



MIDWAY COLORED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. A
SMITH STREET
MIDWAY, KENTUCKY
1892

THE STORY OF MIDWAY, KENTUCKY

MIDWAY MUSEUM

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE SERIES

NO. 1 JUNE 2021

THE STORY OF MIDWAY, KENTUCKY
MIDWAY MUSEUM: AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE SERIES
NO. 1 JUNE 2021

Midway Museum presents the first of a series of publications exploring the History of Midway.

Each series will focus on a specific area of Midway history.

African American Heritage Series, No. 1, presents vibrant, and mostly unpublished stories, of some African American families of Midway.



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PRESERVE AND SHARE THE
HISTORICAL LEGACY OF
MIDWAY, KENTUCKY**

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Message From Midway Museum Board of Directors

Juneteenth means freedom ... and so does truth. As leaders of the Midway Museum, we celebrate Juneteenth for all that it represents in this community.

We embrace the many facets of the occasion—joy and pain, opportunity and oppression, pride and shame—because all those elements are surely rooted in this place we love.

We recognize that slavery is entwined in the past of every Midway family, whether our ancestors supported and fought for it, stood against it in principle or in battle, or were in bondage themselves. Each person bears a different burden today produced from the reality of yesterday.

We acknowledge there is more we must learn, whether discomfoting or triumphant.

And always, we seek a more thorough understanding, for the right side of history is the side of truth.

*Written by Bob Rouse, author and poet from Midway,
for Midway Museum Board of Directors*



Juneteenth - June 19, 1865

“...the 19th of June wasn’t the exact day the Negro was freed. But that’s the day they told them that they was free... And my daddy told me that they whooped and hollered and bored holes in trees with augers and stopped it up with [gun] powder and light and that would be their blast for the celebration.”

– Hays Turner, former slave.

Foreword

By John Batts

General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas and issued General Order Number Three. On June 19, 1865, the order was read giving the last slaves in the U.S. their freedom. Juneteenth is a celebration of this event, carried out by a man now buried in the Lexington Cemetery in Lexington, Kentucky.

In many ways, Midway was no different from most towns of that time. The worst of humanity existed in the land around us. Slavery happened in Midway. Individuals were bought and sold as property. Families were torn apart while communities struggled for basic human needs.

In the book, *A New History of Kentucky*, Lowell Harrison describes the state of slavery in Kentucky just before the end of the Civil War.

"In March 1865, the U.S. government estimated that seventy-one percent of the state's slaves had been freed, although many of them remained with their former masters. Some sixty-five thousand people were still enslaved," (Harrison 180).

Midway survived during this time and slowly worked for change. Midway did have its heroes however, and some of their stories are only beginning to be told. The churches acted as sanctuaries by giving assistance when needed and by giving leadership within their own ranks in the community. The cemeteries allowed Midway's citizens to mourn and pay their respects to those loved ones that they lost.

Some of the stories in this book highlight people who came from slavery in Midway and show how they or their dependents prospered. For example, Edward D. Brown came from slavery to prosperity through difficult times in the horse industry with his amazing skills as a jockey, trainer and later owner. Then there were the Lee and Mosby families, who worked to make a better life for their family. The story follows their lives from slaves to business owners, educators and administrators.

When possible, we share these ancestors' own words from oral histories collected through the years. Other stories tell of more recent contributions of Midway's African American leadership and their vision for the future.

May their stories remind us of where the community came from, teach us the importance of being involved, and inspire us that one person can make a difference. And may this serve as a small thank you for those who came before and passed the torch to us.

Gratitude

Midway Museum Board of Directors would like to thank

..... you, the "Midway historians," who, through the years, collected, protected, and shared the history and stories of Midway. Without you, your diligence and persistence, the rich past of this city would be lost.

..... all the members of *Midway Museum - Midway's History Exchange (KY)* on Facebook who have contributed images, stories, and names so history will now not be forgotten.

..... the people who wrote or gave permission for material and articles included in this publication to be shared in celebration of our fellow citizens.

Dedication

To all the families of Midway whose ancestors gained freedom on Juneteenth, by Emancipation Proclamation, by 13th Amendment, by escape, by the Underground Railroad, by enlistment in the Union Army, or by self-purchase, and to their ancestors who never experienced freedom on American soil.

Juneteenth Celebration 2021 Midway and Woodford County

WOODFORD COUNTY JUNETEENTH FESTIVAL

CELEBRATE AMERICA'S BLACK FREEDOM

SATURDAY, JUNE 19 ★ MIDWAY, KY

PARADE

11:00 am

From the Ballpark to Downtown

PROCLAMATION

12:00 pm

By Woodford County Judge Executive
James Kay & Midway Mayor
Grayson Vandergrift

GOSPEL EXTRAVAGANZA

1:00 pm

Featuring singers from historic
Second Christian Church,
St. Matthew AME Church,
& Pilgrim Baptist Church

KENTUCKY CHAUTAUQUA

2:00 pm

Presents William Wells Brown: How I Got
My Name, Portrayed by Virgil Covington Jr.
(Presentation sponsored by the Woodford
County Public Library together with
Kentucky Humanities)

DOWNTOWN GROOVE

4:00-9:00 pm

DJ Greene
The Ark Band

EVENT COMMITTEE

John Betts

Greg Bush

Milan Bush

Sandra Darneal

Jillian Hall

John Holloway

Mary Kane

Sally Kinnaird

Mary Raglin

Bud Ratliff

Stacy Thurman

Grayson Vandergrift

SPONSORS & DONORS

Honoring Black Stories

Midway Renaissance

Midway Museum

Woodford County Library

Councilwoman Mary Raglin

Other Private Donations



Woodford County Demographic Changes Pre-Civil War to Present

SLAVE POPULATION MAP FROM 1860 U.S. CENSUS

Darker shades indicate more dense slave population.

Woodford County registered 52.5% of its population as slaves in 1860, the highest percentage per county in Kentucky.

PRE-CIVIL WAR POPULATION

1790 U.S. Census

6,963 Whites
2,220 Slaves
27 Free Persons

1800 U.S. Census

4,502 Whites
2,107 Slaves
15 Free Colored

1810 U.S. Census

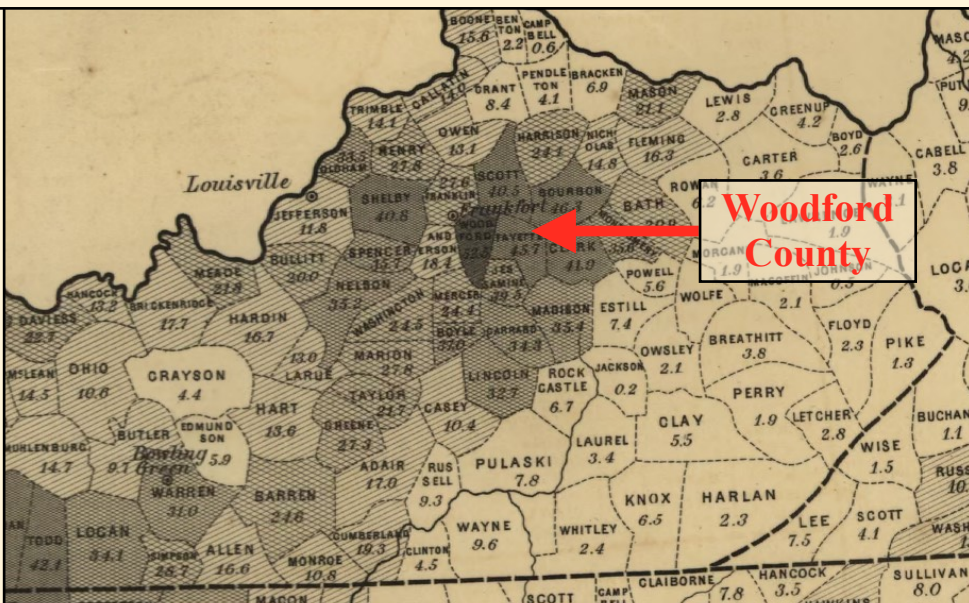
5,957 Whites
3,454 Colored
80 Free Colored

1850 U.S. Census/Slave Schedule

5,884 Whites
808 Slave Owners
5,767 Black Slaves
607 Mulatto Slaves
143 Free Blacks
22 Free Mulattos

1860 U.S. Census/Slave Schedule

5,274 Whites
704 Slave Owners
4,681 Black Slaves
1,150 Mulatto Slaves
81 Free Blacks
33 Free Mulattos



INITIAL CENSUS AFTER CIVIL WAR

1870 U.S. Census

4,453 White
3,337 Blacks
450 Mulattos

436 (About) U.S. Colored Troops listed
Woodford County as their birth location

Midway

49% Black
51% White

TURN-OF-THE-CENTURY POPULATION

1900 U.S. Census

8,383 White Population
4,738 Black Population
13 Race not identified

1900 Midway Population

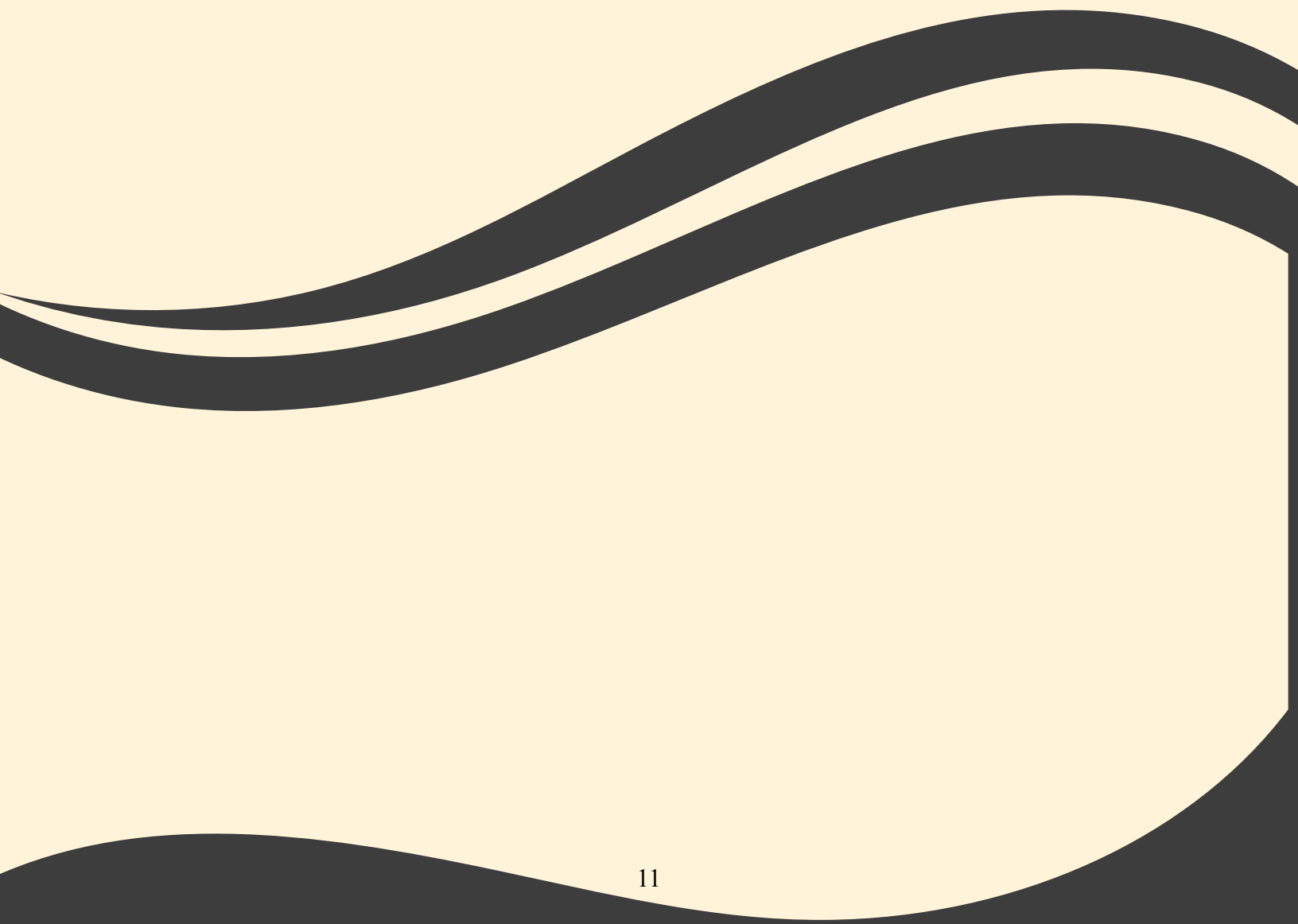
1,540 White Population
931 Black (Total) Population
329 Black Males
324 Black Females
127 Mulatto Males
151 Mulatto Females

PRESENT-DAY POPULATION

2019 U. S. Census Population Estimates

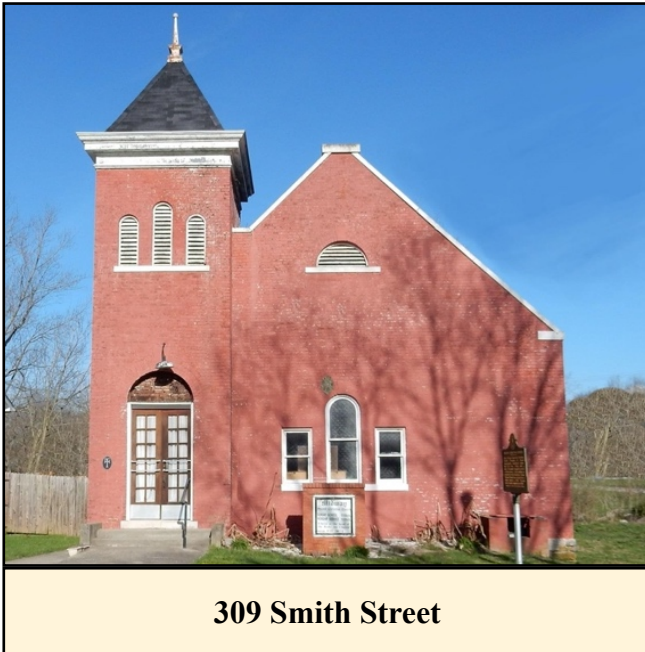
86 % White
7 % Hispanic or Latino
5% Black
1.7 % Two or More Races
.3 % Native American or Alaskan Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

AFRICAN AMERICAN CHURCH LIFE



Historic Second Christian Church

By Katherine Johnson (1886-1960), [updated by Brenda Washington Jackson, September 2017]



In the Eighteen Hundreds (1800's) came Alexander Campbell, Barton Stone and "Raccoon" John Smith into Woodford County and the surrounding communities, preaching and baptizing white and colored under the "Great Commission", Mark 16:15-16. The white Christians worshipped at New Union, Grassy Springs and Georgetown. In those days master and slaves worshipped together. The colored part of the congregation grew so large that they could no longer worship with the whites. The Elders organized them into a congregation whose meeting place was on the property of the white Christians of Midway, now known as the Kentucky Female Orphan School [now Midway University]. This was sometime between 1830-1840. This building also served as the first colored school in Midway.

The Elders of the congregation preached and conducted the services until the C.W.B.M. [Christian Woman's Board of Mission] of the white Christian Church saw the need of a more efficient leader to preach to them. They bought Alexander Campbell from a Mr. Buford for \$1,000 and educated him to preach to the colored congregation. Alexander Campbell was the father of the late Elder Stafford Campbell of Lexington, Kentucky and pastor of the (Paris) Seventh Street Christian Church.

The old log house became unfit for use. The membership then purchased the lot where the church now stands and bought the frame church from the white Presbyterians and erected it on the lot in 1872. This was during the pastorate of Elder Leroy Redd, who built and set the building in order for worship. Time and the congregation showed the need of a more modern building. In 1906 the present building was erected during the first pastorate of Elder A. W. Davis of Dallas, Texas.

Nearly all the pioneer preachers of the brotherhood occupied the pulpit either as pastor or in protracted meetings. She also sent out a number of preachers, doing much to forward the ministry: Elders Ed. Allen, Leroy Redd, Austin Reed, Julius Graves, Albert Douglass, Alexander Williams, and a number of others. Richard Saunders, pastor at Danville, Kentucky was the last preacher sent out.

The following have served as pastors of the church: Alexander Campbell (300 members added to the church), George Williams, Leroy Redd, R. E. Hathaway, Alford Merchant, _____ Givens, Austin Reed, Alexander Campbell, Jr., W. H. Brown, William Richards, W. H. Bowen, S. P. Mitchell, T. S. Nelson (erected Nelson's Hall), W. A. A. Harris, Stafford Campbell, C. B. Bailey, A. W. Davis, Albert Green, _____ Tanzymoore, _____ Litton, R. W. Watson (purchased lot for parsonage), W. H. Huffman, Isaac Moore, G. E. Letton (built parsonage), Howard Fowler (During the pastorate of Rev. Howard Fowler, we celebrated our anniversary with the late Bro. Mark Collis, Lexington, and the late Bro. Stafford Campbell as speakers.), William Campbell, E. H. Harrison, T. R. Everett (died in 1954), B. F. Fleming (present pastor in 1955).

The following have served as officers of the church: Elisha Harris (Elder), Lincoln Banks, Gus Logan (Clerk), Walter Douglass, Graves Harris, Lafayette Young, Abe Romp, Ben Mason, Powell Hall, Tom Green, Abe Douglass, Isaiah Miles, Dudley Twyman (Treas.), Will Anderson, Milford Graves (Elder), Henry Henderson, John Stafford (Elder), Dave Hamilton (Clerk), Lewis Reed (Elder), John Campbell, Cook Hale, Ed Hamilton, Jim Williams, Jake Moore, Alex Williams, Ned Banks.

Many were added to the faith under their pastorates and leaderships. One of the faithful members was Sister Mary Campbell [died February 1898] who lived over a hundred years. [Bluegrass Clipper newspaper reported that she died at the age of 103]. The parsonage debt was paid off and the annex built under the leadership of Elder T. R. Everett.

We are proud of our time-honored institution, long noted for its deeds of Christianity and for the oldest colored congregation in our community and the oldest in the state of our faith. On May 18, 1941 we will celebrate our organization and homecoming day. We invite all members and visitors to worship with us on this day and especially all ministers who have pastored our congregation.

This history was gathered by Katherine Johnson from the older members of the church and the white and colored citizens of Midway. Those contributing to the history:

(White) Mrs. Jenny Williams *, Lawyer Richard Godson, Mr. John Wise

(Colored) Sister Louise Moore, Elder Milford Graves, Mrs. Caroline James*, Mrs. Mary Miller*, Mr. David Hamilton

*When Mrs. Jenny Williams [Mrs. Eugenia Williams [born, 1833] came to the Kentucky Female Orphan School, a girl of 15 years, the log church was there. [This would have been in 1848 when she came to Midway.] She was 100 years old in 1933.

When Mrs. Caroline James [born, 1841], colored, came to Midway, she was 15 years old [1856] in slavery with Mrs. Squire Moore. She attended the log church [that was on the Midway College campus in 1856]. She was 92 years old in 1933.

Mrs. Mary Miller [born, 1849] attended the church when she was a girl. She was 84 in 1933. The colored citizens came to the church in 1933 and testified to the above statements. (Some of this information was verified in the 1920 census.)

Original copy of Mrs. Johnson's history can be found at the Lexington Theological Seminary, Lexington, KY in the Special Collection Area. Mrs. Johnson's history of the church was published in the Kentucky Christian Evangel, Lexington, Ky. Vol. 4, No. 4. April 15, 1948. Letter from Mrs. Katherine Johnson to Mr. Roscoe Pierson –

Midway, Ky.
July 1, 1957

Mr. Roscoe M. Pierson, Librarian
Baswell Memorial Library
The College of The Bible
Lexington, Ky

I read in The Kentucky Christian Evangel of your request for information on the history of Negro Disciples in Kentucky. I am sending a history of the Midway Christian Church (colored) located at Midway, Ky.

I gathered this information over a period of years from 1912 until 1955. I hope that this information will be of help to you and Mr. Claude Walker.

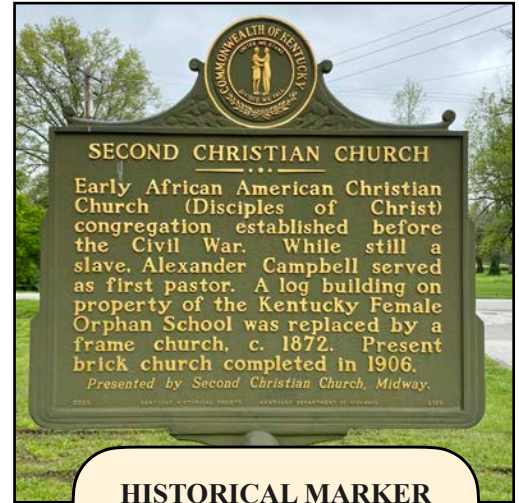
Very truly yours,
Mrs. Katherine Johnson P.O. Box 5 Midway, Ky.



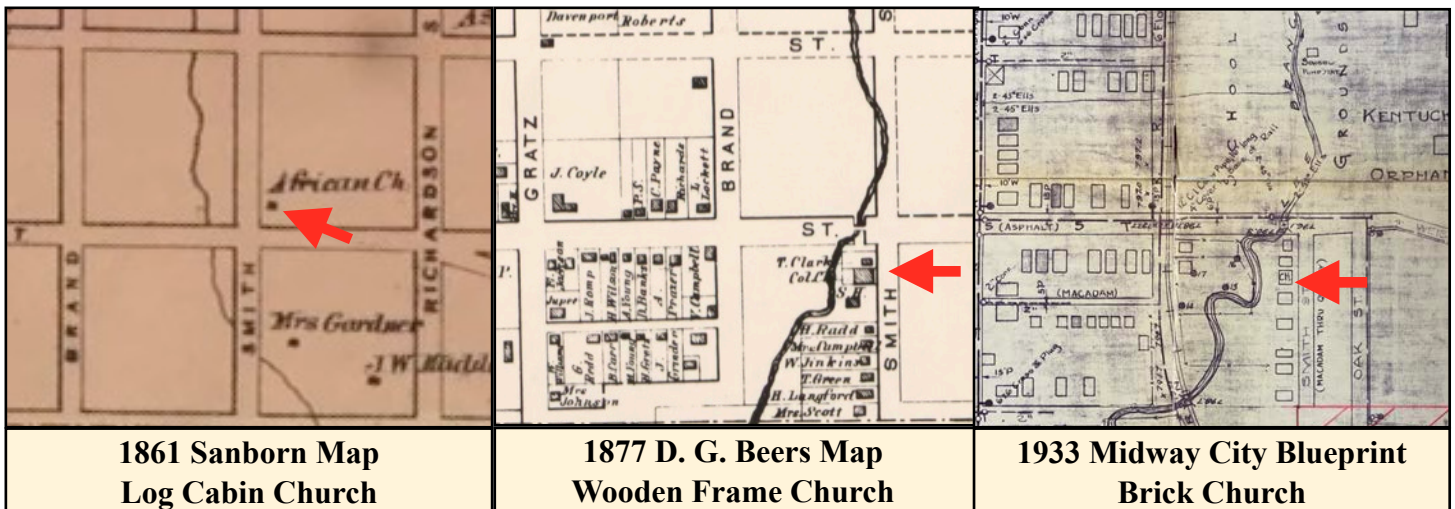
Historic Second Christian Church 2004

**THREE BUILDINGS OF HISTORIC SECOND CHRISTIAN CHURCH:
LOG CABIN CHURCH – WOODEN FRAME CHURCH – BRICK CHURCH**

- 1789 Woodford County is formed.
- 1792 Kentucky is admitted into the Union (United States).
- 1832 Slaves and white Christians of Midway worship together in the Reform Church congregation, established from the Grassy Springs, New Union, and Georgetown Churches.
- 1833 Railroad service includes two round trips daily from Lexington to Duckers Station, coming thru Midway.
- 1835 Building lots are advertised for sale in Midway.
- 1840 Presbyterian congregation moves to Midway and builds a frame church.
- 1842 White Christians of Midway, prior to 1842, offer slave congregation a log building that is located on land where present-day Midway University is located.
- 1846 Midway is incorporated by the Kentucky Legislature in February 17, 1846.
- 1847 Kentucky Female Orphan School is founded (Midway University).
- 1867 Church serves as Midway’s first black school, started by the Freedmen’s Bureau, in April.
- 1868 Colored school of Midway, in the log church, is attacked by a mob. They “proceeded to wreck the church, destroying the pews and shooting out the windows.” [Misc. Documents, Senate of the United States, 1871]
- 1869 Trustees for the church, Stafford Campbell & Leroy Redd, purchase land on Smith Street at a Commissioner’s Sale, June 5. Cost: \$50.50. Present church location.
- 1870 - 72 Midway Colored Christian Church purchases the frame church from Midway Presbyterian. The building is moved to Smith Street in 1870, completed in 1872.



**HISTORICAL MARKER
GPS LOCATION
38°8'43" N 84°40'53" W
MIDWAY KY**



**1861 Sanborn Map
Log Cabin Church**

**1877 D. G. Beers Map
Wooden Frame Church**

**1933 Midway City Blueprint
Brick Church**



MIDWAY
Christian Church
Big Day! Big Day!

Come one and all
CELEBRATION
 Our Pastor's Birthday
 and 57 Years of Service
Nov. 25, 1945 **ALL DAY**

GOOD PREACHING! ● GOOD SINGING!
 "Give Him Some Flowers While He Lives"
 DINNERS WILL BE SERVED AT THE CHURCH—1 to 2:30 P. M.
 Elder T. R. EVERETTE, Pastor

Ministers Pictured Above

- Rev. Richard Saunders
- Rev. T. R. Everette
- Unnamed
- Rev. Richard Gentry
- Unnamed
- Unnamed

Congregation Pictured Right

- Children in front row:*
- Robert Owsley
 - Johnny Johnson
 - Vinette Washington
 - Joan Carter
 - Corine Owsley
 - Vina Owsley
 - Jestine Johnson

- Others included are:*
- Mrs. Rosairene Black
 - Rev. T. R. Everette
 - Helen Garner
 - Mary Perkins
 - Albert Guy
 - Nola Washington
 - Effie Edwards
 - Mrs. Eddie Bell Lee
 - Mrs. Sarah Johnson
 - Eugene Thomas



Brief Sketch of Life's Work

Elder T. R. Everette was born in Hart County Ky., November 22, 1870. He is the son of Charles and Millie Martin, and reared in a humble home. He received only the rudiments of an education, such as was prevalent in those days. He joined the Baptist Church and preached there until he joined the Christian Church in 1897.

He preached in Cane Valley, Hunters Chapel in Adair County, Glasgow, Barren County, Hopkinsville, Christian County, Louisville Third Church, Lexington East Second Street, Fenville, Nicholasville, North Middletown, Carlisle, Mayslick, Millersburg, Prall St., Lexington and Midway, Ky. He taught school from 1891 to 1904.

The Midway Christian Church

Invites you to join them in the
Celebration
 of
**SEVENTY-FIFTH BIRTHDAY
 ANNIVERSARY**
 and
**FIFTY-SEVENTH MINISTERIAL
 ANNIVERSARY**
 of
ELDER T. R. EVERETTE

Sunday, November Twenty-fifth
 Nineteen hundred and Forty-five

We feel that you would like to share with us in our Celebration of the many years of sacrifice and loyal service to the many churches in the state by Elder Everette, by giving a donation to help make this a joyful and memorable occasion in his life.

The officers and members of the Midway Christian Church.

Officers and Deacons Name

- Eld. James F. Campbell
- Eld. Alfred Douglas
- Deacon Eugene Thomas
- Deacon Randle Bush
- Deacon Henry Graves
- Deacon Thomas Fields

Sunday Morning—11:00 A. M.

- Worship Services Officers
- Sermon
- Offering
- Communion
- Benediction

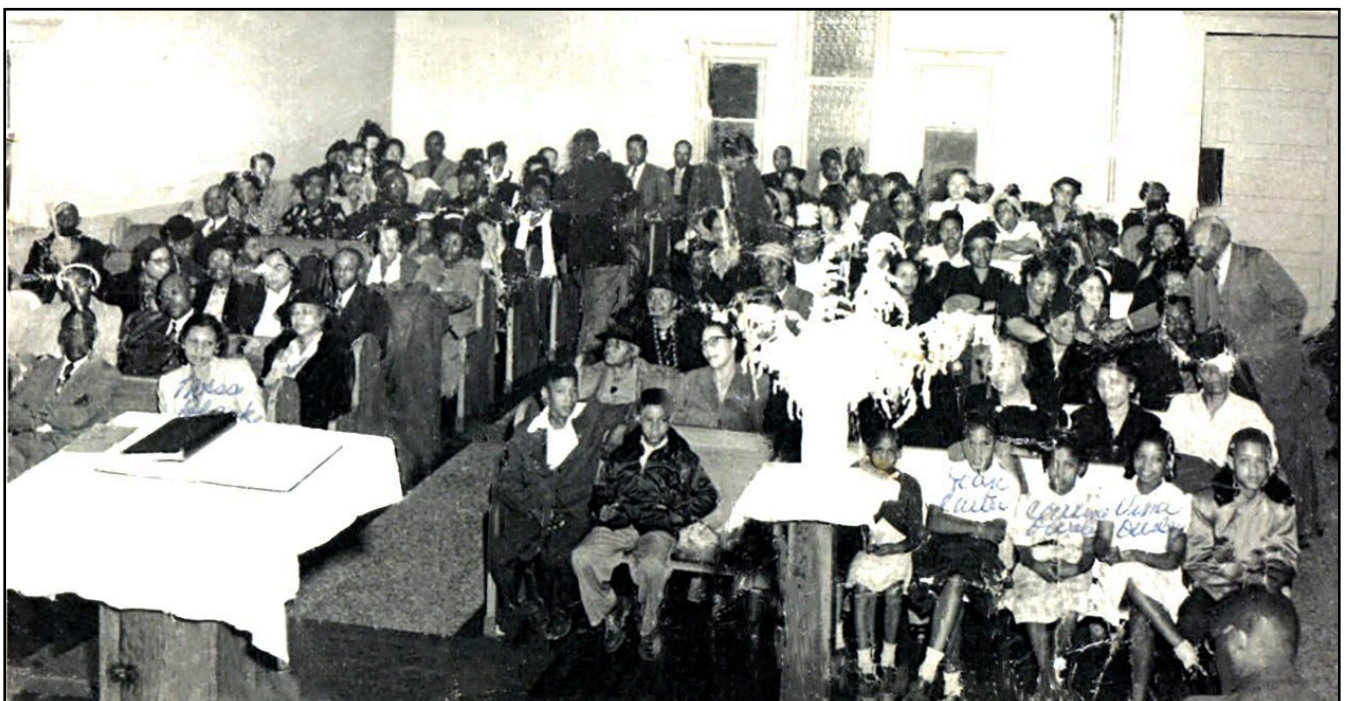
Sunday Afternoon—2:00 P. M.

- Worship Services
- Music East Second St. Christian Church
- The Life and Ministry of Eld. Everette— I. H. Moore
- Music East Second St. Christian Church
- Eld. T. R. Everette as a Citizen Mr. Legrand Lee
- Music Pilgrim Baptist Church
- Offering
- Benediction

Evening Services—7:30 P. M.

- Worship Service St. Matthews A. M. E. Church
- Sermon Rev. E. K. Keyes
- Remarks Elder T. R. Everette
- Music St. Matthews A. M. E. Church
- Offering
- Benediction

HISTORIC SECOND CHRISTIAN CHURCH - NOVEMBER 25, 1945



St. Matthew African Methodist Episcopal Church

As read each year in March at the anniversary celebration.



112 South Winter Street

God moves in a mysterious way his wonders to perform.
He plants his footsteps in the sea and rides up the storms.

What a great mystery was performed in the year 1860, when this great earth shook with the tread of mighty armies engaged in the Civil War. The church property was used as a recruiting office for federal soldiers and was owned by Dr. Thomas and Louisa Iles (wife), Dave Thornton, Jesse E. Haskins, Richard Allen, G.W. O'Neal of Versailles, Kentucky, and Samuel Clinton and Thomas Iles of Midway, Kentucky. Through many prayers and self-denial, Reverend Burke secured the deed and purchased the property on March 2, 1869, for \$700.00; the purpose being to establish an African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Reverend Burke, the first minister for Saint Matthew also helped establish the first African American organization in Midway for the "care of the sick and destitute members thereof, the protection of the widows and orphans of deceased members, and the burial of the dead." This organization was incorporated on May 10, 1877 and was named the "Sons and Daughters of Relief." The first

cemetery in Midway still has the same name and still exists today. Much respect goes out to Reverend Moses Burke and the other seven people who helped to establish the organization in 1877.

The pastors of the old frame church were as follows: Moses Burke, Isaac Nelson, Jilson Fraser, Hawkins Williams, Miller James, M. Turner, Lawrence Crawford, Livisay Hamilton, and Emmanuel Wilson.

Reverend J.W. Frazier and congregation erected a brick church in 1886. Reverend Frazier was pastor of this beautiful little church for seven years. He was succeeded by Reverend Houston F. Lindsey who named the church, Saint Matthew. Our next pastor was Reverend Johnson Ashberry. Succeeding Reverend Ashberry was Reverend A.H. Ross. This church was destroyed by fire and until the members could rebuild, the congregation worshipped in a Hall.

In 1892, the present building was erected. It was built by David Lehman, the contractor, at a cost of \$3,100. It is a building of which we need not be ashamed. It is on one of the most beautiful streets of this little city. Bounded on the north by the Masonic building; on the east by the Midway Christian Church; on the south by the old Lacefield residence; and on the west by the Midway Baptist Church. Reverend P. A. Nichols dedicated the church to GOD.

