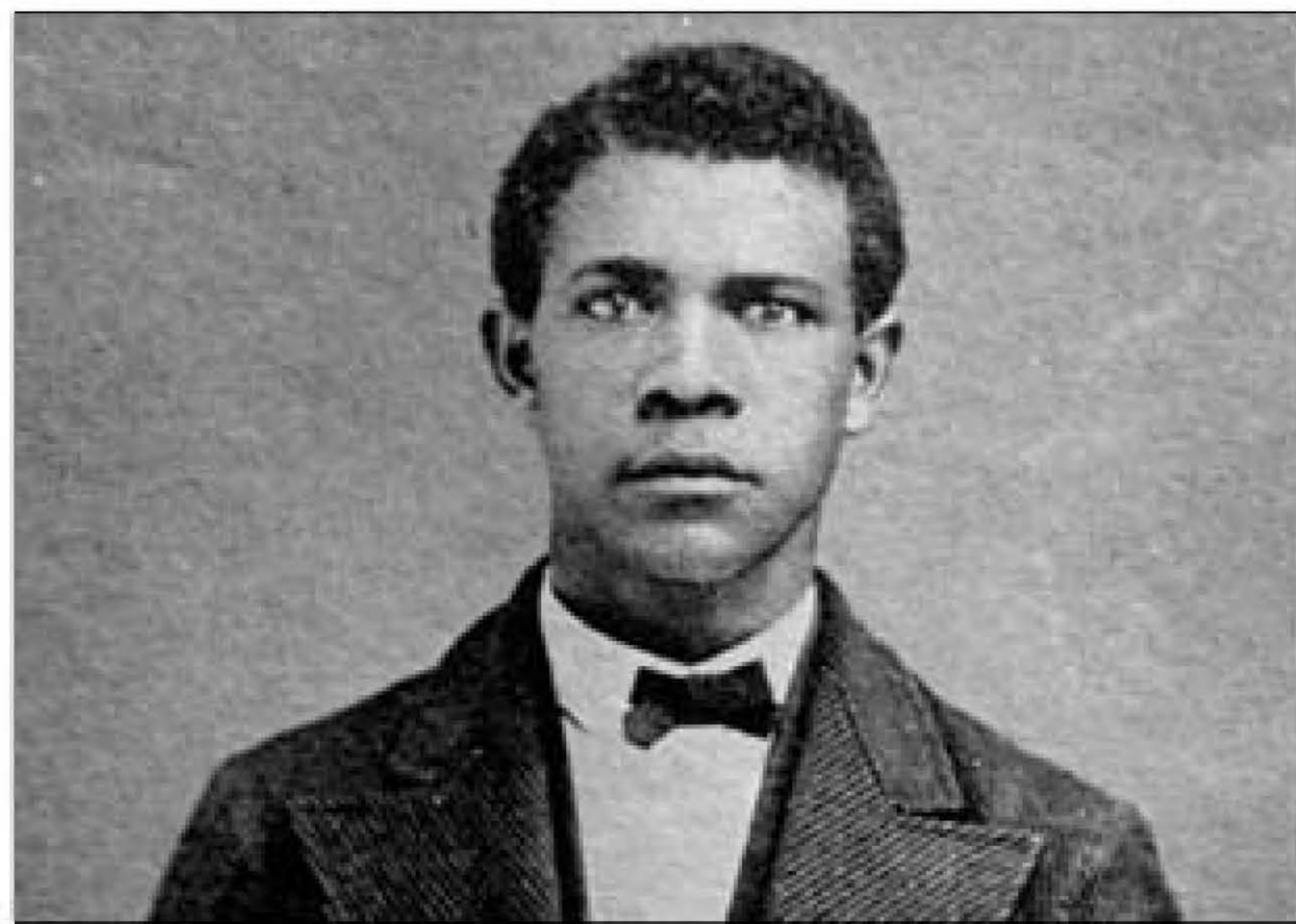


# History Tour of **OLD MALDEN** VIRGINIA AND WEST VIRGINIA

## **Booker T. Washington's Formative Years**

by **Larry L. Rowe**



**YOUNG BOOKER\***

Booker T. Washington's formative years were in Old Malden from age nine, in 1865, to age 25, in 1881, when he went to Tuskegee. From his life here, he developed his values, vision and plan on how to bring freedmen into the full community of American life. He knew Southern freedmen, like his family, just wanted to share in the bounty of a country they cherished and had helped build up by hard work, with no education and with no freedom to choose not to work. He wanted them to value work and have opportunity through education to benefit their families. What he saw in the heroes of his youth and the opportunities for prosperity here, he never questioned as the best formula for their success in the South.

His family came to Malden because of the treatment of slaves and other workers here, as seen by his stepfather who had worked here as a leased slave.<sup>1</sup> It was an exceptional place.<sup>2</sup> From 1808, while Thomas Jefferson was President, until the Civil War, the salt works made this region one of the nation's most industrialized and wealthy. Built on the labor of enslaved African Americans during the Horror of Slavery, the salt industry created major economic, legal and technical innovations needed for America's new heavy industries of coal, oil, natural gas and later chemicals. But it is the remarkable stories of the nurturing families of Malden, Booker's heroes, and their principles of fair play and hard work that make us proud of our historic town.

# Welcome to Old Malden

## Where Booker's Career of Leadership Began

### African Zion Baptist Church

The African Zion Baptist Church is a sacred and rare icon for success in the Reconstruction Era. A classic, white frame Southern style Protestant church, it has a charming rectangular, symmetrical design with two high curved windows on each of its four walls. It was organized from a faith community of African-American believers in the early 1850s during the Horror of Slavery when they could not legally gather without a white present. They met at Black Hawk Hollow, today's East Point Drive, becoming the African Zion Baptist Church, the new State of West Virginia's first black Baptist church. It was organized by Reverend Lewis Rice and, in 1867, called its first ordained minister, Rev. F.C. James.<sup>3</sup>

The legendary Reverend Rice led these respected salt workers. He baptized Booker and was one of Booker's heroes. He started this church in his two-room home in Tinkersville near today's coal depot at Port Amherst. It was Booker's first school, taught by his first teacher, William Davis. Lewis Ruffner owned this land and became the believers' great champion after the War. He was Kanawha County's delegate to the convention to create a new state, and its first Major General. He inherited this land and salt works from his father, David, who was the first salt industrialist and an early slaver. Lewis's grandfather was a Mennonite minister, Henry Brombach,<sup>4</sup> who likely opposed slavery. On February 28, 1849, while he was in Louisville as a salt agent, Lewis joined an emancipation society, as reported in the *Louisville Examiner*. In 1865, Lewis helped Pastor Rice construct a small frame church on his land in Tinkersville.

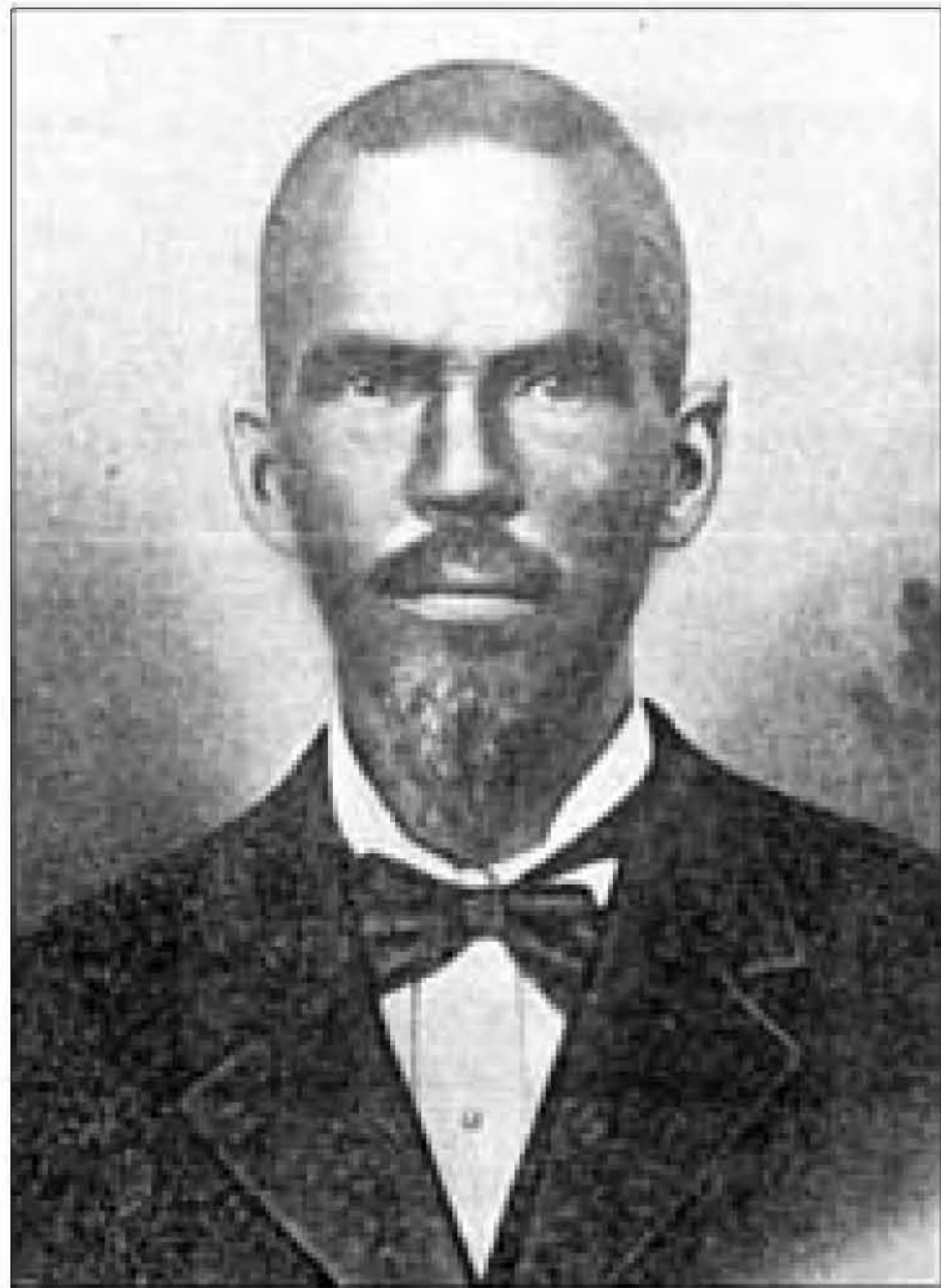
The believers lived on the Ruffner land in single-family cabins. In Malden, half of the enslaved workers were "owned" in family groups and the other half were leased from eastern Virginia, to work six days per week for the lease and on Sundays, if they chose, for money to take home to their loved ones during the slave holiday from Christmas to New Year's Day.<sup>5</sup> This discouraged runaways to free Ohio. The good treatment of worker families here caused Booker's stepfather, Washington Ferguson, to return during the Civil War after our state was admitted to the Union as a slave state.

