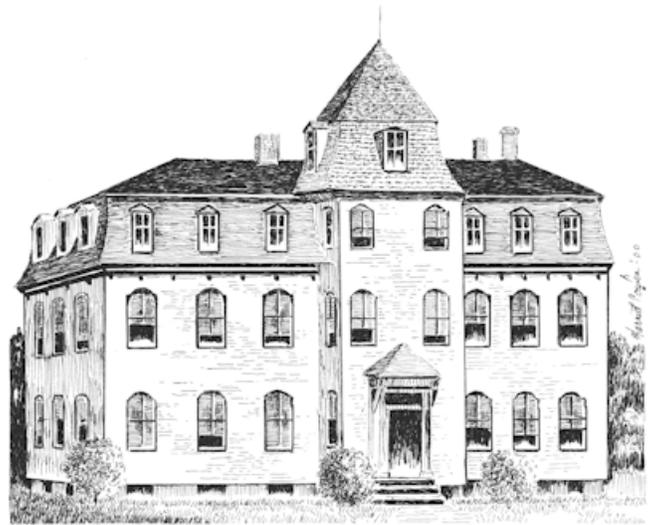


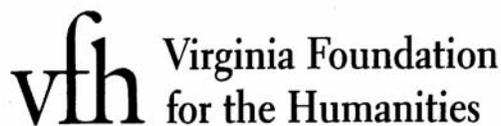
African American Heritage Trails Tour

A driving tour of Selected African American Historic sites in Gloucester County, Virginia



Richmond Hall, Gloucester Agricultural and Industrial High School, Cappahosic. Drawing by Harriet Cowen, from Amistad Research Center photograph.

Soon after the settlement of Jamestown, Gloucester County was formed from York County in 1651. The African American presence then and throughout the last 350 years was celebrated during the County's Anniversary in 2001 and beyond. This heritage has significantly influenced the County's development and culture and the overall African American cultures. We hope that you enjoy and are enriched by the information on this tour.



Thank you for your interest in Gloucester County's African American history. This tour was a project of the Gloucester County 350th Celebration Committee. In 2001 we celebrated our 1651 Charter with a full year of activities.

For more information please contact us at:
Gloucester Parks, Recreation and Tourism
6489 Main Street
Gloucester, VA 23061
804-693-2355

Project Director: Dr. Dorothy Cosby Cooke

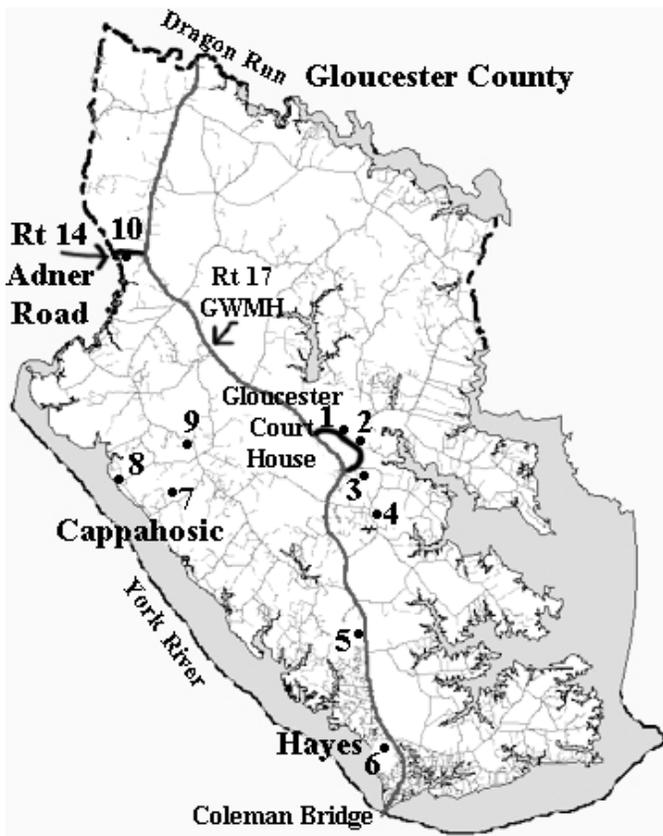
Partial funding and support was obtained through a grant from the Virginia Foundation for Humanities and Public Policy, as part of its African American History Initiative and the African American

Heritage Trails project which was developed in partnership with the Virginia Tourism Authority.

