

1 Caroline Cottrell (1856-1918)

Caroline C. Cottrell (1856-1918), 209 High Street, was born enslaved in North Carolina. She gained her freedom at age 7 in Tennessee and moved to Newburyport in the 1880s as a servant for the Morrill family. Caroline spent the rest of her life here, raising future mayor Gayden W. Morrill and attending the Baptist church on Green Street. Caroline is buried in the Morrill family plot in Union Cemetery, Amesbury, MA.



Top left is Caroline Cottrell on the back steps of 207 (later 209) High Street where she worked as a domestic. Sitting lower left is domestic Margaret Reardon from Ireland and above are the Morrill family children. *Courtesy of the Museum of Old Newbury.*

2 Lucy Lancaster

Lucy Lancaster also known as "Black Luce" became well-known during the yellow fever epidemic of 1796 as a caretaker night and day for friends. Soon after, Lucy became a trusted friend to Lord Timothy Dexter who lived at 201 High Street. Author Samuel L. Knapp (1783-1838) was born in Newburyport and studied law with local Judge Theophilus Parsons. In 1852 Knapp wrote about Lucy and Dexter's friendship, "The daughter of the prince Caesar was Patagonian in size, and quite heroic character. She was shrewd, well informed and brave as ever man or woman could be...her judgment was of a superior order. Dexter, finding that she lived in the upper classes of society, sent for her in some case of sickness, and, much to his credit, she afterwards kept the hold she had at that time gained as Dexter's nurse. As Dexter became more weak and irascible, the more she was wanted, and the more good she did."

3 Guinea Village Citizens

Guinea Village was a small area of Pond, Auburn, and Low streets during the late 1700s and early 1800s where many Black families lived. "Guinea" referred to West Africa, the area of concentration of the Atlantic slave trade. Early residents were formerly enslaved or descendants of enslaved family members.

Mariner William Coston, born in Philadelphia and Irene L. Watts, a native of Newburyport were married in 1845 by Rev. Dr. Luther Dimmick of the North Church, today it is the location of the Central Congregational Church. In the 1850 *Newburyport Daily Herald* Mrs. Coston advertised her services of washing and ironing at her home 30 County Road, renamed Auburn Street.

Mrs. Doshier Francis (1793-1887), was born a short distance from her 14 Low Street home and lived with her son George (1833-1897), his wife, Judith (born 1843) and children Ida and Castor. From Doshier's obituary: "Rev. J. H. Van Buren officiated at the house and grave...the singing was by about twenty members of the family, and the selections were rendered with much feeling and sweetness."

In the 1860s son George was a mariner and a few years later worked as a shoe cutter for the Learned shoe company that produced over 2,000 pairs of shoes a day. His wife Judith was born in Virginia and worked as a laundress. Son Castor (1880-1907) was a driver for the shoe factory. Daughters Ida and Susie were employed as domestics. In 1900 William H. Hall age 43, boarded with the Francis family. William who was born in Pennsylvania, was listed as married and a day laborer in 1900.

4 Andrew Raymond

Barber Andrew Raymond was born in Boston and died in 1856. His obituary stated, "Mr. Raymond was a gentleman, a good citizen, and a Christian." Funeral services were held at the Baptist Church on Court Street. Andrew's hair-cutting business was at 29 Market Square and he owned his home on Auburn Street. Widower Andrew married laundress and domestic Celia Owens in 1851. Once enslaved in Richmond, Virginia, Celia was purchased by the Newburyport Hale family, and soon after the Hales granted her freedom. Andrew was active in the abolitionist movement and was a member of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society.

5 Colored Progressive Club

The Colored Progressive Club joined in many community events. Reported by the *Newburyport Daily News* and *Daily Herald* on January 18, 1932, a fundraiser at City Hall (5a) was sponsored by the Citizens Aid Committee. Aiding those residents who needed assistance, the benefit show was so popular that additional shows were scheduled to meet the demands of the capacity crowds. The Colored Progressive Club participated as one of the most popular acts. A quartet consisted of Carl Williams, Fletcher Carter, Frank Broadie, and Schofield Baptiste. The tap-dancing act was performed by Ollie Townes, Woodie Arthur, Glasco Wells, and James Barber. Dorothy Mitchell and Ollie Townes gave a special dance performance. Officers of the club were James T. Bivins, president; Frank Broadie, vice president; Elsie Broadie, secretary; and Gus Pierce, treasurer. A month later, the popular quartet performed at the People's United Methodist Church (5b) on Purchase Street where the South End Men's Club observed the birthday of Abraham Lincoln. The large crowd enjoyed a musical program of Southern plantation songs by the Progressive Club quartet.



