

ANNUAL FATHER'S DAY FOUNDATION (AFDF) BROADNECK PENINSULA AFRICAN AMERICAN ORAL HISTORY REPORT

Inspired by the Voices of
Broadneck Peninsula's
African American
Community



Volume I

Stories collected
2023/2024

Thank You

The Annual Father's Day Foundation (AFDF) extends its heartfelt gratitude to the incredible individuals and organizations that made this oral history report possible. We thank Asbury Broadneck United Methodist Church and Pastor Tillett (with 2 T's!) for providing the welcoming space to conduct interviews and for their unwavering support during our endeavors. Our appreciation goes to St. Margaret's Church for their generous resources that helped bring this project to fruition. We are deeply grateful to our dedicated informants; your compelling stories and insights are the cornerstone of this report, and none of this would be possible without your invaluable contributions. Special thanks to Janice Hayes-Williams for her exceptional expertise and guidance in oral history, and to the Maryland State Archives for their crucial role in oral history preservation, ensuring that these narratives are safeguarded for future generations. Shouts out to Darron Bryan-Queen of Xclusive Art Media Visions for the audio and video support throughout this recordation process. Finally, we extend our sincere thanks to Dr. Randy Rowel of RR & Associates for his profound wisdom and insightful guidance throughout this journey. Your collective efforts have enabled us to capture and celebrate the rich heritage and enduring spirit of the African American community on the Broadneck Peninsula. Thank you for your unwavering commitment and remarkable dedication.

Sincerely,
Annual Father's Day Foundation
<https://www.annualfathersdayfoundation.com/>

To The Reader

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for taking the time to read with this document, which aims to capture a pivotal moment in the history of the African American communities on the Broadneck Peninsula. Due to current developmental pressures and the relocation of families, these communities are experiencing a slow restructuring. This report seeks to preserve and honor a time that is rapidly fading into the past. We invite you to read it with an open heart and mind.

Contained within these pages are interviews that highlight our rich history through the perspectives of significant community members. The report includes a blend of direct quotes, paraphrases, and summaries of these interviews to provide the most comprehensive and accurate context possible.

To ensure the authenticity and accuracy of these oral histories, Artificial Intelligence was employed by the Maryland State Archives in the transcription process. This advanced technology helped to capture the nuances and details of each interview, preserving the voices and experiences of our community for future generations. The audio as well as transcriptions can be found at the Maryland State Archives

As you read, we hope you gain a deeper understanding and appreciation for the resilience, dedication, and contributions of the African American residents of the Broadneck Peninsula. Their stories are not just historical records but living testimonies to the enduring spirit and cultural heritage of our community. Thank you for your attention and respect for these important narratives.

Executive Summary

This report explores the rich history and cultural heritage of the African American communities on the Broadneck Peninsula in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. Through detailed interviews with key community members, it documents their experiences, recollections, and stories over the past century.

Background

The African American communities on the Broadneck Peninsula are facing significant changes due to developmental pressures and family relocations, and rising housing cost. This report aims to preserve their history and heritage, offering insights into the lives and legacies of those who have shaped the community.

Methodology

The Annual Father's Day Foundation (AFDF) performed semi structured interviews with members of the community. AFDF also partnered with Maryland State Archives to utilize artificial intelligence (AI) to transcribe interviews, and volunteer assistance, ensuring accuracy and detail. The report combines direct quotes, paraphrases, and summaries to authentically present the narratives of community members.

Key Themes and Findings

- **Family Dynamics and Community Life:**
Strong family bonds and community support have been foundational, fostering a sense of belonging and collective identity.
- **Education and Aspiration:**
Despite systemic barriers, the community's commitment to education and aspiration for better opportunities is evident, with the church and local mentors playing significant roles.
- **Segregation, Integration, and Civil Rights:**
Personal stories illustrate the harsh realities of segregation and the transformative impact of the civil rights movement, emphasizing political engagement and community solidarity.
- **Military Service and Civic Engagement:**
Military service offered broader horizons and personal growth, with veterans' experiences highlighting a legacy of service and civic duty that continues to inspire future generations.

Conclusion

This report honors the resilience, dedication, and contributions of the African American communities on the Broadneck Peninsula. By preserving these oral histories, it provides valuable lessons for the future and a testament to the enduring spirit and cultural heritage of the community.

Annual Father’s Day Foundation (AFDF) Broadneck Peninsula African American Oral History Report

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1. Introduction

The African American Oral History Collection from the Broadneck Peninsula is a monumental testament to the resilience, culture, and heritage of the African American community in this historically rich region. By delving into the narratives contained within, we embark on a journey through time, uncovering the layers of struggle, triumph, and enduring spirit that characterize our community's story.

Nestled between the waters of the Severn and the Magothy Rivers, the Broadneck Peninsula is a land brimming with natural beauty and resources. This geographic setting has played a pivotal role in the lives of its inhabitants from time immemorial, influencing their spiritual and cultural practices, economic activities, and social relationships. The oral histories from this community provide a window into how the land and water have nurtured a way of life that is deeply connected to the environment, shaping traditions and livelihoods that have persisted through generations.

The historical backdrop of the African American community on the Broadneck Peninsula is rich and complex, marked by the enduring legacies of enslavement, segregation, and the fight for civil rights. These oral histories offer a personal lens through which we can view the significant events and movements that have defined the community's past and present. From the earliest days of settlement, through the trials and triumphs of the Civil Rights Movement, to the ongoing struggles for equality and justice, the narratives within this collection illuminate the resilience and activism that have been central to the community's identity.

Delving deeper into the background history, we find that the African American presence on the Broadneck Peninsula is intricately linked to the region's agricultural and maritime economies. Through stories of labor, resistance, and community building, the oral histories chronicle the journey from the era of enslavement to the present day, highlighting the strategies employed by the community to overcome adversity and forge a distinct cultural identity. These narratives not only recount the challenges faced but also celebrate the achievements and cultural richness that have emerged from this storied past.

The collection also explores themes of family, education, religion, and economic adaptation, painting a vivid picture of a community that has continually sought to uphold its values and traditions amidst changing times on the Peninsula. Through personal anecdotes and reflections, we gain insights into the importance of community bonds, the role of education in advancing individual and collective aspirations, and the significance of religious institutions in sustaining spiritual and cultural continuity.

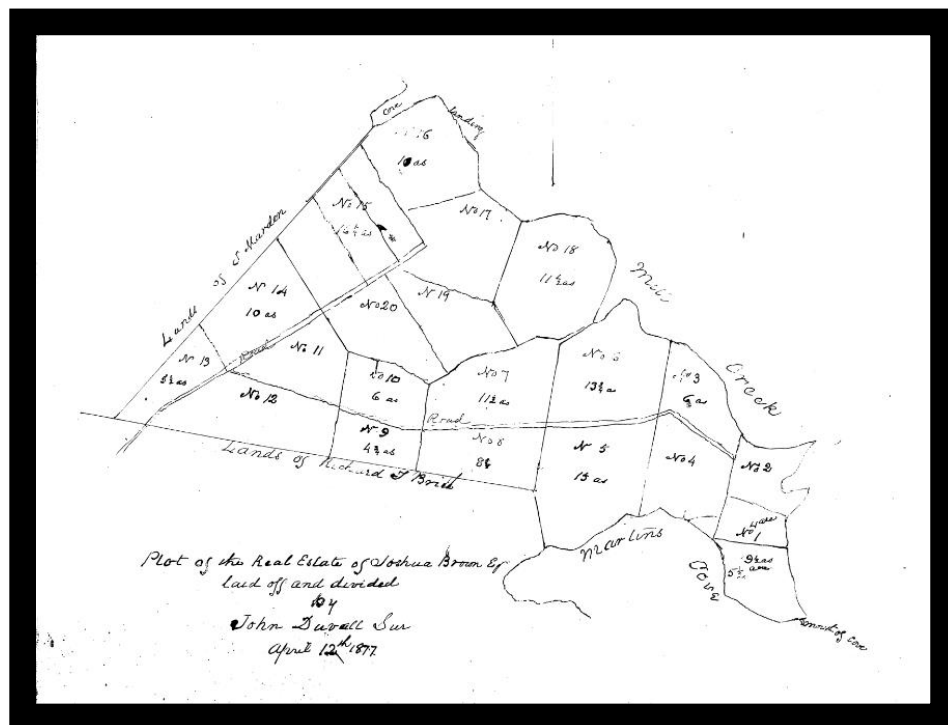
This introduction sets the stage for a comprehensive exploration of the African American Oral History Collection from the Broadneck Peninsula. By weaving together the geographical, historical, and thematic threads that run through the narratives, we aim to honor the legacy of the African American community in this region. As we delve into the collection, we are reminded

