

ABOUT SUMNER HALL

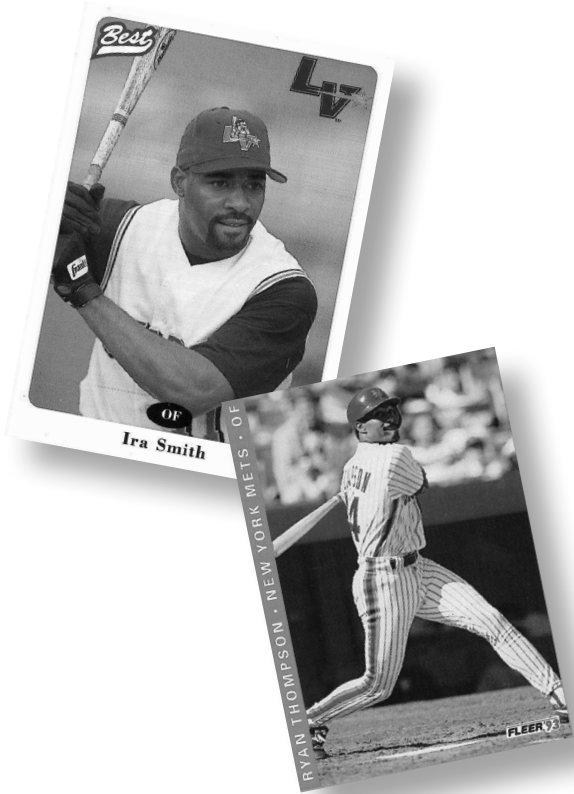
Built circa 1908, Sumner Hall is one of two African American Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) veterans' halls still standing in the United States. After years of disrepair, it reopened in 2014 as a museum, educational venue, performance stage, and community center. Sumner Hall's mission is to preserve itself as a place of remembrance of African Americans who served in the U.S. Civil War by (1) honoring all African American veterans of the U.S. armed services; (2) promoting an understanding of the African American experience within the overall context of American history and culture; and (3) advocating for social justice and racial equity in all aspects of civic life. Sumner Hall is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

ABOUT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF KENT COUNTY

The Historical Society of Kent County, Inc., was founded 85 years ago and incorporated as a non-profit, educational society in 1958. The Society seeks to foster knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of the shared heritage of our community. The Society collects and preserves the stories of all the residents of Kent County and all aspects of the rich and diverse history of our county. The Society shares this history through its research library, its museum, its programs, its publications, its events, and its website. It is headquartered at the Bordley History Center, 301 High Street, Chestertown, in a historic building at the center of Chestertown's National Historic District.



