

Herbert M. Frisby
3403 Bateman Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A. 21216



BALTIMORE, MD. 21216
11 PM



Re: Matt Kauson

Explorer

Mr. A. B. Koger
1730 N. Payson Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21217

1730

PRINTED MATERIALS

Dr. Herbert M. Frisby
3403 Bateman Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland, 21216, U.S.A.



Mr. A. B. Koger
1730 N. Rayson Street
Balt. Md. 21207

THE JOHN F. KENNEDY SPACE CENTER
COCOA BEACH, FLORIDA

TO THE PERSON(S) ADDRESSED

Greetings:

Today, Sunday, January 31, 1971, I am at Cape John F. Kennedy Space Center, Florida, as a guest of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, to be one of the eyewitnesses of the launching of Apollo XIV, the sixth U.S. manned flight to the Moon.

From an excellent position, I saw the huge, gigantic spectacle and blast-off instantly following the final count-down to Zero—magnificent . . . frightening . . . deafening . . . awesome . . . indescribable!

The earth quaked as if it had fallen through space and crashed upon Jupiter. The glare and glow were so intense that one almost felt that for the moment, he was gazing at a thousand Suns. I am hoping this card has not absorbed any radioactive fallout.

After having had this experience, I wonder how one can tell another—"Go to Hades," and be at peace with himself thereafter. I wish you were here, not there.

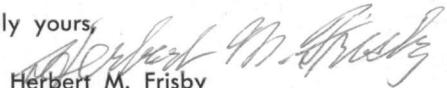
ON THE MOON—After landing on the moon, the astronauts (Alan Shepard, Edgar Mitchell and Stuart Roosa) will study both its surface and interior structures, hoping that their findings will give information as to the origin and structure of our earth from four to five billions years ago, since our moon is a satellite of our earth.

For the first time in history, the U.S. astronauts will employ a two-wheeled cart to transport their own equipment and load the many samples of rocks, soils and other artifacts to bring back to the earth for future scientific study. Most likely, as in the past, some of the materials collected will be placed on public exhibition.

Friends, this is a great experience for me—a black citizen of the U.S.A., and another which I can add to my North Pole, Arctic and recent experiences in Siberia (Soviet Russia).

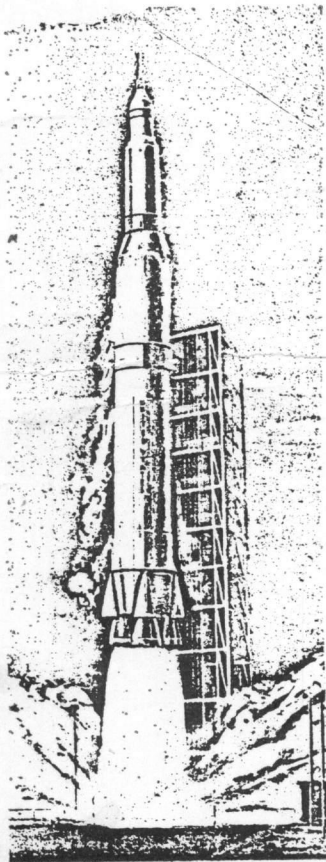
God has blessed me immeasurably, giving me safety, health and success in the fulfillment of my many "odd" dreams which thus far, have brought credit to my ethnic group. With selected guests from all over the U.S. and many foreign countries, I have been honored to be invited by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in Washington, D.C., to participate in this historic event . . . incidentally, all of us. I will have interesting stories to tell you when I return home.

Cordially yours,


(Dr.) Herbert M. Frisby
3403 Bateman Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21216

APOLLO XIV

January 31, 1971





Unveiling and Dedication of Tablet

IN MEMORY OF

MATTHEW ALEXANDER HENSON

CO-DISCOVERER OF THE NORTH POLE WITH

ADMIRAL ROBERT EDWIN PEARY

APRIL 6, 1909



THE STATE HOUSE

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1961 — 11:00 A. M.

HIS EXCELLENCY J. MILLARD TAWES

GOVERNOR

ARCTIC COLLECTION
DR. HERBERT M. FRISBY
3403 BATEMAN AVENUE
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21246

PROGRAM

Dr. Herbert M. Frisby

Chairman, Governor's Advisory Committee, Matthew A. Henson Memorial
Former U. S. War Correspondent, Northwest Service and Alaska Commands

Presiding

"We Speak His Name In Highest Glory, Honor
and Reverence—Matthew Alexander Henson"

- INVOCATION Captain James W. Kelly, CHC, U. S. Navy
Chaplain, U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland
- NATIONAL ANTHEM Directed by Mrs. Joyce McManus
Teacher, Bates High School, Annapolis, Maryland
- PLEDGE TO THE UNITED STATES FLAG H. Russell Frisby, Jr.
Boy Scout Cub Pack No. 563, Baltimore, Maryland
- PRESENTATION OF MASTER OF CEREMONIES . . . The Honorable J. Alvin Jones
State Senator, Fourth District, Baltimore, Maryland
- PRESENTATION OF THE GOVERNOR..... The Honorable John T. Parran, Jr.
State Senator, Charles County, Maryland
- GREETINGS His Excellency, J. Millard Tawes
Governor of the State of Maryland
- CHORUS Robert E. Peary High School
Rockville, Maryland
"Climb Ev'ry Mountain"—Rodgers and Hammerstein
- ADDRESS The Honorable Neil H. Swanson
World Affairs Editor, The Baltimore News-Post and Sunday American
- REMARKS..... The Honorable Andrew T. Hatcher
Assistant Press Secretary, The White House
Congressman A. Clayton Powell
Pastor, Abyssinian Baptist Church, New York City
The Honorable James C. Evans
Counselor to U. S. Assistant Secretary of Defense
Commander Edward Peary Stafford, USN
Grandson of Admiral Robert E. Peary
The Honorable Cliff W. Mackay
Editor, The Afro-American Newspapers
Dr. Russell G. Frazier
Explovers Club, Salt Lake City, Utah
Dr. Fred L. Dunn, Jr.
Principal, Robert E. Peary High School
- CHORUS Coppin State Teachers College
Baltimore, Maryland
"Alleluia"—Randall Thompson

PROGRAM—CONTINUED

- PRESENTATION OF THE MEMORIAL TABLET Albert P. Backhaus
Director of Public Improvements, State of Maryland
- ACCEPTANCE OF MEMORIAL Dr. Martin D. Jenkins
President, Morgan State College, Baltimore, Maryland
- REMARKS Mrs. Matthew Alexander Henson
- RECOGNITION OF DISTINGUISHED VISITORS, INCLUDING
The Honorable Pedro A. Sanjuan
Assistant Chief of Protocol, Department of State
His Excellency William M. Q. Halm
Ghanian Embassy
His Excellency Julius M. Udochi
Nigerian Embassy
His Excellency S. Edward Peal
Liberian Embassy
- REMARKS AND PRESENTATION Dr. Herbert M. Frisby
Arctic Correspondent and Researcher
- CHORUS Wiley H. Bates High School Band and Choir
Annapolis, Maryland
"The Battle Hymn of the Republic"—Wilhousky
- PROCESSIONAL
- DEDICATION Rev. Robert T. Newbold, Jr.
Pastor, Grace Presbyterian Church, Baltimore, Maryland
- UNVEILING OF TABLET Mrs. Matthew Alexander Henson
"Maryland, My Maryland"
- PRESENTATION OF MARYLAND FLAG Mrs. J. Millard Tawes
First Lady of Maryland
attended by
Mrs. J. William Middendorf, Jr.
Member, The Governor's Advisory Committee, Matthew A. Henson Memorial
- BENEDICTION Dr. Arthur J. Payne
Pastor, Enon Baptist Church, Baltimore, Maryland
- HONOR GUARD IN LOBBY OF STATE HOUSE Boy Scout Troop, No. 268
Bates High School, Annapolis, Maryland
-

Pianos used on this occasion—Courtesy of Academy Music Co., Inc., Annapolis, Maryland
The Maryland League of Women's Clubs will receive in honor of Mrs. Matthew A. Henson in the Governor's Reception Room on the Balcony following these ceremonies.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 23

By Senators Jones and Parran

Senate Resolution proposing that permanent memorials be erected to honor Matthew Alexander Henson.

Matthew A. Henson, Negro, was born August 8, 1866, in Charles County, Maryland. When working in Washington, D. C., he met Robert E. Peary, then a young naval engineer, who persuaded young Henson to accompany him on his explorations to locate the North Pole.

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

Peary, Henson and four Eskimos planted the U. S. Flag at the North Pole—the first in the world to attain that distinction.

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

April 6, 1949, the U. S. Department of Defense brought Henson to Washington, D. C., and gave him a citation in the Pentagon for his contributions to Arctic and Polar exploration.

April 6, 1954, President Eisenhower invited Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Henson to the White House. He was commended by the President of the United States for his bravery, courage and contributions to Arctic exploration.

Mr. Henson has been honored by many organizations, civic bodies and some scientific societies. He was the recipient of a Congressional Medal and another from the Chicago Geographic Society.

Upon his death, the Maryland State Legislature passed resolutions lamenting his passing.

August 12, 1956, the U. S. Air Force flew Herbert M. Frisby, Afro-American Arctic Correspondent and Head of the Science Department at Douglass High School, Baltimore, Maryland, over the North Pole where he dropped a U. S. Flag and bronze plaque in Mr. Henson's honor.

Since Henson's passing, Mr. Frisby has secured from Mr. Henson's widow the remaining Arctic artifacts and presented them to Morgan State College, where they are now on display.

Attempts are being made to have Henson's remains re-interred in U. S. National Cemetery at Arlington, beside those of Admiral Peary. This has not yet been realized.

Today, the Arctic and Polar regions are our main bulwark of security and defense against a potential enemy.