Reverend G.L. David, our next pastor, beautified the church property by purchasing a clock, and a bookcase for the church. Additionally, his congregation was responsible for lifting a great amount of debt from the church. Our next pastors were Reverend Johnson, Jacob Edwards, Harvey Knox, J.W. Hill, and J.H. Vincy.

Reverend D. C. Carter, J. W. Caldwell, and A. W. Booker were our next pastors. Reverend A. T. Clark built the Parsonage and Reverend G. W. Andrews built the back to the Parsonage. His congregation also installed the electric lights in the church. The Reverend B. M. Hughes was the organizer of Founders' Day. Our next ministers were Reverend G. D. Coleman, M. H. Mickens, and J. C. Hill. Reverend E. H. Martin, assisted by Mr. Willie James, a member of the congregation, put the metal ceiling on the church and electric lights in the parsonage.

Reverend C. T. Buchanan did much for our church. He lifted the debt and was a community servant. Our next ministers were Reverend O. C. Gibbs and Reverend Sheley Lynem. Reverend Lynem, along with assistance of the officers of the church, accomplished great work. The pastor painted the parsonage and the church roof. Additionally, the church was equipped with carpet, a basement, and a bathroom was installed in the parsonage. Also, the woodwork on the outside of the church was painted and the old tower was rebuilt.

The church was further uplifted by the pastorate of Reverend Keys and Reverend Clark. Reverend Harvey, our next pastor was responsible for installing the restrooms in the basement of our church and painting the parsonage. Our next pastor Reverend L. A. Smith, also greatly assisted our church. Next, Reverend M. Teal, worked faithfully as the church's pastor until his death.

The Reverend N. L. Passmore, after Reverend Teal's death, was sent to assist the church until the end of conference year. The Bishop sent him to us as our pastor and he remained as such for over 20 years. Under his pastorate, the church purchased a beautiful organ and piano. The building was redecorated, painted, a furnace was installed, and he remodeled the steeple and added a deaconess to our official board.

On July 10, 1977, the Reverend Barry C. Frazier was sent as pastor of the church. He remodeled and beautified both the sanctuary and the parsonage. Our next pastors included Reverend White, Reverend Michael Broadnax, Reverend Sherman Baker, Reverend Kenneth Joe Clay, and Reverend Donald Wilhite. In September of 1994, our prayers were answered with the coming of Reverend W. Thomas Aaron as our pastor. Reverend Aaron led the congregation in a major renovation project of the church properties, lifted the congregation spiritually and financially. He also increased the attendance and participation.

Reverend Jermaine L. Wilson was our next pastor. Under Reverend Wilson's administration we were able to accomplish much both spiritually and financially. During his pastorate we purchased a state-of-the-art computerized piano. In October 1999, Reverend Jason R. Curry was appointed to our church. He was here for ten months and was promoted.

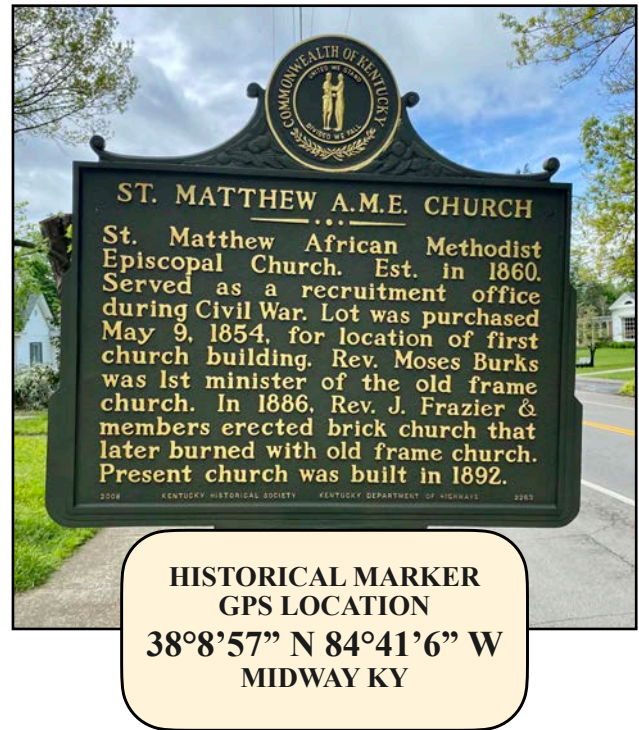
In August 2000, Reverend Kelvin Robinson was appointed as pastor of Saint Matthew by Bishop F. H. Talbot. Under his pastorate, the members were able to install a handicap ramp, replace the sidewalk in front of the church, and install new pews. We have been blessed with his ministry.

September 17, 2005, Reverend Sherry Miller was appointed pastor of our church by Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie. Reverend Miller was the first female pastor of the church and she was appointed by the first female Bishop in the church. Reverend Miller heightened the spirit in the church through the preached word as well as developing several ministries.

During Reverend Miller's pastorate, our church's roof structure was in danger of collapsing. We had to vacate the building. Taylor Manor Nursing Home, Versailles, Kentucky invited us to have our services at their facility until we could have the necessary work done and re-inhabit our building. It took approximately six months to secure a loan, have engineering plans approved, get a bid, and get back into our church. God made what we thought was impossible possible. Thanks be to God.

In November 2008, Reverend A. D. Reed was appointed pastor of Saint Matthew at the 13th District planning meeting. Under Reverend Reed's leadership we have continued to thrive, both spiritually and financially, as well as re-instituting some of the AME ritualism in the church.

On December 2, 2012, Reverend Doctor Sheila Harris came to us as pastor, appointed by Bishop Jeffrey N. Leath. In the time she was here, she lifted the spirit of the members. She moved from Chattanooga, Tennessee, into the parsonage and started ministering to the members of the church. We had an increase in membership and a financial blessing under her leadership. In October 2017, Reverend Joshua Clinton Hale was appointed by Bishop Jeffrey N. Leath as pastor of Saint Matthew. May God give him the faith and strength to persevere and guide our congregation to higher heights in doing the work of God. Our church is truly moving onward and upward in the name of JESUS CHRIST!



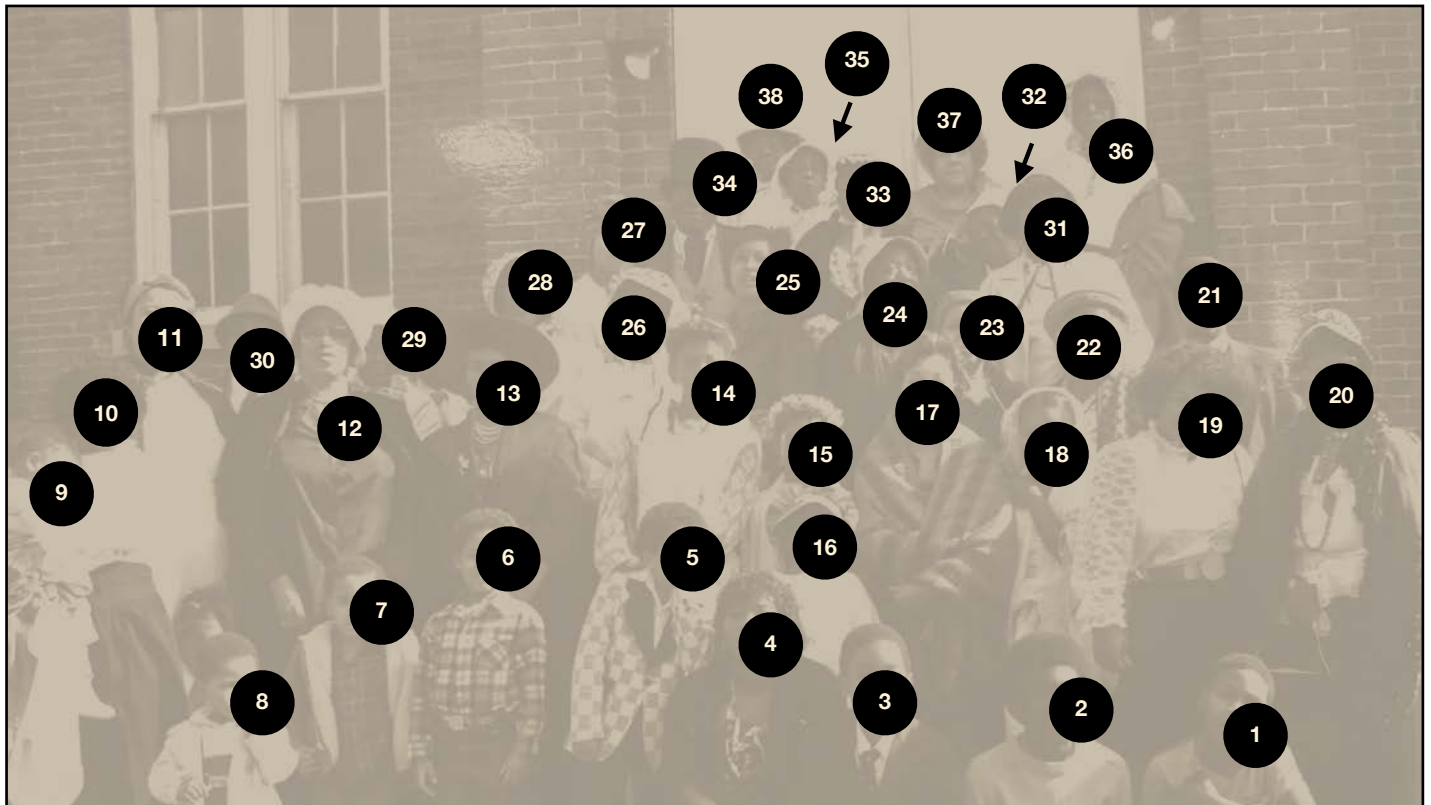
ST. MATTHEW A.M.E. CHURCH FOUNDERS' DAY



- | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Stephen Caldwell | 11. Anna Johnson | 21. Robert Porter | 31. Florence Bush |
| 2. Laron Raglin | 12. Pinkie Kennedy | 22. Agnetta Robinson | 32. Annette Fields |
| 3. Kelly Burnham | 13. Terrie Alcorn | 23. Betty Johnson | 33. Georgia Raglin |
| 4. Maggie Jackson | 14. Bonita Johnson | 24. Nannie Darneal | 34. Rev. Sherman Baker |
| 5. Theodore Jones, III | 15. Treasure Banks | 25. Pat Kennedy | 35. Pearl Baker |
| 6. Lawan James | 16. Adero Jones | 26. Katherine George | 36. Jestine Guy |
| 7. Quinn Kennedy | 17. Gina Johnson | 27. Alisha Johnson | 37. Anna Banks |
| 8. T. J. Donovan | 18. Vicki Johnson | 28. Mary C. Raglin | 38. Leola Young |
| 9. Donnie Donovan | 19. Mary James | 29. Carrie James | |
| 10. Martha James | 20. Georgina Long | 30. James M. Hale | |

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OF ST. MATTHEW A.M.E. CHURCH

- * According to oral history, St. Matthew A.M.E. Church hosted the first Kentucky Annual Conference.
- * The first choir was organized in 1882.
- * The first organist was a little girl by the name of Maggie C. James. Some of the early choir members were Brother Sanders B. Cors, Mrs. Virginia Hamilton, Emma Hawkins, Nettie Toliver, Annie Claiborne, Eliza Williams, Cordelia Allen, Edna Williams, and others.
- * The opening of the new Parsonage was February 7, 1921. Reverend A. J. Clark was the pastor.
- * During Founders' Day in 1936, when Reverend O. C. Gibbs was pastor, one of the events for the day was a Mock Annual Conference.
- * For the 87th church anniversary, each member was asked to give 87 dollars.
- * Some of our Founders' Day offerings were: 1953 - for the day \$31.38, 1954 - for the day \$48.12. The visiting ministers were paid \$5 both years.
- * The first formal wedding was held at Saint Matthew on August 6, 1955. Miss Helen Johnson (member) married Mr. George Demaree.
- * The Men's Club redecorated the dining room in 1956.
- * The Improvement Club redecorated the kitchen in 1956. Sister Ruth Thomas was the President.
- * The Young Adult Club installed the lounging room in the women's bathroom in 1956.
- * Reverend Norman L. Passmore gave the church a slogan: *"The little church with the big heart in the heart of Midway."*
- * Handicap ramp built in 2003.
- * Kentucky Historical Marker dedicated in 2008.



MEMBERS OF ST. MATTHEW A.M.E. CHURCH



Michelle Caldwell, Anita Hanley, Mary Raglin, Shaleigh Richards, Dawn Johnson, Lynn Miles, Rev. Rhoda Raglin, Adero Jones, Rita Murray, Roberta Guy, Eugenia Johnson-Smith, Gracie Caldwell, Zelma James, Connie Mulder, Terry Alcorn, Shawn Smith, Wendy Young, Cora Pennie, Dynasty Dawson, Jackie Garner, Rhonda Garner, Nikaleigh Pennie, Magnolia Jackson, Anna Marie Johnson, Cherala Buchanan, Justice Ruffin, Kayla Ruffin, London Garner, Robert Earl Saunders, Kent Raglin, John C Raglin Jr., Arthur Guy Jr., Mark Raglin, Greg Bush, Josh Cunningham, Tamera Cunningham, Bonnie Washington, Kenneth Dobson, Al Kennedy, Jestine Johnson, Aaron Mason, Rev. Don Johnson, Rev. Shelia Harris, Greg Bush, Johnny Johnson, Mary Raglin, Rita Murray, Roberta Guy, Rev. Joshua C. Hale, Wendy Young, Anna Marie Johnson

EARLY HISTORY OF ST. MATTHEW A.M.E. CHURCH

By Christy C. Reaves



By 1847, a Methodist Meeting Hall existed at the current location of St. Matthew A.M.E. Church. It is not known whether this meeting hall was for white, black or both populations. However, by 1854, the land was purchased by a known abolitionist, Dr. Jefferson Thomas Iles and others. Oral history of the church relates that he was so enamored with the preaching of his slave, Moses Burks, that he arranged for the church to be deeded in perpetuity to the benefit of the “colored Methodist church.” An early settler of Midway, Dr. Iles, a slave owner with a medical practice and farmland, appreciated the small town during its early years. In his obituary he was quoted as saying that he left Midway because of the tensions created by the Civil War and to “save his boys” from “the poison of the mind as the young against their country.” By 1861, he was ready to evacuate Kentucky with his wife, the former Maria Louisa Nuckols, and eight children. He freed his slaves, sold his property and moved to Illinois where he was reportedly appointed by President Lincoln as Chief Surgeon of the Civil War Confederate prison camp at Rock Island. By 1863, a slave could free his wife and children from their bonds by enlisting in the Union Army. Slaves in Kentucky were fleeing the farms to enlist. During this period, the A.M.E. Church was used as a recruiting office for Federal soldiers. Moses Burks, himself, enlisted. After the war ended, Burks returned to Midway and resumed as Pastor. In 1877, he and other black citizens incorporated an African American organization, the Sons & Daughters of Relief, to care for their sick and destitute members, protect widows and orphans of deceased members and bury their dead.

Through the years different buildings housed the A.M.E. Church. The current building, erected in 1892, was an identical design to the, then white, Baptist Church directly across the street. It is a testament to the abolitionists’ vision of Midway that the A.M.E. Church is located in the original “white” area of the city, directly off Main Street, and not relegated outside the city limits, like the other Midway black churches formed in the 1800s. Since 1854, this church provided a place for local emancipated people to create community and family not allowed by the institution of slavery. Today, the members of St. Matthew A.M.E. Church are steeped in the comfort of their church family. Nearly every member has an ancestor they trace to the slavery era. Their families found a protection through the Sons & Daughters of Relief organization and the community which the old sanctuary walls provide. They call this building “home” as their ancestors did 165 years ago.

Pilgrim Baptist Church

Excerpts from Pilgrim Baptist Church History



133 East Stephens Street

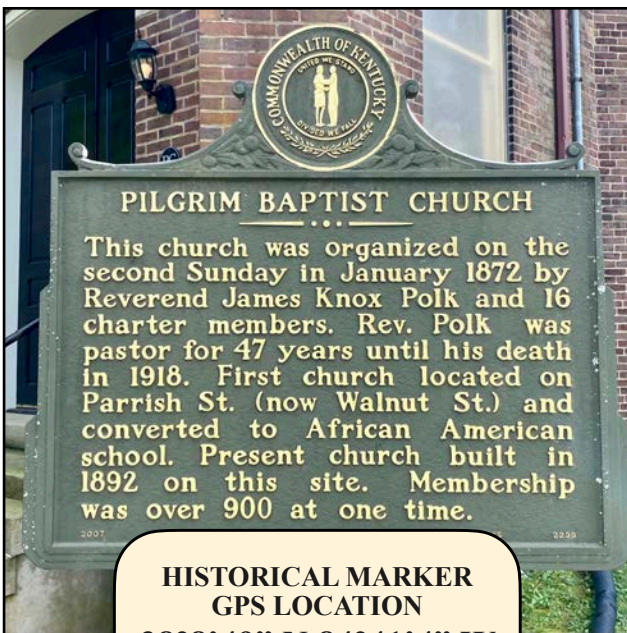
The Rev. James Knox Polk came to Midway, Kentucky in the year of our Lord, 1871 and began to preach the Baptist doctrine. He preached his first sermon in the A.M.E. Church on the second Sunday in May, 1871. From that date he continued to preach until he had gathered around him about sixteen Baptists, and on the second Sunday in January, 1872, they were organized into the Pilgrim Baptist Church, with the lamented Rev. Reuben Lee acting as Chairman of the Council, who was at that time the pastor of Baptist churches in Versailles and Georgetown. Rev. Lee was also the one who baptized Rev. Polk into the fellowship of the Versailles Baptist Church in the year of our Lord, 1867 (this new date discovered in Oldest Known Pilgrim Baptist Church Ledger).

The persons taking membership at the time of the organization were Brothers Henry Overton, Tom Patterson, Jordan Riddles, Harvey Langford, Balar Samples, Alfred Gaines, Ned Braxton, Humphrey Campbell, Brother Payne, Charles Wilson, Willis Jenkins, Sisters Mary Jenkins, Eliza Young, Esther Jackson, Julia Payne and Nellie Braxton.

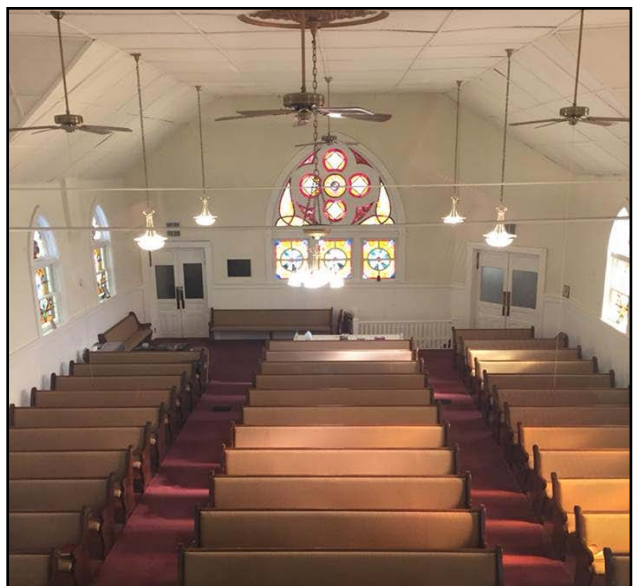
To these all others have been added. After the little organization had been effected, and the Rev. J. K. Polk called as pastor, he conducted services from house to house. It was no uncommon sight to see the portable pulpit, made of box with legs attached, hanging on the fence of first one house and then another.

Finally the little band was permitted to hold services in the schoolhouse. Many good meetings were held in that building and much good accomplished. Let us cherish the memory of those pioneers of faith. At a later date, a frame church was erected and stood long and faithful as a meetinghouse which stands as a home now on Walnut Street.

After many successful years in saving souls, after many hours of joy and sorrow, after years of darkness and sunshine, our Church membership outgrew the frame structure. Plans were then discussed in regard to building a new one. Finally, in 1892 our present site was purchased and the beautiful structure was erected. At one time in our church's history, the membership grew from the initial sixteen charter members to 985 members. We've come this far by faith, leaning on His everlasting arms through the years. But God's not done with us yet. We patiently await the will of God to increase our territory.



**HISTORICAL MARKER
GPS LOCATION
38°8'49" N 84°41'4" W
MIDWAY KY**



Present Day Sanctuary

REVEREND JAMES KNOX POLK AND LATER MINISTERS OF PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH

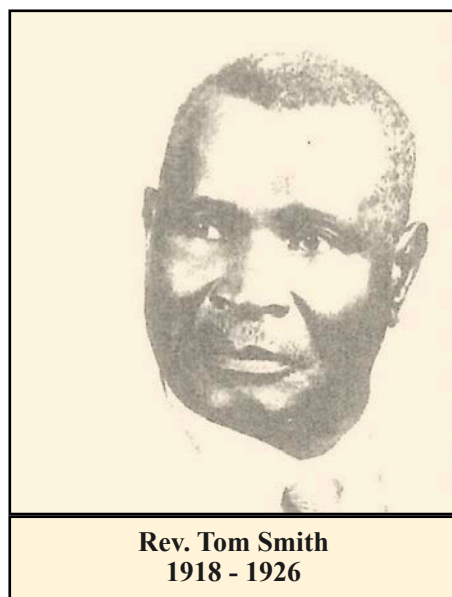
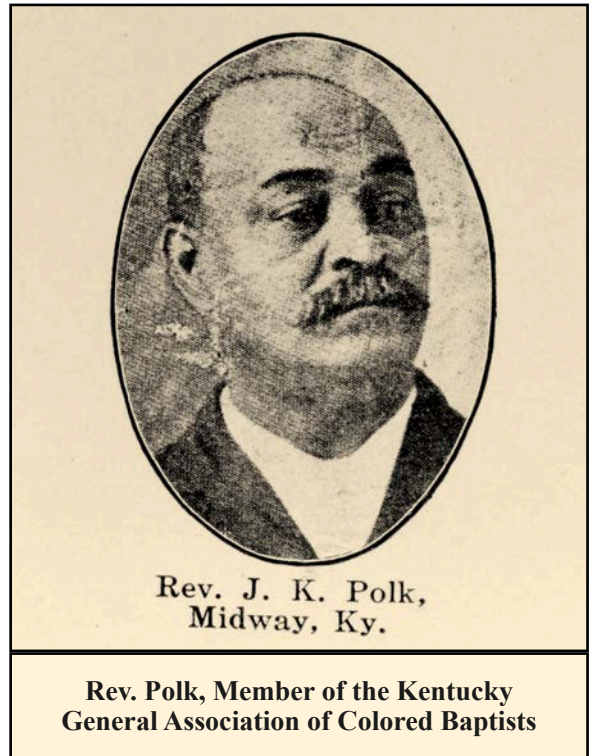
By John Batts

The Pilgrim Baptist Church congregation was organized in 1872 by the Rev. James Knox Polk and 16 charter members. Polk was born into slavery on January 21, 1845, in Woodford County, Kentucky. His mother, Margie Johnson, chose his name after the newly elected President of the United States. Polk had been born on the famous Bosque Bonita farm owned by General Abraham Buford. Abraham Buford had graduated from West Point and served the U.S. Army during the Mexican-American War. However, after sitting out of the Civil War for over a year, Buford joined the Confederacy, taking a young James Polk with him to serve as a handler of the horses. Polk remained with Buford throughout the war.

At the end of the Civil War, Polk returned to Woodford County and married Mary Bohannon in 1868. James K. Polk was ordained in 1871. The next year he began his ministry in Midway and was the founding pastor of this church, Pilgrim Baptist Church.

The first church building on Walnut St. was later converted to an African American School. The present church was built in 1892 on the corner of Gratz and Stephens Streets. The building is a highly noticeable brick edifice that elegantly occupies the southwest corner of East Stephens and Gratz Streets. A stone above the entrance testifies that the church was completed in 1892. The building has a tower combining Saracenic, Romanesque, and other stylistic elements. The tower is set at an angle to face the corner, permitting this element to attract attention from several approaches. The construction of the building is attributed to David Lehman.

The first person that Rev. Polk baptized in Pilgrim Baptist was Charles Bates. Charles had been instrumental in leading the congregation, having served every office of the church during its organization. Charles entered the ministry in 1873, was licensed to preach in 1874, and married Miss Lizzie Green in that same year. By 1875, he was the minister at three churches in the area. In the history of the Kentucky General Association of Baptists, Rev. Charles Bates has been documented as baptizing 3,000, married over 600 couples, preached over 2,000 funerals, caused nineteen persons to be liberated from state prison, saved four from the gallows and helped as many as came to him for help which in the course of his life was a great number.



Rev. James K. Polk's son was Dr. John K. Polk who opened a hospital in Lexington. The hospital served the Lexington community for several years. Dr. Polk was the doctor for Rosa Campbell, wife of Rev. Alexander Campbell, when she died.

The Degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred on Rev. Polk by the Eckstein Norton Institute of Louisville in 1903. Polk served both Pilgrim Baptist and Mortonville Baptist (both in Woodford County) churches for over 45 years until his death on January 28, 1918. Rev. Polk now rests in the Simmons Street Cemetery in Versailles. The Mortonville church later changed its name to Polk Memorial in honor of their beloved pastor.

Polk was an active member the Kentucky General Association of Baptists and twice served as moderator of the state body. Rev. Polk also served as a delegate to the Colored People's Convention of 1898 in Lexington, during the Separate Coach Protest. The Separate Coach Protest was in response to an African-American lawyer being moved from a section of a train reserved for whites only into the colored section, despite having a first-class ticket. The case was ultimately dismissed which upheld the Kentucky Law.

Walter T. Bradley, Jr., discussed in his history of the church that after Polk's death in 1918, the church extended a call to Dr. T. H. Smith who accepted the pastorate. History of the church published in *The Woodford Sun* in 1982 describes the pastors who follow Polk.

“The tenure of Dr. Smith was noted for its continued growth and the construction of a pastor’s residence.

Following the tenure of Dr. Smith, the training of teachers and the membership in New Testament fundamentals under the pastorate of the Rev. S. W. George and the Simmons extension program aided the Church greatly.

The pastorates of the Rev. R. L. Bray and the Rev. M. L. Jackson assisted the church in acquiring a central heating system, the construction of a basement, kitchen, dining areas, rest rooms and in entertaining the Consolidated District Association.

During the pastorates of the Rev. S. W. Fletcher and Dr. L. V. Jenkins, the congregation began much needed work on the sanctuary and participated in the various district and state programs.

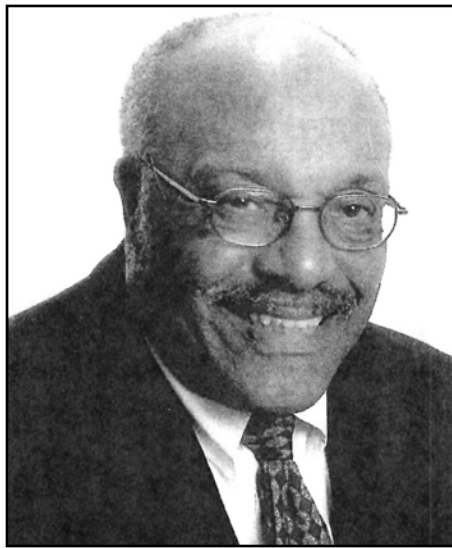
Under the pastorate of Rev. E. G. Smith, Pilgrim Baptist Church entertained the former State Musical Convention, Auxiliary to the General Association of Kentucky Baptists in 1969. An outstanding feature of this session was a presentation, during the welcome program, by a brass ensemble, chorus, organ and piano.

After Rev. Smith, Rev. William S. Wimberly served the church as its minister during its regular programs and revivals.”

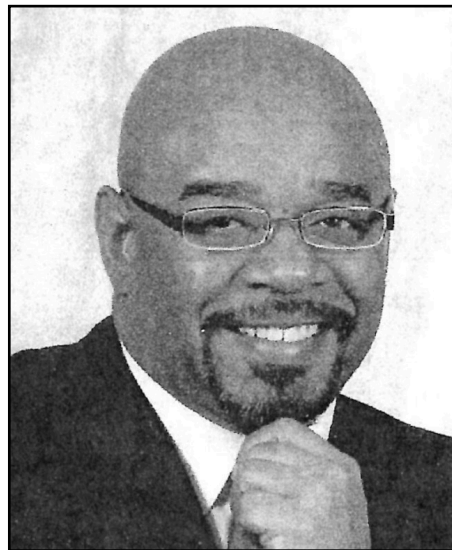
Elder Chris Wright is the church’s current minister. He continues the church’s ministry with his recent appointment to the Woodford County Human Rights Commission.



Rev. E. G. Smith
1950 - 1970



Rev. William Wimberly
1970 - 1983



Rev. Forest Brooks
1989 - 1996

List of Members of *Pilgrim Baptist Church.*

OLDEST KNOWN PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH LEDGER

NAMES How and When Received How and When Dismissed REMARKS

The Rev. James K. of Polk came to Wadesville in the year of our Lord 1871, and began to preach the Baptist doctrine.

He preached his first sermon in the Methodist Church on the second Sunday in May 1871. From that date he continued to preach until he had gathered around him about 16 Baptists, and on the second Sunday in January 1872, they were organized into a Baptist Church, which was given the name of The Pilgrim Baptist Church of Wadesville, with Rev. R. Lucas Chairman of the Council, he was at that time pastor of the Baptist Church at Georgetown & Versailles Ky, by whom our pastor was baptized into the fellowship of Versailles Baptist Church in the year 1867.

