Panel 1 - Princeville, NC

FREEDOM HILL

Freedom Hill was a community of freed slaves following the Civil War. In 1885 it was renamed after ex-slave and educator William Hoke County. It is the oldest incorporated municipality of freed slaves in America. The Town Hall, originally a Rosenwald school, is now the community of African-American museum.

DAVID WALKER ........................................ 1785 – 1830
Author of a 16-page incendiary pamphlet, “Walker’s Appeal,” urging slaves to rise up and free themselves. Widely believed imprisoned as a result of his writings offered by southern slave owners.

GEORGE HENRY WHITE ..................................... 1852 – 1918
A lawyer, real estate developer, and Republican U.S. Congressman between 1897 and 1901. The last African-American Congressman of the Reconstruction era.

HARVEY E. BEECH ......................... 1923 – 2005
Legal and philanthropic legend and a staunch civil rights defender, he was the first black to graduate from UNC Law School.

ABRAHAM H. GALLOWAY (seated) .......... 1837 – 1870
Fugitive slave, abolitionist, organizer, and North Carolina’s principal spokesman for black rights. Chief recruiter and intelligence provider for Union officers. Twice elected state senator.

ANNIE WEALTHY HOLLAND (seated) ... 1871 – 1934
First African-American woman to run for office in the state. Founded the NC Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers, the first such organization for African Americans in the state.

Panel 2 - Pea Island Lifesavers

PEA ISLAND LIFE-SAVING STATION

The Pea Island Life-Saving Station on the Outer Banks of North Carolina was the first life-saving station in the country to have an all-black crew and a black man, Richard Etheridge, as commanding officer.

ELLA JO BAKER (seated) ......................... 1903 – 1986
Community organizer, journalist, and member of the NAACP, she emerged as one of the most important women in the civil rights movement. Established conference that led to creation of the SNCC.

JAMES EDWARD SHEPARD (seated) ....... 1875 – 1947

WILLIAM C. SMITH (seated) ............. 1856 – ?
Editor of Charlotte’s first African-American newspaper, the Charlotte Messenger. He shared the Pulitzer Prize with two reporters who were African-Americans.

Panel 3 - Mecklenburg Fishing Fleet and Clamshacks

BRONFORD, NC

Bronford, NC is the moshan Shakopee capital of the world. The shipboard crews employed by the fisheries were predominantly black over the years, and the work assigned to them was physically demanding. To help ease the strain, they would work on a two-boat crew.

KELLY M. ALEXANDER (1915 – 1985)
Civil rights activist and president of the NC NAACP, he was the first black to graduate from UNC Law School.

ALEX M. RIVERA, JR. (1913 – 2008)
Nationally renowned photojournalist and art critic who covered the last lynchings in South Carolina and Alabama, school segregation, and the civil rights movement.

JOHN ADAMS HYMAN (1840 – 1891)
Born into slavery, he was sold eight times before he attempted to educate himself.

JAMES E. O’HARA (1844 – 1905)
North Carolina congressman, publisher, and lawyer who was an active speaker for women’s rights and against racial violence. Introduced one of the first bills to make lynching a federal crime.

JOSEPH C. PRICE (1854 – 1893)
Founder and first president of Livingston College in North Carolina. Called “The World’s Orator” by the British press, voted one of the “Ten Greatest Negroes Who Ever Lived.”

CHARLES C. SPALDING (1874 – 1952)
Built North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company into nation’s largest black-owned business. Trustee for Howard University, Shaw University, and North Carolina College for Negroes.

Panel 4 - Parrish Street, Durham, NC

In the early twentieth century, Parrish Street in Durham, NC, was the hub of African-American business activity. This four-block district was known as “Black Wall Street.”

ELERTA MELTON ALEXANDER-RALSTON (seated) .... 1919 – 1998
First black woman to graduate from Duke University School of Law in 1945, as well as the first black woman to practice law and be elected as a judge in North Carolina.

DR. A. R. MOORE .................................................. 1863 – 1923
Preaminent force in building a strong black community in Durham, NC. First black hospital in Durham, NC. First black general hospital.

REGINALD HAWKINS, SR. .................................. 1923 – 2007
Dated and ordained minister who led the cause of civil rights and championed the cause for equal rights throughout the Mid-Atlantic states. First African-American to run for Governor of North Carolina.

HENRY PLUMMER CHEATHAM (seated) ........ 1857 – 1935
Republican Congressman from 1865 – 1892. Superintendent of the African-American orphanage that he had co-founded two decades earlier.

