

# "Thus Shall They Upward, Onward Press"

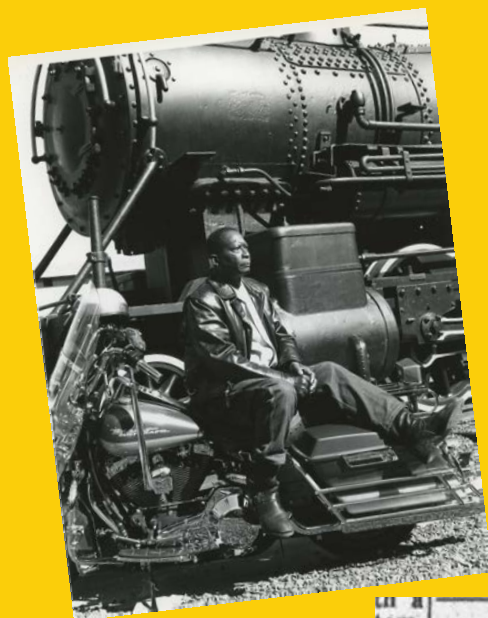
## An Exploration of the History of African Americans in Paterson from 1600-Present

One of the largest struggles for historians who are studying the history of repressed or marginalized peoples is that documents and evidence can often be difficult to find. More and more, scholars rely on oral history, interviews and other forms of resources to help them to unravel the story of these groups and individuals that have been omitted.

There have been several people who documented the history of African Americans in Paterson. Dr. Booker T. Washington recorded several observations about the community when he visited in 1914. A Columbia University Student, Louis R. Binder, wrote his Master's Thesis "The Negro in Paterson, A Study of Leadership" in 1927. Paterson teacher Anita Flynn made her own report, *Being a Negro in Paterson* was written by Karel Waer in 1969. Each of these works serves as a stepping stone for the next, and each new study builds of the previous, developing a deeper understanding.

In that tradition, this exhibition serves as another stepping stone meant to illustrate the broad ways in which African American citizens and visitors have enriched the history of the city and continue to contribute to its ongoing and evolving culture.





## Gwen Verdon To Step Lively With Paterson Drill Team

[illegible]

# Wolff Plan Again Up For Debate

The report and recommendations of Dr. Max Wolff, New York sociologist, to combat racial imbalance in Paterson's public schools was not on the agenda of last night's meeting of the Board of Education, but the issue dominated the session anyway as it wended its controversial way.

A week earlier, the board had conducted a public hearing on the report which was attended by about 1,000 in the auditorium of Eastside High School. The matter, meantime, is under study by the commissioners before taking any formal action.

(A statement on the Wolff plan by Ronald C. Timm, president of the Paterson Taxpayers' Association, on page 13).

The Wolff plans call for creation of so-called junior high school complexes to cover the seventh and eighth grades in one plan, and the sixth, seventh and eighth grades in another. They would be fed from the

(Continued on Page 23, Col. 1)



PATROLMAN JOHNNY McRAE  
Patrol – Foot Post  
August 1, 1969



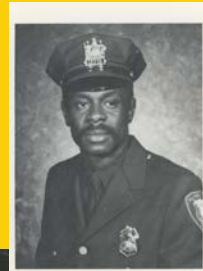


# A Sweet Songstress.

On Thursday evening next the justly celebrated Sissieretta Jones better known as "The Black Patti" will appear in a concert at the Y. M. C. A. Assembly room on Ellison street under the auspices of the church extension society of the M. E. Church. The concert promises to be on a scale excelling anything heretofore seen or heard in this city. The Daily Saratogian of Saratoga Springs, N. Y. in its issue of Aug. 14 speaking of "The Black Patti" says:

"Black Patti" was the attraction at Congress Spring Park, Saturday and last evening; and the largest audiences that have been present at any attraction in Saratoga in years were there. Saturday evening, owing to the inclement weather, the concert was given in the pavilion, and that large structure was taxed to its utmost seating and standing capacity.

Last evening was clear and pleasant, and people began to arrive at the park early. They came in a continuous stream until probably the largest gathering that ever entered the park gates was present. The concert last evening was given in the stand in the center of the lake. Mme. Jones was in excellent voice on both evenings, and to say that she completely captivated her audience would be unexaggerated. Every number was enthusiastically applauded, and she was obliged to respond to encore after encore, which she did very graciously. Those who did not hear her matchless voice missed a splendid treat, but another chance will be given to hear the musical wonder. There is sympathy in her sweet and flexible voice, and she imparts to old musical favorites a newness, which, combined with the public's love of them, renders them like echoes of a harmonious fairyland. Her execution is perfect.



PATROLMAN ROBERT McDUFFIE  
Patrol - Foot Post  
August 1, 1969



## Colored Pic Nic.

The colored population of Paterson are having a pic nic just outside the city. It commenced yesterday and will continue the rest of the week.



# Singer honored

William Hardy Jr., Gospel Singer from Paterson, will be honored by many of his friends at a testimonial dinner to be held at 6 p.m. on Sunday at the Bethwood Restaurant in Totowa.

Hardy has long been active in many church and community organizations. He has starred in the role of the preacher in the original production of "Your Arms Too Short To Box With God," currently on Broadway.

Many cast members of "Bubbling Brown Sugar," "Don't Bother Me I Can't Cope" and "Your Arms Too Short To Box With God" will participate in the evening festivities. Dolores Hall, Tony Award winner for her performance in "Your Arms Too Short To Box With God" will be the featured soloist. The list of guests also include Micki Grant, author of the play "It's So Nice To Be Civilized" now running on Broadway and the play's leading actress Vivian Reed with her understudy Esther Mirror.

Tickets for the event are \$18 and may be reserved by calling 790-9463.



William Hardy Jr.  
To be honored






**PATERSON  
CITY CLUB**

VS.

**Baltimore Black Sox**



*For a Treat Visit the*

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SPIRRO PAPANOU, Mgr.

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**"CUBANS STARS"**

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FIRST GAME AT  
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COME EARLY. SEE THE CUBANS  
IN THEIR SHADOW BASEBALL  
EXHIBITION BEFORE THE GAME.

No Advance In Prices

**PATERSON, N. J.**

*Wife Serve  
Rye Bread  
To-night*

# WONDER BREAD

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V. E. KERR, Mgr.  
**PATERSON, N. J.**

**KROGER'S VITAMIN**

ICE CREAM  
Served Exclusively At This Stadium  
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**HOT DOG**

Try One Now and be Convinced

It's Here

**"Fischer's Bread"**

VITAMIN "D"  
PURE SEED RYE AND JUMBO

At Your Grocer's

WE SERVE

**"WHITE CROSS BEVERAGES"**

MADE IN PATERSON Since 1882

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F. Mann L.D.																			
Whitely H.F.																			
Rees G.																			
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Jones J.B.																			
T. Green J.B.																			
Z. Hubbard F.																			
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World's Greatest Attractions In BASEBALL, FOOTBALL, and BASKETBALL  
825 Main Street  
Portable Flood Light Equipment For Night Baseball  
Pateron, N. J.

