is critical not to forget the good that has happened there. Fayette Street has a history much longer than its 2.1-mile length suggests.

The presence — and in too many cases the absence — of the largely African American businesses, churches and homes flanking the pavement between Henry County's old Court House and the banks of the Smith River have roots that reach back into the earliest years of Virginia history. The street's very name most likely reflects the patriotic fervor of city founders eager to pay tribute to the Revolutionary War heroes, just as they had tapped frontier soldier Joseph Martin as their namesake and named surrounding counties in honor of 18th century statesman and Leatherwood resident Patrick Henry. The Marquis de La Fayette, a young Frenchman (and one of only six honorary U.S. citizens) served as a military commander under George Washington during the war; variations of his name have subsequently become part of communities across the entire United States.²

The presence of African Americans in Virginia dates back to 1619 when they arrived, first as indentured servants and then primarily as enslaved labor. Economically, Martinsville and Henry County were not unlike the rest of the states after the Revolutionary War. Like many towns in the Piedmont region of Virginia, tobacco, as the cash crop, was advancing the lifestyle of the Virginia planter. By the mid-1800s, the broad-leafed plant grown in the “gray and red loams with deep clay subsoil”³ of the region's plantations had spread the Henry County name around the world. The plantations of Beaver Creek, Chatmoss and Oak Hill all profited from the production of tobacco and the institution of slavery. These plantations were often both home and workplace

for the enslaved ancestors of men and women who later became the homeowners and business proprietors along Fayette Street and its side streets.

As the need for tobacco production increased, so did the need for a centralized service area. While many planters took their harvests to Danville, the number of tobacco factories in Martinsville steadily increased, especially on Fayette Street. The Penn & Watson and J.S. Townes Tobacco factories, the Spencer Brothers Plug & Twist Tobacco Factory, and the Wm. Semple & Co. Leaf Tobacco Factory were among them.⁴ Not only were these factories some of the first sizeable structures built along Fayette Street, but they also became employers for newly freed men after the Civil War.

When the war ended in 1865, African American families continued to establish their own communities. More independent black churches were founded in the five years following the Civil War than at any other time, as newly emancipated African Americans, no longer forced to attend church with their owners, sought out whatever homes, tents, schoolhouses, cabins or other places were available for worship.⁵ Fayette Street was no exception. Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church histories relate that its church-goers met first in 1870, three years before they had a building of their own: “We can only surmise that the first places of worship led by Rev. Cogsfey could very well have been in homes, small buildings or possibly outside in warm weather.”⁶ By the turn of the coming century, five African American churches were established along Fayette Street, representing Episcopalians, Baptists, Presbyterians and Disciples of Christ. In addition to being the center for religious institutions, Fayette Street began to develop as the center for black homeowners and business proprietors, creating an African American business district for the citizens of Martinsville and Henry County, Virginia, for multiple generations.

The next fifty years represented a boom time for Fayette Street and for Martinsville overall. Population counts for the county jumped from 19,000 in 1900 to more than 30,000 in 1950, but the city grew even faster: from just under 3,000 people to more than 17,000.⁷ The growth of new industries — furniture and textiles foremost among them — created prosperity that helped residents weather the lean Depression years of the 1930s. Black-owned and operated Imperial Savings & Loan emerged on Fayette Street to help fellow neighbors manage those financial gains. Like the first churches, the S&L had its origins in a home on Fayette Street before moving into a storefront location further uptown. Yet Fayette Street grew not just into a neighborhood for itself, but became the social and business center for African Americans throughout Henry County and beyond.

Baldwin’s Pharmacy at 141 Fayette Street offered the only drug store for miles around where its patrons might order a sandwich and a shake and be able to sit down to enjoy it. Between 1938 and the mid-1960s, the June German Ball, only one of a profusion of annual



James Walton Preston and his sister Iris, 1919
Photo courtesy of Iris Preston Smith. 415 Fayette Street



1930s-era Baldwin Block, between Moss and Barton Streets
Photo courtesy of Dr. John P. Bing

events held along the busy thoroughfare, drew thousands of African Americans to Martinsville for a lively weekend of music and reunion. Just as Fayette Street intersected with Moss, Barton, Spencer and Massey Streets, and connected with highways leading to Danville, Chatham and Roanoke, the lives of its residents crossed and mingled with those who lived nearby and in far away places.

This illustrated history of Fayette Street and surrounding neighborhoods is a first attempt to collect, preserve and interpret the origins of one particular African American community. But the “imperfect records”⁸ of history cannot provide complete stories. This is especially true for African Americans. Poet activist Nikki Giovanni wrote that “because the Black community had no public place to deposit our memories, the church and colored schools, the Masonic and other lodges, but mostly the homes in which we and our playmates lived”⁹ by necessity became the repositories for the documents, letters, photographs and artifacts that preserve a people’s history.

Such reminders from the past bear important testimony for the present — and the future — because in Martinsville, as in other towns, the photographs of long-gone buildings and old maps continue to hold stories of the people who dreamed cafes and hospitals and beauty shops into existence. Building and rebuilding, year after year, people came together to live, worship, work and create the foundations of today’s neighborhoods.

In many ways the history of Fayette Street and its reach into the more rural black communities of Henry County parallels that of other Virginia city and county histories, indeed that of black communities throughout the southern American landscape. Just as Martinsville struggles to remember Fayette Street as it once was, Roanoke works to rebuild Henry Street, and Lynchburg celebrates the past life of a thriving Fifth Street. Yet Martinsville’s story is uniquely its own. Its

1619 – Nineteen Africans are shipped to Jamestown, Virginia, on Dutch ships, as indentured servants.



1775 – Patrick Henry delivers his famous speech “Give me liberty or give me death,” at St. John’s Church in Richmond.

1791 – Virginia General Assembly authorizes the establishment of the town of Martinsville. The town is named for frontier soldier and statesman Joseph Martin, born in 1740.

1850 – U.S. Census population count for all of Henry County: 8,872 – 5,324 white; 208 free colored; 3,340 slaves.¹

March 1861 – A known opponent of slavery, Abraham Lincoln is inaugurated President of the United States.

April 1861 – The Civil War begins with shots fired on Fort Sumter, South Carolina. Virginia joins other ten other states in seceding from the Union, and the Confederate capital is located in Richmond, Virginia.

1863 – Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation legally frees all slaves in the Confederacy.

community leaders, its celebrations, and its losses are as specific as the individuals who contributed their energies to creating a place that, for them, was like no other. Whether their address was Fayette Street or Letcher Street, whether they shopped at H. M. Hairston’s or the Pine Hall Grocery, and whether they worshipped at Grace Presbyterian or St. Paul’s Episcopal, Martinsville, Virginia was — and is still — a place people love to call “home.”

This publication’s timeline extends back briefly into the first years of the city, but focuses on the hundred years of history that are most clearly remembered by the area’s elders alive today. Oral histories, newspaper research and excerpts from the existing historical narratives about the Martinsville area have all contributed to this latest historical account. Church histories, published for significant anniversaries and retirements, have been particularly useful, as have maps, yearbooks and entertainment programs. The personal documents that follow people through the course of a lifetime — from diplomas and family photographs to carefully saved business receipts and funeral programs — bring details to the larger narrative. Each chronological chapter, through the use of these acquired documents and photographs, tries to capture a feeling for the African American experience along Fayette Street as it was lived in its churches and schools, businesses and trades, social organizations and celebrations.

Creating a chronicle of the African American experience in Martinsville and Henry County is a great testament to ordinary African Americans who through extraordinary measures of perseverance survived bondage, became economically independent, and educated themselves and their children. Their continuing fight for freedom from discrimination and inequality is enhanced by remembering this past, for the lives of these men and women inspire and enrich by making visible a determination to succeed that has much to teach us.



H. C. Lester Tobacco Co. employees among sun-cured tobacco plugs, 1886
Photo courtesy of the Martinsville-Henry County Women’s Club and Historic Views

1905–1924: BUILDING FELLOWSHIP, COMMUNITY & SCHOOLS

“There is in this world no such force as the force of a person determined to rise. The human soul cannot be permanently chained.”

— W. E. B. Du Bois, 1868-1963

CHURCHES

Black churches were not only among the first establishments to find a permanent address along Fayette Street, but they have proven to have staying power as well, confirming the central role religion has consistently played in the history of African Americans. Of the ten churches in the area that date to before World War II, beginning with the creation of Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church in 1870, eight still have church buildings and active congregations there.

The Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church (A.M.E.) of Martinsville was founded on the same principles that led Richard Allen, an African American preacher from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1787 with the spirit of the country’s newly acquired independence, to found a church open to all persons, regardless of race.¹ Reverend Cogsley² helped establish an A.M.E. church along Fayette Street in 1870, and a hand-drawn plat dated 1871 records a quarter-acre parcel marked for the church at the corner of Fayette Street and Jones’ Path (now Armstead Avenue).³ Some of the founding trustees of the new congregation included S. Hale, B. Finney, B. Holland, P. Bennett,

W. Mitchell, Sr., and M. Carter. Other early church members included Mary Penn Clairborne, Sally Early, Lizzie Walls, Margaret Dupee, G. G. Hairston, Lucy Gibson Turner, and Dr. D. O. Baldwin. The first building on the site burned in 1895, during Reverend Hardgrove’s tenure, but was soon “rebuilt and turned around to be built facing on Fayette Street.”⁴ The current church building at 304 Fayette Street, on the same site designated some 136 years earlier, was rebuilt in 1963.

1870	MT. ZION AME CHURCH	304 FAYETTE ST.
1878	BEAVER CREEK PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH ..	611 FAYETTE ST.
1882	GRACE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	218 FAYETTE ST.
1885	(ST. PAUL) HIGH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH	401 FAYETTE ST.
1889	FAYETTE STREET CHRISTIAN CHURCH	420 FAYETTE ST.
1900s	MT. CARMEL HOLINESS CHURCH	509 FAYETTE ST.
1916	MT. ZION UNITED HOLY CHURCH	FORMERLY 521 FAYETTE ST
1935	MT. SINAI APOSTLE CHURCH	7 PETERS ST.
1935	UNITED HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL PEOPLE ..	602 FAYETTE ST.
1941	ST. PAUL’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH	904 WEST FAYETTE ST.
1944	PILGRIM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	601 THIRD ST.

1863 – U.S. Department of Commerce figures suggest at least nine out of every ten black adults in 1863 were illiterate; by 1950, less than a century later, the figures would be reversed, with 90 percent of the African American population able to read.²

April 1865 – Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee surrenders to Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Courthouse and President Lincoln is assassinated at Ford's Theater in Washington D.C.

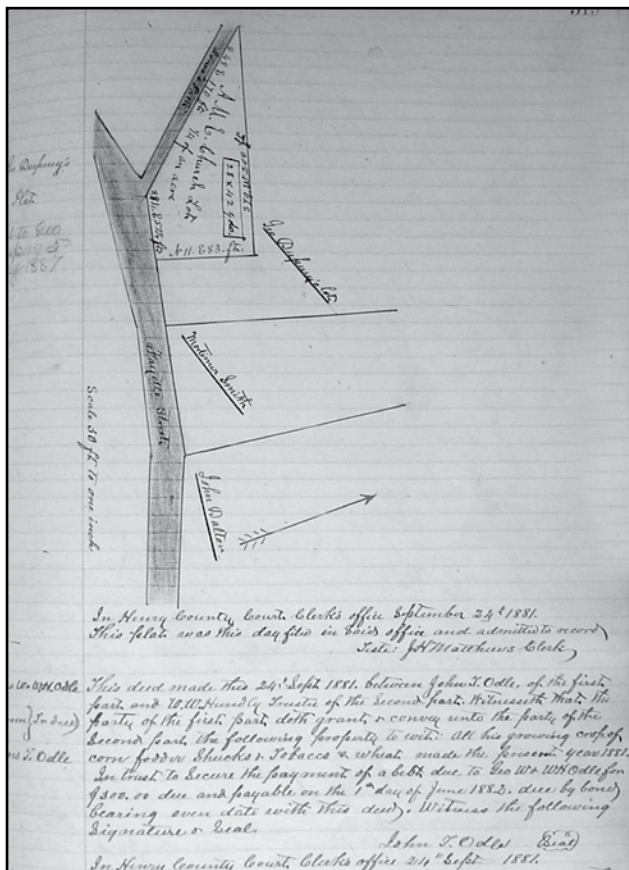


Former slaves of Peyton Gravely, taken around 1865
Courtesy of The Martinsville Bulletin

1868 – Levi Hairston is born, son of Peter Hairston, freed slave of Marshall Hairston. He will become one of the teachers at Martinsville Christian Institute, a deacon at Grace Presbyterian Church, and teacher at the one-room log schoolhouse in Green Pond.

1870 – Mt. Zion A.M.E. is founded on Fayette Street. Rev Cogsfey is pastor.

1870 – U.S. Census population count for Martinsville is 3,157; 1,607 are listed as white, 1550, as colored.³



Hand-drawn map showing the plot acquired in 1881 by the Mt. Zion AME Church, Deed Book No. 20, page 519
Courtesy of the Henry County Clerk of Court



East Martinsville's Hilltop Primitive Baptist Church, similar to the former Beaver Creek Primitive Baptist Church
Photo by J. Siler

I learned just about all the catechism and a lot of scriptures. We had to learn the multiplication. We sang them every day from 1 through 12 and, see, I know them. And then you learned how to read, like commas and punctuation and we had music and sewing. Then we'd have plays and programs and different things. Pageants and all that. It wasn't a large class. I reckon about 10 or 15. That's why you learned so much... They really didn't charge but 35 cents a month or week or something, but you didn't have to pay it. It seems like a small thing, but it was right much at

the time. In high school I liked algebra and American literature. I know a lot of those poems now, English and American literature. We had to memorize all that stuff, like Hamlet's soliloquies and Patrick Henry's speech and "Thanatopsis" and Milton's work, and you know, it doesn't leave you.

— **Alberta Wilson** attended Grace Presbyterian School through the 5th grade, beginning in the 1920s. She graduated from Henry County Training School at the top of her class, and is still active with the Presbyterian church today.

Before it was torn down in the 1950s, Beaver Creek Primitive Baptist Church, established at 611 Fayette Street in 1878, was a simple wooden structure not unlike the former home of the Hilltop Primitive Baptist church still standing at the corner of Brookdale and Parkview Avenue in East Martinsville.⁵ Information about this church's early years is limited to an understanding that Elder Vallie Hylton conducted church business meetings there on the second Saturday of each month, followed by a church service the following morning. Elder Hylton is said to have walked to the church each weekend from Stoneville, North Carolina — some 20 miles distant — staying overnight in Martinsville with William Stockton, a member of the church. Other members affiliated with the church were: Mentora Hairston, Ora DeShazo, Moses Napper, and the Elder George Penn's family.⁶

The Fayette Street home of Peggy Redd⁷ is credited as the starting point for both Grace United Presbyterian Church and High Street Baptist Church, although Grace Presbyterian church histories suggest members of the former began meeting as an organized group in her home in 1882, three years before the Baptists would congregate there. A pioneer of religious education in the region, Reverend Henry M. Holmes, a native of South Carolina and graduate of Howard University⁸, conducted the first services for Grace Presbyterian. He did so even while pastoring at Chestnut Knob Presbyterian Church, site of a mission and school program in the southern half of Henry County. Three missionaries from the Freedman's Board of the Presbyterian Church assisted him in his work, Misses Sallie Harris, Emma Galloway and Betty Meanes from Ridgeway, Stuart and Chestnut Knob, but it was J. Monroe Carter, a graduate of Biddle University, later Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina, who petitioned Rev. Holmes to begin a mission in Martinsville. Crowded meeting space at Mrs. Redd's soon moved them from her home to the basement of a tobacco factory on Fayette Street.⁹ (Rev. Holmes' life ended while he was only in his mid-30s, for he died in 1894 of typhoid fever.¹⁰) In a pattern that was to plague many of the area's early church structures, a frame building, built by these early worshippers, was destroyed by fire and then rebuilt in 1905.¹¹

Reverend E. W. Coberth, sent by the Presbytery of Southern Virginia, was installed as the first regular pastor, opening a parochial school at Grace Presbyterian for black girls and boys. The school, supported by the Freedman's Board, continued offering elementary grade instruction until 1932, when that funding ceased.¹² The Martinsville school matched that of many in the southern states. While northern white denominations funded mission work in the South during and after Reconstruction, but the success of the missions ultimately depended on the generosity of the local black community and the resourcefulness of ministers, who often served several congregations.¹³

1873 – Boundaries are set and officers named for the town of Martinsville. Fayette Street appears on the earliest known maps of Martinsville, including a Henry County map of 1891.

1875 – Congress passes The Civil Rights Act of 1875. The U.S. Supreme Court overturns the legislation in 1883, outraging the black community and many whites as well. The Act guaranteed equal rights for African Americans in public places, employment, and unions, and made it illegal to exclude African Americans from jury duty.

1878 – Beaver Creek Primitive Baptist Church at 611 Fayette Street is founded by Elder Vallie Hylton.

March 20, 1881 – Dana Olden Baldwin is born in Chatham County near Belvoir, North Carolina, the eldest child of the Rev. James Hayes and Mary Crutchfield Baldwin. His father, an A.M.E. minister, is determined that his son will get a good education. His paternal grandfather was Jerry Baldwin, a slave; his maternal grandmother was Margaret Crutchfield. The family eventually includes five children, including younger brothers James Hayes, Jerry and Sam (22 years younger than Dana) and their sisters Mary [later Stewart] and Arnetta [later Jones] Baldwin. During Dana's childhood, area schools are only in session for two months a year; much of his study is done at home in the evening with the aid of lightwood torches. When his family moved from the country to town, he was able to attend the school in Apex on a more regular basis.

Following Rev. Coberth's retirement in 1911, Reverend G. P. Watkins was called to serve as pastor of Grace Presbyterian, having previously been a pastor of the Covenant Presbyterian Church of Stuart, in Henry County. Rev. Watkins served out his remaining life as pastor there until his death in 1942, also serving as one of the city's first African American morticians. The present brick building at 218 Fayette Street was built under his leadership in 1929 and is the oldest church building on Fayette Street today. Rev. Watkins owned his home at 220 Fayette Street and kept an embalming shop behind the



Top: Grace Presbyterian school students, date unknown
From Edward Spruill and 1982 Grace Presbyterian Church publication



Above: Grace Presbyterian Church
Courtesy The Martinsville Bulletin



Right: Rev. George P. Watkins
Courtesy Historic Views

PAST ELDERS AND DEACONS AT GRACE PRESBYTERIAN:

J. Monroe Carter, Thomas "Tom" Flood, W. L. Reynolds, Jobie Kinley, Levi Hairston, John P. Hairston, William Thomas, Millard Hairston, William Henry Hairston, Pete Anglin, Dr. E. O. Woodward, Gary Johnson, Will Patterson, D. C. Beavers, George Rollins, John Hall Saunders, Walter Reynolds, Sr., Everett Watkins, Elisha Williams, Bessie Woodward, Alzene Beavers, Bonnie Rollins and Mary Lowery.

PAROCHIAL SCHOOL TEACHERS INCLUDED: Lillian P. Watkins, Anna B. Carter, Mary Lowery, Hattie Willis, Lucy Moss, Blondal Cowan, and Annie R. Steward.¹⁴

house until opening Watkins' Funeral Home across the street at 301 Fayette Street in the 1930s.

Church histories for Saint Paul High Street Baptist Church note how a group of Christian men and women began meeting regularly in the home of Peggy Redd¹⁵ in 1885.

Their founding pastor, Rev. E. C. Miles, led the group for four years in singing, praying and talking about "the goodness of God and His mighty works."¹⁶

The first church building,

known then as simply Saint Paul Baptist Church, faced High Street. It was erected in 1898¹⁷ for a cost of \$5,000. Other pastors who led the church in its first three decades also included the Reverends William Cousins, J.H. Hamlin, H.A. Stevens, A.C. Matthews, F. T. Pennick, J.E. Carter, R. B. Watts and L.B. Goodall, the latter serving until the arrival of Rev. Hezekiah Morris in September 1922.¹⁸



Early Saint Paul High Street Baptist Church, erected 1898
Courtesy High Street Baptist Church

Rev. Morris came to High Street Baptist Church, as it is now better known, as a 28-year-old WWI veteran, soon to graduate from Lynchburg's Virginia Seminary and College, located in his hometown. He married Amanda Jones in 1923, and the Morris family, including their seven children, served their community and the church through the Reverend's remarkable 49-year pastorate at High Street.

A small group of devout Christians, a preacher, his horse and his sister, together with a Bible School teacher of young children, formed the beginnings of the Fayette Street Christian Church in Martinsville in 1889. The "Horseback Riding Preacher" was the Reverend Reid Spencer, who had studied at the Richmond Theological Seminary (now Virginia Union University).¹⁹ His sister was Nannie B. Hairston, described in church histories as a "one-woman" missionary society because of her efforts to visit sick and troubled neighbors. Mariah Pinkard was the dedicated teacher who began persuading children from Martinsville to attend the area's first Bible classes, even though their initial classroom was only a rough outdoor shelter with wooden slabs as seats.²⁰ When Miss Pinkard heard of Rev. Spencer's new building on Fayette Street, she moved her Bible classes to the new church and soon incorporated them as a department there. The large white brick structure at 431 Fayette Street (on the southern side of the street) was built in 1911, but demolished in the mid-1970s in order to meet stricter new building codes.

Fayette Street Christian Church was one of the earliest Disciples of Christ churches founded in Martinsville, and the first with an African American congregation. "Frustrated with the more rigid dogmas and strict hierarchies of the Presbyterians, Methodists, and Baptists, the Disciples emphasized Christian unity and championed the Bible as their only doctrinal guide. The denomination gave individual churches considerable autonomy, and attracted both black and white congregations. Like most African American churches, from its inception Fayette Street benefited from the combined strengths of both male and female leaders."²¹

September 6, 1881 – Peter Anglin is born in Patrick County. He would become the first black man to own and operate a business in Fieldale and served as postmaster in Waller before becoming a major landowner in Martinsville, including the (A&H) Anglin & Hairston and People's Cemetery properties.

1881 – Henry Marshall Hairston is born. His initials and name will become a well-known landmark because of his grocery and general merchandise store – H. M. Hairston's – at the corner of Fayette and Massey streets.



*Henry Holmes
Courtesy of Historic Views*

February 8, 1882 – Literary Renaissance poet Anne B. Spencer is born in Henry County to Joel C. and Sarah L. Scales Bannister. Her father owned a saloon on Franklin Street, and paid her tuition to attend Virginia Seminary in Lynchburg where she graduated in 1899 as valedictorian.⁴

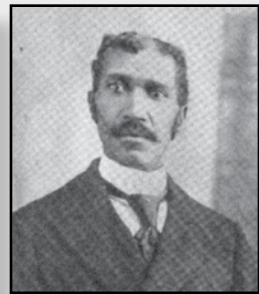
1882 – Grace United Presbyterian Church is founded by the Rev. Henry Holmes in the basement of an old tobacco factory on Fayette Street.

A young man born in nearby Chatham, Reverend James H. Thomas, came to minister at the church. He served until 1907 when his desire to boost the academic educations of area Negro children prompted him to found the Martinsville Christian Institute. He returned to pastor at Fayette Street Christian Church in 1915, and continued both his involvements with his school and the church for the next 25 years. During his absence, Reverend Patrick Henry Moss served the congregation, helping to organize, in 1906, the Piedmont Christian Sunday School Convention in Roanoke. His wife, P.H. Moss, organized the Mite Society, an aid society that was a forerunner of the Woman's Missionary Society.²³

The first group of worshippers at Mount Carmel Pentecostal Holiness Church held their services once a month in a rented warehouse. Bishop Flood of High Point, North Carolina, organized the small group, also from North Carolina. A horse and buggy carried the church's materials to and from the site until permanent accommodations were secured in 1910 when the parishioners moved their services to an



431 Fayette Street, early Fayette Street Christian Church²²



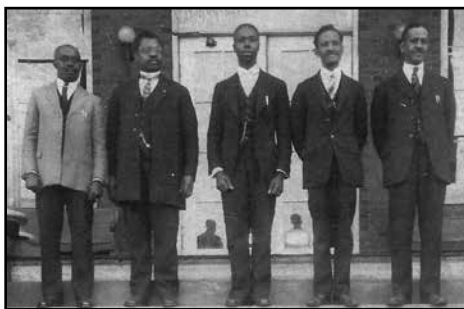
Rev. Reid Spencer
*Courtesy Fayette Street
Christian Church*

PAST CO-PASTORS, VISITING PASTORS, ASSOCIATE PASTORS, AND ELDERS AT FAYETTE STREET CHRISTIAN CHURCH INCLUDED:

“Wash” Spencer, Issac Smith, Marcellus Walker, Richard Davis, Berry Wilson, Anthony Cole, J. R. Louderback, Arbie Jacobs, Robert Wooden, S.W. Green, J. L. Hill, Richard Spencer, J. L. Law, Robert L. Peters, George A. Foster, W. C. Spencer and T. L. Finney.

WOMEN MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH INCLUDED: Victoria Early and Helen Walker, who served as choir directors and pianists; Rev. Thomas' wife Margaret led the Woman's Missionary Society; Hattie M. Smith and Jessie P. Williams served as church stewards, Edmonia G. Starling was an Elder, teacher, and Church Clerk. She was active with the Missionary Society, the Young People's Summer Conference, and represented the church at the state and national level. Others included Lucy Bannister, Roberta Courts, Reubena Fox and Hallie Matthews.²⁴

old house on property purchased along the 500-block of Fayette Street. Eventually the sawdust floors, oil lamps and potbelly stoves that had served this group of worshippers were replaced by a cinderblock building with updated facilities. Baptisms at the Holiness church, the first Holiness sect along Fayette Street, were noteworthy events, “the believers dressed in white apparel, marching in single file, and singing praises unto God,” on their way to the river.²⁵



Mount Zion United Holy Church was founded in 1916 at 521 Fayette Street under the leadership of Elder John Joyce who shepherded this first Pentecostal church in the area for its first 14 years.

From left: Rev. J.W. Joyce, Rev. Baumgartner, Rev. Hezekiah Morris, Rev. James H. Thomas and Rev. G. P. Watkins

Photo courtesy of Gloria Hodge Hylton

SCHOOLS AND EDUCATORS

In 1900, the Martinsville Christian Institute opened under the instruction and guidance of James H. Thomas, pastor at the Fayette Street Christian Church. Known as MCI, his first class of seven students met in the basement of the church, with elementary and secondary school students. Within a year Thomas moved his ever-growing number of pupils to a four-room home off Massey Street, where he purchased Booker House for \$700 with the help of a loan from the Christian Woman’s Board of Missions. The loan was repaid by a combination of tuition, church donations and entertainment proceeds. As principal, Thomas was receiving \$30 a month for a seven-month term.²⁶ The school celebrated its first graduation ceremony in 1903. In succeeding years, MCI’s commencement exercises became popular community events, with nationally known men and women speakers, operas and plays performed at the Opera House on Walnut Street. Admission fees, sometimes as much as “fifty cents,” were charged to attend.²⁷

By 1906, needing more space for students who wished to board at MCI, Professor Thomas opened Smith Hall, offering dormitory rooms, a dining hall and kitchen. The 18-room building was a thoroughly black enterprise: black carpenters built the building, black parents contributed the funds to supply and furnish it, and the school was staffed exclusively with black teachers and administrators.²⁸ Girls were housed in the new building; boys in the older Booker House home. Thomas’ salary climbed to \$40 a month for a longer 12-month term, and the Mission Board assumed responsibility for the teachers’ salaries. Eugene Carl Hoover, principal at Bassett High School, declared in his 1937 thesis, based on notes taken during an interview with Thomas, that “This school was the only negro school under negro administration in this section of the country.”²⁹ The new building was named for C.C. Smith, Secretary of the Board of Negro Evangelization and Education, who assisted in raising \$3,000 for construction costs. Local matching gifts of \$500 were also used.

Ten years later, in need of yet further expansion, Thomas purchased a 30-acre tract of land fronting on Fayette Street for \$3250, \$1,000 of which was raised locally, and the remainder by the Mission Board. By 1920, the school was educating approximately 170 students. With a classical curriculum that covered everything from Latin to biology and agriculture, MCI offered a strong contrast to the more vocationally oriented courses at most Southern black schools. The strong educational program offered by Thomas kept the dormitory rooms filled to capacity on Massey Street, with many students needing to board with local families.

February 1882 – William Cody Spencer is born in the Spencer area of Henry County. Named by his parents, Richard and Lucinda Redd Spencer, after the Wild West entertainer “Buffalo Bill” – whose real name was William F. Cody – William Cody Spencer came to live in Martinsville in 1907 after traveling with the U.S. Army and attending Virginia State College. Working as an insurance salesman for \$4 a week and for Virginia Mirror at \$1 a day and raising eight children, he made a lasting impact on his hometown in 1927 when he established Imperial Savings & Loan.

1883 – The Danville & New River Railroad, soon renamed the Danville & Western Railroad opens a narrow gauge railway line through Martinsville. Often referred to as the “Dick & Willie,” it was also sometimes called the “Delay & Wait.” The Norfolk and Southern (later the Norfolk and Western Railroad) arrives later in 1892.

1885 – St. Paul Baptist Church on High Street is founded; the Rev. E. C. Miles is the founding pastor. Lewis Flood, father of “Miss Vinney” Flood Baldwin, is one of the founding members and longtime clerk.



Martinsville Christian Institute graduates and teachers: Left to right, front row: Levy Hairston, Birdie Spencer, Mary Sue Hairston, Celia Mullins, (unknown), Annie Carter; second row: Mrs. Joyce, James Hill, Mrs. Martha P. Hairston, Bettie Martin; third row: Mary Thomas, Vina Flood, Bertha Hamlin, Mrs. Eliza Hairston; fourth row: Mr. Richard Stultz, Richard Spencer, Catherine Spencer, Mary Fountain; top row, Mr. Alfred Spencer, Louis Flood, Paten Gravely and Professor James Thomas.

Courtesy of Historic Views

MCI served as the only building in the region devoted solely to the education of African Americans for almost two decades, and was also was the only school where Martinsville and Henry County students of color might study at the high school level. However, classes ceased for a three-year construction period, while Thomas worked on the construction plans for a new multi-storied school building on the new Fayette Street property. The school’s land, school equipment and construction costs totaled more than \$60,000; the Booker House burned before it could be sold. MCI became Piedmont Christian Institute, or PCI, when it opened in the fall of 1923 with grades six through 12 and a junior college curriculum. PCI had fourteen teachers and more than 50 students.

Like James Thomas, the Reverend Albert Harris came to Martinsville as a minister, teacher and principal. He became principal in 1917 of a free school on Spencer Street called the Martinsville Colored Grade School. The school – not be confused with its later replacement on Smith Road, the Martinsville Training School – operated out of “Spencer Hall” for grades one to seven. They were “Always, however, poorly equipped and with inadequate and unsuitable



Professor James H. Thomas
Courtesy Fayette Street Christian Church

Financial Card			
HIGH ST. BAPTIST CHURCH			
Martinsville, Va.			
"A - 1909 - D"			
Monthly Salary Card 25c. Set by order of Church			
Your Roll No. _____			
Name	M	S	Age
THE DEACON BOARD			
Aug 1909	L. F. Flood	R.N.	
Sept 1909	J. M. Hairston	R.N.	
Oct 1909	G. W. Bowen	R.N.	
Nov 1909	Perry Preston	R.N.	
Dec 1909	Frank Harper	R.N.	
0 0 0	T. W. Turner	R.N.	
0 0 0	W. L. Trotter	R.N.	
0 0 0	B. Jones	R.N.	
0 0 0	C. W. Prunty	R.N.	
0 0 0	J. W. Penn	R.N.	
0 0 0	J. H. Saunders	R.N.	
0 0 0	J. Riggleton	R.N.	
	C. MARTIN, Sexton	R.N.	
	W. GREGGS, Usher	R.N.	
	F. FLOOD, Clerk	R.N.	
	H. A. STEVENS, Pastor	R.N.	

FAHI Archives

Mama worked hard. She took in washing and ironing, you know, for white folks. You see, my Daddy on his job, he was paid high price. He made \$21 and a half a week [driving horse-drawn wagons for Aaron's Mill], but my Mama made \$22 a week... She would wash for Mrs. Heck Ford. She didn't have other linens but was a big bridge player so we had all kinds of table spreads. Then she washed for Dr. and Mrs. Lee and we had sheets and things for the bed. And those narrow little collars, too. Everybody except Dr. and Mrs. Lee brought their laundry, or their butler brought it. My brother and I used to have to carry the Lees', and they paid us 15-cents a week.

On Monday mornings, my Mama and I, we would

start washing at six o'clock. Our own clothes went in first, and were the last ones to iron. We got through with them on Saturday. Clyde Hooker, Sr – his clothes would come in first with Roy Poteat, his butler at 8 o'clock. Then Mrs. Ford's clothes would come in – we had two sets of Fords – we would wash and iron as they came in. That's the way we made our living in the '30s... When I was ten years old I had a washing of my own, a separate basket and I made a dollar and a quarter a week.

— **Iris Preston Smith**, born in 1919 and married at age 16, raised ten children and worked in the DuPont cafeteria for 26 years. She still puts up green tomato ketchup and turnip greens come summertime.



Booker House and Smith Hall were located near Massey and Endless Streets.
Courtesy of Historic Views



Piedmont Christian Institute, opened 1923
Courtesy of Historic Views



Above: MCI students
Courtesy of Historic Views

Left: 1913 Sanborn map, detail from Sheet 7
Used with permission of Environmental Data Resources, Inc.

1889 – Fayette Street Christian Church opens its doors with the Rev. Reid Spencer.

1894 – Dana O. Baldwin graduates at age 13 from the Apex Normal and Industrial School and enrolls at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina.

late 1890s – Martinsville acquires its first telephones, including one located in the rear of Dr. C.P. Kearfott's Drug Store.

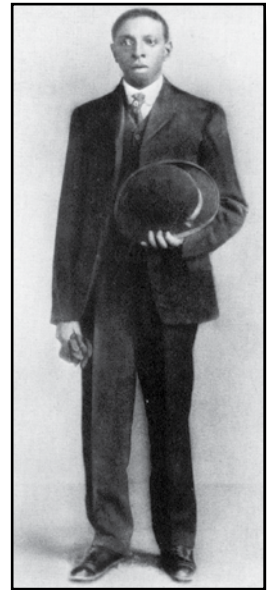
1900 – U.S. Census population count for Martinsville is figured as 2,384⁵. Henry County's total is 19,265, more than double the count of 8,479 from 1800.⁶

1900 – Martinsville Christian Institute opens under James H. Thomas, pastor at the Fayette Street Christian Church. Born in 1877, in Chatham, he graduated with a A.B. from Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute in Petersburg, Virginia in 1898. He taught two years of public school in his native Pittsylvania County before coming to Martinsville. In addition to his pioneering work in education for African Americans, he becomes one of the organizers of a local NAACP chapter in the 1930s.

circa 1900 – Dana O. Baldwin finishes university classes, and teaches in North Carolina for five years. He works on local farms in the summers until his mother persuades him to become a doctor. He enrolls in Leonard Medical College at Shaw University in Raleigh.

housing facilities much of the time," according to Eugene Carl Hoover's 1937 education thesis.³²

After the city school board authorized construction bids in 1922, a new school building opened on Smith Street as Martinsville Training School, on a lot donated by Betsy Hairston. Her land contribution, considered as a local financial involvement, along with community contributions from black residents of \$150, qualified the school for \$1,600 of Rosenwald School funds that contributed toward the \$22,925 needed to build the new brick school's eight classrooms, auditorium and offices. Public taxpayer funds added another \$22,632. A basement provided facilities for science classes and home economics.³³ More than 5,300 school buildings in the South and Southwest were constructed by and for African American students with the help of philanthropist Julius Rosenwald, president of Sears, Roebuck and Company between 1917 and 1932.³⁴ The East Martinsville Elementary School, built in 1928, was a second Martinsville school to benefit from these funds.



Martinsville Colored School Principal, Albert Harris
Courtesy Historic Views and Albert Harris Elementary School

BUSINESSES AND TRADES

A 1911 map of Henry County promoting the Martinsville area proudly boasted that the area "has five independent plug tobacco manufactories, one wholesale and forty-five retail mercantile establishments, a large tobacco stemmery, two commodious and well-managed warehouses for the sale of leaf tobacco (with annual sales of 4,000,000 pounds) and two strong National banks."³⁵ Clearly the first decade of the new century had been prosperous for at least some merchants and manufacturers. While tobacco suffered from the so-called Panic of 1906, when the "Tobacco Trust" of larger companies such as R.J. Reynolds, began buying many of the smaller independent concerns in the state, in Martinsville, furniture became an important replacement industry. The first piece of Bassett furniture was completed in January 1902. American Furniture opened in 1906, Virginia Mirror, in 1913, and Stanley Furniture in 1924, keeping area sawmills busy, too. Fieldcrest Mills began producing towels in 1916 and Pannill Knitting

Company opened in 1925, setting the stage for even more industrial growth locally in textile manufacturing.³⁶

Along Fayette Street, a retail profile had yet to develop in a big way. Prillaman's Market was soon to open at 25 Fayette Street in sight of the Court House. Two major hotels (for whites only) marked Fayette Street's access points to the square, including the Hotel Martinsville on the north corner of Fayette and Jones, and the Hotel Stevens on the opposite southern corner.³⁷ This was the setting in 1910 when a young black man from Apex, North Carolina, just out of medical school at Shaw University in Raleigh and acquainted with Dr. Jesse Shackelford of Martinsville, decided that he would make Martinsville his home and the site of his medical practice. Dr. Shackelford was an 1891 graduate of Baltimore Medical College, a native of Henry County, and a Martinsville resident since the turn of the century.³⁸ In 1910, Henry County's population was forty percent Negro³⁹ (the term used by the U.S. Census at that time, although the term "colored" was commonly used in conversation and print), but the area had no black doctors, hospitals, or operated pharmacies.

The scenario must have presented an intriguing challenge to 29-year-old Dr. Dana Olden Baldwin. That October⁴⁰, he opened his office in a home on the corner of Fayette Street and Moss and began what he would later describe in published interviews as the seven hardest years of his working life.

