

# Black Charlotte From A Tour Guide's Perspective

By Juan D. "Jay" Whipple

Part I (Book 1 of 2) of II

## **Past Series Editions:**

### **Charlotte From A Tour Guide's Perspective**

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## DEDICATION

Happy 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Mom!

This book is dedicated to **International Civil Rights Leaders Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela** (July 18, 1918 - December 5, 2013) *a.k.a.* (Also Known As) **Madiba** (Symbol of respect and affection), **Charlotte Civil Rights leader Dr.** (Doctor, Medicine) **Reginald Armistice Hawkins** (1923 - 2007); former **Mecklenburg County Commissioners Robert L. Walton** (1945 - 1994) and **Valerie Croslin Woodard** (1952 - 2008), and our **Father** who art in heaven who blessed me with the ability to read and write; and to all of our very **Smart, Courteous, and Well-Mannered Tour Guests** from every **State** in the **U.S.** (United States) and over **40 foreign countries** that have enjoyed our tours since **1993** @ [www.queencitytours.com](http://www.queencitytours.com).



Jones-Haney Reunion

Also check out **Charlotte From A Tour  
Guide's Perspective** and **More Charlotte From A  
Tour Guide's Perspective @**  
[http://www.queencitytours.com/Catalog-  
Products.DownloadTour.htm#book](http://www.queencitytours.com/Catalog-Products.DownloadTour.htm#book)

## **Testimonials...**

**Sunday 09/03/2017**

Morning Jay,

Just want to thank you again for helping to make my mother's little outing w/her friends special. She is still talking about it! And so are her friends.

I plan to remember you!

**Berlinda Tolbert**

(Jenny Willis from The Jefferson's)

**87<sup>th</sup> Birthday Group**

*On Monday, July 10, 2017 7:06 PM,  
Yolanda McMahon <.....@gmail.com> wrote:*

*We really enjoyed the tour...!*

***Hamilton Family Reunion 2017***

*Just wanted to let you know that my family members really enjoyed the Tour on Saturday, July 6th. You [Jay] did a super job...*

*Thanks and I would highly recommend Queen City tours to any and every one.*

**Leon Givens**

**Gilmore Family Reunion**

## PREFACE

Not your average, dull, humdrum book of history written by a professor (no pun intended). There are *8 million tales* in the naked city; this newest update (December 2013) is one of the best and most accurate! This Book is a compilation of my more than **20 years** of experience as a tour developer, director, and guide in **Charlotte, North Carolina**. It contains personal accounts of **Queen City** history by me and many other guests that were born and raised here. In addition, I have included humorous one-liners learned from the more than **100,000 guests** that I have personally "*edutained*" over the years. These guests hail from every **State** in the U.S. (United States) and over *40 different foreign countries*. I also include unsuspected bloopers from my many tours that will surely bring a smile and/or laugh to your face. Finally, I incorporate **Charlotte, North Carolina**, and world history from my educational background which includes the successful completion of college courses in **North Carolina History, World History, American Literature, and African American Studies**. So sit back, relax, and be "*edutained*" propagandist free!

## **Disclaimer:**

The intent of this book is to convey the knowledge in which I have personally attained from college courses, personal research, the credible news media, the Internet, and personal accounts from multiple tour guests from all walks of life dating back to **1992**. As such, no attempt has been intentionally made to promote any person, place, or thing mentioned between this book's covers; nor has any conscience effort been made to defame any person, place, or thing mentioned.

**Note:** Any reference to **African-Americans** as **Negroes** or **Colored** during this tour/journey is strictly to maintain the historical significance of terms used during that time period and is in no way meant to shame or degrade **African- Americans**.

## PROLOGUE

Before we begin our historic journey, let me fill you in on a little bit of **Charlotte** history. **Charlotte** became the largest city in the two **Carolinas'** in the **1930's** when it overtook **Charleston, South Carolina** as a major distribution (railroad), textile, and banking center. **Charlotte** was incorporated on **Thursday November 7, 1768** after the **General Assembly of North Carolina** entertained then **Royal Governor William Tryon** (1765 – 1771) and coerced him into granting the village of **Mecklenburg** a charter. As a tribute to the governor, the assembly renamed one of **Charlotte's** major streets after him -- **Tryon Street**. **The General Assembly** went a step further and decided to flatter **King George III** (of England) by naming this new county seat in honor of his young **German-born** wife -- **Charlotte**. This **Book** reads exactly how our **Charlotte City Tour™** has been presented since **1995** -- with updates -- beginning with the city's namesake **Queen Charlotte**. This tour/journey features the good, the bad, and the surprising nuggets of **Charlotte, North Carolina**, and **American** history.

