

# Eliza Bannister Walker

## Social Networks, Local Activism, Poetry with Purpose

Eric Wilson, Executive Director, Rockbridge Historical Society



To the Public:  
**The Colored Soldier's Appeal**  
HELP THE SUFFERING OF OUR RACE

Buy a Memorial Block and Help us to Take Care  
of the Colored Old Folks and Needy Orphan Children.  
We are Asking Someone to Educate Little Violet.


MEMORIAL BLOCK

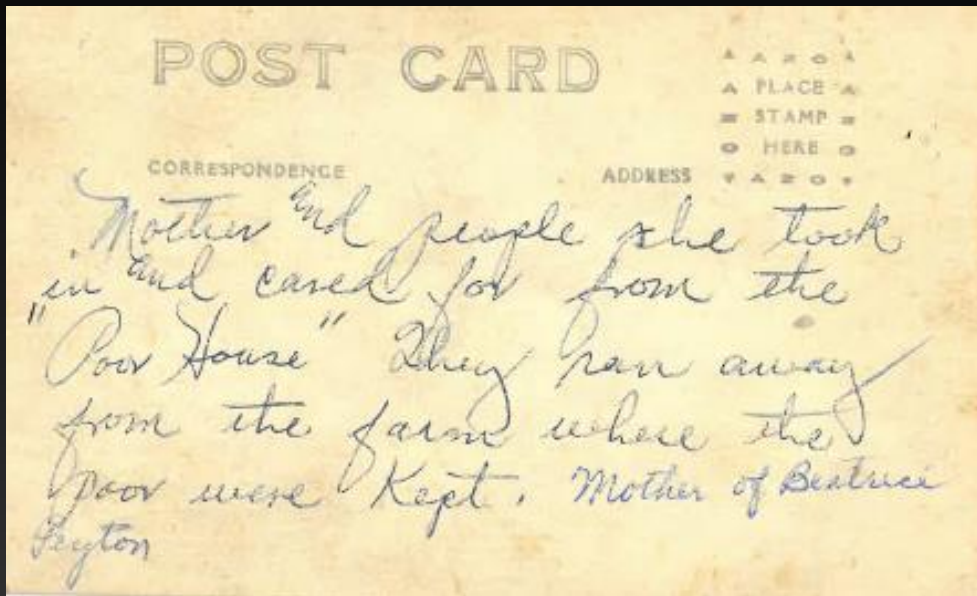
A black and white photograph showing four women sitting on a wooden bench. From left to right: a young girl in a white dress, a woman in a dark dress, another young girl in a white dress, and a woman in a white dress. They are all looking towards the camera.

Violet      Mrs. H. L. Walker      Virginia      Annie  
An Orphan Freak      Pres. of Lexington's Old      Cannot Walk      Cannot Talk  
Born without Hands      Folks Home and Orphanage





*The Charity Nightingales (Lexington Singing Group)*  
Third from Left: Eliza Bannister Walker (1872-1939)



Help Her Build It - Buy a Memorial Block - Now! -

LEXINGTON MEMORIAL OLD FOLK'S HOME AND ORPHANAGE

REV. J. I. MARSHALL  
WASH. D.C.

MRS. BESSIE BRIGGS  
WASH. D.C.

"LUCKY" ROBERTS  
NEW YORK CITY

BUY A  
BLOCK!

YOUR CLUB  
SHOULD BUY ONE

YOUR CHURCH  
SHOULD BUY ONE.

REV. G. B. HOWARD  
PITTS. PA.

REV. E. CARTER  
PITTS. PA.

REV. J. ASHBURN  
COL. O.

DR. A. BROWN  
RICH. VA.

MRS. GEORGE PHILIP  
PHILA. PA.

REV. E. COLEMAN  
GOLDSBORO, N.C.

HOWARD DENTAL  
COLLEGE, WASH. D.C.

Wm. M. DAVIS  
WASH. D.C.

WRIGHT'S COL.  
ORCHESTRA LOHIO

PROF. J. S. HARRIS  
K.C. MO.

REV. S. THURSTON  
LEXINGTON, VA.

MORRIS CAFETERIA  
RICHMOND, VA

COLUMBIA LODGE  
ELKS - WASH., D.C.

DR. I. THEO. PARKER  
WASH. D.C.

DIXIE SCOTT  
LEXINGTON, VA

REV. W. L. MANAKOO  
WASH. D.C.

S.A. WAR VETERANS  
WASH. D.C.

J. FINLEY WILSON  
THE EAGLE WASH. D.C.

REV. W. R. BROWN  
PITTS. PA.

DR. R. M. GUNN  
WASH. D.C.

DOCTOR  
P. NAPPER  
WASH. D.C.

MRS. H. L. WALKER

ALL OF US

NOT A SHADOW BUT A REALITY. THIS HOME WILL BE BUILT OF CEMENT BLOCKS AND A MEMORIAL BLOCK WILL BE PLACED IN ITS WALL FOR EACH CONTRIBUTOR. LET US MAKE A BLOCK FOR YOUR CHURCH, LODGE, SELF, ETC., ADDRESS LEXINGTON OLD FOLK'S HOME @ 1832-9TH ST., N.W.

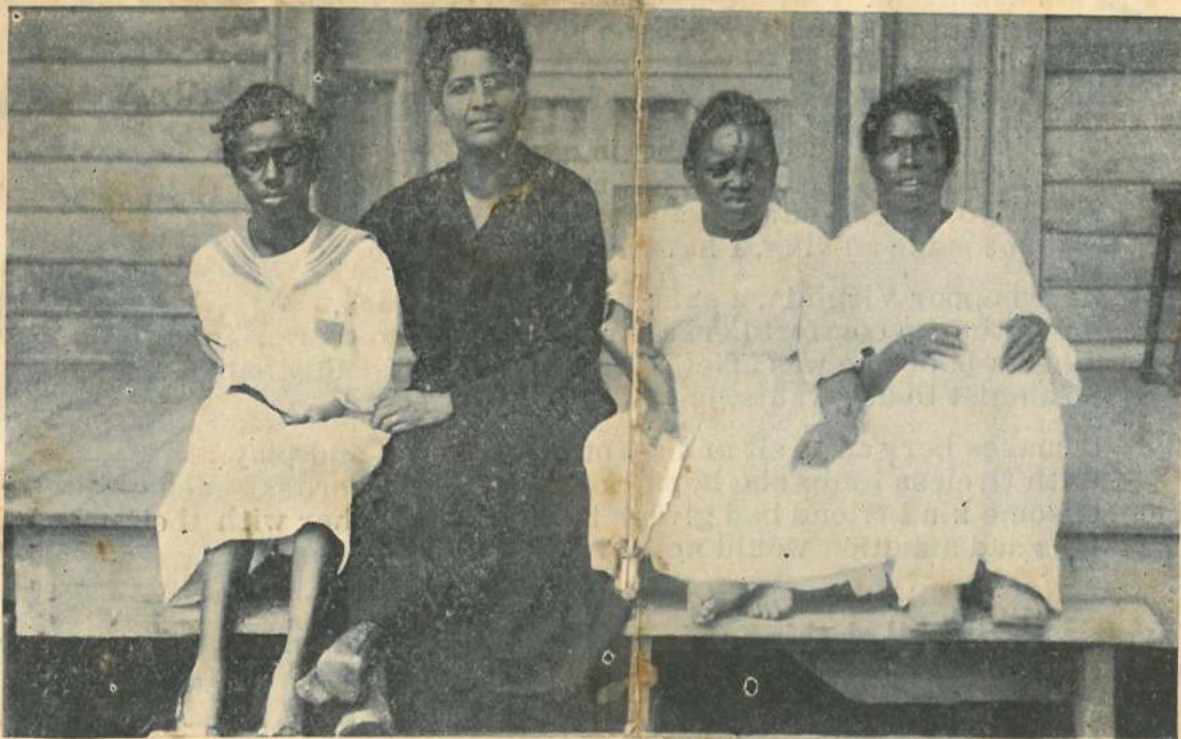
What Do You See Here? Who Do You See Here? Specific People ~ Social Types?

To the Public:  
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We are Asking Someone to Educate Little Violet.


**MEMORIAL BLOCK**



Violet      Mrs. H. L. Walker      Virginia      Annie  
An Orphan Freak      Pres. of Lexington's Old      Cannot Walk      Cannot Talk  
Born without Hands      Folks Home and Orphanage

**Direct Marketing Campaign  
1918, During World War I**

**Building on Black Military Pride  
National & Community Service**

**Naming Sponsors  
Naming those Supported**

## The Orphans' Plea

I am asking for your aid kind friends, O listen to my plea,  
I am one of the needy orphans on this side of the sea,  
No mother or father in this unfriendly land,  
Depending on you to help me, you see I have no hands.

This is an old affliction, set upon me by God,  
May be the sins of my mother, upon them a chastening rod;  
Would you like to educate an orphan child like me?  
I cannot make a living, I have no hands you see.

Here is poor Virginia, a sufferer for many years,  
No mother to comfort her, a life of sorrow and tears.  
When a babe she was afflicted, there was no friendly hand  
To admit to her wants, is why she cannot stand.