of the importance of preserving these stories, not only as a record of the past but as a beacon for future generations. Through this endeavor, we celebrate the indomitable spirit, cultural heritage, and historical significance of the African American community on the Broadneck Peninsula, underscoring the vital role that such narratives play in the broader tapestry of American history and culture.

2. Geographical and Cultural Context

The Broadneck Peninsula, a land cradled by the Chesapeake Bay and the Magothy and Severn Rivers, offers more than just a scenic backdrop to the narratives of its African American inhabitants; it forms the bedrock of a deeply interconnected cultural and geographical identity. This section explores the profound ways in which the Peninsula's natural beauty and resources have shaped the lives, traditions, and economic endeavors of its African American community, weaving a rich tapestry of interaction between people and their environment over generations.

The geographical setting of the Broadneck Peninsula is characterized by its lush landscapes, fertile grounds, and abundant waterways. These features have not only provided sustenance but have also influenced the cultural and social fabric of the African American community residing there. The land and waters have been central to the community's economic activities, particularly in agriculture and fishing, which have sustained generations and shaped the community's work ethic and entrepreneurial spirit (Figure 1).



1877. Anne Arundel County Land Plat depicting Browns Woods

Moreover, the geographical isolation of the Peninsula, combined with its natural resources, has fostered a strong sense of community and self-reliance among its African American residents. This isolation helped cultivate a unique cultural identity, manifested in traditions, dialects, and social practices that are distinct yet reflective of the broader African American experience. Community gatherings, religious services, and social celebrations have often centered around the rhythms of the agricultural and fishing seasons, reinforcing the bond between the community and the land.

The cultural practices of the African American community on the Broadneck Peninsula are deeply rooted in the historical experiences of its people. From the legacies of enslavement and freedom to segregation and the advancements of the Civil Rights Movement, the community has navigated the challenges of history while maintaining a resilient and vibrant culture. Oral histories reveal how music, storytelling, and religious faith have served as pillars of strength and sources of joy, helping to preserve the community's heritage and transmit its values to future generations.

Education and mentorship have also played crucial roles in the community's cultural landscape. Despite facing systemic barriers, African American families on the Peninsula have long prioritized education as a pathway to empowerment and advancement. The establishment of schools and educational institutions, often in the face of adversity, is a testament to the community's commitment to learning and progress. These educational efforts have been complemented by a tradition of mentorship, where knowledge, skills, and wisdom are passed down, ensuring that the community's cultural and historical legacy continues to thrive.

The Broadneck Peninsula's geographical and cultural context is a narrative of resilience, adaptation, and unity. The land has shaped the community's economic pursuits and cultural traditions, while the community, in turn, has submitted to the land with its history and spirit. This symbiotic relationship underscores the importance of preserving the cultural and natural heritage of the Peninsula, as it represents not just the past but also the hopes and aspirations of the African American community for the future.

In summary, the geographical and cultural context of the Broadneck shed light on ways in which landscape, history, and community life are interwoven. The African American Oral History Collection offers a window into this dynamic interplay, providing valuable insights into the enduring connection between the African American community and the land they call home. Through these narratives, we gain a deeper appreciation for the ways in which geography and culture together shape the identity and resilience of communities.

3. Historical Overview

The Broadneck Peninsula, a region steeped in natural beauty and rich resources, has also been a witness to the complex tapestry of African American history, marked by perseverance in the face of adversity and an unwavering pursuit of freedom and equality within a state just south of

the Mason-Dixon. This historical overview seeks to explore the depth of the African American experience in this area, tracing its origins from the early days of enslavement, through the tumultuous times of segregation and the civil rights movement, to the ongoing struggles and achievements in the modern era.

In the beginning, the African American presence on the Broadneck Peninsula was intricately linked to the system of enslavement that defined the economic and social landscape of the region. The fertile lands and strategic waterways that made the Peninsula ideal for agriculture and trade also became the sites of forced labor and exploitation for countless African Americans (Figure 1). However, even in the darkest times, the community found ways to resist, preserve their culture, and foster a sense of solidarity that would lay the groundwork for future generations.

As the nation moved towards emancipation, the African American community on the Broadneck Peninsula began to carve out spaces of autonomy and self-determination, establishing institutions such as churches and schools that would become the bedrock of their cultural and social identity. The following communities are just some of what emerges as hubs for the Black experience in the Broadneck Peninsula: Brownswoods, Mulberry Hill, Skidmore, Clay Hill, Middletown, Shocktown, and Shirleyville. These spaces not only served as centers of education and worship but also as beacons of hope and activism in the fight for civil rights and social justice.



Figure 1. 1667 Map Created by James E. Moss, Author of Providence: Lost Town at Severn

The civil rights movement of the mid-20th century marked a significant turning point for the African American community on the Peninsula. Local leaders and community members played crucial roles in the broader struggle for equality, participating in demonstrations, voter registration drives, and efforts to desegregate public spaces. The oral histories from this period reveal stories of courage, resilience, and the collective power of a community united in the pursuit of justice.

In recent decades, the African American community on the Broadneck Peninsula has continued to face challenges, including economic disparities, racial discrimination, and the ongoing struggle for representation and equality. Yet, the community's history of activism and resilience remains a source of strength and inspiration. Efforts to preserve the history and culture of the African American community on the Peninsula have gained momentum in recent years. A review of Anne Arundel County's Inventory of Historic Properties was undertaken in 2017, which found that only around 7% of the Inventory were documented as having an African American component. This historic 'blind spot' led to various state, county, and local efforts aimed at recognizing the importance of documenting and honoring the African American legacy of those who have fought for change.

Today, the African American community on the Broadneck Peninsula stands as a testament to the enduring spirit and contributions of its members throughout history. The oral histories collected from this community not only serve as a record of past struggles and achievements but also as a guide for future generations. They underscore the importance of remembering and learning from history, highlighting the community's ongoing contributions to the cultural, social, and economic fabric of the region.

This historical overview, rooted in the narratives of the African American Oral History Collection, reflects the complexity, depth, and dynamism of the African American experience on the Broadneck Peninsula. It serves as a reminder of the power of resilience, the importance of community, and the ongoing quest for justice and equality that defines the American spirit.