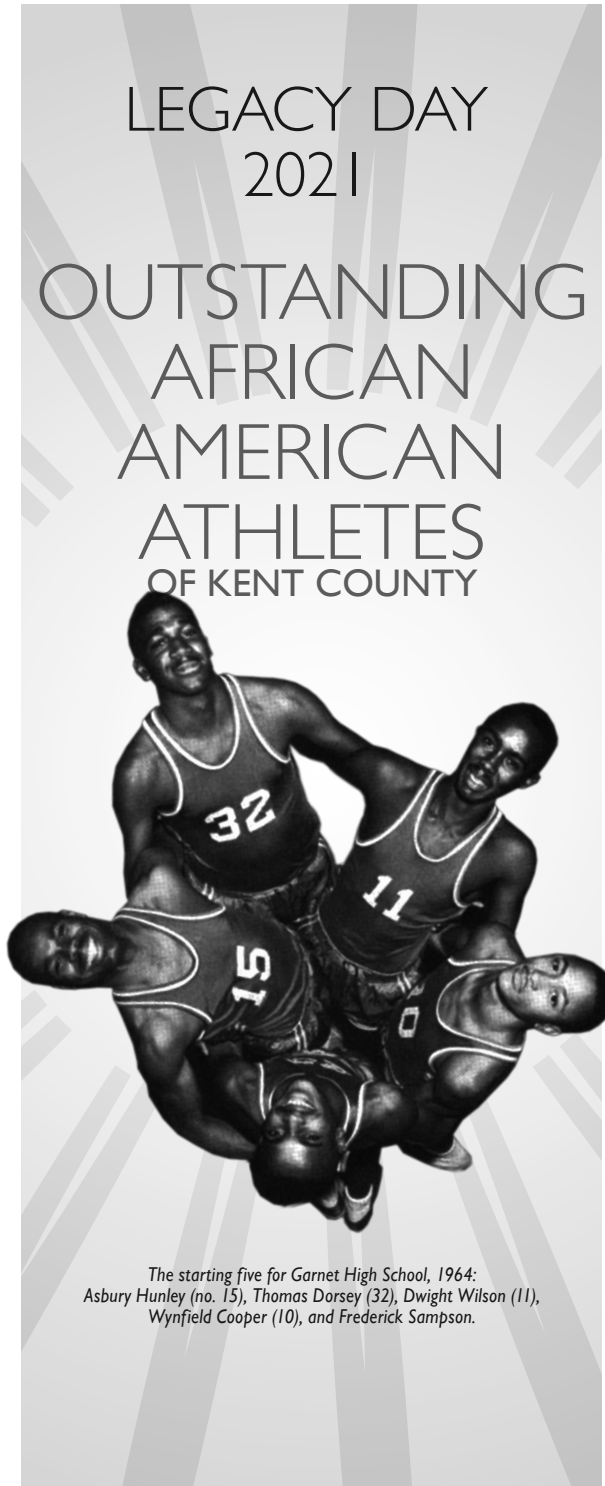
THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
of
KENT COUNTY
UNLOCKING OUR PAST



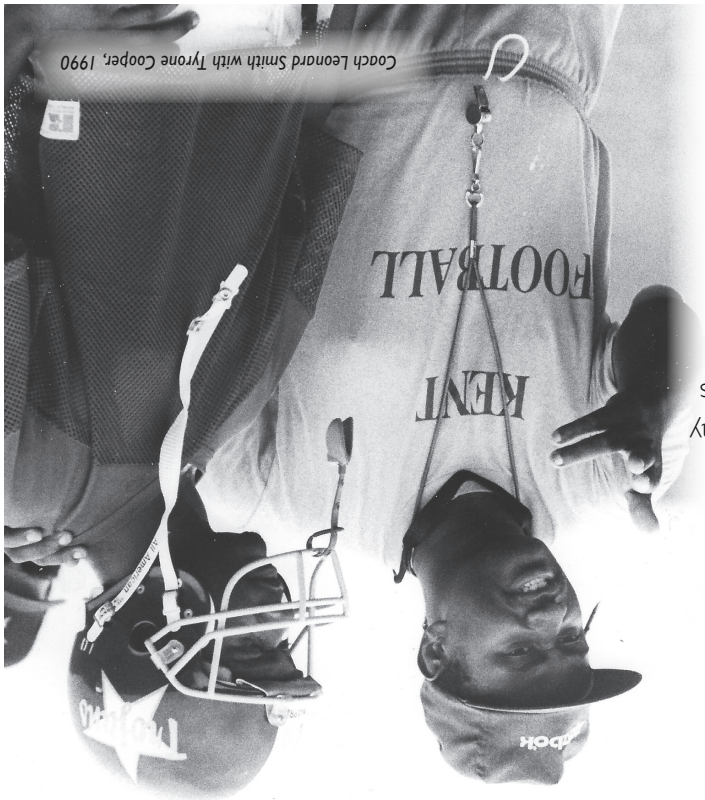
Learn more about the Historical Society of Kent County, Inc., P.O. Box 665, Chestertown, MD 21620, www.kentcountyhistory.org; director@kentcountyhistory.org; (410) 778-3499.