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Benjamin J.B.																			
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**BALTIMORE PATERSON**

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Java Belt

**WONDER COFFEE SHOP**

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**PAT'S**

Best Wishes To The Friend

LEAVE SUGGESTIONS FOR Attractions



# Paterson, New Jersey

## January 22, 1854

Paterson, New Jersey.  
January 22. 1854  
Wm. Lloyd Garrison Esq.  
My Dear Friend,  
A few  
evenings ago nine antislavery friends  
met here for the organization of an  
Antislavery Society - and as their Secre-  
tary I am empowered to address  
you to inquire whether you can, con-  
sistently with your engagements, deliver  
an Antislavery Lecture here, and at  
what time? I see you are announced  
as the Lecturer of the N.Y. Society on  
the 14th proximo. Could you not  
make us a visit about that time?  
I have long been anxious to have  
you lecture here, and hope that we  
shall soon have the pleasure of  
listening to your stirring appeals  
in behalf of the victims of American  
Despotism.

It has been thought advisable by  
the friends here that I should (in  
corresponding with lecturers) ascertain  
what amount of compensation they  
deem proper, in order that our ar-  
rangements may be made under-  
standingly.  
An early reply will much  
oblige  
Your fellow laborer in the cause  
of Human Rights  
Alfred Gibbs Campbell  
Secretary -

Wm. Lloyd Garrison Esq.  
My Dear Friend,

A few  
evenings ago nine antislavery friends  
met here for the organization of an  
Antislavery Society- and as their Secre-  
tary I am empowered to address  
you to inquire whether you can, con-  
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deem proper, in order that our  
arrangement may be made under-  
standingly

An early reply will much  
oblige.

Your fellow laborer in the cause  
of Human Rights  
Alfred Gibbs Campbell  
Secretary



G. H. BLAKELEY.  
Paterson, Nov. 18, 1895.

### TALENTED COLORED SINGERS.

Genius Finds Lodgings Hard to Get When it  
is Veiled by a Dark Skin.

The Canadian Jubilee Singers and Imperial Orchestra gave a very fine concert last evening in Cross street Methodist Episcopal church. The auditorium was filled with an appreciative audience, and the applause given was an evidence that the singing was highly enjoyed. The programme as arranged was fully carried out, with the exception of a reading by Mrs. Cary. She is not with the company because of serious sickness, and her husband, who plays the cornet, is absent with her. It is one of the best troupes of colored singers ever heard here, and every number was excellently rendered. A varied evening of music was given, as the performers are versatile and sang and played various instruments to the delight of all. The company will appear this and to-morrow evenings at the First Baptist church when an entire change of programme is promised. These colored singers are worth hearing.

The committee had considerable trouble last night in finding a lodging place for the company. A boarding house keeper on Market street had arranged to care for the members, but receded from the agreement last night and would not admit them to his house. Several other places refused admittance, and at last a sleeping apartment was found on West street. The members said it was not a fit place to lodge in, though no particular fault was found with the food. Proper accommodations were found to-day by the First Baptist church people, under whose auspices the company will appear for the next two nights.



DUPLICATE (To be filled in by Branch Secretary)

# APPLICATION FOR CHARTER

Paterson, E. J. Branch  
OF THE  
National Association for the  
Advancement of Colored People

Date of Organization Meeting June 26, 1919  
Received at National Office August 26, 1919  
Approved by Committee on Branches SEP 17 1919  
Executive Authorization Granted SEP 23 1919  
Application for Charter Approved  
Charter Forwarded

No.	Name	Address	Occupation	Membership Fee Paid
1	Mr. Nelson Fuller	100 1/2 17th St.	Minister	1.00
2	Mrs. E. Tolson	181 Pearl St.	Housewife	1.00
3	Miss Emily Tucker	203 E. 32nd St.	Domestic	1.00
4	Mrs. W. Amsted	304 Hamilton Ave.	Domestic	1.00
5	Miss Annie Churman	726 E-23rd St.	Domestic	1.00
6	Mr. Amsted	304 Hamilton Ave.	Chauffeur	1.00
7	Walter Davis	175-18th Ave.	Laborer	1.00
8	Mrs. E. Burton	54 Pearl St.	Housewife	1.00
9	Kosce Burton	52 Pearl St.	Chauffeur	1.00
10	John Dotson	52 Pearl St.	Student	1.00
11	Miss Stella Hoggins	175 Pearl St.	Hair Culturist	1.00
12	Miss Lela Walker	184 Paterson St.	Hair Culturist	1.00
13	Mr. C. Walker	184 Paterson St.	Housewife	1.00
14	Mrs. Mrs. Higgins	128 Clay St.	Housewife	1.00
15	Miss Mary Davis	507 E-24th St.	Domestic	1.00
16	Mrs. Isabelle Wrenland	56 Fair St.	Dressmaker	1.00
17	Mrs. Clarence Greene	52 Pearl St.	Housewife	1.00
18	Miss Sparrow	677 14th Ave.	Domestic	1.00
19	Miss Jennie Bruce	604 E-25th St.	Domestic	1.00
20	Miss Wilson	137 Broad St.	Hedgebrook, N. J.	1.00
21	Mrs. J. J. Fenton	29 Bergen St.	Domestic	1.00
22	Mrs. Mary Slaco	66 Warren St.	Domestic	1.00
23	James Dempsey	433 E-24th St.	Huckster	1.00
24	Mrs. James Dempsey	433 E-24th St.	Housewife	1.00
25	George Brown	197 Pearl St.	Chauffeur	1.00
26	Carrie Davis	178 Pearl St.	Housewife	1.00
27	Mrs. Scott	110-16 14 Ave.	Housewife	1.00
28	Mr. Seawell	402 Hamilton Ave.	Porter	1.00
29	Alfred Taylor	612 E-2nd St.	Clerk	1.00

Total membership fees transmitted herewith \$

No.	Name	Address	Occupation	Membership Fee Paid
30	Mrs. Mary Stevens	221-18th Ave.	Domestic	1.00
31	Thos. Bass	Hamilton Ave., near Graham	Fullman Porter	1.00
32	E. C. Monroe	46 Fair St.	Chamber	1.00
33	Mrs. M. T. Cotton	221 Graham Ave.	Housewife	1.00
34	Mrs. Geo. Callett	133-18th Ave.	Housewife	1.00
35	M. C. Jones	46 Fair St.	Chauffeur	1.00
36	Mrs. De France	304 Pearl St.	Housewife	1.00
37	Mrs. E. Gardier	693 E-24th St.	Domestic	1.00
38	Mrs. Thompson	121 Lawrence St.	Housewife	1.00
39	Mrs. Louise Sions	Little Falls, N. J.	Domestic	1.00
40	Frank Walker	197 E-2nd St.	Chauffeur	1.00
41	Harold Maupin	17 1/2 16th St.	Ice Dealer	1.00
42	John Fry	46 Fair St.	Porter	1.00
43	Mrs. Jesse Richardson	288 Governor St.	Domestic	1.00
44	Mrs. Bessie Stokes	68 E-14th St.	Domestic	1.00
45	Mrs. Rosa L. Taylor	157 Governor St.	Housewife	1.00
46	Miss H. M. O'Sullivan	56 Fair St.	Domestic	1.00
47	Mrs. Eva Barton	150 Governor St.	Housewife	1.00
48	Frank Hellock	104 Governor St.	Porter	1.00
49	Kosce Sumner	86 straight St.	Chef	1.00
50	Henry L. Reed	230 Sumner St.	Fullman Porter	1.00

## Application for Charter

Date of Organization Meeting June 21, 1919

To the Board of Directors,  
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People,  
70 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY

WE, the undersigned, having fully and freely discussed the aims and accomplishments of the National Association, and believing that our interests coincide with its efforts for the advancement of colored people, do hereby apply for a charter in the

Paterson, E. J. Branch.

with the object of carrying out in Paterson, Passaic County, and vicinity, the purposes of the Association, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws for Branches approved by the Board of Directors, January 8, 1911.

