People

# New staff president Bons Secours Hospital

Claude D. Hill, M.D., recently was elected president of Bon Secours Hospital medical staff for 1985. Board certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, he is a fellow in the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American College of Surgeons and American Fertility Society.

A graduate of Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN, he completed a rotating internship at Madigan Army Hospital in Fort Lewis, WA and a residency in obstetrics/gynecology at Kansas City General Hospital in MO. He completed a tour in the U.S. Army Medical Service.

Dr. Hill is vice president of the board of directors of the West Baltimore Community Health Center and is a member and past president of the Obstetrical and Gynecological Society of Maryland. He has served on the boards of Blue Shield of Maryland, Inc., and the Baltimore Urban League.

Dr. Claude Hill

# WEBB marketing promotion director

Jaye Russell of WEBB—AM in Baltimore, Md., whose real name is Russell C. Allen, has been appointed marketing and promotion director at the station. The announcement was made by Ms. Dorothy E. Brunson, the president of Brunson Broadcasting Company of Maryland, Inc., and the owner of the station.

"Like any performer true to his profession, I will miss performing on the radio. However, we anxiously look forward to the challenges of marketing and promoting WEBB to the numero uno position of Baltimore radio and I am grateful to God for this opportunity. With Him I know we will make a positive sort of difference," said Jaye Russell.

Jaye Russell, who recently hosted the popular "Time Machine" program from 10 a.m.—2 p.m., joined the WEBB announcing staff in 1980. Prior to that he served as the associate director of public relations at Morgan State University from 1978—1980.

Jaye Russell

# Dr. Toppin speaker at Morgan

Dr. Edgar A. Toppin, dean of the Graduate School at Virginia State University, and one of America's renown historians, will honor Frederick Douglass' birthday on Feb. 14. The lecture will be held on the ground floor of Soper Library at 11 a.m.

The theme for Black History Month is: "The Afro-American Family: Historical Strengths For the New Century." Morgan's theme is: "Frederick Douglass: Pillar of Strength for the New Century." Morgan's theme is: "Frederick Douglass: Pillar of Strength for the New Century."

Dr. Toppin is the author of several books: **Pioneers and Patriots, A Mark Well Made, The Negro in the United States, Reconstruction to World War I, A Biographical History of Blacks in America Since 1968** and others.

Born 1928 in New York City, Toppin received his B.A. and M.A. degrees from Howard University and the Ph.D degree from Northwestern.

He has taught previously at Alabama State University, North Carolina State University, Case Western Reserve University, the University of Cincinnati, and San Francisco State University.

Dr. Toppin is also active in the American Historical Association, Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, Organization of American Historians, Southern Historical Association, Virginia Historical Society, and the Ohio Historical Society.

The recipient of numerous awards, Dean Toppin was honored in a special way by a grant from the Old Dominion Foundation.


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# Park Heights Development Corp. moves to new office

**The Park Heights Development Corporation (PHDC) has moved to a new facility at 3003 Druid Park Drive in the Park Circle Industrial Park. PHDC is an important community-based economic development entity.**

**In 1980, the building, formerly Commercial Credit Bindery, was acquired by the City for $500,000 with Community Development Block Grant funds allotted to BEDCO. The city leased the building to Park Heights Development Corporation with a long-term lease.**

**Using an EDA GRANT of $350,000 PHDC was able to renovate the building which now provides incubator space for small businesses. Streets and sewers were built in the Park Circle Industrial Park with a $2.7 EDA Grant to the City. The State invested $1.9 million through the Maryland Industrial Commercial Redevelopment Fund.**

**Altogether, the City, State and Federal Governments have invested close to $6 million in the Park Circle Industrial Park. The return on this investment to date is the creation of approximately 150 jobs in Park Circle.**

**The Park Circle Industrial Park is a good example of how the Local, State and Federal Governments can work together with the community to further neighborhood development. In 1982, when President Reagan came to town, he toured this building when it was Commercial Credit's Bindery.**

In effort to change image

# DAR publishes book on Blacks who served in Revolution

By Randolph R. Payton

In a move to alter its white segregationist image, the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), announced they have published a new book on Blacks who served in the American Revolutionary War, written by Robert Ewell Greene

DAR, which sparked several racial controversies in the past over the denial of blacks to join its ranks has published "Black Courage, 1775-1783", a documentation of Blacks' participation in the American Revolution, by Greene, who also authored "Black Defenders of America, 1775-1973", a pictoral history of military Blacks from the Revolution to Vietnam.