© Copyright 2000 Gloucester County, Virginia
Revised 2012, 2014

This revised edition was coordinated by
Ms. Denise Rhea Carter and Dr. Dorothy Cosby Cooke.

Artwork for this tour generously donated by:
Pen and Ink drawings by the late Harriet Cowen, a former resident of Bena, and home portrait artist. Harriet volunteered her time and talents to help bring these historic sites to life. We thank you Harriet and we miss you.
Gardiner sketch by Mary Ryan McCarthy.
Thank you for helping us update the tour in 2012..



African American Heritage Trails Tour Directions

Begin your tour at 6509 Main Street
Colonial Court Circle

George Washington Memorial Highway aka
Route 17 is listed as GWMH/Rt 17

Directions to Site 1: Private James Daniel Gardiner—Located in front of the Colonial Courthouse (6504 Main Street).

Directions to SITE 2: Thomas Calhoun Walker Homeplace—From the Courtcircle travel .5 miles south on Main Street to 6739 Main Street.

Directions to SITE 3: Zion Poplars Baptist Church—From site 2 head south on Main Street for .8 miles. Turn left onto T. C. Walker Road. Travel .6 miles. Site 2 is located on the right.

Directions to SITE 4: Thomas Calhoun Walker Elementary School/Gloucester Training School—From site 3 continue on T. C. Walker Road for 1.7 miles. The school is located on the left at 6099 T. C. Walker Road.

Directions to SITE 5: From site 4 turn left onto T. C. Walker Road for 1.9 miles. Turn left onto GWMH/Rt 17. Travel 2.5 miles. Woodville School is on the right at 4310 GWMH/Rt 17.

Directions to SITE 6: Irene Morgan Story—From site 5 travel South on GWMH/Rt 17. Travel 3.5 miles to Hook Road (there are Drug Stores on the corners). Turn right. Travel .1 miles on Hook Road; the site is the triangular area to the right, adjacent to the highway, just before reaching the stop sign. Site of the former Hayes Post Office.

Directions to SITE 7: Gloucester Agricultural and Industrial School—From site 6 turn right onto Hayes Road. Travel .6 miles to GWMH/Rt 17. Turn left onto GWMH/Rt 17 North. Travel 4.4 miles to Hickory Fork Road. Turn left onto Hickory Fork Road. Travel 6.4 miles to Cappahosic Road. Turn left onto Cappahosic road. Travel 1.9 miles to site of the historic marker on the right.

Directions to SITE 8: Robert R. Moton Home—From site 7 continue .4 miles on Cappahosic Road. Turn right onto Allmondsville Road. Travel .8 miles to the Moton Home. It is located on the left, 6498 Allmondsville Road.

Directions to SITE 9: Bethel Baptist Church—From site 8 travel northwest .5 miles on Allmondsville Road. Turn right onto Ark Road; follow Ark Road for 2.8 miles to its intersection with Hickory Fork Road. Turn Left onto Hickory Fork Road. Travel .2 miles to Bethel Church, 2978 Hickory Fork Road.

Directions to SITE 10: The Servants Plot—From site 9 travel .2 miles back to Ark Road. Turn left at the intersection and travel 2.9 miles to Route GWMH/Rt 17/Rt 17. Turn left onto North GWMH/Rt 17. Travel 5.2 miles to Adner Road. Turn left onto Adner Road and travel 1 mile to the bridge where the Poropotank separates Gloucester County from King and Queen County. The historic marker is located at this site.

We hope you enjoy the tour!

