

FREEMANTOWN NEWSLETTER



Issue 001

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Approaching the close of 2024...

As we approach the close of 2024, the Freemantown Historical Foundation invites you to join us in reflecting on a year of growth, accomplishments, and meaningful impact. Together, we've honored Freemantown's rich legacy while building pathways for a brighter future. In this edition, we're excited to share updates on our programs, celebrate community milestones, and provide a glimpse into what lies ahead. Thank you for your unwavering support as we continue to preserve history and empower the communities we serve.

Celebrating Our Generous Donors!

In this edition, we honor the incredible generosity of our 2023-2024 donors who helped us raise \$3569 with \$325 dedicated to our Scholarship Funds. Your support is making a real difference in preserving Freemantown's legacy and empowering the future.

- **Gold Level:** Angela James, Dorothy Tatun, Titiana Benton, Erica Hixon, Cheryl Snipes, Angelique Long & Kerry Hixon
- **Silver Level:** Elissa Benford & Mary Pasley
- **Bronze Level:** Anthony Weaver, Bill Robertson, Candice Bennis, Clyde Spivey, Dorothy Horton, Karen Stewart-Ross, Phillip G Henderson, Winfred Aker, & Yolanda Freeman Harden

Join us in making an impact! Consider becoming a Pure Donation Member, where 100% of your contribution directly funds our programs and is fully tax-deductible. Together, we can continue building a brighter future while celebrating Freemantown's rich heritage!



Angela James



Dorothy Tatun



Titiana Benton

Partnership Spotlight ---



Our partnership with Berry College continues to bring progress and hope to the preservation of our historic cemetery. While our pursuit of grants for a comprehensive ground penetration and site survey—estimated at \$250,000—has yet to succeed, Berry College has stepped forward in meaningful ways.

They have enhanced the visibility of our marker by relocating it back from the road, added a beautiful gazebo, and committed to monthly cemetery clean-ups with the help of their dedicated students. Additionally, restrooms near the site will be available in 2025, making visits more comfortable for all.

Together, FHF and Berry College are committed to honoring Freemantown's history and sharing its legacy with students and the community. Their support helps us advance these efforts and preserve this sacred ground for generations to come.

Fundraising ---

Fundraising is vital to preserving Freemantown's rich history and supporting our community initiatives. We're grateful to everyone who contributed to our recent Double Good Popcorn fundraiser, helping us raise \$1,345—**Thank You for your support!**

As we look ahead, we're seeking fresh fundraising ideas from our family and community. Your creativity and involvement can make all the difference in reaching our goals. Together, we can continue honoring our past while building a brighter future for Freemantown and the communities that we serve!

www.freemantown.org --- info@freemantown.org

Raising Joy
**Double
Good**

Involvement – Sharing Our Story ---

Join us in preserving Freemantown's rich history by actively participating in community events and initiatives that raise awareness of our heritage and mission. Sharing our story helps honor Freemantown's legacy while empowering communities to build a brighter future.

This past fall, during Solidarity Week at Berry College, Cheryl Snipes, President of FHF, shared the history of Freemantown with Berry's students. Cheryl remarked, "I was so pleased to see the students' excitement. They had plenty of questions."

Vic Hixon, our Director of Community Affairs in Rome, participated in several community service projects this year to raise awareness of Freemantown's history. Vic, attended the Black Futures Fest, presented by One Community United at the Wilder Center, strengthening community connections.

Join the "Family History Storytelling" Movement!

Storytelling is a powerful way to preserve Freemantown's legacy while fostering community connections. We invite you to participate in **Family History Storytelling** presentations—an opportunity to share family stories passed down by parents and grandparents. These stories will also become part of our museum's collection.

Email cfsnipes@freemantown.org to schedule your storytelling session.

Have ideas for getting involved? We'd love to hear from you! Together, we can ensure Freemantown's history continues to inspire future generations.

Freemantown Online Store ---

What you've all been waiting for is finally here — introducing the Freemantown Boutique! Explore our collection of unique products that celebrate the rich history and legacy of Freemantown.

Visit our store by clicking the "Shop" link on the Freemantown home page, and stay tuned as we continue to add exciting new items.

Looking for something personalized? Contact us at info@freemantown.org for customized designs. Happy shopping, and thank you for supporting Freemantown!

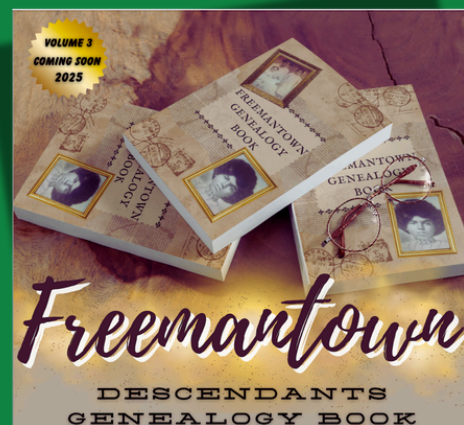


Genealogy Book

Starting in 2025, the Freemantown Genealogy Book will transition to a bi-annual publication schedule. The next edition is set to be released in December 2026.

This treasured book captures 10-12 generations of ancestors and descendants from the Freeman, Montgomery, Jones, Sanford, and Rogers families. To ensure your family's history is accurately represented, we need your help!

Please complete the Family Record Form to update or add your family's information.