In 1872, the church trustees moved the Church to the middle of a main street, occupying a small vacant brick church which Methodists had sold to build a new church.<sup>6</sup> The Zion Church could move here only because Booker's hardworking family lived a block away for three years, since 1869, proving to the town that freedmen were worthy members for the full life of the community. Today's building was later erected on this site, with help from, among others, Booker's sister, Amanda Johnson, and the parents of Minnie Wayne Cooper.<sup>7</sup>

Long-term pastor Reverend Paul Gilmer, Sr., with his wife Anna Evans Gilmer and Minnie Wayne Cooper, worked to preserve the sanctity and structure of the building. In 1998, a Salt Village prototype was constructed behind the church by James Thibeault and Cabin Creek Quilts, with disability access to a reconstruction of Booker's home and an early school. Now West Virginia State University maintains these historic properties. [[www.wvstateu.edu](http://www.wvstateu.edu); 304-766-3000].

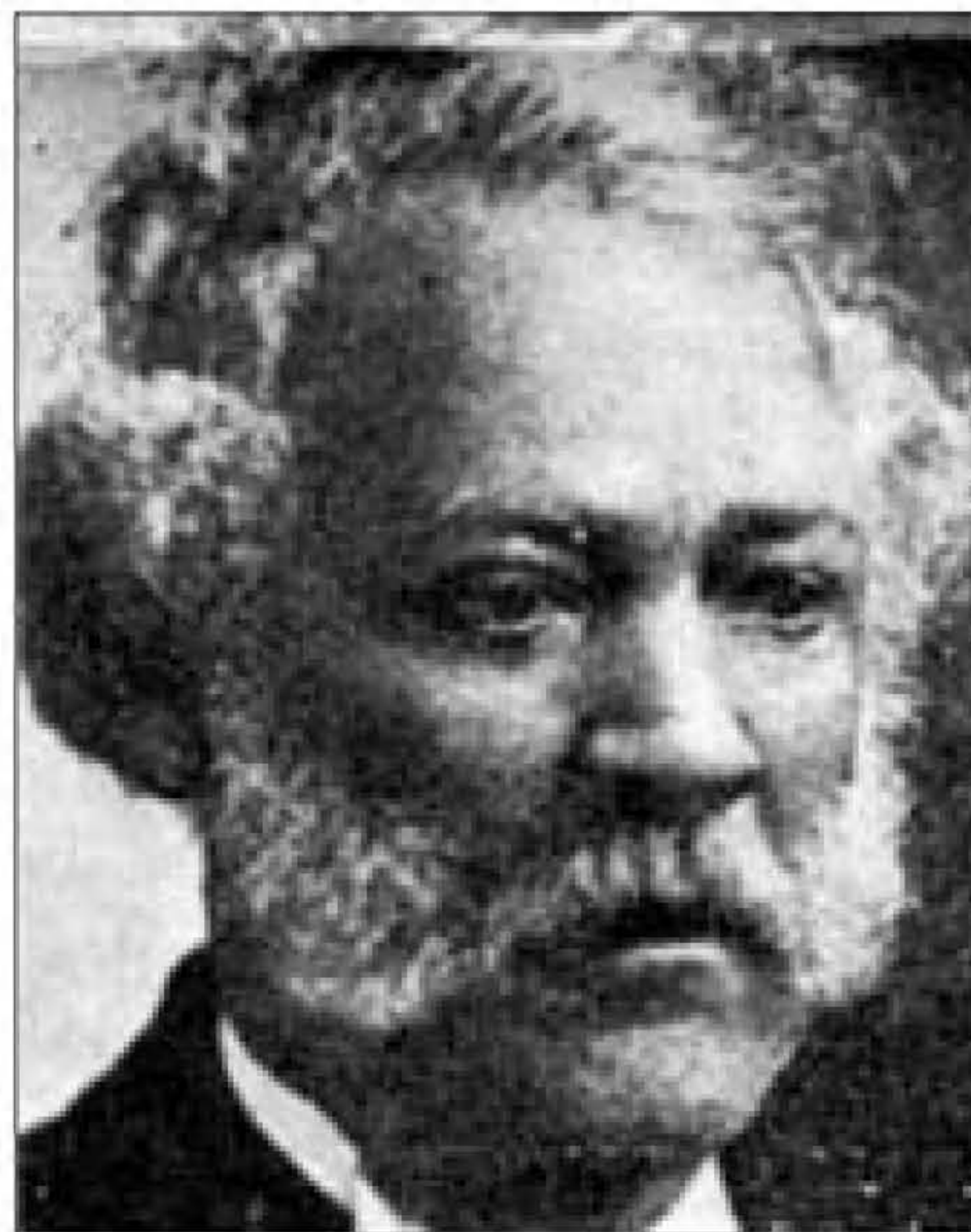


**AFRICAN ZION BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Circa 1880s. Renovated 2012



First Baptist Church, Charleston, WV

**REVEREND LEWIS RICE**  
Founder and pastor of  
African Zion Church



Anna Gilmer Collection

**WILLIAM DAVIS**  
Booker's first teacher

## Booker's Home

In *The Outlook*, November 10, 1900, where Booker's *Up from Slavery* was first published in magazine serial form, his home site is pictured from 1872 as a very nice house with a white front and a third room at the rear, a style commonly used for respectable working families throughout the South. Not a slave cabin, it was the home of one of Malden's most resourceful freed families. There was a loft for sleeping and a fireplace for family meals together. Slave meals were not allowed in Old Virginia's Horror of Slavery,<sup>8</sup> and family groups were discouraged, unlike here. Old Malden's slavery was better in that way, but the work in its factories and mines was more dangerous and taxing than farm work in fresh air.

In 1865, at the end of the War, little Booker, age nine, walked for two weeks from his Virginia slave home south of Roanoke, some 225 miles, to his freedom home, barefoot or wearing wooden boards for shoes. He traveled with Jane Ferguson, his mother, perhaps age 45, brother John, age 11, and five-year-old sister Amanda. His stepfather, Washington Ferguson, was a courageous man who had worked here, and then, during the War, escaped from Lynchburg to return here because he knew his reputation for hard work would secure him until the War ended.<sup>9</sup> Booker complained about having to work with him in the salt works and coal mines.<sup>10</sup> Public school was only a few months a year, and, sadly, child labor was very common, not to be outlawed for 50 years, state by state. West Virginia had an early public school system, but it had not started fully until Booker had lived here for a number of years. He attended school at Reverend Rice's home, and there he chose his stepfather's name, "Washington," likely due to his new pride in such a respected and successful freedman.

Booker hungered for education and a better life. His life changed when he lived in the Ruffner family as a houseboy and gardener, likely soon after arriving here. Viola Ruffner had standards for cleanliness and order, which Booker readily adopted as his life-long philosophy. Booker pleased her greatly, and she encouraged his refinement and early education with some time off for school and use of the large Ruffner library.<sup>11</sup> Tragically, while living with the Ruffners, he saw Lewis knocked unconscious with a brick, suffering a permanent brain injury, while protecting freedmen from white night riders. The incident created a lifelong reminder for Booker of his own fragile mortality in the South.<sup>12</sup>

In 1875, young Booker went to Hampton Institute and returned as its top honor graduate in 1875. He taught school here for several years and tried studying law. He used Mrs. Ruffner's character-building standards of hard work, cleanliness and order for his plan at Tuskegee, Alabama, where at age 25 he began building the nation's premier major Black institution.<sup>13</sup> He is buried there.