April 6, 1959, marked the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Discovery of the North Pole by Peary, Henson and the four Eskimos. A special

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 23—CONTINUED

U. S. 4-cent postage stamp was issued commemorating Peary's contribution, but the State of Maryland has not given official permanent recognition to the accomplishments of Matthew Alexander Henson.

In 1959, the General Assembly of Maryland passed House Joint Resolution No. 29, wherein it was resolved that a plaque or monument be established on the campus of the Pomonkey High School, Charles County, Maryland, as a permanent memorial to Matthew Alexander Henson.

Governor J. Millard Tawes, the Board of Public Works, the Director of Public Improvements and a Committee appointed by the Governor have studied and considered the most effective manner in which this project may be executed. They are agreed that a permanent plaque would serve as a greater inspiration to our youth, have increased Historical significance and add greatly to the prestige of the State of Maryland, on whose soil the said Matthew A. Henson was born, if placed in the State House, and if a small replica of that plaque was erected at Pomonkey High School, Charles County, Maryland; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Senate of Maryland, That a permanent plaque, honoring Matthew A. Henson, provided for by this body in 1959 by House Joint Resolution No. 29, be placed in the State House and that it consist of a bronze tablet, suitably inscribed and dedicated with appropriate exercises; and be it further


Resolved, that a small replica of this plaque be erected on the wall of the entrance of the Pomonkey High School, Charles County, Maryland, and be it further

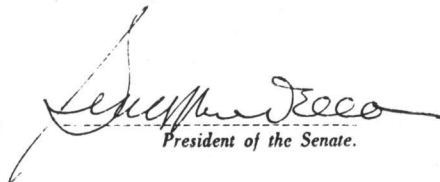
Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Honorable J. Millard Tawes, Governor of Maryland, and to Mrs. Lucy Henson, widow of the late Matthew Alexander Henson, 246 West 150th Street, New York City, New York.

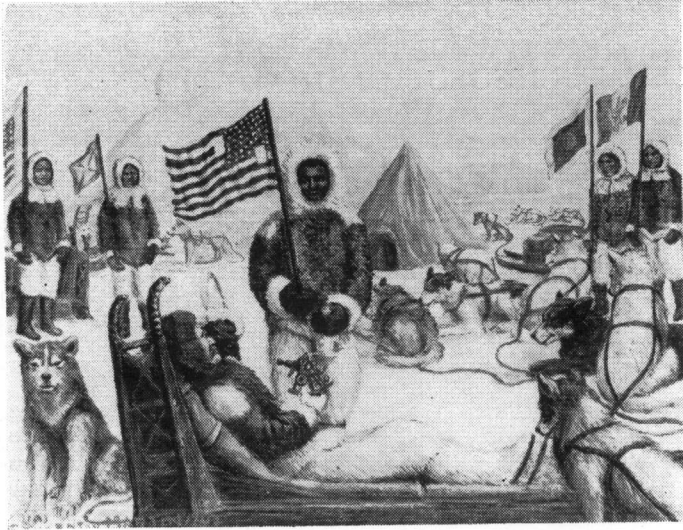
By the Senate, March 9, 1961.

Read and adopted.

By order, J. Waters Parrish, Secretary.


Secretary of the Senate.


President of the Senate.



DISCOVERY OF THE NORTH POLE: Copy of an oil painting showing the discovery of the North Pole, April 6, 1909. The painting was made from a description by Matthew A. Henson, and is authenticated by references in Peary's book, "The North Pole" (1909, 1910).

The painting shows Peary in his sled, Henson holding the U. S. Flag, and the four Eskimo participants, Ooqueah (Ooqeah), Ootah, Eginwah and Seeglo.

(Copy of Tablet Inscription)

MATTHEW ALEXANDER HENSON
CO-DISCOVERER OF THE NORTH POLE

WITH

ADMIRAL ROBERT EDWIN PEARY

APRIL 6, 1909

* * * * *

BORN: AUGUST 8, 1866

DIED: MARCH 9, 1955

SON OF MARYLAND

EXEMPLIFICATION OF COURAGE, FORTITUDE AND PATRIOTISM,

WHOSE VALIANT DEEDS OF NOBLE DEVOTION

UNDER THE COMMAND OF ADMIRAL ROBERT EDWIN PEARY,

IN PIONEER ARCTIC EXPLORATION AND DISCOVERY,

ESTABLISHED EVERLASTING PRESTIGE AND GLORY

FOR HIS STATE AND COUNTRY

BY THE STATE OF MARYLAND

J. MILLARD TAWES, GOVERNOR

THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

J. MILLARD TAWES
LOUIS L. GOLDSTEIN
HOOPER S. MILES
ANDREW HEUBECK, JR.

GOVERNOR
COMPTROLLER
TREASURER
SECRETARY

THE GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HERBERT M. FRISBY, CHAIRMAN
SENATOR J. ALVIN JONES

MRS. J. WILLIAM MIDDENDORF, JR.
ALBERT P. BACKHAUS

CO-ORDINATORS

The Board of Public Works

J. Millard Tawes	Governor
Louis Goldstein	Comptroller
Hooper S. Miles	Treasurer
Andrew Heubeck, Jr.	Secretary

The Governor's Advisory Committee

Herbert M. Frisby, Chairman	Mrs. J. William Middendorf, Jr.
Senator J. Alvin Jones	Albert P. Backhaus

Department of Public Improvements

Albert P. Backhaus, Director	Garrett O. Billmire, Deputy Director
------------------------------	--------------------------------------

Tablet Inscription Committee

Mrs. Bertha B. Anderson	Mrs. Edward H. McKeon
Dr. Dwight O. W. Holmes	Mrs. J. William Middendorf, Jr.
Dr. Frederick H. Dedmond	Dr. Benjamin Quarles
Ralph W. Reckling	

Patrons Ex officio

Hon. Joseph H. Griscom	Dr. Carl Murphy
Mayor—Annapolis, Maryland	Afro-American Newspapers
Hon. Thomas B. R. Mudd, Jr.	
Co-Sponsor Matthew A. Henson Memorial	

Courtesy

James M. Brown	Anthony Howes
Supt. of Public Buildings and Grounds	Chief of Police, Annapolis, Maryland
Col. Carey Jarman	
Supt. of Maryland State Police	

General Committee

Rev. Marion C. Bascom	Mrs. Ida E. Harris	Everett G. Pettigrew
Dr. Aris Allen	Herbert S. Hilliard	Hilton E. Premdas
Miss Carol G. Bauer	Charles E. Jackson	Louis H. Russell
Rev. Leroy Bowman	Henry C. Johnson	William Reid
T. Norwood Brown	Miss Sarah V. Jones	Mrs. Eloise Richardson
Frank B. Butler	Douglas S. King	Wardelle T. Richardson
Rev. John T. Chambers	Mrs. Lena K. Lee	Norman Ross
Paul Chester	Maryland League of	Mrs. Bettie Staton
Dr. Fred L. Dunn, Jr.	Women's Clubs	William Taylor
Henry N. Freeman	Walter S. Mills	Ushers—Douglass Memorial
H. Russell Frisby, Sr.	Dr. Parlett L. Moore	Community Church
Mrs. Bernice Gibbs	Francis L. Noel	Ushers—Grace Presbyterian
Mrs. B. Gibbs Hammond	Dallas G. Pace	Church
J. Spencer Hammond	Joseph C. Parks	Dr. J. Alexander Wiseman

MATTHEW (MATT) ALEXANDER HENSON

Matthew ("Matt") Alexander Henson was born August 8, 1866 on a farm, the site of a former slave market, in Nanjemoy, Charles County, Maryland. Henson, the man destined to become the first person to locate and stand on the Top of the World, was born in virtual obscurity. Little is known of his early boyhood. Around the age of eleven, he ran away from Nanjemoy one night and walked to Washington, D. C. There, he divided his time between working in a restaurant operated by his aunt, Mrs. Janey Moore, and attending irregularly, the N Street Elementary School.

Henson left Washington at the age of thirteen, walked to Baltimore, Maryland and located around the waterfront. Soon thereafter, as one without a home, he shipped as a cabin boy on a schooner under the command of a Captain Childs. This skipper

continued

MATTHEW (MATT) ALEXANDER HENSON--CONTINUED

taught him the rudiments of simple mathematics and navigation. The voyage carried him to China and return.

Returning to Washington, he found employment as a porter in a hat shop on Pennsylvania Avenue. One day, the then Lt. Robert E. Peary visited this store. He observed Matt Henson at work and became impressed with him. Matt was invited by Lt. Peary to join him on a canal surveying expedition to Nicaragua. Henson accepted.

When this mission was completed, Peary became interested in heading an expedition in search of the North Pole, which at that time, was the intensive objective of many nations. Henson accompanied Peary on each of his seven expeditions into the Arctic and Polar regions.

Matt saved Peary's life when he was attacked by an infuriated musk ox, and also on one occasion rescued him from starvation. He was chosen by Peary to be a member of the party of six to make the final dash to the Pole. Peary paid him this compliment—"He is my most valuable companion. I could not get along without him."

Overcome with exhaustion and crippled by the loss of most of his toes by frostbite, Peary sent Henson forward to make final observations and calculations, and await his arrival. Forty minutes later, Peary, driven up on his sled by four Eskimos, joined Henson. Peary's check confirmed the discovery of the North Pole.

90 N. Lat., North Pole

April 6, 1909

Arrived here today, 27 marches from Cape Columbia.

I have with me 5 men, Matthew Henson, colored, Ootah, Eginwah, Seegloo and Ookeyah, Eskimos; 5 sledges and 38 dogs.

The expedition under my command has succeeded in reaching the Pole . . . for the honor and prestige of the United States of America.

Robert E. Peary

United States Navy

(From Log Book of Admiral Peary)

"This scene my eyes will never see again. Plant the Stars and Stripes over there, Matt, . . . At the North Pole."—Peary.

