

## **Book about Early African American Communities around Jefferson County**

carridder.jones@louisville.edu

**Sent:** Saturday, May 16, 2015 12:40 PM

**To:** miller@filsonhistorical.org; cmjone01@louisville.edu

Dear Ms. Miller,

Some years ago you called and asked me to meet with you and Pen Bogert, Reference Specialist at the Filson Historical Society to discuss a project about early African American Communities around Jefferson County. I was very interested in working with you because I had just finished the Free Towns project around Lexington. The history of the people who lived in the Free Towns is fascinating. A friend and I are working on a documentary as a result of my work there.

I agreed to work with you on the project here and when I first started talking with the people in the communities around Jefferson County, I thought there was a possibility that I would write a book one day. However, the time slipped away so quickly that I nearly forgot about the book. Recently I took out my notes about that project and just reading a few paragraphs brought back the idea about the book. Therefore, I am writing you to ask if you and the Filson Historical Society would have any interest in funding me on such a project? If you are not interested I would appreciate recommendations of other organizations who may be interested.

The book I have in mind would be a historical book about these communities, the interviews I had with individuals in each community (Harrods Creek - James Taylor Subdivision - Griffeytown - Berrytown - Jeffersontown and Newburg). Included would be the pictures of the people in these communities, "dressed in their Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes." Some of the pictures were inherited by family members and the names of the people in some of the pictures have long been forgotten or never known by this generation. However, they tell a story about that time.

As you can see, I get carried-away just talking about the possibility of such a book. I look forward to hearing from you regarding this project. Best regards.

## African American Hamlets in Jefferson County

I had just finished filing the paperwork from my last project in Lexington when the phone rang. The caller introduced herself as Judy Miller, Deputy Director of the Filson Historical Society in Louisville, Kentucky. Ms. Miller said she had read about my work with the Early African American Communities in the Lexington area and was calling to see if I might meet with her and Pen Bogert, to discuss a similar project for the Filson Historical Society. Since I had just filed away my last project I was interested.

On the appointed day, I met with Ms. Miller and Mr. Bogert to hear about the project. They were interested in capturing the history of several historically African American Communities in the Jefferson County area around Louisville, Kentucky. These areas consisted of Harrods Creek, James Taylor Subdivision, Berry Town, Griffey Town, Jefferson Town and Newburg. The Merriweather house is the only surviving structure of this early African American community in the Harrods Creek area. The house reminds me of a steam boat and I found it fascinating. All of the communities had interesting stories so it did not take much to convince me that I wanted to be involved in the project.

The notes I had taken at the meeting gave me a good starting place and I just had to look up the telephone numbers of people in the different areas to interview. Since I was so curious about the history of the Merriweather house it would be my starting place. When I called to introduce myself and hopefully make an appointment, the man who answered the telephone introduced himself as William Kellar. I later found he was the man of the house having married Mary Margaret Merriweather, the daughter of Harry Hall Merriweather, the man who built the interesting house. Mr. Kellar later told me that he was called Pete by most people who knew him and he sounded interested in the project. In a short time we set on a date for my visit. I later found him to be helpful because he knew the history of Harrods creek, even showing me where a black community and a school used to be in an area called the Neck, in back of the Merriweather's house. The Kellar's had inherited a lot of family pictures, some of them so old they did not know who the people were. I couldn't stop myself from asking if I could borrow some to make copies of. In a short time he was calling me "Jones" and threatening to haunt me if I didn't get the pictures I was taking back to them. Mr. Kellar also took it upon himself to introduce me to some residents of the James Taylor Subdivision. When Pen Bogert and I later gave a presentation of our findings at the Filson Historical Society to a standing room only crowd about this research project, he was right there with many others from the communities to cheer us on.

### INFORMATION PROVIDED BY PEN BOGERT IN THE FILSON NEWSMAGAZINE-VOLUME 4, NUMBER 2 EARLY AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

Although many of these communities no longer exist, others such as Berrytown, Griffeytown, Petersburg (now known as Newburg) and Harrod's creek, continue to thrive. The histories of these communities, excluded from the standard surveys of Jefferson County history, remain largely hidden from view. There is a wealth of information to be found in court records, censuses, maps and other documents, but the "hidden history" of these communities is to be found in the stories and traditions of the residents.

Two years ago the Filson Historical Society began a project to research the history of several of these early African American Communities. The goal of this project is to provide the public and other researchers with a preliminary survey of accessible historical information that can be used for further research and study. It was decided that gathering oral histories and supplementing these stories and traditions with data from other historical sources could best accomplish this. The Filson asked Carridder Jones, who had previously completed a much larger project ("Black Hamlets in the Kentucky Bluegrass"), to direct the project, and she and Pen Bogert, Filson Reference Specialist, began a collaborative effort to develop a research plan, identify the communities to research and to conduct the interviews. Funding was secured from the Kentucky Humanities Council

Jones decided to concentrate on the communities of Harrod's Creek, Prospect James Taylor Subdivision, Berrytown, Griffeytown, Jeffersontown and Newburg. All of which had their origins in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. She interviewed over 20 residents and recorded their recollections on tape. Most of these residents are direct descendants of the founders of their communities and they provided new information about historic landmarks as well as information about neighborhoods, community life, and buildings and roads that no longer exist. For example, Mary Merriwether Kellar provided new details about the historic Merriwether house in Harrod's Creek and her husband, William Kellar, shared his wealth of knowledge about the history of the Harrod's Creek and Prospect communities; Laura Brooks recalled long-forgotten schools and neighborhoods in Prospect, including the Happy Hollow Neighborhood where her father, Simon Brooks, lived; and Sarah Frances Jones related stories about her grandfather, Richard Lilly, who served in the U.S. Colored Troops and he was one of the founders of Berrytown. In addition to sharing their stories, many residents shared their family photographs and allowed copies to be made a permanent part of this project. All of the persons interviewed recalled the day-to-day activities of their vibrant communities and the importance of local churches and schools. Many recalled their struggles against racism as they lived and built their communities.

In addition to the many oral histories and photographs collected by Jones, Pen Bogert researched the many sources available at the Filson, including maps, censuses, deeds, marriage records, death certificates and other records. All of these materials are now available to the public and some of them will be incorporated into the Filson's website. Jones and Bogert presented a visual presentation of the project at the Filson this fall, and Jones will also be available to give this presentation elsewhere in the community.

# Early African American Communities in Jefferson County

Information provided by Pen Bogert



Others, such as the Petersburg community, were established shortly after the end of the Civil War. Although many of these communities no longer exist, others, such as Berrytown, Griffeytown, Petersburg (now known as Newburg) and Harrod's Creek, continue to thrive.

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#### Volume 4, Number 2

#### **The Filson Historical Society**

1310 South Third Street - Louisville, KY 40208

Phone: (502) 635-5083 Fax: (502) 635-5086

#### **Hours**

**The Ferguson Mansion and Office**

Monday - Friday: 9 am. - 5 pm.

Saturday and Sunday closed

BACK TO TOP

*Forest*

1934 2 lots Frame \$2000



*Forest*

#### FOREST

Forest School is a one-story frame building located on two lots on Berry Road.

The building contains three classrooms; its normal capacity is 90.

The overall cost of this building in 1934 was \$2000.



*Forest*

1934 2 lots Frame \$2000

*Forest*

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228 - Lot 15 - Griffytown

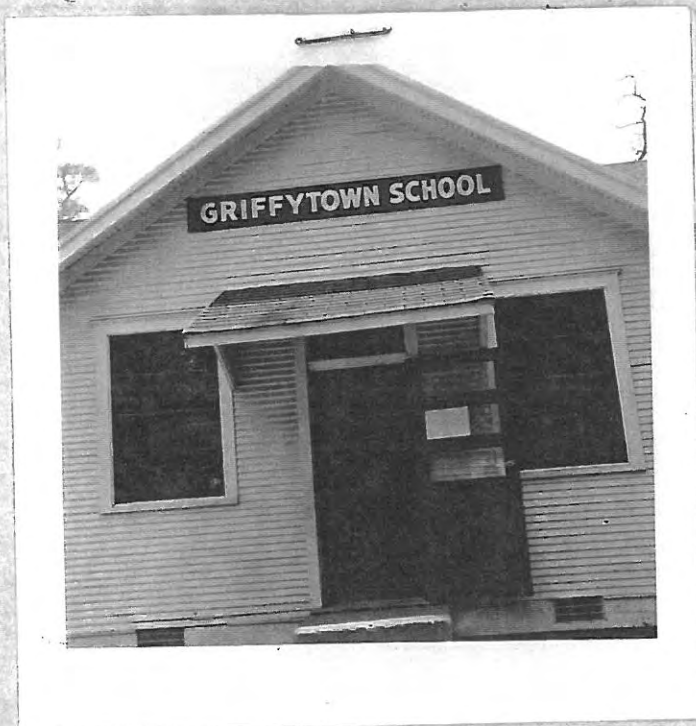
*Griffytown*

#### GRIFFYTOWN

Griffytown school is a one-floor frame building listed on 1 lot on

The building contains two classrooms. Its normal capacity is 60.

The overall cost of this school in 1934 was \$2500.



1934- 1 Lot Frame 2500.00

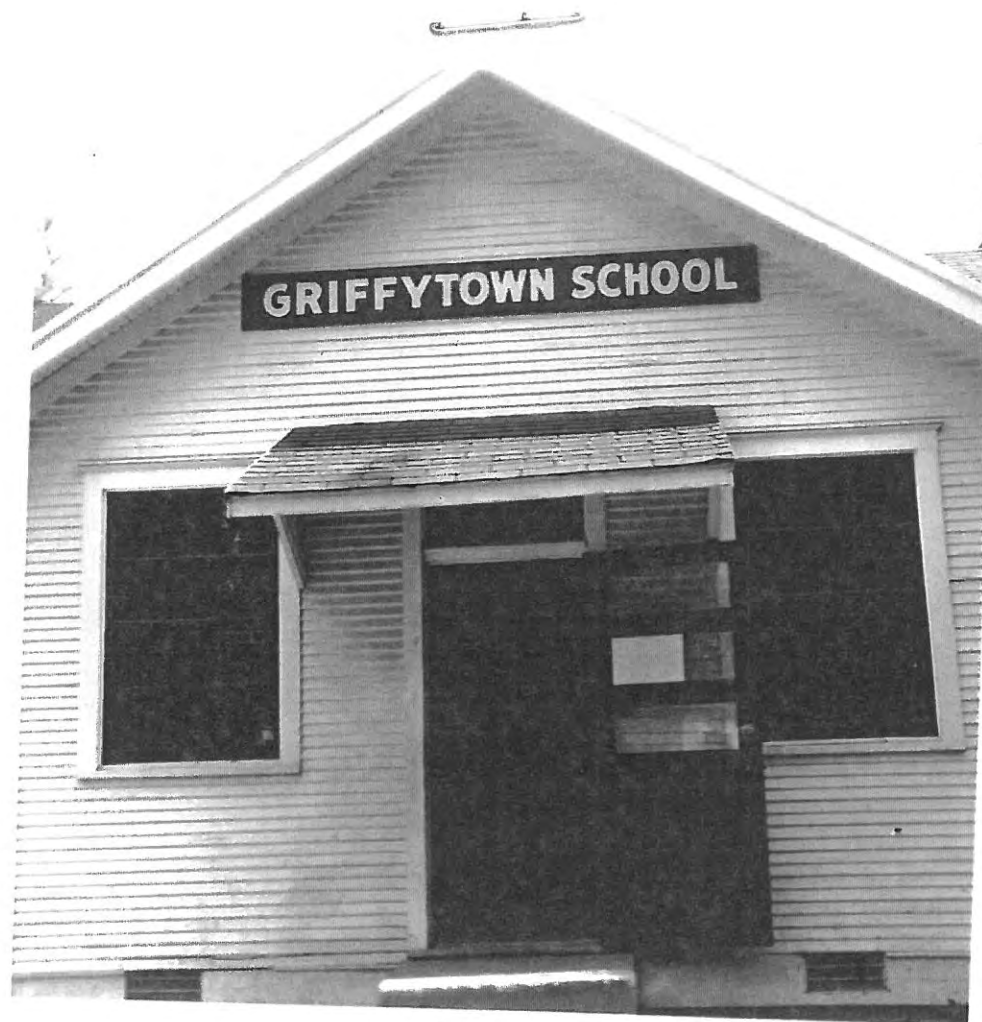
*Griffytown*

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Griffytown school is a one-floor frame building listed on 1 lot on \_\_\_\_\_.