4. Themes and Narratives

"Until the lion learns how to write, the story will glorify the hunter". This Section aims to gain a better understanding and gratitude for the rich heritage of African Americans thriving on the Peninsula. Oral histories are crucial in preserving communal memory and identity. These narratives provide a unique insight into the lived experiences of the community, highlighting their struggles, resilience, and contributions. By documenting these stories, AFDF's Oral History Project ensures that the rich cultural heritage and historical significance of African Americans in this region are recognized, celebrated, and passed on to future generations, reinforcing a sense of pride and belonging.

4.1. Land and Heritage

In the Broadneck Peninsula, land ownership transcends mere possession, embodying deep connections to family legacy and community stability. It represents a tangible link to ancestors, a symbol of resilience and survival through generations. Personal stories from the community illustrate a profound bond with the land, where environmental and economic changes have both challenged and reshaped these relationships. As landscapes evolve, so too do the narratives of the people, reflecting adaptations to maintain cultural heritage and community cohesion amidst shifting realities. This dynamic interplay between land, heritage, and identity underscores the intrinsic value of preserving these stories for future generations.

Drawing from Upton Thomas Jr.'s oral history, he reminisces about his family's longstanding ownership of land, a legacy initiated by his great-grandfather, which has been passed down through generations, illustrating the profound bond between the African American community and their ancestral lands. He states, "My mother's family owned most of the property on the place where I live right now... It was from the beginning of Middletown Road and went all the way down to 50," showcasing the importance of land as a pillar of family identity and heritage. He emphasizes how land ownership has offered a sense of permanence and stability amidst the broader societal shifts and challenges faced by the community. Thomas Jr.'s story, echoing through generations, serves as a testament to the resilience of the African American families on the Broadneck Peninsula, navigating through historical adversities while maintaining a steadfast connection to their land and heritage.



Devon Edwards Sr. interviews Upton Thomas Jr.

Anne Greene shares profound connections to her homeland on the Broadneck Peninsula, emphasizing the importance of land for family legacy and community stability. She recalls growing up in Skidmore, a place "full of family and love," highlighting how land ownership and familial connections fostered a strong community bond. Greene's narrative underscores the impact of environmental and economic changes, reflecting on government actions that threatened community cohesion. Her dedication to preserving the area's history and her activism against infrastructure projects that could displace her community illustrates a resilient commitment to safeguarding her heritage for future generations.

While sitting in the pew seats of the church, Carl Owens discusses the broader implications of land ownership and its significance to the African American community in the Broadneck Peninsula. He reflects on the historical and systemic challenges faced by the community, stating, "The only reparation for land is land, but you don't get my land back," emphasizing the intrinsic value of land ownership and its role in community identity and heritage. Owens also highlights the complexities surrounding reparations and land ownership, pondering, "if somebody gave us reparations, what we would do with it if we don't know? When you give me this, help me invest." This quote highlights the need for knowledge and guidance in utilizing reparations or regained land effectively to benefit the community and future generations.

Tarry Morris provides a vivid portrayal of the importance of land and family legacy. Morris mentions, "Mulberry Hills a rural community. It is basically all family... my great grandfather... had like 10 acres of land there. Gave each one of his children a piece of that land. That land still standing there today and most of the family still is home". This quote underscores the significance of land as both a physical and a symbolic anchor for family heritage and unity.

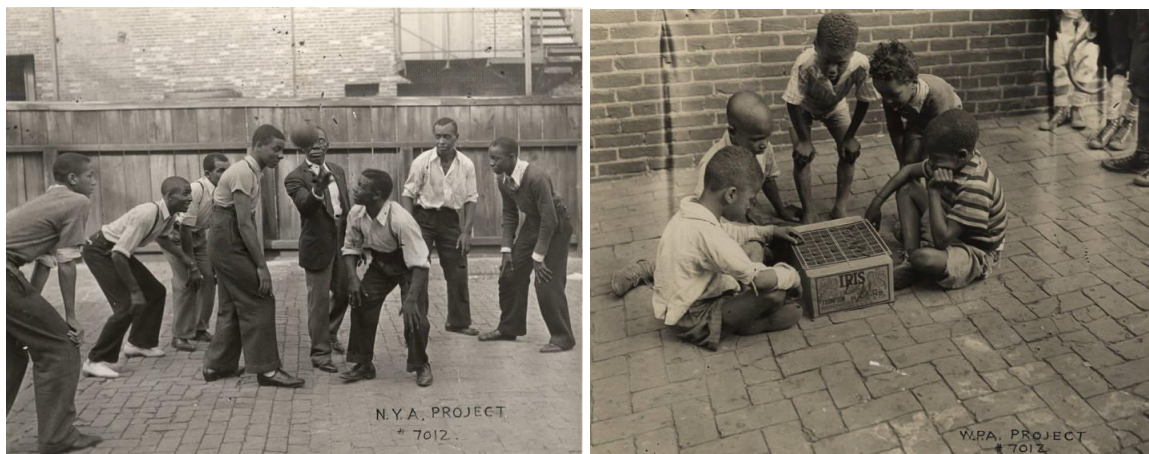
4.2. Family Dynamics and Community Life

This section delves into the web of relationships and traditions that form the bedrock of the Broadneck Peninsula's African American communities. This exploration is not merely an examination of the past but a living narrative that continues to evolve and shape the present and future. We will also explore the robust community support systems that have sustained generations, highlighting the essential role of traditions in maintaining cultural continuity amidst change. As we navigate through personal memories, the reflections presented will shed light on the dynamic and evolving nature of communal bonds. This narrative is not only about survival but about thriving through the support, love, and collective wisdom that these intertwined relationships provide.

Gerald Stansbury recounts his childhood experiences, highlighting the simplicity and hard work that characterized his family's life. "I was raised by Reverend Dr. George Stansbury and Evelyn Bernice Johnson... we didn't have running water... We had a little outhouse... My father was a minister... he actually got me involved at a young age in the civil rights movement". This quote underscores the humble beginnings and strong work ethic instilled in Stansbury from a young age, as well as the significant influence of his father's community engagement. Stansbury also

fondly remembers the sense of unity and familial connections within the community. "It was close to the family... whether you are brother or sister cousin that's what we were told we were. That's your cousin. So that's your aunt so and so." This deep sense of interconnectedness was a cornerstone of the community's strength and resilience. Reflecting on community life and leisure, Stansbury shares, "We did a lot of activity outside... We play kickball, homerun derby... a lot of what we did was more creativity... We used to shoot marbles... We did a lot of dodgeball". These memories showcase the close-knit, active community that fostered creativity and camaraderie among children.

Randy Rowel Sr. speaks on the historical and contemporary significance of family and community in the Broadneck Peninsula. He shares insights into how land ownership, educational pursuits, and religious practices have served as pillars of strength and unity for the African American community there. "We were living a little different... we were more self-sufficient. My Grandpa said we're self-sufficient with our food, chickens, and our own fruits, we had our own garden". This reflects the community's resilience and self-sufficiency, crucial elements in sustaining family and community life. Emphasizing the importance of oral histories and storytelling, Rowel Sr. speaks to the efforts made by individuals and families to preserve their histories and cultural heritage for future generations. "It's important to know where you come from... to preserve that history for the next generations. Our family's story is tied to this land, and it's a story of resilience, strength, and community". This sentiment, while paraphrased, underscores the importance of family history and the efforts to preserve and pass down legacies and stories that define community identity. Rowel Sr. also reflects on the challenges faced by the community, particularly regarding land ownership. "How did all these black people end up with all this land in this area? Some of them were given land to sharecroppers and then some of them end up owning the land." His insights highlight the complex history of land acquisition and ownership that has been a significant factor in the community's development.



left to right: Tip-off basketball game, Boys playing checkers, both from Enoch Pratt Free Library, Maryland Department, 1934-1935

Additionally, Tarry Morris highlights the central role of the church in community cohesion, stating, "You had to go to church... your parents demanded that you go to church every Sunday". This illustrates the church's vital role not only as a place of worship but also as a crucial institution for social and moral guidance, reflecting the intertwined nature of faith and community life. Through Morris' testimony, we better understand the interplay between family dynamics, community solidarity and vital role of tradition and cultural heritage. Tarry Morris speaks about the importance of music and its role in cultural continuity. "My great grandfather was a captain of the second crane band... all of his children were members of the singing and praying band." Music and communal singing were not only forms of entertainment but also ways to preserve and pass down cultural traditions.

