

Black people making history in Kingsport. The elementary unit: James Madison School.

BLACK
PEOPLE

MAKING

HISTORY

IN

KINGSPORT



TO:

Rev. Wm. Stokely

IN APPRECIATION FOR YOUR
PARTICIPATION IN OUR UNIT
ON FAMOUS BLACK AMERICANS.

THE ELEMENTARY UNIT
JAMES MADISON SCHOOL
KINGSPORT, TENNESSEE

FANNIE MAE DOBBINS

RETIRED TEACHER

Fannie Dobbins was born in Tupelo, Mississippi. Her early years were very rough. Her father died when she was nine years old. This made her life very hard, because she had to help her mother in the cotton fields and take care of other people's babies.

When she was a child she enjoyed playing very much. She also enjoyed sharing with her friends.

Mrs. Dobbins chose to become a teacher because of her love for children.

Working with children, helping the elderly, and working with charity clubs are her hobbies.

Mrs. Dobbins believes in fair play and the will to do anything she tries. Her most rewarding moment was acquired when she became a teacher.

Her advice to young people today is to learn what your talent is and work hard at it, be cheerful and friendly, and get as much education as possible.

Mrs. Dobbins is married to V. O. Dobbins. She has three children, two daughters and one son, and four grandchildren.

She is a graduate of Lane College and Tennessee State University. She is a member of the Daughters of the Elks, Daughter of Isis, Eastern Star, Women's League, Tri-City Club, and the Methodist Women's Society.

Mrs. Dobbins was a teacher in the Kingsport City School System until her retirement a few years ago.

JOYCE A. GAINES

ASSISTANT EXTENSION AGENT

Joyce Gaines was born in Covington, Tennessee. They were poor and didn't know it because they had such good times together.

Their parents taught and gave them the important things in life. She attended an elementary school in a two room schoolhouse with grades 1 - 8. She was 3rd in her graduating class but she wasn't satisfied until she knew that she could make it to college. Miss Gaines went to U T at Martin and majored in Home Economics.

When Joyce was in school she was a 4-H member. Because of the benefits, trips and scholarships available through 4 - H sponsors, Joyce finds her work rewarding. Joyce's hobbies are copper tooling and 3rd crafts.

Her most rewarding experiences were when she became a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

Joyce always believed that "she could do it". If things didn't work out she'd try it again. She would rather have someone take advantage of her than for her to take advantage of someone else.

She would give the following advice to young people today: be honest, independent, and love your fellowman. Remember and honor the Heavenly Father in all that you do.

While at U T Martin, she was a member of the marching band for 2 years, the Women's Chorus, 2 years and the American Home Economics Association for 1 year. Her most rewarding involvement was arranging the Phyettes, a campus organization. Our goal was to become a chapter of Gamma Sigma Sigma, a sorority for women. The goal was reached 2 quarters after she graduated.

JOHN C. BRUCE

MINISTER, PRESIDING ELDER OF THE JOHNSON
CITY DISTRICT, PROGRAMS SUPERVISOR OF
UPPER EAST TENN. HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

John Bruce was born in Guyana, South America (formerly British Guiana), in 1923.

When John was six years of age, the family lived near the city of Georgetown, where he attended church and school with his sister.

The parents were devout practical christians. The father was a carpenter contractor, and provided reasonably for the family. He was also a minister and was always engaged in missionary work from which he received no money.

John's mother died when he was just past six, and his dad re-married twice in a four year period as the result of the early death of his second wife. The third wife, to whom John refers to as mother, because she was truly a mother, was a school teacher and a missionary. The family was caught up in the religious activities of both parents.

John's parents were strict but very loving and there was freedom in the home. A year later his dad lost his right eye while assisting his mother in the erection of a building to house her church school. This accident permanently affected his earning capacity and caused economic changes in the family.

The family lived in different parts of the country, and responsibilities were typical of country life. There were two brothers and two sisters in the family, but many times there were six or more children, all sharing and being treated alike.

Through the sacrifices of his family, John attended Alleyne A.M.E. Zion High School, and was successful at the University of Cambridge.

