



# THE TALKING DRUM



May 2013 Volume 15 No 5

The talking drum (aka dondo, adondo, atumpan, or gan gan) is a variable pitch pressure drum that has been used for centuries as a tool for communication within and between West African rural communities. By squeezing and beating the drum simultaneously the dondo can be made to mimic the syllables and intonations of human speech.

amherstburg RIVER TOWN TIMES

PROSTAFF  
EMPLOYMENT SOLUTIONS



The North American Black Historical Museum and Cultural Centre Inc. is a community-based, non-profit museum that tells the story of African-Canadians' journey and contributions, by preserving and presenting artifacts that educate and inspire.

## Wilberforce University Choir Delights



The choir relaxing after the concert

Carter. Everyone rose at the first chords of *O Canada*; the program listed simply "National Anthem." After resuming their seats, everyone was surprised by "Oh, say, can you see . . ." and were back on their feet for the *Star Spangled Banner*. People of African descent leap to their feet for the singing of "*Lift Every Voice and Sing*." The rest of the audience followed suit.

(Continued on page 2)



Sixteen enthusiastic students from Wilberforce Ohio's university presented a concert in Amherstburg's St. John the Baptist RC Church on Sunday, April 14th. The concert was part of the museum's Freedom Landing Festival, a celebration of Amherstburg's role as the chief entry point into Canada for Black freedom-seekers. More refugees from American slavery crossed here than at any other point, according to Levi Coffin, informally called the "president" of the Underground Railroad.

The concert opened with national anthems: the Canadian (prepared especially for this visit), the American, and a piece that has become known as the Negro National Anthem, "*Lift Every Voice and Sing*," in the popular arrangement by Roland



The support of the Government of Ontario, through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture & Sport

1

and the Government of Canada, through Citizenship & Immigration Canada, are acknowledged.



Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Citoyenneté et Immigration Canada

May 2013



# THE TALKING DRUM

is the newsletter of the  
North American Black Historical Museum & Cultural Centre, Inc.

277 King Street, Amherstburg, ON  
N9V 2C7 519-736-5433  
800-713-6336 toll free  
866-622-4672 fax  
nabhm@mnsi.net  
www.blackhistoricalmuseum.org

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Philip H. Alexander  
alexand@uwindsor.ca  
519-253-3000 x 5033

Nneka Allen, CFRE  
Vice-president

J. Trisha Bray  
313-458-1020

Tiffani Frederick

Paul Hertel  
Secretary  
519-736-5022

Wava Jackson  
519-736-2340

Lisa Jones  
Treasurer

Monty Logan  
President

Lawrence Millben  
313-863-5435

Dr. Barbara Hughes Smith  
313-259-0430

## STAFF

Kenn Stanton, Curator/Administrator  
Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat

Nichole Casagrande, Assistant  
Wed, Thurs, Sun

## Occasional Part-time

Deshawn Baylis  
Diane Bezaire  
Heather Deslippe  
Mark Hurst

(Continued from page 1)

However, the three stanza piece is quite long with choral variations for each verse. Ten minutes on their feet was more than some people could manage. (Some conductors will signal the audience to be seated after the first verse when this arrangement is performed.)

The rest of the concert consisted of classical, contemporary, Negro spiritual and gospel music. The audience was enthusiastic with their response and appreciation.

All in all, it was a great cultural event.



Please report errors and omissions to  
Kenn Stanton, Curator/Administrator  
519-736-5433 nabhm@mnsi.net

**Museum Membership is annual**

### 2013 Memberships

Memberships = 94  
Member names listed = 172  
Unlisted members = 0  
172  
*(In 2012 we had 230 members.)*

Privacy laws require that we have  
**your written permission** to  
publish your name in this  
membership list.