Upton Thomas Jr. reflects on the significant role of the church in his life and the broader community. When speaking on the Asbury Broadneck as a community hub, Upton states "This was a Community Church. So at that time most of the family came here to the church and we'd see each other here at church... And then the other activities again that the church had that we would go families and all". This quote underscores the church's role as a central gathering place where family and community members would keep in touch and participate in communal activities. Upton would also state that "we as a church family always went on trips... to Druid Hill Park or Hershey Park Pennsylvania... that was good. Kept you in contact with the community"

4.3. Segregation, Integration, and Civil Rights

This section serves as a brief exploration into the complex dynamics of racial segregation, the journey toward integration, and the commitment to civil rights within the Broadneck Peninsula's African American community. By harnessing the narratives shared by individuals such as Upton H. Thomas Jr, Randy Rowel Sr., and Gerald Stansbury, this segment offers a window into the soul of a community bound by resilience, ambition, and a shared quest for justice. These oral histories, rich with the essence of lived experiences, paint a vivid picture of a society in transition, showcasing the pivotal role played by educational reforms, community solidarity, and the spirit of activism in shaping the course of the Broadneck Peninsula's history.

In Gerald Stansbury's oral history, he shares poignant reflections on segregation, integration, and the struggle for civil rights, underscored by personal anecdotes and broader societal observations. Stansbury spoke with us about the consequences of school desegregation on the Broadneck Peninsula, "It broke up the family structure in a lot of ways. [...] we had PTA meetings that my mother couldn't make the PTA meeting, my aunt would because her son went to the school too; we had that community support". Stansbury reflects on the persistent issue of racism, recounting a particularly jarring experience recalling "I parked in front of a store, and the guy came up to the store and said to me, using the N-word, 'Move your car out of my store in front of my store.' [...] But there were enough witnesses who saw what happened from both sides, white and black, who actually came to court, and the guy was charged with doing that". Randy Rowel Sr. offers a poignant reflection on the limitations imposed by segregation. "I remember the separate water fountains and the back entrances we had to use. It was

humiliating and degrading, but it was our reality." These firsthand accounts highlight the daily indignities faced by the African American community, fostering a sense of collective resilience and determination to fight for equality.

The civil rights movement was a beacon of hope and a catalyst for change, as African Americans on the Broadneck Peninsula joined the broader struggle for justice and equality. Gerald Stansbury speaks with pride about his father's involvement in the civil rights movement. "My father was a minister and got me involved at a young age. We participated in marches and protests. It was about standing up for our rights and demanding change." The active participation of community members in civil rights activism was instrumental in challenging and dismantling systemic racism. Randy Rowel Sr. recalls the impact of national civil rights leaders on the local community. "We were inspired by leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X. Their words and actions motivated us to fight for our own rights here on the Broadneck Peninsula." The influence of these iconic figures provided a powerful impetus for local activism, galvanizing the community to push for equal rights and justice.

Through the lens of personal testimonies, readers are invited to witness the transformative power of civil rights movements, led by courageous individuals and community groups who challenged the status quo to forge paths toward equality. Upton Thomas Jr. shares his experiences with the initial phases of integration, describing the mixed reactions and resistance faced. "When integration started, it wasn't easy. There were protests, and many white families didn't want their children going to school with black children. But there were also those who supported it and stood with us." Thomas's narrative underscores the varied responses to integration, highlighting both the obstacles and the allies who played crucial roles in the process.

The narrative further delves into the strategic use of political engagement, emphasizing the critical role of voting and legislative advocacy as tools for change. Through this detailed exposition, the section not only chronicles the struggles and triumphs of the African American community on the Broadneck Peninsula but also serves as a testament to their enduring legacy of resilience and perseverance in the face of adversity.

4.4. Education and Aspiration

The theme of education and aspiration emerges prominently in the oral histories of the African American community in Broadneck Peninsula, Anne Arundel County, Maryland. These narratives highlight the community's commitment to education as a means of achieving personal and collective progress despite historical and systemic challenges. This analysis draws from the voices of various community members, reflecting on their educational experiences and the aspirations that fueled their journeys.

Education is a recurring motif in the stories shared by the interviewees. The dedication to learning and the sacrifices made by families to ensure educational opportunities are evident. For

instance, Curtis Gross Sr. speaks about the investments made in his education, emphasizing the role of family support and the community's prioritization of educational resources. He recalls, "We put a lot of money to resources to give you tutors, getting you to take advanced classes or taking a class at the community college". This highlights a broader community effort to enhance educational attainment among its youth.

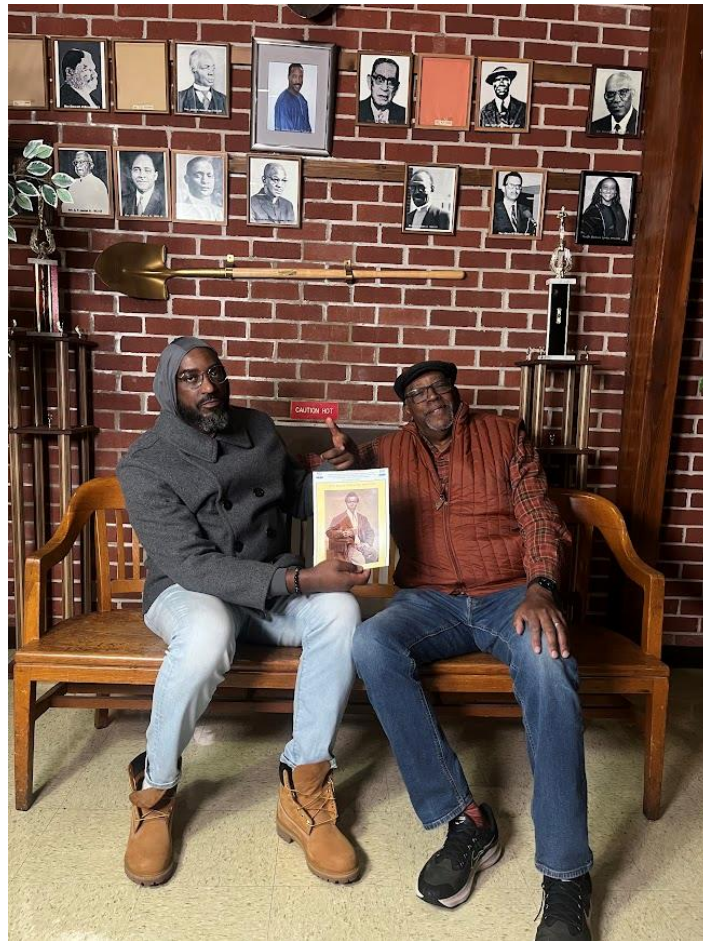
Similarly, Upton Thomas Jr. reflects on the importance of education in his family and community. He narrates his educational journey, attending schools such as Skidmore Elementary and Bates High School, which was the predominant African American institution during segregation. Thomas emphasizes how his community valued education as a pathway to better opportunities: "To me, that education is the important thing".