It makes her sad to sit and see other girls run and play.  
With tireless limbs she hops around and does her task each day,  
If some kind friend had given a home & helped her with their care  
This sad affliction would not have been for her to share.

**P. S. All clothing of any kind can be used to advantage.**

First help us to serve Jesus Christ.

Second, help to save suffering at your door.

This home will be build of cement blocks and a memorial block  
will be placed in it wall for each contributor. Let us make a block  
for your church, lodges or individual. Why you should contribute  
now is because we already have inmates in a temporary home.

## Plan for the Building

The Lexington prospect modern old folks' home and orphanage  
to be erected in Lexington, Va., consisting of four living wards,  
one for male, female and for girls and boys; dining room,  
kitchen and a few other necessites that it would take to complete  
a modern home.

This home is NOT a State home but we will gladly care for  
anyone who needs it.

This work is highly endorsed by the leading white business  
men of our town.

Address:

LEXINGTON OLD FOLKS HOME AND ORPHANAGE

Poem and Prospectus: Memorial Block Appeal

# You Can't Live Always.

Composed by Mrs. H. L. Walker,  
Sanitary Meat Market, Lexington, Va.

Please contribute at least 25 cents for the benefit  
of the OLD FOLKS HOME, Lexington, Va.

Read the Genesis as a plan,  
God made mountains then he made man;  
It tell us as we read on down,  
Moses our leader in the bull rush found.

## CHORUS:

I know you can't live always,  
No you can't live always,  
You can't live always,  
You don't want to die in the Egypt Land.

Pharoah was a wicked man,  
He didn't obey my God's command;  
There was a rod that ruled the flood,  
And all the water turned to blood.

The midnight hour the angel came,  
They would not reverence Jehovah's name,  
All through the land went the greatest cry,  
All the first born had to die.

Pursued Egyptians on the day,  
To overtake them on their way,  
But Moses' hand was on the rod,  
Stand still and see the glory of God.

Then God told Moses what to do,  
Lead the children, lead them through,  
He led them down to the water's side,  
He spake to the water, and the water divide.

There was another prophet came,  
They say that Jesus was His name,  
An humble manger is His cradle,  
And His birth place was in a stable

He healed the sick and raised the dead,  
They say the multitude was fed,  
The lame did walk, the blind did see,  
He treaded the waves in Galilee.

## Note the Header:

Author: Mrs. H.L. Walker (not her first name)

Location: Husband's Business, Lexington

Price: 25 cents, not a \$\$ Memorial Brick

Purpose of Poem: Old Folks Home

Form: Song with Chorus, Couplets

Audience: Who Buys, How Used?

## Poetic Tropes:

God, Moses, Jesus & Faith  
Cultural & National Freedom  
Physical Needs & Care

*“Lead the children, lead them through...*

*All the first born had to die...*

*He healed the sick ...*

*The lame did walk ...*

*the blind did see”*



**Harry Lee Walker & Woods Sanitary Meat Market  
Mrs. H.L. Walker Trades on its Community Credibility  
Stationery as Anchor for Poems, Community Service**

# I'm Going to Follow Jesus.

Composed by Mrs. H. L. Walker, Sanitary Meat Market,  
Lexington, Va.

Please contribute at least 25 cents for the benefit of the  
OLD FOLKS HOME, Lexington, Va.

---

I am going to fight a battle with satan, sin and strife,  
Jesus is my Captain and how hard will be the life,  
Yet he has given to me my orders and I must go or die,  
Nothing can harm me for my Lord is nigh.

CHORUS—I am going to follow Jesus,  
I am going to follow Jesus,  
Though the task seems hard for me to share,  
Yet I must obey his orders without a tear or sigh  
Nothing can harm me for my Lord will be nigh.

I asked the Lord for something for idle hands to do,  
Whilst the souls of men are dying when the Master calls for you  
Yet the task He's given 'tis hard for me to try  
Tho' nothing can harm me for my Lord will be nigh.

A thousand snares awaits me whilst through this world I go  
But if Jesus be my leader I'll follow where he goes;  
Although the roads be rugged and up the mountains high,  
Yet nothing can harm me for my Lord is nigh.



The Charity Nightingales Sang Tuesday Night In Lexington High School Auditorium.

The Charity Nightingales, an organization of Negro singers of Lexington, sang in the High school auditorium Tuesday evening. They sang to an audience of white people under the auspices of the Lexington High school. Many music lovers and others of Lexington greeted them by their presence. Judging by the handclapping which followed every number, and the appeal sent up as the regular program closed for the singing of other selections, it is rare that an event in the High school auditorium causes as much enjoyment as did the concert Tuesday evening. The audience was of goodly proportions and a representative one.

The principal part of the program was devoted to the singing of Negro Spirituals and was sacred music; some of it deeply devotional, the wording and singing being in "spiritual" style, the wording of the music occasionally revealed, however, something that was amusing. The deportment of the singers was always grave, the measure of the singing was fine. After a few introductory numbers, the singers struck their pace when a familiar Spiritual, "Lord I Want To Be a Christian," was rendered. We will not undertake to enumerate the full program. Among the Spirituals which excited special interest are some, which, described in general terms, were:

Swing Low Sweet Chariot.  
Steal Away To Jesus.  
My Sister You Ought To Have Been There.

And Love Came Trickling Down.  
Heaven! Fly All Over God's Heaven.

Outstanding was the singing of, "A Glorious Special," with "But One Train On the Track."

There were variations and special songs. A male quartett excited special applause by singing, "Humble Yourself, Because the Bell Done Rung." A duet by Mrs. Leana Clark and Mrs. Daisy Evans, the song being Mother, was loudly encored.

"Give Me the Old Time Religion," sung by a male quartet, was a fine number.

Mrs. Kissie Banks was the reader as well as one of the accompanists. A brief humorous recitation by her was enjoyed.

The singers numbered ten, six men and four women. The men were: Ira Hawkins, Perry R. Robinson, C. M. Wood, William Dock, Lewis Richeson, Albert Morrison. The women were: Mrs. Leana Clark, Mrs. Daisy Evans, Mrs. Nannie Wood, and Miss Gladys Washington. Mrs. Kissie P. Banks and C. M. Wood were the directors of the concert on the stage. Mrs. Harry L. Walker is manager of the Charity Nightingales.

The regular program was a little over an hour.



Charity Nightingales (Lexington HS, 1930s)  
Note Sacred Spirituals, Tenor of White Praise

*"audience of white people ...  
of goodly proportions and a representative one"*

### Dramatic Cantata

“Japhtha and His Daughter,” a dramatic cantata in three acts, will be presented at the First Baptist Church, Lexington, Thursday night, May 30th, at 8:45 o'clock. The proceeds are for the benefit of the Jackson Memorial Hospital and the colored cemetery. Special seats reserved for white visitors at 25 cents for adults and 15 cents for children. Price of admission, 10, 15, 25 cents. Reserved seats on sale at McCrum's Annex. J. D. Lewis is manager of the cantata.

### Decoration Day

Last Thursday, National Decoration Day, was observed in Lexington by the closing of the postoffice and banks, and special services at the First Baptist church, with addresses appropriate to the occasion. Afterwards a large procession, composed of the various organizations of colored people, such as fraternal societies and church organizations, marched to the colored cemetery and decorated the graves with flowers.

United States Decoration Day, May 30, 1907  
(Not on Confederate Memorial Day, June 3)  
Artistic, Civic, Religious, Commemorative Gatherings

# P R O G R A M

Searson, Mrs. K. W. McCormick, Mrs. M. R. Montgomery, Mrs. Ernestine Brown, Virginia Weller, Phyllis Cox, Margaret Ramsey, Helen Helms, May Cale, Helen Ramsey, Katherine Earhart, Mrs. E. L. Ott, Edith Davis, Grace Smith.

Members of the Mob: Treva Hockman, Lucile Fulwider, Peggy Agnor, Evelyn Koogler, Ruth Hockman, Anne Massie McCormick, Frances Fulwider, Charles Agnor, Thomas Hawpe, Sam Miley, Grey Campbell, Heywood Heiser, Lacey Whitmore, Powell Cox.

## EPISODE III

### A PLANTATION—1800

Lexington Nightingales: Mrs. H. L. Walker, Mrs. R. P. McQueen, Mrs. N. E. Wood, Mrs. L. C. Clark, Mrs. Susie Barber, Mrs. Hannah Wilson, Mrs. Helen White, Miss Cora Walker, C. M. Wood, Jas. McQueen, Grant Johnson, James Scott, W. A. Dock, Lewis Richardson, J. M. Wood, Alfred Scott, Albert Morrison, Perry Robinson.

Children: Randolph Wilson, Nannie Marie Wood, Bannister Dock, Bettie Joe Wood.

Lexington Clodhoppers: Wilson Dandridge, Isaiah Harris, George Alexander, C. A. Lewis, Harry Walker Wood.

## EPISODE IV

JULY, 1831

### Tableau A

The interior of the old forge shop on the McCormick homestead near Steele's Tavern, Virginia.

Cyrus Hall McCormick: Frank Weller.

Jo Anderson, negro helper: Harry Wilson.

