

Little Zion Baptist Church Historical Marker Project

25 February 2024 Presentation at Pohick Library

By **Corazon Sandoval Foley**

Author of Little Zion Baptist Church and the Case of Loving



Asian American Historical Markers
In My Beloved Virginia

Corazon Sandoval Foley

VALOR: Asian American
Soldiers, Police, Firefighters
Protecting Fairfax County And Our Nation



Volume 1: The 10th Army Band (Asian American Band) Deployed to the

Corazon Sandoval Foley

The Fairfax County
Asian American
History Project



Volume 2: The Fairfax County Asian American History Project

Corazon Sandoval Foley

<https://burkecwow.wordpress.com/>
Foley Community Center Project

Fairfax County
Stories 2

Remember the Ladies

Fairfax County Stories 2:
Remember the Ladies



LITTLE ZION BAPTIST
CHURCH
AND
THE CASE OF LOVING

CORAZON SANDOVAL
FOLEY



BURKE
VIGNETTES,
1728-2012:

Further Gleanings from Citizens
to Fulfill in my (Burke) hometown
Fairfax County, Virginia



CORAZON SANDOVAL FOLEY



The Burke First Firefighters, 1941 - 2020
Protecting Our Hometown of Burke, Virginia

(Volume 4 of Burke Vignettes - Curtis Carson
Sandoval and Foley Honor Firefighter Members)

Corazon Sandoval Foley

WOMEN
WEREN'T
GIVEN THE RIGHT
TO VOTE
BUT
WON IT



2017 VIRGINIA WOMEN IN HISTORY



Corazon
Sandoval
Foley

WOMEN
IN HISTORY
COURTESY
CORAZON SANDOVAL FOLEY
Corazon Sandoval Foley is an advocate and leader in addressing issues of Asian American immigrants through educational and research projects within her community.

Corazon
Sandoval
Foley

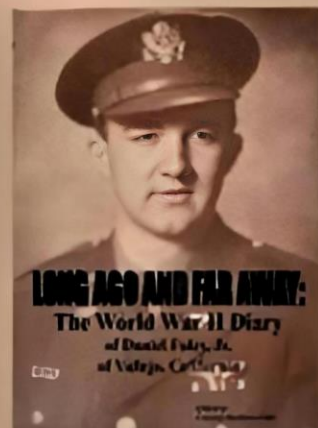


SANDOVAL
STORIES,
1760s - 2013:

Fights to American Citizenship
from 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st
to Fairfax County, Virginia



CORAZON SANDOVAL FOLEY



LONG AGO AND FAR AWAY:
The World War II
Diary
of Daniel Foley, Jr.

of Valleys, Collections
of Valleys, Collections



More Burke Vignettes, 1728 - 2020:
In Honor of Good Neighbors

Volume 1: Book, Burke, Lanes, Glen, Cross,
& Foley to One Tenth of Burke, Virginia

Corazon Sandoval Foley

Corazon Sandoval Foley



If a church could speak, then Little Zion Baptist Church would be a most popular local historian in Fairfax County that prides itself on its rich historical traditions in this special place that George Washington himself called home. This book preserves the research for the historical marker project that I initiated on July 4, 2010 to celebrate in 2011 the 126-year history for Little Zion Baptist Church in Burke Virginia.

The story of Little Zion Baptist Church starts in 1728 when Francis Coffey (I) received a land grant from Lord Fairfax that began the family residence at what became known as Burke, my hometown. By 1861, Francis Coffey (IV) willed his part of the large Coffey family lands to his slave woman Phyllis Pearson and her four sons, Jack, William, Joshua, and Charles. Jack Pearson donated part of his inheritance to build the Little Zion Baptist Church and cemetery, as well as the Pearson Colored Elementary School. The church was founded in 1891 by Lewis Henry Busley to whom the Alexandria Slave Pen Freedom House was dedicated. My research led me to visit his grave in Culbarton, Virginia beside the tombstone to his sister-in-law Jennie Dean, founder of the Manassas Industrial School for Colored Youth.

My own fascination with Little Zion Baptist Church began in 1996 when my family had a house built by Stouley Martin Company in the Edgewater Community. The main entry to Edgewater is on Burke Lake Road across from Little Zion Baptist Church. In 2010, I published a book on the Fairfax County Asian American History Project that featured the church which has become home to the Korean Hoppiness Presbyterian Church. The story of Francis Coffey (IV) and Phyllis Pearson reminds me of the landmark civil rights Loving Case that in 1967 declared unconstitutional racial barriers to marriage. The fascinating stories of Little Zion Baptist Church reflect the continuing transformation of this remarkable multicultural metropolis called Fairfax County - our Home.

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ISBN-10: 1456564218

<https://burkecwow.wordpress.com/>
Foley Community Center Project

LITTLE ZION BAPTIST CHURCH AND THE CASE OF LOVING

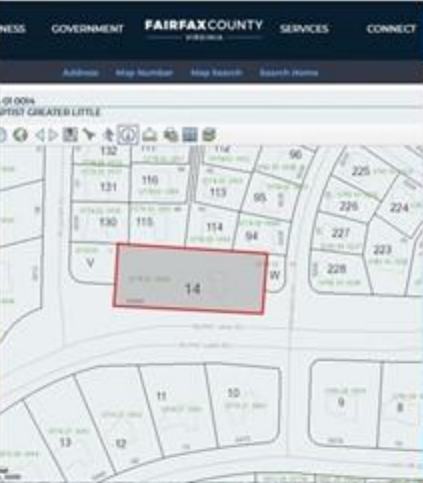
Corazon Sandoval Foley



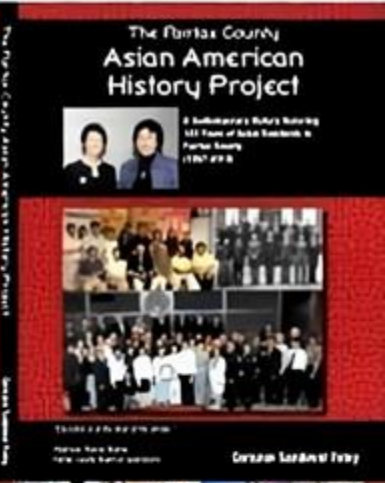
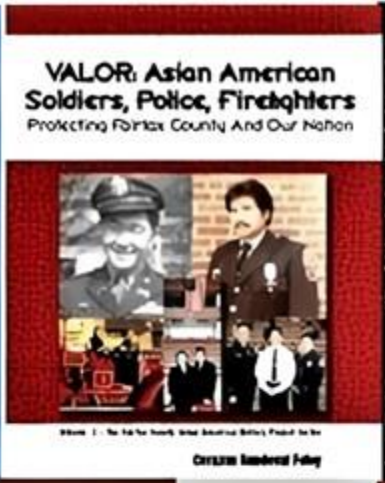
LITTLE ZION BAPTIST CHURCH AND THE CASE OF LOVING