No.	Name	Address	Occupation	Membership Fee Paid
1	Dr. E. T. Cotton	219 Graham Avenue	Physician	1.00
2	Dr. M. A. Curtis	158 Broadway	Physician	1.00
3	W. E. Hopper	302 E-21st St.	Handler	1.00
4	Rev. C. C. Williams	386 E-21st St.	Minister	1.00
5	Mrs. W. E. Hopper	382 E-21st St.	Housewife	1.00
6	Mrs. Schaefer	382 E-21st St.	Domestic	1.00
7	Fred A. Pindley	306 Edwin St.	Life Ins. Agt.	1.00
8	J. T. Jones	12 Tabris St.	Optician	1.00
9	Dr. G. A. Tyler	25 Fair St.	Dentist	1.00
10	John A. Huggs	130 Franklin St.	Justice of Peace	1.00
11	Mrs. J. A. Huggs	130 Franklin St.	Housewife	1.00
12	Walter Hughes	637 E-20th St.	Chauffeur	1.00
13	Chas. H. Mason	206 E-20th St.	Chauffeur	1.00
14	Louis P. Bremer	120 Franklin St.	Porter	1.00
15	Mr. Robinson	270 Edison St.	Tailor	1.00
16	Thos. Paxton	144 Holmes St.	Auto Express	1.00
17	W. E. Scott	16 Montgomery St.	Chauffeur	1.00
18	Moses Campbell	302 Edison St.	Minister	1.00
19	Chas. E. Johnson	204 Sherman St., Passaic, E. J.	1.00	
20	Mr. Reade	10 Lake St.	Chauffeur	1.00
21	John Maupin	21 Mangle St.	Ice Dealer	1.00

No.	Name	Address	Occupation	Membership Fee Paid
22	Mrs. Geo. Hatcher	68 E-14th St.	Housewife	1.00
23	Harry Washington	334 Graham Ave.	Manon	1.00
24	Mr. W. Martin	326 Edwin St.	Manon	1.00
25	Richard Capers	127 16th Ave.	Laborer	1.00
26	Miss Crowley	140 Governor St.	Domestic	1.00
27	Mrs. Harkless	118 E-23rd St.	Domestic	1.00
28	Lillian Payne	124 16th Ave.	Domestic	1.00
29	Mrs. Peterson	66 Warren St.	Housewife	1.00
30	Miss S. Field	544 E-18th St.	Hair Culturist	1.00
31	Mrs. D. Salswell	405 Hamilton Ave.	Housewife	1.00
32	Mrs. Dunn	306 Edwin St.	Housewife	1.00
33	Mrs. Stockton	180 Carroll St.	Housewife	1.00
34	Fred Gross	205 Hamilton Ave.	Porter	1.00
35	Jennie Beckman	276 Grand St.	Domestic	1.00
36	Mrs. Stephenson	138 Clay St.	Housewife	1.00
37	Jesse Richardson	288 Governor St.	Laborer	1.00
38	Mr. Booth	201-12th Ave.	Manon	1.00
39	W. Orter	Graham, N. J.	Farmer	1.00
40	A. E. McHenry	Hedgebrook, E. J.	Sec'y Y. M. C. A.	1.00
41	Stanley Green	294 Chestnut St., Passaic, N. J.	1.00	
42	W. H. Ravington	143-16th Ave.	Laborer	1.00
43	J. Davis	585 E-18th Ave.	Laborer	1.00
44	Miss L. Jackson	582 E-18th Ave.	Domestic	1.00
45	Mrs. Charity Anderson	114-16th Ave.	Housewife	1.00
46	Mrs. H. Slaco	358 Edwin St.	Domestic	1.00
47	W. C. Hart	693 E-24th St.	Fullman Porter	1.00
48	Mrs. W. C. Hart	693 E-24th St.	Housewife	1.00
49	Mrs. Annie Freeman	24 Lawrence St.	Housewife	1.00
50	Mrs. Jennie Peterson	24 Lawrence St.	Housewife	1.00
51	Walter Green	31 Reedy Ave.	Porter	1.00

### First Endorsement

Date SEP 17 1919

This is to certify that this application for charter has been duly considered by the COMMITTEE ON BRANCHES, and that the granting of an Executive Authorization is hereby approved.

Charles H. Farnish  
Chairman, Committee on Branches

### Executive Authorization

Authority is hereby conferred upon the members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People whose names are subscribed herein, to undertake all activities which are proper to a Branch of this Association, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

As soon as the Branch shall have become fully organized and actively engaged in the work of the Association, its application for charter will be presented for the consideration of the Board of Directors, and upon their approval a Permanent Charter will be granted.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE  
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

By *John P. Phillips*  
By *John P. Phillips*

Dated SEP 23 1919  
70 Fifth Avenue  
New York City



Sir

Cotton Mill July 27<sup>th</sup> 1795

The Enclosed News paper was delivered  
me last Night by Mr A Godwins Negro, and as  
it contains more recent Conventional News  
than any I have heretofore perused I send it  
for your reading - I have been able to attend  
at the Mill since Breakfast, but find myself  
Incapable of any exertions whatever, the Stiffness  
I experienced on Friday and Saturday is in a great  
degree removed, but I find its Influence still  
in every joint of my Body, while the Greater  
Pain seems attached to the back part of my  
head - I expect to be able to attend again in the  
afternoon - Nowk is now in the Spinning Room -  
but regret the want of hands - It appears to me  
that I am surrounded with Misfortunes, this Instant  
our negro boy has put into my hands the Enclosed  
note from Mr M - being without help and the Dr.  
I understand confined to his Bed by Sickness I  
must myself attend the Incapable of doing much  
good - I am Sir  
Yr Humble servant  
Peter Colt Esq Thomas Marshall

Letter from Thomas Marshall, superintendent of the SUM to Peter Colt, President. Marshall mentions "Mr. A. Godwin's Negro" in the second line, making this one of the few documents referring to African Americans in the city's early history. Courtesy of the Passaic County Historical Society.



# Viola Adams, 83, Doesn't Worry About Aging

By MARION J. COYTE  
Field Liaison Officer  
Passaic County Office  
on Aging

You won't hear Viola Adams singing "Ole Rockin' Chair's Got Me," that song so popular about four decades ago — not yet, at any rate.

## A FRIEND TO ALL SENIOR CITIZENS

In my first term in the Assembly (1971) I introduced the first "Homestead Bill" on behalf of Senior Citizens. I will always support and vote in their interest.

C. Gus Rys

Assemblyman, District 40 (Bergen)  
Fair Lawn, N.J.

Viola, at 83, defies description. She's a supercharged dynamo a whirlwind of superlatives; the head of a comet of drive and enthusiasm; a constantly arcing bolt of energy; she's — Viola Adams, Green Thumb clerk employed at the Passaic YMCA on Prospect Street; poetess, public relations person; political activist; multi-church member; prodigious club member; officer of countless civic and social organizations; former welfare worker, police committeewoman; civil rights predecessor and former vaudeville performer.

