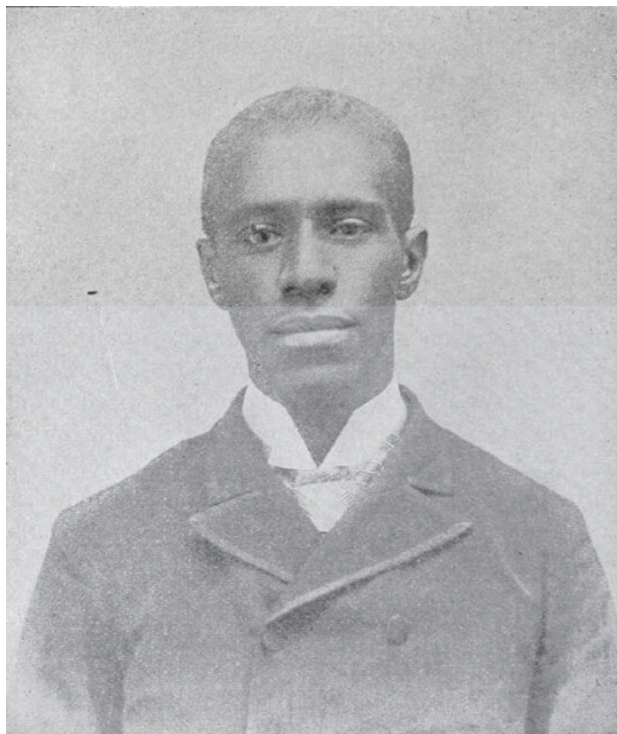


From: HoCo Lynching Truth & Reconcil [admin@hocoltr.org](mailto:admin@hocoltr.org)  
Subject: Ellicott City Black History May 29 dedication recap  
Date: May 31, 2021 at 2:16:51 PM  
To: [xxxxx@icloud.com](mailto:xxxxx@icloud.com)

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***May 29 event recap and expressions of gratitude***



Ellicott City, MD

May 31, 2021

*Despite the weather on Saturday, we had a packed house at the Ellicott City Colored School Restored for the event. The capacity limits (20) of the building were exceeded for the in-person part of the event, which led to a decision being made by building staff to open BOTH sets of doors for the building to accommodate. This affected the acoustics inside, which then affected the ability for sound to travel to the recording device. For the 24 virtual attendees, it was our connection and not yours that was largely to blame. Viewing our recording, I can see what you did. There is no WiFi in the building, and the county's WiFi reaches many buildings but not that one. We streamed the event via the strongest hotspot signal available to us, but that's not really what they are built for. Cloud cover surely affected things also! I thought for sure the entire streaming session was going to boot people off of the stream, and am amazed it didn't.*

*And yet, the show went on, and was a success.*

*We provided a sneak peek\* at a few of the stories we have and are working to reveal. People in the county like Hezekiah Brown (with W. Ashbie Hawkins as counsel) were meeting in Ellicott City helping Black county teachers in the late 1800s and early 1900s to fight for equity in county schools. Meetings were held in the EC Colored school, and would be moved down the street to St. Luke's AME church which still has an active congregation who've been recently told that their history has become relevant to our research/work and the historical story we are creating. A few years before an event that would bring infamy to the name Jacob Henson, Jr., his father had been transacting business on behalf of that church as one of its trustees. Hawkins was more than just the legal counsel for Jacob Henson, Jr. and has his own story that would go on to include the NAACP and work with civil rights issues. Years later, the mob mentality that often led to lynchings revealed itself again here as the floor of a hall in EC collapsed in 1908. People thought a lynching was going to happen of a black man on trial. The floor collapsed due to the weight of all the people, and a stove fell on top of people who had been dumped onto the floor below. Cuts, bruises, and broken bones resulted with 37 people reported to have been badly injured.*

*\* additional stories were provided to the attendees*

*We learn from our history, so that some things aren't repeated. The question of who we celebrate, name parks, schools and buildings for, and ask tourists to remember is a current one. We're creating chapters to add to the collective understanding of the true history of this place, and they are stories of extraordinarily ordinary people. Saturday, we celebrated Hezekiah and historian Beulah Buckner, who worked tirelessly with her associates during her time to document some of the data that can be used to help find the people who helped to build this county.*

*On behalf of Howard County Lynching Truth & Reconciliation, Inc., (HCLTR) I'd like to personally thank the following people for sharing a few words at the event:*

*\*Byron Saunders, historian and former Director of the Queens Historical Society was the spokesperson for Beulah "Meach" Buckner's family. He spoke of the necessity of preserving his aunt's research, and shared his perspectives on why work like ours of building a collection is important. Beulah's son, Raymond, was also in attendance.*

*\*Elizabeth "Liz" Walsh, Chair of Howard County Council who represents the District where we were standing, but who also had been sending someone to keep tabs on what we were doing from our start in 2020, likely due to the fact that much of it affects her District. She expressed her appreciation for the necessary work we're doing, and reminded us that it was also the anniversary of the 2018 major flood that devastated the area.*

*\*Dr. Chao Wu, Chair of Howard County Board of Education, who saw value in the historical significance of Hezekiah Brown being the first documented case of attempting to integrate the county schools. He delivered a message about the importance of unifying populations to solve what are collective problems.*

*\*Dr. C. Vernon Gray, the first African American to be elected to the Howard County Council, gave an unscheduled talk from the perspective of being both a native of where Hezekiah had been born and raised (Calvert County), and of having went to a school and sat at a desk similar to the one we were all in. He spoke of the importance of uncovering truths, and then reconciling individually and collectively once you have.*