CORAZON SANDOVAL
FOLEY

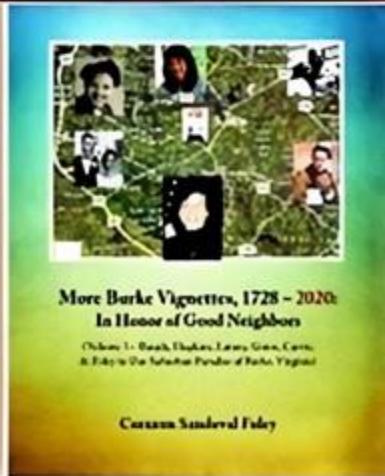
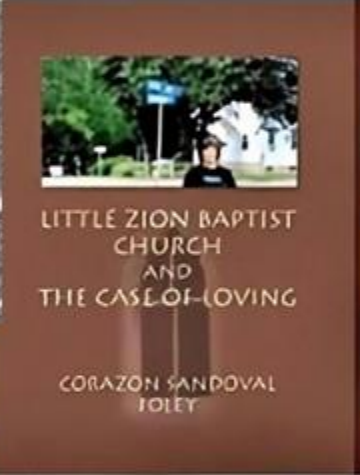
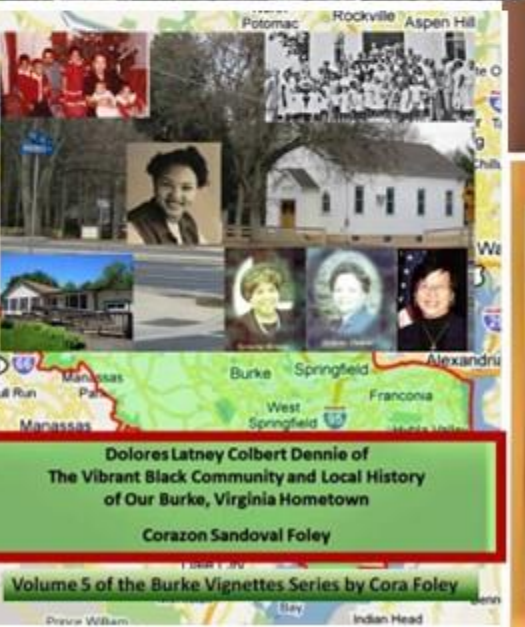
<https://burkecwow.wordpress.com/>
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2024 photo of Little Zion Baptist Church and Cemetery above and in the property report of Fairfax County, Virginia. On the bottom right is the 1937 aerial photo of the Burke, VA area with LZBC Church and Cemetery on the left and the Pearson Colored School on the right (jn operation until 1945) -- Book by Corazon Sandoval Foley on Little Zion Baptist Church and the Case of Loving: <https://fairfaxstories.wordpress.com/2011/littlezionbaptistchurch/>



SUNDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2024 12NOON – 2PM AT POHICK REGIONAL LIBRARY IN OUR BURKE, VIRGINIA HOMETOWN – BROWN-BAG LUNCH CONVERSATION ON THE HISTORICAL MARKER PROJECT FOR LITTLE ZION BAPTIST CHURCH, CEMETERY AND PEARSON COLORED SCHOOL LED BY CORAZON SANDOVAL FOLEY, FOUNDER, FOLEY COMMUNITY CENTER PROJECT - <https://burkecwow.wordpress.com/>



240201 Proposed Language for Historical Marker for Little Zion Baptist Church, Cemetery and Pearson Colored School by Corazon Sandoval Foley. (February 1, 2024)

120 Words Limit for Historical Marker

<https://fcaahp.files.wordpress.com/2024/02/marker-application-2024-dhrva.pdf>

Little Zion Baptist Church, Cemetery and Pearson Colored School

The 30 March 1861 will of Francis Coffey provided emancipation and bequeathed his property, including 374 acres, to slave woman Phyllis Pearson and her four sons William, John, Charles and Joshua. On 25 July 1874, John and Elizabeth Pearson donated 36 poles (.225 acre) for the one-room Pearson Colored School that operated until 1945. On 17 April 1876, they donated 112 poles (.7 acre) for burial ground and a church that was built in 1891 as Little Zion Baptist Church. Reverend Lewis Henry Bailey, born a slave in Fairfax County, sold in Alexandria to work in Texas until after the Civil War, was founding pastor from 1891 to 1931.

The Original Longer Text:

Little Zion Baptist Church, Cemetery and Pearson Colored School

In his 30 March 1861 will, Francis Coffey, member of the prominent Coffey founding family of Burke, VA, provided for emancipation and bequeathed all his property, including 374 acres of land to his slave woman Phyllis Pearson and her four sons William, John, Charles and Joshua. On 25 July 1874, John and Elizabeth Pearson donated 36 poles (.225 acre) of that bequest to Fairfax County for the one-room Pearson Colored School that operated until 1945. Then on 17 April 1876, the couple donated 112 poles (.7 acre) to create a burial ground and a church that was not built until 1891 as Little Zion Baptist Church. Reverend Lewis Henry Bailey, born a slave in Fairfax County and sold in Alexandria to work in Texas until after the Civil War, served as founding pastor from 1891 to 1931. Little Zion Baptist Church was the center of the dynamic Black community of the Burke, VA area until 1963 when Greater Little Zion Baptist Church was built on Zion Drive.

Francis Coffey (IV) - 1861 Will

It is my will and desire that my slave woman Phillis and her four sons namely, William, born 24th October 1825; Jack, born the 4th day of May 1828; ^{Charles} born 18th of February 1831; and Joshua, born 1st day of December 1839, to be freed from servitude for life, and I hereby leave them free after my death,

And give and bequeath to them, namely all my stock of all kinds, all my farming utensils, together with all my household and kitchen furniture, to have and to do with as they please,

And I further direct and desire that all the lands of which I may die in possession of to be sold within two years after my death and the money to be equally divided between my slave woman Phillis and her four above named and that they the above said should remain on the farm, until sold, under the protection of my Executors.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this 30th day of March 1861. Francis Coffey (died October 8, 1861)

In the name of God, amen,
Francis Coffey, of the County of Fairfax,
and State of Virginia, being in sound
mind and memory do make this my last will &
testament, and revoking all other wills
before made by me, First it is my will & desire
that my slave woman Phillis and her four
sons namely, William, born 24th Oct. 1825,
Jack born 4th day of May 1828, Charles,
born 18th Feb, 1831 + Joshua, born 1st day of
Dec, 1839, to be freed from servitude for life,
and I hereby leave them free after my death, and
give and bequeath to them, namely, all my
Stock of all kinds, all my farming utensils, together
with all my household & kitchen furniture,
to have and to do with as they please,
and I further direct and desire that all the lands
of which I may die in possession of to be sold within
two years after my death and the money to be
equally divided between my slave woman Phillis
and her four above named and that they
the above said should remain on the farm,
until sold, under the protection of my Executors or
Administrators, all the rest and residue of my
property of be equal divided between Hannah
Burke, Jane Burke, Betsey Selman, Joshua
Coffey and John S. Burke
I do hereby nominate and appoint my friends
John S. Burke and Jas. Burke, my Executors
of this my last will and testament, in
testimony whereof I have hereunto set my
hand and seal this 30th day of March 1861.
Francis Coffey.

May 20, 1871-William Pearson, 47, a carpenter, stated that he left his farm in the spring of 1862 when the Rebels threatened to make him work on their breastworks. "I would not serve them in any way. I left." Stated that they had been freed by Francis Coffey in his will, and inherited land. Coffey was a white man who recognized him and his brothers as his children. Coffey's will gave their birthdates:

William, born Oct. 24, 1825

Jack, born May 4, 1828

Charles, born Feb. 18, 1831

Joshua, born Dec. 1, 1839

His will devised to them the livestock, furniture, etc., and ordered the land to be sold within two years after his death and the money to be given to them.

David Keys, 48, had lived 2 miles from the Pearsons during the war. Phyllis died about 1875, and had had three other children by her first husband. Thomas Pearson, James Pearson and Letty Ann Mack. Thomas, now dead, left a son Thomas, who is now of legal age. James, also dead, left several children: Geneva, Martha, Milly, Rachel, and Lucinda Pearson; also three sons under legal age- William, Anthony and John. There was a chancery suit in 1878, John Pearson et al v. Phyllis Pearson's heirs, to divide the land. It had never been sold and was in two tracts. One contained 76 acres, the other 300 3/4 acres.

