

NEW THE BOOKMARK

EDITION 1

FEB. 2023

LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

February is Black History Month



Harriet Tubman, heroic liberator of slaves

.....
Founder Black History Week precursor to Black History Month



Carter Goodwin Woodson



A Middle Passage port marker was unveiled along the Perth Amboy waterfront in remembrance of the city's role in trans-Atlantic human trade of captive Africans. Courtesy of George Bings

Please see Middle Passage article and Schedule of Events on Page 4

February is National Library Lovers Month

National Library Lovers Month Activities

- Have a date with a book during Valentine's Month...a book is a great companion!
- Catch up with classics: The Princess Bride, Romeo and Juliet, Red Adam's Lady
- Sign up for a Library Card
- Enjoy a Library Event



'Uncomfortable, but necessary recognition': Perth Amboy honors enslaved African ancestors"

PERTH AMBOY – Oct 4, 2021 This waterfront community has for long promoted its ties to America's proud and rich history.

In October 2021 state, county and city officials took time to recognize and remember ancestors from an ugly period during the 17th and 18th centuries, when captive Africans were brought to the city's shore. An historic Middle Passage port marker was unveiled Wednesday morning near the city marina to emphasize Perth Amboy's role in the trans-Atlantic human trade, the forced transporting of about 12 million captive Africans across the Atlantic Ocean from Africa to the Americas, including many who perished along the way.

The marker, located near the city's historic Ferry Slip, notes that near the site enslaved Africans disembarked in Perth Amboy, one of the main ports in eastern New Jersey at that time. The marker's placement was selected based on historical research of where captive Africans arrived in the city.

One ship arrived with 240 enslaved people, after leaving 17 dead at sea and depositing 130 on the city's shore, according to the marker.

"Chained and tightly packed in dark, filthy, stifling hot cargo holds, 12 million endured ocean crossings that often took months. During these voyages, known as the Middle Passage, 2 million people died from disease, malnutrition, dehydration, abuse and suicide," the marker reads.

"Because the colony of New Jersey imposed no tariff on the importation of captive Africans, many traders disembarked their human cargo at this location, avoiding taxation while supplying buyers in New Jersey and other colonies," it reads.

New Jersey's enslaved African population totaled 11,423 by 1790, and it was the last northern state to adopt gradual emancipation in 1804 and became a major station of the Underground Railroad in 1854. Slavery was abolished in 1865 with the adoption of the 13 Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the marker reads.

Perth Amboy was designated a "Site of Memory" by the UNESCO Slave Route Project in 2019.

The unveiling ceremony offered prayers for unity, information about the city's history, recognition for those who experienced the Middle Passage and the reading of the names of 54 African nations. Perth Amboy High School students placed white carnations in the water in remembrance of those who died during the Middle Passage.

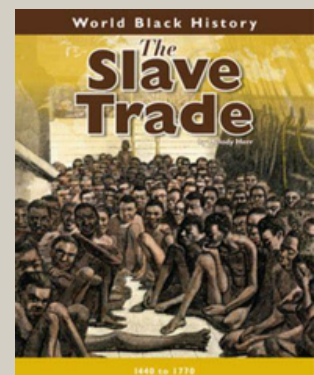
Perth Amboy is one of 55 documented U.S. Middle Passage arrival sites. The city's marker project was initiated by former Business Administrator Patricia Perkins who worked with Daniel Cleaver, the city's supervisor of buildings and grounds.

"Perth Amboy has an incredibly rich history, and I'm proud to recognize our African ancestors and their contributions to making Perth Amboy what it is today," said Mayor Helmin Caba. "I hope that this historical marker will not only educate the community about our past, but also promote a more inclusive Perth Amboy for all of our citizens."

"This marker reminds us that African people's significant contributions has shaped our city's development and culture," he said. "Our residents and visitors will pause in deep reflection after reading the marker, an uncomfortable, but necessary recognition of Perth Amboy's long history."

