

#### **Roots Run Deep**

African American History Tours in the Shenandoah Valley



#### African American History Tour

So much of our African American History has been lost. Historic churches, homes and early businesses were lost to Urban Renewal. Early communities lost their home places because of Jim Crow's laws and the Great Depression. Black farmers were unable to get the same support from the Federal Government that white farmers received. This tour reflects those losses.

Most of the places on this tour are no longer active. There are some sites that are no longer standing and some have the original structures but have had major renovations. In some cases we specify no stopping but in all instances we ask that all sites are respected and trespassing rules obeyed.

With the included map you can drive from site to site. Go to our website <u>www.rootsrundeep.org</u> to learn more about each site.



On your smartphone you can download the Traipse App for free and find our Roots Run Deep Tours. Included are addresses, directions and information about each site.

#### **Roots Run Deep** African American History Tour Luray, Virginia

We know there will be additional historic sites that are not included in our tours. We are including any additional information on our website, www.rootsrundeep.org. If it is not there, please contact us so we might add it to our website.

Please note: There is a separate self driving tour for Shenandoah and Page Counties. It can be found on the Traipse App and our website: <u>www.rootsrundeep.org</u>.

Each tour has a brochure with the tour map which includes addresses. We also create a tour booklet, like this one, with directions between sites, additional photos and descriptions. These can be picked up at local Historical Societies, tourism offices and the SVBHP Heritage Center, 425 Hill St, Harrisonburg, Virginia, 22802. They can also be downloaded from our website: <u>www.rootsrundeep.org</u>.

Contributors/Researchers as noted here and within the booklet, include Audrey Tutt Smith, Sonja Bailey, Sibbie Jeffries, Del Price, and other longtime Luray residents.

Photos courtesy of Robin Lyttle unless otherwise noted in description or photo caption.

Learn, Share & Illuminate! The Shenandoah Valley Black Heritage Project is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Please help us continue this important work with a donation. <u>https://</u> <u>valleyblackheritage.org/donate.html</u> We thank you!



#### Roots Run Deep African American History Tour

Ulysses Fry Restaurant, 36 Carillon Dr, Luray, VA 22835; 38.66423N, 78.47846W (private empty lot) Tutt's Tavern, 36 Carillon Dr, Luray, VA 22835; 38.66423 N, 78.47786 W (private, lot) Tutt's Home Place, 20 Carillon Dr. Lurav, VA 22835; 38.66413 N. 78.47724 W (private home) Bethel Baptist Church, 18 Carillon Dr. Lurav, VA, 22835; 38.66417 N, 78.47701 W (active) Manual and Moral Training College, 807 W Main St, Luray, VA 22835; 38.66323 N, 78.47627 W (private) West Luray School,735 W Main St, Luray, VA 22835; 38.66326 N, 78.47534 W (Page County School Board Office) 6 Butler's Store, 729 W Main St, Luray, VA 22835; 38.66401 N, 78.47486 W (no longer standing, currently Annex for Page County Public Schools) Butler Home, 729 W Main St, Luray, VA 22835; 38.66417 N, 8 78.47469 W, (no longer standing, currently Annex for Page County Public Schools) Grand Order of Odd Fellows, 657 W Main St, Luray, VA 22835; 9 38.66439 N, 78.47334 W (private, empty lot) Jackson Store and Jackson home, 643 W Main St, Luray, VA 10 22835; 38.66438 N, 78.47301 W (empty lot, private) St John Baptist Church, 646 W Main St, Luray, VA 22835; 38.66482 N, 78.47300 W (active) Jackie's Beauty Salon, 637 W Main St, Luray, VA 22835; 38.66452 N, 78.47282 N (empty lot, private) Historic Andrew Jackson School Museum, 630 W Main St, 13 Luray, VA 22835; 38.66486 N, 78.47271 W (active) Thomas Dougans Taxi Cab Co, 624 W Main St, Luray, VA 14 22835; 38.66492 N, 78.47243 W (private home) Tutt's Auto, 630 W Main St, Luray, VA 22835; 38.66502 N, 78.47217 W (business) Tutt's Upholstery (Tutt's Slaughterhouse behind), 9 Bixlers Ferry 16 Rd, Luray, VA 22835; 38.66536N, 78.47141 W (private) Wright's Restaurant, 602 W Main St. Luray, VA 22835; 38,66536 N, 78.47141 W (private) Midway Inn, 532 W Main St, Luray, VA 22835; 38.66534 N, 18 78.47020 N (private) King's Restaurant, 512 W Main St, Luray, VA 22835; 38.66547 N, 19 78.46950 W (lot) 3 W Main St, Luray, VA 22835; 38.66563 N, AME Churc 78.46916 W (no longer standing, empty lot) Earl Harris Barber Shop, 504 W Main St, Luray, VA 22835; 38.66572 N, 78.46895 W (private) Little Angels Day Care, 502 W Main St, Luray, VA 22835; 22 38.66569 N, 78.46872 W (active) See next page