Damages assessed at \$1360 by the government,
Nov. 27, 1897.

Records of the Court of Claims
Case files for Congressional Cases 1884-1952
Record Group 123

May 20, 1871-William Pearson, 47, a carpenter, stated that he left his farm in the spring of 1862 when the Rebels threatened to make him work on their breastworks. "I would not serve them in any way. I left." Stated that they had been freed by Francis Coffey in his will, and inherited land. Coffey was a white man who recognized him and his brothers as his children. Coffey's will gave their birthdates:

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His will devised to them the livestock, furniture, etc., and ordered the land to be sold within two years after his death and the money to be given to them.



From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

John Mercer Langston (December 14, 1829 – November 15, 1897) was an American abolitionist, attorney, educator, activist, diplomat, and politician. He was the founding dean of the law school at Howard University and helped create the department. He was the first president of what is now Virginia State University, a historically black college. He was elected a U.S. Representative from Virginia and wrote *From the Virginia Plantation to the National Capitol; Or, the First and Only Negro Representative in Congress From the Old Dominion*.

Born free in Virginia to a freedwoman of mixed ethnicity and a white English immigrant planter, in 1888 Langston was elected to the U.S. Congress. He was the first Representative of color from Virginia. Joseph Hayne Rainey, the black Republican congressman from South Carolina, had been elected in 1870 during the Reconstruction era.

In the Jim Crow era of the later 19th century, Langston was one of five African Americans elected to Congress from the South before the former Confederate states passed constitutions and electoral rules from 1890 to 1908 that essentially disenfranchised blacks, excluding them from politics. After that, no African Americans would be elected from the South until 1973, after the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 was passed authorizing the enforcement of their constitutional franchise rights.

Langston's early career was based in Ohio where, with his older brother Charles Henry Langston, he began his lifelong work for African-American freedom, education, equal rights and suffrage. In 1855 he was one of the first African Americans in the United States elected to public office when elected as a town clerk in Ohio.^{[1][2][3]} The brothers were the grandfather and great-uncle, respectively, of the renowned poet Langston Hughes.

Early life and education [edit]

John Mercer Langston was born free in 1829 in Louisa County, Virginia, the youngest of a daughter and three sons of Lucy Jane Langston, a freedwoman of mixed African-American and Native American descent. She may have had ancestry from the regional Pamunkey tribe.^[4] Their father was Ralph Quarles, a white planter from England and her former master.^[5] Quarles had freed Lucy and their daughter Maria in 1806, in the course of what was a relationship of more than 25 years. After that, their three sons were born free, as their mother was free.^[2] John's older brothers were Gideon and Charles Henry.

Living Free in Virginia

According to Virginia law, slaves freed after May 1806 were required to leave the state within one year or face reenslavement. From that time the number of manumissions (the legal freeing of slaves) dropped to a mere trickle. Although the 1806 law was not methodically enforced, Jefferson and other slaveholders considered it an impediment to freeing their human property. "The laws do not permit us to turn [our slaves] loose," wrote Jefferson in 1814. Thus, when he bequeathed freedom to five men in 1826, Jefferson petitioned the Virginia legislature for a special exemption from the law.

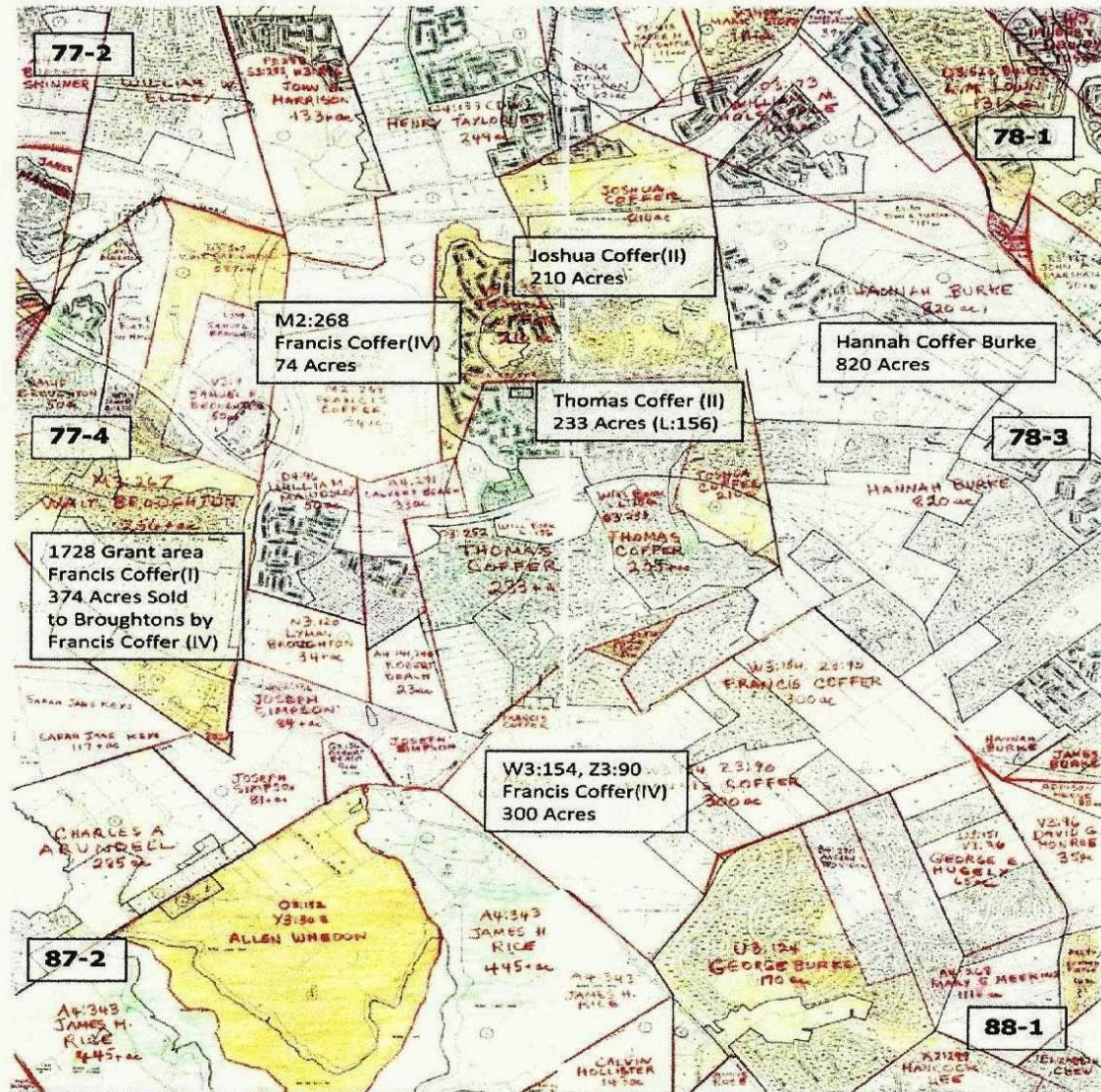


Robert Hemings's manumission

Efforts to rid the state of a population of free people of color numbering almost 50,000 by 1830 increased over the century. In 1833, in the wake of the Nat Turner rebellion, the governmental authorities sent a powerful message to Virginia's free blacks. They appropriated funds for colonizing freed slaves to West Africa and called for a special census in which all the free people of color in Virginia would be specifically asked about their willingness to emigrate. All 452 Albemarle County free blacks, including Joseph Fossett and Sally Madison, and

Coffer Lands in 1860 in Burke

The Coffers owned large landholdings in Burke in 1860 when FIVE generations of Coffers have owned property in the Burke area since the 1728 land grant by Lord Fairfax To Francis Coffer (I).



