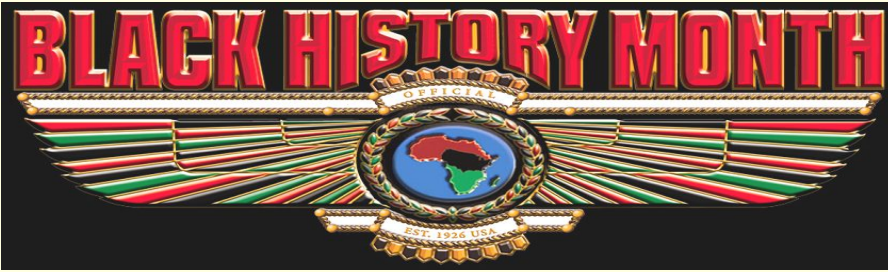




Black History Month

Brewerville Civic Association



Contents:

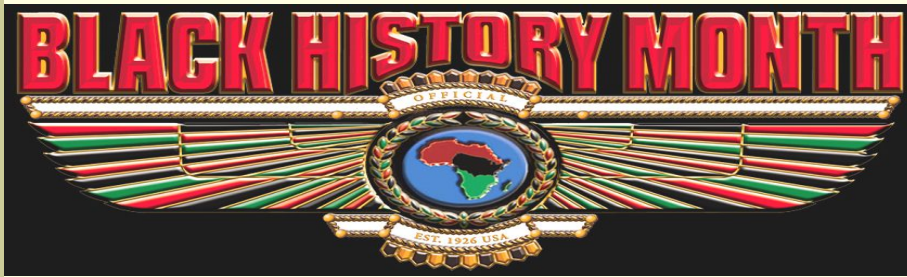
- The Origin of Brewerville
- Brewerville – what does it mean?
- Our Ancestors
- Lay out of town lots
- Descendants
- Brewervillians in the Diaspora
- Q & A



Brewerville

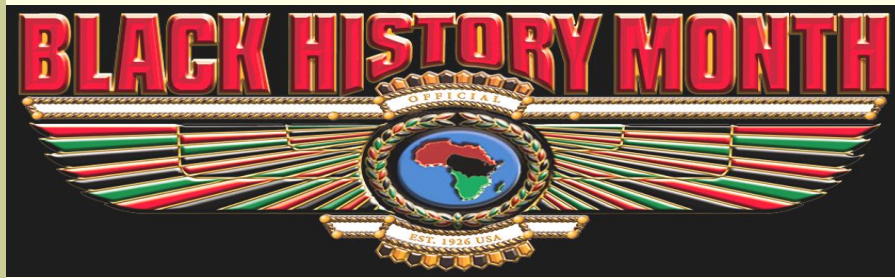


The Origin



Brewerville

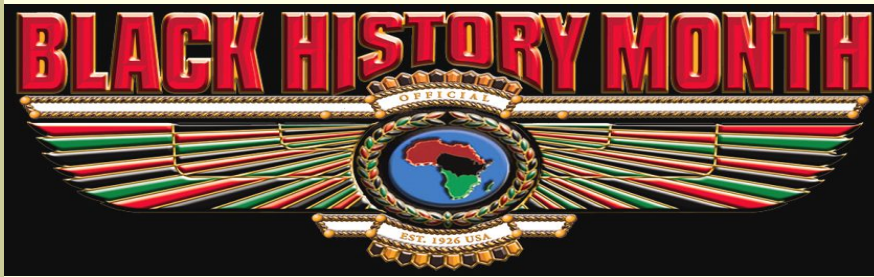
The idea originated from Rev. T. S. Malcom and Hon. William Carpenter in early 1869 when they recruited men to travel to Liberia to establish two villages and lay them out in town lots in memorial to two deceased philanthropists, Brewer of America and Arthington of England.



Contrary to popular belief, the freed slaves believed that the **Republican Party** was the means through which they had gained their freedom and decided to show appreciation by delaying their voyage to Liberia and cast their vote for the Republican Presidential candidate, General Grant.

Brewerville

What does it mean?



Brewerville

By T.S. Malcom

From Jamesville, Martin County, North Carolina, there were 44 immigrants under the leadership of John B. Munden.