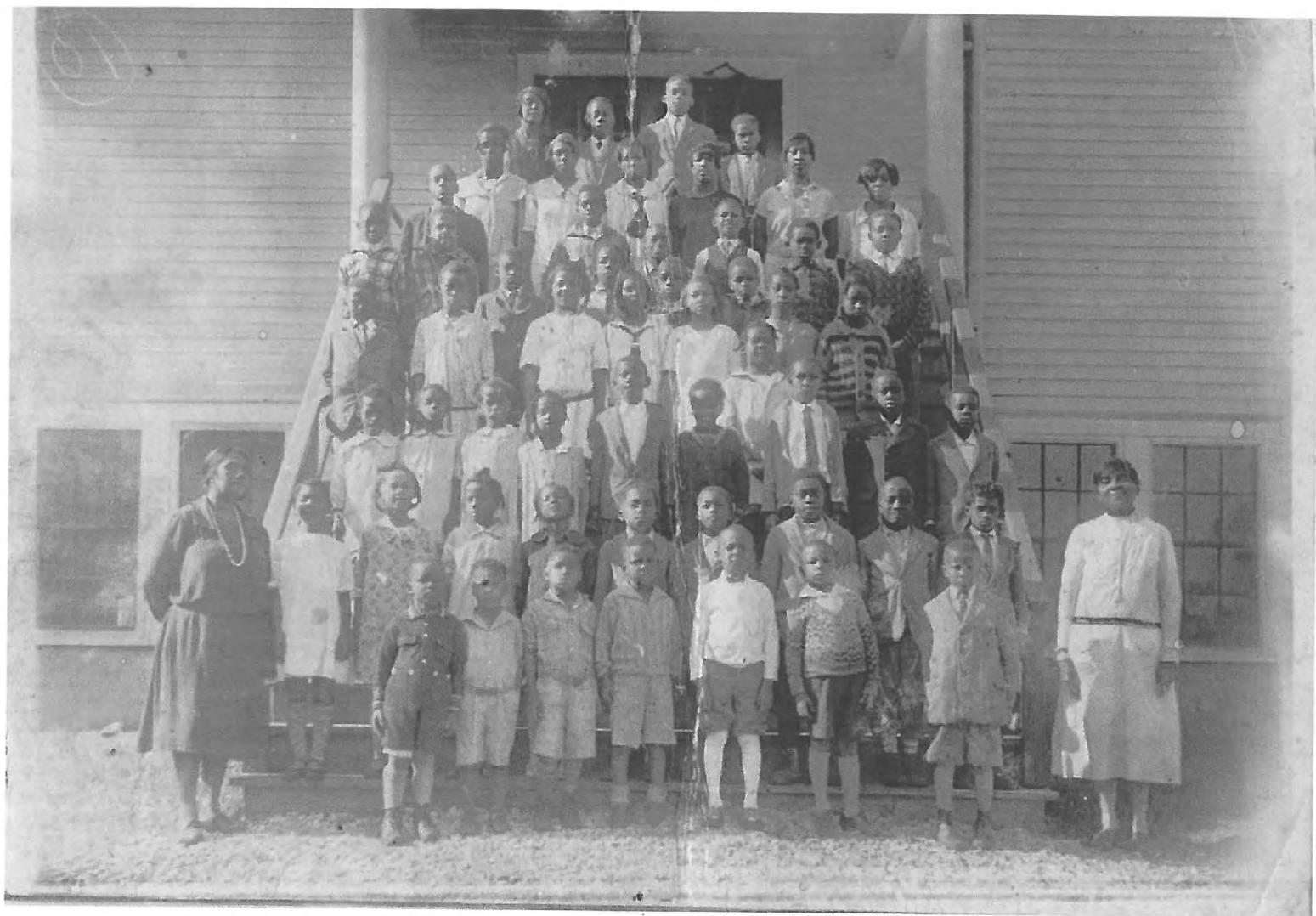
The building contains two classrooms. Its normal capacity is 60.

The overall cost of this school in 1934 was \$2500.



KFW  
GRANT 9/1





## STUDENTS AT JEFFERSON JACOB SCHOOL

Students and teachers as identified by Chester L. Trowel who was a member of this class.

Teacher on Left is principal, Mamie Morrison - Teacher on right side is Emma Alexander - Top row left, teacher Marinda Buckner Robinson

Other students in the picture includes, Lonzetta Howard, Addie Christine Mack, Chester Trowell, Millard Rudy, Rufus Stokes, Carl Jones, George F. Kellar, Fred McGruder, Pierce Taylor, Mae Emma Retter, Estella Weeden, Anita Brown, Arthur Murphy, Benedict Rudy, Ruby Lee Anderson ( ) Katie Weeden, Erma Anderson, Eugenia Trowell

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4  
BOUNDARIES OF DISTRICTS—Colored!

No 4 Anchorage  
Correct

Beginning at bridge on Shelby pike. Thence  
West with said pike to Middletown, thence North  
with new pike to Anchorage including all of it. Thence  
West down L. C. and Lexington R. Road to a point directly  
opposite State ~~Highway~~. Thence North to public road  
east of Ashland and with it to Fry's Hill. Thence East  
with public road and in direct line by Mrs. Allen's  
old place to Oldham co. line thence with it to Floyds  
Fork & down same to the beginning. Established  
by J. F. Hobbs, C. S. C. of Jefferson co.



*J.C.*

*Boundaries of Districts*

*Roll 1  
1879-95*

*1211-04  
will*

REPORTS

FOR

**Colored Schools,**

**1875--1879.**

# Parent-Teachers Association

## Of Jefferson Jacob School, Organized Oct. 26, 1916

report of the work which has been done by the Association for the two years 1917-1918. After organizing in Oct. 1916 we did not begin collecting money until March 31, 1917. For the year 1917 the following money was collected.

March 31, .....	\$ 2.50	Money paid out in 1917:	
April 23, .....	1.20	Apr. 23 represent in K. N. E. A. \$	1.00
May 25, .....	2.35	May 4, for tickets.....	1.50
June 5, .....	22.55	May 25, cakes, sugar, lemons....	1.75
June 25, .....	43.55	May 25, for refreshments.....	9.00
July 25, .....	3.00	June 4, Mrs. N. J. Brown, .....	
August 28, .....	.50	for teaching.....	21.00
Sept. 26, .....	1.25	Oct. 23, for tuning piano.....	3.30
Oct. 30, .....	1.05	Aug. 24, Mrs. Roberson car fare	.30
Dec. 4, .....	21.97	Dec. 4, for piano.....	10.00
Total.....	\$99.92	Total.....	\$48.35
		Leaving in treasure	\$51.57

000

Money collected in 1918		Money paid out in 1918	
Feb. 26, .....	\$ 7.60	Feb. 24 for book case.....	\$10.30
April 23, .....	4.63	Feb. 24 Elizabeth Stokes.....	1.00
June 4, .....	2.10	March 24 for oil.....	.15
July 25, .....	52.60	Sept. 4 for tickets.....	1.25
Aug. 24, .....	1.55	Sept. 4 for fixing pump.....	4.00
Sept. 23, .....	12.33	Sept. 29 for tools.....	49.00
Sept. 26, .....	15.56	Sept. 29 glass door to book case	3.24
Nov. 26, .....	7.46	Oct. 4 to Mrs. Ballard car fare	.50
Total.....	\$103.83	Oct. 4 for oil.....	.15
Total taken up for the two years		Oct. 4 for refreshments.....	20.85
\$203.75		Nov. 24 for tickets.....	1.25
		Total.....	\$61.69
		Total paid out for the two	
		years	\$140.04

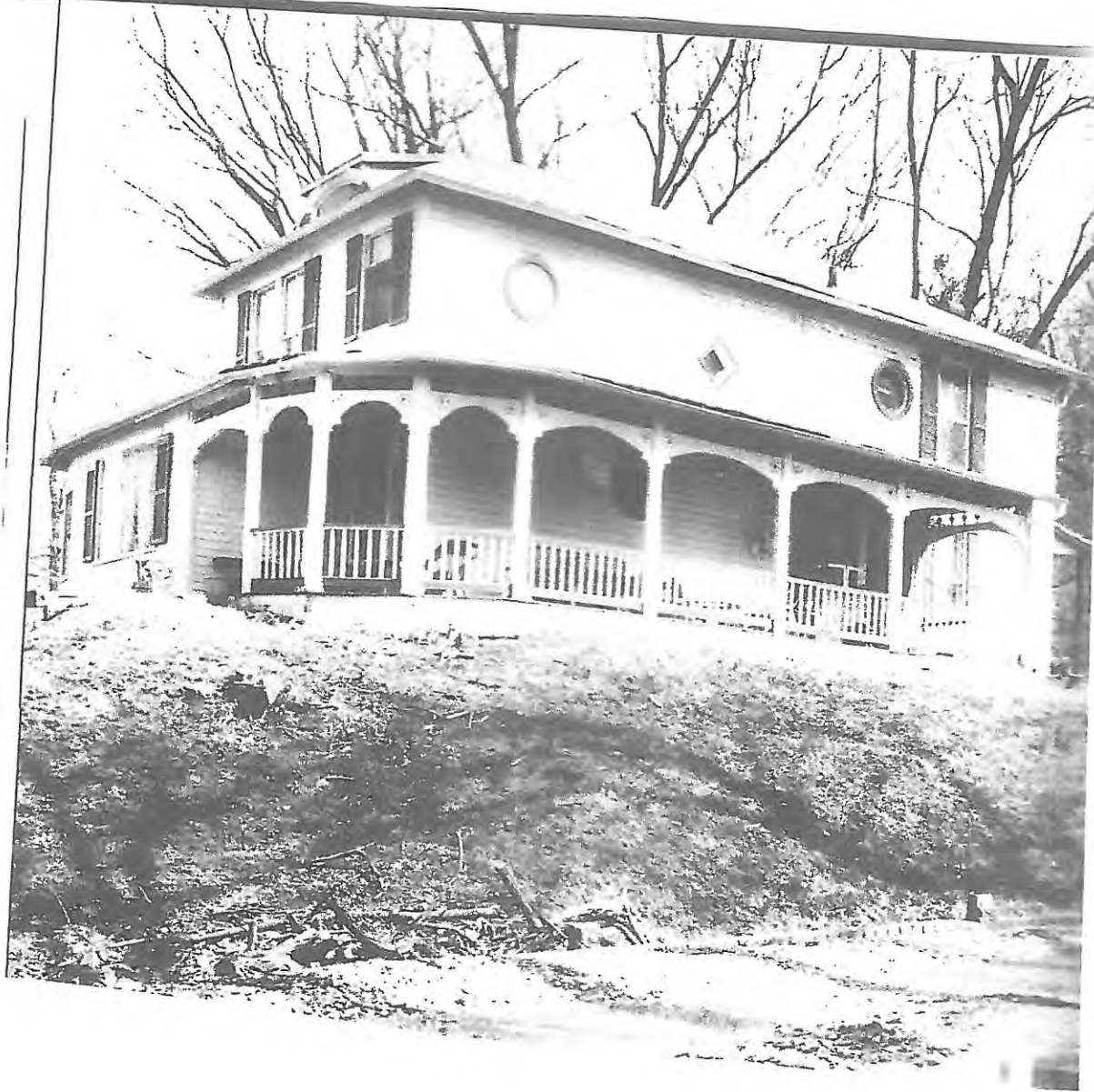
### Money in Treasure \$62.03

The people of Goshen, Prospect and Harrods Creek have responded generously when ever they were called upon to give to the various entertainments which the Parent-Teachers Association have given. We take this way to thank you all. In 1917 a new consolidated school house was built with Rev. H. Kennedy took the lead. The following subscription was given for the ground which cost \$600. Mr. Thruston Ballard \$276, Mr. Peter Lee Atherton, \$100, Mr. R. Bingham \$25 and others of which I have not space to mention collecting the \$600. Money was also subscribed for the basement and cement amounting to \$165.00. The labor and hauling was done by the colored people amounting to \$700.00. Cost of consolidated school—Two acres of ground \$600, Building \$2950, Architect \$150, Insurance \$162, Coal house \$200, Basement and cement \$165, Labor and hauling \$700, Total \$4927.

We take this method to inform the community what we are doing and we hope to do a great work this year. Officers for the year 1919.

Mrs. Etta Taylor, President	Mrs. Bell Stokes, Assistant Sec.
Mr. Taylor Clay, Vice President	Mr. Richard Egman, Treasurer
Mrs. Laura Egman, 2 Vice Pres.	Mrs. Maggie Lang, Secretary
Financial Com. Mr. Henry Taylor	Mr. Sam Clay
Truant Officer—Rev. H. Kennedy	Mr. H. Merriweather

The Merriwether house near Harrods Creek has been in that family since 1890, when Harry Merriwether moved there.





# Metro police tip line pays off

30,000 calls led to 600 arrests in '08

By Jessie Halladay  
jhalladay@courier-journal.com  
The Courier-Journal

Fighting crime is a community effort.

That's the message Louisville Metro Police Chief Robert White repeats as often as possible.

"With every crime that occurs, I'm a firm believer that somebody knows something about it," White said this week.

That's why in October 2004, metro police started their own anonymous crime-tip line, designed to give the community a way to get information to police.

The line continued to see success in 2008, with more than 30,000 calls coming in, said Lt. Col. Troy Riggs, an assistant chief. Those calls led to about 600 arrests.

In two months, June and September, calls to the line exceeded 3,000.

In September, October and November, an average of two arrests a day stemmed from calls to the tip line. Once December numbers are tallied, Riggs said he expects there will be more than 60 arrests.

Most of the calls involve drugs, with more people calling in suspected methamphetamine activity, Riggs said.

Riggs said the tip line's success indicates how far the department has come in creating a good relationship with the public.

When the line opened in October 2004, there were just 129 calls with 15 arrests.

The growth shows that people are more willing to help police by providing information and that police have begun to rely on that information. He said officers now routinely give out the phone number.

