

Afro-American Culture and History
13th Annual Local Conference Meeting

Meeting was called to order by Dr. Lovett, at 12:10 p.m. Persons attending the meeting were Ms. Opelia Paine, Dr. Reavis Mitchell, Ms. Lois McDougald, Ms. Linda Wynn, and Ms. Yildza Binkley.

Dr. Lovett announced that Professors Nina Lovelace and Gregory Ridley will be doing the art exhibit this year. They will be exhibiting the Permanent Collection.

Ms. Opelia Paine does not know if the grants are going to be available this year to sponsor activities for this affair and was asking if anyone could get a group to do some free work. She presented a local group called voices of love (with Margaret Spencer), and Barry Scott was another suggestion (music and drama). Ms. Paine will contact Nancy Shulmates for information. She also mad mention of Humanity Outreach Program (Voices of Harlem). Also, Ms. Paine has already sent out information to Nashville Gas Company and Nashville Electric Services for publicity in the community calendars.

Dr. Lovett mad mention that presenters only had 45 minutes to present and that there was \$869.00 balance in the account from 1992 Conference. Only \$3,078.00 was spent for conference in 1992.

Ms. Wynn suggested that letters be sent to the churches and Dr. Lovett suggested that the pastors of such church would agree to help support the conference, then a letter will be sent out to each of them.

Discussion on NAH-Bicentennial of (Profiles), there are about 60 on hand. The total cost project is \$50,000.00, which includes printing, copying, and hiring one person to criteria information. This bicentennial is set for 1996. Ms. Wynn is going to approach Senator Thelma Harper with plans and is asking for sponsorship of \$50,000.00, which is plan for February 1996.

Fundraising-committee was ask to approach our usual sponsors. Please give Dr. Lovett the names of individuals so letters can be sent out to them and others who you think will give us donations.

Luncheon will be handled by G. Brinkley, which will include the mid-morning refreshments (doughnuts and coffee).

Make call to Mr. Peebles at Winston-Derek to see if he is going to sponsor the orange/coffee and doughnuts.

Discussion of program for local conference, suggestion are as follows:

- I. History of the Local Blues - Edith McCord

- II. History of Slavery in Robertson County - John Baker
- III. Blacks in WW I Davidson County
- IV. Rev. Willie Cato (NCI) Profile - Norma White
- V. Attorney Ennix-Profile
- VI. Fred Benby-Rutherford County - Bradley School
- VII. Yollette Tigg Jones - Blacks in Nashville
- VIII. Ms. Hulda Lyttle - Meharry (Dean of Nursing)
- IX. Rev. Edward - Chattanooga, Tennessee

Dr. Lovett suggested to have or start a mini conference, he is going to check with the Principal at Hunter's Lane High School to do a paper.

Committee will meet again on October 25, 1993, at 11:30 a.m. in the downtown conference room.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

**Metropolitan
Government
of Nashville
and Davidson
County**

Philip Bredesen
Mayor

December 10, 1993



Office Of
The Mayor

Ms. Ophelia Paine
Metro Historical Commission
400 Broadway, Suite 200
Nashville, TN 37203

Dear Ms. Paine:

Mayor Bredesen appreciates very much your invitation for him to deliver welcoming remarks on February 9, 1994 for the 13th Annual Afro-American Culture and History event.

The Mayor is pleased to accept your invitation and will have Mr. Demetrius Greer, in this office, contact you closer to the date to confirm all details. In the meantime, if I can assist you further, please contact me at 862-6000.

Mayor Bredesen has asked that I extend his sincere thanks for your gracious invitation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Benson".

Bob Benson
Mayor's Scheduler

cc: Demetrius Greer

13th Annual History Conference Planned

The 13th annual Afro-American Culture and History Conference will be held Wednesday, February 9, 1994, at the Avon N. Williams, Jr., Campus of Tennessee State University in downtown Nashville at 10th Avenue North and Charlotte.



Former slaves "Uncle" Addison and "Aunt" Cynthia, seated second and third from left, with their descendants in Dunlap, Sequatchie County, ca. 1890. Looking Back Tennessee Collection, TSLA.

Co-sponsored by the Metro Historical Commission and the College of Arts and Sciences at TSU, the one-day event is open to all individuals interested in the contributions of African Americans to the history of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. Financial support for the conference is provided by the Tennessee Historical Society and several other organizations.