Like our **Facebook page** (*source-01: <https://www.facebook.com/BlackAfricanAmericanHeritageToursWorldwide/>*) for updates after publication!



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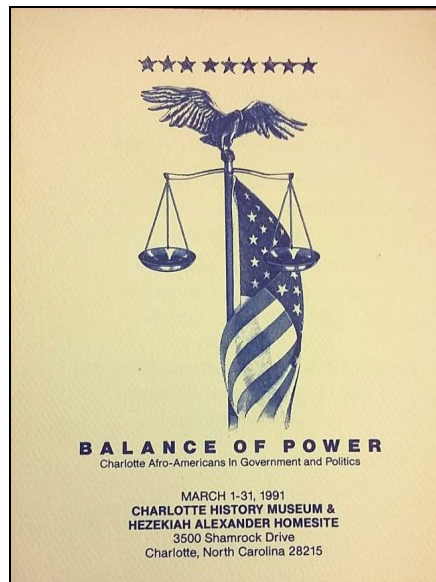
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## Chapter I

### *BEGIN TOUR/JOURNEY*

**Charlotte** became the largest city in the two **Carolinas'** in the **1930's** when it overtook **Charleston South Carolina** as a major distribution textile and banking center. **Charlotte** was incorporated in **1768** after the **North Carolina General Assembly** entertained then **Royal Governor William Tryon** and coerced him into granting the village of **Mecklenburg** a charter. As a tribute to the governor, the assembly renamed one of **Charlotte's** major streets in his honor -- **Tryon Street** in

**Uptown/Downtown/Center City. The General Assembly** then went a step further, and in an effort to flatter **King George III** (of England), named this new county seat in honor of his young **German-born** wife -- **Charlotte**.





It was **March 1991** when I attended an exhibit called "*Balance of Power*" at the old **Charlotte Museum of History** (replaced by the current facility in **1999**; *source-02: <http://charlottemuseum.org/about/>*) -- off **Shamrock Road** -- with my then business partner that I was introduced to some of **Charlotte's rich Black history**. I was so impressed that I asked my partner to jot down some notes (that I still have today) on the people and places covered. I then began making trips to the **Carolina Room** at the main library in **Uptown/Downtown-Center City** for further research and **130 hours later** I had enough information to develop my first script (which I still have today) for the **Queen City's first Black/African-American Heritage Tour™** (*source-03: <http://www.queencitytours.com/Black-African-American%20Heritage%20Tour-History.htm>*). I copyrighted it in **October of 1993** and it is *21 pages long* and printed on the old dot matrix-type paper. Since then it has been revised many times and today that script has been converted to a **Microsoft Word** format and is *16 pages long*. I used that script to develop my third book on **Charlotte's history**. This book contains actual events that I have experienced as a tour guide; either personally or through the eyes of others that I have come in contact with since then.

#### **CEDAR GROVE CEMETERY**



This cemetery was out of sight and thus out of mind (source-98:

<http://www.queencitytours.com/pdf/ebook/black-charlotte/observer-cedar-grove-1985.pdf>) until a very courageous lady decided to do something about it on **Tuesday February 7, 2006** when **Ms. (Miss) Donna Dawson** -- accompanied by her son **Tyler** -- brought the matter before the **Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners**. Well; add a little politicking to the equation and you now have a big mess involving finger pointing and certain folk not willing to accept the blame and associated shame of not honoring the dead; some of who were military veterans. Then the rigmarole of *“Is Mecklenburg County really responsible for its maintenance?”*, *“Does anyone have that in writing, per local statues?”*, *“Where can we find rakes?”*, and *“Who is going to pay for this?”* began.