"One way (the public) could be involved was by using the tip line," Riggs said.

Beyond just taking information on crimes, the tip line also can help callers.

Residents looking for prevention information are encouraged to call the tip line. Operators also refer people to social-service agencies, including drug counseling and domestic-violence support.

"The main goal is reducing crime and reducing the fear of crime," Riggs said. "We've been very successful, but I think we can be more successful."

Reporter Jessie Halladay can be reached at (502) 582-4081.

## BLOG BYTES

It's the time of year when various groups try to highlight the "Word of the Year" — some term that captures the spirit of the times. In the

# Metro

Mike Trautmann, Metro editor | mtrautmann@courier-journal.com | 582-4691 | Fax: 582-4200

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The Courier-Journal

FRIDAY  
JANUARY 2, 2009

B

Neighborhoods B3 | Deaths B7 | Weather B8

# The most joyful New Year noises

## Obama's win uplifts Emancipation Day

By Peter Smith  
psmith@courier-journal.com  
The Courier-Journal

Members of black churches gather every New Year's Day to celebrate the anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, but this year's celebration took on added poignancy with the upcoming inauguration of Lincoln's first successor of African descent.

"In American history, this year strikes a most profound chord in all of our hearts," said the Rev. Frank Smith, new president of the Interdenominational Ministerial Coalition, in prepared remarks at yesterday's Emancipation Proclamation Day service.

The coalition's meeting at Magazine Street Seventh-day Adventist Church drew about 250 people and included the installation of Smith and other new officers.

Several awards also were announced, including a new honor named for prominent local civil-

See OBAMA, B5, col. 1



The Rev. Frank M. Smith Jr., incoming president of the Interdenominational Ministerial Coalition, shouted during a speech at the Emancipation Proclamation Day worship service.

By David R. Lutzman, Special to The C-J



By Bill Luster, The Courier-Journal

Chester Trowel, left, Martin Dunbar Jr. and George Roberts Jr. stood in front of one of the oldest homes in the Taylor subdivision, which was created in the 1920s for African Americans working in the area. Roberts is leading an effort to establish a formal neighborhood plan to protect its historic status.

# History, housing trends collide

## Taylor subdivision's lot restrictions debated

By Chris Otts | cotts@courier-journal.com | The Courier-Journal

African Americans who toiled as domestic servants and farm laborers for wealthy households around Prospect in the 1920s deserved modest country homes of their own at the end of the day.

That's what prominent black entrepreneur James T. Taylor had in mind when he built a subdivision off River Road more than 80 years ago.

Having worked for wealthy white es-

tates in the area himself, "he was trying to give the blacks a nice place to live," said Martin Dunbar, 80, who lives in the subdivision and was a pallbearer in Taylor's funeral in 1965.

The Taylor subdivision was groundbreaking — perhaps the only one carved out in Louisville or its suburbs specifically for African Americans through deed re-

See TAYLOR, B2, col. 1

### The neighborhood

Original James T. Taylor subdivision

Developed by Taylor's son, James S. Taylor



The Courier-Journal

# Hundreds start year on the run in the cold





Clayton was among a group of passengers heavy with local dignitaries to take the first commercial flight out of Lake Cumberland Regional Airport.

The flight to Nashville, Tenn., came aboard Air Azul, a Surfside, Fla., region-

to Nashville and back.

The Lake Cumberland Regional Airport also needed Transportation Security Administration security clearance, which it received and became the 436th such facility in the nation to receive the designation.

hope more public awareness of the airline will bring a call for more scheduled flights.

"Hopefully, our community will support it and we'll do everything possible to make this a great success," said Somerset Mayor Eddie Girdler.

## TAYLOR | Subdivision changes debated



Chester Trowel, president of Prospect-Harrods Creek Neighborhood Association, favors trying to limit the Taylor subdivision to single-family houses, but not trying to control lot or home sizes.

By Bill Luster, The C-J

Continued from B1

strictions, said Richard Jett, Louisville's historic preservation officer.

And even today, it is one of the few areas of moderately priced homes in 40059, the state's wealthiest ZIP code.

But now that history is in danger of disappearing, amid a debate about whether that's a good thing or bad.

In the shadow of Prospect's expensive Sutherland subdivision to the northeast, the large lots Taylor once intended for residents' horses and pigs have started giving way to smaller lots for bigger houses.

The biggest change came in 2004, when 50 condominiums and 11 houses were built on eight mostly vacant acres in the eastern part of the neighborhood.

Since then, three houses — two of them more than 80 years old — have been torn down, and six new ones have been built in their place.

And with the recent completion of sewers that allows more development, the neighborhood is at a crossroads.

"This is the tipping point," said longtime resident George Roberts Jr., who is leading an effort on behalf of the Prospect-Harrods Creek Neighborhood Association to establish a formal "neighborhood plan" to protect the Taylor subdivision area's historic status.

An attempt at getting on the National Register of Historic Places might soon follow, he said.

But not everyone thinks restrictions are needed.

For example, Charles A. Broadus II, a grandson of Taylor, sold a one-house, three-lot tract to a developer, and there are now four houses on that land. Broadus said residents should be able to tap the full value of their properties.

"It's nice to acknowledge what (the neighborhood) was," he said, "but it will never be what it was again."

### A place for blacks

African-American roots in Harrods Creek go back to post-Civil War days, long before the collection of expensive subdivisions that now make up the city of Prospect was started in the mid-1960s.

And the subdivision that Taylor built thrived, even in the face of Jim Crow-era segregation, according to two professional studies and interviews with Taylor's relatives and neighbors.

"There was no other area where Negroes could buy in,

in this section (of Jefferson County) at that time," said Taylor's daughter and Broadus' mother, Minnie Alta Taylor Broadus, 97, who still lives in the neighborhood.

Even today, it's predominantly black, although white families have begun to trickle in, bringing a diversity that longtime residents say they welcome.

Taylor planned the subdivision in the early 1920s near the old Jacob School, one of thousands of "Rosenwald" schools for African Americans that Julius Rosenwald, the former president of Sears, Roebuck and Co., founded across the South.

Taylor often subsidized lots for borrowers who could not pay, and sometimes he let people who worked for him stay in houses he built rent-free, Broadus said.

A tall, imposing figure, "Big Jim" Taylor dabbled in many businesses, including contract farming, from the time he was 14, operating a gravel quarry off River Road near Zorn Avenue and owning a real estate company headquartered downtown on Walnut Street, according to studies and Taylor's daughter.

When it came time for neighborhood children to move on from the Jacob School to high school, Taylor bought a bus and drove them to Central High School, Broadus said.

Taylor's son James S. Taylor followed in his father's footsteps, extending the neighborhood with a two-street subdivision and a nursing home. He also sold Jefferson County the land for what is now Hays Kennedy Park.

### Deed limits ignored

Seeking to establish modest country homes with large lots, Taylor put restrictions on lot and home sizes in the subdivision's deeds.

But those restrictions haven't been honored through the decades, and as of late 2006, Taylor's original 76 lots had been split up to make 110, according to a historical assessment completed as part of the Metropolitan Sewer District's sewer project there.

In 2002, developer Don Bright proposed condominiums and single-family houses on what had been a privately owned neighborhood park and an abandoned servicemen's club.

The proposal, which included its own sewer line, sharply divided the neigh-

borhood, with some saying the condos would be an improvement over vacant land, and others saying they would destroy the neighborhood's character.

At the time, there was talk of forming a historic district with a board that would approve building projects, as in the Cherokee Triangle, Old Louisville and Clifton neighborhoods, Jett said.

But it didn't happen, and Bright, who lives nearby on Beechland Beach Road, built the condo project. In 2004, he proposed more development across the street, seeking to split three existing lots into six for new houses.

Louisville planning officials rejected that proposal, citing Taylor's original deed, but a Jefferson Circuit Court judge overruled that decision. Bright built three homes and sold the remaining portion.

Harrods Creek Fire Chief Chris Aponte, who bought half an acre from Bright for \$85,000 and built his own house, said it was a great deal, considering lots half the size go for more in nearby subdivisions.

And in an interview, Bright said his projects have made the neighborhood more attractive.

But Roberts said he thinks new rules must be established to keep the neighborhood from turning into a nondescript suburb.

The neighborhood plan that Roberts wants to craft would not have the force of law, but it would suggest guidelines for planning officials to consider as new projects come before them for approval — like a similar plan city officials crafted in 2005 for the nearby Wolf Pen neighborhood.

Chester Trowel, the neighborhood association president, thinks residents should focus on limiting the neighborhood to single-family houses, as opposed to condos or commercial development. But he thinks it would be impractical to try to control lot or home sizes.

For her part, Minnie Broadus said she regrets any history being lost, but says she knew change would come decades ago, when the civil-rights movement cleared the way for blacks to live wherever they wanted.

"I told my dad, when I realized I could buy a house anywhere, that it would change here, too," she said.

Reporter Chris Otts can be reached at (502) 582-4589.



Kevin Collins

## A special message from Kevin Collins

I want to personally thank the many customers who made a purchase last month during our special event. We sold 225 new Ford cars and trucks and made great strides in reaching our goal of selling 500 new vehicles, regardless of profit or loss. I'd also like to give credit to these people for choosing to help strengthen our local economy with this purchase. As a business owner, I truly believe what we buy from our hometown is also what builds revenue and employment in our hometown. Now with the addition of Employee Pricing PLUS, you have an even greater opportunity to save money and support our local economy.

Bill Collins has prided itself on being a leader in our industry. By offering customers consistent value and reliable service, we have built many loyal relationships in our nearly 40 years. Last month we sold 225 new vehicles to customers who took advantage of our special offer. Now our special event offers even more savings with the addition of Employee Pricing PLUS from Ford Motor Company.

I hope you will be able to take advantage of this special savings event. We want to sell 500 vehicles, regardless of our profit or loss, and with the additional discount from Employee Pricing PLUS, now is the time to buy a new Ford car or truck.

For individual pricing on vehicles, visit our website: [www.billcollinsford.com](http://www.billcollinsford.com). There you will find complete price information on inventory available. I also invite you to come into our showroom and see a detailed listing of savings on these vehicles. The Employee Pricing PLUS event will end January 5, 2009. For a better selection of vehicles, please visit us early.

As I've stated before, if you don't buy from Bill Collins, I hope you support Louisville's economy in buying a new Ford from another dealer.

*William K. Collins*



# Bill Collins®

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## History, housing trends collide

**CHRIS OTTS**

Taylor subdivision's lot restrictions debated

**By Chris Otts** |cotts@courier-journal.com|**The Courier-Journal**

African Americans who toiled as domestic servants and farm laborers for wealthy households around Prospect in the 1920s deserved modest country homes of their own at the end of the day.

That's what prominent black entrepreneur James T. Taylor had in mind when he built a subdivision off River Road more than 80 years ago.

Having worked for wealthy white estates in the area himself, "he was trying to give the blacks a nice place to live," said Martin Dunbar, 80, who lives in the subdivision and was a pallbearer in Taylor's funeral in 1965.

The Taylor subdivision was ground-breaking — perhaps the only one carved out in Louisville or its suburbs specifically for African Americans through deed restrictions, said Richard Bell, Louisville's historic preservation officer.

And even today, it is one of the few areas of moderately priced homes in 40059, the state's wealthiest ZIP code.

But now that history is in danger of disappearing, amid a debate about whether that's a good thing or bad.

In the shadow of Prospect's expensive Sutherland subdivision to the northeast, the large lots Taylor once intended for residents' horses and pigs have started giving way to smaller lots for bigger houses.

The biggest change came in 2004, when 50 condominiums and 11 houses were built on eight mostly vacant acres in the eastern part of the neighborhood.

Since then, three houses — two of them more than 80 years old — have been torn down, and six new ones have been built in their place.

And with the recent completion of sewers that allows more development, the neighborhood is at a crossroads.

"This is the tipping point," said longtime resident George Roberts Jr., who is leading an effort on behalf of the Prospect-Harrods Creek Neighborhood Association to establish a formal "neighborhood plan" to protect the Taylor subdivision area's historic status.

An attempt at getting on the National Register of Historic Places might soon follow, he said.

But not everyone thinks restrictions are needed.

For example, Charles A. Broaddus II, a grandson of Taylor, sold a one-house, three-lot tract to a developer, and there are now four houses on that land. Broaddus said residents should be able to tap the full value of their properties.

"It's nice to acknowledge what (the neighborhood) was," he said, "but it will never be what it was again."

### **A place for blacks**

African-American roots in Harrods Creek go back to post-Civil War days, long before the collection of expensive subdivisions that now make up the city of Prospect was started in the mid-1960s.

And the subdivision that Taylor built thrived, even in the face of Jim Crow-era segregation, according to two professional studies and interviews with Taylor's relatives and neighbors.

"There was no other area where Negroes could buy in, in this section (of Jefferson County) at that time," said Taylor's daughter and Broaddus' mother, Minnie Alta Taylor Broaddus, 97, who still lives in the neighborhood.

Even today, it's predominantly black, although white families have begun to trickle in, bringing a diversity that longtime residents say they welcome.

Taylor placed the subdivision in the early 1920s near the old Jacob School, one of thousands of "Rosenwald" schools for African Americans that Julius Rosenwald, the former president of Sears, Roebuck and Co., founded across the South.