Page 3

# **Roots Run Deep** African American History Tour

### Luray, Virginia

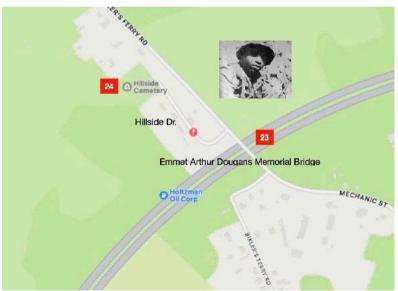
The Emmet Arthur Dougans Memorial Bridge, Bixlers Ferry Rd, Luray, VA 22835; 38.67075 N, 78.47376 W

24

23

Hillside Cemetery, 181 Hillside Rd, end of Hillside Rd, Luray, VA, 22835; 38.67204 N, -78.47686 W





**Site #1: Ulysses Simpson Grant Fry Restaurant,** 36 Carillon Dr, Luray, VA 22835; 38.66423N, 78.47846W (private, empty lot)

Directions to Site #1: Traveling east on Rt 211;

- Make a right onto Cave Hill Rd
- In 900 feet, at the round about take the second exit onto W Main St
- In 900 feet make a left onto Carillon Dr
- In 700 feet the site, an empty lot, is on your right, 36 Carillon Dr

Directions to Site #1: Traveling west on Rt 211;

- Make a left onto Cave Hill Rd
- In 900 feet, at the round about take the second exit onto W Main St
- In 900 feet make a left onto Carillon Dr
- In 700 feet the site, an empty lot, is on your right, 36 Carillon Dr

Our tour starts at the empty lot on Carillon Drive where the Ulysses Simpson Grant Fry Restaurant used to be.

In 1904 General Fry went into the restaurant business on the West side of town in Luray, Va.,on the road that led to the Luray Caverns. On the advice of a white business man he named the restaurant, General Ulysses Simpson Grant Fry Restaurant, which was his given name at birth. The restaurant business brought him prosperity. In addition to the restaurant business, he did farming and janitorial work.

Additional story about this restaurant can be found at https:// toolongforgotten.wordpress.com/2010/01/08/general-ulyssessimpson-grant-fry's-restaurant-in-luray/



**Site 2: Tutt's Tavern**, 36 Carillon Dr, Luray, VA; 22835; 38.66423 N, 78.47786 W (private, lot)

<u>Directions from Ulysses Simpson Grant Fry Restaurant to</u> <u>Site 2</u>

• As facing Site #1 from the road, Site #2 is the lot next to the right of the empty lot of Site#1

This is on private property. There is no parking at this site. There is a place to turn around at the bottom of Carillon Dr.

This Tavern was owned and operated by William (Willie) Tutt and his wife Edith Tutt.Tutt's Tavern offered food, entertainment, and private functions.



**Site 3: Tutt Home,** 20 Carillon Dr, Luray, VA 22835; 38.66413 N, 78.47724 W (private home)

Directions from Tutt's Tavern to Site 3.

• Facing Site 2, Site 3 is 300' to your right.

This house was built in the 1800's. In 1894 it was owned by Mr. M. Davenport. It was sold several times and in 1941, William and Edith Tutt purchased it for 650.00 from George White.

