

The Struggle for Education of Black Children in 19th Century Albany

"Without a struggle, there can be no progress." - Frederick Douglass

Frederick Douglass knew the meaning of struggle. Born a slave in the early 1800s, he escaped from his life of captivity, taught himself to read, and became one of America's foremost orators and statesmen with a passion for equality. Douglass would have lauded the efforts of the black community of 19th century Albany as they struggled to provide an education for their children.

Albany Common Council laws were rigid in their allowances of land and financial aid for schools for "children of color," so leaders in the black community decided to use their own land and places of worship for this purpose. In 1811, Benjamin Lattimore purchased a lot on Malcolm Street (now known as Broad Street) from Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton, the widow of Alexander Hamilton. On this lot, the first "Albany School for Educating People of Color" was established. Over the next two decades, other schools were tried such as the "African School" in the basement of the African Baptist Church on Hamilton Street and the "School for Colored Children" or "Free Colored School" in the basement of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church on Chestnut Street.

By July 1845, a new public elementary school house for black children was built at 37 Chestnut Street at a cost of \$830 to the city. The Wilberforce School, named after a British abolitionist, became the only public school that black children could attend until 1873, when the law was changed to accept them into the Albany Public School system. Maintaining the Wilberforce School required constant effort on the part of the black community. Along with providing proper building maintenance, proponents of the Wilberforce School faced the constant challenge of supplying it with good teachers, books and supplies while also paying the mortgage. Archival records show the Board of Public Instruction monitoring the school by listing the salaries, supplies and other expenses incurred in its daily operation.

Leaders sought to propel this educational movement forward by engaging teachers from the black community to instruct their young. Thomas Paul, nephew of Rev. Nathaniel Paul, pastor of the African Baptist Church and a passionate advocate for the Albany's black community, became one of the first black teachers in Albany. After graduating from Dartmouth College, Paul taught at the Wilberforce School on Hamilton Street and later became principal of the school for eight years.

April 1873 heralded a significant month for Albany and all of New York State when civil rights legislation prohibited school officials from denying black children entrance into any public school. This was followed by a state law of 1884 allowing black educators, as "tried and capable public servants," to teach in the Albany public schools. By 1913, Harriet Lewis, an

Albany resident educated in Albany schools, became the first black teacher to obtain a permanent position in the Albany Public School system.

In recognition of Black History Month's theme, The Crisis in Black Education, records from the archives at the Albany County Hall of Records help show the struggle that Albany's black community had to educate their children. Documents on exhibit include the property deed for the first black school, Common Council records and minutes and accounts from the Board of Public Instruction (later, The Board of Education) and a map showing the locations of the various black schools throughout the city. Together, these records help demonstrate the determination of Albany's black community to establish a firm foundation for educating its children.

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88-03323. County Clerk, City of Albany Map #13 by Sprague & Dripps, 1857.

A map of the city of Albany showing sites of schools for black children during the 19th century. Red buildings are schoolhouses; green are churches.



Education in Albany Timeline: Locations, events and archival records associated with the struggle for establishing schools for black children 1811-1913

- 1811 Site of Albany “School for Educating People of Color,” Lot 12 on Malcolm Street.**
Document: 87-05125: County Clerk, Deed book 25, 1819-1822, pp. 33-34. Deed to land purchased April 20 1811 by Benjamin Lattimore from Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton (widow of Alexander Hamilton) for the sum of \$400. Lot 12 on Malcolm Street, now 90-92 Broad Street, was the site of the first school built for the education of Albany’s black community.
- 1816 Members of Albany’s Black Community petitioned NYS Legislature for permission to establish a school in Albany. ‘Albany School for Educating People of Color’- established under Chapter 87 [Laws of the State of NY, 39th session, NYS Legislature, 1816]**
- 1823 Site of African School in basement of African Baptist Church on Hamilton between Fulton and Grand Streets.** First African Baptist Church located on Hamilton above South Pearl, between Grand and Fulton Streets (Rev Nathaniel Paul, Pastor). The African School was in the basement. Later, students from the Wilberforce School studied here while the second school house was built. The meeting house was dedicated January 16, 1823.
- 1841 Public schools open to all children of school age.**
- 1841 Meeting held of Trustees of School District #2 with Board of Commissioners of the District School “to establish a School for Colored Children” December, 1841.**
Document: 90-00060: City Clerk, Annual Reports Trustees of School Districts, Teacher's Certificates, Annual Reports from Lancaster School and Albany Orphan Asylum 1840-1844. [Folder 27]
- 1842 Site of School for Colored Children, 37 Chestnut Street.** Black pupils moved up the street. The School for Colored Children was located in the basement of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) church at the rear of District School #2 on 218 State Street.
- 1843 Site of School District 8, Madison Avenue west of Grand Street.** Thomas Paul, noted black educator, begins teaching at School District #8, 1843-1844 and later becomes Principal of the Wilberforce School, 1860-1868.
- Document: 90-00060** Teachers' Certificate for Thomas Paul Jr. - City Clerk, Annual Report Trustees of School Districts, Teacher's Certificates, Annual Reports from Lancaster School and Albany Orphan Asylum 1840-1844. [Folder 50]