Taylor often subsidized lots for borrowers who could not pay, and sometimes he let people who worked for him stay in houses he built rent-free, Broaddus said.

"Old Man" Taylor dabbled in many businesses, including contract farming, from the time he was 14, operating a gravel quarry off River Road near Zorn Avenue and owning a real estate company headquartered downtown on Walnut Street, according to studies and Taylor's daughter.

When it came time for neighborhood children to move on from the Jacob School to high school, Taylor bought a bus and drove them to Central High School, Broaddus said.



# NEIGHBORHOODS

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY PRESS OFFICE BLOCKADES PROTESTED

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/BLOG/WATCHDOGEARTH

## HARRODS CREEK



**LEFT:** Old friends Colin Miller, left, and Scott Poppe fish in Harrods Creek from a shady boat dock. "I moved here and started swimming in this creek when I was 11," Miller said.

**BELOW:** Russ Lowen, owner of Harrods Creek Imports, pulls back a cover on his 1972 Mercedes 280 SE behind the small auto repair shop. "I plan on restoring it," Lowen said. "It's already in great shape."

### LET US KNOW

Virtually every neighborhood has something special to offer, but often people don't know what's happening outside their own part of town.

Every Sunday we plan to present a photo essay and short story on this page that we hope will help tell the story about a neighborhood's special character, attractions or history.

If you would like to share something that you feel makes your neighborhood special, please let us know at <http://cjkj.it/myneighborhood>

## Life flows at a peaceful pace

Photos and text by Alton Strupp

astrupp@courier-journal.com  
The Courier-Journal

**H**arrods Creek, situated at the intersection of River Road and Wolf Pen Branch Road, offers a slice of a small river town.

Just minutes from downtown Louisville, the community seems to move at a slower pace, just like the boats that drift between the banks of its muddy waters.

It's rich in history, with sites like Captain's Quarters, originally known as Harrod's Tavern, often used as a stopping point for early Ohio River wayfarers before they moved downriver toward the treacherous Falls of the Ohio.

Boats still line its river edge each evening in the summer months. And fisherman, like Scott Poppe, still seek its calming waters to slow life down. "It's just a great place to stop and fish. Take a canoe out on the water," Poppe said. "It's just a great place to be on a day off."

### ONLINE

Check out a photo gallery of Harrods Creek at [courier-journal.com](http://courier-journal.com)

For locals with ties that run deep in the area, like Captain's Quarters co-owner Andrew Masterson, it's the people as much as the scenery that make the area home sweet home. "Everybody is everybody's friend. It's such a tight-knit community," Masterson said. "We grew up on the river, so it's in our blood."

Reach Alton Strupp at (502) 582-4169 or follow him on Twitter @altonphoto.



**LEFT:** Katie Deignan, an employee at Happy Hounds Doggie Daycare and Boarding, spends some time with the temporary residents in the indoor social area.

**BELOW:** The historic Merriwether House in Harrods Creek. The home was the first to be owned by African-American landowners in the area and is still in the family. While it is currently in a weathered state, work is underway to make updates and repairs.

**RIGHT:** A view of the back outdoor seating area at Captain's Quarters. Said co-owner Andrew Masterson: "We believe it was founded originally in the 1850s as Harrod's Tavern. It was a spot where people moving goods up and down the Ohio would stop to rest and unload and to maybe go by horse and buggy around the Falls of the Ohio."



CARRIDDER M. JONES

For most of the century these  
improved little communities  
Bt & Gt in Eastern Jefferson County  
were populated by servants of  
the affluent in neighboring  
Anchorage

—MEN FORCED FROM COASTAL  
OF L.A. RAILROAD DURING THE  
DEPRESSION TO KEEP THEIR FAMILIES  
WARM.

WARM,  
SILVER BAPTIST CHURCH  
CONGREGATION WORKSHIPPED IN  
THE BASEMENT FOR 11 YRS  
DURING THE 1920S BECAUSE THE  
SANTUARY WAS MYSTERIOUSLY  
CLOSING TO THE PUBLIC.

507 N. 1st Ave. Anchorage  
- although <sup>most of them</sup> some blacks were  
major landowners in Anchorage  
when Lee & Hattenberg  
were Anchorage



HE WAS NOT IDENTIFIED AS  
BLACK.

- SAID SAID SHE WAS BORN  
IN A LITTLE SHanty BACK IN  
THE WOODS <sup>NEAR</sup> HOBBS CHAPEL  
HER BIRTH CERTIFICATE SAYS  
SHE WAS BORN NEAR ANCHORAGE

ALFRED BERRY OWNED  
PROPERTY IN BT IN 1879

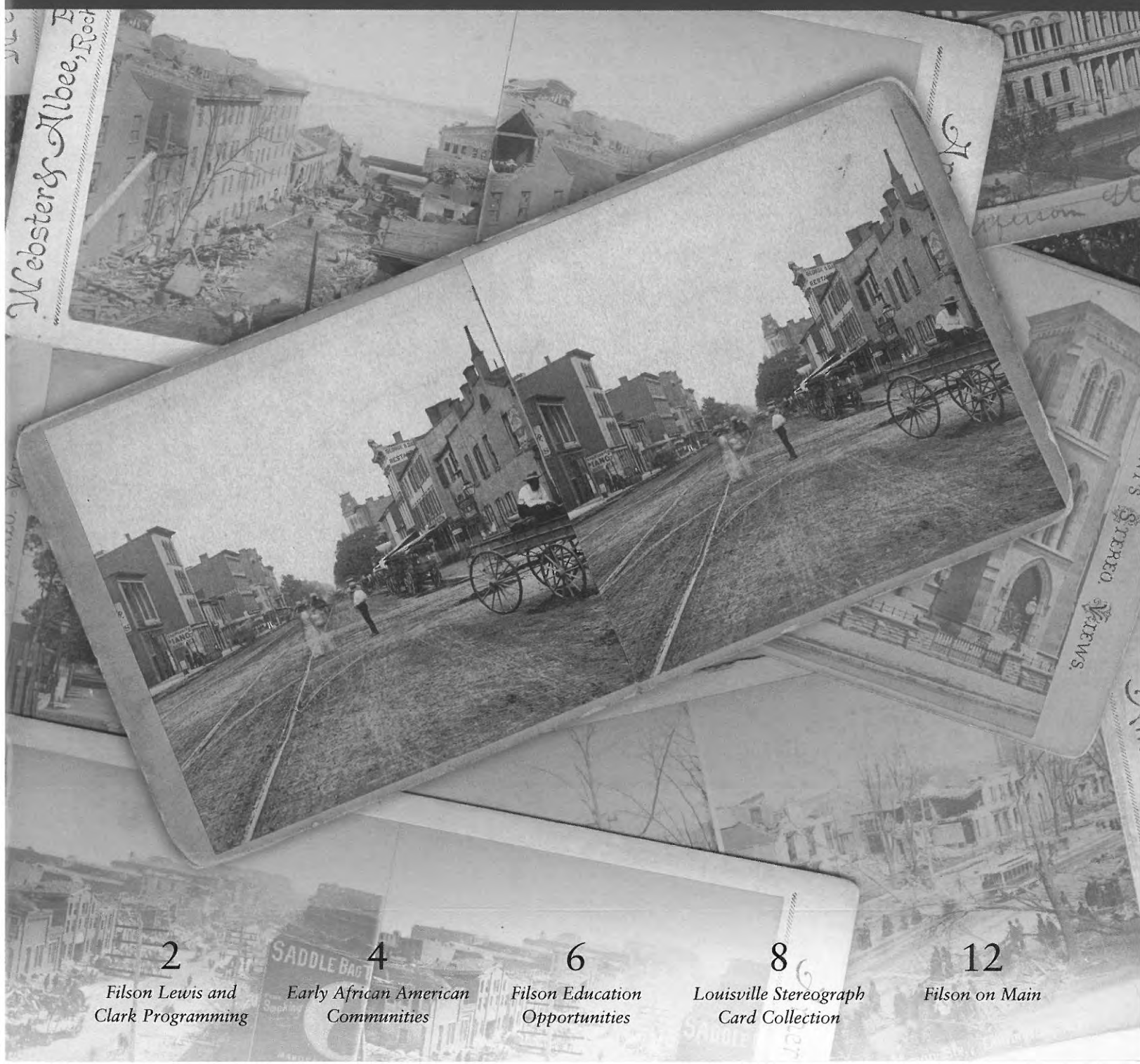
UNTIL THE WAR, THE  
COMMUNITIES SURVIVED BY  
SUPPLYING COOKS, MAIDS,  
BUTTERS DRIVERS AND  
GARDENERS FOR ANCHORAGE  
FAMILIES.

- THEY STRUGGLED DURING THE  
DEPRESSION AND THAT GAVE  
THEM THE REPUTATION OF CALLOUS  
FOR THEIR OWN -

DURING THOSE TIMES MOST  
SERVANTS WOULD BRING FOOD HOME.  
A W/M COMPLAINED TO THE MR OF  
GAY, TALKED ABOUT THE BACKSTAIRS  
HE SAID "DON'T WORRY THEY ARE  
JUST GETTING THE REST OF THE DAY"

# The Filson

Volume 4, Number 2



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Filson on Main

# Early African American Communities *in Jefferson County*

A quick glance at the 1879 *Atlas of Jefferson & Oldham Counties* shows a number of African American landowners, schools and churches scattered throughout Jefferson County. Some of these communities, such as the one centered on the farm of William Cole in the Cross Roads precinct, originated in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries as emancipated African Americans began to purchase land in the county.

Others, such as the Petersburg community, were established shortly after the end of the Civil War. Although many of these communities no longer exist, others, such as Berrytown, Griffeytown, Petersburg (now known as Newburg) and Harrod's Creek, continue to thrive.

The histories of these communities, excluded from the standard surveys of Jefferson County history, remain largely hidden from view. There is a wealth of information to be found in court records, censuses, maps and other documents, but the "hidden history" of these communities is to be found in the stories and traditions of the residents.

Two years ago The Filson Historical Society began a project to research the history of several of these early African American communities. The goal of this project is to provide the public and other researchers with a preliminary survey of accessible historical information that can be used for further research and study. It was decided that gathering oral histories and supplementing these stories and traditions with data from other historical sources could best tell the story. The Filson asked Carrider



*Historic Merriwether House in Harrod's Creek.*

Jones, who had previously completed a much larger project ("Black Hamlets in the Kentucky Bluegrass"), to direct the project, and she and Pen Bogert, Filson reference specialist, began a collaborative effort to develop a research plan, identify the communities to research and to conduct the interviews. Funding was provided in part by The Kentucky Humanities Council.

Jones decided to concentrate on the communities of Harrod's Creek, Prospect, Berrytown, Griffeytown and Newburg, all of which had their

origins in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. She interviewed over 20 residents and recorded their recollections on tape. Most of these residents are direct descendants of the founders of their communities, and they provided new information about historic landmarks as well as information about neighborhoods, community life, and buildings and roads that no longer exist. For example, Mary Kellar provided new details about the historic Merriwether House in Harrod's Creek, and her husband, William Kellar,



*A recently completed Filson project now provides the public with a preliminary survey of the histories of early African American communities in eastern Jefferson County.*

shared his wealth of knowledge about the history of the Harrod's Creek and Prospect communities. Laura Brooks recalled long-forgotten schools and neighborhoods in Prospect, including the Happy Hollow neighborhood where her father, Simon Brooks, lived. Sarah Frances Jones related stories about her grandfather, Richard Lilly, who served in the U. S. Colored Troops and was one of the founders of Berrytown. In addition to sharing their stories, many residents shared their family photographs and allowed copies to be made as a permanent part of this project. All of the persons interviewed

recalled the day-to-day activities of their vibrant communities and the importance of local churches and schools. Many recalled their struggles against racism as they lived in and built their communities.