SITE 1

Private James Daniel Gardiner

(aka Gardenier)

A Gloucester Native, Mr. Gardiner was born in the Ware Neck Community on September 16, 1839 to free parents. He joined the Union army at Yorktown, Virginia on September 15, 1863; the day before his 24th birthday. Mr. Gardiner was assigned to the 2nd North Carolina Colored Volunteers, New Bern, North Carolina. In February 1864, the 2nd was re-designated Company I, 36th Infantry Regiment United States Colored Troops and placed under the command of the Army of the James, headquartered at Fortress Monroe; Hampton, Virginia. Early on the morning of September 29, 1864 in a battle at New Market Heights; Mr. Gardiner took such actions so as to distinguish himself by initiating a charge that ultimately captured New Market Heights (vicinity of Richmond) and led to eventual occupation of Richmond. Because of his acts

of bravery (the Civil War), Gardiner was awarded a Medal of Honor. This Medal is the highest honor awarded a soldier in time of combat. It is awarded only by recommendation of the President of the United States and approval by Congress. He is the only known Congressional Medal of Honor recipient who is a native of Gloucester County.

Mr. Gardiner died September 1905 in Clark Summit, Pennsylvania. He is buried in Ottumwa, Iowa.

This Memorial Stone honoring Private Gardiner was unveiled and dedicated in the Court House Circle with a memorable ceremony on May 6, 2006.

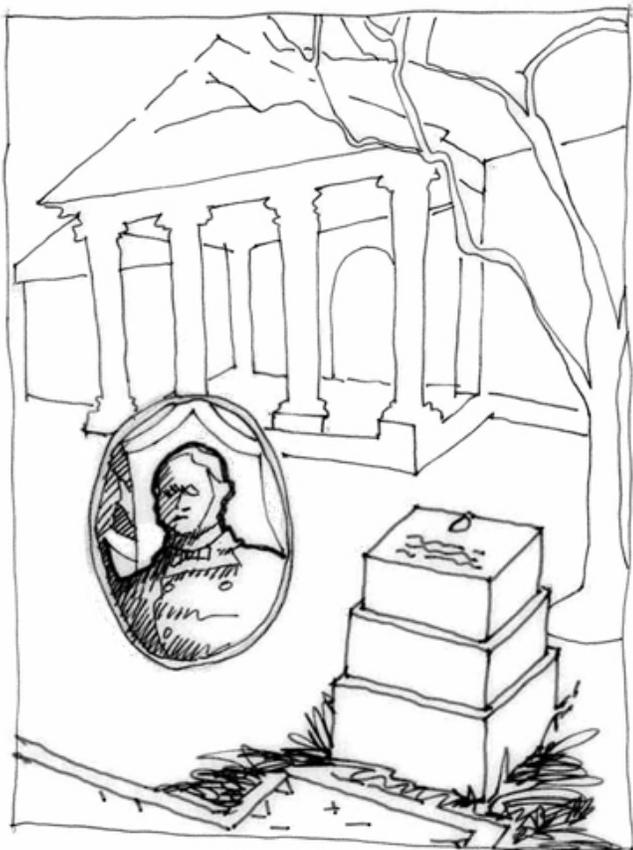
**Site 1 - 6509 Main Street
Colonial Court Circle**

SITE 2

Thomas Calhoun Walker

Born a slave in 1862, Thomas Calhoun Walker became the first black man to practice law in Gloucester county and some historical accounts suggest the first in Virginia.

His many achievements are summarized on a marker in front of his home which reads..."Here lived Thomas Calhoun Walker the first black to practice law in Gloucester County and a civil rights spokesman who vigorously advocated education and land ownership for blacks. Mr. Walker was





elected for two terms to Gloucester's Board of Supervisors, serving from 1891 to 1895. President William McKinley appointed him the Commonwealth's first black collector of customs in 1893. He became the only black to hold statewide office in President Roosevelt's Works Project Administration when he was appointed Consultant and Advisor on Negro Affairs in 1934."