To learn more about Sumner Hall, 206 S. Queen St., Chestertown, MD 21620, email info@sumnerhall.org or visit <http://sumnerhall.org>

To download a copy of the 48-page booklet
OUTSTANDING AFRICAN AMERICAN
ATHLETES FROM KENT COUNTY
by Bill Leary, visit the Sumner Hall
or Historical Society website.

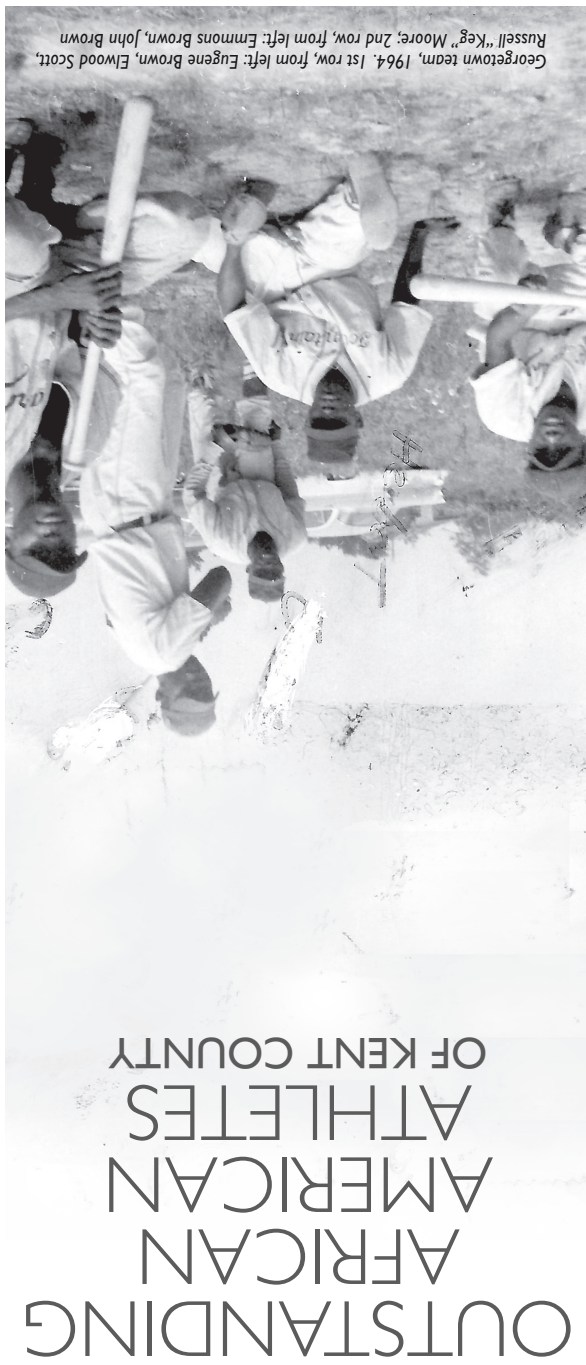


Picture Credits
The Kent County News was the source of all photographs used in this brochure with the following exceptions: Front cover, 1964 Garnet Yearbook; photo of Georgetown team, Herbert Briscoe; photo of Charles Williams Dorsey, Bill Leary; photo of Herbert Briscoe, Bill Leary; photo of Erlena Brown Linthicum, Bowie State College Yearbook; photo of Ralph Deaton, Ralph Deaton; photo of Bates Rochester, Bates Rochester; photo of James Saunders, newspapers.com.

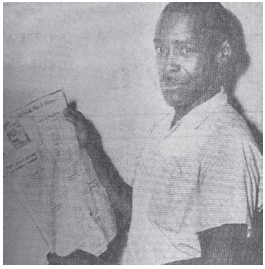


Legacy Day 2021 profiled 44 outstanding African American athletes of Kent County and four outstanding coaches. Thirteen of the honored athletes and two of the coaches are women. Twenty-six of these athletes were triple-threats and 11 were inducted into the Kent County High School Hall of Fame. Twelve were scholar-athletes meaning they maintained a grade point average of at least 3.25, and 20 went on to graduate from college. Virtually all affirmed that sports helped them succeed in school and in life after competitive sports. The profiled athletes and coaches (and the sports they played or coached) are listed below in the chronological order of their high school graduation.

