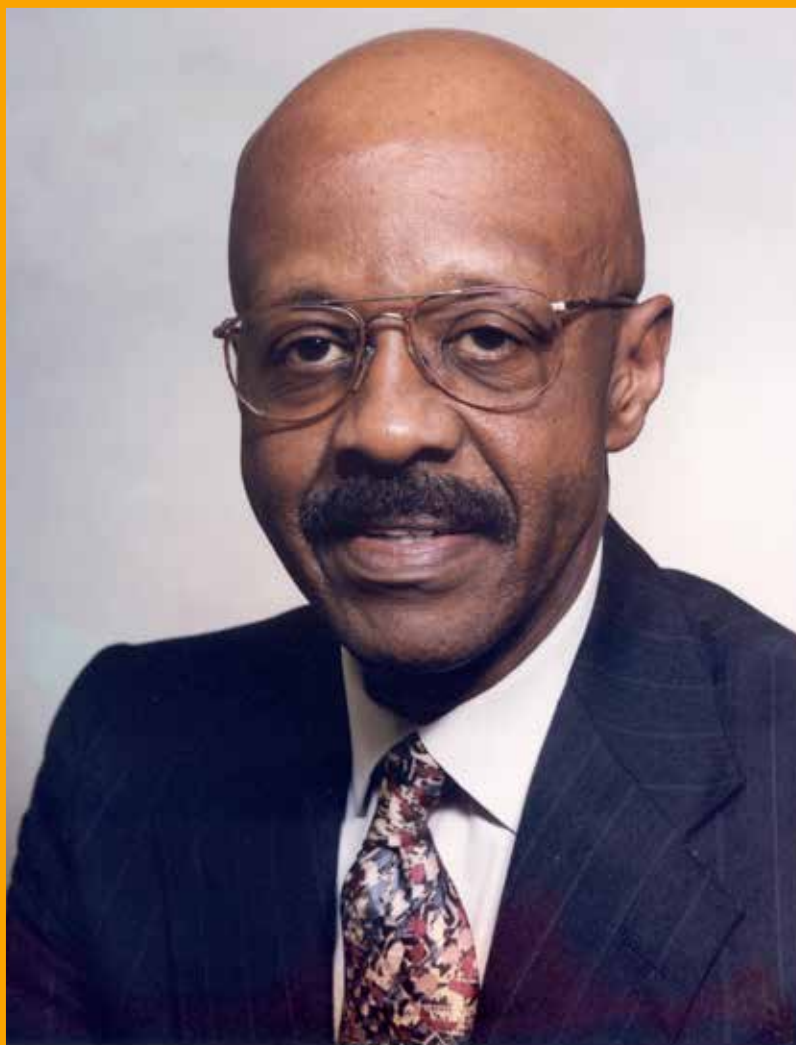


LT. COL. JOHN E. BAKER



LT. COL. JOHN E. BAKER moved to Charlottesville in 1971 from Buffalo, NY. After a distinguished and decorated military career, Col. Baker began his service to children as an appointed at-large member of the School Board from 1984–87 and as a member of the first elected School Board from 1995–99. Mr. Baker served for two years as Albemarle County School Board Chairman.

His focus on quality of instruction, effective teacher recruiting, and professional development to create strong teachers led him to introduce a mentoring program for new teachers to ensure their efficient orientation and success in schools. To that end, he was responsible for the establishment of the African American Teaching Fellows in 2004. The program continues to turn out quality African American teachers for Charlottesville and Albemarle County schools.

Baker-Butler Elementary School is partially named after Col. Baker, who is buried at Arlington Cemetery. His wife, Dr. Marie Coles Baker, resides in Albemarle County.

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HISTORY
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LOCAL NOTABLES

MARY CARR GREER



MARY CARR GREER was a prominent local educator who attended the Albemarle Training School where she later became a member of the faculty. The eldest daughter of Hugh Carr, she followed a program advocated by Booker T. Washington to train black children in a trade, offering coursework through the ninth grade.

After teaching domestic science for 15 years, Mary Greer became its third principal. During her tenure she initiated a formal four-year high school curriculum and pushed for the merging of the Albemarle Training School with the Charlottesville-Albemarle school system. A year after her retirement in 1950, ATS merged with the newly opened Jackson P. Burley comprehensive high school in Charlottesville.

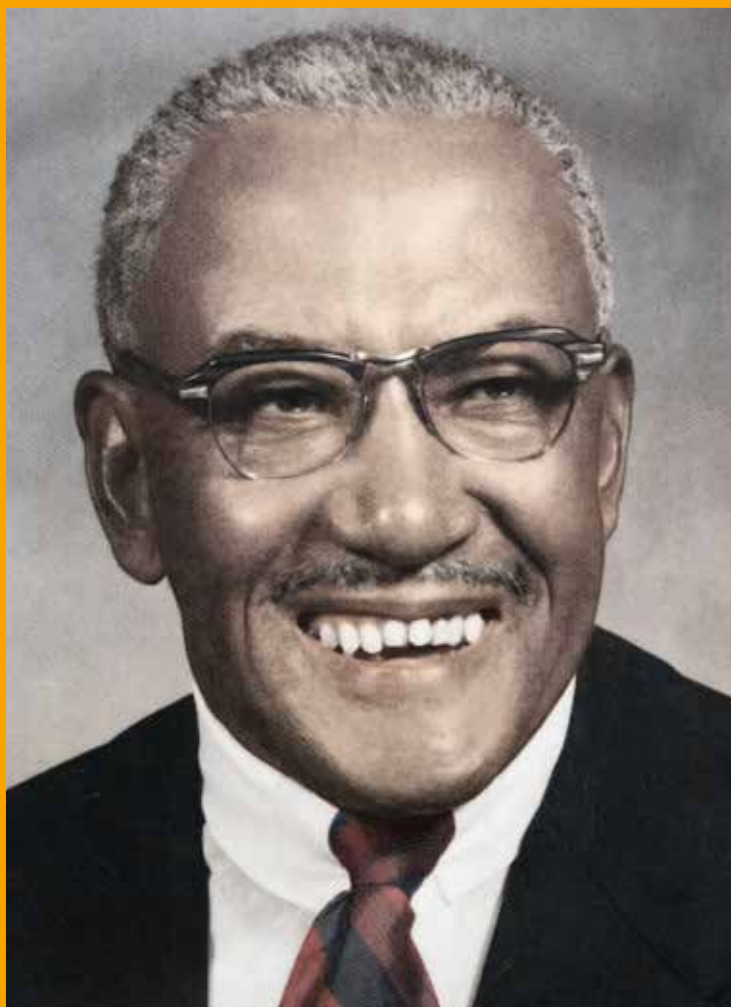
In 1979, Albemarle County memorialized her dedication to education with the opening of the Mary Carr Greer Elementary School on Lambs Road.