In steps the local media and folks began to volunteer -- rather than sit around and wait for the politics to play out -- to help clean up years and years of neglect. I contributed by linking this cause to our **8<sup>th</sup> Annual QCT Charlotte Pilgrimage Tour<sup>sm</sup>** (*source-19: <http://charlottepilgrimage.com/>*) then took a stroll through before the clean-up and was quite intrigued at some of the headstones dating back to the late **1880's** and to find evidence of burials by the old **Alexander Funeral Home** (covered later on our tour/journey). Some folks had speculated that perhaps **Slaves** were buried here but that is highly unlikely since the cemetery was opened in circa **1880, 15 years** after the abolishment of **Slavery** via our **13<sup>th</sup> Amendment**; besides that, a **Bona Fide Slave cemetery** will typically not have headstones as **Slaves** were considered property and thus property cannot own property. There was evidence that folks were using it as a cut through from the **University Park Creative Arts School** to the adjacent neighborhood, and as a place to hang out and drink and do the nasty. What kind of person would want to just hang out in a sacred place for the dead? Unfortunately, this place has once again fallen into neglect and has reverted to it's out of sight out of mind status. Hopefully someone reading this passage will organize another clean up and perhaps install a fence around the property to discourage creepy folks from hanging out in the final resting place of the dead.



Today, some folks are saying that the property is owned by the **Cedar Grove Cemetery Association**; according to the **Mecklenburg County Tax Database** (source-99: <https://perry1644.wordpress.com/>; see “Cedar Grove”). I checked and that organization does not exist here (at least on the Internet). I also checked the tax data base and no record exists for the property at **2498 Hildebrand Street** which I obtained via **Google Maps**. The cemetery is listed as abandoned at <https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=cr&CRid=2325160>. It is for this reason that I fought certain family members to have my father buried in a national cemetery in **Milledgeville, Georgia** (source-100: <https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=qr&GSln=whipple&GSfn=curtis&GSbyrel=all&GSdyrel=all&GSob=n&GRid=32729990&df=all&>), as opposed to a private one in his hometown of **Dublin, Georgia**.

Well folks, we have come to the end of **part I** [one] of this tour/journey of **Charlotte's** rich **Black culture** and history. I hope that you enjoyed reading this book as much as I have had in writing it; and of course developing and conducting tours since **1992**. In the meantime, check out my **Charlotte Facts, Historic Dates, and General Notes** below for additional historic self-indulgence, as well as my previous titles at <http://www.queencitytours.com/Catalog-Products.DownloadTour.htm#book>. Like my **Facebook page** (source: <https://www.facebook.com/jaydeeuu>) for a sneak preview of **part II** [two].

*And Like the folks in Atlanta would say; "I in-Georgia!"*

## **APPENDIX**

### **CHARLOTTE/MECKLENBURG COUNTY BLACK FACTS:**

**Mecklenburg County** had nearly **850** (847) houses of worship in **2000**. Largest memberships were:

1. **Baptist:** 117,924 members
2. **Catholic:** 78,962 members

3. **Non-Denominational:** 71,033 members
4. **Methodist:** 58,637 members
5. **Presbyterian:** 47,796 members
6. **Episcopal:** 12,572 members
7. **Lutheran:** 11,975 members
8. **African Methodist Episcopal Zion:** 9,668 members
9. **African Methodist Episcopal:** 1,838 members
10. **Christian Methodist Episcopal:** 1,552 members

As of **2010** (sources: <http://www.city-data.com/county/religion/Mecklenburg-County-NC.htm>, [http://www.thearda.com/rcms2010/r/c/37/rcms2010\\_371\\_19\\_county\\_name\\_2010.asp](http://www.thearda.com/rcms2010/r/c/37/rcms2010_371_19_county_name_2010.asp))

## **HISTORIC DATES:**

**1764** -- Slavery was introduced in Mecklenburg County (slave population was 40% or 6,800 by 1860)

**1768** -- Charlotte was incorporated

**1847** -- Reverend Daniel Jackson Sanders, D.D., hired as first Colored (today Black/African-American) president of Johnson C. Smith University

**1867** -- Black registered voters outnumbered white voters 726 to 566 (most Blacks voted Republican at that time out of allegiance to President Abraham Lincoln),

Freedman's College of North Carolina (today Johnson C. Smith University) founded

**1868** -- Blacks voted for the first time in Charlotte

**1868 - 1900** -- Thirteen Black men serve on Charlotte's Board of Alderman (today City Council)

**1869** -- Four Wards setup as voting districts (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> predominately Black until early 2000's)

**1870 -- 1920** Was considered the golden age for Charlotte's Black business professionals because of the tremendous amount of community support

**1880** -- Black population in Charlotte was 47% (today it hovers between 30-33%)

**1882** -- Charlotte Messenger becomes Charlotte's first secular Black newspaper

**1885** -- First graded school for Colored (today Black/African-American) children opens as the Myers Street School, Dr. George E. Davis becomes first Black (now African-American) professor at J.C.S.U.