In the midst of Black History Month, Green's book, makes its way to the shelves of bookstores. Greene, who has written five other books on military history, teaches biology at Eastern High School in Washington.

The publication of this book marks a turn-around in DAR's outlook toward Blacks. "It is our sincere hope that Mr. Greene and others like him who have taken the time to expand modern recognition of Black Patriots, will inspire the living descendants of those patriots to discover their eligibility and join the DAR," said Sarah King, president general of the 200,000 member organization, at a book-signing reception last week.

Just last year a Black woman named Lena Ferguson was rejected membership in the area's DAR chapter. After a three-year battle, Ferguson was admitted as a member-at-large to DAR in May of last year. Eligibility into DAR requires for one to trace their lineage to a soldier in the American Revolution. Until 1977 DAR, had been all white.

Ferguson's fight with DAR sparked the passage of a Congressional resolution calling on the nation to honor forgotten Black Revolutionary War Soldiers during February's celebration of Black History Month.

DAR's decision in April 1984 to publish "Black Courage" coincides with the same month fifty-five years before, in April 1939 when Marion Anderson sang on the steps of Constitution Hall to protest racial discrimination after DAR denied her the opportunity to sing there.

DAR made the decision to publish the book, since it was able to prove the existence of Blacks who served on the American Revolution, alluded King.

Although nearly 5,000 revolutionary soldiers and militiamen were Black, Green was able to compile the names of many of those soldiers. He also uncovered crucial information about their lives; their social and economic backgrounds; their length of service and their fortunes after the war.

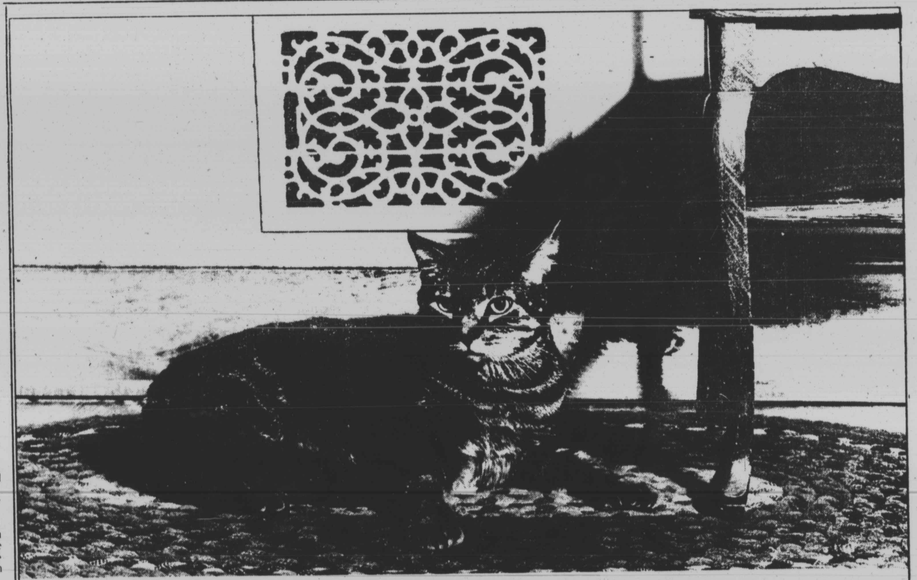
Greene has uncovered and brought Black companies such as, the Massoit Guards, the Attucks Company, the Rhode Island Black Regiment and many others alive.

Green said that he choose to have DAR publish this book, "because they are the hierarchy on the American Revolution. I could not ask for a better publisher that is knowledgeable as to what it (American Revolution) is all about."

During the reinactment of Revolutionary battles, Blacks were not shown, said Green. However, "Black Courage, is going to be used to educate many individuals about the Black presence, but my greatest desire is for youngsters to recapture their military heritage."

(By Photo/Graphic News)

DAR reception for Robert E. Greene, author of "Black Courage" January 30, 1985 at Constitution Hall. Mrs. Walter Hughey King, president general of DAR and Mr. Robert Ewell Greene (right).

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# A perspective on the role of blacks in early city life

By Paul Evans

Any approach to narrating the role of black men and women in Baltimore's history, from the beginning, has to be considered in the context of three larger stories.

The first is the spirited and nascent nationalistic sentiment for economic and political autonomy from Great Britain that reached maturity about 1772 at the height of the late colonial period.

Secondly, in the colony called Terra Maria, or Maryland, the desire of the English Calvert Family to create a profitable investment from the land grants bestowed by their royal benefactors, the Stuarts, provided a setting for blacks to alight on Free State shores. Their disembarkation as chattel was common; while an arrival as freemen was not the exception, but the rarity.