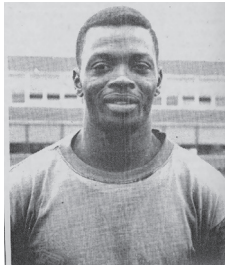
Legacy Day started in 2014 as an effort to celebrate the rich cultural heritage of African Americans in Kent County. Honorees have included African American musicians, businesses, educators, and churches. Legacy Day 2021 honored African American athletes and coaches who excelled in team sports. At least one African American starred in every sport ever played in Kent County high schools except golf. Competitive sports have long played an important role in African American life. In a society that has suppressed black aspirations, team sports provided a chance to compete, and often excel, on a relatively level playing field. Organized sports provided an opportunity to strengthen community ties while taking pride in the achievements of great players and coaches. Athletic competition helped to develop the qualities of sportsmanship, discipline, hard work, and leadership that fostered success in life after sports. For some, athletic skill provided a way out of the poverty and limited opportunities they faced in Kent County. Garnet High School and Kent County High School provided the main opportunities for African American athletes to develop and display their talents. All-black community baseball teams played in small towns and villages throughout Kent and Queen Anne's counties from the 1930s to the 1970s. That environment helped produce three stars who played professional baseball. The church league and recreation league basketball teams that flourished in the 1970s and 1980s also remain an important legacy of Kent County's African American community.



LEGACY DAY 2021 HONOREES



Harrison Bessick (1931):
football, baseball



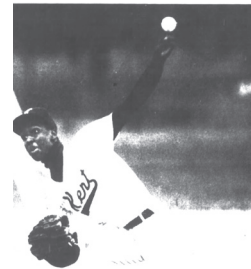
James Roland Brown
(1953): track and
field, baseball



Toni Johnson
(1980): volleyball,
basketball, softball



Darryl Deaton (1981):
basketball, football, baseball



Jason Hackett (1993):
football, basketball,
baseball



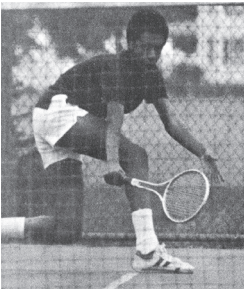
Tychelle Young (1993):
volleyball, basketball, track
and field, softball



Charles Williams
Dorsey (1956):
community baseball



Erlena Brown Linthicum
(1954): volleyball,
basketball, soccer; track
and field, softball



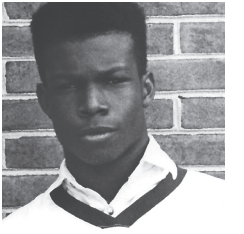
Kenneth Fenner (1982):
tennis



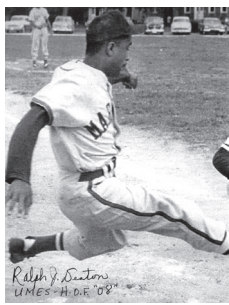
Anthony Sewell (1982):
football, track and field



Danielle Brooks
(1995): volleyball,
basketball, softball



Melvin Morton (1995):
football, basketball, track
and field



Ralph Deaton
(1954): baseball



Bates Rochester
(1956): basketball,
track and field, baseball



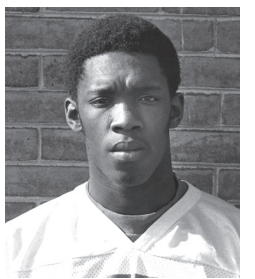
Gary Somerville, Sr.
(1983): football and
basketball