Sporting pretty red earrings and glittering bangle bracelets, wearing a smart shade of lipstick, her curly short gray-black hair drawn stylishly back from her smooth, café au lait complexion, Mrs. Adams looked 20 years younger than

her proudly proclaimed age when we talked one afternoon in the lounge outside her office.

"I don't worry about aging. I plan to live to be a hundred. I've got a lot to do — I haven't time to die," she told me.

She may have a point there — time hasn't yet caught up with Viola's headlong rush from one career to another and through enough experiences to crowd several lifetimes.

No shrinking violet, our Viola. Although Helene Conville senior placement leader for the Green Thumb Program, and over 70 herself, suggested Mrs. Adams as a subject for an interview, I first made Viola's acquaintance in the city room of one of the county's daily newspapers, about six years ago.

"Hello there. Here I am!"

the loud, rich contralto voice boomed over the chattering typewriters and the clattering news machines, shattering the concentration of grumpy editors, cynical news hawks and eager beaver greenhorns. There she was, indeed. Big as life, and twice as natural, my aged mother would have said.

Everything close to the city desk — Viola's destination — ground to a halt. The indomitable Mrs. Adams had come to the editorial room to bring public relations copy from one of the 37 or more organizations to which she belonged and led then, and still does.

"How's my girl?" the city editor, a tall, handsome, dignified gentleman somewhere around Viola's age greeted her with a hug and kiss.

"Well, Hello, Viola!" "Viola, how are you?" Viola, where've you been?" The city room vibrated with calls. Mrs. Adams, her still pretty face wreathed in smiles, ambled around the room, took possession of it, shed an ambience on all within her glance.

That was my introduction to Viola Adams. Subsequently, through my associates, Viola's acquaintances and Viola herself, I came to learn more about this remarkable woman, born and raised in Paterson, where she scored a first or near-first in various enterprises.

There are those on whom a spotlight always shines — who always stand center stage. Viola is such a one, and she seems born to it. Perhaps she is, for she counts vaudeville as her first career, listing performances of the Anderson and Adams song-and-dance team in such old-time shows as Lou Leslies Blackbirds, the original Williams and Walker Show, and My Friend from Dixie in her past repertoire, and fellow showmen Buck and Bubbles, Peg Leg Bates and the Sister Esther Jones Group among her former colleagues.

Viola was the first black woman investigator in Paterson's Welfare Department, she told me, employed there from 1920-22. It was that early she got the jump on Women's Lib, she claimed, when she organized the first Women's Rights Club with Mrs. Annie Randolph, a social worker of her race.

"We were for Women's Rights long before Women's Lib," Viola crowed. "Things they're doing now are things I tried to instill in them then. They weren't ready for them yet."

By nature a leader and go-getter, and no rose hidden in a wilderness, Viola told about taking part in the installation of the first nursery for retarded children, started at North Jersey Training School in Totowa, soon after she began another career there.

Her next employment proved this woman was instinctively liberated long before most women had emerged from the kitchen and factory. She was one of the two first black police matrons appointed to the Paterson department by the late Mayor Lester Titus.

Departure from the police force in 1959 didn't slow Mrs.



VIOLA ADAMS  
Plans to be 100

Adams down. She plunged right into political life, organizing the first black election board in the First Ward of the Second District in her home city.

"I was the first black county committeewoman in Paterson," she reminisced "I always belonged to the same party, but I went around getting everyone out to vote, no matter what party they belonged to."

Proud of the fact that, at 83 she still needs neither eyeglasses nor hearing aid, Mrs. Adams told me she had written hundreds of poems and presented me with one of three booklets she has had published.

She cooks and takes care of her own apartment in a senior citizen complex in Passaic, where she now lives.

"The darn elevator caught fire last week," she commented. "I had to walk up and down seven flights, twice a day, from Friday until Tuesday — never missed a day's work, she boasted rightfully."

She's never been one to stay put. When I first met her, she had just returned from Detroit, Mich., where she visited her daughter, Mrs. Joseph (Josephine) Sexton, a teacher; her son-in-law, a retired U.S. Army colonel, and her beautiful granddaughter, Sharon, at that time Miss Black Teen-Ager of America.

Before that, after her retirement from the police force, she had traveled to Europe and Asia, accompanying Colonel Sexton and his wife on his tour of duty overseas.

"Wherever I went, I jumped with both feet," Viola chuckled. "In Taipei, China, I was active in women's activities; in Taiwan I taught English in a language school. In China, I used to take part in funeral processions," she recollected. "There was one song they used to chant that I would sing along with. I don't know what words they were singing, but I sang along in English to the melody — it sounded just like 'Onward Christian Soldiers.'"

## Senior % Doubled

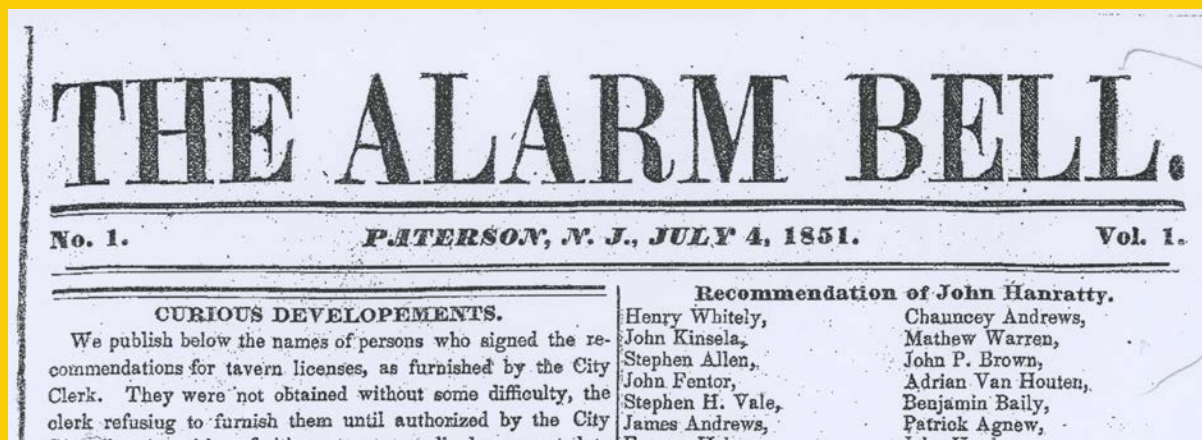
In this century, the percentage of the U.S. population aged 65 plus more than doubled (from 4.1 per cent in 1900 to 9.9 per cent in 1970), while the number increased more than sixfold (from three million to 20 million).

# Alfred Gibbs Campbell

Born in Trenton in 1826, Alfred Gibbs Campbell came to Paterson to manage the Ivanhoe Paper Mill as Superintendent and later, part owner. A man of many talents, Campbell manufactured patent medicines and established The Alarm Bell newspaper in 1851. As the proprietor, publisher and editor, he used this newspaper to promote his many moral causes including temperance, abolition and women's suffrage.

Campbell also wrote poetry. His works reveal many of his personal sentiments regarding his many causes, with poems such as "A Battle-Cry" and "Old John Brown." His poems were published in a single volume entitled Poems in 1883. Today he is recognized as an important nineteenth century African American poet.