**1893** -- 93.4% of Charlotte Blacks were employed in domestic and personal service jobs

**1897** -- The State legislature drafted an amendment which required every voter to be able to read and write any section of the constitution. In that same year, 47.6% of all Charlotte Blacks were illiterate

**1898** -- The Charlotte Light Infantry, led by Colonel C.S.L.A. Taylor fought in the Spanish-American War

**1900** -- Jim Crowe laws were not passed in North Carolina until around the turn of the century

**1905** -- Brevard Street Library for Negroes opens in 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward

**1909** – Lincoln Theater for Colored (now Black/African-Americans) opens in 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward (2<sup>nd</sup> and Brevard Streets)

**1915** -- Colored Charlotte published -- was Charlotte's first Black business & professional directory; featured 72 barbers, 24 grocery stores, 2 lawyers, 12 doctors, 28 tailors, 31 restaurants, and other establishments -- Edited by Mr. Charles H. Watson (of the AME. Zion Publishing House)

**1923** -- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward opens as the first Colored (today Black/African-America) high school in Charlotte. Classes ended at the 10<sup>th</sup> grade level.

**1938** -- First Black Lawyer in Charlotte -- J. T. Sanders

**1941** -- Charlotte hired first Black Police Officers Mr. A.M. Houston and Mr. James Ross

**1947** -- Second Ward Extension School founded; later **Carver College** merged with CPCC (Central Piedmont Community College, 1949). Charlotte hires first full status Black police officers

**1957** -- Dorothy Counts-Scoggins integrated Harding High School, 3 other students as well (first time in Charlotte history)

**1960** -- Charles Sifford became the first Black golfer to play on the PGA Tour. He then played on the PGA Senior Tour. Dr. Reginald Hawkins founded the Mecklenburg Organization of Political Affairs and later helped draft the Voting Rights Act for the United States.



**Mid 1960's** -- Hyde Park becomes first all-Black neighborhood (with restrictions) developed by Blacks. Dr. C.W. Williams and Dr. Walter Washington

**1964** -- Henry Harvey Boyd designed the official Mecklenburg County seal

**1965** -- Fred Alexander becomes first Black/African-American elected to modern day Charlotte City Council

**1968** -- Dr. Reginald Hawkins becomes first Black/African-American to run for governor of North Carolina in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

**1969** -- Black police officer Milton Gaines becomes first to be assigned a white partner

**1981** -- Charlotte hires first Black/African-American female firefighter (Linda Lockhart)

**1983** -- Harvey Gantt becomes the first Black Mayor in Charlotte history

**1998** -- Charlotte ranked the number one city to live in for Blacks in the U.S. by Essence Magazine. Criteria: % Black population, overall household income in Charlotte, overall unemployment rate, overall cost of living, and because of the Afro-American Cultural Center and the 1997 Conference on Race. Congressman Mel Watt became the first African-American politician elected to office in a majority white district (12th). Ella Scarborough becomes first Black/African-American female to win a party's nomination (Democrat) for Mayor of Charlotte.

**2000** -- Harry Jones hired as first Black County Manager

**2001** -- Ed Dolby becomes first Black/African-American chairman of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce

**2002** -- Charlotte hires first Black/African-American marketing agency president (Melvin Tennant)

**2005** -- Charlotte Bobcats and Charlotte Sting become the first major league sports franchises owned by a Black/African-American (Bob Johnson) in the United States

**2008** -- Charlotte hires first Black/African-American police chief (Rodney Monroe)

**2012** -- Democratic National Convention held in Charlotte from Tuesday September 4 through Thursday September 6; a first for the Queen City. President Barack Obama accepts Democratic nomination for second (and final) term

**2016** – September; first riot in Charlotte history. October; Charlotte hires first Black/African-American City Manager Marcus D. Jones

