



Stories



A Tribute to Naomi Kersey-Banks



A Recap of Irene Moore Davis' Emancipation presentation



A Call for Military photos

About Us

The Amherstburg Freedom Museum is a curated archive that preserves and shares Amherstburg's stories of the Underground Railroad, and the compassion and solidarity it took to make this network possible.

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A Tribute to Naomi Kersey-Banks

We are saddened by the news of the passing of Naomi Kersey-Banks on July 19th, 2020. Naomi was the wife of Carl and mother of Michelle, Debra and Michael. We had the privilege of speaking with Naomi's son Michael who told us about his mother's amazing life. According to Michael, Naomi dedicated many years as a nurse in the operating room at Metropolitan Hospital in Windsor and retired in 1996. She was also heavily involved in the church and at age 17, Bishop C.L. Morton Sr. appointed her as Minister of Music and Director of the Sunshine Band and Young People at Mount Zion Church. She also travelled with Bishop C.L. Morton Sr. as a MC and Director of the young adult choir and was part of a singing group with Ruby Morton, Bishop C.L. Morton Jr., Rev. George Morton, Clarence Leslie Jr., and Marilyn Kersey. They were called the Gospel Travelers and they sang all over, on behalf of Mount Zion. According to Michael, his mother also shared the podium with Mahalia Jackson, Vicky Winans, Rebecca Bell Armstrong, Dr. Mattie Moss Clark, The Clark Sisters, The Staple Sisters, and The Edwin Hawkins Singers. She was also a pianist for the Junior Jewels and played piano for the Mount Zion Radio Program on CKLW and SHUM Toronto.



Impressively, at the age of 30, Naomi gave the eulogy at Bishop C.L. Morton Sr.'s funeral at Greater Mount Zion Tabernacle Church in Detroit. She was told that she was the only person who could properly honour him. Michael adds that his mother put together several choirs, one of which went to Expo 67 in Montreal called the Unique Ontario Coral. Michael also mentioned that

Naomi met Rosa Parks at an event where she (Naomi) was the MC. Naomi meant so much to so many people and was the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Metropolitan Detroit Area Fellowship Choir. In 2005 she was also honoured by Mayor Eddie Francis for her dedication to the community and for fostering the community's cultural heritage. Michael ended our conversation by mentioning how much he appreciates the many phone calls from people telling him how much his mother meant to them.



The Talking Drum

The Talking Drum is published monthly by the Amherstburg Freedom Museum. Contributions, story ideas, suggestions and feedback are always welcome. Please contact Mary-Katherine Whelan at curator@amherstburgfreedom.org

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A Recap of Irene Moore Davis' Emancipation Presentation

On Friday, July 31st the Amherstburg Freedom Museum, in partnership with the Essex County Black Historical Research Society, celebrated Emancipation Day with a presentation by author, educator, activist, and local historian Irene Moore Davis who presented "Emancipation in Windsor: Celebrating Black Activism and Achievement." Irene spoke about key figures and annual activities, the political side of *Progress*, and the significance of this yearly celebration.

If you missed Irene's presentation, click here to watch - <https://www.facebook.com/AmherstburgFreedom/videos/328838134823776> . Irene also provided a list of book suggestions including:



Natasha Henry - Emancipation Day: Celebrating Freedom in Canada

Natasha Henry - Talking About Freedom: Celebrating Emancipation Day in Canada

Jeffrey R. Kerr-Ritchie - The Rites of August First: Emancipation Day in the Black Atlantic World

You can also search old local newspapers such as the *Provincial Freeman*, *Voice of the Fugitive*, *Amherstburg Echo*, *Essex Free Press*, *Essex Record*, *Windsor Evening Record*, and *Border Cities Star*. These newspapers have articles about Emancipation Day Celebrations. Here's the link <http://ink.ourdigitalworld.org/titles>

A Call for Military Photos

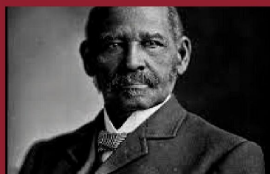
Attention families of service members! The Amherstburg Freedom Museum is looking for photos of family members who served in the military for a special project. If you have photos to lend, please contact curator@amherstburgfreedom.org



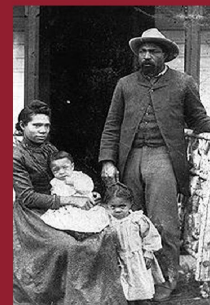
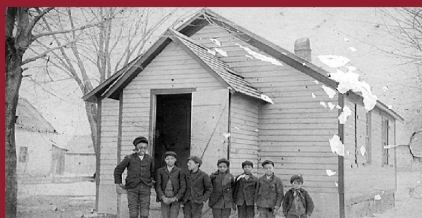


“Establishing Black Power Settlements on Canadian Soil”

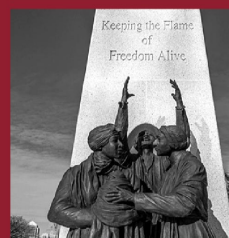
Join us on Thursday, August 13th at 2pm for our next Facebook Live presentation “Establishing Black Power Settlements on Canada Soil—From the East Coast to the West Coast” given by educator, Rainford Cornish - <https://www.facebook.com/>



AMHERSTBURG FREEDOM MUSEUM HOSTS A PRESENTATION BY EDUCATOR RAINFORD CORNISH



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**Anna Louella (Talbot) White - In Loving Memory - Your
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