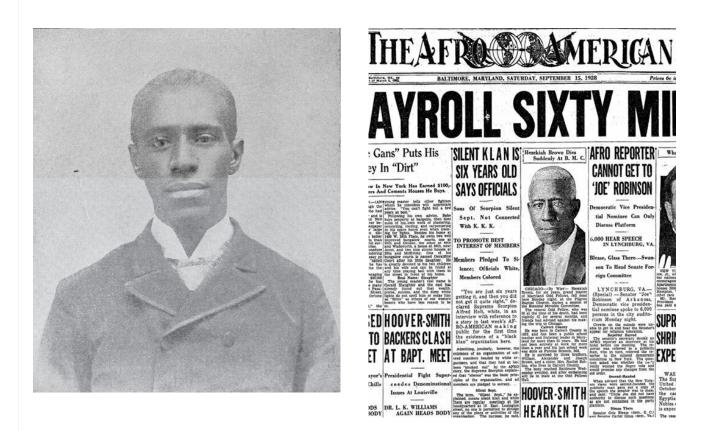
From: HoCo Lynching Truth & Reconcil admin@hocoltr.org Subject: REVISED: Spring Updates- HoCo LTR (We Are Still Working!) Date: May 10, 2021 at 11:37:54 AM



NEW INFO ON HEZEKIAH BROWN FOUND!



# **Spring Newsletter**

May 10, 2021

THIS IS THE CORRECTED VERSION OF NEWSLETTER SENT BY ACCIDENT EARLIER. Links and pics are here that weren't in first one.

Hello and spring greetings from Howard County Lynching Truth & Reconciliation, Inc. (HCLTR). We hope you are doing well during these tough times and are looking forward to getting out now that more of the pandemic restrictions are being lifted. Before you head out to enjoy the warmer weather, we have some updates that you might enjoy hearing about on what HCLTR has been working on since our last newsletter.

One very important announcement that we would like to share is that we took the necessary step of officially becoming a Maryland nonprofit! We filed our application for 501(c)(3) status, and have been busy doing all of the things necessary for its formation and future governance. There is a lot! We found this decision to be necessary in order to do the work of telling the story of the county's lynching history in a way that holds TRUTH at the center of the examinations, while being dedicated to doing so as compassionately as possible. Many thanks to Kathy Glyshaw and Annora Bailey for updating our logo above to reflect this change.

We spent the past year forming alliances with people and groups who have and continue to help us with the work. Some you have heard about, and others you will soon. We also surveyed the landscape of history outlets in the county, as well as the work of neighboring jurisdictions that are examining their respective lynching histories, and used both to submit introspective, thorough answers to questions posed of us by the <u>Equal Justice Initiative</u> (EJI). We also had an initial meeting with EJI to discuss our submission. This was required in order to explore a potential formal partnership with them. We were one of the last Maryland jurisdictions to form a local coalition (December 2019), so our timing isn't bad considering we've spent the bulk of our time operating during a global pandemic. As you'll read below, we've been busy...

#### First, a tribute:

In 2020, it was revealed by Kelly Palich of Howard County Recreation and Parks that there were old records at the Ellicott City Colored School Restored that might be helpful to the work we are doing regarding the history. Though displays in the school (now considered a museum) contained some information, shelves of information in a small office revealed troves of stuff that was tracking to the work of Howard County resident and African American historian Beulah Meacham Buchner (1930-2005). Her research papers and collected documents are housed on the office shelves and were also discovered in boxes under a table during an initial visit by Marlena Jareaux. A subsequent visit revealed just how prolific an advocate Ms. Buchner was for documenting the largely missing history of early county African Americans. She was part of the group raising money to restore the Ellicott City Colored School, and she advocated for a facility in the county where people could research this history and find their ancestors before her death in 2005. Some of her story was highlighted on our Facebook page. We stand on her shoulders, and look forward to subsequent visits into the Beulah Buckner Papers for the information we need to properly do our work.

We always put out a call to the community for volunteers who wish to partner with us as we do this important work. We are very thankful to the growing list of our community members and local groups who responded to the call and are working diligently to uncover, gather and record this vital information. While we share in the excitement to engage in Reconciliation, we cannot responsibly begin planning the kinds of activities we see happening in other places until we first unearth the history. The community needs to know the TRUTH in order to authentically engage in Reconciliation.

### **Our TRUTH Department**

### Rev Hezekiah Brown - updates to his story

\*As shown above, we received a very important photo of Rev. Hezekiah Brown that was discovered by a member of our Facebook group, community historian Wayne Davis. Another one was discovered in his obituary by another researcher.

\*Morgan State University archivist Dr. Ida Jones located Hezekiah's matriculation information, which helps us to continue to do justice to his story.

