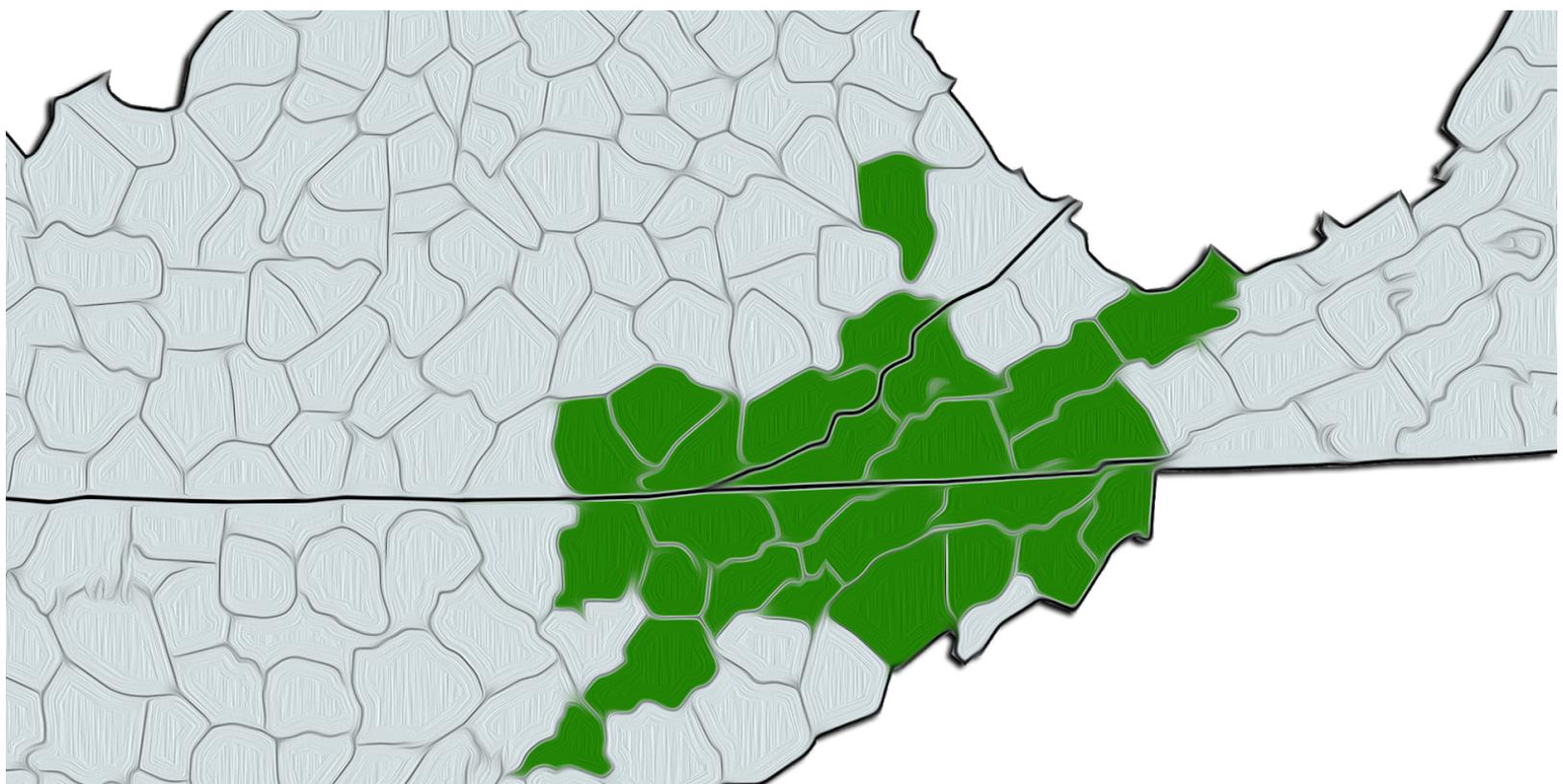


BLACK

IN

APPALACHIA

2020 **annual report**





Dunbar Rosenwald School Foundation Members, Loudon, Tennessee

Memory, Place & Movement

“This year we saw the failure of the State to provide critical health care to millions residents and the inability of those structures to cease it’s murder of Black people. We also saw, in the midst of our collective responses to these negligences, unprecedented support and love for our work. The primary component and directive of Black in Appalachia is intense community engagement and direction from our region’s elders and community partners. Fortunately, we’ve been able to continue to pivot and shift how we operate. Our nimbleness as an organization has meant working as much as we can remotely, utilizing telephone calls, the US Postal Service, file sharing platforms, smaller fieldworking teams and, yes, Zoom. All of us here at Black in Appalachia are looking forward to 2021, the good work we can produce and, most importantly, seeing you all in person.”

- William Isom II, Director of Black in Appalachia

“

There are people that value the history and the experiences of Black people in rural areas. For me, the support for this work validates not just my experience, but my ancestors' experiences as well.