These are the charter members of the Church
First Wm. Henry W. Overton

- 2nd Willie Jenkins by death July 26th 1921
- 3rd Tom Paterson
- 4th Jordan Riddles
- 5th Harry Langford
- 6th Eliza Young
- 7th Balar Sample
- 8th Esther Jackson
- 9th Alfred Gance
- 10th Julia Papp
- 11th Ned Braxton
- 12 Nellie Braxton
- 13 Humphrey Campbell

List of Members of *Pilgrim Baptist Church.*

NAMES How and When Received How and When Dismissed REMARKS

14	Abel Bro. Papp		By death	
15	Charles Wilson		" "	
16	Harry Jenkins	To these the following members are added		
17	Henry W. Overton	1872, by letter		
18	Willie Jenkins	1872, " "	by death July 26 th 1921	
19	Thomas Patterson	1872, " "	" "	death 1895
20	Charles Wilson	1872, " "	" "	" Feb. 20 th 1900
21	Ned Braxton	1872, " "	" "	" 1888
22	Alex Braxton	1872, " "	" "	death
23	William Overton	1872, " "	" "	
24	Daniel Hicks	1872, " "	" "	
25	Peter Symon	1872, " "	" "	
26	Gincy Smith	1872, " "	" "	By death
27	George Fields	1872, " "	" "	" " 1890
28	William Steward	1872, " "	" "	
29	James Qualce	1872, " "	by death	
30	Harvey Langford	1872, " "	" "	By death 1899
31	Charley Papp	1872, " "	" "	" " 1898
32	Charley Bates	1872, by Baptism	" "	1 st of death 1894
33	J. W. Huncane	1872, by letter	" "	By death, 1900
34	Henry Serugg	1872, by Baptism	" "	" " 1905
35	John Burns	1872, by letter	By death	1915
36	Anthony Huncane	1875, " Baptism	" "	
37	Ambrose Craig	1874, " "	" "	July 17, 1899
38	Thomas Patterson Jr.	1875, " "	" "	
39	Robert Wells	1875, " "	" "	
40	Thomas Guy	1875, " "	By death	1890
41	Wm. Person	1874, " "	" "	
42	Austin Washington	1875, " "	By death	
43	Wm. Person	1875, " "	" "	

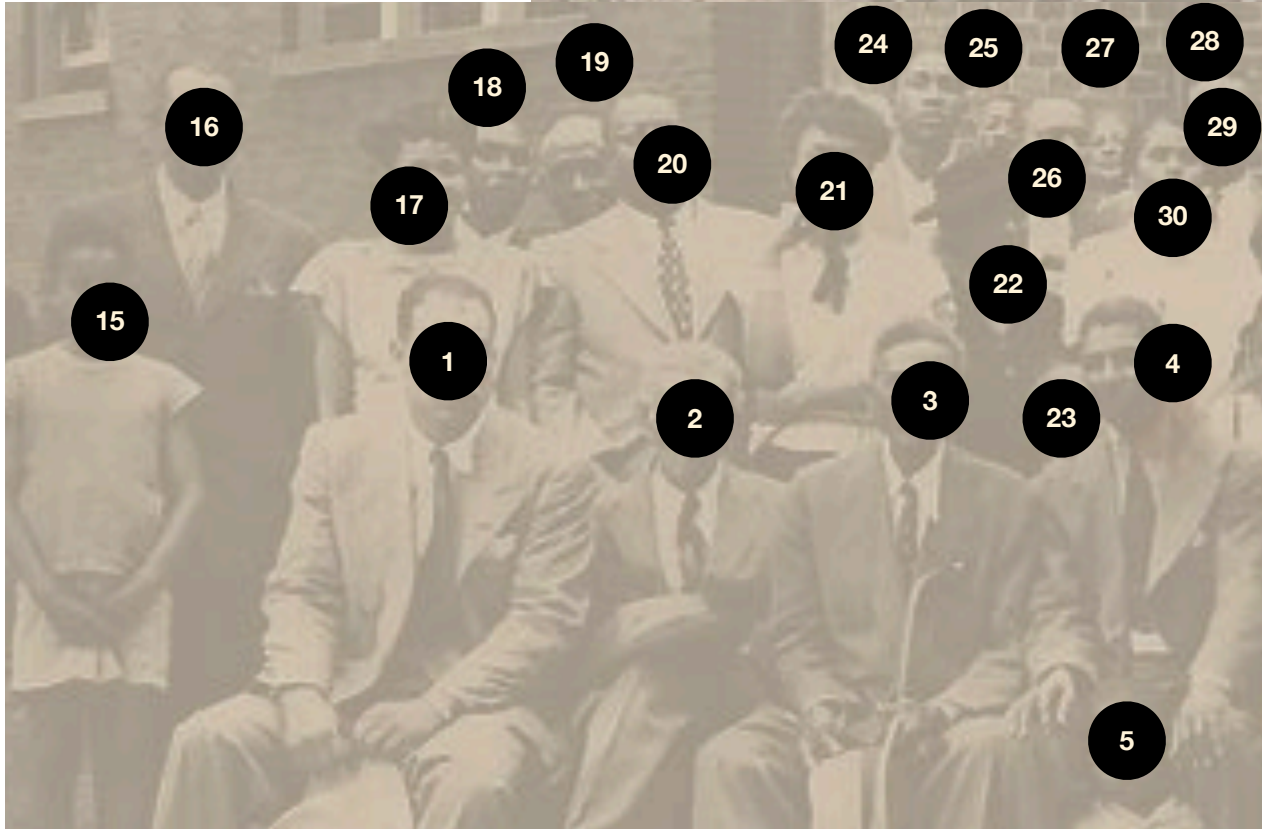
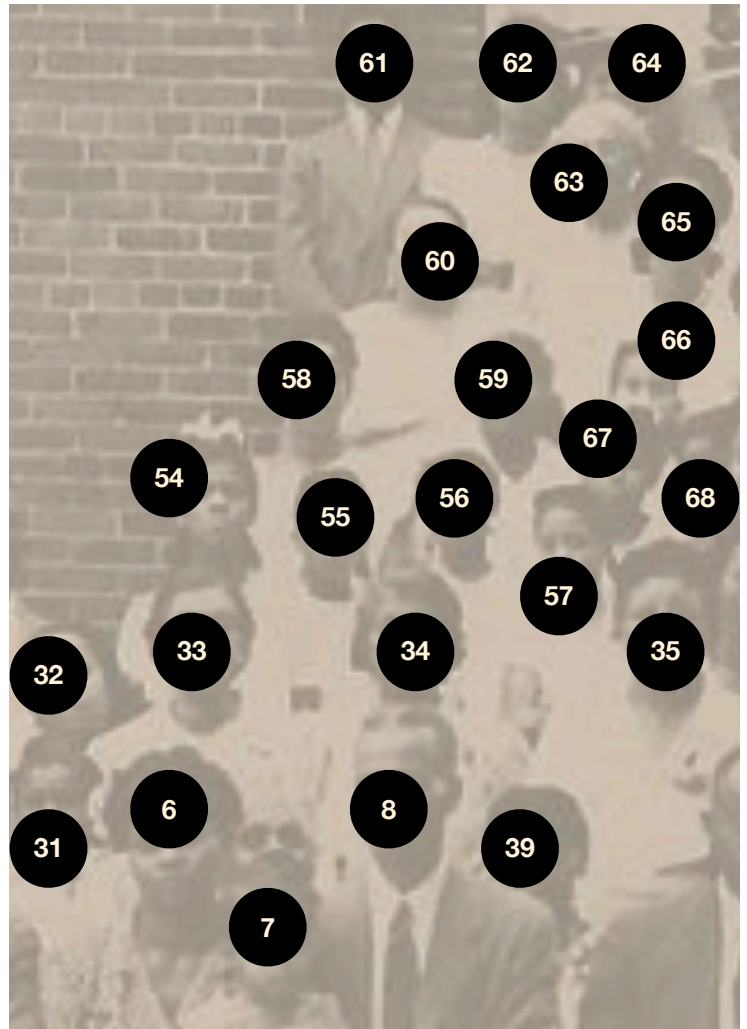
1947 PHOTOGRAPH OF PILGRIM BAPTIST CONGREGATION

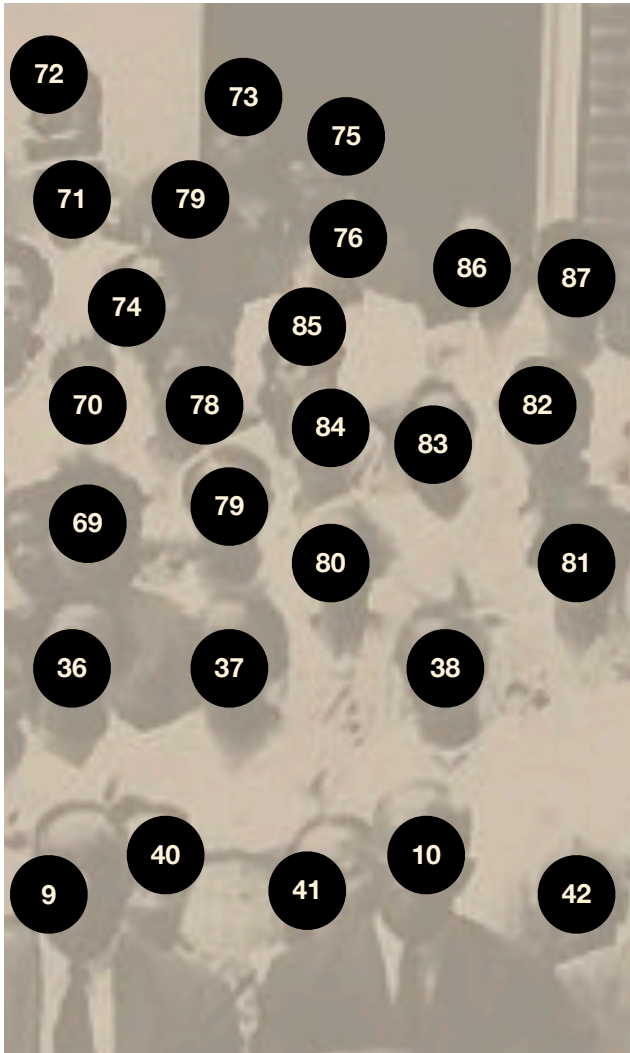


1947 PHOTOGRAPH OF PILGRIM BAPTIST CONGREGATION



1. Horace Walker
2. Charles Johnson
3. Ambrose Craig
4. W. J. Christy, Sr.
5. William Darneal
6. Lucretia Jenkins
7. Daughter Jenkins
8. Rev. L. V. Jenkins, Pastor
15. Clifton Davis
16. Richard Sanders
17. Irma Wilson
19. Henry Jones
20. Frank Jones
21. Lucille Wilson
22. Hannah Williams
24. Harry E. Bradley
26. Herbert Christy
27. Lucy Kennedy
30. Elizabeth Craig
31. Vera Price
32. Joanna Craig
33. Hattie Lewis
34. Sarah Bradley
35. Essie Anderson
54. Shirley Bradley
55. Armenta Fields
56. Elenora Davis
57. Christine Fields
58. Vivian Davis
60. Katie McClain
61. Walter T. Bradley, Jr.
62. Ethelene Bradley
65. Mary Fields
66. Johnetta Fields
67. Beverly Bradley

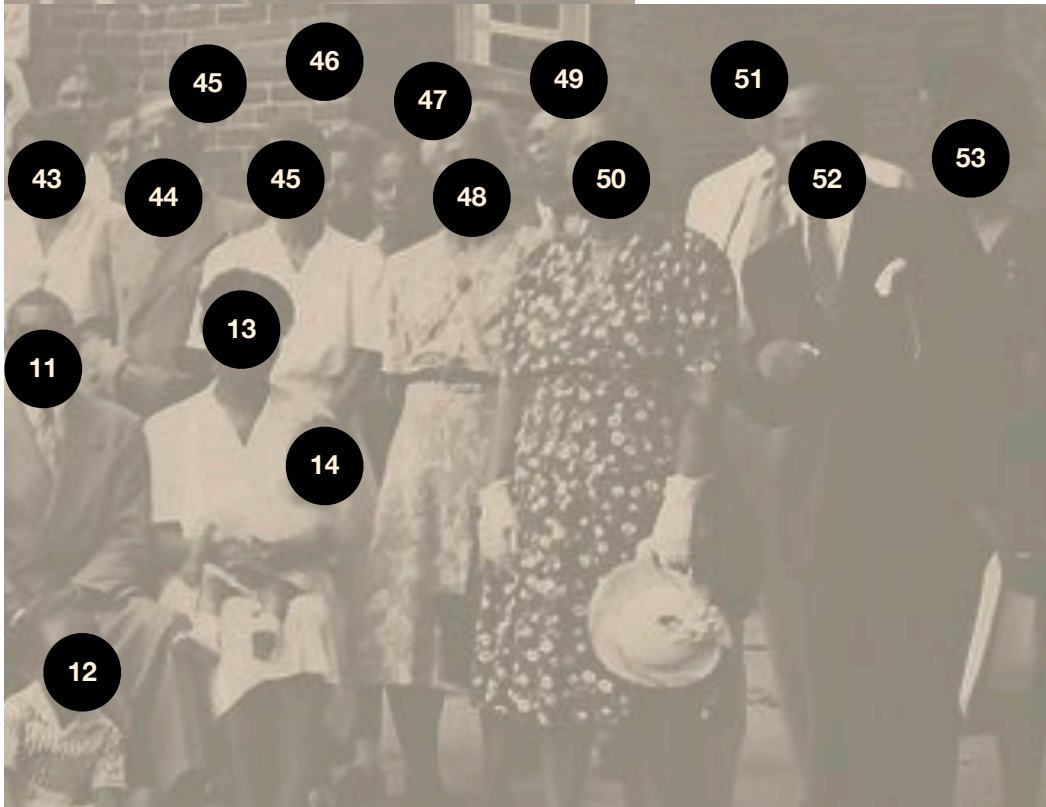




- 9. Legrand Lee
- 10. Robert Penny
- 11. Monroe Price
- 12. Vincent Price
- 13. Anna Johnson
- 14. Anna Marie
- 36. Geneva Johnson
- 37. Blanche Price
- 38. Mary Ellen Lee
- 42. Ellen Lee
- 43. Corrine Darneal
- 45. Maggie Walker
- 48. Clara Hale
- 50. Mary Fields
- 53. Phoebe Thomas
- 69. Mary Penny
- 72. Ethel Jones
- 73. France Madson
- 75. Daisy Colman
- 76. Mattie Bruce
- 81. Mary Toles
- 82. Ethel Walker

DO YOU KNOW
THESE PEOPLE?

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Ministers of Midway Circa 1950s



Back Row

Unnamed

Unnamed

Rev. L. V. Jenkins (Pilgrim Baptist Church)

Unnamed

Front Row

Rev. T. R. Everette (Second Christian Church)

Unnamed

Rev. Frazier A. Thomason (Midway Christian Church)

Location: Midway Christian Church Minister's Office

Ministers of Midway 2021



**Elder Chris & Tracey Wright
Pilgrim Baptist Church**



**Pastor Rick Smith
Historic Second Christian Church**



**Pastor Joshua C. Hale
St. Matthew A. M. E. Church**

Sunday Service - May 30, 2021

PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH



HISTORIC SECOND CHRISTIAN CHURCH



AFRICAN AMERICAN SCHOOLS

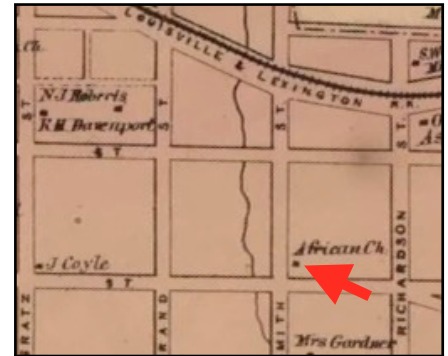
African American Schools in Midway and Davistown

By William A. Penn, Brenda Jackson, and Christy C. Reaves

FREEDMEN'S SCHOOL 1867 - 1868

Kentucky Female Orphan School Land, Beside Lee's Branch

The Freedmen's Bureau established the first Midway school in April 1867, with Daniel Tucker as the first teacher, and it was in use until 1868. A Freedmen's Bureau Report states the original building was 30' x 50' and \$15 monthly rent was paid to the "Trustees of Church and School, Leroy Redd." It was located in a log church meetinghouse on the grounds of Kentucky Female Orphan School (KFOS), in the creek bottom opposite the intersection of Stephens and Smith Streets. The Midway 1861 map shows this building as "African Church." This log meetinghouse was used by the church, now known as Second Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), from 1842 until between 1869 and 1872, when the congregation moved across the road to the Smith Street location.



Midway Freedmen's School
Midway Map 1861

Apparently opposed to the school and the education of African Americans, a white mob ransacked the building on July 31, 1868, breaking doors and pews and injuring some people. Freedmen's Bureau reports say the school was closed in August 1868, but, by September 1868, it was open again with Thomas C. Burbridge as teacher. According to the Freedmen's School reports a school reopens in September off of the KFOS property.



Midway District No. A
1892

The Freedmen's Bureau reports the school building in 1869 was a 40' x 25' wooden frame structure and that the Trustees of the Church and School were paid \$10 per month for its rent. The schoolhouse was built to the left of, and beside, the (now) Second Christian Church on Smith Street. The land purchased in 1869, was part of the subdivision of original city lot #62. In 1872, Second Christian Church purchased a frame building, to be used for church services, from Midway Presbyterian Church, which was erected at the present-day church location on Smith Street.

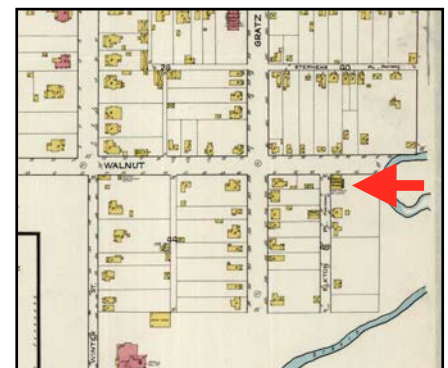


Davistown District No. M
1892

T. C. Burbridge continues as teacher for the Freedmen's School until 1869 when Amanda Washington moved from the Mortonsville school to the Midway school. By the middle of 1870, the Freedmen's Bureau ends its program in Kentucky and the school eventually becomes a part of the Woodford County school system, known as Midway Colored School No. A. This school remained in use until 1910.

DAVISTOWN SCHOOL COLORED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. M Origin Date Unknown - Early 1900s

A school was known to be in Davistown as early as 1892, but could have originated many years prior. Deed records indicate that in March 1896, Shadrack Guy sold his Davistown property with building to the Trustees (Lewis Anderson, Robert Walker, Walter Douglas) of the Colored Common School District No. M. By 1899, a school census was taken and sixty-six students were enrolled, and by 1902, seventy-four students were enrolled.



Midway Colored School
Sanborn Map 1915

MIDWAY COLORED SCHOOL 1911 - 1954 Walnut Street

Constructed in 1872, the building originally served as Pilgrim Baptist Church. By 1911, the congregation had outgrown the building and sold it to Woodford County, which repurposed the structure as a school. Administered first by Woodford County and later by the Midway Board of Education, classes for local African American students were held here from 1911 to 1954. The school taught grades one through eight until its closure, after which students were bussed to Simmons School in Versailles. A school census reports 455 students were enrolled in 1902.

From Church to School to Private Home - 215 Walnut Street

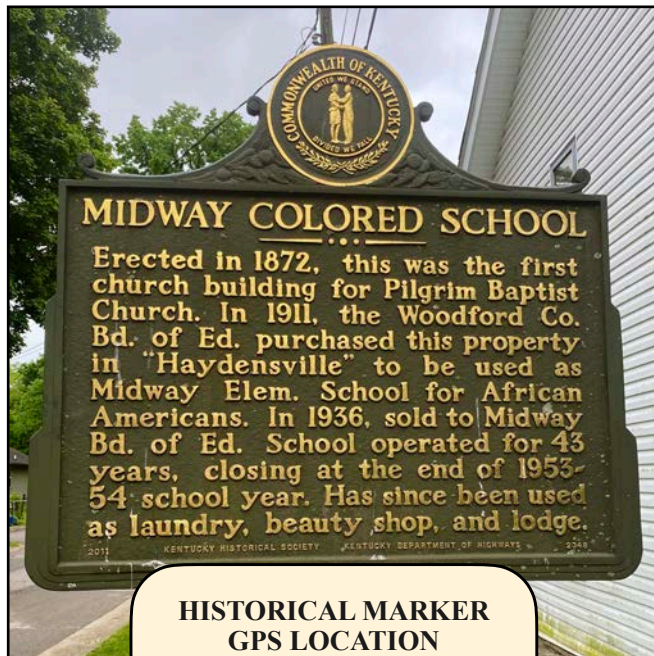
By Judy Offutt

The wooden structure at 215 Walnut Street, in the area formerly known as Haydensville, has been significant in the life of the African American community in Midway. Built in 1872, by the Lehman Brothers, it was originally the home of the Colored Baptist Church, which later became Pilgrim Baptist Church. According to [A History of Midway](#), Rev. James Polk arrived in Midway just a year prior in 1871, and began preaching from house to house. According to [Pilgrim Baptist Church History](#), when he had assembled sixteen members it was said that they were permitted to use the “school building on Cincinnati Hill.” The Walnut Street land was purchased and construction began, perhaps as early as 1871. Rev. Polk’s congregation continued to flourish for the next twenty years, until they outgrew the building. In 1892 they built a new church, a handsome brick structure, on the corner of Stephens and Gratz.

It is not clear how the building was used from 1892 until 1911, when it was acquired by the Woodford County Board of Education and became the Midway Elementary School for African Americans. Classes were held in the building for local students, in grades one through eight. It was sold to the Midway Board of Education in 1936 and continued to operate for a total of forty-three years in that location. The school closed at the end of the 1953 – 54 school year. Students were subsequently bused to Simmons School in Versailles.

The frame building began a new phase in its existence when it was purchased by Walter and Mollie Bradley in 1959. They lived in the building and operated the first laundrette in Midway. According to an article about Mollie Bradley in *Notable Kentucky African Americans Database*, “customers could leave laundry to be cleaned and folded, and the laundry would be ready to be picked up later in the day. Customers could also do their own laundry. Three washers and three dryers were available with a cost of 25 cents per wash load and 10 cents per dry cycle.” The operation of the laundry continued for decades. The Bradleys also leased the building to numerous businesses which served the African American community, including a beauty shop and a shoe store. A fraternal lodge was located there as well as apartments. Mollie Bradley also taught piano there, saying that she wanted to provide lessons for those who could not afford them.

On June 25, 2011, a Kentucky Historical Marker was dedicated at 215 Walnut Street. It commemorates the history of this building which has stood in this location from just after Emancipation to the present day. More importantly, it celebrates the educational, cultural, social, and business life of the African American community which thrived within its walls.



**HISTORICAL MARKER
GPS LOCATION
38°8'43" N 84°41'3" W
MIDWAY KY**

Excerpts from article about Walter Bradley, Jr. *The Woodford Sun*, Spring, 1994, By Eric Vore

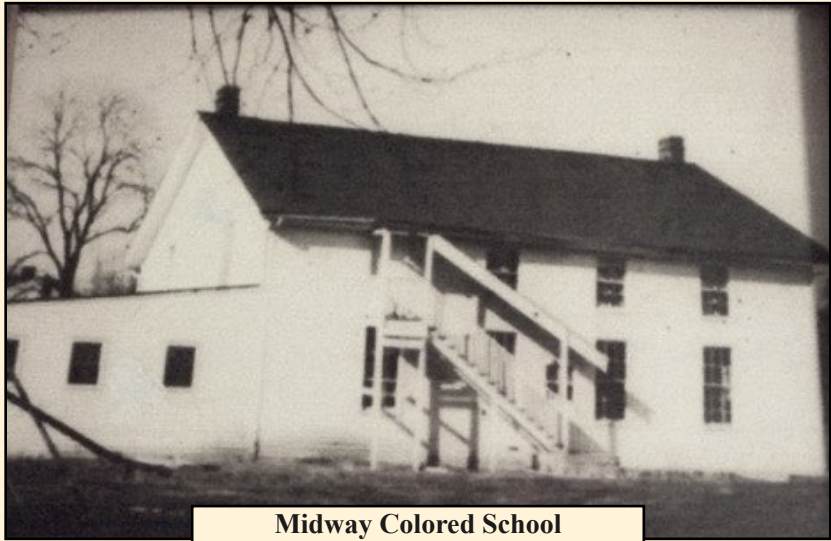
“The Walnut Street house in which he lives was the original site of the Pilgrim Baptist Church. It was built in 1872, on the same architectural plan as a church in Mortonsville. The pastor there, James Knox Polk, named after the president, also pastored the Midway church.”

“When the congregation outgrew the building, it became the black school for Midway. “My parents went to school here and I did too.” There were two rooms downstairs and an auditorium upstairs.”

“There were no janitors for the school, so the students performed many of the tasks, including lighting the fires in the fireplaces for heat. One day, the teacher sent a group of boys to light the fire upstairs. They had trouble getting the fuel to ignite and finally poured the oil which schools used to maintain the floors into the fireplace. The fire took off with a roar and flames shot out of the chimney. Worried neighbors rushed to the school to tell the teachers something was going on, fearing a fire that would engulf the entire neighborhood.”



**Pilgrim Baptist Church
1872 - 1892**



**Midway Colored School
1911 - 1954**



**Mr. & Mrs. Bradley Residence
1959 - Present Day**

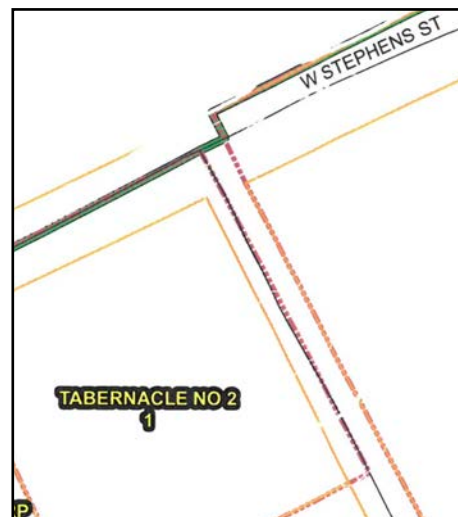
AFRICAN AMERICAN CIVIC ACTIVITIES

“Tabernacle Lodge”

By Christy C. Reaves

Ruth Thomas (1915-2011), a long time Midway resident, recalled in a 1991 oral history interview that there were two African American Lodges downtown. One Lodge was the Sons and Daughters of Relief Lodge, and the other was the Tabernacle Lodge, now known to be the benevolent organization which tended and maintained Cemetery No. 2. It is not known if the organization was the original owner of the land when the burials began. However, the current owner of the cemetery remains listed as “Tabernacle No. 2” on Woodford County PVA records. St. Rose Tabernacle Cemetery is currently maintained by the City of Midway, even though it is not owned by the city. Burials have ceased in the cemetery to avoid unmarked graves.

Ruth Thomas was the last known person to be associated with Tabernacle Lodge. The only known surviving records of the organization are minutes for two years (below). Various volunteers are researching the Tabernacle Lodge in hopes of discovering the hidden story of people who assisted their brethren by, among other things, interring loved ones with dignity and care.



ST. ROSE TABERNACLE LODGE MINUTES 1973-75

To date, the only known minutes or records of the St. Rose Tabernacle Lodge in existence to date are the following from a notebook of Mrs. Ruth Thomas, Midway resident. The notebook was donated by Helen Garner to Midway Museum in 2008.

Lodge met the second Tuesday every three months.
B. C. Price, Secretary [Blanche Price] Midway, Ky.

1973

- * Tuesday February 6, 1973 - Aaron Caldwell. Grave is beside Mr. Scottie Bush. The price that was paid for grave is \$50.00. J. H Hobbs
- * February 24, 1973 - Sold two graves for Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Christy. \$100 paid J. H. Hobbs.
- * February 24, 1973 (could be 26th) - Mrs. Rachel K. Christy. Grave is beside Aaron Caldwell.
- * March 13, 1973 - There have been two graves asked for by Mrs. Effie Bush and Miss Darneal.
- * March 23, 1973 - Received a check from Str. Walker, \$5.00 to be paid on her dues.
- * March 23, 1973 - Mrs. Effie Bush. Grave is in front of her husband, Mr. R. Bush
- * April 7, 1973 - Str. Maggie Lark and Str. Price met with Str. Burleigh to discuss the way and who to get to see after cleaning the cemetery for the summer. It was suggested that we let Lark's grandsons.
- * April 13, 1973 - Maggie Walker. Grave is beside her mother, Mrs. Mary Toles. Grave opened by the Lodge. Pay to J. H. Hobbs twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for opening grave for Str. Maggie Walker.
- * April 16, 1973 - Mrs. Effie Bush paid \$5.00 on grave.
- * May 24, 1973 - Paid Maggie Lark \$25 for cleaning the cemetery for Memorial Day.
- * May 31, 1973 - Mr. Henry L. Scrugg. Grave is beside Mrs. Rachel Christy.
- * August 31, 1973 - Paid Str. Maggie Lark \$30.00 for cleaning the cemetery.
- * Sept. 27, 1973 - Mrs. Sadie Kirksey (Darneal). Grave is beside Henry L. Scrugg.
- * Oct. 31, 1973 - Mr. Aaron Hamilton. Grave is in front of his sister Cora Caldwell.
- * November 7, 1973 - Mrs. Mary E. Hamilton paid for two graves for she and husband. \$100 paid. Mrs. Hamilton's grave will be in front of Mrs. Sarah Thomas, and will be beside her husband.
- * Paid out for sick in 1973:

To Ruth Burleigh on February 7	\$ 2.00
To Str. Corine Darneal on February 7	\$ 4.00
To Str. Ruth Burleigh on February 8	\$ 2.00
To Str. Ruth Burleigh on February 27	\$ 2.00
To Str. Corine Darneal on March 13	\$ 6.50
To Str. Craig order for cutting tree in cemetery	\$10.00
To Str. Ruth Thomas on March 28	\$ 4.50
To Str. Elizabeth Craig on May 12	\$ 6.00

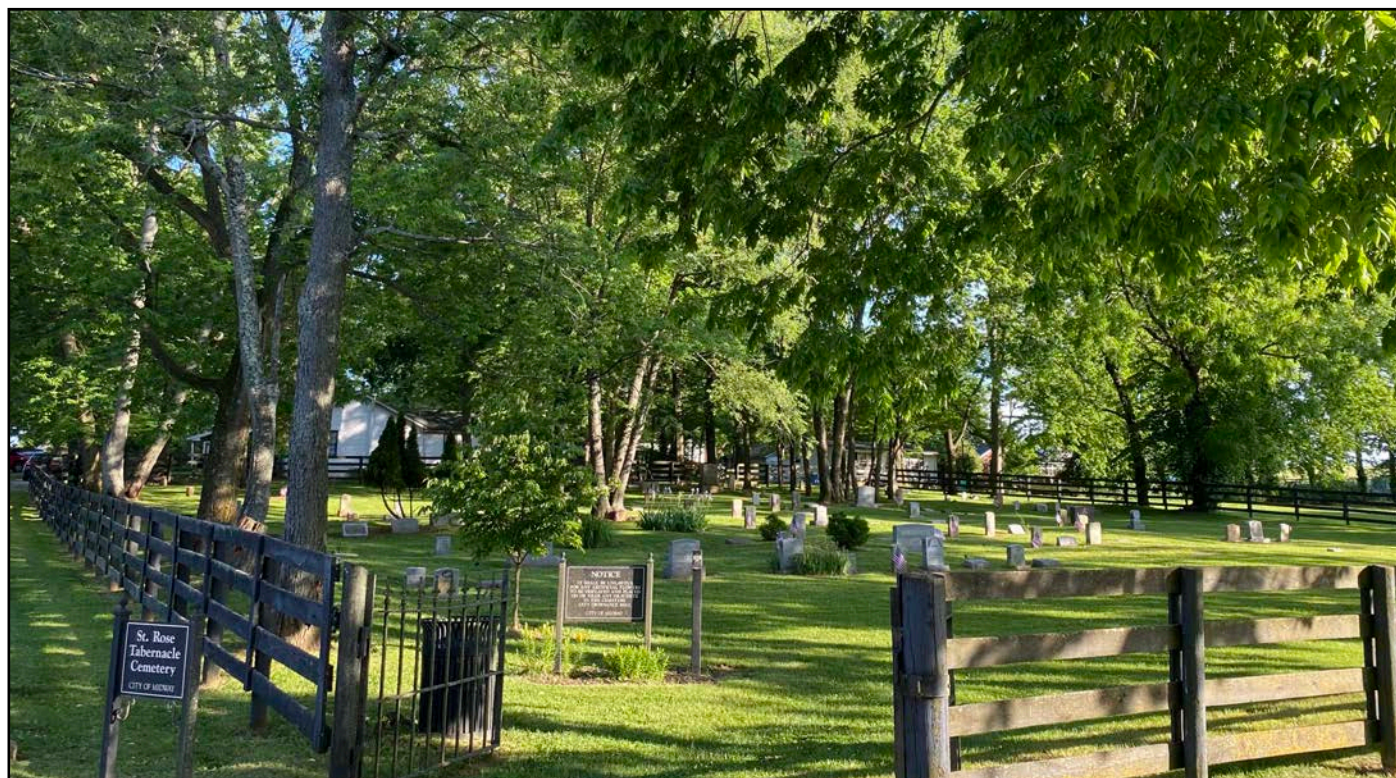
ST. ROSE TABERNACLE LODGE CONTINUATION OF MINUTES 1973-75

1974

- * January 9, 1974 - Sold Mr. Ike Darneal. Grave for his brother-in-law Mr. Million. \$50.00 paid.
- * January 10, 1974 - Mr. William Million. Grave is next to Mrs. Effie Bush's grave
- * January 21, 1974 - Mrs. Katie C. McClain. Grave is next to Mr. Million. Mr. J. K. Hobbs paid \$50.00.
- * January 21, 1974 - Mrs. Effie Bush paid \$5.00 on her grave. Balance is \$40.00
- * March 9, 1974 - Str. Maggie Lark and Str. Price met in the home with the Chairman Str. Burleigh to discuss of cleaning the cemetery for the year. Str. Lark is not going to take in the job this time. Str. Price suggested to the Chair to see Mr. William Roberts.
- * March 29, 1974 - Paid to Mr. Robert Roberts \$25.00 for cleaning the cemetery.
- * April 18, 1974 - Mr. John W. Walker. Grave is next to Mrs. Katie McClain. Mr. Sam Walker paid \$50.00 for a grave for his brother Mr. John W. Walker.
- * May 13, 1974 - Paid to Mr. Roberts \$20.00 for cutting the cemetery.
- * May 25, 1974 - Paid Mrs. Roberts \$20.00 for cutting the cemetery for the Memorial Day.
- * June 21, 1974 - Mr. James A. Brooks. Grave is next to Mr. John W. Walker.
- * June 23, 1974 - The Pilgrim Baptist Extension Fund paid \$50.00 on a grave for Mr. James A. Brooks.
- * September 6, 1974 - Mr. J. K. Hobbs paid \$50.00 for Mr. Louis Washington's grave. Mr. Washington's grave is next to Mr. James Brooks.
- * September 24, 1974 - \$50.00 was paid on a grave for Mrs. Lue Ella Smith. Her grave is next to Mr. Louis Washington
- October 16, 1974 - \$50.00 was paid on a grave for Mrs. Lucy Coleman's grave. Her grave is next to her daughter, Mrs. Lue Ella Smith.
- * October 19, 1974 - Mrs. Alice Shears. Grave will be next to her sister Mrs. Coleman. \$5.00 was paid on that grave.
- December 14, 1974 - \$3.00 was paid on a grave for Alice Graves.

1975

- * January 23, 1975 - A grave was sold to Mrs. Lucille Hayes for her mother Mrs. Lucy Kennedy. (Paid)
- * January 25, 1975 - \$3.00 was paid on Mrs. Shears' grave.
- * May, 1975 - \$2.00 was paid on Mrs. Shears' grave.
- * June 23, 1975 - Mrs. Lucy W. Kennedy. Her grave is next to Mrs. Alice Shears lot.
- * July 11, 1975 Mr. Maurice Shelbourne, 1933-1970 passed grave dug by J. H. Hobbs.



Community Service Organization - Organized 1961

The Community Service Organization was created by the Cemetery Committee, formed in 1961, to tend to the deteriorating condition of the Sons and Daughters of Relief Cemetery, Cemetery No. 1. Many people supported the efforts with their time and money. In the following section the details of the organization, rather than the cemetery, are outlined in the words of Mrs. Mary B. Perkins, President of Community Service Organization, found in the continuation of History & By Laws of Cemetery No.1. 1961 -1969

This organization was formed in the 4th meeting of the Cemetery Committee. We saw the need of a Treasurer. The solicitors were ready to make their report, so we elected a Treasurer. The question arose in what name should we bank the money.

Then those present began to express a desire to have an organization, to help other community work that may be needed.

