



Calhoun Statue Removed - Marion Square

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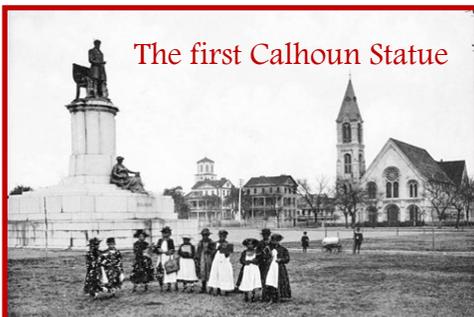
In the early morning of Wednesday, June 24th (one week after the 5th anniversary of the Emanuel 9 massacre), several hundred people gathered on Marion Square to watch the removal of the 12 foot statue of the seventh U.S. Vice President and strong slavery advocate John Caldwell Calhoun (March 18, 1782 – March 31, 1850) from its perch. Charleston officials had voted unanimously (13-0) the day before, to remove the statue from the downtown square, the latest in a wave of actions arising from protests against racism and police brutality against African Americans. Little did anyone know that it would take 17 hours before the statue would be removed from its pedestal. The monument was 115 feet tall and was erected June 27, 1896 overlooking Calhoun Street.



The Calhoun monument was the second such structure on the square. The first statue was not liked by the people of Charleston, it was repeatedly vandalized and the organizers of the installation had problems with the delivery of the pieces. Eventually, in 1894, a new artist, was commissioned to create a new Calhoun figure. The new memorial was raised in 1896, and the old one was sold off for scrap value. For over 125 years a John C. Calhoun statue has been on Calhoun Street.

Calhoun was an American statesman and political theorist from Abbeville, SC he served as the seventh vice president of the United States from 1825 to 1832, under two presidents of different political parties. During his political career, he was a senator, congressman, Secretary of State and Secretary of War. He is remembered for strongly defending slavery (he owned 80 slaves) and for advancing the concept of minority states' rights in politics.

A month later, on Wed., Aug. 26th, Marion Square shook as a demolition crew pulled down the massive granite pillar that held the statue for over a century.



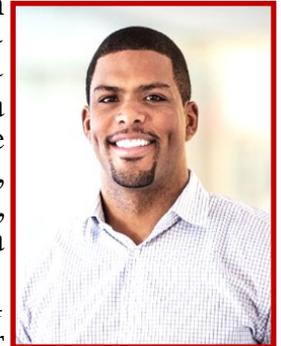
The first Calhoun Statue

In 21 seconds, Target Construction backhoe operators pulled down the column that was there for 124

years. Metal plates placed in front of the statue to protect the grass and walkways did little - in some spots, the more than 100,000 pound pillar was embedded nearly a foot into the ground. The job was done!

Jason Wright – President of Washington Football Team

For the first time in league history, an NFL team has a Black president. The Washington Football Team organization welcomed Jason G. Wright, a 38-year-old former NFL running back, to a role "responsible for leading the organization's business divisions, including operations, finance, sales, and marketing," according to a new release from the franchise.



Wright spent seven years (2004 to 2011) in the backfield for four teams: the San Francisco 49ers, Atlanta Falcons, Cleveland Browns and Arizona Cardinals. Following his retirement as a player, the former Northwestern Wildcat (member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.) went on to earn his MBA from the *University of Chicago Booth School of Business*. "If I could custom design a leader for this important time in our history, it would be Jason," said Washington team owner Daniel Snyder. "His experience as a former player, coupled with his business acumen, gives him a perspective that is unrivaled in the league."

Since the Washington football franchise announced the retirement of the Redskins team name earlier this summer, a decision that followed what the organization called a "thorough review" that came "in light of events in the country and feedback from our community." In May, the killing of George Floyd set off a national response, resulting in coast to coast protests and a resurgence of the Black Lives Matter movement. Months later, the football team from Washington is without its oft-criticized, racially insensitive moniker, and with a Black president for the first time ever. "The transformation of the Washington Football Team is happening across all aspects of the organization - from football to operations to branding to culture-and will make us a truly modern and aspirational franchise," Wright said of his appointment.

At 38, Jason Gomillion Wright is the youngest team president in NFL history, and only the fourth former player to assume the role.

Ratification of the 19th Amendment

Passed by Congress June 4, 1919, and **ratified** on August 18, 1920, the **19th amendment** granted women the right to vote. The **19th amendment** guarantees all Ameri-

can women the right to vote. Achieving this milestone required a lengthy and difficult struggle; victory took decades (72 years) of agitation and protest.