The historic marker was made possible through a partnership with the Middle Passage Ceremonies and Port Markers Project Inc, Camden Historical Society, Department of Education Amistad Commission, Perth Amboy's City Historian, Historic Preservation Commission, Office of the Mayor and Department of Public Works.

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Local History Corner

SMITH STREET PAVED WITH LINOLEUM!!

MON, JUNE 22, 1959- A week-long celebration of Perth Amboy's 275th Anniversary began with the 10AM crowning of the King and Queen of Perth Amboy and ended on Sunday, June 27 with Baseball Games a Water Show, Boat Races, A Model Airplane Show and other sports events. On Monday the sidewalks were painted green, courtesy of Dutch Boy Paint and the Painter's Local. There was a 200 - piece Accordion Band from 6-8 PM and an 8 PM History Program in the High School Auditorium.

The world's largest installation of Sandran LINOLEUM was installed on Smith Street, *see picture below*, there was a 7:15PM parade including an Army tank rolling over the linoleum and proved the tank was stronger than the linoleum. A CIRCUS DAY with Kiddy Rides, Clowns and Circus Acts, Pony Rides, Hay Rides and a Block Dance kept everyone in a joyful mood.



Linoleum installed on Smith Street

Perth Amboy Free Public Library
196 Jefferson Street
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
732-826-2600

**Subscribe to our
Newsletter**

Library Hours
Mon/Tue/Thu: 9AM-8PM
Wed/Fri: 9AM-5PM
Sat: 9AM-4PM

Volunteer with us!:

Visit : **PAFPL.org/teens/volunteer-opportunities**

Opportunities are open to all ages

Interesting Fact

The Father of Libraries:

A philanthropist named Andrew Carnegie donated 60 million dollars in the early 20th century to open more than 1,689 public libraries worldwide. Perth Amboy Free Public Library is a Carnegie Library

THE MUSEUM PASS PROGRAM

This program is a service provided by Friends of the Perth Amboy Free Public Library. It enables library patrons to visit The Museum of Natural History, NYC, the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum, NYC, and the Thomas Edison Museum in Edison, NJ.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE

The Brighton Ave. Teen Center 56 Brighton Ave. Perth Amboy

2nd and 4th Saturday of each month (w/exceptions) Check the Friend's Facebook page for weather-related closings.

Jan. 14, 18	Jul 8,12
Feb 11, 25	Aug 12, 26
Mar 11, 25	Sep 9, 23
Apr 8, 22	Oct 14
May 13	Nov 11
Jun 10, 24	Dec 16

**TAX PREP HELP AVAILABLE via
UNITED WAY/VITA
WE'RE A UNITED WAY DROPBOX
LOCATION**

February Events

Sat. 2/11, Events from 9am-3pm:

- **9AM-12PM USPS Postal Service Career Fair**
- **1-3PM** Embrace Your Roots, Percussion Music, Dance, etc. in Children's Library
- **1-2:30PM** Women's Empowerment Organization of Perth Amboy meeting

Thu. 2/23, 5:30PM:

- Lost Souls and The Other Slave Trade: Story of a Black Heritage Trail Site becoming a place of resistance for American born Blacks' relentless demand for freedom.

Sat. 2/25, 9AM-12PM:

- Your Path to Home Ownership

Mon. 2/27, 11AM-12pm:

- Meet & Greet Sandra Bottani introducing various workforce development programs

Tues. 2/28, 6PM-7pm:

- The story of Dr. Herbert M. Richardson as told by his daughter, Dr. Joyce Richardson

MONTHLY MEET-UPS

Second Saturdays:

1pm: Women Empowerment Group
(A Spanish program)

Third Tuesdays:

5-7pm: Crochet Class

6 pm: THE GREEN TEAM

Call Joel Rosa 732-826-2600

Fourth Tuesdays

6:30-8pm Jewelry Makerspace

First Thursdays

6 - 7pm Book Club

CHILDREN'S STORY TIME:

Miss Tiff says: "All the time is Story Time, just ask"