Mrs. Greer is buried in the Carr family cemetery at the Ivy Creek Natural Area.

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LOCAL NOTABLES

JAMES R. BUTLER



JAMES R. BUTLER in 1981 became the first African American in Albemarle County to be elected to the County Board of Supervisors where he was a champion for establishing fair and equitable teacher salaries. He was a strong advocate for quality education in Albemarle County Schools as well as for voter rights and voter registration.

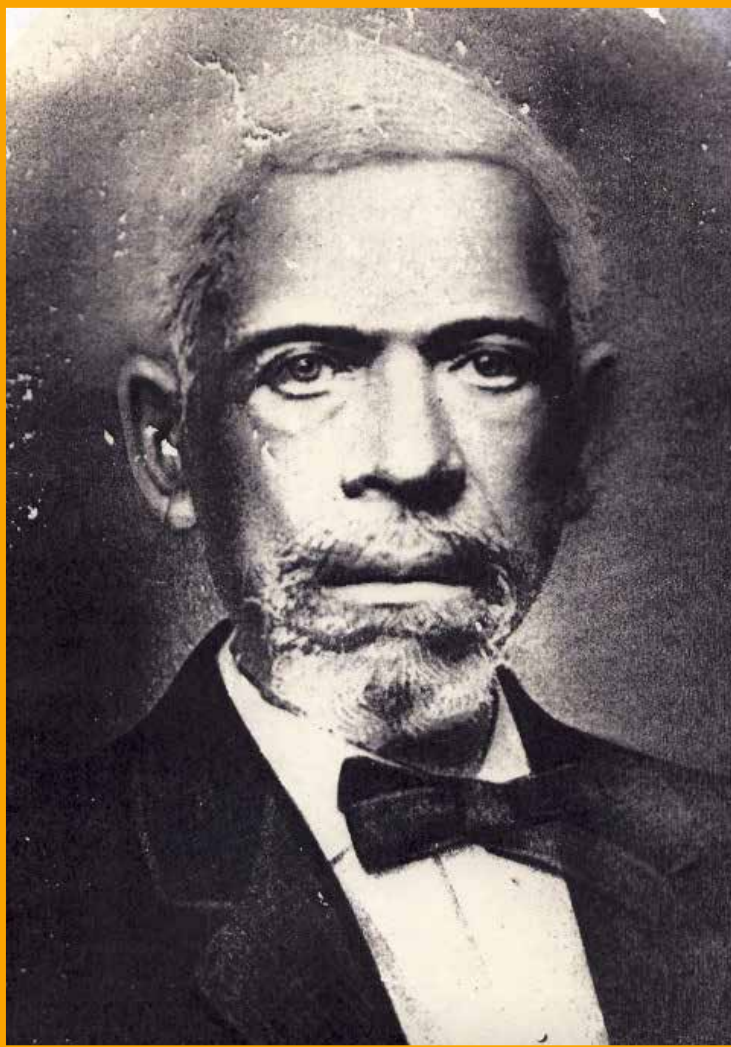
He worked tirelessly to ensure that the Supervisors would represent all members of the Albemarle community. Mr Butler also played a vital role in the establishment of the Charlottesville Albemarle Technical Education Center (CATEC). He was the first African American Executive Director of an Extension Service office in Virginia.

Baker-Butler Elementary School is partially named after him.

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LOCAL NOTABLES

HUGH CARR



HUGH CARR was born into slavery in Virginia between 1840 and 1843. The earliest reference to him comes from records of the First Baptist Church in Charlottesville. There, on Nov. 18, 1860, just 8 days after the election of Abraham Lincoln, Hugh was presented for baptism by his owner, R.W. Wingfield of Woodlands. Four months later the start of the Civil War would mark the beginning of the end of Virginia's centuries-old slave culture. As Hugh grew into manhood, he hired himself out to work on local farms, often receiving a share of the crops as payment. While working for others, he began to purchase land of his own in the Ivy Creek area. In 1870, he paid \$100 "in part payment for lands sold him." This 58 acre tract would grow to be 125 acres and form the core of what would become River View Farm, where the Carr residence was built. The Carr family eventually donated the land, now known as the Ivy Creek Natural Area, to Albemarle County and Mr. Carr is buried in the family cemetery there.

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LOCAL NOTABLES

JOHN FERRIS BELL



JOHN FERRIS BELL was born and educated in Petersburg, Virginia, in 1890. Following his graduation from Hampton Institute (now Hampton University), he taught tailoring at Lincoln Institute, Jefferson City, Missouri. He then trained as a Funeral Director and Mortician in Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Bell moved from Chicago to organize the J.F. Bell Funeral Home, which continues today as the oldest family-run funeral home in central Virginia and the area's oldest existing business owned by people of color.