When Congress ratified the 19th Amendment on August 18, 1920, giving American women the right to vote, it reflected the culmination of generations' worth of work by resolute suffragists of all races and backgrounds. Historically, attention has focused on the efforts of white movement leaders like Susan B. Anthony, Alice Paul and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. But they worked alongside many lesser-known suffragists, such as Marie Louise Bottineau Baldwin, Dr. Mabel Ping-Hua Lee and Nina Otero-Warren, who made crucial contributions to the cause—while also battling racism and discrimination.

For their part, “Black suffragists came to the suffrage movement from a different perspective,” said Earnestine Jenkins, who teaches Black history and culture at the University of Memphis. Their movement, she says, grew out of the broader struggle for basic human and civil rights during the oppressive Jim Crow era.

But while many 19th-century women's rights advocates got their political start in the anti-slavery movement, not all were keen on seeing Black men leapfrog women for voting rights with the 15th Amendment. Viewing the issues competitively, some leading white suffragists aggressively sidelined Black women—and their broader civil rights issues, like segregation and racial violence—from the movement. One strategy? Using their platforms to perpetuate stereotypes that women of color were uneducated or promiscuous.

Even after the 19th Amendment passed, promising that the right to vote would “not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex,” women of color continued to be barred from casting ballots in many states with tactics like poll taxes and literacy tests. Suffrage battles continued for decades—often against a backdrop of intimidation and violence. Yet mid-century activists, like Fannie Lou Hamer, fought on, knowing the vote was a crucial tool for changing oppressive laws and dismantling entrenched racism. Here are five Black suffragists whose resourcefulness and persistence became instrumental in passing the 19th Amendment.

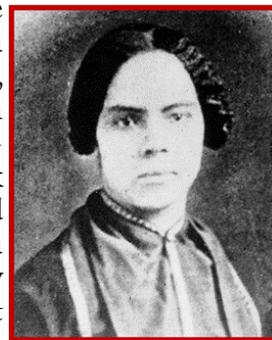
Black Women Who Fought for the Right to Vote:

Frances Ellen Watkins Harper (1825–1911). At a time in America when the majority of Black people were enslaved and women were rarely encouraged to have political opinions—much less share them in public—Frances Ellen Watkins Harper became a genuine celebrity as an orator. Second only to abolitionist Frederick Douglass in terms of prominent African American writers of her era, the poet, essayist and novelist frequently went on speaking tours to discuss slavery, civil rights and suffrage—and donated many of the proceeds from her



books to the Underground Railroad.

Mary Ann Shadd Cary (1823–1893). Mary Ann Shadd Cary, whose parents used her childhood home as a refuge for fugitive slaves, became the first Black woman in North America to publish a newspaper, *The Provincial Freeman*, in which she fearlessly advocated for abolition. After helping recruit Black soldiers for the Civil War and founding a school for the children of freed slaves, she taught school by day while attending law school at night, becoming one of the first



Black female law graduates in the United States in 1883. When the suffrage movement gained steam in the 1870s, after the 15th Amendment granted the vote to Black men, she became an outspoken activist for women's rights, including the right to cast a ballot.

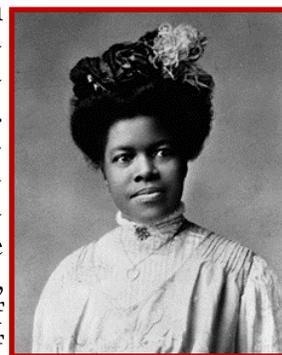
Mary Church Terrell (1863–1954), one of the first Black women to earn a college degree. Pushed out of the



mainstream suffrage movement by white leaders, Black suffragists through the 1800s founded their own clubs in cities across the U.S. Along with church-based organizing, “the club movement was the foundation for so much activism by Black women in their communities,” says Jenkins. With the creation of the National Association of Colored Women

(NACW) in 1896, suffragists Mary Church Terrell and co-founder Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin became instrumental in consolidating Black suffrage groups across the country. Their agenda went beyond women's enfranchisement, addressing issues of job training, equal pay, educational opportunity and child care for African Americans.

Nannie Helen Burroughs (1879–1961). In more than 200 speeches she gave across the country, educator, feminist and suffragist Nannie Helen Burroughs stressed the importance of women's self-reliance and economic freedom. A member of National Association of Colored Women, the National Association of Wage Earners and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, she saw voting as a crucial tool of empowerment, an extension of her lifetime commitment to educating African American women. One of her lasting achievements was to launch and run the National Training School for Women and Girls in Washington, D.C.



Ida B. Wells (1862–1931). In addition to being one of

the most prominent anti-lynching activists and respected journalists of the early 20th century- she owned two newspapers - Ida B. Wells was also a strident supporter of women's voting rights. In 1913, Wells, one of the founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, co-founded the Alpha Suffrage Club, Chicago's first African American suffrage organization. The club was notable for its focus on educating Black women about civics and its advocacy for the election of Black political officials.