His religious activities never really ceased, but increased as he grew older. The influence of his parents and his christian orientation helped him choose his field of work.

At the age of eighteen, John was an elementary school teacher.

After one year, he left the teaching profession to go into Public Health. After two years he volunteered for service with the Royal Air Force in World War II. After returning to Civilian life, John worked with the government. Later he resigned his position to work with the Municipality of Georgetown, where he worked for six years.

As a child his hobby was drawing and painting, however this was never fully developed. As a lover of nature, he enjoys driving the family around the country side.

The most rewarding moment in Rev. Bruce's life was the occasion of a banquet in honor of his two years of civil rights activities.

His philosophy is basically Christian. He believes that God is the source of all that is; the oneness of all humanity under God. He would tell young people today that religion is the result of man's quest for knowledge of his origin, that of the world around him and his relationship to the whole. Religion is basic to all human life and to meaningful living. Endeavor to love all and hate none. Hatred is self destructive.

Rev. Bruce has held membership in the N.A.A.C.P., Ministerial Association, Council of Churches, Human and Race Relations. His Public Health Certificates are: Royal Sanitary Institute, London: Public Health Inspector; Inspector of Meats and Other Foods: Tropical Hygiene for Health Inspectors, Ministerial, Undergraduate: A.B., Cum Laude, Livingston College, Salisbury, N.C., Graduate: B.D. Howard University, School of Religion, Washington D. C.

Military Service: Royal Air Force 1944-48, British Guyana Volunteer Force: 1949-54.

Rev. Bruce is married and the father of three children. His wife, Mrs. Jossie C. Bruce is a former school teacher. She is presently employed as Director of Social Services at the Greene Valley Developmental Center.

BRICE F. HAMILTON

U. S. POSTAL SERVICE

Brice Hamilton was born in Marion, Virginia, to parents that were not overly strict, but not permissive either. He was disciplined by the example of his parents.

The family was poor, but closely knit and moved frequently because the father was a minister. The longest period of time spent in any one place was in Morristown, Tennessee, so Brice likes to call Morristown home.

He attended high school and Junior College in Morristown. In 1941, he married. He joined the Navy in 1942. (1942-1946)

In February, 1946, he and Mrs. Hamilton came to Kingsport for a two week visit with his parents. The two week visit has turned into thirty years.

Brice worked briefly at a grocery store and office supply store. In the fall of 1946, he enrolled at Hampton Institute in Virginia. He graduated in 1949, from the trade school as an automobile mechanic. He worked at this trade off and on for about twelve years.

In 1951, he was called to the Army as a 2nd. Lt., where he served with an anti-Aircraft Battalion in Georgia and Ft. Meade, Maryland.

In 1959 he took the civil service examination for the post office and was hired in 1961.

Other than his marriage, Brice feels that his most rewarding experience was the cross country trip he and his wife made in 1968. They traveled westward across the state of Tennessee into Arkansas, Texas, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, Arizona, California, Mexico, Kansas, Missouri, Indiana, Kentucky and back home to Kingsport.

Brice attended Morristown College and Hampton Institute, receiving his B. S. degree in 1949. He received his commission as 2nd. Lt. in the U. S. Army in 1949, promoted to 1st Lt. in 1954, then to Captain in 1957. In 1975 he received a commendation from the postal service for a fifteen years safe driving record.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS HORD
RETIRED TEACHER AND T.E.C. EMPLOYEE

Early one frosty morning--October 3, 1893, in a log cabin in New Canton, Tennessee, in Hawkins County, Frederick Douglass Hord was born. He was the youngest of fifteen children born to the late Frederick R. and Mary E. Hord.

Times were hard and as Mr. Hord looks back he can remember waking up in the morning and looking through the cracks between the logs and seeing the snow that had fallen during the night. Many times they would take rags and push them in the cracks to keep the wind and snow out.

Hard work was no stranger to Mr. Hord. During his lifetime he has cut timber for saw-mills, split rails, worked on the farm, and worked on the railroad.

He worked his way through school (not through because he never received a degree), but he did receive a permanent elementary certificate. For twenty-five years teaching was his profession. Most of his teaching was done in Hawkins County. He recalls teaching school in 1915 when the beginning salary for teachers was \$35.00 per month.