Among the program topics are "World War I Goldstar Records: A Source of Afro-American History," "Slavery in Robertson County," "The

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13th Annual History Conference Planned

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Bradley Academy in Murfreesboro's Black Community," and "The Blues Music in Nashville." A performance is also tentatively scheduled of "Harlem Voices" by Barry Scott and Company. In addition, an afternoon workshop is scheduled for Metro school teachers as well as an art exhibition featuring works from

the permanent collection of TSU professors Nina Lovelace, Greg Ridley, and Viola Wood.

Hours of the conference are from 8:30 to 3:00. Pre-registration is strongly recommended; the conference has had standing room only for late registrants the past few years. For more information, contact the Metro Historical Commission at 615/862-7970 or write the Commission at 400 Broadway, Suite 200, Nashville 37203.



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George & Ophelia C Paine
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METROPOLITAN
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Ophelia Paine

January 3, 1994

(615)862-7970

LOCAL CONFERENCE ON AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURE AND HISTORY

The thirteenth annual conference on local Afro-American Culture and History will be held February 9, 1994, at the Avon N. Williams, Jr., downtown campus of Tennessee State University, 10th and Charlotte. The public is invited.

Co-sponsored by the Metro Historical Commission and the College of Arts and Sciences at TSU, the award-winning conference brings together historians, students, educators, and all persons interested in the contributions of African Americans to the history of Nashville and Middle Tennessee. Hours are 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$5 for Senior Citizens and students, and includes lunch. Pre-registration is advised.

Among this year's presentations and speakers are: "World War I Goldstar Records: A Source of Afro-American History," Dr. Griff Watson; "The Search for My African Ancestry in Robertson County," John Baker; "The Bradley Academy in Murfreesboro's Black Community," Fred Beneby; "The Blues Music in Nashville," Mrs.

---more---

AFRO-AMERICAN CONFERENCE, page two

Edith McCord; and "The African American Art Market," Kevin Grogan.

There will be a special one-hour workshop for Metro school teachers from 2:30-3:30 p.m., and works from the TSU permanent art collection will be exhibited in the atrium all day.

The following organizations are supporting the conference this year: AME Review, First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill; First Baptist Church, East Nashville; First Baptist Church, South Inglewood; Frierson Church of Christ Development Foundation, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Jefferson Street Baptist Church, National Baptist Publishing Board, Pleasant Green Baptist Church, Spruce Street Baptist Church, Tennessee Historical Society, Winston-Derek Booksellers, and Woodcuts Frame Shop.

For more information or to pre-register, call the Historical Commission at 862-7970.

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010394

Wednesday, February 9, 1994
Avon N. Williams, Jr., Campus
Tennessee State University
10th and Charlotte Avenue



Afro-American Culture & History

13th Annual Local Conference

- 8:00-8:45 AM Registration and Refreshments, Atrium
- 8:50-9:10 AM Opening Remarks
Mayor Philip Bredesen
Augustus Bankhead, Interim Vice-President of Academic Affairs, TSU
Ann Reynolds, Executive Director, Metro Historical Commission
Dr. Bobby L. Lovett, Dean, TSU College of Arts and Sciences
- 9:15-9:45 AM "The Search for My African Ancestry in Robertson County,"
Mr. John Baker, Springfield, Tennessee
- 9:50-10:20 AM "World War I Goldstar Records: A Source of Afro-American History,"
Dr. Griff Watson, Metro Public Schools
- 10:25-10:55 AM "The Bradley Academy in Murfreesboro's Black Community,"
Mr. Fred Beneby, Murfreesboro, Tennessee
- 10:55-11:10 AM Break and Refreshments, Atrium
- 11:15-12:00 PM "Harlem Voices,"
American Negro Playwright Theatre
- 12:00-1:00 PM Lunch (free with registration), Atrium
- 1:15-1:50 PM "The Blues Music in Nashville,"
Mrs. Edith McCord, Nashville, Tennessee
- 1:55-2:25 PM "African-American Art and Art Collections in Nashville,"
Mr. Kevin Grogan, Director of Galleries and Museums,
Fisk University
- 2:30-3:30 PM Workshop for Metro School Teachers and Interested Persons
- 11:00-3:00 PM Art Exhibition: The Permanent Collections
TSU Professors Nina Lovelace, Greg Ridley, and Viola Wood
Coordinators

The performance by the American Negro Playwright Theatre is made possible by a grant from the Metropolitan Nashville Arts Commission and is free and open to the public.

