SAINT ALBANS
MUSEUM
www.stamuseum.org

October 7, 2021

City of St. Albans
PO Box 867
St. Albans, VT 05478

Dear Councilors,

On behalf of all of us at the Saint Albans Museum, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the City Council for their support with a $3,000 grant award.

Our Equity & Inclusion Committee – composed of museum staff and volunteers – has met monthly over the past year to conduct new research, interview community members, perform an audit of our exhibitions and collections, and to utilize this funding to highlight previously underrepresented narratives. We intentionally committed to an educational model that would serve both students and area residents of all ages, and are proud to announce the completion of this project. "Untold Stories/Unheard Voices" is a traveling exhibition which focuses on little known people of color and abolitionists in our local history during the era of slavery. There is also a digital version of these panels, as well as a recommended reading list. The purpose of this effort was to shift towards storytelling that represented the full experience of our community history.

Attached is an invoice for the full amount of the grant award, as well as a copy of our receipt for the purchase of the panels. SAM has contributed our time and effort as well as digital resources for this project in-kind.

Thank you for your continued strong support of our mission to preserve and share the history and heritage of our community. We look forward to the inaugural exhibition at City Hall!

Sincerely,

Janet L Bailey

Janet L. Bailey
Saint Albans Museum Co-President

Attachments:
Untold Stories/Unheard Voices Panel Images
Reading List and Resources
Invoice from SAM/Copy of Invoice from Designer & Printer
State Historical Marker Recommendations (cc to St. Albans Historic Preservation Commission)



CONTEXTUAL TRUTHS

Historical Context of Slavery and Abolitionist Movements In Vermont

Not all of the history of slavery and abolition that has been taught in Vermont is accurate. Some is merely folklore or fiction that has been passed down for so long that it is often mistaken for truth.

JULY 2, 1777

Ratified on July 2nd, 1777, Vermont's first constitution was also the first in the nation to abolish slavery. This constitution stated that no man over age 21 or woman over age 18 could be forced to serve against their will as a "servant, slave, or apprentice," whether they were "born in this country, or brought from over sea." Unfortunately, it did not say anything about children. This omission meant that children as young as eight were kept as unpaid "servants" in many Vermont households.

Many slave owners in Vermont were also unwilling to free their own slaves, and the law was not always enforced. Even when slaves were freed, they were still subject to laws that restricted free Black people's ability to find work, own property, or even reside in the state.

1791

When Vermont became part of the United States in 1791, it was subject to the Fugitive Slave Clause of the Constitution of the United States that required fugitive slaves to be returned to their owners, even if they escaped to a state with laws against slavery. Later, the state was subject to the Fugitive Slave Acts of 1793 and 1850, allowing slave owners to recover fugitive slaves who fled to Vermont. While many white Vermonters believed slavery was morally wrong, the majority did not consider former slaves to be their equals.

SAINT ALBANS MUSEUM
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The Saint Albans Museum has made a renewed commitment to preserving and reflecting on all perspectives of our regional history. In this exhibit, **Untold Stories, Unheard Voices**, we highlight some of St. Albans' key figures who are seldom given the recognition they deserve for their role in shaping northwestern Vermont. As a cultural heritage institution, we recognize the troubling practice of systemic exclusion and discrimination throughout the history of the museum field. It is our intent to actively confront this within our own walls through ongoing pursuits of self-reflection and discovery, and by expanding the existing scope of popularly recorded history.

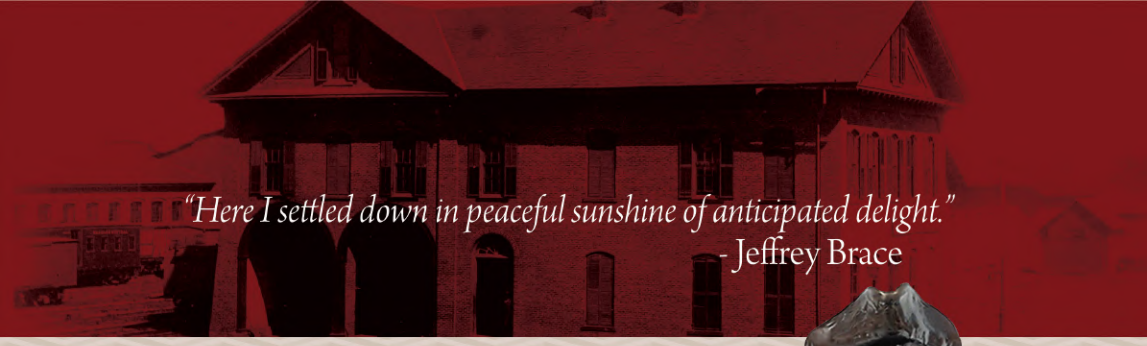
While Untold Stories focuses on Black history, other efforts are also underway at SAM to better represent Indigenous peoples, women, and the LGBTQ+ community of Franklin County as part of this ongoing initiative.



