

A HERITAGE DISCOVERED

**BLACKS
IN
RHODE ISLAND**



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THE RHODE ISLAND BLACK HERITAGE SOCIETY

110 Benevolent Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02906

A HERITAGE DISCOVERED

BLACKS
IN
RHODE ISLAND

*By Rowena Stewart
Illustration and Design by Lawrence Sykes*

Publication made possible by a grant from Raytheon, Incorporated



INTRODUCTION

The Rhode Island Black Heritage Society was organized in 1975 under the auspices of the Rhode Island Historical Society. Its primary goal is to research, document and preserve the history of Blacks in Rhode Island so that this generation and others to follow will realize that Blacks were among the contributors to the development of this state.

It is difficult to determine when the first slave came to Rhode Island. The legislation passed in May, 1652 indicates that perhaps Black slaves as well as Indians were already a part of this new colony. In the latter part of the 17th century, the slave trade had begun to flourish in the colonies and Rhode Island had become the only colony in New England to use slaves for both labor and trade.

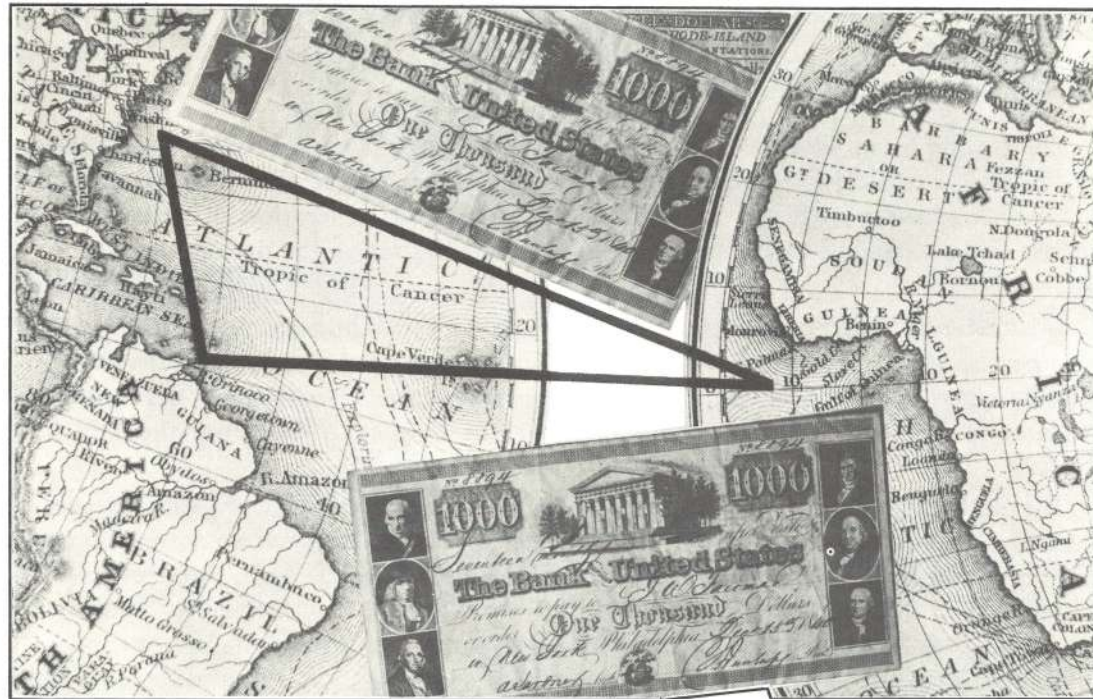
The Society is committed to removing the myth that perhaps the only slave plantations that existed were in the South. Rhode Island had the best of two worlds during the era of the Slave Trade. Research into the state has led the Society to believe that Rhode Island was a mirror with reflections of the new nation with all of its hardships the great landed aristocracy in the form of the Narragansett Planter family, the indentured and slave craftsmen in Newport, the struggle for freedom in the participation of the 1st Rhode Island Regiment, the forming of the African Union Society which changed names five times over a period of one hundred ninety six years each time meeting the needs of the African who would later be a part of the American mosaic. Because Rhode Island withdrew from the slave trade earlier than most of the colonies, she became a strong abolitionist force under the direction of Moses Brown. Blacks would escape, migrate, pass through or settle following the North star to Canada.

The uniqueness of Rhode Island, the blending together of two oppressed people, the native American — the Black and indentured servant — gave a richness to this state. Where else in America can you find a community where descendents of the master, Indian and slave are still carrying slave names and living in the same town.

In November 1975, the Rhode Island Committee for the Humanities funded our first project "Blacks in Rhode Island — a Heritage Discovered." This booklet is a very brief representation of the discoveries and findings in libraries, historical societies, personal collections of both Black and White citizens throughout the state.

A special thanks goes to the Rhode Island Historical Society's director, Mr. Albert Klyberg for his guidance and tireless efforts in this project. The R.I. Committee for Humanities, Volunteer in Service to America, for the grants to uncover these discoveries, and the many friends and volunteers who assisted in this project.

THE YANKEE TRADER/THE NEW ENGLAND SLAVER 1692-1784



Rhode Island College Reference Library



The Slave Trade Empire in Rhode Island began sometime around the latter part of the 17th century. Slavery grew under the auxiliary enterprise of barrelmaking, molasses and rum. Molasses was shipped from the West Indies to Rhode Island to make rum which would be used to purchase slaves on the Western coast of Africa to be used on plantations in the West Indies and New England colonies.

The New England slaves trader was shrewd and patient often preferring to buy one slave at a time. When slaves were plentiful, he would sometimes be at anchor for months, often exposed to great dangers such as mutiny by the slaves and sometimes cut off from the free natives. High proportions of crews died from malaria, dysentery, acute alcoholism and gunshot wounds. The trader might barter as much as two hundred gallons of rum for each slave.

As the trader acquired wealth, he would send ship loads with rum directly to Africa so that by 1750 Newport had become the leading American slave port with Bristol second and Charleston, South Carolina third.

In this colony these slaves would be used on the plantation to clear the forest, plant the crops, as craftsmen and domestic servants.



Colonial Burial Ground/Newport

"TO REMOVE AFRICAN SLAVES FROM THEIR PAGAN DARKNESS"*



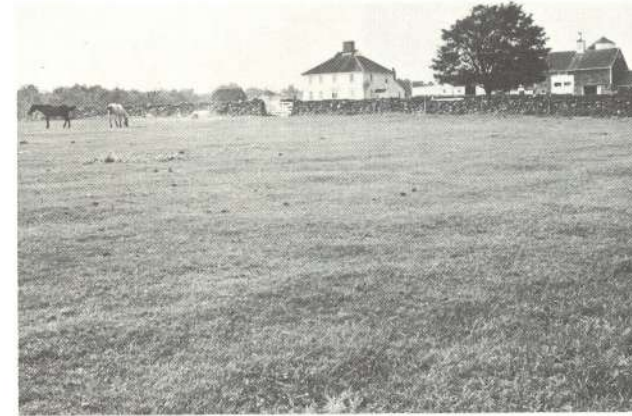
Building the National/R.I.B.H.S.

Gentlemen:

"I am directed by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts to inform you that in the last year they came to a Resolution of sending a Missionary and for that purpose had received a gentlemen who was very well recommended to them as a proper person to be sent thither"

This is a part of a letter sent by William Taylor, Secretary of Venerable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. This letter is dated May 20th, 1715 and is sent to the Gentlemen in Communion with the Church of England, Inhabitants of Narragansett, New England.

The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, a society over-zealous in its effort to Christianize slaves. The most profound of the society ministers was a bone setter, the Reverend Dr. MacSparran. He would write in 1743 that more than 70 slaves and Indians were in attendance at his church. The years to follow, the church would flourish. Many of his days would be spent in visiting plantations and giving communion to slaves. It was a common practice for Dr. MacSparran to baptize slaves before they were sold.



Casey Farm/South County



Robinson-Hazard Farm/South County

A COLONIAL SOCIAL SYSTEM

The social structure of Narragansett was unlike any other part of New England. It was comprised of a landed gentry who made their fortune from the soil, products of their dairies, and the breeding of a splendid horse called the Narragansett Pacer, all of which would produce wealth and leisure.

The planter families would later become well-bred, well-educated and well-known for their generous hospitality.

The first slaves were Indians who had been captured in the King Phillip's War and Blacks from the countries of Senagambia, Guinea and the Slave Coast.

The famous Narragansett family names such as the Stantons, Updikes, Babcocks, Champlins, Hazards, Helmes, Potters and the most famous of all the Robinsons, would be carried on for generations through the master, Indian and the Black slave.

