



Arlington Nat. Cemetery's Freeman Village

Freeman's Village - Lost Chapter in Arlington Cemetery



On September 22, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln issued the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, which declared that as of January 1, 1863, all enslaved people in the states currently engaged in rebellion against the Union "shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free." Lincoln didn't actually free any of the approximately 4 million men, women and children held in slavery in the United States when he signed the formal Emancipation Proclamation the following January. The document applied only to enslaved people in the Confederacy, and not to those in the border states that remained loyal to the Union. But although it was presented chiefly as a military measure, the proclamation marked a crucial shift in Lincoln's views on slavery. Emancipation would redefine the Civil War, turning it from a struggle to preserve the Union to one focused on ending slavery, and set a decisive course for how the nation would be reshaped after that historic conflict.

On April 16, 1862, Congress passed legislation freeing all enslaved people in the District of Columbia. Blacks from Virginia and elsewhere flocked to the city in search of work and shelter. Already struggling to meet the needs of their impoverished residents by the fall of 1862, the modest freedmen's camps which the Government had erected in the city were overwhelmed after President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation freeing all enslaved people in the Confederate states that started after January 1, 1863. Overcrowding and steadily deteriorating conditions in the Washington camps drove military authorities to look to create a new camp for "contrabands," outside of the city.

Removed from Washington and occupied by the Union army since with the start of the Civil War in April 1861, Arlington emerged as a sensible choice for the new camp. On May 5, 1863, the chief quartermaster of the Department of Washington, and the American Missionary Association

officially selected the Arlington Estate as the site for Freedmen's Village, which they intended to be a model community for freed-persons.

Freedman's Village was established on what is today Arlington National Cemetery, the Pentagon and the Navy Annex building. The village was a collection of 50 one-and-a-half story houses. Each house was divided in half to accommodate two families. The freed men and women - often referred to as contrabands by the government. They had all traveled north from parts of Virginia, the Carolinas and other regions of the south in the hopes of finding work and opportunity. Freedman's Village was intended to house these refugees, train them in skilled labor and to educate freed children. The camp's grounds included an industrial school, several schools for children, a hospital, a home for the aged and churches. Freedman's Village's creation had less to do with helping blacks integrate into free society and more to do with segregation. "Although slavery was abolished, the North was not really interested in having blacks coming into northern cities. It isn't as if the country had made the full leap to integration."

The able-bodied residents of Freedman's Village had to work, often put to difficult labor on construction projects and farming. They were paid \$10 each week but half of their salary was turned over to the camp's authorities to pay for overhead costs. Although the village operated several farms, their produce was sold by the government to consumers in Washington, D.C. The village lived "entirely under military discipline, and were "obliged to live solely on military rations." A report describes many in the village wandering nearby roads to beg for food. After a brief period of employment in the village, residents had to leave in order to seek jobs elsewhere and make room for new arrivals. The village had only one source of water, a well. It was also constructed on what was then a swamp, which caused several outbreaks of smallpox. Yet despite hardships, the village always saw new residents and refugees.

Notable residents of the village included Sojourner Truth, who worked to smuggle slaves out of the south on the Underground Railroad, she lived in the village for one year in 1864, serving as a teacher and helping to find jobs for villagers. Many of the laborers in Freedman's Village worked on the construction of the U.S. capitol building.

The residents of Freedman's Village often found themselves at odds with the society outside its limits. As Washington expanded, land speculators pressured the government to close the camp. "As the black population became more and more prominent, the camp started getting overcrowded, many spilled out into other parts of Arlington."

Freedman's village was closed down in 1900. At its



height, it housed more than 1,100 residents yet it was only constructed to contain about 600. A reporter from the New York Herald noted days before it was shut down that the closing was mostly due to encroaching development, local plans for the expansion of Mount Vernon Avenue and the coming bridge over the Potomac. After Freedman's Village was shut down, local farmers, many of them black, others sympathetic to the plight of the freed slaves, offered land to village residents. As Arlington's black community plans the creation of a museum devoted to its history, the importance of Freedman's Village cannot be underestimated. An exhibit on Freedman's Village, including a scale model, is on display at Arlington House, the former estate of Robert E. Lee in Arlington Cemetery. The Black Heritage Museum's website, www.arlingtonblackheritage.org, is also expected to carry an exhibit on Freedman's Village in the coming months.