Site 2 - 6739 Main Street

SITE 3

Zion Poplars Baptist Church

Established in 1866, Zion Poplars Baptist Church is one of the oldest independent African American congregations in Gloucester County. The founding mothers and fathers first met for religious services under seven united poplar trees, four of which still stand on the church grounds.

The church building, which dates from 1894, is an excellent example of 19th-century gothic revival style with vernacular detailing. The spectacular interior of the church exhibits the

creative craftsmanship of Mr. Frank Braxton, a former slave. Mr. Braxton, early congregants, their descendants and war veterans are buried in the old and new cemeteries.

Like most independent black churches established during the Reconstruction era, Zion Poplars was a multifunctional institution, serving the spiritual, educational and economic needs of its congregants and the larger community. That spirit of mutual aid persists among its current congregants, many of whom are descendants of Zion Poplars' founders. Zion Poplars Baptist Church is listed on the Virginia and National Historic Landmarks Registers.

Site 3 - 7000 T. C. Walker Road



SITE 4

Thomas Calhoun Walker Elementary School & Gloucester Training School

The present building stands on the site of the Gloucester Training School. The school was established in 1921 through the efforts of T. C. Walker and others as the first free public secondary school for black students in Gloucester County.

GLOUCESTER TRAINING SCHOOL 1940S

As in the rest of the South, public education opportunities for blacks in Gloucester were limited in the early 1920s. While under the same administration as white schools, the separate black public schools received less funding, offered a shorter school year and stopped at the seventh or even sixth grade level. In response to these conditions, lawyer Walker appealed to the school board, but was told that no money was available for secondary education of black students. Blacks were assumed to need only training in basic reading and writing. Mr. Walker led a fundraising effort for a secondary school, donating the down payment himself. Other funding sources included Julius Rosenwald of Chicago, other national and local donors. The school was known as one of the Rosenwald schools.

The two-classroom Gloucester Training School (so named to reassure those in the white community who opposed publicly-supported higher education for black students) opened in 1921 with an eighth grade class,



adding ninth grade the following year and eventually expanding through the eleventh grade, with a campus of several buildings.

In the early 1950s a new brick building was constructed to serve the entire county's black student population, grades one through eleven. A twelfth grade was added by 1954 and later the school was named Thomas C. Walker.

With the integration of schools and subsequent reorganizations, the present school functioned as Gloucester Intermediate School in the late 1960s, Gloucester Middle School in the mid-1970s and from 1986 to 2012 has been Thomas Calhoun Walker Elementary School, honoring the man instrumental in securing public secondary education for the black students of Gloucester. In summer 2012, the School Board decided to close the doors as one of the county's schools, but be repurposed. With renovations, preserving the building's classroom layout, the School Board Offices were moved into the building in December 2013. The building's new name, THOMAS CALHOUN WALKER EDUCATION CENTER, continues to honor this civil rights pioneer.

**Site 4 - 6099 T.C. Walker Road
Thomas Calhoun Walker Education
Center**

SITE 5

Woodville School

Woodville School sets in an area of Gloucester County known as Ordinary. It was built in 1932 during a time when public education was difficult for all and extremely difficult for African Americans. The construction of the school was made possible through the efforts of the local African American Community, Mr. T.C. Walker, a major local leader and Mr. Julius Rosenwald, one time chairman of Sears and Roebuck Company. In a cooperative effort with Dr. Booker T. Washington, Mr. Rosenwald pledged to assist in the building of schools throughout the South to provide improved conditions for the education of Southern blacks. After the communities raised funds, Mr. Rosenwald would contribute. These schools became known as Rosenwald Schools.

Woodville is the only building remaining of the seven built in Gloucester, one of which was a teacher residence at Gloucester Training School.