Planning Committee:

Bobby L. Lovett
Nina Lovelace
Lois McDougald
Reavis Mitchell
Ophelia Paine
Vallie Pursley
Gregory Ridley
Viola Wood
Linda Wynn

Financial Supporters:

AME Review
First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill
First Baptist Church, East Nashville
First Baptist Church, South Inglewood
Frierson Church of Christ
Development Foundation
Jefferson Street Baptist Church
Metro Nashville Arts Commission
National Baptist Publishing Board
Pleasant Green Baptist Church

Spruce Street Baptist Church
Tennessee Historical Society
Winston-Derek Booksellers
Woodcuts Frame Shop

Co-sponsored by:

Tennessee State University
College of Arts and Sciences
Metropolitan Historical Commission

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13TH ANNUAL LOCAL CONFERENCE ON AFRO-AMERICAN CULTURE AND HISTORY

Make check payable to: TSU Foundation: Local Conference
Mail form and check to: Metropolitan Historical Commission
400 Broadway, Suite 200
Nashville, TN 37203 Phone 862-7970

Name _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

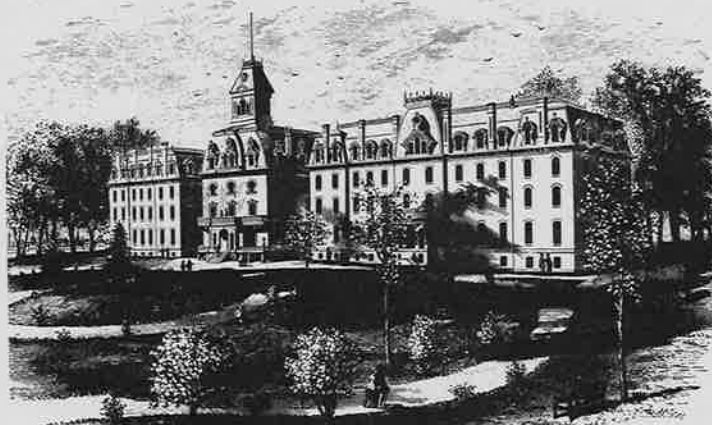
Afro-American Culture & History

13th Annual Local Conference

Afro-American Culture & History

13th Annual Local Conference

Tennessee State University and the Metropolitan Historical Commission are the sponsors of the thirteenth in an ongoing series of annual conferences which coincide with Black History Month. The conference brings together historians, educators, students, and other interested individuals for a program on local Afro-American history and culture. The conference will be held at Tennessee State University's Avon N. Williams, Jr., Campus, 10th and Charlotte, Wednesday, February 9, 1994.



Roger Williams University
(Photo Courtesy of the Nashville Room of the Metropolitan Public Library)

Leaders of Afro-American Nashville



Hulda Margaret Lyttle-Frazier
1889-1983

Hulda Margaret Lyttle-Frazier, a native Nashvillian, was born in 1889 to David and Rebecca Lyttle. After receiving her primary education, in September 1910 Hulda entered the first class of George W. Hubbard Hospital's Training School for Nurses. She gained recognition as an astute scholar and as one willing to render care when needed. Lyttle became proficient in operating room techniques, and attending physicians rewarded her diligence and efficaciousness by requesting Lyttle's help in the operating room. Three years after entering the Training School for Nurses, Lyttle, Lula Woolfolk, and Rhonda A. Pugh became the school's first graduates.

Lyttle then entered Lincoln Hospital's School of Nursing in New York. Upon completion of her studies at Lincoln Hospital's School of Nursing, Lyttle was asked by her former teacher, Charmian C. Hunt, to stand in for her as an instructor at Southern University's School of Nursing until her contract with George W. Hubbard Hospital's Training School for Nurses terminated.