Aside from Peary, the leader of the expeditions, Henson has been given most of the credit for the success of the discovery of the North Pole. This is because of his courage and daring, ability to withstand the most rigorous climate and exposure, mastery of the Eskimo language and their admiration of him, his skill in sled building, driving and igloo construction. These credits were accorded him by all the surviving members of the polar expeditions.

In recognition of his contributions, Mr. Henson was awarded the Master of Science degree by Morgan State College and Howard University, a Congressional Medal, Life Membership in the Explorers Club, a medal from the Chicago Geographical Society, a citation by the U. S. Department of Defense, a commendation from President Dwight D. Eisenhower, at the White House, numerous medals and plaques from civic organizations.

On August 12, 1956, a memorial tribute to him was dropped on the North Pole from a U. S. Air Force plane by Afro-American Arctic Correspondent, Herbert M. Frisby, the author of this biographical sketch.

There is Henson Bay, in northwest Arctic Canada, named as a tribute to him.

Mr. Henson died March 9, 1955 in New York City. He is survived by Mrs. Lucy J. Henson, his widow.

Since his passing, he has been memorialized by His Excellency, J. Millard Tawes, Governor of Maryland, proclaiming April 6, 1959, the 50th Anniversary of the Discovery of the North Pole, as MATTHEW ALEXANDER HENSON DAY in the State of Maryland.

By action of the Maryland General Assemblies in 1959 and 1961, provisions were made for the establishment of permanent memorials to Mr. Henson, one to be placed in the State House at Annapolis, and a small replica of the same on the campus of the Pomonkey High School, Charles County, both in Maryland.

(H. M. F.)

For further details see—

Henson, Matthew A.: *A Negro Explorer at the North Pole* (1912)

Life Magazine: *Discovery of the North Pole* (May 12, 1951)

MacMillan, Admiral Donald B.: *Matthew Henson*: Explorers Magazine, Fall, 1955

Peary, Admiral Robert E.: *The North Pole* (1910) [Contains 13 references]

Robinson, Bradley: *Dark Companion* (1947)

Frisby, Herbert M.: *Matt Henson Helped Discover North Pole*, Afro-American Newspapers, April 15, 1952

BOOKS

The Maryland Negro Who Aided Peary

AHDOOLO. *A Biography of Matthew A. Henson, the Negro Who Accompanied Peary to the North Pole.* By Floyd Miller. 221 pages. Illustrated. Dutton. \$4.50.

I WOULD perhaps have more confidence in this story had I never known personally both author and subject.

But let me say in the very beginning that this is a rollicking good story. It is a most readable and vivid account of the life and times of Matthew (Matt) Alexander Henson, the Maryland-born Negro companion of Admiral Robert Edwin Peary on his famous and finally triumphant expedition to the North Pole, April 6, 1909.

The reader is able to feel the Arctic blasts, snuggled within the igloos with the Eskimos, and vicariously engage in the hot and at times violent quarrels among the members of Peary's party.

The story moves with such life and action that almost any reader will find it difficult to lay the book down, once he has begun to read it.

Conversations Challenged

Now having said this much, then the question must be asked if this story is history or is it fiction? The reader must want to know: Are the conversations between Peary and Henson, which the author embraces within quotation marks, the actual words spoken.

Unfortunately, the answer must be "no," for the author never personally met Peary or Henson. Further, he has not frankly taken his readers into his confidence and told them that these conversations are merely reconstructions of what he believed was said on the basis of the situations or personalities involved.

The subtitle of this book should be, "A Fictionalized Biography of Matthew A. Henson Based Upon Research."

In this connection, I beg to report that in my numerous conversations with Matt Henson extending over a period of some twelve years, he did not utter some of the statements which are ascribed to him in this book.

Two Flaws Seen

Moreover, Mr. Miller, despite his evident wish to praise Henson for his outstanding achievements in pioneer polar exploration and almost unmatched devotion and loyalty to Admiral Peary, wounds him in two respects. First, the author cannot seem to forget that he is a white man writing about a Negro, and thus he vacillates between heaping praise upon Henson and then patronizingly patting him upon the head.

Second, though this is supposedly a book about the heroism of Henson over a period of some twenty years with Peary, Mr. Miller, for some reason,



MATTHEW A. HENSON

suppresses the most triumphant scene in this hero's career. The fact is that Matthew Henson actually reached the North Pole 45 minutes before his weary and ailing commander, Peary, ill, and unable to walk because his frozen toes had been recently amputated; ordered his lone companion, Henson, to push forward alone; he, Peary, would follow, driven up in a sled by four Eskimos.

Reported By Others

It would not have taken away one whit of Peary's glory to have said, as many other historians and writers have, that actually the member of the Peary expedition who first stood on the top of the world was Matthew Alexander Henson.

Perhaps the psychologists will have to explain Mr. Miller's suppression of this dramatic climax, for it is clearly in the records of Bradley Robinson's "Dark Companion," which was published in 1947. This earlier book, incidentally, is the most authentic biography of Henson to date.

If I may be permitted a personal word on this score, I can say that two years ago Floyd Miller spent a whole day in my home and consulted my files and other sources of information. Had certain data and other authenticated materials which would have made his story more convincing, been used or placed in their proper context, he would have produced a reliable biography.

In conclusion, let me say that this is still a good story well worth reading. So little is printed in America about the notable achievements of Negro citizens that perhaps the public will be happy to get this much truth. There is little danger in reading this book if the reader keeps reminding himself that this is not biography, but biographical fiction.

HERBERT M. FRISBY,
Arctic Correspondent and
Researcher, Coppin State
College.

(Reprint)

The Baltimore Sunday Sun

• • • • •

Herbert M. Frisby to date has done nineteen missions within the past twenty years into all areas of the world's Arctic and Polar regions. He has traveled over most of the route covered by the Peary Expeditions. On August 12, 1956, he was flown in a U. S. Air Force B29 to the North Pole where he dropped a memorial to Matthew A. Henson. He thus became the second Negro to go to the North Pole.

He initiated and successfully completed several projects culminating in the following honors and recognitions for Matt Henson—citation by the Department of Defense; commendation by President Eisenhower in the White House; erection by the Maryland General Assembly of a memorial tablet in the State House, Annapolis, Maryland; naming in his honor of a newly erected elementary public school in Baltimore, Maryland; the Governor's Proclamation designating April 6th as Matthew Alexander Henson Day in the State of Maryland.

ARCTIC COLLECTION
DR. HERBERT M. FRISBY
3403 BATEMAN AVENUE
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21218

The Herbert M. Frisby Historical Society

Baltimore, Maryland

First Annual Memorial Tribute

to

Matthew A. Henson: Co-Discoverer of the North Pole
with Admiral Robert E. Peary - 1909

Sunday Afternoon, April 13, 1969 - 3:00 P.M.
The State House, Annapolis, Maryland

PROGRAM

- Presiding.....Hon. Lena K. Lee, Founder & President
Member of Maryland General Assembly
- Invocation.....Rev. Kelly Jackson, Associate Minister,
Director of Programs - Mt. Zion
United Methodist Church
- Pledge to the Flag.....Audience
- Objectives of the Society.....Mrs. John C. Strawhorn
- A Salute to Matthew A. Henson.....Pupils, Matthew A. Henson Elementary School
Hilda, Samuel & Gerald Thomas
- Introduction of Guest Speaker.....Mrs. Charles K. Anderson
Vice President
- The Guest Speaker.....Mr. James Walter Fisher
Director of the Library, Associate Professor
of History, Morgan State College
- Recognition of Distinguished Guests.....Hon. Lena K. Lee
- Introduction - Henson: A Negro Explorer at the North Pole - Mrs. William Turks
Editor's Note
- Remarks.....Dr. Herbert M. Frisby
Chairman-Matthew A. Henson Memorial Projects
Arctic Explorer
Second Negro at the North Pole (1956)
- Processional to Henson Tablet Location
- Placement and Unveiling of Memorial Wreath.....Miss Lota Howard
Mrs. William Ross, III
- Benediction.....Rev. Kelly Jackson

Committee

Miss Lota Howard
Mrs. Edward McDaniel
Mrs. Paul M. Moss

Mrs. Garnie Newsom
Mrs. John C. Strawhorn
Dr. Herbert M. Frisby, Chairman



MATTHEW ALEXANDER HENSON
CO-DISCOVERER OF THE NORTH POLE
WITH
ADMIRAL ROBERT EDWIN PEARY
APRIL 6, 1909

BORN: AUGUST 8, 1866 **DIED: MARCH 9, 1955**

SON OF MARYLAND
EXEMPLIFICATION OF COURAGE, FORTITUDE AND PATRIOTISM,
WHOSE VALIANT DEEDS OF NOBLE DEVOTION
UNDER THE COMMAND OF ADMIRAL ROBERT EDWIN PEARY,
IN PIONEER ARCTIC EXPLORATION AND DISCOVERY,
ESTABLISHED EVERLASTING PRESTIGE AND GLORY
FOR HIS STATE AND COUNTRY

BY THE STATE OF MARYLAND
J. MILLARD TAWES, GOVERNOR
THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
J. MILLARD TAWES GOVERNOR
LOUIS L. GOLDSTEIN COMPTROLLER
HOOPER SMILES TREASURER
ANDREW HEUBECK, JR. SECRETARY

THE GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE
HERBERT M. FRISBY, CHAIRMAN MRS. J. WILLIAM MIDDENDORF, JR.
SENATOR J. ALVIN JONES ALBERT P. BACKHAUS

1353

This memorial tablet, unveiled and dedicated November 18, 1961, is located in the State House, Annapolis, Maryland, in the section which formerly (November 26, 1783 to August 13, 1784) was the Capitol of the United States of America.