The Funeral Home, located at 108 6th Street NW, continues today under the leadership of Deborah Bell Burks and her husband, Martin Burks, III.

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LOCAL NOTABLES

REV. EDWARD D. McCREARY, SR.



REV. DR. EDWARD D. MCCREARY, SR. became Ebenezer Baptist Church's 15th Pastor in 1934. The church was founded in 1892 by Rev. Alexander Truatt, but Rev. McCreary's skills as an organizer and financial manager kept Ebenezer viable. Rev. McCreary retired in 1966 after serving faithfully for 33 years.

Today, Ebenezer's Ministry Outreach continues to serve the Charlottesville community under the leadership of its 17th Pastor, Rev. Lehman D. Bates. The church actively participates via its Emergency Needs Bank, partnerships with over two dozen organizations, interfaith fellowships with over a half-dozen congregations, affiliations on numerous area boards and committees, and the establishment of the African American Pastors Council.

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LOCAL NOTABLES

REV. BENJAMIN BUNN



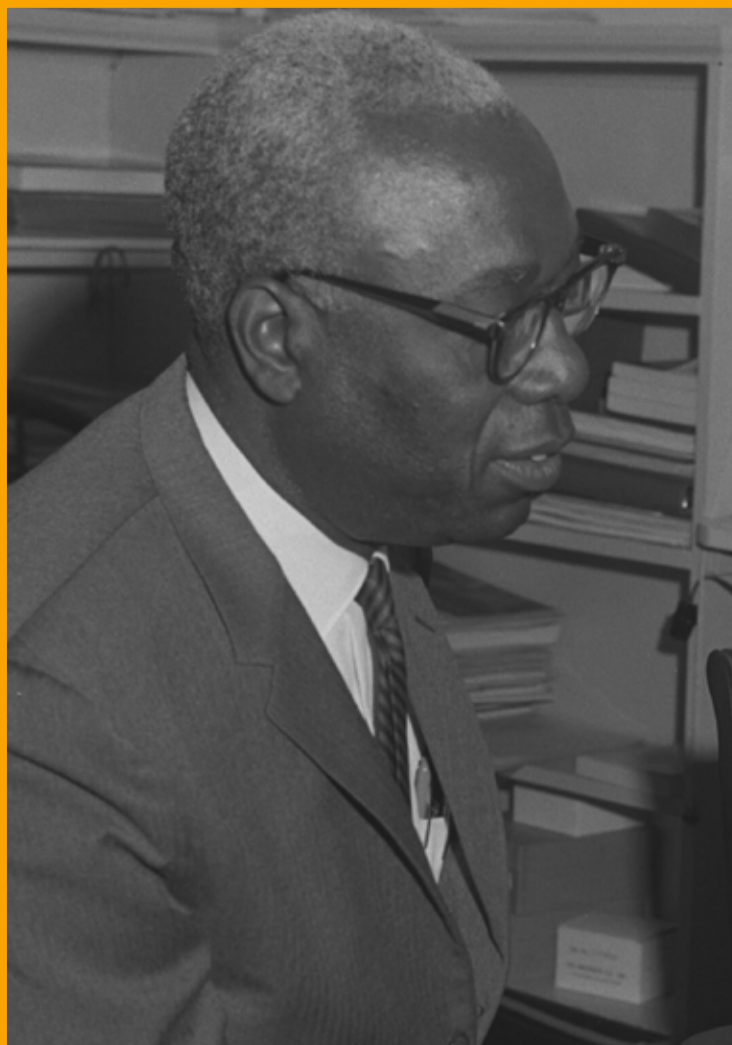
REV. BENJAMIN BUNN was a religious and civic leader, and the pastor of First Baptist Church of Charlottesville, VA, for 36 years. He was the organizer of The Charlottesville Inter-Racial Commission, The Church Council on Human Relations, and the Charlottesville Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Rev. Bunn, with his wife, Imogene (first visiting nurse to serve white as well as African American patients), desegregated the library by using it, and bringing together whites and blacks to discuss racial issues. For his service to the community, Rev. Bunn received the coveted Roy Wilkins Award.

A Guide to the Papers of Rev. Bunn can be found in the Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library at the University of Virginia. He died in 1989.

