

**Md. To Honor Matt Henson**



Governor J. Millard Tawes  
and

The Board of Public Works

request the pleasure of your presence at the

unveiling and dedication of a Memorial Tablet honoring

Matthew Alexander Henson

Co-discoverer of the North Pole with

Admiral Robert Edwin Peary

at The State House

Annapolis, Maryland

on Saturday morning, November the eighteenth

nineteen hundred and sixty-one

at eleven o'clock

in the Chamber of the House of Delegates

**THIS IS A reproduction of the invitation that Mr. Frisby is mailing to persons across the face of the globe. He is addressing all of them himself.**

"It's been a long, long pull," recalls Herbert M. Frisby of the 13 years he has spent convincing the state of Maryland that it should honor Matthew Alexander Henson, the first American to set foot on the North Pole.

History credits Admiral Robert Peary with discovery of the North Pole in 1909, but it was later reported that Mr. Henson, who accompanied him, had actually set foot on the pole first, when he was sent ahead by Mr. Peary who had become exhausted.

"It's been my religion to get the state to recognize Henson in a memorable and creditable way," is the way Mr. Frisby describes his 13-year project. Now at last, the state has agreed to give its native son the honor he deserves.

A memorial bronze plaque with Mr. Henson's face in bas-relief, and a short inscription below, will be unveiled on Saturday, Nov. 18, by his widow, Mrs. Lucy Henson, in the old Senate chambers at Annapolis which once served as the Capitol of the United States.

A gavel made from wood of the home where Mr. Henson was born in Nanajemay, Charles County, will call the meeting to order.

A formal ceremony in the House of Delegates chambers, presided over by Mr. Frisby, will precede the unveiling.

The Henson memorial will be in the same hall with a bust of another Maryland Arctic explorer, William Schley, who in 1884, rescued the ill-fated Adolphus Greely expedition.

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## Frisby

Herbert M. Frisby was born in Baltimore, and graduated from the Baltimore public schools.

He is a graduate of Howard University, and of Coppin State Teachers College.

Mr. Frisby received his master's from New York University, and has done further graduate work at University of Maryland, University of Pennsylvania and Chicago University.

From 1930-59, Mr. Frisby was head of the Douglass High School Science Department. He retired in 1959.

During his life-time, Mr. Frisby has made 17 trips to the Arctic region and Alaska.

Mr. Frisby made his first Arctic trip in 1944 as Far North correspondent for the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers.

In 1956, Mr. Frisby flew over the North Pole where he dropped a U.S. flag and a bronze plaque in honor of Matthew Henson, co-discoverer of the North Pole with Admiral Robert Peary, in 1909.

Mr. Frisby's daughter-in-law, Frisby, live at 3403 Bateman Ave., which he appropriately calls the "Igloo."

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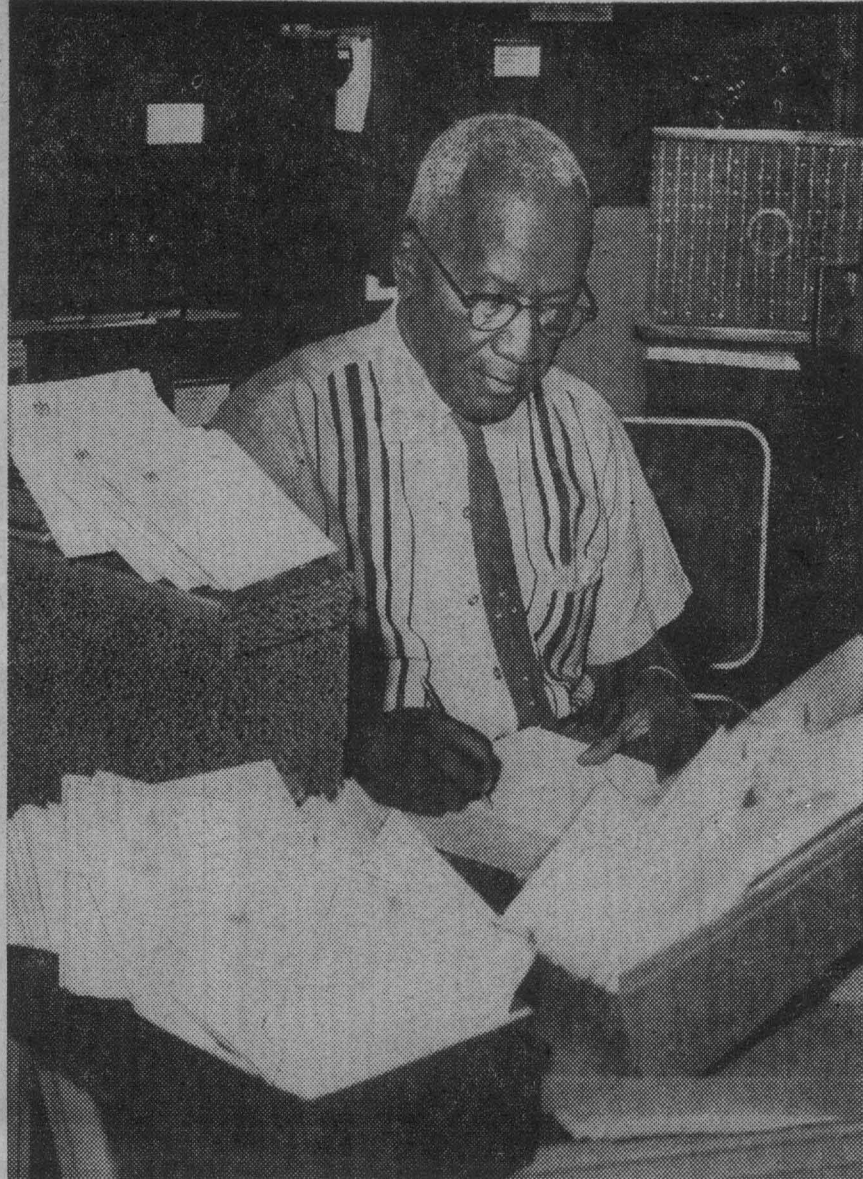
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## Henson

Matthew Alexander Henson, was born August 8, 1866, in Charles County, Md.

