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The Scanned

Buffalo Quarters Historical Society &
Lillian Batchelor Files

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Introduction

The Buffalo Quarters Historical Society and Lillian Batchelor Papers were organized into categories, prepared for scanning and scanned by Lynn Lombardo, a graduate student at Buffalo State College. The Batchelor Project was supervised by Dr. Jean Richardson, Associate Professor of the History and Social Studies Education Department and Project Director of The Monroe Fordham Regional History Center.
Biographical Essay

Lillion Batchelor founded Buffalo Quarters Historical Society in 1995. Her purpose was to increase national and international awareness of the significant role Buffalo played in the Underground Railroad movement. The Society presents annual recreations of historical events through drama and music culminating in the Niagara River Crossing into Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada.

Ms. Batchelor has worked to bring about a sense of hope, pride, and recognition to Western New York by presenting historical truths, honoring unsung heroes, expanding historical research to include the significance of Buffalo in the Underground Railroad. She has brought this about through the sharing of this rich history in drama, music, and literature.

Through her research she had begun the development of the Broderick Park Project, which lies at the foot of West Ferry Street, and was the last stop on the Underground Railroad before slaves crossed the Niagara River into Canada. The continued effort to transform Broderick Park into an International Freedom Memorial Park has been taken over by several groups including Buffalo MicroParks.

Buffalo Quarters Historical Society utilizes the Niagara River to promote the history of the Underground Railroad in the Buffalo area in partnership with the Canadian government. Under Lillion Batchelor’s leadership, the organization has received accolades from United States and Canadian leaders.

Among her numerous awards, Ms. Batchelor has received the Civic Empowerment Award (2000); Outstanding Planning Project - Underground Railroad Freedom Memorial (1999); The Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie Award of Appreciation (1998); the William Wells Brown Award (1996); Proclamations from the State of New York (1997), City of Buffalo (1995), and City of Fort Erie, Canada (1995).
Accomplishments, Awards and Biography

Buffalo Quarters
Broderick Park Slave Memorial Funding
By-Laws
Certificate of Incorporation
Contracts with City-State Entities
Funding Requests
Incorporation and Taxes Paperwork
Letter to Governors-Feb 7, 2001
Meeting Minutes
Membership
Newsletter
Sponsored Events

Magazine – Books

*African American Resource Guide 2001*
Programs, exhibits and publications in museums of New York State

*African Americans in New York State History-Oct 1990*
“A group of historians were commissioned to produce surveys of the history of the African American presence in the various regions of New York State.”
Contributors: Ena Farley, Milton Sernett, Ralph Watkins and A.J. Williams-Myers; Editor: Monroe Fordham. Broken down into Downstate, Hudson-Mohawk, Central, and Western New York

*African American Selected Bibliography*
General Works
West African Background and Atlantic Slave Trade
Colonial Period – U.S.
Slavery
Slave Revolts
Abolitionists
Free Blacks before the Civil War
Civil War to 1900
1900 through World War II
Post-World War II and Civil Rights Movement
History of Racial Attitudes
Pictorial Histories
Bibliographies
Biographies
Afro-Americans in Science and Medicine
Afro-Americans in Literature and Drama
Afro-Americans in Music and Art
Afro-Americans in the U.S. Military
Historiography
Teaching Aids
A Walk on the Underground Railroad

American Legacy Summer 1996
Any Slave I May Die Possessed Of – article on the lives of slaves at Mount Vernon and addresses the troubling and paradoxical legacy of America’s early days

American Legacy Spring 1998
Heroes for All Times – article on some well-known Africans who tell of the African-Americans they admire most
Ms. Bethune – article about the ambitious daughter of ex-slaves, Mary McLeod Bethune made herself into a national figure lobbying the president and Congress to take action on Civil Rights. Her ideas inspired countless black activists.
Paradoxical Plantation – article about Joseph Davis, a wealthy Mississippi Planter who educated his slaves, adjudicated their complaints and gave one of them his holdings

American Legacy Summer 1998
Frontispiece
The Appeal – article about David Walker’s 1829 pamphlet against slavery and racism that was so scary that it got Southern legislatures to pass laws forbidding blacks to read and so modern that it contains a message of hope for us all
Brothers in Arms – article regarding wearing the uniforms of wars their ancestors fought, African-Americans gather at Colonial Williamsburg
Scarred Walls of Stone – article about two of Ghana’s infamous slave castles, the holding pens for captive Africans bound for the Americas, a visitor finds a history of horror and perseverance
Mississippi is Beginning to Stir – article about a college teacher who records the time explosive change came to the campuses of the South

American Legacy Winter 1999
The Work of the Preachers – article about the ministers who headed Black America’s fight for freedom in the 1960s that drew on a long tradition of church-bred activism, and like their predecessors, they found the weapons they needed in Scripture
To His Excellency, the President – article about the hundreds of African-Americans who wrote to Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War asking for help or offering advice

American Legacy Summer 1999
Uncovering the Underground Railroad – article – it operated in secrecy and has endured as legend. Now its true stories are being revealed and commemorated and celebrated

American Legacy Fall 1999
The Enigma of His Face – article – enraged by the evils of slavery, the passionate, eloquent, and all-but-forgotten Denmark Vesey planned an uprising that would have destroyed 1820s Charleston

Anti-Slavery Melodies for the Friends of Freedom 1843
Prepared by The Hingham Anti-Slavery Society by Jairus Lincoln. “This little book is intended, in some measure, to advance the cause of Emancipation, and to
urge those, who have engaged in the cause, to go forward with renewed zeal in accomplishing the work of their holy mission.”