Caroline Cottrell in the kitchen of 209 High Street. Caroline's obituary of March 12, 1918, stated: "for many years faithful in the service of the family of Frank F. Morrill." *Courtesy of the Museum of Old Newbury.*

6 Daniel Cottle

Sailor Daniel Cottle joined fellow Newburyporters on the Brig *Dalton* among 46 men who departed the waterfront on the Brig *Dalton* on November 15th, 1776. Listed as a servant, Daniel married Nimbo Giddens, a servant in Exeter, NH on July 9, 1774. Soon after Brig *Dalton* was captured, the crew was sent to Mill Prison in Plymouth, England. Prison life was described in: "A Revolutionary Prison Diary: The Journal of Dr. Jonathan Haskins," of Maine, and Charles Hebert's journal entitled *A Relic of the Revolution*. Both recorded the untimely passing of Daniel Cottle. When smallpox broke out among the prisoners in June of 1777, and the sickness continued to spread, Haskins writes: "Danl. Cottle (a black) nurse for the prisoners, so many sick with the s.pox." Two months later Haskins reported, "Daniel Cottle died (a nurse) of the smallpox." On August 25, 1777, Hebert wrote: "Yesterday Daniel Cottle died in the prison hospital of the smallpox; he is the sixth of our company that has died since we have been in England." Hebert and Pierce eventually were released and returned home.

7 Elbow Lane

Elbow Lane was a pathway that angled from Water Street up to Liberty Street where many Black residents boarded and rented homes. The 1850 and 1900 census' and city directories listed residents James Laws, age 50, a water transportation/mariner and cook, from Delaware, his wife Lucinda, age 46, a washerwoman, born in Rhode Island, and their mariner 27-year-old son Peter. Barber John C. H. Young's household in 1850 included mariners Joseph H. Johnson, age 19, and Francis LeGraft, age 28 from Surinam, formerly Dutch Guiana, in South America. Other residents who called the alleyway their home included Anna Wilson and Ella Finch, laundresses, both born in Virginia, and John James, a coal heaver, and wife Lona, both originally from North Carolina.

36	DIRECTORY.
Laws, James, cook, h Elbow lane.	
Laws, Lucinda, washerwoman, h Elbow lane.	

Newburyport 1850 City Directory.