- 1845 Wilberforce School officially opens - built on site of AME Church destroyed by fire in 1845.** By July 1845, a new public elementary school house for black children was built at 37 Chestnut Street at a cost of \$830 to the city.
Document: 83-02218: Board of Public Instruction, Miscellaneous records 1844-1886 Number of students in all schools, including Wilberforce 1844-1886.
- 1850 Deliberate school segregation in Albany.** Board of Commissioners, 1852, NYS Supreme Court - case involving Stephen Myers i.e. children not allowed to attend District Schools but have to attend Wilberforce.
- 1853 Vacant lot on upper Hudson Avenue offered as an alternative location for the Wilberforce School**
Document: 89-01663 Common Council, Minutes 1852-1853 Vol 55, pp.143-144.
- 1873 Wilberforce School closed for good – April 30, 1873**
- 1873 W. H. Johnson, author of bill that passed prohibiting school officials from denying black children into any public school**
- 1884 Civil Service Law rules that educators could not be declined employment due to race**
- 1913 First black teacher hired for Albany public school- Harriet Lewis, School District #6 located at 105 Second Street**
Document: 83-02190. Board of Education [Board of Public Instruction], Merit List of Candidates for Appointments as Teachers, 1891-1916, pp. 111,114. A list showing Harriet Lewis' scores in her candidacy for teacher in the Albany public schools system 1912-13.

Continued...

Document 87-05125: County Clerk, Deed book 25, 1819-1822, pp. 33-34. Deed to land purchased April 20 1811 by Benjamin Lattimore from Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton (widow of Alexander Hamilton) for the sum of \$400. Lot 12 on Malcolm Street, now 90-92 Broad Street, was the site of the first school built for the education of Albany's black community.

33

State of New York J. M. Richard Trust one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas for the County of Albany do certify that on the sixth day of October in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twelve appeared before me Samuel Hill and Mary his wife known to me to be grantors described in the within Indenture who severally acknowledge that they had executed the same for the uses and purposes therein Expressed and the said Mary having been examined by me apart from her said husband fully confessed that she had executed the same without any fear threat or Compulsion from her said husband and finding no other alterations erasures or obliterations therein but such as were noted before the Execution thereof I allow the same to be recorded

Richd. S. Trust

Lot 12 South Pearl St

✓

Recorded & Paid at City of Albany July 11th 1819 at 10 o'clock. George M. Murrant Clerk