The narratives also reveal the barriers faced by African Americans in accessing education, especially during segregation. Many interviewees discuss attending segregated schools with limited resources. Upton Thomas Jr. notes the disparities in educational facilities and opportunities, contrasting his experiences with those of white peers. He states, "A lot of guys who went to school with me did carpentry and auto mechanics... But they dropped all of those. And you know, a lot of places they even got rid of PE and things". This indicates the limited vocational training available in African American schools, which affected career opportunities.

Tarry Morris shares her experience of walking through a white-owned farm to get to school, facing obstacles and occasional hostility. She recalls, "Some days he would let us come across his farm to get to school... Some days he didn't let us come through". This highlights the physical and social barriers that African American students had to navigate to receive an education.

Despite these challenges, the aspirations of the Broadneck Peninsula community members drove them to achieve significant milestones. For many, education was a stepping stone to professional success and personal fulfillment. For example, Curtis Gross Sr. discusses how his work ethic, instilled by his father, complemented his educational pursuits and led to a long career at the Board of Education. His story reflects a common theme of using education as a means to uplift oneself and contribute to the community.

Randy Rowel Sr. also illustrates the aspiration for continuous improvement through education. He recounts his journey from working at a young age to eventually obtaining advanced degrees and engaging in community organizing and disaster preparedness. His narrative underscores the importance of lifelong learning and the pursuit of knowledge beyond formal education.



Kenyatta Rowel Jr. and Randy Rowel Sr. at ABUMC with image of ancestor, Rev. Samuel Green.

The impact of education on successive generations is a significant aspect of these oral histories. Many interviewees express a desire to pass on the value of education to their children and grandchildren. Upton Thomas Jr. proudly mentions his son's medical career and his grandson's scholarship to Marquette University, emphasizing the continuity of educational aspirations within his family.

Tarry Morris echoes this sentiment, advising future generations to persevere and value education: "I would tell them, 'Don't give up. Don't give up on yourself... Just keep on moving'". Her message reflects a broader community ethos of resilience and aspiration, encouraging young people to pursue their goals despite potential setbacks. Tarry Morris also emphasized the role of the church in supporting educational pursuits. "The church played a big role in encouraging us to pursue education. They would organize study groups, tutoring sessions, and even provide scholarships for those who needed them." The collective effort to promote education extended beyond formal schooling. Gerald Stansbury recalls, "We had mentors in the community who would help us with our homework, teach us skills, and guide us in our career choices. It was a community effort to ensure that we succeeded."

The dedication to education within the Broadneck Peninsula community is reflected in numerous personal stories. Curtis Gross Sr. speaks about his father's determination to ensure his children's education despite economic hardships. "My dad had quit school when he was seven years old to take care of his mother because his father died at an early age... He did whatever means it took for him to make money to help his mom". This story underscores the sacrifices made by previous generations to create educational opportunities for their descendants. Anne Green adds a unique perspective, discussing how her family's support and expectations drove her academic achievements. "My parents always stressed the importance of education. They made sure I had everything I needed to succeed, from books to a quiet place to study". This encouragement was pivotal in her journey, leading to a successful career in education.

Randy Rowel Sr. discusses the support he received from his community, which was crucial in his educational journey. "The community always backed us up. When I was in school, the church would hold fundraisers to help us buy books and supplies. It was a collective effort". This communal support was essential in overcoming financial barriers and ensuring that students had the resources they needed to succeed. Gerald Stansbury reflects on the mentorship he received from community elders, which played a significant role in his educational and personal development. "One of my greatest experiences was Sunday school... They made us read. They made us do scriptures... My father always reminded me, honor your mother and father that your days may be long upon the land". This guidance helped shape his values and work ethic, contributing to his success. Upton Thomas Jr. highlights the role of extracurricular activities in his educational experience. "I was involved in sports and the arts, which kept me engaged and motivated. It wasn't just about academics; it was about being well-rounded". These activities provided a holistic education, fostering personal growth and social skills.

The oral histories also reveal the systemic barriers that African Americans faced in their pursuit of education. Segregated schools often lacked the resources and facilities available to white students, creating significant challenges. Gerald Stansbury recounts the disparities he observed, stating, "Our schools didn't have the same equipment or textbooks that the white schools had. We had to make do with what we had, and it wasn't easy".

Tarry Morris shares her experience of navigating these inequalities, emphasizing the resilience required to succeed. "We had to walk miles to get to school, and sometimes we weren't allowed to cross certain properties. But we persevered because we knew education was our way out". Her story highlights the determination of African American students to overcome physical and social barriers to achieve their educational goals. Carl Owens offers insights into the broader implications of these disparities, discussing how the lack of resources in African American schools affected career opportunities. "A lot of us wanted to pursue professional careers, but we were limited by the education we received. We had to work twice as hard to prove ourselves". This statement underscores the systemic challenges faced by African American students and their relentless pursuit of excellence.

Education has been a cornerstone of community empowerment on the Broadneck Peninsula. Upton Thomas Jr. discusses how education was viewed as a means of achieving social mobility and economic stability. "For us, education was the key to a better life. It opened doors to opportunities that were otherwise closed to us". This belief in the transformative power of education motivated many in the community to pursue higher education and professional careers. Randy Rowel Sr. illustrates this point with his own journey from a labor-intensive job to a career in public service. "I started working at a young age, but I always knew I wanted more. Through education, I was able to advance and eventually work in community organizing and disaster preparedness". His story demonstrates the impact of education on personal and professional growth. The community's collective effort to promote education extended beyond individual achievements. Gerald Stansbury recalls the establishment of community programs to support students. "We had after-school programs and tutoring sessions organized by the church and community leaders. It was all about making sure our kids had the best chance to succeed". These initiatives played a crucial role in enhancing educational outcomes and fostering a supportive learning environment.

The legacy of educational aspiration is evident in the successive generations of the Broadneck Peninsula community. Upton Thomas Jr. proudly shares the accomplishments of his descendants, highlighting the continuity of educational values. "My son is a doctor, and my grandson got a scholarship to Marquette University. It makes me proud to see them achieving their dreams". This legacy underscores the lasting impact of the community's commitment to education. Tarry Morris emphasizes the importance of passing on these values to future generations. "I always tell my grandchildren, 'Education is your key to success. Don't let anything hold you back'". Her advice reflects a broader ethos of perseverance and aspiration that continues to inspire young people in the community. Anne Green echoes the importance of this legacy, emphasizing the role of family in maintaining educational aspirations. "My children and grandchildren know the value of education because it was instilled in me and I passed it on to them". Her story highlights the intergenerational transmission of values and the continuous effort to uplift future generations through education.

Gerald Stansbury echoes this sentiment, stressing the importance of maintaining the community's educational focus. "We have to keep pushing for better schools and more opportunities for our kids. It's our responsibility to ensure they have the tools they need to succeed". This commitment to continuous improvement is a testament to the community's enduring dedication to education.



Gerald Stansbury Sr. interview with Devon Edwards Sr.

Carl Owens offers a powerful narrative about overcoming educational hurdles to achieve success. He recalls, "I was determined to go to college despite the financial and societal barriers. I worked multiple jobs and applied for every scholarship I could find. It was a tough journey, but I made it". His story illustrates the grit and perseverance required to navigate the challenging educational landscape of the time. Anne Green shares a similar story of determination and achievement. "My parents couldn't afford to send me to college, but they always encouraged me to pursue my dreams. I worked hard, saved money, and eventually earned a scholarship. That scholarship changed my life". Green's narrative highlights the transformative power of educational opportunities and the life-changing impact of scholarships and financial aid.