While working in a Washington hat shop, then a young naval engineer, Robert Peary spotted Mr. Henson and asked if he would go on his expedition to locate the North Pole.

Mr. Henson accompanied Peary on seven Arctic trips, the last one ended in discovery of the North Pole, April 6, 1909.

Peary, Henson, and four Eskimos, planted the American flag at the North Pole—the first in the world to set foot there.

Mr. Peary, in his memoirs, has given most of the credit for his success to Mr. Henson—because of his endurance, loyalty and Arctic skills.

From 1913-46, Mr. Henson served as customs collector for the state of New York.

In 1949 Mr. Henson was cited by the Department of Defense, and in 1954, commended by President Eisenhower at the White House. He also received a Congressional Medal and an award from the Chicago Geographic Society.

When Mr. Henson died in 1955, the Maryland Legislature passed a resolution acclaiming this great man, and mourning his death.

HIS WORK on behalf of Mr. Henson, won for him the Order of the Blackeyed Susan, citations from Coppin State Teachers College, Howard University, the American Chemical Society, and the Iota Phi Lambda Sorority.

Mr. Henson, before he died, knew Mr. Frisby was doing this work in his behalf, and once remarked:

"Mr. Frisby has brought me the two highest honors I have received, a citation from the Department of Defense and an invitation to visit the President, Dwight D. Eisenhower."

Some 1000 persons are scheduled to fill the chambers to overflowing, for the dedication of the plaque in Annapolis.

Included in the list are Andrew Hatcher, associate press secretary to the President; James C. Evans, counselor for the Department of Defense; Commander Edward Peary Stafford, Admiral Peary's grandson; Clifford Mackay, AFRO editor; Dr. Russell G. Frazier, Explorers Club, New York City; Governor J. Millard Tawes, Dr. Martin D. Jenkins, president of Morgan State College; and Mrs. Henson.

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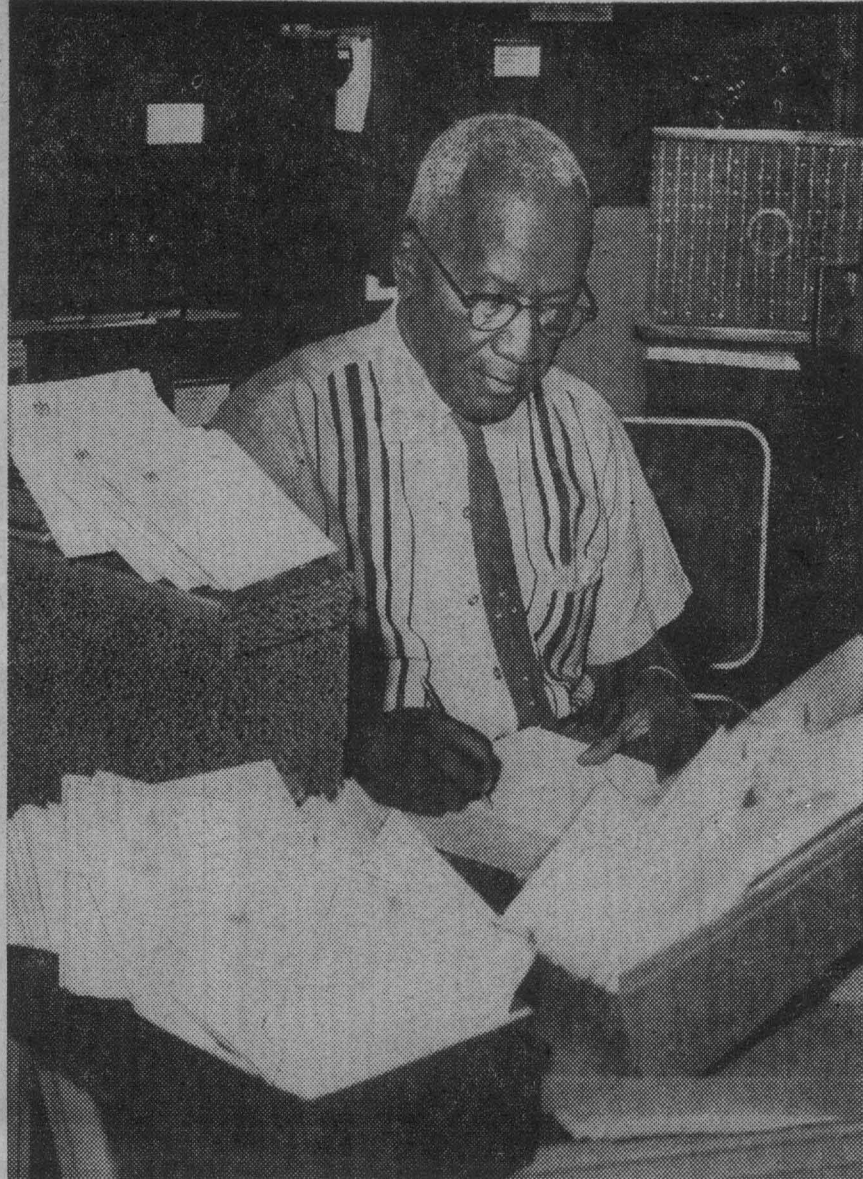
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