**An Old Malden Truth for the Ages:**  
*"Never have anything to do with high water  
or ignorant people."*



**BOOKER'S HOME IN 1872**

*The Outlook* 1900

**Purchased by Washington Ferguson  
four years after slavery, on credit, from  
Jacob Shrewsbury**



**BOOKER'S HOME**

**Likely in 1890s, long after sister  
Amanda had moved to a home on  
main street in 1880. The young woman  
in the doorway likely is Washington  
Ferguson's second wife,  
Elizabeth Kimberling Ferguson.**



## W. E. B. DUBOIS

Age 4

**Born free and well educated in  
Massachusetts**

Department of Special Collections and University  
Archives, W. E.B. DuBois Library, University of  
Massachusetts, Amherst

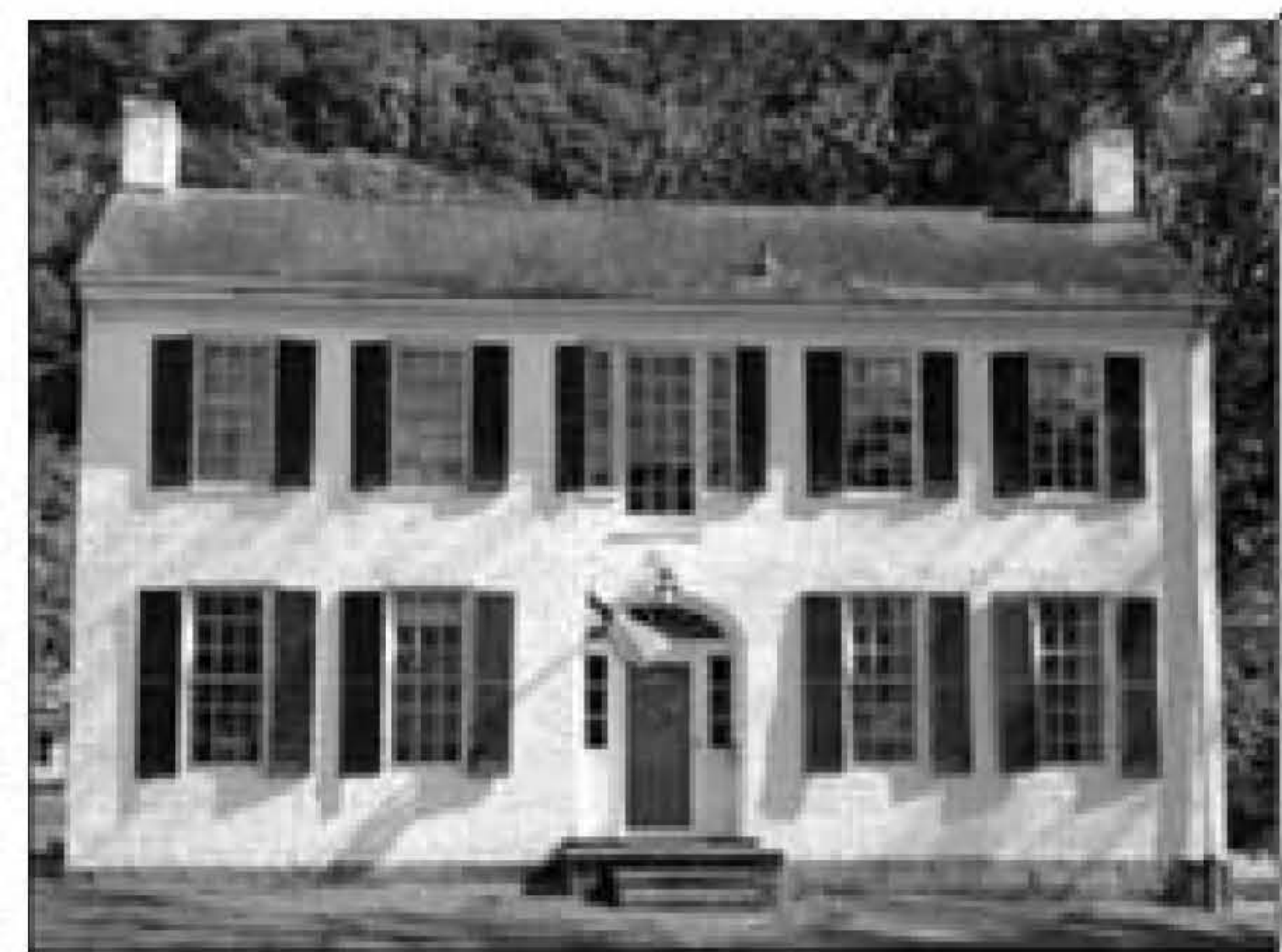
At his death in 1915, perhaps from high blood pressure, Booker was the most important person from the South between the Civil War and World War I. Professor W. E. B. DuBois, a brilliant African-American intellectual who was born free and well educated in Massachusetts,<sup>14</sup> paid him this tribute.

Although Booker respected DuBois' extraordinary intelligence and education, he thought DuBois could not, owing to his comfortable Northern life experience, appreciate the complete deprivation of Southern freedmen. They had no skills, jobs, homes or help after the War.<sup>15</sup> With best-selling books and rock star-like tours speaking to thousands of blacks and whites everywhere, Booker popularized his plan for vocational education and opposed the DuBois elite "Talented Tenth," approach.<sup>16</sup> Their competition was a veritable clash of titans that endures for pragmatists and idealists. Booker was too rigid in his plan as the South hardened toward African Americans in the early 1900s. His death at age 59 sealed his position at the end of the Gilded Age, the worst time for Blacks until the 1960s Civil Rights Movement, led by the South's only other national African American leader, the martyred Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

## Putney House

The Putney House is an unspoiled 1836 Federal-style mansion built by Physician Richard E. Putney and his wife, Ann Ruffner, David Ruffner's daughter. Along with the Welch-Oakes-Jarrett House, this is one of our finest brick salt maker homes. Dr. Putney practiced medicine and was a community leader for over 50 years. In 1830, he and David Ruffner laid out our town in a New England style with yards, chicken coops, kitchen gardens, slave quarters and alleys in back and two-story brick homes usually set close to the street, often without front porches in the plain Federal style. In 1885, the home became the Manse for the Kanawha Salines Presbyterian Church.

Putney House is a private residence today. It was preserved as the law office of James Jeter and James Coleman, who deserve great credit for saving this historic gem and leading the preservation work in Malden.



## PUTNEY HOUSE

**Circa 1836. Restored 1970s  
A Ruffner home**

## Dinner with the President

Booker dined with President Theodore Roosevelt on October 17, 1901. A first for an African-American at the White House, it created an international sensation, as John McCain said in his gracious concession speech the night of America's election, in 2008, of its first Black President, Barack Obama. After the dinner, U.S. Senator Bull Tillman of South Carolina said that "It will necessitate our killing a thousand n-----s in the South before they will learn their place again."<sup>32</sup> Booker stayed out of the South for months after the dinner, thwarting at least one assassination attempt.

Sister Amanda, ever protective of Booker, was asked by the Cole Sisters' mother, Llewellyn Shrewsbury Cole, what was discussed at the dinner with President Roosevelt, and she said simply, "Oh, Brother, he didn't talk, he just ate."

## Hale House

The Malden home of Dr. John P. Hale is a brick two-story antebellum home across from Booker T. Washington Park. It was the retail home of Cabin Creek Quilts Cooperative, the nation's last cooperative to sell authentic quilts, clothing and household goods, all made by heritage quilters. It was organized in 1970 by James Thibeault, a VISTA (Volunteers in Service To America) worker from Westford, Massachusetts. He spent summer days with Robert F. Kennedy's children and dedicated himself to public service. After Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and other Kennedys had authentic quilts from the Cooperative, patchwork goods became a high fashion item for over 20 years. The Cooperative made a bride's quilt for the wedding to which young John F. Kennedy Jr. was flying when his plane crashed. The Cooperative closed in 2005.

West Virginia is featured at Boston's Kennedy Library Museum, for John and Robert Kennedy's time here during the 1960 Presidential Primary, when they committed to end hunger in America. After the President's assassination, President Lyndon Johnson created the War on Poverty and its VISTA Program.

James Thibeault has led the fight to preserve Old Malden for four decades. He and his wife, Karen Glazier, own and lovingly operate Malden's Good Living Retirement Homes, a pastoral assisted living home, which hosts an annual Fourth of July Dog and Bike Parade. [Call 304-925-6568.] She was the first to be selected State Social Worker of the Year, in 2012. For maturing with joy, James Thibeault authored *Boomers: 400+ Tips and Hints from the Generation that Refuses to Grow Old*. It is a tribute to James and our quilters that the State Capitol Culture Center added a very large inlaid quilt block on its entry plaza to recognize the value and integrity of mountain heritage quilt making which James and the quilters helped popularize nationwide.