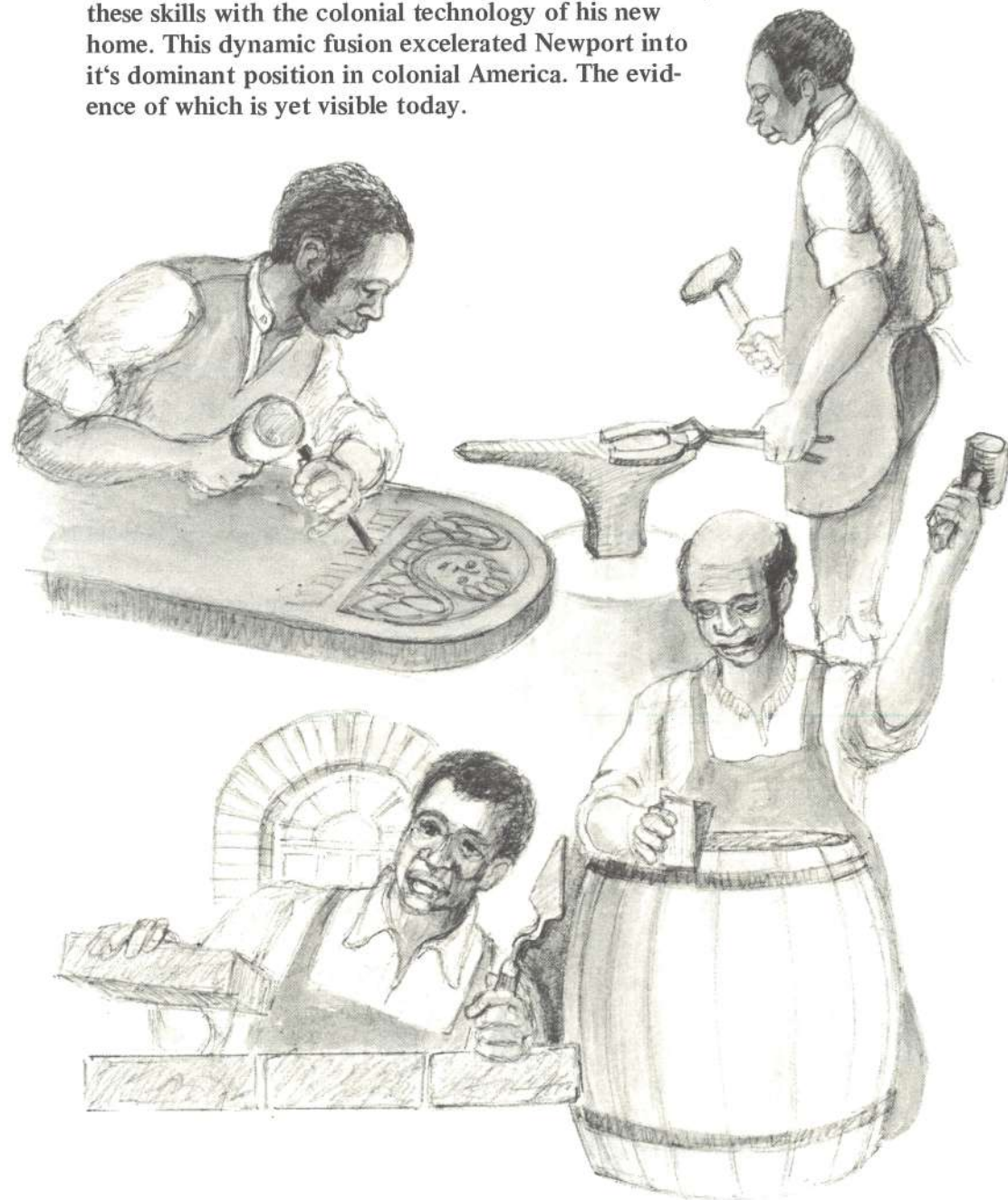


**Dr. MacSparran*

UNMARKED MONUMENTS TO THE BLACK CRAFTSMAN

THE SEASONED SLAVE

Newport's highly developed commerce and cultural flowering of the 18th century placed it among the ranking cities of the colonies. Arriving in the thriving milieu with traditional tribal skills the seasoned slave quickly fused these skills with the colonial technology of his new home. This dynamic fusion accelerated Newport into its dominant position in colonial America. The evidence of which is yet visible today.



John Stevens Shop/Newport

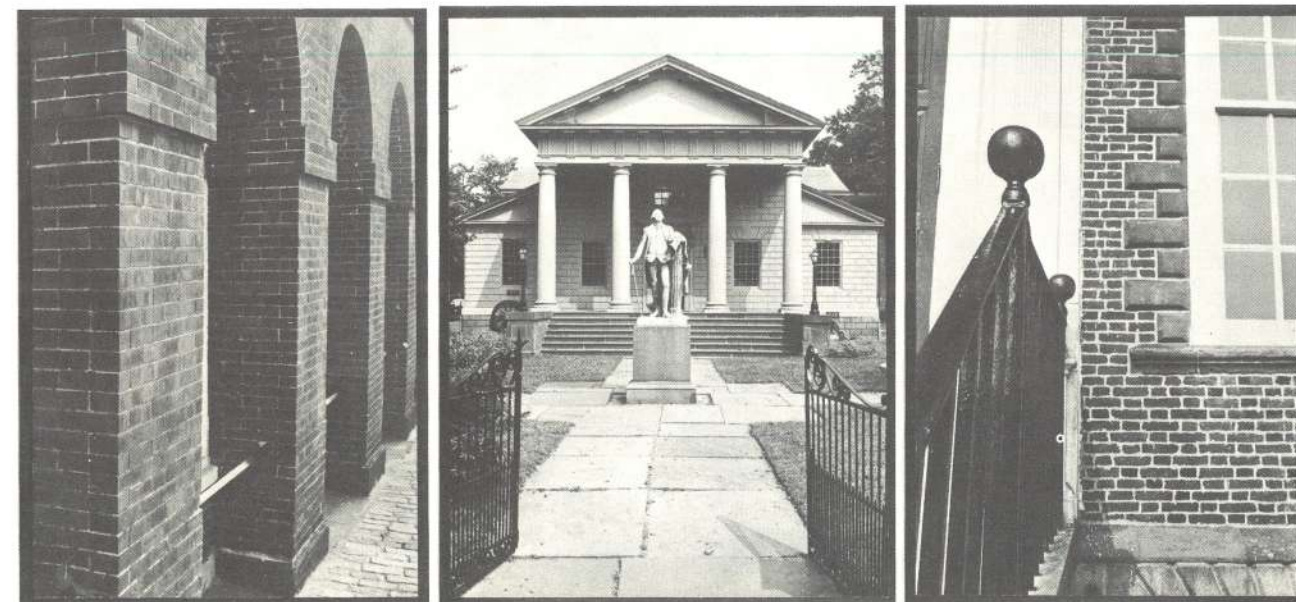
The best known evidence of the craftsmanship of the Early Black Rhode Islander can be found in Newport in the form of public buildings built before the American Revolution. All of these buildings are now national historical sites.

The Brick Market was first used as a market, later the Town Hall and Theater, designed by Peter Harrison.

The Old Colony House located on Washington Square was designed by Richard Munday. It would serve Rhode Island as its capitol.

The Redwood Library designed also by Peter Harrison, is the oldest Library in America.

These public buildings designed by notable white architects were built by the skilled indentured and the Black craftsmen—a practice that would begin with the colonial "Golden Era" and end with the Revolutionary War.



"THAT A BATTALION OF NEGROES CAN EASILY BE RAISED HERE"*

His Excellency
General Washington—

Camp January 2^d 1778.

Sir,

The two Battalions from the State of Rhode Island being small, and there being a necessity of the States furnishing an additional number to make up their proportion in the Continental Army; the Field Officers have represented to me, the propriety of making one temporary Battalion from the two, so that one entire Corps of Officers may repair to Rhode Island in order to receive and prepare the recruits for the Field.

It is imagined that a Battalion of Negroes can be easily raised there. Should that measure be adopted or recruits obtained upon any other principle, the Service will be advanced. The Field Officers who go upon this Command are Colonel Greene, Lt Colonel Olney, and Major Ward. Seven Captains, twelve Lieutenants, six Ensigns, one Pay Master, one Surgeon and Major, one Adjutant and one Chaplain.

I am,
Your Excellency's
most obed^t Serv^t,
Signed J. M. Varnum

R.I. State Archives



"It is further voted and resolved, that every slave, so enlisting, shall, upon his passing muster before Col. Christopher Greene, be immediately discharged from the service of his master or mistress, and be absolutely FREE, as though he had never been encumbered with any kind of servitude or slavery..."