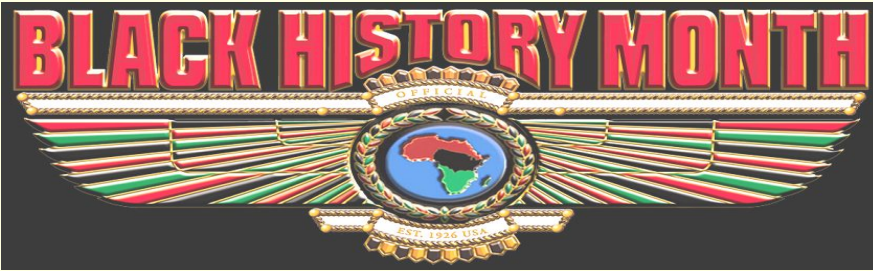
This company, with 14 immigrants from Pennsylvania, went at the expense of the Pennsylvania Colonization Society to found a new settlement in Africa to be known as **Brewerville, in honor of the late Charles Brewer, Esq of Pittsburgh.**



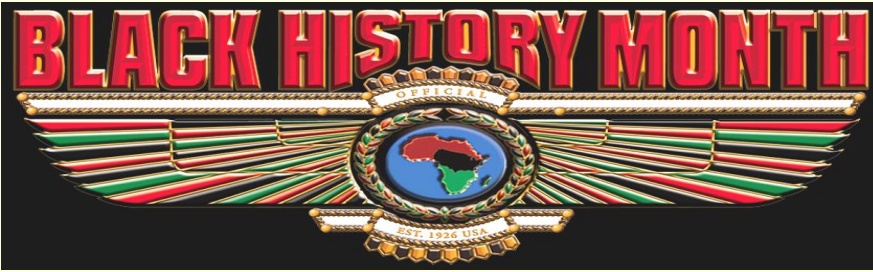
Brewerville



Our Ancestors



John Munden and his group sailed in the Golcunda and reached Monrovia in 35 days. They located Brewerville near the St. Paul river, and near Virginia. John B. Munden writes as follows:



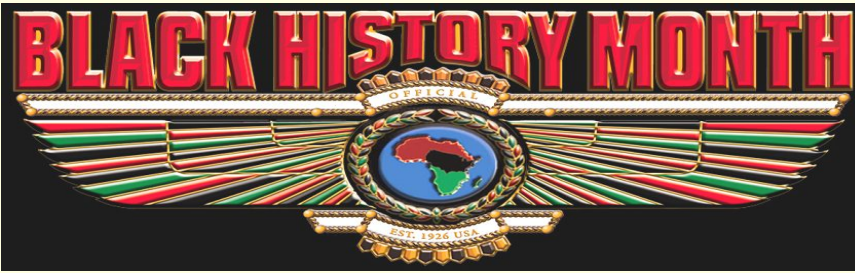
**“Brewerville, Liberia, August 8th, 1873
I received from you a bundle of
newspapers and 3 packages of seed,
and was very much delighted to receive
them.**

**I am in good health and my family is
well, and the people in Brewerville are
in good health in general and hard at
work.**



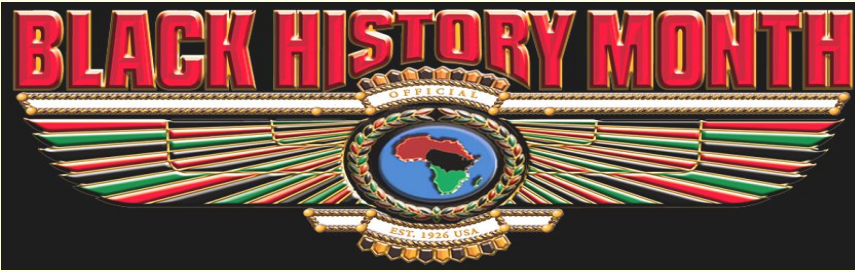
I am rejoiced that I am in Africa. When I came to this country I was not worth fifty dollars. My assessment now is three hundred dollars.

I am cultivating land in coffee, and if it pleases God to let me live about three years more, I shall begin to feel myself to be a man in this country.

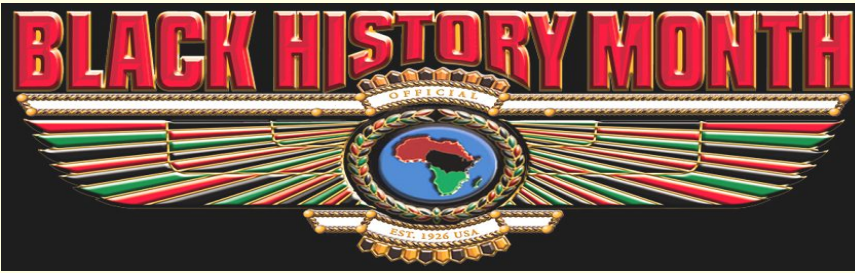


And if I had lived in North Carolina years to come, I should not have been a man.

And since I have been in this country, I have embraced religion and am a member of the Presbyterian church and a ruling Elder.