This Indenture made the twentieth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and Eleven Between Elizabeth Hamilton of the City and County of New York by her Attorney James Van Ingen of the City of Albany of the first part and Benjamin Lattimore of the City and County of Albany of the second part Witnesseth that the said party of the first part for and in Consideration of the sum of four hundred dollars money of account of the United States to her in hand paid at or before the signing and delivery of these presents by the said party of the second part the receipt whereof is hereby confessed and acknowledged both granted bargained sold aliened released conveyed assured enfeoffed and confirmed and by these presents doth grant bargain sell alien release convey assure enfeoff and confirm fully fairly and absolutely unto the said party of the second part in his actual possession now being and to his heirs and assigns forever All that Certain lot piece or parcel of ground situate lying and being in the first Ward of the City of Albany and on the West side of Washington Street and is part of the property which formerly belonged to the late General Philip Schuyler and by him in his life time conveyed to the said Elizabeth Hamilton which said lot piece or parcel is known and distinguished on a Map thereof filed in the Clerk's Office of the City and County of Albany as lot Number twelve and is bounded on the South by lot Number Eleven on the West by Malcolm Street on the North by lot Number thirteen and on the East by Washington Street being in breadth in front and rear thirty four feet and in length on both sides one hundred and thirty two feet Together with all and singular the appurtenances hereto in anywise appertaining unto the said above mentioned and described premises promising in any wise obtaining or being long and the revenues and revenues tithes and remaining tithes of any and profits thereof And also all the estate right title interest property claim and demand whatsoever as well in Law as in equity of the said party of the first part of in and to the same or any part or parcel thereof with the appurtenances to have and to hold the above granted bargained and described premises with the appurtenances unto the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns for their own proper use benefit and behoof forever And the said party of the first part his heirs and assigns doth Covenant grant promise and agree to and with the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns that she the said party of the first part at the time of signing and delivery of these presents is lawfully seized in her own right of in and to the aforesaid described premises lawfully granted and conveyed with the appurtenances as of a good sure perfect absolute and indefeasible estate of inheritance in the Law in fee simple without any manner of Condition to alter change determine or defeat the same and hath in herself good right full power and lawful authority to grant bargain sell convey and to give the above said described land and premises with the appurtenances unto the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns in manner aforesaid And also that he the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns shall and may from time to time and at all times and for ever hereafter peaceably and quietly have hold occupy possess and enjoy the said land granted and bargained promising with the appurtenances And also that the said party of the first part and his heirs and assigns doth and every other person or persons who now or lawfully or equitably deriving any estate right title or interest in or to the herein before granted premises by farm under or in trust or in fee and there shall

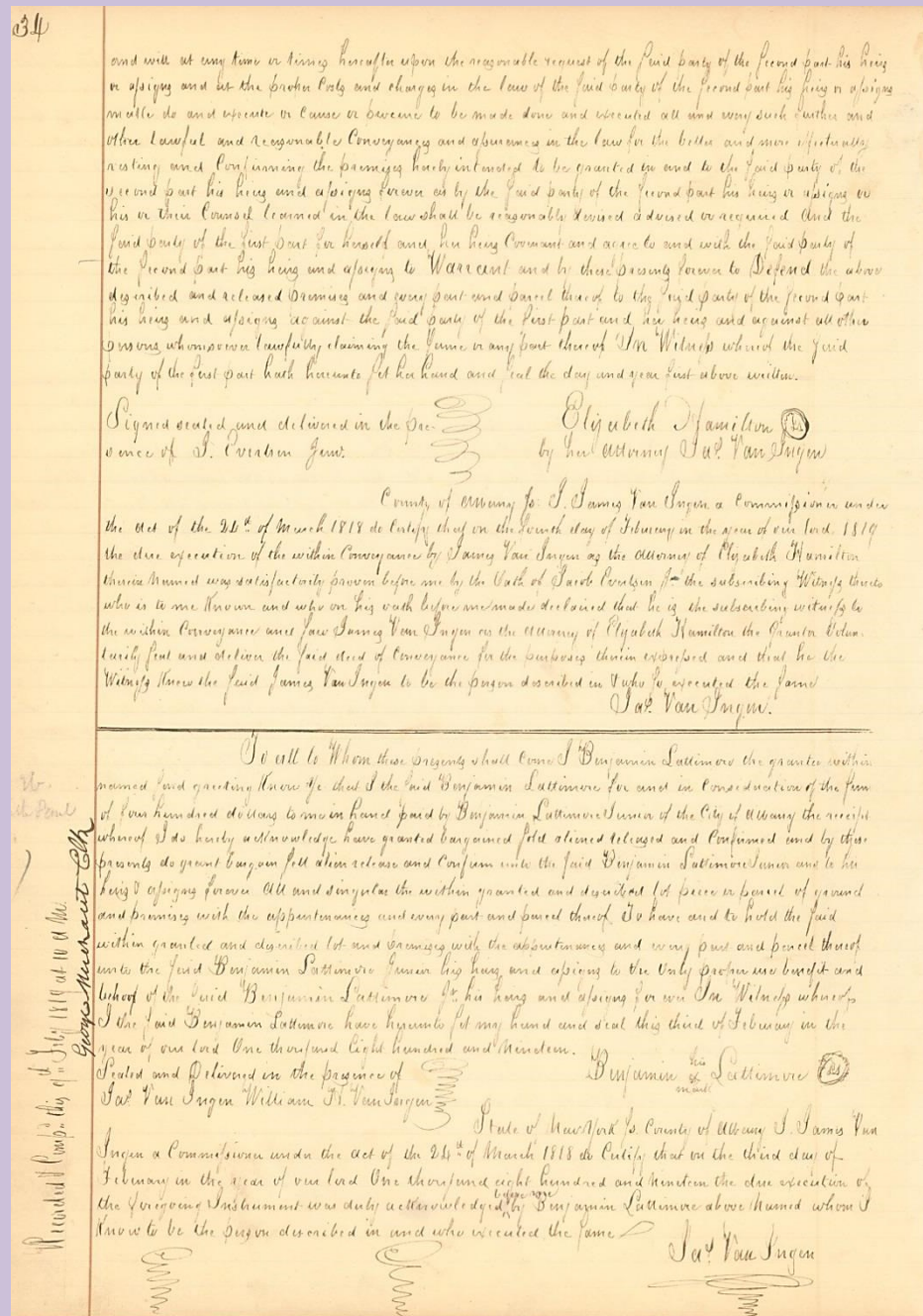
Benjamin Lattimore (1761-1838)

