



PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE

SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA



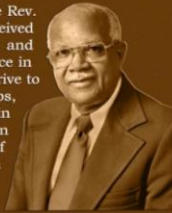




WILEY IMMANUEL LASH

BUSINESSMAN • POLITICAL ACTIVIST • HUMANITARIAN
FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN MAYOR OF SALISBURY

Wiley Immanuel Lash (1908-1995), the son of the Rev. Wiley H. and Mayzonetta "Mary" Grundy Lash, received his education at a local black parochial school and Livingstone College. He rose to political prominence in the Negro Civic League where he spearheaded a drive to register voters and worked for better facilities, jobs, and schools for black citizens. Widely respected in the community, Lash advocated peaceful integration in the 1960s. After serving 15 years on the Board of Education, he was elected to the City Council in 1979 and was appointed mayor pro tem. Lash became mayor in 1981 and upon finishing his term in 1985, he was named Salisbury's first honorary mayor.



For years Lash owned and operated a self-service grocery at 129 East Council Street. The store was an informal hub for political activism and a place where the deserving poor were never turned away.

Let us start anew, and so live that all our ties will bind us to the life that is noble for ourselves and for humanity.
— Wiley Lash

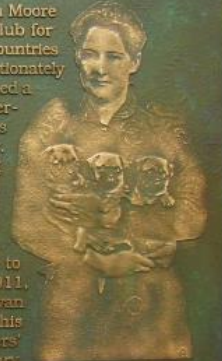


2008

SALISBURY History & Art TRAIL

THE TRAVELERS' CLUB

In 1909 twelve ladies, led by Mrs. James Preston Moore (nee Beulah Stewart), organized the Travelers' Club for the purpose of becoming well informed on foreign countries and other subjects. "Miss Beulah," as she was affectionately known, was intelligent, outspoken, and championed a cause when there was one. Interested in the betterment of their community, she and fellow Travelers spearheaded an effort to establish a public library. Engaging the help of other clubs and leading citizens, a committee was formed and Archibald



Henderson Boyden was elected chairman. He offered the use of the Henderson Law Office, located on his property, to house the library. In 1911, the forerunner of the Rowan Public Library opened on this site. Today the Travelers' Club still supports the library as one of its projects.



2008

Beulah Stewart Moore
1884-1962

JOSEPH BALLARD

Blacksmith • Politician • Philosopher
1825-1917

Joe Ballard with his ox-drawn wagon was a familiar sight in downtown Salisbury. After the Civil War and emancipation, he was active in politics and chaired the local executive committee of the Republican Party. For many years, as chief marshal, Ballard led the Memorial Day parade on horseback — a dashing figure in his tailcoat and high silk hat. He died on February 25, 1917, and was buried in Oakdale-Union Hill Cemetery with Masonic honors.

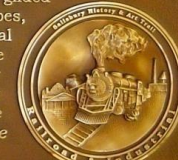


Photo: Joseph Ballard

2008



Charles Sparks chose Salisbury as the winter home for his SPARKS WORLD-FAMOUS SHOWS (1910-1916 & 1918-1919) because of its north-south and east-west railways and the nearby Spencer Shops that could refurbish the circus train. Each year, before loading over 50 red and yellow railroad cars to begin the annual tour, Sparks treated the town to two performances. Circus Day was declared a holiday for schools and businesses. Thousands lined the streets to watch the parade of gilded wagons, steam calliopes, exotic animals. Local citizens welcomed the performers and their families, and Salisbury was known as the town that loved the circus.



2008

INTEGRATION

You can play either of seats on the white keys, and you can play either of seats on the black keys, but for harmony, you must use both the black and the white.

— James Emmen Kwoyir Aggrey
of Assembly, Old Court, Africa,
and Salisbury, North Carolina



February 27, 1962. Sixteen Livingstone College students were denied seats in the white section of the Capitol Theater. They were arrested as they staged a quiet protest outside the theater. While in jail, they "sang, prayed, and preached all night." Following the students' initiative, two prominent leaders: Dr. Samuel Duncan, president of Livingstone College, and Wiley Lash, later mayor of Salisbury, sat in the white section of the movie house every day for a week. Dr. Duncan stated, "I firmly believe that if a solution can be found for the problem of the moment anywhere in the South, Salisbury is the place." Other black adults and students were allowed to occupy seats in the white section of the downtown cinema until, at the end of six weeks, the theater managers agreed to remove their racial restrictions and to integrate the theaters.



2008