Rhode Island General Assembly
February 1778

R.I. Historical Society

THE BLACK REGIMENT OF THE REVOLUTION. 55

DATE	NAME OF SLAVE	OWNER OF SLAVE	RESIDENCE OF OWNER	Value of Slave
June 6	Edward Rose	John Rose, Esq.	South Kingston	120
"	Peter Hazard	Robt. Harris, son of Hiel'd	"	110
"	Priamus Babcock	Samuel Babcock	Hopkinton	£120
"	David Potter	Caleb Potter	Cranston	120
"	Jack Coddington	John Coddington	Newport	120
"	17 Caesar Harris	Andrew Harris	Cranston	120
"	18 Sharper Champlin	Christopher Champlin	Newport	120
"	22 Richard Rhodes	Nehemiah Rhodes	Cranston	120
"	Priamus Rhodes	"	"	120
"	Samuel Rhodes	"	"	120
July 2	Cyrus Mawney	Pardon Mawney	East Greenwich	120
"	Prince Rodman	Robert Rodman, Jr.	South Kingston	120
"	Mingo Rodman	William Rodman	"	110
"	Jacob Hazard	Carder Hazard	"	110
"	Warren Mason	John Mason	Warren	120
"	16 Thomas Lefavour	Daniel Lefavour	Bristol	120
"	Priamus Gardner	Nicholas Gardner	South Kingston	120
"	Peter Hazard	Joseph Hazard	"	"
"	Mingo Robinson	Sylvester Robinson	"	"
"	William Greene	Henry Greene	"	"
"	15 Cato Greene	His Excellency Wm. Greene	Warwick	"
"	Coff Tillinghast	Benjamin Tillinghast	West Greenwich	"
"	31 Prince Vaughan	Jonathan Vaughan	North Kingston	"
Aug. 3	Jabin Hazard	Robert H. Hazard, Note made to Edward Hall	Jamestown	"

56

HISTORICAL TRACT.

DATE	NAME OF SLAVE	OWNER OF SLAVE	RESIDENCE OF OWNER	Value of Slave
Sept. 3	July Champlin	Stephen Champlin	South Kingston	£120
"	Hercules Gardner	Ezekiel Gardner	North Kingston	60
"	Philo Phillips	Christopher Phillips	"	120
Oct. 14	Newt Champlin	Jeffrey Champlin	South Kingston	100

Received the above certificates, together with one for Fisherman Allen valued at £120, together also with those mentioned on the other side of the leaf, to use in the State's account.

R. J. HELME,
Com'r.

88 notes and certificates, amounting to principle, - - - £9,958 0 0
Interest paid on ditto, - - - 479 7 7

£10,437 7 7

Providence, Feb. 23, 1781.

Muster Roll of Capt. Thos. Arnold's Comp^y in 1st Battalion of Rhode Island Troops in Service of the United States Commanded by Col. Greene for the Month of March 1778

*Capt. Thos. Arnold, Lieut. in Command
Lieut. Joseph Arnold, Lieut. in Command
Lieut. Robert Rogers, Lieut. in Command
Lieut. Isaac Smith, Lieut. in Command
Ensign John Cooke, Acting 2^d Master*

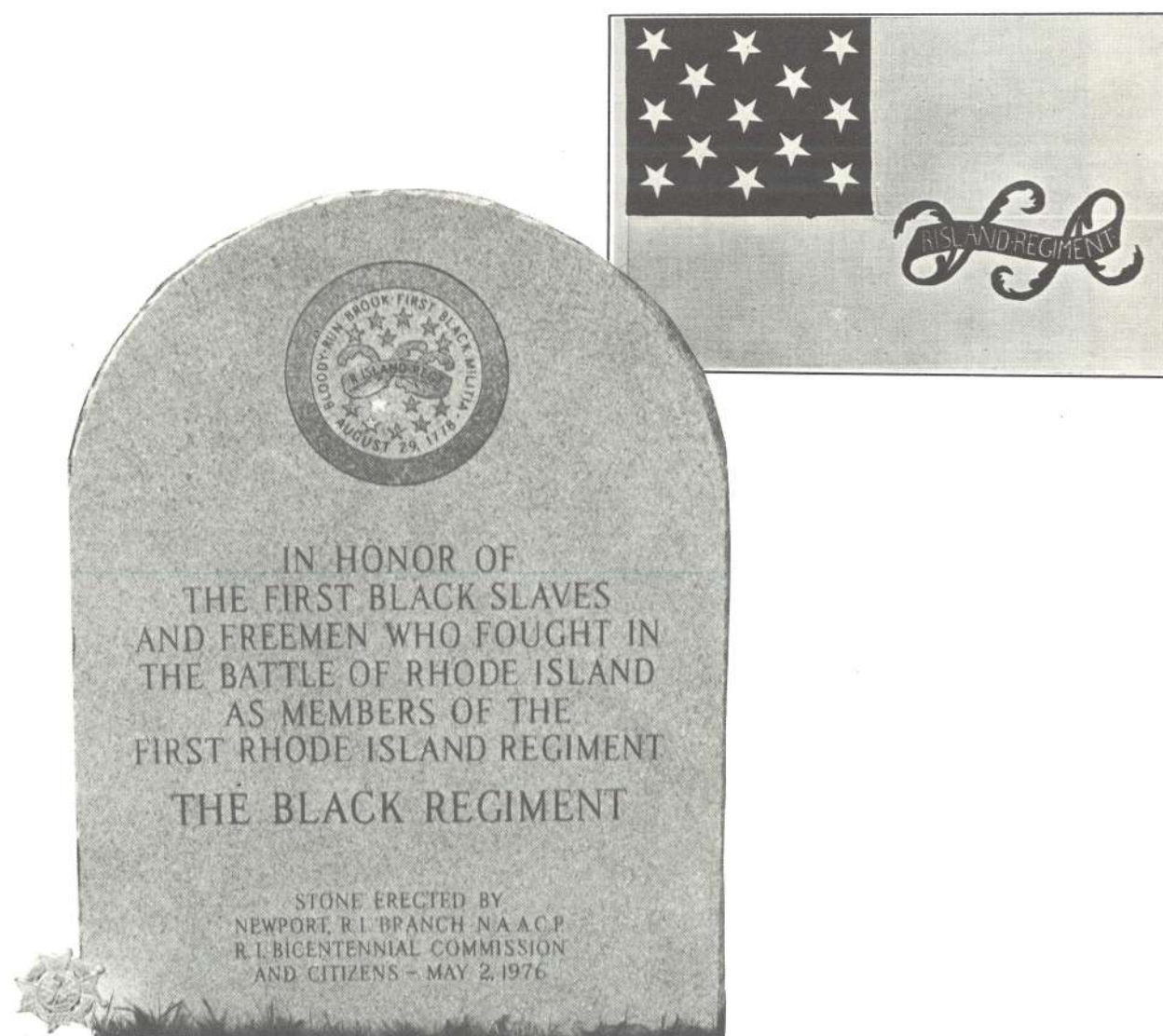
Appointed	Remarks	Term	Remarks	Appointed	Remarks	Term	Remarks
May 1	Bongash Davis	3 yrs	On Duty	May 1	Shupe Champlin	3 yrs	On Duty
"	William Kotton	3 yrs	On Duty	"	"	"	"
May 1	William Kipp	3 yrs	On Duty	"	"	"	"
"	William Taylor	3 yrs	On Duty	"	"	"	"
May 1	Gale Brown	3 yrs	On Duty	"	"	"	"
May 1	Prince Brown	3 yrs	On Duty	"	"	"	"
May 1	Prince Brown	3 yrs	On Duty	"	"	"	"
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May 1	Prince Brown	3 yrs	On Duty	"	"	"	"
May 1	Prince Brown	3 yrs	On Duty	"	"	"	"
May 1	Prince Brown						

*General Varnum 1778

"A MONUMENT SHOULD BE ERECTED TO THESE BRAVE SOLDIERS"

Dr. Harris, a revolutionary soldier who took part in the Battle of Rhode Island, said of these Negroes: "Had they been unfaithful or even given away before the enemy, all would have been lost. Three times in succession they were attacked with most valor and fury by well disciplined and veteran troops, three times did they successfully repel the assault and thus preserve our army from capture."

On May 2, 1976, the Newport Branch NAACP, the Rhode Island Bicentennial Commission and citizens erected the monument to the 1st Rhode Island Regiment.



Route 114/24 Portsmouth, R.I.