**2017** – Vi Lyles becomes the first Black woman Mayor in Charlotte history

## **CHARLOTTE BLACK PIONEERS:**

(In Order of Birth, Partial List)

**CHARLES SAMUEL LAFAYETTE ALEXANDER**

**“C.S.L.A.” TAYLOR**

(1849-1934)

- Born a Slave in South Carolina
- Full name was Charles Samuel Lafayette Alexander Taylor
- Educated in Quaker Freedman Schools after Civil War, became a barber in Charlotte
- Served as Captain and Financial Secretary of the Neptune Volunteer Fire Company (Colored; today Black/African-American)
- Served as Colonel in the Charlotte Light Infantry called to active duty during the Spanish American War [1898]
- Served as Chairman of the Mecklenburg County Black Republican (today Democratic) Delegation
- Served as North Carolina General Assemblyman and as a North Carolina State Senator

(sources: <http://www.cmstory.org/content/colonel-c-s-l-taylor-and-brothers-theodore-and-newton-hendry>,  
<https://findingaids.uncc.edu/repositories/4/resources/526>)

**W.C. "WILLIAM CASWELL" SMITH**  
(1854-1937)

- Pioneer Black Journalist and former Slave
- Founder/Publisher/Editor of Charlotte's first Black secular newspaper (The Charlotte Messenger)
- Born in Cumberland County where he earned a teachers certificate at the early age of 16

-- Co-founder of the Fayetteville Educator (first newspaper edited and published by Blacks in North Carolina [1873])

(source: <http://www.cmstory.org/content/w-c-smith>)

**DR. J. T. "JOHN TAYLOR" WILLIAMS**  
(1859-1924)

-- Assistant principal of Myers Street Graded School (Charlotte's first graded school for Blacks)

-- One of the first of three Black Doctors in North Carolina

-- Born in Cumberland County near Fayetteville, North Carolina

-- Member of Charlotte board of Alderman (1882-1892), appointed consul to Sierra Leone (West Africa) by then President McKinley in 1898

-- Founding member of Grace A.M.E. Zion Church

-- Lived in 2nd Ward (Old Brooklyn) near Grace A.M.E. Zion Church (off Brevard Street/uptown).

-- J.T Williams Middle School named in his honor in 1962

(source: <http://www.cmstory.org/content/williams-8>)

**BISHOP GEORGE WYLIE CLINTON**  
(1859-1921)

-- Born in Lancaster County, South Carolina

-- Minister, Editor, Bishop of the A.M.E. Zion Church until death in 1921

-- Editor of the Star of Zion Newspaper (A.M.E. Zion Church)

-- Founder of the A.M.E. Zion Church Quarterly

-- Lived off North Myers Street in 1<sup>st</sup> Ward

(sources:

<http://docsouth.unc.edu/church/haley/ill119.html>,

<http://snaccooperative.org/ark:/99166/w6vx2jbr>)

### **W.W. "WILLIAM WARREN" SMITH**

(1862-1937, 1873-1924)

-- Born here in Mecklenburg County and lived at 409 South Caldwell Street in uptown Charlotte.

-- An African-American Builder and Architect

-- Completed the Victorian Gothic brickwork on Grace A.M.E. Zion church (is located at 233 South Brevard Street -2nd Ward/Old Brooklyn in 1902)

-- Co-founding member of Grace A.M.E. Zion Church (split from Clinton Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church in 1886)

-- Brick Mason for the Hood Hall Seminary at Livingstone College (located in Salisbury, NC and built in 1906)

-- Designed and constructed the Old A.M.E. Zion Publishing House building (was originally located on Brevard Street but has since been demolished)

-- Designed the "MICO" building (is located at the corner of 3rd and Brevard Streets)

(sources:

<http://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu/people/P000291>,

<http://www.trianglemodernisthouses.com/ncblack.htm>,

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18927217/william-w-smith>, <http://queencitytours.com/pdf/ebook/black->

[charlotte/observer-william-warren-smith-1937.pdf](#) [see  
yellow highlighted text at bottom center])