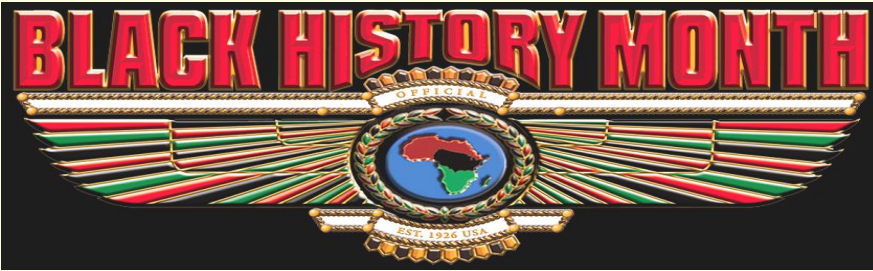


We have a Presbyterian church constituted in Brewerville and I am getting a subscription for a meeting-house.



The land in Brewerville is better for coffee than anything else. Myself and all are doing well.”

These were the words of John B. Munden reporting on the conditions in Brewerville in a letter to the ACS.



More than 102 families of immigrants continued to arrive in Brewerville what seems like every 4 years between 1869 and 1889.

It is interesting to discover these were the original Brewervillians and we all are descendants as such.



Brewerville



Lay Out of Town Lots



Agent Dennis of the American Colonization Society instructed John Moore, a government surveyor to accompany Munden and his team, to lay out the land.

Following are the original streets in Brewerville:



Malcum St.

Carpenter St.

Dennis St.

Hardy St.

Bridge St.

Logan St.

(Hettie Sherman, Robert Anthony)



Upton St.

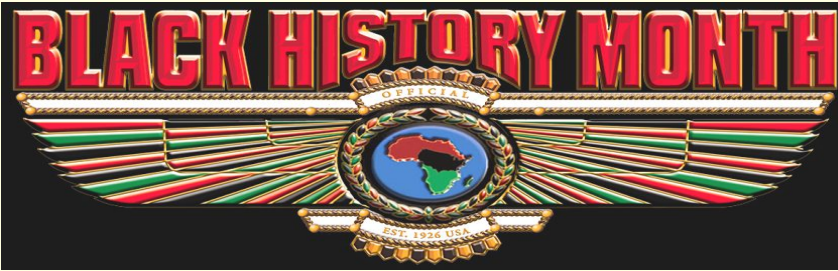
(Pookoo Pie Square, Cooper shop, Isaac Davis, Uncle Frank, Jerry Brown, Ada Jones, Edwin Hayes, Zion Grove, Catherine Morris, Cecelia Cranshaw, Mrs. Capps, Percy Trotman, Pearly Hayes,)

Brown St.

(William Wilson, Old Cotton Tree)

Munden St,

(Mr. Isaac Woods, Cecelia Railey, Ms. Arku, City Hall, Ms. Ida, Mr. Clemens, EMSK, Mr. Bernard, Emmett Hayes, Lucinda York, Hon. Peter Wilson, J. Percy Gunnell, Nancy Benson, Viola Bernard, M. Luther Hayes)

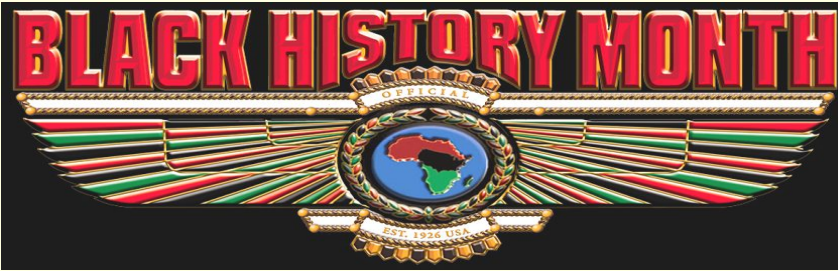


Cartwright St.

(Sherman Brown, AJ Wilson, Teacher Senora, Burns Phelps, Ma May, Etheridge thrift shop, Rev. Parker, Mrs. Dyer, AME Zion, Rev. Flowers, Ma Hannah, Mr. Randolph Outland, Government School, Louise Finch, Teacher Flowers, Jesse Banks, Taweh Williams, Brewerville Market, The Cassells, Teacher Vic, Hon. Alfred Curtis, Margaret Pratt, The Allens, Olivia Williams, Edmund Chenoweth, Rev. Moulton)

George Moore St.