*\*Willie Flowers, current President of the Howard County NAACP, gave a brief unscheduled talk. His mutual love for and value of what revealed history can teach makes us mutual allies, which is important because we've been quite deliberate in our work to clearly identify them.*

*There were several comments made in the video chat, but I want to mention two people specifically who made a point of indicating their desire and willingness to help:*

*\*Dr. Ida Jones, Morgan State University archivist, who has been continuing to work with us to find and reveal necessary components that enable us to do justice to the stories of people of the past.*

*\*Terri Hill, M.D., Maryland Delegate for District 12, who expressed her interest in learning more about the hidden history of people who were here in the county. I don't want to overshadow the significance of Terri's presence and interest, but I need to say that a civil rights heavyweight, her mother Ethel, was also watching. Truly humbling, and I must attach a link at the bottom of this to a story about her that I hope does some amount of justice to hers.*

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*There simply are too many people to acknowledge adequately in this format, so please don't take it personally if you don't see your name. As Byron Saunders said, "it takes a*

*village to raise one”, and know that we’re noting who’s in ours! A Baltimore Sun photographer was there, and a story will surely follow with more and better event pictures. This couldn’t have happened without the people who have carefully guarded the vision of what this COULD be for the past year, in the midst of a global pandemic, while we created HCLTR into an organization that could pull off this introductory event and the others that will definitely follow.*

*Joy Owens  
Lynn Mumma  
Veronica Owens  
Annora Bailey  
Gina Richardson*

*Howard County Rec and Parks had about 5 people of their own at the event, so I want to thank them also for event support. I invite you to become a member of our Facebook group where we post lots of info, and subscribe to our newsletter which can be done via our website at the bottom of the page. We are sharing stories, but we are also aiming to build an online archive to share them with the world. If I write “brick by brick”, it is to pay homage to something I know about Meach. Some will understand.*

*Marlena*

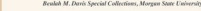
*<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1052173475150325>  
(or use the Facebook button below)*

**Edith Hill writeup**

**Our website**



Presented by: Howard County Lynching Truth & Reconciliation, Inc. [www.HoCoLTR.org](http://www.HoCoLTR.org)

*Beulah M. Davis Special Collections, Morgan State University*

United States Census, Calvert County, District 1, 1870

Herekiah was born October 12, 1865 in Calvert County, MD while the Civil War raged on. His father, Thomas (a sailor), was listed among the Free Inhabitants as early as the 1850 census along with his older brothers and sisters. He is reflected in the 1870 census as shown. Thomas purchased his father's freedom from an enslaver, and went on to live a long life well into his 90s that included ownership of land and a grist mill in Calvert County. Herekiah's mother, Julia Ann, lived long enough to see him go off to school in Baltimore before dying in November 1889. His father died in 1913.

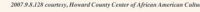
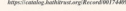
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Hezekiah moved to Baltimore at some point to live with a cousin, and was recorded on the 1880 census as being "at school." He was attending Centenary Biblical Institute (created in 1867) which would become "Morean College" in 1890. He was listed as a student in the 1879-81, 1881-82 and 1882-83 catalogs. The last one is shown above.

ANOTHER COLORED MAN HUNG  
Staceliah Brown Persecuted by a Mob  
and Hung—The Scene in Howard  
County This Time—Brown's  
Alleged Wife the  
Cause.

Joseph Lewis visited Maryland again recently and he is assured that some degree of peace will be achieved. He said that the House members and Senators have a common goal: to get the country back on its feet. He said that the House members and Senators have a common goal: to get the country back on its feet. He said that the House members and Senators have a common goal: to get the country back on its feet.

The officers from Howard county on Monday said that a colored man named Homestead had been looked for supposed intervention in a controversy between a white man and a negro. Brown was seen Saturday, and is in good health, and is alive and kicking. He has been charged with a crime, but not yet arrested.

[illegible]

### A Man Who Impacted Many Lives

During the time of the reported lynching, Hezekiah was a teacher at Asbury Chapel on the grounds where Asbury U.M. Church stands today, not far from Savage. He kept a longtime affiliation with Asbury. He is shown here in an early 1890s photo with what is thought to be a wedding party. He was also active in a national mutual aid society.

He maintained a deep commitment to educating Blacks, teaching many years in county schools and eventually becoming the Principal in the very schoolhouse you are standing in!

He maintained a deep commitment to educating Blacks, teaching many years in county schools and eventually becoming the Principal in the very schoolhouse you are standing in!

In the aftermath of the Civil War, Maryland constructed intentional economic barriers to ensure that Black children did not have access

opportunities to equal education. Rev. Hezekiah Brown's efforts, with other Black educators, began the long-term and ongoing work to overcome and dismantle these barriers. Undetermined numbers of children have benefited from his commitment. Considering the act that made him so newsworthy in 1884, he was therefore one of the first documented teachers to attempt to integrate a school here who agreed to teach Fannie's son in his. It took the rest of the country about 70 years to catch up.

Hezekiah would go on to a life that included a documented meeting with Frederick Douglass, who visited Howard County in August to participate in a large camp meeting in Irving Park not far from "widest part of Howard County" where Hezekiah's name had once been made infamous. He'd also eventually share the stage and give addresses with men like Governor Albert Ritchie and Baltimore City Mayor Howard Jackson, where Hezekiah was a houseworker. He died on September 9, 1928 in Chicago at the age of 66. The report on the front page of *The Afro American*. No report could be located in any of the 1928 newspapers that had written about the 1884 lynching.

Below are a few photos from the event. More will be posted to our Facebook group page. The faces of the online attendees were blurred from the photo.



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