**THADDEUS "THAD" LINCOLN TATE**  
(1865-1951)

- Barber, Businessman, Civic Leader
- One of the founders of the "colored (now Black/African-American)" branch of the Y.M.C.A. (Young Men's Christian Association) in 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward
- Help start the first "colored (now Black/African-American)" branch of the Mecklenburg County Library in 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward
- Help start the Morrison Training School in Hoffman, NC
- Co-founded the Mecklenburg Investment Company (1921) in 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward
- Founder of the Afro-American Mutual Insurance Company

(source:

<https://www.mecknc.gov/parkandrec/trailofhistory/pages/thadtate.aspx?redirect=charmec>)

**MARIE LOUISE CLAY CLINTON**  
(1871-1932)

- Born in Huntsville, Alabama
- Wife of Bishop George Wylie Clinton
- Won a number of prizes for her singing.
- Organized the "Buds of Promise" (was a children's missionary group at the A.M.E. Zion church)

(source:  
<http://www.freewebs.com/thomaschapel/budsofpromiseamez.htm>)

**CHARLES H. WATSON**  
(Unknown – Unknown)

-- Entrepreneur who helped develop Washington Heights in 1913 (was Charlotte's first streetcar suburb developed by Black businesses for Black residents)

-- Published *Colored Charlotte* in 1915 in connection with the fiftieth anniversary of the freedom of the Negro in the county of Mecklenburg and the city of Charlotte, North Carolina

(source:  
<http://www.cmhpf.org/educationneighhistwash.htm>)

**DR. SELMA HORTENSE BURKE**  
(1900 - 1995)

-- Born in Mooresville, North Carolina  
-- Graduate of Slater State Normal School (B.A.; Bachelor of Arts [1922]; today Winston-Salem State University)

-- Graduate of St. (Saint) Augustine College (R.N.; Registered Nurse [1924])

-- Graduate of Columbia University (M.F.A.; Master of Fine Arts [1941])

-- 1943; WWII (World War Two) Navy Veteran

-- 1943; Created profile portrait of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt later used on the American dime

-- Graduate of Livingston College (Ph.D.; Doctor of Philosophy [1970])

(source:

<http://www.encyclopedia.com/people/history/historians-miscellaneous-biographies/selma-burke>)

-- 1980; Created statue of Dr. (Doctor; PhD [Philosophy]) Martin Luther King, Jr. (Junior) in Marshall Park/Uptown Charlotte

### **KELLY MILLER ALEXANDER, SR.**

(1915 - 1985)

-- Born in Charlotte, North Carolina (2<sup>nd</sup> Ward/Old Brooklyn), last of five children

-- Nicknamed "*Shipwreck Kelly*" while playing halfback (now running back) for 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward High School



- Reactivated the Charlotte Branch of the N.A.A.C.P. (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) in 1940
- Elected president of the North Carolina N.A.A.C.P. in 1948
- Elected to the National Board of Directors of the N.A.A.C.P. in 1950, and a life member in 1954
- Elected vice-chairman of the National Board of Directors of the N.A.A.C.P. in 1976, acting chairman in 1983, and chairman in 1984

*(source:*

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/94662809>)

### **WILLIAM LEE "BILL" JOHNSON**

(1918 - 1986)

- Born in Laurens, South Carolina
- WWII (World War Two) Veteran
- Graduate of 2nd Ward High School [1938]
- First Black/African-American mailman in Charlotte [1947]
- First Black/African-American newspaper reporter in Charlotte [1950's]
- Purchased Charlotte Post Newspaper [1974]

*(sources:*

<http://queencitytours.com/pdf/ebook/black-charlotte/charlotte-post/observer-bill-johnson-1986.pdf>,  
<http://photos.trendmagazineonline.com/GalleryFilmstrip.aspx?gallery=4830484&mid=102818665&mt=Photo&ci=008>)

### **HARVEY BERNARD GANTT**

(1943)

- Born in Charleston, South Carolina
  - First to integrate Clemson University in South Carolina [1963]
  - Graduate of M.I.T. (Massachusetts Institute of Technology; 1970, Master's/Urban Planning)
  - Charlotte's first Black Mayor from 1983-1987
  - Architect (Gantt-Huberman)
  - Designed homes in Hyde Park; Transamerica Square, Charlotte Transit Center, and Imaginon in Uptown
- (source: <http://www.encyclopedia.com/education/news-wires-white-papers-and-books/gantt-harvey-1943>)

### **HENRY HARVEY BOYD**

(1944)