Benjamin Lattimore was born a free man in Wethersfield, Connecticut in 1761, but was living in Ulster County, New York, when he enlisted in the Third New York Regiment of the Continental Army. After the Revolutionary War, he settled in Poughkeepsie and then moved to Albany in the late 1790s where he became an outstanding member of the black community.

In 1798, Lattimore purchased a lot on Plain Street that became his home for the next forty years. He was founder and trustee of the first black school in Albany, having purchased the lot on Malcolm Street between Alexander and Nucella Streets from Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton in 1811. This lot, on what is now 90-92 Broad Street, was the site of the "Albany School for Educating People of Color."

A cart man by trade, Benjamin Lattimore was a trustee of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church and of the Albany African Temperance Society. When his free status was questioned, Lattimore appeared before the Court of Common Pleas, had a witness testify to his integrity, and was officially manumitted on April 26, 1820 by Judge Estes Howe.

In his later years, Lattimore received a pension for meritorious service in the Revolutionary War. He died in 1838 and was buried in the AME Church Cemetery.



Albany County Hall of Records Archival Collection

At a meeting of the Trustees of School district No. 2 in the City of Albany held pursuant to notice at the Store of Dyer Lathrop in said City on the 31st day of December 1841. to consider the petition of David W. Thomas and others praying the trustees of said School district No. 2, to establish a school for Colored Children now being kept in the African Church within the limits of our district.

We, the undersigned having duly considered said petition, do unanimously resolve (if the Commissioners of Common Schools of the City of Albany approve) that the said School for Colored Children so long as the same shall be kept in the African Church free from charge of ~~Rent~~ for the use thereof, be established in conformity to Chs. 168. (Section 15.) of the Law relating to Common Schools.

Given under our hands at the city of Albany this 31st day of December 1841.

J. L. Hudson
Wm. E. Ferry
Wm. D. Haskell Trustees

The Wilberforce School

The Wilberforce School served as the public elementary school for black children for nearly thirty years. Its predecessors include The Albany School for Educating People of Color on Malcolm Street, The African School in the basement of the Baptist church on Hamilton Street, and The School for Colored Children or Free Colored School in the basement of the African Methodist Episcopal Church on Chestnut Street. The Wilberforce School was named in honor of William Wilberforce, the prominent British abolitionist, instrumental in abolishing slavery throughout the British Empire with the passing of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act in 1807.