"The residents were very nice to me, but they didn't have much confidence in me; and of course, I didn't blame them," he told a reporter in 1961. "It was a real struggle until...I came back from the war [when] my practice began to pay."⁴¹ With little experience in seeking medical advice

Brown's Warehouse, located just north of the Court House at the intersection of Jones and Franklin streets
**"THE OLD RELIABLE" / WHEN YOU LOAD YOUR TOBACCO FOR MARKET,
DON'T STOP DRIVING UNTIL YOU GET TO THE "OLD RELIABLE," WHERE YOU WILL FIND
A HEARTY WELCOME, AND BEST ACCOMMODATIONS FOR MAN AND BEAST /
HIGHEST MARKET PRICE ALWAYS GUARANTEED/ BROWN, GILES & ENGLISH PROPRIETORS."**



Tobacco plants
Photo by J. Siler

DON'T FORGET
We Are Now Located On
FAYETTE STREET
Opposite Holland Motor Co.

Poultry - Meats - Groceries

Prillaman's Market
—ROY PRILLAMAN, PROP.—

Phone 157 -:- -:- -:- -:- -:- We Deliver

Courtesy of The Martinsville Bulletin

early 1900s – Bishop Flood opens Mt. Carmel Church on Fayette Street.

1903 – *The Souls of Black Folk*, the influential text by social activist and scholar W.E.B. DuBois, is published, putting its readers on notice that “The problem of the Twentieth Century is the problem of the color line.”

1906 – Principal James Thomas opens Smith Hall, a newly constructed, 18-room building offering dormitory rooms, a dining hall and kitchen, for boarding students at the Martinsville Christian Institute on Massey Street.

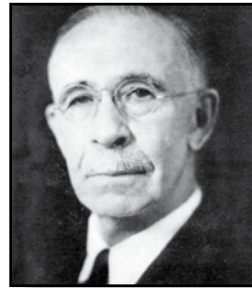
1906 – A caravan of eight automobiles or “gas buggies” arrives in Martinsville as part of a promotional campaign for the new mode of transportation; it took the cars seven hours to travel from Roanoke.

January 6, 1908 – John Bruce Harris was born. He attended grade school at the one-room log school house named the Norman School as well as Marrowbone Creek School in Ridgeway. He went to high school at Piedmont Christian Institute and went on to become first a teacher, and then a principal at Irisburg and Mary Hunter Elementary schools, serving the Henry County public school system for 38 years. His legacy includes a collection of local African American history papers at the Bassett Historical Center.

1909 – The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is founded.



Dr. D. O. Baldwin
Courtesy Dr. John P. Bing



Dr. Jesse Shackelford
Courtesy Historic Views

from any doctor, white or black, and without substantial incomes, Dr. Baldwin’s first patients — mostly laborers in the tobacco factories, sharecropping farmers and domestic servants — were unable to pay in ways that helped him build a successful practice. Showing signs of the entrepreneurial spirit that would later provide him with a reputation as a good businessman as well as a physician, he opened a movie theater in the basement of the Hotel Martinsville. It proved no more financially successful than his doctoring, so he closed it and tried running an ice cream parlor in the same location, but with similar results.

His patriotic spirit and perhaps a desire to better support his new wife — Dana had married teacher and Martinsville native Vina Flood on Christmas Eve in 1911 — Dr. Baldwin became the first physician from Martinsville to sign up for the war effort when the United States allied themselves with the European powers against Germany in 1917. He chose Martinsville a second time in 1919, when after being honorably discharged from the service and moving to Philadelphia to practice in the new field of radiology, the couple decided to return to Virginia and settle in Martinsville once again.⁴²

When Dana Baldwin purchased the equivalent of a block of land along Fayette Street between his old office on Moss Street and his new home at the corner of Fayette and Barton, to build a series of offices and retail storefronts, it was the beginning of significant change for the African American business community in Martinsville. The doctor had already purchased an empty field and opened a wood yard, putting youngsters like W. H. E. Jones, Sr. to work cutting, selling and delivering wood. He also had purchased a cement block-making machine to make all the blocks for his business center.⁴³

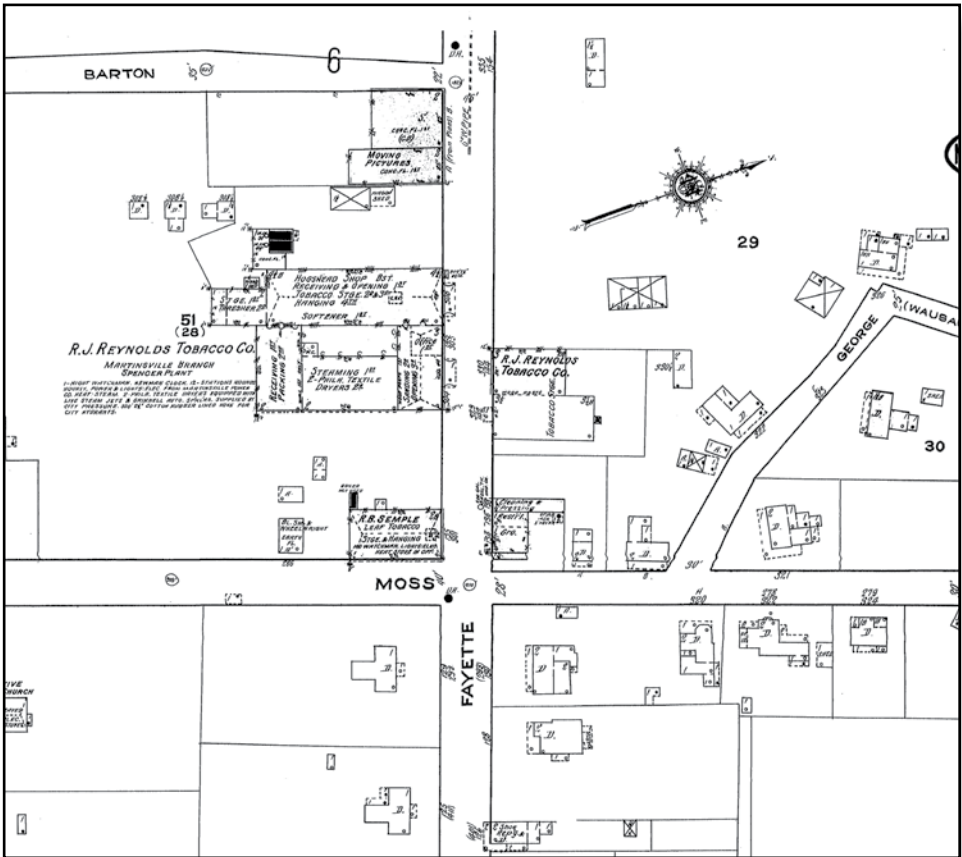
It’s hard to imagine today that Massey and Barton streets

“The drug store was the first building to be erected. We later decided that the drug store wouldn’t pay by itself, being so far from town, so we built a hotel, theatre, pool room, barber shop, beauty parlor, dental office and medical doctor’s office. We felt that each of the businesses would serve as a drawing card for

the others. It was a regular “Center” for the colored people of the city and it was quite a success. Instead of suffering from lack of crowds, we usually had too many, and everything here did well. This is still the center of things to the colored citizens of this community.”

— **Dr. Dana O. Baldwin,**
1961, *The Martinsville Tribune*⁴⁴

were “far from town” but in 1920 the businesses were still densely clustered around the Court House and public square created by Franklin, Jones and Main streets. Segregated workplaces and shopping was much the rule, but there were exceptions and variations to that persistent pattern. For example in the Palace Barber Shop on Bridge Street black barbers cut the hair of white customers,⁴⁴ and Fayette Street resident William D. Hobson remembered dry cleaner owner George Stultz as someone “who did work for white and blacks.”⁴⁵



1922 Sanborn fire insurance map shows the Baldwin Theatre and Drugstore at the corner of Fayette and Barton streets.

© 2001, used with permission of Environmental Data Resources, Inc.

1910 – Dr. Dana O. Baldwin passes the examination of Virginia State Board of Medical Examiners and moves to Martinsville. He sets up his private practice in an old house at the corner of Fayette and Moss streets. That winter, he and Dr. J. M. Smith, a white dentist with an office over Dr. Shackelford’s office, give smallpox vaccinations throughout Henry County.

1910 – Martinsville’s population tops 3,000 – 3,368, according to the U.S. Census.



Vina Flood Baldwin
Courtesy of Doris Cole

December 24, 1911 – Dr. O. Baldwin marries a teacher, 25-year-old Vina A. Flood, a native of Henry County and a graduate of Hartshorn Women’s College in Richmond. She is the adopted daughter of Louis and Elizabeth Flood. Over the years, the couple adopts two girls, J. Mae and Rosa Belle. Several foster children are also listed in the doctor’s obituary, including Dr. Harold Baldwin, of Silver Springs, Maryland; Willie Edwards, of Martinsville; Curtis Higginbotham, of Greensboro, North Carolina; and Mrs. Martha Sapry.

1911 – Rev. George Preston Watkins, born August 1880



William H. Hairston (on the right) moved uptown after cutting people’s hair at his home in the country where a tree stump served as the barber’s chair.⁴⁷ Once in town, the shop operated out of several locations, including this one on Bridge Street, at one point having as many as eight chairs.⁴⁸

Courtesy of Historic Views

The Baldwin family, now with two adopted daughters, were not the only ones busy in 1922, the year Baldwin’s Block opened. Bids went out that year to construct a new grade school building on Smith Road for black children. Construction on the new Piedmont Christian Institute building and campus on west Fayette Street was nearly completed. It was the year Martinsville attracted a second black doctor: Dr. Edward O. Woodward, a native of Greenville, South Carolina, arrived to practice medicine. A graduate of Biddle University in Charlotte, North Carolina, the new doctor and his family, like the Baldwins and others arriving each year, would make lasting contributions to a now growing sense of community in Martinsville.

MILITARY LIFE

THE GREAT WAR, LATER KNOWN AS WORLD WAR I

When World War I broke out in the spring of 1917 and the U.S. joined the fight against Germany, there were four all-black regiments: the 9th and 10th Cavalry and the 24th and 25th Infantry. Within one week of President Woodrow Wilson’s declaration of war, the War Department had to stop accepting black volunteers because the quotas for African Americans were filled, so eager were African American males from all over the country to support the war effort and prove both loyalty and worthiness to a country where they were often considered, at best, second-class citizens. When the Selective Service was passed that same year to draft young men into the military, draft boards were doing all they could to bring them into service. Although comprising just 10 percent of the

In 1921, the Virginia Edition (Vol. V) of the History of the American Negro is published out of Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Dana O. Baldwin is included in the illustrated collection of selected biographies for his efforts as an African American physician and World War I veteran.

Recalling his youth, [Baldwin] now sees that the greatest factor in shaping his life was the unceasing effort of Christian parents to instill into him the

determination to make the best possible man of himself and so help others... Dr. Baldwin believes that the best way to promote the interests of the race is "by advocating and working for better schools, better churches, better sanitation, by buying and working farms, by seeing to it that the children are instructed in civic duty in the schools and taught the importance and power of the ballot."

— pp. 290-291, *History of the American Negro*

BLACK UNDERTAKERS IN MARTINSVILLE:

1912 ≡ 1939

Twenty-Seven Years of Sympathetic Service to the Colored People of Martinsville . . .

As pioneer funeral directors growing with Martinsville we have always been first with the latest developments offered in our line. Putting above all else honest value for every dollar spent: rendering smooth, efficient, dignified service. "After 27 years of constant trying we now place splendid equipment and ripened experience at your disposal." For colored people, the Watkins Funeral Home has been constantly referred to as—



REV. GEORGE F. WATKINS
— CHURCH —
Watkins' Funeral Home

The Finest Funeral Home In Southwest Virginia

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME

Complete Ambulance Service-Phone 7235

WATKINS FUNERAL HOME

FAYETTE STREET • PHONE 7235 • MARTINSVILLE, VA.

Martinsville Funeral Home

313 Fayette Street

(John) Swanson and Lightfoot1930s

Rev. G. P. Watkins

220 Fayette Street 1914 to 1930s

Watkins Funeral Home

301 Fayette Street 1930s to 1942

William Snead 1942 to 1949

C. Reginald V. Hairston 1949 to 1960s

Hairston Funeral Home,

301 Fayette Street

C. Reginald V. Hairston 1960s to 1984

Agnes Mobile Scott

Hairston 1984 to present

Allen's Funeral Home,

313 Fayette Street mid-1940s to 1974

James T. Allen mid-1940s to 1972

Sherman S. Penn,

John Lewis Stanfield 1972 to 1974

Pritchett Funeral Home,

928 E. Church St. 1970s to 1986

Ben Pritchett

Stanfield-Miller Funeral Home,

928 E. Church St 1986 to 1990

Stanfield-Miller Funeral Home

403 W. Market St.

John Lewis Stanfield 1990 to present

Mark Stanfield, manager

Hines Funeral Home

903 Starling Avenue 2001 to present

Nathan Hines

in North Carolina, begins a 31-year pastorship at Grace Presbyterian Church on Fayette Street.

1914 – Dr. Baldwin builds a house and office at the corner of Fayette and Barton streets, which is later remodeled as the China Clipper Restaurant and the Silver Slipper Hotel.

1916 – Mt. Zion United Holy Church is founded with Elder John Joyce.

1917 – The Rev. Albert Harris comes to Martinsville as a Methodist minister, teacher and principal of the Martinsville Colored School, which opens in Spencer Hall on Spencer Street for grades one to seven. It was later replaced by the Martinsville Training School, which by 1945 was renamed in his honor.

April 1917 – President Woodrow Wilson makes his declaration of war against Germany, and the United States enters the war spreading across Europe.

May 1917 – Congress passes the Selective Service Act passed to augment a standing Army of 126,000 volunteers. All male citizens between the ages of 21 and 31 are required to register for the draft.

August 1917 – John Dodson, age 26, registration No. 258, is the first man from Martinsville to be called up in the draft, one of 1,155 men registered in June that summer. Sent to a training camp in New York as a member of a supply company, he returned to Virginia six months

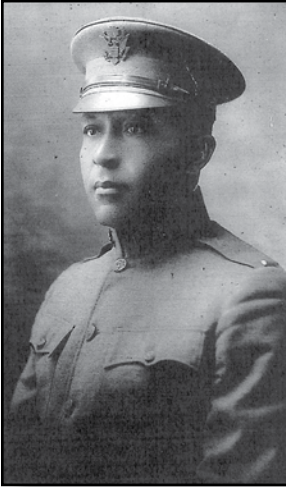
entire United States population, blacks supplied 13 percent of inductees.

Although technically eligible for many positions in the Army, very few blacks got the opportunity to serve in combat units; most were limited to labor battalions. In addition, combat elements were kept completely segregated. The four all-black regiments were not used in overseas combat roles but instead were diffused throughout American-held territory until a backlash from the African American community helped create the 92d and 93d Divisions. With the creation of African American units also came the demand for African American officers. The Army created a segregated officer training camp at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, attended by approximately 1,250 men.⁴⁹

Dr. Dana Olden Baldwin volunteered for the U.S. Army Medical Corps in 1917, and soon reported to Ft. Des Moines for basic training. The first black doctor to volunteer his services in World War I and the first Martinsville physician to do so, he was commissioned as a lieutenant, M.R.C. and served in France with the 92nd Division, 317th Sanitary Train, and the Ambulance Corps of Company 368. After two years, he received his honorable discharge from Camp Meade on April 2, 1919, and the couple soon returned to Virginia.⁵⁰

Unbelievably, the influenza pandemic of 1918-1919 felled more people than the fighting of the World War, including estimates of more than half the War's deaths coming from the deadly flu. Somewhere between 20 and 40 million people, or a fifth of the world's population was infected, with the unusual pattern of being most deadly for people ages 20 to 40.⁵¹ Also known as the Spanish Influenza, it spread rapidly among soldiers both training for Europe and fighting overseas.

Martinsville native⁵² Private Homer Dillard was only 21 when he succumbed. The disease was particularly cruel to healthy young soldiers grouped together at military bases like Dillard.⁵³ The young man's death certificate notes he was first treated by a physician at Camp Lee (now Fort Lee) in Petersburg, Virginia, on October 6, and died just four days later. Other death certificates on file at the State Library of Virginia indicate that 24 U.S. Army soldiers, black and white, died along with Homer on October 10 that year, all from the widely contagious disease, with similarly high numbers on the days before and after at the Camp. Other State Library records suggest Dillard was the only colored veteran to die in service from Martinsville during the Great War.⁵⁴ In January 1930, the Homer Dillard VFW post for black veterans of foreign wars was named in his honor.⁵⁵



Lt. MRC, Dr. D. O. Baldwin, 1917
 Courtesy Marie Baldwin Hairston



Eddie Newhall Lampkin, Sr,
 of Henry County
 Courtesy of Bev Milner



Rev. Hezekiah Morris
 Courtesy of High
 Street Baptist Church

Form No. 12
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
 COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
 Bureau of Vital Statistics
 State Board of Health

File No.—For State Registrar Only
 51927

1. PLACE OF DEATH
 County of Pennings
 District of Penn
 Inc. Town of _____
 City of _____
 (If death occurred in a Hospital or Institution give its NAME instead of street and number)
 Registration District No. 741 Registered No. 693
 (To be inserted by Registrar)
Base Hospital Camp Lee Va Ward _____

2 FULL NAME Dillard, Homer Dillard Residence In City _____ Yes _____ No _____

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

3 SEX _____ 4 COLOR OR RACE _____ 5 SINGLE _____ MARRIED _____ WIDOWED _____ OR _____ (Write the word)

6 DATE OF BIRTH Oct 10, 1918
 (Name of month) (Day) (Year)

17. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from Oct 6, 1918 to Oct 10, 1918 and that I last saw him alive on Oct 10, 1918.
 The CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows:
Pneumonia - Cerebral - Influenza

Contributory (SECONDARY) Cardiac Distention
 (Duration) _____ mos. _____ days
 (Signed) H. H. Hoge M.
Oct 10, 1918 (Address) Camp Lee

*State the DISEASE CAUSING DEATH, or, in death from VIOLENCE, Cause state (1) MEANS OF INJURY; and (2) WEAPON ACQUIRED, SOCIAL HISTORICAL.

18 LENGTH OF RESIDENCE. (For Hospitals, Institutions, Transients, recent Residents.)
 At place of death _____ yrs _____ mos. _____ da. In the State _____ yrs _____ mos.

19 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL
Washington, Va
 20 UNDERTAKER
H. H. Lawrence
 Local Registrar

THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE
J. Thompson
 THOMPSON, 214 D. C. ST., U. S. Hospital, Camp Lee, Va.
H. H. Lawrence
 Local Registrar

1918



WWI veteran's tombstone at
 People's Cemetery, Second Street
 Photo by J. Siler

1918 death certificate for Pvt. Homer Dillard, age 21
 On file at the State Library of Virginia, Richmond, VA

SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS

later because of a hearing defect, eventually gaining employment with the American Furniture Company.⁸

1917 – Dr. Baldwin volunteers for the U.S. Army Medical Corps.

1918 – The Spanish influenza makes its way home along with World War I soldiers, spreading the deadly flu epidemic.

November 11, 1918, at 11:00 a.m. – The armistice between the Allies and Central Powers goes into effect, ending the first World War.

April 1919 – Dr. Baldwin receives an honorable discharge from Camp Meade, Maryland and goes with his wife to Philadelphia where he taught ballroom dancing and may have practiced radiology. Several months later, he and Vina return to Martinsville and reopen his office at Fayette and Barton.

1922 – Bids are authorized to build the Martinsville Training School for younger children on a lot donated by Betsy Hairston.

1922 – Dana Baldwin returns to his medical practice and his entrepreneurial business ventures. He opens a wood yard on Fayette Street and builds what becomes known as Baldwin's Block, or Baldwin's Business Center. This first shopping center for blacks includes Baldwin's Drug Store, a hotel, theater, pool room, barber shop, beauty parlor, and dental and medical offices. The hotel, the Douglas Hotel, is the city's first hotel for blacks.

Black communities have long worked to provide mutual aid and community support independent of white benevolent societies. One of the more significant of these organizations was the African Masonic Lodge. In 1775, before Martinsville had even been authorized officially as a town in the eyes of the Virginia General Assembly, Prince Hall, the son of an English leather worker and a free black woman from Barbados, was laying the foundation for black activism and social organization in Boston with the formation of the African Masonic Lodge No. 459. As a soldier in the Continental army, Hall was introduced to British masonry through Irish soldiers he met in Boston Harbor.

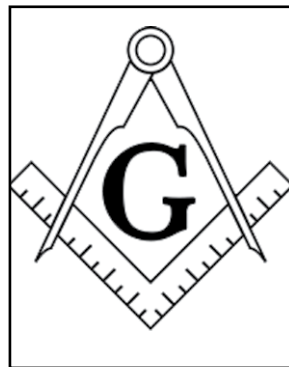
Through these lodges, men formed a solidarity that not only provided for their own cultural and social progress (through a small monetary fee, members held various rites and rituals demonstrating their fraternity and loyalty to freemasonry), but for the social and economic improvement of their countrymen as well.⁵⁶ A Mason's membership is often noted by the symbols of a mason's compass and square, and in recent years, the many variations of Masonic groups have become less a kind of "secret society" and more of a "society with secrets."⁵⁷

As in many aspects of community life along Fayette Street, the churches took the lead in Martinsville of creating a sense of fellowship and social organization in the first years of the 1900s. While the city's black residents would soon see the support of active Masonic lodges, such as the Knights of Pythias, and the Ku-Wats, or other fraternal groups like the Kappa Alpha Psi and Omega Psi Phi fraternities, the Elks, the



Mrs. Margaret Griffin Thomas, wife of Professor James H. Thomas, of Fayette Street

Courtesy of Historic Views



The mason's compass and square are common symbols for the national organizations.

International Order of Odd Fellows and the black Boy and Girl Scout troops, it was the church clubs — such as the Blue Ribbon Club, the Royal Twelve, the Willing Workers, the Educational Club, the Forum Club, and the Pentecostal Progressive Club — that gave rise early in the century to the many benevolent societies that would become key foundations of social life along Fayette Street.

One of the first of these was the Camation Club, organized in October 1915 at the home of Mrs. P. H. Moss, widow of Patrick Henry Moss, under her sponsorship and that of Margaret Griffin Thomas (known in print as Mrs. J. H. Thomas). Given the name the Junior Mite Society, the group organized the teen-aged girls of Fayette Street Christian Church for the purpose of encouraging the “wholesome social life of its members” and planning activities of a charitable nature, such as preparing and delivering Christmas baskets and gifts to the “aged, invalid and less fortunate of the community.” The groups’ name was later changed to the Young Peoples Camation Club and membership offered to teen-aged boys as well as girls of all denominations.⁵⁸

ENTERTAINMENT AND TRANSPORTATION

The arrival of the Danville and New River Railroad (later the Danville & Western) to Martinsville in 1883 and the Roanoke and Southern Railway (later the Norfolk & Western) in 1892, boosted the tobacco industry in Martinsville, allowing tobacco farmers to bypass markets in Danville and Lynchburg as more factories relocated nearer the rail lines. Such centralization meant that tobacco could be sold, manufactured and shipped directly from Martinsville.

The trains also expanded the options for travelers, despite state laws requiring that passengers ride in segregated cars. For children attending all-black churches and schools, and living in sharply segregated neighborhoods, enforcement of those restrictions sometimes became a child’s first encounters with the era’s prejudicial ways. The mileage between cities as noted on a 1911 map suggested some of the more popular destinations from the Martinsville depot:

The trains’ eventual competitor, however, was already on the horizon. A stretch of Fayette Street became part of the “National Highway” that stretched from New York City to Atlanta, a promotional effort on the part of the automotive industry. Henry Ford himself traveled the new road several times, passing through Martinsville and Ridgeway with Harvey Firestone and Thomas A. Edison in 1910.⁶⁰

TRAIN DISTANCES:

43 MILES BY RAIL TO DANVILLE
512 TO NY, NY
250 TO NORFOLK
32 TO STUART
62 TO ROANOKE⁵⁹

“The National Automobile Highway connecting New York, NY and Atlanta, GA, traverses thirty miles of Henry County roads. It enters the county above Oak Level, runs thence to Oak Level Cross Roads to the J. R. Brown place, to Martinsville, to Ridgeway, to the J.A. Wade Place and leaves the County above Price, N.C.”⁶¹

Watt H. Hairston purchased the city’s first car and it took him a week to drive it to Martinsville from Baltimore. Drs. Baldwin, Hundley and Shackelford were among other early car owners. A Martinsville city ordinance from 1911 placed speed limits of 12 mph on a straightaway and 6 mph around corners and across intersections. After dark, the city required that a lantern be hung on the front of the car and a red lantern on the rear.⁶²

While the cars might have been playthings at first for the city’s adults, their sons and daughters had simpler options for entertainment. Toys were most often handmade. Girls made dolls



*Dr. Edward O. Woodward
From Grace United
Presbyterian Church*

1922 – Dr. Edward O. Woodward, native of Greenville, South Carolina, comes to Martinsville to practice medicine. A graduate of Biddle University (later Johnson C. Smith University) in Charlotte, North Carolina, his oldest daughter Lucy V. Woodward graduates from nursing school in 1933. His wife Bessie Caroline Watterson Woodward, a native of Rogersville, Tennessee, and student at Swift Memorial College, Virginia State University and Winston-Salem State University, becomes well-known for her teaching at the Martinsville Training School, Albert Harris Elementary School, St. Paul’s Episcopal Kindergarten classes and from her home kindergarten classes. Mrs. Bessie Woodward lives to be 97 years old.



*Bessie C. W. Woodard
From Grace United
Presbyterian Church*

MILEAGE FROM MARTINSVILLE, VA BY COUNTY ROAD

Aiken Summit.....	13.5	Long Island Ford.....	10.5
Antioch Church.....	14.0	Lucia.....	6.0
Axton.....	12.0	Martin.....	16.0
Barrow’s Mill.....	7.0	Mayo Church.....	17.0
Bassetts.....	11.0	Mingo.....	12.5
Beaver Creek Mill.....	3.0	Modoe.....	5.0
Beckham Church.....	4.5	Moore’s Mill.....	14.0
Balckberry.....	12.5	Mogan’s Ford Bridge.....	15.0
Blackberry Church.....	14.0	Morgan’s Ford X Roads.....	16.5
Bowles’ Cross Roads.....	9.5	Morris’ Mill.....	6.0
Boxwood.....	13.0	Mountain Top Church.....	6.0
Break Reed Ford.....	12.0	Mountain Valley.....	13.0
Burgess’ Mill.....	10.0	Mount Vernon Church.....	13.0
Burnt Chimneys.....	10.5	North Antioch Church.....	13.0
Cedar Chapel.....	4.5	Oak Level.....	11.0
Centenary Church.....	7.5	Oak Level Cross Roads.....	10.0
Center Church.....	15.0	Old Well Church.....	14.0
Chatmoss.....	5.5	Osage.....	17.5
Chestnut Knob Church.....	7.0	Pace’s Fork.....	11.0
Como.....	15.5	Pace’s School.....	11.5
Court House Fork.....	6.0	Pannill’s Fork.....	12.0
Dandridge Place.....	9.0	Peatross.....	13.0
Dillon.....	17.5	Philpott.....	13.0
Dillon’s Fork.....	10.5	Phospho Lithia Springs.....	8.5
Drunkard Spring School.....	4.5	Pleasant Grove Church.....	11.5
Dyer Store.....	9.0	Power House.....	2.5
Edgewood.....	10.5	Preston.....	11.0
Eggleton Ford.....	8.0	Price.....	15.0
Eggleton Fork.....	10.0	Price Fork.....	12.0
Eldon.....	3.0	Pruntys.....	15.5
Elmwood.....	13.0	Ramsey’s Mill.....	10.0
Esto.....	7.5	Rangeley.....	7.5
Figsboro.....	8.0	Reed Creek.....	11.0
Figsboro Mill.....	9.0	Regulus.....	10.0
Fontaine.....	4.5	Ridgeway.....	10.5
Fry.....	11.5	Rough & Ready Mill.....	7.5
Goode’s Fork.....	11.0	Sandy River.....	16.5
Greystone.....	13.0	Sanville.....	13.0
Hairston’s Cross Roads.....	2.5	Self.....	15.0
Hardie.....	10.0	Sheffield’s Mill.....	8.0
Haught.....	16.0	Slaydon’s Fork.....	7.0
Henry.....	13.5	Spencer.....	13.0
Hoardsville.....	8.0	Stand Pipe.....	2.0
Hopper.....	15.0	Stanley.....	14.0
Horsepasture.....	8.5	Stella.....	20.0
Irisburg.....	9.0	Stockton.....	10.5
Irisburg Fork.....	3.5	Stone’s Store.....	15.5
Ironside.....	3.5	Tan Yard.....	14.0
Joppa Church.....	13.0	Taylor’sburg.....	16.0
Joyce’s Store.....	17.5	Vandergrift Place.....	18.5
Koehler.....	3.0	Waller’s Ford Bridge.....	4.5
Leatherwood.....	9.5	Wilson’s Mill.....	17.0
Lone Oak.....	13.5		

We'd have family reunions, [but] maybe just two or three times a year. Back then a lot of people used to have associations. They might have them twice a year, always in the summertime. People would walk. Nobody had any cars, and it would be at a certain church and it would start at maybe 9 o'clock, and everybody would bring food. They'd have tables outdoors, you know, big tables. Everybody would put the food out and after 12 o'clock everyone would eat and fellowship. They would have maybe two or three preachers in the afternoon. Maybe around 3:30 or

4 o'clock it would break up. Everybody would leave and go back home. Some people would walk five, six, seven or ten miles. People definitely looked forward to [the associations]. That's the only time a lot of people would see each other. If you lived here [in Martinsville] and somebody lived at Bassett, you wouldn't see them maybe but once or twice a year. People would come from far and near. Everybody knew the date. It was just a regular thing.

— **J. B. Travis** was born in 1923 on First Street, then part of Henry County.

and doll clothes, their sewing skills a good way to practice what might become part of their life's work as a seamstress or laundress. Boys and girls both played marbles, and remember strapping on roller skates or building wagons in their free time. Winter snows meant sleigh riding, for example on the hillside at that back of Oakwood Cemetery, a field some remembered as "Childress pasture."⁶³ Yet free time was harder to come by for the children of the 1920s. The work ethic of the community was well in place even for the younger members of the Fayette Street and other black neighborhoods in Martinsville. If household chores such as hauling water, coal or firewood were completed, there might be a cow that needed milking or chickens to feed — and before school started.

Free time might allow a trip to Mr. Alley's hot dog stand near the Court House, or if you were lucky, a trip to the restaurant Sally Scales ran at the back of the old jail: "You talk about ribs, when you ate at Miss Sally's you got ribs, not these little short meatless kind like you get today. We youngin's used to get the discarded rib bones and play with them — beat them together like making music,"⁶³ recalled John W. Hodge, born in 1908 in Leatherwood. His father Jim Matt Hodge worked with Richard Stultz, in a cleaning and pressing shop on the lower side of Main Street as it left the courthouse square. "I used to have to get up in the morning before I went to school and go up there and sweep the place up and make the fire and heat the irons," said Hodge, when sharing his childhood memories with a reporter in 1991. "My daddy taught me that you do anything to make an honest dime. I can't think of much that I didn't do in [those] days — delivering groceries on a horse, shoe-shine boy, cooking, bellhop, taxi driver, and the list goes on. Beginning at age 16, I butchered hogs in this area, as well as in North Carolina for about 10 years."⁶⁴

[When I was a child,] Fayette Street was just one of these old tar and gravel roads with the gullies on each side where the water would run. Everybody had a chicken yard out behind the house and a pig pen, and there was a great big pig pen right on the location of [the United House of Prayer]. The owner of that big pig pen had a grocery store right across the street and a nice brick home on the other side of Massey. Of course, there were no laws about farm animals, and you would see people taking cows down the street

from behind their house to [where there] used to be a little meadow-type thing and they would graze their cattle right there on Fayette Street.

— **Ramona Butler**, a retired school teacher, holds fond childhood memories from the 1930s and '40s of church picnics, riding her bicycle up and down Fayette Street, and Sunday afternoon drives when "Mother would make a big freezer of ice cream and put it in a washing tub full of ice in the trunk of the car, along with cookies and sandwiches."

1923 – Martinsville Christian Institute becomes Piedmont Christian Institute, or PCI, when it opens in the fall on Fayette Street.

1924 – A city subdivision map shows Dr. Baldwin purchases 10 lots of the R. J. Reynolds property from Fayette to Church streets, along Barton.

1925 – Population estimate is 5,483.⁹

1924-1925 – As teenager, Fayette Street resident William D. Hobson, is earning money picking up and delivering dry cleaning for Richard Stultz, who together with Hobson's father, runs a shop on Main Street.¹⁰



In the early years of the 20th Century, clothes were pressed with an iron, often heated on a wood stove.



Residential home on Fayette Street c. 1920's.
Photo by C. S. Draper

1910 – WHEN DR. BALDWIN COMES TO MARTINSVILLE:

“I stopped at his office to say goodbye... and stayed here 50 years,” Dr. Dana O. Baldwin said, when asked in 1960 by *Martinsville Bulletin* staff writer Dorothy Cleal about how the North Carolina native came to make Martinsville his home.



Crediting Dr. Jesse M. Shackelford's advice to “help my people instead of seeking greener pastures,” the nearly 80-year-old physician – described by the paper as “the first citizen of Fayette Street,” – was celebrating his golden anniversary that week when the reporter met him in his “memory-cluttered office at the corner of the Baldwin Block.”

“Doc”: 1881-1972
Courtesy of
Dr. John P. Bing

“And so the ambitious young doctor, fresh out of Shaw University Medical School, pocketed his dreams of easier money and struggled along until he got a 12-bed hospital started,” according to Cleal. The previous week the national nursing sorority of Chi Eta Phi had honored Baldwin at a celebratory dinner.

The doctor recalled for Cleal how he “walked and walked” to see patients in the earliest years of his practice: “In those days, nobody came to see the doctor, and they didn't have telephones. I went to see them all over Henry County, and I walked until somebody found me an old gray mare (“Charley”)⁶⁵ from Finley's Livery Stable for \$25 down and \$25 a month. Then I would ride as far out as Stuart and Stella.

“Often horse and buggy trips into the country were made alongside Dr. Shackelford. I had studied anesthesia and he always said I had a light touch with the ether. Many's the emergency operation we had to perform out under a farm tree, or on a kitchen table,” he was quoted as telling her.⁶⁶

1925–1944: LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL

“The memory of things gone is important to a jazz musician. Things like old folks singing in the moonlight in the back yard on a hot night or something said long ago.”

— Louis Armstrong, 1944

A 20-year period that encompassed the country's great Depression, the bombing of Pearl Harbor and declarations of war, not to mention Martinsville's losing its mayor, G. A. Brown to an unexpected heart attack in 1936 and a typhoid fever outbreak in the West End the same year, would hardly seem to characterize an era of good times. Nevertheless along Fayette Street it would be hard *not* to notice that things really were picking up in the late 1920s and '30s. Even though the newly constructed Baldwin's Business Center suffered a major fire, it was quickly rebuilt and improved along with Saint Mary's, the first hospital facility for African Americans in Martinsville and Henry County.

A black dentist moved to the city, and more physicians, too. The new Booker T. Washington amusement park and baseball field on the north side of Fayette Street provided black children with a place of their own to swim, dance and roller skate. The park became the site for an annual fall Colored Fair and by the 1930s housed the textile factory that boosted economic conditions throughout the West End by giving black women new working opportunities. Civic leaders regularly advocated for school building additions to keep up with rising school enrollments, and the war effort put an urgent impetus behind community projects. The congregations of the historic churches formed clubs and benevolent organizations to improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods, as even more pastors arrived to establish new churches. Summer became the dancing season. In 1938, the first of Martinsville's infamous June German Balls set a tradition in motion. Judging from the local newspaper's social write-ups, whether it was bridge or birthday parties, fiddler's contests or jitterbugging, revivals or parades – seven days a week, and seven nights, too, Fayette Street had become a hopping place.

CHURCHES

Rudolph T. Anderson, a native of Farnville, Virginia, arrived as pastor at Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church on Fayette Street in 1930. His tenure behind the pulpit at 304 Fayette Street would continue on and off for six decades, but his influence throughout the whole city cannot be underestimated. Not only did he serve as principal and teacher at East Martinsville Elementary School until the late 1960s and part-time chaplain at city hospitals, but his community service knew few boundaries: he organized Boy Scout troops, earning the Silver Beaver, the highest award for scout leadership; was an active member of the Elks, the Masons, the Knights of Pythias, the Chamber of Commerce; and pastored widely at other area churches including those in Fieldale, North Danville, Rocky Mount and Ferrum.

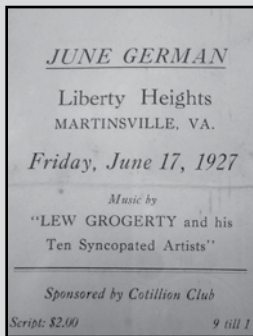
A man of diverse talents, Rev. Anderson worked in his youth as a paperboy, delivery boy, bricklayer, a cook on a railroad, a steward on a steamship, a tobacco factory worker, and an

1925 – Richard Stultz, who had operated a cleaning and pressing business with Jim Matt Hodge for half a dozen years near the Courthouse square, attempts to move his shop to a one-story building on Fayette Street near the Dudley tobacco factory and is killed when a cleaning fluid sediment tank explodes.¹

1926 – Professor and historian Carter G. Woodson establishes Negro History Week. The Buckingham County, Virginia, native is director of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, which publishes the *Journal of Negro History*.

1926 – Dr. Dana O. Baldwin opens St. Mary’s Hospital, named for his mother, above the Baldwin pharmacy on Fayette Street. Significant in being the first hospital for African Americans in the area, it offers barely a dozen beds and some baby cribs.²

1927 – Martinsville’s Cotillion Club sponsors a June German Ball at Liberty Heights.



A “German” was a common term for a stylized dance at the turn of the 20th century. Courtesy of Douglas Stegall.

employee of an iron and bridge company out of Roanoke before coming to Martinsville.¹ His academic studies took him to Dinwiddie Normal Institute, Kittrell College, Virginia State College and the University of Virginia.

His understanding of many walks of life left him well-suited to the role of newspaper columnist, too, for by the late 1930s he had replaced Savannah D. Kyle as the contributor of the “Colored News” column in the Martinsville and Henry Bulletin, making sure that important events in the African American community were well documented.