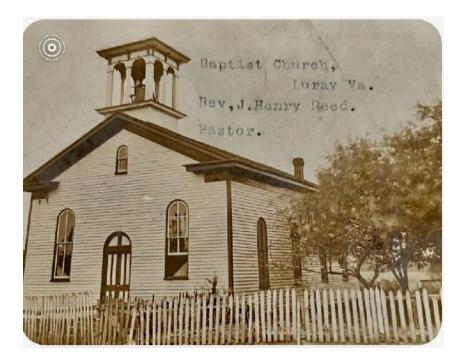
The Tutt house is still standing and has been in the Tutt family for about 82 years.



**Site 4: Bethel Baptist Church,** 18 Carillon Dr, Luray, VA, 22835; 38.66417 N, 78.47701 W (active)

#### Directions from the Tutt Home to Site 4.

• Facing the Tutt Home the site is 60' to your right



Bethel was established in 1883 by Rev. Davenport. Before the building was built services were held once a month at the home of Ms. Betsy Hill. In 1885, Davenport built a church, but it was destroyed by a storm. By 1888 Davenport erected another church and it had 15 members. The church is still active.

#### Site 4: cont. Bethel Baptist Church

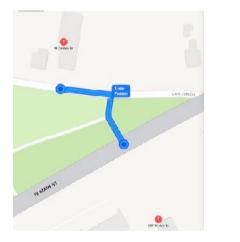


Contributions to Bethel Baptist Church may be sent to the address on Page 8

**Site 5: Manual and Moral Training College,** 807 W Main St, Luray, VA 22835; 38.66323 N, 78.47627 W (private)

Directions from Bethel Baptist Church to Site 5:

- From the street facing the church, go right 100'
- Turn right onto Carillon Dr
- In 100' arrive on W Main St.
- Destination is across W Main St





The Manual and Moral Training College is found on the List of Charters. It is listed as having no Maximum Capital Stock. Rev. J. H. Redd is listed as the President and Luther Beasley is listed as the Secretary.

In 1903, W.E.B. DuBois wrote about "Training Negroes for Social Power" in favor of institutions like The Manual and Moral Training School.

In July of 1958 it is found that the building was condemned. We assume this is when the school closed.

**Site 6: West Luray School**,735 W Main St, Luray, VA 22835; 38.66326 N, 78.47534 W (Currently, Page County Board of Education office)

Directions from The Manual Moral Training College to Site 6.

- Head east on West Main Street
- In 450' turn right
- In 250' the destination is on your right



The school opened in 1960. The land was acquired by eminent domain from Major and Rodell Tutt. When opened to thwart school desegregation, the building was new, but it was built without a gym or cafeteria. The school was an unaccredited school, with grades 1-12. After a few years the school board integrated the schools. Families were given the option to let their children continue at West Luray or attend Luray Elementary, or Luray High School. A few years later West Luray closed and black students went to Luray Elementary School or Luray High School.



Page 11

Site 7: Butler's Store, 729 W Main St, Luray, VA 22835; 38.66401 N, 78.47486 W (Annex for Page County Public Schools)

Directions from West Luray School to Site 7.

- Go back towards West Main St
- In 300' the destination is on your right



The business was owned and operated by Marion and Dora Butler. Butler's store served the neighborhood as a grocery store. The Butler home was next door to the store. They no longer stand. In their place is the Annex for the Page County Schools.

**Site 8: Butler Home**, 729 W Main St, Luray, VA 22835; 38.66401 N, 78.47486 W, (Annex for Page County Public Schools)

Directions from Butler's Store to Site 8.

• The Butler home was next door to the Butler Store on the same lot.





This is the Annex for the Page County Schools that stands where the Butler home and store used to be.

Site 9: Grand Order of Odd Fellows and Household of Ruth, 657 W Main St, Luray, VA 22835; 38.66439 N, 78.47334 W (private, empty lot between house and Jordan St)

#### Directions from Butler's Store to Site 8.

- From facing 729 W Main St, travel east on W Main St
- In 500' the destination is on your right, 657 W Main St



The Odd Fellows and Household of Ruth were organizations of black members, in the 1930'2 and 1940's, that did community service and outreach.