### Welcome to New or Returning Members

- Dion Carter
- Carolyn Rourke
- Christina Simmons
- Eleanor Shreve
- Michael Allen
- Carol Talbot
- Paul Haynes
- Marilyn Stanton-White
- Barbara Henderson
- George Henderson
- Margareuite Johnston
- Henry Wright
- Anthony Bristow
- Peggy Bristow

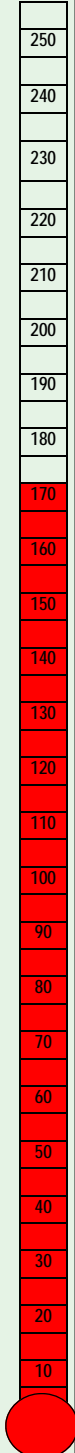
### Life Memberships

- Bray, Charlie
- Bray, J. Trisha
- Browning-Miller, Janisse
- Harding-Davis, Elise
- Larkin, Lois
- Miller, Wreford
- Steele, Freida
- Simpson, Betty

### 2013 Memberships

#### Corporate Memberships

- Meloche's No Frills
- Thrasher Sales & Leasing Ltd
- University of Windsor



*(Continued on page 4)*

# Membership Application Form

## Membership Fees:

### Number

\_\_\_\_\_ Adult .....\$35.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Senior .....30.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Student.....20.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Family (5) ..... 75.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

### Family Member Names

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

Non-profit organization..... 75.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Business .....85.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Donation:..... \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed..... \_\_\_\_\_

Registered charity number 11905 8923 RR0001

Please make your cheque payable to: **N.A.B.H.M.**

**Thank you for your support.**

I would like to become a 2013 member of the North American Black Historical Museum.

I wish to renew my museum membership for 2013.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Prov/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (evening) \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive information from the museum by email.

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

You may publish my name in a list of Members of the Museum.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



The support of the Government of Ontario,  
through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture &  
Sport

and the Government of Canada,  
through Citizenship & Immigration Canada,  
are acknowledged.



Citizenship and  
Immigration Canada

Citoyenneté et  
Immigration Canada



(Continued from page 3)

Non-profit Memberships

Allen, Michael S  
Allen, Pamela  
Anderson, Sharon J  
Barker, Sheila  
Baylis, William  
Bishop, Elsie  
Blackman Smith, Rosita

Family Memberships

Browning-Johnson, Ivy  
Banks Family: Burch, Janet  
James, Olivia Buttery, Jane  
DiPasquale Family: Caldwell, Drew  
Bart, Carmen Capacchione, Craig  
Luisa Kempster, Chase, Terryll  
Sandra Barzotto Clark, Janet Finlay  
Ellsworth Family: Clark, Rev. Dr. John  
Dr. Kevin, Carol Conway, Pat  
Kaitlyn, Kevin Jr, Croucher, Debi  
Ryan Davis, Irene Moore  
Gardner Family: Davis, Rodney  
Marion Hayden Davis, Shelley  
Gbadamosi Family: Dawkins, Julean  
Babatunde, Mo- Dennis, Darwin  
jisola, Olu- Dennis, Frances  
wadamilola, Dwellle, John  
Ayodele, Omo- Dwellle, Lorraine  
tayo Grant, Gail  
Hurst Family: Gray, Leon  
Maynard, Marva, Gray, Leroy  
Monique Gray, Locketa  
Jackson Family: Harris, Donald  
Amy, Harris, Janice  
Jacobs Family: Haynes, Paul  
Kenneth B., Henderson, Barbara  
Kenneth J., Henderson, George  
Charlotte-Mae Hertel, Paul  
Jones Family: Hertel, Ute  
Kevin, Lisa, Hidi, Frank  
Curtis, Kyle Hidi, Gloria  
Logan Family: Houston, Cecil  
Monty, Kyle, Hunter, Theresa  
Brett, Gina Terry, Hurst, Celestina  
Madison, Terry Hurst, Rose  
Montague Family: Jackson, Wava  
Spurgeon, Ellen, Jacques, Patricia  
J. Christopher, Johnson, Dorothy  
Lori, & Kenneth Johnson, Fred  
Murty Family: Johnson, Glenn  
Ayank, Marium Johnson, Giovanna  
Tolson-Murty, Johnston, Margareuite  
Makai, Naomi, Kamen, Mary  
Martha Elliot- Karle, Thomas J  
Tolson Keelan, Gerald  
Smith Family: Kennedy, Warren  
John W, Betty, Larkin, Dileana  
Karla Smith- Lauby, Timothy  
Cohen, Jacob, William Logan, Florence  
Taylor Family: Logan, Linda  
Ronald, Logan, Wayne  
Wigle Family: MacDonald, Hazel  
Bill, Monica, Marano, Carla  
Nicholas, Kelly Marentette, Donna  
Willoughby Family: McCorkle, Elaine  
Janet, Christopher, Justin McCorkle, Keith  
McLaughlin, Patricia  
McVean, John  
Meyler, Peter  
Morris, Cleata  
Pepper, Joan  
Porter, Barbara  
Reid, Colleen

Individual Memberships

Alexander, David  
Alexander, Philip H  
Alexander, Ron  
Allen, Daniel

(Continued on page 5)

# The Storming of Fort Wagner Charge of the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Colored Regiment July 18, 1863

By Nichole Casagrande

Battles raging, soldiers falling left and right, righteous cries, smoke rolling like fog across the fields. These are all images that come to mind when thinking about the American Civil War. The storming of Fort Wagner includes all of these images in one battle.