1860 Map of Burke area with land owned by Coffer Family superimposed over Burke map of around 1990. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/histcomm/1860maps.htm>
"Locust Hill" Family Home of Thomas Coffer (II) and descendants is at left of label of Thomas Coffer land.



<https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3850m.gct00186/?sp=47&r=-0.345,-0.196,1.685,1.074,0>

Download

About this Item

Title

Atlas of fifteen miles around Washington, including the county of Montgomery, Maryland

Names

Hopkins, Griffith Morgan, Jr.

Created / Published

Philadelphia : G.M. Hopkins, 1879, c1878.

Part of

- Cities and Towns (3,763)
- Geography and Map Division (56,095)
- American Memory (440,446)
- Library of Congress Online Catalog (1,573,897)

<https://burkecow.wordpress.com/>
Foley Community Center Project



1878 Hopkins Atlas showed that the lands were not sold and the four Pearson Brothers were living in Burke in 1878.

District of Columbia,
County of Washington.

I, John H. Magee, a Notary public,
in and for the county aforesaid, in the said dis-
trict, do hereby certify that John H. Shum & Ruth P.
Shum, his wife, of the city of Washington, District
of Columbia, parties to a certain deed, bearing date
on the 25th day of July A.D. 1874, & heretofore
personally appeared before me in the county aforesaid,
the said John H. Shum & Ruth P. Shum, his wife, of
the city & District aforesaid, being personally well
known to be the persons who executed the said deed
& acknowledged the same to be their act & deed,
and the said Ruth P. Shum, of the city and
District aforesaid, being by me examined privately
and apart from her husband aforesaid, showing
the deed aforesaid fully explained to her, ac-
knowledged the same to be her act & deed, & declared
that she had willingly executed the same & that
she wished not to retract it. Given under my
hand & seal, the 29th day of May A.D. 1874.

John H. Magee,
Notary Public

Clerk's Office, Fairfax County Court Aug 12-1874
This deed was received, duly au-
thenticated and admitted to record.

J. M. Richardson D.C.

This deed made the 25th day of July
in the year 1874, between John Pearson
and Elizabeth, his wife, of the township
of Lee, County of Fairfax, state of Va. of
the one part & James H. Rice, J. F. Novak
& R. DeLooman, Trustees of the Public
School of the District of Lee, County of

Fairfax and state of Virginia, of the other part.
Witnesseth, that the said parties of the first
part, for and in consideration of the sum of
one dollar, to them in hand paid, receipt
whereof is hereby acknowledged, do grant unto
the said parties of the second part & their successors,
forever, all that parcel of land, being situate
in the school district, county and state aforesaid,
described & bounded as follows: Beginning in Baldpate
line, center of road to Purdie's Station; thence S 83°
E 8 poles to a stake, thence N 7° E 6 poles to a
stake, N 83° W 1 1/2 poles to Leatigau's line, thence
with said line S 45° W 8 poles to the beginning,
containing 36 poles. In Trust for the use
& benefit of the Public Schools of said District.

And the said parties of the first part, covenant,
that they will warrant generally the property
hereby conveyed, that they have done no act to
encumber the said lands & that they will execute
such further assurances of the said lands as
may be requisite. Witness the following sig-
natures to-wit

John Pearson
Elizabeth Pearson

In Fairfax County Court, August 12-1874.
On this day personally appeared before
me, John Pearson & Elizabeth, his wife, parties
to the foregoing deed, dated 25th July 1874,
& acknowledged the same to be their
act and deed. And the said Elizabeth Pearson,
being by me examined, privately & apart from her
husband, showing said deed fully explained to her,
acknowledged the said deed to be her act, &
declared that she had willingly executed
the same & did not wish to retract it.

Whereupon said deed is admitted to record.

J. M. Richardson D.C.

This deed made on the 25th of July 1874
by John and Elizabeth Pearson donated
36 poles (.225 acre) for one dollar to the
County of Fairfax for the one-room
Pearson Colored School that was in
operation until 1945.

#52. PEARSON SCHOOL (colored)

<https://burkecwow.wordpress.com/>
Foley Community Center Project



This Deed, made the 17th day of April 1876,
Between John Pearson and Elizabeth his wife
of the first part, and Wm. Hamilton, Jackson
Morton and Henry Parker, as Trustees of the
Colored Church in Lee District, Fairfax County,
Virginia, known as "Zion", of the second part,
all of said County and state aforesaid.

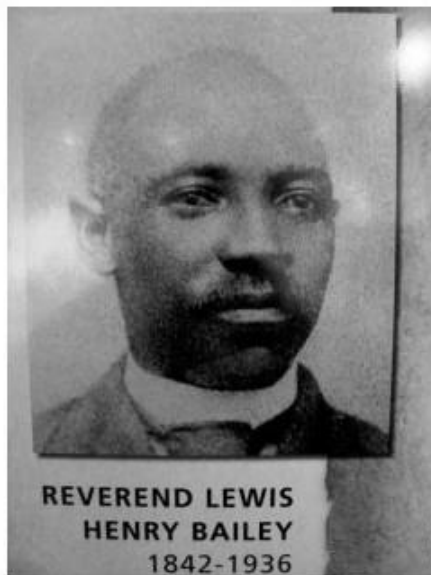
That the said parties of the first part doth
grant unto the said Trustees, & for the purpose
of creating a Methodist Church thereon, and also
for a Burial Ground of any & all persons
whom the said Trustees & members of said Church
may admit to be interested therein, a tract
of land in said District, County and state aforesaid,
containing 112 poles and bounded
described as follows: "Beginning at a stake
in the center of the road leading to the Trustees' own
corner of school home lot, thence down the
road S 83° E. to a stake 14 poles, thence N 8°
E. 8 poles to a chestnut thence N 83° W. 14
poles to the school home lot, thence with school
home lot S 8° W. 6 poles to the beginning, and
the said grantors doth hereby covenant that
the said Trustees and their successors shall have
and hold the said lot of land for the purposes
above mentioned forever, free and clear of,
from all claims of any kind of them, and of
any person or persons whatsoever, claiming a
title therein, by, through or under them,
neither of them. Witness the following sig-
natures and seals.

John Pearson
Elizabeth Pearson

In Fairfax County Court April Court 1876
This Deed was received, acknowledged
before me by John Pearson & Elizabeth his
wife, to be their act & deed and the said
Elizabeth being by me examined, finally
& absent from her said husband's presence on

This deed made on the 17th day of April 1876 between John Pearson and Elizabeth, his wife, of the first part, and William Hamilton, Jackson Morton and Henry Parker, as Trustees of the Colored Church in Lee District, Fairfax County, Virginia, known as "Zion", of the second part... for the purpose of creating a Methodist Church and a Burial Ground.....112 poles (.7 acre)...

Reverend Lewis Henry Bailey
Founding Pastor (1891-1931) of Little Zion Baptist Church



Reverend Lewis Henry Bailey was the founding pastor of Little Zion Baptist Church from 1891 – 1931. My 2010 photo shows the Alexandria Slave Per Freedom House where he was sold and in 1988 was dedicated to his memory.