In 1924, he married Sallie M. Hoard, daughter of the late Eldridge and Etta Hoard.

In 1940, Mr. Hord left the teaching profession to take a job as janitor at Tennessee Eastman Company. He gave up teaching, his chosen profession, because he needed money and there was more money to be made at T. E. C. as a janitor than there

was teaching school.

Mr. Hord is the father of four sons; Frederick D. Jr., William A., and Bobby G., of Buffalo, N. Y., and Hugh K. of Long Island, N. Y.

A very gratifying experience for Mr. Hord is to know that he has done something for someone along the way.

His hobby is reading. The most exciting moment in his life was during W.W.I when the news was received that the Armistice was signed.

Mr. Hord is a member of Bethel A.M.E. Zion Church and a veteran of W.W.I.

JOHN PRICE, JR.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE UPPER E. TENN.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

John Price, Jr. was born in Orville, West Virginia. He had a pleasant childhood but also had problems. His father died when he was eleven so his mother had to bring up eight children on a limited income.

There were limited things for Blacks to do in Price's hometown, so he dropped out of school for apparent reasons. He played semi-pro baseball for six years. He wanted to continue his education, so he took the G. E. D. test, received his high school diploma and then moved on to college at East Tennessee State University.

During the summers of 1957, 58, and 59, John had the opportunity to work in the delta country in Mississippi. He saw daily the harsh injustices committed against both Blacks and Whites as they struggled for survival.

Later Price became a minister and accepted the philosophy that the most important vocation of all is helping people who can't help themselves. Mr. Price is now working as Executive Director of the Upper East Tennessee Human Development Agency. It gives him the opportunity to help people with social and economic problems. He feels that this program helps people that wouldn't be helped otherwise.

His hobbies are golfing and bowling. John thinks the most rewarding moments personally are his wedding day, and the birth of his son. Professionally he thinks it is the day he accepted the challenge to direct the OEO programs for Hancock,

Hawkins, Washington, and Sullivan Counties.

It has always been John's belief that the most despicable attitude in the world is to hate your fellowman without a cause. He learned very early that hate destroys not only the hated but the hater. Because of this philosophy he has given himself a better opportunity to understand those who look, speak, or act differently than himself.

His advice to the young people of today is to develop a keen sense of understanding concerning the problems of the world today. Strive to remember that their parents, teachers, and political leaders are products of another generation and so often their approach to problems reflects their young experiences. The young should not be denied the right to disagree, but should thoroughly understand why.

Mr. Price is a member of the Merry Makers Club, and was the 1974-75 President. He is also a member of the Esquire Club, and was the 1975 President. He is also a member and chairman of numerous Civic Organizations in Radford, Virginia, and in Kingsport. He is an active member of many job related organizations and has participated in a number of special training courses in Mississippi, Tennessee, Georgia, Pennsylvania, and Florida.

Mr. Price has attended Bluefield State College, East Tennessee State University, University of Georgia, and the University of Wisconsin.

He is married and the father of one son.

JAMES ELLIS SNAPP

POLICEMAN

James Snapp was born to Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Snapp on January 8, 1947, in Kingsport, Tennessee. He was educated in the Kingsport City Schools. His first home was in the River-view Apartments. He lived there until 1961, when the family moved to 949 Dale Street.

James had very good parents. They helped him quite a bit while he was a child and in the process of growing up. His father worked at Holston Valley Community Hospital, and is still employed there. His mother worked in private homes as a maid. She died on December 23, 1971.

Public school life began for James in the old Douglas High School building in September, 1953. He completed elementary school and graduated from high school in June, 1966. From the fall of 1966 until March, 1967, he attended East Tennessee State University.

Snapp served in the U. S. Naval Reserve for seven years. He is also a veteran of the Vietnam War.

He began working at ASG Industries in 1969. After a period of several lay-offs during a thirteen month period he became quite discouraged with the job. During this time he heard that they were looking for a Black person to fill the position of policeman in the Kingsport area. He took a written examination in October, 1970. He passed the examination and was hired the same week.