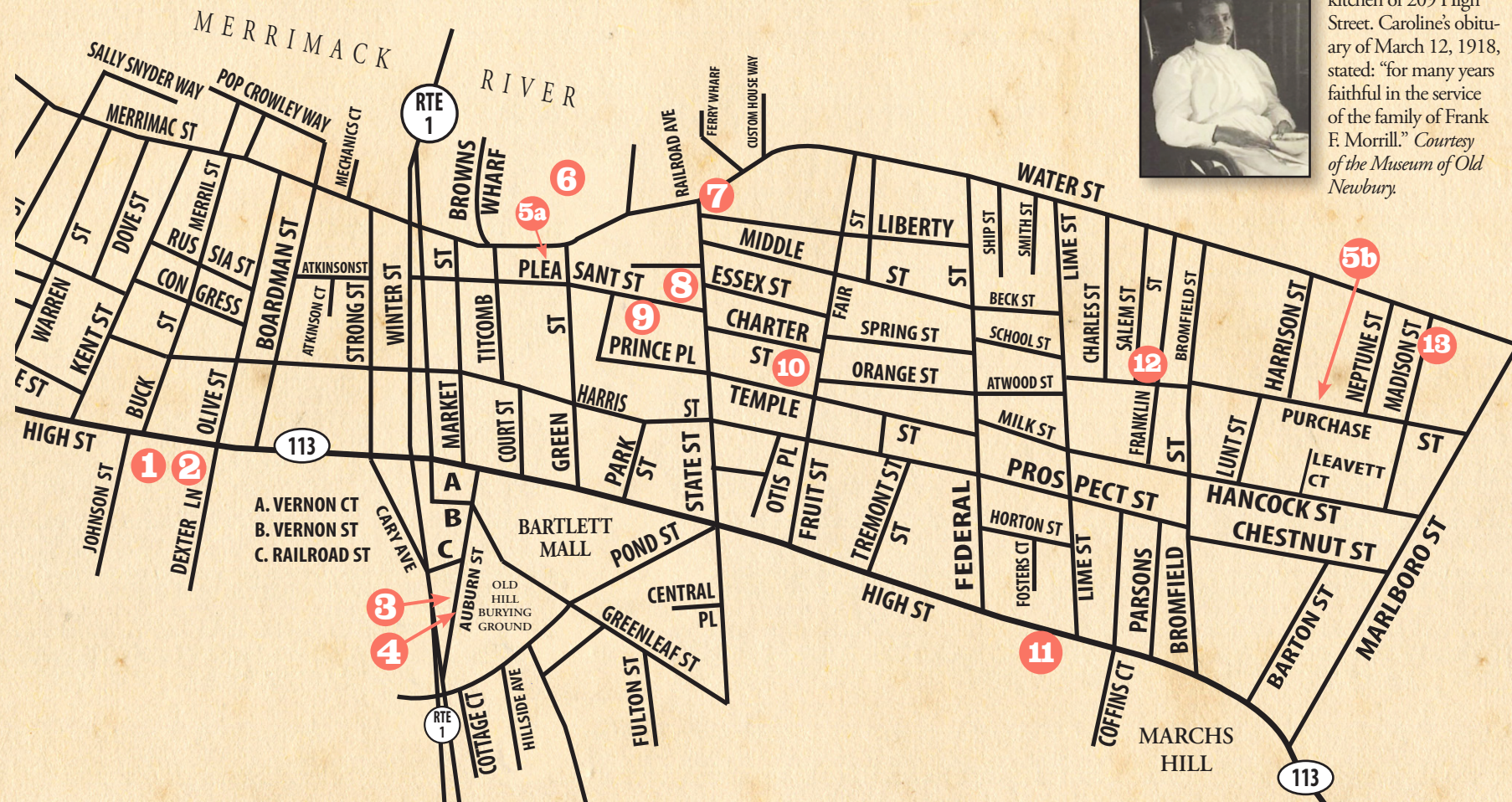
8 William Francis

William Francis (1789-) managed a barber shop on the southwesterly corner of State Street and Threadneedle Alley, one door south of the original Wolfe Tavern. Known as "Emperor" Francis, he was described as "a tall, well-built negro, illiterate, but polite and fond of notoriety." In the *Newburyport Herald* of May 15, 1807, "Emperor Francis makes a proclamation...where he intends to carry on that once barberous, but now civilized and highly celebrated profession, in such high repute in France and other countries, of HAIR DRESSING, HAIR CUTTING, and WIG MAKING, which at single sight can charm." After losing his shop in the Great Fire of 1811, William Francis moved to Worcester, MA and opened a barber shop.

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH OBSERVES LINCOLN NIGHT

"Abraham Lincoln Night" was observed last evening by the parishioners of the Union Baptist church, with a musical program and papers on the life of the great emancipator. When the program opened, every seat in the edifice was taken and many were obliged to stand.

Newburyport Daily News and Daily Herald article, Feb 13, 1930.



9 Cakewalk

The cakewalk was a dance developed from the "prize walks," dance contests with a cake awarded as the prize. Oral histories suggest that cakewalks were held in the enslaved quarters of Southern plantations. Couples would take turns dancing in a promenade-type dance. Cakewalks were held at Griffin Hall 31-35 Pleasant Street or City Hall 60 Pleasant Street in the early 1900s. Locals, many from Boston and out of state, participated as cake walkers and fancy steppers, and a cake was awarded to the top couple. Nason's orchestra often provided the music. Comedy, vaudeville acts, singing, and piano playing were part of the shows. Residents often traveled by train to Portsmouth and other towns to show off their talents. William Peace, Wallace Francis, and Miss Susie Owens collected prizes for their performances.

10 Beulah Union Baptist Church

The Beulah Union Baptist Church was incorporated in 1924 when citizens secured funding to purchase the old Temple Street school property. Trustees Schofield Baptiste, Paul J. Bird, and Frank Broadie led the effort. The church often hosted community gatherings and was host to a comedy "A Womanless Wedding," which was presented by the Colored Progressive Club to a full house in June of 1932. William Chandler, Clement Pearson, Franklin Cousins, and Thomas Birch were some of the participants in the play. Chicken suppers were regularly served to a large crowd in the social rooms of the church. The committee of Miss Mary Francis, Mrs. James (Mary) Bivins, and Mrs. James (Amy) Smith organized the evenings of fellowship as members of the Helping Hand Club. Easter Services filled the church with a full program led by Mrs. Carl (Cleo) Williams and Mrs. Moses (Eliza) Towne was the accompanist for the evening. The audience enjoyed musical performances by Miss Margaret Broadie on violin, Miss Marion Bivins on piano, and saxophonist Walter Jackson. Midge Tilley, Roslynn Byrd, Doris Finch, Pauline Marable, and Delia Roundtree recited poems to the congregation. Gospel singing filled the church most evenings. By 1952 the church was known as the Grace African Methodist Episcopal. The church closed permanently a few years later. Today is the location of the Marshall James E. Sullivan Building, 25 Temple Street.

11 Joel Weed

Enslaved Joel Weed labored in the household of Sarah Weed, 53 High Street, widow of John, who died in 1772. In Sarah's will, she begins: "Imprimis, I will that my negro man Slave named Joel be free and for that purpose, I have already given bond (50 pounds) to the Town of Newbury...and thereby ordered that no person pretending to be heir to me...claim my property in the said Negro man or attempt to abridge him of his freedom...to the said Joel I give the bed he lies on and the small Home and land on which it stands which I lately built I give to him." Following Sarah's wishes, Joel remained free, and the selectman took care of Joel for the rest of his life.