On **May 21, 1919**, the House of Representatives passed the amendment, and two weeks later, the Senate followed. When Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the amendment on August 18, 1920, the amendment was adopted.

New Air Force Chief of Staff



Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr. is the new Chief of Staff of the Air Force. As Chief, he serves as the senior uniformed Air Force officer responsible for the organization, training and equipping of 685,000 active-duty, Guard, Reserve and civilian forces serving in the United States and overseas. As a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the general

and other service chiefs function as military advisers to the Secretary of Defense, National Security Council and the President.

Gen. Brown was commissioned in 1984 as a distinguished graduate of the ROTC program at Texas Tech University; majored in civil engineering. He is a brother of the Eta Upsilon chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. In 1994, Brown earned a master's degree in aeronautical science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, in Daytona Beach, FL. He has served in a variety of positions at the squadron and wing levels, including an assignment to the U.S. Air Force Weapons School as an F-16 Fighting Falcon Instructor. Gen. Brown is a command pilot with more than 2,900 flying hours, including 130 combat hours. In 2012, the Texas Tech Alumni Association declared Brown a "Distinguished Graduate" of Texas Tech University.

Michelle Gaston - 2020 NCCU Alumnus of The Year

Charleston Club member Michelle Dean Gaston was recently selected as the **2020 NCCU Alumni Association's Alumnus of The Year** in July. Michelle was nominated by her NCCU Coastal Alumni Association in which she has worked diligently for many, many years. Michelle V. Dean and her family relocated from New York City, when she was 16 years old in the late 1970s, and moved to Winton

Salem, NC. There she graduated (with honors) from Parkland Senior High School and chose North Carolina Central University for her undergraduate studies. She graduated in three years, Magna Cum Laude (*"with great praise"*) with a B.S. in Public Administration Class of 1981. Then it was on to N.C. State University for her Master's degree in Public Affairs.



She started her career in the Washington area at Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Her responsibilities included direct oversight of budget, administrative operations, and contract oversight. Academically, she wasn't finished, she would go on to complete the Senior Executive Fellows Program at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

While working at the Navy Dept. she met her future husband, Anthony (Tony) O. Gaston, (U.S. Navy, retired Master Chief Submariner), he was from the Ridgeland, SC (Beaufort area). The couple were married in the 1991, they are the proud parents of a daughter, Victoria (Vikki) and sons Kenyada and Morgan. They have lived in the Washington, Norfolk, VA and in Upper Marlboro, MD areas. It was during these Maryland years that both of the Gastons became very active members of the Charleston Club; Michelle was the club's treasurer during the Club's 2018 Grand Reunion in Washington. Shortly thereafter the family heard the call of the Palmetto State, "South Carolina Needs YOU!"

Over the last two years, the Gastons have been working with their builder on their new home in Ridgeland; after 14 months they finally moved in this past March. Tony is enjoying the golf courses and fishing. Michelle is continuing in her winning ways, she was the 2017-2018 Ms. NCCU Alumni. In 2018, Michelle received the honor of winning the NCCU Alumni Association's "Truth and Service" award, in recognition of service to NCCU and the national alumni Association. Now, she is busy establishing her own new business... a management consulting firm, **MVDG Services Ltd.**, something she has performed for many years. Congratulations from The Charleston Club Mrs. Gaston, you are one in a million, an honor well deserved!

Charleston Club Tattler ~ One liners . . .

- Due to Coronavirus crisis, the **September 12th** Charleston Club meeting will be via tele-conference, look for an e-mail for the time and agenda details.
- Charleston Club members, Clarence L. Holmen and Clarence H. McNeill received Service Awards for *60 years of Devotion and Service to Omega Psi Phi Fraternity* at their 82nd Grand Conclave July 17th-19th. This was a first Ever Virtual Conclave for the group, but the Omegas pulled it off successfully. Both Holman and McNeill are longtime members of the Charleston Club and have

given years of service to our club, Congratulations to these outstanding men for their continued SERVICE!

- Charleston's own Cynthia McCottry-Smith, (Avery '40) has done it again, this past July 23rd – National Grandma Day, Ms. Canny was selected as “Gorgeous Grandma” at her Harmony Collection at Columbia Senior Living Center. The 97 year old former Charleston school teacher adds another tribute to her list of awards. Her 98th birthday is this coming December 27th, The Tattler will feature her in the next few months.