-Alona Norwood, Johnson City, Tenn.

”

Black in Appalachia Podcast

Season 1



As we wrap up the inaugural season of the Black in Appalachia Podcast, it's been amazing to see the response from you all, motivating to keep us going. We had no idea what we were getting into. Covering topics such as Sundown Towns, Reparations, Emancipation Days & The Great Migration while also getting the chance to converse with the likes of Nikki Giovanni, Deesha Philyaw & Dolester Miles.

We can't express enough gratitude to our listeners and other media outlets such as PRX, Inside Appalachia (WVPB), Scenic Roots (WUTC), Mountain Talk (WMMT), Trillbillies Workers Party and the numerous student projects across the region. Stay tuned for Season 2 as we explore topics such as moonshining, guns, Hip-Hop, the legacy of slavery, HBCU's and pay another visit to our region's Sundown towns.



Documentary Films

Beauford Delaney

In conjunction with Knoxville's city-wide celebration of Beauford Delaney, we released this documentary of the life of the son of a preacher turned international artist. Copies of this film were distributed to area schools and libraries. Screening events were conducted with Tennessee Archive of Moving Image & Sound, The McKinney Center and The Bottom. *(Spanish subtitles & Teacher's Guide available)*

The Corbin Expulsion of 1919

On the heels of the 100th anniversary of this atrocity, we produced a short illustrated narrative of the forcible expulsion of the entire Black population from Corbin, Kentucky. This Film was screened in partnership with the Sunup Initiative, City of Corbin & UK Appalachian Center *(Teacher's Guide available)*

Eastern Kentucky Social Club (EKSC)

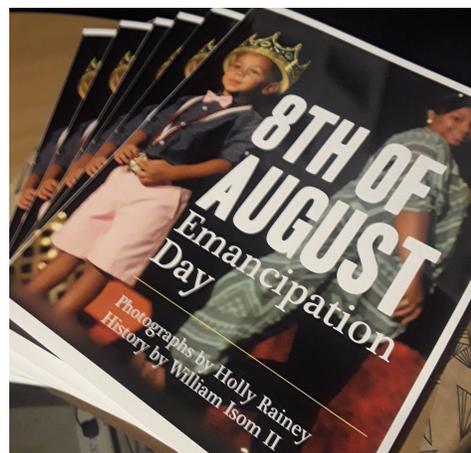
The EKSC is perhaps the longest running Black organization dedicated solely to social purposes. For 3 years, we worked to document the story of the EKSC and the migration of families into and out of the Eastern Kentucky coalfields. DVD's were made available to East Kentucky libraries & aired on Kentucky Educational Television.

Lesley Riddle

This short film chronicles the life and times of Burnsville, NC native, Lesley Riddle, and his impact on what would eventually become Country Music. *(Spanish subtitles available)*

8th of August: Emancipation Day

This year we self-published a book of images & short histories from over four years of documentation work on the 8th of August, our region's day to recognize freedom from chattel slavery. This publication highlights local celebration narratives from the communities of Greeneville, Knoxville & Newport, Tennessee with modern photographs from documentarian Holly Rainey. *Made possible through the support of the Puffin Foundation.*

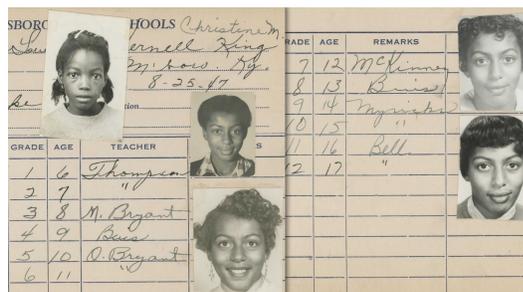


Research, Education & Support

Carter County, Tennessee

Beginning in 2019, we've continued to research and make available the Black histories of Elizabethton, Tennessee, with a particular focus on schools and prominent figures in the area's educational efforts. Despite the absence of in-person resident engagement, we've been able to digitize and make available Douglas School enrollment cards and produce a narrative document detailing those narratives. *This work is done in partnership with the Elizabethton/Carter County Archives and made possible through the support of Appalachian Community Fund.*

Middlesboro, Kentucky



We were delighted to receive an invitation to digitize, catalogue and make available the unique enrollment cards from the late-Lincoln School in the Cumberland Gap area of Kentucky. The immense scope of this project is tempered by the amazing images contained in these records.

This work will continue into 2021, in partnership with Middlesboro Independent Schools and Bell County Historical Society.

1860 to 1870 Census Project

One of the biggest obstacles Black families encounter when researching their ancestors is bridging the gap from chattel slavery to national Emancipation. Understanding this, we've begun compiling, county by county, the Free Families of Color (Black, Mulatto, Indigenous) in 1860 to 1870, as well as the 1860 slave schedules. To-date, we've completed the following counties which is halfway through our target counties:

Kentucky: Bell, Floyd, Harlan, Knox, Letcher

Tennessee: Campbell, Carter, Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger, Greene, Hawkins, Sullivan, Union

Virginia: Lee, Russell, Scott, Tazewell, Washington

This work was made possible through the support of 400 Years of African-American History Commission and will continue through 2021.