Black Woman Astronaut - First to Visit ISS

Jeanette Epps, a NASA astronaut, will soon make history as the first-ever Black woman to fly to the International Space Station on a mission into orbit. It will also be her first space flight in her career. Epps, who is from Syracuse, New York, earned a bachelor's degree in Physics in 1992 from LeMoyne College. She then attended the University of Maryland, College Park where she received a Masters in 1994 and a Doctorate in 2000 for Aerospace Engineering. She was also a NASA Graduate Student Researchers Project fellow while pursuing her doctorate degree, where she authored several journals and conference articles on her research.



After finishing her graduate school, she worked as a technical specialist in Ford's Scientific Research Laboratory for 2 years, co-authoring several patents. She then served as a technical intelligence officer in the CIA for 7 years. In 2009, she was one of the nine selected people to become a NASA astronaut. Moreover, she would have made history earlier in 2018 as the first Black woman to live on the ISS, but was later reassigned for undisclosed reasons.

Now, Epps has been assigned to NASA's Boeing Starliner mission, the first operational crewed flight of Boeing's CST-100 Starliner spacecraft on a mission to the International Space Station. She will be joining NASA astronauts Sunita Williams and Josh Cassada for a six-month expedition which is set to launch in 2021.

Dr. Christine King Farris Celebrates 93rd birthday

It was a very special 93rd birthday party in Atlanta for Dr. Christine King Farris. Willie Christine King Farris was born on September 11, 1927, she is the eldest and only living sibling of Martin Luther King, Jr. Willie Christine King, known affectionately as Christine, was one of "three peas in a pod." The other two were her younger brothers, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and Rev. Alfred Daniel King, known to her as ML and AD. She taught at Spelman



College and is the author of several books and a public speaker on various topics, including the King family, multicultural education.

Even before she graduated from the Spelman nursery in 1931, Christine King Farris' mother, grandmother, and great-aunt had all matriculated at Spelman. Farris was, for many years, Vice Chair and Treasurer of the King Center for Nonviolent Social Change and had been active for several years in the International Reading Association, and various church and civic organizations, including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. She held a tenure professorship at Spelman College for 48 years before retiring in 2014. Farris has also published a children's book, *My Brother Martin*, as well as the autobiography, *Through It All: Reflections on My Life, My Family, and My Faith*.

On June 7, 1948, Farris received her Bachelor's degree in Economics from Spelman, and the very next day, her brother Martin received his Bachelor's degree in Sociology from Morehouse College. Unable to attend Georgia's flagship University of Georgia, because it did not admit Black students until the mid-1960s, Farris attended New York's Columbia University, where she received a Master's degree in Social Foundations of Education in 1950 and went on to earn another Master's in Special Education in 1958.

She was married to Issac Newton Farris, Sr. (1934–2017), and has two children; Issac Newton Farris, Jr., and Angela Christine Farris Watkins.

UMD Renames Women's Studies After Harriet Tubman

The University of Maryland College Park has renamed their Department of Women's Studies program the Harriet Tubman Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Barely two months into the tenure of the first Black president in the history of the University of Maryland-College Park, the state's flagship university announced it will rename its women's studies program after the historic figure who is synonymous with the underground railroad. The University of Maryland's College of Arts and Humanities (ARHU) announced the Department of Women's Studies will change its name to the Harriet Tubman Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) according to a statement released on Sept. 3rd. It is the only department nationally that offers a Black women's studies minor, which is a joint program



within the African American Studies Department. "The name change is an ongoing commitment that honors and celebrates the life and legacy of one of America's greatest freedom fighters," said the interim chair of the department.

In 2018, the department began collaborating with the descendants of Harriet Tubman to begin the process of changing the department's name. Ms. Ernestine "Tina" Wyatt, a great-niece of Tubman, was instrumental in leading the charge to rename the program and the University System of Maryland Board of Regents approved the change last June. "I am happy to know that the name change has been implemented," said Wyatt. "This is the right time—the year of the woman, the year celebrating the suffragists and the year in which great change is happening to achieve equality and justice, something Aunt Harriet was an activist for during her time."

The retitle of the department is part of a series of new initiatives by the University's new president Dr. Daryl J. Pines. Pines officially became the first African American President in school history on July 1 and according to the website is hoping to create a more inclusive environment at the University of Maryland.

Oldest WW II Veteran Celebrates His 111th B/D



Lawrence Brooks, the oldest living World War II veteran in America, turned 111 on Sept. 12th. He rang in his milestone birthday with a socially-distanced celebration over the weekend outside the National WWII Museum, located in New Orleans. A vocal trio, The Victory Belle, performed a rendition of "Happy Birthday" as the Aero-shell Aerobatic Team and the Big Easy

Wing flew over the sky. Brooks stood on his front porch and tipped his hat back as the planes flew above him. During the ceremony and subsequent car parade, Brooks, wearing a New Orleans face mask, smiled and waved to the crowd, saying, "God bless all of you. Every one of you." When asked what his secret is for living long, he said "it's simple. Serve God and be nice to people."