Lastly, in 1729, less than 100 years from the date Maryland was chartered, an unimpressive cluster of homes and warehouses, situated on an estuary near the Chesapeake Bay, began an odyssey for financial and political maturity and political independence under the simple appellation, Baltimore Town.

This prologue provides some understanding of the black man's early role in the city's history. As in any historical recounting, the availability of sufficient documentation, to initiate, then extend; enlarge upon, and finally complete the tapestry - within the limitations of current knowledge - challenges the skills and handicraft, to say nothing of the perserverance of the chronicler.

Moreover, this recounting is not presented to mesh with the political or philosophical convictions of any racial, ethnic or social group. Historian Will Durant says in The Age of Faith, "...the scholar, though he belongs to his country through affectionate kinship, feels himself also a citizen of the Country of the Mind which knows no hatreds and no frontiers; he hardly deserves his name if he carries into his study political prejudices, or racial discriminations, or religious animosities; and he accords his graceful homage to any people that has borne the torch and enriched his heritage." My predecessors - some of them - have not been always as scrupulous in following that admonition as they, too, sought to illuminate the darkened corridors of our municipal past.

The birthdate of the community first known as Baltimore Town is recorded as August 8, 1729. On this day, the Maryland proprietary governor, Benedict Calvert, on behalf of his English brother, Charles, fifth baron of Baltimore (an Irish peerage), signed a petition authorizing erection of a community. To this request, the upper and lower houses of the General Assembly gave their consent and seven local men of means were empowered to constitute the first governing council as commissioners.

Three years later, in 1732, an act of the legislature decreed establishment of another nearby settlement, named "Jonas Town," later re-named "Jones Town." In 1745, by the consent of the assembly, the townships merged with one designation, Baltimore Town. Against a background of a colony struggling to secure economic stability, religious freedom, and representative government - in the face of an absentee proprietor determined to exploit his royal charter to the fullest - the fledgling settlement began existence.

The black presence in early Baltimore political life was drastically limited by custom and statute. Only since the end of World War II, respectable, but limited gains, have been made in acquiring the pluralistic electoral participation any healthy municipal democracy demands.

To appreciate the complexity of the precarious stance of blacks in the city, from its founding through the period when the 1864 state Constitution officially ended slavery (Lincoln's 1863 Writ of Emancipation had no effect in Maryland), is to grasp the broad posture of blacks in America from slavery to freedom.

Slavery was introduced into Maryland almost immediately after its founding. Its codification in statute, though, did not occur until 1663, Roland C. McConnell concludes in "The Black Experience in Maryland, 1634-1900." Professor McConnell, whose article deals little with the early Baltimore Negro, reports that a family of free black persons of the name Johnson "became the first Negro familv to settle on the Eastern Shore, if not the first in Maryland." in 1666. This was three years after the legislature took pen, ink and paper in hand and officially implanted slavery as a way of economic, political and social actuality, supported by the whole weight of statute and status quo religious mores.

The first concrete evidence we have of large-scale forced emigration of bonded blacks to Baltimore has been offered by Hamilton Owens and others. In "Baltimore on the Chesapeake," dated 1941, Owens asserted, "Slaves came to Baltimore on native ships with their French masters during the great revolt of Toussaint L'Overture in Haiti," This was in 1794.

Paul Evans

Nonetheless, the Maryland Constitution of 1776 declared that "freemen over 21 years, who owned 50 acres of land, where they lived or in proximity from where they voted, and all freemen having property in the state worth 30 pounds current money, and who had been residents in the county from which they voted one year before the election, could vote for members of the Legislature."

Seven years later, an act of the assembly decreed that no non-white person freed from then on, "nor the issue of such person, should be allowed to vote, hold property, or give evidence against any white person." Free blacks, however, were permitted to vote until 1810 when and amendment to the Maryland constitution limited suffrage to whites. It was not until the Civil War period that this right was reinstated.

Prior to the American Revolution, three subcultures sustained and nurtured the infant Baltimore: tobacco, wheat, and maritime enterprises.

Owens has said, "The tidewater country to the south of Baltimore is chiefly tobacco country and so up to the Civil War was dependent upon the labor of slaves. But all the rolling lands to the north and west are wheatlands and never did depend on slave labor. The two cultures first met and found their ways at variance in the narrow streets of Baltimore. That friction continued for a hundred years. In 1861 it burst into flame in those same narrow streets."