MATTHEW (MATT) ALEXANDER HENSON

Matthew ("Matt") Alexander Henson was born August 8, 1866 on a farm, the site of a former slave market, in Nanjemoy, Charles County, Maryland. Henson, the man destined to become the first person to locate and stand on the Top of the World, was born in virtual obscurity. Little is known of his early boyhood. Around the age of eleven, he ran away from Nanjemoy one night and walked to Washington, D. C. There,

Note: Tablet measures 28 in. x 36 in.

COPYRIGHT, 1963, BY H. M. FRISBY *over*

MATTHEW (MATT) ALEXANDER HENSON—CONTINUED

he divided his time between working in a restaurant operated by his aunt, Mrs. Janey Moore, and attending irregularly, the N Street Elementary School.

Henson left Washington at the age of thirteen, walked to Baltimore, Maryland and located around the waterfront. Soon thereafter, as one without a home, he shipped as a cabin boy on a schooner under the command of a Captain Childs. This skipper taught him the rudiments of simple mathematics and navigation. The voyage carried him to China and return.

Returning to Washington, he found employment as a porter in a hat shop on Pennsylvania Avenue. One day, the then Lt. Robert E. Peary visited this store. He observed Matt Henson at work and became impressed with him. Matt was invited by Lt. Peary to join him on a canal surveying expedition to Nicaragua. Henson accepted.

When this mission was completed, Peary became interested in heading an expedition in search of the North Pole, which at that time, was the intensive objective of many nations. Henson accompanied Peary on each of his seven expeditions into the Arctic and Polar regions.

Matt saved Peary's life when he was attacked by an infuriated musk ox, and also on one occasion rescued him from starvation. He was chosen by Peary to be a member of the party of six to make the final dash to the Pole. Peary paid him this compliment—"He is my most valuable companion. I could not get along without him."

Overcome with exhaustion and crippled by the loss of most of his toes by frostbite, Peary sent Henson forward to make final observations and calculations, and await his arrival. Forty-five minutes later, Peary, driven up on his sled by four Eskimos, joined Henson. Peary's check confirmed the discovery of the North Pole.

90 N. Lat., North Pole

April 6, 1909

Arrived here today, 27 marches from Cape Columbia.

I have with me 5 men, Matthew Henson, colored, Ootah, Eginwah, Seegloo and Ookeh, Eskimos; 5 sledges and 38 dogs.

The expedition under my command has succeeded in reaching the Pole . . . for the honor and prestige of the United States of America.

Robert E. Peary

United States Navy

(From Log Book of Admiral Peary)

"This scene my eyes will never see again. Plant the Stars and Stripes over there, Matt, . . . At the North Pole."—Peary.

Aside from Peary, the leader of the expeditions, Henson has been given most of the credit for the success of the discovery of the North Pole. This is because of his courage and daring, ability to withstand the most rigorous climate and exposure, mastery of the Eskimo language and their admiration of him, his skill in sled building, driving and igloo construction. These credits were accorded him by all the surviving members of the polar expeditions.

In recognition of his contributions, Mr. Henson was awarded the Master of Science degree by Morgan State College and Howard University, a Congressional Medal, Life Membership in the Explorers Club, a medal from the Chicago Geographical Society, a citation by the U. S. Department of Defense, a commendation from President Dwight D. Eisenhower, at the White House, numerous medals and plaques from civic organizations.

On August 12, 1956, a memorial tribute to him was dropped on the North Pole from a U. S. Air Force plane by Afro-American Arctic Correspondent, Herbert M. Frisby, the author of this biographical sketch.

There is Henson Bay, in northwest Arctic Canada, named as a tribute to him.

Mr. Henson died March 9, 1955 in New York City. He is survived by Mrs. Lucy J. Henson, his widow.

Since his passing, he has been memorialized by His Excellency, J. Millard Tawes, Governor of Maryland, proclaiming April 6, 1959, the 50th Anniversary of the Discovery of the North Pole, as MATTHEW ALEXANDER HENSON DAY in the State of Maryland.

By action of the Maryland General Assemblies in 1959 and 1961, provisions were made for the establishment of permanent memorials to Mr. Henson, one to be placed in the State House at Annapolis, and a small replica of the same on the campus of the Pomonkey High School, Charles County, both in Maryland.

(H. M. F.)

For further details see—

Henson, Matthew A.: *A Negro Explorer at the North Pole* (1912)

Life Magazine: *Discovery of the North Pole* (May 12, 1951)

MacMillan, Admiral Donald B.: *Matthew Henson*: Explorers Magazine, Fall, 1955

Peary, Admiral Robert E.: *The North Pole* (1910) [Contains 13 references]

Robinson, Bradley: *Dark Companion* (1947)

Frisby, Herbert M.: *Matt Henson Helped Discover North Pole*, Afro-American Newspapers, April 15, 1952

THE HERBERT M. FRISBY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



FOUNDED 1965

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Distributed at SECOND ANNUAL DINNER
June 18, 1967
Baltimore, Maryland

**ARCTIC COLLECTION
DR. HERBERT M. FRISBY
3403 BATEMAN AVENUE
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21216**

The Herbert M. Frisby Historical Society

THE HERBERT M. FRISBY HISTORICAL SOCIETY was organized on Saturday, December 11, 1965, by a group of women dedicated to the enlarging of a sense of history in their community. The outstanding and compelling motivation of the founders was the inspiring presence within their midst of Dr. Herbert M. Frisby, noted polar explorer, who has dedicated his life to perpetuating in dignity the name of Matthew Alexander Henson on the pages of history as co-discoverer of the North Pole, under the command of his devoted friend, Admiral Robert Edwin Peary, April 6, 1909. Many of the founders were present at the State House, at Annapolis, Maryland, on November 18, 1961, when a memorial tablet, culminating long years of research and travel on the part of Dr. Frisby, was unveiled and dedicated from its high place on the State House walls, an accomplishment made possible by the cooperation of His Excellency J. Millard Tawees, governor of Maryland.

Determined that the tablet shall forever be enshrined on these walls, members of the Herbert M. Frisby Historical Society have set their course. As the organization grows in scientific stature, its plans are to glorify forever the name of Herbert M. Frisby, historian, through an ever-widening scope of activities; to affiliate with similar associations in their endeavors; to foster and cultivate a sense of history; to encourage authorship; and to bring about the removal of the remains of Matthew Alexander Henson to a final place of rest in the Arlington National Cemetery near the shrine of Admiral Edwin Peary in fulfilment of the old explorer's request to rest near his friend and master of the exploration.

The first year (1965-1966) of the organization has been a very busy one. Monthly meetings have been devoted to-

ward effecting a sound and workable Constitution which would further achievement of ideals, objectives and goals already set forth and which stimulated and unified the distinguished and representative women to found the Society, and since then, has attracted others to affiliate with the group.

A Speakers Bureau has been created, members of which will identify and keep alive the worthy and significant contributions of living makers of history among Negroes; will accept assignments to speak to History Classes, Clubs, etc., in schools and colleges in our local community and State and thus make them aware of worthwhile history which is often suppressed by historians because of certain ethnic involvement.

During the current year, members of the Society collected and sent Christmas and Easter Greeting Cards, beads, children's books and teen-age magazines to various Alaskan and Canadian Eskimo groups with whom Dr. Frisby has established a warm friendship during his 21 years of travel and living with them.

The culminating event of the year occurred June 12, 1966, a Sunday evening in the Sheraton-Belvedere Hotel. The Society tendered Dr. Frisby a huge and magnificent recognition testimonial at its First Annual Dinner Meeting. The guest of honor was the recipient of a score or more of greetings, salutations, citations, etc., from distinguished groups of the City, State and Nation.

The members of the Society, all of them, have one unifying interest and ambition—dedication to the achievement of the ideals and realization of the goals which inspired the founding of the Society.

The Herbert M. Frisby Historical Society Baltimore, Maryland

HON. LENA K. LEE
Member, Maryland General Assembly
PRESIDENT
3701 Callaway Avenue 21215

MRS. EMERSON C. WALDEN
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

MRS. J. DOUGLAS CAMPER
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT

MRS. LEMUEL A. LEWIE, JR.
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
3408 Powhatan Avenue 21216

FOUNDERS

MRS. CHARLES K. ANDERSON
JUDGE MARY ARABIAN
MRS. J. DOUGLAS CAMPER
MRS. HARRY A. COLE
MRS. SAMUEL T. DANIELS
MRS. HERBERT M. FRISBY
MRS. H. RUSSELL FRISBY, SR.
MRS. DAVID L. GLENN
MRS. WEBSTER HINCHEN
MRS. HENRY JAMES
MRS. ALEX. W. JEFFERSON
JUDGE SHIRLEY B. JONES
MRS. LEMUEL A. LEWIE, JR.
MRS. EDWARD McDANIELS

MRS. A. PAUL MOSS
MRS. WILLIAM H. ROSS, III
MRS. GEORGE L. RUSSELL, JR.
MISS RUTH L. RUSSELL
MRS. HUBERT SPELLMAN
MRS. JOHN C. STRAWHORN
MRS. HAYWOOD L. STROTHER
MRS. JULIUS TAYLOR
MRS. S. LEROY TAYLOR
MRS. EMERSON C. WALDEN
MRS. ROBERT B. WATTS
MRS. GEORGE A. WHITE
MRS. MACK S. WILLIAMS
MRS. CHARLES M. WOODFORD

AFFILIATES

MRS. HARRY A. COLE
MISS LOTA HOWARD
MRS. LOUISE MAPP
MISS BARBARA MARSHALL
MRS. GARNIE NEWSOME
MISS JESSIE M. PERKINS

MRS. ERNEST SENIOR
MISS MARGARET SPRIGGS
MRS. GLADYS TAYLOR
MRS. WILLIAM TURKS
MRS. EDWARD WILKINS
MRS. ROLAND WILLIAMS

Matthew (Matt) Alexander Henson

Matthew ("Matt") Alexander Henson was born August 8, 1866 on a farm, the site of a former slave market, in Nanjemoy, Charles County, Maryland. Henson, the man destined to become the first person to locate and stand on the Top of the World, was born in virtual obscurity. Little is known of his early boyhood. Around the age of eleven, he ran away from Nanjemoy one night and walked to Washington, D. C. There he he divided his time between working in a restaurant operated by his aunt, Mrs. Janey Moore, and attending irregularly, the N Street Elementary School.