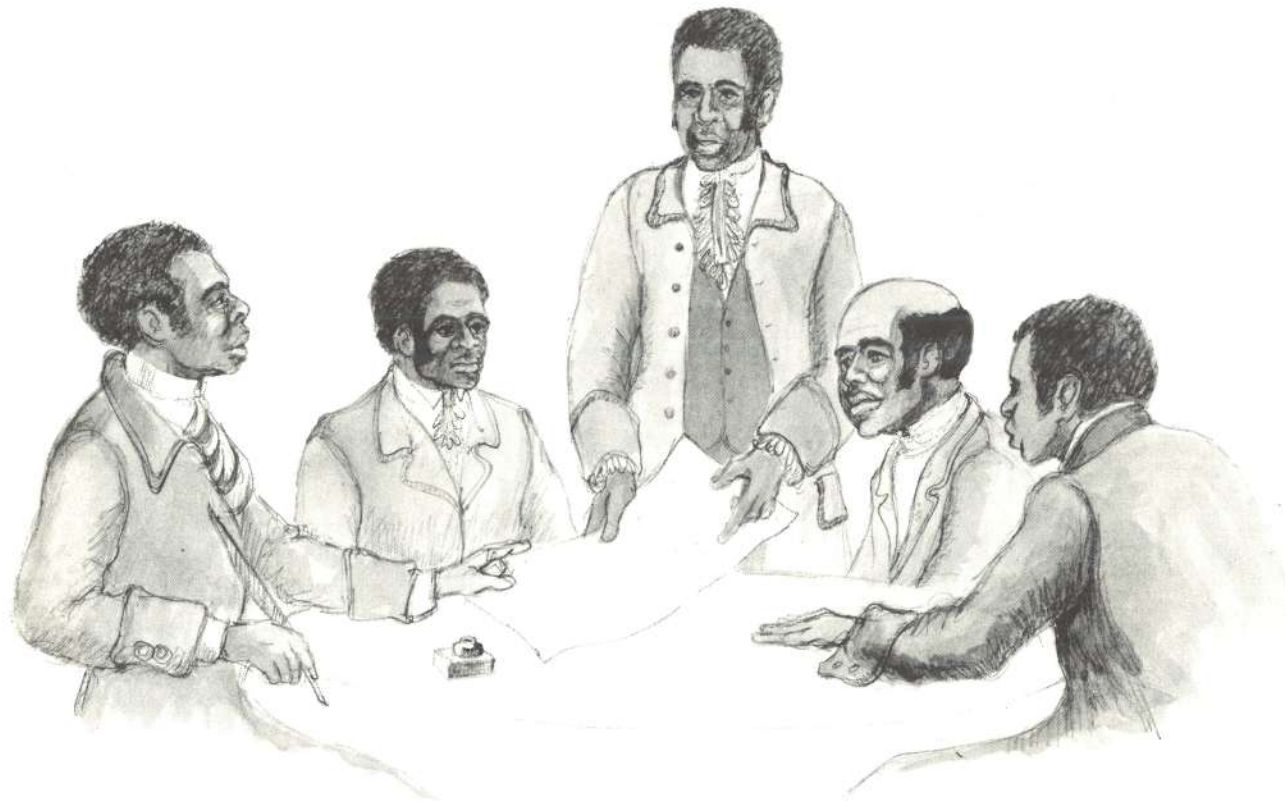


Designed by Frank Quagan

This Plate designed by Gorham Division of Textron for the benefit of the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society and the 1st Rhode Island Regiment — a Bicentennial tribute to the Regiment.

AFRICAN UNION SOCIETY FOUNDED IN NEWPORT 1780

Freedom was the reward for the outstanding military service of the Rhode Island Negro. Freed-He organized the African Union Society to meet the needs of his status as Afro American. The Society became the structural base for Black institutions thru out America.



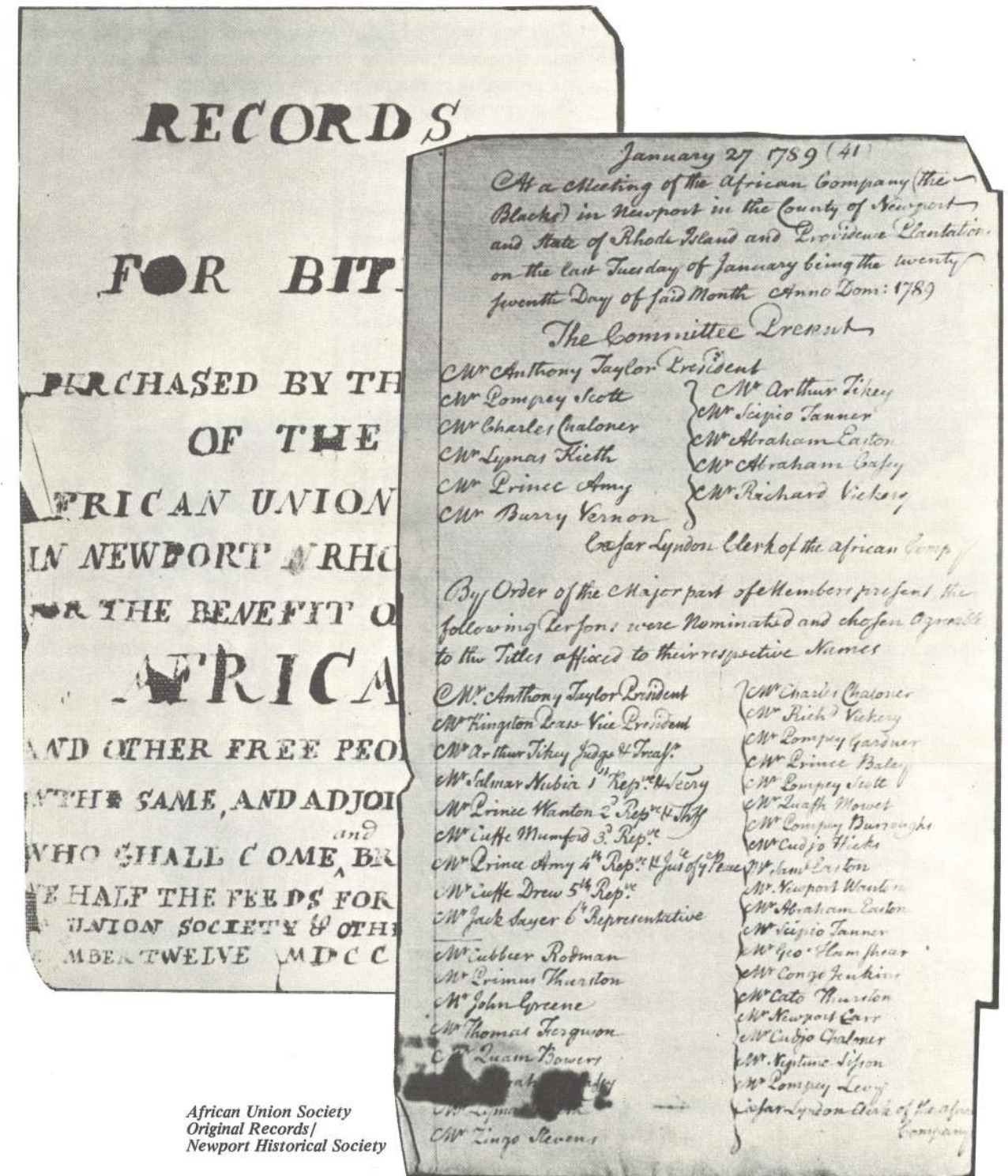
ABRAHAM CASEY 1780

"We raise a sum of money in such a way as may be thought best to purchase four books suitable for records: one for births, one for marriages, one for deaths, one for other important records." *

"The records of the African Union Society, organized in 1780 to accommodate the impulses of our Black pioneers who wished to assert themselves on their own terms, in their own way and for their own purposes. With broader concern in mind, it became the African Humane Society, the African Benevolent Society, the Colored Union Church and finally became the Union Congregational Church in 1854 which would endure until 1963." **

*Abraham Casey

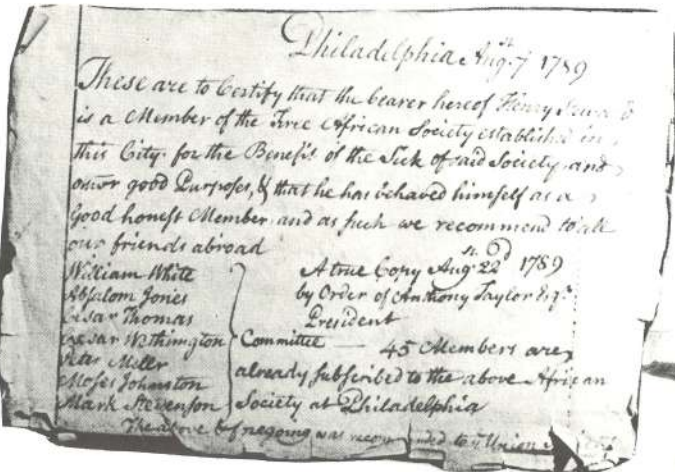
**Dr. William Robertson



African Union Society
Original Records/
Newport Historical Society

LINKING UP

The African Union Society established in Rhode Island in 1780 was known throughout the world. It had international impact and Letters of Introduction were used to introduce members in good standing to other societies. Letters were returned to the group once the member was accepted.