History of 1315 Duke Street

The Franklin and Armfield Slave Pen at 1315 Duke Street was one of the largest slave trading companies in the country and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The three-story brick building with mansard roof was built as the residence of Robert Young, Brigadier General of the second Militia of the District of Columbia. By 1828, it was leased by Isaac Franklin and John Armfield and used as a "Negro Jail" or slave pen for slaves being shipped from Northern Virginia to Louisiana. Franklin and Armfield were active until 1836, exporting over 3,750 slaves to cotton and sugar plantations in the Deep South. Later, other firms continued trading in slaves here. A sign seen in Civil War period photographs has the name of Price, Birch & Co. During the Civil War the building and its surrounding site were used as a military prison for deserters, the L'Ouverture Hospital for black soldiers and the barrack for contraband-slaves who fled the confederate states and sought refuge with Union troops.

<https://burkecwow.wordpress.com/>
Foley Community Center Project



Civil War era image of 1315 Duke Street

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/museums/history-of-1315-duke-street>

**DEDICATED IN MEMORY OF
HENRY BAILEY**

HENRY BAILEY SERVES AS A GROWING EXAMPLE OF WHAT FREE MEN CAN ACCOMPLISH.

HELD HERE AS A SLAVE WHEN THIS BUILDING SERVED AS THE FRANKLIN AND ARMFIELD SLAVE PEN, HENRY BAILEY WAS SOLD AND TAKEN TO TEXAS.

FREED BY HIS OWNER AFTER THE CIVIL WAR, HENRY BAILEY RETURNED TO ALEXANDRIA TO START SEVEN CHURCHES IN THE WASHINGTON, D.C. METROPOLITAN AREA.

HENRY BAILEY PUT ALL THE NEGATIVE THAT HAD HAPPENED TO HIM IN HIS LIFETIME BEHIND HIM, AND DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO MAKING A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION FOR MANKIND.

IN THAT SAME SPIRIT, WE DEDICATE THIS BUILDING IN HIS NAME TO BE FOREVER KNOWN AS "FREEDOM HOUSE."

IT IS OUR HOPE THAT THE WORK CONDUCTED BY THOSE WHO PASS THROUGH THIS BUILDING WILL FOLLOW HIS POSITIVE EXAMPLE.

LET THIS BUILDING FOREVER REMAIN A SYMBOL OF THE OPPORTUNITY THAT EXISTS TO TURN EVIL INTO GOOD.

AND LET IT FOREVER REMAIN AS A SYMBOL TO ENSURE THAT THE CRUELTY AND INJUSTICE OF SLAVERY NEVER BE TOLERATED AGAIN.

WE OFFER THIS DEDICATION ON THIS 10TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 1988.

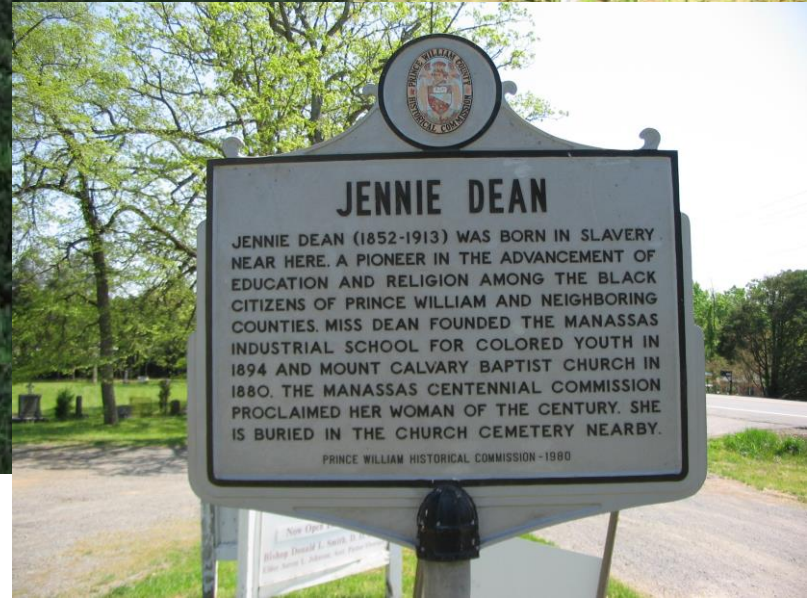
ANN E. W. STONE AND ASSOCIATES, INC.

Henry Bailey serves as a growing example of what free men can accomplish. Held here as a slave when this building served as the Franklin and Armfield Slave Pen, Henry Bailey was sold and taken to Texas. Freed by his owner after the Civil War, Henry Bailey returned to Alexandria to start seven churches in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Henry Bailey put all the negative that had happened to him in his lifetime behind him and dedicated his life to making a positive contribution for mankind. On that same spirit, we dedicate this building in his name to be forever known as "Freedom House." It is our hope that the work conducted by those who pass through this building will follow his positive example. Let this building forever remain a symbol of the opportunity that exists to turn evil into good. And let it forever remain as a symbol to ensure that the cruelty and injustice of slavery never be tolerated again. We offer this dedication on the 10th day of December 1988.



Reverend Lewis Henry Bailey and his wife Ella were buried in Catharpin, Virginia beside his sister-in-law Jennie Dean, Founder of the Manassas School for Industrial Youth and Manassas Woman of the Century in 1973 – and his daughter Annie Bailey Rose, founder of the Alexandria Black History Museum.

<https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=7618>



08/28/2010 18:14

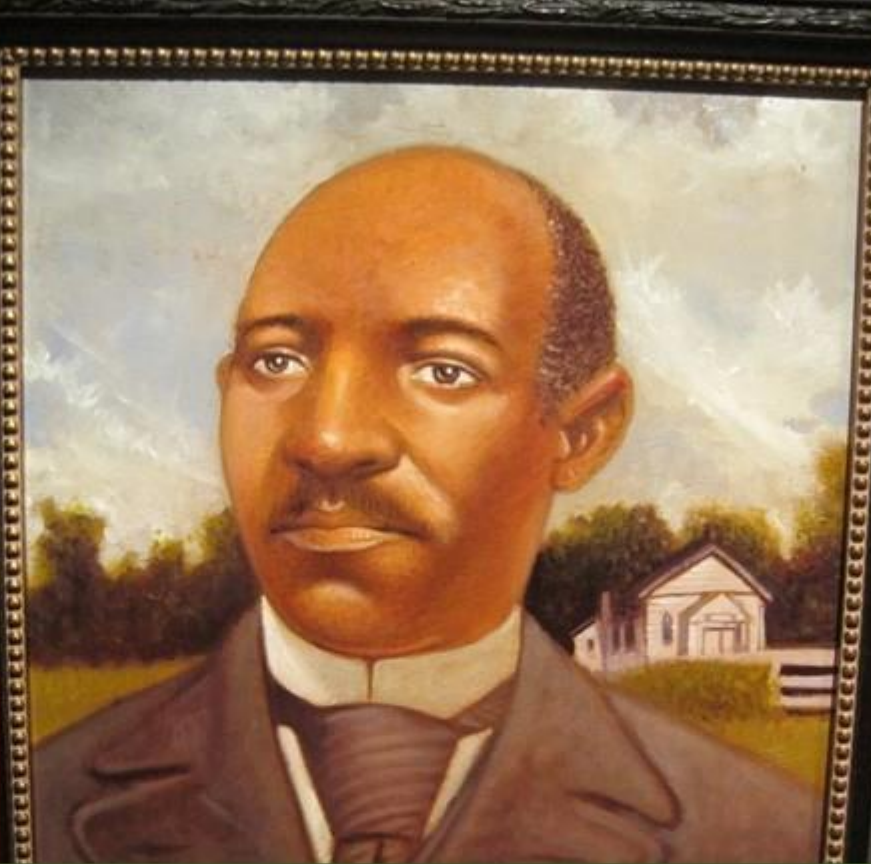
<https://burkecwow.wordpress.com/>
Foley Community Center Project