The Rosenwald Schools were built following a standard plan as outlined in the publication, Community School Plans. It is a complete and comprehensive guide to the architecture and landscape of all Rosenwald Schools. Plans for the Rosenwald Schools ranged from 1 teacher to 7 teacher schools, depending on the need of



the community. Each school was built east-west or north - south, allowing for optimal sunlight as there was no electricity. Woodville was a two teacher, east-west school, with an industrial room on the front of the building and privies to the side.

After desegregation, the Gloucester County School Board purchased Woodville School and in 1942, Mr. George W. Marshall, a real estate speculator purchased the school. Mr. Marshall sold it to Mr. and Mrs. James (Edith) Stubbs. It served as their residence until their death. Mr. David Peebles purchased the property in 2001. In order to insure that historic asset remains a part of Mr. Booker T. Washington, Mr. Thomas Calhoun Walker and Mr. Julius Rosenwald's legacies, as well as Gloucester County's history, the County's Economic Development Authority purchased the property in July 2012.

The T. C. Walker and Woodville/Rosenwald Foundation was incorporated May 2012 to preserve and restore the building, establishing it as a living monument to those persons who made the school possible. Membership on the Foundation includes citizens from Gloucester Newport News and Hampton.

Other citizens are needed in support of this cause to secure the funding as well as plan for design and use of the building. Preservation of Woodville is dependent on the dedication and commitment of the Gloucester community leading the way. Woodville School is listed on both Virginia Department



of Historic Resources and National Register of Historic Places.

For more information or to help the foundation, please visit our website at: www.woodvillerosenwaldschool.org

Site 5—4310 George Washington Memorial Highway

SITE 6

Irene Morgan Story

In July 1944, a young mother named Irene Morgan (later Kirkaldy) boarded the Greyhound bus at the Old Hayes Store Post Office. A short time after boarding, and with additional passengers joining them, the driver ordered Mrs. Morgan and another black passenger seated next to her to give up their seats so that whites might be seated. Mrs. Morgan refused. After warning that he would have her arrested, the driver called upon the sheriff in Saluda (Middlesex County). The sheriff boarded the bus with a warrant, but Mrs. Morgan threw the warrant out the window and kicked the sheriff. She was eventually arrested by a deputy and jailed.



Enlisting the help of the State Conference of the NAACP, Irene Morgan appealed her case through the local, state and Supreme courts. Her lawyers, Thurgood Marshall and William Hastie, argued that it was a burden to interstate commerce for each state to have its own rules for seating passengers on interstate buses. The Supreme Court ruled in Mrs. Morgan's favor in June 1946.

A song written soon afterwards declared, "You don't have to ride Jim Crow, 'cause Irene Morgan won her case!" Unfortunately, the victory was not so clear-cut. A courageous group of black and white men attempting to test the ruling met with mixed responses as they rode buses into the south; in the absence of state laws, bus companies created their own Jim Crow rules. Nonetheless, Irene Morgan's stand for equal treatment paved the way for Rosa Parks to take a similar stand on a Birmingham city bus eleven years later.

**Site 6 - former site of Hayes P.O.
2425 Hayes Rd.**

SITE 7

Gloucester Agricultural and Industrial School, Cappahosic

Founded by local black residents under the leadership of lawyer T. C. Walker and William B. Weaver, the Gloucester Agricultural and Industrial School was the first black secondary school in the county, possibly the first in Virginia. It opened in 1888 with four students in a vacant store in Cappahosic; by 1896 seventy students studied, and many boarded, on its campus with two newly constructed buildings. From 1891 until its closing in 1933, the school was funded by the American Missionary Association, an agency of the northern Congregational Church.

William G. Price, a member of the Hampton Institute class of 1890 (and classmate of Dr. Robert R. Moton), served as principal of the school from 1899 until 1933. Under his leadership, the school produced farmers trained in the latest agricultural techniques, teachers for black public schools and many students who went on to college at Hampton and elsewhere. Its academic program, despite the school's name, expanded to offer four years of English (including black writers), four years of Latin and German, two years of French, four years of math (through trigonometry) and three years of science. Orator Frederick Douglass, lyricist James Weldon Johnson and singer Marian Anderson



Douglass Hall, dormitory and classroom building, named for Frederick Douglass, who spoke at the school's graduation in 1894.

were among the many notables who visited the school as part of its cultural enrichment program.