SAINT ALBANS MUSEUM

This project made possible through the City of St. Albans

SAINT ALBANS Vermont



"Here I settled down in peaceful sunshine of anticipated delight."
- Jeffrey Brace

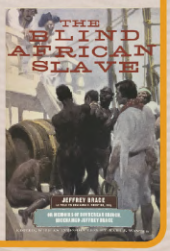
Jeffrey Brace 1742-1827

Kidnapped from West Africa as a teenager, forced to fight in the Seven Years' War, and enlisted in the American Revolutionary War, all while being sold from owner to owner before earning his freedom and settling in the St. Albans region.



Jeffrey Brace, born in West Africa in 1742 as Boyrereau Brinch, was kidnapped by English slave traders in 1758 and taken to Barbados where he was sold. He fought in the Seven Years' War as an "enslaved sailor", after which he was taken to Connecticut in 1761, where he was bought and sold by several different owners. He was eventually sold to Mary Styles in Woodbury, Connecticut, who educated him. During the American Revolution, Brace enlisted in the Revolutionary Army hoping to gain his freedom. After serving in the military, he was finally released from slavery.

Having earned his freedom and having heard "flattering accounts" of a new state, Brace moved to Vermont in 1784, where he met his wife, Susannah. This new state did not prove to be a welcoming new home, as they were often met with racist and unfriendly reactions from neighbors. Initially settling in southwestern Vermont, they moved to Poultney in 1795, where Brace became a farmer and raised a family. After leaving Poultney, and spending a brief time in Sheldon, he eventually settled on a sixty-acre farm in Georgia, VT. with his son-in-law. "Here I settled down in peaceful sunshine of anticipated delight," he wrote.



In 1810, Brace, now legally blind, along with editor Benjamin Prentiss, an anti-slavery lawyer, and Harry Whitney of St. Albans, published **The Blind African Slave, or Memories of Boyrereau Brinch, Nicknamed Jeffrey Brace.**

Jeffrey Brace died in 1827 as a well-respected abolitionist, and it is believed that many of his descendants have remained in the St. Albans area.



Leroy "Roy" Elmer Satchell 1888-1962

A man of many talents, Roy Satchell was an especially gifted drummer who became part of the Weed's Imperial Orchestra in St. Albans, "one of the first integrated bands in America."

Leroy "Roy" Elmer Satchell was born in Elizabethtown, New York in 1888 to William Satchell, a former slave, and his wife Sophronia Davis, the daughter of William A. Davis, a Civil War veteran from the famous 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Regiment.

Satchell held many occupations throughout the years. He was a boxer, a "boot black" (a person that polishes shoes and boots), a chauffeur, a laborer in a machine shop, a worker at Foundry Repair, and "the best car washer in the city."

The first record of his musical talent was when he listed himself as a musician on his registration card for the Selective Service. In 1920, Satchell was a member of the Selected Symphony Orchestra, playing "drums and traps" for the St. Albans Glee Club. Satchell was also a member of the St. Albans Brigade Band alongside Sterling Weed and his brothers. Sometime between 1928 and 1930, he joined Weed's Imperial Orchestra.

In 1930, Satchell was injured in a car accident and asked his student, Robert Williams, to fill in for him. After Satchell recovered, the two often shared the position of drummer in Weed's orchestra.



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SAINT ALBANS
Vermont



ORIGINS PERSEVERANCE BRAVERY

James McDurfee

There was little fanfare for the first Black child born in St. Albans, Vermont and, as a result, little is known...



Many of the details of James McDurfee (sometimes spelled McDurphy)'s life have been lost to time. What is known is that he was born around 1804-1805, and that he is believed to be the first recorded birth of a Black child in St. Albans. His parents were said to be "escaped slaves," but his father Wooster is listed in 1790 in Newbury, Vermont as a free Black man.