James "Buck" Kennard
(1983): football,
basketball



Tyrell White (1996): football,
wrestling, track and field



Bruce Green, Jr.
(1997): football,
basketball, baseball



Barbara Sampson
Brown (1961): track
and field



James Saunders (1963):
basketball



Lamont Wickes (1983):
football, wrestling,
baseball



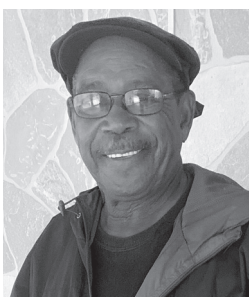
Michelle Phillips (1984):
volleyball, basketball,
softball



Gary Somerville, Jr. (2003):
basketball, football



Jasmine Lee (2013):
basketball



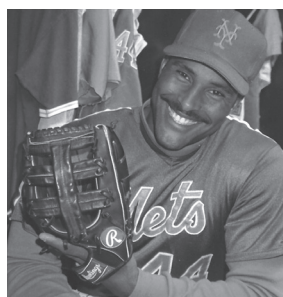
Herbert Briscoe (1955):
community baseball



Pat Hackett (1968):
community baseball



Ira "Dude" Smith
(1985): football,
basketball, baseball



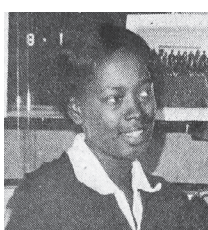
Ryan Thompson (1987):
football, basketball, baseball



Jordan Carter
(2015): soccer;
swimming, lacrosse



Gordon Wallace (2015):
football, basketball, track
and field, lacrosse



Sue Harmon
(1972): field
hockey, volleyball,
basketball, softball



Alvin Ringgold
(1972): football,
basketball, baseball



Mara Tolliver (1987):
volleyball, basketball,
softball



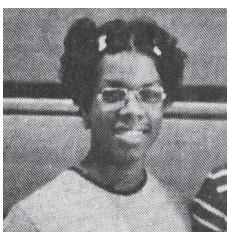
Eric Jackson (1988): football,
basketball, track and field



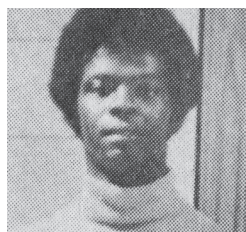
Manny Camper (2017):
football, basketball



Marcquan Green (2017):
football, basketball, track
and field



Antoinette Ringgold
(1973): field hockey,
basketball, volleyball



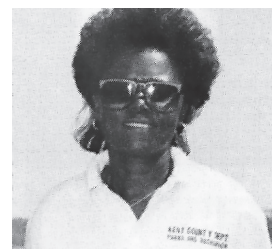
James Thompson (1973):
football, basketball,
baseball



Diona Perkins (1988):
volleyball, basketball, softball



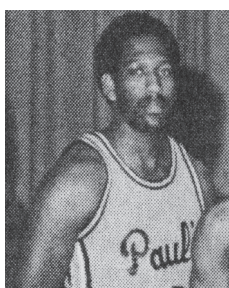
Richard "Tinker" Thomas
(1988): football, basketball,
baseball



Mary Fisher: volleyball
and softball



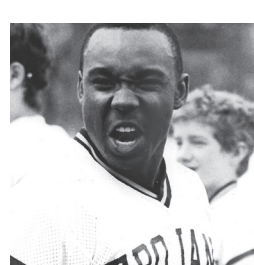
Carroll Jackson-Smith:
girls basketball



Gerald Hynson (1974):
basketball, baseball



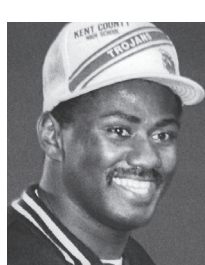
Kim Briscoe Moody (1978):
field hockey, basketball,
volleyball, softball



Marone Brown
(1991): football,
basketball, lacrosse



Shontez "Roscoe" Freeman
(1992): football, basketball,
baseball



Leonard Smith: football,
boys basketball, girls
basketball



Sobaye Scott: boys
basketball