

Some of the Black Families in the Martinsburg Community

Mr. Nathan Nailor Family	Mr. Joe / Hester Butler Family
Mr. Steven Warren Family	Mr. & Mrs. Al Thompson
Mr. Albert Green Family	Mr. Wesley Brooks Family
Mr. Gilmore Green Family	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Schools
Mr. James Rideout Family	Mr. & Mrs. Seymour Thomas Sr.
Mr. John Peters Family	Mr. & Mrs. Seymour Thomas Jr.
Mr. Isaac Warren Family	Mr. & Mrs. Obie Dorsey Family
Mr. Albert Thompson Family	Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Coleman Family
Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Herbert Family	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Thomas Sr. Family
Mollie & Levi Johnson Family	Mr. Edward Scott Family
Mr. & Mrs. John Thompson Family	Rev. & Mrs. Alonzo Graham Family
Mr. Fairfax Family	Mr. & Mrs. Edward Warren Family
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Diggs Family	Mr. Benjamin Graham
Mr. Hallman Family	Mr. & Mrs. Isaac Graham Family
Mr. & Mrs. Willam Thomas Family	Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Coleman Family
Mr. John Nelson Family	Mr. George Nailor Family
Mr. Lee Family	Mr. & Mrs. John Twyman Family
Mr. Dorsey Family	Mr. Wesley Coleman Family
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Thomas Family	Mr. & Mrs. Grant Bell Family
Mr. Brooks Hallman Family	Mrs. Margaret Howard Family
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Fardan	Mr. & Mrs. Marion Dorsey
Rev. & Mrs. Johnny Dorsey	Mr. & Mrs. Bernie Dorsey

Our gratitude also extended to any person(s) whose name (s) may have been inadvertently omitted.

History Highlights of Martinsburg, Maryland

1866 – Martinsburg was a strong bi-racial community because many freed slaves remained there and worked as farmers, farm laborers and craftsmen.

1866 – Nathan Nailor, a free black man, purchased 97 acres of land for \$1,141.00 from John Bowie and his wife Susan. Mr. Nailor sold a plot to the trustees of the church they were getting ready to build in 1876. They were William Grandison, Isaac Warren and Gilmore Green, Pastor Rev. H.C. Arnold for \$50.00.

1876 – Census records show the Green, Peters, Warren, Ridout, Thompson families and others were owners of small plots of land 5 to 10 acres in Martinsburg. The church was moved to this site by oxen rolling it on logs down the hills to this site.

1903 – This new church building was built by Scott Bell of Poolesville. It was named for Isaac Warren a community leader.

1880 – School was opened in the church.

1886 – The first school house was built near the church.

1899 – The school was deeded to the county. It was called Elmer School, grades 1 – 5. \$200.00 was appropriated for the teacher's annual salary but was used to build the schoolhouse.

1914 – The Love and Charity Hall was built by Scott Bell of Poolesville. Mr. Bell donated \$10.00 when he built the church. The school, church, and hall, all on the same plot of land is the only historic spot in the state of Maryland that has the three most important buildings in a community.

20th Century – There were about 40 homesteads in Martinsburg. The community developed along two road junctions, Martinsburg and White's Ferry Roads. There was a store, post office, and a blacksmith shop owned by John Peters. The old cemetery of the first church remains on the hill of the first church. The property adjoining the old cemetery has been donated for a new cemetery. Many blacks also lived on Trundle Road and Club Hollow Road.

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church
21000 Beallsville Road
Dickerson, MD 29842

1993 - Warren United Methodist Church was merged with Mt. Zion United Methodist near Barnesville on Route 109. This was 127 years after Martinsburg Church's inception.

1993 - 94 - Mr. John Thompson, Sr. and Mrs. Elsie Bell Thomas showed interest in saving their old church, school, and hall. They were falling into disrepair. Elsie Bell Thomas interceded with Mary Gardner of the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission to see what could be done to save the buildings on this site.

1997 - Elsie Bell Thomas and Rev. Laurence Bropleh of Mt. Zion - Warren United Methodist Church initiated the Committee to save the buildings on this site. The committee members are listed on the back of this program.

There have been many fundraisers to fund the extensive repairs that have to be made at this site. There were musical extravaganzas, grants, dinners and donations from friends who were interested and committee members. Homecoming programs have been held in the church. The project has been noted in local newspapers and TV stations.