Dr. Hale came from Hales Ford, Virginia, where Booker was born 20 years later. Hale was a physician turned salt industrialist and coal entrepreneur. As Mayor of Charleston, he and investors built a capitol building to invite its move from Wheeling.<sup>17</sup> He also built the city's first elegant hotel, Hale House, which burned and was replaced by the Ruffner Hotel. His great grandmother, Mary Draper Ingles, is known for her escape from captivity, walking along the Kanawha River to return to today's Blacksburg, where her family had been massacred. She made salt for her Shawnee captors at the "Buffalo Lick" near Campbell's Creek. Her story is told in a 20th-century best seller, *Follow the River*.

## Booker T. Washington Park of West Virginia State University

West Virginia State University maintains the Park and nearby buildings to preserve the boyhood town of a great American hero. The Park is the home site of Booker's sister, Amanda Ferguson Johnson, who had a large brick two-story home here. The property was purchased when she was as young as 20 years old, 15 years after her pioneering family left slavery.

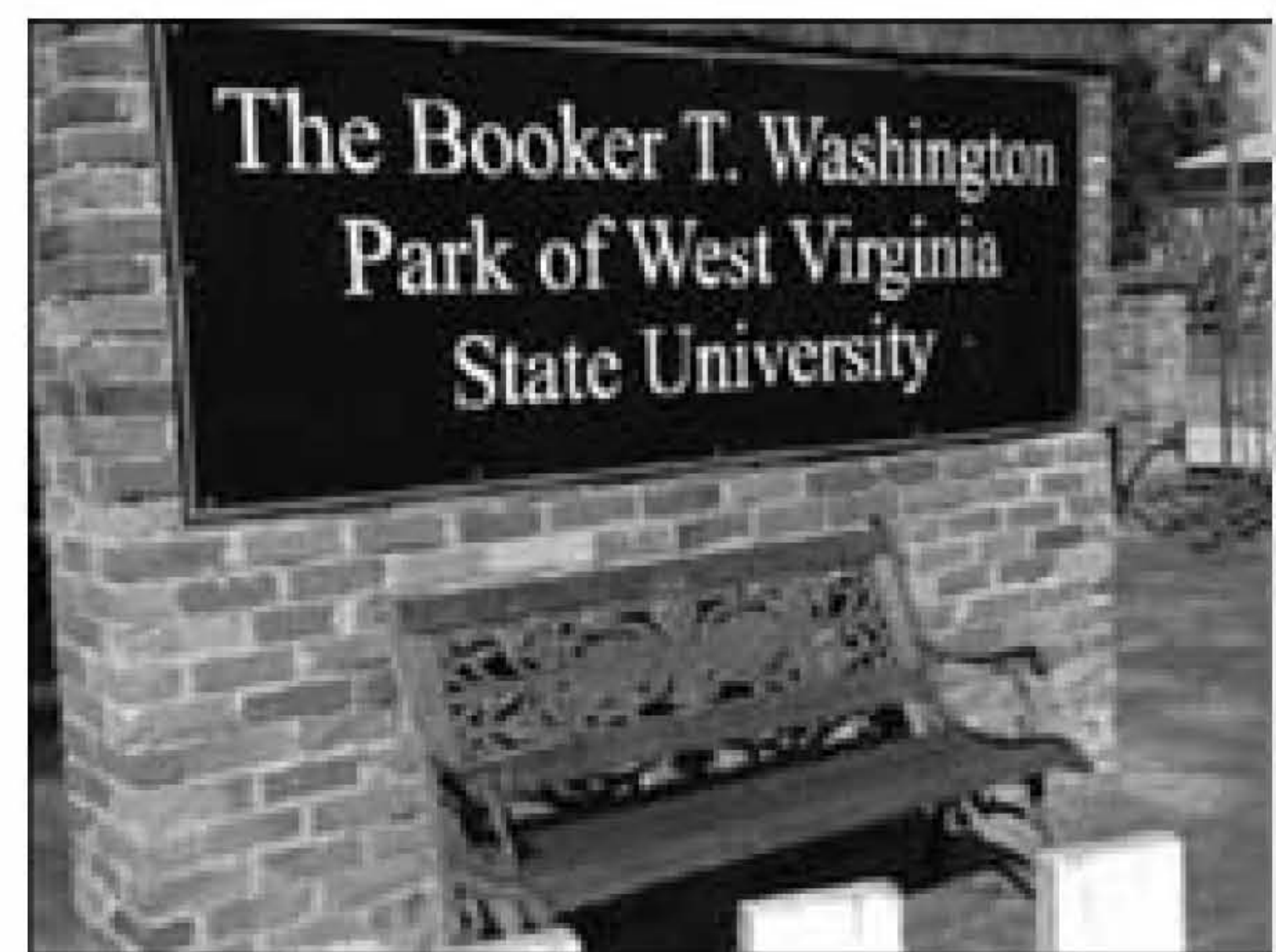
In 1880, Amanda Johnson's husband of five years, a laborer age 35, and her brother, John Washington, purchased the property. In 1889, after John had joined Booker at Tuskegee, John and his wife Susan conveyed his interest to



**HALE HOUSE**  
Circa 1838. A Ruffner home  
Former home of Cabin Creek Quilts



**EARLY CABIN CREEK  
HERITAGE QUILTERS**  
Left to right: Stella Monk, Grace  
Jackson, Nema Belcher, Ada  
Thompson, and Vick Haggerty.



**BOOKER T. WASHINGTON PARK  
OF WEST VIRGINIA STATE  
UNIVERSITY**



**AMANDA JOHNSON HOME**  
Abandoned in 1970s, started  
preservation of Old Malden



**PARK MONUMENT**  
Dedicated 2009



**NORTON HOUSE**  
Circa 1840. Restored 1994

Amanda.<sup>18</sup> Brother John was always in the background, working hard and giving money to his family, including funds for Booker's trip to school at Hampton. In 1881, Booker went to Alabama to start Tuskegee when he was only 25 years old.

Starting with her parents, Washington and Jane Ferguson, Amanda's family was highly respected as hardworking, leading citizens, among the first freedmen families to own a home in Malden.<sup>19</sup> Their sterling example in Reconstruction clearly encouraged a civic welcome for the African Zion Baptist Church's move in 1872 to the main street of Malden, near their home.

In the early 1970s, as Amanda Johnson's house was falling down, James Thibeault, James Jeter and others began preserving Malden's historic homes. This was an early project of the Kanawha Valley Historical and Preservation Society, led by Shirley Lundeen, Eugene Harper and others.

In 2009, a monument was dedicated at the Park, acknowledging Booker, Amanda and the great African American families here during the peak of his success. Also recognized is the preservation work of recent Malden residents: Minnie Wayne Cooper, Mary Price Dickinson Ratrie, Llewellyn Shrewsbury Cole, Martha Darneal Cole, James F. Thibeault, and Larry L. Rowe.

#### **The Park Monument Honor Roll for Booker's Great African American Families in Malden:**

Anderson	Chandler	Hicks	Kent	Price	Steptoe	Wadkins
Austin	Crouch	Hughes	Lewis	Rice	Straugter	Watkins
Bell	Dehaven	Irvin	Liggins	Roberts	Strawder	Wayne
Bradford	Ervan	Isaac	Lovely	Rollins	Strudwick	Weaver
Brown	Fobbs	James	Meadows	Scotts	Teal	Webster
Burk	Garland	Johnson	Moore	Shrewsbury	Wain	Wolfe
Bush	Haskins	Johnston	Page	Smith	Waine	Woods
Carpenter	Hawkins	Jones	Patton	Stanton	Wanser	Wright

#### **Norton House**

This is the oldest frame house in Malden. A traditional 1840 two-story home, it had a detached kitchen to prevent the spread of fire. It rests on huge wooden beams in dirt. The kitchen was later joined to the house and has history murals, painted in 1998 by Remy Cabrera. Father and son, Moses Norton and James G. Norton, built the home. They were trusted bookkeepers for the salt makers.

Their descendants include two of Malden's most renowned educators. Martha Darneal Cole was the 1980 State Teacher of the Year. Llewellyn Shrewsbury Cole was renowned for her teaching of area leaders, including former Governor Gaston Caperton. They have been local historians and displayed Daniel Boone's powder horn from their Cole ancestors who were related to his family. He used a cave near Malden for hunting. In 1791, he walked to Richmond to represent Kanawha County in the Virginia Assembly. In Kentucky, he had a glorious career as the nation's greatest frontiersman. A river access city park near Craik-Patton House is named for him. In 1928, the Cole Sisters were pictured as small girls in a newspaper story about the dedication of his monument, now at that city park.<sup>20</sup> Norman Jordan's extensive African-American Museum Collection is here.

## Kanawha Salines Presbyterian Church

The Old Kanawha Salines Presbyterian Church is a classic antebellum brick church. Constructed by David Ruffner, this 1840 church is the oldest Presbyterian church in what was once western Virginia. It has stately Southern symmetry and a beautiful traditional interior. [[kanawhasalinespresby.org](http://kanawhasalinespresby.org).]

In 1819, David Ruffner, Malden's first salt industrialist, started this church with the Presbyterian Church in Charleston. The first service was at the first school which he had built in Charleston a year earlier, Mercer Academy, and was conducted by his brilliant son, Dr. Henry Ruffner,<sup>22</sup> who was western Virginia's first Presbyterian minister. He became a nationally known educator while he was President of Washington College, now Washington and Lee University. In 1847, he wrote the famous Ruffner Pamphlet, proposing an end of slavery in "West Virginia," coining a name later used.