Bristol's Blackbottom Mapping Project

A victim of 1960's Urban Renewal policies, the Bristol, Virginia's late Black business district, known as Blackbottom, was home to Churches, Taxi Stands, Bars, Restaurants and Fraternal Lodges. Now completely razed, we wanted to provide a visualization of that which is no longer visible. Through the support of residents, Bristol Virginia Planning Commission and the Bristol Public Library, we were able to create a multimedia map of the district comparing 1896 (the earliest data available) to 1936 (the height of Black business ownership). The work for this project in 2021 is figuring out how to make a physical representation of this work available to the public.

Swift Memorial Institute

Throughout 2020, we participated in the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill's Community-Driven Archives and Archive Seedlings Program. We utilized this amazing opportunity to compile our oral histories and interviews we had conducted in 2012 & 2013 around the late-HBCU, Swift Memorial Institute that once operated in Rogersville, Tennessee. Through this partnership, we were able to get over six hours of content transcribed and formatted for use by the Price Public Community Center & Swift Museum.

Appalachian African American Cultural Center

Housed in a historic, one room schoolhouse in Pennington Gap, Virginia, the AAACC has been in existence for nearly 40 years. We provided resources for the development of www.AAACulturalCenter.org. We're extremely proud to be able to work in support of this important piece of Black cultural infrastructure.

Kingsport Black History Banners

In 2018, we began a working partnership with the Archives of the City of Kingsport and the Friends of the Kingsport Archives to gather and make more visible the vast Black history of the city. Out of that work and through the support of Humanities Tennessee we produced an eight panel set of Black history banners for display in public spaces and schools, highlighting the Riverview Community, Notable People, Douglass School, Churches and Fraternal & Social Organizations.

Black & White: Knoxville in the Jim Crow Era

Leading up to the pandemic, the Museum of East Tennessee History built a thorough exhibition around the history of Black life in Knoxville, filtered through the lives of three local artists, Beauford Delaney, Joseph Delaney and Ruth Cobb Brice. We contributed video content to this impressive educational exhibit in the form of *Knoxville's Red Summer: The Riot of 1919* and *Beauford Delaney*.

Greeneville Oral Histories

The beginning of Black in Appalachia's Research, Education & Support work was developed in 2015 with residents of Greeneville, Tennessee and the George Clem Multicultural Alliance. Throughout our time there, we managed to record around a dozen video oral histories. This year we got the chance to provide those interviews to the Greeneville/Greene County History Museum for display, to play on a loop for visitors to see.

Presentations, Workshops & Panels

- Southern Appalachian Studies Series: Black in Appalachia, Blount County Public Library, Maryville, TN
 - Keynote Address, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, London Community Center, London, KY
 - Researching Black Families in the Mountain South, Washington County Library, Jonesborough Genealogical Society, Jonesborough, TN
 - Black/White Dialog, Carver Center, Johnson City, TN
 - Black Cultural Spaces: Holding on, Loss & New Use, McKinney Center, Jonesborough, TN
 - Emancipation Saturday: Appalachian Tradition, Intl Storytelling Center
 - Public Humanities, American Studies Dept, University of Maryland Baltimore
 - Black Diaspora, Slocum Galleries, East Tennessee State University
 - Building Black Narratives During a Pandemic, Folklore Studies, Ohio State University
 - UNMUTED: A Virtual Oral History Project, The Bottom, Knoxville, TN
-



Field Office

Whitesburg, Tennessee

Thanks entirely to the donations from individuals and small businesses, we now have a Field Office & Research Room in rural Hamblen County, Tennessee. This space is vitally important to our work East of Knoxville & is convenient to the coalfields of Eastern Kentucky & Southwestern Virginia. If you find yourself in the area, stop in for a visit! 8400 E. Andrew Johnson Hwy, Whitesburg, TN 37891



Community Partners



2020 Numbers

Income

Individual Donations: \$16,068.11

Foundational Support: \$45,000.00

Merchandise Sales: \$1,531.00

\$62,599.11 - Total Income

Expenses (Research, Education & Support)

Contracted Labor: \$6,720.00

Support (Other Orgs): \$1,302.99

Rent & Utilities: \$7,155.92

Travel: \$1,107.22

Materials/Equipment: \$7,793.59

Digital Services: \$1,956.21

\$26,035.93 - Total Expenses

Supporters!



The Puffin Foundation, Ltd.



Bela Fleck & Abigail Washburn
Deer Jerk - Vandalia Jewelry
Tall Tall Trees



The Martin's - Molly Sherlock
Bluebird Provisions
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BLACK IN APPALACHIA

We work to highlight the history and contributions of African Americans in the development of the Mountain South and its culture. We do that through research, local narratives, public engagement and exhibition. Black in Appalachia is a community service for Appalachian residents and families with roots in the region.

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