



## Stories

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**Congratulations  
Dr. Phil  
Alexander!**



**Congratulations  
Cari-Lynn!**



**Honouring  
Those Who  
Served**

## About Us

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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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**November 2022**



## Congratulations Dr. Phil Alexander!



Congratulations to Amherstburg Freedom Museum Board Director Phil Alexander who received an Honourary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Windsor on Saturday, October 15th! We are so proud of Phil and all of his accomplishments! Congratulations Dr. Alexander!

## Congratulations Cari-Lynn!



On October 7th, Cari-Lynn Ristic received the Outstanding Achievement Award as a Technology All-Star at the Women of Color STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics) Conference in Detroit, Michigan. Technology All Stars are accomplished Women of Color with 22 Years or more experience that have achievements in technology and demonstrated excellence in the workplace and their communities.

## Thank you Charitable Gaming Windsor & Paradise Gaming Centre



Amherstburg Freedom Museum would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to **Charitable Gaming Windsor** and **Paradise Gaming Centre** for their continued support. Throughout the years, they have helped us keep the Museum open and running, and allowed for us to continue to offer our programming throughout the pandemic. Thank you!

## 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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## Honouring Those Who Served

As Remembrance Day approaches we wanted to highlight a few of the many Black veterans who served and protected our country. We are grateful for their sacrifice and service.



**Private Wilson Oliver Brooks** was born in Windsor, Ontario in 1925. He enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force on April 26, 1943 and trained at No. 5 Bombing and Gunnery School in Dafoe, Saskatchewan. He was one of the first Black commissioned officers in the RCAF to serve in a bomber squadron during WWII and earned the rank of Flying Officer at the age of 19, in 1944. He received his wings and was honorably discharged in 1945. He was also a civil rights advocate and formed the Toronto Negro Veteran's Association which, in 1947, put public pressure on cases of discrimination, including the exclusion of Black women who wanted to become nurses. Additionally, he fought for pensions for veterans and became the first Black male teacher and principal in Toronto. Written with assistance from Shantelle Browning-Morgan and Catherine MacDonald. Photo courtesy of Kathy Grant of Black Canadian Veterans Stories.



**Private John Andrew Taylor** was born in Maidstone, Ontario (now Lakeshore) on November 29, 1919, and enlisted on October 7, 1941 to help feed his family. He was part of the Royal Canadian Ordnance Core (RCOC) which produced and maintained munitions, trucks, bombs, bullets, etc. On January 29, 1945, he transferred to the Lincoln Welland Regiment (RCIC) where he was part of a campaign to push the German military out of the Netherlands. He passed away the following month on February 28, 1945. Written with assistance from Shantelle Browning-Morgan and Catherine MacDonald. Photo courtesy of the AFM.



**Private Milton Augustus Adams** was born in Amherstburg, Ontario on October 1, 1893, and was the son of William Henry Adams and Laura Ann Holton. He served in the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) during WWI, enlisting at London, Ontario, on February 25, 1918 as part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Depot Battalion, Western Ontario Regiment. He served in England and France and returned from war in May 1919. Upon his return, he worked as a metal worker. Photo courtesy of Kathy Grant of Black Canadian Veterans Stories.



**Private Morris Howard Harding** was born and raised in Windsor, Ontario, and he volunteered his services in 1943, training as a sharpshooter in the Royal Canadian Regiment at Camp Borden near London, Ontario. After shipping out from Pier 21, in Halifax, Private Harding fought on the European frontier in England, France, Belgium, Germany and Holland. Harding worked in *Stores* while serving. He took part in liberating Jewish prisoners at Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp. Post WWII, Private Harding took training to become an Electrician at the old Army Barracks on Drouillard Road in Windsor. Truly motivated, he finished training in only one and a half years to gain his master electrical status. In March 1947, possessing only a silver dollar, a horse and buggy, Harding and his wife Ruth (Henderson) opened Harding Electric. The company operated for over 41 years and Harding trained fourteen apprentices including his daughter Shelley who became Canada's first Black female Electrician and first Black female Master Electrician. Hundreds of the homes and businesses in Windsor and Essex/Kent Counties were upgraded to 100 and 200 amp services by Harding Electric including the homes of many brother Veterans. Written with assistance from Elise Harding-Davis.



## No. 2 Construction Battalion: A Family's Journey

Join us on Wednesday, November 9th at 2pm for our next Black History Series Presentation "No. 2 Construction Battalion: A Family's Journey" with AFM Board Vice President Barb Porter who will share her family's connection to the Battalion. To join on November 9th, please go to <http://ow.ly/gAW050L2k99>

AMHERSTBURG FREEDOM MUSEUM  
HOSTS

No. 2 Construction Battalion:  
A Family's Journey

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A PRESENTATION BY  
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HAPPENING NOVEMBER 9TH AT 2PM  
TO JOIN, GO TO  
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## Mary Ann Shadd Cary

Arline Wilson of Penn State University has set up a Mary Ann Shadd Cary bicentennial event registration document that will collect information about various celebrations and events being planned throughout the US and Canada to celebrate her 200<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2023. Below you'll find the Google form link to the questionnaire. This information will be used to create a webpage on the Black Women's Organizing Archive website that will list all the event announcements submitted.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdIAD1hIjcoWjNL9TytOeBftCeo2PNPALx4n31pDYueJrvK3A/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdIAD1hIjcoWjNL9TytOeBftCeo2PNPALx4n31pDYueJrvK3A/viewform?usp=sf_link)



## Remembrance Day Ceremony



Thank you to Windsor Veterans Memorial Services Committee President Paul Lauzon for sending us these images of decals honouring veterans, including Black Veterans, which is on display at Windsor's City Hall.



On November 11th Amherstburg Freedom Museum Vice President Barb Porter will once again present a wreath honouring Black Veterans during the Remembrance Day Ceremony. We're looking forward to the ceremony and seeing these decals in person. We hope you will join us.



## Save the Date for Christmas at the Museum!

Save the Date! On Wednesday, December 7th at 7pm The Amherstburg Freedom Museum is hosting Christmas at the Museum in the Nazrey Church. Enjoy music from the Jim Walls Trio, followed by refreshments and a silent auction. Please bring a canned good which will be donated to the Amherstburg Mission! To purchase tickets, please go to

[CAM2022.givesmart.com](https://CAM2022.givesmart.com)

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