In 1843, a petition was brought before the Common Council, signed by both Stephen Myers the Superintendent of the Free Colored School, and Thomas Paul Junior, Teacher Secretary for the Association. This petition was to build a schoolhouse for those being taught in the basement of the African Methodist Episcopal Church on Chestnut Street.

In 1845, the church was destroyed by fire, and the Wilberforce School was created. The school cost \$830 to build and was a "Two story frame building, set on posts placed in the ground. Its two classrooms and two recreation rooms could accommodate 175 pupils. There was a play yard in the rear and a library of seventy eight books purchased for \$50."

In 1852, the building was accidently destroyed while it was undergoing renovations. Without a school for the children, the City's Commissioners of Public Instruction rented the basement of the first African Baptist Church on Hamilton Street.

In 1853, a vacant lot on upper Hudson Avenue was offered as an alternative location for the school. The second location for the Wilberforce School was located at 199-201 Hudson Avenue, between Swan and Hawk streets, three blocks south of the original Wilberforce school. The lot cost \$990, while the new brick schoolhouse and outbuildings cost \$2309.23. The school continued at this location until 1873.

The Wilberforce School closed in 1873, after desegregation of New York State schools. It was renamed School 16 and was located where the Empire State Plaza is currently located. In 1906, the school was moved to the Pine Hills neighborhood and is now the Pine Hills Elementary School.



TEACHER'S CERTIFICATE
TO THE TRUSTEES.

I hereby Certify, That from the *first* day of *January* 18 *43*, I continued teaching a DISTRICT SCHOOL, in District No. *8* in the City of Albany, by agreement with the Trustees of said District, and that I continued to teach the same up to the *31st* day of *December* 18 *43*; and that the whole number of scholars taught by me during said time, in said District School, is *ninety two*, of whom *seventy* are believed to be over five and under sixteen years of age; and that the number of half day's attendance of said scholars, over five and under sixteen years of age, in said school, is *twenty two thousand and sixty four*, which, divided by five hundred, according to the eleventh section of the Act of the Legislature, passed April 17th, 1830, gives an average of *forty four* scholars, and a fraction of $\frac{64}{500}$; and during said time the school has been visited *once* times by the *Superintendent* Inspectors of Common Schools; and that I hold a certificate from the Inspectors of Common Schools, dated within the year of the above date: and, further, that the School Books most in use in said school, during said time, have been *Poor's Rhetorical Reader, Murray's English Reader, New Testament, New York Spelling Book, N. York Reader, N. York Primer, Mitchell's Large Geography & Atlas, Smith's English Grammar, Emerson's Arithmetic, Mitchell's small Geography, Webster's Small Grammar, Parley's History, Webster's Spelling Book, N. York Copy-book.*

and that the whole amount that I have received for wages, during that time, including tuition bills, has been *eighty* dollars, and *fifty* cents.

Thomas Paul, Teacher.

Affirmed before me, this *26th* }
— day of *February* — 18 *44* }
Wm. Gould Jr
Com. of Deeds

Thomas Paul Junior (1812-1885)

Thomas Paul Junior was born into a family of ministers. His father, Thomas Paul, Sr. was the first pastor of the First African Baptist church in Boston in 1806 and was known for his work as an abolitionist and his contributions to the black community in Boston. His uncle, Shadrach Paul was an itinerant preacher who rode throughout New Hampshire for the Domestic Mission Society. His uncle, Nathaniel Paul moved to Albany, New York, a way station on the Underground Railroad to Canada, where he served as the first pastor of the Union Street Baptist Church. Another uncle, Benjamin Paul, worked alongside Nathaniel as an antislavery agent and minister.

Paul attended *Noyes Academy*, an interracial school founded by New England abolitionists in 1835 in Canaan, New Hampshire. While attending the Academy, Thomas Paul, Jr. served as a delegate to the 1st Annual meeting of the New Hampshire Anti-Slavery Society. After leaving *Noyes Academy* he became a member of the Dartmouth Class of 1841, and was the second black student to graduate from Dartmouth College.