A name was chosen, "The Community Service Organization." The following officers were elected:



Mrs. Mary B. Perkins	President
Mrs. Lydia Everett	Recording Secretary
Mrs. Maggie Walker	Assistant Secretary
Mrs. Shirley Raglin	Corresponding Secretary
Miss Charles Anna Guy	Assistant Secretary
Mrs. Anna Johnson	Finance Committee
Mrs. Mattie Bruce	Assistant Finance Committee
Mrs. Cora Printers	Financial Secretary
Mrs. Marie Johnson	Treasurer

As time moved on, we had added the following committees:

Benevolent	Mrs. Annette Fields
Civilian	Mr. William Hamilton
Choral Ensemble	Mrs. Shirley Raglin

INITIAL CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Graves	Mrs. Agnetta Richardson, Chairman Mrs. Rosairene J. Black Mrs. Gwendolyn Walker Hill Mr. Jesse Printers
Spot Locators	Mr. Tom Fields Mr. Lister Johnson
Landscaping	Prof. William J. Christy Mr. Monroe Price
Caretaker	Mr. Walter Bradley Jr.

(SUBSEQUENT) CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Graves	Mrs. Agnetta Richardson, Chairman Mrs. Roseirene Black, Assist.
Spot Locators	Mr. Tom Fields, Chairman Mr. Lister Johnson, Assist.
Landscaping	Prof. Wm. Christy, Chairman Dr. Jesse Printers, Assistant
Caretaker	Mr. Walter Bradley, Jr. Mr. Monroe Price, Assistant

Those who assisted in getting names from the stones of those buried in the Cemetery No. 1 were:

Miss Bessie Ann Guy
Mrs. E. G. Smith
Mr. Bennie Kennedy
Mr. Theodore Johnson

THE AUTHORITY – CEMETERY WORK, 1961

(First Plan Permission)

Christian Church, A.M.E. Church, and Pilgrim Baptist Church, Midway, Kentucky April 8, 1961

We the survivors of the families who have relatives buried and those who have burial lots in Cemetery No. 1 in Midway, Kentucky, do hereby give our permission to have the work done as planned to beautify the cemetery.

To prove this we have signed our names:

Mrs. Mary B. Perkins Mrs. Mattie Bruce Mrs. Cora Printers Mrs. Anna Johnson Prof. Wm. Christy Mr. Walter Bradley, Jr. Mrs. Shirley Raglin Mrs. Beverly Howard Mr. Harry Bradley Mr. Walter Bradley, Sr. Rosa Bohannon Wm. Hamilton Mrs. Eddie Belle Lee Scottie Bush, Jr. Mrs. R. J. Black Miss Dora Bush Willina Patterson Mrs. Geneva Mitchell	Mr. Will Darneal Mrs. Nola Washington Ada Anderson Harry Anderson Bettie M. McClasky Mrs. Leola Young Lister Johnson Mrs. Annette Fields Mrs. Agnetta Richardson Monroe Price Frank Devine Robert F. Pennie Elizabeth Craig Lydia Carter Nora James Maggie R. Walker Legrand Lee Maggie Frye
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FINANCIAL REPORT OF MIDWAY CEMETERY NO. 1, 1961 - 1969

The financial report contains all the money turned over to the Community Service Organization and is recorded in the Financial Secretary's Book and the Recording Secretary's Minute Book.

All bills paid in the meeting are recorded in both books.

The Treasurer pays bills by order of the Financial Secretary and president. After bills are paid the money left on the table is turned over to the Treasurer by the Financial Committee.

1961	Amount Collected	\$235.89	1966	Balance in Treasure & Collected	\$154.79
	Paid Out	<u>\$213.50</u>		Paid Out	<u>\$ 97.29</u>
	Balance in Treasure	\$ 22.39		Balance in Treasure	\$ 57.50
1962	Balance in Treasure & Collected	\$105.57	1967	Balance in Treasure & Collected	\$ 222.53
	Paid Out	<u>\$ 96.79</u>		Paid Out	<u>\$ 218.04</u>
	Balance in Treasure	\$ 8.78		Balance in Treasure	\$ 4.49
1963	Balance in Treasure & Collected	\$152.33	1968	Balance in Treasure & Collected	\$150.67
	Paid Out	<u>\$ 115.00</u>		Paid Out	<u>\$ 81.58</u>
	Balance in Treasure	\$ 37.33		Balance in Treasure	\$ 69.09
1964	Balance in Treasure & Collected	\$230.71	1969	Balance in Treasure & Collected	\$131.58
	Paid Out	<u>\$ 140.08</u>			
	Balance in Treasure	\$ 90.63			
1965	Balance in Treasure & Collected	\$198.63			
	Paid Out	<u>\$ 148.05</u>			
	Balance in Treasure	\$ 50.58			

Treasurer: Mrs. Marie Johnson
 President: Mrs. Mary B. Perkins

DONATIONS TO COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION, 1961-1969

Mattie Allen	Marshall Family	Murel Johnson	Jessie B. Printers
Mr. Shirle Adams	Mr. & Mrs. Tom Fields	Sarah Johnson	Rev. and Mrs. James Raglin
Lauretta Albright	Lottie M. Fields	Lucy Kennedy	Etheline Redden
Martha Allen	Dr. Norman Fisher	Pinky Kennedy	H. L. Redden
Ada Anderson	Maggie Fry	Ridrick Kennedy	Agnetta Richardson
Ella Anderson	Mr. & Mrs. Lincoln Gaines	R. W. Lacefield	Mrs. Rice Riddle
Easis Anderson	Lovel Gaines	Mr. William Langford	Dr. & Mrs. Ben Roach
Harry Anderson	Mrs. Cora Griffin	Mr. & Mrs. LeGrand Lee	Mr. & Mrs. Tom Roach
Anna J. Banks	Mrs. Lucretta P. Gilbert	Jeanette Lehman	Ellen Robinson
Rosairene Black	Virginia Green	Mrs. Harlen Logan	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Saunders
Rose Bohannon	Hollar's Grocery	Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Lee	Jessie Scott
Walter Bradley, Sr.	Clarks Grocery	Lucy Mack	Alice Shears
Walter Bradley, Jr.	Charles A. Guy	Albert Marshall	Lourinda Sidney
Louise Bryant	Christine Guy	America Mason	Mr. Cleveland Smith
Mattie Bruce	Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Guy	Mabel Mason	Mrs. E. G. Smith
Effie Bush	Lewis Guy	Kattie McClain	Mattie L. Smith
Minnie Caldwell	Nathaniel Guy	Betty Mae McClaskey	Lula Smith
Prof. Wm. Christy	Ruth Guy	Eddie McIntire	Rev. R. L. Smith
Second Christian Church	Clara Hale	Mr. & Mrs. G. T. McKinney	Ada Soward
Pilgrim Baptist Church	Emma Hale	Miss Louise McKinney	Frank Southerland
St. Matthew Church	John Hale	Bernie Miles	Mrs. Charles Steele
Missionary Society	Margaret Hale	James Miles	Amos Straws
St. Matthew A.M.E. Church	Napoleon Hale	Don Mier	Carrie Straws
Mayme Cogar	Warren Hale	Rosetta Miller	Frank J. Sutherlin
Eddie Colman	Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Hamilton	Geneva Mitchell	Elizabeth Taylor
Lucy Coleman	Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Hamilton	Warren Mitchell	Mary Taylor
Julia Corian	Lucille Hayes	Betty Monday	Leroy Thomas
Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Cowan	Geneva Harris	Emma Banks Moore	Hildred Thomas
Elizabeth Craig Cecil	Lizzie Hawkins	R. A. Northcutt	Ruth Thomas
S. W. Crumbine	Luvenia Henderson	America Owsley	Sarah Thomas
Corine Darneal	Amanda Hicks	Jennetta Owsley	Joanna Turner
Christine Davis	Jim Howard	Rev. N. L. Passmore	Mrs. Florence Walker
Mildred Davis	Mary Louise Howard	Miss Katherine Parrish	Mr. & Mrs. Horace Walker
Alice Deadman	Rev. & Mrs. Henry Jones	Ben Patterson	Mrs. Maggie Walker
Bennie Deadman	Louise Jackson	Willena Patterson	Cora E. Washington
Albert Douglas	Nola James	Maggie Patton	Nola Washington
Lillian Drayton	Albert Jewetts	Mary Pennie	Carrie Walton
Maud Edwards	Anna Johnson	Mary B. Perkins	Allena Webster
Lydia Everett	David Johnson	Lucy Phillips & husband	Albert Whitney
	Johnny Johnson	Mr. & Mrs. Monroe Price	Alex Williams
	Lister Johnson	Cora Printers	Rev. & Mrs. Tom Ward
	Marie Johnson		Rev. & Mrs. Edwin F. Kagin
			Mr. Charles Cunningham

Additional Donors:

Mr. Arnold Kemper	Lillie Brown	Ruth Burleigh
Sarah Berryman	Evelyn Clark	Annie B. Fields
Geneva Hawkins	Robert Hawkins	Kirk's Grocery
Ethelbert Marshall	Sally B. Roberts	Isaac Rouse
Owen Rouse	Jesse Scott	Ester Turner
Mrs. Charles Voigt	Mrs. Agnes Walcutt	Mrs. Marguerite Wise
Prof. & Mrs. O.B. Wilder	Mr. Jesse Ward	

The following are the names who donated to Miss Katherine Parrish for the Negro Cemetery Number 1, the sum of \$184.50 to help to have trees cut down that had been marked by Dr. Carl New of the University of Kentucky, Lexington, Ky., the landscaping specialist in the year 1965:

Mrs. Howard Rouse	Mrs. Robert Bates	Mrs. William Buster
Hurstland Farm	Nuckols Brothers	Miss Katherine Parrish
Mrs. Mildred Martin	Mrs. Ruth Roach	Midway Women's Club
Miss Evelyn Clark	(Sorry Miss Katherine Parrish passed before she saw this book.)	

THE CONCLUSION (HISTORY & BY LAWS OF CEMETERY NO.1, 1961-1969)

“We Should Have an Aim”

If we have no aim in view we may work continually and never reach a goal. So when we reflect on the wonderful results that perseverance has accomplished, we are led to believe that those who will resolve and persevere, with God as their leader, can accomplish most anything and overcome most any obstacle and reach the goal for which they have been striving.

So “Let us then be up and doing with a heart for any fate, still achieving, still persevering, learn to labor, and to wait,” and trust in God to direct us into paths that lead to the goal for which we are striving and that is heaven.

Compiled by:

Mrs. Mary Banks Perkins
President of the Community Service Organization
Midway, Kentucky



Unknown Family

Citizen Involvement 1968 - 1970

by Mrs. Mary Banks Perkins, President Community Service Organization

HONORS AND ACTIVITIES, ETC.

I, Mary Banks Perkins was born August 27, 1891 in Davistown, a small village near Midway, Kentucky in Woodford County. My parents were Lincoln and Lina Banks. To this union were born seven children, two boys and five girls. Only two girls and one nephew are living today.

I received my Elementary School training in the public schools of Woodford County and graduated in the fall of 1908 from the Midway Public School.

In the fall of 1908, I enrolled in the K. N. I. I., now Kentucky State College at Frankfort, Ky. I graduated in 1912 and received a Teachers Life Certificate. I taught my first school in Midway, Ky., Woodford County. Then taught the following counties: Shelby, Mead, Hancock, Davis and Scott. I taught thirty-seven years and retired in 1951. I received a silver dish given to me by the parents of Midway Elementary School at a banquet given in my honor. In the year of 1962, I was honored with a Gold Pin by the Alumni Association of K.S.C. This marked my fifty years of graduation. I also received a plaque for my service in the community work in 1968. My name was placed in the 1968 book with the Leaders of America, Woodford County, Kentucky.

Signed: Mrs. Mary B. Perkins

COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION SPONSORS OF MUSICAL FOR THE NEW WING OF WOODFORD HOSPITAL

The Community Service Organization was inspired through Mrs. Shirley Raglin of Midway, Kentucky to give a musical of religious music on Sunday, May 4, 1968, for the Woodford County Memorial Hospital, Versailles, Kentucky. Both black and white stood together and blended their voices in signing. Around three hundred and seventy-five dollars was taken in at that concert.

DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR

Mrs. Rosairene Black, a worthy and respected citizen of this community, is an instructor in the Rosenwald School, the Teachers Training Department of Kentucky State College. Mrs. Black holds high honors and degrees in this field of educational work.

THE BENEVOLENT COMMITTEE, ACTIVE

The Benevolent Committee, Mrs. Annette Fields, Chairman, has worked faithfully in securing funds for the Woodford Hospital, Versailles, Kentucky, for bassinets for the nursery and necessary articles for other rooms. Those who helped solicit money were: Mrs. Juanita Darneal, Mrs. Annette Fields, Mrs. Blanche Price, Mrs. Anna Johnson, Mrs. Ethel Jones, Mrs. Mary Perkins, Mrs. Cora Printers, Mrs. Rosairene Black, Mrs. Sara Johnson, Mrs. Maggie Walker, Mrs. Gwendolyn Walker and Mrs. Lydia Everett.

The Benevolent Committee collected clothing to send to the children of Vietnam. They presented Mr. Al Northcutt, the Lexington Laundry driver, a gift for his service of twenty-five years.

FIRST NEGROES TO RUN FOR OFFICES IN MIDWAY

Mr. James E. Raglin, Midway, Kentucky was the first Negro to run for City Councilman in Midway, Ky. He lost for lack of votes. He is a regular contributor to the Community Service Organization.

Mr. Raglin was also the first Negro of the Midway P.T.A. to preside as President.

Mr. William Hamilton is Chairman of the Civic Committee.

Mr. Eugene Thomas was the second Negro to run for City Councilman of Midway, Kentucky. He also lost for lack of votes.

SENIOR CITIZEN GIVEN KENTUCKY COLONEL AWARD

Mr. LeGrande Lee, a senior citizen of Midway, Kentucky was presented a Kentucky Colonel Award of the Governorship of Mr. Louis Nunn. Mr. Lee is an active Deacon of the Pilgrim Baptist Church, Midway.

WOODFORD COUNTY ATHLETE RECEIVES ATHLETIC HONOR

Bennie Kennedy, a 1967 graduate of Woodford County High School, has been named to the Outstanding College Athletes of America. He is presently playing basketball at Nebraska Western College. He is the son of Mrs. Lucille Kennedy of Midway, KY. Kennedy also served in Vietnam for two years.

BASKETBALL SCHOLARSHIPS

Bobby Pennie and Michael Pennie, two brothers, were given scholarships for outstanding basketball plays. Michael is now in Nebraska Western College. Bobby is married and the father of a son. Bobby went to Campbellsville College for a short time.

TWO MIDWAY GIRLS ATTEND MIDWAY JR. COLLEGE

Miss Brenda Washington and Miss Virginia Ann Guy enrolled in Midway Jr. College. Brenda was on the honor roll for outstanding academic achievement. She will finish this year (1970.) Virginia Ann has one more year. Both girls are doing fine there.

MIDWAY IN VIETNAM

Mr. Vincent Price, son of Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Price of Midway, Ky., served two years in Vietnam as driving light vehicles. He finished training at Fort Knox and finished CST training at Fort Dix, New Jersey. He was a 1960 graduate of Midway High School and a 1962 graduate of Fugazzi Business College, Lexington, Ky. He is married to the former Priscilla Wheeler of Great Crossing, Ky.

Mr. Marshall Pennie served a short time in Vietnam. He was injured and had to come home.

Mr. Theodore Johnson, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Fields also served time in Vietnam. He is now married and the father of a daughter.

DAVISTOWN WELL

Mrs. Anna J. Trotter Banks, a faithful solicitor for the Cemetery No. 1, was the daughter of Mary Alice Scruggs and granddaughter of Mrs. James Guy. While she was able, she was President of the Guy Family Reunion which was held annually at Davistown, two miles from Midway near the Lucy Anderson Spring. This spring was dug by young men of the village. This information came from my father, Lincoln Banks. The young men of that village would gather there. They would dig a while and play a while. Some of the boys that helped were Lewis Anderson, Lewis Guy, Lincoln Banks, Walter Douglass, Shed Guy, Mose Washington, Lewis Redd, Harvey Henderson, Taylor Young, Charley Walker, Tom Hale, Ben Guy, Joe Miles, Clay Guy, Isaiah Miles and Sam Guy and others I cannot recall. When this spring was finished, all the families living in Davistown were welcome to get water as needed. Since I have been old enough to remember, all the schools and children were welcome to get water there. During the time while Mr. Lewis Anderson lived and was an active stone mason, he and his cousin Lewis Guy, with others, helped wall this spring up so it would not cave in and continued to furnish water to all who passed that way. It is still used by the Davistown people today (1970).

LIONS CLUB HONORS CITIZEN

Professor William J. Christy was honored in 1969 by the Midway Lions Club for the "Citizen of the Year."

MIDWAY MAN SAVES A BOY'S LIFE

Mr. James E. Raglin was credited from International Business Machines (IBM) where he is employed for saving a young baby's life in Midway, Ky. He also received an award from the American Red Cross for the same. He took first aid from the plant.

MAY 4, 1970

Mrs. Rosa Bohannon, a well known citizen of Midway, Ky., was honored with a birthday dinner given by Mrs. Lucy Bassett. Mrs. Rosa Bohannon has reached her 97th birthday.

Those present were Mrs. Lucy Bassett, her father, Mr. Gus Gay (a physician at U.K. Hospital), and Dr. Gay's wife and children. [Also attending were] Mrs. Carrie E. Bonds, Mrs. Agnetta Richardson, Mrs. Rosairine Black, Mrs. Mary B. Perkins, Mrs. Bettie M. Anderson, Mrs. Blanche Price, Mr. and Mrs. William Hamilton, Mrs. Effie Bush and Mr. Joe Carr.

CHORAL GROUP FORMED

The Rice Family has started a choral group made up of the immediate family. All contributions are given to the Cancer Society. Mrs. Martha Christy is the director of the group.

MIDWAY SOLDIERS

Civil War

Bob Walker
Dick Johnson
Stephen Fields
Charlie Lewis
Jim Baker
Bob Edwards
Scipio Cohan

Spanish American War

George Mitchell
Edward Turner

World Wars

David Washington
Percey Robinson
Verlner Bruce
Horace Walker
Norris Engles
Robert Bonds
Jesse Anderson (WWI)
Charles Franklin Walker (WWI)

SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF RELIEF LODGE MEMBERS (* Deceased since 1961)

*Mrs. Ada Anderson
Mrs. Essie Anderson
Mrs. Rosairene Black
Mrs. Rose Bohannon
Mrs. Annie Douglass
Mr. Tom Fields
Mrs. Marguite Hale

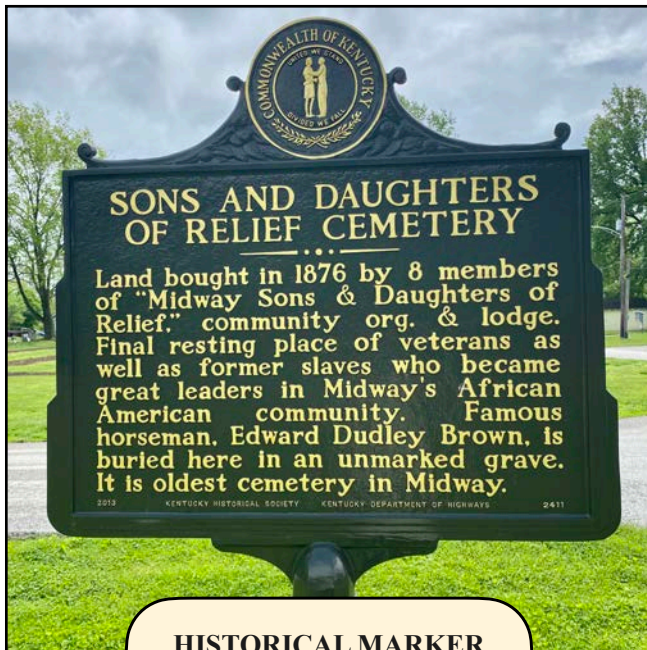
Mrs. Ella B. Harris
*Mrs. Cassie Henderson
Mrs. Anna Johnson
Mrs. Anna Frances Johnson Banks
Mr. Lister Johnson
Mrs. Pinkie Kennedy

Mrs. Rosetta Miller
Mrs. Betty Mae McClaskey Rey
Mrs. Cora Printers
Mrs. Agnetta Richardson
Mr. James Stephens
*Mrs. Nora James

AFRICAN AMERICAN CEMETERIES

Sons and Daughters of Relief Cemetery: Cemetery No. 1

By Members of Midway Woman's Club for the 2019 MWC Historic Homes Tour



**HISTORICAL MARKER
GPS LOCATION
38°9'3" N 84°41'15" W
MIDWAY KY**

On June 8, 1876, the Midway Sons and Daughters of Relief, a community organization and Lodge, purchased the land on Wausau Street, behind the Presbyterian Church, for the cemetery for \$350. The land was previously owned by the Lexington & Ohio Railroad, had been purchased from Col. John Francisco in 1835.

The Lodge was incorporated on May 10, 1877, by eight members of Midway Sons and Daughters of Relief. They obtained the land to be used as a final resting place for "veterans as well as former slaves who became leaders in Midway's African American community." This is the oldest cemetery in Midway, thus named Cemetery No. 1.

This cemetery contains the grave sites of veterans of the Civil War, World War I and World War II, a Purple Heart recipient and many other military persons in many unmarked graves. The graves of many people born into slavery are also found in this cemetery. At least three founders of this organization, Lewis Blanton, Beverly James, and Henry Wilson, as well as five of the sixteen founders of historic Pilgrim Baptist Church have their final resting places here.

NOTICE
OF
INCORPORATION.

Notice is hereby given that Moses Burks, Lewis Blanton, Harry Young, Joe Romp, Harry Hurley, Beverly James, Oliver Brown and Henry Wilson have associated themselves together under the corporate name of the "Midway Sons and Daughters of Relief," and have formed an organization whose principal place of transacting business is at Midway, Woodford county Ky. The general nature of the business to be transacted by said association will be the care of the sick and destitute members thereof, the protection of the widows and orphans of deceased members, and the burial of their dead. The said organization has no capital stock; but is supported by contributions from its members. Said corporation shall commence on the 8th day of May, 1877, and have perpetual succession. The affairs of said corporation shall be conducted by a President, Secretary, Treasurer and Board of Care, who are to be elected on the 1st Monday in May of each year.

The highest amount of indebtedness or liability to which the corporation shall at any time subject itself shall be one hundred dollars.

The private property of the corporators and members shall be exempt from corporate debts, except to the extent above named.

Midway, Ky., May 10, 1877. 14-1m

May 10, 1877 *Blue Grass Clipper*

State of Kentucky Howard County Oct
I Saml J. Darnall clerk of the Howard County Court do certify that the foregoing deed
to Peter Witherspoon was this day foreclosed to one in said County and acknowledged by
J. Harvey Tompson Esq & C. A. Tompson his wife parties thereto to be their act and deed
It hereupon said deed was this day lodged for record ~~record~~ and was together with
this certificate duly recorded in my office
Given under my hand this 21st day of September 1876.

Saml J. Darnall clerk
By John W. Moore D.C.

For and in consideration of the sum of Three hundred and fifty Dollars paid and
secured to be paid by the "Society of the Sons and Daughters of Relief" as follows
to-wit: One hundred and fifty dollars cash in hand the receipt of which is hereby
acknowledged and the further sum of Two hundred dollars to be paid on or before the
25th day of November 1877 which last sum is to bear interest at ten per cent
per annum from the 25th day of November 1876 until ^{paid} and for which said society
has executed its promissory note of even date herewith payable on said 25th day of No-
vember 1877 and bearing interest as aforesaid and to secure the payment of said sum and
note of Two hundred Dollars a lien is hereby retained on the premises hereby conveyed.

The Willing O. Davis Esq & J. A. Davis his wife of the County of Scott Es State of Kentucky
have bargained and sold and by these presents do grant bargain sell alien convey and
confirm with Warranties of General Warranty unto the said Society of the Sons
and Daughters of Relief of the Town of Midway Howard County Kentucky their
successors and assigns forever all that certain lot or parcel of land lying and being
situate in Howard County Kentucky adjacent to the said town of Midway and
bounded and described as follows to-wit Beginning at the intersection of the North
side of Brum street in said Town with a line of J. A. Davis thence with said line
N 68° E to the center of the Rail Road thence with the center of Rail Road to
the intersection of the Rail Road with the street known as Street No 1 on a survey
made by W. A. Dicks for J. A. Davis February 22nd 1876 being an extension of said
Brum street thence with the North line of said Street No 1 S 68° E to the Beginning
To have and to hold the above mentioned and described lot with the improvements and
appurtenances unto the said Society of the Sons and Daughters of Relief their assigns
and successors forever

In testimony whereof us the said Willing O. Davis and J. A. Davis his wife have
hereunto set our hands this 8th day of June 1876.

W. O. Davis

A very accomplished horseman, Edward D. Brown, 1850-1906, is buried in an unmarked grave in the cemetery. Brown's major racing accomplishments include: winning jockey of the Belmont Stakes, 1870; trainer of the 1877 Kentucky Derby winner, Baden-Baden; owner/trainer of Monrovia, winner of the 1893 Kentucky Oaks. He was inducted into the United States Racing Hall of Fame in 1984. Born into slavery in Lexington, he worked with horses at Woodburn Stud, near Midway. His success was an amazing feat for a man of color in the 19th century.

The Midway City Cemetery was located between the Midway Presbyterian Church and this cemetery, with Wausau Street between the two. On November 5, 1864, on this site at the close of the Civil War, Union Gen. Stephen Burbridge had four Confederate soldiers shot and buried where they presumably died. His plan was to punish the Southern sympathizers; for every one Union soldier killed, four Confederate soldiers were shot and buried. His brutality earned him the title Butcher of Kentucky. After the city cemetery was moved to its present location on Stephens Street/Spring Station Pike, a group of Midway women raised money to move the bodies of these soldiers, have them interred and erect a monument.

The Sons and Daughters of Relief Lodge disbanded in 1955 and the little cemetery was left uncared for. In 1961, a grassroots group, led by local residents including author Mary B. Perkins, wanted to reclaim the cemetery. Volunteers raised money and tried to instill the importance of maintaining the cemetery as a place to visit and remember loved ones. Most of those volunteers are gone, which left the city of Midway responsible for its upkeep. Because many graves are unmarked or have had markers removed/destroyed, adding graves is impossible. The last known burial was in the late 1980s.

Recent efforts have been made to raise funds and awareness of this cemetery thru Midway city government. Donations can be made toward the perpetual care fund for all three Midway cemeteries, including the other predominantly African-American cemetery, Saint Rose Tabernacle Cemetery, and Midway Cemetery. Checks can be made payable to The City of Midway with a notation of which cemetery the funds should support. Mail to City of Midway, P.O. Box 4275, Midway, Ky. 40347.

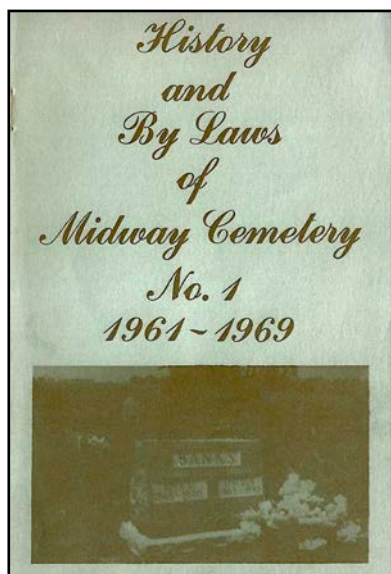
The cemetery is included in the Midway Historic District, National Register of Historic Places, created in 1978. In 2012, the Kentucky Historical Society approved a request for a historical marker to be installed at the cemetery. On Nov. 11, 2013, Veterans Day, the marker was dedicated, a project spearheaded by Brenda W. Jackson (cost to install, \$2,300).



“History and By Laws of Midway Cemetery No. 1, 1961 - 1969”

By Community Service Organization, Mary B. Perkins, President

FOREWORD



It is our desire to have our future generations know the facts about our Cemetery No. 1 [Sons and Daughters of Relief Cemetery], in Midway, Kentucky as they have been given to us.

The land was first purchased by the Presbyterian Church trustees. There were S. E. Burton, John R. Alexander and Alexander Hamilton. This deed was signed by the President of the Railroad, William R. McKee. He was also the chief engineer of the railroad from 1844 to 1846. This small cemetery was either purchased from the Presbyterian Church or it was donated to the Sons and Daughters of Relief Lodge by them, or by this railroad company. This is all the information we have on how this property was obtained. So far we have been unable to find a deed. (Later obtained by Brenda Jackson). We know there used to be a cemetery in the back of the Presbyterian Church and a road, still there, separated the two cemeteries.

This cemetery was left uncared for after the Lodge (Sons and Daughters of Relief) disbanded in 1955, and each family was held responsible for the care of their relatives' and friends' graves. Since many relatives and friends were away from Midway the cemetery had gotten into a bad condition. There were many sunken graves, fallen trees, briars and bushes. Living relatives and friends were afraid to go into the yard for fear of falling into a sunken grave or stepping on snakes.

Those who assisted with the compelling of this book were:

Mrs. Charles Anna Guy, Mrs. Shirley Raglin, Mrs. Mary B. Perkins

“MY INSPIRATION”

By Mrs. Mary B. Perkins, Community Service Organization President

“My oldest sister, Mrs. E. B. Crittenden, moved to Midway in 1951 and each year she would ask for a contribution from each of us to help clean our relatives' graves and come here on Memorial Day. When she passed in 1956, then it left Leslie Banks and I to do this, so we did, but we had to clean other graves to get to our loved ones' graves. While we were cutting weeds and bushes, Leslie said to me, “Mary, who is going to do this when we are gone?” My reply was, “I don't know but the Lord will send somebody.” In 1960, the Lord called Leslie from labor to reward, so I was left to shoulder the burden alone. The Lord sent somebody to my rescue to help. In a conversation with Mr. Walter Bradley, Jr. about getting someone to clean off our graves, he offered to clean the whole cemetery for \$125.00. I asked him, “Will that still hold good?” He answered, “Yes.” Then I promised that [I] would see what can be done to get this work done at that price.

I called a meeting in the spring of 1961. We started out to find a way to get the money to get this cemetery cleaned up and beautiful. A stout resistance had to be overcome in order to be able to go forward with the work. So, we were advised to get the authority from the relatives who had people buried there. This was done by a petition signed by relatives and friends.

Then we called a meeting; only two were present: Mrs. Anna T. Johnson and I. Mrs. Johnson became discouraged and said, “They are not going to do anything.” I thought, “Faint Heart, Never Won Fair Lady.” But I kept courage and said, “We will try again.” “Will you come?” She replied, “Yes I will.” A second meeting was called. The following were present: Mrs. Anna Johnson, Mrs. Lydia Everett, Mrs. Ruth Thomas, Mrs. Annett Fields, Mrs. Mattie Bruce, Mrs. Mary Perkins, Prof. W. J. Christy and Mr. Walter Bradley, Jr. At this meeting we sent papers out to get authority to do the work. Third meeting, the following came and were added to our list: Mrs. Marie Johnson, Mrs. Shirley Raglin, Mrs. Maggie Walker, Mrs. Gwendolyn Walker and Mr. Monroe Price. At this meeting we had the authority papers and had enough signatures to go ahead with the work.” Then we organized the committees.

Mrs. Mary B. Perkins, President; Mrs. Ruth Thomas, Secretary; Mrs. Marie Johnson, Treasurer; Mrs. Shirley Raglin, Corresponding Secretary.

At this meeting, Mr. Walter Bradley, Jr. made his offer by stating he would do the work, the whole cemetery for \$125.00. The committee agreed and plans were made to get the money. By motion we agreed to send out soliciting letters. Motion carried. These letters were typed by Miss Anna Marie Johnson and each agreed to take one and the corresponding secretary was to send out letters by mail. This was done.

HISTORY OF MIDWAY CEMETERY NO. 1,

History is the story of what men and women have thought and have [done] in the past. It tells how they have lived, struggled, and died, suffering from errors, false ideals and misfortunes. It also tells how they have continued many years to make the world a more comfortable and beautiful place in which to live.

This little booklet (History and By Laws of Midway Cemetery No.1, 1961 - 1969) has been compiled to let the future generations know what we have done to make this little cemetery a beautiful spot in this town, of Midway, KY, and a place to bring peace and happiness. It is our desire to have our future generations know the facts about our Cemetery No. 1 in Midway, Kentucky, as they have been given to us.

Miss Mayme Cogar and Mrs. Amanda Hicks, Midway citizens, loaned us a history book and we got the following from these books: The land was first purchased by the Presbyterian Church trustees. They were S. E. Burton, John R. Alexander and Alexander Hamilton. The deed was signed by the President of the Railroad, William R. McKee, who was the chief engineer of the railroad from 1844 to 1848. The small cemetery was either purchased from the Presbyterian Church or was donated to the Sons and Daughters of Relief by the church.

The history book stated four Confederate soldiers were shot and buried where they were presumably shot. This was done after the Civil War. Miss Mayme Cogar contributed the following information written by her in 1965:

On November 5, 1864, at the close of the Civil War, four Confederate soldiers were shot in retaliation by order of General Burbridge just back of the Presbyterian Church, though the church was not built until later, where there was a small burial ground. The whites were buried on one side and the colored on the other side. These soldiers were presumably buried just where they were shot. No record of this crime can be found anywhere.

