



# Wethersfield Historical Society

*Preserving and promoting Wethersfield's history and culture to inspire people today and tomorrow.*

## Intro. To Black History in Wethersfield Scavenger Hunt

*Directions: At a 1998 celebration of Black pioneers in the medical field, this Wethersfield High School graduate was recognized for becoming Hartford's first Black army nurse during World War II. Search for clues in the following places in Wethersfield to decode the name of this nurse.*

### 1. Captain Thomas Newsom House

241 Broad Street

In August 1802, Doll, an enslaved woman owned by Captain Thomas Newsom, was found murdered in the road. Doll was probably killed with an ax by Capt. Newsom, but Capt. Newsom was never punished for this heinous deed. Contrary to popular belief that slavery in Northern towns, like Wethersfield, was milder than Southern slavery, Doll's story exposes that slavery was horrendously violent and brutal wherever it occurred.

Visit the house where Doll lived and worked.

- If the front of this house has 5 windows, then the first letter is N
- If the front of this house has 9 windows, then the first letter is M

### 2. Hurlbut-Dunham House

212 Main Street

Between the American Revolution and the Civil War, working aboard a ship was one of the most common jobs for free Black males in New England. When the *Neptune* set sail in 1796, at least two of its crewmen were African Americans. While Aaron Rease worked as a cabin boy, Jack Lloyd Wolsey worked as a cook. Unfortunately, Jack Lloyd Wolsey would never return to Connecticut. In January of 1799, he died aboard the *Neptune*.

Visit the home of the *Neptune*'s first mate, John Hurlbut, and read the Wethersfield Heritage Walk Sign to learn more about the voyage of the *Neptune*. Want to see the inside of this historic house? Wethersfield Historical Society offers free guided tours on Saturdays and Sundays between 1-4pm from the end of May through mid-October.<sup>1</sup>

- If the *Neptune* was built in Wethersfield, then the second letter is E
- If the *Neptune* was built in New Haven, then the second letter is A
- If the *Neptune* sold its cargo in China, then the third letter is T
- If the *Neptune* sold its cargo in India, then the third letter is R

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<sup>1</sup>Hours may vary during the Covid-19 pandemic. Check the Wethersfield Historical Society's website for updates: <https://www.wethersfieldhistory.org/>.



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## 3. Ancient Burying Ground

In 1918, Leon Roane became one of Wethersfield's World War I Black soldiers. The majority of World War I Black soldiers never saw combat, but instead performed essential services, such as transporting supplies, digging trenches, and burying dead soldiers. The most famous African American combat unit was called the Harlem Hellfighters. Impressed by the heroism of the Harlem Hellfighters, the French government awarded them the Croix de Guerre.

Find Leon Roane's gravestone. Need help finding Leon Roane's gravestone? Check out the Wethersfield Historical Society's website and search under "Leon W. Roane":

<https://www.wethersfieldhistory.org/burying-ground-digitization/>

- If Leon Roane served in the Engrs. (i.e. Corps. of Engineers), then the fourth letter is T
- If Leon Roane served in the Inf. (i.e. Infantry), then the fourth letter is C

## 4. James Lockwood House

290 Main Street

In 1784, Connecticut passed a law that gradually abolished slavery. Unfortunately, this law did not free slaves who were older than 25. Since Francois was 30 when this law was passed, he remained enslaved. Francois was forced to assist his master, Justus Reilly, in his maritime trade. While most slaves were buried in unmarked graves, Justus Reilly paid for a tombstone for Francois.

Visit the house where Francois lived.

- If this house has a semicircular window above the front door, then the fifth letter is I
- If this house has a triangular window above the front door, then the fifth letter is U

## 5. Henry Hoxie House

43 Hart Street

Born a slave in Rhode Island in the 1790's, Henry Hoxie never knew his precise age. By 1860, Henry Hoxie had gained his freedom and was the largest African American landowner in Wethersfield. At a time in U.S. history when African American men were sometimes murdered by mobs for dating white women, Henry Hoxie provided refuge to George Fish, who had an interracial relationship with Ada Evans.

Visit the home of Henry Hoxie.

- If there are stone steps from the street to the front door, then the sixth letter is E
- If there are no stone steps from the street to the front door, then the sixth letter is S



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## 6. Porter-Belden House

400 Main Street

Connecticut's 1784 gradual emancipation law placed children of slaves "in servitude" until the age of 25. As a result, Fanny Libbet was forced to work for Frederick Butler until she turned 25. After gaining her freedom, Fanny Libbet applied for financial assistance. Connecticut's Supreme Court ruled that Frederick Butler did not have to assist Fanny Libbet because she had never technically been his slave. Instead, her birth town of Hartford had to provide aid to her.

Visit the house in Wethersfield where Fanny Libbet was forced to work for over 20 years.

- If this house has one chimney, then the seventh letter is C
- If this house has two chimneys, then the seventh letter is B

## 7. Dr. Evans Daniels House

303 Garden Street

In 1970, Dr. Evans Daniels founded Community Health Services to make affordable healthcare more accessible to the poor. Known for his generosity, Dr. Evans Daniels treated patients regardless of their ability to pay him. When 7 year old Nina Martinez needed twice daily insulin injections, Dr. Evans Daniels welcomed her into his home and became her foster father. After retiring, Dr. Evans Daniels traveled to other countries to provide healthcare to the underserved.

Visit the home of Dr. Evans Daniels.

- If this house is painted red, then the eighth letter is R
- If this house is painted white, then the eighth letter is O

## 8. Elizabeth Kilebrew Cross House

48 Carson Avenue

Moving from Georgia to Wethersfield, the Kilebrew family was one of the millions of Black families that moved out of the South and into the North or the West during the Great Migration. As a student at Wethersfield High School, Elizabeth Kilebrew Cross dazzled her classmates with her spirit and her skill as a hockey player. After graduating in 1931, she worked as a domestic in West Hartford and later, performed traffic duty for Wethersfield school children.

Visit the Kilebrew family home and find the octagonal window.

- If the octagonal window is above the front door, then the ninth letter is O
- If the octagonal window is above the garage, then the ninth letter is W



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## 9. Alvin Hayes House

100 Wilmont Street

When buying a house, the Hayes family faced discrimination from real estate agents who refused to show homes in the suburbs to African Americans. To fight against this problem, Alvin and Juanita Hayes became founding members of the Equal Opportunity Council. This group was formed in 1963 to encourage Black families to move to Wethersfield and to persuade white residents to support integrated neighborhoods.

Visit the home of Alvin and Juanita Hayes.

- If this house has a one car garage, then the tenth letter is W
- If this house has a two car garage, then the tenth letter is E

## 10. Webb Elementary School

51 Willow Street

In 1954, the Supreme Court ruled in *Brown v. Board of Education* that separate schools for whites and Blacks were illegal and required that schools be integrated. Roosevelt Green was the first African American to integrate Charles Town High School in West Virginia. Racist remarks made during his high school graduation motivated Roosevelt Green to move to Connecticut. In 1969, Roosevelt Green became the first Black supervisor employed at Pratt & Whitney.

Visit Webb Elementary School, where a documentary about Wethersfield resident Roosevelt Green was aired.

- If this building is made of wood, then the eleventh letter is S
- If this building is made of brick, then the eleventh letter is N

Write the Nurse's Name Here:

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1      2      3      4      5      6                      7      8      9      10      11