**Guiding Light of the Underground Railroad**

Advertising supplement to the magazine of Afro-American Culture; includes Greene County and Wiberforce, Oberlin, Detroit and Canada

**Harriet Tubman Day Celebration, March 10, 2003**

Program from the Langston Hughes Institute that provides a background biography on Harriet Tubman

**Having Our Say program – Studio Arena 1998**

Program from Studio Arena Theater; “The Delany Sisters’ First 100 Years by Emily Mann – based on the best-selling book by Sarah L. and A. Elizabeth Delany with Amy Hill Hearth. The story of the lifelong struggle of two exceptional African-American women to live with dignity, imagination, courage, and humor through a 100 years in this nation’s history.

**Hippocrene Guide – The Underground Railroad**

By Charles L. Blockson

Songs of the Underground Railroad (pgs. 336-347)

**Liberty and Anti-Slavery Song Book 1842**

By Joshua R. Giddings and Joshua Leavitt

Published in Boston

Dedicated to The Sons and Daughters of Freemen

“The Reason – why we have issued this song book, is, because we know that music has a very powerful influence in engaging the attention and enlisting the feelings of mankind.”

**Negro Spirituals (Reprint) Atlantic Monthly, June 1867**

By Thomas Wentworth Higginson

The unwritten songs of the Negroes.

**Progressive National Baptist Convention program, Aug 1997**

**Secrets Along the Niagara 1999**

By the Young Yorkers Club of Eggert Elementary

Chapter 1 – Interviewing our Elders

Chapter 2 – Slavery in America

Chapters 3 – Underground Railroad in Western New York

**Sketches of the Underground – Chapters 26 and 27**

**Slavery and Freedom in Niagara – Michael Power and Nancy Butler**

Paper 1 – “Simcoe and Slavery” examines the political and social background of events culminating in the actual legislation, the unsuccessful attempt to repeal the law and significance of the legislation

Paper 2 – “Starting Anew: The Black Community of Early Niagara” studies the once vibrant black community in Niagara-on-the-Lake during the nineteenth century

**Miscellaneous**

129th Anniversary Banquet of Queen Esther Household of Ruth #10 of the Grand United Order of Oddfellows – April 19, 1997

Historically Speaking Newsletters
Melinda and Children Certificate of Freedom
Niagara Black History Association Calendar 2007
Postcards
Prayer Vigil Guest Record, August 26, 1995

Newspaper Articles
   1992-1994
   1995
   1996
   1997
   1998
   1999
   2000
   2001
Miscellaneous Articles
Undated Articles

Personal Correspondence
   1970-1979
   1990-1999
   2000-2009

Photos

Research on the Underground Railroad
   Along the Mason-Dixon Line
      Article by Henry Robert Burke
      “During the Underground Railroad Era, the Mason-Dixon Line was the political and ideological boundary between the ‘Northern Free States’ from the ‘Southern Slavocracy States.’ The Mason-Dixon Line was in effect, the ‘front line’ in the long war between slave owners of the South and the Underground Railroad of the North.
   Background Information of the Development of the Underground Railroad Terminal (Canada, circa 1991)
   Colored Cemetery-Little Africa in Fort Erie, Canada
   Ferried to Freedom
      Article by Glenn Walker
      “Fugitive slaves escaped lives of oppression and cruelty by travelling the Underground Railroad across the Niagara River to Fort Erie. Some families settled here, supported by friendly and sympathetic strangers, to lay foundations of freedom.”
   Harriet Tubman Home pamphlet
   Landmarks (article from American Visions, April-May 1999)
      By Carol Moseley-Braun
   Liberty Passage
      Author Unknown; hand-written paper about slavery and the Underground
Railroad
Maps of the Underground Railroad Routes
Miscellaneous Research on the Underground Railroad
    Contains incomplete articles, book chapters and other materials on slavery and the Underground Railroad
News Articles (circa 1990s) on Canada, Slavery and Underground Railroad
Niagara’s Freedom Trail (circa 1990s)
North American Black Historical Museum Education Program (Canada, circa 1991)
North American Black Historical Museum pamphlet
Preserving the Heritage (Canada, circa 1991)
    Article released by the Convention and Visitors Bureau of Windsor regarding the museums and historic sites the preserve Southwestern Ontario’s almost 200 years of Black heritage
Reclaiming Your Heritage – Getting to Western New York and Canada
    Compiled by Reverend Walter Kern in 1985 – “A family trip to trace some known routes by which some Black refugees, who were trying to escape slavery, came to our area and crossed over to Ontario.”
Samuel H. Davis Quotes from Address given in Buffalo – August 1843
    Davis’s address to the National Convention of Colored Citizens held in Buffalo State on the 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, and 19th of August 1843 for the purpose of considering their moral and political condition as American Citizens
Seven Sites on the Road to Freedom Tour – Canada
Sources for Underground Railroad Research
Survey of Underground Railroad Activities
    (Article from American Visions, February-March 1999)
    By Ann E. Eskridge
The Niagara Movement pamphlet
There’s a Movement Afoot – The Underground Railroad
    (Article from American Visions, February-March 1999)
    By Ann E. Eskridge and Sharon Fitzgerald
Trail of Brooklyn’s Underground Railroad
    (Article from the New York Times, October 12, 2007)
    By John Strausbaugh
Uncle Tom’s Cabin Historic Site pamphlet
Underground Railroad Committee pamphlet

Video
Channel 4-Special Report: Road to Freedom 1998
Channel 4-Special Report: Road to Freedom 2000
Channel 4-Special Report: Beyond the Road to Freedom 2002
UB Center for the Arts: The Living Room Project 2001