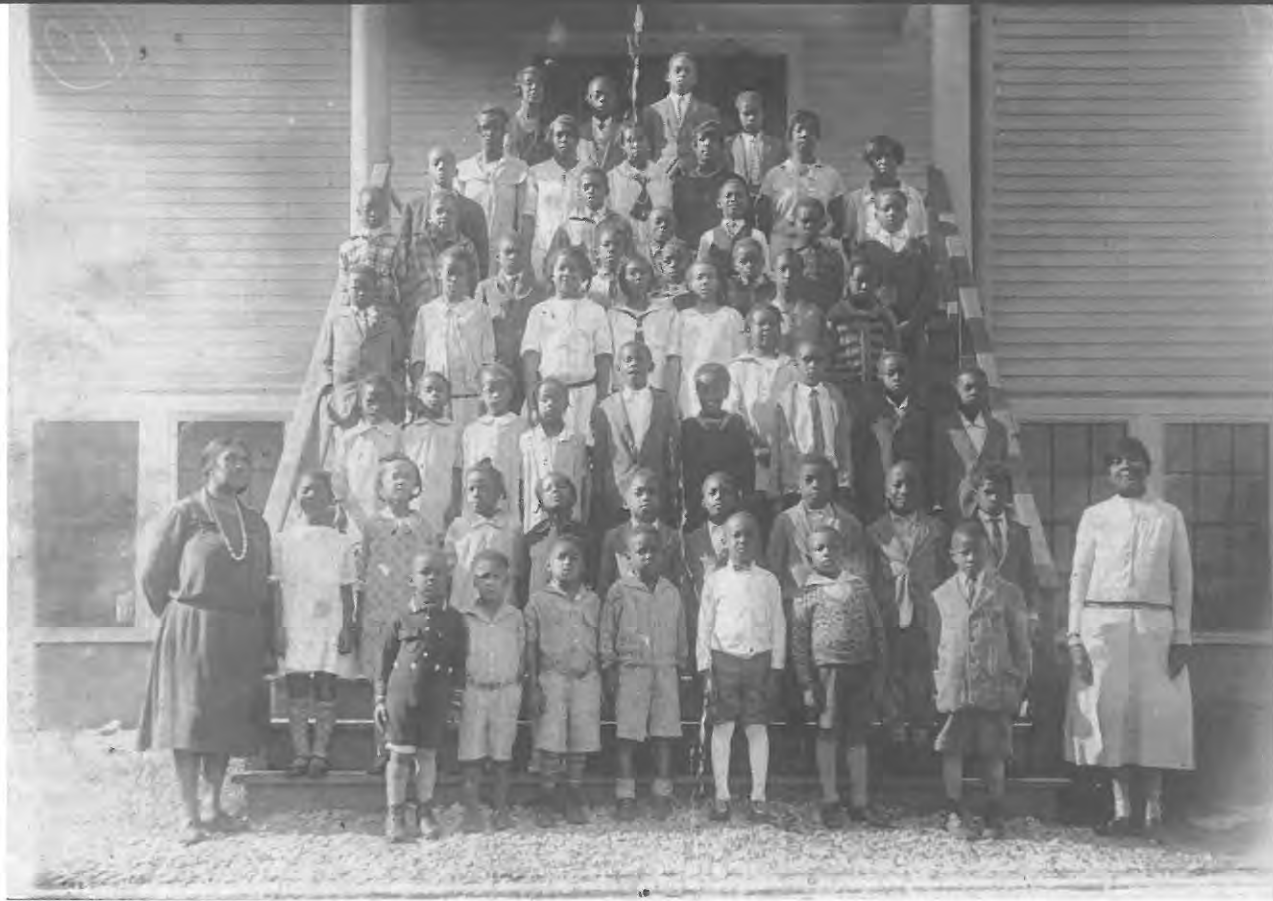
In addition to the many oral histories and photographs collected by Jones, Bogert researched the many sources available at The Filson, including maps, censuses, deeds, marriage records, death certificates and other records. All of these materials are now available to the public

and some of them will be incorporated into The Filson's website. Jones and Bogert presented a visual presentation of the project at The Filson last fall, and Jones will also be available to give this presentation elsewhere in the community.

*Information for this article was provided by Pen Bogert.*

**Above:**  
*Students and teachers at the Jefferson Jacob School in Harrod's Creek. Filson Photographic Collection*

**Left:**  
*The Neck Road in Harrod's Creek.*



THEY WERE VERY CONCERNED AND VERY  
STRONG ABOUT THE WELFARE AND THE  
FUTURE OF A CHILD. THEY PREPARED YOU  
AND GAVE YOU ALL THEY HAD AND WERE  
VERY DILIGENT AND STRICT, THEY WOULD  
WHIP YOU.

PROSPECT LODGE FRATERNITY  
MRS. ETTA TAYLOR  
COLETSY OF CS



Untitled Message

carriddon.jones@louisiana.edu  
Sent: Saturday, August 1, 2015  
To: cmjones01@louisiana.edu

I am using my voice and recognition for women must make proposals. When I hear stories through my projects. Voices from encourage them to live. My example is a (husband who, for knows she is a live. Because of the willing to be left for child and take prostitute for her

I was not the slave but present at the away each night. A young dancer Theater Arts

JULY 17, 2000

This morning, I had an appointment to meet with Martin Dunbar in the Taylor Subdivision. He called to tell me he had borrowed the pictures of his grandparents who raised him, from his aunt. I was anxious to see them so I made sure I was there on time.

The best picture of the lot was one of his grandmother, **Lula Edward Stokes**. However, several small pictures were glued to her picture and when he took them off, it left what appeared to be a design on her dress. There was a small picture of his grandfather, **William Stokes**, standing in front of a home he built on Jacob School Road. There was a small picture of his mother, **Margaret Stokes Dunbar** attending Lincoln School. A small picture that he carried in his wallet with (LR) **Maritn Dunbar, Sr., George Martin Demaree, Braxton Martin Dunbar, Martin Dunbar III, Martin Dunbar II (or Jr.)**.

When I arrived at Omni Studio with them, they told me that the small wallet photo would probably not turn out well, and it did not. However, I was pleased with the other three and I had a copy of the grandmother and grandfather made for Mr. Dunbar.

July 24, 2000

Today I had an appointment to take Mr. Dunbar's pictures back. As I drove out the winding River Road with a few glimpses of the river on my left, I felt good about the work I have set out for myself. Mr. Dunbar was very pleased to have a copy of his grandmother and grandfather's pictures. He told me that his grandfather was standing in front of a house he built on Jacob School Road but did not live in it for some years. He remained on the farm where he worked most of his life. The house was used for anyone in the family who needed a place to stay, be it vacation or otherwise. His aunt presently lives in the house.

We looked at several old pictures of his mother to decide which of the people on the school picture was her. As I walked out, he told me that when I get the book published, he could guaranteed that five copies would be bought by the Dunbar family. That was very encouraging and makes me think there is a possibility that a book just may be successful if I can find a publisher. Guess I shouldn't put off any longer transcribing some of the other tapes. There is nearly three hours with Mr. Dunbar alone.

- Anna Merritt NEWBURG
- ROSSAIN, ADLENE NEWBURG
- LYONS, EFFIE NEWBURG
- KEYNOLDS, ANN ADV - LINCOLN INSTITUTE
- WILSON, LINDA J - TOWN
- LYONS LOGAN, KAREN EUGENE SHARRELL - NEWBURG
- DAVIS Lloyd - NEWBURG
- MERRICKED, MARY MARGARET
- BROADUS, MINNE ALICE
- THOWEL, CHESTER - PROSPECT - JAMES TAYLOR
- ~~REPORTER~~
- BROOKS, LAURA
- WEATHERS, CHARLES
- POWELL, MARTIN
- WALTERS, ARTHUR
- JONES SALATH - BEADY TOWN
- THEOMOND COLMAN
- GREATHOWE RICHARD
- GASKIN, ROBERT, SR
- MCCOY LULA
- JONES SALATH
- DOU DIANE
- BOGER PEAR
- CHRISTOPHER REPORTER - JAMES TAYLOR
- ~~ABSTRACT~~
- ~~MERRY~~
- ~~ANNALYN~~
- ~~KATHELYN~~
- JOSE BOKE, JUANITA

**Berrytown**

Sarah Jones

FRANCIS  
JUAN, IN PODZ GAVE

**Griffeytown**

Diana Dow – not complete

Lula McCoy Bald

Robert Gaskin

Harrod's Creek

The Kellers (2)

**James Taylor**

Arthur Walters

Miriam Ode Broadus  
Clarence Weather

Martin Deunba

Laura Brook

**Jtown**

Richard Griffiths  
Robert F. Adams  
Linda Wilson

**Lincoln Inst**

Anne Reynolds

Prospect

Chester Tromel

**Newburg**

ERNESTINE SHARREN LYONS LOGAN

Adlene<sup>M</sup> Abstan

Anna Mervit

Effie Lyons

Hopie DAVIS

Pen Rye

Shanelle Lynn Jean



NEWBURG

ANNA MERIT

ADLENE ABSTAIN

PEN BOGERT

### Berrytown

- ✓ Sarah Jones, Juanita Pope Bone -missing

### Griffeytown

- ✓ Diana Dow – not complete
- ✓ Lula McCoy Bald
- ✓ Robert Gaskin

### Harrod's Creek

- ✓ William Keller, Mary Keller

### James Taylor

- ✓ Arthur Walters
- ✓ Minnie Alta Broaddus
- ✓ Clarence Weathers

Martin Dunbar

- ✓ Laura Brooks

*Chester Trowel*

### Jtown

- ✓ Richard Greathouse

*REV. J. Coleman Tatum, Sr.*

- ✓ Linda Wilson

### Lincoln Inst

- ✓ Anne Reynolds

### Newburg

- ✓ Adlene Abstain

- ✓ Anna Merritt

- ✓ Effie Lyons

- ✓ Lloyd Davis

- ✓ Pen Bogart

- ✓ Sharelle Lyons-Logan

### Prospect

*JAMES TAYLOR*

- ✓ Chester Trowel

A List of People Who were Interviewed and the Historically African American Communities They Live In

BERRY TOWN

LLOYD DAVIS

Juanita Pope Bone

Sarah Frances Jones

GRIFFEY TOWN

LULA McCOY BALD

DIANA L. DOW

ROBERT GASKIN

HARRODS CREEK

WEATHERS  
DUNBAR  
WATERS  
BLAIR  
BROOKS

REYNOLDS  
THIEL

JEFFERSON TOWN

REVEREND THURMOND COLEMAN

Earnestine SHARELL LYONS LOGAN

RICHARD GREATHOUSE

Linda Wilson

R KELLAR

ON

TAMES TAYLOR

NEWBURG

ANNA MERIT

ADLENE ABSTAIN

PEN BOGERT

Effie Lyons

LLOYD DAVIS

EARNESTINE LYONS LOGAN



## OLDHAM HISTORY

# Taylor helped get black neighborhood started

In last week's column I interviewed Ron Wright, who was raised in the African-American neighborhood of Eminence. His childhood experiences reflected those of African Americans across Kentucky who grew up in rural areas prior to the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Many of these types of neighborhoods and hamlets formed after the Civil War. Usually hamlets consisted of 50 homes or less. According to researcher Carridder Jones the communities came together because of shared experiences and family ties. In addition the communities offered protection from outside racist groups such as the Ku Klux Klan.

Black churches, schools and businesses often sprang up to serve the communities. Many of the schools that formed in the early 20th century were funded through Rosenwald grants. Julius Rosenwald, CEO of Sears, supplied matching grant money to communities in the South for the sole purpose of building African-American public schools.

In earlier years men of the hamlets worked as farmhands, farriers, cooks, coachmen and valets. Women often worked the fields as well as earned money for domestic service. This week I continue the discussion of African-American communities with Carridder, who has just completed a book: "Voices: From Historical African American Communities

**Nancy Stearns Theiss**



**Carridder Jones**

near Louisville, Kentucky."

Carridder grew up during the segregated years on a small farm outside of Timmonsville, S.C. Her parents were share croppers on a farm that grew cotton, tobacco and other crops. Carridder fondly remembers her Grandma, "Miz Anna" who served as the community midwife and used homemade remedies to treat ailments of her local "patients."

Jones often accompanied her grandmother to the woods nearby to collect special plants and herbs. Carridder also attended a Rosenwald School, Chaney Grove Elementary, 6 miles down the road from her home.

Much of the work in Carridder's new book was taken from a series of interviews that she conducted for the Filson Club a few years ago that focused on African-American communities in the Louisville area. The idea for Carridder's book came from a project with the Filson Historical Society, which asked her to gather information about African-American communities in the Louisville area. The communities of Harrods Creek, James Taylor Subdivision, Griffytown, Berrytown, Newburg and Jeffersontown were chosen as the focal point for research.

I asked Carridder to focus on one of her stories from the book for the following interview and she chose The James Taylor Subdivision in Prospect. Her book can be bought at Carmichael's Bookstores and the gift shop at Locust Grove.

"The James Taylor Subdivision came about for different reasons than most subdivisions. Taylor wanted people to have nice homes and be near their work. He felt that African American who toiled as domestic servants and farm laborers for wealthy households around

Prospect in the 1920s deserved modest country homes of their own at the end of the day. What he started out to do was sell land he had control over to blacks. There was no other area where blacks could buy land in the area.

"Taylor had a business of real estate and dabbled in other businesses including contract farming, from the time he was 14, operating a gravel quarry off River Road near Zorn Avenue. Taylor often subsidized lots for borrowers who could not pay, and sometimes he let people who worked for him stay in houses he built rent-free. He would meet with people and tell them about the land out there in Prospect off Jacob Street. Once they considered to buy the land, he would put them down in a little black book to record the payments. Once they finished their payments, he would give them the black book and tell them they owned the land. He really wanted it to be a black subdivision.

"The Taylor subdivision was ground-breaking, perhaps the only one carved out in Louisville or its suburbs specifically for African Americans through deed restrictions. When it came time for neighborhood children to move on from the Jacob School (a Rosenwald School) to high school, Taylor bought a bus and drove them to Central High School.

"Taylor put restrictions on lot and home sizes in the subdivision deeds but those restrictions have not been honored. When some blacks decided to sell their home, they began selling to the highest bidder which greatly changed the culture of the subdivision. The biggest change came in 2004, when 50 condominiums and 11 houses were built on eight mostly vacant acres."

You can contact Nancy: [nancystheiss@gmail.com](mailto:nancystheiss@gmail.com)

## Headline: Array of stories sharpens picture of black history

**UHDE ANDREA**

Byline: Andrea Uhde

auhde@courier-journal.com

Source: The Courier-Journal

Carridder "Rita" Jones flipped through black- and- white photographs of people she never met but knows a lot about.