Henson left Washington at the age of thirteen, walked to Baltimore, Maryland and located around the waterfront. Soon thereafter, as one without a home, he shipped as a cabin boy on a schooner under the command of a Captain Childs. This skipper taught him the rudiments of simple mathematics and navigation. The voyage carried him to China and return.

Returning to Washington, he found employment as a porter in a hat shop on Pennsylvania Avenue. One day, the then Lt. Robert E. Peary visited this store. He observed Matt Henson at work and became impressed with him. Matt was invited by Lt. Peary to join him on a canal surveying expedition to Nicaragua. Henson accepted.

When this mission was completed, Peary became interested in heading an expedition in search of the North Pole, which at that time, was the intensive objective of many nations. Henson accompanied Peary on each of his seven expeditions into the Arctic and Polar regions.

Matt saved Peary's life when he was attacked by an infuriated musk ox, and also on one occasion rescued him from starvation. He was chosen by Peary to be a member of the party of six to make the final dash to the Pole. Peary paid him this compliment—"He is my most valuable companion. I could not get along without him."

Overcome with exhaustion and crippled by the loss of most of his toes by frostbite, Peary sent Henson forward to make final observations and calculations, and await his arrival. Forty-five minutes later, Peary, driven up on his sled by four Eskimos, joined Henson. Peary's check confirmed the discovery of the North Pole.

90 N. Lat., North Pole

April 6, 1909

Arrived here today, 27 marches from Cape Columbia.

I have with me 5 men, Matthew Henson, colored, Ootah, Eginwah, Seegloo and Ookeah, Eskimos; 5 sledges and 38 dogs.

The expedition under my command has succeeded in reaching the Pole . . . for the honor and prestige of the United States of America.

Robert E. Peary
United States Navy

(From Log Book of Admiral Peary)

"This scene my eyes will never see again. Plant the Stars and Stripes over there, Matt, . . . At the North Pole."—Peary.

Aside from Peary, the leader of the expeditions, Henson has been given most of the credit for the success of the discovery of the North Pole. This is because of his courage and daring, ability to withstand the most rigorous climate and exposure, mastery of the Eskimo language and their admiration of him, his skill in sled building, driving and igloo construction. These credits were accorded him by all the surviving members of the polar expeditions.

In recognition of his contributions, Mr. Henson was awarded the Master of Science degree by Morgan State College and Howard University, a Congressional Medal, Life Membership in the Explorers Club, a medal from the Chicago Geographical Society, a citation by the U. S. Department of Defense, a commendation from President Dwight D. Eisenhower, at the White House, numerous medals and plaques from civic organizations.

On August 12, 1956, a memorial tribute to him was dropped on the North Pole from a U. S. Air Force plane by Afro-American Arctic Correspondent, Herbert M. Frisby, the author of this biographical sketch.

There is Henson Bay, in northwest Arctic Canada, named as a tribute to him.

Mr. Henson died March 9, 1955 in New York City. He is survived by Mrs. Lucy J. Henson, his widow.

Since his passing, he has been memorialized by His Excellency, J. Millard Tawes, Governor of Maryland, proclaiming April 6, 1959, the 50th Anniversary of the Discovery of the North Pole, as MATTHEW ALEXANDER HENSON DAY in the State of Maryland.

By action of the Maryland General Assemblies in 1959 and 1961, provisions were made for the permanent establishment of permanent memorials to Mr. Henson, one placed in the State House of Annapolis, and a small replica of the same one the campus of the Pomonkey High School, Charles County, both in Maryland.

By action of the Board of School Commissioners of Baltimore, Maryland, April 10, 1962, one of the city's recently constructed million dollar elementary schools was named in his honor—The Matthew A. Henson Elementary School.

The Herbert M. Frisby Historical Society is now engaged in a very hopeful memorial project providing for the transfer by the U. S. Government of Mr. Henson's remains from a cemetery in New York City to the U. S. National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia and given a hero's burial.

H.M.F.





MATTHEW ALEXANDER HENSON
CO-DISCOVERER OF THE NORTH POLE
WITH
ADMIRAL ROBERT EDWIN PEARY
APRIL 6, 1909

BORN: AUGUST 8, 1866 DIED: MARCH 9, 1955

SON OF MARYLAND
EXEMPLIFICATION OF COURAGE, FORTITUDE AND PATRIOTISM,
WHOSE VALIANT DEEDS OF NOBLE DEVOTION
UNDER THE COMMAND OF ADMIRAL ROBERT EDWIN PEARY,
IN PIONEER ARCTIC EXPLORATION AND DISCOVERY,
ESTABLISHED EVERLASTING PRESTIGE AND GLORY
FOR HIS STATE AND COUNTRY

BY THE STATE OF MARYLAND
J. MILLARD TAWES, GOVERNOR
THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
J. MILLARD TAWES GOVERNOR
LOUIS L. GOLDSTEIN COMPTROLLER
HOOPER SMILES TREASURER
ANDREW HEUSECKE, JR. SECRETARY

THE GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE
HERBERT M. FRISBY, CHAIRMAN MRS. J. WILLIAM MIDDENDORF, JR.
SENATOR J. ALVIN JONES ALBERT P. BACKHAUS

1353

This memorial tablet, unveiled and dedicated November 18, 1961, is located in the State House, Annapolis, Maryland, in the section which formerly (November 26, 1783 to August 13, 1784) was the Capitol of the United States of America.

HERBERT M. FRISBY

Arctic and Polar Explorer, Researcher,
Teacher and Correspondent

Birthplace—Baltimore, Maryland (U.S.A.)

Education—Graduate, Douglass High School, Baltimore, Maryland; Graduate, Coppin State Teachers College, Baltimore, Maryland; Graduate, Howard University (A.B.), Washington, D.C.; Graduate, Columbia University (M.A.), New York City.

Post Graduate—University of Pennsylvania; University of Chicago; Penn State College; University of Maryland; New York University; University of Alaska.

Professional Experiences—Teacher, Elementary Schools, Baltimore, Maryland; Instructor, Coppin State Teachers College, Baltimore, Md.; Principal, Douglass Evening High School, Baltimore, Md.; Supervisor (Science and Geography), Junior High Schools, Baltimore, Maryland; Department Head (Science), Douglass High School, Baltimore, Md.

Getting An Education—Personally financed his high school education by selling peanuts after schools hours, earning enough money not only to support himself but also contribute toward the support of other members of the family.

Worked his way through Howard University through employment in a private family as a butler and playing jazz music for social affairs on week-ends and during vacations.

Arctic and Polar—Volunteered and served his country as a War Correspondent during World War II, and assigned, per his request, to the Alaskan and Northwest Service Commands, which included Arctic Canada, Alcan Highway, Alaska and the Aleutian Islands.

Has made 21 Arctic and Polar exploration and research missions to date (1966) during the past 22 years—including Alaska, Newfoundland, Arctic Canada, Labrador, Greenland and Spitsbergen in the European Arctic. These have included living in primitive and rehabilitated Eskimo settlements in order to obtain factual data concerning native mores, cultures and ideologies.

North Pole—Became the second Negro to go to the North Pole, the realization of a 40-year dream and ambition, when on August 12, 1956 he was flown to the North Pole in a U.S. Air Force B-29 airplane. Upon arrival at the North Pole, he dropped a bronze plaque as a memorial to Matthew A. Henson, his idol and inspiration for Arctic travel. This event was covered by the Associated and United Press and radio.

Was the only American scientist on an extensive European exploratory expedition to the Svalvard Islands (Spitsbergen) out of Tromso, Norway during the 1957 International Geophysical Year.

Writes Arctic and Polar feature stores for the Afro American Newspapers.

Has acquired a large and valuable collection of Arctic artifacts, including rare Eskimo ivory, soapstone, fossilized whalebone carvings and graphic arts creations.

Through lectures, writings, exhibits, demonstrations, etc., generously shares the Arctic information, etc., he has

acquired through the years, with thousands of students in our schools and colleges, civic groups and the general public.

Has covered and traveled all the Arctic and Polar regions of the world except those areas controlled by Russia.

Activities Related To Matthew A. Henson—Co-discoverer of the North Pole.

Dedication—Has dedicated his life to the promotion of programs publicizing locally, nationally and internationally:

1. The historic and significant role of Matt Henson in the discovery of the North Pole.

2. That the Maryland-born Negro was *first at the Pole*, arriving 45 minutes ahead of the rest of the members of the party, including Peary the leader, and therefore merits the title of "*Co-discoverer of the North Pole with Admiral Peary.*"

Initiated the series of activities which culminated in the U. S. Department of Defense bringing Mr. Henson to Pentagon, April 6, 1949 and giving him a reception and citation.

Initiated the invitation from The White House by President Eisenhower to Mr. and Mrs. Matthew A. Henson, April 6, 1954, and during which visit, Mr. Henson was commended by the President of The United States for his contributions to the success of the discovery of the North Pole by the Peary expedition on April 6, 1909.

Secured the passage of a Memorial Resolution by the Maryland General Assembly (1955) at the death of Mr. Henson.

Secured the issuance of a Proclamation by His Excellency J. Millard Tawes, Governor of Maryland, indicating April 6, 1959, the 50th Anniversary of the Discovery of the North Pole, as Matthew A. Henson Day throughout the State of Maryland, and calling for its observance with appropriate ceremonies throughout the State.

