

Rosedale News

Margarette Joyner, Editor



African American Legacy Project

The African American Legacy Project was created in April of 2021 with the development of the African American Legacy (AAL) Committee. The committee was charged with formulating steps to expand and promote the truthful, compassionate, and equitable presentation of the African Americans, both enslaved and freed, who lived and worked at Historic Rosedale. The project, while ever evolving, will mainly consist of exhibits and programming which will depict aspects of the lives of enslaved and emancipated persons during the 19th century and their descendants during the 20th and 21st centuries. In the fall of 2023, The African American Legacy Memorial broke ground and is nearing completion. On long-term goal of the project is the development of a small facility dedicated to this purpose. If you are interested in getting involved in this important initiative, please contact Margarette Joyner, Program Coordinator at margarette.joyner@historicrosedale.org.



Barbara Jackson, Chairman of the African American Legacy Project

Historic Rosedale

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It is the mission of Historic Rosedale to interpret three important themes; the ancestral families who owned the house and surrounding property, the enslaved and freed African Americans who worked and lived on the land through many generations, and the unique architectural features, decorative arts, and natural landscapes that are showcased in the 1815 historic house and its nine acres of gardens and grounds.

What's Next



"Annual Queen City Concert"

Friday, June 7th - 7:00

\$10 Suggested Donation

"Juneteenth"

Saturday, June 22nd - 10:00 - 3:00

Refreshments will be served

"A Legacy of Elegance Exhibit"

July - September

Included with the house tours

"The Intelligence of the Enslaved Exhibit"

September 1st - 29th

Included with the house tours

Juneteenth

Juneteenth (short for “June Nineteenth”) marks the day when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas in 1865 to take control of the state and ensure that all enslaved people be freed. The troops arrival came a full two and a half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. Juneteenth honors the end of slavery in the United States and is considered the longest running African American holiday. On June 17, 2021, it became a federal holiday.

Queen City Concert

QC Concerts is a Charlotte, NC based theatre company committed to presenting concert-style productions of plays and musicals, with a focus on preserving the work. QC Concerts seeks to push the envelope on live theatre, expanding the audience’s appreciation for art by exploring the text and lyrics that make theatre challenge your beliefs, expand your viewpoint, and listen with your heart.

A Legacy of Elegance

This collection of historically inspired garments draws upon trends in formal attire spanning several centuries. Margarette Joyner, exhibit creator, merges contemporary and African textiles with cowry shell embellishments in order to reimagine high-society garments and pay homage to the present and ancestral royalty of those of the African diaspora.

The Intelligence of the Enslaved

Harriet Tubman received office documents and funds to travel with the Union Army as a nurse. Although she did perform nursing duties as she visited different hospital camps, she also worked with the Union Army to recruit spies, scout waterways along the coast, and report valuable intelligence to Union officials, while at the same time helping enslaved locals flee to freedom. Tubman supported the Union Army’s intelligence unit by using the tradecraft she learned as an operator on the Underground Railroad.

From the Garden

by Sandy Maguran



Rosedale’s enslaved people exchanged local food knowledge with the Native Americans at the trading post in what is now Uptown Charlotte. They began growing the “Three Sisters,” a staple for indigenous people. The combination provided a nutrient-dense diet needed for skilled trades work and general farm labor at Rosedale. Our seeds today come from Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello. These seeds are descended from the plants actually grown by the enslaved people at Monticello in Virginia in the 17th century.

A Garden Welcome from The Weed Lady

by Ronna Abbott

The gardens welcome you!

Summer is here!!

We were blessed with a rainy winter, so our Spring was wonderful and there’s much to admire in any one of our flower beds. I suggest you come early in the day. In fact, I’d like you to mark your calendar for a weekly or biweekly visit. We have a perennial garden, which means the flowers have a moment of glory and then fade. Annuals, of course bloom all summer, but Rosedale specializes in perennials, except around the Herb Garden. Right now, the roses are spectacular due in large measure to the use of coffee grounds that I put around the base. Now is the time to see and smell them and if you see me in the garden, please say hello!