2001 - This committee was ready to purchase this site from Mt. Zion-Warren United Methodist Church. They had raised the proper amount of money to purchase this site. There is still much work to be done to save this important historic site. The committee is hoping to revive this little church and use the hall and school for many community activities.

Submitted by;
Mrs. Nina H. Clarke, Historian

Vision for Warren Church and School House 2017

Our vision for Warren Church is to maintain the property, the one room school house and the church, so the buildings will not continue to deteriorate. We will continue to have worship services, funerals, weddings and other programs. Our annual programs are, Homecoming, Family and Friends Day, Heritage Day and the last program of each year is our largest fundraiser, The Gospel Extraganzava. The funds are used to pay all the expenses and to make repairs. There are a lot of repairs to be made do to the age of buildings.

The school house is used as our dining room to service our guest refreshments or dinner after the programs. The committee purchase tables, chairs and an air conditioners to make it comfortable for everyone. We also have our monthly meetings in the school house.

The Warren Historic Site invite the public to our Heritage Day Event to learn the significant of our site. It is the only Historical Site in The State of Maryland that has the three buildings still standing on the same plot of land.

The Loving Charity Hall is in deep despair and there are plans to start restoration soon.

Submitted by. Elsie Thomas, President

VISION FOR LOVING CHARITY HALL

We, the Historic Site Committee, would like to see Loving Charity Hall used in ways that would benefit the entire community.

We would like to see the hall used to remind us of the history in our community by setting aside an area to display historic artifacts that anyone might want to donate or just put on display with a short explanation about what the object is and how it was used.

To make the hall available for wedding receptions. To be used as a meeting place in the community to discuss problems we may be having with local government or anything that needs our attention.

To invite the local government, (police, health department, social services etc.) to come in at different times to talk to groups of people on whatever subject that needs to be discussed. To invite college recruiters in from time to time, to let the area high school students know what is required of them in order to continue their education and financial aid workshops.

To make Loving Charity Hall available to have one-day spiritual retreats. To show videos and movies to area youth that may be of some kind of benefit or educate them in one way or another.

To make the hall available for picnics for families and groups within our community. Under no conditions will alcoholic beverages be allowed on the property.

WARREN HISTORIC SITE COMMITTEE, INC.

INTRODUCTION

The Warren Historic Site Committee, Inc. (WHSC) is a non-profit tax exempt historical preservation organization established to achieve the restoration of three major institutional buildings which formed the nucleus of a small rural Black community in Upper Western Montgomery County known as Martinsburg. Martinsburg began before the Civil War as a crossroads village consisting of a store, post office and blacksmith's shop.

Following the War, free Blacks and former slaves purchased land in the area and developed a community which consisted of 30-40 homesteads. At the center of the community, three principal institutions of historical significance were erected, a church, a one-room school and benefit society lodge hall. These three buildings became the anchor for the thriving new community and were the center of religious worship, educational development and social interaction for the residents of the area.

Today, we take pride in working to maintaining these valuable historic assets and in preserving the cultural heritage of the Black community which they represent. Over the next several years, WHSC hopes to successfully restore the best of these old buildings and to develop them as a resource for exciting new community-based programs. Warren Historic Site Committee, Inc. are now the Proud Owners of this site.

Some of the highlights of the buildings:

Church:

- 1866 first church built
- moved to present site 1876
- 1903 new building erected at cost of \$150.00

Elmer School - Martinsburg Negro School:

- Built 1886
- Grades 1-5
- Classes of 40-50 students
- Closed in 1939
- Converted to community center

Charity Lodge Hall:

- Benefit Society founded to provide sick and burial benefits when Blacks were not permitted to join insurance companies
- 1914 new hall built
- Used as community center for plays, dances, lectures and organizational activities

WHSC has developed the following goals and visions for the restoration and future use of the buildings:

- Preservation of cultural heritage and contributions made by our ancestors.
- Restoration, preservation and continued maintenance of the Warren Site
- Sponsor fund raising activities, including solicitations and grant funding
- After restoration, use facilities for spiritual, educational, cultural and social activities.

How you can help:

- Become a member of WHSC
- Make a tax deductible donation in support of the restoration of Warren Historic Site
- Volunteer to furnish labor, supplies and assist with fund raising activities.

Church:

- 1866 first church built
- moved to present site 1878
- 1903 new building erected at cost of \$150,000

Elementary School - Martinsburg Negro School

- Built 1886
- Grades 1-5
- Enrolled 40-50 students
- Closed in 1939
- Converted to community center