The Great Depression of the 1930s was the downfall of Gloucester Agricultural and Industrial. Tuition became more of a burden to impoverished black families, who now at least had the option of sending their children to the free public Gloucester Training School. The resources of the American Missionary Association also declined, and without its support, the school closed. Portions of the entrance columns, an old bench and the foundation of the cafeteria remain as witness to the dreams and opportunities nurtured here.

Site 7 - 3379 Cappahosic Rd—the site of the entrance to the school grounds, no buildings stand.

SITE 8

Robert R. Moton Home

A stately mansion on the banks of the York River at Cappahosic, Holly Knoll was built in 1935 as the retirement home of Dr. Robert Russa Moton. Dr. Moton, the second president of Tuskegee Institute and the successor to Dr. Booker T. Washington, guided Tuskegee's progression from a normal school (teacher training school) into an accredited college and university. Although he had served more than 50 years at Tuskegee and Hampton Institute, Dr. Moton's retirement was far from quiet. His famous invitation "Come to Cappahosic" brought many friends and fellow citizens from near and far to discuss and resolve problems, particularly in the field of education.

After Dr. and Mrs. Moton's deaths in 1940, the Moton Conference Center was established to continue Dr. Moton's work in education. Dr. Frederick Patterson, Dr. Moton's son-in-



law and successor at Tuskegee, expanded the site into a full conference center by adding residential space and training facilities. During the 1950s and 60s Dr. Patterson and his colleagues made plans for the economic development of historically black colleges and universities, and the Center served as a “think tank” on social justice and other issues. The United Negro College Fund was conceived here, and the Greensboro Four developed strategies to desegregate lunch counters at this historic place. On a bench under the 400-year-old live oak, Dr. Martin Luther King is said to have drafted portions of his “I Have A Dream” speech.

Holly Knoll, a national and state historic landmark, is currently owned by The Gloucester Institute, a non-profit organization dedicated to continuing Dr. Moton’s legacy through programs, activities and maintenance of his historic home. The Gloucester Institute is committed to raising a society of solutionists to find positive answers to the many questions facing our country, by providing an intellectually safe environment where ideas can be discussed and transformed into practical solutions that produce results.

Site 8 - 6468 Allmondsville Road

SITE 9

Bethel Baptist Church

Once known as the Old Sassafras Stage Church, Bethel Baptist Church is the oldest

independent African American congregation in Sassafras. Bethel dates from the 19th century, when Sassafras Stage and nearby Allmond’s Wharf were at the peak of their activity as hubs of commerce and transportation.

Bethel was one of several black Baptist churches founded during the Reconstruction era. In 1867, Dr. L. Catlett Stubbs donated one acre of land to his formerly enslaved butler, James F. Lemon. Mr. Lemon and other pious individuals used the land for their church, first meeting on crude benches under bush arbors, then constructing a small but well-built church with an altar railing, pulpit and gallery.

The present church dates to 1889. The chairmen of the building committee were carpenter George Leigh and bricklayer/plasterer Thomas Calhoun Walker, Sr. (father of lawyer T.C. Walker, who is buried in the cemetery next to Bethel Church).

Five daughter churches developed as offshoots from the Bethel congregation: New Mount Zion, Mt. Gilead, Smithfield, Shepherdsville, and Morning Glory (all located in Gloucester, with the exception of Mt. Gilead in Williamsburg).

Governor George Allen officially recognized Bethel Baptist Church as a historic landmark in 1997.