After his graduation, Thomas Paul, Jr. moved to Albany and became a teacher at *District School 8* in Albany. On May 1, 1844, he was appointed teacher at the *Wilberforce School*. Paul then tendered his resignation on August 1, 1845 and moved back to the Boston area where he was appointed headmaster of the Abiel Smith School in 1849. Little is known between his time at the Abiel Smith School and June of 1860, when Thomas Paul, Jr. moved back to Albany and became Principal of the *Wilberforce School*. In 1868, his contract was not renewed with the school district, and Thomas was dismissed.

He left the area and moved to Providence, Rhode Island where he later died on February 14, 1885.



144. Vacant lot on upper Hudson Avenue offered as an alternative location for the Wilberforce School.

Alderman Valentine Chairman of the Committee on Academies and Schools submitted the following Report and Resolution relative to the District School No 2,

The Committee on Academies and Schools to whom was referred the Petition of Ira Harris, Archibald Mrs. Chase, S. L. Judson and 115 others asking that the whole of the Lot in the rear of the School House in District No 2 located on 218 State Street, may be appropriated to the use of said School have had the same under consideration and submit the following Report;

That the evidence before them shows the Committee as of the opinion that the Lot in question was originally purchased for the use of said School with the exception of Twenty Eight feet on the rear, which was reserved for the use of the African Church so long as it might be wanted for that purpose. In 1845 the building known as the African Church was destroyed by fire and has never been rebuilt on that spot but in lieu thereof a School House was erected there for the use of the Colored School. As this was not the use for which the above reservation was made the occupancy of the said 28 feet together with the yard and rearward attached thereto has only been by sufferance and not by right and as the said District School has since that time greatly increased in numbers the Committee are fully of the opinion that the inhabitants of that District and the patrons of the School are asking for the use of the whole Lot, but claim that is theirs by right.

Furthermore the Committee are satisfied that making the prayer of the Petitioners is granted a large portion of the pupils of said School must necessarily be crowded into the Street during recess, for the want of sufficient room in the yard; and as this School is located in one of the great thoroughfares of the City this should greatly jeopardize the lives of the Children, and seriously annoy the travelling public. The Committee cannot believe that in a City so little crowded for land as this is it is either necessary or prudent to make playgrounds of the public streets; and they are furthermore of the opinion that the whole of the Lot which has thus been twice providentially cleared, is no more than the Health, safety, and Convenience of the Pupils of the said School absolutely requires they therefore submit the following Resolution:

Resolved: That the whole of the Lot bounded on the North by State Street on the East by Lot of William Reed, on the South by Chestnut Street and on the West by property of John Botcherbke and the same is hereby appropriated to the use of the School District School now standing on the same and that the sum of One Hundred and Fifty Dollars be and the same is hereby appropriated for improving and grading the same:

And which is respectfully Submitted:

J. W. Valentine, Chairman of
R. Goddard, Deputies and
Charles Gay, School:

Done July 12. 1852:

"Alderman Valentine chairman of the Committee on Academies and Schools submitted the following Report and Resolution relative to the District School No 2. The Committee on Academies and Schools to whom was referred the petition of Ira Harris, Archibald McClure, I. L. Judson and 115 others asking that the whole of the lot in the rear of the School House in District No 2 located on 218 State Street, may be appropriated to the use of said School have had the same under consideration and submit the following Report: From the evidence before them the Committee are of the opinion that the Lot in question was originally purchased for the use of said School with the exception of Twenty Eight feet on the rear, which was reserved for the use of the African Church so long as it might be wanted for that purpose: In 1845 the building known as the African Church was destroyed by fire and has never been rebuilt on that spot but in lieu thereof a School House was erected therein for the use of the Colored School: As this was not the use for which the above requisition Was made the occupancy of the 28 feet together with the yard necessarily attached thereto has only been by sufferance and not by right and as the said District School has since that time greatly increased in number the Committee are fully of the opinion that the inhabitants of that District and the patrons of the School in asking for the use of the whole Lot, only claim what is theirs by right.