McDurfee had at least 8 children, Susan, James Jr., Betsy, Hiram, Fred, Sarah, Jane, and Fred H., and at least one wife. There is some confusion regarding his marriage(s), as all of his children's birth records name the mother as Mary, but maiden names vary between Gereau, Smith, and Brace. James relocated to Ferrisburgh, Vermont sometime in the 1850's. His death certificate is dated July 5th, 1881, and describes him as a widowed laborer who died suddenly of heart disease at the age of 77.

William Augustus Davis 1828-1903

His legacy was not that of a simple Vermont barber, but of a veteran who served his country despite the inequity and racism he faced.

William A. Davis was born in July 1828 in Castleton, Vermont. At the age of 36, Davis enlisted in the Union Army with the famous 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Regiment during the Civil War, serving as a Private in Company F for just over 2 years. He was discharged on June 8th, 1865, after an injury left him disabled.

By 1870, Davis lived at the back side of the Tremont Hotel in St. Albans with his wife Elizabeth and 6 children and worked as a barber. He served as an Underground Railroad Operative and according to his grandson, Leroy Satchell "often cared for fugitive slaves in his home." He eventually moved to Burlington, Vermont and died of septicaemia on February 9th, 1903. He is buried in Lakeview Cemetery in Burlington.

54th Massachusetts Volunteer Regiment

Despite being promised that they would be paid fairly, Black soldiers in the Union Army received just $7 a month (about $150 today), while white soldiers received $13 a month (about $280 today). During the fight for equal wages, the soldiers of the 54th went without pay for over a year.

Following the Emancipation Proclamation, Governor John A. Andrew of Massachusetts, an abolitionist, set out to recruit free Black men from all over the country into the military. The 54th and 55th Regiments were born from these efforts. Gov. Andrew set out to find officers with similar anti-slavery views to lead the regiments, and on May 28th, 1863, the new troops were deployed under Captain Robert Shaw. Although they initially performed manual labor, the men fought against the Confederate Army for the first time on July 16th, 1863, on James Island. Soon afterwards, the 54th became the first Black regiment to see major combat during the war. Despite losing their captain and over 40% of their comrades, the regiment pushed on. The 54th became known for not only fighting against the Confederacy, but also against discrimination from the U.S. government.

The roster for the 54th Massachusetts Infantry includes a number of St Albans residents. Most of their markers can be found in the Greenwood Cemetery in St Albans, VT.

Charles Prince
Served: 1864-65
21 years old

Daniel Prince
Served: 1863-65
21 years old

Isaac Prince
Served: 1863-65
18 years old

Abel Prince
Served: 1863-65
35 years old

Peter Brace
Years served and age unknown

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SAINT ALBANS Vermont



Liberation to Liberia

Lawrence Brainerd (1794-1870)

An entrepreneur and politician who advocated for abolition and helped slaves towards freedom on the Underground Railroad.

Lawrence Brainerd was a prominent businessman and entrepreneur in St. Albans and a Vermont state representative and senator. Brainerd was strongly opposed to slavery and spent much of his life advocating for abolition. His involvement with politics began in the 1830's when he served in the Vermont House of Representatives. As an anti-slavery activist, he used his political platform to raise awareness for the issue of abolitionism. He was also one of the organizers of the Republican Party, which originally acted as the nation's main anti-slavery organization.

It is now known that Brainerd also played an integral role in the Underground Railroad by hiding escaped slaves on his personal properties and using his position with the local railways and steamships on Lake Champlain to help them travel to Canada at his own expense. One documented account tells of Brainerd housing and educating Jeremiah C. Boggs, an escaped slave from Richmond, Virginia, until Boggs was forced to flee the country after being recognized by a friend of his previous master.

His involvement with the Underground Railroad helped a great many escaped slaves on their way towards freedom in Canada, while his public advocacy against slavery helped guide the nation towards full abolition.

Jeremiah C. Boggs (Born approximately 1810)

A 30-year-old enslaved man who escaped slavery after already being sold 6 times and later sought freedom in Africa.

Jeremiah C. Boggs was a 30-year-old slave who traveled to St. Albans in 1843. Having previously been sold 6 times and often treated very badly by his masters, he escaped from Richmond, Virginia and arrived in Albany, New York three weeks later. Because he had a brother in Montpelier, Boggs traveled through Vermont, rather than going directly to Canada.