PERMANENT MATTHEW A. HENSON MEMORIALS

Local Level—Initiated and promoted the naming of one of Baltimore's newest and most modern public schools as the Matthew A. Henson Elementary School. This was effected on the anniversary date of the discovery of the North Pole (April 6, 1962).

State Level—Formulated, initiated and executed project resulting in legislation by the Maryland General Assembly (1959, 1961) authorizing the erection of THE MATTHEW A. HENSON MEMORIAL TABLET in the State House at Annapolis, Md., and a small replica at Pomonkey High School, Charles County, Md., where Henson was born.

This marked the first time in the history of Maryland or any southern state that a memorial, on a State Level has been erected to honor a Negro. Herbert M. Frisby, Chairman of Governor's Advisory Committee presided

National Level—Is currently working with The Herbert M. Frisby Historical Society on a project providing for the transfer by the U. S. Government of Mr. Henson's remains from a New York City cemetery to the U. S. National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia with honors accorded a hero.

Affiliations—American Polar Society; Arctic Institute of

(Continued on Page 7)



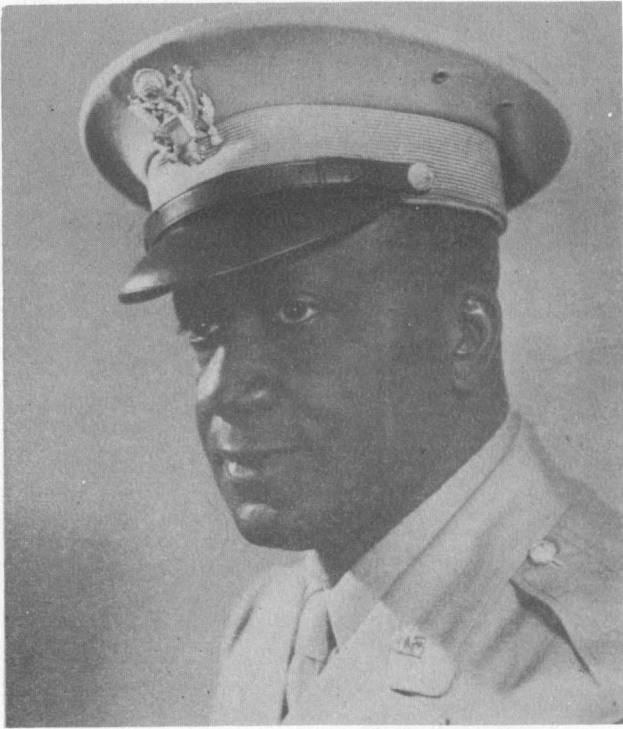
Photo -- Baltimore Sunpapers



H.M.F. 1966

Dr. Herbert M. Frisby
Arctic Explorer, Correspondent
Lecturer
1966





U. S. War Correspondent: During World War II, Frisby did service throughout the Arctic, including Alaska, Canada, Labrador and Greenland.



August 8, 1966 at State House, Annapolis, Maryland: Hon. J. Millard Tawes, Governor of Maryland and Dr. Herbert M. Frisby, Arctic and Polar explorer unveil memorial wreath observing the 100th Anniversary of the birth of Matthew A. Henson, Negro Arctic explorer and the first person to set foot on the top of the earth, April 6, 1909. This Memorial is located in Hall of Fame in the State House.



The Matthew A. Henson Elementary School, Baltimore, Maryland: This Building named in honor of Arctic explorer through efforts of Dr. Frisby, who also participated in Ground-breaking ceremonies for the building.



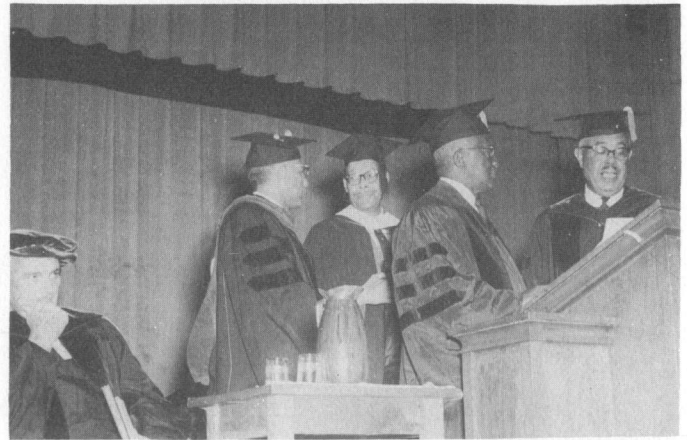
Igloo Building - An art which is rapidly disappearing in the Far North.

North America; Norwegian Arctic Club, Tromso, Norway; Arctic Correspondent, Afro-American Newspapers (Baltimore, Maryland); Grace Presbyterian Church, Baltimore, Maryland; Howard University Alumni Association, Baltimore, Maryland; American Society for Nigeria; National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Maryland Association of Biology Teachers; Maryland State Teachers Association; National Geographic Society; Order of the Black-eyed Susan: Baltimore News-American; Ruling Elders Association—United Presbyterian Church; Sponsor and Chairman—MATTHEW A. HENSON MEMORIAL PROJECTS; CHAIRMAN, GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE—MATTHEW A. HENSON MEMORIAL; Baltimore Urban League; Walters Art Gallery; Member—Maryland Commission of New York World Fair, 1964-1965; Y.M.C.A.; Canadian Folk Music Society—Ottawa, Canada.

Citations—American Chemical Society, April 27, 1955; Drexel Institute of Technology, October 27, 1955; Iota Phi Lambda Sorority (As a maker of history), 1959; Baltimore Chapter, Howard University Alumni Association, 1958; General Alumni Association, Howard University, June 1959; Douglass Evening High School, June, 1959; Falcon Rod and Gun Club, 1959; Maryland General Assembly, February, 1961; The Governor of Maryland (J. Millard Tawes), 1962; Maryland League of Women's Clubs, 1962; National Association for Advancement of Colored People, 1969; Arctic Club, Tromso, Norway, August, 1957; Afro-American Newspaper Honor Roll, 1961; Morgan State College, Doctor of Laws, June 1, 1964.

STATE OF MARYLAND, CITY OF BALTIMORE

CITATIONS—1966: American Society for Nigeria (Baltimore Chapter), American Guild of Organists (Patapsco Chapter), Coppin State College Alumni Association, Falcon Rod and Gun Club, For-Win-Ash Garden Club, Frederick Douglass High School, Herbert M. Frisby Historical Society, Matthew A. Henson Public School, Prince Hall Masons of Maryland, State of Maryland, Women's Civic League.



Herbert M. Frisby, Arctic and Polar explorer, receives Honorary Doctorate from President Martin D. Jenkins of Morgan State College, Baltimore, Maryland, June 1, 1964. The award was recognition for continuous research which resulted in recognition of the Negro Matthew A. Henson as the real discoverer of the North Pole, April 6, 1909; also his continuous studies in the Arctic and Polar regions of the world.



North Pole Lecture—Frisby lectures to students of D. H. S.



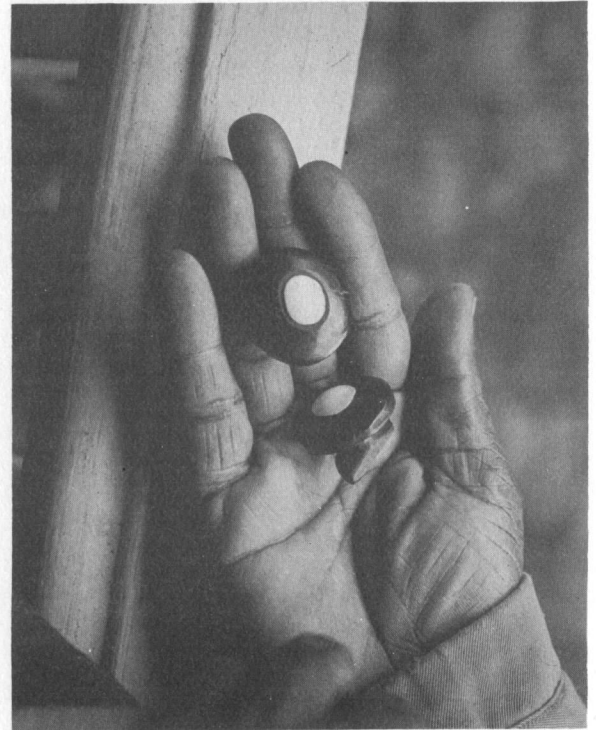
Thule, Greenland: Eskimos who were the recipients of gifts of Xmas and Easter Greeting cards, beads, children's books and teen-age magazines from members of The Herbert M. Frisby Historical Society



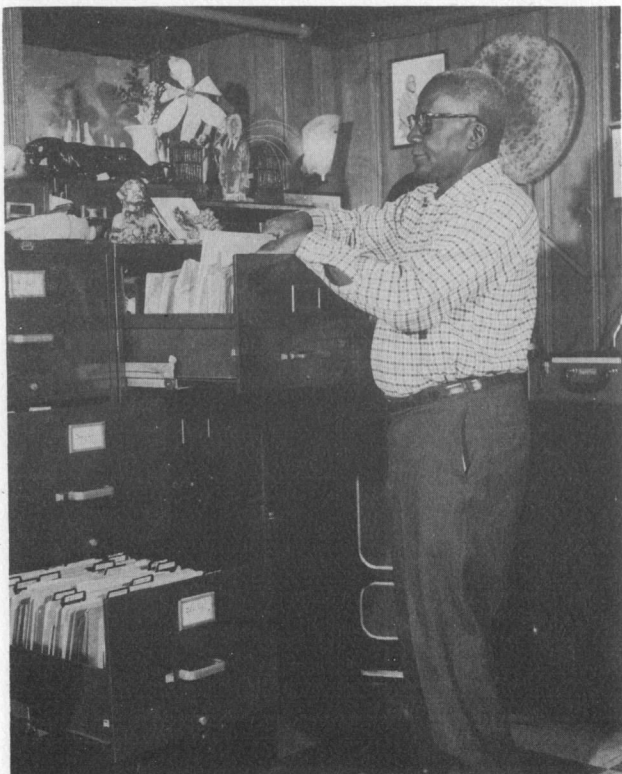
Eskimo Children Learn the 3 R's: Children learn the fundamentals of education from native Eskimo teacher at Resolute Bay, N. W. T.