Furthermore the Committee are satisfied that unless the prayer of the Petitioners is granted a large portion of the pupils of said School must necessarily be crowded into the Street during recess, for the want of sufficient room in the yards and as this School is located in one of the great thoroughfares of the city this could greatly jeopardize the lives of the children, and [?] among the travelling public. The Committee cannot believe that in a City so little crowded for land as this is it either necessary or prudent to make playgrounds on the public streets and they are furthermore of the opinion that the whole of the Lot which has thus been twice providentially cleared is no more than the health, safety and convenience of the pupils of the said school absolutely requires."

They therefore submit the following Resolution: *Resolved: that the whole of the Lot bounded on the North by State Street on the East in Lot of William Reed, on the South by Chestnut Street and on the West by property of John Artcher be and the same is hereby appropriated to the use of the School District School now standing on the same and that the sum of One Hundred and Fifty Dollars be and the same is hereby appropriated for fencing and grading the same. All of which is Respectfully Submitted. TW Valentine, R Godley, Charles Gay (Committee on Academies and Schools) Albany July 12 1852.*

83-02218. Board of Education. Board of Public Instruction. Miscellaneous Records, 1844 and 1886. The average number of students in various schools (including Wilberforce School) April 30, 1867, May 1867, June 1867 pp. 116-118.

Average number belonging to the several Schools for the year ending April 30, 1867, based upon the greatest number of pupils who attended the School on any one day in each of the four terms of the year, to wit:

	1 st term	2 ^d do	3 ^d do	4 th do	
School No. 1.	312	+ 320	+ 300	+ 368	÷ 4 = 310 av 279
2.	271	+ 297	+ 285	+ 282	÷ 4 = 284 av 239
3.	291	+ 282	+ 292	+ 300	÷ 4 = 291 av 241
4.	254	+ 235	+ 243	+ 244	÷ 4 = 244 av 215
5.	246	+ 232	+ 229	+ 234	÷ 4 = 235 av 185
6.	215	+ 269	+ 274	+ 321	÷ 4 = 270 av 235
7.	291	+ 295	+ 297	+ 328	÷ 4 = 303 av 260
8.	332	+ 350	+ 330	+ 336	÷ 4 = 337 av 312
9.	234	+ 259	+ 251	+ 270	÷ 4 = 253 av 234
10.	322	+ 226	+ 234	+ 350	÷ 4 = 333 av 297
11.	429	+ 416	+ 418	+ 421	÷ 4 = 421 av 390
12.	445	+ 444	+ 480	+ 546	÷ 4 = 484 av 446
13.	366	+ 357	+ 354	+ 393	÷ 4 = 363 av 348
14.	732	+ 778	+ 745	+ 684	÷ 4 = 735 av 640
W.	51	+ 55	+ 53	+ 49	÷ 4 = 52 av 46
	4791	+ 4917	+ 4877	+ 5666	÷ 4 = 4913 av 4373

April 1867

Register &c, Attendance of pupils in different parts of the Schools in May 1867.

	Senior	Subordinate	Primary	Total	Senior	Subordinate	Primary	Total
School No. 1	80	66	91	76	160	143	331	285
2	69	60	98	79	141	120	308	259
3	97	80	100	84	169	141	366	305
4	54	44	94	67	154	113	302	224
5	70	57	93	75	108	77	271	209
6	125	102	"	"	268	204	393	306
7	96	73	112	91	163	146	371	210
8	100	75	102	86	195	140	397	301
9	61	43	73	56	152	135	286	224
10	89	80	105	93	196	169	390	342
11	188	161	"	"	344	242	502	403
12	73	58	142	99	158	110	673	467
13	121	100	124	97	255	195	500	392
14	98	87	217	188	326	461	841	676
W.	77	40	"	"	"	77	40	31
	1398	1126	1351	1091	3259	2526	6008	4743
	1220	1182	2823	5225				

MAY 1867

Attendance of Pupils for June 1867.

School	Senior Dept		Int. Dept		Primary Dept		Totals					
							Present Absent	Or, daily Attendance				
No. 1	72	58	78	63	156	136	306	257	63	65	148	276
2									57	81	148	286
3												
4		42		70		112		224				
5												
6	156	122	"	"	250	201	406	323	132	"	214	346
7												
8	81	69	105	85	195	161	381	315	77	99	188	357
9												
10	84	70	100	89	189	162	373	321	81	93	173	347
11	174	145	"	"	301	237	475	382				405
12	70	52	122	92	426	296	618	440	66	100	335	501
13	116	95	118	97	260	210	494	402	101	105	212	418
14									81	189	440	710
Wilberforce	85	56					85	48	56			56

June 1867

83-02218. Board of Education. Board of Public Instruction. Miscellaneous Records, 1844 and 1886. The appointment notifications to Wilberforce School of John Q. Allen from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania p. 2, 3.