Prior to the celebration, the museum said on its website that well-wishers could send birthday cards to the museum, which would be delivered to Brooks' house. In total, the museum received almost 10,000 birthday cards from all 50 states. Brooks served in the predominately African-American 91st Engineer Battalion, stationed in New Guinea and then the Philippines during WWII. Brooks eventually attained the rank of Private 1st Class. In May, Brooks spoke to the National Geographic about his time in the war. "I had some good times and I had some bad times. I just tried to put all the good ones and the bad ones together and tried to forget about all of them." Brooks has five children, five stepchildren, 12 grandchildren, and 23 great-grandchildren. His wife Leona died in 2005 during Hurricane Katrina.

Charleston Club Tattler ~ One liners . . .

♦ Charleston's **Lee Bennett, Jr.** is running for a seat on the school board to fulfill his civic responsibility and serve as an advocate for the public. To provide a voice for the people, particularly those who feel they have no voice at all and are not being heard. Advocate for children's opportunities. <https://thebennettfactor.org>

In Memoriam

Mrs. Lucille Brown Floyd (Sept. 8, 1924-Sept. 1, 2020), mother of Charleston Club member, Carolyn Floyd Knowles (Gilbert) and aunt of Charleston Club member, Rosalie C. Randall entered into eternal rest on Tuesday, September 1st. Mrs. Lucille Floyd, "Little Lady" as she was affectionately call her, was a very loving and caring woman who loved the Lord and Savior and ALWAYS was a motivator, encouraging everyone to "*Keep your faith in God!*" Anyone who knew Lucille B. Floyd surely heard those words (at least once). They were words she believed, words she used to encourage and console; words she lived by. Although Lucille was diagnosed with dementia in her later years and often forgot people, places and things, she never forgot her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and wouldn't allow anyone in her presence to forget Him either. Lucille attended the local schools in Charleston, but she did not receive her high school diploma until late in life - through an adult education program. Lucille was married twice - first to Leroy Bennett and then to Elijah Floyd, Sr. She had six children: Henry Bennett (deceased), Leroy Bennett, Frank Brown, Elijah Floyd, Jr., Gregory Floyd, and Carolyn Floyd Knowles.

Lucille was a machinist at the Cigar Factory in Charleston for 27 years and later as a custodian at Charleston High School. Lucille attended Vanderhorst Memorial CME for many years and made singing was a major part of her praise; she loved singing and traveling with the Vanderhorst Gospel Group, as well as the 50 Voices Choir of Charleston.

In 1987; her daughter and son-in-law (both Army officers assigned in Germany) requested her help in caring for their daughter. Lucille agreed and moved to Germany. While in Germany, she became very popular with the soldiers and their families; many looking up to her as a parent and/or grandparent. Lucille stood 4 feet 10 inches and was affectionately nick-named "Lil Lady." Her stint in Germany allowed her to travel to Paris, France; Brussels, Belgium; and Barcelona, Spain. She remained with her daughter and son-in-law for many years, throughout their military careers. In 1998, she returned to Charleston and joined the Johns Island Church of Christ. Then in 2010 she re-located to Virginia and joined the Alfred Street Baptist Church where she periodically served as a guest soloist for the Trinity Choir. "Lil Lady" was known for her beautiful hats and matching outfits. She never met a hat she didn't like! Lucille "Lil Lady" Floyd peacefully transitioned on September 1, 2020. She was predeceased by her oldest son Henry Bennett (Myrna). She leaves behind her four

sons and a daughter; a host of grands, great grands, as well as other relatives and friends. *"Look up. Don't let nothing shake your faith. Jesus is the answer for the world today."*

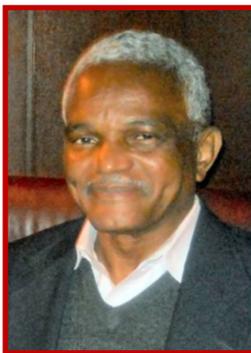
Harriet Gailliard Allen (July 6, 1941-August 28, 2020) entered into eternal rest on August 28th in Charleston; she was 79 years old. She was the daughter of William and Priscilla Bonaparte Gailliard. Her mother operated Gailliard Kindergarten (pre-school) on Line Street for many years. Harriet attended Calvary Pre-School for a year then enrolled Avery Institute for her elementary education. Harriet enjoyed her high school years at Burke where she excelled on the basketball court and her delight at dancing. She graduated from Burke High School in the Class of 1958.