The role of the church in supporting educational pursuits cannot be overstated. Tarry Morris highlights how the church acted as a pillar of support for students. "The church organized tutoring sessions and study groups. They even helped with school supplies and uniforms. It was a real community effort to make sure we all had what we needed to succeed". This support system was crucial for many students who faced financial and social barriers to education. Gerald Stansbury recalls the mentorship provided by community leaders and elders. "We had mentors who were always there to guide us, whether it was with homework, career advice, or just life lessons. Their support was invaluable". This mentorship helped bridge the gap between educational aspirations and practical achievements, providing students with the guidance they needed to navigate their educational journeys.

The systemic barriers faced by African American students in the Broadneck Peninsula were significant. Schools were often underfunded and lacked the resources available to white schools. Anne Green discusses the disparities she experienced. "Our textbooks were outdated, and we didn't have access to the same facilities as the white schools. But we made the best of what we had and worked twice as hard". This resilience in the face of adversity is a common theme in the community's educational narrative. Carl Owens reflects on the long-term impact of these disparities. "Despite the challenges, we were determined to succeed. Many of us went on to college and professional careers, proving that we could overcome the odds". His story underscores the community's collective determination to rise above the limitations imposed by systemic inequality.



Following Carl Owens interview with Kenyatta Rowel Jr. and Devon Edwards Sr.at ABUMC.

The importance of lifelong learning is a recurring theme in the oral histories. Randy Rowel Sr. emphasizes the value of continuous education. "Learning doesn't stop when you graduate. It's a lifelong journey. I've taken courses and attended workshops throughout my career to keep improving and stay updated". This commitment to lifelong learning is essential for personal and professional development. Upton Thomas Jr. also discusses the importance of staying engaged with educational opportunities throughout life. "Even after finishing school, I continued to learn through community courses and professional development programs. It's important to keep

growing and adapting". This perspective highlights the community's understanding that education is an ongoing process that extends beyond formal schooling.

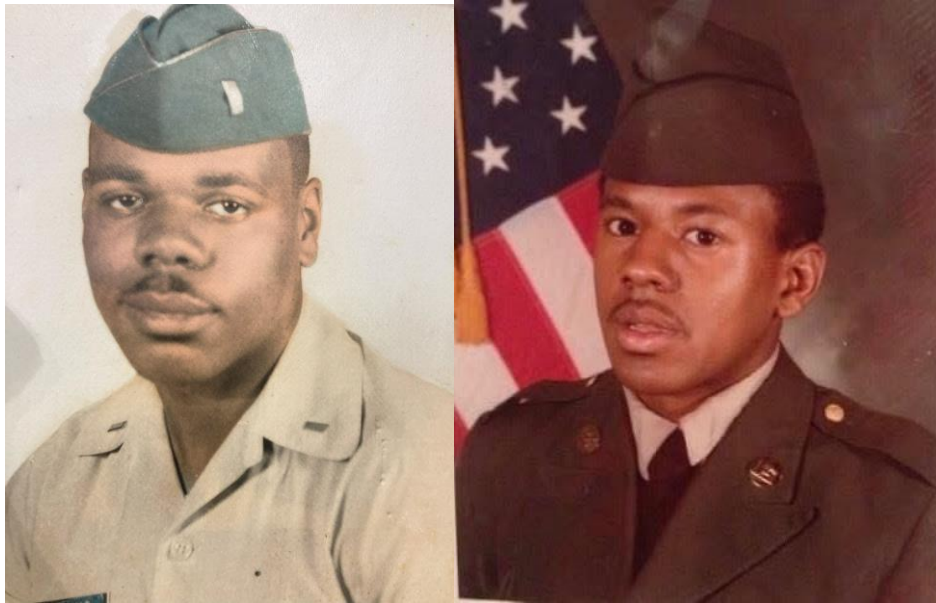
The legacy of educational aspiration is a powerful motivator for future generations. Anne Green speaks passionately about the importance of passing on this legacy. "We need to teach our children the value of education and hard work. It's our responsibility to ensure they have the opportunities to succeed". This commitment to future generations is a cornerstone of the community's educational ethos. Carl Owens reflects on the progress made and the work still to be done. "We've come a long way, but there's still more to do. We need to keep fighting for better schools and more resources for our children. Education is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty and inequality". His words serve as a call to action, reminding the community of the ongoing struggle for educational equity.

4.5. Military Service and Civic Engagement

The narratives of African American residents in Broadneck Peninsula, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, are rich with stories of military service and civic engagement. These experiences reflect the community's unwavering commitment to serving their country and contributing to societal progress through active civic participation. Drawing directly from the voices of the community members, this narrative weaves together their experiences and aspirations.

For many in the Broadneck Peninsula, military service provided a path to broader horizons and personal growth. Upton Thomas Jr., who served 20 years in the Air Force, shares vivid memories of his time in the military. His service during the Vietnam War was marked by both challenges and profound moments of faith. He recounts a harrowing experience during the Tet Offensive, where bombs failed to detonate in front of his door: "Three different times that happened right in front of the door; none of them went off. So we just say thank you God for everything". Despite the physical toll, including exposure to Agent Orange, Thomas reflects on his service with a sense of resilience and gratitude. "Despite the hardships, my faith and the support from my fellow soldiers kept me going".

Curtis Gross Sr. found camaraderie and a broader worldview through his military service. He speaks fondly of the friendships formed in the trenches, transcending racial and religious boundaries: "You meet people from all over the world. They become your friends because you're in the same trenches with them... The military taught me discipline and gave me a sense of purpose". For Gross, the military was a crucible of personal growth and understanding, offering experiences that shaped his perspective on life and community. Carl Owens offers insights into the challenges faced by African American soldiers during and after their service. "We faced discrimination both in the military and when we returned home. It was tough, but it also made us stronger and more determined to fight for our rights". Owens' experiences highlight the intersection of military service and the broader struggle for civil rights: "The fight for equality didn't end with our service; it continued at home".



Upton Thomas Jr and Curtis Gross Sr. military photos

Civic engagement has long been a cornerstone of the African American community in Broadneck Peninsula. Many residents have dedicated their lives to advocating for civil rights and social justice, leaving an indelible mark on their community and beyond. Gerald Stansbury embodies this spirit of activism through his long-term involvement with the NAACP. As president of the Anne Arundel County branch, Stansbury has championed legislative advocacy to bring about systemic change. His efforts have led to significant achievements, including the repeal of the death penalty and the passage of the Dream Act. Stansbury's philosophy on civic engagement is clear: "Rosa Parks was one woman and you watch what happened when the action is stopped riding the buses to action". His story is a powerful reminder of the impact one individual can have on a larger movement.

Randy Rowel Sr.'s commitment to community organizing and disaster preparedness highlights another facet of civic engagement. Balancing his military duties with his civic responsibilities, Rowel has made significant contributions to his community. His work emphasizes the importance of lifelong learning and service, demonstrating how civic engagement can complement and enhance military service. Anne Greene underscores the necessity of preserving and understanding the community's rich history. She advocates for younger generations to take up leadership roles, stressing the importance of civic participation: "I would like for some 40-year-olds, some passionate 30-year-olds to be out there saying, 'Look, I'm advocating for this community'". Her call to action reflects a deep-seated belief in the power of collective effort and intergenerational continuity.