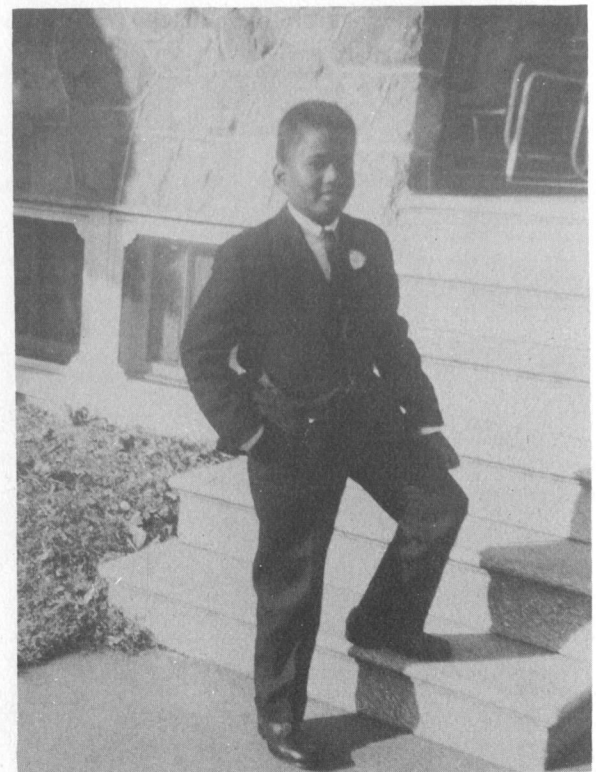
At Point Hope, Alaska: Andrew and Aggie Frankson, Eskimos, make their igloo available to Dr. Frisby on one of his trips studying folkways of the native people.



Eskimo Charms: Dr. Frisby holds spiritual charms presented him by an Eskimo Medicine Man at Point Hope, Alaska. The "Doctor" vested Dr. Frisby with the "power to perform miracles" (?)



FOR POSTERITY: From the several files Dr. Frisby has of data he has collected during his Arctic travels, he searches for materials for his book in preparation. Project supported by the Society.



Matt Henson's Camera Still Works after 60 Years: This photo of H. Russell Frisby, Jr. was taken by Dr. Herbert M. Frisby, his grandfather and Arctic explorer. The camera which had lain dormant for 60 or more years, is now a part of the Henson Memorial Collection at Morgan State College, Baltimore, Maryland.

THE HERBERT M. FRISBY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Meritorious Award

THIS CITATION IS PRESENTED TO

Herbert M. Frisby

Arctic and Polar Explorer, Researcher, Teacher, and Historian

whose sense of history established him as a scientist of unquestioned ability and repute; whose reaches into the vast polar areas increased global understanding; and whose zeal and persistence have established forever on the pages of history the place of a son of Maryland, Matthew Alexander Henson, as a co-discoverer of the North Pole under the command of Admiral Robert Edwin Peary.

Given at the first annual meeting of the Herbert M. Frisby Historical Society,
Sunday, June 12, 1966, at Baltimore.

LENA KING LEE

PRESIDENT

REVA GOODWIN LEWIE

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY



COLLECTION OF
HERBERT M. FRISBY

Dr. Frisby Flies over North Pole (Aug. 12, 1956); The U. S. Air Force plane over the North Pole. A memorial to Matthew A. Henson was dropped on the North Pole by Dr. Frisby



Moving Day - A village on Baffin Island, N. W. T.

Herbert M. Frisby Historical Society organized by women Afro- 12/11/65

PRESS COMMENTS

12C Sunday, July 25, 1965 THE NEWS AMERICAN

Polar Expert Deplores 'Culturizing' of Eskimo

By JEFFREY COHEN Eskimo rather than aculturize, gro than he would be if he were

Mike Dalton
Fairbanks, Alaska News-Miner 8/30/65

Negro Educator's Hobby: Arctic

By Mike Dalton

whether he knew it or not at the time.



HERBERT M. FRISBY
... ready for Arctic.

FRISBY DESCRIBES

Afro American 8/12/65

AN ESKIMO CEMETERY

Sun - 8/14/65

THE SI

Frisby, Second Negro To Get To Pole, Going North Again

July 24, 1965

B-8

THE BALTIMORE AFRO-AMERICAN,

Frisby to live in igloo on next trip to Arctic

Frisby Gets Arctic Outfit; Mosquitoes Are Inch Wide

Afro - July 18, 1944

By HERBERT M. FRISBY
AFRO War Correspondent
IN BOYS OF EMBARKATION

July 18, 1944

Top Vanks Win

Aug. 21, 1962

THE OTTAWA JOURNAL

Negro Explorer In Capital

A Negro who has devoted a the class and shouted: "I'm

FRISBY IN ALASKA
Eskimos Great Imitators
 Afro American 10/2/65



MATTHEW ALEXANDER HENSON
CO-DISCOVERER OF THE NORTH POLE

WITH
ADMIRAL ROBERT EDWIN PEARY

APRIL 6, 1909



BORN: AUGUST 8, 1866

DIED: MARCH 9, 1955

SON OF MARYLAND
EXEMPLIFICATION OF COURAGE, FORTITUDE AND PATRIOTISM,
WHOSE VALIANT DEEDS OF NOBLE DEVOTION
UNDER THE COMMAND OF ADMIRAL ROBERT EDWIN PEARY,
IN PIONEER ARCTIC EXPLORATION AND DISCOVERY,
ESTABLISHED EVERLASTING PRESTIGE AND GLORY
FOR HIS STATE AND COUNTRY

BY THE STATE OF MARYLAND
J. MILLARD TAWES, GOVERNOR
THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
J. MILLARD TAWES GOVERNOR
LOUIS L. GOLDSTEIN COMPTROLLER
ROOPER S. MILES TREASURER
ANDREW NEUBECK, JR. SECRETARY

THE GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE
HERBERT M. FRISBY, CHAIRMAN MRS. J. WILLIAM MIDDENDORF, JR.
SENATOR J. ALVIN JONES ALBERT P. BACKHAUS

1353

This memorial tablet, unveiled and dedicated November 18, 1961, is located in the State House, Annapolis, Maryland, in the section which formerly (November 26, 1783 to August 13, 1784) was the Capitol of the United States of America.

ARCTIC COLLECTION
DR. HERBERT M. FRISBY
3403 BATEMAN AVENUE
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21211

MATTHEW A. HENSON MEMORIAL PROJECTS

3403 Bateman Avenue

Baltimore 16, Maryland

November 18, 1962

Greetings—

You may recall that just one year ago (November 18, 1961), a highly significant historical event occurred in the State House, Annapolis, Maryland—the unveiling of a memorial tablet in honor of

MATTHEW ALEXANDER HENSON
Co-discoverer of the North Pole with
ADMIRAL ROBERT EDWIN PEARY

April 6, 1909

To refresh your memories on this anniversary date, submitted below are some excerpts from remarks of some of the distinguished speakers.

HON. J. MILLARD TAWES—GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND

"It is my pleasure to welcome all of you to Annapolis for this ceremony in which we pay tribute to a great Marylander, a great American, a great human being.

As we gather here this morning to unveil this memorial to Matthew Alexander Henson, I have the feeling, as I suspect many of you have, that we are giving past-due recognition to one of the noble heroes of a State whose glorious history is filled with deeds of heroes. There is nothing we can do here today, of course, that would enhance the brilliant achievements of this first man to set foot upon the top of our planet . . .

We are most fortunate in having with us this morning Mrs. Lucy Henson, who is the widow of the renowned Arctic explorer whom we honor on this occasion and who will unveil the memorial. We are honored to have with us here, also three distinguished diplomats—His Excellency W. M. Q. Halm, Ambassador of Ghana; His Excellency J. M. Udochi, Ambassador of Nigeria and His Excellency S. Edward Peal, Ambassador of Liberia . . .

At this juncture, I should like to take this opportunity to express my own appreciation, and, as Governor of Maryland, the appreciation of all the people of the State, for the splendid work that has been done by my Advisory Committee in making arrangements for this ceremony.

Herbert M. Frisby, we all know, has dedicated much of his life, in a long and brilliant career, to the perpetuation of the memory of Matt Henson. In a very large measure, this memorial to a hero can be called the product of his zeal, his determination, his dedication, to a purpose.

In his memoirs of the explorations, Admiral Peary himself gave most of the credit for his success to Henson, praising the Maryland man who was his personal assistant, his surgeon, his interpreter, his indispensable companion and aide, for his endurance, his loyalty and his Arctic skills. I am proud to have played a small part in honoring the memory of such a man."

HON. JAMES C. EVANS—Counsellor, Office of Assistant Secretary of Defense.

"We came to give honor to Matthew Henson as we have done in former years. I knew him well. I saw him in Arlington Cemetery when we were honoring Admiral Peary. We had to do with his presentation in the Pentagon. And we have, Mrs. Henson, a record of his voice, one of the last speeches he made.

But I want to talk of the intrepid adventurer who went into the polar regions to plant the American Flag at the top of the world . . .