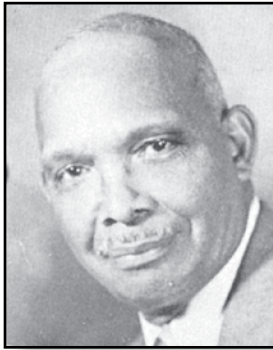
Elder Palmer followed Elder John Joyce in 1930 as the head of Mount Zion United Holy Church, and, in 1942, was in turned replaced by Elder Amis. In the 1940s, the congregation at 521 Fayette Street continued its commitment to an outreach

Negro spirituals, solos, duets, quartets and full chorus singing by 150 voices are heard at the Wesley Methodist Church auditorium, including choruses from Danville and Roanoke black churches, advertised as the Martinsville Community Festival, backed by local civic organizations handling ticket sales along with Henry’s Confectioner’s, Fagg’s and Kearfott’s drug stores.²

One of the greatest meetings for rousing interest in religion is moving forward at the A.M.E. church. The Rev. Mrs. Katherine Player of Lynch, Ky., is the speaker. Mrs. Player is a nationally known evangelist, a graduate of Wilberforce University, Ohio, and a pulpit orator. You may hear Mrs. Player each night at 8:00 o’clock.³



Rev. R. T. Anderson and his wife, Marion Cleo Griffen Anderson, as newlyweds and later, before the A.M.E. minister’s death in 1992. Courtesy of The Martinsville Bulletin & Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church



Bishop James C. Richardson,
Sr., founding pastor
*Courtesy of Mount Sinai
Apostle Church*



One of the first Mt. Sinai church buildings on Peters Street
Courtesy of Mount Sinai Apostle Church

ministry and enlarged the worship space to include a sanctuary with space for a hundred. Elders George White Hairston, Hayes, and Jones carried the church forward until 1960, the year Elder R.D. Richardson, Sr. took the helm.

Yet another Elder Richardson — James C. Richardson, Sr. — played an active role in religious worship in Martinsville as the founding pastor of Mount Sinai Apostle Church. An assistant pastor in Winston-Salem, at the Saint Peters Church of God Apostolic, in 1935 he gained the recommendation of the bishop there and together with the first church mothers, Lucy Redd and Sally McVay, started prayer meetings in Martinsville. Other charter church members included Rebecca Witcher Porter, Mira Witcher Millner, and Bertie King Cousin, later joined by the Burnettes, Alma Carter Hairston Mills, Herbert and Eva Jones, and David Mahan's family. The growing number of worshippers soon required a more substantial church building. A white cinder block structure was built on Peters Street in 1940, followed by several improved structures on the site before the present church was built at 7 Peters Street.

Also in 1935, a group of worshippers meeting in the basement of an apartment behind 208 Fayette Street joined in the religious movement known as the United House of Prayer For All People. The denomination, sometimes also called the Rock of Apostolic Faith, was under the leadership of Bishop Charles Manuel Grace — a charismatic evangelist who preached in a Pentecostal tradition that varied by location, but often included brass bands, ecstatic dancing and public baptisms. Known to his followers as Sweet Daddy Grace, their dominating leader was a Cape Verde native who built the first United House of Prayer church in Massachusetts in 1919. After moving from the Fayette Street apartment to rooms at a 20 Peters Street residence, the Martinsville worshippers acquired church funds for their own building at 602 Fayette Street; Bishop Grace is considered the church founder in Martinsville, as he is in many locations.⁴



Trumpet used in contemporary United House of Prayer services.
Photo by J. Siler

The first House of Prayer “was a beautiful white weatherboard building which was trimmed in red with wood floors. Red, white and blue streamers hanging from the ceiling decorated the interior,” according to contemporary church histories.⁵ In the decades to come, the congregation would enjoy

June 1927 – Dana O.

Baldwin prepares to open an amusement park, complete with skating rink, swimming pool and baseball grounds, that he names Booker T. Washington Park. It is under construction off Fayette Street at Elizabeth Street, just beyond Moss Street.³

Fall 1927 – The first annual Martinsville Colored Fair is held. Subsequent years will feature balloon ascensions, live shows, nightly fireworks and high diving stunts in addition to the traditional midway rides, concessions and agricultural displays.

1928 – First annual black fiddler's convention starts about this time. Organized by Dana Baldwin, and continuing until the late 1940s, it frequently functioned as a fund raiser for St. Mary's Hospital as well as an evening of entertainment. It is held in the winter, after Christmas in early February or late January, at times in the movie theater on the "Block."

1929 – Martinsville gains an African American dentist when Luther A. Vickers, born in Barbados and raised in Boston, moves here after receiving his dental degree.

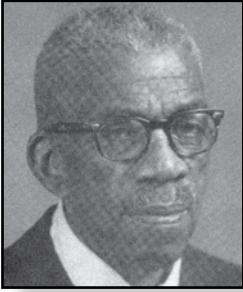
1929 – Dr. Harry P. Williams enters private practice in Martinsville. Patients visit him in his home office on Fayette Street, where he lives with his wife Ruth Thomas Williams, the eldest daughter of Rev. James and Margaret Thomas. A native of Danville, he earned his medical degree from Howard University in 1927.

two visits from the "Man of God," as Bishop Grace was sometimes called within the church, and additional property along Fayette Street would be purchased for a new building.⁶

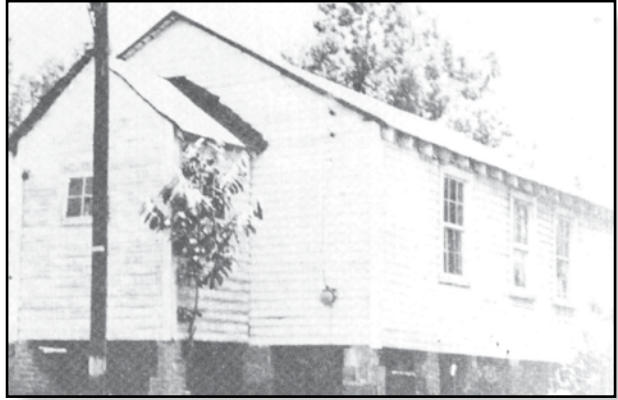
The end of March 1940 brought great sadness to the Fayette Street Christian Church community. After a long period of declining health, the Rev. James H. Thomas died at his home on West Fayette Street on March 29. A page-one news story noted the death of the "Respected Colored Leader" and reported that "Martinsville and this entire section of Virginia lost one of their outstanding Negro educators and ministers in the passing early this morning." Survivors listed include his wife, his daughter "Mrs. Harry P. Williams...Mrs. Mae Adams, Denver, Colo; Bessie Thomas, Johnson City, Tenn.: and his son, Hillard Thomas, of Roanoke."⁷

About this same time, dentist Luther A. Vickers petitioned Bishop Henry D. Phillips, of the Diocese of Southwest Virginia, to organize an Episcopal church for African Americans in Martinsville. In November 1940, a group of 14 met with the bishop at the home of Dr. Harry P. Williams and agreed to start a Bible class under the direction of Rev. Charles C. Fishburne, rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Martinsville. By the end of 1941, Joseph C. Commander, George Hairston, Louvenia Johnson, Armour E. McDaniel, Marjorie McDaniel, Mary E. McDaniel, C.W. Morgan, Lucy Morgan, William B. Muse, Jr., James H. Thomas Jr., William S. Turner, and Harry P. Williams, were presented to Bishop Phillips for confirmation in the new Saint Paul's Episcopal Church. In addition, Marjorie A. Hairston, Alice Kent Napper and Luther A. Vickers, previously confirmed in other dioceses, transferred their membership to the new church. Mary E. McDaniel's home on East Church Street was used for Sunday services from 1941 until 1948, when the basement of a church building at 904 West Fayette Street was complete enough for meeting space. The resident priest at this time was Rev. Charles Somers.

When the Reverend J. E. Wade wanted to found a church in the West End of Martinsville, he began with the Pioneer Club, a small clubhouse and a city-wide revival. John R. Perkins became the first person to join the emerging church following the revival, soon to be joined by Nora Green. On April 29, 1944, Mr. Perkins, Mrs. Green, Clara Williams, John King, and Nora King became the first members of Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church, organized with the consent of the Ministers and Deacons Union. Later that year, Rev. Jacob Dillard accepted the leadership of the church — his own first pastoral position — and served there until 1948. Pilgrim Baptist is located at 601 Third Street.⁸



John R. Perkins
*Courtesy Pilgrim
Missionary Baptist*



The Pioneer Church building preceded the current brick Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church on Third Street.
Courtesy of Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church



Dr. Luther A. Vickers helped found a black Episcopalian congregation on West Fayette Street.
Courtesy of Bill Vickers



Right: (St. Paul) High Street Baptist Church's second building
Courtesy of High Street Baptist Church

When Rev. George P. Watkins died in 1942, Grace Presbyterian continued its services with the aid of elders, deacons and Sunday School teachers until April 1944 when Reverend R. E. Foster was installed as pastor.

After arriving at (Saint Paul) High Street Baptist Church in September 1922, Reverend Hezekiah Morris began presiding over a period of steady membership increases, and a major reconstruction of the building in 1942.

SCHOOLS AND EDUCATORS

Piedmont Christian Institute, or PCI, had opened in 1923 on its new site on West Fayette Street. "PCI boasted a library, laboratory, and chapel. In the fields surrounding the school, male students

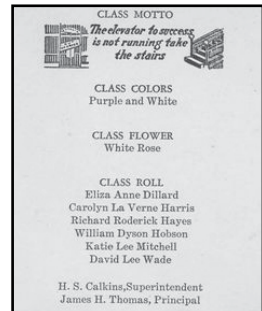
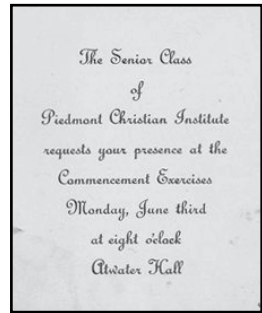
1929 – A fire consumes most of the main structure on the Baldwin Block, however, during the rebuilding, Dr. Baldwin improves St. Mary’s hospital on the second floor, above the drug store. Without a kitchen, patients still receive ice and beverages from the pharmacy facilities below. Mrs. Vina Baldwin, the doctor’s wife, took charge of providing meals.⁴

May 15, 1929 – Baldwin Theater, having burned with the rest of the business center building, re-opens with a showing of Cecil B. DeMille’s “King of Kings.” Sometime before 1938 the theater management is turned over to R. E. Brown and is re-named the Rex Theater, joining a rich movie-theater tradition of naming theaters after something magnificent or royal.



raised peanuts, sugar cane, and sweet potatoes, which the female students cooked or canned. But the imposing design of the building spoke the seriousness of the school’s academic purpose. Tall white columns flanked the entryway, and a cupola crowned the roof – visible expressions of the pride the black community took in providing an education for its children.”¹⁰ For a time, the elementary classes were dropped and junior college classes added in their place, a move that proved unpopular, and did not have sufficient financial support to continue. Unfortunately, due in part to the poor economic conditions of the Great Depression and the failing health of Thomas, who had continued to serve as principal, the school was forced to close its doors in 1933, the last high school graduation year for PCI.

Thomas leased the building to the city of Martinsville for one year upon his retirement. The United Christian Missionary Society then took ownership of the property and leased it to the Henry County School Board. Now county elementary school students and high school classes for both city and county black students were offered at the impressive three-story building with its 30-acre campus. Not only was the newly renamed Henry County Training School the only public high school available to city blacks at that time, by being the only high school option in Henry County as well students from outlying areas often boarded with Martinsville families after finishing elementary school classes in their rural neighborhoods.¹¹



Former mayor William D. Hobson graduated from PCI in 1929.

Commencement program courtesy Doug Stegall

In June 1929, African American teachers and others interested in pursuing careers in education from Henry, Franklin, Patrick and Pulaski counties took up residence in Martinsville to enroll in a six-week course of classes leading to a professional teaching certificate, an extension of the Virginia Normal and Industrial Institute in Petersburg. Instruction included ancient history, English, public speaking and Negro history. College subjects include methods classes in geography, reading, handwriting, school hygiene, children’s literature, English grammar, composition and introduction to teaching.⁹

We played a game called “Annie Over”. Have you ever heard of that? Some of the children would be on one side of the house, some on the other side. We’d throw a ball over the house and when you’d catch the ball, you’d run around and tag the other person. We played jacks, “Jack Rocks” we used to call it. We didn’t have the jacks, we used rocks, little stones, little pebbles. We didn’t have a ball either, just a bigger rock. We played marbles, and we pitched horseshoes. They were real horseshoes, shoes that

had been used on horses. Most of the time when I was there growing up my father had a mule. [He used] him to pull a slide when he was harvesting tobacco. He sold the tobacco, but the other items like corn and wheat were for personal use. We had to take the wheat [and corn] to the mill to have it ground.

— **Bev Milner**, born in 1929 in Irisburg with the help of midwife Carrie Stone, was the last of his parents’ 13 children. After retiring from the U.S. Air Force, he returned to Henry County.

Younger African American students inside the city limits by and large walked to school. (And until 1946 the western city limits only extended to First Street, dividing some Fayette Street residents, with families living on the northern side of the street, generally between Lincoln and First Streets, considered Henry County residents, too.) By now the woefully inadequate Spencer Hall school (the old third-floor space had only one exit and no toilet facilities) was closed, thanks to principal and teacher Albert Harris’ successful lobbying efforts locally, in Richmond and with the Rosenwald Foundation for construction funds and land to build the Martinsville Training School. The eight-classroom building on Smith Road, was just under a half-mile away from the Henry County Training School, and students from West End neighborhoods were now attending grades one through seven in the new building.



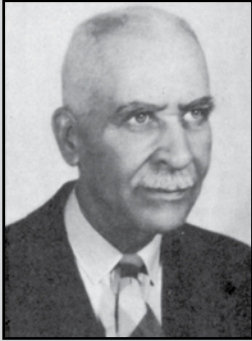
Piedmont Christian Institute was built on a 30-acre campus off West Fayette Street.

Courtesy of Robert H. Baker

Tobias G. Pettie was the first principal in the new building, and also taught seventh grade.¹² Mrs. Edna Eggleston taught first grade; Mrs. Vina Flood Baldwin, second grade; Mrs. Lucy Williams Moss, third; Miss Catherine Spencer, fourth; and Mrs. Mary Early McDaniel, fifth and sixth. Alumni of the school have since speculated that Albert Harris’ persistent complaints to education officials may have cost him a position at the new school, and little more is known about him, though the school was re-named in his honor in 1945. Pettie, born in 1872 in Reidsville, N.C., briefly attended Tuskegee Institute before transferring to the St. Paul Industrial School in Lawrenceville, Va., where he graduated in 1895. Principals who followed Pettie while it retained the Martinsville Training School name included a Mr. Mumford, D. H. Wildy, Emmitt Nelson Taliaferro and J. Elmer Turner.¹³

Grace Presbyterian’s parochial grade school continued offering classes to school children through grade seven with sliding scale monthly tuition payments until 1932.

Across town, at another Rosenwald-funded school, children attended East Martinsville Elementary School. Reverend R. T. Anderson was both principal and teacher. Other teachers included Mae Baldwin Gilmer, Edmonia Starling, and Gertude Manning.



*William Cody Spencer
Courtesy of The Martinsville
Bulletin, 1991*

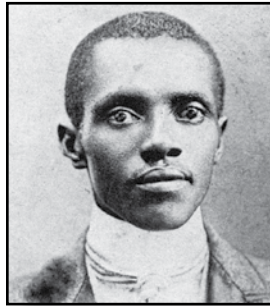
1929 – With \$300 in savings collected from area residents, William Cody Spencer, a veteran of the U. S. Army and Martinsville resident since 1907, writes the articles of incorporation for Imperial Savings and Loan. The State Corporation Commission grants the S&L a charter on July 16. Spencer operates the neighborhood thrift institution from his family home at 413 Fayette Street.⁵



*W. C. Spencer family home at
413 Fayette Street
Photo by J. Siler*



Martinsville Training School was renamed Albert Harris Elementary in 1945.
From E. C. Hoover's Secondary Education in Henry County, VA



Principal Tobias G. Pettie
Courtesy of Historic Views



East Martinsville Elementary School off Geter Street was also known as Dry Bridge Elementary School when it was built in 1928.

Photo by James W. Draper, Jr.

The stark inequalities between educational options for white and black school children in the area were drawing ever more attention by the third decade of the 1900s. Bassett High School principal Eugene Carl Hoover included a three-page summary of programs at the Martinsville Training School in his 1937 thesis on secondary schooling for white students in Henry County. He recommended official consolidation of public city and county educational programs for African American students to provide both “a greatly enriched curriculum” for high school students at the county’s high school site. He also urged public officials to then allot the city building entirely to the elementary grades as “they are badly crowded.” A term report from Mrs. Baldwin’s 1922-23 school year shows she was teaching 40 children — 23 boys and 20 girls — ranging in age from 9 to 18.¹⁴

A 1935-36 Martinsville Training School report indicated an enrollment of 41 boys and 58 girls in the high school classes being taught by three full-time teachers. The 323 elementary children there were receiving instruction from five full-time



Martinsville Training School 1927-28¹⁸
Courtesy of Beulah Marshall



Martinsville Training School, Fifth
 Grade students, 1928-29¹⁹
Courtesy of Beulah Marshall

Right: Henry County Training
 School, 1941
Courtesy Frank S. Clark, III



THE HENRY BULLETIN

of August 25, 1933 reports a list of “the Negro teachers for Henry county” for the coming school year:

Rudolph T. Anderson,
 Mae Baldwin, Welford S.
 Clarke, Queen Collier,
 Ione Diggs, Daisy Dillard,
 Ida B. Dodson, Lucille Early,
 Maxine Enders, Josephine
 Foster, Ludie Hairston,
 Sam H. Hairston, Cynthia
 Hampton, John B. Harris,
 Bessie Hobson, Nannie
 Hobson, Sarah L. Johnson,
 Eleanor L. Manns, Edith
 Moody, L. Eleise Murphy,
 Nannie Palmer, Sara M.
 Perkins, Martha B. Rover,
 Bessie P. Thomas, Collis E.
 Seay, Edmonia G. Starling,
 Augusta C. Tillie, Carrie
 Tinsley, E. H. Wildy, Marie
 Carter, Edward T. Gatling,
 Mary E. Seay, and Supervisor,
 Nannie Studeviant.

January 19, 1930 – Dr. Baldwin meets in the Baldwin Theater with other local war veterans interested in organizing a Martinsville colored American Legion post. By the following week, 20 men’s names have been forwarded to Richmond as charter members of the Homer Dillard Post No. 78 (colored) of the American Legion. Meetings are to be held monthly. Dr. Baldwin is the founding Post Commander; W. B. Preston is Post Commander by 1933.

1930 – Rudolph T. Anderson, a native of Farmville, Virginia, arrives to pastor at Mt. Zion A.M.E. Methodist Church on Fayette Street. He stays for more than 40 years, and serves as principal of East Martinsville Elementary School, one of two schools in Martinsville built with Rosenwald School Initiative funds.

June 1930 – The state convention for the Colored Knights of Pythias meets in Martinsville; arrangements are planned for 500 knights and sisters attending the three-day event that includes a parade, a banquet, competitive drill teams from around the state, and the annual sermon of the Court of Calanthe.

July 1930 – A miniature golf course opens for blacks on Fayette Street.

HENRY COUNTY TRAINING SCHOOL		
GRADUATES		
BOYS	1936 - 1937	GIRLS
Darnell Hodge		Lena Mae Dupree
		Bernice Catherine Hairston
		Mary Elizabeth Hairston
		Martha Elizabeth Hairston
		Jessie Mae Hairston
		Dorothy Lee Jones
		Bulah Florence Martin
		Hulda Martin
		Sarah Jane Martin
		Rubie Naomi Martin
		Hattie Irene Price
		Lucy Belle Penn
		Evelyn Redd
		Hazel Walker
		Annie Mabel Williams

From Secondary Education in Henry County, by Eugene C. Hoover (1937)

grade-level teachers, or as Hoover noted, “approximately 65 pupils per teacher...[which] certainly indicates a pressing need for additional facilities.”¹⁵ Needs remained high. By 1938, when headlines in *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin* noted that France was massing troops along its shared border with Germany, the front-page news was also that S.S. Walker, city school board chairman, had received a unanimous vote from City Council to seek WPA (Work Projects Administration) funds for new classrooms and an auditorium to help alleviate “badly crowded conditions” at the city’s school on Smith Road.¹⁶

In April 1934 a Parent Teacher Association was organized in Henry County, and in December 1940, a committee from multiple area African American organizations presented Martinsville city and Henry County officials with a petition for equal pay for white and black school teachers. The committee, chaired by Dr. Harry P. Williams, and composed of members of the Men’s Round Table Club, the P-T. A. League and the Junior Matrons’ League, presented signatures from Williams, Dr. L.A. Vickers, W. C. Spencer, George Mitchell, Mrs. L. L. Dandridge, Mrs. M. M. Gordon and Mrs. George W. Hairston.¹⁷

WORLD WAR II AND THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS (VFW)

Whether or not the 23 charter members of the Homer Dillard Post of the American Legion (Colored) who met in January 1930 suspected that the country would shortly be plunged into another World War, the former servicemen who gathered in the Baldwin Theater that Sunday afternoon were enthusiastic about the prospects of forming an official VFW post. With

Dr. Dana O. Baldwin selected as post commander, soon-to-be VFW Post No. 78 named James E. Moore, vice commander; John T. Wilson, adjutant; William A. Kinley, finance officer; Walter Reynolds, historian; George A. Martin, chaplain; and John D. Hairston sergeant-at-arms. According to published newspaper reports Homer Dillard was “a Martinsville colored boy who died in France”²⁰, while serving his country... Three other names for the post in honor of dead heroes from this city were considered, but the name selected met the approval of a majority of the twenty-three prospective members present.”²¹

By the summer of 1941, news of the war in Europe dominated the headlines and the Selective Service board mailed out additional questionnaires to city men. Local businesses were raising money for the USO (United Service Organization). Mrs. Emma Preston and other church aid groups are commended for their assistance in outfitting children in the Martinsville Drum and Bugle corps with uniforms.²² The week that Congress declared war against Japan, Jobbers Pants Company officials announced 100 percent employee cooperation in purchasing payroll United States Defense Stamps and Bonds, some employees committing to buy \$50, \$100 and even \$1000 bonds.²³ As the nation added Nazi Germany and Italy in its declaration of war, Colored News columnist R. T. Anderson wrote:

The War has come to us, we did not want it, but it is here. It has come to test us, the American people. This is our war — it was thrust upon the Americans of all races. The American Negro is a part of the 130,000,000. Some were brought here and some came. Since 1619, we have done our part to make America the land of the free and home of the brave. Our fight started at Bunker Hill and our blood flowed on the fields of France. We will answer the call, as we have done before. American must go forward. This is our country. All we know about Africa is what we read in books. Here in America we have a fighting chance... Forget the differences under which we have labored. The Americans of all races must support the program of our great President that America may be victorious. “Shadowed beneath thy hand, May we forever stand; True to our God — True to our native land.”

— December 17, 1941²⁴

For the next four years, citizens of the Southside Virginia city, like their peers across the country, would mix their fears and mingle their joys with the events of the war overseas and its impact on activities at home. In August 1942, the social “Colored News” column noted items such as: “Dr. H. P. Williams, captain of the medical corps at Fort Bragg, N.C. (looking swell in his uniform), was the weekend guest of his wife, Mrs. Ruth Williams and friends.”²⁵

Early in 1943, Block section leaders were announced along with notice of tin can drives, and the names of those putting war service programs into place: “Professor E. N. Taliaferro of the Martinsville Training School will have charge of education and meetings; Dr. D. O. Baldwin, Public Health; Rev. R. T. Anderson, Salvage; Rev. Harold Hairston, Victory Gardens; Mrs. Mary McDaniel, Block Plan Organization, Mrs. Gene Hairston, Home Nursing; Miss Lillie May Scales, Nutrition and Mrs. E. O. Woodward, Victory Gardens.”²⁶

Colored boy scout troops under the direction of Scoutmasters S.S. Trott, George A. Martin, and Earlie Martin, plus the efforts of students from three community schools, were credited with preparing three truckloads of tin cans, washed and ready for shipping to a de-tinning plant in Baltimore and re-claimed for the war effort. The East Martinsville grammar school led the drive with an estimated 50,000 cans.²⁷ The colored scout troops also accepted the wartime assignment of collecting household fats from the homes of Martinsville residents, white and black, with periodic weekly collections, the different troops taking turns.

October 1931 – Martinsville Training School earns state accreditation, meeting all requirements for a full four-year high school, joining Danville and Roanoke as the only Negro schools in the western half of Virginia to earn the distinction. Principal D. H. Wildy and three other teachers at the school are noted for having degree certificates.⁶

May 23, 1933 – George Washington Carver, noted chemist and instructor at Tuskegee Institute, speaks in Martinsville.

1933 – After three decades working for black education, Rev. James H. Thomas retires.



*Prof. James H. and Margaret G. Thomas' home, formerly at 901 Fayette Street*⁷

mid-1930s – The Jobbers Pants Company first begins operations in Martinsville in the former R. J. Reynolds tobacco plant on Fayette Street.

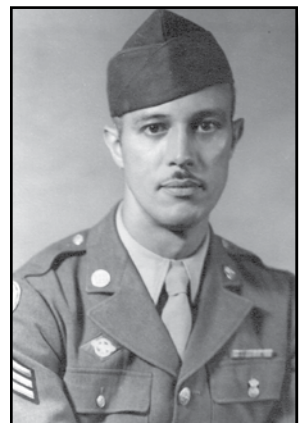
1933 – Dr. Baldwin produces a black weekly newsletter called the *Martinsville Advertiser*.⁸

*Housekeepers are requested to place their waste fats' collections in some suitable container and place it either at the front gate or on the door step on Monday mornings, where the Scouts can pick it up. The collections will be taken to the local stations of the Clover Creamery company, from where [they] will be transported to Roanoke. The wholehearted cooperation of Martinsville housewives is sought in this campaign which is especially designed to simplify the method of collecting waste fats here, and in sending it where it will do the most good in furthering America's war effort.*²⁸

While the Rex Theater was showing "Hitler's Children: Nazi Children in all the Vicious Nazi Horror They Are Taught!" and R. T. Anderson reported that Dr. Baldwin's nurse Miss Viola La Ford became the bride of Sgt. John H. Beard at Camp Tyson, Tennessee, *The Blender*, the DuPont newsletter featured photos of their missing employees in uniform and greetings from their far-away posts. Private Lylburn Anglin, with a field artillery unit in the Army wrote for the December issue of 1942: "Do what you can to help win this war." All men and women working at the DuPont factory received Army-Navy "E" buttons that fall for earning the "E for Excellence" production award for "extraordinary service on the production front," according to Lt. Col. Charles W. Kerwood, representative of the Under Secretary of War. Kerwood's patriotic speech at the plant hailed the employees' work in producing nylon yarn for parachutes, noting that "No men and women on our whole production front have a more important job...Every soldier, sailor, or marine who goes up in a fighting plane has got to wear a parachute...every day you deal in the very stuff that means life or death for an American fighting man."²⁹



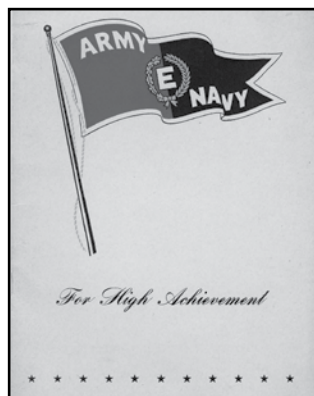
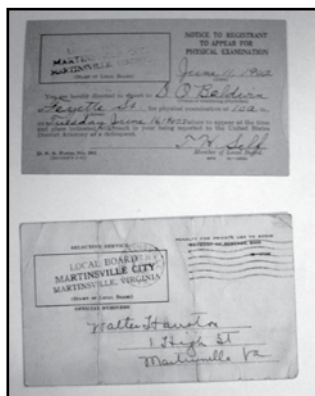
Private Lylburn Anglin, Field Artillery
From December 1942, *The Blender*.
Courtesy of Dink Gardner.



William D. Hobson, Sr. 1945
Courtesy of Virgia and William D.
Hobson, Jr.

Right: Walter Hairston's notice to appear for a military physical with Dr. D. O. Baldwin.
Courtesy of Doug Stegall.

Far Right: DuPont employees earned an "E" for excellence productivity award in 1942.
Courtesy of Dink Gardner.



The news was not always so upbeat. Rev. Anderson reported on September 20, 1943 that Theodore Harding Mills, mess attendant, second class, U.S. Naval Reserve and son of Mrs. Kate Smar and the late Harvey Mills, "is presumed to have been lost in action, according to a communication received by his mother recently from the Secretary of the Navy, Frank Knox. Young Mills is the first Martinsville or Henry County colored member of the armed service to give his life for his country. He was stationed on the U.S.S. Vicennes."³⁰ Pvt. Anglin, son of respected merchant Pete Anglin, would not return to Martinsville, but died in a Texas Army camp in 1945.³¹

Throughout much of 1944, Rev. Anderson made repeated appeals for the readers to buy war bonds in support of the troops fighting overseas. A bond rally was held July 24 that year in conjunction with the film, "The Negro Soldier," given a free airing at the Rex Theater at 9 p.m.³²

"The picture is inspiring and educational; something that you will never forget. It is not only a special privilege, but it is a special duty to see this picture. (What will you pay? Nothing!) Just go to the window, politely give the lady \$18.75 and receive a \$25.00 war bond; go right in, take a seat, and make yourself at home. You are not giving anything. You loan your country \$18.75; your country gives back to you \$25.00. You'll have the joy of this assurance, you will be able to look the boys in the eye, and say: I did it all for you. When the country called them, they went. Your country calls you. "Go, live and let live."

The following month, Martinsville residents learned of the Air Medal awarded P-51 fighter pilot Capt. Armour G. McDaniel, of 804 East Church Street, for "meritorious achievement in aerial flight while participating in sustained operational activities against the enemy." (An earlier Associated Press story in the Bulletin noted that McDaniel had "bagged" a German plane.) Capt. McDaniel, 28, and a teacher in civilian life, was a member of the first All-Negro Fighter Group in the Army-Air forces at Tuskegee Alabama Army Air Field, part of the 15th AAF operating from Italy. As a pilot he flew Mustangs as escort for heavy bombers to and from their targets in southern Germany. The plane he downed was an ME 109.)³³ When his plane was shot down in March 1945, forcing him to bail out, he became a prisoner of war for 30 days, and earned a Purple Heart. He retired as an Lieutenant Colonel from the Air Force in 1964 after commanding several units of cadets at Tuskegee in the late 1940s, and directing the Air Force's Air, Sea and Rescue Operations in Alaska during the 1950s.³⁴

BUSINESSES AND TRADES



*Mrs. Nannie Dupee,
22 High Street
Courtesy of Sylvia Dupee*

October 1934 – A nursery school opens at 406 Fayette Street with support of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration emergency education project. Nannie Dupee and America Eggleston are in charge of the 20 two-to-five-year olds receiving a hot breakfast and lunch during the full day of music, games, storytelling and other educational play activities.⁹

1935 – Mt. Sinai Church is established at 7 Peters Street by Bishop J.C. Richardson, Sr.

1935 – The United House of Prayer at 602 Fayette Street opens under Bishop C.M. Grace.

1937 – Smith River flooding covers some Bassett homes and businesses with more than three feet of mud and water. It was not the first nor the last time. Later, flood control efforts would result in the construction of the Philpott Dam, completed by 1953.

1938 – Dr. Maurice M. Gordon comes to Martinsville to open a medical practice.¹⁰

Despite the millions of pounds of cotton grown throughout the South, including Virginia, for years it had always been shipped north to New England knitting mills for the production of such basic mass-produced garments as underwear. When William Letcher Pannill came to Martinsville in 1925 to found the first knitting mill, Martinsville workers found there was more to manufacturing than tobacco and furniture. The Jobbers Pants Company, a branch of the Standard Overall company headquartered in Baltimore, Maryland, began the first of its operations in Martinsville in November 1933³⁵ eventually to employ more than 1,500 local residents — mostly women — in the manufacture of textiles, starting with men's and boy's pants. Plant No. 1, operated from the former R. J. Reynolds tobacco plant on Fayette Street; Plant No. 2 opened in April 1939 (notably *after* the opening of Plant No. 3, off Fayette Street) in the former Martinsville Silk company building³⁶ in South Martinsville on Adele Street, and Plant No. 4 opened in the 1940s at the corner of High and Fayette Streets.

Though some African American men had been able to secure positions in the first Jobbers plant on Fayette Street, black women were initially excluded from the wages and benefits offered by the textile company, although white women were successfully running the rows of sewing machines to produce thousands of pants and knickers. The opening of Plant No. 3 changed that scenario. Spurred by black community leaders such as Drs. Baldwin, Williams, and Vickers, and with the support of Jobbers general manager Saul M. Schreibfeder, Standard Overall of Baltimore, Maryland, was convinced to expand their operation to provide employment for black women, largely confined to domestic jobs.



*Mr. and Mrs. Saul Schreibfeder
Courtesy of The Martinsville Bulletin*



*Textile employee at Jobbers Pants
Courtesy of The Martinsville Bulletin*

When the owners agreed, Plant No. 3 began in a temporary location, the community building built as a dance hall in the Booker T. Washington Park on the site just north of today's Stanfield-Miller Funeral Home. While the structure was frequently referred to in news announcements as "Booker Washington Auditorium," locals sometimes called the building "Pneumonia Hall" because of the single wood stove to heat the frame building. Until claimed as a Jobbers' work site, the building also had served to house the agricultural and home crafts exhibits during the annual Colored Fairs held at the park.³⁷



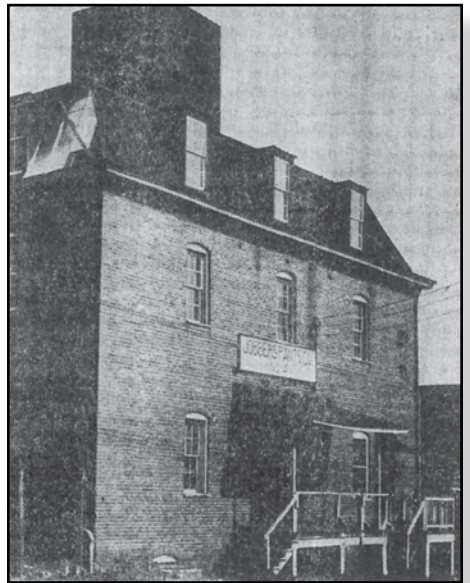
Former R. J. Reynolds tobacco factory on Fayette Street, No. 1 Jobbers
Courtesy of The Martinsville Bulletin



Former Jobbers No. 2 on Adele Street
Photo by J. Siler



Graycraft Postcard Company postcard of Jobbers No. 3 off Fayette Street
Courtesy of Pete Pettie



Jobbers No. 4, Former Sparrow and Gravelly Tobacco warehouse on High Street
 From 1952 Gymtorium Dedication Program
Courtesy of Curtis Higginbotham

June 10, 1938 – The D & H Recreation Center (also known as the Baldwin Gym) hosts Martinsville’s first June German Ball. An advance program boasts of headliners Jimmie Lunceford and Jew Scales.¹¹

September 5, 1938 – The County Fair opens with “fireworks every night” shows, concessions, and free gates on Monday and Saturday afternoons for school children and their parents. “Invitations are extended to our white and colored friends,” according to the Bulletin.¹²

MARTINSVILLE COLORED FAIR			
Pickles			
Article	Place	Point	Prize
Best Cucumbers	1st	100	\$10.00
Best Dill	1st	100	\$10.00
Best Pickles	1st	100	\$10.00
Best Spiced Pickles	1st	100	\$10.00
Best Bread Pickles	1st	100	\$10.00
Best Sweet Pickles	1st	100	\$10.00
Best Sour Pickles	1st	100	\$10.00
Best Pickles	2nd	75	\$7.50
Best Pickles	3rd	50	\$5.00
Best Pickles	4th	25	\$2.50
Best Pickles	5th	10	\$1.00

Fruits And Vegetables			
Article	Place	Point	Prize
Best Cans of Apples	1st	100	\$10.00
Best Apples and Cakes	1st	100	\$10.00
Best Apples and Cakes	2nd	75	\$7.50
Best Apples and Cakes	3rd	50	\$5.00
Best Apples and Cakes	4th	25	\$2.50
Best Apples and Cakes	5th	10	\$1.00
Best Apples and Cakes	6th	5	\$0.50
Best Apples and Cakes	7th	2	\$0.20
Best Apples and Cakes	8th	1	\$0.10
Best Apples and Cakes	9th	0	\$0.00
Best Apples and Cakes	10th	0	\$0.00
Best Apples and Cakes	11th	0	\$0.00
Best Apples and Cakes	12th	0	\$0.00
Best Apples and Cakes	13th	0	\$0.00
Best Apples and Cakes	14th	0	\$0.00
Best Apples and Cakes	15th	0	\$0.00
Best Apples and Cakes	16th	0	\$0.00
Best Apples and Cakes	17th	0	\$0.00
Best Apples and Cakes	18th	0	\$0.00
Best Apples and Cakes	19th	0	\$0.00
Best Apples and Cakes	20th	0	\$0.00

USE YOUR HEAD AND SAVE YOUR HAIR
 VISIT THE
ELITE BEAUTY SALON
 MRS. MILDRED MITCHELL, Prop. and MRS. MARION CRAPER

1939 – Dr. Baldwin incorporates and opens a brick manufacturing plant, creating more than 25 new jobs in Martinsville.

February 3, 1939 – Another old-time Fiddler’s Convention is held at the Baldwin-Rex Theater for the benefit of St. Mary’s Hospital. A free supper is included for all attending, with a “break down” afterwards at the Douglas auditorium.

The trial opening of Plant No. 3 in 1935 or ‘36 proved successful and in October 1936, city authorities approved plans to construct a permanent concrete block and frame construction factory on the site, opening the following year with more than 42,000 square feet of floor space on three stories. Standard Overall officials report via the *Bulletin* that “the Negro people of this section [are] an industrious and thrifty type.”³⁸ The permanent building was leased by the pants company for five years, with an option to buy, but construction was financed by the Henry County Realty Company, headed by officers Dr. D. O. Baldwin, president; H. M. Hairston, vice-president; Dr. H. P. Williams, secretary; W. D. Hobson, assistant secretary; and L. F. Hairston, treasurer.³⁹ Employees of the plant were offered the option to invest in the Realty Company by purchasing stock through payroll deductions. Plant No. 4 was later opened on High Street, in the mid-1940s, in another former tobacco warehouse purchased by the Realty Company providing even more African American women with regular paychecks.