#### Site 9: cont. Grand Order of Odd Fellows



The Marceau Cornet Band organized in July 1900. Members included, from left to right, (first row) Tom Dougans, Gen. U. S. Grant Frye, and (standing at right with horn) Charley Beasley: (second row) unidentified, Dan lefferies, leader John H. Slater, and Harry Henderson: (third row) Clifford Cyrus, Harry Fisher, and Henry Black. This picture was taken in front of the Odd Fellows Hall on West Main Street in Luray. (PNSC)

The Marceau Cornet Band organized in July 1900. Members included, from left to right (first row) Tom Dougans, Gen. U.S. Grant Frye, and (standing at right with horn) Charley Beasley; (second row) unidentified, Dan Jeffries, leader John H. Slater, and Harry Henderson; (third row) Clifford Cyrus, Harry Fisher and Henry Black. This picture is taken in front of the Odd Fellow Hall on West Main Street in Luray. (PNBC)

**Site 10: Jackson Store and Jackson home**, 643 W Main St, Luray, VA 22835; 38.66438 N, 78.47301 W (private, empty lot next to 643 W Main)

Directions from Grand Order of Odd Fellows to Site 11.

- · Head east on W Main St toward Cole St
- In 90' your destination is on your right. It is the empty lot next to the house at 643 W Main St.

This business was owned and operated by Andrew and Martha Jackson. The store provided a place for families to purchase groceries. The owners also lived in the back portion of the building (no longer standing).



**Site 11: St John Baptist Church,** 646 W Main St, Luray, VA 22835; 38.66482 N, 78.47300 W (still active)

Directions from Jackson Store and Jackson Home to Site 11.

- Head east on W Main St to Cole St
- · Cross W Main St at intersection with Cole St
- · Go west on W Main St
- In 144' the destination is on your right

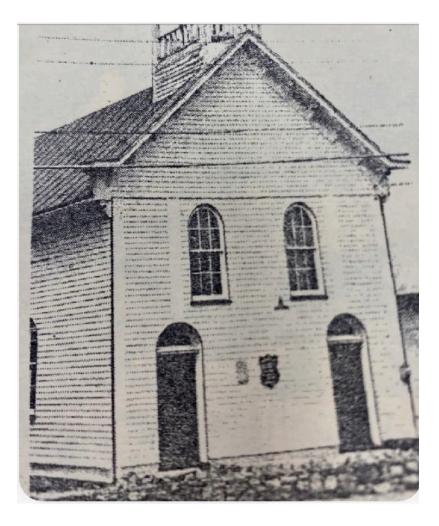




The church was first known as the Colored Freewill Baptist Church. Established January 2, 1878. The name was changed to St. John Baptist Church and it is still active.

Page 17

#### Site 11: cont. St John Baptist Church



Contributions to St John Baptist Church may be sent to the address on Page 17

**Site 12: Jackie's Beauty Salon**, 637 W Main St, Luray, VA 22835; 38.66452 N, 78.47282 N (private, empty lot, next to 637 W Main St)

Directions from St John Baptist Church to Site 12.

- Head east on W Main St toward Cole St
- In 144' cross W Main St at the intersection with Cole St
- Go west on W Main St, in 128' the destination is on your right





Jacqueline Frye at that time provided services to the community styling hair. The salon was active in the 1970's into the 1980"s.

**Site 13: Historic Andrew Jackson School Museum**, 630 W Main St, Luray, VA 22835; 38.66486 N, 78.47271 W (active, Historic Andrew Jackson School Museum,)

Directions from Jackie's Beauty Salon to Site 13.

- Head east on W Main St
- In 150 feet cross W Main St
- You will be facing the destination



- Andrew Jackson School Circa 1924
- Luray, Virginia

Open in 1926 for black students, having only grades 1-7. Eventually grades were added up the 11th grade. For students to receive a high school diploma their families would send them out of state to stay with family or friends of the family. Some went to Boardentown school in New Jersey or Manassas Regional High School, in Manassas, Va. The Andrew Jackson School closed in 1960 when the West Luray School (Site #6) opened.

