

Celebrating

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



BEAVERCREEK  NEWS-CURRENT

Fairborn  DAILY HERALD

XENIA
DAILY GAZETTE

Students learn about slave history in Greene County

By Nathan Pilling
npilling@civitasmedia.com

XENIA — Students in local schools are learning about the history of two former slave families that lived in and found freedom in Greene County, courtesy of information found in the Greene County Archives.

“I really appreciate being able to tell our local kids, because they have no idea about it,” said Elise Kelly, public outreach coordinator at the Greene County Archives. “It’s right in their own backyard, and it’s making history come alive for them.”

The two stories Kelly tells are about the Piper and Smith families, who settled in Greene County by way of Louisiana and Mississippi, respectively.

According to information supplied by the Greene County Archives, Philip Piper was a wealthy slave owner who had four children with one of his slaves, Nellie.

“It seems that they fell in love, and he decided that he was going to give them their freedom,” Kelly said. “He gave them \$1,000 to purchase their freedom, and he brought them up here to Greene County.”

After the family was given their freedom in 1859, Philip and Nellie were married in Pennsylvania, as Ohio’s “Black Codes” at the time didn’t allow for biracial couples to be married. When Philip died in 1879, he left his entire estate to Nellie and the family’s six children.

Similarly, the Smith family began with Laura, a mother who was born into slavery and had a relationship with her slave master, William Smith. According to information from the Greene County Archives, Smith brought his family from Mississippi to Greene County, where he emancipated them.

Smith, who had more than 90 slaves, left the family to return to

Mississippi and his operations there, but not before he purchased land in Laura’s name, making her a major landowner in the area.

“Here you have a former slave woman who is able to kind of prosper in this area on her own and with her children,” Kelly said.

Through these and other stories, school kids in the area are learning about the history of slavery in the United States and how it touched Greene County.

“I think it’s really important,” Kelly said. “What’s great is we’re telling these stories at the fourth grade level and then at the AP high school levels. We’re telling the same story for different age levels. They’re getting exposed to these stories and learning more about their community that they didn’t have any idea about.”

Reach Nathan Pilling at 937-502-4498 or on Twitter @XDGNatePilling.

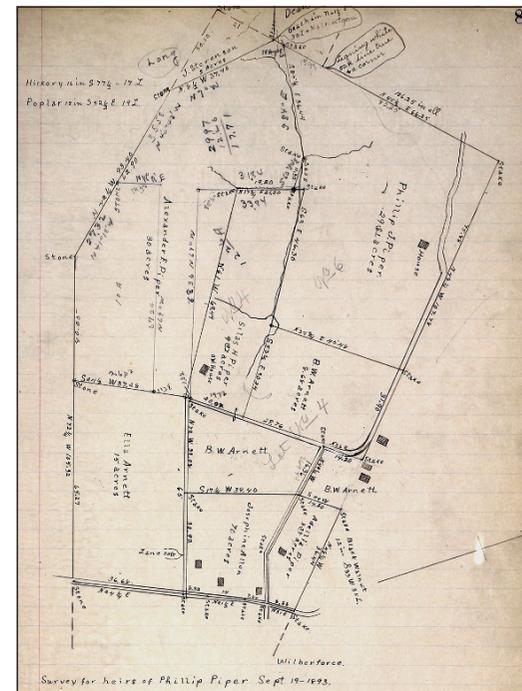


Image courtesy Greene County Archives
A survey of the Piper family land in Greene County.

Freedom Center provides historic background

CINCINNATI — Ohio is host to the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, 50 E. Freeman Way, Cincinnati.

This center provides a clearing house of information about the Underground Railroad and sponsors activities to help educate about those issues affecting African-Americans. The Center opened in 2004. The Freedom Center is made up of three buildings which symbolize the cornerstones of freedom: Courage, Cooperation, and Perseverance.

The museum serves to inspire modern abolition through connecting the lessons of the Underground Railroad with today’s freedom fighters. The center is also a convener of dialogue on freedom and human rights.