Dr. Henry Ruffner was a genius. He was named for his Mennonite grandfather, Rev. Henry Brombach, who likely opposed slavery. He helped dig his father David's first deep well in 1808. He was our first Presbyterian minister. He invented a process to eliminate coal slag deposits in salt furnaces, making coal a viable fuel source. He taught Greek and Latin at Washington College and elevated its academic stature during his Presidency from 1836 to 1848.<sup>24</sup> He was a nationally published educator and religious thinker. He was Virginia's most reform-minded educator, proposing an early 1840s new system for public free schools. His 1847 anti-slavery pamphlet was a national sensation, condemned bitterly in the South.

But it was his brilliant son, William Henry Ruffner, who became the "Horace Mann of the South" after the War. Following his father's dream, he was Virginia's first Superintendent of Public Instruction, while Booker lived with the Ruffners, and created its free public school system. He is a favorite son because of his relentless work for the schools for black children to be equal to those for white children. Later, in retirement, he supported Booker's plan and work. Commemorating his pioneering work for colleges, Virginia Tech's highest distinguished service honor is the William Henry Ruffner Medal.<sup>25</sup>

In 1840, David Ruffner completed the main church as it stands today. It was his pride and joy, and he oversaw every brick laid. It is possible that Booker married his childhood sweetheart, Fannie Norton Smith, in this church in 1882 because it was larger than his African Zion Baptist Church. It was used for that reason for his sister Amanda's funeral in 1915,<sup>23</sup> and by members of his Church after the War. It is also likely that Booker attended this Church with Mrs. Ruffner, where he would have been expected to sit in the "Slave Balcony." It is believed that Booker learned the catechisms in the kitchen of Rev. John Calvin Brown. No formal church records are found for Booker's activities here.

Residing in the household of these pioneers of industry, education, religion and public affairs, Booker lived his dream for an education and hard work properly rewarded. He adopted community life here as his blueprint for freed families to be truly free as skilled, contributing citizens in a land they loved and helped build up as slaves. Tragically, it took more than six generations for their families to see America begin to respond fairly, in and out of the South.



Martha Cole Collection

### KANAWHA SALINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Circa 1840

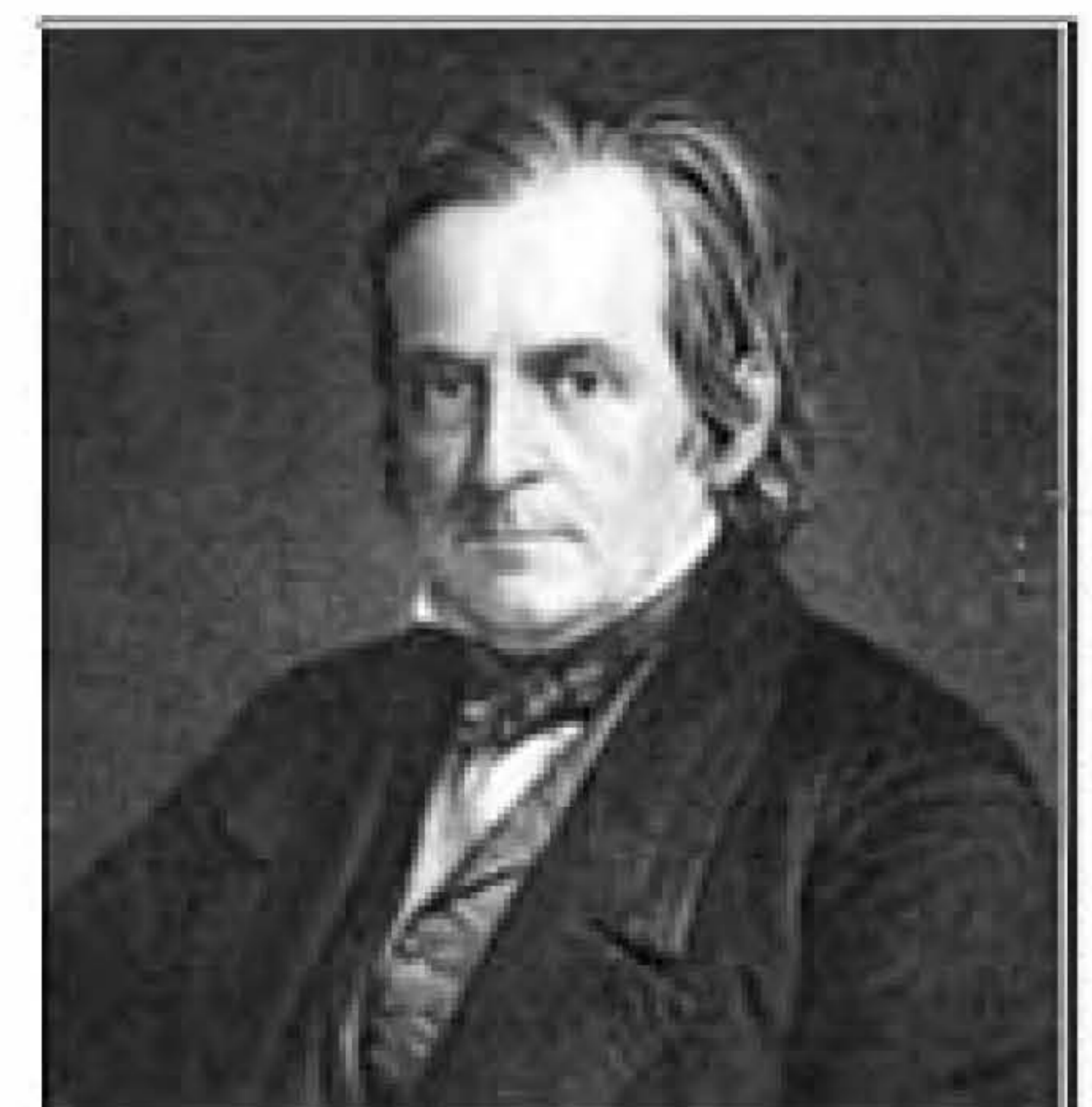
A Ruffner church



Ruffner Family Association

### LEWIS RUFFNER

**Industrialist; state maker; champion of freedmen after the War; Booker's mentor with Viola Ruffner; son of David Ruffner and brother of Dr. Henry Ruffner**