Continued					3
	Names	Residence	Date of Certificate	Date of Appointment	
36	Cyrus Stewart	Roughboro' N.Y.	Sept. 21. 1868	Sept. 1. 1868. to No. 4	✓
37	John L. Allen (Colonel)	Phil ^a Penn ^a	" " "	" " " Wilberforce	✓
38	Isabella Lawson	Albany	Oct. 19 "	Dec. 7. 1868 to No. 6, commencing 11 th	
No. 39	Frances M. Benjamin		" " "	Dec. 7 to No. 6, to take effect when vacated	
40	Mary E. Wallis		Nov. 2 "	Nov. 2 1868 to No. 7	✓
41	Ann R. Mc Namara	Albany	" "		✓
42	Antoinette Sill	"	Jan. 11. 1869	Jan. 4. 1869. to No. 11	✓

John Quincy Allen (1843-1905)

There are few records documenting the life of John Quincy Allen. Considered a pioneer for African-American teachers, he was one of three men to graduate from the *Institute for Colored Youth* in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The mission of the Institute was to produce quality black teachers to educate the African American community. Born sometime around 1843 to Joseph W. Allen, a barber, and his wife Elizabeth, Allen taught at two African-American schools in and around Philadelphia. Soon after graduating from the Institute in 1862, he broke the color-line of public school teachers and obtained a teaching position at the *Banneker Colored School* where he taught until 1864. Afterwards, he returned to the *Institute for Colored Youth*, replacing Jacob C. White, Jr., who left to become Principal of the *Roberts Vaux Consolidated School*.

In 1868, he moved to Albany, New York, with his wife and younger sister. John served as the Principal of the *Wilberforce School* in Albany from 1868 until its closure in 1873. In 1873, Allen moved to New York City and became Principal of the *Colored Public School No. 2*, and later, Principal of *Public School No. 68* in Brooklyn. John Quincy Allen died on August 22, 1905 in Manhattan, New York.

Document 83-02190: Board of Public Instruction [Board of Education] Merit List of Candidate for Appointments as Teachers, 1891-1916, pp.111, 114. Test scores for Harriet Lewis, the first black teacher to obtain a permanent position in the Albany Public School system.

M E R I T				L I S T			
OF CANDIDATES FOR APPOINTMENT AS TEACHER				FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1892			
RANK NUMBER.	NAME.	RESIDENCE.	SCHOOL NO.	TOTAL AVERAGE.	QUALIFIED FOR.	SUBSTITUTE IN SCHOOL NO.	DATE OF CERTIFICATE.
							REMARKS.
27	Vanderloot, A. J. Mildred	New Baltimore		89.4			died, March, 1912
29	Poe, Jennette G.	1233 Broadway		89.7			
30	McCann, Cecelia L.	266 Clinton Ave.		89.5			
31	Bruce, Mildred	22 Jackson St.		89.15			
31	Lewis, Harriet B.	27 Monroe.		89.15			
33	Wanner, Selma R.	1631 First St. Russ.		89.15			
34	Devanna, Frances M.	401 Clinton Ave.		89.			

Acknowledgement:

Many researchers come to the Hall of Records to consult our records and in most cases, we are not made aware of the result of all their research. In her book **Refusing Ignorance: The Struggle to Educate Black Children in Albany, New York**, Marion Hughes cites our repository and several of our documents. We are grateful to her for her acknowledgement and for the ideas in her published works that helped to provide us with a framework for this exhibit.

--Hughes, Marion I. **Refusing Ignorance: The Struggle to Educate Black Children in Albany, New York**. Mount Ida Press, Albany, NY 1998.

--Hughes, Marion I. **Standing Tall: A Tribute to Education** Albany City School District, 1984.