Anyone interested in discovering a family’s origins, but never had the tools? Now you can take advantage of the free family history resources available at the Family

Search Center at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. Volunteers provide free, personalized assistance in tracing your family tree. Hours: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

The Family Search Center is located in the John Parker Library, on the fourth floor of the Freedom Center. The Library is open to everyone, from beginners to advanced genealogists. Walk-ins are welcome. Reservations are available, but not required. Call 513-333-7654 to schedule an appointment.

If you don’t have time in advance, that’s fine; but talking to relatives first will add to the experience. Try to obtain the names of your grandparents and great-grandparents (including maiden names), and their dates of birth and death. Ask your relatives for any family stories or folklore.

Volunteers will help you organize your information and will show you



how to search census records, the Social Security Death index, and other record groups. The volunteers will also suggest future searches you can conduct on your own.

The museum is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday and Sunday. Tickets are adults: \$15, seniors 60 and over \$13, children ages 3-12: \$10.50 and children under 3: Free. For more information please call 513-330-7500 or visit <http://www.freedomcenter.org/>.

Information courtesy of the Freedom Center website.

African-American history important to all

By Marsha Bayless

I feel very honored to represent and be a part of African-American history. It is such a rich history and is important to all people.

The stories and the contributions should always be inclusive and recognized at any time. I’m particularly appreciative to the late Carter G. Woodson who felt the need for greater recognition and fought hard to begin the implementation Black History Week in 1926, where today it has become the month of February.

As a community leader who grew up in Xenia, whether our choice or not, we are examples to the children. I’m thankful that young people can see that my faith is strong and with commitment and hard work, even a person from the east end of town can be successful.

The possibilities are limitless, if you believe.

Marsha Bayless is mayor of Xenia and guest columnist.



Bayless

Payne Theological Seminary shifts gears

Historical place digitizing archives, changing focus

By Whitney Vickers

wvickers@civitasmedia.com

WILBERFORCE — Payne Theological Seminary serves as one of the oldest seminaries in the nation.

Officially created in 1894, it currently includes 181 students who attend both in-person and online classes that are working toward earning a master in divinity or doctorate in ministry with their focus on the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

“We want graduates to be change agents,” said The Rev. Dr. Michael Joseph Brown, interim president of PTS. “Our mission is to educate persons of African decent to work in communities in desperate need of change and for them to be those trans-formative agents.”

Some of the goals of the 122-year old school itself hasn't been a stranger to change in its time: Brown said he wishes to see graduates serve as leaders who are able to make a difference in the community in which they are serving. Therefore, the seminary has started to offer classes that teach students how to do such, such as mass incarceration, HIV and AIDS as well as ecology and Christian faith. Next year, students will have the option to take a classes on nonprofit law.

Courses are taught in an Afrocentric fashion, which means that some classes that would serve as elective at a differing theological school are required at PTS, such as black theology and “womanist” theology. It is one of the first and only historically black theology schools to include an online program and will begin to move from a credit-based system to a competency-based system in the coming years.

“It really is much more of a practical theology formation ... We really do think that if we are going to prepare people for ministerial work in the 21st Century, then we need to recognize that the shape and context of ministry is changing and the nature of church itself is changing,” Brown said. “We are trying to be ahead of the game.”



Whitney Vickers | Greene County News

The library includes its archive room. It is in the process of digitizing its archives, which includes files up to 400 years old.

Payne Theological Seminary includes a long history; items that prove such date back to handwritten letters and speeches, photos printed on metal plates and books with thick bindings having a hard time keeping together. This has led the school to apply and receive a grant that allows them to digitize their archives. Since doing so, it has become the most-viewed archive on the Princeton Theological Seminary Library web page.

“I am AME, which is the denomination of the university; I love the fact that I have a stake in my heritage,” Master of Divinity Student Ouida Hinton said. “I love that.”

