

#####



EVERYONE INVITED

All ages come join us on Monday, May 11th

The Center will host two tours on Monday, May 11th. For early risers, the first session begins at 9 a.m., for the annual 5th Grade Washington School Walking Tour. Join a classroom, tour and hear presentations at the Center, the Pine Street Colored Cemetery, and the Lincoln Colored School (housed in Life Style Furniture).

The second session begins at noon for Buckeye Hills Career Center. This is their first visit to the Center.

We welcome the public to come to any and all presentations to learn just a bit of the past. It may ignite a passion for more!

**CHARLES RICHARD PATTERSON:
Founder of World's First Black-Owed Automobile
Manufacturing Company (a Gallipolis business)**

Charles Richard Patterson was born into slavery in April 1833 on a Virginia Plantation. He learned blacksmithing skills and became a blacksmith after escaping to freedom via the underground railroad. He settled in Greenfield OH in 1865.

Because of his skill, Patterson was hired at the Dines & Simpson Carriage and Coach Makers Company. He was promoted to foreman and later formed a partnership with J. P. Lowe. They created a carriage building company

noted for its expert craftsmanship and high quality. Patterson assumed sole ownership in 1873 when Lowe died.

He renamed the company C. R. Patterson Company and made 28 types of horse-drawn vehicles, including buggies, backboards, phaetons (a light, open, 4-wheel carriage drawn by a pair of horses; also the name of a touring car), rockaways (a 2-wheel carriage with 2 seats and a standing top), and surreys. These were the era's most popular wagons.

One of Charles and Josephine's children was named Frederick Douglass, who was instrumental in changing the horse-drawn carriage business into an automobile manufacturing business.

About 1909, transportation changed to "horseless" carriages, so Frederick changed to automobiles and began building the Patterson-Greenfield Motorcar, which debuted on September 23, 1915. The Patterson Company made 4-door touring cars and roadsters which was alleged to be better than the Model T by some guy named Ford in Detroit. Both cars cost around \$850, and it is estimated that about 150 Patterson-Greenfield automobiles were manufactured.

Patterson stopped making cars and concentrated on school buses, hearses, moving vans, and trucks to haul ice, milk and baked goods. Around 1930, the company used all steel bodies for their vehicles. In the mid 1930's the company was one of the first to manufacture 2-wheel trailers. Patterson-made buses were used in Cincinnati. Fred Patterson died in 1937.

CHARLES RICHARD PATTERSON

(continued):

While the Patterson family struggled to keep up with the times, Detroit went to mass production of the automobile. The Patterson Company could not raise the capital to keep abreast of the industry when the Depression occurred. **Unable to continue in Greenfield, the Patterson’s accepted an offer to relocate in Gallipolis, Ohio, and changed its name to the Gallia Body Company.** Opened for about a year before lack of financial support and lack of experienced workers, the business closed in 1939.

The Patterson family was saluted in Philadelphia during Black History Month several years ago, which brought attention to and recognition of the accomplishments of ex-slave C.R. Patterson and his son, Frederick Douglass, and their automobile manufacturing company.

(Article taken from African-Americans on Wheels, January 2005, and *Forgotten Faces*, Black Automaker Among Early Trailblazers, Reginald Larrie, 1996)

Perils of a Board Member: Repairs

By Rosann Hollinshed

Bobette Braxton (secretary/treasurer) was met with a huge surprise when she went to the center to pick up the mail in February. The building was frigid, literally ice cold!! When she went to the thermostat to turn up the temperature, it would not click on. It was completely broken. Due to our winter with subfreezing temperatures and record breaking snow fall and precipitation, HVAC repairmen were overwhelmed with a waiting list and our building was not a priority. When the repairmen finally came, it was determined the furnace could not be fixed. A new furnace needed to be purchased and it had to be ordered. She then noticed water was pouring into the street from the building.

You guessed it. Water pipes frozen and busted! No need to fix water lines until the furnace is fixed, so she called and had the water turned off. It’s was a blessing that the Center is closed from January through March.

The new furnace arrived and installation date scheduled. Bobette would open, close and be there for questions or needed decisions on unexpected costs. Just ask Bobette about her luck one very cold, snowy winter day while getting the furnace fixed. (You’ll have to laugh!) It took three days to complete installation.

Okay, now we can call the plumbers and get the water lines repaired. It is now April. To make a long story shorter, it took another 3 days to fix the busted water lines. More decisions! Water lines had to be rerouted and solid cement under the bathroom floors. Needless to say, there is still more work to do in the bathrooms by May 11th. Any volunteers? Pretty please -- to help preserve my sister’s sanity.

GEE QUIZ:

SICKNESS & REMEDIES

By Rosann Hollinshed

Due to length of this Spring Newsletter, Sickness & Remedies which will cover more epidemics, herbs, and medicines used by slaves and Indians will be continued in the Summer Newsletter as promised. (After the Tourism Expo, we know people are interested and using some of these old remedies.)

So I decided to research illnesses that our ancestors dealt with and how they treated them. I looked up epidemics in America to find that **smallpox** (1633 – 1634) was the first epidemic in America, brought over by the Europeans. Surprisingly the population most affected by smallpox was Native American Indians in the northeast. Their population was believed to have plummeted by 70%. Slave obtained their medical knowledge from Native Americans and white people.

Native American remedies are dependent on the tribe and the geographical location of the tribe. Ceremony and ritual also play a very important part in any herbal treatment; their role is balancing the body and spirit.

One of the most popular herbs used is **white sage**. Another natural remedy was **black cohosh** some being ginseng, echinacea, St. John's wort, pennyroyal, yarrow, red clover, ephedra and golden seal

This was the main epidemic and some herbal remedies used by Native Americans. As I stated before, the slaves learned mostly from Native Americans, so they used many of the same herbs for the same health problems.

* * * * *

TIP OF THE HAT:

- To Dorothy Casey and Althea Howard for visiting & taking poinsettias to nursing homes and shut- ins.
- To Bobette Braxton for overseeing building repairs.

* * * * *

Gee Quiz Answer:

* * * * *

UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 25 – Tourism Expo

* * * * *

Please send 2015 Membership Dues to:

Bobette Braxton, Treasurer
108 Pine Street
Gallipolis OH 45631

- Individual - \$20.00
- Family - \$35.00
- Nonprofit/Church - \$50.00
- Business/Corporation - \$100.00

TOURS:

Individual or group tours of the Center can be arranged by calling Dorothy Casey at 446-2447 or Bobette Braxton at 441-0999.