Later, but no record, sometime after the present Midway Cemetery was laid off in 1890, the women of the town, headed by Mrs. Nancy Pointer (mother of Mrs. Margaret Pointer Foster) began soliciting funds to have the bodies of these soldiers removed to this cemetery and a monument erected. The inscription on this monument reads as follows:

Rest Soldiers, Rest Thy Warfare O'er
M. Jackson
J. Jackson
S. Rissinger
N. Adams
Shot by order of General Burbridge on November 5, 1864
In Retaliation
Our Confederate Dead

PROPERTY RIGHTS OF THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF RELIEF

So far, we have not been able to find any deed or way of transference of this property to the Sons and Daughters of Relief Lodge, and how they obtained contract of it. But we know the fact that they held it as their property until they disbanded in 1955. Then it was neglected and was an unpleasant sight to be seen. Some families cleaned their own graves and made paths by cutting the weeds, briars and brushes down to get to theirs, and some were afraid to go on, so the graves were neglected.

The following persons have helped to solicit, starting in 1961:

Mrs. Maggie Frye	4 years (death – May, 1965)
Mrs. Anna Johnson	9 years
Mrs. Cora Printers	9 years
Mrs. Annette Fields	9 years
Mrs. Mattie Bruce	9 years
Mrs. Agnetta Richardson	9 years
Mrs. Margurite Hale	
Mrs. Mary B. Perkins	
Mrs. Sarah Johnson	
Mrs. Lydia Everett	
Mrs. Shirley Raglin	
Mr. Walter Bradley, Jr.	
Mr. William Christy	
Mr. Monroe Price	
Miss Katherine Parrish	(donations for trees)



**Joseph, Susan, Katie,
& Jessie Allan**

**MEN WHO WORKED BY CONTRACT – PAY
(Under supervision of Mr. Walter Bradley, Jr.)**

First work of the cemetery started in 1961. The names are as follows that helped:

- Mr. Charles Spencer Thomas
- Harry Bradley
- Robert Hayes
- Bennie Dedman
- Clay Guy III
- Walter Bradley, Sr.

The following men have been hired by the organization to cut trees and remove them:

- George Washington, by contract with Walter Bradley, Jr.
- Herman Spencer, Clarence Washington, Elder Cheeks

Men who worked donated hours:

- Walter Bradley III (Tommie)



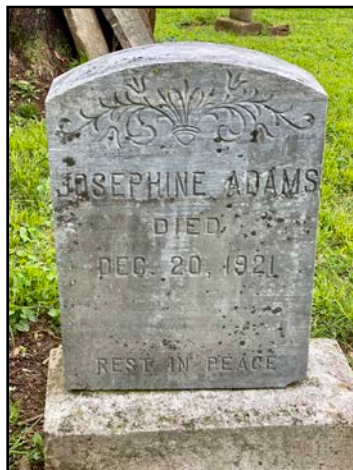
Betty Greene

BOYS WHO WORKED AT CEMETERY NO. 1 FOR PAY (Started in 1964)

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Bennie Kennedy | Fred Jackson | Marshall Pennie | Omar Owsley |
| Arnie Guy | Rodney Brooks | Kirk Devers | Marcus Devers |
| John Raglin | Paul Guy | Albert Kennedy | James Patterson |
| William Bush | Billy Parker | John Preston | David Woodrum |
| Teddy Garner | Manuel Davis | Kerry Garner | Johnnie Thomas |
| Aaron Hamilton, Jr. | Herman Owsley, Jr. | Bruce Layne | Ike Pennie |
| Brent Garner | Eugene Guy | Roy Guy | Bennie Pennie |
| Jimmie Green | Walter T. Bradley III | Victor Walker | Jody Lambert |
| Sonny Devers | Ronnie Brooks | Jerry Guy | Michael Patterson |
| Theo. Johnson | Jimmie Brooks | Wayne Sutherland | Ralph Johnson |
| Robert Fields | Harry McClaskey | Jimmie Green | Robert Pennie III |
| Jessie Washington | Archie A. Sanders | Charles Guy | |



George Washington



Josephine Adams



Ben Thomas

DONATIONS TO CEMETERY NO. 1

All officers have donated their time and work. Mrs. Mary Perkins has donated the meeting place and supported the boys' work. All this is done without charge.

The following have helped with the work:

Mrs. Maggie Frye, now deceased, led the work for four years with soliciting donations from her many friends, white and black. We sadly miss her but we carry on the work.

The typing of the letters each year was done by Miss Anna Marie Johnson, Miss Drucilla Darneal, Miss Marilyn Hamilton, Miss Mary Charles Raglin and Miss Norma Jean Riddle.

Prof. William Christy has had the letters printed or mimeographed each year.

Mrs. Shirley Raglin has mailed the letters and thank you cards to out of town people each year.

The following have donated the use of tools: Mr. Luther Redden, a truck; Mr. Hal Gattrell, the use of wheelbarrows. Also, Mrs. Sarah Johnson, and Miss Elizabeth Craig, wheelbarrows to haul dirt.

Mr. William Lehman gave dirt and trash from remodeling his house.

The City of Midway gave five truck loads of dirt dug from the basement of the Presbyterian Church. Walden Seed Co. gave grass seed.

Mr. LeGrand Lee removed a tree from the ground and also filled Mr. Abbie Tilford's grave that needed filling.

Mr. Charles Shimmoller mowed the cemetery in May, 1969, free of charge.

Mr. Parks cut trees out of fence row joining Mr. Nave's property, free of charge.

Mr. Tom Fields filled and removed the extra rocks and dirt away from Mr. James Howard's grave.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE?

The Community Service Organization has seen to filling and leveling graves, sowed grass seed throughout the cemetery summer and fall, fallen trees, removed fallen ones, and bought stationery for mailing letters and thank you cards. The work is still being continued as of 1970.

To protect our solicitors, we ran an ad in the Woodford Sun, asking that anybody who had donated to anyone for Cemetery No. 1 and had not received a thank you card, please report it to Mrs. Shirley Raglin.

BURIAL OF BODIES

The undertakers were to look after all that is concerned in the transaction, such as permit, digging and covering the graves, cleaning up the debris around the grave. Families pay the Community Service Organization for the grave spot and select any undertaker they choose.

UNDERTAKERS SINCE 1961

The following undertakers have buried bodies in Cemetery No. 1, Midway, KY:

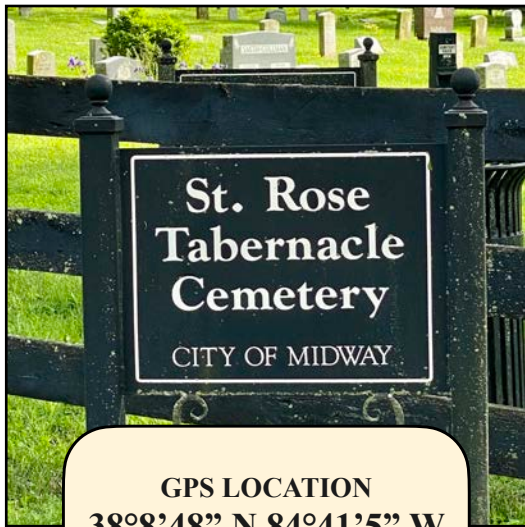
Charles Haggard, Lexington, Ky.	(Mrs. Cassie Henderson)
Undertaker Brown, Georgetown, Ky.	(Mrs. Emma Hale)
Undertaker Cunningham, Lexington, Ky.	(Mr. Albert Guy, Mrs. Rebecca Johnson, Mrs. Louella Brooks Mr. Clarence Guy, Bennie Dedman)
Undertaker Stewart, Lexington, Ky.	(Harry Anderson, Ada Anderson)
Undertaker Morgan, Versailles, Ky.	(Mrs. Maggie Frye, Mrs. Nola James)
Undertaker Smith and Smith, Lex., Ky.	(Mr. Abbie Tilford)
Undertaker J. K. Hobbs, Versailles, Ky.	(Anna M. Brooks (baby), Lizzie Mae Whitney, James Howard, George Washington (1970))

PERSONS BURIED IN SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF RELIEF CEMETERY NO. 1

Mary Lizzie Anderson	1+	Phine Fields		Marie Lampkin	1T
Mrs. Lizzie Anderson	1+	Jane Fowler	1B	Appline Lewis	1T
Harry Anderson	1+	Maggie Frye	4T	Isialo Miles	1T
Ada Anderson	1+	Mary Green		Abe Miles	
Leslie Anderson	1+	Bettie Green	1B	Florence Miles	1B
Squire Anderson	1+	Charlie Green	1B	Susan MacIntyre	2B
Harry Clay Anderson	1+	Rebecca Green		Appline Marshall	3T
Johnson Adams	1+	Kitty Gaines	2B	Nancy Mooney	1B
Josephine Adams	1B	Lou Jane Gaines	2T	Dave Miles	2B
Celia Adams	1B	Milford Graves	2B	Joseph Miles	2T
Ora Anthony	4B	Henry Graves	1T	George McDonal	
Joe Allen (family)	2 top	Sarah Graves	1B	Joe Miles	2T
Jane Banks	2	Rebecca Graves	1T	George Mitchell	2T
Lina Banks	2	Eddie Gates	2B	Vinnie Owsley	1B
Leslie Banks	2	Leslie Guy	1B	Harvett Owsley	1B
Link Banks	2	Katharine Guy	2B	Henry Orerton	2T
George Baker	1+	Bessie Guy	1T	Bettie Orerton	2T
Minnie Barns	2+	Coraine Guy	2B	William Oveton	2T
Ned Baxton	2	Alfred Guy	1T	Dabney Pearson	2B
Nellie Baxton	2	Jane Guy	1B	Price, Nepolean	1B
Fannie Beckham		Agnes Guy	2T	Ruth Price	1B
Laurenda Berryman	1T	Harry Guy	2T	Gloria Pennie	3T
Lizzie Boards	1T	Bennie Guy	1T	Willie Powell	
William Bohannon	1B	Clarence Guy	1T	A. P. Rosewell	1T
Earnest Brown	1T	Albert Guy	1T	Henry Reed (Red)	
Columbus Brown	1T	Charley Harris	1T	Nancy Riley	1B
Mary E. Blanton	3+	Willie Hall	1T	John Riley	1B
Bessie Blanton	1B	Virginia Hays		Jane Scott	1B
Luella Brooks	1T	Mary Howard	1B	Mary Alice Scruggs	1T
Annie Butler	1B	A. D. Harris	1B	Lincoln Scruggs	
Emma Bush	1B	Emily Hilliard	1	Matilda Sanders	
Mary Bell Chandler	1T	Emma Hall	1	James Smith	2B
Steve Chandler	1T	Cassie Henderson	1T	Katie Smith	2B
Sarah Chamel	1B	George Hale	1T	Emma Smith	3B
Bessie Carr	1B	Martha Hall		Clara Smith	2B
Sanders Carr	2B	Rosa Hobbs	3T	Alexander Straws	1
Martin Carr		Willie Howard		Dudley Straws	1
Maggie Cannada	4T	Delia Harris	2T	Celia Scott	1B
Anna Lisa Campbell	3B	Morris Inggols	1T	Fannie Stepp	1B
Mary Cohan	3B	Wyatt Johnson	1	Parthenia Spearer	1B
Anna Cohan	1T	Sallie Jackson	1B	Bennie Thomas'	4B
Samuel Cohan	4B	Amanda Jackson	1B	Lillie Thomas	1B
Emis Coleman	1B	Stella B. Jackson	1T	Katie Thomas	2T
Susan Colman	1T	Willie Jackson	2+	Annie Thomas	3T
James Clay	2T	Katherine J. Johnson	1T	Will Thomas	3T
Jane Clay	2T	Samuel Johnson	1T	Tatsey Taylor	1
Harry Craig	2B	Mattie Johnson		Dudley Twyman	3T
Joanna Craig	2B	Martha Johnson	1B	Dick Williams	
Coby Christy	1+	Mattie Edwards	1	(w/ wife & daughter)	1B
J. S. Colston	1+	Ida Johnson		David Washington	
Polly Colston	1+	Wm. James, Jr.	2T	Bennie Williams	1
Harry Crittenden	1B	Ed. James	1T	Alford Washington	1T
Lura Crittenden	1B	Weston James	1T	Addie Whitney	1B
Rev. John Crittenden	2B	Harvey James	1T	Amanda Washington	1
Wilson Craig	1B	Martha Johnson	1B	Lula Waters	1B
Elizabeth Craig Cecil	3 ?	Willis Jenkins	1+	Harriett Worton	1T
Mary Eliza Campbell	3T	Elijah Jones	2+	Albert Whittney	1T
John Dupee	1B	John Lee	2T	Ethel Walker	4
Barry Douglas	1B	Ellen Lee	2T	William Walker	1T
Albert Douglas	1B	Family Lot	2+	Henry Wilson	1
Mary Douglas	3T	Rev. Stephen Lee	1B	Ed. & Sally Wilson	1
Samuel Barry Douglas	1B	Gennie Lee	1B	Robert Walker	
Edna Deadman	1T	Swett Lee	1T	Bennie Williams	2B
Bennie Deadman	1B	Henry Lee	1T	Elijah Williams	1T
Helen Demar	3T	Mayner Lee	1T	Willie Williams	1T
Steve Demar	3T	Eliza Lanmore	1T		
James Downey	1T	Winsor Louise		James Young	1B
Henretta Edwards	1T	Bettie Langford	2T	Tom Young	1B
Lucille Edwards	1B	Millie Lewis	2+	Madison Young	4B
Addie Fields	1T	Millie Robinson Lewis	2T	Angnetta Washington	1B
Stephen Fields	1T	James Lampkin	1B	Nancy Young	1T

St. Rose Tabernacle Cemetery: Cemetery No. 2

By Judy Offutt and Christy C. Reaves



GPS LOCATION
38°8'48" N 84°41'5" W
MIDWAY KY

Midway African Americans were buried in Cemetery No. 1, Sons and Daughters of Relief Cemetery, and in Cemetery No. 2, St. Rose Tabernacle Cemetery, since the mid-1800s. While there is information about Sons and Daughters of Relief Cemetery, much of the history of St. Rose Tabernacle Cemetery is unknown and what is known has often not been verified. Volunteers continue efforts to bring to light information about the organization that established and maintained this important part of Midway's cemetery history. The City of Midway now maintains both historic cemeteries and the Midway Cemetery, to honor and show respect to all those buried in Midway.

MIDWAY CITY COUNCIL APPROVES FUNDING FOR CONNECTION BETWEEN MIDWAY CEMETERY AND ST. ROSE TABERNACLE CEMETERY

In 2021 the Midway City Council approved funds to create a connection between the Midway Cemetery and St. Rose Tabernacle Cemetery. The initial design envisions matching stone pillars, reminiscent of those at the entrance of Midway Cemetery, flanking a walkway between the two. The plan for connecting the cemeteries was envisioned years ago by then Midway City Council member Jonelle Fisher. The idea has recently been revitalized and reimagined by Midway resident Blythe Jamieson with support from the Midway Council Cemetery Committee: Sara Hicks, Mary Raglin and Steve Simoff. The project is planned for 2022.

GRAVE INVENTORY PROJECTS

In September of 1995, Melvin E. Hurst created a grave inventory, and another inventory was created by Scout William Borland in December of 2012. In 2020, there was renewed interest in the cemetery, in part, from the Honoring Black Stories in Midway movement. John and Patty Holloway, Midway residents, completed a new inventory with map and spent many hours repairing markers and cleaning the grounds.

The Holloway 2020 Grave Inventory follows. It includes both an alphabetical list of people known or presumed to be buried in St. Rose Tabernacle Cemetery and a map corresponding with grave locations, when known. (See number at end of entry.) Information from the headstone is listed when known.



St. Rose Tabernacle Cemetery Grave Map for Holloway 2020 Index

156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175
		146	147							GUY	148	149		150	151	152	153	154	155
132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140		141	142	143	144	145					
128	129	130	131																
117		118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127								
	107	108	109	110	111	112	113		114	115	116								
		100	101	102	103	104	105	106											
	85	86	87	88	88.5	89	90	91	92	93		94	95	96	97	98	99		
67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84		
57	58	59		60	61	62	63	64	65	66									
		49	50	51		52		53	54		55						56		
34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48					
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		
1	2																		

Spring Station Road

ST. ROSE TABERNACLE CEMETERY

From the 2020 Grave Inventory by Volunteers John Holloway and Patty Holloway

NOTE: All of the builder's blocks have been replaced with reproduction markers. Other grave markers with no biographical information are still in place, but of course they have no names or dates. Numbers indicate location on map included on previous page.

- Adams, Kay Lark:** January 26, 1937-May 29, 1983 33
Anderson, Ella: 1896-1981 9
Anderson, George: February 22, 1879-May 10, 1912 (Stone leaning against tree.) 158
Barnes, Robert: Pvt Company D 442 Labor BNQMC WW1 65
Bentley, John: 1868-1949 110
Beckon, Fannie: Died Aug 14, 1919 141
Blank stone not in row 156
Blank stone not in row 157
Bohannon, Malinda Guy: March 22, 1896-May 4, 1957 173
Bohannon, Will: June 4, 1891-February 6, 1963 61
Bor????, Smittie (Hard to read the rest.) 126
Bradley, Sarah J.: 1897-1960 67
Bradley, Walter T. Sr.: 1897-1972 43
Brooks, Betty Jean: 1945-1987 17
Brooks, Butch Lewis Austin III: 1952-1954 122
Brooks, James A., Cpl. US Army: April 12, 1927- June 17, 1974 24
Brooks, William F. Jr.: November 12, 1976 May 26, 1979 4
Bruce, Mattie L. 1893-1979 85
Bruce, Vertner Howard: MVS 2 CL HQ Company 814 Pioneer Infantry WWI 1896-1957 84
Burleigh, Ruth B.: April 5, 1882- February 3, 1990 20
Bush, Dora: January 17, 1900-October 3, 1962 105
Bush, Florence Elizabeth: June 23, 1929- November 23, 1987 18
Bush, Scottie Jr.: Army Air Force WWII August 26, 1926-October 12, 1972 45
Bush, Scottie: Pvt US Army WWI April 10, 1894-January 1 1957 82
Bush, Sharon Emily Bush: 1965 – 1979 3
Caldwell, Aaron J.: SSgt USAF Vietnam April 4, 1940-January 31, 1973 46
Caldwell, Cora: October 19, 1905-October 31, 1969 39
Caldwell, Harry: November 22, 1906-December 8, 1956 80
Caldwell, Nathan: May 9 188X -December 6, 19XX 50
Campbell, James F.: 1875-1958 98
Campbell, Katie: 1883-1942 97
Campbell, Mary: 1883-1957 99
Campbell, Richard G.: Died December 31 1918 170
Carter, Patricia Ann: November 24, 1959-June 7, 1960 100
Christy, Lovell A.: April 12, 1917-June 16, 1980 31
Christy, Rachel K.: 1894-1973 48
Christy, William J.: August 23, 1894-April 24, 1983 47
Coleman, Lucy: 1894-1974 27
Combs, Huzzetta: May 7, 1907- May 31, 1988 19
Combs, Willie: 1900-1959 112
Craig, Elizabeth: 1906-1985 87
Crawford, Cornella: December 16, 1885-October 29,1962 90
Crawford, Edward F.: May 17, 1981 2
Crawford, Lincoln A.: 1918-1963 60
Crawford, Maggie P. (from Midway cemetery records no physical marker)
Darneal, George E.: 1906-1932 179
Darneal, Marshall: 1916-1942 160
Darneal, Mary B.: 1882-1940 159
Darneal, Nannie W.: December 24, 1927-January 17,1991 56
Darneal, Preston J.: Tec 5 Army WWII 1921-1980 and a second stone 55
Darneal, Robert A.: Sgt US Army WWII February 14, 1915-May 28 1954 79
Darneal, Will: 1874-1965 70
Davis, Addie: 1900-1975 29



Aaron Caldwell



William J. Christy



Robert A. Darneal

Davis, Lamar: December 16, 1947-September 17, 1963 59
Dehaven, Pearl I.: 1903 - 1969
Dowery, Lottie: 1878-1965 114
Dupee, Frank: Broken stone missing words
Edwards, Sallie: May 10, 1865-June 6, 1934 78
Everett, Lydia K.: October 18, 1891 – December 29, 1980 6
Fields, Molly D.: 1884-1971 42
Fields, Thomas Henry: ST2 USNR WWII, May 22, 1909-May 13, 1962 102
Fowler, Aaron: 00.K 12 U.S.O.H.A. 125
Gillespie, Annie B.: 1868-1929 130
Gillespie, Ernest: Pvt. 411 Labor BN. March 10, 1930 131
Gillespie, George B.: 1861-1930 129
Green, Mary L.: 1875-1919 182
Guy Family Marker
Guy, Clay E.: Cpl, Army Air Force WWII May 15, 1911-February 29, 1972 41
Guy, Frank L.: Pvt. 49 Co 166 Depot Brig: February 8, 1889-June 19, 1954 146
Guy, James B.: June 22, 1906-May 14, 1957 145
Guy, Jestene M.: October 24, 1943-May 22, 1991 57
Guy, Louis: July 4, 1865-December 16, 1931 176
Guy, Louis: May 20, 1901-July 13, 1959 172
Guy, Louise: April 1, 1869-May 25, 1931 175
Guy, Rebecca "Becky": April 13, 1967-May 2, 2014 58
Guy, Sallie M.: December 16, 1908-March 28, 1959 144
Guy, Virginia B.: October 19, 1910-January 15, 1972 40
Hale, Clara: May 10, 1884-April 25, 1981 32
Hale, Robert D.: April 11, 1899-January 15, 1956 95
Hale, Susie Perry: August 1, 1863-? 115
Hamilton, Bessie: June 23, 1880-September 18, 1933 (Two markers, same person.) 163
Hamilton, David 128
Hamilton, Ed: 1873-1943 148
Hamilton, Mary Brown: June 28, 1908 21
Hardin, James A.: 1930-1986
Henderson, Lavinia Guy: March 8, 1905-February 21, 1967 143
Henrietta: Died July 28, 1909 170
Hurley, Harriet: 1805-December 4, 1888 Member of Baptist Church for 50 years. 168
Ingguls Eddie C.: February 25, 1900-February 8, 1982 11
Ingguls, Ann C.: October 13, 1928- November 30, 1986 16
Ingguls, Lorraine: June 20, 1924 – March 12, 1981 7
Jackson, Bessie Guy: 1898-1949 178
James, Harry: 1878-1934 136
James, Laura R.: 1867-1931 133
James, Mary G.: 1882-19? 135
James, William C. : 1865-1934 132
Johnson, "Wes" John W.: 1885-1968 54
Johnson, Sarah E.: 1892-1981 72
Kennedy, Lucy W.: January 23, 1896-January 23, 1975 44
Kirksey, Sadie: 1902-1973 71
Lee, Legrand L.: June 20, 1894-Sept. 17, 1989 151
Lee, Mary Ellen: September 15, 1893-March 28, 1988 152
Long, Marion B.: August 5, 1923- July 31, 1983 12
Lyles, Nettie M.: February 27, 1923- January 25, 1984 13
Lyles, William Jr.: February 26, 1914- March 3, 1987 14
McClain, Katie E.: 1903-1974 23
Moore, Fannie: 1893-1904 166
Mulder, Minnie Frances: November 4, 1930-October 5, 1986 34
Patterson, Emma Guy: August 21, 1891-October 9, 1947 177
Pennie, Mary E.: 1908-1970
Pennie, Robert F.: 1903
Prentice, George: 1876-1945 91



Harriet Hurley

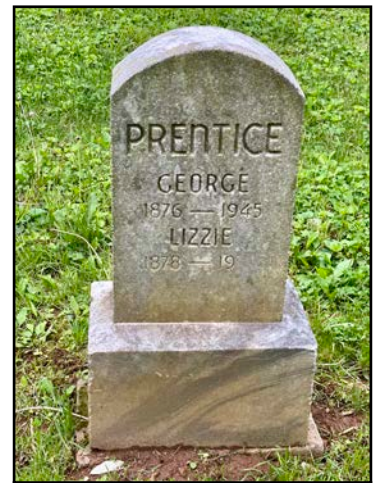


**Legrand & Mary
Ellen Lee**



Fannie Moore

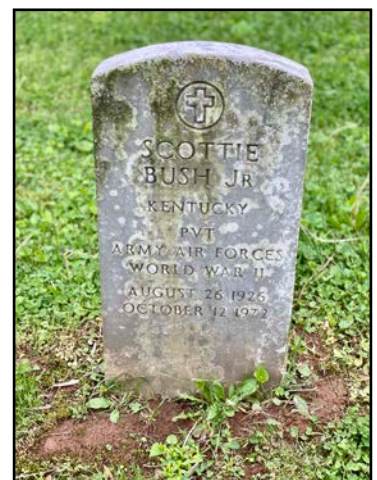
Prentice, Lizzie: 1878-19** 92
Prentice, Nettie G.: 1898-1951 76
Raglin, Doris E.: 1956-1965
Raglin, Shirley A.: 1935-1978 30
Reed, Edward C.: 1980 PHIL 13 (1, 2, and 3 are right on top of each other) 1
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Rothel, Mary Christy: 1923-1953 121
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Saunders, Bettie Romp: January 5, 1869-March 23, 1954 107
Saunders, Rev. Richard L.: 1914-1980 and Emma J.: 1915- 5
Saunders, William: April 22, 1861-December 13, 1926 116
Scruggs, Cazel: Cook Trp L 10 Cavalry WWI: February 22, 1894-July 11, 1965 51
Scruggs, Henry L.: PFC Army WWII September 11, 1920-May 25, 1973 49
Scruggs, Mary B.: 68
Shears, Alice Guy: July 24, 1884 January 15, 1979 25
Shelbourne, Maurice: A3C US Air Force February 28, 1933 July 11, 1975 28
Smith, Luella: 1912-1974 26
Smith, Henry: died July 11, 1935 161
Smith, Ida: (from Midway cemetery records no physical marker)
Smith, John W.: 1897
Smith, Lucy R. Crawford: February 10, 1916-January 1, 1989 35
Smith, Polly: 1882-1908 171
Smith, Susie: February 20, 1860-May 8, 1933 162
Stafford, John: Born 1834
Stewart, Alice Greene: 1890-1968 69
Taylor, Mary E.: 1885-1967 73
Taylor, William H.: 1882-1949 74
Taylor, Willie: Pvt 801 Pioneer Inf March 3, 1935 183
Thomas, Charles S. "Spence": 1915-1982 10
Thomas, George: Private, US Army WWI July 28, 1891-November 5, 1959 101
Thomas, John: Died July 18, 1915 174
Thomas, Leroy H.: PFC US Army Korea 1932-1981 8
Thomas, Melvin R.: January 21, 1935-December 31, 1969 38
Thomas, Phoebe: 1887-1961 86
Thomas, Sarah Edwards: 1894-1969 36
Thompson, Willie: October 9, 1872-March 26, 1962 75
Tilford, Maria J.: 1858-1951 119
Toles, Mary Jackson: June 16, 1877-December 9, 1969 88
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Unknown (Builder's block nub coming out of ground.) 150
Unknown (Builder's block nub coming out of ground.) 164
Unknown (Builder's block.) 165
Unknown (cut slab erect) 113
Unknown (Inscription reads "Gone but not forgotten.") 109
Unknown (Limestone rock with texture.) 94
Unknown (Nub coming out of the ground and a steel pipe.) 120
Unknown (Nub sticking up.) 93
Unknown 111
Unknown 167
Unknown (Broken into two parts.) 139
Unknown (Builder's block nub coming out of the ground.) 140
Unknown (Builder's block.) 123
Unknown (Builder's block.) 149
Unknown (Builder's block) 108
Unknown (Illegible, possibly Worthun.) 124
Unknown (sawn limestone stele, erect. Possible head marker.) 103
Unknown (Top of stone broken off.) 83
Unknown 64



George Prentice



Kay Lark Adams



Scottie Bush, Jr.

Walker, Charles F: Pvt US Army: February 23, 1940 147
Walker, Elnora Kennedy: 1885-1952 137
Walker, Maggie M.: 1900-1973 89
Washington, Elizabeth: February 14, 1964
Washington, James H.: Pvt 801 Pioneer Inf. WWI March 18, 1894-September 10, 1947 118
Washington, Jesse Jr.: October 8, 1947-February 15, 1967 52
Washington, Katie S.: 1881-1963
Washington, Soph: May 23, 1894-August 30, 1974 142
Washington, Vinetta: April 17, 1943-January 21, 1969 37
Webster, Ellena: 1878-1961 63
Webster, William: 1876-1960 62
Wiley, Doc M.: October 7, 1894-February 25, 1968 53
Wiley, Dora C.: September 26, 1909- September 12, 1985 15
Williams, Eddie: August 21 1886-April 25, 1911 138
Williams, John: ?-January 26, 1947 117
Williams, Willis H.: 1880-1956 81
Worthun, Kate Died October 3, 1917 154
Worthun, Lee: December 1, 1890-December 9, 1911 153
Worthun, Lewis A.: August 26, 1852-January 23, 1924 155
Young, Dora: (from Midway records no physical marker)
Young, Hannah W.: August 17, 1885-July 21, 1976 106
Young, Randal: Pvt Company G 801 Pioneer Infantry WWI May 30, 1887-May 13, 1960 66
Young, Sallie: 1880-1950 77
Young, Taylor: 1900-1962 104

Based on recent comparison of the three inventories, these people could be some of the Unknown graves listed:

Brooks, Euis A. - b. 1906 d. 1922
Douglas(s), Rev. Albert (1875 or 1876 - Nov. 16, 1979 from Obituary)
Hamilton, Vergie - b. Jan. 17, 1870 - Feb. 16, 1952 (Death Certificate)
North, Lewis A. - b. 26 Aug. 1852 d. 23, Jan. 1924
Raglin, Anita Darlene
Raglin, Doris E.
Raglin, Michael
Raglin, Winston



Ella Anderson



Dora Bush



Jestene M. Guy



Harry C. & Mary G. James



Sallie Edwards

AFRICAN AMERICAN BUSINESSES

African American Businesses 1960s - Present

By Christy C. Reaves



Scottie Bush, Jr.



406 SOUTH WINTER STREET MIDWAY SHOE SHOP

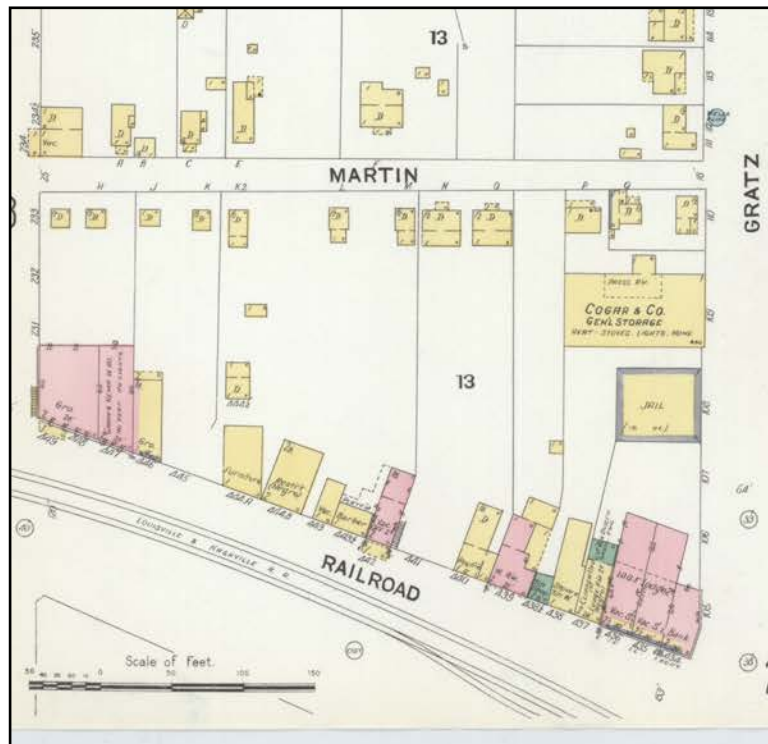
Midway Shoe Shop was owned and operated by Scottie Bush, Jr. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II, carrying on the tradition of his father, Scottie Bush, Sr., who served in the U.S. Army during World War I. Both men are buried in St. Rose Tabernacle Cemetery, and have military stone monuments. At the end of the war, Scottie Bush, Jr. was stationed at the 3502nd AAF Base in Chanutte, Illinois. After his service in WW II, he returned to Midway, and lived on Gratz Street. He worked at King Ranch in Woodford County as a Barn Foreman. His work with horses inspired future generations of the Bush family to continue the tradition. He owned and operated the Midway Shoe Shop until his passing in 1972. His family still hears stories of gratitude for Scottie Bush's gift of a pair of shoes to young African American men as they began their first year of college.

Ruth Thomas reminisces about African American Lodges and businesses in Midway in her interview for Midway African American Oral History Project in 1991. The list was expanded by current Midway people.

- Tabernacle Lodge
- Sons and Daughters of Relief Lodge
- Midway and Versailles Prince Hall Mason Lodge
- Eastern Star Lodge
- Odd Fellows Lodge
- Otis Lenore - Garbage Truck and School Bus (to Versailles)
- Nathan Edwards - Barber Shop and Shoe Shop
- Essie Anderson and her husband - Restaurant
- Napoleon Price - Cleaning and Pressing and Shoe Repair Shop
- Will Barrowman - Barber Shop
- Willie Williams (Sweet Key) - Plumbing Shop
- Owen Hatenfield
- James and Ellen Lampkin - Grocery Store on S. Gratz until early 1960s
- John Lee (Legrand's daddy) - Supply Store
- William Gaines - Funeral Director
- Second Christian Church - Skating Rink
- Harry Anderson - Carpenter/Builder
- John, Legrand and Lump Lee - Stonemasons
- Minnie Bell Saunders - Restaurant on Main Street
- James "Step" Raglin - Barbershop
- Dora Brooks - Sewing Business
- Cat Fish Owsley - Restaurant
- Mary Agnes (Guy) Pennie - Beauty Shop at 215 Walnut Street
- Mollie Bradley - Laundry Service at 215 Walnut Street
- Ahmosis Aton - Aton Communications

Midway African American Businesses 1890s – 1960s

By William A. Penn, "Midway History Timeline"



In the 1900 U.S. Census, the population of Midway was approximately 37% African American, and many black-owned businesses occupied the north side of Railroad Street. These businesses included a barber shop, tailor, shoe repair shop, laundry, restaurant/bar, and Lodges. Due in part to the migration to larger cities, the black businesses slowly disappeared.