Lyttle returned to Nashville after her three-month tenure at Southern University's School of Nursing ended. She was recommended for head nurse at Hubbard Hospital by Dr. George W. Hubbard, president of Meharry Medical College, and Dr. Josie Wells, superintendent of Hubbard Hospital. From 1916 to 1921, she served as head nurse. From 1921 to 1943, Lyttle was superintendent of nurses, superintendent of George W. Hubbard Hospital, and director and dean of Meharry Medical College's School of Nursing. Lyttle was directly responsible for enhancing the nursing education program and indirectly responsible for improvements made in the general administration of the hospital.

After leaving Meharry Medical College, Hulda M. Lyttle worked in various health care positions around the country. For almost a year, she gave services and expertise to the United States Organization (USO) in North Carolina. She later moved to Houston, Texas,

where she was to manage a recently inaugurated school of nursing. However, because the school's organizational and operational standards were inadequate to meet the academic needs of prospective student nurses, with help from the state board, Lyttle closed the school. She moved to California and for a while worked as a private-duty nurse. In 1948, Lyttle accepted a position with the University of California as administrator of School Health Programs. Later, she took the position of superintendent of the National Baptist Bath House Hospital in Hot Springs, Arkansas. There she met Dr. S. M. Frazier, to whom she was married in May 1954. They later moved to Miami, Florida.

A proponent of continuing education, Lyttle completed summer extension courses at the University of Colorado and Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University. In 1938, she received the B.S. degree from Tennessee Agricultural and Industrial State College and two years later took advanced courses at the University of Toronto's School of Nursing. Additionally, she held teaching certificates in Florida and Tennessee.

Lyttle served as first vice-president and president of the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses. She was a member of the Miami Chapter of Links, Inc., and the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

On June 23, 1946, Meharry Medical College's officials named the student nurses' residence hall in honor of Hulda M. Lyttle Frazier. She became the first woman Meharrian so honored by the school and the hospital. At the age of 94, on Sunday, August 7, 1983, at Cedars of Lebanon Medical Center in Miami, Florida, Hulda Margaret Lyttle Frazier died. She was funeralized on August 10th at the Church of the Open Door and was interred in Lincoln Memorial Park.

Linda T. Wynn

This publication is a project of the 1994 Nashville Conference on Afro-American Culture and History. The authors compiled the information. Tennessee State University's Department of History and Geography edited the materials. The Metropolitan Historical Commission completed the design and printing.

Leaders of Afro-American Nashville



Robert Reed Church, Sr.
1839-1912

Robert Reed Church, Sr., was an African-American business leader, a philanthropist, and a millionaire. Born in Holly Springs, Mississippi, on June 18, 1839, he was the son of a white steamboat captain, Charles B. Church, and a slave seamstress, Emmeline, who died when Robert was twelve years of age. Captain Church worked his mulatto son as a cabin boy and a steward before fateful events would take Robert off the river forever.

When the luxury steamer Bulletin No. 2 burned and sank in 1855, Robert and his father were among the few who survived. Then, soon after the American Civil War began, Federal forces captured Robert when he served as a steward on the steamer Victoria. Now a fugitive slave and later a freedman, Robert settled in Memphis where he embarked on a career that would establish him as a successful businessman in the South.

Although real estate was Church's main interest, he engaged in other business enterprises, including a hotel, a restaurant, and a saloon. The knowledge he gained as a steamboat steward equipped him to meet the personal needs of his customers in a luxurious fashion.

Church operated his hotel in downtown Memphis on the southwest corner of South Second and Gayoso streets. The hotel was advertised as the only first-class Colored hotel in the city. It had large airy rooms, a dining facility, and was furnished with the best equipment of that day.

Because the City of Memphis did not provide recreational facilities for its African-American citizens in 1899, Church opened "Church's Park and Auditorium" at a cost of \$50,000 with total property valued at \$100,000. With a seating capacity of 2,000, Church's Auditorium became the cultural center for the region's African-

American community. Here Church and local black Republicans (R) held huge rallies and meetings. President Theodore Roosevelt (R) spoke to a gathering of ten thousand persons in Church's Park and Auditorium. The notable musician and "Father of the Blues," William C. Handy, was employed as the orchestra leader. Among other notable speakers and performers at the auditorium were Booker T. Washington, James Weldon Johnson, Walter White, and the Fisk Jubilee Singers. After years of neglect, the auditorium was torn down. In modern times, the city assumed the park property which was added to the Beale Street Historic District (National Register of Historic Places) in 1993.