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LOCAL NOTABLES

DR. NATHAN E. JOHNSON

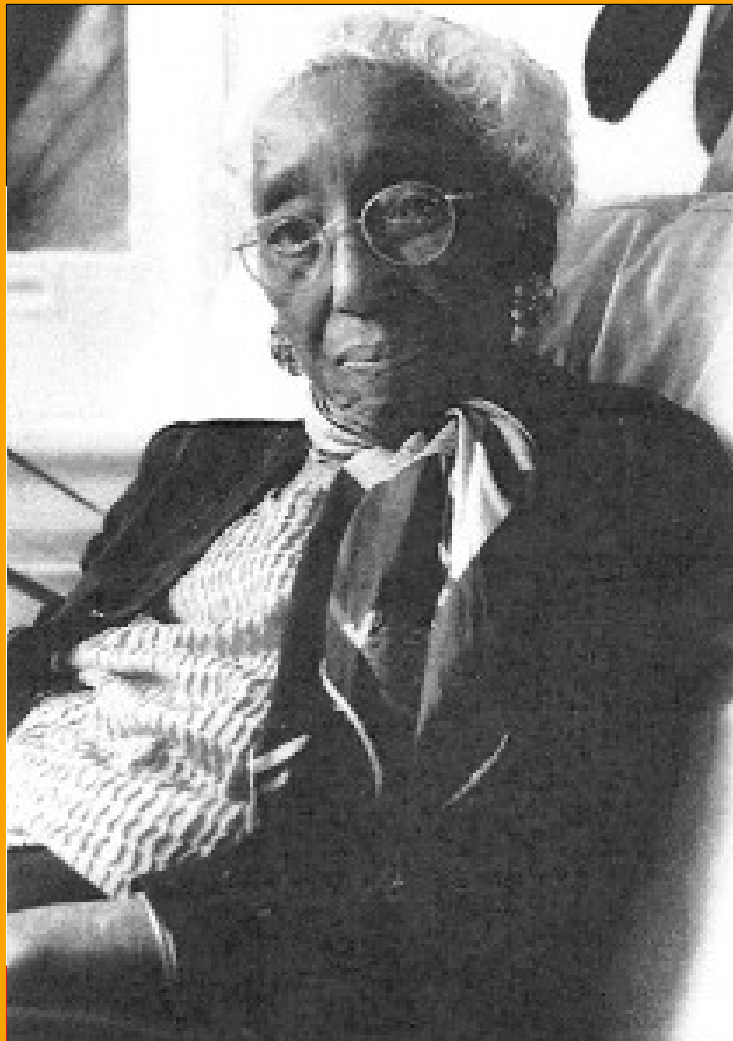


DR. NATHAN E. JOHNSON became the first African American faculty member at the University of Virginia in 1967, after a distinguished career as a public-school teacher and administrator. He joined the Curry School faculty after completing his doctoral studies at UVA under a Southern Education Foundation Fellowship. He was one of the founders of the Curry School Desegregation Center and for six years served as the first associate director of the Consultative Resource Center at the University.

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LOCAL NOTABLES

REBECCA McGINNESS



REBECCA FULLER McGINNESS, the Mother of First Baptist Church, was born on 5th Street SW (Vinegar Hill) in 1892, just four years after Charlottesville was incorporated as a city. Education was always a priority in her family, and after completing her education at Hampton, she married at age 23 and spent the next 47 years teaching at Jefferson Elementary School. She was a member of the Neighborhood Association and the Eastern Star, a social organization.

In 1992, the church celebrated her 100th birthday at The Omni Hotel, and Charlottesville's mayor proclaimed the day Rebecca Fuller McGinness Day. That same year, she received an honorary doctorate of Humane Letters from Hampton University and was an honored guest at the Senior Center (now The Center at Belvedere).

A surrogate mother for scores of children, Rebecca McGinness is remembered always as "the Mayor of Starr Hill." She died in 2000 at the age of 107.

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LOCAL NOTABLES

CHARLES H. BARBOUR



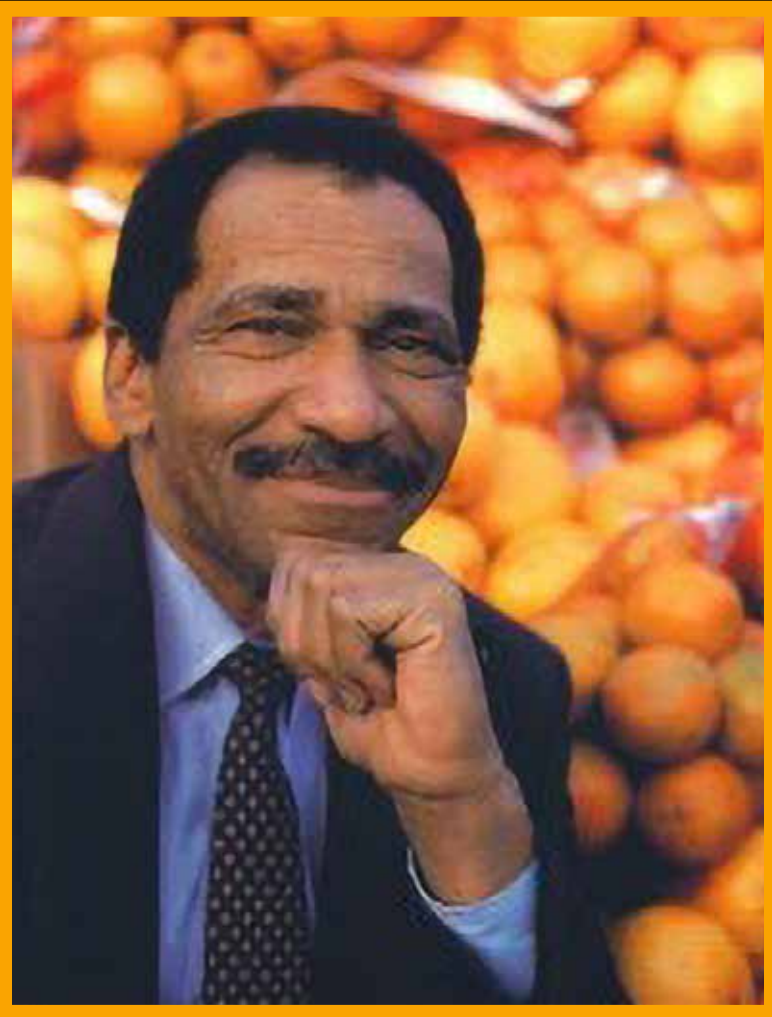
CHARLES H. BARBOUR experienced many “firsts.” He served as the first Black mayor of Charlottesville from 1974–1976. He was the first African American elected to the Charlottesville City Council and the first Black member of the Charlottesville Jaycees (Junior Chamber of Commerce). Barbour fought to desegregate pools and ensure that they were within reach of working-class white and black residents. He saw the city conduct a race relations study that covered policing, employment practices, and city schools, and he worked to legally desegregate city neighborhoods. Though there was some progress in each of these areas, the lack of attention paid to inequalities means that, sadly, we continue to engage in the same efforts nearly 40 years later.

In addition to the above, Barbour provided instrumental leadership during the effort to build the Downtown Mall in the mid-1970s.