**Sanborn Insurance Map
1908**



**124 EAST RAILROAD STREET
(NOW 124 EAST MAIN STREET)**

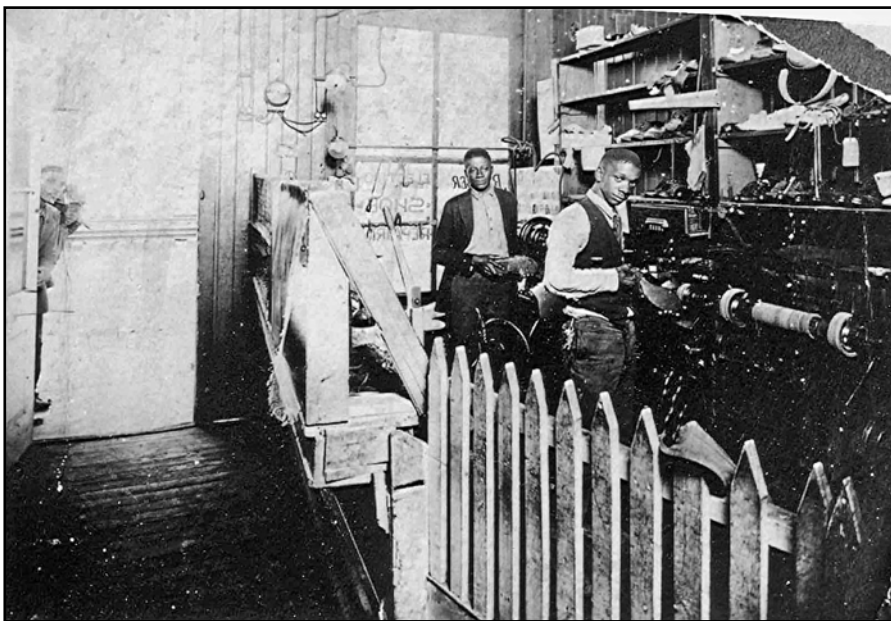
Although still operated as the Central Saloon by the Russell family in this circa 1900 photo, the property was sold to Sons and Daughters of Relief in 1917. In 1877, Rev. Moses Burks and other black citizens incorporated the organization, to care for their sick and destitute members, protect widows and orphans of deceased members and bury their dead. This African American charitable organization owned the building until 1958, meeting upstairs and renting the first floor as a restaurant/bar.

**116 EAST RAILROAD STREET
(NOW 116 EAST MAIN STREET)**

In June 1898, the city issued a building permit to two African American Lodges. The meeting hall was upstairs and black businesses occupied the first floor.

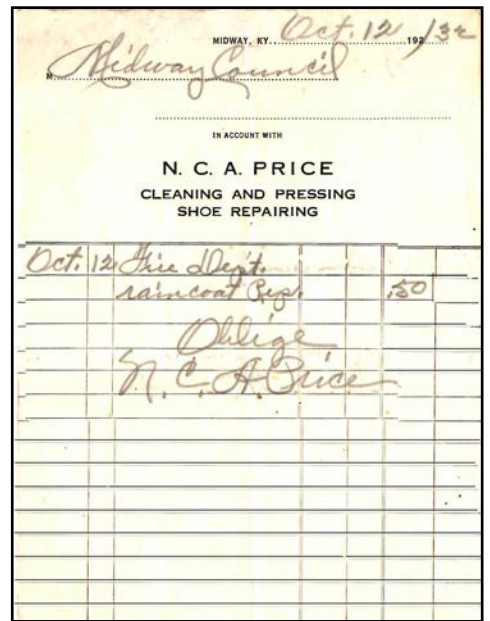
The Lodges were the Midway Pilgrim Lodge No. 1493 Grand United Order of Odd Fellows of America, est. 1879 and the Corinthian (Masonic) Lodge No. 32.

By the early part of the century, both the Masonic Lodge and Odd Fellows Lodge closed.



**Napoleon Price Shop 1933
Cleaning and Pressing
Shoe Repairing**

According to the window sign, a barber was also here.



**N. C. A. Price
Cleaning and Pressing
Shoe Repairing**
Invoice to Midway Council
October 12, 1932

AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILIES & CITIZENS THROUGH THE YEARS

The Lee and Mosby Families - From Slavery to Freedom

by Amy Rouse Perry and Ellen Hawkins Kellom

The following article describes, and pays tribute to, generations of a well-known African American Midway family. The lives of the Lees and Mosbys are recounted here as they move from enslaved people to living as freed people. Their story is told by Mrs. Geneva Lee Hawkins (1905-1999), whose own life was remarkable.

EXCERPTS FROM A TRIBUTE TO GENEVA LEE HAWKINS BY HER SON-IN-LAW CHARLES KELLOM, AT THE TIME OF HER DEATH

Geneva Brice Isabella Lee Hawkins was born on April 30, 1905, in Midway, Kentucky. On September 2, 1999, in Cincinnati, Ohio, Geneva departed this life to forever live in eternal glory with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Affectionately known as “Nebie” to family and friends, Geneva was the sixth of seven children born to her parents, John and Ellen Lee. Her parents owned a stone mason business and were the first and only black entrepreneurs operating in surrounding and racially segregated cities and townships.

At the age of twelve, Geneva confessed her faith in Jesus Christ at the Pilgrim Baptist Church in Midway, and for the next eight decades, her Christian belief served as the foundation for her life. With every word and in every behavior, she was devoted to emulating Christ.

Educated in Midway’s Public School System, Geneva obtained a Certificate of Excellence from the Common School of Kentucky in 1920 and was simultaneously honored as Class Valedictorian. She continued her education by enrolling in the Kentucky Normal and Industrial Institute in 1920, which was located in Frankfort, Kentucky. She graduated with a diploma in Academic Course of Study in 1924. In 1924, she enrolled in the Kentucky State Industrial College for Colored Persons which was also located in Frankfort, Kentucky. She graduated in 1926, receiving a diploma in the Science and Art of Teaching.

Today, both of the colleges she attended are collectively known as Kentucky State University. Geneva also excelled outside the classroom. On the athletic field, she participated in women’s track and field competitions and became a championship high hurdler. In addition, she had a magnificent coloratura soprano voice and a passion for singing. While in college, she was often invited to sing at various public and private events that included a performance before the Kentucky State Legislature. After graduating from Kentucky State in 1926, Geneva spent a year studying voice in Lexington, and then moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, in order to continue her training in vocal music at the University of Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. She was not able to complete this study due to a lack of funds. Always keeping her spiritual direction at the forefront of her life, she joined Bethel Baptist Church in Walnut Hills. Her church service also allowed her to contribute her singing talent in the church choir, where she became well known for her solos.

On June 5, 1928, Geneva was united in holy matrimony to Robert L. Hawkins, her fiancé from Mount Olive, Kentucky. In 1944, Geneva and Bob moved into the Woodlawn, Ohio, community and became active in the First Baptist Church of Woodlawn. On the day of her seventeenth wedding anniversary, June 5, 1945, Geneva gave birth to the joy of her life and her only child, Ellen Lee. Ellen grew up in a suburb of Cincinnati. With her health declining in later years, Geneva and Bob went to live with her daughter, Ellen, and son-in-law, Charles Kellom, in the cities of Miami and Lake Worth, Florida.

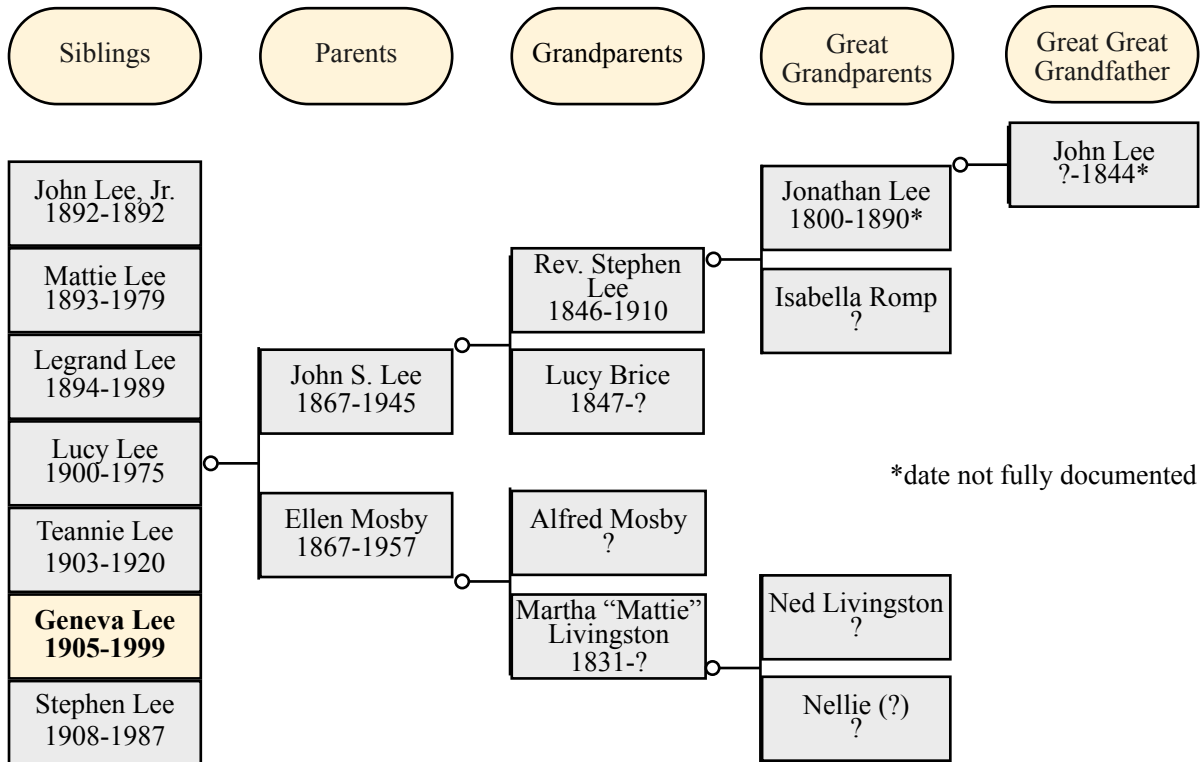
There were many remarkable qualities that typified Geneva’s life. First, she had a total and uncompromising belief in God. She was a fierce defender of God’s Word and God’s instruction. Secondly, her dedication to family was without hesitation. A devoted wife and mother, she always placed a priority on the support and care of her husband and daughter. Even so, early in her marriage, she raised and cared for two brothers-in-law who were orphaned in childhood. As a devoted aunt, she loved her nieces and nephews as her own sons and daughters. She became a loving grandmother and great-grandmother and thoroughly enjoyed “spoiling” her grandchildren at every opportunity. Third, Geneva had a natural love of people. Her warmth attracted children to love her instantly, strangers quickly became good friends, and she was quick to respond to anyone in need.



GENEVA LEE HAWKINS & MIDWAY AFRICAN-AMERICAN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Geneva was one of eleven people with Midway connections in the 1990's who was interviewed by Dr. Kristina Minister for the Midway African-American Oral History Project. Dr. Minister was on staff at what was then Midway College; that institution, along with the Midway Free Public Library, sponsored the project. The Kentucky Oral History Commission, a part of the Kentucky Historical Society in Frankfort, provided some funding. Interviews of Geneva, conducted on October 20, 1990, and October 25, 1991, were taped on cassettes and later transcribed. These transcriptions may be found on the Facebook Group page *Honoring Black Stories in Midway* (July 27, 2020). Other interviews from the original group will be shared later. Geneva's interview is featured here because of the details she shared about the Lee and Mosby families' enslavement in rural Midway in the 1800s.

With additional information and photos provided by Geneva's daughter, Ellen Hawkins Kellom, the story became much richer. Geneva's own words, as recorded in the interviews, are printed in *italics*.



SLAVERY FOR THE MOSBY FAMILY – MATERNAL SIDE

Geneva explains in her interview that both sides of her family were enslaved in the Midway area, but by different owners. Several of her stories are quite disturbing and are not included here. Unfortunately, the cases of abuse that happened to this family would sound familiar to anyone who reads accounts of the horrific treatment many slaves suffered at the hands of their owners. Geneva's great-grandparents, Ned and Nellie Livingston, were slaves in Virginia before coming to the Alexander Farm outside Midway. Their daughter, Martha, was born, married to Alfred Mosby, and had her children on this farm.

"... My grandmother's name was Mattie [Martha] Mosby. She was the one that belonged to the Alexanders... But they all had good masters. They all seemed like were treated very nicely. I never hear them, never heard them speak of being mistreated [or] anything. They all seemed to have gotten along very well. ... I know Mattie worked down there [Alexander] as long as she was able to work until she retired. She taught school for a while and then, when she was at home, she did domestic work, and she worked for Dr. Alexander."

SLAVERY FOR THE LEE FAMILY – PATERNAL SIDE

The early Lee family experienced life in a very different way. Jonathan Lee (Geneva's great-grandfather) was first a slave in Virginia before coming to Kentucky. Isabella Romp Lee (Jonathan's wife) was originally enslaved in Virginia and one of the Carolinas. It appears that they were together in Virginia before being moved to the Midway area. Up until the end of slavery, the Lees belonged to the Wallace family of Woodford County. Geneva continues:

"Well now, my grandmother Lucy Lee, she was married to Stephen Lee; she belonged to the Wallaces, too. And now, she didn't ever have to go out to work like the rest of the women; she worked in the house. She sewed and did little things for her mistress."

Ellen (Geneva's daughter) asked why Lucy didn't go out. Geneva hesitated, then said, *"Well, because the master was her father, and she looked very much like the other part of the family."*

Interviewer: "So they wanted to keep her hidden?" Geneva answered, *"They kept her in the house, yeah."*

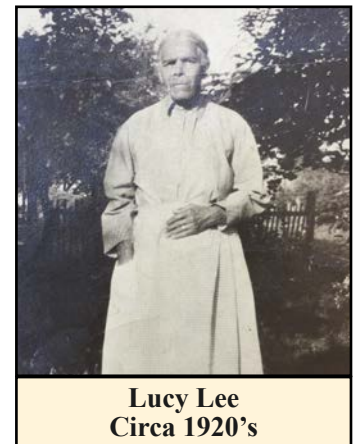
More stories told to Geneva by her grandmother Lucy Lee detailed restrictions that were put on slaves for simple pleasures like Sunday morning coffee and cornbread:

"Yeah, they had coffee, just once a week and that was on a Sunday morning. And they weren't allowed to have sugar with that. And one of them said ... they had tin cups, you know, and the missus would come by and fill all the cups with that coffee. And she [Lucy] said, 'Could I just have sugar today with my coffee?' Said she never asked anymore because [the missus] flattened her right on the floor. And she never asked for sugar anymore. They would give them molasses sometimes in the coffee. But she wanted sugar, so she kind of got out of line then asking for sugar."

"...They didn't fare so well, I don't think, over there [the Wallace place], eat so well. Well, they had what they fed them, you know. And until he died, my father didn't want any cornbread because he said he had eaten that through slavery."

Stories of ownership of Geneva's family members by the Wallaces reached back well into the 1800s with her great-grandmother Isabella Romp Lee. Tom Romp, Isabella's brother, was also owned by them:

"One uncle I had, they called him Tom Romp... He didn't get along with them so well, but he was – but, they couldn't, rule him any kind of way because they say that when they'd go to whip him for things that he was doing, he would run and jump up on the mule pen. And you know, back then they had very fine mules and all's that they worked on the farm. He'd jump over in with the mules, and they'd sic the dogs on him, and they stopped that because the mules would kill the dogs ...very fine dogs. And he knew how to do that."



SLAVERY CONNECTION BETWEEN THE WALLACE AND LEE FAMILIES

Geneva was uncertain of the identity of the Wallace family that enslaved her Lee family members, but research through ancestry.com provided documentation that suggests this Wallace family descended from Judge Caleb Wallace (1742-1814). Judge Wallace lived and practiced law on Lansing Lane, off present-day Weisenberger Mill Road, Midway. It was on his land that his son, Samuel McDowell Wallace (1780-1863), built his fine home on Old Frankfort Pike (known as The Alchemy), not far from Wallace Station. Samuel's home is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and includes this information: "Samuel Wallace built this home on land first owned by his pioneer father, Judge Caleb Wallace, circa 1820. Caleb and several members of his family figured prominently in late 18th and 19th century social, political and agricultural circles of Woodford County."

The first instance of this Wallace-Lee connection is John Lee's will amendment of 1844 that was signed by Samuel McDowell Wallace and two other executors. This John Lee is presumably Geneva's great-great-grandfather, and his death would have occurred sometime before the September 16, 1844, date on this document.

The next connection deals with the Civil War and three members of the Lee family enlisting to fight for the Union. On July 13, 1864, Jonathan, Stephen and Reuben Lee all enlisted in Woodford County. Reuben is Stephen's brother.

"My grandpa Jonathan and Stephen, that was my grandfather, and Reuben, they were the ones that slipped off at night and made it to the line, where they could enlist."

In the official documents, all three were identified as being "owned by Thomas Wallace." In searching for the identity of Thomas Wallace, it appears likely that he was the son of Samuel McDowell and Matilda A. Lee Wallace. Thomas Henry Wallace (1819-1902) would have been of a suitable age, at 45, to be listed in this way on the documents.

And the third, though not documented, connection to the Lee family involves Lucy Lee, Geneva's grandmother who was owned by the Wallace family. Lucy was born in 1842. Geneva states clearly in her interview that her grandmother was the daughter of a Wallace man. Already tied to the Lee family, Samuel McDowell Wallace would have been 62 years old when Lucy was born. He had multiple children, including Thomas Henry (b. 1818 or 1819) who was living in Woodford County with his wife Francis and their children, according to the 1860 census. Thomas Henry would have been around 24 years old in 1842. Samuel M. Wallace also had John, Andrew, William and Caleb, all sons younger than Thomas Henry. Lucy's father cannot be named with certainty.

TIMELINE - WALLACE FAMILY

Early Wallace family members lived in Virginia and Beaufort, South Carolina.

1740s	Judge Caleb Wallace born.
1780	Samuel McDowell Wallace born.
1814	Judge Caleb Wallace died.
1816	Samuel married Matilda A. Lee of Woodford County.
1819	Thomas Henry Wallace born to Samuel McDowell & Matilda Wallace
1820, c.	Samuel house built on Old Frankfort Pike (The Alchemy).
1849 or 1863	Samuel McDowell Wallace dies, buried in SC (date on tomb stone 1940).
1864	Thomas Lee Wallace born to Thomas Henry and Frances Taylor Wallace.
1902	Thomas Henry Wallace dies.

JONATHAN LEE AND THE LINCOLN PICTURE

During Geneva's interview with Dr. Minister, Geneva tells of her great-grandfather Jonathan Lee and his connection to President and Mrs. Lincoln. Abraham Lincoln served as president from 1861-1865, putting Jonathan in his 60s.

"Now he drove for the Wallaces, Grandpa Jonathan. And he drove to Washington. Of course, they would stop on the way, livery stables and all, and rest the horses. But to see President Lincoln and Mrs. Lincoln. And he had a tin picture like they used to make in the old days, of President Lincoln, that Mrs. Lincoln gave him [Jonathan Lee]. And, and he was always very proud of that. ...He considered himself and his family very high class. And he was the only black slave member that belonged to the Presbyterian Church here, the white Presbyterian Church, you know. Because he was a sexton and he belonged there. And when he died, they found this picture up in the, where the belfry is or something, where he used to keep his things up there, this picture. And it was in one of the papers here; Dooley Rogers or someone had it."

The history of the Midway Presbyterian Church mentions this tin-type picture and the story Geneva tells, as does an article written by Dooley Rogers. Geneva thought that some of her family in Chicago might have ended up with the picture.

REUBEN LEE'S APPOMATTOX STORY

Geneva's great-uncle served in the Union Army during the Civil War. When she was studying Negro history at the colored school, he told her to "close the book. Let me tell you about it!" He was at Appomattox when Lee surrendered to Grant.

"He said, 'I was leaning on my gun on the fence when they went into the building to make the peace treaty, whatever it was, signed.'"



**Reuben Lee
(Stephen's Brother)**



**Brackenridge Lee
(Stephen's Brother)**



**Tea Mosby
(Ellen's Sister)**



**Mary Mosby
(Ellen's Sister)**

LIFE FOR THE LEES AND MOSBYS, IN MIDWAY, AFTER THE CIVIL WAR

Like many slaves throughout the South, the Mosby family did not immediately leave their owner on the Alexander farm after the war. Martha and Alfred Mosby were there working for wages until they could move to their own home in 1878. The Alexanders assisted the Mosby family with initially acquiring a house on Gratz Street in Midway, which the Mosbys were able to purchase.

“Well it was after slavery, naturally, that they bought it, uh-huh. They got it for her but she paid for it through John Wises—didn’t he have like a building and loan or something like that? Most of the black people around here paid for their places that way.”

Census records indicate Alfred was a farmworker. Census records also show that Geneva’s mother, Ellen, lived with Martha in this house after Ellen and John Lee were married. Geneva and all of her siblings were born there.

After the Civil War, the Lee family left the Wallaces. Stephen and his wife, Lucy (Geneva’s grandparents), acquired a home on Higgins Street in Midway.

Geneva tells a little about life around Midway when the Civil War ended. She tells how Tom Romp, her great-great uncle, would come back to Midway all dressed up, sporting a stovepipe hat. All the men who survived and returned were changed.

“...You asked me awhile back about people in Midway and what I first remembered. I remember that the ones that were most proud that walked around there were the old Civil War veterans. And they didn’t work. They received a pension, twelve dollars a month. And that was money, twelve dollars a month. I remember there were just about, let’s see, there was Aaron Hamilton, Charlie Lewis, Louis Blanton, Reuben Lee, Charlie Walker, and Stephen Lee—that was my grandfather—and Jonathan Lee, that was my great-grandfather. Yeah, they were Civil War veterans, fought with the Union. And they were very proud. I don’t remember any of them going out and doing any work. They walked around dressed up. They got twelve dollars a month.”

“I remember Helen Garner’s great-grandfather, a man named [Aaron] Fowler; he wore a dark blue suit always and a black Stetson hat. He was—all winter or summer—he walked around in that. He was the best-dressed black person in Midway.”

The Mosbys and Lees, now freed blacks/negroes, lived segregated from whites in all ways except to work in white homes and on white-owned farms. Some black and white children often played together, but as they grew up, they separated. Although legalized freedom had been obtained, there was the reality of Jim Crow racial bias and Ku Klux Klan threats. This lasted well into the early to mid-1900s. The end of slavery was a positive step forward, but black citizens were presented with other challenges that continue today.

LIFE FOR THE FAMILIES IN MIDWAY IN EARLY 1900s

John and Ellen Mosby Lee were married in 1891 and raised children to know the importance of family, education and casting your vote in elections. Education was important to the Lee family, and they supported their children’s education as far as it was available to them. It was seen as one vehicle to secure a comfortable life. Mattie, Geneva and Stephen were the first in the family to attend Kentucky State Industrial College. From slavery to the 20th century, each generation was encouraged to keep improving its life circumstances and moving forward.

The Lee family and others established family businesses in Midway. These were on one side of Railroad Street, with the majority of white businesses on the other side. Stone masonry became a business for John Lee (Geneva’s father), and he taught the trade to his sons Legrand and Stephen. John also owned a small store that sold various goods.

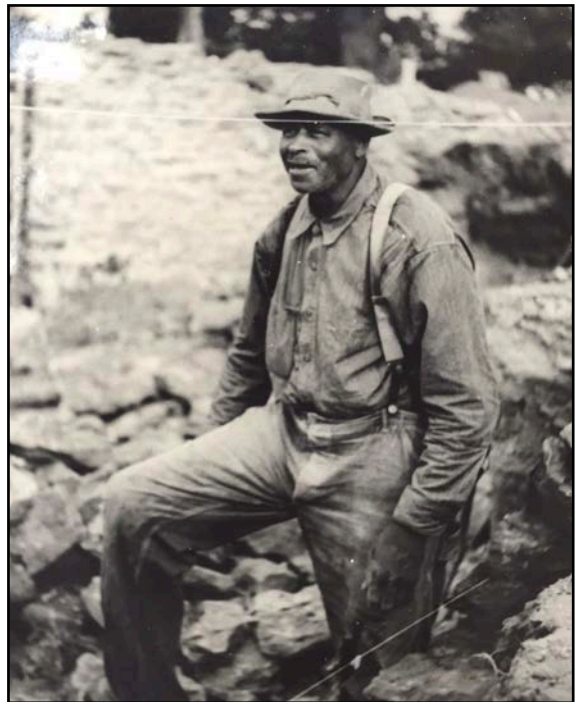
Church worship was an important aspect of both the Lee and Mosby families’ lives. Rev. Stephen Lee (Geneva’s grandfather) was a Methodist AME minister, and the Lees were members of the Midway St. Matthew A.M.E. Church. The Mosbys were members of the Pilgrim Baptist Church in town.



Ellen Mosby Lee
Circa 1950s



John S. Lee
Circa 1890s



John S. Lee
Circa 1930s

MATTIE LEE BRUCE (1893-1979)

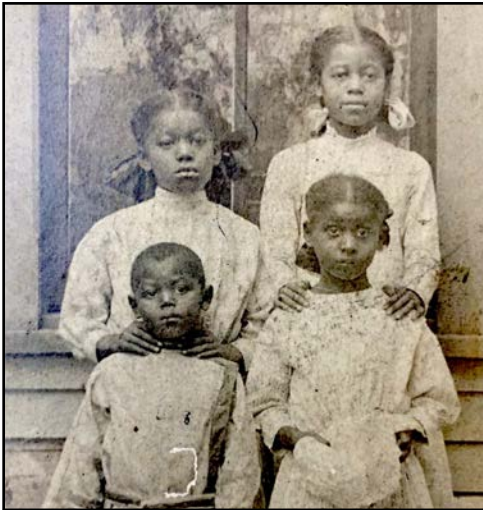
After graduating from Kentucky Industrial College (today's Kentucky State University), Mattie taught in schools for colored children in Midway, Zion Hill, White Sulpher, Oxford, and Pleasureville, and married Vertner Bruce, a musician. She was highly respected in her Midway community, and as an educator she took special interest in helping, encouraging and inspiring young people to reach their full potential in life. Mattie was devoted to her ministries at Midway's Pilgrim Baptist Church, which included 40 years as Sunday School Superintendent. After her teaching career ended, she was employed for many years by Dr. Alexander and his family in Midway.

LUCY LEE MACK (1900-1975)

Lucy married, at age 19, to John Mack of Paris, Ky. She and her husband owned and operated a large tobacco farm on the outskirts of Paris for over 50 years. As African Americans, farm ownership was unusual and inspiring for the times.

TEANNIE LEE (1903-1920)

Teannie passed away in 1920, at the age of 16, from effects suffered during the 1917 flu pandemic.



**Teannie, Lucy
Stephen, and Geneva Lee
Circa 1910s**



**Legrand Lee
Circa 1895**



**Lucy Lee Mack, Mattie Lee Bruce, Geneva Lee Hawkins
Circa 1970s**

LEGRAND LUCAS LEE (1894-1989)

Legrand, Geneva's older brother, was born on June 20, 1894. The 1900 census listed him as being five years old and living with his grandmother Martha Mosby and his parents and siblings. In 1910, the Lee family was living on Gratz Street. At the time of the 1920 census, Legrand and his wife, Mary Ellen, were renting a home on the Midway-Versailles Pike. He was employed then as a farm laborer, listed as a mulatto, and had served in World War I after enlisting in 1918 and training at Camp Zachary Taylor.

Jonelle Fisher, Midway author, interviewed Legrand for her book *A Soul Remembering*. She learned that Legrand got his unusual name from Legrand Lucas, who owned the land on Midway-Versailles Road across from Stonewall Farm. Mrs. Fisher recounts a story told to her by Alex Alexander, a local doctor and a descendant of the family who owned the Lee family years ago: One day, Legrand approached Dr. Alexander and said, "You don't know me, but I'm Legrand Lee. My folks were slaves on your family's farm. When I was coming down Spring Station Road at the back of your farm this morning, I saw about ninety feet of that old stone fence was falling down. Don't you want me to fix it for you? I feel like I ought to look out for you."

Legrand's sister Geneva said that he operated a plumbing shop on Railroad Street in Midway. "*Yeah, Legrand dipped into a lot of things, businesses.*" But he was well known outside the Midway city limits as a stonemason. John Lee, Legrand's father, taught the trade to both of his sons. Legrand's projects include stonework around Mr. Simms' garden at Airdrie Farm, Calumet Farm, Pin Oak Farm, the Keeneland racetrack gateposts and over sixty water cisterns in Midway and other locations. Legrand built the chimney in Tom Roach's cabin, on present-day Southern Equine Stables. He told Jonelle Fisher that the chimney design was his. "I built that one on my own notion. And it drew just like a stove. It was the best chimney I ever built for drawing."

Legrand was very involved in his church, the Pilgrim Baptist Church in Midway, where he was a deacon for more than 50 years. At his funeral, Mrs. Fisher recounts that several of the presenters shared how Legrand's faith was paramount in his life. "But most of the men told of the great amount of time Legrand spent discussing the Bible, and what a legacy of decency and goodness he left behind for the young people to pattern their lives by."

Legrand's own body showed the results of years of working as a stonemason. Mrs. Fisher writes about her visit with Legrand in a nursing home not long before he died, "For many years, his back had been bent nearly to a ninety degree angle, and he walked with a cane. He had large, brown hands that were more square than anything; they looked powerful still, even laying on a blanket. ...He had been a master stonemason all his life, perfecting his trade many years ago. He was surely an artist in the way he worked with stones." A picture of Legrand, from the September 6, 1978, *Lexington Herald*, showed him still working on a stone fence at the age of 85.

Mr. Legrand died on September 17, 1989. He and his wife, Mary Ellen (September 15, 1893 – March 28, 1988), are buried together at St. Rose Tabernacle Cemetery in Midway.





Stephen "Lump" Lee
Circa 1980s



Geneva Lee Hawkins
Robert Hawkins
Circa 1990s



Blake Christopher, Yvette Christopher, Anthony Christopher
Ellen Lee Hawkins Kellom, Charles Kellom
2017 Family Photograph

STEPHEN “LUMP” LEE (1908-1987)

Born on January 17, 1908, Stephen “Lump” was the youngest child born in Midway to John S. and Ellen Lee. He registered to serve in World War II on Oct. 16, 1940. At that time, his father, John, lived with him in Midway, and Stephen was self-employed. The 1940 census has Stephen as 31 years old, living on Gratz Street, a high school graduate and a stonemason.

Both Lee brothers excelled at their trade. Geneva’s brothers and father learned how to be stonemasons from the Guy family who lived in Davistown, a Louis Guy and sons. She said,

“Stephen was a very good stonemason, and he taught lots of boys ’round Midway, and he was very proud when he was in the Second World War to have worked with the Italian stonemasons. And they’re supposed to be tops, you know....They made more money than farmers made because it was a trade, you know.”

Stephen was living on Gratz Street at the time of the 1940 census. He was listed as a stonemason, single and living with—and helping—his parents. He was a member of Midway’s St. Matthew A.M.E. Church.

He died in Fayette County on June 22, 1987, at the age of 79. He is buried at Camp Nelson National Cemetery, Nicholasville.

THE NEXT GENERATION

Today’s descendants of the Mosby and Lee families understand the hardships and heritage of the past. “Any of my accomplishments were gained from the sacrifice and foundation of slaves and newly freed people in my family and what they have passed on to my parents and me through centuries,” says Ellen. “Although we have worked hard and been blessed with more opportunities than those who came before us, the aftermath of slavery has a direct link with the systemic racism that is in our national discussion today. It has impacted me and my family as Mosby-Lee descendants.”

TIMELINE - MOSBY & LEE FAMILIES

1844	John Lee will amended.	Geneva’s great-great-grandfather
1800	Jonathan Lee born.	Geneva’s great-grandfather
1831	Martha “Mattie” Livingston Mosby born.	Geneva’s grandmother
1846	Stephen Lee born.	Geneva’s grandfather
1847	Lucy Brice Lee born.	Geneva’s grandmother
1852	Reuben Lee born.	Geneva’s great-uncle
1867	Ellen Mosby and John S. Lee born.	Geneva’s mother and father
1893	Mattie Lee born.	Geneva’s sister
1894	Legrand Lee born.	Geneva’s brother
1900	Lucy Lee born.	Geneva’s sister
1903	Teannie Lee born.	Geneva’s brother
1905	Geneva Lee born.	Geneva
1908	Stephen Lee born.	Geneva’s brother

Aaron Fowler - From Slavery to Civil War to Freedom

By Judy Offutt



**Aaron Fowler
Co. K, 12 U.S.C.H.A.**

CIVIL WAR Aaron Fowler, Co. K, 12 U.S.C.H.A. is the inscription on a headstone located in St. Rose Tabernacle Cemetery, Midway, Kentucky. Until recently, it was most of what was known about Aaron Fowler, a Black man buried beneath a Union grave marker, in a cemetery that not long ago had been neglected.