Once in Vermont, Boggs was welcomed by Underground Railroad agent Lawrence Brainerd, who gave him a job and taught him to read and write. However, Boggs would soon be forced to leave his new home. In the later part of 1844, he was recognized by a St. Albans resident who knew his master. It is said that Boggs left Vermont with an agent from the American Colonization Society, headed for Liberia, West Africa.

In a letter from Aldis Brainerd (Lawrence Brainerd's son) to William Siebert on October 21st, 1895 it is written:

"I distinctly remember facts connected with Jeremiah C. Boggs from South Carolina who arrived in St Albans in 1843 and remained in my father's employment till the later part of 1844. He was a giant in strength and a most trustworthy and faithful laborer. He remained in St Albans until being recognized by one of our townsmen, A G Tarlton, who knew his master at the south, he grew apprehensive and when an agent from Liberia came to St Albans he followed him to Africa. During his stay with us he learned to read and write and after landing in Africa sent my father a grateful letter informing him of his safe arrival."



SAINT ALBANS MUSEUM

This project made possible through the City of St. Albans

SAINT ALBANS Vermont

Saint Albans Museum
Untold Stories, Unheard Voices Exhibition

As part of SAM's ongoing DEAI (Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion) efforts, we set out to highlight the often-overlooked perspectives of Black Vermonters in St. Albans and Franklin County. The resulting exhibit, *Untold Stories, Unheard Voices*, celebrates the lives and contributions of several key figures from the Revolutionary War to the 1960s through a series of informational panels. Printed versions of the panels will first be displayed at St. Albans City Hall (dates TBD) before traveling to several area schools.

Recommended Reading & Resources

<u>Workbooks</u>
The Racial Healing Handbook - Anneliese A. Singh PhD
Me and White Supremacy - Layla F. Saad

<u>Non-Fiction</u>
So You Want to Talk About Race - Ijeoma Oluo
How To Be An Antiracist - Ibram X. Kendi
Stamped from the Beginning - Ibram X. Kendi
We do this 'til we free us - Mariame Kaba
White Fragility - Robin Diangelo
The Blind African Slave - Jeffrey Brace as told to Benjamin F Prentiss, Esq. edited with an introduction by Kari J. Winter
Abolition and the Underground Railroad in Vermont - Michelle A. Sherburne
Discovering Black Vermont - Elise A Guyette
Vermont Women, Native Americans, and African Americans: Out of the Shadows of History - Cynthia D. Bittinger
Fearing the Fat Body: The Racial Origins of Fat Phobia - Sabrina Strings
Medical Apartheid - Harriet A. Washington
Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Who Helped Win the Space Race - Margot Lee Shetterly
The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks - Rebecca Skloot
What Does It Mean to Be White?: Developing White Racial Literacy – Robin Diangelo
Barracoon: The Story of the Last "Black Cargo" -- Zora Neale Hurston
Four Hundred Souls: A Community History of African America, 1619-2019 - Ibram X. Kendi
This Book is Antiracist - Tiffany Jewell

<u>Fiction</u>
Citizen - Claudia Rankine
Just Us - Claudia Rankine
Parable of the Sower - Octavia Butler (& podcast)

-- Graphic Novel Adaption

Young Adult & Children
One of the Good Ones - Maika and Maritza Moulite
The Hate U Give - Angie Thomas
Stamped - Ibram X. Kendi
The Poet X - Elizabeth Acevedo
Your Name is a Song - Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow
Intersection Allies: We Make Room For All - Chelsea Johnson, LaToya Council, Carolyn Choi
All Are Welcome - Alexandra Penfold
Little Leaders: Bold Woman in Black History -Vashti Harrison
Little Legends: Exceptional Men in Black History - Vashti Harrison
We Are Water Protectors - Lindstrom and Coade
Go Show The World: A Celebration of Indigenous Heroes - Wab Kinew
Juneteenth for Maize - Floyd Cooper
Just Mercy (YA version) Bryan Stephenson
New Kid - Jerry Craft
March (graphic novel trilogy) - John Lewis and Andrew Aydin
Run - John Lewis and Andrew Aydin
Copper Sun - Sharon Draper
Buck - MK Asante

Poems
African American Poetry: 250 Years of Struggle & Song - edited by Kevin Smith
Ghost Fishing: An Eco-justice Poetry Anthology
Nepantla: An Anthology Dedicated to Queer Poets of Color

Podcasts
Nice White Parents
The 1619 Project (& resources)
Seeing White
Still Processing
MISSING & MURDERED: FINDING CLEO