### Tableau B

Outside the forge shop

Cyrus Hall McCormick: Graham Earhart.

Col. James McDowell: Charles Williams.

Capt. William Massie: W. E. Hawpe.

### Tableau C

(From painting by N. C. Wyeth: The Triumph of the World's First Reaper.

Cyrus Hall McCormick: Graham Earhart.

Raker: Harry Wilson.

Boy on Horse: John Steele.

Others in tableau: Charles Williams, Frank Weller, F. A. Ramsey, J. Ramsey, Lyle Humphries, S. D. Mangus, Ray Campbell, C. D. Davis, Lewis Smith, Robert Lucas, A. S. Helms, Maxwell Ramsey, Lacey Whitmore, W. D. Hoffman, A. B. Agnor, J. C. Fox, T. H. Lucas, Vincent Koogler, E. H. Fulwider, W. E. Hawpe, L. R. Koogler, Mrs. S. D. Mangus, Mrs. Walter Wilson, Miss N. G. Chittum, Mrs. W. C. McCormick.

## EPISODE V

### EVOLUTION OF GRAIN HARVESTING MACHINERY

1. Original McCormick Reaper—1831.

Minuet by the following young ladies from Fairfield High School: Mrs. Campbell Heiser, Anne McPadden, Annabelle Koontz, Kathryn Hawpe, Margaret Topping, Mary Sale, Elizabeth Ramsey, Elizabeth Firebaugh, Josephine Wiseman, Marjorie Agnor, Margaret Koontz, Sue Belle Sale, Josephine Garber, May Ella White, Talitha Harris, Mary Frances Taylor.

2. McCormick Hand-Rake Reaping and Mowing Machine—1857.

Pioneers with the covered wagon: W. B. Blackwell, Mrs. W. B. Blackwell, Stoner Mynes, Sam Miley, David Hockman, and four frontiersmen.

Raker on Machine: Walter Bennett.

Lexington Quartette: H. M. Read, R. C. Weaver, Hobart Ray, E. L. Graham.

3. McCormick "Old Reliable" Self-Rake Reaper.—1862.

# McCORMICK CELEBRATION



LOG SHOP ON WALNUT GROVE FARM, NEAR STEELE'S TAVERN, VIRGINIA

Washington and Lee University  
Lexington  
Virginia

SEPTEMBER 25, 1931

McCormick Reaper Centennial, 1931  
Charity Nightingales Perform  
"Plantation Episode" at W&L

## Aunt Chloe's Politics



Frances Ellen Watkins Harper - 1825-1911

Of course, I don't know very much  
About these politics,  
But I think that some who run 'em  
Do mighty ugly tricks.

I've seen 'em honey-fugle round,  
And talk so awful sweet,  
That you'd think them full of kindness,  
As an egg is full of meat.

Now I don't believe in looking  
Honest people in the face,  
And saying when you're doing wrong,  
That "I haven't sold my race."

When we want to school our children,  
If the money isn't there,  
Whether black or white have took it,  
The loss we all must share.

And this buying up each other  
Is something worse than mean,  
Though I thinks a heap of voting,  
I go for voting clean.



Frances Ellen Watkins Harper was born on September 24, 1825, in Baltimore, Maryland. She was a prominent abolitionist and temperance and women's suffrage activist, as well as a poet. She authored numerous books, including the poetry collections *Forest Leaves* (1845) and *Poems on Miscellaneous Subjects* (1854). She worked at Union Seminary in Ohio, and died on February 22, 1911 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Occasions

**black history month**

Themes

**audio**

**deception**

**identity**

**money**

**politics**

**public domain**

**teaching**

**thought**

Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, *Sketches of Southern Life: (1872)*  
Six "Aunt Chloe" Poems: Persona reworks Aunt Chloe from *Uncle Tom's Cabin*)

“Aunt Chloe’s Poems,” *Sketches of Southern Life*.  
Frances Ellen Harper Watkins, 1872

<https://rpo.library.utoronto.ca/poems/aunt-chloe>

“Frances W. Harpers’s Aunt Chloe Poems in *Sketches of Southern Life*:  
Antithesis to the Southern Plantation Tradition.”

Patricia Liggins Hill. *Mississippi Quarterly*, 1981

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/26474873?seq=1>

“*Minding our Cicero*”: 19<sup>th</sup>-Century African-American Women’s Rhetoric and the  
*Classical Tradition*.

UC Santa Cruz Diss., Heidi Morse, 2014

<https://escholarship.org/content/qt66m23223/qt66m23223.pdf>

2.109 Well, one morning bright and early  
 2.110 We heard the fife and drum,  
 2.111 And the booming of the cannon --  
 2.112 The Yankee troops had come.

2.113 When the word ran through the village,  
 2.114 The colored folks are free --  
 2.115 In the kitchens and the cabins  
 2.116 We held a jubilee.

2.117 When they told us Mister Lincoln  
 2.118 Said that slavery was dead,  
 2.119 We just poured our prayers and blessings  
 2.120 Upon his precious head.

2.121 We just laughed, and danced, and shouted  
 2.122 And prayed, and sang, and cried,  
 2.123 And we thought dear Uncle Jacob  
 2.124 Would fairly crack his side.

2.125 But when old Mistus heard it,  
 2.126 She groaned and hardly spoke;  
 2.127 When she had to lose her servants,  
 2.128 Her heart was almost broke.

2.129 'Twas a sight to see our people  
 2.130 Going out, the troops to meet,  
 2.131 Almost dancing to the music,  
 2.132 And marching down the street.

2.133 After years of pain and parting,  
 2.134 Our chains was broke in two,  
 2.135 And we was so mighty happy,  
 2.136 We didn't know what to do.

2.137 But we soon got used to freedom,  
 2.138 Though the way at first was rough;  
 2.139 But we weathered through the tempest,  
 2.140 For slavery made us tough.

2.141 But we had one awful sorrow,  
 2.142 It almost turned my head,  
 2.143 When a mean and wicked cretur  
 2.144 Shot Mister Lincoln dead.

2.145 'Twas a dreadful solemn morning,  
 2.146 I just staggered on my feet;  
 2.147 And the women they were crying  
 2.148 And screaming in the street.

2.149 But if many prayers and blessings  
 2.150 Could bear him to the throne,  
 2.151 I should think when Mister Lincoln died,  
 2.152 That heaven just got its own.

2.153 Then we had another President, --  
 2.154 What do you call his name?  
 2.155 Well, if the colored folks forget him  
 2.156 They wouldn't be much to blame.

2.157 We thought he'd be the Moses  
 2.158 Of all the colored race;  
 2.159 But when the Rebels pressed us hard  
 2.160 He never showed his face.

2.161 But something must have happened him,  
 2.162 Right curi's I'll be bound,  
 2.163 'Cause I heard 'em talking 'bout a circle  
 2.164 That he was swinging round.

2.165 But everything will pass away --  
 2.166 He went like time and tide --  
 2.167 And when the next election came  
 2.168 They let poor Andy slide.

2.169 But now we have a President,  
 2.170 And if I was a man  
 2.171 I'd vote for him for breaking up  
 2.172 The wicked Ku-Klux Klan.

2.173 And if any man should ask me  
 2.174 If I would sell my vote,  
 2.175 I'd tell him I was not the one  
 2.176 To change and turn my coat;

2.177 If freedom seem'd a little rough  
 2.178 I'd weather through the gale;  
 2.179 And as to buying up my vote,  
 2.180 I hadn't it for sale.

2.181 I do not think I'd ever be  
 2.182 As slack as Jonas Handy;  
 2.183 Because I heard he sold his vote  
 2.184 For just three sticks of candy.

2.185 But when John Thomas Reeder brought  
 2.186 His wife some flour and meat,  
 2.187 And told he had sold his vote  
 2.188 For something good to eat,

2.189 You ought to seen Aunt Kitty raise,  
 2.190 And heard her blaze away;  
 2.191 She gave the meat and flour a toss,  
 2.192 And said they should not stay.

2.213 You'd laughed to seen Lucinda Grange  
 2.214 Upon her husband's track;  
 2.215 When he sold his vote for rations  
 2.216 She made him take 'em back.

2.217 Day after day did Milly Green  
 2.218 Just follow after Joe,  
 2.219 And told him if he voted wrong  
 2.220 To take his rags and go.

2.221 I think that Samuel Johnson said  
 2.222 His side had won the day,  
 2.223 Had not we women radicals  
 2.224 Just got right in the way.

2.225 And yet I would not have you think  
 2.226 That all our men are shabby;  
 2.227 But 'tis said in every flock of sheep  
 2.228 There will be one that's scabby.

2.229 I've heard, before election came  
 2.230 They tried to buy John Slade;  
 2.231 But he gave them all to understand  
 2.232 That he wasn't in that trade.

2.233 And we've got lots of other men  
 2.234 Who rally round the cause,  
 2.235 And go for holding up the hands  
 2.236 That gave us equal laws,

2.237 Who know their freedom cost too much  
 2.238 Of blood and pain and treasure,  
 2.239 For them to fool away their votes  
 2.240 For profit or for pleasure.