Hinton, an upcoming graduate, appreciates the working knowledge of the professors, as well as the serenity of the land in which the school occupies. She hopes to serve children who have aged out of the foster care system. She previously worked for varying child-service agencies and charities within the area and felt called to serve this community in a different manner than she had before.

“I found myself ministering to young people who don't attend church,” Hinton said. “So, going forward, that's the focus — young people who are what we call ‘unchurched’ — hopefully I can get them to come within the church community, but if not I'm taking a message to where they're at.”

Whitney Vickers can be reached by calling her directly at 937-502-4532 or on Twitter, @wnvickers. For more content online, visit our website or like our Facebook page.



Whitney Vickers | Greene County News

The Payne Theological Seminary is one of the oldest seminaries in the nation.

The City of Xenia proudly recognizes Black History Month, February 2016.

As a life-long Xenian, I am constantly reminded and appreciative of the contributions of African-American citizens over many years, whether in the fields of education, the military, medicine, politics, sports, aviation, arts and entertainment, agriculture, and so many other areas.

During this month of awareness and appreciation for the achievements of African-Americans, I hope you will take time to join me in acknowledging the great accomplishments our people have achieved both locally, nationally and internationally, and that you will also visit one of our many area-wide museums, monuments, parks or historical societies to learn more about the African-American experience in our community.

Marsha Bayless
Mayor
City of Xenia



WWW.EXPLOREXENIA.COM

40843746

Wilberforce University: 160 years of greatness

By Dr. Algeania M. Warren Freeman

As we celebrate African-American History Month, we have to honor the rich and enduring legacy of Wilberforce University, a community icon and treasure. This institution holds the distinction of being the oldest private historically black institution in America. Wilberforce University has stood the test of time weathering fires, tornados, war, and fiscal crises for 160 years.



Freeman

It was in the middle 1800's that God inspired a group of persons to develop an institution to educate and change the life destinies of a people who were yearning to be free. It was out of a period of slavery, the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment, the conclusion of the Civil War, and serving as a site for the Underground Railroad that Wilberforce University had its birthing.

It was from this historical ethos that Wilberforce University was established as a beacon of hope and light for providing educational access and opportunity.

Wilberforce University became an educational mecca attracting such persons as the world renowned Dr.

W.E.B. DuBois as a Professor. The University soared and produced such great leaders as eminent Harvard University Professor, Williams Julius Wilson, musician William Grant Still, educator/activist, Hallie Quinn Brown, and the former African President of Malawi.

Today, Wilberforce University still offers hope, opportunity, and educational access to many unserved and underserved persons continuing to prepare them as contributing citizens and global leaders. Through its tenets of providing a quality values-based education with the inclusion of Christian principles, social and community responsibility, history, and tradition, Wilberforce University is still in the business today of producing great leaders.

Wilberforce University leaders of today are committed to making a strategic difference in changing the human condition in the global marketplace just as historical Wilberforce leaders did in bygone years. As Wilberforce graduates took their places in the 1800's as dynamic leaders, 160 years later, Wilberforce University graduates continue to impact world history.

Algeania M. Warren Freeman, Ph.D. is 20th President of Wilberforce University and guest columnist.

Central State University honors historic month

Gazette News Report

WILBERFORCE — Central State University, an 1890 Land Grant Institution and one of Ohio's oldest historically black universities, has several activities planned for Black History Month.

Activities on the main campus in Wilberforce begin 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 16 in the ballroom of the student center with "What is the Value of a Black Life?"

Tamir Rice. John Crawford III. Gun Control. The University of Missouri. Black Lives Matter. All Lives Matter. In the wake of numerous grand jury decisions, campus protests, and political interjections from community activists, join the university for a panel discussion consisting of faculty, staff, and students of Central State University as members explore the value of a black life. The event is free and open to the public.

The school will discuss "(Re) Defining Blackness: The Modern Day Harlem Renaissance" 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 29 in the student center ballroom.