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LOCAL NOTABLES

CHARLES "CHUCK" LEWIS



CHARLES "CHUCK" LEWIS was a Charlottesville businessman, owner of Kathy's Produce Center, and active in the development of the Downtown Mall, including York Place.

The Chuck Lewis Passion Award is named after him—a man who devoted his life to turning a dream into a reality. Mr. Lewis created businesses that to this day provide economic prosperity and employment opportunities to the people of Charlottesville and beyond. The award is bestowed each year in his honor to individuals and businesspeople who exhibit the same leadership and dedication to the community.

Mr. Lewis passed away in 2010. His legacy continues through his children, Charley and Leah.

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LOCAL NOTABLES

CORNELIA D. JOHNSON



CORNELIA D. JOHNSON, a graduate of Blue Ridge College, was the second black female sheriff in Virginia's history. In 1976 she became the first black female sheriff in Charlottesville and, in 1998, the first elected female sheriff. She served three terms as sheriff, retiring in 2009.

Ms. Johnson, who owned Dynasty Gift Shop before entering the field of law enforcement, has been listed as a noteworthy city sheriff and small business owner by Who's Who. She was a recipient of the Women First award in 1999. She also served on The Center's Board of Directors.

Currently Ms. Johnson spends her time with her husband, traveling, entertaining, managing her Bed and Breakfast, and visiting historical sites.

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LOCAL NOTABLES

EUGENE WILLIAMS



EUGENE WILLIAMS, born in Charlottesville in 1927, is a well-known and well-respected activist in Charlottesville who has spent a lifetime working for social justice and civil rights in this community. He attended Southern University and served in the US Air Force. As Chair of the NAACP in 1954, he and his wife Lorraine Williams made their daughters plaintiffs in a lawsuit to desegregate Charlottesville Schools under the ruling of *Brown v. Board of Education*.

After winning that battle, they started a business, Dogwood Housing, that purchased and rehabilitated homes for low-income tenants. Dogwood provided affordable housing for many needy tenants for 27 years.

The Virginia General Assembly honored Williams with a commendation in 2015, and Charlottesville City Council honored him by declaring November 6, 2017, as Eugene Williams Day.

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LOCAL NOTABLES

GAYLE JESSUP WHITE



GAYLE JESSUP WHITE is the first black Public Relations and Community Engagement Officer at Monticello. She is a direct descendant of Thomas Jefferson and is also related to two well-documented families enslaved at Monticello—the Hemings and the Hubbards. She is the great-great-great granddaughter of Peter Hemings, Sally Hemings’ brother.

Prior to joining the staff at Monticello, Gayle, who began her career at the *New York Times*, was an award-winning television reporter and anchor. She has written and spoken extensively about her work at Monticello and recently authored a book, *Reclamation: Sally Hemings, Thomas Jefferson, and a Descendant’s Search for Her Family’s Lasting Legacy*.

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LOCAL NOTABLES

NIKUYAH WALKER



NIKUYAH WALKER was the first black female mayor of Charlottesville. She served from 2018–2021 after being elected to the Charlottesville City Council. Born and raised in Charlottesville, she graduated from Charlottesville High School in 1998 and received her bachelor's degree in Political Science from Virginia Commonwealth University. Nikuyah has spent most of her adult life working as an advocate for racial and social justice in our community. She has worked at several nonprofits in Charlottesville as a Substance Abuse Clinician and an HIV Prevention Educator, and as a community organizer and an employee with the City of Charlottesville Parks and Recreation Department. One of her major goals while in office was to increase affordable housing in the city.

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LOCAL NOTABLES

TERESA WALKER-PRICE



TERESA JACKSON WALKER-PRICE is a native of Charlottesville and was the first African American librarian in a public school here. She was the recipient in 2014 of the Reflector Award for service to the Jefferson School City Center and the community.

She works tirelessly for her Starr Hill neighborhood and was one of the first African American teachers to agree to teach at Lane High School during desegregation. She is also the mother of Frank Walker, the artist whose creation adorns the wall at the top of The Center's grand staircase.

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LOCAL NOTABLES

HOLLY MARIE EDWARDS



HOLLY MARIE EDWARDS was the first African American Vice Mayor of Charlottesville (2010). While on City Council, she served as a member of the Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority and also served on the working group overseeing the creation of the Regional Transit Authority.

After leaving Council, she was hired by the Public Housing Association of Residents to serve as a part-time Service Coordinator.

An RN with a very gentle spirit and a soft voice, Holly bridged differences between people, creating a dialogue on race as a member of the Steering Committee and forging a sister city connection with Winneba, Ghana. She was selected as one of the Distinguished Dozen by the *Daily Progress* in 2004.

Holly passed away on January 17, 2017.

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LOCAL NOTABLES

ALICIA B. LUGO



ALICIA B. LUGO was the first African American chair of the Charlottesville School Board, a position she held for five of the 11 years she served on the Board. She also worked in the community as Executive Director of the Opportunities Industrial Council (OIC) job training program. In 1988 she founded the Teensight project, a teen pregnancy prevention and education program at FOCUS Women's Resource Center. She was later promoted to Associate Director of FOCUS and retired as its Executive Director.