Note: The Town of Manassas was founded April 2, 1873



**Dolores Latney Colbert Dennie of
The Vibrant Black Community and Local History
of Our Burke, Virginia Hometown**

Corazon Sandoval Foley



Little Zion Baptist Church in book by Burkite Corazon Sandoval Foley on The Vibrant Black Community <https://fairfaxstories.wordpress.com/2022doloresdennieblackburke/> of Dolores Latney Colbert Dennie – who shared stories of Little Zion Baptist Church that was founded in 1891 by Lewis Henry Bailey to whom the Alexandria Slave Pen Freedom House was dedicated. Disclosure: Corazon Sandoval Foley is Independent Green Candidate for Springfield Supervisor 2023 recognized by the Library of Virginia as 2017 Virginia Women in History Awardee. She was Founding Chairman of Foley Community Center (aka Burke/West Springfield Senior Center Without Walls) - <https://fcaahp.wordpress.com/bwsscwow/>

<https://burkecow.wordpress.com/>
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Little Zion Baptist Church

— Built in 1891 —

Reverend Lewis Henry Bailey – Founder

Land donated by John and Elizabeth Pearson

Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites

Dedicated October 20th 1991

08/16/2010 17:35



primary church for blacks in Burke until 1963 when the Greater Little Zion Baptist Church was opened on Zion Drive. Still owned by the con-

gregation, the old church is now rented to the Freewill Baptist Church. Courtesy of Mary Goins Roots.

A forgotten piece of history

Encroaching development threatens old family cemetery in Fairfax

By DEBRA LYNN VIAL

BURKE, Va. (AP)—Back in the woods of Burke, down a muddy path covered in thorns, is the old Pearson cemetery. Its graves sunken and its cracked tombstones toppled long ago.

Over the years, the site has been a meeting place of vandals who set fire to the trees and dug up a coffin. It's been a dumping ground for tires and refrigerators. Now it is smack in the middle of a planned subdivision. That cemetery is also part of Mary Goins Roots' past. Ms. Roots, 52, is afraid that this past will be trampled by the same development that has destroyed other old cemeteries. If her family's cemetery is lost, she said, Fairfax County will lose an important part of its black history.

The Pearson cemetery, according to Ms. Roots, tells the story of a freed black slave who prospered after he was given land for a farm in 1861.

Her great-grandfather and her great-great-grandfather are buried in the cemetery, which is listed as "Cemetery 187" on the county's planning maps. She attended funerals at the cemetery as a girl, and remembers decorating graves with Mason jars filled with flowers.

"My concern is that Fairfax County has lost so many opportunities to record information about people in Fairfax, about the black families who lived here," said Ms. Roots, principal of Willow Springs Elementary School in Centreville. "There was a book about Burke published about 10 years ago and the only mention of blacks were the contributions I made when I heard about the book at the last minute. That's wrong."

Brian Conley, a spokesman for the Virginia Room, Fairfax County's research library for state and local history, also is eager to have historians study the cemetery. "Time and time again, we find that there is not a lot of research on freed blacks in Fairfax County," he said. "We should not lose our chance here."

Development is encroaching on many of the 317 cemeteries in the county, including Cemetery 187.

Twelve cemeteries have been legally removed for development, and another eight have disappeared without required approvals, Conley said.

Four other sites can no longer be found, but could possibly be hidden by underbrush, he said.

Disturbing a cemetery without permission from county and health officials is a felony. Still, the future of Cemetery 187 is uncertain. One cemetery in Centreville is now part of a freest yard, and another in Fairfax City is next to a Safeway parking lot.

The tombstone of the man who freed Ms. Roots' great-great-grandfather is missing from his grave site in a Burke cemetery. And although developers built a fence around the site, the fenced area is much smaller than the original cemetery, and local his-



Mary Roots points out vandals' damage in her old family cemetery to Joseph Beben of the Fairfax County government.

torians wonder what has happened to the other graves, Conley said.

Last week, Ms. Roots feared that her family cemetery was also headed for destruction when she discovered bulldozers had removed debris that had blocked the entrance for 10 years. She thought the cemetery was being readied for development.

Officials at Stanley Martin Companies Inc.—which owns the cemetery and surrounding land—said they were merely removing the junk because it violated health codes. There was so much debris that the health inspector didn't know the graves were even there, said Joseph A. Beben, chief of the public utilities branch of the county's Department of Environmental Management.

The company plans to put a fence around the cemetery to preserve it when a proposed Edgewater subdivision is built, according to a company official.

Still, Ms. Roots is nervous about the future of her family's cemetery.

"It's so important that we not lose this," she said.

Ms. Roots is gathering the signatures of other family members on a petition to the developer and county historians. She wants them to study the cemetery and the foundation of an old family house nearby.

Memories of the cemetery are etched in her mind. Her aging great-aunt took her there 10 years ago, pointed out the graves and told her the stories of those who are buried there.

"She told me not to forget, and I haven't," said Ms. Roots, a Burke resident.

The family history begins with Charles T. Pearson, Ms. Roots' great-great-grandfather. He was a slave owned by Francis Coffee, a well-known farmer of the early- and mid-1800s.

When Coffee died on March 30, 1861, his will granted freedom to Pearson, his mother and his three brothers. According to the will, Coffee's farm equipment and belongings were

sold, and the money and property was divided among the four brothers.

Charles Pearson became a farmer and built a house about a mile from the corner of what is now Pohick and Burke Lakes roads. In a census from the 1880s, the 31-year-old Pearson was listed as an illiterate and poor farmer, according to Roots' research. But 20 years later, another census reported the former slave was "well to do" and had learned to read.

His daughter was a schoolteacher, and one of his brothers donated land for a school. One hundred years ago, another brother donated the land for what is now Freewill Baptist Church.

The first burials at the cemetery were the stillborn babies of Pearson and his wife, Sarah Jane Pearson, according to Ms. Roots. Sarah Pearson died in 1911 and Charles died in 1913.

Most of the tombstones were made from homemade cement with the names scratched out by hand, but family members ordered a monument for Charles and Sarah from Sears Roebuck & Co. and hauled it in their wagon from the Clifton train station to the cemetery. Ms. Roots said.

The Pearson family was forced to sell their farm to the federal government in the 1930s to make way for an airport. The airport was later built in the western end of the county and became Washington Dulles International Airport, but by then the family couldn't afford to buy back their property, Ms. Roots said.

"We wanted to stay, but we couldn't," said Ms. Roots. "But none of us have gone very far away. There are about 150 of us now, and most of us are still close to Burke."

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Council of the City of Fredericksburg will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, October 1, 1991, 7:30 p.m., Council Chambers, City Hall to:

Provide information concerning proposed changes in the current refuse collection program and recycling services. The City Council is considering a plan of curbside and recycling that will be provided to all low density residential units within the City.

The City has also considered a solid waste management plan that provides general recycling guidelines for the City and Stafford County.