The 1920's have been remembered as one of the largest movements of the black community. Many great writers and artists have been remembered and recognized for their contributions to the advancement of African-Americans because of their involvement. It was

because of this movement that blacks were able to define what it meant to be black for themselves. In today's society, this definition takes form in multiple ways – ways that are never consistent and always changing depending on where one is from and their social influences. This event offers a cultural experience where the school "(re) defines blackness" through visual and performing arts. Students will be presenting their artwork or performing. The event is free and open to the public.

Several events will take place at CSU-Dayton as well.

The City of Dayton Human Relations Council returns with its annual Black History Month movie and discussion nights. This year's screenings include three timely, moving, and thought-provoking films:

- **Selma** 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 12
- **Fruitvale Station** 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 19
- **American Denial** 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 26

These film screenings are free and open to the public. Pizza and refreshments will be provided. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. each night, with the films beginning 6 p.m. followed by a short audience discussion.

Gazette news report compiled by Scott Halasz.



CO-ED
TOUCHDOWN
SPORTS & HAIR

Full Service Salon and Co-Ed Salon as well

\$8.99 Haircuts Every Wednesday

Month of February

Tanning ONLY \$19.95

Mystic Spray \$12.00

Cuts, Color, Highlights, Perms, Relaxers, Waxing

Tuesday - Thursday 11AM-6PM; Friday 11AM-5PM;
Saturday 11AM-3PM; Closed Sunday & Monday

508 S. Maple Ave., Fairborn 937.318.9073



Montgomery

Insurance & Investments

Insurance

Health & Benefits

114 S. Detroit Street

Xenia, OH

937.372.7646

Financial Services

Tax Preparation

1 W. Washington Street

Jamestown, OH

937.675.9321

www.montgomeryii.com

Legacy of former slave lives on in Yellow Springs

By Nathan Pilling
npilling@civitasmedia.com

YELLOW SPRINGS — The Village of Yellow Springs continues to celebrate the legacy of a former slave and influential local figure through a holiday tradition each year.

In the 1840s Wheeling Gaunt — who the village's Gaunt Park is named after — was a slave living and laboring in Carroll County, Kentucky, saving money for his freedom.

According to information from the Greene County Archives, Gaunt was allowed to work outside of the plantation where he was a slave, and in doing so earned and saved money for his freedom. After more than three decades of work, Gaunt used funds he had saved to purchase his freedom (for \$900) and eventually the freedom of his wife (for \$500) and son (for \$799), according to information from Yellow Springs Heritage.

Eventually at some point after 1860 Gaunt and his family moved to Yellow

Springs, where Gaunt “was a very influential man in the community,” said Elise Kelly, public outreach coordinator at the Greene County Archives.

Generosity seemed to be a significant part of Gaunt's character. In addition to donating a significant portion of his estate to Wilberforce University — a *Xenia Daily Gazette* article from 1887 indicated the donation to be an estimated \$30,000 value (about \$800,000 in 2015) — Gaunt would also donate farmland to the Village of Yellow Springs in 1894 with the stipulation that its rental income be used to purchase flour each Christmas for widows in the village. Eventually that land became Gaunt Park, but the village continues on with Gaunt's wishes each year.

In the years since the tradition was established, the village has expanded donations to also go to widowers and has added bags of sugar to its offerings as well. Each year the village council votes to continue the tradition, and so in early December,

work crews disperse throughout the village to distribute the donations.

In the first year of the tradition, 69 sacks of flour were distributed to 23 widows in the village. In 2015, about 120 residents received both a bag of flour and a bag of sugar.

Why does the village continue the tradition today? Partly for a practical reason, but also because of something more, according to village manager Patti Bates.

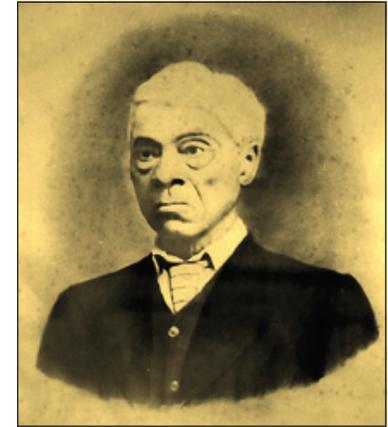
“I think the part of it is the fact that it was ... a requirement for his bequeathing the land to the village, but I think also because it kind of *is* Yellow Springs,” she said. “People here try to help each other.”