Snapp lives by the philosophy of trying to treat everyone as he would like to be treated. He never prejudges a person before he gets to know them. He would advise all young people to stay in school until graduation, take advantage of all educational opportunities, and listen to all good advice.

Patrolman Snapp is married to the former Mary Ann Bogus. They have three little girls, Mary Elizabeth, Shirley Ann, and Teresa Ann.

Patrolman Snapp is a member of Central Baptist Church and the Esquire Club. He was honored by the Rotary Club in 1973, for Outstanding Police Work for the year. He considers this event the most rewarding moment in his life.

WILLIAM H. STOKELY

MINISTER - CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

William H. Stokely was born in a log cabin on a farm in Parrottsville, Tennessee. Living conditions were very hard, the Stokely family was large, but there was always plenty of food. Living on a farm has its advantages because most of the food can be grown.

The Stokely parents were Christians and they made sure that William attended Sunday School and Church. He was taught honesty and truthfulness by his parents.

During those years educational opportunities were very poor. There were only four months of school and children were unable to attend the entire four months because of having to work on the farm.

William left the farm in 1916, to work his way through elementary and high school at Nelson Merry, in Jefferson City, Tennessee. After completing high school in 1922, he taught school for two years.

Later without money to pay his way in school, he entered Virginia Theological Seminary and College in Lynchburg, Virginia. William was able to find work and with the help of God and a few trusting friends, he was able to make it.

The longing to help others played a very important role in his early life and led him toward the ministry. His greatest joy has been the fact that he has been able to help others.

Rev. Stokely has had many rewarding experiences during his life. The greatest was the day he was able to walk down the aisle and receive his diploma and degree. This was the end of hard work and many trying circumstances for him in receiving an education.

His creed that has helped him in his life is, "Doing by others as he would want them to do by him." The advice that he would give young people today is to be honest, truthful and dependable and most of all willing to work.

Rev. Stokely attended Nelson Merry High School, Virginia Theological Seminary and College, Knoxville College, and Carson Newman College. He is President of Bethel District Leadership Congress. He also holds membership in the Masons, Shriners, and South Kingsport Optimistic Club. He belongs to the OPO Organization of Sullivan County Court. Among all the other honors he has received the Man of the Year Award from The Boy's Club, and certificates of merit from organizations that he has served.

JOSEPH LOUIS WALTON, D. D.

MINISTER ---BETHEL A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

Joseph Louis Walton was born in New Orleans, Louisiana. The Walton family was large, nine children, eight boys and one girl. This was a poor but comfortable and happy family.

Joseph began working after school and on weekends at the age of nine. The mother gave all for the children. She was concerned about their education, so Joseph had the very best educational opportunities afforded a black student at that time. He attended very good schools and had good teachers. He took advantages of every educational experience available. He attended symphonies, operas, visited museums, and went on field trips.

When Joseph was a high school student he played in the high school band as well as Dillard University and Xavier University bands at the same time.

Because he felt the need to do something for humanity, he chose to be a minister.

Rev. Walton's key to daily living is to be true to yourself, mind your own business, and try to do your best. He advises young people living in this competitive and technological world to prepare themselves to meet this age. He feels that you can be whatever you want to be, the future is in your hands. "YOU CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN."

The most exciting moment in his life was to be selected the most outstanding high school musician for two years, in the entire city of New Orleans.

Rev. Walton's hobbies are music, bowling, swimming, and fishing.

He holds membership in the A.M.E. Zion Church, N.A.A.C.P., S.C.L.C., Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Elks, Shriners, R.S.V.P., and a 32nd. Degree Mason. He played for Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt at Dillard University. He was also honored by giving the commencement address at his graduation from the School of Radiology. He was chosen Omega Man of the Year for 1974, and selected for Who's Who in the Most Outstanding Black Ministers in America in 1961, by Howard University. He attended Dillard and Xavier Universities in New Orleans, Louisiana, Livingston College and Hood Theological Seminary in Salisbury, North Carolina, Free Pentecostal School of Religion in Boston, Mass., and St. Mary's School of Radiological Technology in Centralia, Illinois.