Harriet entered Hampton Institute in the fall of 1958, majoring in education. Hampton didn't have "girls 3 on 3" basketball in the late 1950s; so Harriet hit books and enjoyed being a "lady pirate" in Tidewater! Harriet returned home in the 1960s, completed her Bachelors in education; reestablished relationships with old friends and assumed her role in the community as an elementary school teacher for nearly 40 years in the Charleston County School District. She taught at James Simons Elementary School on King Street for most of those years.

Mrs. Harriet G. Allen is survived by her children: Mr. Barry Washington and Mr. Jamar Washington. And step-children: Ms. Toye Allen and Mr. Harold Allen, Jr.; a sister, a sister-in-law, a granddaughter, and a step-granddaughter, and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends. Because of the coronavirus pandemic, private funeral services were held on September 5th at Harriet's "home-church," Calvary Episcopal Church, on Line Street to celebrate her life and her services to the community. Interment was at Monrovia Cemetery in North Charleston.

Charleston Club member **Kenneth Marquez Devine, Sr.** (January 19, 1946 ~ May 17, 2020) affectionately known as, "Kenny", "Foxy", or "Rev" – was born in Charleston. The son of the late St. Julian Frank Devine and Priscilla Theresa Walton Devine of James Island, SC. He was born into a big family with nine siblings. Kenneth graduated from Burke High School in 1963, earned a Bachelor of Science in Theology from Florida Memorial College, a Master of Bible Theology from the International Theological Seminary in Florida, and a Master's degree in Education, which he obtained while pastoring at Edgewood Baptist Church in S.E. Washington, DC.



He joined the U.S. Army shortly after high school in August 1963 at Fort Jackson (Columbia), SC. Upon graduation from various infantry and Airborne Schools he was assigned to a tour in Korea. He volunteered for the U.S. Army Special Forces (Green Berets), then as assignment to Special Forces Group in Vietnam. He also served as an U.S. Army Special Forces Command during Operation Desert Storm. In 1997, he ended his active military career, however, he would not retire until 2006 as a Master Sergeant, marking an impressive 43 years of combined service.

Kenneth was amassed a plethora of Military Awards and Decorations/Citations: Meritorious Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with Four Campaign Stars and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with Silver Star. These are three of the more than twenty (20) service awards he received. Among his numerous civic honors are: the George Washington Honor Medal from the Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge; past President of Optimist Club of Peninsula Charleston; and past President Burke High School Class of '63 Alumnus. He wrote an award-winning article as a Military Journalist called "*Why Vietnam?*"

He was also a former Revenue Officer with the Internal Revenue Service, President of Devine's Inc., Devine Archives, past President of Devine Moving and Storage, and past Owner of St. John's Daycare Center. On top of that, he was a real estate brokerage graduate of Johnson Technical College; a member of Lee Institute of Real Estate, The Realtors Institute, a broker-in-charge of Devine Real Estate and Land Development, and formed the Kimberly Research & Analysis Co. in 1973.

Kenneth was ordained Baptist Minister in 1981. He served as Assistant Pastor/Pastor at Churches in Miami, FL, Ruffin, SC, Central Baptist Church (Charleston) and St. John's Baptist Church in Charleston. His last pastoral appointment was as Associate Pastor at the Edgewood Baptist Church of Washington.

Kenneth was married a couple of times and had five (5) adult children; Kimberly Maria De Vine (Maria Elias), Kenneth Marquez Devine, Jr. and Chrisshone Franklin-Kamma (Brenda Singletary), Justin Devine (Earnestine Whitten), and Alexis Devine Cavins (Myrna Higgins).

Kenneth M. Devine, Sr. entered into eternal rest on Sunday, May 17, 2020 at his veterans' home in Charlotte Hall, MD. In this age of Covid 19, graveside services were held Tuesday, May 25, 2020, at the National Cemetery in Fort Jackson, SC.

Happy Birthdays!

October 2020 Birthdays:

Jeanette Steward - Oct. 2nd ~ **Jerry Ravenell** - Oct. 4th ~ **Ned Felder** – Oct. 7th ~ **Bobby Brown** - Oct. 13th ~ **Sharon Snow** - Oct. 20th ~ **Brian Smalls** - Oct. 22nd ~ **Linda McNeil** - Oct. 24th ~ **Mary Dunkley** - Oct. 27th.

- The Fly on The Wall I