Why are the Greensboro Four wearing gloves?*

*"I decided to prominently feature the Greensboro Four as chefs at the fictional diner because they literally took possession of the lunch counter with their refusal to leave until served. By seeking service, they may have been violating liquor laws that were in force at the time. I used the lunch counter as the model for this painting because it was a recognizable setting for a large gathering as well as a powerful symbol of North Carolina’s place in the civil rights movement. When I saw the bare wall facing the School of Government’s dining facility, I immediately knew that the visual length of a lunch counter would figure nicely there. It was the perfect location for a collaboration. Public officials and others who take courses at the School would up in that hallway and would have to walk the length of the painting before entering the dining hall."

—Colin Guinn, artist
The integration of Charlotte schools in 1957. Many whites showed their objection by refusing to allow their children to ride school buses with black children.

ROBERT F. WILLIAMS (seated, rear) 1925 – 1996
Militant civil rights leader whose open advocacy of armed self-defense anticipated the movement for "black power" in the late 1960s and helped inspire groups such as the NCC, the Revolutionary Action Movement, and the Black Panther Party.

GOLDEN ASRO FRINKS (seated, left) 1920 – 2004
Leader in the Civil Rights Movement in North Carolina who organized protests around the country while working as a field secretary for the SCLC. Jailed 87 times for civil disobedience and often referred to as "the great agitator."

CHARLES WADDELL CHESNUT (seated, center) 1858 – 1932
Teacher, lawyer, businessman, and author acclaimed for portraying blacks realistically and challenging the usual sympathetic portrayals of slavery.

Panel 6 - US Colored Regiment
The 27th regiment of US Colored Troops under the command of Gen. Charles Paine played a role in the Civil War and the Reconstruction period. Fort Fisher in February 1865, after which they constituted the vanguard of the Union's march on Wilmington.

COLONEL JAMES H. YOUNG 1860 – 1921

JOHN HENRY MERRICK 1859 – 1919
Born into slavery and freed by Emancipation Proclamation. Co-founder of the North Carolina Mutual President Life Insurance Company, the largest black-owned insurance company in the United States.

DR. PAUL MURRAY 1910 – 1985
First black awarded law doctorate from Yale University. Co-founder of NOW (National Organization for Women). First black female priest ordained in Episcopal Church.

JOHN CHAVIS 1763 – 1838
Early 19th Century minister and teacher. Fought in the Revolutionary War. Opened a private school in Raleigh where he taught black and white children, specializing in Latin and Greek.

Panel 7 - Somerset Place Plantation
The Somerset Place Plantation was North Carolina's third largest by 1860. Designated as a State Historic Site in 1969, Dorothy Spruill Redford planned a gathering of descendants of slaves known as Somerset Homecoming. More than 3,000 descendants nationwide attended the homecoming at the plantation.

DR. MILTON QUIGGLE 1905 – 1997
Doctor who defined the 1960s and the conventions of his time to make medical care available to African Americans in Edgecombe County.

DR. CHARLES WATTS 1917 – 2004

HARRIET JACOBS 1815 – 1897
Fugitive slave who escaped in 1835. Best known for her autobiography, Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, published in 1852.

ANONYMOUS SLAVE COUPLE
These individuals represent the scores of unnamed and forgotten contributors to North Carolina history. Formal place setting and pink carnations (flowers of remembrance) underscore our indebtedness to them.

Panel 8 - Dr. King and Ralph Abernathy
A week after the sit-ins began, F.W. Woolworth temporarily closed the lunch counter. Two weeks later, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rev. Ralph Abernathy came to Greensboro to lend their support to the movement.

ANNA JULIA HAYWOOD COOPER 1858 – 1964
Civil and women's rights pioneer. Earliest black woman activist in the realm of higher education—educated and served as school principal for 39 years.

JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN 1915 – 2009
United States historian—best known for his work From Slavery to Freedom, first published in 1947 and continually updated. Awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.

Panel 5 - NC School Integration
The integration of Charlotte schools in 1957. Many whites showed their objection by refusing to allow their children to ride school buses with black children.

CLARENCE EVERETT LIGHTNER 1921 – 2002
First and, to this date, only black mayor of Raleigh (1973-1975). Elected nation's highest civilian honor.

CHARLOTTE EUGENIA HAWKINS BROWN 1863 – 1961
Educator and served as school principal for 39 years. Best known for her autobiography, Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl.

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