The competitive manufacturing wage pay scales and company benefits available for the first time to African American women in Martinsville not only prompted salary boosts among women



Baldwin’s Drug Store stayed open until four or five a.m. on the night of the June German Ball serving toasted ham and cheese sandwiches, sodas, snowballs, and more.⁴²

BALDWIN'S PHARMACY
 This Is Your Store, Patronize It.
PHONE 8200
A. M. Brown, Ph. C., Manager
BALDWIN'S PHARMACY
 Don't Forget To Try Our Ice Cream

1940 Agricultural Fair program advertisement
 Courtesy of Phyllis Hairston

MARTINSVILLE BRICK MANUFACTURING COMPANY, INC.

The Only Clay Brick Manufacturing Plant In Henry County

Our brick manufacturing concern situated on the Danville and Western railway north of Martinsville represents an investment of \$40,00.00, with a daily capacity of 60,000 bricks. The new plant has just been completed and operations have been under way for about six weeks. The equipment was purchased from the Hedgecock interests and moved to Martinsville from Firestone . . . Twenty-two employees derive their livelihood from this newest Martinsville industry. . .

Lawrence Early is secretary of the corporation and Jim Dillard, an experienced brick maker of many years training, is superintendent.

Dr. Dana O.

Baldwin
President

of Martinsville Brick Manufacturing Company, is also president of the Henry County Realty Corporation, and is one of Martinsville's most outstanding and influential colored citizens.



DR. DANA O. BALDWIN

OTHER BALDWIN ENTERPRISES IN CITY OF MARTINSVILLE

**BALDWIN
PHARMACY**

**BALDWIN
HOSPITAL**

**BALDWIN
BLOCK**

**BALDWIN
Rex Theatre**

**BALDWIN
FIELD**

Our Sincere Congratulations to The Martinsville Daily Bulletin Upon its Fiftieth Anniversary!

Courtesy of The Martinsville Bulletin, July 1939

who continued to serve as domestic help for white families in the city, but also contributed to the overall economic status of the black neighborhoods along Fayette Street. As both husbands and wives began bringing in significant incomes, savings accounts, home ownership, higher education for their children and overall higher standards of living were possible.

Several blocks to the east, on the "Block," a fire in 1929 had consumed most of the main structure of Dana Baldwin's Business Center. Fire insurance covered only the amount left on his mortgage, about \$9,000.⁴⁰ However, during the rebuilding, the doctor added a hospital to the second floor above the drug store, a significant improvement being the first hospital for African Americans in the area. He named it St. Mary's Hospital, after his mother. Reports vary as to the number of beds it held — sometimes 12 beds plus baby cribs are remembered, other times as many as 40 — during the two decades it operated between the mid-1920s and the opening of the larger Community Hospital for blacks in 1952. "I remember we were always glad to see [a patient] from Fieldale because Fieldcrest was the only mill that had hospital insurance at that time," Dr. Baldwin recalled some 50 years later, adding that in the early years patients paid \$20 a week.⁴¹

One of the many other business opportunities that Dr. Baldwin tried was a brick manufacturing operation that he incorporated and opened in the first months of 1939. The enterprise, capitalized with \$24,000 had some 40 stockholders at its inception and created more than 25 new jobs locally. Founding officers included: Obediah Mitchell, vice president; L.T. Early, secretary; Armour McDaniel, assistant secretary. Equipment and other machinery were purchased from the recently discontinued Firestone Brick Company and a tract of land leased on the Danville and Western railroad near Hensley's Crossing where the manufacturing plant was constructed (near today's Wal-Mart.) The daily capacity of the plant was estimated at 75,000 bricks.⁴⁵ Buildings using Baldwin's brick still standing today include the Gordon Building at 315 Fayette Street and Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church on Third Street.⁴⁶

William Cody Spencer, founder of Imperial Savings and Loan, still in operation today on Fayette Street, received a charter from the State Corporation Commission in the summer of 1929.

GROCERY STORES

Prillaman's Market

25-27 Fayette Street

George's Supermarket

31-37 Fayette Street

Bargain Center

31-37 Fayette Street

Cousins Bros. Garage & Grocery

101-103 Fayette Street

Walton's Cash Store

105 Fayette Street

Family Cash Grocery

208 Fayette Street

Community Market

312 and 314 Fayette Street

H. M. Hairston's

531 Fayette Street

Martinsville Grocery

(Hayes Baldwin)

531 Fayette Street

Square Deal Grocery

531 Fayette Street

Corner Market

701 Fayette Street

Stadler's Cash Store

& Lunch Room

Church Street

Community Cash Store

Block Grocery

1004 Fayette Street

William D. Hobson Grocery

1009 Fayette Street

(Sandy) Hairston's Grocery

1016 Fayette Street)

Pine Hall Grocery

(Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Geter, Sgt.

Floyd J. Hairston)

1113 and 1115 Pine Hall Road

U Save Grocery

(L.T. Early, Mgr.)

corner of Massey and Fayette

D. T. Boaze Grocery

Church Street

F & W. Confectionery

512 W. Church Street

Operating the thrift institution from his family home at 411 Fayette Street after raising \$300 in savings from local families, he began working house to house for practically no salary. The successful financial operation did not, however, gain a storefront location until 1959 when it moved to a formal office at 33 Spencer Street.⁴⁷ Spencer's efforts were in keeping with the motivations of Maggie Lena Walker, Richmond native and the country's first woman bank president, who declared in 1903 by starting the St. Luke Penny Savings Bank, "Let us put our money out as usury among ourselves and realize the benefit ourselves. Let us have a bank that will take the nickels and turn them into dollars."⁴⁸

Similarly, other benevolent and fraternal organizations such as the Independent Order of St. Luke, Knights of Pythias, Knights of Dan, the Grand United Order of the Reformer and others were forming in Virginia and among African American communities in order to create insurance funds to aid the sick, bury the dead, create investment capital and generally promote humanitarian causes. Similarly, by the early 1940s, Martinsville had sales representatives working with several of the African American insurance companies that had developed to serve the black communities, including North Carolina Mutual, Virginia Mutual, Richmond Beneficial and Southern Aid. This sales work was often in addition to other paying positions, such as William Spencer who also worked at the Virginia Mirror manufacturing company and Rev. Hezekiah Morris kept a full schedule at High Street Baptist.

Hilliard Thomas, son of the Rev. James H. Thomas, entered the life insurance business in Roanoke in 1937 but moved back to Martinsville after his father's death in 1940. He was appointed district superintendent of a new district office for the Richmond Beneficial Life Insurance company out of Richmond, with an office in the Gordon Building on Fayette,



Former William D. Hobson Grocery, 1009 Fayette Street

Photo by J. Siler

FAYETTE STREET RESIDENT J. MONROE CARTER was recognized for his extraordinary salesmanship and dedication with a feature story in the Daily Bulletin for selling more than 110,00 Bibles over a 35-year period. A former public school teacher in Henry County, “Carter... can be found engaged almost daily in his business at some point of advantage at one of the local warehouses during the tobacco selling season. On Saturdays and other days, when the tobacco market is not opened, he is found stationed in front of the old Peoples Bank building, corner [of] Walnut and Main streets. To the people of a dozen or more counties of this section, Carter is probably better known than any other colored person. He has contacted more people than any other members of his race, it is said.” In addition to Bibles, Carter, 69, also sold copies of *Pilgrim’s Progress*, hymnals and other scriptural works. As a representative for American Tract Society and the American Bible Society, he was recognized as a leading salesman throughout Virginia, West Virginia and North Carolina, “although the greater part of his work has been carried on right here in Martinsville.”⁵²

MANY A YOUNG MAN IN MARTINSVILLE received an early taste of earning a paycheck by delivering newspapers. Dr. Baldwin rewarded a dozen *Daily Bulletin* paper carriers who delivered in the black neighborhoods with complimentary admission to a movie at the Baldwin Theater in 1936. A report in the following day’s paper noted “they had a swell time.”⁵³



Lottie Flood King, beautician
504 Fayette Street
Courtesy of Martha Spencer King



The Gordon Building
Photo by J. Siler

PRIOR TO ST. MARY’S HOSPITAL OPENING, most African American children were born at home, often with the help of midwives. Carrie Stone, of Axton, is known to have been working as a midwife in 1915 and 1929; A.M. Snowball in 1923, and Hattie Via, in 1934, but there were certainly dozens more. For example, the archives in the Virginia State Records provided the following names of women who delivered both black and white children in the Henry County, Martinsville area:⁴³

Jan. 1, 1914 – Jan. 1, 1915

- Mary S. Barker—Boxwood
- Mary Terry—Lone Oak
- Eliza Skipper—Lone Oak
- Lucy Martin—Boxwood
- Fannie Hairston—Lone Oak
- Julia F. Barker—Cascade

Jan. 1, 1915 – Dec. 31, 1915

- Francis Hairston—Axton/Henry Co
- Matilda Dillard—Boxwood
- Fannie Turner—Boxwood
- Eliza Jones—Axton
- America Merson— (?)
- Lucinda Giles—Boxwood
- Susan Lamkin—Axton
- Mary S. Barker—Boxwood
- Billie Fountain—Axton
- Lucy Martin—Loan Oak
- Carrie Stone—Axton
- Sarah Powel—Axton
- Harriett Wad—Boxwood
- Fannie Miles—Boxwood

Denied privileges at white hospitals where blacks were often not admitted as patients, many African American doctors in the South opened small private hospitals such as St. Mary’s. Because their black patients were frequently poor, these hospitals were seldom profitable, and the physicians who owned them often opened other businesses.⁴⁴

June 16-17 1939 – Black jazzman Walter Barnes and his band, the Royal Creolians, having built a reputation in the Mid-west as headline act at Al Capone's Cotton Club in Cicero, Illinois, and the Arcadia Ballroom of Chicago during the late 1920s, arrive to play for an estimated crowd of 1,500 at Martinsville's June German Ball, which kicks off at 10 pm. in the Baldwin gym.¹³ The following April, a fire would take the lives of Barnes, eight members of the band and close to 200 others in the Rhythm Night Club in Natchez, Mississippi.¹⁴ A Danville man won the grand prize, a round trip to the New York World's Fair.¹⁵

July 14, 1939 – Willie Turner uses his physical education training from West Virginia State College together with support from area parent-teacher associations and area schools, to open a playground at Henry County Training School, offering tennis, volley ball, croquet and horse shoe pitching every weekday from 2 to 7 p.m.¹⁶

1940 – Martinsville population tops 10,000. Richard Wright's novel *Native Son* is released and becomes a best-seller.

January 23, 1940 – Dr. Harry P. Williams delivers a set of triplets — three girls — to Fred and Alma Carter of Fayette Street, all weighing five and a quarter pounds. The father, employed on a WPA project in the city and his wife, until recently a maid at the Henry Hotel, are believed to be parents to the first ever set of triplets born in the city.

No Unemployment In Martinsville Where 1500 Negroes Work In Furniture Industry

Race Business Thrives In City of 11,000 Population

By WILLIAM CONKLIN BROWN

MARTINSVILLE, Va. — Three days of the past week were spent in Martinsville, Va., in Southwest, Va., "down where the Trail of the Lonesome Pine begins," where the manufacture of corn liquor has always been an art, and where Heaven and earth seem to meet here in the heart of the picturesque Blue Ridge Mountains.

It was near here in these mountains where the Hatfields, Allens, and McCoy's lived who have filled the pages of modern fiction magazines with their daring deeds. Martinsville, one of the principal cities of this section has a population of 11,000, according to records of the Henry Daily Bulletin, white publication of this city. The records estimate that 30% of this population is colored. This would show a colored population of about 3,850.

Martinsville Industry
Martinsville is the capital of the furniture industry for which this section is so famed. I am sure that Martinsville ranks first in the production of furniture. Relative rankings are as follows: Grand Rapids Mich. High

graded school, and four high school instructors.

Among the Martinsville clubs which have launched civic programs are the Round Table and Progressive Literary Clubs. Recently the Round Table Club launched a drive for the registration of Negro voters, their aim being 250 by the end of June 1936.

Dr. L. A. Vickers is president, and W. C. Spencer secretary of the club. Dr. Vickers is also president of the Progressive Club. The following make up the professional group of the city: Dr. H. P. Williams, Dr. D. O. Baldwin, Dr. E. O. Woodard, Dr. L. A. Vickers, and Dr. F. S. Shields; Misses Leona and Viola Ford, nurses.

Va. Mutual Force Goes On



August 17, 1935 *Norfolk Journal and Guide*:

Dupont looms courtesy of *Martinsville Bulletin*

the first district office established in Martinsville by a "firm devoted entirely to the writing of all forms of industrial, life, health and accident, and ordinary insurance for colored people only," according to a news announcement, adding "The insurance company is owned by colored capital." The firm, in its 48th year, soon had trained six new agents — "Rev. Hezekiah Morris, H. E. Foster, Conrad Pilson, Mrs. L. E. Morgan, Miss Bessie Stone, Miss Ruth Thomas, and Miss Pauline Matthews" — and Mrs. Laura Spencer as office personnel.⁴⁹ Other African Americans from Martinsville known to work in the insurance business were: John Flood and Gene Spencer. Williams and Muse, a real estate, general insurance and mortgage loan firm located at 206 and 1/2 Fayette Street, was founded in 1940 by N. T. Williams of Danville and W. B. Muse, as an agent for Danville Savings Bank and Trust Co, the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Co., and the Bankers Fire Insurance Co.⁵⁰

The E. I. du Pont de Nemours Company of Wilmington, Delaware — generally shortened to just Du Pont in conversation — stepped up the economic pace of manufacturing in Martinsville when the decision was made to build the world's second nylon manufacturing plant on the western outskirts of the city at a cost of \$12 million dollars. Work began in November of 1940, and more than 1,600 workers were already working on construction and other preparations for the plant's opening when company officials announced in June 1941 that they might use the Martinsville nylon for badminton strings. Such sports needs took a backseat, however, when the country's declaration of war less than six months later meant that much of that Martinsville nylon yarn would be needed for parachutes. Though the factory opened during the first week of November in 1941, plans called for it to reach full capacity with four work shifts, and 24-hour operations sometime in 1942.⁵¹

SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS

E. Franklin Frazier writes of the important role played by the church organizations formed after Emancipation in the organization of African American communities. "They were responsible not only for economic co-operation for the purpose of erecting and buying churches, but they also provided the incentive for the pooling of the meager economic means of Negroes for mutual assistance and insurance companies. It was almost solely through the Negro church organizations that the initiative on the part of Negroes in securing an education and building educational institutions was expressed."⁵⁴ Indeed as the churches along Fayette Street in Martinsville created community from within their houses of worship, they were also building alignments among themselves that further bridged and supported the broader ties in their community. Formally and informally women grouped themselves with other women, girls organized with other girls or with boys and girls, or with older women. Men joined established lodges, created local divisions of national organizations, joined professional societies and singing groups.

Churches had Sunday school groups, men's clubs, senior choirs, usher boards, auxiliaries and youth departments. Social columns soon filled with the activities of the Willing Workers, the Progressive Club, the Blue Ribbon Club, the Carnation Club, the Four Leaf Clover Club, the Forum Club, and the Esquires. Men's social clubs grew beyond the Masonic affiliations to include not only the Knights of Pythias and the Gibraltar Lodge, but also an American Legion post, an Order of the Odd Fellows and the Men's Round Table. Schools organized a Dramatic Club and the O.S.Y. Club (Out of School Youth Club). Churches sponsored scout troops. Businesses sponsored sports teams. There were black teachers associations, and Parent-Teacher Associations, an Elks Club and the Martinsville Benevolent Association.

In 1935, the Men's Round Table, took on the responsibility of urging their neighbors to vote: "If you do not vote and thereby aid in the shaping of the policies of your government, then you are as any alien or foreigner who has absolutely no grounds for criticism or dissatisfaction as to the policies of the government. It becomes your meek and humble place to abide by the laws made by others without recourse."⁵⁵

The June 18, 1937 edition of *The Daily Bulletin* announced the new officers of the Sons of Solomon Lodge No. 111, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons (colored) at a Tuesday night meeting. They were: Rev. R. C. Silvers, Rev. Harold G. Hairston, C. L. Preston Jon Foster, Henry Belcher, W. C. Spencer, secretary; J. H. Sanders, treasurer; Bruce Bannister Tyler and George A. Foster, chaplain. The article indicated that as of 1937, the lodge with its approximately 30-year-old charter, was the only colored Ancient Free and Accepted Masonic lodge in Henry County.

January 27, 1940 – The Annual Fiddler’s Contest is held once again at the Rex Theater as a benefit for St. Mary’s Hospital.

June 21, 1940 – Erskine Hawkins headlines the third annual June German Ball. Three thousand attend the dance, held at Planters Warehouse “with a seating capacity for 2,000 and dancing space for 5,000 on the beautiful hardwood floor.”¹⁷ St. Mary’s Hospital benefits from the proceeds.¹⁸

July 15, 1940 – The Department of Labor raises the minimum wage for garment industry workers from 30-cents an hour to 32.5 cents. Jobber Pants factory manager S. M. Schreiber tells a *Bulletin* reporter that 75 percent of the 1,000 workers at his factories would be positively affected by the change.

November 1940 – The city of Martinsville purchases property on Fayette Street as a potential building site for a new city hall.¹⁹

1940s – Graycraft Card Company opens in Danville, by Robert H. Sanford Jr. This company produced the postcard of the Baldwin Business Center in Martinsville seen on this book’s cover. The card company operated for about 15 years.²⁰



High Street Baptist Church founded Boy Scout Troop #108 in May 1942.
Courtesy High Street Baptist Church



Medical professionals from Martinsville and beyond met monthly as part of the Magic City Medical Society. First row, left to right: J. B. Claytor, Sr. D. O. Baldwin, J. H. Roberts, L. C. Downing, M. A. Santa-Cruz, W. A. Fears, and Harry P. Williams; Second row: Sam Baldwin, Edgar L. Caldwell, J. B. Claytor, Jr., Lawrence E. Paxton, J. C. Commander, F. W. Claytor, M. O. Johnson, Walter Claytor, M. M. Gordon.

Courtesy of Dr. John P. Bing, via Mrs. Sam Baldwin.

On November 8, 1938, the *Bulletin* reported that Martinsville boasted six Boy Scout troops: five white and one colored. In addition, 35 white men and eight colored men volunteer to help in “this character building work.” In addition there were troops in Stuart, Bassett, Fieldale and Ridgeway. The Scouts were credited with serving the community by helping distribute Red Cross and Community Chest campaign literature, the Kiwanis safety program, and assisting with traffic during community events. By 1942, a training held in Martinsville for colored scoutmasters noted that three troops have organized

[My two brothers and two sisters and I] rode a small bus, something like a van, that would pick us up and bring us to Martinsville to go to Henry County Training School because we didn't have a high school in Patrick County. When we didn't have transportation daily, we would have to come down on weekends and stay over night and spend the week with Clarence and Virginia Self. They kept four or five Patrick County children, and then Miss Hickman kept some Patrick County children, and Annie and Ed Jones kept Patrick County

students. Mrs. Self lived on 3rd Street. We walked to school and walked to the pump to pump water for baths and drinking. My physical education teacher was Rev. Thomas's daughter.

— **Dorothy Tatum** attended high school in Martinsville in the 1930s and returned to teach high school at her alma mater and in other Henry County schools for 45 years, including home economics classes in the Wagon Wheel restaurant on Fayette Street when the county's high school burned in 1948.

via High Street Baptist Church, East Martinsville Baptist Church and Grace Presbyterian Church.⁵⁶

A four-day state convention for the A. F. and A. M. Masons of Virginia (Colored) was held in Martinsville in September 1941, with H. G. Hairston, worshipful master of the local lodge, presiding. More than 400 had registered by the second day of the annual event. A public program at the Presbyterian church, a banquet, a ball with Jimmy Gunn of Charlotte, North Carolina, a sight-seeing trip of the city, private parties and a midnight show at the Rives theater are part of the week's activities for the visitors.⁵⁷

A local section of the NAACP was in place at least by 1944, as the Rev. R.T. Stone, president, extended an invitation to the public to attend a mass meeting at the Fayette Street Christian Church on Wednesday evening, April 25, that year.⁵⁸

ENTERTAINMENT

On the Fourth of July in 1927, Dana O. Baldwin opened an amusement park and baseball grounds for blacks that soon served as a new hub for social and recreational activity, augmenting the outlets already established in his nearby Business Center, such as the Douglas Cafe and Douglas Auditorium, the Baldwin Theater and drug store. Located off Fayette Street at Elizabeth Street, just beyond Moss Street, the new park was named Booker T. Washington Park, but it was sometimes colloquially also referred to Baldwin's Park. (This area should not be confused with the city's contemporary Dana O. Baldwin Memorial Park with an entrance on Swanson Street; the city renamed the former Community Park after the late doctor in November 1978.) Dr. Baldwin hired A. L. Wells to grade the ball field, which featured home plate in the southeast corner and a center field fence at a distance of 350 feet. Separate viewing stands on the ball grounds were created for white and black spectators. A rectangular swimming pool, 40 feet by 80 feet in dimension, with depths ranging from two to six feet was included as well as a skating rink of similar size.⁵⁹ The dance hall on the property sometimes was also Booker Hall or Baldwin's Gym, or by its nickname "Pneumonia Hall" from the parents who worried about their children spending too much time in the poorly heated building.

(The D&H Recreation Center — named after Pete Dillard and "Papa" Hines who later managed the skating, dancing and bowling events scheduled inside⁶⁰ — is another name for the three-story, former W. A. Brown Tobacco warehouse on Fayette Street which became a recreational location once Jobbers Pants Company took over the space originally occupied by Booker Hall in the late 1930s. Because of Dr. Baldwin's involvement with the building, it may also have been referred to as Baldwin's Gym during the 1940s and early '50s before his new Gymtorium was dedicated at 207 Fayette Street in May 1953.)

CLUBS, AUDITORIUMS, AND THEATERS

Sportsman Club
47 Fayette Street

Stone's Auditorium
120-124 Fayette Street

Rex Theater
133 Fayette Street

Green Dragon Nite Club
141 Fayette Street

Palm Garden Club
200 Fayette Street

Baldwin's Gymtorium
207 Fayette Street

New Baldwin Theater
207 Fayette Street

Odd Fellows Hall
309 Fayette Street

Martinsville Shriners Club
309 Fayette Street

Ku-Wat Grenadier Club
714 Fayette Street

West End Theater
1002 Fayette Street

Not content to provide merely swimming, bowling, movies and milkshakes along with medical care, jobs, and hospital beds for “his people,” as his good friend Dr. Jesse Shackelford had urged him to do in 1910, Dr. Baldwin is also credited with organizing annual fiddler’s contests along Fayette Street, possibly a unique event among African American communities. Historians suggest the first one was held in 1928 with yearly contests continuing until well into the 1940s. The contests were often held in the winter, after Christmas in early February or late January, at times in the movie theater on the Block. “Colored News” announcements in the *Bulletin* noted that prizes were awarded for performance on guitar, banjo, fiddle, mandolin, harmonica, voice, piano and dancing. Cash prizes were as small as a couple dollars, and were awarded based on the amount of applause.⁶¹ As the entertaining musical evenings frequently functioned as a fund raiser for St. Mary’s Hospital, efforts were made to attract large audiences. For example, at least one year additional non-musical prizes were awarded “for the largest family represented, most beautiful girl, tallest and shortest persons, best dressed person, fattest and skinniest persons.”⁶²

*People from Danville, what we used to call far away — thirty, forty miles away — would come and stay all night... Hundreds of people would come. Black people would look forward to the fiddlers’ convention every year. They had harp payers, piano players, the best buck timing, straight fiddle, and the best banjo... They’d start around 8:30 or 9:00 in the evening and wouldn’t stop until they finished around 2:00 or 3:00 in the morning.*⁶³

Kip Lomell, writing for the Blue Ridge Institute at Ferrum College in *Virginia Traditions, Non-Blue Secular Black Music*, has suggested this annual event may have been “the only all-black fiddler’s contest in America,” showing the “cohesiveness of the black community in Henry County” and the importance of string band music in the region for African Americans.⁶⁴ A review of the 1936 Colored Fair noted that “J. H. Hundley of Irisburg presented a “unique exhibit...which includes 20 or more stringed instruments which he produced by hand.”⁶⁵

They are all talking about it, that great big June German ball. This is going to be a ball of balls. If a Baldwin has any thing to do with it — it must be good — and Sam Baldwin is going here and there to help the socialites have a good time. Busses are coming here with loads of beautiful ladies from West Virginia, North Carolina and cities of Virginia to see and hear Andy Kirk and his Clouds of Joy playing at the Planters warehouse Friday, June 6, all night long.

— May 29, 1941⁶⁶

Say what you will or may, tonight is the night. From the red clay hills of West Virginia to the rippling waters of the Dan and Roanoke rivers, they are coming. When you read this news, some will be here. A large crowd from North Carolina has arrived. Those arriving about 12 noon (if this reporter's eyes are o.k.) were not bad to look at. Sam Baldwin has been decorating the Planters' warehouse for two days for you and Andy Kirk and His Clouds of Joy, who played in Baltimore, Md. last night. They are here resting because they want to be fresh and feeling o.k. for you. The time is 10 p.m.

— June 6, 1941⁶⁷

The Rev. R. T. Anderson appeared to have been as caught up in the excitement of the fourth annual June German Ball in 1941 as the rest of the city's African American dancers (or he was being an especially good PR man for his friends and parishioners, the Baldwins.) While details are scarce regarding the first three years of this much-talked-about event in Martinsville's history, by the early 1940s it was clear that the June German Ball was going to be a fixture on the social calendar each summer. The day after the event in 1941, the *Bulletin* noted the dance, "by far the largest-attended event of its kind ever held here, with members of the race, both old and young, coming from a dozen or more towns" may have had as many as 1,500 participants, including "many white spectators... on hand to watch the dancers."⁶⁸

In the 1930s "jiving" and jitterbugging were good ways to "do your number" on the dance floor. It was the era when jazz clubs opened in New York on 52nd Street, Louis Armstrong played trumpet with his big band and Billie Holiday made her recording debut. A 1939 edition of the black newspaper, the *Journal and Guide*, published weekly from Norfolk, Virginia, described an upcoming dance and how "devout Shag Hoppers and jittering Jitter Bugs" would soon take the floor "until their feet swell too large for their shoes, they sweat their collars down, every muscle fibre cries 'enough,' and the sun ushers in a new day." According to the article, "This is what is called in these parts a June German." The dance being described by the reporter was held in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, but the scene would have been similar in Martinsville.

For almost three decades, African Americans from small towns, big cities and the countryside in between flocked to Fayette Street each June for the June German Ball. It began as a dance event and evolved to become a kind of celebration that would become legendary in local residents' memories, whether they ever actually attended the dance or not. As the event's reputation and attendance grew, Fayette Street area businesses stayed open all night and vendors lined the sidewalks selling burgers and ham biscuits, fish sandwiches and "snowballs" to spectators and dancers. Thousands of people walked shoulder-to-shoulder around Baldwin's



Family-owned banjo belonging to Jean Wilson, of Fayette Street, with parts dating to before 1900
Photo by J. Siler



Norfolk's *Journal and Guide*, May 24, 1941

1940s – Members of the True Friends of Charity Lodge in Henry County met regularly in a small building near the current Axton post office. On the fourth Saturday of each July, Route 58 would be closed off while the members marched, danced and sang their way from the Lodge building to the highway and back. Harps, drums, flutes were part of the musical parade, and food sales during the day helped the organization raise funds.²¹

1941 – The Rev. Charles C. Fishburne presides over the newly opened St. Paul’s Episcopal Church at 904 West Fayette Street.

February 7, 1941 – The Martinsville Negro Community Club brings radio recording star and dance orchestra leader “Fats” Waller to town for a dance at the Planter’s tobacco warehouse, from 10 p.m to 2 a.m. “A space will be reserved for white spectators,” according to the *Bulletin*,²² and notes “The warehouse will be adequately heated for the occasion.”

February 20, 1941 – Commander Bruce Bannister of the Homer Dillard Post No. 78 appoints a special committee to handle registration of local Legionnaires and World War veterans for possible future national defense service. George A. Martin is named chairman of the committee.²³

Block in the streets blocked from traffic for the evening, hoping to catch a glimpse of the musicians.

But whether they saw the celebrity stars or not, the yearly event had the effect of a homecoming, and drew former Martinsville and Henry County residents back from the coal mines of West Virginia, jobs in New York state, or other locations far removed from the Southside Virginia city.

An undated program for Friday, June 10, advertising the Ball was likely created for the first year’s event in 1938, for June 10 only fell on Friday in 1938 and 1949, but bandleader Jimmie Lunceford died in 1947, and he was listed on the undated program as a headline act along with Jew Scales. A news account in 1942 stated that North Carolina musician Jimmy Quinn performed for the first Ball in Martinsville, for a crowd of several hundred, leaving some uncertainty about the musical talent that night.⁶⁹ However, the dance program advertised \$1.25 for an advance ticket, \$2 at the door, and \$1.25 for white spectators for a dance to begin at 10 p.m. and last until 4 a.m. the next morning.

The term “german” has some logical European roots. As early as the 1800s, dances like the waltz and the polka were showing up in America along with newly arriving immigrants. Where dances had once been small private affairs, now public ballrooms were being built and strangers mingled with each other rather than just invited friends. Contact between partners often took the form of games, or elaborate figure dances, a predecessor of today’s square dancing, with a caller telling dancers where and when and how to move. The german was one of these, and a popular one, too. Henderson and Rocky Mount, North Carolina are known to have hosted formal dances around the turn of the century called “Germans” and the Carolina Cotillion Club in Rocky Mount knows its annual German dance dates back to the 1870s and 1880s. The idea to hold a June German in Martinsville came from the Baldwins’ knowledge of the Rocky Mount dance, according to Curtis Higginbotham, who worked in their Drug Store.⁷⁰ A printed dance invitation from the Martinsville Cotillion Club advertised a June German held at Liberty Heights in 1927⁷¹ so the term was not entirely unknown in Southside Virginia when the black June German balls were initiated by the Baldwins.

Other known June German Ball performers during this era in Martinsville included: Walter Barnes, on Friday, June 16, 1939, for the second June German Ball, in the Baldwin Gym,⁷² Erskine Hawkins, on June 21, 1940, for the third June German Ball,⁷³ Cab Calloway, on May 27, 1941, for a “pre-June German Ball,” in the Planters Warehouse.⁷⁴

June German Bulletin

Number Eleven—MARTINSVILLE, VA.—Published Yearly

11th Annual

June German Ball

D & H Recreation Center

MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA

Friday, June 10th

ALL NIGHT LONG — 10:00 to 4:00 A. M.

MUSIC BY

Jimmie Lunceford

AND HIS SPECIAL JUNE GERMAN

WITH CONTINUOUS MUSIC BY

JEW SCALE

And His Up-and-Coming Band Doing the

Though this program is undated, it may well have advertised Martinsville's first June German sponsored by the African American community.
Courtesy of Alberta Wilson

Come Win the Big Cash Prize

One Big Spot Dance with Big Cash Prize. You may Sit on the Lucky Spot and Win that Big Cash Prize of

\$50.00

ADMISSION:

Advance ticket (including tax)	..... \$1.25
At Door (including tax)	..... \$2.00
Reserved Section for White Spectators	..... \$1.00

Get your tickets early while they last!

Special Added Attraction

MONCIE and MONCIE—Duetto—Piano and Guitar

Don't miss this Annual June Ball, held in Martinsville each June, at which 5,000 people are expected to attend this year. Buses running from Raleigh, Durham, Burlington, Reidsville, Leaksville, Danville, Roanoke and other cities will bring hundreds to this Gala June German Ball. Make your plans now to be among this happy throng on

FRIDAY, JUNE 10th — 10:00 to 4:00 A. M.
All Business Places Will Remain Open All Night

THE GREATEST EVER
4th Annual

June German Ball

MARTINSVILLE, VA.

Friday Night June 6, 1941

Andy Kirk and His Clouds of Joy

Featuring

JUNE RICHMOND MARY LOU WILLIAMS FLOYD SMITH

DANCING ALL NIGHT LONG

Planters Warehouse Admission — \$1.10

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR 10,000 DANCERS

HOTELS

Douglas Hotel

135 Fayette Street, Mrs. Mattie Higginbotham, proprietress; 16 rooms “well ventilated in summer, well heated in winter”; When it opened in the 1920s, the Douglas Hotel was the first in Martinsville where African American could stay overnight. (Later in the 1960s, it became the Hotel Cosmo)

Hotel Paradise

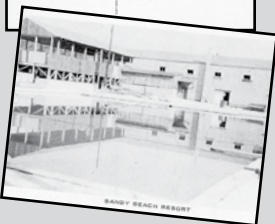
802 W. Fayette Street, Fred D. Dillard, proprietor, Frank Miller Mgr.

Silver Slipper Lodging House

201 Fayette Street, “On the Block”; over the China Clipper restaurant Baldwin Brothers, proprietors

Sandy Beach

2399 West Fayette Street, Ext. (Route 57, bottom of Koehler Hill) Dr. D. O. Baldwin, proprietor



GET IN THE SWIM!
MCGREGOR ALL-WOOL
SWIM TRUNKS
Reg. Price \$5.95
SPECIAL SALE PRICE **\$1.95**

You'll find such outstanding bargains only here! It's a quality McGregor Bathing trunks in all colors and sizes. Look at that low price!
Mail And Phone Orders Taken
WAR SURPLUS



Dance band leader Willie Bryant entertained more than 2,500 at Rocky Mount, North Carolina's 1938 June German dance.

From the Norfolk Journal and Guide



Planters Warehouse on Franklin Street was a popular venue for dances.

Courtesy of Historic Views

POOL ROOMS, it seemed, were often paired with other business locations, especially in the 100 and 200 block of Fayette Street. Though they did not all operate during the same time period, Stockton's Pool Room was located at 105 Fayette Street, the Green Dragon offered pool tables at 141 Fayette Street, and the Baldwin Pool Parlor was across the street at 142 Fayette Street, later to become the Hairston Billiard Parlor. Ray's Pool Room was located at 200 Fayette Street, Jake's Barber & Billiards at 209 Fayette Street (later Reynold's Billiards Parlor, and after that Carter's Pool Room.) The West End Room operated at 804 Fayette Street.

WATCH YOUR AMERICA-CHICKEN MADE IN U.S.A.

PLAY BILLIARDS

WE TREAT YOU LIKE A FRIEND

BALDWIN POOL PARLOR
142 Fayette St.
Martinsville, Va.

Courtesy of Doug Stegall

But clearly the June Balls were not the only occasion for dancing and music on Fayette Street. In August of 1940, a jitterbug contest was advertised in connection with of the “last dance of the season,” held at Planters Warehouse with Tony Bradshaw, “king of the Jitterbug.”⁷⁵ The following year, the Douglas auditorium on the Block is the site of an August barn dance, and Count Basie and his swing band are booked for an engagement at the Planters warehouse. Promoter Sam Baldwin noted that the Count Basie band event on September 10 will “be the last big dance of the season since the tobacco market will open on September 16.”⁷⁶ Promotional accounts noted that Basie’s band had appeared at Carnegie Hall to critical acclaim in recent years, and would feature vocalists James Rushing and Helen Humes.⁷⁷ The “Basie Ball” as it was noted in one *Bulletin* column, was sponsored by the Community Club, “a local colored social organization which has sponsored a number of successful and largely-attended affairs of this nature here this summer... Count Basie and his Orchestra furnished music for the 1941 June German at Rocky Mount, N.C. which is said to have attracted 16,000 dancers and spectators.”⁷⁸ Road shows were popular, too, like the one “Silas Green of New Orleans” would bring to town, a tent show with acrobats and chorus girls, and a 50-plus year tradition of touring throughout the South.

To go along with the many concerts and dances, entertainments options of the 1930s and ‘40s were full of contests and fund raisers. Of unusual note was the “Inch party and supper” planned by the Aid Society of High Street Baptist Church in September of 1940. “Please come and bring a penny for each inch you are in the waist, but don’t stay away if you don’t have that amount. Come anyway,” according to party organizers.⁷⁹ The A.M.E. church held a “beautiful baby” contest in June 1941, and the High Street Baptist Church even hosted a “preachers popularity contest” in the summer of 1942. (Columnist R.T. Anderson won first place, but “out of modesty” did not mention the honor in his column; an editor’s note added it at the end.)⁸⁰ Fashion shows were often mentioned in social news summaries, along with bridge games, whist, and picnics. Parades were popular for many holidays. On Memorial Day, 1943, The American Legion Drum and Bugle Corps, the Ambulance Corps, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, paraded from the Jobbers Pants Company on Fayette Street to the cemetery for Memorial Day exercises.

Social listings in the “Colored News” columns during the late summer of 1939 noted several Fayette Street residents traveled to the World’s Fair in New York City, among them Ben Stultz, Dr. Agnes Brown and Jerry Baldwin in contrast with the events unfolding on the other side of the Atlantic as England and France declare war on Germany during the first week of September that year. Birthday parties made the paper, too. In March 1935, reporter Savannah Kyle noted that

*Mr. and Mrs. William H. Hairston entertained at their home on Dunlap Street Monday afternoon from five to seven honoring their son, Reginald, on his twelfth birthday. The afternoon was spent playing various games and a piano solo “Melody of Love” was rendered by Miss Julia Johnson. The guests were then invited into the dining room where a delicious iced course followed by mints was enjoyed. The birthday cake was given to each guest as favors.*⁸¹

Tally’s Electric Theater in Los Angeles, built in 1902, was the first permanent structure devoted entirely to movies, preceding even the filmmakers’ relocation to the west coast from New York and New Jersey and the establishment of Hollywood. Soon storefront theaters and “nickelodeons” — named such by a Pennsylvania theater operator for the admission price — sprang up across America. Between 1914 and 1922, 4,000 new theaters opened in the U.S.⁸² Dana O. Baldwin was part of this phenomenon, briefly operating a movie theater in 1911, but had more success with a second, the Baldwin Theater, which occupied a prominent spot in his business center on the Block.