[#] Aunt Chloe's Politics

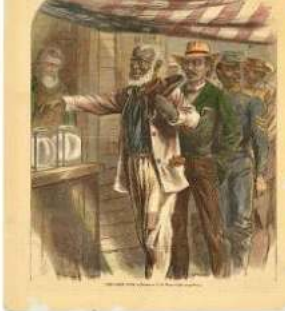
Harper/ Aunt Chloe (1872) *"The Deliverance":*  
 War – Emancipation – Reconstruction – Voting – Fraud

'At an early hour the "freedmen" began to pour into town ... They had laid aside the shovel and the hoe/and were bent on a holiday to commemorate their elevation to the dignity of voters.' - Richmond Dispatch, 1867

Black Men Take the Ballot

A Look Back At The Landmark 1867 Vote In Rockbridge

Editor's note: In our look back at past weeks' elections, we're taking a look back at another major election in our local and state history - the election in 1867 in which Black men were allowed to vote for the first time.



They must first vote. Alexander and Anderson, Downing, Evans, Gilman, Hamble, Moon, and Phelan; Barratt and Walker, fathers, sons, and brothers; St. Thomas, a hater of slaves; and many others. All are names still familiar within local families of both African and European descent.

These names are merely a few chosen from the 192 local African-American men who voted in the first Black Ballot on Oct. 22, 1867, in Lexington and Rockbridge.

What follows is an accounting of the landmark election, and portions of a local newspaper's coverage of the event. It is a story that is still being told today, two years after the end of the Civil War and the ratification of the 13th Amendment ending slavery, and over two years still ahead of the passage of the 15th Amendment, constitutionally affirming "universal" male suffrage as the law of the land.

ABOVE: The cover of Harper's Weekly from Nov. 16, 1867, includes a drawing by Alfred Thayer Tilden titled "The First Vote," part of the magazine's coverage of the first voting by Black men that fall. AT LEFT: are photographs of two local 1867 election winners: Alexander and Anderson, Downing, Evans, Gilman, Hamble, Moon, and Phelan; Barratt and Walker, fathers, sons, and brothers; St. Thomas, a hater of slaves; and many others. All are names still familiar within local families of both African and European descent.

For a window of nearly two decades, Virginia negotiated the arrival of a generation of multiracial male voters, politically influential church associations, newspapers and fraternal orders, and even Black delegates elected to the General Assembly...



Table with 3 columns: Name, Whites, Blacks, Total. Includes names like G. A. Baker, Union rep., and J. M. Sig.

ROCKBRIDGE. For the Convention, 141 Whites, 923 Blacks, Total 1,064. Against the Convention, 486 Whites, 521 Blacks, Total 1,007.

JOHN C. LINDBERGH, one of the 1867 Virginia Constitutional Convention voters, was a native New Yorker, abolitionist, and federal judge appointed by President Lincoln. He advocated that the new state constitution should not only extend Black suffrage of 40, but also white men's suffrage (3,000 men).

ABOVE are the 1867 voting returns for Rockbridge County, distinguishing Black and white voters for antiquated the new Constitutional Convention, and for the two delegates, With and Aberyria also in the district. Mr. Laughlin, the new state constitution should not only extend Black suffrage of 40, but also white men's suffrage (3,000 men).

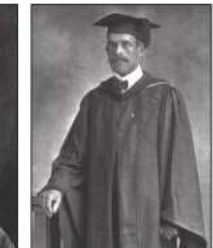
Electors for Rockbridge County, courtesy of the Library of Virginia.



GILBERT C. WALKER, "mascot of the balloters," was an African graduate from spending four years in the U.S. House of Representatives...



CORALIE FRANKLIN COOK (1861-1942) was born in Lexington in 1861. She was married to Langston Howard University professor...



CHARLES S. HARPER (1840-1935) earned degrees from Lincoln University, Morgan State Normal and Howard University...

'Bulldozing' And Disenfranchising

How Voting Rights Were Taken Away From Blacks

For a window of nearly two decades, Virginia negotiated the arrival of a generation of multiracial male voters, politically influential church associations, newspapers and fraternal orders, and even Black delegates elected to the General Assembly...

After seven the Rockbridge Historical Society is continuing its exploration of the local African-American history of the 1860s...

With recent funding support from Virginia Humanities and the Community Foundation of Rockbridge, South, and Allegheny, these archival and interpretive projects are building on exhibitions and investigations of 1860s...

Some of these initiatives parallel or complement the ongoing work of the Rockbridge Historical Society, which is currently working on a book...

Building off the comprehensive work of earlier researchers on the Lexington and Rockbridge counties of 1860 and 1870, these...



ABOVE: The "colored ballot box" used in King George County since 1867. AT LEFT, a receipt for the approval of a new Virginia state constitution in July 1862...

NO WHITE MAN TO LOSE HIS VOTE IN VIRGINIA. This Assurance Given by Men Who Are Most Competent to Speak with Authority.

A Meeting was Held in Richmond on October 27, 1861, at which Charles Ellwood, President and Hon. John Goetz and Mr. Montague Mace Spence - All Three Declared the Policy of the Opposition in Lexington That Season to be Marked. Great Satisfaction Achieved.

STAY CHAIRMAN ELLWOOD. In the western town Virginia - and western town Virginia - and western town Virginia...

The number of Virginia historians to the scene of the battle and the city...

School Ties And Social Networks

The Rise Of 'The New Negro' In The Age Of Jim Crow

This article looks at a re-examination of the social and political conditions that existed from 1865 to 1914...

'The New Negro' To many men, the phrase was a bit 'The New Negro' was a bit 'The New Negro'...

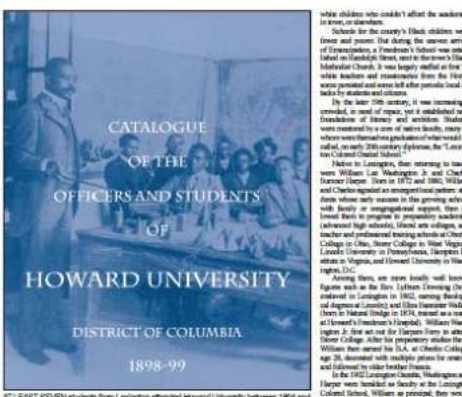
Commonly associated with an emergent Black middle class of writers, artists, educators and other professionals, the phrase was often associated with the Harlem Renaissance...

In the decades of 'The New Negro,' a 20th century diaspora of western Blacks in northern cities, the dream and rebirth of 'The New Negro'...

At LEAST SEVEN students from Lexington attended Howard University between 1864 and 1868, including Charles Harper.

More recently, the handling of the matter, especially new social activism and economic recovery all have in the wake of the 1960s...

See Page 10



At LEAST SEVEN students from Lexington attended Howard University between 1864 and 1868, including Charles Harper.

More recently, the handling of the matter, especially new social activism and economic recovery all have in the wake of the 1960s...



ABOVE: The 'Lexington Colored Grade School' (as seen in this circa 1920 photo from RHC Collection) on Franklin Street next to the Parkside Church...



← MENU



SUFFRAGE MAP

When the 1914 election for Second Ward alderman arrived, African American women turned out en masse, casting almost one-third of the votes for Oscar de Priest. He became Chicago's first Black alderman.

VOTE FOR

 **Oscar DePriest**

Regular Republican Candidate for

**ALDERMAN**

OF THE 2nd WARD

Endorsed by the Regular 2nd Ward  
Republican Organization PBS | AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

**Oscar De Priest: 1<sup>st</sup> Black Congressman Elected Outside the post-Reconstruction South (1928)**  
**Black Women's Crucial Advocacy for Local, State, National Black Candidates**  
(Smithsonian Digital Exhibit on Women's Suffrage)





**Virginia Federation of Colored Women: Eliza Walker, Rockbridge Chapter President  
June 30, 1921: First State Convention after the Passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment  
Pres. Walker Hosts at Blandome, First Baptist, Outing to Natural Bridge**

AUNT CHLOE QUARRELS OVER THE  
CAMPAIGN

By MRS. ELIZA WALKER

Well I thought I'd stop reading de papers for I  
couldn't bar de news—  
Chicago folks kept rumblin' and got things all  
confused.  
Now we ain't had no congressman, for thirty  
years or mo';  
And didn't anybody say a word, or even try  
to go.  
But DePriest got busy, while some ob dem  
made fun.  
Den eby Negro in de state thought he'd make  
a run.

Now while he is dare we's gwiner let him stay  
dare, and send mo';  
If you fool after dese birds in de bushes, you'll  
jes' let dis one go.  
Sure de bird dat's in de hand's worth all dem  
in de wood.  
Den 'spose you caught a dozen and none ob  
dem no good.  
And we shore don't want no poor bird dat you  
can't even fry,  
And we ain't gwine hab no congressman dat  
anyone kin buy.  
Lexington, Va

11  
Aunt Chloe Quarrels Over the  
— Campaign —  
Well I thought I'd stop reading de  
papers for I couldn't bar de news.  
Chicago folks kept grumblin and  
got things all Confused.  
Now we ain't had no Congressman  
for thirty <sup>seven</sup> years or more.  
And didn't any body say a word,  
Or even try to go.  
But DePriest got busy while some  
of dem made fun.  
Den eby Negro in the state thought  
he'd make a run.