In Memoriam



- ♦ **Inez Carolyn Phillips Jackson** of Phillipsburg, NJ and Charleston. Inez, known as Zeni, to fellow members of the Charleston Club was a major part of the clubs activities. A Burke High School graduate and the daughter of James and Maranda Phillips Holmes. The wife of Olan Frederick Jackson, Sr. She was a very fashionable super model and a modeling instructor for Barbizon International and a Certified Fund-Raising Executive. She leaves three sons, Garry, Michael, and Olan, Jr., sister, Dr. Jeanette Maranda Steward, of MD, brother, Dr. James Arthur Holmes, Ph.D., of NC, and 3 grandchildren.
- ♦ **O'Neil Cantej, Jr.** (April 13, 1932 ~ May 30, 2020) of Indianapolis, IN – died in June, he was 88 years old. O'Neil was a U.S. Army veteran and a member of the Masons. Graveside Services were held at Sunset Memorial Gardens, in North Charleston. O'Neil was the brother of Charleston Club member Rev. Dr. Ethel C. S. Bothuel of Gainesville, VA; and had four beloved nephews.
- ♦ **The Reverend John T. Bowden, Jr.** Colonel U.S.A. (Ret.) (March 30, 1938 ~ June 4, 2020) in Orangeburg; he was 82 years old. The son of the late John T. Bowden, Sr. and Ruth Burley Bowden of Charleston. He was a graduate of Burke High School ('56) and SC State (B.S. Chemistry) in 1960. In 1983, he was assigned to South Carolina State University (SCSU), his beloved Alma Mater, as Professor of Military Science. He holds the school's record for commissioning the most soldiers, many of whom are currently serving with the rank of General, before retiring in December 1986, after 26 years of exemplary service. Life-member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., he is survived by his devoted wife, Ruthie Gallman Bowden; three sons, Gary T., Steven E., and Gregory M., and one granddaughter and three grandsons.
- ♦ **Mildred Hamilton Mitchell** (January 10, 1942 - June 24,

2020) of Wadmalaw Island; she was 78 years old. Born in Cross, SC, and raised in Charleston. She graduated from Burke High School, Class of 1961. She moved to New York City and alongside Benjamin raised their three children in Harlem. She worked as a patient unit clerk at New York University Medical Center for 38 years. After she retired she served as an usher and missionary for New Bethlehem Church on Wadmalaw Island, and was a lifetime member of the National Council of Negro Women Bethune Leonard Section. Mildred had unbridled energy: photography was her joy, she loved spending time with her family but most of all Mildred lived to help people in her community. Both Mildred and her beloved husband, Ben "Goola" Mitchell were mainstays of the *Charleston Ballers* and have played a significant role in the annual Christmas celebration in Charleston.

- ♦ **The Honorable Floyd Breeland** (August 5, 1933 ~ August 11, 2020) of Charleston, formerly of St. George, SC, died; he was 87 years old. He was the son of Lucius and the late Lillian Cummings Breeland. A graduate of Allen University (Bachelors) and Indiana University (Masters). Serviced in the US Army, he worked for 33 years in the Education field as a teacher, administrator and Vice-Principal. He became a Legislator in the SC State House of Representatives for 16 years. He became the Director of the Call Me Mister Program at the College of Charleston for 10 more years. Lastly, a long-time member, serving in many capacities, of Mother Emanuel AME Church in Downtown Charleston. Floyd leaves his beloved wife, Felicia Scott Breeland; a son; a granddaughter and two great-granddaughters.
- ♦ **Wendell Nathaniel Johnson** (February 12, 1949 – August 25, 2020) died in Charleston; he was 71 years old. He was the son of Nathaniel M. Johnson (Tannie) and Dorothy Thompson Johnson. Wendell graduated from Burke High School (1967) and attended Tennessee A&I University (now Tennessee State University) and became a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Wendell serviced in the US Army during the 1970s and returned to Charleston area and became an outstanding photographer. He is survived by a son Darrell L. Wilson (Jacqueline) and daughter Mrs. Brittany Holmes-Moore (Ronnie); and sister Avis R. Johnson. Memorial services will be held on February 12th of 2021, his 72nd birthday.

Happy Birthdays!

September Birthdays 2020:

Lashanka Bennett - Sept. 4th, ~ **Elaine Middleton** - Sept. 4th
 ~ **Gloria Hanson** - Sept 5th, ~ **Elizabeth White** – Sept. 7th;
 ~ **Veronica Hoke** - Sept. 11th, ~ **Carolyn Knowles** – Sept.
 16th, ~ **Leroy Latten** – Sept. 17th, ~ **Clarence Holman** –
 Sept. 19th, ~ **Jeanette Cherry** – Sept 20th, ~ **John Brooks** –
 Sept. 21st, ~ **Ben Randall** – Sept. 21st, ~ **Jacquetta Whaley** -
 Sept. 21st.
 - *The Fly on The Wall!*