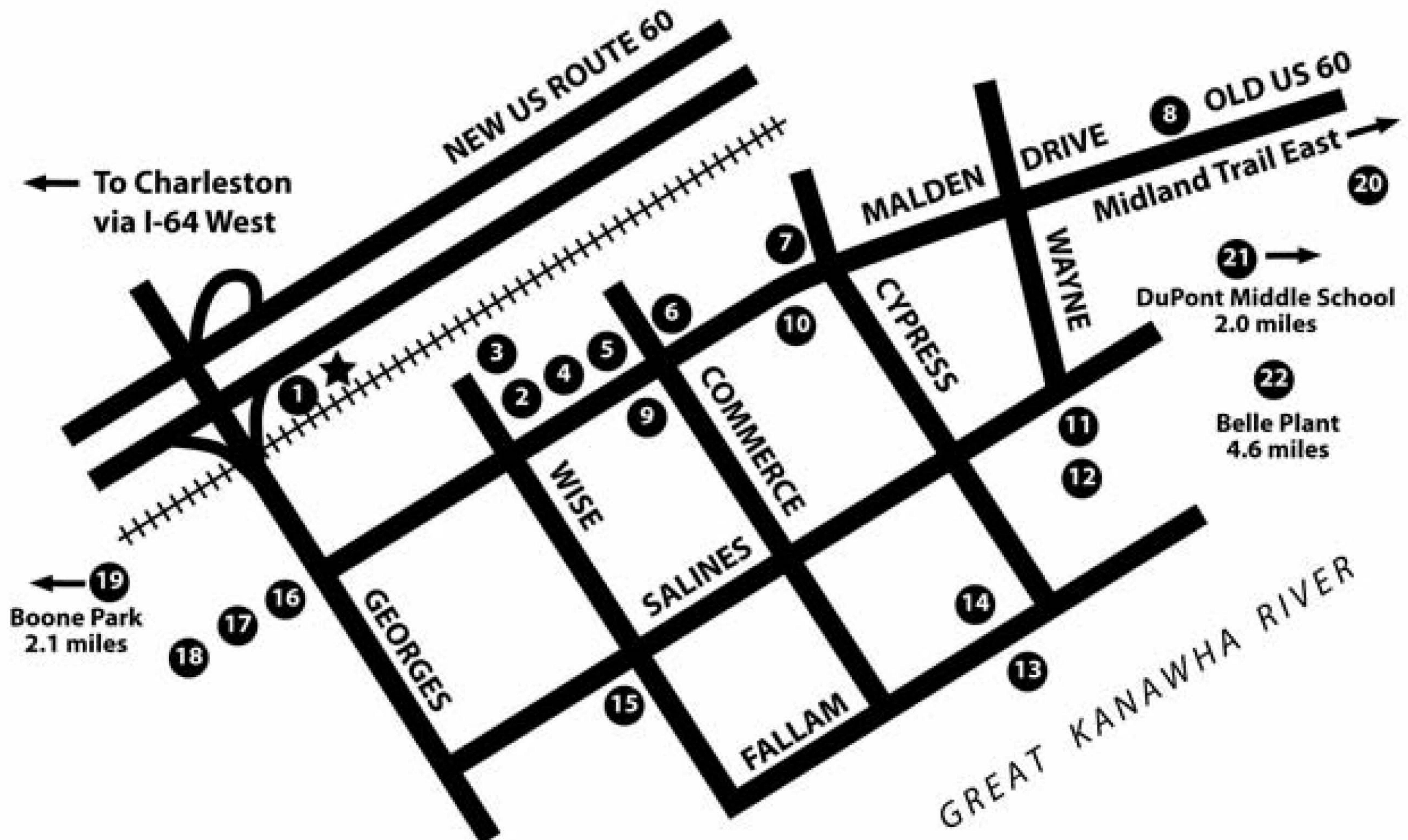
Ruffner Family Association

### DR. HENRY RUFFNER

**Educator; theologian; inventor; brother of Lewis Ruffner and father of William Henry Ruffner**

# OLD MALDEN TOUR MAP

A National Historic District dedicated July 18, 1980



- 1** Booker's Family Home Site  
★ The home site is located on the US 60 East entrance ramp.
- 2** African Zion Baptist Church  
Booker's family bought home in 1869 one block away as respected freedmen.
- 3** Booker's Cabin and School  
Historic reconstruction of salt village.
- 4** Jacob Shrewsbury House Site  
Some time after 1869 sale of Booker's home nearby, Jacob moved next door to African Zion Baptist Church.
- 5** Rooke Store Site  
Blue Back Speller likely bought here (FasChek).
- 6** Rowe Law Building  
1995 law offices of Larry L. Rowe.
- 7** John P. Hale House  
Circa 1838. Home of leading Kanawha Valley entrepreneur; the later home of renowned Cabin Creek Quilts.
- 8** Dr. Richard and Ann Ruffner Putney House  
Circa 1836. Leading town planners and salt makers.



- 9 Norton House**  
*Circa 1840. Malden's oldest frame house.*
- 10 Booker T. Washington Park of West Virginia State University**  
*Home place of Booker's sister Amanda Johnson; 2009 monument to African American families here.*
- 11 Kanawha Salines Presbyterian Church**  
*1840, built by David Ruffner, organized 1819; perhaps the oldest church building in use in Kanawha Valley.*
- 12 Wayne Cottage/Alma Lee**  
*Circa 1905. Cottage rebuilt as the Alma Lee in 1998 and known as "The Grand Dame of the Kanawha."*
- 13 Steamboat Landing, River Ferry Dock and Public Area**  
*1825-1920 steamboats and river ferry dock made this a busy commercial and recreation area.*
- 14 Welch-Oakes-Jarrett House**  
*Circa 1845. William and Martha Shrewsbury mansion; their son sold home to "Wash" Ferguson.*
- 15 Good Living Retirement Homes**  
*Assisted living home hosts dog and bike parade each Fourth of July.*
- 16 Wonderful Bratton Antiques**  
*A living transportation museum.*
- 17 Old Ruffner Farm Cemetery**  
*David and sons, Henry and Lewis, are buried here. Family home was on riverbank knoll nearby.*
- 18 Ruffner Brothers' Deep Well for Salt Brine**  
*1808. America's first deep well by David and Joseph Ruffner starts salt industry boom in five years. The drilling industry began here.*
- 19 Craik-Patton House Museum**  
*1834 classic antebellum Shrewsbury home at Daniel Boone Park.*
- 20 Dickinson Farm and Salt Well Site**  
*New well for salt gourmets drilled in 2013. The old J.Q. Dickinson Salt is reborn.*
- 21 Natural Gas World Discovery Monument**  
*Burning Spring, known since 1770s, was owned by George Washington and Andrew Lewis. Monument is at DuPont Middle School.*
- 22 Shrewsbury Stone House near DuPont Plant**  
*Circa 1800-1810. East of Belle Plant, home of Samuel and Polly Shrewsbury, leading salt makers.*



## Legacy of the Ruffner Family

Everything we have in Charleston and Malden was pioneered by the Ruffners. In 1796, David Ruffner, the father of Henry and Lewis (the first European baby born in Fort Lee), followed the whole Ruffner clan from Luray, Virginia where they owned extensive estates and had discovered the Luray Caverns. As third-generation German immigrants, David learned spoken English from a store owner. He spoke with a slight German accent. He married Anna Brombach, the daughter of a German immigrant Mennonite minister, Henry Brombach, whose faith opposed slavery. All the Ruffner siblings came here after their pioneer father, Joseph, came to produce salt. In 1794, Joseph bought 502 acres at the "Buffalo Lick," a salt spring at today's Port Amherst, from John Dickinson, who later sent his son-in-law, Samuel Shrewsbury, Jr., to make salt at Belle. Joseph next bought 1,000 acres—most of the land in today's downtown Charleston—from the Clendenin brothers, who named Charleston for their father. David built his home next to the salt spring property, realizing his father's dream to create, by 1813, one of the nation's largest industries after his historic deep well in 1808, drilled over 53 feet through bedrock. His brother, Daniel, had a large farm at today's Capitol and his brick home, Holly Grove, remains there as one of the city's oldest homes. Lewis Ruffner inherited David's property, and this is where Booker worked and lived.

## The Alma Lee

Minnie Wayne Cooper's 1905 four-room cottage was reconstructed in 1998 as The Alma Lee. A prominent African American civic leader and educator, she was a young favorite of "Uncle Booker." From 1907 to 1989, Mrs. Cooper lived here, first with her parents and then with her husband, Robert R. Cooper, and her parents. Selected as a "Club Woman of the Year," she was an elegant lady.

Mrs. Cooper helped integrate Kanawha County Schools without incident in 1956. She was the recording secretary for the International Association of University Women at a meeting in Helsinki, Finland, sailing there on the Queen Mary. She attended Wilberforce, West Virginia State, and Columbia.

The Dickinson family, who lived nearby, conveyed the cottage to her respected parents. Mrs. Cooper's mother, Martha Sullivan Wayne, was a dignified, adoring and strict mother. She was a best friend of Booker's sister, Amanda Johnson. She was a homemaker and her husband, Anthony Wayne, was a trusted Dickinson employee. Mrs. Cooper's grandmother, Caroline Sullivan, helped Reverend Rice organize the African Zion Church. Mrs. Cooper was 11 in 1915, when both "Aunt Amanda" and "Uncle Booker" died. She said they were all related by affection, not family. She proudly recounted to your author Malden stories. Uncle Booker brought her gifts. Mrs. Cooper used the Kanawha Salines Church next-door for her wedding because the Zion Church was too small. When asked about Segregation Days she answered, "I have had a very romantic life," and added that in her beloved Malden she always, always was treated with complete respect.

The cottage was reconstructed into a two-story early 1900s style Southern home incorporating the cottage's windows, floors and doors. It was named the "Grand Dame of the Kanawha" by P. Joseph Mullins, architect and sculptor for the State Capitol's Veterans' Memorial, because of its river view orientation with high double porches resting above a picturesque garden lawn and river beach.

Doors from the "Mother Jones Prison," torn down in 1998 in nearby Pratt, were installed here along with other architectural artifacts. In 1913, Mother Mary Jones, a union firebrand, was comfortably lodged in a boardinghouse after a military court convicted her of soliciting murder in the Paint Creek-Cabin Creek Mine War.<sup>26</sup> The hallway in The Alma Lee has the same design as the "prison," using beautiful 1890s doors and a full staircase from the abandoned Virginia farm house of a resident's grandmother. Its gardens were featured in a June 9, 2013 *Sunday Gazette-Mail* article.

## Lewis and Viola Ruffner Home and Family Cemetery

Now gone, Lewis and Viola Ruffner's home was on a small riverbank knoll at today's General Drive, surrounded by a large farm and industrial site. It was a two-story white frame home with a large library and central hall. The Ruffners were pioneer stock and not known for elegant occasions. David Ruffner banned musical instruments from his churches.<sup>27</sup> David is buried with his two sons, Dr. Henry, the renowned anti-slavery educator, and General Lewis, the salt and state maker, in a small cemetery at the coal depot west of Malden, near the Ruffners' historic first deep salt well. Viola Ruffner is buried in Louisville.



**THE ALMA LEE**  
Riverside Gate, 1998 reconstructed  
Wayne Cottage, Circa 1905



**MINNIE WAYNE COOPER**  
On her way to Helsinki, Finland



**RUFFNER FARM CEMETERY**  
Near river knoll home of Lewis and  
Viola Ruffner

## Welch-Oakes-Jarrett House

The 1845 Welch-Oakes-Jarrett House was beautifully restored by Michael and Linda Jarrett in 2000. They preserved its antebellum style yard and two-story slave quarters behind the home. The Levi Welch mansion has 18-inch walls and double parlors. The Welch family rented it to the Shrewsburys, who had 16 children. Joel Shrewsbury's son, William, and his wife, Martha Darneal Shrewsbury, were prominent salt makers and great-grandparents of the Malden Cole sisters. Their son, Jacob Shrewsbury, lived with them here when, in 1869, at the age of 26, he conveyed to Booker's family a nice Malden home, on credit, only four years after they had been enslaved.