#### Site 13: cont. Historic Andrew Jackson School Museum



Fermer students of the old Andrew Jackson School on West Main Street (now The West Luray Recreation Conter, anown as The REC) pow after the dedication of a historical marker at the site on Aug. 13, 2022. By Randy Arrington



West Luray Recreation Center, TheREC2017 renovated Andrew Jackson School

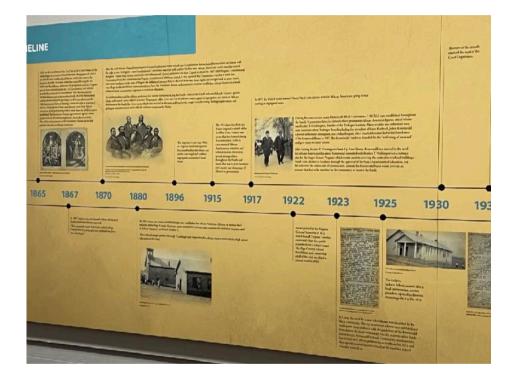
From Page Valley News; Feb. 3, 2023 by Randy Arrington

More than 50 people gathered in front of the West Luray Recreation Center (known as "TheREC") on Saturday afternoon for the unveiling of a historical maker honoring the building's previous life as a school for black students in Page County.

"The Andrew Jackson School, named for a local Black entrepreneur, was built here in 1924-25 to serve African American students," the new historical marker reads. "The Black community raised half of the \$5,467 cost of the three-classroom building. Additional support came from the county and from Julius Rosenwald, president of Sears, Roebuck, and Co., who had partnered with Booker T. Washington in a school-building campaign and later established the Rosenwald Fund, which helped build about 5,000 schools for African Americans in the South."

#### Site 13: cont. Historic Andrew Jackson School Museum

Andrew Jackson School Museum opened in November, 2022. Check their website for updates on their hours. https:// livinglegacyluray.org/



Donations to the museum can made online (<u>https://</u> <u>livinglegacyluray.org/museum/</u>) or by mail to: Historic Andrew Jackson Museum PO Box 603 Luray, VA 22835

#### Site 13: cont. Historic Andrew Jackson School Museum









**Site 14: Thomas Dougans Taxi Cab Co,** 624 W Main St, Luray, VA 22835; 38.66492 N, 78.47243 W (still standing, private home)

Directions from Historic Andrew Jackson School and Marker to Site 14

- Make left onto W Main St
- In 50 feet the destination will be on your left.

Thomas Dougans ran his taxi business out of his home. This was the only black owned and operated cab service to transport black and white people.



The house was remodeled but is still standing. Below is a photo of the house when the Dougans lived there.



Page 24

**Site 15: Tutt's Auto (Speed Shop),** 630 W Main St, Luray, VA 22835; 38.66502 N, 78.47217 W (commercial) Directions from Thomas Dougans Taxi Cab Co to Site 15

- Walk east on W Main St
- In about 50 feet the destination is on your left.

This is a business. It is right next door to Site #14.



Owned and operated by Melvin Tutt Sr. Mr. Tutt built and worked on many of his own personal race cars and race motorcycles. He provided auto services and towing for the community and beyond. The business was active, 1986 -2011.



**Site 16: Tutt's Upholstery (Tutt's Slaughterhouse behind)**, 9 Bixlers Ferry Rd, Luray, VA 22835; 38.66536N, 78.47141 W (private home, shops no longer standing)

Directions from Tutt's Auto (Speed Shop) to Site 16.

- Head east on W Main St
- In 400 feet turn left onto Bixlers Ferry Rd
- In 200 feet the destination is on your left



The house near the center of the photo was the home of Columbus Tutt. The upholstery shop was originally in his home but was moved to a separate building built behind the home where the slaughterhouse was also located. Columbus Tutt (Lummie known by most people) quickly made a name for himself as a hard worker and reputable businessman. He started out owning and operating a slaughter house, then started an upholstery business. He taught himself a skill doing upholstery and making some of his own tools. It gave him pleasure to give old furniture new life.

Site 17: Wright's Restaurant, 602 W Main St, Luray, VA 22835; 38.66536 N, 78.47141 W (private) Directions from Tutt's Upholstery to Site 17.

- Go south on Bixlers Ferry Rd
- In 200 feet turn right onto W Main St
- In 60 feet the destination is on your right

One of the first black restaurants owned by many black families over the years. The building is still standing, but is privately owned.



**Site 18: Midway Inn,** 532 W Main St, Luray, VA 22835; 38.66534 N, 78.47020 N (private, empty lot next to house)

Directions from Wright's Restaurant to Site 18.

- Head east on W Main St
- In 250 feet the destination is on your left



This restaurant was purchased and operated by many black families. It was a place to dance, eat, and socialize.