Blacks previously had limited involvement in the Civil War because of a 1792 law that prevented them from serving in the militia, and prejudice that claimed they were inferior persons. But a change in fortune for the North led to fewer white men enlisting out of fear of meeting a horrible end. Because of this, Congress felt the need to pass the Confiscation Act in 1862. It made all slaves, who had rebel masters, free. A Militia Act soon followed which enabled Blacks to be enlisted in the military for any service.

These changes led to the formation of Black regiments. One of these was the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Colored Regiment of volunteer soldiers. It was the first Black infantry established in the free states. However, these soldiers were only paid \$10 per

month, instead of the \$13.00 that the white troops were given. Equal pay was not granted until 1864.

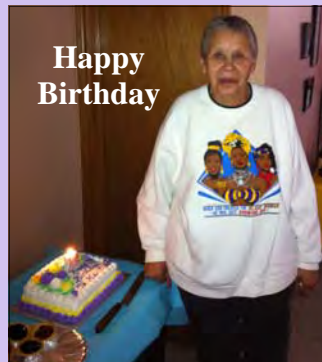
Although the 54<sup>th</sup> was a colored regiment, the officers were not. The regiment's colonel was Robert Shaw, the son of abolitionists and the Union Commander was Brigadier General Quincy A. Gillmore, an individual with ambitious military goals. Gillmore thought it was best to take over Morrison Island in order to reach his goal of Charleston, South Carolina. However, fort Wagner was standing clear in his path.

Fort Wagner was a formidable structure that used the desert-like environment around it. It was fully enclosed, enabling it to hold up to 1000 men with a bombproof ceiling covered in foot-upon-foot of sand. Its main defences were its 14 cannons, a water-filled moat, and razor-like stakes surrounding its perimeter. On the outside it blended in with the surrounding area and appeared to be a series of sand-topped hill formations.

In the early morning of July 18, 1863 hundreds of troops from various regiments opened fire on Fort Wagner.

The first round of attack did not feature any cannon power backup, but the second certainly did. The overwhelming power of advancing troops forced the Confederates of Fort Wagner to seek shelter under their sand fortress. Fortunately, not long

(Continued on page 5)



**A donation  
has been made  
to honour  
the birthday of  
Glendora  
Watkins**

You can honour your loved ones with a donation to the museum.



(Continued from page 4)

Individual Memberships

Riley, Steve  
Robinson, Thomas  
Rutherford, Betty  
Scott, Bruce  
Scott, Donna  
Shreve, Eleanor  
Shreve, James  
Shreve-Williams, Frances  
Simmons, Christina  
Simpson, Allen  
Sinclair, Winifred  
Smedick, Lois  
Smith, Barbara Hughes  
Smith Cohen, Karla  
Stanton-White, Marilyn  
Stanwick, Blake  
Stanwick, Sally  
Sutherland, Norma  
Sutton, Marilyn  
Talbot, Carol  
Thomas, Mable D  
Thompson, Harlis  
Underwood, Rebecca  
Watkins, Glendora  
Watters, Michael  
White, Gary  
White, Rosa  
Wright, Henry  
Young, Martha

Alexander, Delbert  
Allen, Nancy  
Armstrong, Robert  
Bloodworth, Christopher  
Brantley, Aury P.  
Brennan, Kathryn  
Brennan, Stephen  
Brown, Carol  
Browning, Barbara  
Browning-Morgan, Shantelle  
Carter, Dion  
Carter, Russell  
Dicker, Shirley  
Dixon, Carl  
Gregory, Karl  
Guest, Lynn  
Hall-Stoner, Fannie  
Harold, Dolores  
Helm, Edith  
Holland, Tony  
Hurst, Wayne  
Johnson, Sheila  
Jung, Gloria  
Kamen, Mary  
Kekaula, Alan  
King, Dr. Norman  
Lauby, Tim  
LeBlanc, Carolyn  
Libby, Carol  
Marshall, Judge Lauren E