Dedicated to his causes, Campbell founded a temperance society in Paterson. In 1854, he also became a founding member of Paterson's Antislavery Society. He went on to become Vice President of the American Anti-Slavery Society in 1857, serving alongside William Lloyd Garrison of Massachusetts. He died in Newark in 1884 and is buried at the First Presbyterian Churchyard in Hamilton Square, New Jersey.



Campbell's first issue of The Alarm Bell, released on July 4th, 1851. The paper ceased publication in 1852.  
Courtesy of the Paterson Free Public Library.



# Dr. Elaine Harrington



College President Dr. Rose and Dr. Harrington at her retirement ceremony, 2005. Courtesy of Passaic County Community College.

Elaine Harrington claims that her passion for civil rights and education were both taught to her by her mother. She first came to Paterson in 1972, when she became a faculty member in the humanities department of Passaic County Community College. While at the college, she served as Dean of

Students, presided over the Academic Council and sat on the Paterson Board of Education. In 1993, she was named a Distinguished Educator by the National Council of Negro Women. After her retirement in 2005, the college honored her with the title of Professor Emeritus, and established both a scholarship and a public speaking competition in her name.

In a 1994 interview, Harrington joked that she was almost born into the NAACP literally when her mother went into labor during a meeting. As a civil rights leader, Harrington served as the Paterson NAACP Chapter President before going on to serve as President of the New Jersey NAACP State Conference for three consecutive terms. Here her two passions mingled. Harrington's presidential agenda highlighted education and literacy as the path to better jobs and economic stability. Her leadership and dedication resulted in her election to the NAACP's National Board of Directors. She is an NAACP Diamond Life Member, and travels across the country speaking for the Association.



Harrington in 1977. Courtesy of Passaic County Community College.



Harrington speaking at Passaic County Community College. Courtesy of Passaic County Community College.

# Fred LaGarde

Fred LaGarde became involved in the civil rights movement in 1955, when he was still a student at Virginia Union University in Richmond. He joined the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). In 1959, he met Martin Luther King Jr. and their relationship greatly influenced LaGarde.

LaGarde rose in the leadership of the SCLC, serving as the regional representative for northeastern North Carolina, before moving to Paterson in 1968. In Paterson he again held the role of regional director of SCLC and then President of the Passaic Chapter of the Conference. Speaking of the Conference to a reporter in August of 1968, he said “we preach and teach the philosophy of nonviolence and love.” It was partly due to their friendship that King stopped to speak in Paterson in March 1968, at the Community Baptist Church of Love where LaGarde was pastor. LaGarde would eulogize King in January 1969, at a memorial service commemorating the leader’s fortieth birthday.



Rev. LaGarde honoring Rosa Parks in 1986.  
Courtesy of Jimmy Richardson's Freedom  
Boulevard Project.



Top: Rev. LaGarde with Rosa Parks and others outside Rosa Parks Apartments, 1986.

Bottom: Rev. LaGarde and the Congregation of Community Baptist Church of Love walking to their new church.

Both courtesy of Jimmy Richardson's Freedom Boulevard Project.

Fred LaGarde focused his efforts toward improving living conditions for minority groups, including access to education, food and clothing and voter registration. Still concerned about urban education into the 1980s, he founded a Christian School associated with the Community Baptist Church of Love, which opened in September 1983. As a musical composer, LaGarde teamed up with Jack Peters twice to write *Martin Luther King* (1974) and *The Song of Paterson* (1983).



# George Wanton and William Thompkins



George H. Wanton (1868-1940). Museum Collection.



William H. Thompkins (1872-1916). Museum Collection.

There are records of African Americans being involved with the military since the American Revolution. However, it was not until 1863 that African Americans were allowed to join the United States military as regular soldiers. Even once they were allowed to serve their country, African Americans were not allowed to fight alongside white soldiers. They served in segregated units until after the Second World War.

One of the most famous African American units was the 10th Cavalry, known as the Buffalo soldiers. Formed after the Civil War, the 10th Cavalry was sent to Cuba when hostilities developed between the United States and Spain. Several of these soldiers, including Sergeant William H. Thompkins and Corporal George H. Wanton (both from Paterson), were involved in a small engagement known as the Battle of Tayacoba. During this battle several of their comrades were trapped on a beach. They were being fired on heavily and unable to return to the safety of their transport ship. Four rescue attempts were made to help the men to safety. All four failed. It was decided to make a final attempt after dark. Sergeant Thompkins, Corporal Wanton and three other members of the 10th volunteered to go ashore. The rescue was a success and the men were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for their bravery. The medals awarded to Thompkins and Wanton are two of only six Medals of Honor awarded to African Americans during the Spanish-American War.

# Jimmy Richardson

A Paterson native, Jimmy Richardson can trace his connection to the city back to the end of the Great Migration when his parents relocated to New Jersey. Naturally artistic and interested in cinematography, music and the culinary arts, Richardson is also a self-taught local historian. He works tirelessly both researching and promoting the historic contributions African Americans have made in Paterson and New Jersey.



Jimmy Richardson, 2014. Museum Collection.

His determination and dedication to uncover the many untold stories of Paterson's African American community led to his founding of the Freedom Boulevard Project. Over time the mission of the project has grown and evolved into exhibits, lectures, and tours. Well known for his Return of the King exhibit, which traveled around the city on display in the Lambert Castle Museum and the Danforth Library, Richardson's projects cover a variety of topics, including Paterson's Underground Railroad and the African American role in the women's suffrage movement. He also contributes to the Passaic County Pulse newspaper, writing articles related to the history of Passaic County.



Top: Paterson's 1st A.M.E. Zion Church, home of the oldest African American congregation in Paterson. Courtesy of Jimmy Richardson's Freedom Boulevard Project.

Bottom: Celebrating the historic designation of the 1st A.M.E. Zion Church, 2012. Museum Collection.

He has been a key contributor to six historic designation applications for buildings throughout Paterson, helping them to be recognized and preserved on the city's Register of Historic Places. In 2012, Richardson and his fellow collaborators succeeded in convincing the city council to recognize the historic significance of the First African Methodist Episcopal Zion church, located on Ellison Street. Originally located on Godwin Street, the First A.M.E. Zion congregation can trace its origins back to 1834, making it the oldest African American congregation in the city of Paterson.



# Minerva Miller

Minerva Miller would never have guessed that a trip to the movies would end in a battle for her civil rights. On the evening of September 22nd, Miller and a few friends decided to see a movie. Early movies were also known as nickelodeons because admission was only a nickel. However, when she turned up to the ticket window of The Paterson Show, a movie theater located at 136 Market Street, Miller was told that the fee for African Americans to enter the movie theater was actually twenty-five cents.

Rather than stand for this unfair treatment, Minerva Miller decided she was going to sue the theater. This was an incredibly brave decision for an African American in 1911, even in a northern state. Robert F. Buckley Esq. of Paterson was willing to represent her. The case went to trial in November. Miller won and was awarded \$500, the maximum compensation allowed. With inflation that is equal to more than \$13,000 in 2020.

**WANT WHITE FOLKS' RIGHTS**  
(Continued from First Page.)

**JUDGE CABELL IS PUZZLED**

Wants Lawyers in Picture Show Case to Construe Statutes For Him.