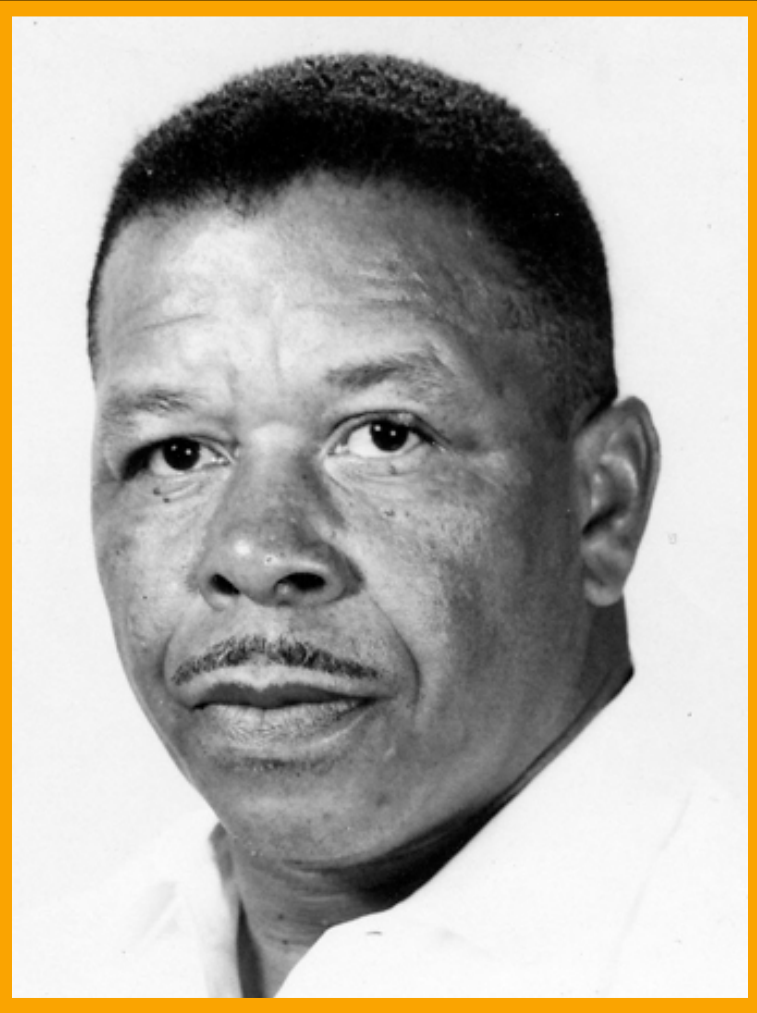
Mrs. Lugo also served on the Boards of Directors of Piedmont Virginia Community College, Habitat for Humanity, Charlottesville-Albemarle Technical Education Center, and the Quality Community Council. Her long list of accomplishments was recognized with honors that included being named 1978's "Woman of the Year" by the Women's Political Action Forum and receiving the 1988 Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award by the Alliance for Interfaith Ministries in Charlottesville.

Mrs. Lugo passed away in December 2011.

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LOCAL NOTABLES

DREWARY J. BROWN



DREWARY J. BROWN returned from World War II ready for change in his hometown of Charlottesville. He crossed racial, social, and economic barriers to create a more just and equitable society.

A social and political activist, he joined the local NAACP and over time successfully transformed the previously all-white Democratic Party. He co-founded the Monticello Area Community Action Agency (MACAA) and created teen summer jobs programs and other local job training programs.

A bridge named for Drewary Brown extends across the railroad tracks on West Main as a visible monument to his work and the work done by others to bring the community together.

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LOCAL NOTABLES

GRACE QUARLES TINSLEY



GRACE QUARLES TINSLEY was the first African American female appointed to the Charlottesville City School Board. She later served on the boards of the Charlottesville Albemarle Technical Education Center and Piedmont Virginia Community College while advocating and raising funding for the creation of a Public Defender's Office in Charlottesville.

Ms. Tinsley passed away in 2006.

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LOCAL NOTABLES

VIRGINIA CARRINGTON



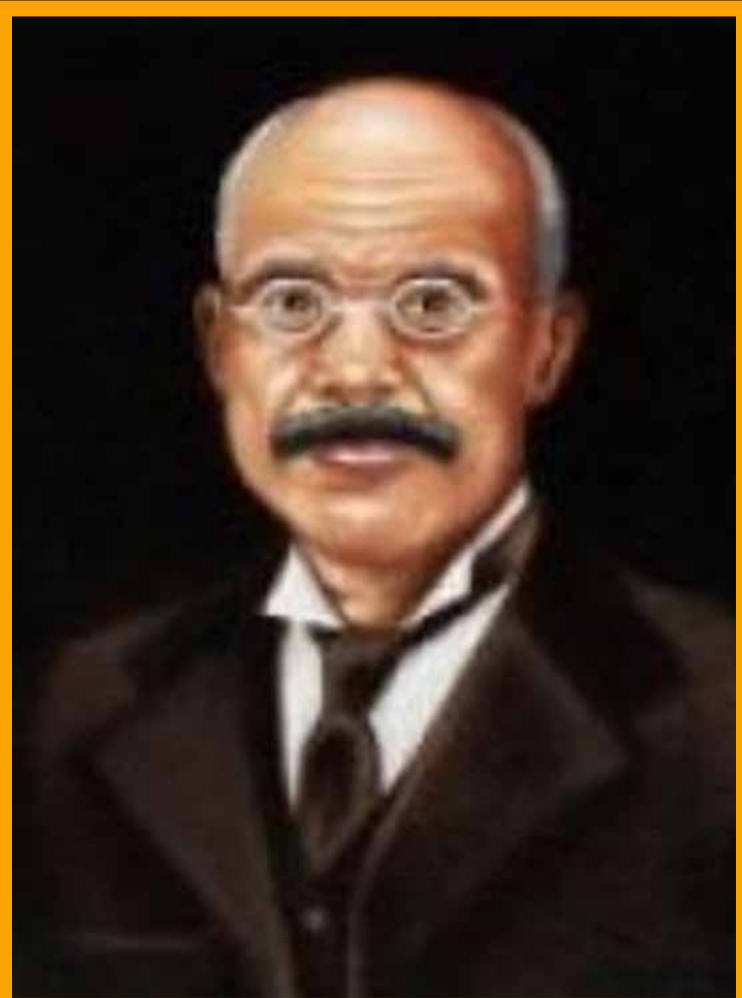
VIRGINIA BANKS CARRINGTON was well known in Charlottesville for her community involvement and activism. She was an intrepid recruiter of members for the Charlottesville NAACP, and she broke down barriers of racial segregation and social justice through her work with soup kitchens, the local food bank, and as an assistant teacher in Charlottesville schools. She was an active member of First Baptist Church and a member of a myriad of organizations.