Bates said there are some in the village that depend on the flour and sugar coming around the holidays.

“I think that it's just another way that the village is able to help the residents, and they help each other,” she said.

The tradition lives on in memory of Gaunt's generosity.

“He had seen hardship in his life, and he wanted to be able to take care of ...



Gaunt

especially widows at Christmas time and wanted to look after them even though he was gone,” Kelly said. “I think that that shows his character of being such a very true and generous man.”

Editor's note: Thanks to the Greene County Archives and Yellow Springs Heritage for information contained in this article.

Reach Nathan Pilling at 937-502-4498 or on Twitter @XDGNatePilling.



**LEARN Your HISTORY.
CELEBRATE Your HERITAGE.**

February is Black History Month, an excellent time to study African American history and celebrate the great achievements of African Americans both past and present.



PHARMACY & WELLNESS CENTER

www.ihedrugs.com

<p>Xenia Pharmacy 100 N. Detroit St. Xenia, OH 45385 (937) 374-0899</p> <p>Xenia LTC Pharmacy 104 N. Detroit St. Xenia, OH 45385 (937) 372-5480 www.innovateRX.net</p>	<p>Jamestown Pharmacy 4940 Cottonville Rd. Jamestown, OH 45335 (937) 675-6500</p> <p>Reading Pharmacy 9400 Reading Rd., Ste 1 Reading, OH 45215 (513) 769-3784</p>
--	--

40842910

*Transform your ministry at
Payne Theological Seminary*

**The seminary for your Master of Divinity and
Doctor of Ministry degrees**



Affordable Tuition



Flexible Online Courses



Africentric Focused Curriculum

“Payne enhances spiritual growth and transformation and helps you realize your divine and human potential”

*Accepting Applications for
MDiv and DMin*



For more information:
Payne Theological Seminary
1230 Wilberforce-Clifton Road, P.O. Box 474
Wilberforce, OH 45384
(937) 376-2946 x. 222
www.payne.edu

40843943

WSU to honor Black History Month

By Whitney Vickers

wickers@civitasmedia.com

FAIRBORN — Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, who was the second African American to earn a doctorate in history in Harvard in 1912, initially created Negro History Week in 1926 as a means of honoring noteworthy African Americans and historical contributors. Its name later changed to Black History Month and is honored by a number of local entities, including Wright State University.

“I hope participants will understand that black history is a subject that is germane to all Americans,” Dr. Edward Twyman, director of the Bolinga Black Cultural Resources Center at WSU, said in an email interview. “Many Americans simply may not be as cognizant [of the] important African Americans and the historical events and contributions of black people. That’s a major reason why Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson began Negro History Week (later Black History Month) in 1926. Woodson designated a week in February, because that month held birthdays for Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass and Booker T. Washington.”

Twyman added that WSU celebrations with Black History Month in mind will include hosting a number of speakers and discussions, an art expo and poetry slam, panel discussions and a dance performance.

Kicking off the month’s events included an opening ceremony and pot luck dinner, in which Dr. Hasan Kwame Jeffries, an award-winning author, will present “Making Sense of the Madness: Race, Racism and Presidential Politics in the Age of Obama” Feb. 1 in Millett Hall Atrium.

Following the opening ceremony included a film screening of “54th Massachusetts” on Feb. 4 in the Bolinga Black Cultural Resource Center.

The second week of February included five events; the first is Bolinga Black Art Expo, which features arts, crafts and exhibits and took place Feb. 9 in the Student Union Atrium. The Dayton Contemporary Dance Company performed in the Student Union Atrium.

“Sultans of Swing: 100 Years of Baseball, Jazz and Fiction,” in which a panel discussed, “Leagues of their Own: Women and African Americans in Baseball History” beginning 1:25 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10 in the Millett Hall Atrium.