You know, the history books will not make this too clear—that it is a fact of history that there was an Afro-European by the name of Andrew Alonzo Nimyo, who was a pilot on the ship that brought Columbus to the discovery of these shores. Matt Henson was following in the tradition of the Afro-European when he, as an Afro-American, arranged the reception party at the North Pole, and when the Admiral arrived, he was there to show him around . . . We are now on another quest . . . looking for some descendant of Matthew Henson, a young man of color, who will go on some of our new explorations and make arrangements for a reception committee on the moon when our first exploration goes there.

The unveiling of the Matthew A. Henson Memorial plaque in the halls of the State House at Annapolis assures the perpetuation of the memory of this intrepid citizen of color from the State of Maryland."

COM. EDWARD PEARY STAFFORD, U. S. N. (Grandson of Admiral Peary — Discoverer of the North Pole.)

"To talk about Matt Henson and to honor his memory is a pleasant and easy thing to do. His, is a name I grew up with. In my family it always carried connotations of courage, trust and utter reliability. With an almost incredible physical stamina, Matt shared every hardship, every disappointment, every trial and triumph with Peary . . . The boy employee had become the respected and adult companion . . .

A partnership of three races was required to defeat the hostile Arctic and reach the North

Pole . . . Peary, the Caucasian . . . ; Henson, the Negro . . . and four Eskimos. It is hoped that the trusted companionship between my grandfather and Henson will characterize the relationship between their races in this blessed country of ours."

HON. NEIL H. SWANSON—Guest Speaker: Novelist, World Affairs Editor of Baltimore News-Post and Sunday American.

"We are here today to take part in an act of justice, in an act of faith. Ideals are sometimes only slowly realized, but ideals like the shining gold that Matt Henson had the unique distinction to possess, come closer and closer to their ultimate reality and their final justification . . . as aspirations of the human heart . . .

Matt Henson was the first man to reach the North Pole not because he thrust himself forward, not out of human selfishness . . . but out of the generosity of Robert Peary; out of Peary's acknowledgement and understanding of Henson's capacity, endurance, ability . . . he chose to give up the cherished distinction of being first at the Pole . . .

Matthew Henson is now honored in the halls of the State House which knew George Washington, John Hanson, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, Samuel Chase and John Eager Howard . . .

So we are here today to take part in an act of justice—to take part in an act of faith. And it is important that we understand the nature of these acts . . .

The unveiling of the bronze memorial by the State of Maryland adds nothing to the stature of Matthew Henson. It does not ennoble further the noble spirit of that man; it does not make him greater; it does not increase his achievement nor add anything to the glory of his accomplishment as a human being . . .

Ladies and gentlemen, you already have read that when Peary was attacked by a furious musk-ox, Henson saved his life; you can read that he served Peary by learning the language of the Eskimo and became interpreter. You can read that he was the trusted adviser, companion and leader who gradually went ahead on Peary's expeditions, all seven of them, into the Arctic regions; to blaze the trail, to establish the supply depots.

You can read that Matt Henson became a surgeon; that he stood up to the unpleasant trial of amputating the frozen toes of his commander with a camp hatchet to save his life from gangrene.

Like the quality of mercy, the acts of faith and justice that we do here today bless him who gives as well as him who receives . . . The Matthew Henson Memorial—it is a Memorial to our ideals as a people; it is a Memorial to the long effort to which he is the ideal for which we stand; it is a Memorial to the heritage we share and that large heritage perhaps,—and the degree of sharing is more than sometimes we realize or acknowledge."

CAPT. JAMES W. KELLY, C.H.G., U.S.N.—Chaplain, U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland.

"Let Us Pray: Almighty God, Father of all men, as we meet here this morning to be reminded of the history of our land, of its great heritage and its signal role in the lives of men . . . We are grateful for a man like Matthew A. Henson, our brother, who through thoughtful and honored service without thought of reward or prestige, demonstrated the beauty and good sense of Thy Way among men . . . Amen."

MRS. MATTHEW A. HENSON—Wife of the late explorer being honored.

"I am very grateful to Governor Tawes and the citizens of Maryland for inviting me to be the guest of your State and unveil the bronze tablet honoring my husband . . . Today must be an especially happy one for Mr. Herbert M. Frisby to see a dream come to fruition. He has dedicated his life as a one-man crusader to get my husband recognition in a creditable way and to give him the honor he deserved as a native son of Maryland. Mr. Frisby has been responsible for my husband receiving other honors also."

STATE SENATOR J. ALVIN JONES—Member of Governor's Advisory Committee.

"It is a particular pleasure for me to have the privilege of introducing the person who is to be our Master of Ceremonies. This memorial and ceremony today, represent the climax of a project Mr. Frisby conceived and initiated. For 13 years he has conducted a crusade and campaign, personally financed, to get our State to give recognition to Matthew Henson. On all of his 18 Arctic and Polar missions throughout the world he has always proclaimed the part Mr. Henson has played in early Arctic exploration. On Mr. Frisby's flight to the North Pole August 12, 1956, he dropped a Memorial to Matthew Henson . . . Maryland today, would have been unaware of the fact that she produced the man who contributed the most as an assistant to the success of the expedition which finally succeeded in the discovery of the North Pole and first to put the U. S. Flag on the top of the world had it not been for his efforts . . .

STATE SENATOR JOHN T. PARRAN, Jr.—Co-sponsor of Joint Memorial Resolution with Sen. Jones.

Introducing Governor Tawes—"It is my pleasure to introduce our Governor. Soon we will have Thanksgiving. We should be thankful for the privilege of having as our Governor a man as Governor Tawes . . . It is my pleasure and honor to present our Governor . . ."

continued

DR. FRED L. DUNN, Jr.—Principal, Robert E. Peary High School, Rockville, Md.

"Last year and this, the citizens of Maryland are honoring two great men with appropriate memorials, Robert Edwin Peary and Matthew Alexander Henson. Robert E. Peary was a frequent visitor to Montgomery County in the 1890's. Last year the Montgomery Board of Education dedicated the new high school in his honor. Today, the great State of Maryland is honoring Matthew A. Henson, a close associate of Peary. It is my pleasure to announce that the Student Government Association of the Robert E. Peary High School has established the procedures for maintaining in our school library, the Matthew A. Henson Memorial Collection."

CLIFF W. MACKAY—Editor, the Afro American Newspapers.

"Our part in these ceremonies is to commend the perseverance that took Matt Henson to the North Pole in 1909 to establish American claim to that area. We also commend the perseverance that drove Mr. Herbert M. Frisby to convince the State of Maryland that it should honor its native citizen and pioneer Arctic explorer, Matthew A. Henson . . . We are proud that the Afro-American had a small part in this enterprise."

ALBERT P. BACKHAUS—Director of Department of Public Improvements—Maryland.

"The Department of Public Improvements is responsible for all public improvements of the State of Maryland. I believe that you will agree with me that an admirable job has been done when you see this memorial to Matthew A. Henson today . . . And so, Dr. Jenkins, it gives me great pleasure to report to you and present to you the fruits of our work and the fulfillment of the General Assembly's Resolution. I present to you the memorial tablet which is mounted on the walls outside the Flag Room in the old portion of the State House in Annapolis, Maryland."

DR. MARTIN D. JENKINS—President of Morgan State College, Baltimore, Maryland.

"Governor and Mrs. Tawes, Mr. Frisby, Mr. Backhaus, Ladies and Gentlemen: By erecting monuments, nations and states preserve for posterity the memory of the attainments of their most distinguished citizens. Certainly Matthew Alexander Henson merits such recognition by virtue of his achievements. On behalf of the citizens of Maryland, I accept this plaque and may it provide inspiration for untold generations ahead."

REV. ROBERT T. NEWBOLD—Pastor, Grace Presbyterian Church, Baltimore, Md.

Dedication Prayer: "Let us pray—Eternal and Almighty God, we thank Thee for those who, because of their willingness to engage in high adventure and join the noble company of pioneers, have indelibly etched their names in the annals of history. Especially do we call to mind the life of him whose name is inscribed on the plaque which we are about to unveil . . . And, now O Lord, deliver us from allowing the belated honor we bestow upon him who dwells with Thee . . . to obscure that glory and honor to Thee . . . Thanks be to Thee for him who marshalled immeasurable determination to keep the memory of Matthew Alexander Henson alive . . . Amen."

DR. ARTHUR J. PAYNE—Pastor, Enon Baptist Church, Baltimore, Maryland.

Benediction—"O Lord our God, the Author and Giver of all good things; we thank Thee for the gift of the courageous and intrepid explorer we have honored today—Matthew A. Henson. May a portion of his good and noble gifts be shared among all of us. Go with us, abide with us; may the memories of this impressive ceremony linger long with us—in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost . . . Amen."

DR. HERBERT M. FRISBY—Arctic Correspondent and Researcher.

Chairman—Matthew A. Henson Memorial Projects.

Chairman—The Governor's Advisory Committee, Matthew A. Henson Memorial.

"No worthy task is to be left undone because it seems impossible. Year after year I was firmly told by every one I approached that the State of Maryland would never erect a memorial to Matt Henson—because he was a Negro. I persevered. Today's ceremonies represent the culmination of this perseverance and faith in our Governor J. Millard Tawes, the Maryland General Assembly and the Board of Public Works. They indicate a positive sign of changing times . . . It is my most cherished hope that the establishment of this memorial on a State Level, will go far in helping to erase the blot on American inter-racial relationships, make a positive improvement in the prestige of the State of Maryland and the United States here and abroad and assist in the fight against Communist infiltration and subversion . . . This is an example for other states to emulate.

In one of his speeches Matt Henson said, *'Whatever I have done, has not been for myself alone, but to help lift the Negro standard to a higher sphere in the eyes of the civilized world.'*

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow."

With cordial good wishes and happy recollections, I am

Sincerely yours,
Herbert M. Frisby
Chairman

Note: These ceremonies were covered by various press services, broadcast and tape-recorded by Radio Station WSID, Baltimore, Maryland.