Now while he is dare we's gwiner  
let him stay dare and send up  
some more.  
You know if you full after dese  
birds in de bushes you's  
gwiner let dis one go.  
Sure de bird dat's in de hand  
was worth all in de wood.  
Den 'spose you ~~had~~ caught a dozen  
and none ob dem no good.  
and we didn't want no poor bird  
dat you can't even fry.

Re-Working 'Aunt Chloe': Ventriloquizing a Black Woman's Persona, Poetic Voice, Politics  
Harriet Beecher Stowe (1851) → Frances W. Harper (1872) → Eliza B. Walker (1930)

And we didn't want no Congress man  
 Wat any body <sup>Ever</sup> could buy.

3

Sure while he's dare let him stay  
 Dare and send up another.

And see that you don't do a thing  
 To runder mind yo broder.

Why you's dis acting crazy folks  
 Had sense enough to know-

If dey got out dis time, dey wouldn't  
 Git back no more.

Shame on ~~you~~ Chicago, you had be  
 worlds eye on you.

And every Nation was watching  
 To see what you would do.

4

We know'd you wasn't doing no  
 Running with de hope of gittin a seat.

You was running for a tip off  
 And know'd you's quiner gif beat.

Den we know'd who told you to  
 Come git in dis boat.

Dis to be a meddlin and vide  
 up de vote.

and we aint quinner gif no where  
 as I as we los't stick.

Don't try to beat your own folk  
 But de oder fellaw lick.

page 15

Now Poso you will be a good boy  
 and no more try to foll.

jest don't let de oder party use you  
 For a tool.

Experiences might have been to  
 hear and dis was not de time.

For while you was a fooling, we  
 might come out behind.

And to every Negro in de state Im  
 talking right to you.

If dey aint got no job, git something  
 else to do.

All you got to do is lay low peep  
 high, there will be plenty vacant seats  
 in Congress by and by.

Why you could n't beat ble Priest, you  
 know about de matter.

When de Coalition party was about to  
 win and how he trade dem  
 shatter.

And dey only had de picture of him  
 and his wife.

Virginia folks got so scared  
and ran back for dey life.  
Talking about ~~going to~~ Congress  
jis cause de Priest is dar.  
you' praid he's having a good time.  
Dat's what you can't bar.  
why he's done more fighting  
in one year for us  
than ever Uncle Sam  
then if we need some body dare  
why sure he is de man.

<sup>5</sup>  
Now his is what I can't git over, out  
of hundreds more.  
Why dey af'er dis one man's job lab's  
what I want to know.  
Mr. abbot show'd good sense, I'll tell  
you de reason why.  
De price dat might have been offered  
wasn't enough to ~~try~~ buy  
all de negroes in de country out of a  
Birth right.  
He had better nibbled at dat hook  
before he took a bite.  
Then dar was Stefflin ready to put up  
another fight.  
About expenses to Congress for  
burning extra light.

9-Stanza Poem: Uncle Sam ~ Virginia ~ Chicago  
Highly Elaborated with both Historical and Generic Characters, Dialect

Dis funny world dat we live in,  
And we won't even know,  
Just what to say,  
And neder where to go;  
Last year dar was big dusturbance,  
Wes caught in dat trap,  
Al Smith and Hoover,  
Was de cause of dat.

Now dey ain't thinking 'bout us,  
But dey ought bear in mind  
De ole cow need her tail,  
More than one fly time;  
Why we jumped in dat scrimmage,  
Wid all our might and main,  
And helped to make de Publicans,  
President again.

We's still out in de back yard,  
And standing at de gate,  
Wid fifteen thousand voters,  
For "Mose" in de state:

## Eliza Walker: Political Satire in Dialect

'Publicans, Democrats, Negroes: Alliances? Splits?  
Who's Counting on Whom?

'Dead Republicans' (Lincoln, Grant, T. Roosevelt)

1928 Presidential Election:

Al Smith (D) vs. Herbert Hoover (R)

15,000 Black Virginia Voters Figured as Force

On Publicans and Negroes,  
Every time dey pass;  
Talking 'bout Social Equality,  
Dats jus' an alibi,  
We's had dat too much now,  
Ain't studdin 'bout dat lie.

Des great high taxes,  
A lookin' in your face,  
Plenty of jobs long to us,  
And de white folks got ur place;  
De white folks taking census,  
Of Negroes all ouer de state  
Welfare workers, civic nurses,  
You have dem on de slate.

Dar's Negro Education  
Who is de head of dat,  
All white juries on Negro criminals  
White polices at dey back;  
Less pay for Negro teachers  
Dis thing we think unfair,  
We'd like to tell it all  
But tis more than you can bear.

Yes, des here things we's grumblin'  
'bout

And even you know tis true,  
Taint none dat bunk you flinging 'round  
To get your party thru;  
But Democrats take notice  
For we's in dis boat,  
Wid fifteen thousand Negroes  
Dat's sure to keep her 'float.

Dere's Publicans all over de state  
Just taking Negroe's fare,  
Of all de thousand offices  
But few of dem dey share;  
Why dey ain't got no paper  
To even print de news,  
But leave it to de Democrats,  
To say just what dey choose.

You think we all is Publicans  
But let me get you told,  
Dis new Negro you's dealin' wid  
Can't fool him like de ole;  
Ain't gwine to follow no party  
We want you to understand,  
Less he's for equal opportunity  
And den a Christian man.

Mammy used to tell us  
De Publicans sot us free,  
But dey's all gone to heaven  
And dead as dey can be;  
And we ain't thinking 'bout Democrats  
Really taint worth while,  
No more business being de Governor  
Den some little nigger child.

Now, Ise thru my sermon  
Have nothing else to say,  
Will meet you at de poles  
On de lection day;  
And when all is over  
'Twill never be forgot,  
When all de Democrat Machine  
Be one little greasy spot.

—MRS. H. L. WALKER.

Lexington, Va.

The colored Democrats of Lexington are requested to meet at the residence of H. L. Walker Friday, Nov. 2, at 8:30 p. m.

You think we all is Publicans,  
But let me get you told,  
Dis new Negro you's dealin' wid  
Can't fool him like de ole;  
Mammy used to tell us  
De Publicans sot us free,  
But dey's all gone to heaven  
And dead as dey can be.

MRS. H. L. WALKER.

### Shifting Politics? Economic Shift (Crash of 1929)

1928: Republican Victory – Pres. Hoover Victory

1931: for Chicago Repub. Congressman Oscar De Priest

1932: Democrats' Victory - FDR (“Rusevelt” Poem)

## CONGRESSMAN OSCAR DE PRIEST

OF CHICAGO, ILLINOISE

Will Appear in Person at

First Baptist Church  
LEXINGTON, VA.



FRIDAY  
MAY 15th

at 8:30 P. M.

Admission 50c

First and Only Member of  
Colored Race to be elected  
to Congress of the U. S. in  
28 years.

Our White Friends are Cordially Invited

PRESENTED BY

Rockbridge Walker Federation  
of Colored Women's Club

Mrs. H. L. Walker, Pres.

Mrs. M. S. Jones, Secy

Yess I'm a bold star mother as bright as ever  
shined. it almaste broke my heart when day  
took dat boy of mine out on de Farm in a old log  
Coffin de kind was burning dim. I could hear de  
Hood of strangers. but never thought day wanted  
him. Now they are coming <sup>and near</sup> behold dat was a  
knock which de Chaind could hardly hold de old  
house dog as he began to bark.

dar was something strange in dat knock I  
never herd before. in my apron pocket I began to  
fumble an hour or more. Trying to find de pad lock  
to open de old front door. but now we as face  
de face a man all dressed in brown. ~~not~~ one we know  
so well the sheriff of our town. now he calm quiet  
lol we come for more you know what for. please dont  
take all de boy I got and send him of to war.

do you know my heart was drippers flood my eyes  
was even dry. I felt like ending my one life and  
just give up and die. ~~but~~ he was my one flesh and  
blood. I couldnt under stand. dat I had nothing  
to do <sup>with</sup> him he belonged to uncle Sam. den I thought  
of my poor mother and how her heart did fill  
I was put a feby when my father died at Sanger  
ville.