She paused at a picture of the "Shirleyites," a group of sharply dressed black men and women, the women's hair neatly fashioned and topped with fancy hats.

They lived on Shirley Avenue near Harrods Creek, Jones said, and even though some had degrees , they worked mostly as servants.

"They couldn't get jobs in fields they had degrees in" because of discrimination, she said.

Jones, a writer and Louisville resident, has studied historically black hamlets in Jefferson County for several years. She has spent hours interviewing people about life in the early to mid-1900s in Prospect, Harrods Creek, Griffytown, Berrytown, Newburg and Jeffersontown.

The "Shirleyites" are part of her array of stories, which she will share tonight at the Westport General Store in northern Oldham County. Her talk is one of the Oldham County History Center's dinner lectures held every two months.

"African Americans have been an oral group," said Jones, 69. "They have not written down all of their stories. I would like people to know about these people and their communities."

Jones began studying black history in Lexington in 1995, and about five years later the Filson Historical Society in Louisville received a grant to help her research communities in Louisville. Audio tapes, photos and transcriptions of Jones' interviews are available at the society.

"It's some good neighborhood history that we didn't have before," said Pen Bogert , reference specialist for the society. "We felt it was a gap that needed to be filled to understand the whole community."

In her home earlier this week, Jones flipped to a black-and-white portrait of a handsome man in a suit, his dark eyes staring off into space.

"This is my favorite," she said of the picture. The man, James Taylor, helped African Americans buy property in the Prospect and Harrods Creek area so they wouldn't have a long walk to work, Jones said.

Another picture in her thick album is of a two-story house blanketed in flowers. The property on River Road was used in the early 1900s by the Merriwether family to raise hogs and cattle and for some farming, she said. Harry Hall Merriwether built the home in 1898 .

"It was unheard of for black families to have a house like that at that time," Jones said.

The pictures continue for pages, revealing people dressed in early 20th-century garb, many with emotionless faces.

Tonight, people including Louisville resident Karen Stone will gather to hear the stories.

Jones is "a very, very interesting woman," Stone said. "I just think it's interesting to learn about the different people that have lived in this area before us."

What: Lecture by Carridder "Rita" Jones, "'The Land of the Free' : Early African American Communities," and a bourbon- tasting.

When: 6 p.m. today.

Where: Westport General Store, 7008 Ky. 524 in Westport.

Cost: \$15 for Oldham County History Center members, \$18 for non members.

Reservations: 222-0826.

Caption: A photo of Lincoln Institute High School in Simpsonville is part of Carridder "Rita" Jones' collection. Jones will speak in Oldham County tonight.

Caption: By Jamie Rhodes, Special to The Courier-Journal

Carridder "Rita" Jones has researched local African-American history. "I would like people to know about these people and their communities," she said.

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY PEN BOGERT IN THE FILSON NEWSMAGAZINE-VOLUME 4, NUMBER 2

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auhde@courier-journal.com

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Lecture in Oldham tonight

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Family's home 'unheard of'

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Caption: A photo of Lincoln Institute High School in Simpsonville is part of Carridder "Rita" Jones' collection. Jones will speak in Oldham County tonight.

Caption: By Jamie Rhodes, Special to The Courier-Journal

Carridder "Rita" Jones has researched local African-American history. "I would like people to know about these people and their communities," she said.

is a wealth of information to be found in court records, censuses, maps and other documents, but the “hidden history” of these communities is to be found in the stories and traditions of the residents.

Two years ago the Filson Historical Society began a project to research the history of several of these early African American Communities. The goal of this project is to provide the public and other researchers with a preliminary survey of accessible historical information that can be used for further research and study. It was decided that gathering oral histories and supplementing these stories and traditions with data from other historical sources could best accomplish this. The Filson asked Carridder Jones, who has previously completed a much larger project (“Black Hamlets in the Kentucky Bluegrass”), to direct the project, and she and Pen Bogert, Filson Reference Specialist, began a collaborative effort to develop a research plan, identify the communities to research and to conduct the interviews. Funding was secured from the Kentucky Humanities Council.

Jones decided to concentrate on the communities of Harrod’s Creek, Prospect James Taylor Subdivision, Berrytown, Griffeytown, Jeffersontown and Newburg. All of which had their origins in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. She interviewed over 20 residents and recorded their recollections on tape. Most of these residents are direct descendants of the founders of their communities and they provided new information about historic landmarks as well as information about neighborhoods, community life, and buildings and roads that no longer exist. For example, Mary Merriwether Kellar provided new details about the historic Merriwether house in Harrod’s Creek and her husband, William Kellar, shared his wealth of knowledge about the history of the Harrod’s Creek and Prospect communities; Laura Brooks recalled long-forgotten schools and neighborhoods in Prospect, including the Happy Hollow Neighborhood where her father, Simon Brooks, lived; and Sarah Frances Jones related stories about her grandfather, Richard Lilly, who served in the U.S. Colored Troops and he was one of the founders of Berrytown. In addition to sharing other stories, many residents shared their family photographs and allowed copies to be made a permanent part of this project. All of the persons interviewed recalled the day-to-day activities of their vibrant communities and the importance of local churches and schools. Many recalled their struggles against racism as they lived and built their communities.

In addition to the many oral histories and photographs collected by Jones, Pen Bogert researched the many sources available at the Filson, including maps, censuses, deeds, marriage records, death certificates and other records. All of these materials are now available to the public and some of them will be incorporated into the Filson website. Jones and Bogert presented a visual presentation of the project at the Filson this fall, and Jones will also be available to give this presentation elsewhere in the community.

thereafter, he coughed and was in poor health. One day on his way home from school, he coughed and could feel something in his throat so he reached in and started to pull it out. It turned out that what he was pulling out of his throat was a long piece of gauze that the doctor had left inside of him when he operated on him with the gunshot wound. From that day on, he didn't have a problem with the cough. She thinks the doctor's name was Robertson or Roberts. The doctor's son gave the family a copy of the report but it was lost when their home burned.

A stop at the Prospect Harrods Creek Center, the small building that once served as the first and seconds grade, in back of Jacob School. The senior citizens of the community were meeting to play bingo. Present today were, Clarina Anderson, Dorothy C. Cox, Sarah Rogers, Annie E. Richardson, Edna Mae Hendrix, Laura E. Brooks, the granddaughter of Jeff Jacob whom the school was named after and Evanna Herriford. They seemed happy to see me again and said I could come for lunch any time as long as I let them know in advance. I asked if I could take a picture of the group and they were agreeable.

A stop at the Merriweather house to take back some pictures to Mary Margaret Merriweather Kellar. She and her husband William "Pete" greeted me warmly. I asked Pete if he could identify the people on the picture Mrs. Broadus had loaned me. He was excited at seeing the picture and felt sure he knew all except a few. HE REFERRED TO THEM AS THE "SHIRLEYITES" because they all lived on Shirley avenue. He said most of them were domestic workers but you would never know it by their lifestyle. He bemoaned the fact that all of the people in the picture have passed away.

From left to right on the front row: George Johnson, his daughter Effie Johnson Oglesby, Minnie Cooper Taylor, James Taylor's wife, James Thomas Thaddus Alexander Taylor, Maude White and Lilly Stone.

Top row, left to right (first female and male unknown), Sallie Wilson, Lavinia Johnson, Ethel Rudy, Fred Rudy, James Taylor's sister Bertha Taylor Calvery Taylor, Minnie Alta Taylor Broadus husband, Stinson Broadus, Sr., James Taylor's brother-in-law, Spencer Taylor and Jennigs Oglesby.

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT  
CARRIDDER M. JONES - PROJECT DIRECTOR

In consideration of the recording and preservation of my oral history memoir, and/or documents and pictures, I hereby grant and assign them to the Filson Club in Louisville, Kentucky, and consent to the deposit of my oral history memoir, and/or documents and pictures in their permanent collection, to be used for whatever scholarly or educational purposes, including the right to duplicate, and distribute the recordings and/or transcript, documents and pictures to any other libraries and educational institution. I grant Carridder M. Jones, all literary property rights, including transcription and publication rights to my oral history memoir, and/or documents and pictures as an unrestricted gift.

Name of Donor \_\_\_\_\_

Narrator (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Donor \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Narrator \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Interviewer \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Roll I

cm

RECORD  
OF  
COLORED SCHOOLS,  
1885 to 1890.



1885-86

No. School	Name of County	Name of Trustees	Name of Teacher	Forty Per Cent.	Sixty Per Cent.	One Hundred Per Cent.
1	Jefferson	M. B. Burns J. Hobbs Geo. Pierce	Belle Woods Tammie Wood	54 56	81 84	
2	Wapa Point	Edward Green Lark Dickson J. Ashby	My E. Banks S. W. Banks	21 15 32 57 66	172 98	
3	Lyndon	Wm. Anderson Alex. Watson Thomas Smith	Adaline E. Flood	61 38	92 77	
4	Anchorage	Wm. H. Gam Frank Lewis John D. Richard	E. J. Johnson	75 64	113 46	
5	Castroville	Henry Taylor H. T. Clark W. King	Lucie Taylor Lucie Jackson	31 42	47 43	
6	Marion	Wm. Jacobs Wm. Taylor E. H. Murriweather	E. N. Leurtis	47 12	70 68	
7	Corcoranville	E. Weller J. Weller D. Taylor	S. J. Smith	50 38	45 57	
8	Marion	Eliza Gray Oliver Ruth Caldwell Hazel Leary	Mildred Billum	14 88	22 32	
9	Marion	J. L. Camp W. H. Keenan J. W. Cornshaw		22 90	41 85	
10	Marion	John H. Hagen J. Baker Charles Hughes	Wm. E. White	29 14	43 71	
11	Marion	John H. Hagen J. Baker Charles Hughes	B. A. Booker	84 32	126 48	
12	Marion	John H. Hagen J. Baker Charles Hughes	Sarah Keen	57 04	85 56	
13	Marion	Wm. Strickland Thomas Jackson James Lawrence	E. P. Means	98 58	147 87	
14	Marion	Wm. Strickland J. H. Hagen Wm. Larkster	B. A. Booker	35 96	58 94	
15	Marion	Wm. Strickland J. H. Hagen Wm. Larkster	E. J. Jackson	21 70	82 56	

1886-87

8

No. District	Name of County.	Name of Trustees.	Name of Teacher.	Forty Per Cent.		Sixty Per Cent.		One Hundred Per Cent.	
1	Jeffersontown	S. Hoobbs Geo. Pierce Jerry Harris	Wm. E. White	58	08	87	12		
2	Southern Point	Lark Dickerson Ed. Green John Ashby	Lucie M. Banks	99	10	148	50		
3	Lyndon	William Anderson Thomas Smith Alex. Watson	Louey Jackson	58	74	88	11		
4	Anchorage	Wm. H. Harr Frank Jewels Wm. Duff	E. F. Johnson	60	72	91	08		
5	Eastwood	Henry Taylor A. Clark W. King	Josephine Candike	33	66	50	49		
6	Harvards Creek	Wm. Taylor Spas. McInerney H. Kennedy	Bate Curtis	56	10	84	15		
7	Lewisville	D. Taylor G. Withers A. Miller	Blanche Koons	62	70	94	05		
8	Plumaine Ridge Park	Stasgow Oliver Ryffis Caldwell Samuel Camp	Ellen Camp	21	12	31	68		
9	Valley St.	H. H. Ruwan J. C. Cunningham Ed. Johnson		29	04	43	56		
10	Wendover Ridge Park	Thomas Shohyan Dane Baker Chas. Hughes	Fannie B. Samance	30	36	45	54		
11	Winnville	John M. Gauder James Elliott J. Butler	Bettie Moore	67	32	100	98		
12	Wilton	Wm. Trasier J. H. Ellis L. Orr	Adeline E. Floyd	58	74	88	11		
13	Winn	Thomas Jackson James Lawrence W. L. Strickland	E. P. Morgan	107	58	161	37		
14	Winn	Wm. Davis Orrel Ruffian Jeff. Landlund	B. A. Booker	43	56	65	34		
15	Winn	Sam. Miller Plaid Balliet Wm. H. H.	Low Shackelford	26	40	39	60		



Number	Name of County	Name of Trustees	Name of Teacher	Forty Per Cent.	Sixty Per Cent.	One Hundred Per Cent.
1	Jefferson W. town	S. Hobbs George Pierce Jerry Newson	Mary E. White	66 00	99 10	
2	Dopo Pine	Edward Green Lark Dickerson	Susie M. Banks	70 62	105 90	
3	Lyndon	A. Watson A. Taylor L. M. Ireland	L. B. Jackson L. B. Jackson	67 98	101 97	
4	Anchorage	John T. Richards W. Drift Alfred B. Day	Fannie Croghan	56 76	85 14	
5	Eastwood	Henry Taylor L. M. Taylor Moses G. Gibbs	Georgina Hamilton	34 98	52 47	
6	Keams Creek	Harrison Kennedy Lance Murreweather	Katie Curtis	70 62	105 90	
7	Louisville	D. Taylor G. W. Huthers H. Miller	Ella B. Davis	62 70	94 06	
8	Keams Creek	Thomas Oliver L. M. Caldwell L. M. Camp	Ella Camp	25 74	38 61	
9	Keams Creek	W. H. Rowan W. H. Croghan L. M. Johnson		24 42	36 63	
10	Keams Creek	John Keindon L. M. Woods Thomas Bland	Maria Hume	31 68	47 52	
11	Keams Creek	Charles Beeler L. M. Perkins James Elliott	A. H. Hurling	66 00	99 10	
12	Keams Creek	Charles D. Day L. M. Huthers Peter Gibbs	Onie Drift	63 36	95 04	
13	Keams Creek	Thomas Jackson L. M. Lawrence L. M. Strickland	E. P. Moore	114 54	172 26	
14	Keams Creek	Orrel Ruffian L. M. Jones	Bettie Moore	56 10	84 18	
15	Keams Creek	W. H. Wood L. M. Strickland		22 44	33 66	