Mrs. Carrington passed away in 2004. A Humanitarian Award was established in her name by the local NAACP to honor individuals who embody her legacy.

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LOCAL NOTABLES

BENJAMIN TONSLER



BENJAMIN TONSLER was a prominent and influential figure in the history of African American education. He became well known due in part to the influence of his former Hampton classmate and long-term adviser, Booker T. Washington. Tonsler was born into slavery on April 2, 1854, near the small community of Earlysville in Albemarle County. In the 1880s, he returned from Hampton Institute and became an educator at the Jefferson School from its opening in 1885 until his death. He worked his way up to becoming the school's principal, a position he held for nearly 30 years.

Tonsler was held in high regard by both blacks and whites in Charlottesville and was looked upon as a leader within the black community. Like Booker T. Washington, he called for black progress through education and entrepreneurship rather than trying to challenge Jim Crow segregation and the disenfranchisement of black voters in the South.

The Benjamin Tonsler House located at 327 Sixth Street, SW, is one of Charlottesville's Individually Protected Properties, and Tonsler Park on the corner of Cherry and Elliott Avenues is named for him.

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LOCAL NOTABLES

BOOKER T. REAVES, SR.



BOOKER T. REAVES, SR. was born in 1915 and raised in the Ridge Street neighborhood. He was a pioneering black educator in Charlottesville and was the Principal of the Jefferson School before and during integration in the 1950s. The library at Charlottesville High School is named for him.

A native of Charlottesville, Reaves went through the Jefferson School, on to Hampton Institute and Howard University, and then returned to teach at the Jefferson School in 1939. He became Assistant Principal in 1947. In 1955 Reaves became the first Black to earn a graduate degree from UVA's School of Education.

Booker T. Reaves, Sr., died on February 27, 1996, and is buried in Oakwood Cemetery, here in Charlottesville.

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LOCAL NOTABLES

AMY BOWLES-FARROW



AMY BOWLES-FARROW was a free woman of color born around 1735 in Hanover County. She was among the very few African Americans living free in Albemarle County in the period between the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. In 1788, Farrow purchased 224 acres adjacent to Samuel Carr's Dunlora, and the property provided sanctuary and sustenance to several inter-related households of free African American farmers, spinners, coopers, cobblers and carpenters. Upon her death in 1797, Farrow divided her estate between two sons. Portions of her original purchase remained in the hands of her descendants into the 20th century, including the area near where The Center at Belvedere sits. Following the Civil War and Emancipation, newly freed slaves began moving to the area, purchasing land from both the Bowles family and neighboring Dunlora Plantation. It was during this period that the area became known as Free State, easily reached by turning right out of The Center and then left, across the wooden bridge.

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LOCAL NOTABLES

GEORGE P. INGE



GEORGE P. INGE was a prominent African American merchant who moved with his family to Charlottesville from Danville, VA, in 1890. A former slave, he was a graduate of Hampton Institute (now Hampton University) and taught at the Jefferson School for two years. On July 1, 1891, at age 28, he opened Inge's Grocery Store at 333 West Main Street. A lucrative enterprise that remained so for nearly a century, the store became a prominent Charlottesville business specializing in the sale of meat and fish. It supplied the Clermont and Gleason Hotels, the Dolly Madison Inn, and the University Hospital, as well as fraternities and private homes. As the Vinegar Hill area developed into an African American business and residential district, Inge's Grocery Store stood at its center as an important commercial and social establishment. In 1900, Inge was elected City Chairman of the Charlottesville Republican Party and joined in the fight against disenfranchisement of rights of African American people. Despite continual African American support, the Republican party increased efforts to recover white votes through a "lily white" movement, proclaiming that it was a white man's party and had no room to accommodate African Americans. This resulted in Mr. Inge being among those dismissed from the Luray Convention in 1922.

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LOCAL NOTABLES

MAVIS CLAYTOR-FORD



MAVIS CLAYTOR-FORD is the first African American to earn a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Virginia. She graduated in 1970 and went on to earn a master's degree in nursing in 1985.

She was accepted into UVA's nursing program in 1968, but when she arrived on campus, the dormitory staff refused to allot her a room. With assistance from the Dean, she secured housing and refused to allow the setback to deter her from success.

