

THE SRCAA Inc

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2023



Black History Month FULL DISCLOSURE

History: Not Always an Open Book

February is nationally recognized as Black History month. The focus in this newsletter will be to take a deep dive into history itself and consider answers to questions seldom asked or taught. I would also like to preface this article by saying all history is important.

During my tenure of being in public schools I had many history classes. U.S. History, American History, and World History to name a few. We were taught that Martin Luther King Jr. had a dream for equality, and George Washington Carver experimented with peanuts. In terms of Black History, they were the only two individuals in the curriculum that were mentioned. The rest of the school year was allocated to learning how our great forefathers fought for and conquered America.

Later in life I developed what can be best described as hunger for more knowledge about history. It is wise to understand that authors of books often tell what they want you to know, or what they deem to be important. The same concept has been applied to much of our history literature.

We were also taught the Declaration of Independence was written in 1776 and it states: *"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."* It did not

say "some men" and the word Liberty in this context means freedom. Why did slavery still exist 89 years after it was declared that "ALL MEN" were equal?

Was Slavery Really Abolished in 1865?

After the Civil War ended, slavery was abolished. The former slaves had no where to go and no means of transportation. They had no land, shelter, or food to sustain life. Some slaves found a way to migrate north, but many were trapped in their slave environments. This is the era when a new form of slavery was devised called Share Cropping.

Plantation owners told the former slaves if they stayed and worked the fields, they would get paid fair compensation after harvest time. When harvest time arrived, owners told former slaves they were due money for the use of tools, seed, and land. This debt was designed to never be paid and kept them bound to plantations.

Also, the term Police and Chain Gang derived during this era. A law was written that prohibited Loitering. Again, slaves had nowhere to go after being freed. Many got arrested by plantation owners who were "policing" the areas looking for loitering slaves. Once arrested for this violation, all prisoners were given long sentences in which free labor was lawful. Were slaves really freed in 1865?

-Robert Houpe
Communication Specialist

Did You Know?

Mary Beatrice Davidson Kenner was a Black female inventor born May 17, 1912, in Monroe, North Carolina. She invented or inspired numerous products that are used today. According to (Rye, 2020) she has the most patents of any African American woman to date. Kenner graduated from Dunbar High School in East Spencer, NC and started attending Howard University.

Inventing things ran in Kenner's family. Her maternal grandfather's inventions included a tricolor light signal for trains and a stretcher with wheels for ambulances. In 1914, her father patented a clothes presser that could fit in a suitcase. Also, in 1980, her sister invented "Family

Treediton," a patented family board game.

Kenner had several other notable patents during her life. Her final patent was granted on September 29, 1987 for a mounted back washer and massager. Kenner never received any awards or formal recognition for her work, but her contributions helped pave the way for other innovations to be implemented.

Rye. (2020, September 27). Mary Kenner. Black Past. Retrieved February 04, 2023, from <https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/mary-kenner-1912-2006/>



OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

Students Visit SRCAA, Inc to Capture Old Memories

On February 9th students from Salisbury High School made a visit to the Salisbury-Rowan Community Action Agency, Inc main office. Their intended mission was to walk the halls of what used to be Price High School in observance of Black History. The students captured the essence of yesteryear by dressing like the students that walked the halls many years ago.

Price High School moved to the current location on the 1300 block of West Bank Street in 1932. At the time the building was erected, it was the only public high school building in Salisbury for people of color. In 1967 the school integrated with Boyden High School. The 1970-71 school year was when both were renamed to Salisbury High School at the current location.



"The resilience of the Salisbury-Rowan Community Action Agency, Inc. is a direct result of you, our valued employees. Your dedication, commitment and service to this agency is most appreciated, and we would like to take this time to recognize and celebrate you. I would also like to take this moment to welcome aboard our newly hired employees!"

-Dione Adkins
Executive Director

SERVICE RECOGNITION

Wynola Hawkins	31 Years
Brittany Holland	4 Years
Stephen Collins	1 Year
James Cathcart	1 Year
Pamela Kiser	1 Year
Shatoria Houston	1 Year

NEW HIRE

Sammitria Pinckney Family Development Services

"If there is no struggle, there is no progress." —Frederick Douglass

"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced."

—James Baldwin

**SERVICE OF COMMUNITY
TOP PRIORITY**

In the aftermath of the unprecedented health crisis faced by our community and our entire nation due to COVID-19, the Salisbury-Rowan Community Action Agency, Inc. continues making the service of the community top priority, from providing early childhood education through our Head Start/Early Head Start Program or tuition assistance for employment skills training through our Self-Sufficiency Program, we are dedicated to helping people, help themselves

HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START PROGRAM: The comprehensive child development program is designed to meet children and family needs, providing a solid foundation for the child and parent to grow together. The primary goals of the Head

Start/Early Head Start programs are to provide the best child development practices for children birth to five years of age. Head Start provides a comprehensive child development program that addresses the physical, cognitive, mental, social, and emotional development of prenatal, infants, toddlers, and preschool participants. The program services Rowan and Davidson counties.

FAMILY SERVICES: This Self-Sufficiency program assists those who choose to make a change in their life. For families and individuals enrolled in this program, the agency provides comprehensive supportive services to secure employment or increase their income, obtain education and /or vocational training, make better use of their income, obtain and maintain standard housing, and build a strong work ethic. The program services Rowan and Cabarrus counties

SWEETIE PIE'S FAMOUS SOUL FOOD MAC & CHEESE

Speaking of Black History, there was once a nationally famous restaurant in St. Louis, Missouri named Sweetie Pie's. Her Soul Food recipes had people visiting from around the world. The restaurant has now closed the doors, but one of her signature recipes will be shared here. Use this recipe for special occasions when you feel the need to live it up. It is packed with calories, but delicious when you want to splurge a little with food.



Ingredients

- 16 oz elbow macaroni, cooked.
- 1 cup whole milk
- 24 oz evaporated milk
- 3 eggs
- 1 stick butter, cubed.
- 8 oz Colby & Monterey Jack cheese, shredded.
- 8 oz sharp cheddar, shredded.
- 1 lb. Velveeta, cubed.
- salt, to taste
- 1 Tbsp ground white pepper
- 1 Tbsp granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup sour cream

TOPPING

- 1 cup mild cheddar cheese, shredded (for top).

Directions

1. To make Sweetie Pie's Mac & Cheese preheat the oven to 350 degrees.
2. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Cook elbow macaroni according to pkg directions until tender. Drain.
3. While macaroni is cooking, mix both types of milk and eggs in a large bowl. Add the sour cream, salt, pepper, and sugar, mixing until combined. Pour over the macaroni and stir.
4. Stir in the cheese and butter.
5. Transfer cooked pasta to an oil sprayed 10x14" pan or tall 9x13" dish. Set aside.
6. Sprinkle the top with one cup of mild cheddar cheese.
7. Bake for 45 minutes or until the top is lightly browned.



Sweetie Pie's restaurant was located in St. Louis. Her recipes were Soul Food delights that made history.

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