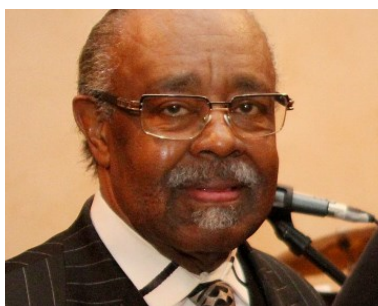




## Stories



### ***Remembering Donald Harris***



### ***A Tribute to Bishop C.L. Morton Jr.***



### ***Ribs and Ragtime Cancelled***

## 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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**May 2020**



## Remembering Donald Harris



It is with great sadness that we share the news that long-time museum supporter Donald Harris passed away peacefully on Saturday March 28th, just shy of his 100th birthday.

Donald was born in Amherstburg on April 25th, 1920 and was the son of Sadie Allen and David Leonze Harris. Donald's family history in Essex County goes back many generations, beginning with Jeremiah Harris who was born in Kentucky circa 1807 and fought for the Crown in the 1837-1838

Upper Canada Rebellion.

Jeremiah Harris was especially known for his teamster work on the streets of Amherstburg, particularly during the snowy winter months. The *Amherstburg Echo* mentions "Jeremiah Harris and his team of two powerful horses were under contract with the town to scrape and sweep the streets of the 'Burg in the summer and clear snow in the winter." Jeremiah and his wife Elizabeth also owned a farm in Colchester and their family's roots in Essex County have continued to grow ever since.



"Donald was well known for many things, namely his signature forehead kisses, his stories, his years at Allied Chemical (where he was retired for over 50 years), his love of dancing, the love he had for his church family." We would also like to add his personal style was always something to remember.



The Museum Board and Staff are also grateful to have had the opportunity to present Donald with the Museum's "Father of the Year Award" this past February and we could not think of a better person to receive this award.

Donald will be greatly missed by all who knew him, and we are sending love to his wife Janice, and his family and friends during this difficult time.

## 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](mailto:curator@amherstburgfreedom.org)

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## A Tribute to Bishop C.L. Morton Jr.



On Saturday, April 11th, we said goodbye to another pillar of the community, *Bishop C.L. Morton Jr.* who was the pastor of Mount Zion Full Gospel Church in Windsor since 1962. Mount Zion Church was founded by his father Bishop Clarence Leslie Morton Sr. and Bishop Morton Jr. continued a tradition of giving back to the community, both inside and outside of the church.



Bishop C.L. Morton Jr.

Bishop Clarence Leslie Morton Sr., founded Mount Zion Church which regularly held baptismal ceremonies in the Detroit River as part of their annual River



Bishop C.L. Morton Sr.

Baptismal Service. It was Bishop Morton Sr. who directed the full immersion baptisms which symbolized washing away the old and beginning a new life. These baptisms attracted large audiences to the riverfront, especially during the 1940s and 1950s (see newspaper image at bottom). Interestingly, at Mount Zion Church in Windsor, Elder Morton became the first Black minister to conduct a radio broadcast on Windsor's CKLW. His popular radio broadcast aired on CKLW-AM 800 beginning in 1936, and aired twice a week. Listeners would tune in and hear his complete church service with the popular Radio Chorus. After 30 years, the radio show moved and was aired on WGPR in Detroit. Bishop Morton Sr. was involved in broadcasting for an impressive 42 years. Additionally, he also founded the Greater Mount Zion Tabernacle in Detroit.

When Bishop Morton Sr. passed away in 1962, Bishop C.L. Morton Jr. took over the responsibility of Mount Zion Church, becoming one of the youngest Bishops in the country at age 20. It has been said that Bishop C.L. Morton Jr. was ahead of his time because he was among the first to ordain women as ministers or to have them serve on his church councils at Mount Zion, in addition to going out of his way to welcome those from different cultures and backgrounds into the church.



He also strongly supported education and made a positive impact on countless students. His wife Yvonne said "He was just a man of God that really lived what he preached, the word was all he lived for." We are sending love to his wife Yvonne and his family and friends during this difficult time.



## Ribs and Ragtime Cancelled

Dear Amherstburg Museum Supporters and Friends,

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Amherstburg Freedom Museum Board of Directors has decided to **cancel** *Ribs and Ragtime* this year.

*Ribs and Ragtime* is one of the Museum's signature fundraising events. An outdoor garden party featuring a delicious meal of ribs and chicken accompanied by live music and good company hosted on the Museum grounds.

This signature fundraising event helps keep the Museum doors open to the public, keeps the lights on and employs staff to facilitate and educate visitors on the importance of the underground railroad in this region and the legacy of those freedom seekers who made the perilous journey to freedom in Canada.

As the future is still uncertain, we ask that if you were planning on purchasing tickets for our *Ribs and Ragtime* event, to please consider donating to the Amherstburg Freedom Museum. Donations over \$10 will receive a tax receipt.

Everyone please stay safe!

Donations can be made online at [amherstburgfreedom.org/donate](https://amherstburgfreedom.org/donate) or can be sent by mail to;

Amherstburg Freedom Museum  
277 King Street  
Amherstburg, ON  
N9V 2C7

We thank you for your understanding and continued support.

With Sincere Thanks,

*Barbara Porter*

Barbara Porter  
Vice-President and Fundraising Chair  
Amherstburg Freedom Museum





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*Please note that as of January 2014, we cannot provide a tax receipt for subscription dues. Should you prefer a tax receipt, please indicate that you wish to make a donation instead. Subscription privileges will not apply.*



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