**WHAT ARE LIMITATIONS?**

Law Seems to Say Clearly That Negroes or Others Cannot Be Discriminated Against in Public Places.

The case of Mrs. Minerva Miller, of Ellison street, this city, who is suing

**WANT WHITE FOLKS' RIGHTS**

Colored Woman Sues Proprietors of Moving Picture House.

**ASKED HER 25 CENTS**

When, She Asserts, the Required Admission Fee to Whites Is a Nickel.

Colored people of this city claim they can not gain admission to moving picture shows and other theatres at the same rates that are charged white people, and a suit has just been started against the proprietors of "The Paterson Show," the moving picture establishment at No. 136 Market street, to test the alleged discrimination.

Lawyer Robert F. Buckley, who is counsel for Minerva Miller and a number of other colored people, has just filed the declaration in the district court of Passaic. The defendants are Greeks, with the classic names of Panagiotis A. Adamopoulos, Adam A. Adamopoulos and Anastasio D. Antonopoulos.

The plaintiff avers that she was made the subject of unlawful discrimination because of her color, and that, when she applied for admission to the theatre, she was asked to pay twenty-five cents, while white patrons were charged only five cents. The plaintiff demands two as damages for her injured feelings. The statute entitled "An act to protect all citizens in their civil and legal rights," approved May 19, 1884, makes such an act of discrimination a misdemeanor, and fixes the penalty at a fine of \$1,000 or one year in the state prison.

The courts have ruled that it is permissible for the proprietor of a playhouse or any other public resort to fix a rule that colored people shall occupy a given portion of his place and so reserve another section for white people, but the court has not yet given a ruling on discrimination exercised through charging people of one color more than people of another color.

Another point that will be raised is that of citizenship. While only one plaintiff's name appears in the declaration there will be many witnesses to uphold her statement and to testify that they received similar

(Continued on Page Twelve.)

treatment. Counsel will call into question the citizenship of the owners of the theatre, for it is known that they are Greeks, by birth, but it is not known whether they are citizens. If not, then counsel will endeavor to show that a person not a citizen, least of all has the right to discriminate against citizens, for the complaining colored people are respectable citizens. Joseph Furrey will be associate counsel in the case.

The declaration setting forth the basis of the suit reads as follows:

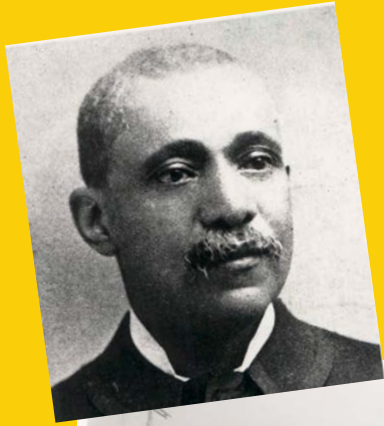
The plaintiff demands of the defendants the sum of five hundred dollars for this: That, whereas, heretofore, to wit, on the twenty-second day of September A. D. nine hundred and eleven, at Paterson, in the county of Passaic, and state of New Jersey, the said defendants were then and there engaged in conducting a theatre, the amusement for the amusement and entertainment of the public, under the name of "The Paterson Show," situated at No. 136 Market street, in said city and county aforesaid; that the customary rate or charge of admission to such theatre, moving picture show or place of public amusement is five cents for each person on any day during the week except Saturday evenings, when the charge or rate is ten cents for each person applying for admission; that on the day and year last aforesaid, the plaintiff with her husband, in company with others, a colored person, applied for admission to said theatre, moving picture show or other place of public amusement, and tendered in payment therefor the usual customary charge of five cents for her admission to such place, as aforesaid; yet the defendants, notwithstanding their legal obligation and duty to so admit the plaintiff upon her request and the tender of payment for her admission, as aforesaid, and contrary to the statute in such case made and provided, said statute being entitled "An act to protect all citizens in their civil and legal rights," approved May 19, 1884, did then and there, at the place last aforesaid, unlawfully insist and demand of said plaintiff the sum of twenty-five cents for admission, because of her being a colored person, and upon her refusal to pay said sum of twenty-five cents for such admission to said place, the said defendants, or their agents, did then and there deny and refuse the plaintiff the full and equal enjoyment of the accommodation, advantages, facilities and privileges of and to their theatre, moving picture show or place of public amusement, did then and there unlawfully discriminate against her because of her color, and did then and there unlawfully refuse to give her the same like treatment, required under said statute, applicable to citizens of every race and color, to the damage of the plaintiff in the sum of five hundred dollars; and therefore she brings her suit.

**CAN'T DISCRIMINATE AGAINST NEGROES**  
PRICE TWO CENTS.  
Mrs. Minerva Miller, Colored, Gets Verdict Against Paterson Show for \$500—Was Refused Admission Unless She Paid Twenty-Five Cents, When Usual Fee Was Five Cents.

In the Passaic district court last [in her own behalf. Counsel for the plaintiff, Judge W. C. Connelley, said: "The plaintiff was Joseph A. Furrey and

News coverage of the lawsuit in The Morning Call, November 2nd through 25th, 1911. Accessed from Newspapers.com





# Samuel Walker

Born in Virginia before the Civil War, Samuel Walker's path took him into the Navy, to New York City and Newark. In Newark, he developed his skill for cooking while training under Thomas B. Allen, a caterer whose business was located on Broad Street. In 1890, Walker relocated with his family to Paterson.

Garret Hobart immediately suggested that Walker be hired to serve as the first Steward of the newly formed Hamilton Club, a prestigious gentlemen's social club located on the corner of Church and Ellison streets. In Walker's time, the club's membership included Paterson's wealthiest and prominent citizens.



Top: Samuel Walker.  
Bottom: S.G. Walker Company, 178 Paterson Street.  
Both courtesy of Passaic County Historian Edward A. Smyk.

Walker remained the Steward for eight years, overseeing the preparation of every club banquet and special function, as well as addressing the needs of the many members who lived at the club. In 1897, he decided to leave the employ of the Hamilton Club to begin S.G. Walker Company. This private catering company, which stood at 178 Paterson Street, continued to serve the Paterson community for the rest of Samuel Walker's life. Here was where Booker T. Washington was ushered to a meal in his honor, during his visit in 1914. When Samuel Walker died in 1917, his obituary named him as "one of Paterson's most prominent citizens." After his death, Samuel's wife Sarah took over running the business and it continued to operate into the 1920s.



The Dining Room of the Hamilton Club. Museum Collection.

# The Hopper Family

Many African Americans moved north in the years directly following the Civil War. They hoped to create new lives for their families, away from the memories of slavery. Paterson and its many factories seemed to offer a variety of employment opportunities. However, upon settling in Paterson in the 1870s, many former slaves experienced difficulties finding factory work. Despite traveling above the Mason-Dixon line, Paterson's newest citizens discovered themselves barred from jobs based on their skin color.

There was one factory in Paterson that was willing to employ African Americans in the 1870s. The Paterson Handle Works, which made wooden tool handles, was located on Marshall Street. Established in 1841 by freedman Henry Hopper, sometimes called Ax Handle Hooper, the Works grew. In 1861, William H. Hopper joined his father as a partner. The factory burned down in 1881, but was soon re-established. William H. Hopper died in 1893.