12 Carl and Cleo Williams

Carl and Cleo Williams, both born in Georgia, owned a home at 35 Franklin Street valued at \$3,000 according to the 1930 census. Private Williams served in WW I, assigned to St. Louis, Missouri in March of 1919, where the Army training encampment of the 12th Engineers was based. At this time Carl was single and boarded at 4 Titcomb Street. In the 1940 census, Carl worked as a mechanic at the Traffic Circle and Storey Avenue garages. Cleo was a nurse and domestic.

13 Charles and Margaret David Webb

Virginian-born Charles Webb (1802-1878), and Margaret E. Davis Webb (1813-1881), born in Maine, lived for many years in Portland, Maine, and owned their home before moving to Massachusetts. After living and owning a home in Danvers, MA, the Webbs purchased 9 Madison Street valued at \$600 in 1871. Charles was a one-time seaman, laborer, and postal worker, and Margaret was listed as "keeping house." After Charles died at the age of 75 years, Margaret continued to live in her Madison Street home until she passed away in Haverhill, MA at the age of 69 years.

Washerwomen.
Campbell Margaret, Central Galven Mrs, rear 12 Pros wharf
McCrawson Mary, 5 Inde- Raymond A. Mrs. 28 Auburn
Costin Irene, 30 Low Seaver Elizabeth, 27 Kent

Newburyport City Advertisement 1856 advertisement for washerwomen Mrs. Andrew Raymond and Irene Costin.



Olive Dow Coddair (1930-) and brother Arthur Dow (1932-2014) grew up on Warren Street and attended Newburyport's Davenport and Currier schools and High School. C. 1935. Courtesy of Olive Dow Coddair.

MEET TOMORROW.
Convention of Colored Odd Fellows in This City.
About a Thousand Delegates From All Over the State.
Interesting Programme Ready for Entertainment of Visitors.

Newburyport Daily News article, September 1st, 1903.

Notice.
MRS COSTON would inform the citizens of Newburyport and vicinity, that she continues WASHING and IRONING at her residence in County street, No 30, as formerly. She respectfully solicits a share of their patronage. J8

Newburyport Daily Herald June 8, 1850 advertisement.

CAKE WALKERS AT GRIFFINHALL
Last Night's Entertainment a Notable One in Local Colored Circles.

Newburyport Daily News, Griffin Hall, 31-35 Pleasant Street, May 22, 1903.

1907 NEWBURYPORT DIRECTORY 105
Francis
" G Wallace shoe cutter bds 14 Low cor Auburn

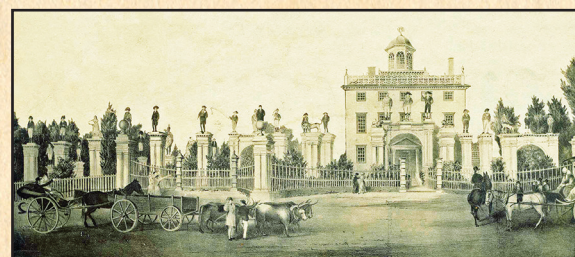
Newburyport City Directory 1906-7 advertisement.



The People's United Methodist Church on Purchase Street where the Progressive Club members and quartet performed for special events and fundraisers. Courtesy of the Newburyport Public Library Archival Center.

NOTICE.
ANDREW RAYMOND,
Would respectfully inform his friends and the public that he has again returned to Newburyport, after an absence of eight months, and taken store in Broadway, three doors below his former stand, where he intends conducting the
HAIR DRESSING BUSINESS
IN ALL ITS BRANCHES.
Also, Gentlemen's Garments
REPAIRED & CLEANSED, in the neatest manner.

Newburyport Daily Herald advertisement, December 12, 1843.



The Lord Timothy Dexter House at 201 High Street. Lucy Lancaster was Dexter's nurse and caretaker during his last years of life. Courtesy of the Newburyport Public Library Archival Center.

Sponsors: Newburyport Civic League, Caitlin Healey, FRS Unitarian Universalist Church and the Newburyport Cultural Council.

Sources: Newburyport Public Library Archival Center and Museum of Old Newbury.

Ghlee E. Woodworth

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NEWBURYPORT BLACK HERITAGE TRAIL

FORTITUDE, FELLOWSHIP & ENTREPRENEURS

Newburyport's Black Heritage Trail promotes awareness and recognition of former citizens and their contributions to our community. Sharing their stories honors their presence, celebrates their lives, and enriches Newburyport's history.

Take a walk through our historic city and see the former sites of the Elbow Lane neighborhood, a church with gospel singing every night, and a barber shop owned by an "emperor." There are a multitude of stories of our small Black community during the past 300 years awaiting your discovery.