The impact of military service and civic engagement on successive generations is a recurring theme in these narratives. The values of service, resilience, and activism are not only

celebrated but also actively passed down to younger family members. Upton Thomas Jr. proudly shares how his grandson used his military service for a school project, highlighting the educational value and family pride in their military heritage. This tradition of honoring service ensures that the values of dedication and civic duty remain integral to the community's identity. Tarry Morris speaks of her family's deep military roots, with all her uncles serving due to the lack of other job opportunities. "All my uncles served in the military because that was one of the few opportunities available to black men at the time. It was a way out and a way up". This history of service is a source of pride and testament to the community's resilience and dedication. Morris's narrative is a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by previous generations and their enduring legacy.

Anne Green shares the profound impact of her family's service on her own sense of civic responsibility. "My father's stories inspired me to get involved in my community and make a difference. It's about continuing the legacy of service". Her involvement in community advocacy is a direct reflection of the values instilled by her family. These narratives are filled with stories of personal sacrifice and resilience.



AFDF Members pose with interviewee Anne Green

Gerald Stansbury discusses the role of veterans in advocating for civil rights. "Many of us who served in the military came back with a renewed sense of purpose. We had fought for our country, and we were determined to fight for our rights at home". This sense of duty and activism underscores the connection between military service and civic engagement in the African American community.

The civic initiatives undertaken by community members have had a profound impact on the Broadneck Peninsula. Anne Greene speaks about the importance of preserving the community's history through education and advocacy. "Our history is rich and complex, and it's up to us to ensure that future generations understand and appreciate it. We need to be active in our communities and take leadership roles". Her efforts highlight the critical role of civic engagement in preserving cultural heritage and fostering community pride.

Randy Rowel Sr. highlights the importance of disaster preparedness and community resilience. "In times of crisis, it's the community that comes together to support each other. My work in disaster preparedness is about ensuring that we are ready to face any challenge and come out stronger". Rowel's work demonstrates the intersection of civic engagement and community well-being, emphasizing the importance of preparedness and collective action. Gerald Stansbury recalls organizing voter registration drives to ensure that African Americans could exercise their right to vote. "We knew that voting was our power. We organized drives to register as many people as possible. It was about making sure our voices were heard". This initiative was crucial in empowering the community and advocating for political change.

The legacy of service and civic duty is deeply embedded in the community's identity. Upton Thomas Jr. reflects on the enduring impact of his military service and civic involvement. "Serving in the military taught me the value of discipline and perseverance. My civic work has allowed me to give back to my community and make a difference". His story exemplifies the continuity of service and the importance of contributing to the greater good. Anne Greene emphasizes the importance of passing on these values to younger generations. "We need to instill a sense of civic duty and service in our children. It's about teaching them to be active, engaged citizens who care about their community and their country". This commitment to intergenerational education and engagement ensures that the values of service and civic responsibility remain vibrant and relevant.

Carl Owens shares his vision for the future, stressing the importance of continued advocacy and community involvement. "There's still a lot of work to be done. We need to keep pushing for equality and justice, both in the military and in our communities". His words serve as a reminder of the ongoing struggle for civil rights and the critical role of civic engagement in achieving social justice. Tarry Morris speaks about the importance of honoring veterans and their contributions. "We need to make sure that our veterans are remembered and honored for their service. They made sacrifices for our freedom, and it's our duty to recognize that". Her commitment to honoring veterans reflects the community's deep respect for those who have served.

4.6. Black Businesses in Broadneck

The story of Black business in the Broadneck Peninsula of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, is one of resilience, ingenuity, and community spirit. Through the voices of local entrepreneurs and community members, we gain insights into how these businesses not only provided essential

services but also fostered a sense of pride and self-sufficiency within the African American community.

The entrepreneurial spirit in Broadneck Peninsula can be traced back to the early 20th century. Curtis Gross Sr. reminisces about his grandfather, Sam Adams, a notable figure who ran an ice and wood delivery business. Gross recalls, "Everybody stopped by Sam to get ice... I thought that was really great to watch my grandfathers small business". This early example of Black entrepreneurship set a foundation for future generations. Upton Thomas Jr. also speaks about the vibrant community where many families owned businesses. He describes how his mother's family owned significant property, which was passed down through generations, fostering a stable environment for family-run enterprises. Thomas's own father was a construction worker, contributing to the community's infrastructure and economic stability.



Ice Delivery Truck from Wisconsin Historical Society, International Harvester Company, 128789. Viewed online at <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Image/IM128789>.

As time progressed, the types of businesses owned by African Americans in Broadneck diversified. Carl Owens highlights this evolution, mentioning various trades such as painting, mechanics, and plumbing that were common among Black business owners. Owens himself benefited from this rich entrepreneurial environment, drawing inspiration from his father who started with a single pickup truck and eventually expanded to a successful moving company. One notable business was the excavation company owned by James E. Henson Sr. and his brother. They were renowned for their expertise and reliability in building houses, digging foundations, and creating drainage systems. Curtis Gross Sr. emphasizes their impact: "They had a very successful businessman... left their mark on for the generations behind them".

Despite the historical presence of many Black-owned businesses, the community faced challenges in maintaining this entrepreneurial legacy. Economic challenges have also been a constant struggle. "My dad worked multiple jobs... His main job was a chef down at the Naval Academy... he also did a lot of side work... to put food on the family table," Curtis Gross Sr. shares. This hard work and determination were necessary to provide for their families and ensure a stable future. Randy Rowel Sr. reflects on his decision to scale his father's moving business to ensure quality service. He stresses the importance of honesty and trust in sustaining a successful business: "We feel like we are the best qualified candidate for that because we are honest... built on honesty and trust".

Anne Greene and Gerald Stansbury provide a deeper look into the socio-economic challenges faced by Black businesses and the broader community. Greene discusses the ongoing impact of historical injustices, emphasizing that systemic racism and economic disparities continue to affect African Americans today. She advocates for more community meetings and civic participation to address these issues: "We could come together better to just preserve what's there and hold on to our land if possible".

Stansbury, with his extensive involvement in the NAACP, highlights the critical role of legislative advocacy in overcoming these challenges. He stresses the importance of voting and civic engagement: "Change comes at the ballot box... We got to be aggressive with dealing with our issues". Stansbury's efforts have included fighting against economic deprivation and pushing for policies that support fair wages and job opportunities, which are essential for sustaining local businesses.

The legacy of Black business in Broadneck Peninsula is not just a historical account but a living narrative that continues to influence new generations. Tarry Morris advises young people to persevere and seek educational opportunities to improve their socio-economic status: "If it was any kind of education that I could get to move myself from that point to where I am now, I took it". The importance of passing down entrepreneurial values and skills is also evident in Curtis Gross Sr.'s story. He notes how working in his father's business from a young age taught him valuable life lessons and business acumen, which he now imparts to his own children and community.

4.7. Preserving Cultural Heritage and Memory

The African American community of Broadneck Peninsula in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, has a rich cultural heritage deeply rooted in the resilience and collective memory of its residents. The preservation of this heritage is a vital task, undertaken with a deep sense of responsibility by community members who recognize the importance of keeping their history alive for future generations. Through their oral histories, we gain insights into their efforts and the significance of their cultural legacy.

The narratives reveal a strong awareness of the historical roots and the importance of preserving the community's legacy. Anne Greene speaks passionately about her efforts to trace

her ancestry back to the slave ships and the importance of understanding this lineage. She mentions working on the Rosenwald school project and connecting with family members to uncover their shared history. "I've been doing history and looking back... I wanted to take me as far back to the slave ship as possible". This dedication underscores the community's commitment to uncovering and preserving its past.