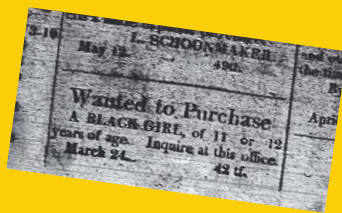


William H. Hopper. Courtesy of Passaic County Historian Edward A. Smyk.



# Bondage

Africans slaves were first brought to the New Jersey area by Dutch settlers in the early 1600s. Through the 1700s, it was common for the Dutch families of New Jersey to own one or two slaves. The early Proprietary government of New Jersey even offered land incentives for residents who imported additional slaves to the area between 1664 and 1702. In 1745, 4,600 slaves lived in New Jersey. In 1786, the slave trade was abolished in New Jersey, but the importation of new people from Africa was hardly necessary as the slave population within New Jersey continued to grow. In 1800, there were approximately 13,000 slaves statewide.



Ads from The Bee and Paterson Advertiser, 1815-1819. Courtesy of the Paterson Free Public Library.

In 1804, New Jersey introduced an act of Gradual Abolition. This act freed all individuals born after July 4, 1804. They were not freed immediately, but served as an “apprentice” until they reached adulthood. Women were free at age 20, men when they were 25. In 2008, the New Jersey legislature recognized and apologized for the part the Garden State played in enslaving thousands of people.

There are some records of both slaves and freed blacks living in the Paterson area. The British stole or released the slaves of Patriot families as they pursued George Washington across New Jersey. The 1789 will of Michael Vreeland listed ten slaves in his possession, but this was an unusually high number for northern New Jersey. After Paterson was founded in 1792, the city was not home to many slaves. Slave labor was primarily used on farms, and the Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures was interested in industrial production. There are some records, although they are rare, that mention individuals of African descent. In one of the city’s earliest papers, dating from 1815, one can read several ads placed by mill owners who are interested in purchasing the remaining time of “Negro Lads” to bring them to work in their factories. In 1841, the Citizens of Paterson sent an “Address to the Legislature of New Jersey on Behalf of the Colored Population of the State.” According to the 1850 census, there were three slaves living in the city: Jud Vreeland (87 yrs), Diana Thompson (50 yrs) and Betty Paterson (70 yrs).

# Civil Rights: The early 1960s

The city of Paterson came under the scrutiny of civil rights leaders throughout the 1960s. While the city did not have the largest African American population in New Jersey, a lack of employment options, decent housing and educational opportunities created unrest. From 1950-1964, an estimated 18,000 African Americans and Hispanics moved into the city, creating an additional strain on the already limited resources available to minorities at the time.

In August of 1964, things came to a head with three days of rioting. The initial incident involved a dispute between African American teens and a police patrol. It brought to light the poor relationship between the community in the Fourth Ward and the police. Key leaders from the NAACP, the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), the Negro Council and the city came together to end the violence. In 1966, Mayor Frank Graves was visited by Floyd McKissick, the national leader of CORE and James Meredith. One of their continued concerns was the conditions and overcrowding of the “ghetto schools” in Ward Four.



Mayor Frank Graves meeting with African American leaders following the 1964 Riots.  
Courtesy of the Passaic County Historical Society.



# Civil Rights: The late 1960s



Left: The crowds waiting for a glimpse of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., 1968.

Right: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. addressing the audience in the Community Baptist Church of Love about poverty.

Both Paterson Evening News Collection.

1968 saw a new Mayor in City Hall. Mayor Lawrence (Pat) Kramer made great efforts to include both African Americans and Spanish speakers within city government. On March 27th, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke at the Community Baptist Church of Love to over 2,000 people. He urged the members of his audience: "If you can't fly, run. If you can't run, walk. If you can't walk crawl. But keep moving." This was his last official appearance before his assassination in early April.

However, 1968 also saw another incident between Paterson's police force and African American citizens. Officers used mace on an African American teen while arresting him for disorderly conduct. Unrest in the city, within both the African American and Hispanic communities, lasted for five days. Protestors interested in having the use of police mace discontinued, demonstrated and boycotted throughout the summer. Following the incident, the Governor assigned a Grand Jury to examine the incident. The Jury found that eight officers had violated civil rights. These officers were reassigned to another Ward rather than suspended. In November, Reverend Ralph Abernathy visited and spoke at the Bethel A.M.E. Church in an effort to bring attention to the concern over the situation. A second investigation by the State Attorney General was unable to come to any conclusions.

# Community and Business Leaders

Patersonians of African descent have been leading the way in our community for over a century. Here is a list of some of the city's leaders and their achievements.

Martha and George Jiggett,  
circa 1996. Museum  
Collection.



From the Paterson Evening News,  
November 13, 1969. Accessed  
from Newspapers.com.

Dr. Norman T. Cotton was the first African American doctor, 1900s-1930s



Dr. Norman Cotton.  
Museum Collection.

Sarah Hopper became the first African American woman to graduate from a Paterson Public School

Dr. George Klye was the first dentist in Paterson to be African American

Margret Harris was the first African American nurse on the board of Health

Annie Randolph became the first African American social worker in 1927

Henry Otis Harris was the first African American firefighter in Paterson in 1959

Charles June became the first African American postman in Paterson in 1938

Jiggett's Transportation was the first Paterson transportation company to be owned and operated by African Americans, George and Martha Jiggett

Carnie Bragg Sr., co-founder of Bragg Funeral Home, was the first African American to be appointed to the Paterson Chamber of Commerce

Virgil Reed served as Justice of the Peace in the 4th Ward from 1938-1943

When he was elected in 1997, Martin Barnes became Paterson's first African American Mayor

Sylvia Ulmer became the first African American City Clerk in 1971

Judge Stephen Womack became the first African American to sit on the bench in State Superior Court in Passaic County in 1994



Henry Harris with his company. From  
the 1968 Fireman's Ball Program



# Education

In Paterson's early history there was no consistent or organized effort to provide the African American inhabitants with access to education. This changed in 1855, with the opening of the "Colored School," located on Division Street. The school's principal, Eliza M. Halstead, did her best to educate her pupils with the resources she had available to her. By 1872, the African American students were allowed to attend neighborhood public schools with white children. However, African Americans were not yet represented within the public school leadership. In 1883, William Hopper ran for a school administrative position. He lost the election.

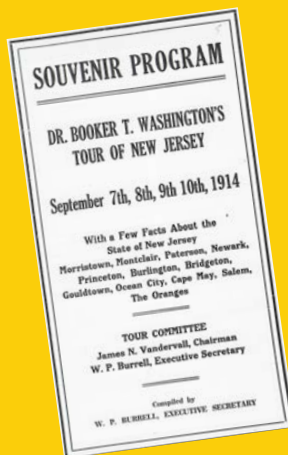
From the 1920s through the 1960s, the African American students of Paterson Public schools represented the highest dropout rate of any ethnic group. Only a few of the students who did graduate high school continued on to college, due to the lack of employment options open to them. Teaching was one of the few professions open to African Americans. In 1947, the public schools employed five African American teachers. By the early 1960s, half of the teaching staff was African American. In 1965, Wendell Williams was appointed principal of School No. 6, the first African American principal in the public school system. Dr. Frank Napier Jr. would become the first African American Superintendent of Schools in Paterson in 1976.