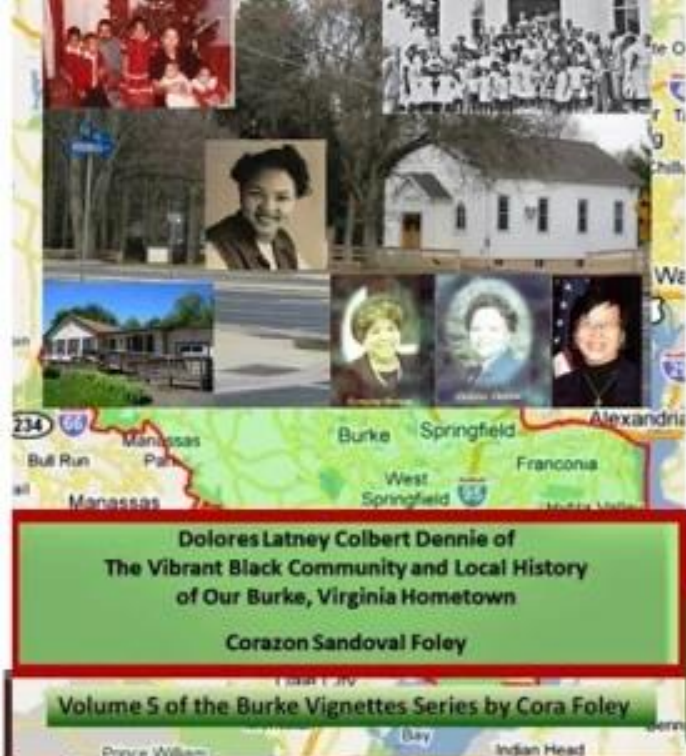
The public is invited to attend this public hearing and comment on these proposals. A copy of the solid waste management plan is available for public review in the Office of the Council Clerk, City Hall, 715 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg, Virginia, during regular business hours, Monday-Friday, 8:15 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Lawrence A. Davies
Mayor



<https://burkecwow.wordpress.com/>
Foley Community Center Project





Dolores Latney Colbert Dennie of
The Vibrant Black Community and Local History
of Our Burke, Virginia Hometown
Corazon Sandoval Foley

December 29, 2023 – HAPPY 92ND BIRTHDAY DOLORES LATNEY COLBERT DENNIE
From Corazon Sandoval and Michael Daniel (in Heaven) of Foley Community Center Project



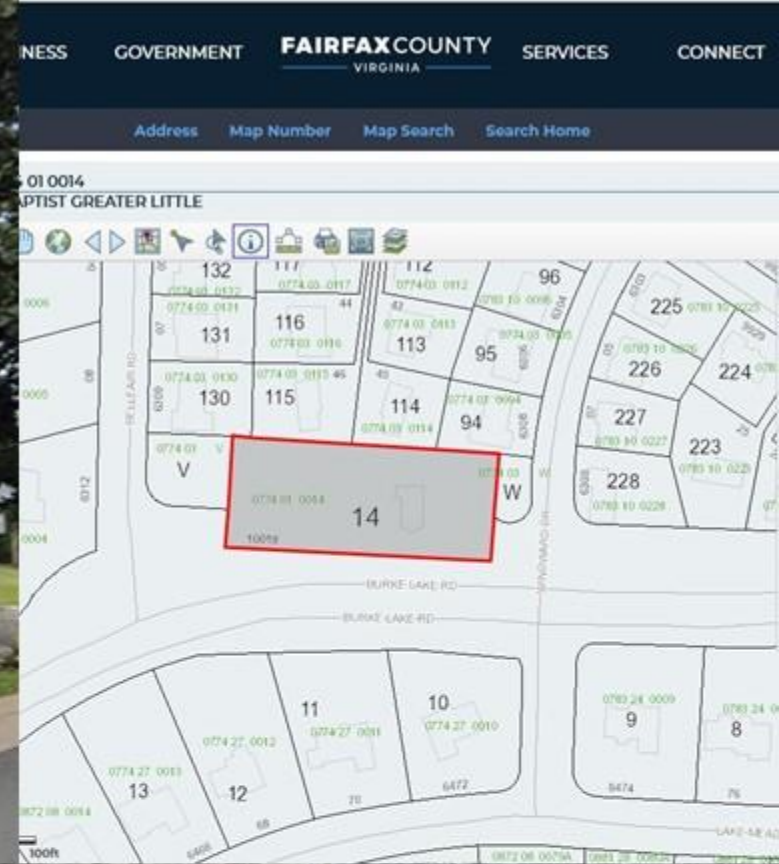
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Sep 2022 See more dates



2024 photo of Little Zion Baptist Church and Cemetery above and in the property report of Fairfax County, Virginia. On the bottom right is the 1937 aerial photo of the Burke, VA area with LZBC Church and Cemetery on the left and the Pearson Colored School on the right (jn operation until 1945) -- Book by Corazon Sandoval Foley on Little Zion Baptist Church and the Case of Loving: <https://fairfaxstories.wordpress.com/2011/littlezionbaptistchurch/>



Little Zion Baptist Church: 125 Years of History



2024 = 133 Years
 Seminar on September 13, 2016

Tuesday, September 13 • 7 P.M.

Join local author Corazon Foley for a conversation surrounding Little Zion Baptist Church, an important historic site in Burke celebrating its 125th anniversary. Adults.

Burke Centre Library
 5935 Freds Oak Road
 Burke, Va. 22015
 703-249-1520



<https://burkecwow.wordpress.com/>
 Foley Community Center Project

Little Zion Baptist Church;
 Coffey Home; Silas Burke
 House, Burke Railroad
 Station, Keene/Jerman
 Home, May 18, 2013
 speakers: Cora Foley,
 Ruth Rose, Bill Sheads;
 Pinn Center; Little Red
 Schoolhouse.

For Anne Stuntz and Fairfax County History Book Club – On 1/23/2024, I mentioned that I used to do lots of history conversations at senior centers, particularly at Foley Community Center Project (aka Burke/West Springfield Senior Center Without Walls) about the history of Burke, Virginia. I was fascinated by the excellent book by Constance and Mayo Stuntz on “This Was Vienna, VA” that I created a simple collage to show that a “Vienna, Virginia: A Trail of History” could be done or even better: “Burke and Vienna, VA: Trails of History”. Corazon



**BW 3
BURKE'S STATION**

This building is the original Burke's Station. Named for prominent local resident Silas Burke. It opened here in 1851 on the new Orange and Alexandria Railroad, which linked northern and central Virginia. John A. Marshall, first postmaster of the town later known as Burke, bought 50 acres here in 1852; he and his wife, Mary, who were significant in the community's development, are buried in the Marshall Cemetery about 350 feet southeast. The Union army used the station as a storage and transportation depot during the Civil War, and it was the target of several Confederate raids, including one by Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart in Dec. 1862. The railroad was rerouted about 800 feet to the north in 1903.

NEW, ACCURATE HISTORICAL MARKER FOR BURKE'S STATION
 HISTORY SUPPORTED BY
 VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