Newport Historical Society



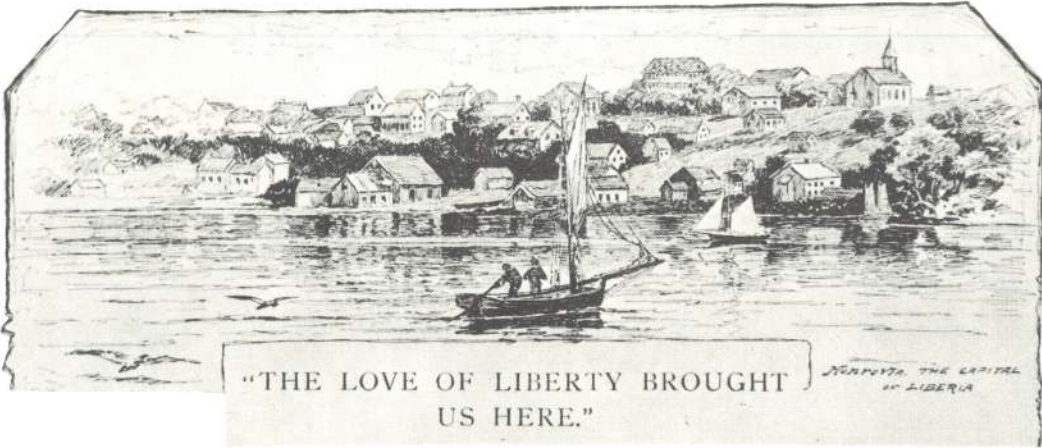
A DREAM FULFILLED

OCCRAMER MARYCOO (Newport Gardner)

ANTHEM WRITTEN IN 1800's

"Hear the words of the Lord
O ye African Race
Hear the words of Promise
But it is not meet to take
The children's bread and cast
It to the dogs.
Truth, Lord, yet the dogs
Eat of the crumbs that fall
From their master's table.
O, African trust in the Lord
Amen. Hallelujah.
Praise the Lord.
Praise ye the Lord Hallelujah.
Hallelujah. Amen."

Occramer Marycoo, also known as Newport Gardner, was born in Africa and worked as a seaman at the age of 14. He was sold into slavery by the captain and purchased by Caleb Gardner. He was taught to read and write English and mastered French. He was an accomplished musician and wrote eight anthems that were sung in all of the Newport churches from 1800 to 1825. His dream was to return to his native land, which he accomplished via the Society, February 1826.



The Illustrated American April 30, 1892

MEETING SPIRITUAL AND EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

The African Union Society took very good care to see that its members were properly and decently buried. On January 14, 1790 a special meeting was called for the purpose of deciding a decent procession to the grave.

The regulations for the funeral of any of the departed brothers was listed in Six Articles as follows:

1. The Serton shall warn all brethren of the time one is to be buried.
2. One shall be chosen to regulate and order movement of the procession.
3. The sheriff (Black) shall proceed alone before all; then follow two and two all brethren.
4. The clerk shall follow alone; then the committee men.
5. Next in line the secretary of the society shall proceed the counsellors alone; then follow the two presidents, and last of all the members, followed by the corpse.
6. Return from the grave; the president shall proceed alone; then the members, and lastly the sheriff alone.

On April 5, 1790 permission was granted to make a bier to carry the remains of the dead of the society, it being carefully noted that the wife or children should not have to remove the body. Due notice that this was ordered by the meeting.

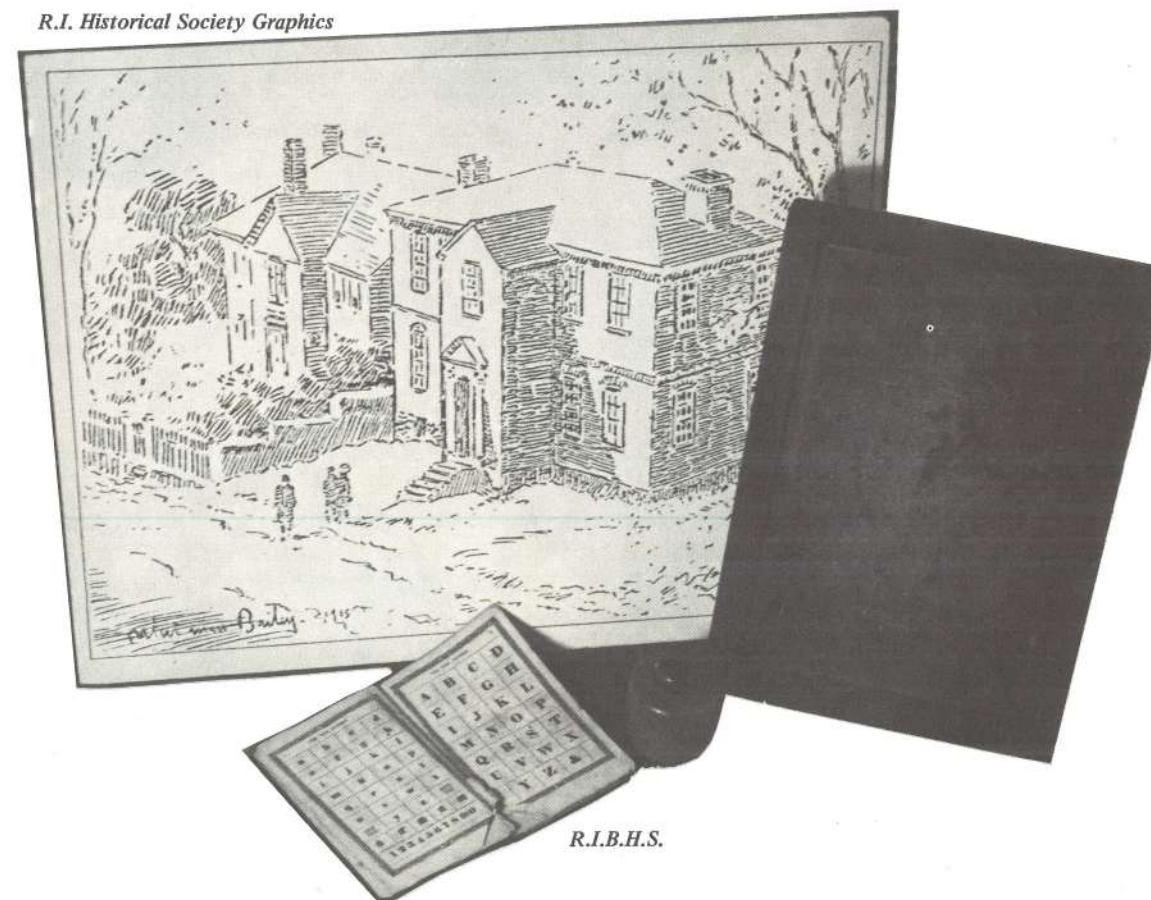
(From original records dated January 14, 1790, Newport Historical Society)

FAREWELL ST

God's Acre—Colonial Burial Ground/Newport

The education of members of the Black community in Rhode Island was the responsibility of the African Societies. The African Union Society in Newport created the very first Black funded, administrated and instructed schools in the United States in 1808. African Union Meeting House in Providence would have a school from its very inception in 1819. In 1837 the Second Free-Will Baptist Church opened the New England Academy. The next year the Providence Black community would pressure the city to open its first public school at 24 Meeting Street in 1838.

R.I. Historical Society Graphics



R.I.B.H.S.

SEEKING VIABLE LIFESTYLES IN TURBULENT TIMES



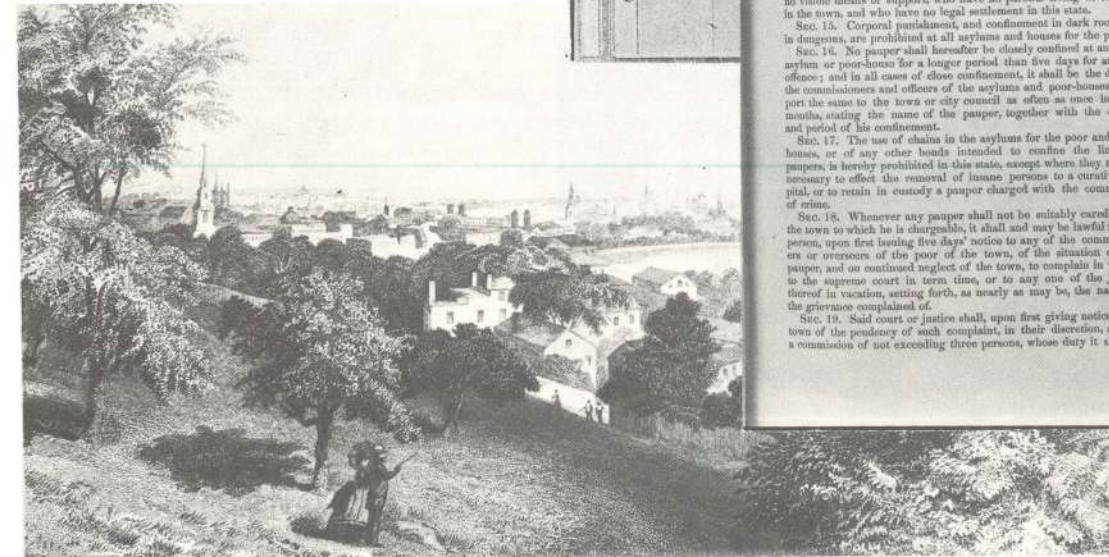
R.I.B.H.S.