Mrs. Cooper remembered that a bell near the mansion was used to call the ferryman to take children across the river to a train for them to go to school in Charleston. The ferryman also sold barrels of water to residents. He took a wagon into the river, let river water flow into barrels and delivered it to troughs beside each home. The water would be boiled when taken inside.

The riverbank here was the town's steamboat landing for almost a hundred years, from 1825 to the early 1900s. In 1898, America's first lock and dam system was completed on the Kanawha River and opened the rich Kanawha coalfields for a boom era of King Coal. The James River and Kanawha Turnpike, a carriage toll road over the mountains, turned away from the riverbank at the Dickinson farm and into Malden, toward stores and businesses, some 15 years before businesses began to surround Charleston's early county courthouse. Charleston outgrew Malden by the 1860s. After 1873, the C&O Railroad made the carriage trail obsolete. In the 1920s, automobile travel followed the old trail as US Route 60, also called the "Midland Trail." This coast-to-coast route through Malden was designated West Virginia's first official state scenic highway. Your author was the Midland Trail Scenic Highway Association President when designation of its scenic route was expanded from the Capitol to Kenova. [Call 304-343-6001.]

The C&O developed West Virginia into a "Coal State" beginning in 1873, its first year, when Joseph L. Beury, coming from coalfields near Philadelphia, shipped the first coal from the New River Gorge at Quinnamont, Raleigh County. A monument to him is there. After this shipment, King Coal dominated West Virginia's economy, politics and culture for over 140 years. Julia Beury, a resident of The Alma Lee, is his great granddaughter. It is important that the state's southern coal industry was developed following the pattern of our salt makers, who lived next to their works and paid wages based on job performance instead of race, unlike in Virginia and the race-hardened South, where Jim Crow laws and customs made black workers' wages less for every job and assured their degradation in all things social.<sup>28</sup>

## Dickinson Farm

The Dickinson family has been on this pastoral farm for seven generations. In Booker's day it was a bustling industrial site. He worked in the cooper shop, making barrels to ship salt. The Dickinson home was nearby because salt makers lived near their operations. The industrial pattern used here for equal pay and worker life was used by "coal barons," like J.L. Beury, in West Virginia's southern coalfields.



**WELCH-OAKES-JARRETT HOUSE**  
Circa 1845. Restored 2000  
A Shrewsbury Home



**MOTHER MARY JONES**  
At Boardinghouse "Prison," 1913



**KANAWHA SALINES**  
Dickinson Ancestral Home  
Rebuilt 1920s



**WILLIAM DICKINSON HOME**  
Original home on site, 1840



**DICKINSON FARM**  
Salt production reborn 2013 as  
J.Q. Dickinson Salt-Works  
by chef Nancy Payne Bruns and  
entrepreneur Lewis Payne



**CRAIK-PATTON HOUSE**  
A Shrewsbury Home

Now named Kanawha Salines, this stately home has antebellum foundations and chimneys and a large river view porch. It faces Mary Price Dickinson Ratrie's graceful garden. William Dickinson, Sr. had a simple one-story frame home here in 1840. Major additions were made in the 1920s. He and his brother-in-law, Joel Shrewsbury, were partners in a leading salt company before the Civil War.<sup>29</sup> His grandson, John Quincy Dickinson, was a prominent banker. William's descendants continue to have corporate landscaping businesses at the farm, TerraCare and TerraSalis. The last salt making facility in the Kanawha Valley closed here in 1945, and the last chemical operation, a bromide plant, closed here in 1985.<sup>30</sup>

The 1817 salt making tradition continues today as descendants, sister and brother, chef Nancy Payne Bruns and entrepreneur Lewis Payne, have drilled 345 feet for a new salt brine well to create a gourmet salt business with historic Malden salt. Since 1808, "Malden Red Salt" has been valued for the long life of meats packed in it and its taste and red color due to a high iron content.<sup>31</sup> The new brine is piped to drying beds for natural evaporation in greenhouses. The new white chunky salt has a rich, full-bodied flavor that explodes in the palate. It is marketed from a farm office, online and through stores as a finishing salt for sprinkling, under the brand name "J.Q. Dickinson Salt." The first variety is "Heirloom." Elegant old saltcellars will make a comeback for this delight. [Call 304-925-7918. [jqdsalt.com](http://jqdsalt.com)]



About our many names: "Kanawha Salines" is the first name for the salt making river valley. "Saltborough" is the 1830 Ruffner subdivision that created the town, which in the 1840s adopted the name "Terra Salis." "Malden" appears on property deeds by 1858, and was incorporated in the early 1880s under that name, but dissolved soon after its peace officer was shot and killed on November 19, 1881 at the intersection of Salines and Commerce Drives. It is stated in a June 17, 1915, *Charleston Gazette* article on a homecoming event here that a salt maker named Hewitt came from Malden, Massachusetts and "brought the name with him."

### Craik-Patton House and Rosedale

The Craik-Patton House is the Kanawha Valley's "must-see" antebellum home near Daniel Boone City Park. It is named for its two famous residents, but has been preserved because of its unequaled beauty and charm. It has an oversized temple form front portico and a genteel formal parlor. A modest size today, it was a mansion when built in 1834 as one of Charleston's first clapboard frame homes, which replaced log homes when Native Americans were no longer a threat. Also here is an early reconstructed Ruffner log cabin, called "Rosedale." The contrast between the structures shows what the salt industry brought to this area only three decades after the Ruffner's pioneer well was drilled in 1808.

James and Juliet Shrewsbury Craik built "Elm Grove." A grandson of George Washington's best friend and physician, James married Samuel Shrewsbury's daughter. The Shrewsburys were related to the Washingtons. In 1839, James became Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church, and later started St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Malden with support of his wife's uncle, Joel Shrewsbury, on land next-door to property sold four years after slavery to Booker's family in the middle of Malden. In 1844, the Craiks moved to Louisville's Christ's Church and there built a similar home, "Kanawha," which no longer stands. He is credited with helping to keep Kentucky, a slave state, in the Union. While serving 12 years as President of the Episcopal Church's House of Deputies, he reunited all the Southern Dioceses to the national church.<sup>33</sup> He is a revered Episcopal churchman.

George S. Patton was the second renowned resident whose grandson and namesake was a famous World War II General. A vestryman at St. John's, Colonel Patton was a Confederate War hero. He organized the area's elite Confederate militia, the "Kanawha Riflemen," formed from the prominent families of the area, including his second in command, Henry D. Ruffner, and five other Ruffners, while Lewis Ruffner courageously accepted the important commission of Major General for our new state's Union militia.<sup>34</sup>

The National Society of Colonial Dames in West Virginia maintains the home in perfect condition and tradition, furnished with antiques from the families of residents and others from the period. They have regular open hours and will arrange group tours. [Call 304-925-5341]

### **Old Stone House and Natural Gas World Discovery Monument**

Samuel Shrewsbury, Jr. and his wife, Polly Dickinson Shrewsbury, whose father sold the "Buffalo Lick" to Joseph Ruffner, built this stout stone mansion circa 1800-1810. It is one of the Valley's oldest structures. They began salt making soon after the Ruffners drilled the first well. Their youngest daughter, Juliet Craik, built the Craik Patton House. The Old Stone House has been preserved by the Belle Historic Restoration Society, Inc., led by Louise Edwards, Charlotte Gardner and others. [Call 304-949-2398] The home of Samuel's gifted brother, Joel Shrewsbury, Sr., is in the area. He was the brother-in-law and partner of William Dickinson, Sr., in Dickinson and Shrewsbury, a salt partnership, which lasted for their adult lives and ended in bitter litigation in their 80s over the shares they owned.<sup>35</sup> The Dickinson and Shrewsbury families, like most aristocratic Virginia families, intermarried in many generations. Joel Shrewsbury, Sr. was the father of Lewis Ruffner's first wife, Elizabeth, and great-great grandfather of the Malden Cole Sisters. He was on the first vestry of St. John's Episcopal Church in 1835 with James Craik, whom he convinced ten years later as Rector to set up a mission church in Malden, St. Luke's, on land next to the property later sold to Washington Ferguson by Jacob Shrewsbury, Joel's grandson. St. Luke's was west of the vacant Methodist Church which was sold to the African Zion Baptist Church. After his family moved from the Welch House, Jacob, a bachelor, and his unmarried sister, Mary, lived in a home with double porches near the street between the African Zion Baptist Church and Rooke's Store (at today's FasChek). It is believed that