<https://burkecwow.wordpress.com/>
 Foley Community Center Project



OLD HISTORICAL MARKER – REPLACED ON OCTOBER 13, 2022

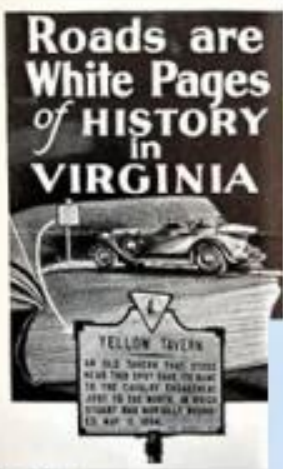
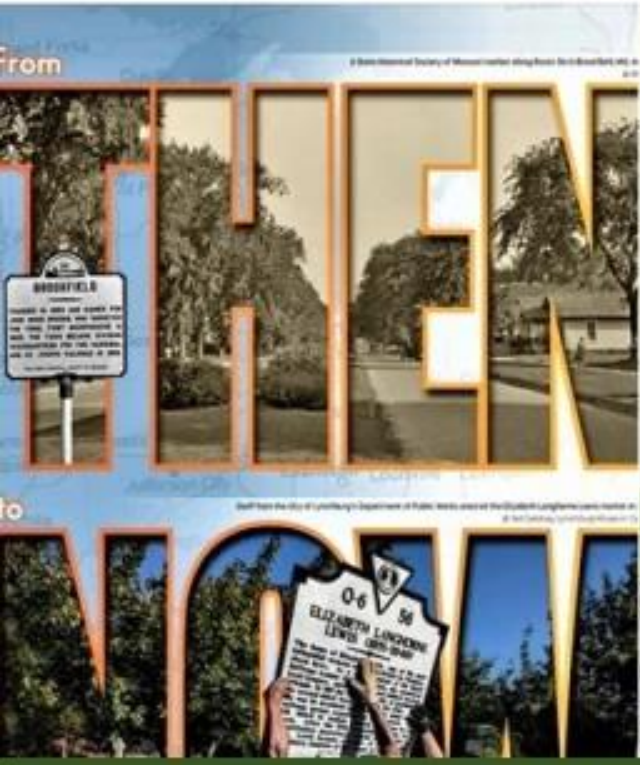
“Burke Station Historical Marker - Burke Station was raided in December 1862 by Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart. It was from this site originally the Burke Station Depot, that he sent his famous telegram to Union Quartermaster General Meigs complaining of the poor quality of Union mules he had just captured”

NEW MARKER INSTALLED ON OCTOBER 13, 2022 – SUCCESS BY BURKE HISTORIAN/ FILIPINO AMERICAN LADY FAIRFAX 2009 CORAZON SANDOVAL FOLEY

Burke's Station BW-3
 This building is the original Burke's Station. Named for prominent local resident Silas Burke, it opened here in 1851 on the new Orange and Alexandria Railroad, which linked northern and central Virginia. John A. Marshall, first postmaster of the town later known as Burke, bought 50 acres here in 1852; he and his wife, Mary, who were significant in the community's development, are buried in the Marshall Cemetery about 350 feet southeast. The Union army used the station as a storage and transportation depot during the Civil War, and it was the target of several Confederate raids, including one by Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart in Dec. 1862. The railroad was rerouted about 800 feet to the north in 1903. Department of Historic Resources, 2022

Remembering 10/13/2022 Installation of NEW Historical Marker for Burke's Station – Successful Petition to the Virginia Department of Historical Resources by Corazon Sandoval Foley to change the OLD Historical Marker that basically talked of Burke History as the one night that JEB Stuart was in Burke to the NEW ACCURATE Historical Marker for Burke's Station. Corazon Sandoval Foley was recognized by the Library of Virginia as 2017 Woman in History Awardee. <https://edu.lva.virginia.gov/changemakers/items/show/136>

With their texts of black lettering against a silver background and their distinctive shape, Virginia's state historical highway markers are hard to miss along the Commonwealth's roadways. There are now more than 2,500 of them erected in Virginia to highlight people, places, or events of regional, statewide, or national significance. Virginia's historical marker program is the oldest such program in the nation, beginning in 1927, when a handful of markers were raised along U.S. 1. See more



NEW, ACCURATE HISTORICAL MARKER FOR BURKE'S STATION

SUCCESSFUL SUGGESTION BY **CORAZON SANDOVAL FOLEY**

FOUNDING CHAIRMAN **FOLEY COMMUNITY CENTER PROJECT**
 (ALSO KNOWN AS THE **BURKE/WEST SPRINGFIELD SENIOR CENTER**)



Asian American Historical Markers In My Beloved Virginia

Corazon Sandoval Foley

The History of Virginia's Historical Markers -- [From Then to Now: History Along the Roadway | FHWA \(dot.gov\)](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/historic-roads/turn-of-the-century-highways/) – was published on July 13, 2023. In our Burke, VA hometown, Corazon Sandoval Foley worked with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources to install on October 15, 2023, the NEW, ACCURATE Historical Marker for Burke's Station that was included in the book "Asian American Historical Markers in My Beloved Virginia" – Disclosure: Burkite local historian Corazon Sandoval Foley is the First Filipino American and First Asian American Candidate for Springfield Supervisor 2023 who pledged voluntarily, if elected, to donate the pay raise bulldozed by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to the Foley Community Center Project (aka Burke/West Springfield Senior Center Without Walls) -- <https://fcaahp.wordpress.com/bwsscwow/>



Asian American Historical Markers
In My Beloved Virginia

Corazon Sandoval Foley

VALOR: Asian American
Soldiers, Police, Firefighters
Protecting Fairfax County And Our Nation



Photo 1: The 10th Army Band featuring Betty Pineda in the
front. Tom Sato, 1976, 1978, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025

Corazon Sandoval Foley

The Fairfax County
Asian American
History Project



Photo 1: The 10th Army Band featuring Betty Pineda in the
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Corazon Sandoval Foley

<https://burkecwow.wordpress.com/>
Foley Community Center Project

Fairfax County
Stories 2

Remember the Ladies

Fairfax County Stories 2:
Remember the Ladies



LITTLE ZION BAPTIST
CHURCH
AND
THE CASE OF LOVING

CORAZON SANDOVAL
FOLEY



BURKE
VIGNETTES,
1728-2012:

Twelve Days from Culture
to Folklife in my Hometown
Burke County, Virginia



CORAZON SANDOVAL FOLEY



The Burke First Firefighters, 1941 - 2020
Protecting Our Hometown of Burke, Virginia

(Includes 4 of Burke Vignettes - Curtis, Carlos
Sandoval and Foley Honor Firefighter Members)

Corazon Sandoval Foley

Corazon Sandoval Foley

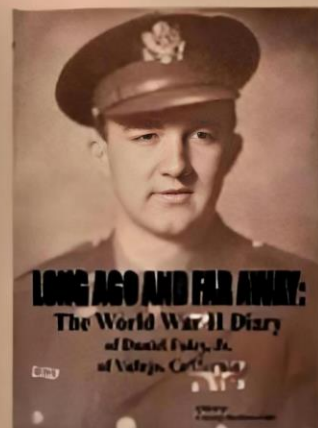


SANDOVAL
STORIES,
1760S - 2013:

From American Oryzary
from York, Fairfax, Manassas
to Fairfax County, Virginia



CORAZON SANDOVAL FOLEY



LONG AGO AND FAR AWAY:
The World War II Diary
of Daniel Foley, Jr.

of Valleys, California
of Valleys, California

Corazon Sandoval Foley



More Burke Vignettes, 1728 - 2020:
In Honor of Good Neighbors

Photo 1: Beach, Dukes, Lanes, Glen, Corra,
& Foley in One Tobacco Patch of Burke, Virginia

Corazon Sandoval Foley



2017 VIRGINIA WOMEN IN HISTORY



Corazon
Sandoval
Foley

COMMUNITY LEADER
Corazon Sandoval Foley is an advocate and leader in addressing issues of social justice and equity through educational and research programs within her community.

Corazon
Sandoval Foley



<https://burkecwow.wordpress.com/>
Foley Community Center Project



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SUNDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2024 12NOON – 2PM AT POHICK REGIONAL LIBRARY IN OUR BURKE, VIRGINIA HOMETOWN – BROWN-BAG LUNCH CONVERSATION ON THE HISTORICAL MARKER PROJECT FOR LITTLE ZION BAPTIST CHURCH, CEMETERY AND PEARSON COLORED SCHOOL LED BY CORAZON SANDOVAL FOLEY, FOUNDER, FOLEY COMMUNITY CENTER PROJECT - <https://burkecwow.wordpress.com/>