## Maternal Loss:

**Walker, "I'm A Gold Star Mother" (WW1)**  
**Harper's Aunt Chloe: White Mother loses Civil Son**

**Son Harry Thomas Walker d. 1914 (Age 17)**  
**Walkers then Adopted Son from DC**  
**Edwin T. Walker (ca. same age as Harry)**

Top Half:

**“I’m a Gold Star Mother” Last Stanza  
Genealogy Looks Back to an Enslaved Father  
Who Became a Soldier (US Colored Troops)**

Here she told the story  
and it was in the Civil War  
she says her mother too would tell the story  
that showed mother and children  
of how her father was a slave who got a  
Gold Star. and now days I think my  
boy I would not mind it so if my name  
was I'd say he ought to get  
and as he went away I watched him  
out of sight. and we never met no more  
since that fatal night

(Chorus) Everytime I feel the spirit  
My baby/Clay  
Quartet: Hump your self (Chorus) Bell  
Sermon (Solo): Please, I'll meet you  
has the train been gone  
Please don't drive away  
Duet

Bottom Half: Thoughts Partnered with Poetry

\*Notes for Musical Performances: Nightingales? Church?  
Quartet, Duett, Chorus  
Sermon

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99. Not Quality  
100. Not Quality

Upside Down: Next Slide



*How*  
1 Not Qualified  
2 we refused  
3. We visit the houses  
not example of thoughtfulness  
Dissimilarity is not that of that would meet the chief -  
indiscreet in his letters for the present of his <sup>very</sup> work

J. Ford, 537 South Dearborn St.  
Chicago, Ill.  
Church, cherries  
cup, carriage, carrier bags

**Address: 537 South Dearborn St., Chicago (what was it then?)**

**To: J. Ford (who is he? how does she know him?)**

5 blocks W. of Grant Park, now off Ida B. Wells Dr.

Downtown Redevelopment of The Loop

**A Fundraiser? (an invitation to Ford? Chicago advertising?)**

**First Baptist? Charity Work? Written Later?**

**Are These Proximate Thoughts to Poems?**

*“church, cherries, cup, carriage {...} carrier bags to sail [sale]”*

How  
 1 Not Qualified  
 2 I have visited the homes  
 3 I will visit the homes  
 not example of truthfulness  
 Purrsanality isn't that of that would elevate the Child -  
 indiscreat in h{elevation} {election?} the presen{ce} of girls and boys

J. Frank, Dept. 268  
 537 South Dearborn St.  
 Chicago, Ill.  
 Chas. L. Cherris  
 cup, carriage, grade  
 ...

**Visiting Children's Homes ~ Moral Notes: Reviewing Staff??**  
**Locally (as President)? Elsewhere (as Consultant?)**

Written on Back of 'Gold Star Mother'  
 n.b. Still Refining Transcription and Research

**"1. Not Qualified 2. I have visit{ed} the homes 3. Not example of Truthfulness**  
**4. Purrsanality isn't that of that would elevate the Child ...**  
**indiscreat in {h}elevation {election?} the presen{ce} of girls and boys"**

Your Duke Camel hear buy what you  
 crying <sup>about</sup> its time for you to go to school and  
 stand around here and put  
 go comb your wavy hair and wash your Face  
 and Hands. Spruce up and look like other  
 Boys <sup>Black</sup> you <sup>not</sup> <sup>miss</sup> your manners little  
 Man. now let my wife abey your tears what  
 hurts your little heart so. Speak up and tell your  
 Mamma she's de one to know <sup>when you lunch</sup>  
 you say your Breakfast was so sweet <sup>when you lunch</sup>  
 de bell will ring <sup>at</sup> your mother so busy was  
 hisse of your heart have a thing  
 why you can't have some Jam Jam when it is  
 time to eat.  
 dat is for more better for you than all dis bread  
 and meat  
<sup>day</sup>  
<sup>day</sup>  
<sup>day</sup>  
 when you eating Jam Jam's day fit your <sup>money</sup>  
 Puss

dis is what we looking for and say you  
~~eat~~ eat dem all your wice  
 Jam Jam's ant jinks but we budgy but  
 day save a de big days but every nutration is  
 to make your body strong. and say we save  
 your Groceries and what de <sup>you</sup> <sup>have</sup>  
 days tasted jis for Children but old folks eat dem  
 two day fit de <sup>1/2</sup> party same movement dat  
 dey give to you  
 now go on and study your lesson hun trust to sell  
 wis ~~and~~ be kind when you think of being <sup>happy</sup>  
 Jam Jam's jinks in mind  
 and I always had a middle you kin by de for any  
 where dem sold. Jimble time has been so hard  
 days with day weight in gold. you say de buy  
 all crowd and what a fight time be. When  
 a bag of Jam Jam's with  
 your Father died and left me with six small <sup>ready</sup> <sup>packages</sup>  
 to <sup>keep</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>have</sup> <sup>things</sup> <sup>de</sup> <sup>other</sup> <sup>folks</sup> <sup>de</sup> <sup>child</sup>  
<sup>poor</sup>  
 was <sup>of</sup> <sup>me</sup> <sup>and</sup> <sup>my</sup> <sup>poor</sup> <sup>de</sup> <sup>rest</sup> <sup>sometimes</sup>  
 drive de way away <sup>from</sup> <sup>me</sup> <sup>and</sup> <sup>my</sup> <sup>poor</sup> <sup>de</sup> <sup>rest</sup> <sup>sometimes</sup>

192  
 Lexington, Va.  
 Fresh and Cured Meats, Staple and Fancy Groceries  
 FRUITS and VEGETABLES  
 LEXINGTON MARKET  
 H. L. WALKER, President  
 C. M. WOODS, Secretary-Treasurer  
 J. M. WOOD, Manager

Lexington, Va.  
 Fresh and Cured Meats, Staple and Fancy Groceries  
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Eat your "Jam-Jams" Cookies! Advertising Jingle?  
 Note Lexington Market Stationery: Walker, Woods, Woods Proprietors, 1920s

They aint no count to us no how, its just a  
put up lie.  
So let us I put our local store go on and pay  
hem by.

If you are poorly clad, hungry white or black  
They want gin you a thing to eat or nothing on yo' back.

If by fire you lose your home or beg from  
do to do.

De only help you will get is from yo'  
local sto.

Den some you have de davity after spending  
yo' money dar,  
To go and ask yo' local store to help your  
burden share.

Yes, you'll do it, you aint a bit too kind,  
To pay de cash for what you git from hem on time,  
You'll pay cash for a bill or stuff, carry it to a  
local store.  
Den by a little from him on time so he'll carry  
it all to yo' door.

II.

If you are poorly Claded, hungry white or  
black

They want gin you a thing to eat or nothing  
on your back.

If by fire you lose your home or beg from  
do to do, De only help you git is from your  
local sto.

Den some you have de davity after spending  
yo' money dar, to go and ask yo' local store to  
help your troubles share.

Yes you will do it.

You aint a bit too kind to pay de

Best  
no B. King  
Feed de other to  
to

**Shop Local!**

(... but don't presume too much on the Local Store Owner's credit)

**Rusevelt dun just what he sayed**

**When we were hungray he gave us bred...  
he grabed this countray in his fist  
and turned it around without a miss  
he started the wheels to ring(?) fast  
then the people a new hold did grasp**

**President Roosevelt as new Savior (post-1932)**

**How do we read this Politically? Economically?  
Business & Fundraising during Great Depression?**

Rusevelt ~~did~~ <sup>dun</sup> just what he sayed  
when we were hungray he gave us bred  
we were a waste homeless he stoped <sup>the pain</sup>  
and made us all sarn good pair  
he grabed this Countray in his fist  
and turned it around without a miss  
he started the wheels to ring fast  
then the people a new hold did grasp  
that never was a man in years  
that ~~shed~~ <sup>shed</sup> so many bitter tears  
see now was a ~~heart with bitter sub~~  
~~may a~~  
what president at the white house <sup>with eyes</sup>  
whose heart went out for human being  
he forgot him self and <sup>his</sup> royal life  
to care for suffer <sup>of</sup> every <sup>in</sup> his life  
the factory was closed and windows out  
engravings was used what its all about  
but now they arising a from new sarn  
we will all be <sup>working</sup> and it wont be long  
the first ~~out~~ <sup>on the three side</sup>  
while the old dont out on the three side <sup>the</sup>  
fit for nothing but a pile of wood  
and not a ray of light  
in darkness  
When the whole country was <sup>in</sup>



**“Lexington Colored Graded School”: S. Randolph St. next to Methodist Church**

**Opened as Freedmen’s School, 1865, until Lylburn Downing School Built: 1927-1965  
Eliza Bannister may have attended (only through 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, per grandson)**

**Opportunity for a Number of Lexington Children, after Emancipation  
Education and “The Rise of the New Negro” → African-American Armor & Aspiration**

The Board ordered a bonus to be paid the teachers for the present session and fixed the scale of salaries for the next session as given in the following list of teachers with the amounts after each name:

		Bonus 1919-20	Salary 1920-21
	H. Waddell, Prin	\$175.00	\$2600. per yr.
H.S.	Miss Richeson	95 64.00	110.00 " "
	" Carter	60.00	104.00 " "
	" Rowe	60.00	104.00 " "
	" Drame	90 60.00	104.00 " "
	" Parson	80 52.00	92.00 " "
G.S.	" Daniels	75 49.00	80.00 " "
	" Wiley	70 45.00	80.00 " "
	" Pustou	75 49.00	80.00 " "
	" Penhilton	45.00	80.00 " "
	" Grosseclase	85 56.00	101.00 " "
Col'd Sch.	Mrs. Rowland	55 17.50	60.00 " "
	Laura Price	40 17.50	45.00 " "
	Kissie Banks	40 17.50	45.00 " "
	Nellie White	40 17.50	45.00 " "
	Margaret Brown	40 17.50	45.00 " "
	Mrs. H.L. White music teacher		\$400 per yr.

