

THE SAMUEL HARRISON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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**To find out more
information contact:**

**boardoftrustees@
samuelharrison.org**

or visit

www.samuelharrison.org

**We would love
to hear from
you!**

New Board Members and Executive Committee



On April 20, 2009, the Samuel Harrison Society held an election for officers of the Board of Trustees as well as the Executive Committee. The following members make up the new Board:

Churchill Cotton – *President*; Blayne Whitfield - *Vice President*; Gail Krumpholz – *Treasurer*;
Rev. John G. Wightman – *Clerk*; Jeannie Williams – *Program Coordinator*
Patricia Cotton; Ivan Newton; Dr. Frances Jones-Sneed; and Rosanne M. Frieri.
New members: Dr. Barbara Krauthamer and Marlena Willis.

Welcome to the SHS!

Dr. Barbara Krauthamer is a Professor of history at the University of Massachusetts – Amherst in the field of 19th century African American life and culture.

Marlena Willis is the Chairperson of the Westside Neighborhood Resource Center, Inc.; treasurer of the Women of Color Giving Circle; board member of the Women's Fund of Western Mass; member of the Pittsfield Garden Tour; holds a masters' degree in integrated studies from Cambridge College; and is employed as an outreach program director at the Gladys Brigham Community Center.

**The Samuel Harrison Society
P.O. Box 378, Pittsfield, MA 01202**

www.samuelharrison.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Churchill Cotton
President

Blayne Whitfield
Vice President

Gail Krumpholz
Treasurer

Rev. John G. Wightman
Clerk

Doris Jean Williams
Program Coordinator

Patrician Cotton

Rosanne Frieri

Ivan Newton

Dr. Frances Jones-Sneed

Dr. Barbara Krauthamer

Marlena Willis

HONORARY:

Ruth Edmonds Hill

2009 Year in Review

Thursday, February 5th, 2009

Samuel Harrison Society (SHS) members Ivan Newton, Frances Jones-Sneed, and Blayne Whitfield were guests on the PCTV show *Jerry's Place*.



February 24th, 2009

Samuel Harrison Society (SHS) member Blayne Whitfield was guest speaker of the Friends of the Berkshire Athenaeum. A discussion on Samuel Harrison's life, his service to the Pittsfield community, and to our nation during the U.S. Civil War was held in the Library auditorium.

Saturday, April 11th, 2009



The Samuel Harrison Society (SHS) sponsored their **4th Annual Samuel Harrison Birthday Celebration** honoring the 191st birthday of Rev. Samuel Harrison. The celebration was held at the Second Congregational Church. Massachusetts State Representative Byron Rushing was the guest speaker. A selection was read from Harrison's "An Appeal of a Colored Man to His

Fellow-Citizens of a Fairer Hue, in the United States," written in 1877. Special recognition was given to Linda Tyer for her dedicated service to the SHS as its first president.

Wednesday, May 20th, 2009

SHS member Blayne Whitfield gave a presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Dalton Free Public Library in the Crane Room of the Dalton Town Hall.

Saturday, July 4th, 2009

The SHS participated in the annual Pittsfield 4th of July Parade. The marchers for the SHS accompanied marchers from the Morningside & Westside Initiatives and Downtown Inc. In addition, the Samuel Harrison Society marchers had the honor of being escorted by the Massachusetts 54th Color Guard.



2009 Year in Review Continued...

Wednesday, November 11th, 2009

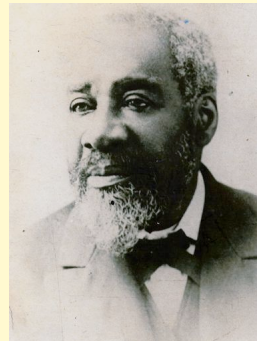
The Samuel Harrison Society participated in the Veteran's Day presentation of the documentary, *A Trumpet at the Walls of Jericho: The Untold Story of Samuel Harrison* hosted by St. John's Congregational Church, Springfield, MA. SHS member Blayne Whitfield introduced the documentary to the audience before it was shown Wednesday evening at 7pm in the church sanctuary. SHS members Churchill Cotton and Jeannie Williams were also present to take part in the festivities.

St. John's Congregational Church presented the documentary as part of their 165th Anniversary celebration. The Rev. Samuel Harrison was a former Pastor of St. John's from 1866 to 1870. The Massachusetts 54th Color Guard performed a flag presentation at the beginning of each worship service held on Sunday, November 15th, 2009.



Out of the Archives

Freedom from Slavery...



According to Samuel Harrison's autobiography, shortly after his birth in 1818 all the slaves of the Bolton family, including Samuel's family, were emancipated by the owner and given the choice to remain in the country or to immigrate to Africa. In 1816, the American Colonization Society presented a so-called "solution" to the plight of free blacks who had been denied the full rights of citizenship. There were many people who believed that the free blacks would be unable to assimilate into white society. There were also the slave owners and racists who wanted to have the blacks expelled from the country all together. But there were those such as clergy and abolitionists who wanted to assist blacks in attaining their freedom and so offered them an opportunity to return to Africa. In 1820 the first ship of settlers headed for West Africa and the colony of Liberia. [In 1842, Liberia became an independent state.] Samuel's mother Jenny, chose to stay with the Boltons and went north to work with the family in New York City. Samuel Harrison remained in contact with the Bolton family throughout his life.

SHS Says Goodbye to One of Its Beloved Members

Dr. Hugh M. Hill, also known as "Brother Blue," passed away on November 3, 2009 at his home in Cambridge, MA. He was the husband of Samuel Harrison's Great Granddaughter, Ruth Edmonds Hill and an honorary Board of Trustee Member of the SHS.



About the Samuel Harrison Society

The Samuel Harrison Society is a non-profit organization whose mission is to restore and preserve Rev. Harrison's homestead; and use it as a place to teach the values embodied by his noble life, his enduring beliefs, his extraordinary writings; and to define a chapter in the story of us as a people by providing greater insight into African-American history.



PRESERVATION WORKS!

SAMUEL HARRISON HOUSE

• THIS PROPERTY, WHICH IS LISTED IN THE STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, HAS RECEIVED A MATCHING GRANT FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS PRESERVATION PROJECTS FUND THROUGH THE MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION, SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN, CHAIRMAN.

• RESTORATION OF THE SAMUEL HARRISON HOUSE IS BEING SUPPORTED IN PART BY A SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURERS GRANT ADMINISTERED BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND BY THE PITTSFIELD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT RECEIVED FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

JAMES M. RUBERTO, MAYOR

THE SAMUEL HARRISON SOCIETY, INC.

JOHN A. JAMES, ARCHITECT
AGRICOLA CORPORATION, HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONSULTANT

Help Support the Samuel Harrison Society
Join the "Friends of Samuel Harrison" or Apply for Board Membership

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Tel: _____

E-Mail: _____

Tax-deductible contributions, payable to the Samuel Harrison Society, are welcome and may be sent to:

Samuel Harrison Society
P.O. Box 378
Pittsfield, MA 01202

Or donate online at:
www.samuelharrison.org

The Society welcomes volunteer assistance, application for membership and donations.
See our website at www.samuelharrison.org for details.