About the Inhabitants

by Cheralyn Lambeth

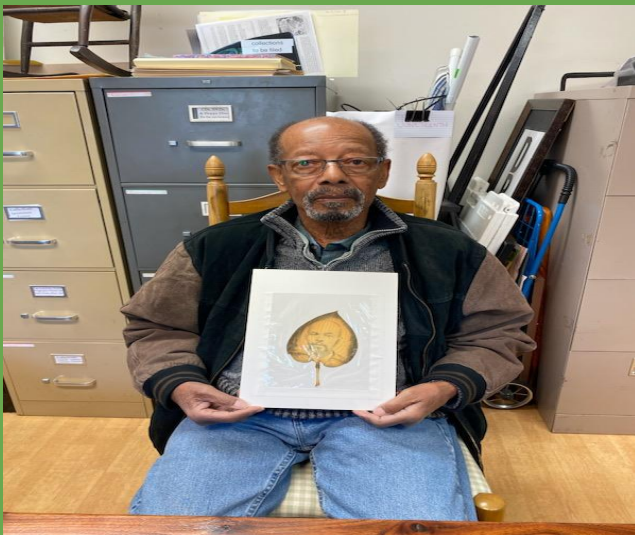
Archibald Frew III, Esquire

Archibald Frew III (1776-1823) was Rosedale's builder and first resident owner. Born in 1776 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Frew was the son of a merchant. His father, Archibald Frew Jr. immigrated to the colonies from the Isle of Bute, Scotland before 1766, where he married Mary Cook McCulloh from Edenton, N.C. At the age of seven, Archibald and his younger sister Sarah were orphaned and came to Charlotte to stay with relatives. By 1807, at the age of twenty-nine, Archibald married Ann Cowan and had a successful merchant store located in the center of the village of Charlotte. He quickly became a prominent Charlotte citizen, with multiple business interests throughout the region.



Descendant Spotlight

by Elizabeth Myers



Rosedale's dear friend Harold Wiley and his beautiful daughter Heather, visited us from Virginia this spring and we were delighted to have them. Harold is the sixth descendant of Nat Caldwell, an enslaved blacksmith that labored here at Historic Rosedale. (Then called the *Caldwell Plantation*) Harold has been a great asset in our research of the enslaved and has wonderful stories to tell!

Laborers

Blacksmiths held revered positions in America and West Africa, thanks to their knowledge, talent, and skill. Under American slavery, blacksmiths often traveled to make tools and ornamental ironwork for many plantations and towns. They carried news from the outside world and became leaders across enslaved communities. These skilled artisans played a crucial role in shaping their communities, despite the oppressive conditions they faced. For most black artisans in the antebellum South, being born into slavery placed clear limits on their future. No matter how skilled they might be, seldom could enslaved artisans expect to trace the customary path from apprentice to master that white artisans pursued. The constraints of slavery prevented them from fully realizing their potential, but their craftsmanship and resilience left a lasting impact on the communities they served. The life of an enslaved blacksmith was a delicate balance between survival, creativity, and resistance. Their work was both a means of survival and a form of agency, allowing them to contribute to their communities and maintain a sense of identity even within the oppressive system of slavery. Hats off to Nat Caldwell, (1804 - unknown) one of Rosedale's blacksmiths.

"Without roots everything dies"

Eleanor Shearer, River Sing Me Home



Join the Friends of Historic Rosedale

We've all heard it - *Membership has its benefits*. This holds true at Historic Rosedale. Members receive a host of benefits: Free grounds admission, free guided house tours, discounts at the gift shop, on event tickets, and in some cases discounts on site rental fees. Most importantly, membership fees help fund the often-overlooked general operating expenses of the Foundation. Preservation and special programming can be funded by grants and large individual donors, but it is the everyday expenses of running the site and the Foundation that suffer most from a lack of financial security. This is especially true for private foundations which receive no government funding. Is becoming a member important – **YES!** While ALL support – donations and volunteer help included - are important, it is a strong, sustained membership group that provides the most reliable and useful source of Foundation funding. Become our friend and join today!



Donations! *Every little bit helps!*

Volunteers! *If you have an hour or two, we'll take it!*

*Batting/Multi Purpose Foam
Straw for stuffing mattresses
Drums (djembe)*

Poetry Corner

“How doth the little crocodile”

by Lewis Carrol, 1865

How doth the little crocodile
Improve his shining tail
And pour the waters of the Nile
On every golden scale!

How cheerfully he seems to grin
How neatly spreads his claws
And welcomes little fishes in,
With gently smiling jaws!

Did you know?

Thomas Jefferson was addicted to learning. While attending William and Mary, he was said to have studied for fifteen hours daily on top of violin practice. He also, spoke four languages (English, Italian, French, Latin) and could read two more. (Greek and Spanish).

A Word From The Board

by Janet Levy

“On preserving the house, what many people may not realize is that “preservation” is an ongoing project, not a one-time thing. That’s especially true with a framed structure.

Recently, we have done work on the chimneys, window frames, porches, and doors to stay ahead of decay. There is always work to be done!

A strong part of what we do is preserving memories through archives, oral history and memorialization i.e., our newest garden project of the AAL memorial.”

So our donors, sponsors and volunteers are instrumental in continuing to honor those who came before us, who maintained the households and worked these grounds.