Through the middle colonial period, as the town progressed, the lives of both freemen and slaves were confined largely to a supportive role for the shipping and flour mill industrial needs of the township. Flour, raised in adjacent wheat fields, and ground in city mills, was the trade basis.

Many bondmen were used as house and body servants, while free blacks were variously employed as longshoremen, hod carriers, brickmakers, and caulkers. With few exceptions, blacks continued in these unskilled and semi-skilled positions throughout the revolutionary perod.

Continued on page 17

## SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Black History Month

**Calendar for February 7-13**

Art of Jazz Improvisation — Colloquium. Feb. 7 (1:30 p.m.) and Feb. 8 (noon). Leonard Goines, N.Y. Univ., leads a discussion with leading jazz artists and scholars. Museum of American History. Registration: 357-4176.

Art of Jazz Improvisation — Concert. Doc Cheatham Band, Clark Terry Band and Archie Shepp Quartet. Museum of American History. Feb. 8 at 8 p.m. LIMITED SEATING.

§Georgia Sea Island Singers — Doug and Frankie Quimby. Museum of American Art. Feb. 9 at 1 p.m. Reservations: 357-3095.

§Paul Robeson's granddaughter, Susan, discusses his achievements. Jericho and other film excerpts will be shown. Museum of American Art. Feb. 10 at 1 p.m. Reservations: 357-3095.

Lovers in the Spirit World: Baulre Statuary (film). Museum of African Art. Feb. 12 at 7 p.m.

Black Women in Politics, with Shiela F. Harmon (lecture). Anacostia Neighborhood Museum. Feb. 12 at 10 a.m. Reservations: 287-3369.

§Delilah W. Pierce, Washington painter, discusses her work and development as a black artist. Museum of American Art. Feb. 12 at 6 p.m. Reservations: 357-3095.

Men of Bronze (film), 1977. Museum of American History. Feb. 13 at noon.

Call 357-2700 for information on other upcoming events related to Black History Month.

**EXHIBITIONS**

§Sharing Traditions: Five Black Artists in 19th Century America. Museum of American Art. Through April 7. Black Women: Achievements Against the Odds. Anacostia Neighborhood Museum. Through June 30. Black Wings: The Role of American Blacks in Aviation. National Air and Space Museum. Permanent. Working in Space: The flight suit of astronaut Guy Bluford is included in this permanent exhibit. Praise Poems. Fifty art masterpieces from regions of west and central Africa. Museum of African Art. Through Feb. 24.

**DISCOVERY THEATER**

African Rhythms (through Feb. 9) — pre-kindergarten to third grade. Folktales from Africa, Cape Verde and the Caribbean with storyteller Len Cabral (Feb. 12-March 2) — 4th to junior high. Arts & Industries Building. Tuesdays through Fridays — 10 and 11 a.m., Saturdays — 1 and 3 p.m. $2 children; $2.50 adults. Call 357-1500 for ticket information.

**EXPLORE YOUR HERITAGE.** Call for FREE black heritage brochure: 357-2700. All events listed above are FREE.


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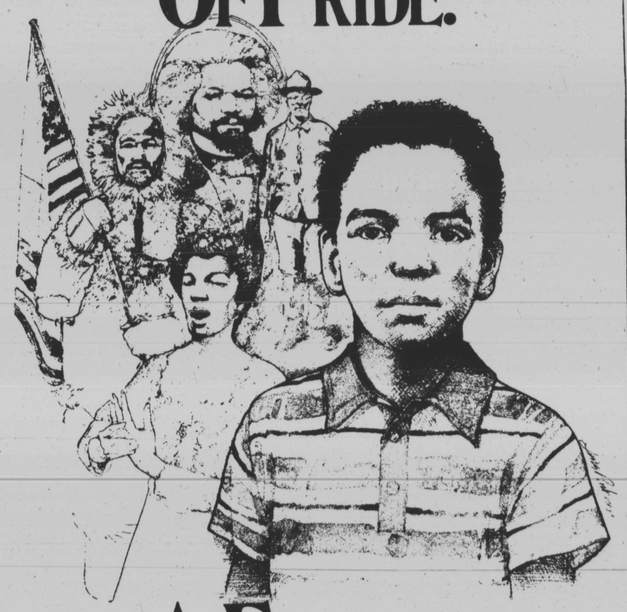

**A FUTURE OF PROMISE.**

Black History Month is a time to reflect. A time to look back with pride at the countless achievements made by Black Americans, and a time to look forward with hope for the future.

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