**Site 19: King's Restaurant**, 512 W Main St, Luray, VA 22835; 38.66547 N, 78.46950 W (lot)

Directions from Midway Inn to Site 19.

- Head east on W Main St
- In 250 feet the destination is on your left



The stairs and wall of the King's Restaurant. It was a smaller place of business. They offered food, and a place to socialize.

**Site 20: AME Church,** near 508 W Main St, Luray, VA 22835; 38.66563 N, 78.46916 W (next to what is now He Is For Us Ministries) Active Church

Directions from King's Restaurant to Site 20.

- Head east on W Main St
- In 60 feet the destination is on your left.

The AME Church is included in the 1885 Lake's Atlas map of Luray. It was originally on a lot next to what is today, He Is For Us Ministries. Even as many left the community for better opportunities out of the South, churches flourished and remained the core of the community. Donations to He Is For Us Ministries church may be sent to the address above.



This photo of the AME Church was provided by Elder Archie Webster, when his grandfather Rev. Clarence Phillips was the Pastor.



Page 30

**Site 21: Earl Harris Barber Shop,** 504 W Main St, Luray, VA 22835; 38.66572 N, 78.46895 W (private)

Directions from AME Church to Site 21.

- From the Church head east on W Main St
- In 100' the destination is on your left



Earl Harris Barber Shop

Men went to Mr. Harris for hair cuts and shaves. The men would socialize and play pool. His home was beside his business. The shop is still there, but is a private residence. The shop is next door to the home where Mr. Harris resided, which is now Little Angels Daycare.

**Site 22: Little Angels Day Care,** 502 W Main St, Luray, VA 22835; 38.66569 N, 78.46872 W (active)

Directions from Earl Harris Barber Shop to Site 22.

- From the Site of the Barber shop, head east on W Main St
- In 60' the destination is on your left



Little Angels Daycare

Owned and operated by Ms. Mable Frye. This is the only black owned daycare that serves the Luray community. This was previously the home of Virginia and Earl Harris.

Site 23: The Emmet Arthur Dougans Memorial Bridge, Bixlers Ferry Rd, Luray, VA 22835; 38.67075 N, 78.47376 W

Directions from Little Angels Day Care to Site 23.

- Head west on W Main St
- In 660 feet turn right onto Bixlers Ferry Rd
- In 0.45 miles turn left onto Bixlers FerryRd
- In 170 feet, arrive at the destination



Emmet Arthur Dougans Memorial Bridge Mr. Dougans was the first black soldier from Page County to be killed in Vietnam, July 9, 1966 at the age of 22.



**Site 24: Hillside Cemetery,** 181 Hillside Rd, Luray, VA, 22835; 38.67206 N, 78.47607 W

Directions from the The Emmet Arthur Dougans Memorial Bridge to Site 24.

- Head north on Bixlers Ferry Rd
- Cross the bridge
- Turn left onto Hillside Rd
- The cemetery is at the end of Hillside Rd on your left.



Hillside Cemetery

This cemetery was first call the Odd Fellows Cemetery, then became Hillside Cemetery. Hillside Cemetery is the only black public cemetery in Luray.

You can pick up maps and brochures about this tour at the following locations:

- SVBHP Heritage Center, 425 Hill St, Harrisonburg, VA 22802
- Andrew Jackson School Museum, 630 W Main St, Luray, VA 22835
- Bethel Baptist Church, 18 Carillon Dr, Luray, VA, 22835



**Site 24: Hillside Cemetery,** 181 Hillside Rd, Luray, VA, 22835; 38.67206 N, 78.47607 W



**Site 17: Wright's Restaurant,** 602 W Main St, Luray, VA 22835; 38.66536 N, 78.47141 W (private)



**Site 11: St John Baptist Church,** 646 W Main St, Luray, VA 22835; 38.66482 N, 78.47300 W (still active)



**Site 19: King's Restaurant**, 512 W Main St, Luray, VA 22835; 38.66547 N, 78.46950 W (lot)

#### Shenandoah Valley Black Heritage Project's

### Roots Run Deep, Luray, Virginia





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This tour is available on the Traipse App. Download for free.

Go to <u>www.valleyblackheritage.org</u> & <u>www.rootsrundeep.org</u> to learn more.