April 21, 1941 – Sam Baldwin arranges for Jimmy Lunceford and his 15-piece band to play at the Planter’s warehouse on a Monday night.²⁴



*Samuel Henry Baldwin, Pharmacist, music promoter, jukebox salesman, real estate agent
Courtesy of Bev Milner*

June 5-6, 1942 – The June German Ball tradition continues as Andy Kirk and his band the Clouds of Joy travel from New York City to play at the Planter’s warehouse for the all-night long dance.²⁵

November 3, 1941 – The world’s second nylon manufacturing plant began production on the former Horseshoe Bend farm property, east of Martinsville, modeled after the parent plant at Seaford, Delaware.²⁶

November 16, 1941 – The new gymnasium-auditorium at the Martinsville Training School is dedicated with addresses by William E. Carrington, assistant professor of religious education at Howard University and A. G. Richardson, assistant supervisor of Negro education at the State Board of Education, and a vocal music from a mixed choir from area African American churches.²⁷

Fruits And Vegetables		
Best Corn on cob	.....	.50 .25
Best Beans and Corn	.....	.50 .25
Best Butter Beans	.....	.50 .25
Best Tomatoes and Corn	.....	.50 .25
Best Peaches Cut	.....	.50 .25
Best Peaches Whole	.....	.50 .25
Best Pears	.....	.50 .25
Best Blackberries or Dewberries	.....	.50 .25
Best Huckleberries	.....	.50 .25
Best Cherries	.....	.50 .25
Best Apples	.....	.50 .25
Best String Bean	.....	.50 .25
Best Tomatoes Cut	.....	.50 .25
Best Tomatoes Whole	.....	.50 .25
Best Sweet Potatoes	.....	.50 .25
Best Kraut	.....	.50 .25
Best Field Peas	.....	.50 .25
Best English Peas	.....	.50 .25
Best Okra	.....	.50 .25
Best Tomato Juice	.....	.50 .25
Best Apricots	.....	.50 .25
Best Strawberries	.....	.50 .25

USE YOUR HEAD AND SAVE YOUR HAIR

HAIR

VISIT THE

ELITE BEAUTY SALON

MRS. MILDRED MITCHELL, Prop. and MRS. MARION DRAPER

Booker T. Washington Park was the location for the first Colored Agricultural Fair in 1927

Courtesy of Phyllis Hairston

Welcome To The

REX THEATRE

Enjoy A Good Show While In Town To The Fair.

Matinees Each Sunday, Wednesday and Saturday.

Wednesdays and Sundays Are Bargain Days, 10c To All.

All Other Shows 10-20c

2 Full Shows Every Night Except Sunday;

One Complete Show Starting at 9 P. M.

The Manager

1940 Agricultural Fair program ad for the Rex Theater, known as the Baldwin Theater when it first opened on the Block in the 1920s.

Courtesy of Phyllis Hairston

Sewing and cooking, that's my main hobbies. I made my first doll dress before I even started going to school. I still make my own clothes: coats, dresses, pant suits. I started working when I was 13, the day before my birthday. I worked for the Morrises on Starling, and the Prices on Starling, and when I started working for the Hookers they lived on Starling, too. I stayed with the J. C. Hookers for 69 years. My second husband was Roy Poteat. He was their butler. When we married we had a two-room apartment over the garage. That was when the Hookers were on Mulberry, that big house on top of the knoll... In the winter, they always went to Palm Beach. We had our own apartment there, too. After we got acquainted with people, it was just like at home. In Florida, we were off on Thursdays — that's what they called "Maid and Butler Day."

There wasn't anything for our people in Palm Beach, so we would all go over to West Palm Beach. In Palm Beach, even the white help could not go to those places.

I believe I'm the oldest one still active at High Street Baptist Church. They call me "Potty," "Granny," or "Mama Poteat." I was head of the church kitchen for about 50 years. Cooking for a church is about the same, except you have a whole lot to cook. Even though I gave it up, they still come to me. I just fixed regular old country meals: broiled chicken, chicken and dumplings, greens, cornbread, pies, and cobbles.

— **Lucille D. Poteat**, of Third Street, was born in Martinsville in 1912 a year before the state required birth certificates.

With the Booker T. Washington Park newly completed for the Fourth of July in 1927, the park was quickly put to use as the site for Martinsville's first "Colored Fair," one more of Fayette Street's attractions that soon became an annual tradition, though it would change locations over time, just as the June German Ball would need to do. Promotional announcements for the event began appearing in the Bulletin a week in advance in 1929:

*This is the third annual fair that has been undertaken by the leaders of the race in this community, and considerable interest and enthusiasm from an educational as well as an entertainment standpoint, being largely attended from year to year, with increased patronage being show... Besides the big shows, rides, concessions and street parade, the school and agricultural exhibits will be strongly emphasized time. Much interest is being shown among the students in manual arts, who are entering displays in competition for prizes being offered.*⁸³

At its conclusion, the Bulletin reported the event a "success," with record-setting attendance and a review of the four-day event, running from Tuesday, September 17 through Friday, September 20, and featuring three "riding devices," eight shows, and "20 or more games of chance." Also singled out for praise was Tom Joyner's collection of bird houses, his miniature reproduction of the Danville and Western train, and John Brown's miniature suite of bedroom furniture on display.

MARTINSVILLE GAS COMPANY
BE MODERN COOK WITH GAS
DIAL 7169

SINGER SEWING MACHINE CO.
17 WEST MAIN STREET
T. D. Alexander, Distributor
P. O. Box 42

Blue Ridge Hardware & Supply Co.
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
Martinsville, Va.
IF IT'S QUALITY YOU GET IT
IF IT'S SERVICE WE GIVE IT
Phone 8161

BALDWIN'S PHARMACY
The Old Store, Entrance 2
PHONE 8200
A. M. Brown, Ph. C., Manager
BALDWIN'S PHARMACY
Don't Forget To Try Our Ice Cream

MARTINSVILLE COLORED FAIR
Section Two
Live Stock Department
Dairy Cattle

Article	Price	Second
Best Jersey Bull	2.00	1.00
Best Jersey Cow	2.00	1.00
Best Guernsey Bull	2.00	1.00
Best Guernsey Cow	2.00	1.00
Best Holstein Bull	2.00	1.00
Best Holstein Cow	2.00	1.00

Swine

Best Poland China Boar	1.00	.50
Best Poland China Sow	1.00	.50
Best Berkshire Boar	1.00	.50
Best Berkshire Sow	1.00	.50
Best New York Pig	1.00	.50

Horses

Best Mare	1.00	.50
Best Colt	1.00	.50

The exhibitor's fee must have been applied within a reasonable time preceding the opening date of the Fair.

C. P. KEARFOTT & SON
"ON THE SQUARE"
THE OLD RELIABLE DRUGGIST

B. D. NORMAN'S RADIO CO.
YOUR RADIO DOCTOR
SERVICE ON ALL ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES
116 E. Main St. Dial 5289

"Pneumonia Hall" was site of early cooking and agricultural displays for the annual Colored Fair. 1940 Fair Program courtesy of Phyllis Hairston

June 5, 1942 – Andy Kirk and his band return to the Planters Warehouse for another June German Ball.²⁸

August 26, 1942 – Army and Navy Day at the Martinsville Colored Fair, when half the proceeds from the day’s proceeds will go to the Army and Navy relief fund. The Bulletin’s “Colored News” column of the preceding week urges all “Farmers and school children to have their exhibits in on time.”

May 27, 1943 – Dr. Baldwin, as president of the Henry County Realty Corporation, purchases the old Sparrow-Gravely tobacco factory building at the corner of Fayette and High Streets for a reported \$17,500.



*Rev. J. E. Wade
Courtesy of Pilgrim Missionary
Baptist Church*

1944 – Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church at 601 Third Street opens; the Reverend J.E. Wade is pastor.

The grand street parade of decorated automobiles and floats staged at noon Wednesday was probably one of the best, or equals that of any parade of that character that has ever been staged in this city in a number of years. Between 12 and 15 automobiles were beautifully decorated, different color schemes being used for each car... The parade was led by the carnival band.⁸⁴

By 1931, the fair dates had been extended to six, with the fair running from Monday through Saturday. A balloon ascension scheduled for every afternoon was a new and intriguing attraction. The following year Captain Simon was added to the line-up, to much hype and acclaim: “Captain Simon, declared as the world’s greatest and most fearless high diver, is the featured attraction of the free acts, when each afternoon and night from a ladder extended 110 feet into the air he leaps while in flames into a tank of water.”⁸⁵

SPORTS

Athletic activities in the 1930s and ‘40s were not too unlike those experienced today, with school children participating in field day games, teenagers competing against each other and for “letters,” and adult involvement in regional and professional competitions, whether as spectators or participants. Radio, however, was the means to listen in to out-of-town matches and games.

Rock Run and Pannill grade schools reported an account from Field Day exercises held for the two schools at Pannill School in the May 6, 1932 *Bulletin*, with events such as a 50-yard dash for boys and a 40-yard dash for girls; Lobby Loo, for grades 1, 2 and 3; a basketball throw for grades 3, 4, 5 and 6; Crows and Cranes for grades 1, 2, and 3; an Obstacle Race,



1928 PCI basketball team
Courtesy of John D. Flood

[My father] told me to always work and do what's right... [As children] we had to cut wood and bring it all the time and then we had to get leaves and things to put in the pig pen when the little pigs were small. And then I milked for my mother. I used to milk the

cows after I got about 12 or 13 years old. You have to milk a cow twice a day.

— **J. B. Travis** grew up across from the Piedmont Christian Institute school grounds, a middle child among eleven.

a Potato Race, a Sack Race, Whip Tag and Dodge Ball for all ages. Boys also competed in competitions called Ankle Tie, Rough Rider, and Chinese Get Up.⁸⁶

In the spring of 1935, the Jobbers Pants Company agreed to back a Negro baseball team to represent the city in the Negro diamond circles. Called the Jobbers Blue Sox 1935, spring training began for the team at Booker Washington Park on March 10, which would also be used for all home games. "Fourteen players, already employees of the Jobber's firm have been signed while several others might be secured before the season gets underway," according to a news brief in the Bulletin. Jobbers was furnishing the team with "ample equipment, uniforms, etc. for the season," the article noted.⁸⁷

In 1938, a local baseball team known as the "Black Cardinals" was playing under the management of "Pete" Dillard, against such competitors as the Pond Giants of Winston-Salem. A double-header was scheduled for the Fourth of July celebrations for the team in 1940 against the Danville Aces. Baseball enjoyed such popularity among the community in the 1930s that the Martinsville Manufacturers, playing at English field, held a "Colored Fans' Night" on July 13, 1939, with free admission and prizes. "Showing their appreciation for the fine manner in which the colored people of this section have supported the Manufacturers this season by attending home games, the local club decide to have them as special guests Monday night. Increase attendance among the race has been noteworthy this year over previous seasons."⁸⁸

During the colder months of the year, basketball players known as the Martinsville Panthers competed against teams such as the Greensboro Brown Bombers. Their home court was the Baldwin Gym on Fayette Street. On January 24, 1939 fans of the team were entertained by a radio broadcast of the Louis-Lewis fight between two basketball contests at the gym.

Though sports coverage of the Negro teams was hardly comprehensive in Martinsville, some sense of the sports accomplishments of the local athletes were recorded. In 1940, a letterman's banquet was hosted in the Green Dragon ballroom for the Henry County "Trojans" football team on Monday evening from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. Letters were received by: Norman Flood, Arthur Pannill, Lawrence Mitchell, Milton Bassett, Peter Drewery, James Blair Draper, Walter Mitchell, Reginald Hairston, John Brown, Russell Walton, Henry Walton, Alphonzo Gibson, Varian "Fats" Hairston, Alphonzo Dalton, Huston Mitchell, Willis Via and Hillard Wooden.⁸⁹

TRANSPORTATION

By the late 1920s, the automobile had firmly established itself as the newest and most improved method of travel as Virginia, like the rest of the country embraced the ease of

A MARTINSVILLE GREYHOUND BUS advertisement from December 1939 lists sample round-trip fares aboard a Super-Coach.

Roanoke, \$2.00
Winston-Salem, \$2.10
Washington, \$6.30
New York, \$12.25
Miami, \$18.75⁹¹

TRANSPORTATION:

Howard's Cab

104 Fayette Street

Gravelly's Cab

104 Fayette Street

American Cab

136 Fayette Street

Martin's Cab

136 Fayette Street,
Eugene Martin

Bannister's Cab

136 and 208 Fayette Street,
James and Leroy Bannister

Martin Cab Co.

201 Fayette Street

American Cab Co.

201 Fayette Street

Gravelly and Witcher Cab

212 Fayette Street

Bannister's Cab

314 Fayette Street

Gibson's Cab

712 Fayette Street

Witcher's Cab

1001 and 1009 Fayette Street

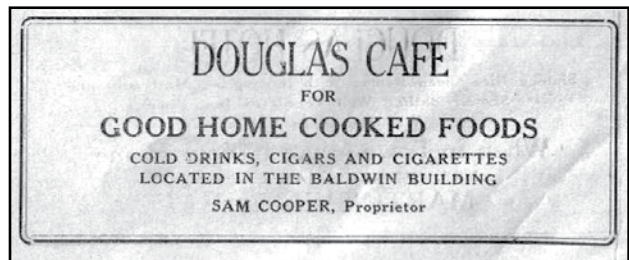
Redd & Seay Cabs

Specific men remembered as early African American taxi drivers in Martinsville included: Jim Matt Hodge, Alex Hairston, Shorty Dillard, Simon Hairston, James and Leroy Bannister.³⁵



American Cab building
201 Fayette Street
Photo by J. Siler

traveling in the "gasoline buggies." In 1932, the General Assembly passed the Byrd Road Act, establishing the secondary road system and allowing the counties to transfer responsibility to the Virginia Department of Highways.⁹⁰ But Fayette Street residents were largely able to manage without automobiles with their schools, churches and shopping and entertainment spots all within walking distance. For getting out of town, there were always trains and buses, even though Jim Crow laws kept African American segregated on most forms of public transportation by law, rule, and custom until the mid-1960s.



Courtesy of Phyllis Hairston

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA		MOTOR VEHICLE CHAUFFEUR'S LICENSE		<i>W.D. Bland</i> Director Division of Motor Vehicles	
THE UNDERSIGNED IS LICENSED TO OPERATE ANY MOTOR VEHICLE AS A CHAUFFEUR IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 388 ACTS OF 1932 AS AMENDED.					
ISSUED JUL. 1, 1941			EXPIRES JUNE 30, 1942		LICENSE C 8631
1. PRINT FULL NAME		Cliff Harry Smith			
2. PRINT STREET ADDRESS OR R.F.D. NO.		29 High Street			
3. PRINT CITY OR POST OFFICE		Martinsville		STATE Va.	
4. SIGNATURE OF LICENSEE		<i>Cliff Harry Smith</i>		530	
5. RACE	SEX	WEIGHT	HEIGHT	COLOR OF EYES	
Col.	Male	148	5 FT. 9 IN.	Brown	
6. COLOR OF HAIR		MONTH BORN	YEAR BORN	Previous Chauffeur's License No.	
Black		Dec.	1903	B 16488	
ALWAYS CARRY THIS CHAUFFEUR'S LICENSE AND BADGE WHEN DRIVING					

Courtesy of Jewell Jones

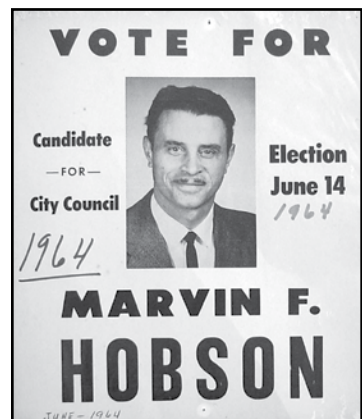
1945–1964: MOVING TOWARD A UNITED AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

“To accept one’s past — one’s history — is not the same thing as drowning in it; it is learning how to use it.”

— James Baldwin, *The Fire Next Time*, 1963

Ralph Ellison’s best-selling novel *Invisible Man* won the American Book Award after it was published in 1952, making the Tuskegee Institute graduate the first African American author to receive the award. Rather than casting his characters as uneducated and downtrodden victims of an oppressive society, such as those of novelist Richard Wright, Ellison’s *Invisible Man* was “educated, articulate, and self-aware.” Ellison saw black and white cultures as “inextricably linked, with almost every facet of American life influenced and impacted by the African American presence.”¹ Though several more decades were to pass before the author’s views were widely shared, the 20-year period following the World War II provided strong illustration for Ellison’s perspective. Paul Robeson gained a title role as Othello on Broadway in the 1940s. The popular pastor from Harlem, Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1945 after serving on New York City Council. Two years later, baseball great Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier of the major leagues. President Truman issued the executive order that desegregated the military in 1948. In 1951, in Farmville, Virginia, black students from R.R. Moton High School marched to their county courthouse to protest their inadequate and leaking school buildings. Three years later the U. S. Supreme Court, by ruling in favor of Linda Brown in *Brown vs. the Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*, validated the actions of the Moton students and overturned the “separate but equal” doctrine put in place by *Plessy v. Ferguson* in 1896. In 1955, Rosa Parks refused to move to the back of the bus.

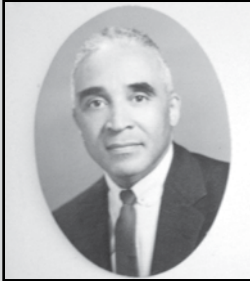
Change in the ways white and black cultures converged was also underway in Martinsville, with and without accompanying headlines. Attorney Gregory Swanson’s 1950 decision to sue — successfully — for admittance to the University of Virginia’s Law School played in contrast to the somber news reports marking the plight of the seven Martinsville men convicted of a rape charge and executed in 1951 despite national and international protests. In 1950, William Dyson, a World War II veteran and local merchant, made his first run at a city council seat; his cousin Marvin Hobson attempted the same in 1964. Neither man gained enough votes to win in those two elections, but William D. Hobson succeeded in June 1968 and went on to serve 12 years on the Martinsville City Council, including four years as mayor. The “doo-wop” sound of the Ink Spots, who played at Planters Warehouse in May 1940 had released their first smash hit (“If I Didn’t Care” by Decca records,) the previous



Courtesy of Marvin Hobson

May 7, 1945 – With banner-sized headlines, the *Martinsville Daily Bulletin* notes the surrender of Nazi Germany to the Western Allies and Russia, who declare victory in the European front. The paper also takes somber note of the 89 lives lost from Martinsville and Henry County because of the World War. Estimates from local draft boards and enlistment offices for the various military service branches suggest 4,409 men and women from the area were active duty participants, or approximately 12 percent of the city-county population.

May 1945 – Martinsville native J. Elmer Turner is appointed principal of the Martinsville Training School, succeeding E. N. Taliaferro.



*J. Elmer Turner
Courtesy of J. Goode*

August 1945 – The main attraction at this year’s Colored Fair is the Great Zacchini, the human cannon ball “who will be shot 200 feet over two ferris wheels.”¹

October 1945 – “Sweet Daddy Grace” pays a visit to the United House of Prayer for All People on Fayette Street.²

year.² The group was at the leading edge of the sound waves called rock-and-roll and rhythm-and-blues that were soon sweeping over black and white audiences alike.

Change moved incrementally, too, through the city and Henry County, as increasing numbers of families focused on their children’s educations, especially higher learning. Educators such as Lula Johnson, Samuel S. Trott and Virgia Brown Hobson, placed key telephone calls to their alma maters and college admission offices, in order to make sure that their students at Albert Harris and Carver high schools heard their pleas not to overlook the advantages of higher education and also found college doors open to them. Leaders of area social organizations, whether religious, civic organizations or business at their base, were traveling and representing Martinsville interests in ever widening circles, and the home organizations were hosting conventions in return. Church sanctuaries were enlarged. Schools expanded. Thriving small businesses bore testimony to a growing black business district. The 1950s saw the opening of both the Baldwin Gymtorium, a newly constructed auditorium and gym to replace the former tobacco warehouses so long used for recreational gatherings, and a new 30-bed hospital, built with donations and gifts from the entire Martinsville community.



*Educator Samuel S Trott
Courtesy of Meadowbrook
AME and Shiloh
Baptist Churches*

1946 TO 1965 — CHURCHES

On March 22, 1946, High Street Baptist Church hosted a full musical program with performances by the High Street Jubilee Singers, The Southern Gospel Singers of East Martinsville, The Four Spirits of Harmony, the Inspirational Singers, The Fieldale Spirits of Harmony, The Canary Harmonizers of High Street Baptist and more. Rev. R. T. Anderson, pastor at Mt. Zion, and author of the “Colored News” column in the newspaper, urged his readers to attend because “your friends from Danville, Rocky Mount, Fieldale, Ridgeway, Axton and Stuart will be there.” Many of the same chorus groups had been present for the second celebration of the Martinsville branch of the NAACP the previous weekend.³

The High Street Baptist church building that had been proudly remodeled in 1942 was in full use for 15 years during such choir concerts and regular Sunday services before fire swept through in November 1957, destroying the landmark structure. Lucille Poteat, at 94, is one of the oldest living members of



This High Street Baptist Church building replaced the one burned in 1957.
Courtesy of High Street Baptist Church



Mt. Zion Church
Photo by J. Siler



High Street Baptist Jubilee Singers, 1942
Courtesy of High Street Baptist Church

High Street Baptist Church. She remembers how her husband Roy had rehearsal practice at the church the Monday night before the fire when one of the choir members had said “I smell something,” but no one paid attention to his concerns. The couple was sitting down to breakfast the following morning when word came that the church was burning.⁴ The large congregation met for more than a year in the Baldwin Gymtorium, before the current structure, rebuilt to face Fayette Street at the corner of Fayette and High, was completed.⁵

Mt. Zion A.M.E. gained a new building to accommodate their growing congregation during this time, too, but through the planned efforts of a steering committee rather than a tragedy. Chaired by Samuel S. Trott, the committee worked with the church family to raise the necessary funds and awarded a contract to Martinsville Homebuilders — owned by Bob Martin and Joseph Pritchett — in 1962. The new sanctuary was ready by early 1963 and dedicated in December that year, complete with cushioned pews, an organ and piano, and commemorative stained glass windows.⁶

At Grace Presbyterian Church, the Rev. R. E. Foster, installed in 1944, served his congregation as pastor and choir director, organized the first Usher Board and established a first church newsletter called “Race Times.” Easter and Christmas versions of “The Messiah” were performed there,

November 6, 1945 – Martinsville Training School is renamed in honor of its first principal, Albert Harris “erasing the old-fashioned, out-dated name of Training School from our records,”³ according to Principal J. E. Turner.

April 7, 1946 – The Troxler Furniture Company on the first block of Fayette Street is destroyed by a fire, the third major fire in the city in a two month-period. The company, founded in 1928 by two Troxler brothers, was soon rebuilt in a larger three-story building across the street.⁴

June 1946 – Officers and trustees are elected to form the Community Hospital Association as plans are made to fund raise and construct a new 30-bed hospital for African American residents.

1948 – President Harry Truman signs an executive order prohibiting segregation in the military.

1948 – Bannister Cab founded by James Bannister, Sr., and Leroy Bannister.

April 14, 1948 – Henry County Training School burns.

September 1, 1948 – Albert Harris School adds a high school program, bringing with it a football team and music programs such as a chorus, marching band and jazz band.

often with combined choirs from Grace and Fayette Street Christian Church. John Hall Saunders served as church organist, as well as playing for the Albert Harris High School Choir and the Albert Harris Knights Jazz Band.

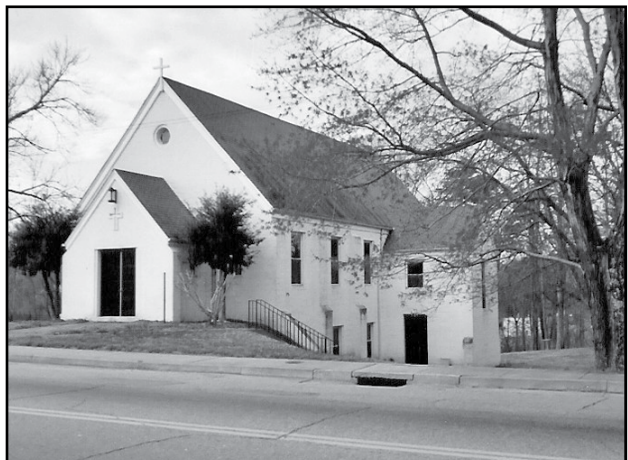
The small congregation that had continued to meet in the newly finished basement of St. Paul's Episcopal Church said goodbye to Rev. Charles Somers in 1945, and welcomed Rev. Cornelius R. Dawson, who served as their priest between 1946 and 1949. Their next church leader was Rev. Turner W. Morris. In 1951, he had the pleasure of learning that the \$916 debt on the church building funds had been cleared. He was named to head a delegation from the Virginia Episcopal Church to the Southwestern Diocese at the Provincial Synod, in October 1953, in Pennsylvania, the first time an African American Virginian had such an honor.⁷ Construction began



Rev. Robert E. Foster and his wife
Ardmease M. Foster, 1982
Courtesy of Grace Presbyterian Church



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Photo by J. Siler



St. Paul's Episcopal Church, completed in 1955
Courtesy of St. Paul's Episcopal Church



Jewel Smith Jones, in her wedding dress from C. W. Holt's
Courtesy of Jewel Jones



Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church, built with Baldwin bricks in 1951
Courtesy of Pilgrim Baptist Church

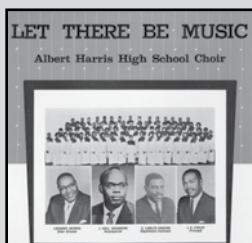
on a new sanctuary, or nave, and was completed in May 1955. Rev. T.W. Morris served until 1957. Also during the 1950s, St. Paul's Episcopal opened a half-day, free preschool for black children ages four and five under the leadership of retired public school teacher Bessie Woodward.⁸

Elder James C. Richardson, Sr. became a Bishop in 1952 and led his congregation at Mount Sinai Apostle Church during the new decade in the establishment of a vacation Bible school, a bus ministry, a radio ministry, and an educational fund to assist church members seeking college education.

Friday night, October 5, 1945, Sweet Daddy Grace paid a personal visit to the United House of Prayer on Fayette Street, eliciting both a news article in the next day's *Bulletin* and creating memories for many of his followers and others in the community who recalled the striking presence of the national church leader.⁹ A church history noted that it was the first of two visits to Martinsville, adding that he stayed at the home of Mrs. Nannie DuPee at 22 High Street during his first visit and at the home of Mrs. H. M. Hairston, across the street from the church the second time. Gloria Hodge Hylton, who grew up just two blocks away, still remembers the Bishop's arrival in a limousine, his long hair, long pointy beard and long fingernails. "They must have been five inches long," she recalled. Assistants with long palm fronds would wave them over Sweet Daddy Grace in a synchronized rhythm. "It was like an association that week, with everyone standing in their yards to watch. Oh, he arrived in a big, big way."¹⁰

Rev. J. E. Wade returned to Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church as pastor in 1949. He and the 31 members of the congregation began the task of constructing a new brick church building, which was celebrated with a cornerstone service in 1951. Leroy Perkins, son of the church's first member and the mechanical engineer behind the plans for the building still in use today, recalled how many of the costs to construct the building were donated by community members. "All that work was free. All the labor was free. Dr. Baldwin, he gave the brick. Fred Dillard, he bought the carpentry and stuff for it. Everybody in the community was just helping out."¹¹

Perkins also recalled with amusement how the pastor, who liked to admonish his congregation against the temptations of dancing establishments, stopped mentioning the Paradise Inn in his



*Albert Harris High School
Choir Album
Courtesy of AHHS National Alumni
Assoc., Inc.*

June 1949 – Ridgeway pastor Rev. W. H. Hobson appeals to the Henry County Board of Supervisors for black deputy sheriff appointments to patrol the county neighborhoods inhabited by Negroes. No action was taken.⁵

1949 – Seven young black men are arrested, charged and convicted of raping a white woman. The case draws worldwide attention during the appeals process, involving many of the state's most prominent civil rights lawyers and ultimately the Supreme Court. Despite protests and thousands of letters and telegrams received on the men's behalf, all seven are executed in February 1951, the most ever to date in state history for commission of a single crime.

March 1950 – City Council approves a construction permit for a trucking terminal on the site of the former Henry County Training School, despite opposition from neighbors concerned about traffic hazards in the heart of a residential community.

sermons after owner Fred Dillard donated building materials for the new church. A favorite line of Mr. Perkin's father on Sundays during those fund-raising years was, "Well, we done had the hymn book, we done had the prayer book. Last time's for the pocketbook!"

Rev. R. T. Anderson presided over Jewel Smith Jones' wedding to Hayward Jones on December 27, 1954. The dress she bought at C. W. Holt's became a true family heirloom. Two younger sisters, Pauline Smith Jones and Bessie Smith Price; a cousin, Jean Patterson Wilson; and close friend Mamie Dandridge Geter, each wore the dress on their wedding days in turn. Pauline was married at High Street Baptist Church, Bessie at Grace Presbyterian, and Mamie, Jewel and Jean in their family homes.¹²

SCHOOLS

From colonial days to present times, fires have always threatened homes and businesses, but Fayette Street suffered an unrivaled loss on a spring day in 1948 when the Henry County Training School — first built in 1923 by Rev. James H. Thomas as Piedmont Christian Institute — caught fire. The blaze originated in the attic or third-floor of the imposing structure. It was lunchtime on April 14 when a student outside of the school saw smoke pouring through the metal roof. Principal C. B. Jeter attempted to reach the source of the flames with two extinguishers, but without success. For half an hour, students and other bystanders were able to carry furniture, some books and school records from the building, but they were soon ordered to stay out of the school as the heat intensified. Within an hour, the entire structure was in flames, incinerating the library and its books, and all the manual arts equipment. The city fire department, summoned to fight the blaze, was forced to watch as helplessly as the rest of the large crowd of spectators, after discovering that the four-inch water main at the intersection of Fayette and First Streets could not provide sufficient water pressure for their hoses to affect the upper-story flames. According to reports of the fire, the school was home that year to 487 high school students, 87 elementary grade students, and eighteen teachers.¹⁴

Because both city and county students attended classes in the burned building (more than 225 city high school pupils paid tuition to the county) both Martinsville and Henry County officials scrambled to find new classroom space for the students' remaining weeks of the school year. Classes resumed on the Monday following the Wednesday fire, with some pupils reporting to the D & H Recreation Center (the former W. A. Brown tobacco factory on the corner of Fayette

and Spencer Streets), and others to area churches.¹⁵ Accompanying editorials in the *Bulletin* the week of the fire noted how the blaze underscored the need for upgraded water supply and distribution systems, as well as new school construction funds. Some writers outlined a way to use the fire to advantage by proposing new buildings via a joint school system for county and city Negro residents.



The three-story high school was destroyed by an April 1948 fire.

Courtesy of The Martinsville Bulletin

“DUE TO THE SHORTAGE OF COAL, THE ADULT CLASSES HELD ON TUESDAY AND THURSDAY NIGHTS AT THE HENRY COUNTY TRAINING SCHOOL UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF MISS A. B. PARRIS, WILL BE DISCONTINUED UNTIL THE COAL BINS HAVE BEEN REPLENISHED, OR UNTIL THE WEATHER GETS WARMER.”¹³



Piedmont Christian Institute students, 1930s

Courtesy of Darnell Hodge

April 1950 – William Dyson Hobson, 42, announces his intention to run for one of five seats on Martinsville's City Council.

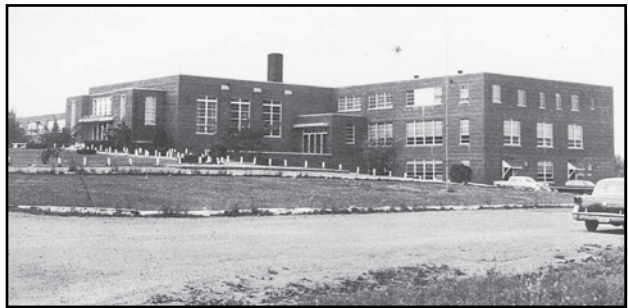
June 3, 1950 – Dr. Luther A. Vickers, a resident of Martinsville since 1929, dies unexpectedly at age 50 of a heart attack in his office on Third Street. In addition to his dental practice, Dr. Vickers was instrumental in founding a kindergarten at St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 904 Fayette Street. He helped organize a voter's league with the Men's Round Table Club for good citizenship, encouraged young people to attend college, fought for teachers' salaries, plus served on the Board of the Martinsville Brick and Manufacturing Company, Imperial Savings and Loan and the Henry County Realtors Corporation.

1950 – George Washington Carver High School, near Horsepasture, opens to provide classroom space for Henry County (and temporarily for Patrick County) African Americans in grades nine through 12.

September 1950 – A three-judge federal court directs the University of Virginia to admit Martinsville attorney Gregory Swanson and "all Negroes 'similarly situated' "to its graduate School of Law. The Howard University graduate and Danville native had been unsuccessful in his initial summer application there because of arguments that Virginia's constitution and laws prohibit the teaching of white and blacks students in the same schools.



The D&H Recreation Center, formerly the W. A. Brown tobacco factory, at the corner of Fayette and Spencer Streets, became a temporary classroom for the students displaced by the untimely fire. 1952
Courtesy of Desmond Kendrick



George Washington Carver High School opened in 1950.
Courtesy of Simon Spencer, from Carver yearbook.



A new building for Albert Harris High School was constructed on Smith Road in 1958 to replace the original Martinsville Training School structure.
Courtesy of Marie Baldwin Hairston.



Top Left: The Albert Harris Knights, a jazz band¹⁷
Courtesy of Henry B. and Barbara Ingram

Top Right: Coach Clyde Williams in the drivers' education car at Albert Harris High School as well as coaching various athletic teams.
Courtesy of The Martinsville Bulletin and Jean Patterson Wilson

Middle: The 1948 Albert Harris H.S. football team posted a respectable 3-3-1 mark for its first varsity season.¹⁸
Courtesy of The Martinsville Bulletin

Bottom Left: 1958 Albert Harris basketball team
Courtesy of the AHHS National Alumni Association

Bottom Right: Albert Harris faculty, 1949-1950
Courtesy of Virgia and William D. Hobson, Jr.

Meanwhile, the school building on Smith Street — previously the Martinsville Training School — had been renamed in 1945 honor of Rev. Albert Harris. A high school program for the city site had been planned before the devastating April fire, but construction was not yet complete. When classes resumed again in September 1948, city students in grades one through eight reported to the Albert Harris Elementary building for only half days. The auditorium was partitioned into classrooms for the displaced high school students, with the cafeteria used for home economics, and shop classes being held in a basement room under the auditorium. A new shop building, contracted before the fire, went into use as classrooms for the older students that winter. An estimated 740 students were attending classes at the city school during the 1948-49 academic year, plus another 200 at the East Martinsville Elementary school.

Later in 1948, city officials awarded a more than \$350,000 construction contract to an Altavista firm for a new elementary school building on the site, which opened the following September



Gregory H. Swanson (left) and Assistant Law Dean Woltz, 1950⁶

“Though Swanson did not complete his studies at the University of Virginia, his struggles were not in vain. His admission marked the beginning of the break down of segregation at the University of Virginia.”⁷ Swanson practiced law in an office at 211 Fayette Street before moving to northern Virginia and taking a position with the Internal Revenue Service in 1961. He died in 1992.

January 7, 1951 – Planters’ Warehouse, site of early June German Balls, on Franklin Street, burns in a spectacular fire near the County Courthouse that claims several buildings uptown in addition to the 66-year-old tobacco warehouse.

1952 – Community Hospital opens on Armstead Avenue, after a prolonged fund raising campaign.

1953 – Ralph W. Ellison wins the American Book Award for *The Invisible Man*.

adjacent to the existing building.¹⁶ Finally, in 1958, the older building was demolished and replaced with a new Albert Harris High School building. A careful observer can follow the construction changes at 718 Smith Road, where a much expanded building now serves both white and black Martinsville elementary students as an intermediate grade school.

County students continued to attend classes in area churches and restaurants during the 1948-49 and 1949-50 school years, until George Washington Carver High School, near Horsepasture, opened in September of 1950.

THE END OF WWII

In August 1945 another war to end all wars was nearing at least its own conclusion. Corporal James H. Jones, son of Mr. and Mrs. Nealos Jones, West Fayette Street, penned a note home from “somewhere in Burma:”

*I have been here for six months, but have not seen any of the boys from Martinsville. I met a boy from Rocky Mount, Pvt. Walter H. Young, and we have become great pals. As soldiers, we can take it out here, because I shall soon be in the dear old state of Virginia to live in peace. Love to all my friends and tell them to write.*¹⁹

The following month the seaman son of Mr. and Mrs. James R. Millner of East Martinsville wrote his mother about witnessing the peace treaty signing in Tokyo Bay:



James Hayes Baldwin, Jr (center) with sons, Dana Olden Baldwin, II (left) and James Hayes Baldwin, III
Courtesy of Marie Baldwin Hairston

I was thinking about this the other day, and I had nobody to share this with from the family...A friend of my uncle's (who played baseball with him and the Martinsville Black Cardinals) came home from the Army after World War II ended. He came on the Greyhound and I recall I was walking up Church Street where Nightingale's Lunch was, which then was Mr. Lightfoot's store — and I know the name, Lee Patterson, and he lived off Massey Street on Endless Street — and as the bus was going by, Lee was at the window waving at the people there. The bus was taking him uptown, or downtown,

and I went home to tell my grandmother and she didn't believe me. I would have been four or five. Finally the information came through the neighborhood and everybody ended up over at Mrs. Patterson's house. She was shouting and then the other women were all around her, and then finally he came home and, oh, she was hugging Lee! It was very interesting and I didn't remember to say, "See, I told you so."

— **Frank S. Clark, III**, now retired in Richmond, studied architecture at Howard University and earned a masters from UC Berkeley.

Upon arrival in the bay we were ordered to drop our hook about one thousand yards off the port bow of the Missouri, the big battlewagon on which the surrender ceremonies actually took place. In this made-to-order position, we had a ringside seat to watch the various ships bringing the Generals and Admirals and high-ranking officials from the different Allied Nations to witness and sign the documents. The climax of the ceremony, when a great fleet of B-29s and carrier planes flew over the Missouri, was indeed a display that made us all proud of our Armed Forces. Imagine, 500 Superforts plus 800 assorted varieties of Navy planes, all sweeping across the sky in one sprawling group! It was a sight that we shall probably never see again...

When General MacArthur left the Missouri after the ceremony, the destroyer, flying his flag passed only couple of hundred yards from us. The General and this Staff officers were out on deck at the time so we had a good long-distance look at him too...By the way, today established an endurance record for our ship so far. This being our 63rd straight day underway, at sea. A long time steaming in any man's language.