McCurdy, Howard  
Mohamed, Mohamed  
Mooney, Ruth  
Morgan, James  
Mulder, Norman  
Neely, Patricia  
McIntyre, Leonard  
O'Hara, Janice  
Rawlins, Judge Michelle  
Richardson, Rodney  
Richardson, Rose Anne  
Robinson-Dungy, Carolyn  
Roffel, Crystal  
Roth, Lou  
Seecharan, Bonita  
Simpson, Gladys  
Simpson, Robert  
Smith, Betty  
Strickland, Shirley  
Surgent, Liz  
Tucker, Bruce  
Wayner, Jacqueline  
Westmoreland-Traore, Juanita  
White, Gloria

**2012**

**Memberships**

Corporate Memberships

Dollarsworth Solutions Ltd.  
North Star Tours  
Orphan Boy Films

Non-profit Memberships

AIDS Committee of Windsor  
Hour-A-Day Study Club

Family Memberships

Alexander Family:  
Patty, Tricia Alexander-Brooks, Zachary Alexander-Brooks  
Alexander Family:  
Philip, Tina, Matthew, Lauren  
Allen Family:  
Carmen, Adam, Unique, Angel, Believe  
McGlaun Family:  
Norvell, Paula, Norvell Tyrell  
Morgan Family: Dr. Earle

(Continued from page 4)

after the fighting began, the Union troops were able to receive additional help from the nearby ships that were brought closer to Morrison Island due to the rise in the tide. This increased the power of attackers dramatically.

Shortly before the sun went down and visibility was lost, Colonel Shaw assembled the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts troops on the front line of the Union Forces and prepared them for the battle they would soon face.

Then the attack was ordered by the raising of a single sword and the 624 men charged down the beach with force, determination, and speed. What ensued was a bloody battle that left many men on both sides no choice but to retreat, including the 54<sup>th</sup> infantry.

After the battle there were many losses: soldiers lay dead, Fort Wagner remained in Confederate hands, and prejudice against the colored regiment was still obvious. One Confederate commented that he and other soldiers were, "maddened and infuriated at the sight of Negro troops." The 54<sup>th</sup> suffered the heaviest casualties with a total of 281 men wounded or killed, including their two captains. The lesson learned was that Fort Wagner could not be taken with such direct tactics. Two months later it was finally taken by the Union Forces. The effort that the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Colored Regiment displayed will always play an important part in this historic battle of the American Civil War.

But let us also acknowledge those from Canada's own Chatham-

Kent region who formed part of the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts regiment and played a part in the Battle at Fort Wagner. A painter named Silas Garrison of Chatham had enlisted in the 54<sup>th</sup> in 1863 while only 20 years old. He was later killed during the battle of Fort Wagner along with the other colored regiment casualties. Another local soldier killed at Fort Wagner was John Weeks. He was a cook from Chatham who joined the regiment in 1863 at the age of 19. Frank Willis was an older soldier from Chatham who also enlisted in the infantry the

*"Words cannot depict the thunder, the smoke, the lifted sand and the general havoc; the whole island smoked like a furnace and trembled as from an earthquake!"*

*Brigadier General William B. Taliaferro, commander of the Confederate Garrison.*

same year as the Fort Wagner Battle. He was quickly promoted to Full Corporal but died during the Wagner battle. A final notable soldier was Benjamin Grinnidge of Chatham. He enlisted in 1863 and managed to survive the initial battle at Fort Wagner. However, he succumbed to his injuries from that battle only a few months later. It is always important to remember those who were a part of such historic eras.

Sources:

Brian C. Pohanka: *"Fort Wagner and the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry: July 18, 1863."* Civil War Trust. <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/batterywagner/batterywagner-history-articles/fortwagnerpohanka.html>

William C. Kashatus. *"America's Civil War: 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Regiment."* Historynet.com. <http://www.historynet.com/americas-civil-war-54th-massachusetts-regiment.htm>

Historical notes on Chatham-Kent soldiers provided by Irene Moore Davis.

A framed print of "Storming Fort

(Continued on page 6)



The support of the Government of Ontario, through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture & Sport

and the Government of Canada, through Citizenship & Immigration Canada, are acknowledged.



Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Citoyenneté et Immigration Canada



(Continued from page 5)

Wagner,” produced by *Kurz & Allison*, has been donated to the museum by Kenneth Dobson of Dobson Brothers Lawn and Tree Service, Harrow, Ontario. The print is a copy of those issued in 1890 as part of a Civil War series.

*Kurz & Allison* was a Chicago-based design and printmaking firm founded in 1885 and was well-known for its prints of historical events, particularly of the Civil War.

The print depicts the 54th Massachusetts Regiment, composed of African American soldiers, leading the charge upon Fort Wagner in Charleston Harbour, South Carolina. One African American soldier carries a United States flag. The print also lists the names of Union officers involved in the battle, including Generals Quincy Adams Gillmore, George Crockett Strong, and Truman A. Seymour, and Colonels Robert Gould Shaw, John Lyman Chatfield, and Haldimand S. Putnam. It states the number of Union troops lost as 1200, and that 300 Confederate soldiers and 16 officers led by Confederate General Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard were killed in the battle.

Quincy Adams Gillmore was a Union General who was noted for his success in testing modern artillery at Fort Pulaski in Georgia.

Truman A. Seymour was a Union General who fought at Fort Wagner.

George Crockett Strong was a Union general originally from Vermont who died of tetanus as a result of wounds received at Fort Wagner.

Colonel John Lyman Chatfield died as a result of gangrene from wounds suffered at Fort Wagner. Colonel Haldimand S. Putnam died during the battle.

Colonel Robert Gould Shaw commanded the famous 54th Massachusetts Colored Infantry and also died in battle at Fort Wagner.

Source: The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, online



## First Snow!

Imagine that you are ten years old. You have lived all your life in Colombia. The equator passes through your country. The warmest average max/high temperature is 21 °C (70 °F) in January to March. The coldest, 4 °C (39 °F).

You are on a two week trip to Canada in winter. Your dream is to experience snow. On your way to the North American Black Historical Museum, your bus is caught in a sudden snow squall. Hooray! When you arrive at the museum, you have a chance to play in the snow.

It's great packing for snowballs. The bus driver shows you how to roll a snowball to make a snowman.



## In Remembrance

**Yoworski, John**

John was a sales rep for both Canon - Doidge Business machines and Kelcom for many years, and a valued member of this museum

A donation to the  
**Mac Simpson Award Fund**  
has been made in memory of  
**Elmer and Frances Carter.**

We thank the donor for helping the museum provide financial assistance to a deserving student.



# Ribs & Ragtime 2012 Album



***Don't miss out in 2013. Tickets are going fast.***



The support of the Government of Ontario,  
through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture &  
Sport

7

and the Government of Canada,  
through Citizenship & Immigration Canada,  
are acknowledged.



Citizenship and  
Immigration Canada

Citoyenneté et  
Immigration Canada

May 2013



### Charity Bingo Night

8 pm @ Breakaway Gaming Centre  
Crawford at Wyandotte

**Vote for NABHM**

If you're a Bingo player, please go to Charity Night and vote for the museum.



**Fundraising Committee Meeting**  
5:30 pm @ Hilton Park Terrace



**Board of Directors**  
10 am  
**Regular meeting**  
@ museum, Windsor



**Programming Committee**  
12:30 pm  
**Regular meeting**  
@ museum, Windsor

**Bingo Hosting**  
Paradise Bingo  
Dougall Ave, Windsor  
2:45 pm - 4:45 pm



**ECBHRS**  
7 pm  
@ United Way  
Speaker: Kenn Stanton -  
**Researching the Talbots:**  
Surprises, Windfalls, Mysteries,  
Skeletons, Irony

## May Community Events

A listing in the calendar is not an endorsement by the museum.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	June 1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

**John Brown Festival**  
Wish Centre, Chatham  
See page 7

**Bingo Hosting**  
Paradise Bingo  
Dougall Ave, Windsor  
12:45 pm - 2:45 pm



**Newark Boys Chorus School** is visiting the museum from New Jersey and will present a

**15 Minute Mini-Concert**  
at the museum, in the Nazrey AME Church  
National Historic Site of Canada

**Sunday, June 2, 2013**  
10:00 am

Non-member admission by donation



The support of the Government of Ontario,  
through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture &  
Sport

and the Government of Canada,  
through Citizenship & Immigration Canada,  
are acknowledged.



Citizenship and  
Immigration Canada

Citoyenneté et  
Immigration Canada