Following the American Revolution and the end of the Slave Trade in Rhode Island, it became difficult for Blacks to work as craftsmen in Rhode Island. Job opportunities were very limited for both men and women. Domestic work for women was the only available means of making a living with very low wages. Black men had begun to work as cooks, labor crews and a few were seamen.



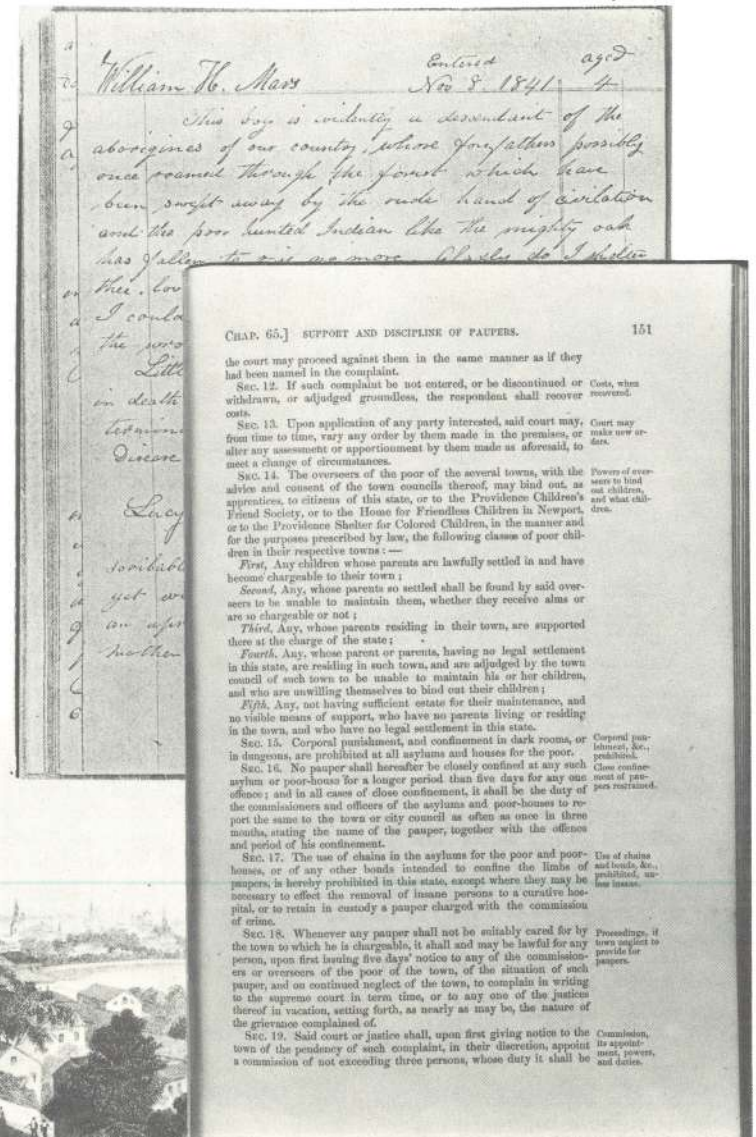
R.I. Historical Society

The Providence Shelter for Colored Children would be formed to aid the children of these destitute families. Children were to be taught habits of industry and such skills that would enable them to get a trade for their livelihood.



The Providence Plantation for 250 Years/R.I.B.H.S.

R.I. Historical Society



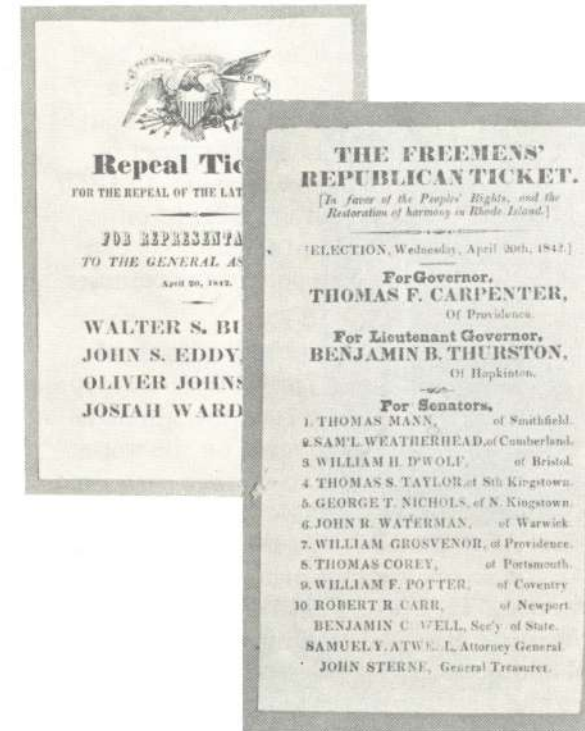


John Brown House/R.I. Historical Society



One of the earlier residents of Providence, Thomas Howland, a man of great vigor and physical proportions, a man of many capabilities and experiences. It is recorded as early as 1832 in the Providence City Directory that Howland survived as a "victualler" a restaurant or tavern keeper on Market Square. In later years, 1838-1839, the city directory lists him as a grocer at 125 South Main Street, the present location of the Old Stone Bank. The popularity and wisdom of Howland were evidenced in the election of 1856, at which time, he became Warden of the Third Ward in Providence — the first Black to hold an elected office in this city. In spite of Howland's ease and success in the land of America, his sentiments remained tied to Africa. In 1857 he and his family left for Liberia.

A RECURRING DREAM AND PERSISTENT STRUGGLE



R.I. Historical Society



The Providence Plantations for 250 Years/R.I.B.H.S.

THE RIGHT TO VOTE

The support of the Providence Black community, raising 200 men during the Dorrite disruption, caused the Law and Order party to repay the Black community with the franchise. "The fact that Negroes gained the vote in Rhode Island in 1842 was actually rather remarkable, when contrasted with the trend elsewhere."



The Providence Plantations for 250 Years/R.I.B.H.S.

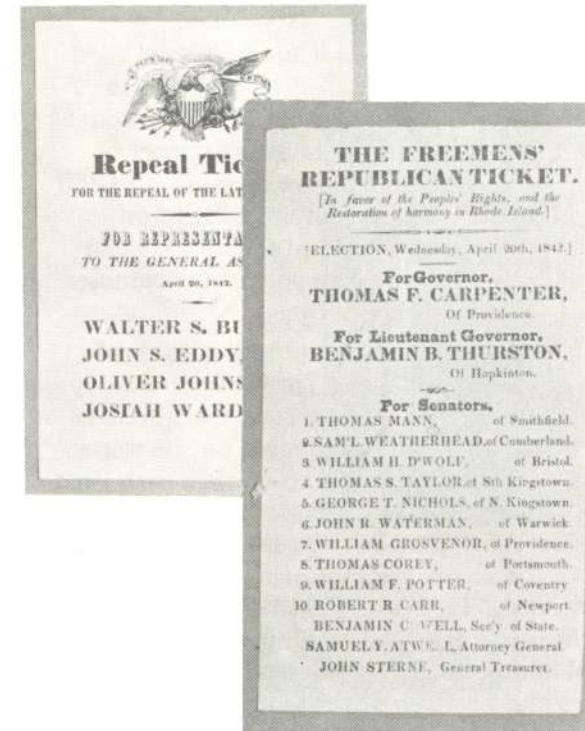


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A RECURRING DREAM AND PERSISTENT STRUGGLE



R.I. Historical Society



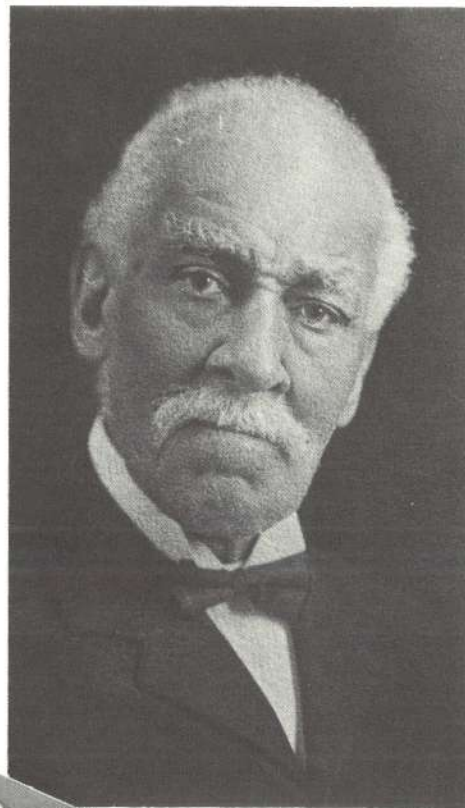
The Providence Plantations for 250 Years/R.I.B.H.S.