— *Your son, James E. Millner*²⁰

Dentist Luther Vickers was selected in October that year to chair the Negro War Finance Committee for Martinsville for the Victory Loan drive, along with committee members Dr. D. O. Baldwin, Rev. R. T. Anderson and Millard B. Dillard. "The colored citizens of Martinsville have been liberal buyers of bonds in previous drives and under the inspiration of Dr. Vickers and his committee are expected to purchase their share of Victory bonds during the final drive."²¹ A rally held at the newly re-named Albert Harris School featured Irving Taylor, president of the Danville Savings Bank and Trust Company, musical selections by J. H. Saunders, an audience participation singing of "America," and additional musical selections by the Henry County Training School chorus. Membership in the Homer Dillard Post No. 78 tripled between 1945 and 1946, going from 30 members to 100, with another doubling expected as veterans began returning from their overseas war assignments.²²



S/Sgt. Amanda Thomas, served in active duty in Des Moines, Iowa, in 1943 and landed in England in February 1945.²³

Courtesy of The Martinsville Bulletin

BUSINESSES

May 24, 1953 – Dr. Baldwin's Gymtorium at 207 Fayette Street is dedicated with an official program. Built for \$50,000 to seat 1,100, Hilard Wooten, of 22 Barton Street, was the general contractor; Geo. W. Mitchells & Sons, of 705 W. Fayette Street handled the plaster and cement work; Mitchell Plumbing Company at the Corner of Spencer and Fayette completed the plumbing; and Martinsville Scrap Iron & Metal Company, formerly at 512 Fayette Street, furnished the steel.

July 1953 – The U.S. and other United Nations representatives reach a cease fire agreement with North Korean supporters, ending three years of military actions on the Korean peninsula, begun in June 1950 when North Korea invaded South Korea by crossing the 38th parallel. This military conflict saw racially integrated service units, following the gradual implementation of President Truman's 1948 order for equal treatment and opportunities for black servicemen.

October 1953 – Dr. G. Sylvester Price, Jr., physician, opens a practice at 21 Barton Street (the office of the late Dr. J. C. Commander) joining his wife Dr. Fern Georges who opened a practice in Martinsville earlier in the year. Dr. J. Worden Yancey, dentist, also opens an office at 35 Spencer Street. Both men are graduates of Howard University and U.S. Army veterans.⁸

In the first months of 1945 Jobbers Plant No. 2 on Adele Street closed, transferring approximately 135 employees and production machinery to Plant No. 1 on Fayette Street. They had been producing coveralls at the Adele Street location, according to plant manager S. Schreiberfeder, but would aid with the production of field trousers for aviators at the new location.²⁴ Perhaps more importantly to all the textile employees along Fayette Street, in 1946, employees of Plant Nos. 1, 3 and 4 became eligible to vote in National Labor Relations Board elections. A NLRB vote on January 23 and a month of negotiations resulted in a December contract between the Jobbers Pants Company branch of Standard Overall Company and the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America that covered all employees. (Previously only workers at Plants No. 1 and 2 had been covered.)

The decision made the union the exclusive bargaining agent in the matters of wages, hours and other working conditions. Minimum wages were set at 45 cents an hour for learners during their first three months, 50 cents an hour during the second three months, and 60 cents an hour was set as the minimum wage standard after six months. Under the no-strike, no-lockout contract the employer also assumed the full cost of life insurance and hospitalization, which had previously been divided between the employee and employer.²⁵

As long as men have been trimming their whiskers, there have been barbers, and as long as women have been looking in mirrors, there has likely been beauticians. Still, the earliest records of where the very first barbershops and beauty parlors were located along Fayette Street have been swept away like so many piles of curls on the floor. What city directories, and the advertising pages of yearbooks, church dedications and fair programs, however, can tell us is that by the 1950s, cutting men's and women's hair attracted a sizeable number of men and women to this entrepreneurial way of making a living. The following proprietors hung their names and their



Hazel Deck Murrell and her husband, bondsman Julius Murrell had adjoining business locations at 212 Fayette Street
Courtesy of Rudy Murrell

My first memory of the June German Ball was probably when I was about 11 or 12 years old. We lived across the street from the Presbyterian Church and that put us just one block from that area. I can remember how during the day when all of these people were coming into town, with big buses and limousines, we knew something was going on. Even at nighttime, we would go with our moms and watch, and buy cotton candy and balloons, and stuff like that from the booths. I never got to go inside and dance until I graduated from high school in 1958.

I think one of the big names that particular night was Little Richard...I can remember seeing Little Richard in the afternoon, upstairs looking out the window of the Silver Slipper, a hotel on top of the China Clipper. Because one of my good friends was running errands for him, they were looking out the window, so we stood there and had a long conversation with Little Richard.

— **Barbara Howard Ingram** was an Albert Harris High School cheerleader, majorette, and girls' basketball player, as well as a member of the choir, the glee club, photography club, Y-Teens and band.



Jobbers No. 4, provided wage and piece-based employment for Martinsville women.

Courtesy of Agnes Mobile Hairston



J. Hayes Baldwin, owner of the Square Deal Grocery, formerly H. M. Hairston's and now site of the abandoned Community Market No. 1 at 531 Fayette Street

Courtesy of Marie Baldwin Hairston



Alberta Wilson, of Armstead Avenue, worked at Jobbers for four decades, and preserved a pair of sample pants like those produced at the Standard Overall companies.

BEAUTY SHOPS

MartyAnn Beauty Shop,	27 Fayette Street
Estelle's Beauty Shoppe,	27 Fayette Street
The Friendly Beauty Shop,	27 Fayette Street
TrendSetters Beauty Academy.....	28 Fayette Street
Triple S Beauty	21 Barton/53 Fayette Street
Triple S Beauty Salon	207 Fayette Street
Grant's Unisex Beauty Salon.....	208 Fayette Street
Murrell's House of Beauty.....	212 Fayette Street
Swanson's Barber & Beauty	215 Fayette Street
Mae's Beauty Shop.....	215, 217, 310 and 315 Fayette Street
Annie Belle's Beauty Shop	313 and 315 Fayette Street
Lottie Flood King	504 Fayette Street
Denise's Hair and Nails	708 Fayette Street
Hair Designs by Priscilla	708 Fayette Street
Elite Beauty Salon.....	unknown location
Irene Ramey	Second Street

Individual women who were associated with the different beauty shops over the years included: Sylvia Becker, Marion Draper, Mae Goins, Beatrice Green, Dorothy Hairston, Juanita Jackson, Jennie Lee Jones, Annie Belle King, Mildred Mitchell, Hazel D. Murrell, Josephine Niblett, Juanita Rudd, Virginia Deck Smart, Ella Elizabeth Smith, and Mary S. Wadell.

BARBER SHOPS

Stockton's Barber Shop & Pool.....	105 and 136 Fayette Street
Cahill's Barber Shop	136 Fayette Street
Mann's Old Fashioned Barber Parlor	136 Fayette Street
Sanitary Barber Shop.....	139 Fayette Street
Fayette Street Barber Shop	139 Fayette Street
Cobb's Bros. Barber Shop.....	139 Fayette Street
Mebane's Barber Shop	207 Fayette Street
Progressive Barber Shop.....	208 Fayette Street
Jake's Barber Shop	209 Fayette Street
Reynold's Barber Shop.....	209 Fayette Street
(Shake) Carter's Barber Shop	209 Fayette Street
K& B Fresh Cuts	209 Fayette Street
Progressive Barber Shop.....	213 Fayette Street
Johnson's New Deal Barber	215 Fayette Street
Swanson's Barber & Beauty	215 Fayette Street
Hagwood Barber Shop	310 Fayette Street
(Sandy) Hairston's Grocery & Barber Shop.....	1016 Fayette Street
Pinnix's Barber Shop.....	1113 Pine Hall Road

Individual names associated with the barbering business included George Rollins, John Cahill, Willie "Bill" Edwards, William H. Hairston, Curtis Hairston, and William T. Mebane, Jr.



Barber John Cahill, at 136 Fayette Street

Courtesy of Mary Cahill



Sanitary Barber on Baldwin's Block

Photo detail, courtesy of Dr. John P. Bing



Straightening combs, c. 1930s

Courtesy of Jean Wilson and Mary Cahill

reputations on signboards up and down the Block and beyond at times between 1940 and the end of the 20th century. (And for several Fayette Street barbers, the scissors are still in action today.)

COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Though a committee had been formed in June 1946 to begin raising money for a community-owned replacement for St. Mary's Hospital, two years later the project was at a near standstill. The early gifts and grants of \$60,000 that had allowed construction to begin had been exhausted, leaving the one-story brick building under roof, but only partial flooring in place when work stopped. The new hospital was planned in lieu of a wing of 20 beds for African Americans at Martinsville General Hospital, and originally estimated to cost \$100,000.²⁷ Dr. Baldwin noted that while Community Hospital would be listed as a 30-bed hospital, it could accommodate 40 patients in an emergency.²⁸ Reports in September 1948 indicated that remodeling the now 20-year-old spaces at St. Mary's to bring the facility in line with current state inspection guidelines would cost more than completing the new hospital building. Thus a renewed campaign to find an additional \$60,000 was launched under the direction of William T. Alexander.²⁹

Early in November 1948, the State Health Department declared that St. Mary's Hospital would be closed at mid-month if cash was not on hand to complete the half-finished Community Hospital. Knowing such a move would leave the city without hospital beds for its black citizens, the Junior Chamber of Commerce stepped in to aid in the fund raising, "the first time any civic club in the city has taken the initiative in the movement." The original \$60,000 in gifts had come from Martinsville General Hospital, Bassett Furniture Industries, the Charity League and other firms and families in the area.³⁰ Dr. J. C. Commander, by now was heading the hospital staff at St. Mary's.

A day before the state's supposed deadline the *Bulletin* ran a feature story and 11 pictures depicting both the uncompleted Community Hospital and new equipment left to rust in the half-finished building shell, as well as describing a tour of St. Mary's worn-out and inadequate 13-bed facilities. At the end of the month, \$48,000 was still needed, despite scrap iron collections from area Boy Scout troops, a \$1,000 donation from the Patrick



Even though patient charges at St. Mary's in its early years typically ran \$20 for a week's stay, maternity cases could stay for up to two weeks for \$35.²⁶ Here, Annie (Pauline) Milner and baby Paula McDaniel are assisted by the baby's aunt Marie B. Milner, the attending nurse at St. Mary's. The date is December 1, 1949.

Courtesy of Bev Milner



Dentist M.O. Johnson (left) assists Dr. J.C. Commander (right) with school bus accident victim Lucy Watkins at St. Mary's Hospital.³¹ 1950

Courtesy of The Martinsville Bulletin

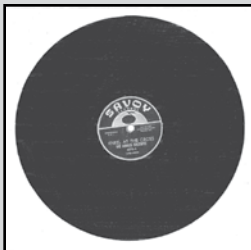
**SPECIAL
NOTICE!**

Clinic at Baldwin's
Hospital Friday and
Saturday, Nov. 30th
and December 1st. Nine
a. m. until twelve noon.
For school children.
Tonsils removed for fee
of \$5.00

From The Martinsville Bulletin, 1934³³

1954 – The U.S. Supreme Court unanimously declares in *Brown vs. the Board of Education* that separate educational facilities are inherently unequal and violate the 14th Amendment that guarantees all citizens “equal protection of the laws.”

1956 – Savoy Records, Newark, New Jersey, releases #4078 in their Gospel series, “Rescue Me Lord” and “Kneel at the Cross,” recorded by the Morris Brothers, Leander, James, Alton, and Jerome.



Courtesy of Alton and Jerome Morris

November 1957 – High Street Baptist Church burns, forcing its congregation to hold services in the Gymnasium.

1958 – The new Albert Harris High School building opens on Smith Street. Its basketball team wins Runner-up Group II District IV status.

1959 – Imperial Savings and Loan moves to 33 Spencer Street.



When Community Hospital opened in 1952, employees of Globman’s department store (first row, Al Morris, Mary Earles and Dan Greene) presented the new hospital’s Board of Directors with sheets and pillowcases. From left to right they are: Rev. Hezekiah Morris from High St. Baptist Church, insurance broker Ed Jones, lawyer William Alexander, hospital administrator Rudolph Hairston; and Elmer Turner, principal of Albert Harris High School.³²
Courtesy of The Martinsville Bulletin



THE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL, INC., STAFF AND PERSONNEL

Dr. H. P. Williams	Staff Physician	Miss F. A. King	Secretary	Mrs. Dorothy James ...	Nurses' Aid
Dr. J. C. Commander	Staff Physician	Miss Annie Clarke	R. N.	Mrs. Lottie Smith	Cook
Dr. Ferne M. Georges	Staff Physician	Miss Roberta Wade	R. N.	Mrs. Marie Dillard	Cook
Mr. W. W. Walston	Administrator	Mrs. Thelma Davis	R. N.	Mrs. Charley Mitchell	Cook
Mrs. Ruth Elaine Parker	Supt. of Nurses	Mrs. Katherine Scott	P. N.	Mrs. Odessa Clark ...	Housekeeper
Mrs. Doris Brown	Operating Room Supervisor	Miss Evangeline Johnson	P. N.	Mr. Fred Giles, Jr. ...	Janitor
Mr. Herman Butler, Jr. ...	Medical Technologist	Mrs. Helen Johnson ...	Nurse's Aid	Mr. Willie C. Mitchell	Janitor

Courtesy of Dr. John P. Bing³⁵



Dr. Dana O. Baldwin was instrumental in influencing black men and women from the area to enter the health care field. Among those were Lucy Ann Dillard, daughter of Samuel and Sallie Hairston Dillard, the first black nurse from Henry County, who attended nursing school at St. Augustine’s College in Raleigh. He also sent his much younger brother, Sam Baldwin, to Meharry Medical School in Nashville, Tennessee to earn his pharmaceutical degree.³⁶
Courtesy of Doris Cole

Henry Knights of Pythias and additional corporate donations.³⁴ St. Mary's was given extensions to remain open until the new facility on Armstead Avenue could be finished, but the campaign did not reach its fund raising goal until April 1950, when a construction bid to complete the hospital on Armstead Avenue was awarded to DeShazo Lumber Company.

Rising building costs, however, made it necessary to pursue even more fund-raising. This time, a goal of \$250,000 was set by a Joint Hospitals campaign committee trying to both retire debts at the new \$1.25 million Martinsville General Hospital and complete work on Community Hospital. Large donations from area factories finally topped that goal in July 1951, and Community Hospital opened its doors the following March.

Louisiana natives Viola LaFord Beard and her sister Leora LaFord Dandridge were both nurses in Martinsville for Drs. Baldwin, Matthews and Williams. Their niece Shirley Levi Palmer remembers watching the crowds at the June German Ball from windows in Dr. Matthews' office near the Baldwin Block.³⁷

Imperial Savings and Loan gained a store-front location in 1959 when it moved to a formal office at 33 Spencer Street. The locally managed financial institution converted from a stock corporation to a mutual organization in September 1961. Insurance and real estate agent William B. Muse, Jr. managed the office for several years while Dr. Harry P. Williams served as president after W.C. Spencer's retirement.



Dr. Cornelius Matthews, Hampton Institute and Howard University graduate; U.S. Air Force captain; on staff at Community and Memorial Hospitals; Sunday School teacher, member: of Chapter 49 Ranch Masons, Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity, the Men's Round Table Club, Ku-Wat Shriners and Kung Cyrus Grand Chapter No. 24; husband to Adelaide Matthews, father and grandfather.
Courtesy of the Martinsville Bulletin



Inside the Baldwin Drug Store at 141 Fayette Street
Courtesy Dr. John P. Bing



Dr. Harry P. Williams performing a circumcision.
Courtesy of Evangeline Hagwood



Nurse Viola Beard
Courtesy of Evangeline Hagwood

While some, like Frank Clark, III, remembered Sam Cooper's cafe for his fried fish, Melvina Stone King recalled walking past Cousin's Brothers on the way back from school. "Cousin's Brothers' was actually a lawn mower shop that served hot dogs. They had the best hot dogs you could eat."³⁸

CAFES AND RESTAURANTS

Beulah's Grill.....	18-20 Fayette Street
Robert's Grill	18 Fayette Street
Cozy Corner.....	30 Fayette Street
Lee's Confectionary.....	53 Fayette Street
Thorton's Bakery.....	67 Fayette Street
Stone's Drive In Restaurant.....	108 Fayette Street
Fayette Street Cafe.....	132 Fayette Street
Stone's Snack Bar confection.....	132 Fayette Street
Douglas Cafe.....	137 Fayette Street
Sarah Hunt's Cafe.....	Fayette Street
One Thirty Seven Cafe.....	137 Fayette Street
Alice Wallace, beverages.....	138 Fayette Street
Edna's Grill.....	138 Fayette Street
Baldwin Pharmacy.....	141 Fayette Street
Green Dragon.....	141 Fayette Street
China Clipper Rest.....	201 Fayette Street
Fayette Street Luncheonette.....	207 Fayette Street
Mann's Cafe & Boarding Hse.....	212 Fayette Street
Dreamland Inn.....	527 Fayette Street
The 400.....	529 Fayette Street
Colonial Rest.....	708 Fayette Street
Red & Bunch's Cafe.....	708 Fayette Street
E&M Restaraunt.....	708 Fayette Street
The Wagon Wheel.....	714 Fayette Street
Walkers' Drugs, John H. Walker.....	714 Fayette Street
Gibson's Drive In.....	714 Fayette Street
Paradise Inn.....	802 Fayette Street
Smith's Pastry Shop.....	1000 Fayette Street
Randy's Restaurant.....	1016 Fayette Street
Stultz Cafe.....	Fayette Street
Eatwell Cafe.....	6 1/2 Massey Street
Nightingale Lunch.....	601 West Church Street
Dew Drop Inn.....	1016 Fayette Street

THE NEW

NIGHTINGALE LUNCH

Light Lunch — Groceries — Confectionaries

601 W. CHURCH — MErcury 2-3008

Martinsville, Virginia

Courtesy of High Street Baptist Church



Ervin Hairston, first African American mailman
Photo courtesy of Marie Baldwin Hairston



The Ku-Wat Temple #126 meet monthly at 714 Fayette Street
Courtesy of Franklin Agnew



J. Hayes and Arthurma Baldwin
Courtesy of Marie Baldwin Hairston

SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS

Just as forced segregation created separate worlds for blacks and whites in schools and hospitals, parallel organizations existed among the fraternal lodges, sororities, in boy and girl scout troops and at youth summer camps “Black families became increasingly conscious of their role in preserving community values,” noted Sarah H. Hughes and Tommy Bogger, reflecting on African American society in Virginia, adding that after 1950 membership in collegiate fraternities and sororities and other social organizations helped define middle-class status the way home ownership, education, and “exacting standards of personal behavior” had done in the first half of the century.³⁹ During the 1940s, ‘50s and ‘60s, the “Colored News” and social columns of the *Bulletin* provided a steady stream of names, and dates and gatherings that indicate not only how very much people need to socialize with each other, but also how much can be done for the greater community when they do.

For example, in the fall of 1945 the Men’s Round Table Club sponsored the Colored Day Nursery, which received an additional \$300 from the Community Fund campaign. Open 51 weeks a year with a budget of approximately \$1,200, the nursery “is maintained so that mothers may be free for employment throughout the city.”⁴⁰ The Masons formed in the 1950s and met in the Knights of Pythias building on Fayette Street, next door to Hairston Funeral Home, and in addition to their own social events, like an annual Christmas banquet, were a fund raising arm for community needs and scholarships.⁴¹ Members of the Ku Wat Temple have been meeting on Fayette Street since 1969, with a primary mission of aiding widows and children. Shiner’s events are held on the ground floor and Sons of Solomon Chapter No. 111 business held upstairs. The Ku Wat Masons began in Danville in 1935.⁴²

Members of the Scout Committee met at the Gordon Building, Wednesday September 19, 1945, at 8 p.m. with commissioner R. T. Anderson presiding. Scout Executive Thomas

1960 – On Feb. 1, 1960 four black freshmen at North Carolina A&T State University initiated a non-violent protest of the segregated service at the lunch counter of F. W. Woolworth's in Greensboro, N.C. Refused service, they sat peacefully until the store closed, returning with others the next day. Sit-ins across much of the South were inspired by the Greensboro Four. In July, Woolworth's integrated all of its stores.

July 21, 1961 – Vol. 1 Number 1 of the *Martinsville Tribune* is published out of Dr. Baldwin's office at 141 Fayette Street for 10-cents a copy, or \$3 for a year's subscription. Julia Burnett is listed as assisting with the news and Mary Hairston with advertising. The plan is to deliver copies by mail to residential addresses each Friday. The first issue contains a feature on Dr. Baldwin, the Jobbers Pants Company, and a photo of the interior of the Baldwin Drug Store.

1963 – The Sportsman's Club is founded.



47 Fayette Street

September 15, 1963 – The Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, a black church in Birmingham, Alabama, is bombed killing four young girls and injuring two dozen others.

Manko spoke and the following gave reports: Scoutmaster Floyd Fontaine, Professor S. S. Trott Scoutmaster Richard Breedlove, Scoutmaster George A. Martin, Profs. C. B. Jeter, T. A. Randolph, J. E. Turner, Dr. M. M. Gordon, and Ballard Preston.³¹ The next week Installation services were held at the A.M.E. Mt. Zion church for the "Cubbs," a program directed by Cubmaster J. Elmer Turner.

In 1946, a large tract of land north of Martinsville in the Turkeycock Mountains (the old Giles estate) was acquired by the Roanoke Area Council to serve Negro scouts during summer camps, week-end camps, winter camping and leadership courses.⁴⁴

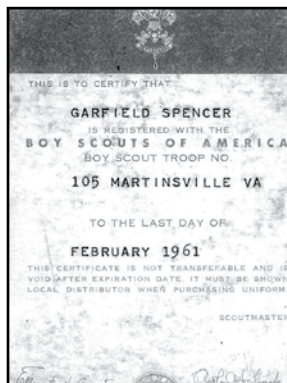
ENTERTAINMENT

The fifties was the era when White people, God bless 'em, tried more than ever to play the blues like the Black performers did, without ever having the faintest notion of where that type

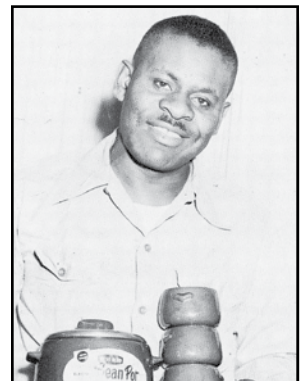


Chi Rho Camp

Courtesy of Frank S. Clark, III



Courtesy of Eugene Spencer



Fieldale Scoutleader William Wright
Courtesy Meadowview AME and Shiloh Baptist Churches

In the first five years or six years of my life, I didn't know being different, but later we encountered many instances of prejudice. See, you could be uptown paying a bill, you could be in line, and a white person would come behind you, and [the clerk would] stop waiting on you and say "Can I help you?" Reach over top of you, and take care of them. But you learn to live through it. Over the period of time, life has been great. I've learned a lot, suffered a lot that I shouldn't have, but I still don't have complaints with any of it.

I think the biggest time we knew any difference was

when we were going to school. You know, the white kids would ride the bus and we had to walk. They'd throw bottles and cans and anything out the window at you and that built up a lot of animosity... You learned to know the bus was coming, so you'd get away from the highway, just a gravel road. We would step off. Some of them would throw rocks, and we'd throw them right back.

— **Franklin Agnew**, a 1956 George Washington Carver high school alumnus, recently led the initiative placing the Rock Run School on the Virginia Landmarks Register.



Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia Free and Accepted Masons, Sons of Solomon Lodge #111, c. 1950-51 Seated, from left: Levi Hairston, Wm. Cody Spencer, Sherman Carter, and Henry Smith; second row, Lawrence Mitchell, David Geter, J. D. Hairston and Cremote Marshall; third row, Luther Fontaine, James Pritchett and Thomas T. Hodge, Sr.
Courtesy of Thomas T. Hodge, Sr.



Clockwise, from back row, Iris Preston Smith, Wm. Cody Spencer, Fannie Mae Geter, Virginia Hairston, Leaner Pritchett and Annie Mae Dickerson.
Courtesy of Gloria Hodge Hylton.



Kappa Alpha Psi Martinsville chapter members in 1970s.⁴⁶
Courtesy of Adelaide Matthews.



The Martinsville Gibraltar Masonic Lodge. Photographed in Roanoke.⁴⁵
Courtesy of Eugene Spencer, Jr.

August 28, 1963 – The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. delivers his “I Have a Dream” speech during the March on Washington, attended by 250,000 people.

November 22, 1963 – John F. Kennedy, the 35th President of the United States was assassinated in Dallas, Texas.

1964 – Public schools in Prince Edward County, Virginia, reopen five years after county officials shut them to all students to protest integration laws.

1964 – President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act, prohibiting discrimination in public facilities and federally funded programs, as well as establishing the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

March 1965 – State troopers attack peaceful marchers crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, en route to the state capitol in Montgomery, convincing President Lyndon Johnson and Congress work harder to overcome Southern legislators’ resistance to effective voting rights legislation.⁹

August 1965 – The Voting Rights Act of 1965 outlaws all poll taxes, literacy tests and other devices used to prevent African Americans from registering to vote. Section 4 ended the use of literacy requirements for voting in six Southern states, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Virginia. The law strengthens the

of music came from, or why, or how, and, of course, by who. Most of them played it on the upbeat, which Alan Freed, the first great radio disc jockey for teens, then called rock and roll. Now every Black man who ever lived knows that traditional blues starts on the downbeat. —
*James Brown.*⁴⁷

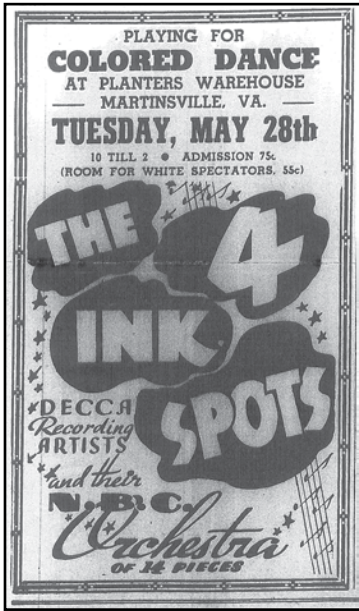
By the 1950s, the jukeboxes — or piccolos — at the Paradise Inn, Nightingale’s Lunch and the Baldwin Drug Store played a steady menu of doo-wop and early rock ‘n roll, Fats Domino and Chuck Berry, all anticipating the summer arrival of the June German Ball. The big bands of Cab Calloway and Jimmie Lunceford who opened the original June German Balls gave way to the soulful sounds of Ella Fitzgerald and Count Basie’s jazz. They were eventually upstaged by the Inkspots, Motown, and by the 1960s — in keeping with the times — the louder, more urgent sounds of Little Richard and James Brown.

For those who remember packing the sidewalks of Fayette Street on a hot summer’s night, or pushing into the new Baldwin Gymtorium (in his Air Force uniform as Bev Millner recalled doing in 1952 or ‘53, the one time he attended a June German Ball) matching the singers to their hits is easier to do than remembering what summer belonged to which musician. A steady string of singers made their way to Martinsville and Fayette Street, often on their way to the top of the charts as they made the rounds of Southern cities on what was sometimes called the “Chitlin’ Circuit” until they achieved enough notoriety and acclaim to be invited to the Apollo in Harlem or signed by a major record label.

But dance music wasn’t the only sound emanating from Fayette Street during this era. High Street Baptist, as the



Leander, James, Alton and Jerome Morris recorded sang live on radio WHEE during the late 1950s.
Courtesy of Alton and Rev. Jerome Morris



From the Martinsville Bulletin, May 23, 1940



Above: Irma Dillard posed for pictures at the June German Ball with Tom Wray and Joe Louis Hairston.

Courtesy of Tommy Tinsley



Above: Planters Warehouse on Franklin Street was a popular venue for big dances, including some early June German Balls.

Courtesy of Historic Views



Above: Fred and Elizabeth Dillard owned and operated the Paradise Inn at 802 Fayette Street until the mid-1990s.

Photo by J. Siler



Right: Jerry and Sam Baldwin

Courtesy of Marie Baldwin Hairston

largest church in the black community, had a congregation close to 600 members and multiple choirs. In addition to singing in the various church choirs, four of Rev. Hezekiah Morris' and his wife Amanda's seven children (six sons and a daughter) formed a gospel quartet. "Singing was a family thing. When we were young we would all gather around the piano and my mom would play and we would sing. So later on, we just got together as a group and called ourselves the Morris Brothers," recalled the Rev. Jerome B. Morris, who not only became a preacher like his

24th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, ratified a year earlier.

1965 – Thomas Green Shelton becomes the first black-owned garage to provide state automobile inspections at Shelton's Auto Repair at 728 Fayette Street, in business through 1996.¹⁰



728 Fayette Street
Courtesy of Danny Shelton

GAS & SERVICE STATIONS:

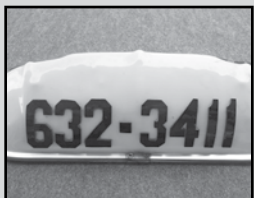
Shelton's Auto Repair
728 Fayette Street,
Thomas Green Shelton

Martinsville Sunoco
Benjamin and William Hairston

Fayette St. Esso
104 Fayette Street,
W.S. Turner and W. D. Hobson

Adam's Garage
on Fayette Street © the 1930s

Sinclair Station
308 West Church Street,
Darnell Hodge



Courtesy of Floyd Gravely

father, but ministers at Danville's High Street Baptist Church.⁴⁸

Alton Morris, today a resident of Maryland, also noted that it wasn't just the brothers who sang — "Our sister Vivian is quite a singer herself" — and that the large Morris family reunions are sure to feature all varieties of music, both at summer gatherings and at Christmas when the extended family returns to Martinsville. Both men remembered all the Fayette Street area children who would come to the Morris house to take music lessons from their mother, a trained musician from Lynchburg. "She taught five of us to play piano, too," he said. "There was always music in our house."

Mrs. Morris, however, did not support her sons' interest in gospel music, preferring that they played classical pieces. Nevertheless, Alton's interest in gospel intensified while listening to the many gospel groups playing in Baltimore, when he was stationed near there as a serviceman in 1952, and he soon pulled his brothers together to work out a tour. During their travels, the Morris brothers stopped in at Savoy Records in New Jersey and were invited to record some songs in the studio. "Rescue Me Lord" (an original by Alton) and the traditional "Kneel at the Cross," were released to radio stations across the country in 1956.⁴⁹

Of all the common memories shared by adults who still remember "the Block" as it used to be, the memories perhaps most often accompanied by a broad grin or a wistful smile are those which recall happy afternoons and evenings at the Rex Theater. With new movies opening three times a week and admittance tickets starting at a modest 10-cents for a matinee or 20-cents for the evening show, movie going was a regular habit along Fayette Street for children and adults alike. Popcorn and a soda, whether shared or hoarded alone, still came out of a quarter for most of the years that the Rex was open.



The Rev. Hezekiah Morris' singing sons
Courtesy of Alton and Rev. Jerome Morris

The Rex was more like a home, like a playground to us. That's where everybody would meet on Sundays. After church. Sometimes we would go in the movie at one o'clock and wouldn't come out there until eleven o'clock at night, watching the same movie over and over. Movies changed twice a week. I remember they used to have some little coconut suckers, in different colors. I haven't seen those in years. As an employee, I used to have to clean up the theater on Saturday night and Sunday night, you know, get up all the

popcorn, soda, cups and stuff like that. The auditorium had so many things: certain parts of the week, it was a theater and then it became a skating rink. Then it'd become the bowling alley. Then, like on Saturdays they would take everything out and they'd have dances on Friday and Saturday. The movie theater chairs were just seats, just an ordinary little chair that you'd bring in and then you'd just take them out.

— **Tommy Tinsley** graduated in 1968 with the last segregated high school classes in Martinsville.



The West End Theater at 1002 Fayette Street (right) is now home to church worshippers, while 1004 (left) is home to the Gibraltar Lodge No. 1.

Photo by J. Siler



The Ku-Wat Grenandier Club and Sons of Solomon Masonic Lodge meet in the former Wagon Wheel restaurant, at 714 Fayette Street, also once Walker's Drug Store and a temporary home economics classroom.

Photo by J. Siler

June 5, 1949 – *The Martinsville Bulletin*

early 1960s – Sale Knitting Company takes over the Standard Garment operations at Jobbers Plant No. 1, at 123 Fayette Street, but declares bankruptcy in 1999, followed by the demolition of the old tobacco building.

mid 1960s – The last of the June German Balls may have taken place in 1965 or 1966. Tommy Tinsley of Armstead Avenue recalled that two concerts were held that year — one at Stone’s Auditorium in the 100 block of Fayette Street and one at the Gymtorium, possibly with Sam and Dave as one set of performers.¹¹ Other Martinsville residents have suggested that Otis Redding may have been the last big name musician to play along Fayette Street during a June German Ball.

MUSICIANS NAMED BY RESIDENTS as remembered performers in concerts or June German Balls staged along Fayette Street:

Sweethearts of Rhythm
Duke Ellington
Blanche Calloway
Earl Hines
Count Basie
Chick Webb
Percy Sledge
Joe Tex
Ella Fitzgerald
Ike & Tina Turner
Chuck Berry
Little Richard
Peaches and Herb
Fats Domino
Otis Redding

1966 – The Du Pont nylon plant undergoes a \$25 million expansion, raising employment numbers to 4,000 and raising the local payroll totals to more than \$22 million.

Sabina Carter remembered how she and her friends couldn’t meet at the Rex on Sunday afternoon if you didn’t go to church in the morning.

When owners L. A. Thomas and R. P. Thomas prepared to open the West End Theater in 1949 at 1002 West Fayette Street, they offered to pay part of the expense of putting in a sewer line on the street that would run from First Street west toward Pine Hall Road.⁵⁰ A year earlier, in April 1948, full-page ads in the Bulletin announced the grand opening of Martinsville’s Drive-In Theater with space available for 333 cars. Admission was 50 cents, free for children under 12, and for white patrons only.⁵¹ That policy eventually changed and white and black residents participated in that unique American movie-going tradition before the area’s five drive-in movie lots closed.

SPORTS



The Elks’ Stars, 1960s
Courtesy of Henry B. Ingram

We played baseball and tennis. We played on the wide open field at the school, where that trucking terminal [was.] We’d make our own rackets out of little boards, little piece of plywood board. Just like the ball. We would make our little balls out of some socks and things and roll them up and take string and tie them real tight. Now, the bats, we would make them. The bases, we’d just put down some little tins, 1st base, 2nd base, and 3rd base. We’d just space them off ourselves and put them there.

— J. B. Travis

1965–2005: FROM CIVIL RIGHTS TO CURRENT EVENTS

“By the time the four black students [in Greensboro, N.C.] launched the sit-in movement, the stage was already set for the beginning of the most profound, revolutionary changes in the status of black Americans that had occurred since emancipation.”

— John Hope Franklin and Alfred A. Moss, Jr., *From Slavery to Freedom*, 1994



Howard Hairston was one of Martinsville’s first black police officers.

Courtesy of Gloria Hodge Hylton.

In his 1979 preface to the Fifth Edition of *From Slavery to Freedom* — an authoritative and sweeping history of African Americans from their civilizations of Africa to the present day — John Hope Franklin cautions historians about the difficulty of evaluating recent events because of the lack of “adequate perspective” as well as the “dangers of distortion or exaggeration.”¹ His concerns are as true today. The Civil Rights Movement may have had roots in a North Carolina city less than an hour’s drive from Martinsville and in a decade almost 50 years in the past, but the significant social and legal transformations wrought during those years did not occur at the same pace in all places. Movements, by definition, travel, covering time and space. That the Fayette Area Historical Initiative, in 2006, is working to fill in the stories missing from long-omitted chapters of local history testifies that the movement to rectify injustices and inequalities is still underway. These stories in coming years will lend, and lead to, a wider contemplation on this important time period than is attempted here. Still, while it may be too soon to pass final judgment on the

era of civil rights as it occurred along Fayette Street, it is not in error to say that the sons and daughters as well as the grandchildren of the founders of the Men’s Round Table Club, the African American lodges and the first NAACP chapter, as well as descendants of the ministers and teachers who guided the community’s young people during the integration of the area’s public schools in the late 1960s, have a desire to make sure the work of their parents continues.

CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

While civil rights leaders in Danville organized protests that led to racially motivated street riots, beatings and front-page news in 1963, Martinsville and Henry County, for multiple reasons, did not experience the same kind of overt violence during the turbulent sixties. Though many in Martinsville may remember James Brown’s arrival as an occasion for dancing, the soul singer remembers the decade also as a time when “turmoil marched alongside progress through the



April 6, 1957 front-page ad in the Virginia edition of the Norfolk Journal and Guide

the mid-1960s – The Patrick Henry Mall opens off Church Street.

1967 – Thurgood Marshall becomes the first African American named to the U.S. Supreme Court.



The names of M. Walker, and Sol Speights have both appeared in historical accounts as managers of the Green Dragon, the basement level club under the Baldwin Pharmacy.

Photo detail; courtesy of Dr. John P. Bing

April 1968 – Civil rights leader Rev. Martin Luther King is assassinated on a hotel balcony in Memphis, Tennessee, where he had hoped to lead a march of sanitation workers protesting against low wages and poor working conditions. The 39-year-old advocate of non-violence was shot four years after he had earned the Nobel Peace Prize and more than a decade after he joined the crusade for equal rights for blacks. His death sparks a week of rioting in cities across America.

September 3, 1968 – Albert Harris High School becomes an elementary school. The city's public high school students begin attending Martinsville High School on Commonwealth Boulevard in September.

dark days, with the murders of Emmett Till, Medgar Evers, and JFK himself.”³ In a recent retrospective, Rev. William A. Shackelford noted how the black and white clergy united during the 1950s and '60s to form the Ministerial Association of Martinsville and Henry County, which, together with “courageous members of the church community...worked together in order to prevent the more forceful elements ...from destroying our local community.”