1 = accepted

Adjourned. H. Waddell, Clerk.

Agnes Adair 46.00 per mo. Lucy Lindsey 80.00  
Francis Glasgow 93.00 " "

# Lexington Colored Graded School

LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA

Robert Lee Clark

having completed the prescribed Course of Study for

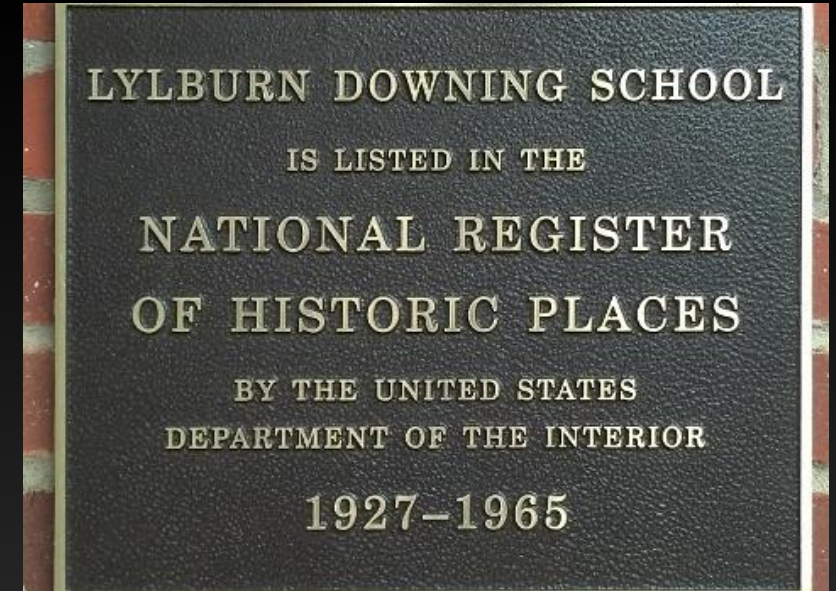
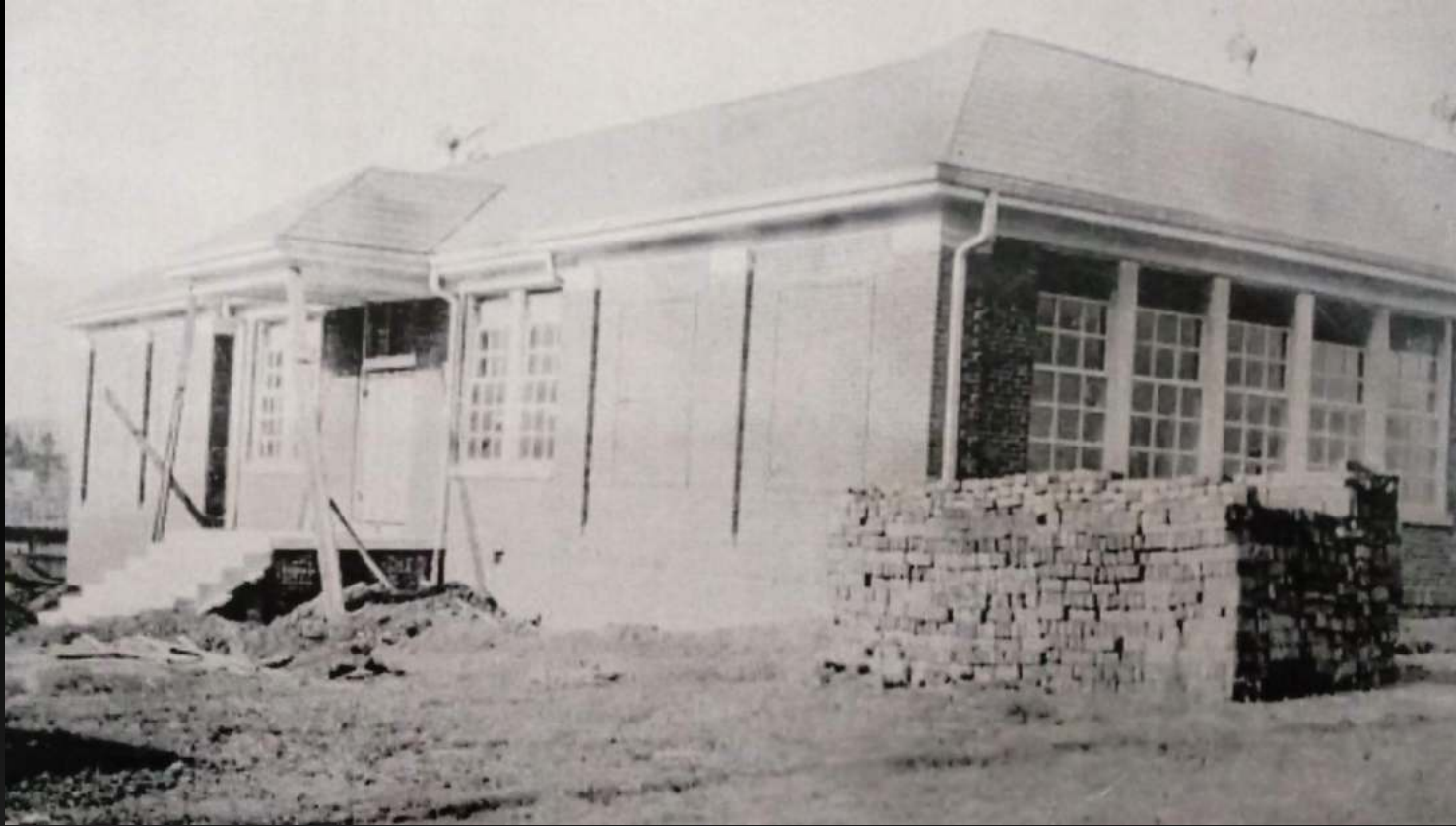
Grammar Grades in this School is hereby declared a Graduate of the Lexington Colored Graded School.

In testimony whereof this Certificate is now presented to him

Given at Lexington, Virginia, this 12th day of May, 1914

W. N. P. Harris, Principal.

1920 Lex School Board Minutes, Teacher Salaries: Median White \$104, Median Black \$45  
Nannie and Harry T. Walker Attended Graded Grammar School  
She went to Richmond for Additional Schooling



**Lylburn Downing School: Opened Same Year as New White Lexington High School (1927)  
Extended Beyond Grade School, but not Full HS Diplomas  
Now Community Center, Lex School Board Offices**



## Petition to the Lexington School Board to Permit the Hiring of a Teacher at Lylburn Downing to Teach the Third Year of High School

This is to certify that we the undersigned parents of the pupils who completed the work at the Lylburn Downing last June, have agreed to pay a teacher for the school year 1932-33 if we can get another year advance work.

We have agreed to have the sum of \$55.00 collected in advance, and turned over by our chairman to the School Board. The teacher to be under the supervision of the Board as the others.

We will appreciate the Board granting us this request, as it is needed now as never before, because of the inability during these times to send our children elsewhere.

Please let us know the cost of equipment in consideration for the advanced year requested and we will try to

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We will appreciate the Board granting us this request, as it is needed now as never before, because of the inability during these times to send our children elsewhere.

Please let us know the cost of equipment in consideration for the advanced year requested, and we will try to meet the demand. We will do anything cheaper than sending our children away.

Signed:

Sylvester Evans  
Mrs. H. L. Walker  
James Coleman  
Roxie Hughes

P.S. The above agreement is to finding to amount of \$5.00 per person.

meet the demand. We will do anything cheaper than sending our children away.

Signed:

Sylvester Evans  
Mrs. H. L. Walker  
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**Mrs. H.L. Walker Campaigns to Build New "Colored High School" (Lylburn Downing, 1927)  
Continues Campaign to Hire More Faculty (Self-Funded by Parents, not City Taxes) to Offer Full HS Degrees  
1932: Height of Great Depression → Note Parents' Readiness to Sacrifice \$\$ or Send Kids Away**



SEVENTH GRADE - Sponsor: Mrs. Laura Etta P. Gilmore

*Aspects of Black Religious  
and Educational Development in  
Lexington, Virginia, 1840-1928*

Theodore C. DeLaney, Jr.

**W**RITING in the *Negro History Bulletin* in 1939, Carter G. Woodson, a noted black educator, stated, "A definitive history of the Negro Church . . . would leave practically no phase of the history of the Negro in America untouched."<sup>1</sup> This quote provided great inspiration for me as I searched for a place to begin the task of compiling a history of black people in the Lexington area. The history which follows is by no means complete but represents a mere scratch of the surface.

The churches in Lexington which date from ante-bellum days all have histories which included attempts at slave evangelization. While such evan-

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*Theodore C. DeLaney, Jr.*, was a technical assistant in the Biology Department at Washington and Lee University at the time he made his address at the First Baptist Church in Lexington on January 26, 1981. He revised his paper for this publication in 1989, while a graduate student in history at the College of William and Mary. He is the great-grandson of the architect, contractor, and builder of the Randolph Street Methodist Church.

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1. Carter G. Woodson, "The Negro Church, an All-Comprehending Institution," *The Negro History Bulletin* 3 (October 1939): 7.