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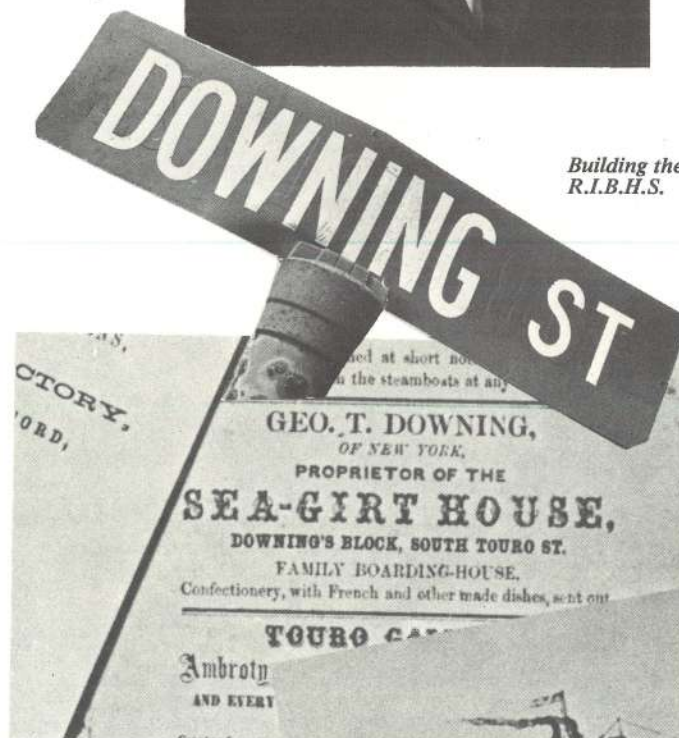
AN AMERICAN OF HEROIC DIMENSION

GEORGE T. DOWNING

George T. Downing was born in New York City. He established himself in business on Fourth Street, in Newport. In 1849, he bought the Charles Sherman estate at the corner of Downing Street and Bellevue Avenue. In 1850 he conducted a business in Providence on Mathweson Street near Westminster. He continued his business in Newport in the summer time.

He was educated in the public schools of New York and graduated from Hamilton College. Mr. Downing was early active in the abolition movement and was a conductor on the underground railroad. He was a co-worker with Frederick Douglass and an intimate friend of Charles Sumner. After the Civil War he took an active part in the reconstruction of the South. He was instrumental in getting the first Black into the Diplomatic Corps. Mr. Downing held the first social and political reception with senators, judges and representatives at his residence on Capital Hill in Washington. His activities in the anti-slavery cause and his fight for the civil rights of his people placed every Black in this country under a debt of gratitude to him.

*Building the Nation/
R.I.B.H.S.*



Downing Collection/R.I.B.H.S.



R.I.B.H.S.

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.
IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, JANUARY SESSION, 1859.

AN ACT

In addition to Title 13, of the Revised Statutes, "Of Public Instruction."

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

Section 1. Every child in this state, of suitable age to attend school, shall, on application, be admitted to the public school in the district where he may reside, if the town or city is divided into districts, and if not so divided, to the nearest public school; and if the schools in such town or city shall be graded, such child or scholar shall be admitted to a school within such district, of the grade for which his qualifications or attainments, shall fit him.

Sec. 2. Where more than one school of the same grade shall be established in the same school district, no essential distinction shall be made between such schools, in regard to the accommodations and conveniences of the school-houses, the furnishing and apparatus for the same, or the qualifications of the teachers employed therein.

Sec. 3. In determining the qualifications of scholars to be admitted to any high school established and maintained wholly or in part at the public expense, no distinction shall be made on account of the race, color or religious opinions of such scholars.

Sec. 4. Nothing in this act contained, shall impair, or in any way affect section 11, of chapter 66, of the Revised Statutes.

Sec. 5. So much of sections 11 and 12, of chapter 71, of the Revised Statutes, as is inconsistent herewith, and all other acts or parts of acts, inconsistent herewith, are hereby repealed.

A tireless purponent of educational rights Downing's effort lead to the intergration of Rhode Island schools.



R.I.B.H.S.

R.I. State Archives

"PASSING THROUGH . . . FOLLOWING THE NORTH STAR"

REVEREND MAHLON VAN HORNE

Reverend Mahlon Van Horne, among the first graduates of Livingston College, came to Newport in 1868. He was appointed minister to the Union Congregational Church. As Minister, historian and writer, Van Horne was an elected School Committee member for 19 years, and an elected member of the Rhode Island Legislature for three successive terms. In 1897 he was appointed by President McKinley to the U.S. Consul in the Danish West Indies. During the Spanish American War, he was instrumental in purchasing all the coal on the Island which prevented the Spanish fleet from buying coal and which would later result in the American victory at Santiago.



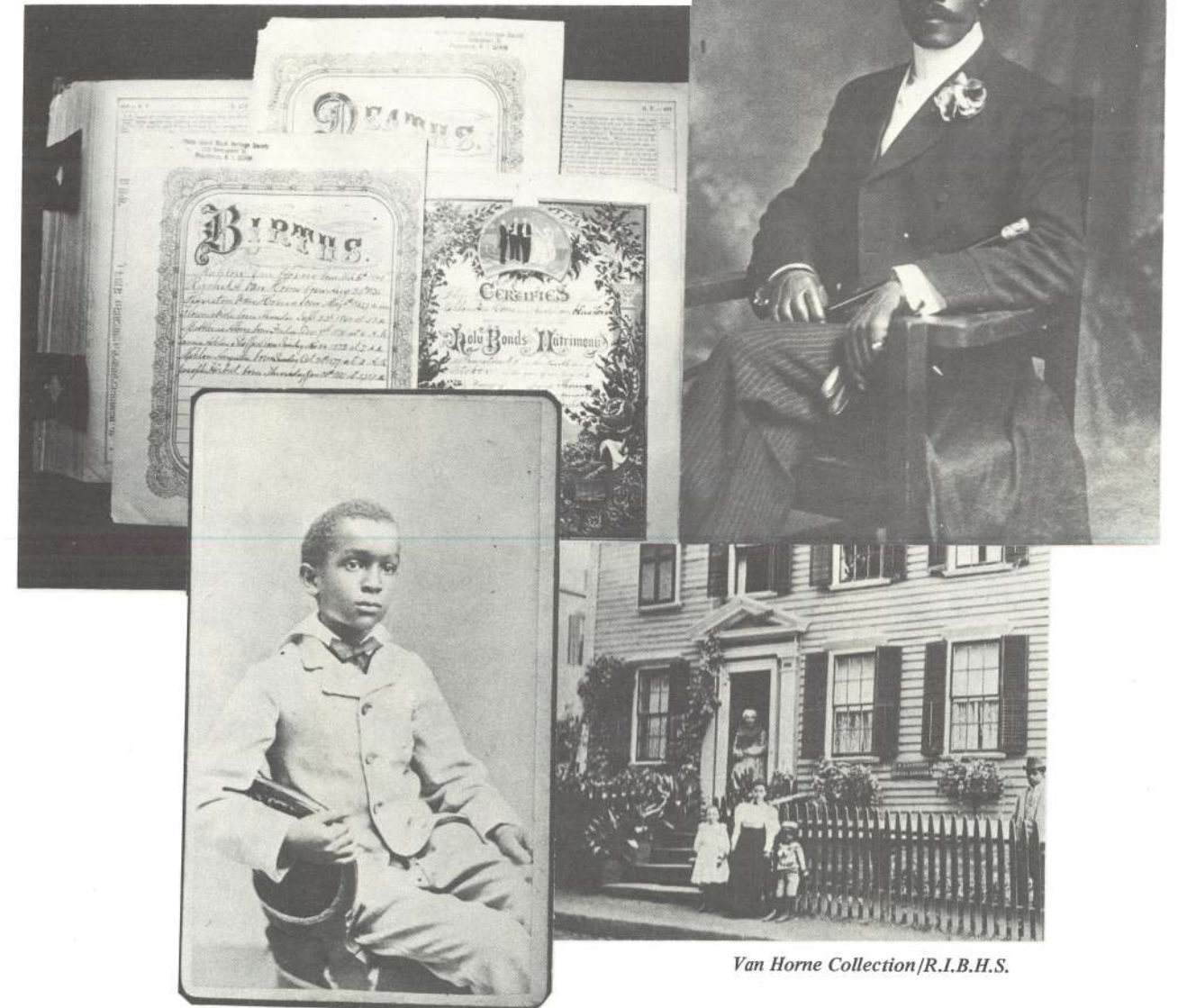
CONSULAR SERVICE, U. S. A.