1847-1888

1888-89

No.	Name of County.	Name of Trustees.	Name of Teacher.	Forty Per Cent.	Sixty Per Cent.	One Hundred Per Cent.
1	Jefferson Town	Harvey Harris Samuel B. Harris George Pierce	Mary E. White	98 04	147 06	\$245 10
2	Danville Point	Ed. Green Lark Dickerson George Conaway	Mary E. Boswell	81 32	121 98	203 30
3	Ligonlon	Alax Taylor Anderson Taylor Latham Lackland	Lucy B. Jackson	78 28	117 42	195 70
4	Anchorage	W. H. Duff Howard Munford Albert Birney	Annie B. Simms	84 36	126 54	210 90
5	Leadwood	Wesley King Albert Clark Moses Graves	Sarah T. Perkins	39 52	59 28	98 80
6	Higginbotham Lorick	Harrison Kennedy Wm. Taylor B. J. Woodard	Katie Curtis	78 28	117 42	195 70
7	Louisville	A. Miller	Katie Sharpe	38 10	57 00	95 00
8	Marion Lige Park	Alvaro Oliver Sam. Camp Rufus Caldwell	N. L. Levell	29 64	44 46	74 10
9	Valley Sta.	Ed. Johnson Joseph Laginshaw William Still	Ella Camp	38 00	57 00	95 00
10	Pleasant Lige Park	John H. Haggard Moses W. E. E. Thomas Blund	Blanche Coons	55 48	83 22	138 70
11	Miller	Charles Bieder Nat. Lewis James Elliott	A. W. Watkins	69 92	104 88	174 80
12	Marion	Charles Dorsey Bliss Lammence John Smith	Sarah A. Harris	69 16	103 74	172 90
13	Ligonlon	James Lammence Thomas Jackson	E. P. Harris	74 74	221 16	368 60
14	Ligonlon	Loasemus Jones Sam. Luffman Wm. Davis	Maria Henson	61 56	92 34	163 90
15	Marion	William Woods C. B. Tolbert Wm. Trillitt	Agnes M. Pittman	15 20	22 80	38 00



No. District	Name of County	Name of Trustees	Name of Teacher	Forty Per Cent.	Sixty Per Cent.	Per Cent.
1	Jefferson County	Leroy Harris Saml. Hobbs George Pierce	Mary E. White	52 48 <del>2 56</del> 55 04		262 40 <del>2 56</del> 264 96
2	Douglas County	Ed Green Lark Dickerson Robt. Abstein	T. M. Faulkner	43 57 <del>2 14</del> 46 01		219 35 <del>2 14</del> 221 49
3	Lyndon	Alex. Taylor Helen Taylor L. H. Caldwell	Blanche E. Korne	51 66 <del>2 52</del> 54 18		258 30 <del>2 52</del> 260 82
4	Anchorage	Allard Perry Howard Minford William Duff	Maria Lamaton	45 10 <del>2 20</del> 47 30		225 50 <del>2 20</del> 227 70
5	Eastwood	Wesley King Alfred Clark Indice Graves	S. D. Ballitt	21 32 <del>1 14</del> 22 46		106 60 <del>1 14</del> 107 74
6	Hamden	H. Kennedy Dick. Crathead Ad. Langt	Emma Johnson	38 54 <del>1 88</del> 40 42		192 70 <del>1 88</del> 194 58
7	Richmond	J. Miller Saml. Camp Rufus Caldwell	Hattie Sharpe	23 37 <del>1 14</del> 24 51		116 85 <del>1 14</del> 117 99
8	Pleasant Ridge Park	Glusco Oliver Saml. Camp Rufus Caldwell	M. L. Levell	18 86 <del>1 22</del> 19 78		94 30 <del>1 22</del> 95 52
9	Valley Station	Ed Johnson Joseph Crigshaw William Still	Helen E. Korne	20 50 <del>1 58</del> 21 58		102 50 <del>1 58</del> 103 88
10	Hamden Ridge Park	John H. Hinson Morris Woods Thomas Blund	Maria E. Korne	23 78 <del>1 16</del> 24 94		118 90 <del>1 16</del> 120 06
11	Hamden John H. Hinson	Charles Butler Nat. Perry James Elliott	A. W. Watkins	29 52 <del>1 44</del> 30 96		147 60 <del>1 44</del> 149 04
12	Hamden Hamden	Charles Dorsey Elias Lawrence John Smith	Sarah A. Korne	37 31 <del>1 82</del> 39 13		186 55 <del>1 82</del> 188 37
13	Hamden Hamden	Picco Strickland Thomas Jackson James Lawrence	E. P. Marre	72 98 <del>3 56</del> 76 54		364 90 <del>3 56</del> 368 46
14	Hamden Hamden	Edmund Jones Moses Hentz William Barks	Bessie Wilson	32 80 <del>1 60</del> 34 40		164 00 <del>1 60</del> 165 60
15	Hamden Hamden	Philip Tollitt The. Dickey John Dickey	Belle Seales	15 17 <del>1 74</del> 16 91		75 80 <del>1 74</del> 77 54

16-968



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KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL  
The State Historic Preservation Office

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April 17, 1989

Mr. & Mrs. William Kellar  
6421 Upper River Road, Box 74  
Harrods Creek, Kentucky 40027

RE: Merriwether House (Site #JF-690)  
Jefferson County Multiple Resource Area

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Kellar:

The Kentucky Heritage Council is pleased to announce that your property listed above was entered in the National Register of Historic Places on March 22, 1989. Listing in the National Register gives recognition that the site has historical, architectural, or archaeological significance within the context of the community, State, or Nation. Benefits include limited protection against adverse action by Federal agencies and eligibility for Federal tax benefits for depreciable historic structures as specified in the Economic Recovery Act of 1981.

We are enclosing a Certificate of listing and a blue decal for you to apply to a window at the main entrance to your historic property. These indicate that the property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places or is a contributing building in a National Register District.

I know you share our pleasure that the property has been so honored. We encourage you to help us keep the file on your property current by sharing with us any newly obtained information on the history of the site. Thank you for your participation in the preservation of Kentucky's heritage.

Sincerely,

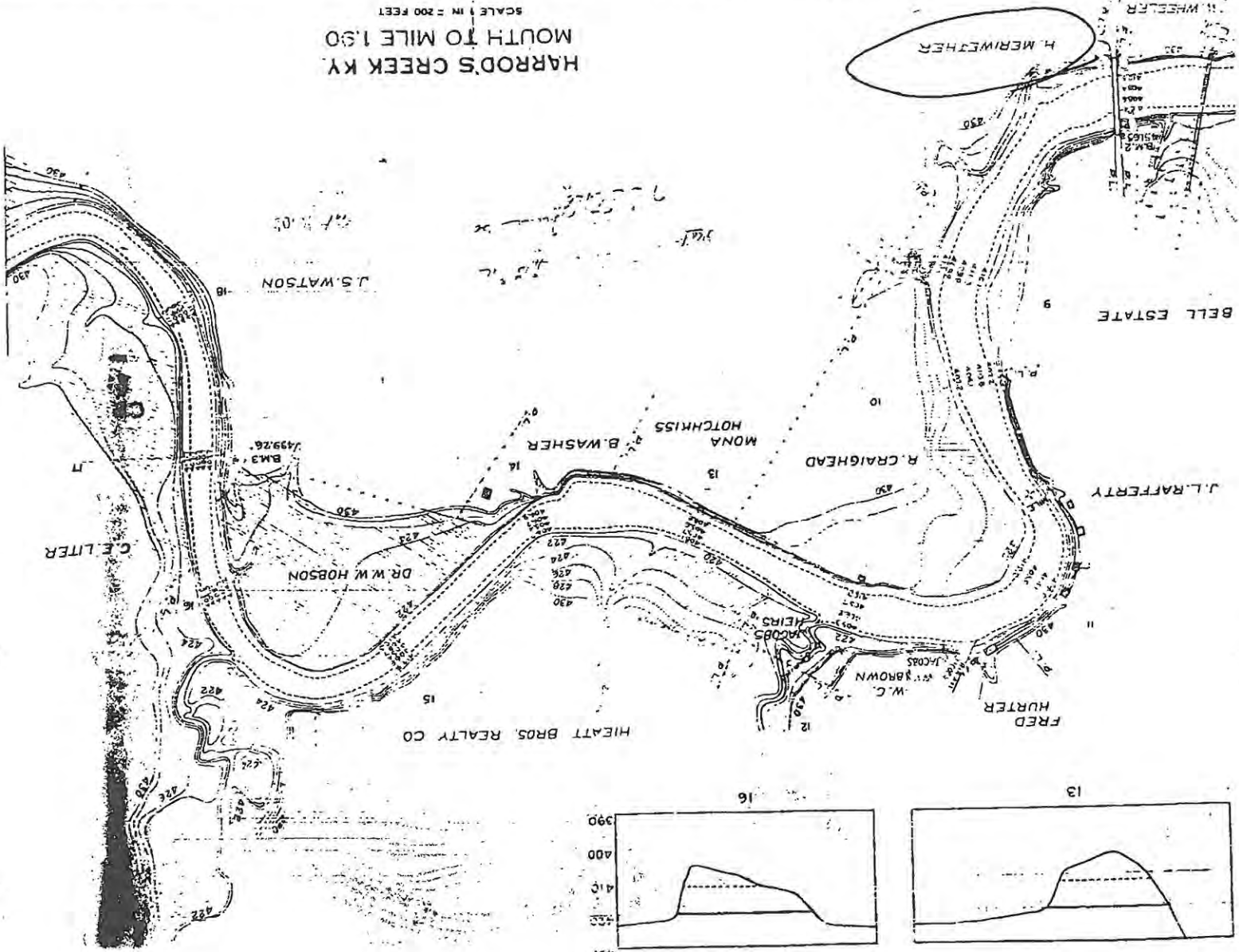
David L. Morgan, Director  
Kentucky Heritage Council and  
State Historic Preservation Officer

DLM:MP/bsc

Enclosures

# HARROD'S CREEK KY MOUTH TO MILE 1.90

SCALE 1 IN = 200 FEET



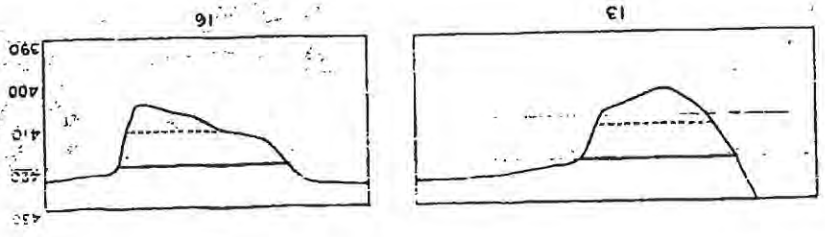
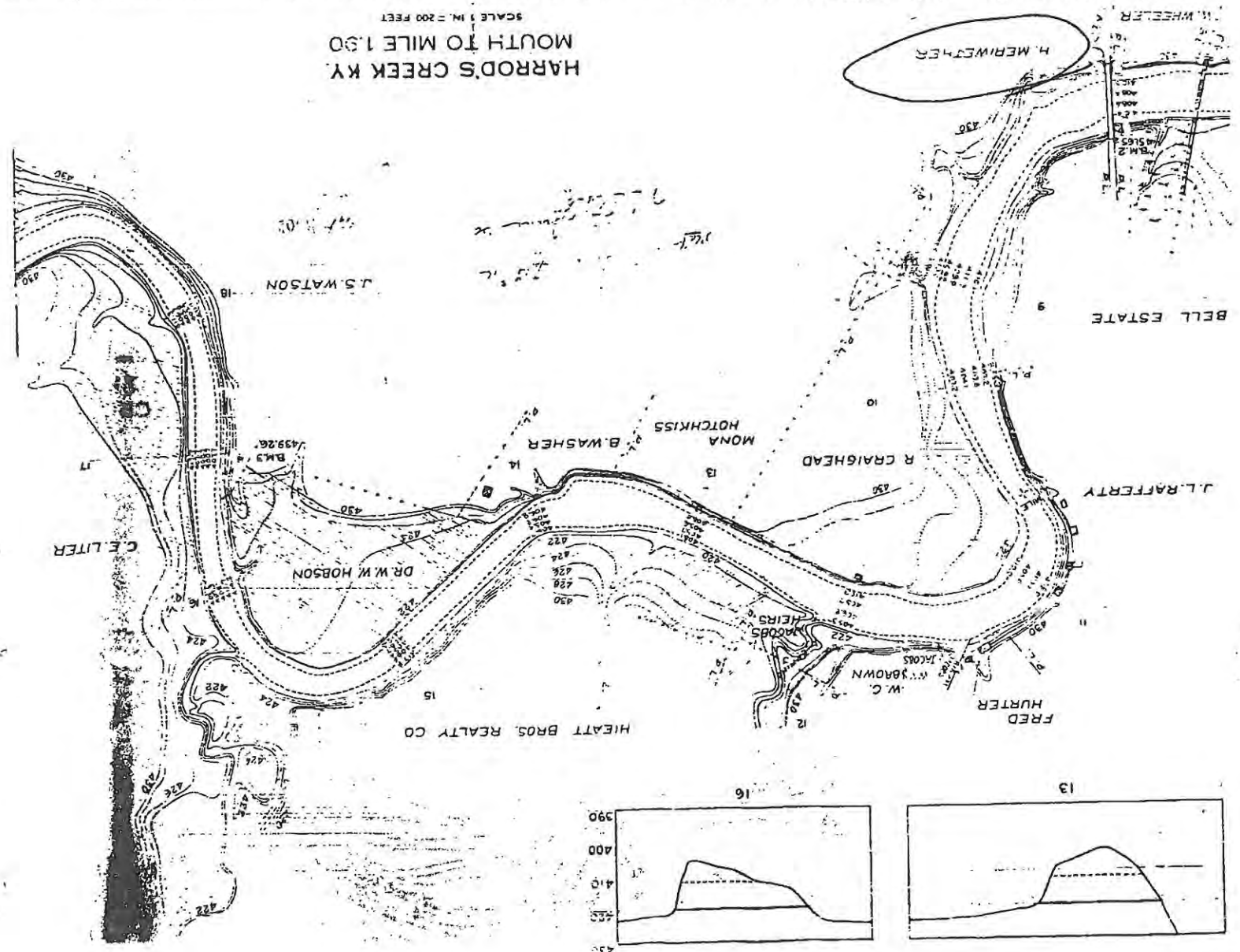
Plot Book 7 PP 63-61