His published commentary heralded Reverends Hezekiah Morris, Ezell Hampton, T. L. Smith, J. E. Wade, Jessie Ben Hairston, and T. B. Marsh, along with Bishops H. C. Eggleston and Robert Hairston among those who participated from the African American community. Rev. Shackelford, the then and current pastor of High Street Baptist Church, cited Dr. Chevis Home, Reverend Hales and other leaders from the white Presbyterian churches, the Christian Disciples of Christ churches, and the Henry County Baptist Association for their combined efforts during a changing time, adding that white pastors “jeopardized their job security and the welfare of their families in order to do what they felt was right before God and for the community.”⁴ Brenda Ephriam and Shirley A. Harris, daughters of Bishop Joseph Adams, recalled picketing local businesses in the early '60s to press for the desegregation of eating places and more open hiring practices for blacks. “The protest made a difference. As a result we both got jobs in places we couldn't work before,” said Mrs. Harris.⁵ Floretta Hairston Cahill remembered how several dozen high-school aged students organized for the local protests after school each evening at Grace Presbyterian Church to sign in and out. Church members or Edna's Grill sometimes provided the civil rights walkers with meals, the NAACP offered to replace worn-out shoes, and William Muse took care of the legal aspects of their marches.⁶



Rev. Hezekiah Morris
Courtesy High Street Baptist Church



Educator Lula Johnson
Courtesy Karol Johnson

My father was one of the first black supervisors hired at the DuPont plant here...He was sort of tapped for that position and stepped forward. This was back in the early '60s. And the reason I say that is that I think he probably learned a lot of lessons then that maybe have been sort of passed on. Because I respect and admire him for taking on a tough position. One, becoming a supervisor you alienate yourself — oftentimes you can alienate yourself from your

friends — and then, some of the things he had to go through in that position just simply because he was black, including not only being called out of his name, but people just essentially refusing to work with him and quitting their jobs altogether. I think over the years he sort of passed along some of those experiences, not only professionally, but personally, as far as dealing with people.

— **Kimble Reynolds, Jr.**, is a practicing attorney as well as a Martinsville City Councilor and Vice Mayor.²

Bill Vickers, was born at 1001 Fayette Street in 1940 on the corner of Fayette and Third Streets, the youngest son of Luther and Letha Vickers, a dentist and a schoolteacher. He also recalled the quieter but equally determined civil rights actions employed by his father and other black community leaders in the years well before the movement became a revolution. His father was active in voter registration drives and efforts to equalize teacher salaries between the white and black segregated schools, once bringing Oliver Hill, the famed Richmond civil rights attorney, with him to speak with a local school official who had barred Dr. Vickers access to the public record books. The dentist's son, who himself returned home after college to become a teacher and administrator in the city schools, remembered the efforts of Albert Harris English teacher Lula Johnson, the wife of another black dentist, who gave up her planning periods to teach high school students like himself the extra writing skills they would need to succeed in college, demonstrating a different kind of resistance effort to the educational inequalities she saw in her city.

Kimble Reynolds, Jr., a 1984 graduate of Laurel Park High School in Henry County, came of age during the aftermath of the 1960s.

"I don't get the impression that there was a real strong upheaval or wave or surge of people exercising their civil rights, sit-ins and certainly nothing like what we saw down in Greensboro. We had some things going on around us, and Martinsville was in the wake of all that," he recalled. Nevertheless unpleasant events that he experienced as a teen prompted the attorney to found the Diversity and Conflict Resolution Program in the late 1990s. "I'm just trying to make it so that perhaps some other people didn't go through what I had to go through," he said of his desire to create an organization that would pull groups of area high school students of varied ethnicities together for field trips and frank discussions about diversity and difference.

Joseph W. Pritchett, Sr., born in 1908, was a charter member of the Voters League and president of that group for many years. In 1989, he recalled for a reporter how the League hired Marionette Wiggins fulltime to call black residents urging them to register.⁷ His civic efforts were recognized throughout his life, but especially honored during his funeral service in 1990 when Rev. Thurman Echols spoke on behalf of the NAACP, W. W. Edwards paid the tribute of the Voters League, and Pritchett was remembered by state Senator Virgil Goode.



A 33rd degree Mason with the St. John Masonic Lodge and retired from the construction business, Joseph W. Pritchett, Sr. received a Distinguished Citizen of the Year award posthumously in 1990 from the Men's Round Table Club.
Courtesy FAH archives

CHURCHES



Courtesy of the Martinsville Bulletin

1968 – The Carlisle School opened in Henry County with 80 students in grades one through seven.¹

1969 – Patrick Henry College opens first building at campus site north of the city, moving from classes first held in 1962 at the North Martinsville Elementary School. It became Patrick Henry Community College in 1971.

1969 – Ku Wat Club begins meeting at 714 Fayette Street

1969 – Lawrence Douglas Wilder, a Richmond native and grandson of slaves, wins a seat in the Virginia Senate, the first black man to do so since Reconstruction. He is elected lieutenant governor in 1985, and in January 1990 makes history when he is inaugurated as Virginia's and the United State's first African American governor.



*William D. Hobson, Virginia B. Hobson and former Gov. Doug Wilder
Courtesy of Hobson family*

Just as the churches of Fayette Street were among the first to establish strong community ties in the late 1880s under the leadership of pioneering ministers, the contributions of both churches and church leaders are still providing important foundations for community building today. The Rev. Tyler C. Millner of Morning Star Holy Church in Henry County reflected in 1998 how “The gifts pastors and churches have given to the communities of Henry County and Martinsville have contributed to the quality of life, to ethical standards and personal growth of many citizens.” He thanked his peers in the clergy for their gifts of leadership and public witness, outreach and in-reach efforts, volunteerism and the weekly nurturing they had provided the community via the hospitals, correctional facilities, weekly news columns, Thanksgiving food offerings, and through youth enrichment and recreation programs. He urged residents to recognize the contribution churches and their pastors make in contributing leaders for elective office and public service positions, and in speaking out for interfaith, interracial, and community development issues, all of which provide significant economic support to the larger jurisdictions.⁸

Building code changes requiring the use of steel beams in public construction necessitated construction of a new building for the worshippers at Fayette Street Christian Church at 431 Fayette Street. A groundbreaking under the leadership of Reverend Joseph L. Galloway was held Sunday, June 10, 1973, on church-owned property on the opposite side of the street, and a new brick building completed the following year. On Sunday, June 9, 1974, “the congregation formed a processional and marched from the old church building to the new building,” according to published church accounts, which note that several other community churches participated in the



Fayette Street Christian Church members rebuilt across the street in 1974.
Courtesy of Marvin Hobson.



Fayette Street Christian Church, 2005
 Photo by J. Siler



Fayette Street Christian Church, Wednesday
 night choir practice, 2005
 Photo by J. Siler



Left: Mt. Carmel
 Holiness on
 Fayette Street
 Courtesy of Mt. Carmel



Right: Rev. William A.
 Shackelford at High
 Street Baptist Church
 Courtesy of The
 Martinsville Bulletin

celebratory service, including Calvary Christian Church on Mulberry Street, whose choir provided the music that day. The new address of the church became 420 Fayette Street.

In 1979, yet another service of celebration was held as Fayette Street Christian Church members gave thanks to celebrate the completion of the mortgage payments on the new building. Ten years after that, they honored its centennial year on Fayette Street with multiple activities, including the burial of a time capsule on December 31. Reverend Galloway was retired, but minister William J. Barber delivered the message and announced that the capsule would be opened on Founder Day's in 2039.⁹

Grace Presbyterian, Fayette Street Christian, Mt. Zion A.M.E., St. Paul High Street Baptist and Mount Carmel churches all reached their 100-year milestones in recent years.

Grace United Presbyterian ("United" was added to the church name about 1989), members held a special evening service on November 17, 1982, giving thanks "in reverent memory of all those who by their service and sacrifice down through the years have bequeathed to us this valuable church property."¹⁰ Mount Carmel saw renovations during the 1960s under the leadership of Bishop Lawrence Moyer that included the addition of exterior brick. The next decades brought central air conditioning, under Rev. James Davis' watch. Continued building improvements were made in the 1980s under Elder Bobby Agnew; and in 1998, under Elder Vincent Harris, additional properties purchased, including a rental property on Jackson Street.¹¹

High Street Baptist Church produced a large-format published anniversary program earlier than their centennial year, however, for in 1971 the church and community at large commemorated the retirement of Reverend Hezekiah Morris, who stepped down from the pulpit to become

1970 – Martinsville is designated an “All American City.” Memorial Hospital opens, replacing Martinsville General Hospital and Community Hospital.

1974 – Clyde Williams, Sr. is named principal of Martinsville High School, more than 25 years after first becoming involved with African American boys’ and girls’ education in Martinsville.

1970s – The remaining buildings of the original Baldwin Block come down, as the city of Martinsville purchases the property as part of urban renewal efforts.

1971 – Willie Martin receives a bachelor of science degree from Johnson C. Smith University but is also drafted by the Atlanta Falcons. He continued his education with a master’s degree from the University of Virginia in 1975, worked as a principal and football coach at Laurel Park High School and spent two years as an operations manager with American Furniture Company in Martinsville before being hired by DuPont in 1981.

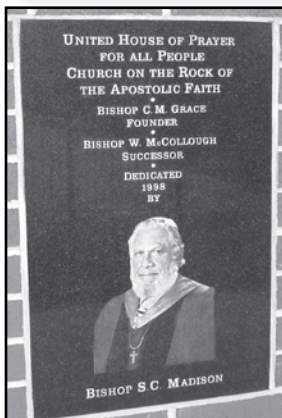
mid 1970s – Baldwin’s Gymtorium is torn down, part of the plans to create the new Market Street thoroughfare, which eliminates the old unpaved Bugg Lane and Elizabeth Street as it crests the ridge on its way to Liberty Fair Mall.

1972 – Last all African American high school class graduates from Carver High School in Henry County.

pastor emeritus after 60 years of preaching, 49 of them at the large church at Fayette and High Streets. Rev. Morris was succeeded by Rev. John E. Powers, who presided over a number of growth improvements for the active congregation such as a remodeling of the apartments behind the church, construction of a garage to house two new church vans, plus support for the church league softball team and area youth scouting programs. Rev. William A. Shackelford, Sr. took the helm when Rev. Powers retired in January 1986.

The United House of Prayer for All People also received a new church building in 1990s. A brick and cinderblock building had replaced the church’s first weatherboard structure in 1963, but it too needed upgrading as the 21st century approached. Under the direction of Bishop S. C. Madison additional property at 604 Fayette Street, adjacent to the existing building at 602 Fayette, was purchased. The current church home, with its near life-sized white sculpture lions behind a handsome black wrought-iron fence, was dedicated on June 25, 1998.

When Reverend R. T. Anderson passed away in July 1992,



604 Fayette Street
Photo by J. Siler

Mount Sinai Church,
7 Peters Street
Courtesy Mt. Sinai Church



United House of Prayer
Photo by J. Siler

the Mt. Zion A.M.E. church where he had served for so long, was 122 years old. Under the leadership of the newly appointed Reverend Albert L. Thompson many gifts arrived as donations in memory of the beloved “Rev”. His widow, Marion G. Anderson, donated a new sign, and furniture for the pastor’s study. Sara Lee Knitting presented a new pulpit chair. Additional changes at 304 Fayette Street included a handicapped ramp, an enlarged choir loft, a baptismal pool, improved restroom facilities, and the enlargement of the parking area, made possible by the demolition of the old church parsonage.¹²



Former site of Mount Zion United Holy Church
Photo by J. Siler

At Mount Zion United Holy Church, Elder Richardson expanded the church’s missionary efforts through African travels during his tenure, which lasted until 1978 when the current pastor, Elder James R. Hagwood was chosen; his wife Elder LaVarra H. Hagwood serves as assistant pastor. The parishioners left their Fayette Street neighbors in 1999 and moved to a larger church building in Henry County at 461 Figsboro Road. Their former building at 521 Fayette Street now serves the Calvary United Church of Jesus Christ, under the leadership of Elder Doug Ingram.



First Baptist Church of East Martinsville
Courtesy of First Baptist Church of East Martinsville

Though it is not located in the immediate vicinity of Fayette Street, the First Baptist Church of East Martinsville is also one of the more than 100-year-old historically black churches to maintain an active congregation today. Established in 1896 in an old school building near Camp Branch in Henry County, a group of worshippers called themselves St. Phillipi Church. A few years later, under the leadership of Rev. William F. Geter, a portion of the congregation moved to East Martinsville, eventually changing the church name and establishing a permanent location at 1043 East Church Street, near the intersection of Routes 57 and 58. A shanty-style structure was replaced by various frame churches, which burned and were rebuilt over the years, until the current brick sanctuary was constructed in the mid-1940s.

Contemporary churches on Fayette Street of more recent origin include God’s Holy Church in Christ, at 128 Fayette, and Divine Faith Holiness Church at 1002 West Fayette (formerly the location of St. Hope Temple Holiness and Waller Memorial Holiness churches, established there after the West End Theater closed.) Older city directories also list Mt. Pisgah Joyland Temple at 66 Fayette in 1996, Peaceful Zion Baptist Church at 200 Fayette; a Jehovah Witness Kingdom Hall at 614 Fayette during the late 1960s, and the Muhammad Temple of Islam at 1001 Fayette Street.

BUSINESSES

Imperial Savings and Loan moved around the corner to open in an expanded space at 211 Fayette Street in December 1980. Having converted from a stock corporation to a mutual organization in September 1961, the thrift and banking institution introduced checking accounts and computerized operations in 1993. W.B. Muse, Jr. managed the office for several years. Dr. Harry P. Williams also served many years as president until 1993, when Kelvin G. Perry took charge. In 1999, Simone H. Redd became the first woman president in the association’s

1972 – Dr. Baldwin dies at the age of 91. A stroke the previous year had forced him to retire from practicing medicine. His business partner and younger brother Sam dies only four months later of a heart attack suffered while driving on East Church Street.

1973 – Ricky Scales comes close to rewriting the Virginia Tech record book for pass receiving after his third varsity season with the Hokies football program, and is drafted as a wide receiver in the No. 13 pick by the NFL's Houston Oilers. Scales went on to play in the World Football League.

1975 – Martinsville High School wins State Class AA football and basketball championships.

1975 – Lou Whittaker is drafted by the Detroit Tigers as a second baseman.

1976 – William D. Hobson is elected mayor of Martinsville, the first black man to hold the post.

1976 – Henry County moves its administrative offices from the Courthouse Square to new offices on King Mountain Road.

1976 – Carl “Big Daddy” Hairston, a 1970 Martinsville High School graduate, is drafted into the National Football League after playing college football for the University of Maryland – Eastern Shore’s program. His 15-year career as an NFL defensive lineman eventually evolves into a coaching position for the Kansas City Chiefs.

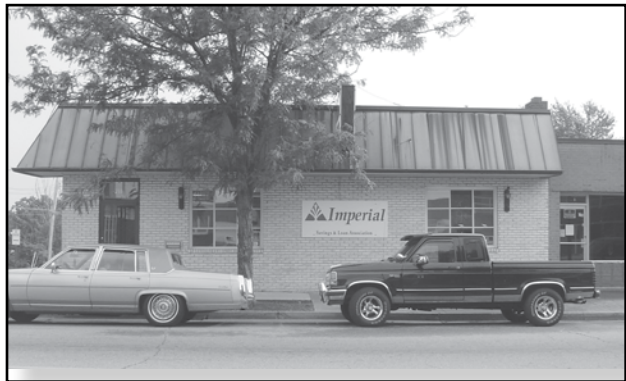


33 Spencer Street used to be Imperial S&L's address.

Photo by J. Siler



Dr. Harry P. Williams managed Imperial S&L after W.C.Spencer retired.



Imperial S&L is currently located at 211 Fayette Street.

Photo by J. Siler

long history. As of 2005, Imperial remained the only African American owned savings and loan in the state of Virginia, with assets of more than \$9 million, maintaining its founding motto of “Service, Our Commitment to You.”¹³

When Samuel Baldwin suffered a heart attack at age 69 while driving down East Church Street on March 9, 1973, the news obituary noted that he owned two restaurants, a coin-operated laundry, service station, a hotel and Baldwin’s Gymtorium. By being Dr. Dana Baldwin’s younger brother by 22 and a half years as well as his long-time business partner, Sam had likely gained some of the older man’s interests and properties after the doctor’s death just a few months earlier in November 1972. The paper noted Sam had previously worked as the pharmacist at Baldwin’s Drug Store, as a housing developer and sold juke-boxes. The passing of both brothers within four short months time was not only a blow to their close families

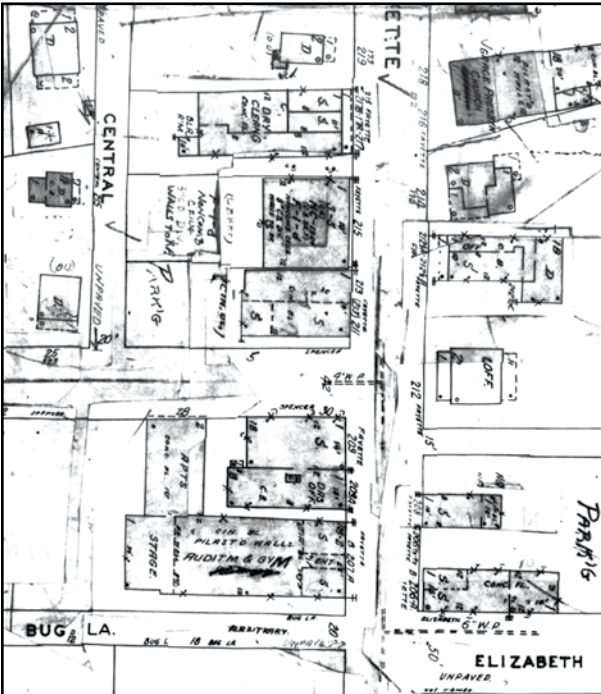
When we moved back here from Detroit, I visited my brother and sister-in-law in D.C. and on the bus coming back, it was terrible. My baby son was about two years old and they made us sit in the back. Every time we'd get off, they'd have a [separate] place for blacks and whites. I remember South Boston. We stopped to get off to eat and I was so hungry. We went in and I didn't see this little room. I saw the mop and bucket sitting there in a booth, but I kept going and followed everybody else, because I think I was the only black on the bus. I was standing at the corner

like everybody else to be waited on and they passed us. They never waited on us and my little son said, "I'm so hungry, Ma. When we going to eat?"... My sister-in-law had made some sandwiches because she remembered what would happen, but I didn't because I hadn't been here in a good while. That was in the late '50s.

— **Iretha Fontaine** married Martinsville native Randolph Fontaine and together they operated Randy's Place, the former Dew Drop Inn on Fayette Street.



Above: Baldwin Block in 2005
Photo by J. Siler



Left: Sanborn map showing Gymnasium location. Used with permission by City of Martinsville Engineering Department.
Used with permission by City of Martinsville Engineering Department



A tent revival on Fayette Street, August 1992
Courtesy of The Martinsville Bulletin



*Carl Hairston, MHS graduate
Courtesy of the
Martinsville Bulletin*

1979 – The Virginia General Assembly acts to amend existing annexation laws, effectively precluding further annexation of land by Martinsville. The city had expanded its borders through annexation in 1939, 1946, 1960 and 1965.

1980 – U.S. Census figures show a drop in Martinsville city's population for the first time since its incorporation, from a high of 19,653 in 1970 to 18,149. It drops again in 1990 to 16,162, and in 2000 to 15,416.⁴

1980 – U.S. 220 bypass interchange around Martinsville is opened.

1985 – Ed Reynolds, a Drewry Mason High School graduate, goes to Super Bowl XX as a member of the New England Patriots. Reynolds was a four-year defensive letterman for the University of Virginia Cavaliers while earning his degree in elementary education.

1985 – Virginia Museum of Natural History opens in Martinsville in the renovated Joseph Martin Elementary School.



*Marvin F. Hobson's Electrical Supply Company at 806 Stultz Road.
Courtesy Marvin Hobson*



Floyd Gravely, owner and manager of the busy Community Market #2 at 314 Fayette Street.

Photo by J. Siler

and friends, but to the area's business community, though their brother James Hayes Baldwin's Square Deal Grocery store remained at 531 Fayette.

The buildings along the original "Baldwin's Block" came down as part of the urban renewal efforts of the late 1960s and '70s, leaving only some cracked sidewalks and curb cuts along Moss, Fayette and Barton Streets as lonely reminders of the once vibrant and bustling black business area. Today the large grassy field that stretches between the two cross

streets and south to West Church Street is held by the Martinsville Redevelopment and Housing Authority and has been used as a gathering spot for residents during revivals, Native American Pow-Wows, and community-wide events. Cultural sharing activities were held there in conjunction with the first reenactment of the FAHI-sponsored June German Ball in 2005.

The Block, however, was never the only site for commercial enterprise along Fayette Street. Tucked in and among the restaurants, taxi cab operators, and hair salons, and next door to the churches and professional offices, the Fayette Street community over the years nurtured small independent black businesses such as Marvin F. Hobson's Electrical Company, Draper's Shoe Shop, bondsman Julius C. Murrell's office, the East End Remodeling Co., the Poor Boy Music Shop, James A. Schmidt's plastering, and Martinsville Scrap Iron and Metal Company.

The controversial location of R. P. Thomas Trucking Company at 807 Fayette Street during the 1970s and '80s, on the site of the former PCI and Henry County Training School, is one of the less happy accounts along the Fayette Street corridor as neighborhood residents and other citizens protested the trucking company's hazardous waste dumping practices for the better part of a decade before the company's assets and the land were sold at a public auction following bankruptcy procedures. The city of Martinsville ultimately became the owner of the property and continues to develop housing on the site.

Over the years, African American lawyers in Martinsville with offices along Fayette Street included William Alexander, Gregory Swanson, and George W. Woody.

By the late 1960s, black patients had a much-changed environment from the one Dr. Dana Baldwin encountered when he moved to Martinsville in 1910 as the area's first black physician. Dr. Harry P. Williams continued the private medical practice he began in 1929 in the basement of his home on Fayette Street until 1979, a year before his death. In the intervening years, the two doctors saw the arrival of Dr. M. M. Gordon, at 215 Fayette Street, Dr. Screens; and Dr. J.C. Commander in the 1940s; Dr. Fern Georges, in 1952; her husband, Dr. G. Sylvester Price, in 1953 who opened a practice at 21 Barton Street; and Dr. Cornelius Matthews in 1955, who joined the staffs of both Community Hospital and Memorial Hospitals.

Black dentists practicing in Martinsville over the years included Dr. W.A. Fears in 1926; Dr. Luther A. Vickers, who arrived in 1929 to open an office adjoining his home on Third Street; Dr. Cowen; Dr. J. Worden Yancey, who opened an office at 35 Spencer Street, and Dr. Marshall O. Johnson at 215 Fayette Street.¹⁴

Pharmacists (formerly referred to as "Dr.'s") along Fayette Street included Dr. Davis, who opened a drug store on the West End, later operated by Dr. John H. Walker in the former Wagon Wheel building; and F. Stanley Shields, A. M. Brown, Ph. C.; Dr. Sam Baldwin, and Dr. Caldwell, working out of the Baldwin Drug Store on the Block.

Hospital services for African American residents of Martinsville, at first restricted to St. Mary's Hospital on Fayette Street, and later Community Hospital on Armstead Avenue, were enhanced with the opening of Memorial Hospital in 1970. Community Hospital — abandoned for several years — was purchased for \$35,000 and converted to a nursing home in 1976. The sale of Memorial Health System led to the creation of the independent and charitable Harvest Foundation in 2002, with a mission of investing the proceeds from the hospital sale in programs of benefit to Martinsville and Henry County residents.

SPORTS

1988 – The June commencement ceremony graduates the last high school class from Carver before the once all-black high school becomes a middle school.

1988 – The Martinsville Phillies, a professional baseball team in the Appalachian league, has its opening season.

1988 – The Liberty Heights swimming pool is demolished as construction begins on Liberty Fair Mall, which opens in August the following year.

1990 – Quarterback Shawn Moore finishes his college football career as a Heisman Trophy Finalist and first-team All-American after leading the nation in passing efficiency. Drafted in 1991 by the Denver Broncos, he played four years in the NFL before joining the staff of USA Football.⁵

1990 – University of Virginia quarterback Herman Moore is named an All-American for the second time. As a teammate of quarterback Shawn Moore, also of Martinsville, the “Moore-to-Moore” connection helps lead U.Va. to a No. 1 national ranking for three weeks and an appearance in the Sugar Bowl. He breaks most of the university’s pass receiving records before going on to star with the Detroit Lions.

Baseball has a long history among both fans and participants in Martinsville, stretching back to the days when young boys would gather to create informal teams for neighborhood competitions, playing on improvised fields in the Cherrytown neighborhood of East Martinsville or a large field behind Dr. William’s house. Booker T. Washington Park offered a formal playing field for black youth and their fathers as early as 1927. As spectators, black and white residents had the opportunity to cheer on a semipro team that played in Martinsville in 1913. However, the grandstands at English Field burned in the 1950s and minor league baseball left the area not to return until 1988, fielding a rookie league in the Appalachian League called the Martinsville Phillies.



1970 Pony League All-Star team. with Lou Whittaker (seated, second from left)
Courtesy of the Martinsville Bulletin



Martinsville offered the willing athlete opportunities to watch or to play, especially with workplace affiliated teams. The Standard Garments team, left, was featured in this *Pantsarama* newsletter.¹⁸
Courtesy of Alberta Wilson

MARTINSVILLE MANUFACTURERS, BI-STATE LEAGUE	(1934-1941)
MARTINSVILLE A'S, CAROLINA LEAGUE.....	(1945-1949)
MARTINSVILLE PHILLIES, APPALACHIAN LEAGUE.....	(1988-1998)
MARTINSVILLE ASTROS, APPALACHIAN LEAGUE	(1999-2003) ¹³

The attitudes between people during those times was a whole lot better than it is now. If we should act bad, grown-ups could correct you and they would tell your parents. And then your parents would discipline you. It was a well-knit group I'd say from High Street on up to Barton Street. And that discipline made a better person out of me. I learned what was right and what was wrong. Maybe I'd be out there shooting marbles, and they'd tell us to come on in — "Boy, are you hard-headed? Didn't I tell you to get in here?" "But I was on my way" — and I'd get a spanking.

Whippings were done with dogwoods switches and homemade belts. I was disciplined by teachers, by neighbors. Like Leroy said, you had respect for each other. We played together, and grew up together, and went to school together. And you knew when you did wrong that the neighbors were going to call, or send message that you have misbehaved, and it was passed on from your mama to your daddy. My parents would plait dogwood, or maybe an oak switch.

You see them doing it and you knew it was coming. I used the belts, or my hands, on all my kids to get their attention and let them know right from wrong. And they respect me for it just like I respect my mother and father, neighbors and teachers. You ended up loving people that held you to it, 'cause there's no telling where we'd have ended up if it had not been for them.

We always wanted my father to beat us because he was a little more lenient. My mother, now, she'd tear us up. She would use switches, the ones that don't break, but bend? We used to ask her to let Daddy whup us because he would take us behind our house and hit us one time, and tell us to holler and scream. We would let on like he was killing us. A couple times, Reverend Anderson would see me hanging down on the Block when I was in my early teens and he would do like this, and carry me down to High Street before he let me go and that meant to keep on going home.

— **Leroy Dillard, Floyd Gravely** and **Jerome Baker**, recalling common disciplinary measures from their past.

Lou Whitaker was a Martinsville High School graduate who played ball locally, pitching for the Bulldogs and named to the Pony League All-Star team. Born Louis Rodman Whittaker, Jr., in Brooklyn, New York, he was drafted in 1975 by the Detroit Tigers as a second baseman.¹⁶ He debuted in 1977 and was named an American League Rookie of the Year in 1978. During the 1980s, Whittaker was a five-time American League All-Star, won three Golden Glove awards and picked up a World Series Ring with the rest of the Tigers in 1984. He retired from playing in 1995.¹⁷

In the 1970s and '80s, several local men — Willie C. Martin, Ricky Scales, Carl Hairston, Jesse Penn and Ed Reynolds — took their athletic competition to ever-higher levels, playing professionally in the National Football League's Atlanta Falcons, Houston Oilers, Dallas Cowboys, Philadelphia Eagles and New England Patriots. In the 1990s, Shawn Moore and Herman Moore transformed their University of Virginia gridiron talents into similar successes with the Denver Broncos and the Detroit Lions.

SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS

As barriers to social clubs, professional organizations, and civic groups began to fall with the gradual integration of not only schools but other community organizations, African Americans, both men and women, saw their membership affiliations expand as well. When Mount Sinai Apostle Church chose to publicly recognize a group of community leaders in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday in January 1999 those men and women's community involvements spanned an impressive breadth and depth.



The International Order of Odd Fellows met in the I.O.O.F Hall at 309 Fayette, now converted to a private residence.

Photo by J. Siler



*Shawn and Herman Moore, Martinsville natives and U.Va. Cavalier football stars
Courtesy of Sarah Flood Moore*

1990s – The West Piedmont Regional Antique Mall takes over the Troxler Furniture space at 26 Fayette Street. Oliver McCall's gym, The Boxing Center opens and closes at 31 Fayette Street. Cousin's Brothers garage, grocery, lawnmower and key shop at 101 Fayette closes its doors. The Paradise Inn and West End Pool Room closes.



*Punching bag at the former Boxing Center, 31 Fayette Street
Photo by J. Siler*

Leaders recognized included: Bruce Dallas, Sr, Agnes Mobile Scott Hairston, William D. Hobson, Virgia Brown Hobson, John William Jamison, Dorothy Ellen Jones, Jesse J. Jones Sr., William B. Muse, Jr, Simon Spencer, Noel C. Taylor, and Clyde Williams.¹⁹

Among them, the following organizations were represented: Ad

Hoc Drug Committee, Albert Harris Alumni Association, Aircraft Owners and Pilot Association, Carver Ruritan Club, CATV, Central Piedmont Private Industry Council, Community Recreation Association, Delta Sigma Theta sorority, Democratic Party, Fire Insurance Company Board of Directors, FOCUS, Gibraltar Lodge No. 1, George Mason University's Mason Scholars Committee, Imperial Savings and Loan Association, House of Hope, the Leaders Network, Martinsville Association of Retarded Children, Martinsville Bicentennial Commission, Martinsville Booster Club, Martinsville Central District Commission, Martinsville Education Association, Martinsville Electoral Board, Martinsville Equalization Board, Martinsville-Henry County Crime Commission, Martinsville Henry County Chamber of Commerce, Martinsville/Henry County Leadership Network Group, Martinsville/Henry County Voters League, Martinsville Touchdown Club, the Masons, Mayor's Council on Human Values, Memorial Hospital, Men's Roundtable Club, NAACP, National Builders Association, the National Funeral Directors & Morticians' Association, National Links, Inc., National Remodelers Association, Patrick Henry National Bank Board of Directors, Patrick Henry Community College Vocational Advisory Committee, Patrick Henry Scholarship Foundation, Piedmont Arts Association, Piedmont Journal, Pilots International Association, Regency Charity Club, the Shriners, Sportsman Club, United Fund, Virginia State Advisory Council on Vocational Education, Virginia State University Board of Visitors, West Martinsville Boys Club, and West Piedmont Planning District.

SCHOOLS

Integration of the public school system in Martinsville occurred in 1968, more than a dozen years after the court ruling of *Brown vs. the Board of Education*, but still not as late as



The Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity offers after school programs for youth in their Courthouse Square meeting facilities.

Photo by J. Siler

other school districts in Virginia. The event changed more than the school colors and the mascots that fall as Yellow Jackets turned into Bulldogs. High school years are often keenly remembered. The students who participated in that historic year's event were born, by and large, in the early 1950s and are now — as 50-plus-year-olds — able to reflect thoughtfully about what it felt like to have a front row seat for such changes. This is but one topic that deserves closer scrutiny. Local historians seeking a past not yet completely relegated to yellowed newspapers in old shoe boxes and forgotten mementoes in jewelry cases should find this generation a rich resource. But time is of the essence. Already the teachers and administrators of those years are taking their leave.

Martinsville bid farewell in 2005 to the life-long educator Virgia Brown Hobson, who transferred to the guidance department of Martinsville High School in 1968 and later became the Guidance Coordinator for the school system, a position she held until her retirement in 1979. Clyde Williams, Sr., who joined the Albert Harris faculty in 1948 to serve as the football coach and went on to become principal of Martinsville High School before retiring in 1980, passed away in 2001. The Clyde L. Williams Scholarship Foundation works to provide \$1000 scholarships to area high school students who demonstrate exemplary work in academics, community service and extracurricular activities.

There are many others living in the community whose stories need to be collected and shared to make this still-recent chapter of school history a more complete telling.



Clyde Williams, Sr., center, also known as “Chief,” was credited with taking an under-equipped football team and turning it into a state powerhouse in addition to coaching baseball and co-ed basketball in the city. He served hundreds of area students during his 32-year educational career as teacher and administrator, later becoming involved with local politics and retiring as Vice-Mayor. He is accompanied by Harold V. Richardson (left) and Richard Cole (right).

Courtesy of Doris Cole



Mae Baldwin Gilmer taught first and second grade at East Martinsville Elementary.

Courtesy of The Martinsville Bulletin



Guidance counselor and teacher, Virgia B. Hobson
From Albert Harris High School yearbook.

1998 – The Blue Ridge Regional Library establishes a Historical Center in Bassett. History files, books, census records, church histories, Internet sources and more than 6,000 family files are housed there to support genealogical research. Cohabitation records for former slaves found in the mid-1970s in the Henry County Courthouse provide information on African American family names between 1777 and 1904. Henry County is one of only five counties in Virginia with an existing co-habitation list.

1998 – W. Nelson Gilbert publishes *Daddy Rabbit and The June German Ball*, a fictional story and picture book that draws on his childhood memories growing up on Letcher Street.



Author W. Nelson Gilbert
 Courtesy of Michelle Edwards

June 2003 – Harvard graduate and Laurel Park High School alum Nancy Redd is crowned Miss Virginia at the Roanoke Civic Center. She is honored among the top ten award winners in the Miss America pageant the following September in Atlantic City.

IN CLOSING

Historian and author David B. McCullough recently shared with a group of U.S. Senators his belief that “human beings are naturally interested in history,” further pointing out that “All our stories begin, ‘Once upon a time...’ To make history boring,” he said, “is a crime.”²⁰

History can be many things to many people, but it should never become boring. In the hands of a good storyteller — what a West African might call a griot — history can be intriguing, educational, and even fun. At times somber, at times amusing, history is not just for the eldest among us. Yet those who have the longest memories, inclined as they might be to share stories with each other, must be paired with the youngest community members, too. Our elders, after all, are the ones most able to put history to best advantage. Having witnessed change first-hand, they can often provide needed illumination when the present day seems most confusing.

History — as presented in this publication — can also become a form of thanksgiving, a way to honor people who have walked this way before and left some still-visible footprints — for those who look carefully. The authors of a 1994 Mount Zion A.M.E. church history concluded their summary of the achievements of their leaders during the past century with words of appreciation that may be just as aptly applied in a wider sense to all those who traveled along Fayette Street during that many years, and more:

“As we reflect on the rich history of Mt. Zion, we cannot forget the God fearing members, sisters and brothers who have passed. It was because of their faith, courage, hard work, persistence, dedication and determination that we have come so far.”²¹



Above: John, Jessie and Jim
 Hobson, c. 1910
 Courtesy of Marvin Hobson

Left: The Hobson Family
 Courtesy of Robert H. Baker



Nancy Amanda Redd, Miss Virginia 2003

Courtesy Nancy Redd

May 2004 – Attorney Kimble Reynolds, Jr. is elected to the Martinsville City Council and is soon selected by the Council as its new Vice-Mayor. A graduate of Laurel Park High School, Virginia Tech and the Washington and Lee School of Law, he follows in the footsteps of African American community leaders Clyde Williams, Sr. and Bruce Dallas, Sr. who also served on the city council in the 1990s; Simon Spencer, a former member of the Henry County Board of Supervisors, and Curtis Millner, current chair of the Henry County School Board.



*Kimble Reynolds, Jr.
Courtesy Matt Hankins, Martinsville
Public Information Office*

In what used to be an atmosphere of quiet, there is now the renewal of the sounds of old. FAHI, with community support, will continue to create momentum that contributes to the resurgence of Fayette Street.

In 2003, the Fayette Area Historical Initiative set goals for collection and preservation of local history and long-term economic revitalization efforts for Fayette Street and surrounding areas.

FAHI opened an office and exhibit space in June 2005 at 504 Fayette Street. That same year, FAHI revived the June German Ball with a dinner and dance at the Forest Park County Club. Jesse "JukeBox" Scales returned to his native Henry County from Niagara Falls to play along with former Louis Armstrong singer, Jewel Smith. Accompanying exhibits created by the grant partnership were hung at 504 Fayette Street and in store-front windows along Fayette and Church Streets in uptown Martinsville.



In October 2005, William Haley, son of *Roots* author Alex Haley, spoke to residents at 504 Fayette Street. A display of African art and headdresses collected by Danville resident and FAHI member Fred Motley went up as the organization's inaugural exhibit.



FAHI

Top: FAHI office at 504 Fayette Street
Photo by J. Siler

Middle: Virginia Motley, William Haley and Linda Strange-Dillard at 504 Fayette Street, the FAHI office
Photo by Fred Motley

Right: Dancers, Jean P. Wilson and James Jones at the June German Ball, June 18, 2005
Photo by J. Siler



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INTRODUCTION ENDNOTES

- ¹ Lawrence W. Levine, *Black Culture and Black Consciousness, Afro-American Folk Thought From Slavery To Freedom*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1977). p. 443.
 - ² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marquis_de_Lafayette; accessed April 11, 2006.
 - ³ Henry County map (1911). (The map, owned by J. H. Stegall, is currently hanging in the Collinsville branch of the Blue Ridge Library).
 - ⁴ Sanborn fire insurance map, (1947), Sheet 1. © 2001 Used with permission of Environmental Data Resources, Inc.
 - ⁵ "By God's Grace, the African American Worship Experience in Central Virginia, 1820-1950," The Legacy Project, Inc. (Lynchburg, VA, 2004). p. 5.
 - ⁶ *A Revised History of Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church* (Martinsville: 1994).
 - ⁷ Historic Census Counts for Virginia Localities, 1790-2000, prepared by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, <http://www.coopercenter.org/demographics/CENSUS%20DATA>, accessed April 11, 2006.
 - ⁸ Lawrence W. Levine, *Black Culture and Black Consciousness, Afro-American Folk Thought From Slavery To Freedom*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1977). p. xiii.
 - ⁹ Nikki Giovanni, *Racism 101*, "Paper Dolls, Iron Skillets, Libraries and Museums," (New York: William Morrow, 1994) p. 25.
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CHAPTER ONE ENDNOTES

- ¹ Dedication Program of the Mount Zion A.M.E. Church (December 8, 1963).
- ² *James H. Thomas, pastor at the Fayette Street Christian Church, writing for the Martinsville Daily Bulletin in 1939 refers to the establishment of the A.M.E. church in "1883" by a "Reverend Cuffey, assisted by a Reverend Pinkard," neither of whom are mentioned in the histories provided present-day members of Mt. Zion A.M.E. Cuffey could be a spelling variation of "Cogsley" while a Miss Mariah Pinkard, however, a Bible school teacher for children in the late 1880s and '90s is credited in Fayette Street Christian Church history records as merging her Bible study classes with the newly formed church of the Reverend Reid Spencer.*
- ³ Deed Book # 20, page 519, Henry County Courthouse (Martinsville, VA).
- ⁴ Dedication Program of the Mount Zion A.M.E. Church (Dec. 8, 1963).
- ⁵ Personal interview with Gloria Hodge Hylton (November, 2005).
- ⁶ FAHI interview with Andrew Hairston and Amy Kellam. (2004).
- ⁷ *U.S. Census records of 1880 indicate a black woman named Peggy Redd, age 35, lived in Martinsville, married to a 51-year-old "mulatto" carpenter named John Redd.*
- ⁸ *Thomas also writes in his 1939 Martinsville Daily Bulletin article about early church beginnings that "H. M. Holmes [took] the full course offered in his time at Lincoln University, in Pennsylvania."*
- ⁹ *Church histories, including "Centennial Celebration" publication (1882), and unpublished typescript (2002), suggest that the factory was the Semple Tobacco Factory at the corner of Fayette and Dunlap streets, however, Sanborn fire insurance maps from 1902 and 1891 place*

the Semple factory at Moss and Fayette and the Stacy & Finley tobacco storage warehouse at Fayette and Dunlap.

