

BATSROP COUNTY AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER
& FREEDOM COLONIES MUSEUM

NEWSLETTER



We have a busy summer ahead of us! Please come join us in the festivities this June as we celebrate people in our community and the emancipation of our ancestors.

- Homecoming June 13th
- Unsung Heroes Ceremony June 14th
- March and Dance in Bastrop Juneteenth Parade June 21st
- Juneteenth Festival at Fisherman's Park June 21st



VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES



JOIN US FOR THE
HOMECOMING EVENT!



THE UNSUNG HEROES
CEREMONY

Thank you for supporting BCAACC

What have we been up to...



EMILE ELEMENTARY FIELD TRIPS

In May, we welcomed over 160 Emile Elementary School students for field trips. These students had a fantastic time positioning themselves on the map and envisioning their survival in the freedom colonies. With Juneteenth approaching, we immersed them in the traditions and history of the celebration. Each student departed with a special activity to take home, thanks to the wonderful assistance of Jennifer King, Diane Mills, Doris Williams, and BCAACC staff members Taylor Andry and NaKiva Washington.

Join us for our Homecoming event, where you can bring your family and your heritage to celebrate! With the generous sponsorship of Dr. Andrea Wallace, the BCAACC has organized the return of multiple descendants of freedom colonies, aiming to reconnect them with their roots.

We are seeking volunteers for a Homecoming Committee to assist with event management on the day of the celebration. Your support would be greatly appreciated!



HOMECOMING

Join us in celebrating the 12 Unsung Heroes of 2025. This award honors individuals who have dedicated their lives to family, community service, and the preservation of African American history and culture.

We are seeking volunteers for a Homecoming Committee to assist with event management on the day of the celebration. Your support would be greatly appreciated!

UNSUNG Heroes 2025

The Texas Freedom Colonies Project™ is a research, educational, and social justice initiative dedicated to preserving the spaces within and heritage of historic African American settlements. Our goal is to prevent cultural property erasure, destruction, and decay in partnership with descendant communities. We are researchers and volunteers who map disappearing places and co-create resilience strategies with endangered communities.



BCAACC'S HOMCOMING FAMILY REUNION NETWORKING EVENT IS
SPONSORED BY THE TEXAS FREEDOM COLONIES PROJECT

Thanks from the BCAACC Faculty



As a Bastrop native, the mission of BCAACC & Freedom Colonies Museum lives close to my heart. The preservation of our local history and culture will remain the mission of this organization. I am dedicated to maintaining transparency with the BCAACC members and the Board of Directors throughout this term. I look forward to serving our community.

-NaKiva Washington - Fitzpatrick

NaKiva Washington-Fitzpatrick

Interim Executive Director



Preserving my heritage as a local resident of Bastrop gives me great pride. I have been with the Museum for 9 months and I am grateful for this opportunity to serve my community.

-Taylor Andry - Jackson

Taylor Andry-Jackson

Development & Community
Engagement Director

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Homecoming June 13th @ 6 pm - 8 pm**

Homecoming is a family reunion-style networking event designed to connect descendants of Freedom Colonies.

- **Unsung Heroes Ceremony June 14th @ 2pm - 5 pm**

The Unsung Heroes Award honors local community members who have dedicated their lives to family, community service, and preserving African American history and culture. This year, we are hosting 12 Unsung Heroes! Join us at the ceremony, where we will also have a raffle and silent auction. Light refreshments served at 2 pm.

- **Bastrop Juneteenth Parade on June 21st @ 6 pm**

Want to join us in the Bastrop Juneteenth Parade? We are holding practice on Monday, June 2nd, at the museum. we will learn line dances with Bastrop Youth Organizer, Mr. Hakeem Felix. Further Details will be released at practice.

- **Juneteenth Festival at Fisherman's Park June 21st**

We will be hosting a table focused on awareness at Fisherman's park following the parade. Please join us in networking with the community!

See You there!



The Bastrop County African American Culture Center presents...

Homecoming

Greetings!

Homecoming is a family reunion-style networking event designed to connect descendants of Freedom Colonies.

Sponsored by the Outsider Preservation Initiative, BCAACC has created a opportunity for individuals that are disconnected from their heritage to engage in storytelling and the preservation of African American History and Culture.

Join us as we dive into the rich history of Bastrop TX over light refreshments.

See you there!



When : Friday June 13th, 2025

6-8 pm

Where : Hampton Inn and Suites

240 South Hassler Blvd, 78602

BastropCountyAfricanAmerican
CulturalMuseum.com

UNSUNG Heroes MONTHLY

JUNE EDITION

Deacon Frank Samuel Alexander Sr. was born on January 1, 1934, in Cedar Creek, Texas, to Dock Mack and Lillie Belle Slaughter Alexander. His father, a U.S. Army veteran of WWI, instilled in him a strong sense of duty and responsibility.

Frank attended Hopewell Public School, a Rosenwald School, where Professor W.A. DeShay provided him with a solid educational foundation. During his school days, Frank enjoyed playing baseball. Growing up, Frank was also known for his playful and adventurous spirit. One memorable incident took place when he threw his brother, Chester, into the creek to teach him how to swim. To everyone's surprise, Chester turned out to be an incredibly good swimmer.

Frank met his future wife, Cora Berniece Brown, while cotton-picking. They married on April 26, 1955, and spent 63 wonderful years together. They raised nine children: James Earl, Larry, Robert Lewis, Frank Samuel Jr. (deceased), Charles Terry, Tommy Wayne, Cynthia, Sandra (deceased), and Debbie.



Deacon Alexander has served as a Deacon at Hopewell Primitive Baptist Church and was a member of the Fellowship Male Choir, featured on Elmer Akin's Gospel Hour in the 1980s.

He also owned and operated Alexander's Barbeque, now run by his son, Terry.

BCAACC salutes Mr. Frank Samuel Alexander for

JOIN US AT THE UNSUNG HEROES CERMONY
JUNE 14 FOR MORE LOCAL BIOGRAPHIES

UNSUNG
Heroes
2025



**Deacon Frank
Samuel Alexander**



**Mrs. Margaret
Alexander**



Mrs. Eloise Baker



Ms. Lucy Blakely



Mother Mildred DeShay



Mrs. Eliza Fanuel



**Reverend Walter
Greene Jr.**



**Mrs. Mary
Sutton-Johnson**



Ms. Dorthea Poe



Mrs. Doris Sampson



Ms. Etta Madison



Mrs. Ellen Trigg

extended biographies available in UNsung Heroes Booklet



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OPEN HOURS

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Saturday

11:00 am - 3:00 pm

or

by appointment

512-703-0829

info@bcaacc.org

nakiva@bcaacc.org

**Please Excuse our reduced hours during the
month of June.**

See you at the scheduled programs

- **Homecoming Event**
- **Unsung Heroes Ceremony**
- **Juneteenth Parade**