Plot Book 7 pp 63-61

# HARROD'S CREEK KY. MOUTH TO MILE 1.30

SCALE 1 IN. = 200 FEET







## Award honors book on violence

CHRIS KENNING  
@CKENNING\_CJ

In developing countries, everyday violence suffered by poor residents - from sexual assault to police brutality to land theft - is a big reason many anti-poverty efforts fail. Yet little is being done to address it.

That's the idea in the 2014 book, "The Locust Effect: Why the End of Poverty Requires the End of Violence," which has earned authors Gary Haugen and Victor Boutros the 2016 University of Louisville Grawmeyer Award for Ideas Improving World Order, which comes with a \$100,000 prize.

Boutros, a former federal prosecutor who fought human trafficking, is a visiting scholar at George Washington University Law School. Haugen is founder and president of the human rights group International Justice Mission and was formerly a human rights attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice. In 1994, he directed the United Nations' investigation into the Rwandan genocide.

"Haugen and Boutros identify a significant global problem and, more importantly, suggest a practical solution," said award director Charles Ziegler. "Building the rule of law in local communities through creation of effective police forces and impartial law-enforcement institutions are presented as a means to address the problem."

U of L presents the prizes annually for outstanding works in music composition, literature, and

## LOCAL HISTORY

# Author explores small Ky. African-American 'hamlets'

NANCY STEARNS THEISS  
OLDHAM HISTORY

Researcher, author and playwright Carrider Jones has studied small populations or "hamlets" of African-American communities in Kentucky.

Most of these hamlets were formed according to Jones because "a lot of people were related and knew each other. Their families grew up together and they had shared experiences. Sometimes there were raids on the families by racist groups like the Ku Klux Klan who would come through. But if people stuck together it created some type of protection. Often fraternities such as Odd Fellows Leagues and Masonic fraternities were organized to strengthen the community."

Ron Wright was raised in such a hamlet in Eminence, Ky., that still has retained a strong African-American presence since the Civil War. Born in 1948, Ron grew up in a segregated community and he talked about his boy-

hood town in a recent interview:

"I went to King Street School in 1955 but before then was the Merriweather School that was a Rosenwald School built in the 1920s. King Street School was built close to Merriweather School and it was larger. King Street was modernized with indoor toilets, a gymnasium that was divided into three classes.



Ron Wright

"Merriweather and King Street is important because it is a symbol of who we were ..."

CARRIDER JONES  
AUTHOR, RESEARCHER

There were also two classrooms with several grades in one class, like sixth, seventh and eighth grade. The library was located in the principal's office. There was a kitchen but you ate in your room. You went to the kitchen to get your food and then bought it back to your desk.

"I think black schools were more strict and made us be better because they wanted to make sure we could compete when we went to white schools. My favorite teacher was LaMont Jones in the seventh Grade. He was probably 21 or 22 years old at that time. He was innovative. He would have us do research on different assignments and we worked in small groups. On Fridays we had music appreciation day and we could bring in albums to listen to music. Mr. Jones liked jazz and let me play Dave Brubeck. He taught us about the Vietnam War, even before we got really involved. Then in 1962 I went to Eminence High School."

"The churches were segregated. The First Baptist Church was at the end of Owen Street (where I grew up) and we called it "Baptist Row" because everyone on the street went there. They just celebrated 165 years, just last month. I think it actually started in a lively stable, back in the day. Rev. Holmes baptized me, then Rev. Goatley came and he must have been there for 40 something

years. Rev. Goatley had the youth go to a march on Frankfort to see Martin Luther King. I was amazed at the number of people that went."

"The Church was the center of everything we did — everybody that lived on that street went there. We went to BYPU, vacation Bible School, youth day, church picnic, sang in the choir, Easter Egg hunts, the Christmas shows - it was a must to go to that church."

"I was also a member of the youth lodge. Back then there was an Odd Fellows Lodge and an Independent Lodge and both men and women could belong. My grandmother and grandfather were both members. I learned parliamentary procedures and Roberts Rules of Order and those kind of things carried me through life. There was also a Masonic Lodge. The building isn't there anymore but the lodge was upstairs and there was a barber shop downstairs."

"I had a lot of good mentors growing up. People like Mr. Armstrong who had a mechanical shop on King Street. Mr. Kirby Hayden was a wise man, everybody would gather at his place. Then there was Mr. Julius and William Mason and Lynn Mason. I remember that Mr. George Blaydes and Mr. Lynn Mason tried to build an airplane — I don't know if they finished it or not! We had a black boy scout troupe and Mr. Lynn Mason was the Scout Master. We met at the Presbyterian Church. My uncle was a boxer, Don Hill, and he and Jimmy Clark and Julius Mason had a boxing program for youth.

We went to Tomorrow's Champions which was a TV show in Louisville. We practiced boxing in the Lodge."

"Back in the day King Street was where everything happened. There was a baseball park with a "colored league" back then that was close to the school, there were bootleggers down the street and gambling. Adult men played in the leagues. I don't know who organized the leagues but they played leagues from other towns."

"There was a pool room, the Martin's Tavern and on King Street there was the "Red Onion" that had live music. The "Chitlin Circuit" played there — B.B. King was on the circuit and Bobby "Blue" Bland, performers like that. Live music was the thing - even at the picnics. We had the Odd Fellows Picnic, The Independent Odd Fellows Picnic, the Masonic Picnic, all had live music, at the Fairgrounds. Whites and blacks used the fairgrounds but at different times."

"Merriweather and King Street is important because it is a symbol of who we were and what we were like as a community in Eminence. Kids today don't have a clue as to what it took to get where we are today. We didn't just grow up, we were raised up."

Next week's story continues with an interview from Carrider Jones who discusses another Black community based outside Louisville based on her new book "Voices: From Historical African American Communities near Louisville, Kentucky."

You can contact Nancy: nancystheiss@gmail.com.

# FRIENDS &



# NEIGHBORHOODS

## EASTWOOD

### Rosenwald site may make historical register

City panel will consider request

By Martha Elson

melson@courier-journal.com  
The Courier-Journal

A little-known former Rosenwald school for African-American students that operated from 1922 to 1937 in Eastwood could receive recognition by being listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The building, now a vacant home at 610 Gilliland Road off

Shelbyville Road, is near a former 1840s plantation home called the Henry Hord House, 15903 Shelbyville Road, that's still used as a residence.

Part of the area evolved into a black community or "hamlet" after the Civil War, and the school was one of seven Rosenwald schools established in Jefferson County about 50 years later. They were among a network of schools for black students built throughout the South with help from more than \$4 million contributed by Sears, Roebuck & Co. president Julius

#### SCHOOL MEETING

The Metro Landmarks Commission will review a request to nominate the school to the National Register of Historic Places at 8:30 a.m. Thursday at the Metro Development Center, 444 S. Fifth St.

Rosenwald, starting in 1912.

The two others remaining in Jefferson County already are listed on the National Register.

See EASTWOOD, Page A6



This vacant home at 610 Gilliland Road off Shelbyville Road is a former Rosenwald school for African-American students. C-J FILE

## VALLEY HIGH



## HAPPENING TODAY



# NEIGHBORHOODS

## World War II affected children in France, Germany

**Oldham  
History**  
Nancy  
Stearns  
Theiss



The lives of two children of war — French-born Mattie Gilloteau Sabol and German-born Waldi Gault are compared in this two-part story.

Their oral histories are archived at the Oldham County History Center. Both spent their first few years of life during World War II caught in the crossfire of battlefields where they became exposed to famine, death and loss of their homes. Mattie's family was fleeing the German invasion of France while Waldi's family was displaced by the Czech invasion of her German home Eger, which

was once under the Austrian-Hungary monarchy.

### Part one: Madeline (Mattie) Geninne Gilloteau Sabol

Mattie Gilloteau Sabol was born in Bressuire, France, in 1939, and endured a childhood of fear. The German soldiers pushed her family from town to town during WWII. At 16, she met David Sabol, an American soldier. They married when she turned 18.

"My father (Simon Ferdinand Gilloteau) was a French soldier in Morocco. When he came back to France, the Germans arrested him. ... My father was taken to the place by the border where they had these ovens. They use to kill people there. Zurich was the name of the place. My mother



Mattie Gilloteau Sabol at age 11.  
OLDHAM COUNTY HISTORY CENTER

went into those places. She said it was just unbelievable. The bones were stacked up from the Jews. They thought my father was Jewish."

He spent about six months

in a concentration camp. The Germans realized that he was not Jewish, and released him.

As a small child, Sabol would have to hunt for food for the family to eat. "The Germans would take the butter; they left us with lard. They'd take the chocolate and the coffee and left us with chicory. They took all the good stuff. They would take everything. ... We would go in the field. My mother would pick up these big dandelions, you know, before they bloomed. And she would take the heart of it and either make salad with it or would cook it as a vegetable. We ate a lot of that. ... We use to go steal eggs. My brother use to go under the fences, steal the eggs, and poke a hole at each end and suck the insides. I tell my kids; they don't be-

lieve it! It was a lot to us."

Sabol endured bombing as a child. "Now there was one time ... this bomb fell and we were covered in dirt. People in the village came running; they thought we were dead."

"I remember when the Americans moved in. How happy that we were when the first Americans came in."

Sabol, when asked about her childhood memories during the war, said, "All my childhood was taken away; all my teenage life. I think (the experience) made me strong. I think it made me determined. It makes you a person."

Part two next week.

Nancy Stearns Theiss is executive director of the Oldham County History Center. Contact her at [nancystheiss@gmail.com](mailto:nancystheiss@gmail.com)

### EASTWOOD:

School could receive national recognition

Continued from Page A5

One is in Prospect and is now used as a Masonic lodge and the other is a church activities building in Jeffersonton.

The Louisville Metro Historic Landmarks and Preservation Districts Commission will consider a request Thursday to

have the former Eastwood school nominated to the register. If the request is approved, it would then be considered by the state before potentially being sent on for a federal review and a decision.

The Eastwood school building is adjacent to Beckley Creek Park, part of the Parklands of Floyds Fork system being developed by 21st Century Parks. A concept for its future suggested by Deb DeLor, an Eastwood Village Council member who submitted the nomination

request, is for the parks' overseers to acquire it and turn it into a visitors site and educational center — specifically for developing new ideas about educating disadvantaged students.

The request to the Landmarks Commission is accompanied by a lengthy report about the school's historical significance written by DeLor, who lives on nearby Flat Rock Road.

After reading about the Eastwood school building in a newspaper story last year, she began

researching it in the fall, drawing on information at the University of Louisville and Fisk University in Nashville and elsewhere and conducting interviews with people in the area who had family members who attended the school.

The school building was purchased last May at a court-ordered auction for \$55,000 by William Johnstone, who lives next door to it. The fair market value of the property was \$106,670, according to county property valuation records.

Johnstone has started doing some renovation and cleanup work to remove additions that had lowered the ceilings and plans to continue its use as a residence for his family or possibly to rent out.

Johnstone said he supports the nomination to the National Register and also would consider selling it to the parks system.

Reporter Martha Elson can be reached at (502) 582-7061. Follow her on Twitter at @MarthaElson\_cj.