- ¹⁰ Ruth Pace and Mary Pace McGee. *The Life and Times of Ridgeway, Virginia, 1728-1990*. Pocahontas Press, Inc. (Blacksburg, 1990) p. 105.
- ¹¹ *Martinsville & Henry County: Historic Views*, Martinsville-Henry County Woman's Club, (Winston Salem, N.C., 1976). p.135.
- ¹² Church histories, including "Centennial Celebration" publication (1882), and unpublished typescript (2002).
- ¹³ Lisa Goff, African American Heritage typescript prepared for the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities (2005.)
- ¹⁴ Church histories, including "Centennial Celebration" publication (1882), and unpublished typescript (2002).
- ¹⁵ See endnote no. 7, above.
- ¹⁶ High Street Baptist Church History (undated).
- ¹⁷ *Although multiple church histories give conflicting dates (1898 and 1908) for the first church structure, a building at the corner of Fayette and High streets labeled "Negro Church & School" appears on both a 1896 and 1902 Sanborn fire insurance map, suggesting the earlier date is likely the more accurate.*
- ¹⁸ High Street Baptist Church History (undated).
- ¹⁹ James H. Thomas, "Negroes Have Improved Their Conditions Vastly in Past Half Century," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin*, (Martinsville, VA 1939) p. 8.
- ²⁰ Fayette Street Christian Church, 110th Anniversary Publication (Martinsville, VA 1999).
- ²¹ Lisa Goff, African American Heritage typescript prepared for the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities (2005).
- ²² Draper, C. S. "The Origins and Development of Piedmont Christian Institute," Unpublished masters thesis, Virginia State University (Petersburg, Virginia, USA, 2004).
- ²³ Fayette Street Christian Church, 110th Anniversary publication (Martinsville, VA 1999).
- ²⁴ Ibid.
- ²⁵ Mt. Carmel Pentecostal Holiness Church history (unpublished and undated letterhead typescript.) *The "river" referred to is likely the Smith River, as Fayette Street comes quite near it just outside the current western city limits.*
- ²⁶ Eugene Carl Hoover, *Secondary Education in Henry County, Virginia, A Thesis Presented to the Graduate Faculty of the University of Virginia*, (Charlottesville, VA, 1937) p. 317.
- ²⁷ James H. Thomas, "Negroes Have Improved Their Conditions Vastly in Past Half Century," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin*, (July 31, 1939) p. 8.
- ²⁸ www.aaheritageva.org/sites.asp?MailingListID=574, accessed April 12, 2006.
- ²⁹ Eugene Carl Hoover, *Secondary Education in Henry County, Virginia, A Thesis Presented to the Graduate Faculty of the University of Virginia*, (Charlottesville, VA, 1937) p. 318.
- ³⁰ www.aaheritageva.org/sites.asp?MailingListID=574, accessed April 12, 2006.
- ³¹ Eugene Carl Hoover, *Secondary Education in Henry County, Virginia, A Thesis Presented to the Graduate Faculty of the University of Virginia*, (Charlottesville, VA, 1937) p. 325.

- ³² *Ibid.*
- ³³ www.rosenwaldschools.com, accessed April 12, 2006.
- ³⁴ Henry County map (1911). *Currently hanging in Collinsville branch of the Blue Ridge Library, on display courtesy of Jeff and Frances Stegall.*
- ³⁵ *Martinsville & Henry County: Historic Views*, Martinsville-Henry County Woman's Club, (Winston Salem, N.C., 1976) pp. 79-88.
- ³⁶ Sanborn fire insurance map of 1908, Sheet 2.
- ³⁷ "Martinsville and Henry County, Virginia, Illustrated Special Publicity Edition of The Henry Bulletin," (Martinsville, January 30, 1925) p. 18.
- ³⁸ <http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/collections/stats/histcensus>, accessed April 20, 2006.
- ³⁹ Dick Billman, "Baldwin Doctored Blacks' Physical, Fiscal Needs," (*The Martinsville Bulletin*, Nov. 19, 1972) p. 1-A.
- ⁴⁰ Florence Fields Wood, "The Physician Who Knew That It Took More Than Pills to Cure People," *The Martinsville Tribune*, (July 21, 1961) p. 1-2.
- ⁴¹ Oral history interview by John P. Bing (Bassett, 1968).
- ⁴² W.H.E. Jones, Sr. "Dr. Dana Olden Baldwin Has Played Leading Role in Growth and Development of Martinsville," Souvenir Program, Grand Opening Baldwin's Gymnasium, (Martinsville, May 24, 1953).
- ⁴³ Florence Fields Wood, "The Physician Who Knew That It Took More Than Pills to Cure People," *The Martinsville Tribune*, (July 21, 1961) p. 1-2. Copy courtesy of Dr. John P. Bing.
- ⁴⁴ *Martinsville & Henry County: Historic Views*, Martinsville-Henry County Woman's Club, (Winston Salem, N.C., 1976) p. 109.
- ⁴⁵ Donna Brim. "Former mayor recalls area's black history," *Martinsville Bulletin*, (February 2, 1997) p. 1-B.
- ⁴⁶ *Martinsville & Henry County: Historic Views*, Martinsville-Henry County Woman's Club, (Winston Salem, N.C., 1976) p. 109.
- ⁴⁷ John D. Wilson. "Reginald Hairston," *The Martinsville Bulletin* (August 5, 1979) p. 1-B.
- ⁴⁸ www.militaryhistoryonline.com/wwi/articles/fightingforrespect.aspx, accessed April 12, 2006.
- ⁴⁹ The John B. Harris Papers, at the Bassett Historical Center; the *Martinsville Bulletin* (November 19, 1972) p. 1-A; A. B. Caldwell, *History of the American Negro, Virginia Edition, Vol. V* (Atlanta, 1921) pp. 289-291.
- ⁵⁰ The Influenza Pandemic of 1918, www.stanford.edu/group/virus/uda, accessed April 12, 2006.
- ⁵¹ *While Dillard's death certificate lists him as a Martinsville native with no known address, or known parents, U.S. Census records from 1900 as researched by Beverly Milner, suggest Homer may have been listed that year as Mary Dillard's three-year-old son "Bud," born in February 1897, a younger brother to five-year-old Sam and seven-year-old sister Marthy, or Martha.*
- ⁵² *A January 24, 1930 article in the Martinsville Bulletin suggests Dillard spent time in France, but current VFW Post member Curtis Millner has U.S. Army records indicating Dillard had only entered the service the previous month on September 24, 1918.*

- ⁵³ www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwehave/mil/vmd/locresults.asp?place=Martinsville,%20City%20of, accessed April 15, 2006.
- ⁵⁴ “Negro Vets Form Legion Post Here,” *The Martinsville Bulletin*, (January 24, 1930) p. 6.
- ⁵⁵ www.nps.gov/boaf/princehall.htm, accessed April 12, 2006.
- ⁵⁶ www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freemasonry, accessed April 12, 2006.
- ⁵⁷ R. T. Anderson, “Negro Civic Groups Afford Inspiration For Racial Improvement,” Fiftieth Anniversary Edition, *The Martinsville (VA.) Daily Bulletin*, (July 1939) p. 4.
- ⁵⁸ Henry County map (1911). *Currently hanging in Collinsville branch of the Blue Ridge Library, on display courtesy of Jeff and Frances Stegall.*
- ⁵⁹ *Martinsville & Henry County: Historic Views*, Martinsville-Henry County Woman’s Club, (Winston Salem, N.C., 1976) pp. 69-71; and Ruth Pace and Mary Pace McGee. *The Life and Times of Ridgeway, Virginia, 1728-1990*. Pocahontas Press, Inc. (Blacksburg, 1990) p. 110.
- ⁶⁰ Henry County map (1911). *Currently hanging in Collinsville branch of the Blue Ridge Library, on display courtesy of Jeff and Frances Stegall.*
- ⁶¹ *Martinsville & Henry County: Historic Views*, Martinsville-Henry County Woman’s Club, (Winston Salem, N.C., 1976) p. 71.
- ⁶² John Wesley Hodge, “Tour Martinsville Streets in early 1920s,” *The Martinsville Bulletin*, (September 22, 1991) p. 1-D.
- ⁶³ John Wesley Hodge, “You do anything to make an honest dime,” *The Martinsville Bulletin*, (September 22, 1991) p. 1-D.
- ⁶⁴ Oral history interview by John P. Bing (Bassett, 1968).
- ⁶⁵ Dorothy Cleal, “Dr. Baldwin Celebrates 50th Year in City,” *The Martinsville Bulletin*, (October 16, 1960) p. 7-A

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- ¹ www2.census.gov/prod2/decennial/documents/1850a-12.pdf, sheet 16 of 56, accessed April 11, 2006.
- ² Lawrence W. Levine, *Black Culture and Black Consciousness, Afro-American Folk Thought From Slavery to Freedom*, (New York, Oxford University Press, 1977) p. 156.
- ³ www2.census.gov/prod2/decennial/documents/1870a-09.pdf, sheet 30 of 46, accessed April 11, 2006.
- ⁴ John B. Harris papers at the Bassett Historical Center. (Spencer file.)
- ⁵ www2.census.gov/prod2/decennial/documents/33405927v1ch08.pdf, sheet 49 of 52, accessed April 11, 2006.
- ⁶ www2.census.gov/prod2/decennial/documents/33405927v1ch04.pdf, sheet 40 of 44, accessed April 11, 2006.
- ⁷ Ruth Pace and Mary Pace McGee. *The Life and Times of Ridgeway, Virginia, 1728-1990*. (Blacksburg: Pocahontas Press, Inc. 1990). p. 105 and the John B. Harris Papers at the Bassett Historical Center.
- ⁸ “John Dodson, Negro Furniture Plant Employee...” *Martinsville Daily Bulletin*, (October 31,

1940.) p. 2.

- ⁹ “The City of Martinsville,” Martinsville and Henry County, Virginia, Illustrated Special Publicity Edition of *The Henry Bulletin*, “[Martinsville, January 30, 1925.] p. 3
- ¹⁰ Donna Brim, “Former mayor recalls area’s black history,” *The Martinsville Bulletin* (February 2, 1997) p. 1-B

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- ¹ The John B. Harris papers at the Bassett Historical Center (Anderson file).
- ² “Colored News,” *The Martinsville Bulletin*. December 1, 1938.
- ³ “Colored News,” *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin*, October 25, 1944.
- ⁴ http://religiousmovements.lib.virginia.edu/nrms/daddy_grace.html, accessed April 12, 2006.
- ⁵ “History of the United House of Prayer, Martinsville,” undated typescript.
- ⁶ “Sweet Daddy Grace, Famed Negro Bishop, Visits City,” *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin*, October 6, 1945.
- ⁷ “Respected Colored Leader Dies Here,” *The Martinsville Bulletin*, March 29, 1940.
- ⁸ 50th Anniversary publication of Pilgrim Baptist Church, 1994.
- ⁹ “Normal for Negro Teachers is Opened,” *The Henry Bulletin*, June 21, 1929.
- ¹⁰ <http://www.aaheritageva.org/sites.asp?MailingListID=574>, accessed April 12, 2006.
- ¹¹ *Martinsville & Henry County: Historic Views*, Martinsville-Henry County Woman’s Club, (Winston Salem, N.C., 1976); *Proud Heritage of Black Educators Resource Guide*, which draws largely from the John B. Harris file at the Bassett Historical Center in Bassett, Va, (Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce, 2003); the John B. Harris Papers (Bassett, Va.); Eugene Carl Hoover, *Secondary Education in Henry County, Virginia* (A Thesis Presented to the Graduate Faculty of the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, 1937); and, James H. Thomas, “Negroes Have Improved Their Conditions Vastly in Past Half Century,” *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin*, (July 31, 1939). p. 8.
- ¹² <http://www.aaheritageva.org/sites.asp?MailingListID=558>, accessed April 12, 2006.
- ¹³ J.E. Turner, “Martinsville’s Negro School Built in 1919,” *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin*, November 14, 1945 and The Seventh Biennial Albert Harris High School Reunion souvenir booklet, July 2004.
- ¹⁴ Term Report, 1922-23, State Library of Virginia, Public Records.
- ¹⁵ Eugene Carl Hoover, *Secondary Education in Henry County, Virginia* (A Thesis Presented to the Graduate Faculty of the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, 1937). p. 326.
- ¹⁶ “City Council Votes for New Colored School,” *The Daily Bulletin*, September 7, 1938.
- ¹⁷ “Equal Pay for Negro Teachers,” *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin*, December 11, 1940.
- ¹⁸ Front Row seated: Peter Hooger, Gertrude Gravely Edwards, (unknown) and Simon Eggleston. Second Row: Easterline Marshall, Benjamin Eggleston, Rubena Clark, ___Belcher, Bunch Clark, George Lightfoot, Thelma Hobson, Daniell Napper and (unknown.) Third row: (unknown), Roberta King, Helen Gray (teacher), ___Martin, Gracie Cabiness, (unknown), Elizabeth Gilmore, Virginia Lampkin, (unknown), C.T. Dillard, Virginia Martin, Myrtle Hobson, Irene Hamlin, and

Martha Saunders. Back row: Curtis Lightfoot, (unknown), (unknown), Tony Millner, (unknown), Benjamin Finney, Richard Noel, Benjamin Napper, Hasten Beamer and Lessie Martin.

¹⁹ Front row: (unknown), Eleanor Martin, (unknown), Mary Prillaman and Louise Woodward. Second row: Paul Penn, Beulah Martin, James Jones, Lewis Woodward, Clarence Prillaman, Lester Ramey and Marvin Hobson. Third row: George Mitchell, Erma Travis, John Penn and Novada Harris (teacher). Fourth row: Gracie Hobson, Joseph Millner (teacher), Agatha Travis and Cecil Cosby. Fifth row: Ethel Carter, Sallie Mae Hairston, (unknown), and (unknown). Sixth row: Fred Harris, (unknown), Beatrice Morris, Annie Williams, Queen Hairston, Catherine Dillard, Elizabeth Hairston, Ruby Martin and Willie Mitchell.

²⁰ *Contrary to the news report in the Bulletin, the death certificate on file at the Virginia State Library for the 21-year-old states the young man serving with a WWI Army training batallion died at Camp Lee during the 1918 flu epidemic.*

²¹ "Colored Veterans to Organize," " Negro Vets Plan Post Here," "Negro Vets Form Legion Post Here," and "Plans Perfected Colored Post," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin*, January 14, 21, 24 and February 25, 1930..

²² "Colored News," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin*, (July 24, 1941) p. 8.

²³ "Jobbers' Plant Buys U.S. Bonds," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin* (December 10, 1941) pp. 1 & 9.

²⁴ "Colored News," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin* (December 17, 1941) p. 10.

²⁵ "Colored News," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin*, August 21, 1942.

²⁶ "Colored War Service Committee Named," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin*, March 26, 1943.

²⁷ "Colored Citizens Gather Tin Cans," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin*, April 20, 1943.

²⁸ "Negro Scouts to Collect Fats," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin*, June 23, 1943.

²⁹ "Lt. Col Charles Wayne Kerwood Presents Army-Navy Award," *The Blender*, December 1942.

³⁰ "Colored News," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin*, September 20, 1943.

³¹ "Local Negro Soldier Dies in Texas Camp," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin*, July 2, 1945.

³² "Colored News," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin*, July 15, 1944.

³³ "Colored News," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin*, July 21 and August 18 & 19, 1944.

³⁴ "Armour G. McDaniel, ground-breaking soldier," *The Indianapolis Star*, (November 14, 1989), obituary page.

³⁵ *Although various dates appear in historical accounts, an extensive feature article on Jobbers plant operations in the Martinsville Daily Bulletin's anniversary edition of July 1939 gives both a month (November) and a year (1933) for the establishment of the important textile firm in the city (July 31, 1939) p. 4.*

³⁶ *The company is also referenced as the Atlas Silk Mills. Martinsville Daily Bulletin, (July 31, 1939) p. 4.*

³⁷ "Colored Labor To Be Used," *The Daily Bulletin* (October 26, 1936) p. 1; and the John B. Harris papers at the Bassett Historical Center. ("Dana Olden Baldwin, M.D.") (undated typescript.)

³⁸ "Colored Labor To Be Used," *The Daily Bulletin* (October 26, 1936) p. 1.

³⁹ *Ibid.*

- ⁴⁰ Dorthy Cleal, "Baldwin Celebrates 50th Year in City," *The Martinsville Bulletin*, (October 10, 1961) p. 7-A.
- ⁴¹ Ibid.
- ⁴² FAHI interview with Curtis Higginbotham, (March 2006.)
- ⁴³ Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia.
- ⁴⁴ www.aaheritageva.org/sites.asp?MailingListID=559, accessed April 12, 2006.
- ⁴⁵ "Dr. D. O. Baldwin Heads Firm To Make Brick At Martinsville," *Norfolk Journal and Guide* (January 7, 1939) p. 1.
- ⁴⁶ FAHI interview with Leroy Perkins and Floyd Gravely. (June 2005).
- ⁴⁷ www.imperialsavings.net/aboutus/aboutus.htm, accessed April 12, 2006.
- ⁴⁸ Maggie L.Walker National Historic Site, assorted literature (Richmond, Virginia) and web site www.nps.gov/malw/, accessed April 12, 2006.
- ⁴⁹ "Negro Insurance Office Opened," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin* (February 18, 1942) p. 7.
- ⁵⁰ "Negro Real Estate Insurance Agency," *The Martinsville Bulletin* (November 27, 1949) p. 7.
- ⁵¹ "Du Pont Develops New Use for Nylon — Badminton Racquet Strings," and "First Nylon is Produced Here Today," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin* (June 18 and November 3, 1941) pp. 9 & 1.
- ⁵² Louis Beckner, "One Man Sells 110,000 Bibles in 35 Years," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin* (October 10, 1936) p. 1.
- ⁵³ "Baldwin Host To Carrier Boys," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin* (February 14, 1936) p. 3.
- ⁵⁴ E. Franklin Frazier, *The Negro Church in America*, (New York, Schocken Books, 1964) p. 83.
- ⁵⁵ "Colored News," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin* (May 16, 1935) p. 8.
- ⁵⁶ "New Colored Scout Troop organized," *The Martinsville Bulletin* (May 11, 1942) p. 7.
- ⁵⁷ "Colored News," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin* (September 16, 1941) p. 7.
- ⁵⁸ "Negroes to Hold Mass Meeting Wednesday," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin* (April 25, 1944) p. 7.
- ⁵⁹ "Colored Park For Baseball Is Being Built," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin* (June 14, 1927) p. 1.
- ⁶⁰ FAHI interview with J.B. Travis, (March 2005).
- ⁶¹ Leonard Bowles, quoted in *Virginia Traditions, Non-Blue Secular Black Music*, Blue Ridge Institute Records, Ferrum College (1978). p. 4.
- ⁶² "Colored News," *The Daily Bulletin* (March 21, 1936) p. 3.
- ⁶³ Leonard Bowles, quoted in *Virginia Traditions, Non-Blue Secular Black Music*, Blue Ridge Institute Records, Ferrum College (1978). p. 4.
- ⁶⁴ *Virginia Traditions, Non-Blue Secular Black Music*, Blue Ridge Institute Records, Ferrum College (1978).
- ⁶⁵ "Colored Fair Held in City This Week," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin* (September 9, 1936) p. 2.
- ⁶⁶ "Colored News," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin* (May 29, 1941) p. 9.

- ⁶⁷ "Colored News," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin* (June 6, 1941) p. 9.
- ⁶⁸ "Colored German Draws 1500 to Warehouse," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin* (June 7, 1941) p. 7.
- ⁶⁹ *Journal and Guide* accounts of the 1938 Rocky Mount June German report that Jimmie Lunceford played in Rocky Mount in June 13 that year, on a Monday, two days after he would have been in Martinsville, making it both likely that he could have been booked to play both events, but also that the double-booking could have kept him from the earlier event.
- ⁷⁰ FAHI interview with Curtis Higginbotham, March 2006.
- ⁷¹ Part of a historical collection belonging to FAHI member and Collinsville resident Douglas Stegall, and a way of accounting for the statement on the undated June 10 program that the D&H Recreation Center was hosting the "11th Annual" dance.
- ⁷² "Colored News," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin* (June 10 & 15, 1939) pp. 6 & 12.
- ⁷³ "Colored News," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin* (May 3, 1940) p. 7.
- ⁷⁴ Advertisement in the *Norfolk Journal and Guide*, (May 3, 1941).
- ⁷⁵ "Colored News," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin* (August 13, 1940) p. 8.
- ⁷⁶ "Colored News," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin* (August 9, 1941) p. 7.
- ⁷⁷ "Colored News," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin* (August 13, 1941) p. 8.
- ⁷⁸ "Count Basie to Play Next Week," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin* (September 6, 1941) p. 2.
- ⁷⁹ "Colored News," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin* (September 26, 1940) p. 6.
- ⁸⁰ "Colored News," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin* (August 21, 1942) p. 5.
- ⁸¹ "Colored News," *The Henry Bulletin - Tri Weekly* (March 20, 1935) p. 7.
- ⁸² <http://xroads.virginia.edu/~CAP/PALACE/early.html>, accessed April 12, 2006.
- ⁸³ "Colored Fair Begins Sept 17," *The Henry Bulletin* (September 6, 1929) p. 1.
- ⁸⁴ "Martinsville Colored Fair is Success," *The Henry Bulletin* (September 20, 1929) pp. 1 & 7.
- ⁸⁵ "Colored Fair Is Being Held Here," *The Henry Bulletin* (September 9, 1932) pp. 1 & 4.
- ⁸⁶ "Colored News," *The Henry Bulletin* (May 20, 1932) p. 7.
- ⁸⁷ "Negro Team Begins Practice About March Tenth," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin* (March 4, 1935) p. 5.
- ⁸⁸ "Negro Fans to Be Guest of Baseball Club Monday," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin* (July 13, 1939) p. 13.
- ⁸⁹ "Colored News," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin* (March 8, 1940) p. 10.
- ⁹⁰ www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/VAmainstreet/text.htm#agriculture, accessed April 12, 2006.
- ⁹¹ Advertisement, *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin* (December 20, 1939) p. 5.

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- ¹ Donna Brim, "Former mayor recalls area's black history," *The Martinsville Bulletin* (February 2, 1997) p. 1-B.
- ² Dr. John P. Bing, "Dr. Dana Olden Baldwin, Chapter 3," *Portraits and Pathology*, (researched and compiled by Irene Harlow, bound in 2004 for the Bassett Historical Center.) p. 9; Dr. John P. Bing, "Meeting Area Needs," *The Hands, A History of Hospitals in Martinsville and Henry County, VA.* (Bassett, Bassett Printing Corp, 1977) p. 39; and, *Martinsville & Henry County: Historic Views*, Martinsville-Henry County Woman's Club, (Winston Salem, N.C., 1976) p. 141. Other historical accounts concerning St. Mary's also suggest the hospital was established in 1929, the year the buildings of Baldwin's "Block" were rebuilt after a significant fire.
- ³ "Colored Park For Baseball Is Being Built," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin*, (June 14, 1927) p. 1.
- ⁴ FAHI interview with Curtis Higginbotham, March 2006.
- ⁵ The John B. Harris Papers at the Bassett Historical Center (Spencer file); Imperial Savings and Loan advertisement, *The Martinsville Bulletin* (October 27, 1991) p. 29-A, and www.imperialsavings.net/aboutus/aboutus.htm, accessed April 12, 2006.
- ⁶ "Negro Training School Placed on Accredited List," *The Henry Bulletin* (October 2, 1931) p. 6.
- ⁷ Draper, C. S. "The Origins and Development of Piedmont Christian Institute," Unpublished masters thesis, Virginia State University (Petersburg, Virginia, USA, 2004).
- ⁸ FAHI interview with Douglas Stegall.
- ⁹ "Colored News," *The Daily Bulletin* (October 31, 1934) p. 7.
- ¹⁰ "Colored News," *The Daily Bulletin* (June 24, 1938) p. 6.
- ¹¹ *While an undated program saved by Martinsville resident Alberta Wilson that is most likely from 1938 lists Jimmie Lunceford and Jew Scales as headline acts, a later news account suggests North Carolina musician Jimmy Quinn performed that night. Lunceford was also booked to play at a June German dance in Rocky Mount, N.C., on June 13; Quinn, from Charlotte, N.C., returned to Martinsville in 1941 to play for a Masonic Ball.* "Colored News," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin*, May 23, 1940, May 21, 1941, and September 16, 1941; *Norfolk Journal and Guide*, June 25, 1938.
- ¹² "Colored News," *The Martinsville Bulletin*. (August 23, 1938) p. 5.
- ¹³ "Colored News," *The Martinsville Bulletin* (May 23, 1940) p. 5.
- ¹⁴ www.redhotjazz.com/barnes.html and www.chicago.urban-history.org/ven/dhs/arcadia.shtml, accessed April 12, 2006.
- ¹⁵ "Colored News," *The Martinsville Bulletin* (May 21, 1941) p. 10.
- ¹⁶ "Colored News," *The Martinsville Bulletin* (July 14, 1939) p. 6.
- ¹⁷ "Colored News," *The Martinsville Bulletin* (May 21, 1941) p. 10.
- ¹⁸ "Colored News," *The Martinsville Bulletin* (May 3, May 23, and June 4, 1940) pp. 7, 5 & 6.
- ¹⁹ "Council Buys Possible City Hall Site on Fayette Street," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin* (November 27, 1940) pp. 1 & 7.
- ²⁰ Clara Garrett Fountain, *Danville Postcards in the Postcard History Series*, (Charleston, S.C.,

Arcadia Publishing, 2000) p. 18.

²¹ FAHI interviews with Bev Millner and Mary Martin, February 2006.

²² “Colored News,” *The Martinsville Bulletin* (February 7, 1941) p. 8.

²³ “Colored News,” *The Martinsville Bulletin* (February 20, 1941) p. 8.

²⁴ “Colored News,” *The Martinsville Bulletin* (March 14, 1941) p. 5.

²⁵ “Colored News,” *The Martinsville Bulletin* (May 15, 1941) p. 10.

²⁶ “First Nylon is Produced Here Today,” *The Martinsville Bulletin* (November 3, 1941) p. 1.

²⁷ “Colored News,” *The Martinsville Bulletin* (November 12, 1941) p. 12.

²⁸ “Colored News,” *The Martinsville Bulletin* (June 1, 1942) p. 3.

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¹ www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/database/ellison_r.html, accessed April 17, 2006.

² Advertisement in *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin* (May 23, 1940) p. 5.

³ “Colored News,” *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin* (March 16, 1946) p. 3.

⁴ FAHI interview with Lucille Poteat, April 2006.

⁵ High Street Baptist Church history (undated).

⁸ Mt. Zion A.M.E. church history (January 1994).

⁷ “Negro Pastor Named Head of Church Unit,” *The Martinsville Bulletin* (May 21, 1953) p. 1.

⁸ St. Paul’s Episcopal Church church history (undated).

⁹ “Sweet Daddy Grace, Famed Negro Bishop, Visits City,” *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin* (October 6, 1945) p. 3.

¹⁰ FAHI interview with Gloria Hodge Hylton, April 2006.

¹¹ FAHI interview with Leroy Perkins, July 2005.

¹² FAHI interviews with Jewel Smith Jones and Jean Patterson Wilson, April 2006.

¹³ “Colored News,” *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin* (February 9, 1945) p. 8.

¹⁴ “Flames Threaten Destruction Of Henry County Training School,” *The Daily Bulletin*, (April 14, 1948) p. 1.

¹⁵ “Negro Classes To Be Resumed Next Monday,” *The Daily Bulletin* (April 16, 1948) p. 1.

¹⁶ “Martinsville’s New Albert Harris School...” and “New Negro School to Open,” *The Daily Bulletin* (September 19, 1948 and September 18, 1949) p. 14 and p. 1.

¹⁷ *From left, Choir director and English/French teacher John “Johnnie” Saunders, on piano; Jesse Brown, Claude Bannister, Nathaniel Hailey, Band teacher Melvin Harris, Yvonne Ingram, Frank Tapley and Walter Penn.*

¹⁸ *Members of the inaugural Albert Harris football team included (first row, left to right) Coach C. L. Williams, William Hairston, Henry Clay Hairston, Charlie Hairston, Norman Brown, Joseph Hairston, Henry Clay Lytle, Clyde Gravely, Charles Mitchell and Jesse Anglin, Jr.; (second row), George Mullins, Albert Hairston, “Juke” Scales, Ollie Penn, Twyman Eggleston, Colbert Pettie, William Dillard, Joe Hairston, Jesse Hylton, Henry Pettie, Edward Hairston and Assistant*

Coach Lloyd Saunders. (*The Martinsville Bulletin*, July 4, 1976). p. 81.

- ¹⁹ "Colored News," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin*, (August 1, 1945) p. 6.
- ²⁰ "A Letter from Seaman James Milner," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin*, (October 11, 1945) p. 9.
- ²¹ "Colored Loan Group Headed by Dr. Vickers," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin*, (October 20, 1945) p. 1.
- ²² "Colored News," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin* (April 18, 1946) p. 12.
- ²³ Photo caption, *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin* (April 27, 1945) p. 8.
- ²⁴ "Jobbers Plant 2 To Be Closed," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin* (January 12, 1945) p. 7.
- ²⁵ "Election to Be Held At Jobbers Wednesday," and "Jobbers' Signs Union Contract," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin* (January 22 and December 13, 1946) p. 7 and p. 11.
- ²⁶ Dorothy Cleal, "Baldwin Celebrates 50th Year in City," *The Martinsville Bulletin*, October 10, 1961.
- ²⁷ "Negro Hospital To Be Erected," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin* (June 6, 1946) p. 1.
- ²⁸ "Campaign Started to Complete City Colored Hospital Project," *The Daily Bulletin* (September 12, 1948) p. 7.
- ²⁹ "Colored Hospital Campaign Starts," *The Daily Bulletin* (July 26, 1948) p. 1.
- ³⁰ "Junior Chamber To Head Negro Hospital Campaign," *The Martinsville Bulletin*, (November 4, 1948) pp. 1 & 2.
- ³¹ Photo caption, *The Martinsville Bulletin*, (October 27, 1991) p. 26-A.
- ³² Ibid.
- ³³ Advertisement, *The Henry Bulletin, Tri-Weekly* (November 26, 1934), p. 7.
- ³⁴ "Funds Still Badly Needed..." and "Hospital Fund Drive Moves Slowly Here," *The Martinsville Bulletin* (November 14 and 23, 1948) p. 8 and p. 1.
- ³⁵ From Gymtorium Dedication program (Martinsville, Virginia, May 24, 1953), provided by Dr. John P. Bing.
- ³⁶ Interview notes of Dr. John P. Bing (January 30, 1969).
- ³⁷ FAHI interviews with Albert Harris High School alumni, Washington D.C. 2004.
- ³⁸ FAHI interviews with Albert Harris High School alumni, Washington D.C. 2004.
- ³⁹ *Don't Grieve After Me, The Black Experience in Virginia, 1619-2005*, (The Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Hampton University, 2006) p. 81.
- ⁴⁰ "Cafeteria, Negro Nursery, Girls Scouts Aided By Fund," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin* (October 6, 1945) p. 8.
- ⁴¹ FAHI interview with Marvin Hobson, March 2006.
- ⁴² "Ku-Wat Club fosters charity, not violence, in Martinsville," *The Martinsville Bulletin* (July 27, 2001) online archives, www.martinsvillebulletin.com, accessed April 17, 2006.
- ⁴³ "Colored News," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin* (September 20, 1945) p. 7.
- ⁴⁴ "Negro Scout Camp Set Up for August," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin* (August 5 and September 5, 1946) p. 5 & p. 6.

- ⁴⁵ The two Roanoke Prince Hall members on either end of the photograph assisted in helping found the Martinsville Gibraltar Masonic Lodge. In Roanoke for the photo were, from left, first row: (Roanoke Prince Hall member,) (unknown), Marvin Hobson, John Hylton, Joseph Pritchett, Jerome Morris, Harry Stone, Eugene Spencer, Sr., James D. Stone, and (Roanoke Prince Hall member); second row, Wm. H. "Squench" Gravely, Arthur Pannill, York Pannill, Damell Hodge, Sr., Rufus Clark, Dennis Eggleston, Charlie Smith, John Pannill, Mark Eggleston and Damell Hodge.
- ⁴⁶ The gathering of Kappa Alpha Psi Martinsville chapter members included, from left: Dr. C. Matthews, Andrew Wills, Simon Spencer, Rev. Robert Foster, Joe Starr, Walter Massie, Gilbert "Poochie" Home, Charles Preston, Charlie Belvior, Clarence Gillis (of Roanoke) and Al Smith.
- ⁴⁷ James Brown, *I Feel Good, A Memoir of a Life of Soul*, (New American Library, New York 2005) p. 83.
- ⁴⁸ FAHI interview with Rev. Jerome B. Morris, December 2005.
- ⁴⁹ FAHI phone interview with Alton Morris, January 2006.
- ⁵⁰ "West Fayette Street May Get Sewer Line," *The Martinsville Bulletin* (September 28, 1949) p. 1.
- ⁵¹ Advertisement, *The Martinsville Bulletin* (April 14, 1948).

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- ¹ "Colored Fair Starts Monday," *The Martinsville Bulletin*, (August 11, 1945), p. 5.
- ² "Sweet Daddy Grace, Famed Negro Bishop, Visits City," *The Martinsville Bulletin*, (October 6, 1945), p. 3.
- ³ "Martinsville's Negro School Built in 1919," *The Martinsville Daily Bulletin*, (November 14, 1945) p. 7.
- ⁴ "Troxler Firm Here Occupies Three Stories," *The Martinsville Bulletin*, (September 19, 1951) p. 2-B.
- ⁵ "Negro Deputies in Henry Asked of Supervisors," *The Martinsville Bulletin*, (June 27, 1949) p. 1.
- ⁶ Used with permission of the University of Virginia Library
- ⁷ www.virginia.edu/woodson/projects/kenan/swanson/swanson.html. Accessed March 22, 2006.
- ⁸ "Physician, Dentist Open New Offices For Practice in City," *The Martinsville Bulletin*, (October 7, 1953) p. 3.
- ⁹ <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/voting/>
- ¹⁰ FAHI interview with Danny Shelton, 2005.
- ¹¹ FAHI interview with Tommy Tinsley, 2005.

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CHAPTER FOUR ENDNOTES

- ¹ John Hope Franklin and Alfred A. Moss, Jr., *From Freedom to Slavery*, Seventh Edition, (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1994) p.xxiii.
- ² FAHI interview with Kimble Reynolds, Jr. December 2005.
- ³ James Brown, *I Feel Good, A Memoir of a Life of Soul*. (New York: New American Library, 2005) pp. 29-30.
- ⁴ William A. Shackelford, Jr. "The Presence of Black History in Religion," *The Martinsville Bulletin* (February 13, 2000) p. B1.
- ⁵ FAHI interview with Shirley Harris and Brenda Ephraim, February 2006.
- ⁶ FAHI interview with Floretta Hairston Cahill, Ann S. Stanley and Marvin Gravely, January 2006.
- ⁷ "Farmer's son became force behind local Voters League," *The Martinsville Bulletin*, (June 4, 1989) p. 10-D.
- ⁸ "Churches, pastors contribute to area," *The Martinsville Bulletin*, (July 31, 1998) p. 2.
- ⁹ Fayette Street Christian Church, 110th Anniversary publication, June 1999.
- ¹⁰ "Centennial Celebration Grace United Presbyterian Church," November 1982.
- ¹¹ Mt. Carmel Holiness church history (undated).
- ¹² "A Revised History of Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church, January 1994.
- ¹³ www.imperialsavings.net/aboutus/aboutus.htm, accessed April 17, 2006.
- ¹⁴ multiple sources, including Dr. John Bing's personal interview with Dr. Baldwin in 1969, and Martinsville city directories.
- ¹⁵ www.baseball-reference.com/bullpen/Martinsville%2C_VA.
- ¹⁶ Photo caption, *The Martinsville Bulletin*, (October 27, 1991) p. 31-B.
- ¹⁷ www.baseball-reference.com/bullpen/Lou_Whitaker, accessed April 17, 2006.
- ¹⁸ "Pantsarama" provided by Alberta Wilson.
- ¹⁹ "Mt. Sinai recognizes community leaders," *The Martinsville Bulletin* (January 18, 1999).
- ²⁰ David S. Broder (column), *The Washington Post* (July 28, 2005) p. A25.
- ²¹ A Revised History of Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church, January 1994.

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- ¹ "The Way We Learned," photo caption, *The Martinsville Bulletin*, (October 27, 1991) p. 24-B.
- ² www.coopercenter.org/demographics/CENSUS%20DATA/, accessed April 15, 2006.
- ³ www.pro-football-reference.com/players/MoorSh00.htm and www.usafootball.com/articles/19-press-box/94-press-releases/204-3/03/04:-uva-legend-1990-heisman-trophy-finalist-moore-to-present-award-at-banquet.php
- ⁴ www.theragingbull.com/0702db/072502.htm, accessed April 15, 2006.