- Born in Matthews, North Carolina
  - Graduate of West Charlotte High School (1962) and Central Piedmont Community College (1964; majored in Commercial Arts)
  - Designed the Mecklenburg County Seal on 10/15/1964 and made official on 1/1/1965
  - Graduate of Howard University (Commercial Art, 1970)
  - Ran for Mayor of Matthews
  - Civic leader/Matthews
  - Still resides in Matthews today
- (source: <http://nsv.uncc.edu/interview/ohbo0449>)

## MELVIN LUTHER WATT

(1945)

- Born in Charlotte, North Carolina
- Graduate of York Road High School
- Graduate of U.N.C.-Chapel Hill (University of North Carolina; Business Administration [1967])
- Graduate of Yale University (J.D.; Juris Doctorate, Law [1970])
- 1992; First Black/African-American (along with Eva Clayton) to be elected to U.S. (United States) Congress in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century
- Lawyer (Ferguson, Stein, Watt, Wallas, Adkins & Gresham, P.A.)
- Current head of Freddie Mack and Fannie Mae (appointed by President Obama)

*(source:*

<http://history.house.gov/People/Detail?id=23463#biography>)

## GENERAL NOTES:

- Charlotte North Carolina Black Population Stats

**1850** (496 out of 1,065 total; **46.6%** [N/A% Increase])  
**\*1860** (899 out of 2,265 total; **39.7%** [44.8% Increase])  
**1870** (1,880 out of 4,473 total; **42.0%** [52.2% Increase])  
**1880** (3,338 out of 7,094 total; **47.1%** [43.7% Increase])  
**1890** (5,134 out of 11,557 total; **44.4%** [35.0% Increase])  
**1900** (7,151 out of 18,091 total; **39.5%** [28.2% Increase])  
**1910** (11,752 out of 34,014 total; **34.6%** [39.2% Increase])  
**1920** (14,641 out of 46,338 total; **31.6%** [19.7% Increase])  
**1930** (25,163 out of 82,675 total; **30.4%** [41.8% Increase])  
**1940** (31,043 out of 100,899 total; **30.8%** [18.9% Increase])  
**1950** (37,841 out of 134,042 total; **28.2%** [18.0% Increase])  
**1960** (56,248 out of 201,564 total; **27.9%** [32.7% Increase])  
**1970** (72,972 out of 241,178 total; **30.3%** [22.9% Increase])  
**1980** (97,627 out of 314,447 total; **31.0%** [25.3% Increase])  
**1990** (125,827 out of 395,934 total; **31.8%** [22.4% Increase])  
**2000** -- (183,485 out of 571,382 total; **32.1%** [31.4% Increase]) (source:

<https://www.census.gov/population/www/documentation/twps0076/twps0076.html>)

**2010** -- (256,241 out of 731,424 total; **35.0%** [28.4% Increase]; *source:* <http://censusviewer.com/city/NC/Charlotte>)

**2017** -- (300,808 [estimated] out of 859,452 [estimated] total; **35%**; [14.8% Increase]) *source:* <http://uspopulation2017.com/population-charlotte-2017.html>)

**\*Notes:** Slave population 825 (91.8%), free Blacks 74 (8.2%)

## ACCURACY STATEMENT

I have endeavored to ensure that all historic information contained in this **Book** is indeed accurate as of the date of publishing, and special care was taken as to not use any non-sourced information from any source ending

in “*pedia*” without credible sources. As we all know, no one is perfect -- except **Jesus Christ**; and I am certainly not him. As such, if you find any historic inaccuracies and/or errors contained in this book, I would appreciate the courtesy of a polite note containing the error. Please ensure that your correction; however, is indeed correct and can be researched via the **Internet** or the library and is from a credible source not ending in “*pedia*.” If found accurate; I will reward you with a gift certificate for one of our travel and tourism services at [www.queencitytours.com](http://www.queencitytours.com). Find out additional detailed **Queen City** history in my first book entitled **Charlotte From a Tour Guide’s Perspective** (*source-33: <http://www.queencitytours.com/Catalog-Products.DownloadTour.htm#book>*), and my second book entitled **More Charlotte From a Tour Guide’s Perspective** (*source-33: <http://www.queencitytours.com/Catalog-Products.DownloadTour.htm#book>*).

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