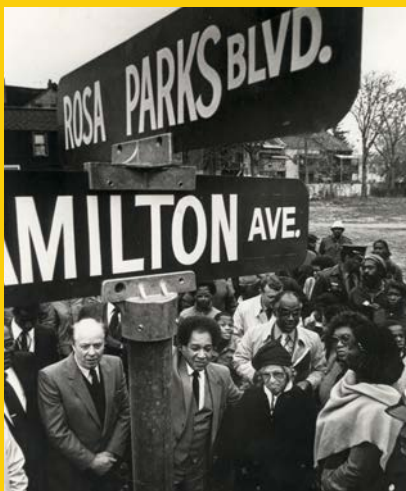
Classroom at Dawn Treader Christian School, circa 1983. The Paterson Evening News Collection.

# Famous Visitors

Many people remember President Obama's visit to Paterson in 2011, in the wake of Hurricane Irene. Paterson has boasted many famous visitors. Frederick Douglass was briefly in Paterson, traveling through on his way to Rochester from Philadelphia in October, 1859. Booker T. Washington stopped in Paterson on his tour of New Jersey in 1914. In 1915, W.E. DuBois addressed the Colored Men's Association and in 1922, A. Philip Randolph spoke to the Philosophical Society.



Cover page of the Souvenir Program for Dr. Washington's visit to New Jersey, 1914. Courtesy of the New York Public Library online collections.



The unveiling of Rosa Parks Boulevard, 1982. Courtesy of Passaic County Historian Edward A. Smyk.



Ad for Black Patti's upcoming performance in the Paterson Opera House. The Morning Call, August 22, 1902. Accessed with Newspapers.com.

The city of Paterson has also hosted a number of national performers. New Jersey's own Paul Robeson performed at Eastside High School in 1932. Classical singer Marian Anderson also performed at Eastside in 1955. And singer Matilda Sissieretta Joyner Jones (Black Patti) and the Black Patti Troubadours performed in Paterson on at least four occasions, at a number of venues.

Many of the national figures to visit Paterson were important members of the Civil Rights Movement. Comedian and activist Dick Gregory was one of the first, visiting the city in 1964. In 1966, James Meredith and Floyd McKissick visited Mayor Frank Graves to discuss inequality in the city. Paterson was also one of the last cities to welcome Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. before his untimely death in 1968. Reverend Abernathy visited Paterson later in the same year. Rosa Parks visited three times. She spoke at the Community Baptist Church of Love in 1982 and visited the newly named Rosa Parks High School in 1986.



# Sports and Recreation



Top: Hinchliffe Stadium, circa 1934. Museum Collection.

Below: Eastside High School Track Team. From the Senior Mirror, 1927. Museum Collection.

Hinchliffe Stadium, an important stadium in the history of Negro League baseball in America, hosted the Colored Championship of the Nation (similar to the World Series) in 1933. In 1934, the Stadium became the home of the New York Black Yankees who played here until 1945. Larry Doby was one of Paterson's first African American athletes to hit the national arena when he signed with the Cleveland Indians in 1947.

Paterson can boast a number of native sons and daughters who have received national acclaim in a variety of sports. Baseball stars from Paterson include Major League players Johnny Briggs (1964-1975), and Mike Jackson (1970-1973), as well as Minor Leaguer Bennie Veal (1952-1953). Eddie Cotton refereed boxing matches all over the world and was elected to the board of the International Boxing Federation in 2014. Eastside basketball player Franklin Jacobs made the world record high jump of 7 feet and 7 ¼ inches in 1978. Tim Thomas played basketball for Paterson Catholic High School before entering the NBA in 1997. Victor Cruz began playing as wide receiver for the New York Giants in 2010. Essence Carson was the seventh player to be drafted into the WNBA in 2008 and currently plays for the Phoenix Mercury.

The legacies and achievements of some of these athletes have been remembered and commemorated throughout the city. In 1998, the city of Paterson renamed the field in Eastside Park, Larry Doby Field, in his honor. In 2008, John Briggs Athletic Field in Westside Park was dedicated in honor of left fielder Johnny Briggs. In 2011, a Memorial Park was dedicated to Kennedy High School player and coach Tyrone Collins. Hinchliffe Stadium was designated a Municipal and National Historic Landmark in 2013.



John Briggs presenting awards at Johnny Briggs Day, September 27, 2008. Museum Collection.

# The Arts

In the arts, Patersonians have long excelled nationally and internationally and many of the city's African American residents have been at the forefront. At just eighteen, singer Jimmy Charles from 12th Avenue, received a gold record for his song One Million to One in 1960. Kenneth (Kenny) Bolts has been featured playing the drums on a variety of records and accompanied Lionel Hampton on several albums. Lloyd Reese was nationally known as an organist, pianist and composer of gospel music. Rapper, singer and songwriter Fetty Wap's debut single, Trap Queen, became a platinum record in 2018.



The hit single A Million to One earned a gold record.



Kenny Bolts (right) with Lionel Hampton. Courtesy of Jimmy Richardson's Freedom Boulevard Project.

In 1883, newspaper proprietor and poet, Alfred Gibbs Campbell publishing Poems, a volume of his original works including poems with religious and abolitionist sentiments. Poetess Viola Adams had many of her poems included in the minutes of the New Jersey State Legislature during her lifetime. In 2018, Talena Lachelle Queen was declared the first Poet Laureate of Paterson.



The Paterson Ambassadors Drill Team hosting the Autumn Drill Festival in the Paterson Armory. The Morning Call, October 27, 1969

Artist Ben Jones's body of work includes a variety of mediums and has taken him to Cuba and Africa, as well as around the United States. He is still active in Jersey City, where he taught for many years at New Jersey State University. William Hardy Jr., a singer, actor, director and playwright, appeared in several Broadway shows and was very active with the gospel choirs here in the city. The 1969, the Paterson Ambassadors Drill Team made their New York debut appearing with dancer Gwen Verdon at the Philharmonic Hall in Lincoln Center.



# The Underground Railroad

The Underground Railroad was a network of secret escape routes used by slaves fleeing to Canada. Historians believe one route ran through Paterson. The illegal and secretive nature of the Underground Railroad means that there are few records of the safe house locations (stations) or of the men and women who kept them (conductors). Therefore, much of what we do know has been assembled with the help of oral history.

One such oral account mentions two men, Josiah Huntoon and William Van Renslair. Huntoon first arrived in Paterson around 1841 from Vermont. Here he established a business selling coffee, tea and spices. Being passionately against slavery, Huntoon employed free blacks alongside white workers. One of his employees, a freedman named William Van Renslair, became Huntoon's lifelong friend. Together the two men operated a safe house for runaway slaves, probably at the Spice factory or in a private residence. Today their bravery has been commemorated with the Huntoon-Van Rensalier Underground Railroad Monument, located on Broadway, near the site where the spice factory once stood.

Huntoon and Van Renslair are not the only Patersonians who worked against slavery. Other abolitionist residents who may have been involved with the railroads activities include:

**John Avison, an insurance agent and Justice of the Peace**

**Darius Wills, Postmaster**

**Isaac Van Blarcom, head of Passaic Brick Co.**

**Henry M. Low, cotton yarn manufacturer**

**Nathaniel Lane, stove dealer**

**Alexander Freeman**

**Horatio Moses, tinsmith**



Ad for J.P. Huntoon's Coffee and Spice Factory, from the 1853 Business Directory of Paterson. Museum Collection.