Let's work together to preserve our legacy!

The form is available on our website at

<https://freemantown.org/family-record-form>

Upcoming Events

- For MLK and Black History Events, please stay tuned to the Freemantown's Facebook page
- Storytelling Event - Fred Hart Williams Genealogy Society via zoom February 2025
- Family History Zoom meeting - TBD
- July 18, 2025 The Benton Family will host a homecoming family reunion in Rome, Ga.

To make announcements of upcoming events please contact FHF at info@freemantown.org

Freemantown Membership ---

We're always looking for passionate new members to join us in supporting the Freemantown Historical Foundation's mission. Becoming a member not only connects you with a community dedicated to preserving family histories across the United States and beyond but also offers meaningful ways to contribute to our shared legacy.

Your membership plays a vital role in helping us safeguard the history of Freemantown and empowering communities for a brighter future. If you're interested in becoming part of our mission, please reach out for more information about membership benefits, donation levels, volunteering opportunities, or any questions you may have. We'd love to have you on board!

A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated members for their unwavering support in 2024:



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|-------------------|---------------------|
| • Angela R. James | • Erica Hixon |
| • Aija Edwards | • Eric Miller |
| • Anthony Weaver | • Lindsey Audrey |
| • Dorothy Taton | • Dr. Michael Jones |
| • Elissa Benford | • Nicolle Brown |
| • Cheryl Snipes | • Titiana Benton |

Annual Membership Fee
Adults (18+) \$30
Juniors (11-17) \$15

JOIN US

Membership reopens in January 2025—let's continue this incredible journey together!

New Directions for 2025 ---

Mission Statement;

The Freemantown Historical Foundation preserves the rich history of Freemantown while empowering communities for a brighter future. Through innovative programs in youth development, community engagement, and workforce training, we provide educational opportunities, skills development, leadership growth, and support for low-income families. Our mission is to honor Freemantown's enduring legacy while fostering growth, opportunity, and an improved quality of life for future generations.

Organization's activities;

In 2025, FHF will move in a new direction with the organization's activities, focusing on more community involvement. If your community needs assistance with a worthy cause that Freemantown can partner with, please let us know.

Board Member;

We are actively recruiting new board members for 2025 (3-year term). This effort also includes seeking members outside of the family. We are looking for individuals who are passionate about our mission and dedicated to fulfilling the responsibilities of a board member. If you are interested in serving or know someone who would be a great fit, please contact FHF at info@freemantown.org



In Loving Memory ---

As we reflect on the year 2024, we pause to honor and remember those we have lost. Their lives, love, and contributions to their family will forever be cherished. May their legacy continue to inspire us, and may we keep their families in our thoughts and prayers.



Spotlight – Hall of Fame Inductees

William Moultrie

William Moultrie's decades-long sports career left a lasting legacy as a coach and trailblazer. As Howard University's head track and field coach (1973–1993), he led the Bison to 10 MEAC championships, produced 71 NCAA All-Americans, and sent many athletes to the Olympic Trials. In 2023, he was inducted into the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame.



Moultrie's impact extended beyond track and field. He served as Howard's assistant football coach (1973–1982) and Director of Athletics (1986–1990). In 1992, he became an Olympic assistant coach, and in 1996, he broke barriers as the first African American to serve as an Olympic track referee in Atlanta.

Before his time at Howard, Moultrie made history as the first African American football coach at Stanford University (1968–1971), contributing to two Rose Bowl victories. He later coached in the NFL with the Denver Broncos as a special teams coach.

Congratulations to William Moultrie on his incredible achievements and his well-deserved place in the Hall of Fame!

Eric Miller

The Rome-Floyd Sports Hall of Fame, established in 1971, honors athletes and community members who have significantly contributed to the development of sports in Rome, Ga. Nominations are open year-round, allowing the community to celebrate local legends.



This year, Eric Miller was proudly recognized as a Hall of Fame inductee. A standout athlete at Coosa High School, Miller excelled in both football and basketball. As a running back, linebacker, and defensive back, he earned All-Area honors multiple times and was named Rome-News Tribune Football Player of the Year in 1987. Over two seasons, he led the area in rushing, amassing an impressive 2,524 yards and 17 touchdowns.

On the basketball court, Miller's talent shone just as brightly. Averaging 19.7 points per game in his senior year, he ended his high school career with 1,340 points, making him Coosa's second-leading scorer at the time.

Congratulations to Eric Miller on this well-deserved recognition for his incredible achievements and lasting impact on the development of sports in his community.

FHF – Thanks you for your support ---

Our deepest gratitude goes to all who have supported the Freemantown Historical Foundation. Your dedication and generosity make our mission possible, and we truly appreciate everything you do.

We invite everyone to go beyond the sidelines and actively participate in preserving Freemantown's legacy. Whether through membership, volunteering, donations, or sharing our story, there's a place for everyone in this important work.

If you have any questions or need guidance on how to get involved, please contact us at info@freemantown.org

Thank you, and we look forward to another impactful year!

We strive for accuracy and inclusivity in sharing updates about our programs, celebrating community milestones, and offering a glimpse into the future. If you believe that any important information has been overlooked or misquoted, please contact us at info@freemantown.org. We are committed to promptly addressing and correcting any errors. Thank you for your understanding and support as we reflect on a year of growth, accomplishments, and meaningful impact.

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