Additional Sources
(includes state/regional museums, genealogy research, and the archives & collections of the Saint Albans Museum)

Jeffrey Brace (Bayrereau Brinch)
Lawrence Brainerd / Aldis Brainerd
Jeremiah C. Boggs
James Mcdurfee

William A. Davis & Family
54th MA Vol. Regiment
Leroy Elmer Satchell
Black History of St Albans, VT Vol 1
Tremont Hotel file
Brainerd Family

The Underground Railroad Project - Vermont Historical Society
Collections of the Rokeby Museum
"Our Location" - Houghton House
Underground Railroad Project: Anti-Slavery - Vermont Humanities Council
The Underground Railroad: Vermont and the Fugitive Slave - The Dennos Museum Center
Vermont 1777: Early Steps Against Slavery (nmaahc.si.edu)
History Space: Radical Abolition in Vermont- Burlington Free Press (9/2017)
The North Country Lantern
The Underground Railroad in Vermont before 1850 - Joseph Poland House
Friends of Freedom: The Vermont Underground Railroad Survey Report: State of VT and Vermont Division for Historic Preservation
Underground Railroad - Sharon Museum
Abolition and the Underground Railroad in Vermont- Michelle A. Sherburne
Notes on Slavery in the US and the Underground Railroad in Vermont - DJ Miner

Saint Albans Museum Exhibition Committee Members
Janet Bailey
Barbara Duval
Lisa Evans
Marilyn King
Reese Kelly
Alex Lehning
Mareesa Miles
Simon Walters

SAINT ALBANS
MUSEUM
www.stamuseum.org

INVOICE

2021-10

Date: 10/1/2021

Balance Due: $3,000.00

Saint Albans Museum
PO Box 772
St. Albans VT 05478

Bill To:

City of St. Albans
PO Box 867
St. Albans, VT 05478

Item	Quantity	Rate	Amount
Exhibition Grant	1	$3,000.00	$3,000.00

Subtotal:	$3,000.00
Tax (0%):	$0.00
Total:	$3,000.00

Notes:

Thank you for your support of our community history.

Rich Hutchings Design

24 Hillside Ave, W Bridgewater, MA 02379
617-997-9372

Invoice # 101

8/26/2021

Bill To

St Albans Museum
9 Church St., St. Albans, VT 05478
Phone: 802-527-7933

For

Design and production of retractable bannerstands.

Item Description	Amount
32 hours - Graphic design, rounds of revision, print preparation	$2,000.00
4 printed and assembled retractable bannerstands	$1,000.00
Subtotal	$3,000.00
Tax Rate	
Other Costs	
Total Cost	$3,000.00

Make all checks payable to Richard Hutchings

If you have any questions concerning this invoice, use the following contact information:
Richard Hutchings, 617-997-9372
Thank you for your business!

SAINT ALBANS
MUSEUM
www.stamuseum.org

September 29, 2021

Historic Preservation Commission
City of St. Albans
PO Box 867
St. Albans, VT 05478

Dear Commission Members,

The Saint Albans Museum's Equity & Inclusion Committee – comprised of museum staff & volunteers – has met regularly over the past year to conduct new research, interview community members, perform an audit of our exhibitions and collections, and to highlight previously marginalized narratives. This initiative is part of a larger grant-funded project supported by the St. Albans City Council.

The result is "Untold Stories" - a traveling exhibition which shares historical perspectives from communities of color and indigenous peoples in Franklin County and northwestern Vermont. There is also a digital version of these panels, as well as a recommended reading list. The purpose of this effort was to intentionally focus on storytelling which represented the full experience of our community history.

As part of our work, the Committee was asked to identify potential sites for new historical markers within the City. We are writing to share the following recommendations:

1. The 54th Massachusetts Volunteers were the first African-American regiment to participate in significant combat during the Civil War. They became known for not only fighting the Confederates, but also for equal pay and against discrimination from the US government. The roster of the 54th includes a number of St. Albans residents, most of whose memorial markers can be found at Greenwood Cemetery.

2. Jeremiah C. Boggs was an enslaved man who escaped from the south and traveled to St Albans in 1843. Once in Vermont, he was employed by Lawrence Brainerd, an active member of the abolitionist movement in St Albans. After being recognized by a local resident, Boggs fled to Liberia to avoid being returned to his former life.

Please feel free to be in touch with the museum for additional information or to explore these topics and stories further.

Sincerely,

Janet Bailey
Co- President, Saint Albans Museum