\*Also, more of his genealogical info was found, which helps us to understand the culture of the county for African Americans at the time period in question.

There was a plan during Black History Month to dedicate a display commemorating Hezekiah at the Ellicott City Colored School where he was a teacher and principal, but that was derailed for several reasons. As restrictions continue to be lifted and warmer weather rules out impacts on building accessibility, we plan to fulfill our desire to have his story featured in one of the few operational historic structures that remain in the county where his presence would have been known and felt. — Stay tuned for more info to come on this.

## Nicholas Snowden

We put out a request on the 15k-plus member Howard County, Maryland Facebook group for the community's help with locating genealogical information about Nicholas. It was cross-posted on the Howard County Genealogical Society Facebook page, by recommendation. Though attempts were made, unfortunately, no substantive genealogical info was revealed. One of the Maryland State Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission commissioners assigned to us, Maya Davis, suggested we reach out for help to the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc. since they weren't on our newspaper mailing list. This was particularly exciting since Beulah was a part of their organization. They agreed to lend us their time and talents in order to research Nicholas' ancestry, and they issued their report last month.

That information is now being expanded upon with the assistance of the Chair of the History Department of a regional university who also reached out to us with a desire to help.Stay tuned as that work continues.

There is a surprise project and presentation currently being worked on that we're excited about! It's something that Ida B. Wells talked about in HER time, and the decision was made to pick up her torch and carry it forward. It will help light the path for some of our work with Nicholas. Did you know Nicholas was a veteran with the U.S. Colored Troops? Aspects of that will also be delved into with another project related to work with Nicholas.

A professional surveyor contacted us with an offer to use his skills to locate the geographic places in the county where the events surrounding Mr. Snowden's lynching occurred. He will discuss how he uses tools today, in order to find places of the late 1800s that literally may no longer be on the map. Stay tuned for the announcement regarding that upcoming Zoom presentation.

## Jacob Henson, Jr.

As some may already know, Jacob was recently issued a full posthumous pardon by Governor Larry Hogan at an event, along with other Marylanders. The pardon can be read **HERE**, and will hopefully be amended to contain Jacob's correct name (Jacob Henson, Jr). His father's name is what appears on the pardon. Just as Howard Cooper had been taken from the jail by a mob of white men while an appeal was brewing, so was Jacob. This was a violation of his due process rights as well as equal protection of law. We will have more once we have finished with the case of Nicholas. Story is **HERE** 

We look forward to continuing to explore additional opportunities of engagement and partnerships with the communities in Howard County and surrounding areas that our new nonprofit status will create.

# HCLTR in the News

Last, but not least, we received a bit of publicity. With current media coverage of the importance of researching the history and legacy of lynching, the work that HCLTR is doing was highlighted in a January cover story that was featured in the Howard County Times as well as the Baltimore Sun. The story was also picked-up and printed in The Washington Post in March. Both articles are available on our website under the "NEWS" tab. Public awareness of the importance of Truthfinding is crucial to pave the way for the future events and activities to promote community Reconciliation.

If you haven't already, follow us on Facebook, where we will continue to post information of interest. Links to a few of the external stories we've shared on Facebook are found below. Our newsletters will increase in frequency, as the COVID climate allows us to do more. We hope to see you at an upcoming event, or online!

## Call for bloggers!

Are you - or is someone you know - interested in using your voice to help shape the narrative as HCLTR's work progresses through Phase 1 (Truth) and prepares for Phase 2 (Reconciliation)? We have been formulating a list of people who have contributions to share on HCLTR's blog page. It is important for us to hear stories that shed light on our shared history and highlight how it continues to shape the systems, structures, and culture in which we live today.

Please join us in creating a brave space where the truth is told with compassion and mercy. Email us at admin@HoCoLTR.org if you are interested!

Marlena Jareaux Lynn Mumma Gina Richardson Annora Bailey Joy Owens (Consulting regarding Jacob Henson, Jr.)

Stories of interest to each of us that we've shared in our Facebook group (icon below will take you to it, where you can join to see more):

Lynn's picks:

- Shameful Past: Lynchings On Delmarva- George Armwood Lynched In Princess Anne In 1933
- <u>Maryland Lawmakers Consider Repeal of 1860s Pro-Slavery Law</u>

Marlena's picks:

- The Howard County Historical Society recently uploaded several videos from the 1980s in their possession onto their YouTube channel. They can be found within a playlist titled "African American History" <u>HERE</u>
- Learning from Germany about Reconciliation

#### Annora's picks:

- A post made in the Facebook group maintained by Wayne Davis regarding Savage being a Sundown town: <u>HERE</u>
- "Its not just black history, its American History." HERE