Newly located information reveals a great deal more. It appears that he was born in 1833 in Garrard County, Kentucky and volunteered to serve as a soldier in the Army of the United States on October 6, 1864. He was thirty-one years old, 5'7", a "Farmer," and "owned" by Ann Waggener when he mustered in at Camp Nelson in Jessamine County, Kentucky.

What is not known, however, is how Fowler came to Camp Nelson. By the fall of 1864 restrictions prohibiting the enrollment of slaves had been lifted in Kentucky which meant that "any black man who presented himself at a recruiting station could be enlisted, whether he was free or slave, with or without the knowledge and consent of his owner" (Sears xxxviii). Slaves sometimes simply "ran off to join the military (and) slipped quietly away from their cabins as opportunities arose" (Lucas 155). Others were actively recruited after restrictions were lifted. Regardless of how they came, by the summer of 1864, approximately 5,405 slaves were enrolled in the Union Army at Camp Nelson (Sears xxxix). Fowler joined them in the fall.

Records indicate that Fowler was married and had an eighteen-month-old child at the time he enlisted. It is not known if his wife Jane and their baby followed him to Camp Nelson as did hundreds of other wives and children. The camp was not prepared for this influx, and it is reported that "the shortage of food, shelter, clothing, and health care among 'refugees' at Camp Nelson created some of the worst living conditions of the Civil War" (Lucas 161).

In late November of 1864, when Fowler would have been at Camp Nelson for several months, four hundred enslaved women and children were forcibly ejected from the camp. As a result of both disease and inclement weather, over one hundred of them died. No information has been found to indicate if Jane Fowler and their baby were among those evicted.

There was a national outcry and in March of 1865, Congress passed an act that freed the wives and children of the U.S. Colored Troops. They had previously not been eligible for emancipation. As a result, they were resettled at Camp Nelson. Some mark this event as the beginning of the end of slavery in Kentucky (McBride 5).

The soldiers at Camp Nelson were organized into all-black units, generally with white commanders, and were referred to as the United States Colored Troops. By the summer of 1864, fifteen regiments had been formed. Aaron Fowler was assigned to Co. K of the 12th Regiment which operated primarily in south central Kentucky. Lucas describes their movements and includes descriptions of the hardships they endured. He tells of one operation, in the fall of 1864, when Fowler would have been on active duty for barely a month. The soldiers of the 12th Regiment (though we don't know which Companies), marched nineteen miles to Lexington with little food or water and no place to stay when they arrived. The next day they marched to Louisville, again with no food. Then they rode in "open freight cars" to Bowling Green where, according to Lucas, they split up, with half manning the forts at Bowling Green and the other half going to Russellville where they "found quarters in a stockyard" (170).

Lucas tells of another incident when Aaron Fowler could have been present (according to his Company Muster Roll for November and December). He says that Company C was ordered to drive a thousand head of cattle to Nashville. According to his account, "the weather suddenly worsened, they ran out of food, and Confederate bushwhackers shot into their camp each night when they lit fires. The soldiers foraged enough food to keep the drive going and eventually delivered the cattle in Nashville" (172).

Lee surrendered on April 9, 1865 but it was another year before the Black troops were disbanded. Aaron Fowler mustered out in Louisville, on April 24th, 1866. His papers show that he received the \$100 bounty that many Black soldiers were promised when they enlisted. He, as so many others, entered the Army a slave and left a free man.

There were eventually 23,703 Black Kentucky Union troops or almost thirteen percent of the total number of Black Union troops. One historian says, "Out of their effort came victory and, eventually, freedom of a sort" (Lucas,177). These soldiers are commemorated in the inspirational African American Civil War Memorial in Washington, D.C. There is a plaque, (B-26), which bears Aaron Fowler's name, along with the names of the other Black soldiers who served in the war.

EARLY YEARS IN MIDWAY Unfortunately, Aaron Fowler and his family are not found in other records until fourteen years after he left the Army. We next see them in the 1880 Census for Midway.

It is not known exactly when the family came to Midway to live, nor where they were in the years immediately following the war. However, at least three of the Fowler children were born in Scott County, so it seems possible that they lived there, perhaps near Jane's family who were from Scott County. By 1880 Aaron is fifty years old, works as a "farm laborer," and resides in Midway with Jane and their five children: Martha (16), Virgie (10), William (8), Mary B. (5), and Moses (1) (U. S. Census 1880).

There are inconsistencies, contradictions, and inaccuracies in these early records. From the very beginning it is not clear, for example, as to the exact ages of the youngest children. The loss of the 1890 Census is yet another gap in the life of the family. The 1900 Census is the next one in which they appear, and it is perhaps the most confusing of all. Aaron is now seventy, and a widower. Jane has died though we do not know when, nor where she is buried. It says he lives with five daughters: Matilda (38), Vergie (26), Bessie (21), Ethel (17), and Emily (15). All five women are listed as his daughters, but with the last name of Johnston, not Fowler. No clear explanation of this discrepancy has been found.

By the time of this 1900 report Martha, William, and Mary B. (first seen in 1880) are no longer listed, Virgie has left home and is married to Midway resident David Hamilton and Moses is in the Army, stationed in the Philippines. Who then are these five daughters: Matilda, Vergie, Bessie, Ethel and Emily?

In all probability Matilda is Martha, Aaron's eldest daughter, who by 1900 is widowed and living back at home. It is possible to interpret this record as Matilda being the only Johnston, and the other four girls being Fowlers. If that were true though, Martha, who married Simon White in 1882, either divorced him (or he died), and she married someone named Johnston who then died by 1900. While possible, there may be another explanation for the appearance of the Johnston name which is not known at this time.

UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS ENLISTMENT.

STATE OF Kentucky TOWN OF Camp Nelson

I, Aaron Fowler born in _____
in the State of Kentucky aged thirty one years
and by occupation a Farmer DO HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE TO
have volunteered _____ day of October 1864
to serve as a Soldier in the Army of the United States of America, for the
period of THREE YEARS, unless sooner discharged by proper authority: Do
also agree to accept such bounty, pay, rations, and clothing, as arg. or may be,
established by law for the U. S. colored troops.

And I, Aaron Fowler
do solemnly swear that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the United States
of America and that I will serve them honestly and faithfully against all their
enemies whomsoever; and that I will observe and obey the orders
of the President of the United States, and the orders of the officers appointed
over me, according to the Rules and Articles of War.

Sworn and subscribed at Camp Nelson this _____ day of October 1864
Before Wm. C. Hamilton _____
Wm. C. Hamilton _____
Wm. C. Hamilton _____

I CERTIFY, ON HONOR, That I have carefully examined the above named Volunteer agree-
ably to the General Regulations of the Army, and that, in my opinion, he is free from all bodily
defects and mental infirmity, which would in any way disqualify him from performing the
duties of a soldier.

Robt. S. Mattingly
a a Surgeon
EXAMINING SURGEON.

I CERTIFY, ON HONOR, That I have minutely inspected the Volunteer, A. Fowler
previously to his enlistment, and that he was entirely sober when enlisted; that, to the best of
my judgment and belief, he is of lawful age; and that, in accepting him as duly qualified to per-
form the duties of an able-bodied soldier, I have duly observed the regulations which govern
the recruiting service. This soldier has dark hair, _____ complexion, is about _____ inches high.

W. C. Hamilton
RECRUITING OFFICER OR AGENT.

Mustered into the United States Service _____ day of Oct 1864
W. C. Hamilton
Capt 18th U. S. C. Mustering Officer

Mustered into the service of the United States, for three years or during the war, from date of enlistment, in Company _____ of _____ Regiment of _____ Volunteers, on the _____ day of _____ 1864

Capt 18th U. S. C. Quality Officer

Aaron Fowler U.S. Colored Troops Enlistment October 6, 1864

We know that Virgie, Aaron's second daughter, is probably not the Vergie listed here. Virgie (with an "i") has been married for seven years to David Hamilton and is no longer living at home. The third daughter listed is Bessie. We know she is also Aaron's daughter as he is listed as her father on her Death Certificate. This is the first time Bessie is included with the other Fowler children, but she simply may have been missed in 1880 when she would have been an infant. Bessie goes on to marry Ed Hamilton who is likely the brother of Virgie's husband. They have five children, including one named Aaron. Her second child Cora has eleven children, great grandchildren of Aaron Fowler, and one of these children is also named Aaron.

Little is known about the much younger fourth and fifth daughters, Ethel and Emily Johnston, or Fowler, though a 1918 Death Certificate was found for a Mrs. Edith Anderson. Her parents are listed as Aaron and Jane Fowler. The Informant was Bessie Hamilton indicating Edith was indeed a member of the Fowler family. Her year of birth is listed as 1884 which is only a year's difference from the birth date recorded for Emily. Perhaps Edith is the Emily seen in 1900 and there is simply a misspelling.

By the time of the 1910 Census Aaron is in his seventies, still registered as a widower and living at 106 Higgins Street along with John and "Maimie" Campbell and their three girls. The Campbells had not been seen before and it was not known how Aaron happened to be living with them. John is listed as "Head of House," a "Shop Owner," and a "Shoemaker." He has been married to "Maimie" for thirteen years. Aaron is unexpectedly listed as John's stepfather and one of the three children, Birty Lewis, is listed as John's stepdaughter. Until recently no further information had surfaced about John or "Maimie," nor how (or even if) Aaron came to be John's stepfather.

But recently found documents present another possibility, namely that "Maimie" is Mary B., Aaron's and Jane's youngest daughter. Birty Lewis, in another record, lists her mother's name as Mary B. which makes this likely. Mary B. must have been married to someone named Lewis before she and John Campbell were married. And Aaron is certainly John's father-in-law, not his stepfather. Not only does it make sense for Aaron to be living with his daughter's family, but now we know a bit of what happened to Mary B. who had essentially disappeared after 1880.

The Campbells, Mary B. and John are Higgins Street neighbors of Emma and Randal Bush, another old Midway family. Their daughter Eliza Campbell, born in 1897, dies in 1905 and is buried in Sons and Daughters of Relief Cemetery. Viola, their younger daughter, born in 1899, appears in a 1920 Census. She is living at #17 Gratz Alley with her mother Mary B. Campbell who is listed as "Head of Household," widowed and employed as a cook at a restaurant. Viola is divorced, has a three-year-old son Otto Robinson, and is also employed as a cook, but for a private family.

LATER YEARS The last Census in which Aaron appears is 1920. He is still living on Higgins Street, but now in a house that he owns. Living with him are Charles and Martha Allan who are both fifty-seven years old. This Martha is surely Aaron's eldest daughter, first seen in 1880, and likely the baby who was born shortly before he enlisted in the Army at Camp Nelson.

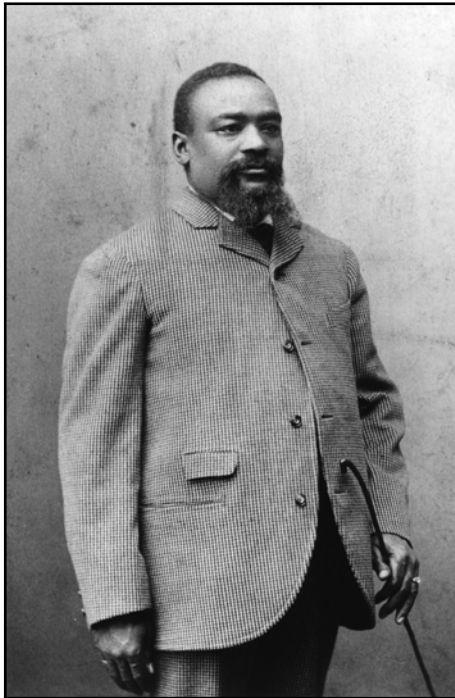
Aaron Fowler dies four years later, January 5, 1924, when he is in his early nineties. The Informant on his Death Certificate is Virgie Hamilton, his second eldest daughter. There is a new piece of information on this Certificate: his father's name is recorded as Milton. No further information has been found about Milton or about Aaron's mother. The date of Aaron Fowler's burial is January 8, 1924 at St. Rose Tabernacle Cemetery, Midway, Kentucky.

This is the beginning, not the end, of the story of Aaron Fowler, Co. K, 12 U. S. C. H. A. He and his family have lived and loved, worked and prayed, been born and buried in this place for almost one hundred and fifty years. His descendants live here still, including a great, great grandson, also named Aaron, was the elected the second African American member of the Midway City Council.

<i>G</i> 12 H. Art'y. U.S.C.T.	
<i>Aaron Fowler</i>	
....., Co. <i>K</i> , 12 Reg't U.S. Col'd H. Art'y.	
Appears on	
Company Descriptive Book	
of the organization named above.	
DESCRIPTION.	
Age	<i>31</i> years; height <i>5</i> feet <i>4</i> inches.
Complexion	<i>Blk</i>
Eyes	<i>Blk</i> ; hair <i>Blk</i>
Where born	<i>Larard Co. Ky</i>
Occupation	<i>Farmer</i>
ENLISTMENT.	
When	<i>Oct 6</i> , 186 <i>4</i> .
Where	<i>Camp Nelson Ky</i>
By whom	<i>J. B. Randolph</i> ; term <i>3</i> y'rs.
Remarks:	
Aaron Fowler Camp Nelson Document	

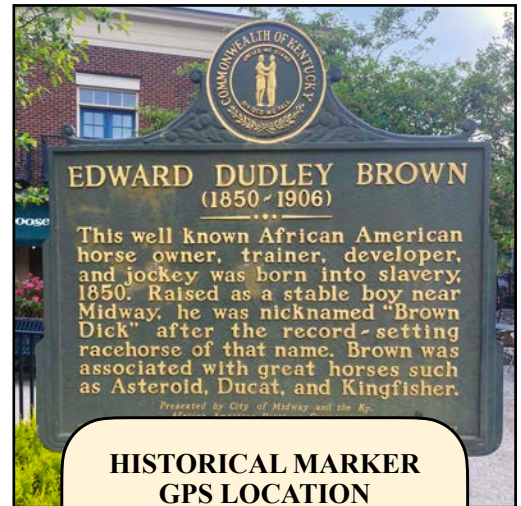
Edward Dudley Brown - From Slavery to Renowned Horseman

By Judy Offutt



Edward D. Brown
Keeneland Library Collection

EARLY YEARS It is widely accepted that Edward Dudley Brown was born in 1850 and sold at a slave auction in Lexington, Kentucky when he was quite young. He was bought by Robert A. Alexander and began working with horses at Alexander's esteemed Woodburn Farm in Woodford County. Early on he showed talent as a horseman, and he became a skillful rider. He quickly worked his way up from groom to jockey. He also showed talent and speed as a runner and legend says he was soon nicknamed "Brown Dick," after the famous thoroughbred who set many records for speed in the late 1800s. The name stayed with him for the rest of his life.



HISTORICAL MARKER
GPS LOCATION
38°9'1" N 84°40'58" W
MIDWAY KY

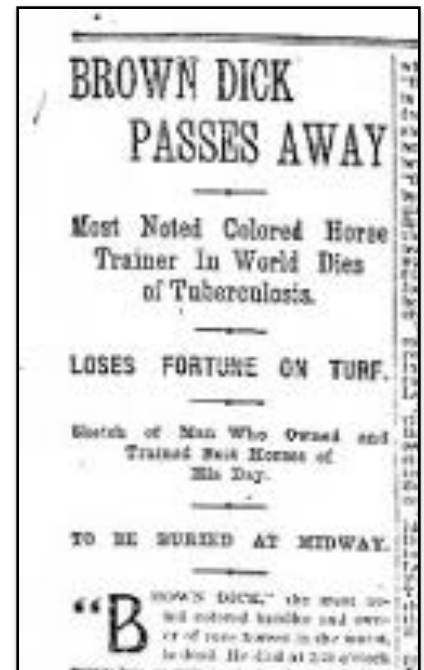
CAREER AS A JOCKEY Brown rode many of Alexander's best horses from 1864 -1867, continuing to work for Woodburn as a free man after the abolition of slavery in 1865. He rode his first race on the great thoroughbred Asteroid when he was only fourteen years old. Brown continued to ride him for the next two years. Asteroid was undefeated in twelve starts, a testament to the talent of both horse and rider. Asteroid and Brown, along with African American trainer Ansel Williamson and an unidentified groom, are portrayed in a famous painting by renowned equine artist Edward Troye.

Brown rode for other owners, including Daniel Swigert who had been at Woodburn before Alexander's death. Swigert took Brown with him to his Stockwood Farm and in 1870 they won the 4th Belmont Stakes with Kingfisher. Brown also had winners in the Travers and Champion Stakes that year.

In his twenties, due to having become too heavy for racing on the flat, Brown tried steeplechase racing, but in 1874 he gave up riding altogether and began training for Daniel Swigert.

CAREER AS A TRAINER AND OWNER Though a talented jockey, it was as a trainer that Brown had the most success and it is in that role that he is most remembered today. For the next twenty years, he schooled some of the best including King Alphonso, Spendthrift, and Hindoo. In 1877 he trained the 3rd Kentucky Derby winner, Baden Baden. In the 1880s he piled up win after win and as a result became highly sought after by many important owners. In 1881 his remarkable streak continued and out of 102 races he amassed 53 wins, 18 seconds, and 10 thirds. As one journalist commented, "Unheard of!"

In 1896 he established his own stable and continued to be successful as an owner and a trainer. He bought and trained Ben Brush and Plaudit who both went on to win the Derby after he sold them. He also owned and trained two Kentucky Oaks winners, Monrovia and Etta and trained a third, Pure Rye. Ron Vance, of the Georgetown and Scott County History Museum observed, "He was able to progress through different professions (jockey, trainer, owner) and excel in all of them. It was unusual that one person could have touched so many of these really famous horses at that time and had come from being a slave as a child."



The Courier-Journal
May 12, 1906

LATER YEARS With success came a lot of money. He was reported to be the richest African American man in Louisville where he lived during the last years of his life. Legend says that he sometimes carried \$75,000. But he was generous to a fault and not a big spender. He was known to be a quiet man and he seldom gambled. But a reporter for the *Courier-Journal* said that Brown Dick didn't mind giving a tip when he thought one of his horses had a good chance. In one instance he "sent a message to a dozen of his former fellow – workmen at Woodburn...to come to Louisville on a certain day as his guests because he was going to start a good colt for the first time." After the colt won, "they (his guests) walked down to collect their winnings. 'Naw, suh, one of them said, we didn't win much. We didn't have much. Course we bet all we had. We knowed it wuz all right all the time cause Dick, he never would 'er sent fur us ef he hadn't knowed it wuz all right.'" Another reporter for the *Courier-Journal* said: "Brown Dick was never happier than when, with his hat doffed, he was leading a party of ladies and children from stall to stall, answering their questions with a gentle courtliness worthy of a wigged and ruffled cavalier." Brown loaned many thousands of dollars to his fellow horsemen, black and white alike, and, according to *The Lexington Herald*, he also lost a good deal of money in a bank failure. So, by the time he became ill in 1906, he was broke. He died from tuberculosis at the home of a fellow trainer. His wife Lucy, whom he married in 1878, and his son Lee Brown, a Louisville school teacher, were at his side. He was 56 years old. When word of his death spread it is reported that a collection to pay for his funeral was immediately undertaken by his friends at Churchill Downs. The funeral took place at what is now Pilgrim Baptist Church in Midway. Six African American trainers served as pall bearers.

Jonelle Fisher, long time resident of Midway and author of numerous books about Woodford County, became interested in Brown when she was doing research about Woodburn. She notes that while his funeral took place in Midway, it is not known with certainty where he is buried. There is not a marker for him in either Sons and Daughters of Relief or St. Rose Tabernacle Cemetery and unfortunately records from the church where the funeral took place have been lost. Fisher, however, was instrumental in acquiring a Kentucky Historical Marker honoring Brown. It is a fitting tribute to a life and career which began in Woodford County.

LEGACY Edward Dudley Brown has been called "one of the top trainers of the 19th century." In 1984 he was inducted into the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame. Then, in 1999 the Kentucky Historical Marker, located in downtown Midway, was unveiled by former Governor, Brereton Jones. At the dedication Jones said this, " ...the racing industry didn't feel Brown's effect until years later, but that voice is heard today. He speaks very loudly and clearly that this is the thoroughbred capital of the world and that anybody who is willing to work can be a success. Because if a black man, in the midst of slavery, can succeed at it, surely the rest of us as free people, who are inhibited only by our own lack of vision or lack of fortitude, can succeed."

Brown's obituary stated, "Wherever the horse is known, the name of Brown Dick will be fondly remembered." *Lexington Herald-Leader* columnist Merlene Davis added to that sentiment: "Despite the shackles of his birth, the social limitations of his race and the frustrations of a lost grave, Brown is, indeed, fondly remembered," especially in Midway and Woodford County.



**Former Gov. Brereton Jones unveiled Kentucky Historical Marker of Edward D. Brown
Lexington Herald-Leader June 8, 1999**



Asteroid, Edward Dudley Brown, better known as 'Brown Dick' is pictured in this Edward Troye painting in the jockey silks of Woodburn Farms as the rider of the famous Asteroid. Courtesy of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

1864 PAINTING "THE UNDEFEATED ASTEROID" BY ARTIST EDWARD TROYE
Edward Dudley Brown, jockey of Asteroid, pictured kneeling in the jockey silks of Woodburn Farm
Ansel Williamson, trainer of Asteroid, pictured standing with saddle

In the picture of Asteroid, with Brown and Williamson, painted by Edward Troye, Confederate Soldiers are shown in the background, on the left. Confederate Guerrillas had raided Woodburn farm several times during the Civil War including Marcellus Jerome Clarke, also known as Sue Mundy. On the last raid, February 2, 1865, the soldiers asked for the horse Asteroid by name. The trainer, Ansel Williamson, had substituted an inferior horse for Asteroid, saving the horse that day. R. A. Alexander, owner of Asteroid and Woodburn Farm, said that Ansel's actions had "saved the best horse in the stable."

Reverend Albert Douglas - Midway Centenarian

By Christy C. Reaves and Teresa Martin Klaiber

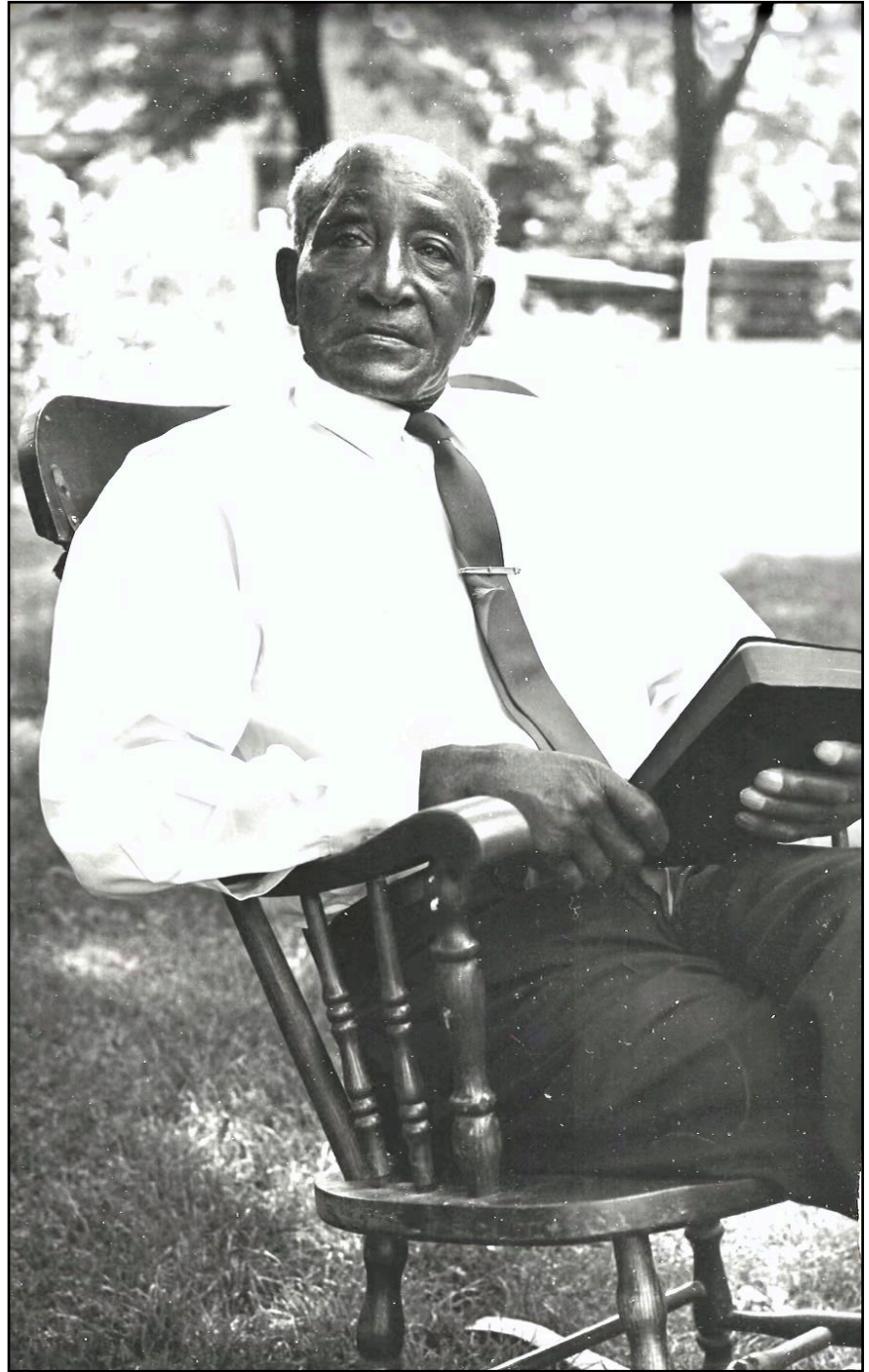
Albert Douglas(s), the son of Sarah and Albert Douglas, was born in Woodford County around 1878. According to the 1880 census in Midway, his siblings were Susan, Sarah, Rose, Lizzie and Hester. His parents were original land owners in Davistown, purchasing property from Newton Davis in 1872. Albert's uncle, Walter Douglas, also from Davistown, was an original Trustee of the Davistown Colored School. His sister, Rose Bohannon, was also celebrated with a special reception for "her dedicated service to the Church," on her 100th birthday in 1973. She was still attending church every Sunday at Second Christian Church until she passed away at 103 years old.

Reverend Douglas lived many years of his long life in Davistown. He did, however, live and work in Louisville in the 1910s. His occupations through the years included work as a private coachman and a butler. He also worked on farms in Scott and Woodford Counties as a farm laborer.

He was known to travel to Midway in his horse and buggy to a farm where he worked in various roles including Night Watchman. He was known, above all, as a kind and quiet gentleman who was usually found with a Bible in hand. But, he was also renowned for his skill in baking bread, which was coveted by the children on the farm of his employer.

Rev. Albert Douglas was one of a number of preachers doing much to forward the early ministry of the Second Christian Church, according to the records of the church. At the time of his passing, on November 16, 1979, he was the oldest Christian Church Minister in Kentucky.

Rev. Douglas was survived by two nephews, Samuel and Joe Carr, both of Lexington; seven great-nieces and nephews, John and William Douglas, Lexington; Walter Douglas, Versailles; Mrs. Geneva Fishback, Lexington; Mrs. Blanche Price, Midway; and Ecoba and Cleveland Hanley, both of Lexington. Funeral services were held at the Second Christian Church, Midway with Rev. O. B. Garner officiating, and his burial in St. Rose Tabernacle Cemetery, Midway.



Reverend Albert Douglas

Isaac Johnson Darneal - Citizen Advocate

By Amy Rouse Perry



Isaac Darneal
and his pride & joy, Historic
Second Christian Church



(Statements in italics were obtained during a December 18, 1992 interview by Dr. Kristina Minister for the Midway African-American Oral History Project.)

Isaac “Ike” Darneal (April 18, 1908 – December 7, 1998) was an African American born in Lexington to William and Mary Belle Frazier Darneal. But, he was a Midway man, brought here at a young age. The Darneal family was a big one...Ike had nine siblings including one brother who was nicknamed “Moongrazer,” in reference to his 6-foot 6-inch frame, a similar height to his brother Ike. Mary Belle worked for Mayor Lacefield in town and his father worked on farms in the area including places owned by Henry Martin on Midway-Versalles Road and the Parrish and Hicks farms.

Ike attended Midway Colored School where he completed the eighth grade. He worked for Saxton Richardson at the D.S. Richardson Stockyard on Railroad Street in Midway from 1936 until 1944. While employed there, Ike got to travel, saying he had *“seen forty-eight of the fifty states.”* He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and got to see Italy during his time of service. After the Army, he returned to Midway and worked at the Lexington Bluegrass Army Depot, retiring in 1973. Ike was married to his wife Corrine Johnson who passed away in 1986.

Homeownership for African Americans in the early 1900s was difficult. Willie Wise, a Midway businessman, helped local people purchase their homes with loans. Ike needed to borrow \$720 to buy his home on Walnut Street. He had to get five people, including Mr. Wise, to sign for him. Ike described the reaction Mr. Wise had upon a quick repayment of the loan. *“Ike, I don’t see how you did it.”*

I have made this statement, I get in debt because I had to. And get out as quick as I possibly can. It’s two things you have to have: credit and money. But you can abuse both of them. But don’t blame nobody else for it. My philosophy is this: buy what you need and not what you want.”

The Midway community played a big part in Ike’s life and Second Christian Church was like a home to him. He was an Elder and Sunday school teacher for many years, sharing his knowledge of a spiritual life at the communion table. Ike was an active member of the Midway Lions Club, even having members listed as funeral honorary bearers. But, Ike’s willingness to step up and try to help his neighbors was notable. A large segment of the African American population in Midway lived in the East Stephens, Gratz, Walnut Streets area; sadly, this area often lacked quality city services. For reasons not known, the sewer system in particular was not up to par. Ike helped petition the city in the 1960s to right this wrong. He tells how, *“up there at the fellowship hall, I made a statement about the plight of the Blacks in Midway.....But then I was ignored. Because let’s face reality. Mr. Lacefield was the mayor of town. The city sewage system that you see run by here, I worked to request it.....I had to get each family to sign that they would take the city sewage. That’s why it’s on this side right now.”* Success for his community.

Another time Ike stepped up and dealt with the property on Stephens and Smith Street, around Second Christian Church. The church had suffered several times from actions taken by the city of Midway. Ike told Rev. Sharon Fields, minister of the church from 1992-2000, that years ago the city willfully changed the path of the creek that runs by today’s Midway University soccer field and behind the church. Ike told her that the intentional change in the creek took away a section of the church’s backyard and gave it to the neighbor on the other side. Later, when raw sewage surfaced in and around the church property, Ike took on the City Council to complain. *“I made a protest and they come over and cleaned it up. I have a right....I went down to the city manager. He got in touch with them, come picked up the leaves. Why is it? I’m a taxpayer. I’m a citizen. Now you ask that, WHY.”*

It’s thought that Ike was approached about running for the City Council, but that didn’t happen. His inclusion on the Council would have made for interesting meetings. His willingness to approach the city government without fear surely made a difference; he was heard. As a citizen of Midway, he was a fighter. He fought for what he wanted and what was right. Mr. Ike died on December 7, 1998, and was buried at Sunset Memorial Gardens.

Lisa Shelbourne - A Horseman Who Is A Woman

By Sally Kinnaird



Lisa Shelbourne
First U.S. Black Female Stallion Manager

Lisa Shelbourne grew up in Midway. She lived on Gratz Street, near the creek. She and her cousin, Tinka, chased snakes, fished, rode bikes, played Little League baseball and ran around like little skinny kids did in those days. Since the girls in the neighborhood were either older or younger, she played with the boys. And she was around horses. Her uncle LeRoy worked on King Ranch. Lisa grew up spending time at Parrish Hill Farm. She went to the Head Start preschool there, which was organized and run by Ruth Roach, one of the owners of Parrish Hill Farm. There were horses, so she tried to ride horses. Sometimes, that was without permission. Once Lisa rode an unbroken horse. There was no saddle or bridle. Lisa ended up with bruises and cuts, but no broken bones. “Just don’t tell my mother,” was her plea to the adults who helped her up.

“I like animals much better than people!”

As a teen and adult, the jobs that kept Lisa engaged and happy were jobs with horses. She learned from many fine horsemen. The black horsemen were lifelong experts on handling horses of every type. Soon, others were watching her and learning. The importance of watching others, trying new ways if they seemed to work, and sharing knowledge is her key to becoming a great horseman. Soon, people began to notice Lisa. And Lisa noticed horses. Other people drive down the road and say “Oh

look at the pretty horses.” Lisa drives down the road and is checking out each horse. If she sees one that is stuck in a fence, she stops, frees the horse, and goes on. Sometimes she goes to the farm office for help, but sometimes she just IS the help. She notices the horses in ways most of the world does not.

“I chased that jacket a long, long time, but I had given up on it.”

Lisa worked in the horse business on various farms. She started working with the stallions at WinStar. This job was fabulous. Excellent stallions! But she had always wanted to be in the sales ring at Keeneland, wearing the Keeneland green jacket, and presenting horses for sale. The people in that ring were known to be the best horsemen in the business. All were black men. “It’s not a racist thing. It’s a tradition based on the rich history of black horsemen,” says Lisa’s aunt, Joyce Thomas.