**ROSEDALE  
Ruffner log house**



**OLD STONE HOUSE  
The first Shrewsbury home  
east of DuPont plant**



**NATURAL GAS WORLD  
DISCOVERY MONUMENT  
at DuPont Middle School**

## NOTES AND SOURCES

- African Zion Baptist Church, Service Bulletin, November 5, 1989, page 2, Footnotes 3,7.
- Asher, Brad, *Cecelia and Fanny*, Lexington: U. Press of Ky: 2011, page 90; Footnote 33 .
- Cohen, Stan, Richard Andre, *Kanawha County Images: A Bicentennial History 1788-1988*, Charleston, West Virginia: Pictorial Histories Publishing Company, 1987, pages 13, 24-39, 147, 458-459, Footnotes 17, 20, 22, 26, 30, 31 & 34.
- Cole, Martha Darneal, Llewellyn Shrewsbury Cole, Minnie Wayne Cooper, Gerald S. Ratliff, James F. Thibeault, Don Pauley, and Anna Gilmer, local Malden historians.
- Drennen, Bill, *One Kanawha Valley Bank: A History*, Charleston, West Virginia 2002, pages 13-17, Footnotes 29 & 35.
- Flasch, Mark and Pam, *Peter Ruffner and his Descendants*, 2 ed., Vol II: *The Descendants of Peter the Pioneer's First Child, Joseph Ruffner*, Ruffner Family Association, 2007; Pages 27-56, FN: 4, 24, 25, 27 & 34.
- Harlan, Louis, Ed. (with Raymond W. Smock et al.), *The Booker T. Washington Papers*, Chicago: U. of Ill. Press, 1971-82, Vol. 6, pages 529-536; FN 11, Vol. 10, pages 555-557, FN 14; Vol. 13, pages 285-291, Footnote 23.
- Harlan, Louis, *Booker T. Washington: Making of a Black Leader, 1865-1901*, London: Oxford U. Press, 1972, pages 9-32 & 39-48, Footnotes 1, 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13.
- Kanawha County 1870 Census, Malden District, Footnote 19.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Booker's famous "*Blue Back Speller*" was purchased by his mother at Rooke's Store.

The Belle DuPont Plant is west of the Old Stone House. In the Depression, its ingenious workers here invented and constructed remarkable industrial equipment necessary to make nylon, which was so important for parachutes in World War II as well as for ladies' stockings and other modern products.

Burning Spring is at DuPont Middle School and is the site of the world discovery of natural gas. A monument is there. This was an early novelty fire spring which was owned jointly by George Washington and Andrew Lewis. William Tompkins first used natural gas for industry when he piped gas to his salt works for fuel and to light them at night, allowing for a night shift. His wife, Rachel Grant Tompkins, was the sister of the father of President Ulysses S. Grant.

### Booker: A Leader for All

Booker's classic *Up From Slavery* is a good fast read. Available in most all bookstores today, it was selected as America's third best nonfiction book of the 20th Century, making Booker our most noted author and only international figure.

The book was never intended as a fact-by-fact account of his life. It is a rags-to-riches story, written to show that he understood and overcame the struggles of common people, black and white who, by using his example of education and hard work, could themselves succeed or set up their children to succeed as full citizens in America. It starts off like the 19th-century Presidential Campaign theme, "Born in a Log Cabin," but it soars as an inspirational Everyman Tale, giving tangible hope to all Americans for a better life, generation by generation. *Up from Slavery* personifies the American Dream in Booker, and his example to all is what he saw in his struggling family as they toiled to prove their worth and the worth of all freedmen in a town uncertain of their role in community, but not opposed to it, thanks to the visionary leadership of the remarkable Ruffner family. With their help and fair play, Booker saw his family succeed and gain respect, and he took from that success a formula from which he never wavered. Booker knew Southern African Americans, like his family, just wanted to share in the bounty of a country they cherished, and had helped to build up by hard work with no education or freedom not to work. He wanted them to value work and opportunity. What he saw and lived in Malden, he never questioned as the formula for their success.

His vision took many more generations than he thought. The nurture of the families of Malden, and the pioneering Ruffners, was not present in the embittered and shattered White South. The Southern poverty of wealth, and of spirit, led Southern whites to a fantasized lost glory for slave times which benefitted the elite but, when lost, was taken to heart by rich and poor. It is fair to say that if the Union had helped rebuild the South, its economy would have recovered in two generations, preventing widespread hatred of blacks after 1900. The analogy is to the help for Germany after World War II, which, after World War I was denied, empowering the race evil of Nazi Germany. Only Abraham Lincoln could have worked a plan for "Malice toward none" to help the South, but any such plan died with "Father Abraham."

## Freedom Spreads from Malden to South Africa

The stories of young Booker, sister Amanda, Viola Ruffner and her courageous husband, General Lewis, his accomplished brother Dr. Henry, his nephew William Henry, the Cole Sisters, Mrs. Cooper—and so many families in this historic village—make us proud of our history after the Civil War, when so many Southern States were degrading freedmen. The salt and coal entrepreneurs who followed (1) paid wages for hard work based on work produced, without regard to race, (2) emphasized equal public education for all, and (3) used integrated worker housing in Malden before and after the Civil War. It is no accident these principles are foundations for the landmark 1977 “Sullivan Principles,” used by Charleston native Reverend Leon Sullivan, to lead the international boycott of modern slavery in South Africa while he served on General Motors’ Board of Directors.

These principles empowered our African American families in West Virginia to build an early Black middle class and nurture other great leaders, including WV State Dean, Carter G. Woodson, the Father of Black History Week; the distinguished author, historian and professor, Louis Henry Gates; PBS Journalist Tony Brown; Reverend Bishop T. D. Jakes, and others—many more than anywhere else. Booker believed in what he lived in Malden. He understood what freedmen needed to survive and later thrive in middle class America by hard work and sacrifice for later generations, all to create a new political and social system for good schools, equal wages, and economic opportunity, leading to fairness for all.

Election of an African American President is Booker’s legacy through Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. and is a tribute to the families of Malden. We regret deeply that racism continues and that it took too many generations to end the race footnote to the American Dream. But now, finally, black children can share fully and know that they too can be President of the United States.



A Simple Sign in Malden Reads:

*Remember here the enslaved African Americans  
who were abused, chased, and beaten because  
God’s Spirit of Freedom was manifest in them.*

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Larry L. Rowe is a Malden attorney, local historian and gardener. As State Senator, 2000-2004, he was a leader for historic preservation. He served for five years on the State Ethics Commission and was Chair of the Board of Governors of West Virginia State University from 2011-2013. In a June 9, 2013 *Sunday Gazette-Mail* article, he was called a gardening “phenom.” At West Virginia University, Larry was Phi Beta Kappa and graduated in the top ten percent of his law class. He loves Old Malden and West Virginia.

## NOTES AND SOURCES CONTINUED

- Kanawha County Clerk Deed Records, Footnotes 6,7,18 & 19.
- Moore, Jacqueline M., *Booker T. Washington, W. E. B. DuBois, and the Struggle for Racial Uplift*, Wilmington: Scholarly Resources, 2003, pages 37-47, 87, Footnotes 14, 15 & 16.
- Norrell, Robert J., *Up from History*, Cambridge: Harvard U. Press, 2009; pages 243-253, 246, Footnote 32.
- Randall, James D., and Anna E. Gilmer, *Black Past*, Charleston, West Virginia : By Authors,1989, pages 8-9 & 52-66, Footnote 3.
- Smock, Raymond W., *Black Leadership in the Age of Jim Crow*, Chicago: Ivan R. Lee, 2009, pages 8-11, 37-38, 87, & 157-177, Footnotes 12, 15, 16, & 28.
- Stealey, John E., III, *The Antebellum Kanawha Salt Business and Western Markets*, Lexington: U. Press of Ky., 1993, pages 1-5, 141, Footnotes 2 & 5.
- Stealey, John E., III, Editor, *Kanawhan Prelude to Nineteenth-Century Monopoly in the United States: The Virginian Salt Combinations*, Richmond: Va. Historical Soc., 2000, pages 1-15, Footnote 2.
- Stealey, John E., III, *West Virginia’s Civil War Constitution: Loyal Revolution, Confederate Counter-Revolution, and the Convention of 1872*, Kent State University Press, 2013.
- Washington, Booker T., *Up From Slavery*. Garden City, New York: Doubleday, Doran & Co., Inc., 1931, pages 11-47, Footnotes 10, 12 & 13.
- Williams, John A., *Appalachia: A History*, Chapel Hill: U. of N.C. Press, 2002, pages 244-268, Footnote 26.



Anna Gilmer Collection

**AMANDA FERGUSON JOHNSON**  
Sister of Booker T. Washington



**GOOD LIVING RETIREMENT HOMES**  
304-925-6568

**J. Q. DICKINSON SALT**  
304-925-7918 • [jqdsalt.com](http://jqdsalt.com)



**LARRY L. ROWE**

*an attorney helping people*

Telephone: 304-925-1333

Toll-Free: 800-542-6079

Facsimile: 304-925-1378

Website: [larryrowe.com](http://larryrowe.com)

4200 Malden Drive • Malden, WV 25306

Visit Historic

# **OLD MALDEN WEST VIRGINIA**

## **Boyhood Home of Booker T. Washington**



Courtesy of Hampton University Archives

**YOUNG BOOKER AT HAMPTON**

Written by Larry L. Rowe, 4200 Malden Drive, Malden WV 25306; phone: (304) 925-1333; fax: (304) 925-1378; website: [larryrowe.com](http://larryrowe.com); with encouragement of friends of Old Malden. Thanks to designer Colleen Anderson at Mother Wit Writing and Design. [[colleenanderson.com](http://colleenanderson.com)]