Gerald Stansbury discusses the broader socio-economic challenges that have impacted the community, including discrimination and economic disparities. He emphasizes the role of community meetings and civic participation in addressing these issues and supporting local businesses. Stansbury stresses the importance of voting and legislative advocacy to combat economic deprivation and improve education and crime rates: "Change comes at the ballot box... We got to be aggressive with dealing with our issues".

Preserving cultural heritage is fraught with challenges, including the erasure of history and the loss of physical landmarks. Anne Greene highlights the impact of modern development and the encroachment on historically significant sites. She expresses concern over the lack of awareness among new residents about the rich history of Broadneck Peninsula. "There are people who live and died whose blood and bones are in this ground... I needed those people also to be a part of the story". Greene's advocacy for the inclusion of African American stories in broader historical narratives reflects a commitment to ensuring that their contributions are not forgotten.

Tarry Morris also touches on the difficulties of preserving memories in the face of changing demographics and societal shifts. She recalls the communal life of Mulberry Hill and the trails connecting it to other parts of the community. " We were all growing up we had trails in Mulberry Hill that connected to Brownwoods". These memories highlight the physical and social connections that once defined the community, now threatened by modern developments.



Tarry Morris interview in ABUMC choir loft with Darron Bryan-Queen and Curtis Gross Jr.

Efforts to preserve the community's cultural heritage often involve educational initiatives and public history projects. Anne Greene and others have worked on projects such as the Rosenwald school project, which seeks to document and celebrate the educational institutions that played a crucial role in the community during segregation. These schools were vital in providing quality education to African American children in an era of profound inequality.

Additionally, oral history projects, like those conducted by the Annual Father's Day Foundation, serve as a means to capture and preserve personal narratives. These projects not only document historical events but also convey the lived experiences and cultural practices of community members. For instance, Curtis Gross Sr. shares stories passed down from his mother and grandmother, emphasizing the importance of storytelling in maintaining cultural continuity: "History is what it is. Now a lot of folks that will ask why we keep digging this stuff up or why we keep going back to those dark days when our ancestors were in the dark days".

The Black church has historically been a cornerstone of the community, playing a crucial role in preserving cultural heritage and fostering a sense of unity. Randy Rowel Sr. speaks about the church's role in providing a deeper understanding of the community's contributions to the broader history of the region. He notes, "The annual Father's Day Foundation provides a deeper understanding of the cultural social economic contributions of the African American community to the broader history of the region". The church remains a place where community members gather, share their stories, and reinforce their cultural identity.

5. Conclusion

The African American Oral History Collection from the Broadneck Peninsula stands as a monumental testament to the resilience, culture, and heritage of the African American community in this historically rich region. These narratives offer a deeply personal lens through which we can view the significant events and movements that have defined the community's past and present. By delving into the stories shared by the community members, we uncover layers of struggle, triumph, and enduring spirit that characterize the history of the Broadneck Peninsula.

Nestled in the Chesapeake Bay Estuary between the Magothy and Severn Rivers, the Broadneck Peninsula is more than just a scenic backdrop; it is a land deeply intertwined with the lives of its inhabitants. The geographical setting has influenced the cultural practices, economic activities, and social relationships of the African American community. The lush landscapes, fertile grounds, and abundant waterways have not only provided sustenance but also shaped the community's work ethic, entrepreneurial spirit, and cultural traditions. The narratives in this collection reveal a profound bond between the people and their environment, illustrating how the rhythms of the land and sea have nurtured a way of life that has persisted through generations.

The historical backdrop of the African American community on the Broadneck Peninsula is marked by the enduring legacies of enslavement, segregation, and the fight for civil rights. These oral histories offer a personal lens to view the significant events and movements that have defined the community's past and present. From the earliest days of settlement through the trials and triumphs of the Civil Rights Movement to the ongoing struggles for equality and justice, the narratives within this collection illuminate the resilience and activism that have been central to the community's identity.

The African American presence on the Broadneck Peninsula is intricately linked to the region's agricultural and maritime economies. Through stories of labor, resistance, and community building, the oral histories chronicle the journey from the era of enslavement to the present day. They highlight the strategies employed by the community to overcome adversity and forge a distinct cultural identity. These narratives not only recount the challenges faced but also celebrate the achievements and cultural richness that have emerged from this storied past.

Family, education, religion, and economic adaptation are recurring themes throughout the collection, painting a vivid picture of a community that has continually sought to uphold its values and traditions amidst changing times. Personal anecdotes and reflections provide insights into the importance of community bonds, the role of education in advancing individual and collective aspirations, and the significance of religious institutions in sustaining spiritual and cultural continuity.

The geographical and cultural context of the Broadneck Peninsula illuminates the intricate ways in which landscape, history, and community life are interwoven. The African American Oral History Collection offers a window into this dynamic interplay, providing valuable insights into the enduring connection between the African American community and the land they call home. Through these narratives, we gain a deeper appreciation for the ways in which geography and culture together shape the identity and resilience of communities.

AFDF's goal in creating this collection was to fulfill a need within our community that has been minimally explored: documenting the oral histories associated with the active African American communities of the Broadneck Peninsula. From setting up the cameras and audio equipment at Asbury Broadneck United Methodist Church (ABUMC) to engaging with our elders in the community, the journey has been both enlightening and rewarding. The initial interview with Mr. Upton Thomas Jr. set the stage for a profound exploration of the complex history of the communities of color that call this peninsula home.

The stories shared by the interviewees provide a rich tapestry of experiences, highlighting the community's commitment to education, military service, civic engagement, and economic resilience. These narratives are not just historical accounts; they are living testimonies that continue to inspire and guide future generations. The dedication to preserving cultural heritage and memory is evident in the efforts of individuals like Anne Greene and Gerald Stansbury, who emphasize the importance of understanding and honoring the community's past.

The African American community on the Broadneck Peninsula has a vibrant legacy of Black business, military service, and civic engagement. These narratives showcase the community's resilience, commitment to service, and active participation in societal progress. Through their experiences, the residents of Broadneck Peninsula demonstrate the powerful impact of military and civic contributions on both individual lives and the broader community. Their stories are a testament to the enduring legacy of service and activism that continues to inspire future generations.

In conclusion, the African American Oral History Collection from the Broadneck Peninsula is a celebration of the indomitable spirit, cultural heritage, and historical significance of the African American community in this region. These narratives underscore the vital role that such stories play in the broader tapestry of American history and culture. By preserving these stories, we honor the past, illuminate the present, and inspire future generations to build upon this rich legacy. Through this endeavor, we celebrate the contributions and resilience of the African American community on the Broadneck Peninsula, ensuring that their voices are heard and their stories are remembered.

Oral History Collections:

Date	Location	Interviewer	Interviewee
September 10, 2023	ABUMC	Devon Edwards Sr.	Upton Thomas Sr.
October 22, 2023	ABUMC	Devon Edwards Sr.	Gerald Stansbury Sr.
November 26, 2023	ABUMC	Devon Edwards Sr.	Anne Green
December 17, 2023	ABUMC	Randy K. Rowel Jr.	Carl Owens
January 7, 2024	ABUMC	Randy K. Rowel Jr.	Randy Rowel Sr.
January 21, 2024	ABUMC	Curtis .W. Gross Jr.	Tarry Morris
March 17, 2024	ABUMC	Curtis W. Gross Jr.	Curtis Gross Sr.