In 1908, Robert R. Church followed the lead of blacks in Nashville and members of Booker T. Washington's National Negro Business League and founded the solvent Savings Bank and Trust Company, the first black bank in Memphis since the collapse of the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company Bank, Memphis Branch, in 1874. Church was elected president of the Solvent Savings Bank and Trust Company. In 1908, when the Beale Street Baptist Church (today's First Baptist Church of Beale Street) was about to be foreclosed on by creditors, Robert R. Church and the bank came to Beale Street Baptist Church's rescue and paid off its creditors with liberal repayment terms.

A self-made man and probably the South's first African-American millionaire, Church gave voluntarily to every worthy cause. Church died in 1912. Several decades later in 1984, the Memphis Chamber of Commerce honored Robert Reed Church, Sr., by naming him one of Memphis' pioneer businessmen.

Reavis L. Mitchell, Jr.

Leaders of Afro-American Nashville

Coyness L. Ennix, Sr.
1901-1984



Coyness Loyal Ennix, Sr., was an attorney and a political and civic leader in Nashville, Tennessee. He was born on September 21, 1901, in Hillsboro, Alabama, son of Frank and Channie Ennix. He began attending the North Alabama Baptist Academy at the age of twelve. Coyness came to Nashville in 1918 and completed Roger Williams University on Whites Creek Pike. He wanted to be a pharmacist, but a few visits to local courts convinced him to study law. Ennix entered Howard University's School of Law in 1928 and completed his studies in 1931 with the second highest scholastic rank in the class.

In 1932, Ennix gained admission to the bar. For the benefit of area blacks, he founded Nashville's Kent College of Law where he trained local attorneys like Robert Lillard and Mose Davies. During some fifty years of practice, Ennix specialized in criminal cases. He handled about 3,000 cases before retiring to matters that came before the Probate Court during the last four years of his career. Around the courtroom, Ennix appeared well-dressed, flamboyant in style with big cigars, and well-versed in the law. At a time when black Nashvillians were turning their attention from the old elite and black Republican leaders to more middle-class and college-educated black Democratic leaders, Coyness L. Ennix became a local civic and political leader.

Coyness L. Ennix advanced as a local political leader during the late 1940s when he became president of the Solid Block, an organization designed to unify the black community in its opposition to political discrimination. The Solid Block effectively held mass meetings at First Colored Baptist Church and other local black churches to petition against the poll tax. The organization published the *Solid Block* newspaper to keep blacks informed and involved in the protest. After thousands of signatures and many petitions were delivered to the Tennessee General Assembly, the poll tax was ended. In 1950, two

blacks won seats to the City Council for the first time since 1911. Ennix lost his bid for a seat.

Coyness L. Ennix continued to be a local civic and political leader. He was the first black member of the Nashville Housing Authority. He gained appointment to the city Board of Education and served through the "integration uproar" that forced Nashville to integrate its schools. He was a member of the city's Auditorium Commission which directed the building of Municipal Auditorium. Ennix also served as a member of the board of directors for the American Baptist Theological Seminary (now American Baptist College) and on the board of directors for the Eighteenth Avenue Community Center. He was a member of Elks Pride of Tennessee Lodge No. 1102.

Additionally, Coyness L. Ennix was a religious leader. He served as superintendent of the Sunday School at First Colored Baptist Church (now First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill) for more than 25 years and as a trustee and deacon of the church, as well as its unpaid legal adviser. Along with the Reverend Kelly Miller Smith and other First Colored Baptist Church leaders, Ennix helped to guide the church through the black civil rights movement's turbulent years when First Colored Baptist Church gave courageous leadership to the sit-in demonstrations and the freedom rides. It was during this time also that First Colored Baptist Church (the last of seven black churches in Nashville's business district) refused to give in to Nashville's urban renewal plans and move from its prime site (8th and Charlotte) until a downtown lot on nearby James Robertson Parkway was secured and a new edifice was built there (1972).

Coyness L. Ennix, Sr., died on Wednesday, April 25, 1984. He was survived by his wife, Blanche Nivens Ennix, and three sons.

Bobby L. Lovett and Lois C. McDougald

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