**Lylburn Downing School 1956, with Ted DeLaney (front R): Downing '61; W&L, '85  
DeLaney's Article Given as 1981 RHS Talk, While Working as W&L Lab Tech, Adult Student**



**Theodore C. DeLaney, Jr. (1943-2020)**  
**‘A Walker Legacy’**

**Lexington Native, Lylburn Downing’ 61, W&L B.A. History ‘85, William & Mary PhD ‘95  
Chair, W&L History Dept; Co-Founder, Africana Studies Program; Mentor**



**You Can't Live Always.**  
 Dead the Genesis so plain,  
 God made mountains then he made man,  
 It tell us as we read on down,  
 Moses our leader in the wild west land.

**CHORUS:**  
 I know you can't live always,  
 No you can't live always,  
 You can't live always,  
 You can't want to die in the Egypt Land.

Pharaoh was a wicked man,  
 He didn't obey my God's command;  
 There was a rod that railed the foot,  
 And all the water turned to blood.

The midnight hour the angel came,  
 They would not reverence Jehovah's name,  
 All through the land went the greatest cry,  
 All the first born had to die.

Perused Egyptians on the day,  
 To overtake them on their way,  
 But Moses' hand was on the rod,  
 And still and see the glory of God.

Then God told Moses what to do,  
 Lead the children, lead them through,  
 He led them down to the water's side,  
 He spoke to the water and the water divide.

There was another prophet came,  
 They say that Jesus was His name,  
 An honorable manger in His cradle,  
 And His birth place was in a stable.

He healed the sick and raised the dead,  
 They say the multitude was fed,  
 The lame did walk, the blind did see,  
 He treaded the waves in Galilee.

'Twas at the supper Jesus said  
 One of you shall betray;  
 But won't to him that an demand,  
 To betray the Son of Man.

Luke and John said Lord is it I?  
 Matthew and Mark said Lord is it I?  
 But the Savior said, wait and see,  
 It's the one that dips in the dish with me.

This meek and humble, gentle Lamb,  
 Gave His life for sinners' sake,  
 That your sinners might look and live,  
 And that the Scriptures would be fulfilled.

And then he said, I am not dead,  
 I am lying here suffering your pain,  
 Then the angel of God came down,  
 Rolled back the stone, great was the sound.

Jesus Christ rose up out of the tomb,  
 The Roman soldiers heard their doom,  
 And to His Father I hear Him say,  
 I am coming again at judgment day.

*Years I'm a bold star mother as bright as ever  
 I shined - it almost broke my heart when day  
 took out my eye - I was on de farm in a old big  
 Coffin de white was burying dim - I could hear de  
 tread of strangers - but never thought day I wanted  
 time - now they are coming - new-fangled had was a  
 know - which de chains could hardly hold de old  
 house dog as he begins to bark*

*dar was something strange in dat knotch I  
 never had before - in my apron pocket I begins to  
 fumble an hour or more - trying to find de pad lock  
 key to open de old front door - but now we an false  
 to face a man all dressed in brown - ~~red~~ <sup>one we know</sup>  
 as well de sheriff of our ~~town~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~now he~~ <sup>Color</sup> ~~ghost~~ <sup>ghost</sup>  
 lalal come for more you know what I an - please don't  
 take all de day I got and send him of to war*

*de year know my heart was drippers flood My eye  
 was in dry - I felt like ending my one life and  
 just give up and die - ~~with~~ <sup>with</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~my~~ <sup>my</sup> ~~one~~ <sup>one</sup> ~~life~~ <sup>life</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup>  
 flood - I couldnt under stand - dat I had nothing  
 to do with him he belonged to imble de am - den I thought  
 of my poor mother and how her heart did fill  
 with pain - but a pupy when my father died at my  
 side.*

Mr. Jackson was well known in  
 Lexington as well as Leesburg. He  
 was a very energetic man. He was  
 a wife, who was Miss Alice Ross, of  
 Lexington; two sons, Raymond and  
 Tremont; a father, and two brothers,  
 all of Leesburg.

Mr. J. A. Martin, according to school  
 records in Leesburg Saturday night  
 and leaves his two weeks service Satur-  
 day morning at the Baptist Church. His  
 mantle is only a paper cover. His two  
 services Sunday were tereal, stirring,  
 and uplifting. In the morning his sub-  
 ject was "Preper"; last, "Man Ought  
 Always Pray and Not Fail"; in the  
 evening his subject was "Living Jesus."  
 Mrs. Martin's manner in the pulpit is  
 pleasing and his delivery excellent. To  
 appreciate him is to love him.

Mrs. Anne Jones has taught the prep-  
 aratory on the corner of Chesnut and  
 Nelson Streets, known as the Sun Hill  
 mansion property. She has married into  
 it.

Mr. and Mrs. Thompson, and Mr.  
 Henry, of Leesburg, married in Lee-  
 sburg Sunday and went the day with  
 Mrs. Coraella Washington, Mrs. Thompson's  
 mother.

Mrs. Mattie Kenney was in Lexington  
 Sunday. She was driving her Chervo-  
 let car. She had with her Miss Grace  
 Burton and Mr. Henry, of White Sul-  
 phur.

Mrs. Effieann Dandrige spent a few  
 days in Leesburg last week.

Mrs. Lily Carter who has been in  
 West Virginia and Atlantic City for the  
 past year is with her aunt, Mrs. Corro  
 Wright, on Monday.

Miss Lily Moore is visiting her moth-  
 er, Mrs. Fanny Moore, in Centerville  
 Heights.

The happy world that we live in  
 And so won't we ever leave,  
 Just what to we,  
 And under where to go;  
 Last year dar was big destruction,  
 We ought in de city,  
 At Smith and Hoover,  
 Was de name of dar.  
 How dar ain't thinking 'bout us,  
 But dar ought hear in mind  
 De old one need her talk,  
 More than one de story;  
 Why we jumped in dat aviation,  
 And went just at de risk,  
 And letted to make de Pullman,  
 President again.

We're still out in de back yard,  
 And standing in de yard,  
 Wid Hiram Sherman voters,  
 For "Hiram" is de name.

REV. C. H. HARRIS  
 Weymouth, Virginia

On Pullman and Negroes,  
 Early time dey was  
 Taking 'em back Equality,  
 Dere jst an ally.  
 We had dar to teach now,  
 Ain't shudlin' 'bout dar to.

De great light dar,  
 A boddy in your face,  
 Plenty of love lang to us,  
 And de white folks got us share;  
 De white folks taking money,  
 Of Negroes all over de state  
 Widout workers, civic sense,  
 You hear dar on de stage.

Dar's Negro Education  
 Who is de head of dar,  
 All white folks on Negro education  
 White folks at dar back,  
 Low pay for Negro workers  
 De thing we think unfair,  
 We'd like to sell it all  
 But de more than you can hear.

Yes, dar here things we's granting  
 'bout  
 And even you know de way,  
 Dar more dar back you fighting 'bout  
 'bout  
 To get your party share;  
 De Democratic side notice  
 For we's in de heat.  
 Wid fifteen thousand Negroes  
 Dar's a more to keep her 'bout.

Dar's Pullman all over de state  
 Last taking Negro's fare,  
 Of all de thousand dollars  
 Dar few of den dey share;  
 Why dey ain't get no paper  
 De even jst in de street,  
 But hear in de Democrat,  
 To say just what dey choose.

Yes, dar more in de Pullman  
 But let us get you talk,  
 De new Negro's double 'wid  
 Can't find has dar de car,  
 Ain't goner to follow on party  
 De new Negro's double 'wid  
 Can't find has dar de car,  
 Ain't goner to follow on party  
 De new Negro's double 'wid  
 Can't find has dar de car,  
 Ain't goner to follow on party

Mamma need to tell us  
 De Pullman not so long,  
 But dey's all gone to heaven  
 And find an day can be;  
 And we ain't thinking 'bout Democrat  
 Really talk worth while,  
 No more business being de Democrat  
 Dey some little singer child.

Now, in three my session  
 Hiram making dar to say,  
 Will meet just at de risk,  
 De de Justice day;  
 Just when all is over  
 'Twill never be forgot,  
 When all de Democrat Machine  
 De one little singing now.  
 —Mrs. H. L. WALKER  
 Leesburg, Va.

To the Public:  
**The Colored Soldier's Appeal**  
 HELP THE SUFFERING OF OUR RACE

Buy a Memorial Block and Help us to Take Care  
 of the Colored Old Folks and Newby Orphan Children.  
 We are Asking Someone to Educate Little Violet.

Violet Mrs. H. L. Walker Virginia  
 An Orphan Folk Pres. of Leesburg's Old Cannot Walk Cannot Talk  
 Born without Hands Folks Home of Orphanage

MEMORIAL BLOCK

Envisioning Eliza ... "Who Tells Your Story?" ... Community, Politics, Poetry, Music, Family

Eric Wilson, RHS Executive Director

Director for History, VA Association of Museums

[Director@RockbridgeHistory.org](mailto:Director@RockbridgeHistory.org)



[RockbridgeHistory.org](http://RockbridgeHistory.org)