A discussion on the book “The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness” by Michelle Alexander was also hosted on Feb. 10 in the Millett Hall Atrium.

The last event of the week allows participants to paint and take home a canvas conveying African or black history while sipping coffee or tea and munching on cookies. It takes place 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 12 in the Millett Hall Atrium.

“Spoken Word and Poetry,” in which participants will present interpretations, will take place 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 17 in the Student Union Rathskeller.

Participants can later join “Race, Class, Gender and Sexuality Symposium,” in which Dr. Brittney Cooper, assistant professor of Women’s and Gender Studies and African Studies and Rutgers University, will lead the discussion at the symposium: “Gendered Bodies/Gendered Lives.” The event begins 11:15 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 19 within the Student Union Apollo Room.

Closing out the month’s events is a film screening and discussion on “Paris is Burning” by Jennie Livingston, taking place 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25 within the Discovery Room of the Student Union.

Each event is free and open to the public.

“During Black History month, hopefully, Americans will reflect on the struggles and sacrifices that many people of different racial, ethnic, religious and cultural backgrounds fought to achieve equal justice,” Twyman said. “I hope people will better understand that black history is American history and there is considerable work to be done to ensure the proper recognition of groups and individuals in our society who fight for justice and equality for all.”

He noted that some important African Americans born in February include W.E. Dubois, Langston Hughes, Rosa Parks, Alice Walker, Henry “Hank” Aaron, Barbara Jordan, Toni Morrison and Huey P. Newton.

He added that other important contributions were made by Malcolm X, James Baldwin, Leontyne Price, Condoleezza Rice, Colin Powell, Garrett Augustus Morgan, inventor of the gas mask and traffic signal; Benjamin Banneker who created the first clock; Fanny Lou Hamer and Lewis Latimer, co-worker on the carbon filament for the light bulb.

“Recognizing and/or accepting the reality that blacks have contributed to America and these contributions are mostly devoid in our textbooks can go a long way in providing a truthful foundation for us to appreciate diversity and inclusion,” Twyman said. “We can take pride that great strides have been made, accept that disparities and unearned privileges exist. However, diversity and inclusion work begins with self. Each person has to urgently work to treat every person with dignity and respect, and create fair and just processes for expanding opportunities to all.”

More information is available by contacting the Bolinga Black Cultural Resources Center at www.bolinga-center@wright.edu or by calling 937-775-5645.

Whitney Vickers can be reached by calling her directly at 937-502-4532, or on Twitter @wnvickers. For more content online, visit our website or like our Facebook page.



Dr. Edward Twyman



Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson



Dayton Contemporary Dance Company



160 YEARS OF GREATNESS

“It is a great day at Wilberforce University”

**Algeania Warren Freeman, Ph.D.
President**



For more information, contact the Office of Admissions at
1-844-849-2402 or www.wilberforce.edu

Soin Medical Center

Conveniently located in Beavercreek, exit 17 off
of I-675 near The Mall at Fairfield Commons
ketteringhealth.org/soin



Services Include:

EMERGENCY

- 24/7
- Level III Trauma Center

MATERNITY

- Level 2 Birthing Center
- Special Care Nursery

SURGERY PROCEDURES

- Endoscopy
- General
- daVinci Robotics

OUTPATIENT SERVICES

- Full-range of testing
- Cancer Center

INPATIENT SERVICES

- Private rooms
- Room services
- Wi-fi access

Greene Memorial Hospital

Located in the heart of Xenia
at 1141 N. Monroe Drive
ketteringhealth.org/greene



Services Include:

EMERGENCY

- 24/7
- Level III Trauma Center

SURGERY PROCEDURES

- Endoscopy
- General surgery

OUTPATIENT SERVICES

- Imaging
- Kettering Breast Evaluation Center
- Lab testing
- Cancer Center
- Outpatient therapies
- Cardiac therapy
- Wound Care

INPATIENT SERVICES

- Private rooms
- Room services
- Wi-fi access