One day she got a call she had always hoped for...., it was the opportunity to wear that jacket. It was the job, “I could not, not take. I didn’t even want to be the first woman in the ring at Keeneland. I just wanted to be good enough to BE in the ring at Keeneland.” But first she had to talk to the people at WinStar. The stallion manager sent her to Bill Casner, one of the owners. Mr. Casner agreed that this was an amazing opportunity. Lisa would be THE FIRST woman to wear the green jacket in the sales ring at Keeneland!

What does this mean? In the sales ring, there are only two people at any one time. They are Ring Partners. They must be able to handle any horse that walks in. These horses are handed off from their familiar grooms to a stranger. In seconds, the ring handler must assess the horse and its behavior, lead it to be shown in front of dozens of unfamiliar faces and noises, and assure the safety of the horse and the people. These horses are not seasoned horses. They are wild, scared babies in an unfamiliar setting. It requires every bit of attention possible. There have been horses who endangered their multimillion dollar legs by rearing up onto two, or even one, leg. The handler keeps them from bolting. The physical intensity is dwarfed by the intensity of the ability to see and predict the horse behavior a split second before it happens. This is what being one of the best means! “I got the green jacket, just like Tiger Woods got his first green Master’s jacket!”

But, that was not enough. She was in the ring at Keeneland for thirteen years. During that time she continued her work at WinStar until she was hired away by a farm in Florida to become stallion manager. That job required all those skills she was already using, in addition to the management of staff, breeding schedules, and more. So Lisa got another first. And all because of her desire to be the best. Not the best woman, not the best black woman, but THE BEST horseman. And guess what? She was still working in the sales ring at Keeneland during the sales.

“I’ve been stepped on, kicked, bitten.”

The horse business is not for sissies. Lisa is no sissy. She never has been. Her philosophy is that everyone learns from each other and helps each other. Sometimes the individuals higher up the chain of command are not as knowledgeable about horses as she is. As she told Larry McGinnis, stallion manager at WinStar, “I don’t want your job. My job is to make you better at your job.”

Through her work in the horse business, Lisa has been a world traveler. Name a country...Lisa has probably been there. Her name and face have been on publications throughout horse country. The Racing Post in England, The Thoroughbred Record, and The Racing Times have featured Lisa Shelbourne, her extraordinary career and remarkable horsemanship skills.

This woman is our Midway neighbor.



Lisa Shelbourne in the Keeneland Sales Ring



“The horse who got me the job walked on two legs.”

Walter T. Bradley, Jr. - Midway City Council 1978 - 2002

FIRST CHALLENGE AS CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

The Woodford Sun, Spring, 1994 (excerpts)

By Eric Vore

When Walter Bradley joined the Midway City Council in 1978, and was placed on the garbage committee, he had little inkling that, in hindsight, it would be “the most exciting one I was on.”

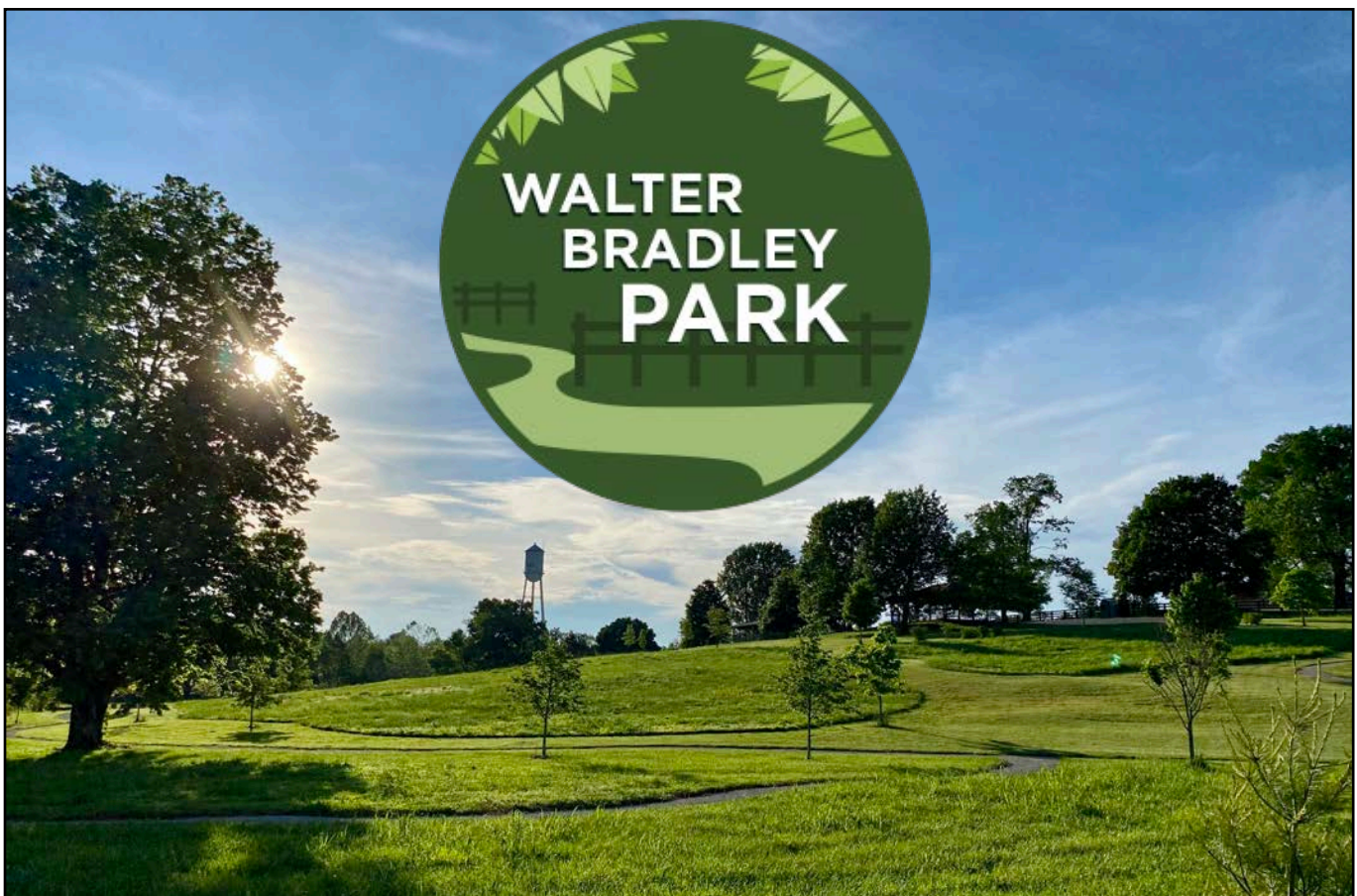
The winter of 1977-78 was one of the most severe on record, comparable to the one just past. The city was using a private garbage hauling service from Richmond whose trucks broke down. Eventually the company bailed, the trucks were left where they sat, and the city sued. Meanwhile, “we had mountains of garbage and it was all frozen,” Bradley said. Bradley contacted several companies and finally a hauler for the city was hired.

“I rode on garbage trucks and walked in snow up to my hips,” he recalls. “It took nearly six weeks to clean the town up.” The garbage attracted not only rats, but muskrats from the Elkhorn Creek. Deprived of their natural food because of the harsh winter, they brazenly ran loose throughout the city, Bradley said.

WALTER T. BRADLEY, JR. PARK

In 2005, the City of Midway honored Walter Bradley, Jr., long-time City Council Member, for his community leadership and outstanding contributions, by naming the only Midway public park in his name.

The 28-acre urban park is accessible from downtown Midway and surrounding neighborhoods. The park boasts four miles of walking trails, two picnic shelters, open picnic areas, and a fenced dog park.



“A TRIBUTE TO WALTER T. BRADLEY, JR.”
***THE WOODFORD SUN* FEBRUARY 13, 2014**
BY MOLLIE M. BRADLEY, CONTRIBUTING WRITER



**Mollie M. & Walter T.
Bradley, Jr.**

This year commemorates the 10th anniversary of my writing the column for Black History Month. In recognition of this event, I have chosen to compose a profile of the person who gave me the incentive and inspiration to continue this column. This person was the late Walter T. Bradley Jr.

He was the writer of this column for 15 years. As he prepared each article, extensive study and research were pursued. Sometimes I would travel with him to interview individuals or someone connected with the article he was preparing. These were interesting and rewarding. He was a student of history and enjoyed writing the chronicles of his people. An interview in *The Woodford Sun* (February 1999), stated “that he discovered a window into the world, past and present, when he learned to read at age 5.” Reading was his hobby; history was his specialty. In 1988, he began writing articles in *The Woodford Sun*, each featuring the accomplishments of Black inventors, pioneers, statesmen and musicians.

The first article written was “Prince Hall: The Father of Freemasonry Among Black Men of America.” Other articles included were about Matthew Henson, Edward “Duke” Ellington, Carter G. Woodson and many more. The last article was “The Life of Roland Hayes,” written in 2003. It was his desire to recognize the achievements and greatness of each individual.

Walter was born in Midway on October 2, 1925, the eldest of five children of Walter T. Bradley, Sr. and Sarah Craig Bradley. He received his early education in Woodford County and graduated from Simmons High School, Sprayberry Electronic Academy and Fort Belvoir School of Drafting, Fort Belvoir, Va. Walter was a veteran of World War II and was honorably discharged in 1950. He was employed by the Bluegrass Army Depot and retired in 1977 as an electronic engineer inspector after 27 years of service.

Shortly after retiring, he was elected the first African American to serve on the Midway City Council and served for 24 years. During his tenure, he served as chairman of several committees. These committees were successful in improving the streets, sanitary collection, fire department and solving other outstanding problems in the city. He served as a precinct officer in the Midway voting precinct for a number of years and was a notary public. In 1989, he was elected the first African American president of the Midway Lions Club and later served as chairman of the Lions Club Christmas Donation for many years. In 1990, he received the “Lion of the Year” award for outstanding and loyal service. In 1990, he was commissioned by the Honorable Gov. Paul Patton as a Kentucky Colonel.

In many instances his life was a metaphor, or likeness, for the word “brotherhood.” He exhibited a keen commitment for the bond between human beings. He was a member of the Pilgrim Baptist Church for 50 years and served as a trustee. Later he united with Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, and served as a member of the sanctuary choir, a Sunday School teacher, a greeter and was a deacon for 15 years.

In 1981, he received an Honorary 33rd degree in Prince Hall Freemasonry in Jackson, Mississippi. His name is listed in *Who’s Who in Freemasonry* (1984) and *Who’s Who Among Black Americans* (1994/1995). In 2001, a street in Midway’s new development was named in his honor. On May 13, 2005, in appreciation of his faithful and dedicated service, the city park was named the Walter T. Bradley Jr. Memorial Park in his honor. The Honorable Gov. Brereton Jones was the guest speaker of the dedication service.

We were married for 52 years and the parents of two children, Walter III (Gwen) and Harry Stephen, and have two grandchildren, Teran and Walter IV. On Jan. 5, 2004, he passed away in his beloved city, Midway, Kentucky.

Writers note: “Let’s enter His presence with thanksgiving! Let’s shout to Him in celebration!” (Ps. 95:2) This biblical verse expresses my thanks for writing this column and to have been given the knowledge and wisdom to express myself in words. “To God be the glory.” I am indebted to the editor for the opportunity to publish each article, and to the readers for their words of encouragement. Finally, I will always be grateful for the expertise of my late husband, Walter T. Bradley, Jr.

Gary Bush - Midway City Council 1998 - 2000

Following Footsteps By Bob Rouse

Living and working in the epicenter of the thoroughbred world, Midway native Gary Bush has achieved significant success, from his start in the late '70s as a part-time groom at Three Chimneys Farm to his current position as farm manager of the prestigious Denali Stud.

It wasn't the career he expected, though.

"My dad, Scottie, worked at King Ranch Farm in Fayette County," Gary said. "I would spend my weekends going to the farm with him when I was young, but I was not even thinking about getting into the horse business."

One thing Gary *did* think about when he was growing up was church. He had to. Scottie was a deacon at Midway's Second Christian Church, and Gary's mother, Florence Jackson Bush, was a member at St. Matthew A.M.E. Church and played piano on Sundays. Gary and his brother, Greg, split time between the two churches. One Sunday, hoping to split the difference and go to neither, a young Gary told his dad that he didn't really feel like going to church.

"I may have been nine or ten, and my dad pretty much said, 'Well then, you're moving out of here,'" Gary remembered. "I'm like ... well, I guess I'm going to church."

Scottie died when Gary was twelve, and Florence died in 1987. "My mom never took piano lessons, but she could play any song there was. She was just one of those types of people," he said.

Gary's entry into the thoroughbred industry was not as straightforward as his path to church. Even though, as a youngster, he routinely spent time with Scottie at King Ranch, it was his later friendship with members of Midway's Hicks family that turned the horse-farm key for Gary.

"You know, I never thought, 'That's what my dad did, so that's what I'm going to do.' It never felt like that," Gary said.

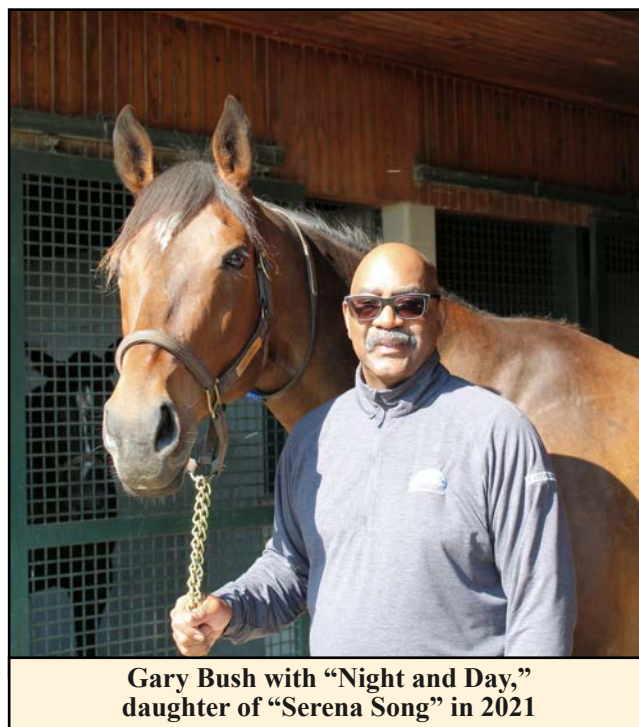
Gary was (and remains) friends with James and R.W. Hicks, and when Gary was in college, he would visit R.W., who was working at Three Chimneys.

"I kind of got introduced to horse farming in that way, just watching him and seeing what he was doing," said Gary, who also spent many hours with the Hicks brothers' father, veterinarian Newell Hicks, accompanying him on calls and working with him at the state fair with many types of animals.

"That's how I got the bug," he said. "And once I started doing it, it was kind of natural. It fit me. It felt like that's where I wanted to be."

Gary worked for twenty years at Three Chimneys, starting as a groom and then rising to become assistant broodmare manager and then broodmare manager.

"When I started working at Three Chimneys, it was a very small farm with really good people, and it seemed like every year they'd buy another farm. It grew like crazy into one of the best farms in the country," he said. "I was fortunate enough to be there as it was growing, and I got lots of opportunities to travel and do a lot of things, and I got promoted."



Gary Bush with "Night and Day," daughter of "Serena Song" in 2021

During his time as a leader at Three Chimneys, Gary also became a leader in his hometown.

“I grew up in Midway, and I just wanted to serve my little town in some way,” he said. “Becky Moore was Mayor, and I loved her energy and the way she wanted Midway to progress. And there were people who were running for City Council that I thought a lot of: Dale Benson and Doug Farmer, just to name a couple.”

And so Gary ran for and won a seat on the Midway City Council. He was only the second African American to serve on the Council; Walter Bradley was the first, elected in 1977 and serving twenty-four years.

Gary believes his time as a city leader was well-spent.

“One of the things we did was to focus on the cemeteries. You’ve got the main cemetery, but there were a couple of others for African Americans, and those cemeteries needed a lot of work,” he said. “The City Council made it a priority to take better care of them. And I was really happy with that.”

Gary and the other Council members also tackled the less popular task of replacing a failed water plant, a necessity that caused water bills to spike. His time on the Council, 1998 and 1999, was cut short when he moved outside the city limits for his job at WinStar. But he views his commitment to Midway as an honor.

“When you enjoy where you live and consider the work you put into it, it’s just minimal.”

Gary’s good work at Three Chimneys was noticed by Kenny Trout and Bill Casner when they formed WinStar Farm, and the two men snagged Gary to be their farm manager. After several years there—and a short break from the horse business—Gary was hired in 2005 to be farm manager for Denali Stud in Bourbon County. And in 2015, Gary received his colleagues’ top award: He was named Farm Manager of the Year by the Kentucky Thoroughbred Farm Managers Club.

“Gary is part of multiple generations of talented horseman,” said his brother, Greg. “I am so proud that he has been recognized by his peers for his many years of dedication.”

Although his current job has taken him from Midway, Gary still sees Midway as home. It’s where he and his wife, Frances, raised two sons, Jonathan and Adam.

“I’ve been extremely fortunate to work for a lot of good people that have helped me out, and it has afforded me and my family a good life.”

Midway is also where Gary found footsteps to follow for his faith and his work—those of Scottie and Florence; Walter Bradley and Becky Moore; and R.W., James, and Newell Hicks. And in the success he has achieved, Gary has left footsteps of his own that citizens of Midway—today and tomorrow—can follow.



Adam, Frances, Gary and Jonathan Bush 2015

**GARY BUSH NAMED BY
THE KENTUCKY THOROUGHBRED FARM MANAGERS' CLUB
AS THE 2015 TED BATES FARM MANAGER OF THE YEAR**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2015

LEXINGTON, KY –The Kentucky Thoroughbred Farm Managers Club is pleased to announce the “Ted Bates Farm Manager of the Year” for 2015. Mr. Gary Bush, Manager at Denali Stud was chosen by a committee of peers represented by Ted Bates (for whom the award is named), the past and current Farm Managers of the Year, the current KTFMC President, and the past KTFMC President.

The criteria for selecting the “Ted Bates Farm Manager of the Year” are Quality and Success of Management; Service to the Community; Involvement in the KTFMC; Industry Leadership and Dedication. Gary Bush has had a 30 plus year career in Thoroughbred Farm management, working for Three Chimneys Farm, WinStar Farm and Denali Stud.

Gary Bush started his career at Three Chimneys Farm in Midway as a part time groom and night watch while he was attending Eastern Kentucky University and Lexington Community College (now Bluegrass Community & Technical College). He credits meeting Dan Rosenberg (past Three Chimneys Farm Manager) as a key factor in his involvement in the industry. Three Chimneys was in its infancy at that time with the main farm consisting of 100 acres and second farm of 200 acres that is now Woodford Thoroughbreds. After several years at Three Chimneys, Bush was promoted to Assistant Broodmare Manager and then eventually to Broodmare Manager. Three of Gary’s favorite horses while at Three Chimneys include the great Seattle Slew, Slew of Gold, and Gorgeous. Three Chimneys’ Stallion Manager, Sandy Hatfield had this to say, “Gary was the main reason I came to Three Chimneys—He’s a great guy, excellent horseman and you couldn’t ask for a better person or mentor.”

After spending 20 years at Three Chimneys, Gary was offered the position of Farm Manager at the newly formed WinStar Farm owned by Kenny Trout and Bill Casner. Here he had the opportunity to “hire whoever you needed to build the farm.” While at WinStar Gary was able to work with Distorted Humor, Tiznow, One Cool Cat and Funny Cide. One of his best memories was attending the Kentucky Derby in 2003 which was won by Funny Cide.

After 25 years in the industry Gary left WinStar to take a break, but soon realized that he missed farm life and started looking to get back in. Luckily, he was offered his current position at Denali Stud where he has worked for the past ten years. Two of his favorite horses at Denali Stud are the venerable Serena’s Song and Dubai World Cup and Kentucky Derby winner Animal Kingdom. Craig Bandoroff, Owner of Denali Stud, had this to say about Gary: “For the past 10 years Gary has been an integral part of where Denali Stud is today and we are grateful to have him as lead team member.” Additionally “I am glad to see Gary get this prestigious recognition that he so truly deserves from his peers.”

Gary is a homegrown local just like the horses he has raised over the past 30 years, he grew up in Midway, Kentucky and lived there his whole life until moving to Paris, Kentucky for the position at Denali Stud. He is married to Francis, and they have two sons, Jonathon and Adam. Gary’s interests outside of horseracing are family and golf.

The Kentucky Thoroughbred Farm Managers Club will be hosting its annual Dinner Dance to honor Gary Bush, the 2015 “Ted Bates Farm Manager of the Year” at Oasis in Paris on December 4, 2015. This year’s event will be black tie optional and be featuring the Motown beat of Soul Explosion and the Positive Movement Band.

Aaron Hamilton - Midway City Council 2006 - 2014

By Christy C. Reaves

Aaron Hamilton, former member of Midway City Council, took eight years of service to Midway in stride, after all he was a lifelong resident of the town and was accustomed to pitching in. He is retired now, and living his life as it pleases him, cherishing his family, (former wife Emily, son Mario, daughter Monique, her husband Craig, eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren), friends, and his relationship with his Creator.

He plays music, much of which he has written himself. Some would call it jazz, but it is a mix of jazz, rock and soul. He still plays music with his lifelong friends, Ahmosis Aton, Melvin Bush, and Fred Reese. But, he played in a few bands around Midway in the 70's, bands like Killion, Scrap Metal Blues and Southern Force. The groups played at Midway Christian Church basement, Midway Fall Festivals, Francisco's Farm Art Fair, and the bowling alley in Georgetown. Even today, he and his friends, Ahmosis on bass, Fred on guitar, and Melvin on drums, still get together and play. Aaron smiles and says, "the over the hill gang rides again." He plays for his own joy, and not for the money. Aaron says, "the Creator didn't give me these tunes for nothing. I play the tunes in my head."

Aaron's family can be traced back in Woodford and Scott Counties for generations. His great-grandmother Martha was born in 1832 in Virginia, and his great-grandfather, Squire, was born in 1815 in Kentucky. His grandfather, Ed Hamilton, married Bessie Fowler, daughter of Aaron Fowler. His mother, Mary Eliza Brown, married Aaron Hamilton, and they had two children, Marilyn and Aaron.

Aaron raised three children in Midway and was a deacon at Pilgrim Baptist Church for many years. He is an ordained minister, even though now he follows his spiritual path outside the confines of a single denomination. He gives credit to his Creator for all the gifts he has received and travels his earthly path with a light and kind heart. Aaron speaks of great admiration and respect for his parents. He chose to stay in Midway, on South Gratz where he grew up. "Midway was really a great place to live. That is one of the reasons I'm still here. It was good enough for me as a kid." He recalls his father getting paid and then paying all the bills right away. His dad worked at the distillery in Midway as night watchman from about 1955 to 1967.

Aaron lives in his family home, built in 1998 from the Community Block Grant program organized under Mayor Becky Moore. The original family home had plenty of problems through the years. Aaron recalled that in 1986 he went to a bank in Lexington to get a small loan to fix the house, and he was denied. At the time, Aaron worked at Sylvania, making decent money. He was really frustrated with the house and felt that his race had a part in the loan being denied.

Speaking of racism, Aaron said, "Until you have lived this, been on the down-side of this, you don't have a clue. You don't know the sting of that, of not being able to get a loan or people judging you, just because you are black. And you don't know me whatsoever. But I have always tried to live above all of that." He says, "my parents told me not to think I'm better than anybody else." Aaron's mother is credited for many things in his life, and her strong sense of self-worth was ingrained in Aaron from his earliest memories. He remembered being called out by a young boy for the color of his skin while on a trip to a department store in Lexington. When his mother returned to find Aaron, age 6, crying from the painful words, she said, "don't you ever think that anybody's better than you." The words have resonated throughout his lifetime.

In Aaron's first year in elementary school he was bussed to Simmons Elementary School in Versailles. But for his 2nd grade year, integration was mandated. He recalled being anxious about going to the new school, however, he did find a way to flourish. He even made Honor Roll. He recalls being elected to Student Council in 6th grade, even though, he said he did not really know what was going on and was "sorta intimidated by the whole thing." But even then, he experienced the "double whammy" of racism, he said, "you start getting it from your own race." One fellow black classmate said, "you trying to be white or something?" Aaron went on to say, "so then you don't have friends now, so now you can't go here, you can't go here. So what you do then is, you dumb down, so you can fit in, and that is what happened. So when I was asked to be on the City Council, that really came back to me, but I was like, 'you know what, I can do this.'"



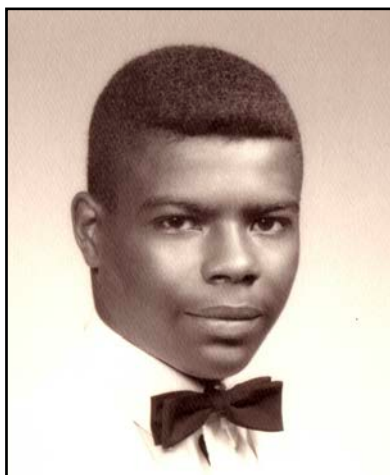
Aaron Hamilton 2021

In 2006, Aaron retired from Sylvania and Mayor Tom Bozarth said, "I hear you might be looking for a job. I've got a job for you, would you run for City Council?" Aaron thought about what Mayor Bozarth asked and thought, "yeah, I can do this. I'll give it a shot." Aaron said, "It is time for me. I thought back to the time where I dumbed down to fit in, and I don't have to do that, I am a man now, they got to deal with me. I went ahead and did four terms from 2006 to 2014."

Eight years on City Council gave Aaron a better understanding of how the City worked. He enjoyed meeting people and going to the conventions. He particularly enjoyed meeting Rick Corman and riding on his dinner train. But overall, Aaron seemed to enjoy just being a part of the City. He worked on the Gratz Street wall rehabilitation project, worked on the stockyard proposal, and sidewalk replacement plan. He said, "Tom Bozarth did a great job putting money where it needed to be – getting grants and things." The Council changed through the years, but Sharon Turner and Tom Bozarth served the same years he did. Aaron's respect for Turner, Bozarth and the other council members is apparent when he recalls those years of service. Midway was good enough for him as a kid, and through his eight years of service on the City Council he helped ensure that it will be good for all those kids to come.



Mary Eliza (Brown) Hamilton
Hamilton family home on South Gratz



Aaron Hamilton



Marilyn Hamilton
(Aaron's sister)

Message from Aaron:

"I would like to thank other band mates over the years for their help and love of music. The man that started me out was Victor Walker. Vic asked me to sing in the first band. Then it was Vic, Robin Rice and I forgot who played drums at the Coffee House in Versailles. And Robin Rice and Johnny McDaniel, even though I was kicked out after one gig! Also Ray Murphy vocals. I've been in bands with a few other people I can't think of all the names or years. However, thanks to all. To be continued 2021-?"

- Victor Walker Bass 1970 -1980
- Richard Drums 1978 - 1979
- Ahmosis Aton Bass 1980 - Present
- Robin Rice Guitar 1970 - 1972
- Fred Reese Guitar 1972 - Present
- Scott Westfall Guitar 1972 - 1978
- Sunshine Guitar 1975 - 1978
- Tootie Guitar 1975 - 1978
- Jimmy Roberts Guitar 1978 - 1980
- Danny Shyrock Drums 1976 - 1978
- Omar Sharp Drums 1978 - 1980
- Melvin Bush Drums 2016 - Present



Mary Eliza Brown (15 years old)

Mary Charles Raglin - Midway City Council 2020 - Present

By Amy Rouse Perry

Midway claims the Davistown and Zion Hill communities as its own. In the mid-1900s, both were full of strong African American families, including the Jacksons and the Raglins. Georgia Mary “Georgia May” Jackson, from Davistown, met and fell in love with the preacher’s son, John Charles Raglin, of Zion Hill. They married and settled into a home on Parrish Avenue (now Walnut Street) in Midway. Eleven children resulted, and Mary Charles Raglin was part of this large family. Sadly, four of these children died young from Muscular Dystrophy, but strength in family got them thru these horrible experiences.

Mary said that growing up in Midway was simple, with the ballpark at the end of Gratz Street being the hub of activity. It was playing-in-the-rain-in-your-bathing-suit simple! Midway’s Gracie Caldwell knew Mary well as they lived on the same street. Gracie said Mary was like a little sister to her who would “drag around behind the older kids.” Gracie said, “Mary had a way of making people laugh, even at church. She’s real snappy!”

School for Mary was at Midway Elementary on South Winter Street. Ever the entrepreneur, Mary would visit the Bates Grocery, across from Lehman’s, after eating lunch at home, to buy candy to take and sell upon returning to school. Although Woodford County schools were integrated, Mary was the only Black female in her class, with Charlie Pennie being the only Black male. After elementary school, she went to Woodford County Middle School and High School where she graduated in 1969. But graduation did not come before her becoming a mother to Charles “Chuckie” Heston Raglin in 1968. The Raglin family welcomed him into their lives and supported Mary in the way good families do. Later on, Mary had Doris and LaRon, who, with Chuckie, have made her a grandmother to eleven and great-grandmother to twelve.

After graduation, the very next day, Mary went to work at Texas Instrument in Versailles. Later, she attended several business schools in Lexington. Finally, she got her foot in the door at her dream location: the Lexington Police Department. She started with temporary secretarial work and eventually was full time with the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government. Mary excelled as a 911 operator, and even trained people for that job before retiring after 27 years in the department. She also served her country in the U.S. Army Reserve where she retired after 25 years of service. More recently, Mary worked with the Jubilee Jobs of Lexington, a ministry, as a Job Counselor, where she helped hard to hire people find good jobs. She led workshops on conflict resolution and is still on the Board of Directors after working there for five years. These leadership roles prepared her for future work for the Midway community.

On December 31, 1989, just before midnight, Mary got married to Charles Clay at St. Matthew A.M.E. Church. Mary said, “That’s all you get about that!!”

Church involvement is incredibly important to Mary. Her paternal grandfather and six of his sons were ministers in the Baptist Church. But, her mother took the children to her St. Matthew A.M.E. Church (African Methodist Episcopal.) Mary is still active there, serving as a church Steward, Stewardess, local YPD (Young People’s Division) Director, Church Secretary, and author of the church’s resolutions when a member passes. The Taylor-Jackson Stewardess Board, named in part for Mary’s grandmother, is a group of women in leadership roles at the church who wear the white cap and clothing during services.

Greg Bush, family member, says, “each Sunday, one person in white sits on the front pew to assist the pastor. The first Sunday of each month, the entire group dresses in white and distributes the Holy Communion during the service.” Mary said, “My Mom placed my little white Stewardess cap on me at our ceremony. When she passed, she had her white on and I exchanged her cap for mine.” Mary’s church volunteering reaches regional and state levels as she continues to serve as the Youth Director for the Kentucky Conference YPD, an organization for youth from 2-26 years old associated with the A.M.E. Church. She is in her fifth year in the position working with the large district that includes Lexington and Louisville.



Mary Charles Raglin 2021

In 2020, Mary was approached, out of the blue, by several individuals asking her to run for Midway City Council. She loved her Midway, and did not know at the time, that if she won, she would be the first African American female on the Council. After much thought and conversation with God, she made the decision to run. It was important to her to give the African Americans of Midway a voice. Mary added an unusual campaign stop...the cemetery. Not knowing campaign regulations, she put a campaign flyer on her parent's grave, "I wanted my Momma and Daddy to see what I was doing."

Being elected to the Midway City Council has changed Mary's life. She took office on January 1, 2021 for the two-year term. She admits that she had no idea of what she was getting into...meetings, committees, lots of reading, and even more learning about the ins and out of managing a city like Midway. She said, "if you want to be a good city council member it takes time...you have to look up words and terms that you don't know. I want to be effective and an advocate for my neighbors. I want to learn and understand all about MIDWAY. I say to myself all the time – I married my city."

Although she is only in her fourth month of serving, Mary can say that her favorite project so far is serving on the city's Cemetery Committee. City employees take care of the town's three cemeteries and keep the grounds in beautiful shape. The Council plans to put a walkway between the main cemetery and the African American St. Rose Tabernacle Cemetery. The idea of walking, not riding or climbing a fence, to visit all family graves is very appealing to her. When asked what has been the most difficult topic for the Council so far, Mary said it would be the proposed new housing project in Midway. Decisions made by the Council are not always easy to make.

Mary now lives in a house that replaced her parents' home that her Dad built himself, when the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) was instituted in the 1990s. Many older homes were demolished and replaced with new ones. In some cases, the size of the new building was much smaller than the original one and the building quality was questionable. Now, her home is abuzz with visiting family and friends as she takes care of the people in her life.

What does Midway mean to Mary? "I'm beginning to love Midway a whole lot more, just being on the Council. There are so many things that I wasn't aware of and now I'm just enjoying it and loving it and want to be a part of things."



Most of Mary's children, grand children, great-grandchildren and Pappa Charles April 2021



Rita Conner, Roberta Guy, Georgia May Raglin, and Mary Raglin



Marika, Missy, Doris, Chuck, Anisha, LeRon, Anita, Teresa and Mary Raglin

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Midway Ministers, November 25, 1945, provided by John McDaniel
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Historic Second Christian Church, 1945 congregation taken from the pulpit, provided by Brenda Jackson
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Scottie Bush, Jr., provided by Greg Bush
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Mollie and Walter Bradley, Jr., provided by Mollie Bradley
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Three church exterior photos not listed above, from public domain

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From a photo album created in 1892 for the Columbia Exposition in Chicago. Woodford County Schools Superintendent M. B. Hifner ordered a photograph of each public and private school building in the county for the educational exhibit at the exposition.

Creator Hifner, M. B.

Date 1892

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James Knox Polk

John Batts and Brenda Jackson, researcher and family member

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