St. Thomas D. W. I. Oct.
15th 1902.
My Dear Children
Our beloved Father
is no more. He is not
for God took him.
The Lord.



It is difficult to measure the impact of his family on the community of Rhode Island. His son, Mahlon, Jr. would become a well known dentist. His daughter Louise would be among the first to apply for a teacher's position in Newport. For years to follow, descendants of Rev. Van Horne would have social and educational impact on Rhode Island.

"We cannot consider the Negro of today, and tomorrow without considering his environment in the past and present."*



Van Horne Collection/R.I.B.H.S.

*Rev. Van Horne 1887/R.I.B.H.S.

A RHODE ISLAND FAMILY ALBUM — THE RICES OF JAMESTOWN

The Rices of Jamestown, a Black family with roots in Rhode Island before the American Revolution, held strong beliefs in self-employment and recognized the need for education. Mrs. Rice was a descendant of Reading Johns, one of the first graduates of Fisk University, and a Congregational Minister. Her brother Paul would become a minister and a graduate of Howard and Yale. Mr. Frank Rice was a descendant of Isaac Rice, one of the early members of the African Union Society in Newport. The Rices ran a successful poultry business in Jamestown and would have social contact with such men as poet Paul Lawrence Dunbar. Descendants of this early Rhode Island family can be found all over the State.



Olivia Johns Rice



Paul and Classmates



Aunt Barney



A Classmate



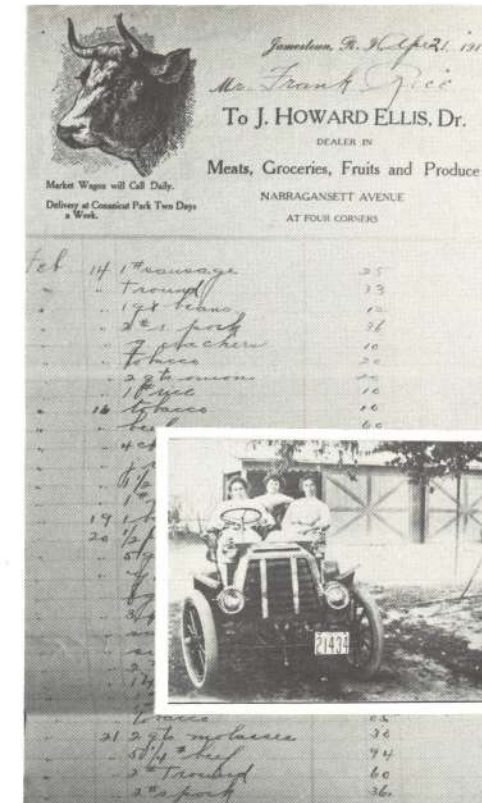
Lois Johns



The Minister



A Friend of the Family



Papa Johns

Olivia's Aunts
the Barneys of
Pennsylvania



Reverend and his Flock



Graduation Day 1899

THE BANNISTERS OF PROVIDENCE



Rhode Island Historical Society



Bannister Collection/R.I.B.H.S.

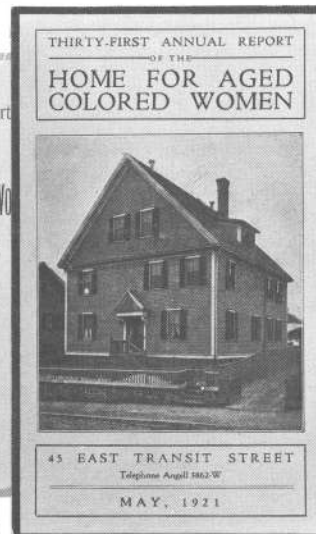
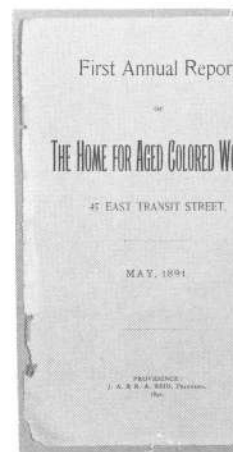
"A painter who loved nature the way a poet does . . ."

Edward Bannister, born in New Brunswick, Canada, spent most of his early life sketching. His love for the sea would bring him to Narragansett Bay and Providence. He married Christiana Cartreaux of Portsmouth, Rhode Island and settled in Providence in 1871. His home would be a gathering place for various artists. He was one of the original founders of the Providence Art Club which opened in 1880. He was also associated with the founding of Rhode Island School of Design.

Married to Christiana, they would become a couple devoted to the concerns of the community and the Arts. Mrs. Bannister had become involved in raising funds for equal pay to Black soldiers of the Civil War. Later she would be one of the founders of the home for the aged (presently Bannister House).



North Burial Ground/
Providence, R.I.

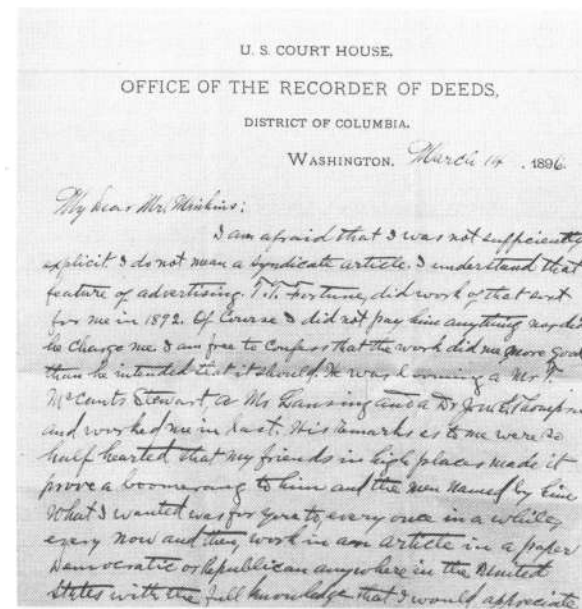


Bannister House/Providence, R.I.

JOHN MINKINS—THE GHOST WRITER

The first Black Newspaper man came to Rhode Island in 1891 to manage the NEW ENGLAND TORCHLIGHT, a Black weekly paper designed to meet the needs of a growing community. He would become a leading figure in politics, civic and fraternal organizations. He was a ghost writer for politicians and famous Blacks in Rhode Island and Washington.

"The question trembling on every Negro lip is "WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?" For us the answer isn't hard. And our decision is irrevocable. In any choice we make between parties, we shall be hereafter, if we have not always been, for the party that is for US."



From Our Readers

THEIR OWN OPINIONS

Letters to the editor of The News-Tribune should be brief. Write on one side of the paper only. Each letter must be signed with name and address, but pen name only will be used if requested. No letters will be returned.

Calls It a Lesson

Editor of the News-Tribune:

Tuesday's Democratic defeat, while not an overwhelming "repudiation" of the New Deal, was the best and most timely thing that could have happened to the party, in the towns and cities, the State and the nation. It should teach the President to prepare for 1906 by ending, or at least modifying, discrimination against industrial New England.

It should teach Gov. Green to be less uncompromising, and to consult rather than command the elected Democratic representatives and senators, and other party leaders.

It should teach Thomas P. McCoy of Pawtucket to play ball with the reasonable Democratic party leaders, if he would help save himself and the party, in Pawtucket and the State.

It should teach the most ambitious and vauntingly ambitious officeholders, already rewarded far beyond their merits, that while crossing political streams, holding office horses in mouth, they should not drop the horses they have to grab at the bones the reflected dogs carry.

It should teach the Democratic party in Rhode Island that its future success depends upon how well, and properly, it uses the power entrusted to it.

Defeat, in 1904, has already taught the Republicans the necessity of union, co-operation, and quick grasping of advantage from their foes' mistakes.

If R. I. Democrats are wise they will say with the poet: "Thanks for the lesson; It will teach (or should) to present leaders more Than a Thousand Victories can preach."

J. M.

TO BE CONTINUED

The Rhode Island Black Heritage Society continues to search, uncover and discover the roots of Blacks in Rhode Island.

The increasing demands for the right to know the true contributions of the African in America has led the society to present a few of the real discoveries found this past year thru out the state.

Indeed Blacks were in Rhode Island and they shared in the building and development of of this state and nation. The nation has a right to know.

The search for the truth of the past, the removal of the present myths, and the hope of the future generations rest in the ability of the Society to continue to research the survival of Blacks in this state.

The Society invites you to join in our search for hidden treasures of the past, and help chart a new course in history in the same manner as the African Union Society, for the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society seeks only to preserve, educate, collect and exhibit the history of Blacks in Rhode Island.

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Providence Public Library

Newport Historical Society

Rhode Island Historical Society Library

Rhode Island College Special Collections

South County Museum

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