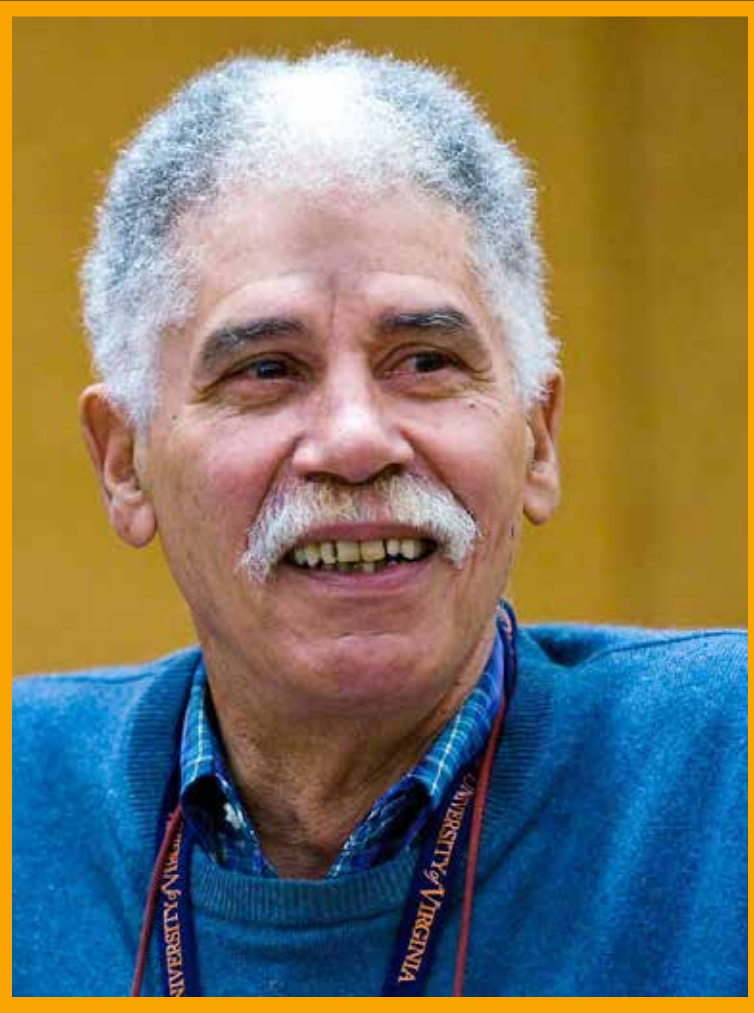
Claytor-Ford later enjoyed a successful career at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Salem. Focused on geriatric care, she encouraged pet therapy and participated in a study of the effects of light and sound stimuli on the behavior of Alzheimer's patients. She retired as the chief nurse for geriatrics and extended care after more than three decades at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

She was honored by UVA for her accomplishments on February 7, 2018.

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LOCAL NOTABLES

JOHN MERCHANT



JOHN MERCHANT was the first African American to graduate from UVA's School of Law (1958) and was the first person of color to join the executive committee of the U.S. Golf Association. An article in UVA Today described his life as being "dedicated to opening doors for others."

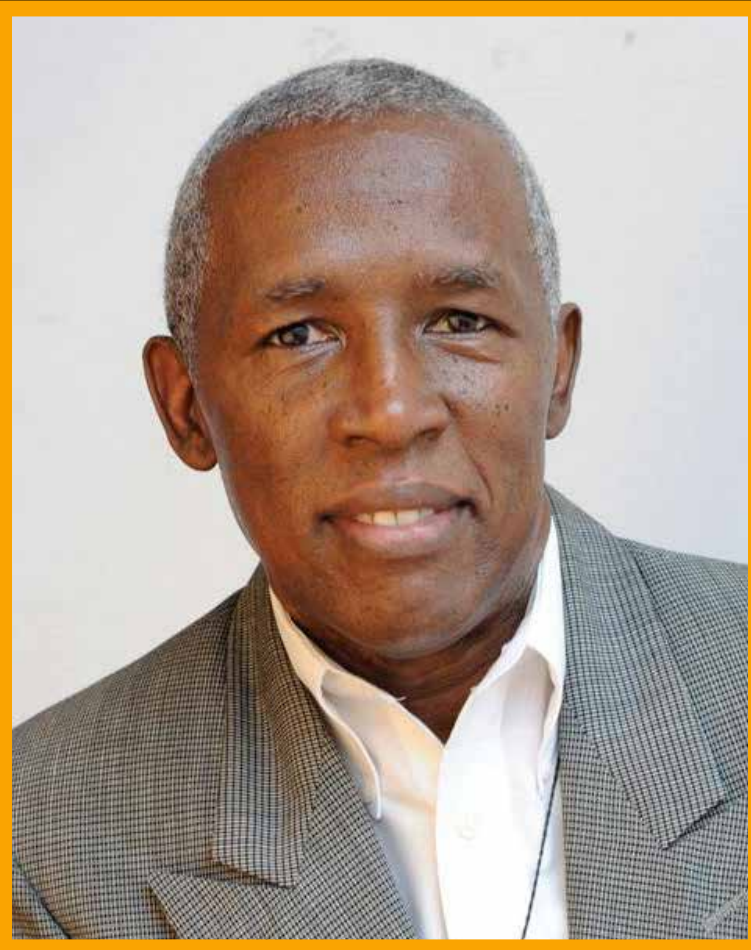
During his service to the USGA from 1992–1995, Merchant created development opportunities for aspiring minority golfers in the traditionally white-dominated sport. He also separately represented a young Tiger Woods as he transitioned from amateur to professional status.

Merchant helped encourage the next generation of UVA graduates with the creation of the Walter N. Ridley Scholarship Fund in 1987. Named after the first black graduate of UVA, the fund continues to this day.

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LOCAL NOTABLES

CHARLES ALEXANDER



CHARLES ALEXANDER, known in the community as Alex-Zan, is a local educator, author, and trailblazer. He is one of the “Charlottesville Twelve” who integrated the city’s schools more than 60 years ago. On Sept. 5, 1959—five years after *Brown v. Board of Education*—U.S. District Judge John Paul ordered that 12 students be immediately transferred from all-black Jefferson Elementary School and Jackson P. Burley High School. Alex-Zan was seven years old when his mother took him to Venable Elementary School. His name is inscribed on a plaque commemorating the bravery of the 12 students in front of the Albemarle County Office Building.

This integration experience instilled personal skills and a work ethic that led him to be very successful in life. Alex-Zan is an Educator-Entertainer-Motivator who facilitates creative, interactive presentations for children, youth, and adults. The initiatives and characters he has developed have prompted people to call him the “info-trainer” and the “performing teacher.” A local and national humanitarian award winner, he was featured as one of *The Daily Progress* Distinguished Dozen in 2018.

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LOCAL NOTABLES