**Site 9 - 2978
Hickory
Fork Road**

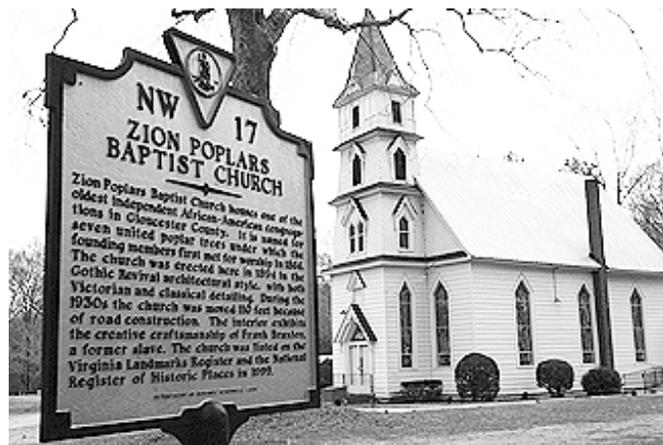
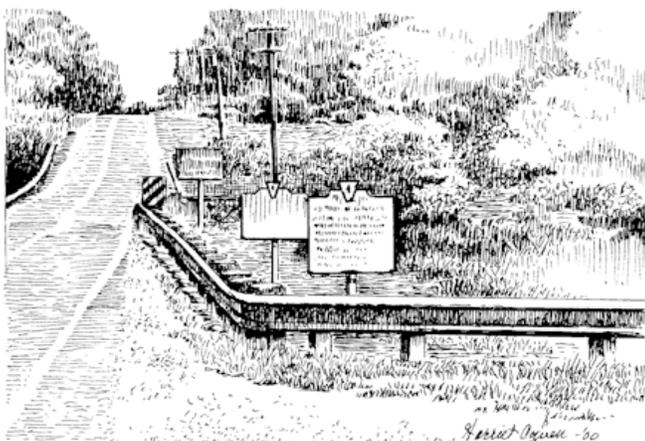
SITE 10

The Servants Plot

During the summer of 1663, indentured servants (held for several years of service) in the Poropotank River and Purtan Bay region plotted an insurrection against their masters to occur on 13 September 1663. It was prevented when John Berkenhead, servant of Maj. John Smith of Gloucester County, informed the authorities of the planned uprising. As a reward for “his honest affection of the preservation of this Country” the Virginia House of Burgesses, on 16 September, granted Berkenhead his freedom and gave him 5,000 pounds of tobacco. Additionally the Burgesses proclaimed that 13 September would hence forth annually be “kept holy.”

While this event is included in several accounts of African American History, other accounts suggest that black servants were not involved in this conspiracy. There is little information concerning the details of this event and there are convincing arguments for both accounts. This incident is dramatized in Mary Johnston’s novel Prisoners of Hope. The plot of 1663 may have been the first serious conspiracy involving black servants.

Site 10—Gloucester County Line on Adner Rd.



HISTORICAL HIGHWAY MARKERS

As you drive through Gloucester watch for the 25 Historical Highway Markers along our roadways. These marked sites are included in the African American Heritage Trails Tour:

ROBERT RUSSA MOTON—NW-12

Located at the intersection of Hickory Fork Road and GWMH/Rt 17.

UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND—NW 13

Located at the intersection of Hickory Fork Road and GWMH/Rt 17.

ZION POPLARS BAPTIST CHURCH—NW 16

Located at the Intersection of T.C. Walker Road and GWMH/Rt 17. NW 17 located at Zion Poplars Baptist Church, 7000 T.C. Walker Road.

GLOUCESTER AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL—NW 18

Located at 3379 Cappahosic Road.

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH—NW 20

Located at Bethel Baptist Church, 2978 Hickory Fork Road

GLOUCESTER TRAINING SCHOOL—NW 21

Located at Thomas Calhoun Walker Educational Center, 6099 T.C. Walker Road

INDENTURED SERVANTS PLOT—N 58

Located on Adner Road at the bridge between King and Queen and Gloucester Counties.

For more information on Virginia Historical Highway Markers visit the website at www.dhr.virginia.gov