(Charles Coleman, Outland Compound, Bernard Benson, Mr. Jones, Rev. Walker, H. Carey Thomas)



The following streets are currently known as (not necessarily original street names):

Bomi Hills Hwy

(Lott Carey Mission, John Davis, Rev. Butler, Mr. Smith, Mr. Bullock & Old Het, The Nahs, Joshua Morris, Rev. Irons, Leroy Totimeh, Jesse Banks, Old Het's house under the plum tree, Police Officer Dyer, Mr. Bruce, Floyd Campbell, Diana Gant, Mr. Jesse Banks, Mr. Isaac store, Raffie store, Geda, Salem, Ricks Institute, Wilson Corner, Rev. Rudolph Flowers, Chloe Bryant, Mattie Brisbane, Vera Simpson, Leona Massey, Vera George, Mr. Cranshaw, Emerson Hayes, Hietha Brown, AGM, Aunt Pat, Mr. Qwesi, Uncle Liver, Rev. Divine, Divine School)

Vonzor Road

Teacher Keturah, The Witherspoons, Edna Brown

Buya Road

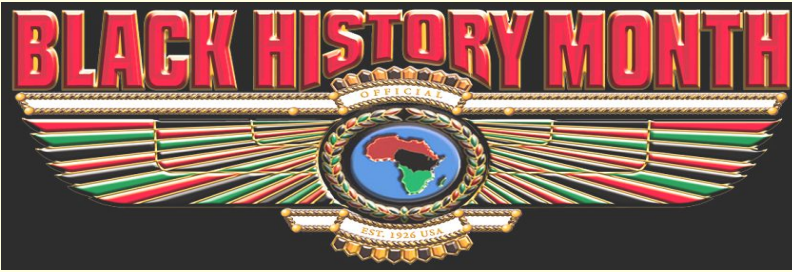
Judge Williams Creek, Gibson compound, Dorley Flowers, Aaron Flowers, Kaiser Flowers, George Wilson, Boy Brisbane)



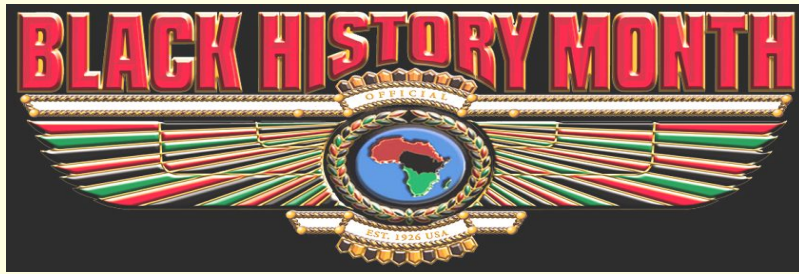
Brewerville



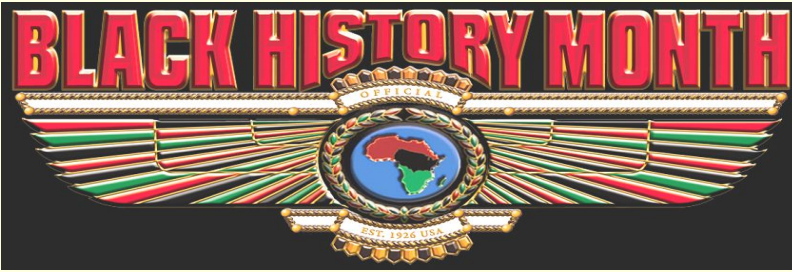
The Descendants



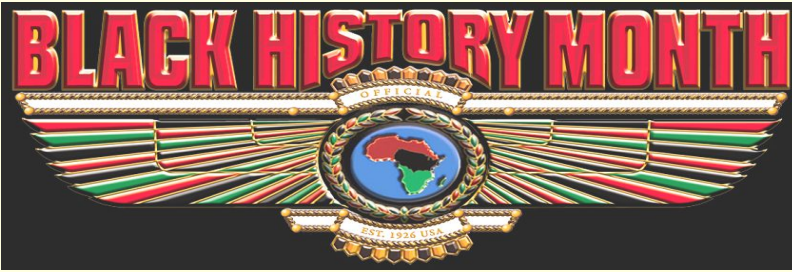
Most African Americans are the descendants of captive Africans held in the United States from 1619 to 1865.



Blacks from the Caribbean whose ancestors immigrated, or who themselves immigrated to the U.S., also traditionally have been considered African American, as they share a common history of predominantly West African or Central African roots, the Middle Passage and slavery.



It is these people, who in the past were referred to and self-identified collectively as the American Negro, who now generally consider themselves African-Americans.



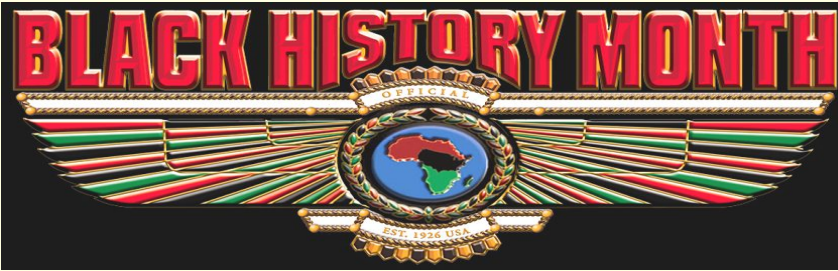
Others who sometimes are referred to as African Americans, and who are so labeled by the US government, include relatively recent Black immigrants from Africa, South America and elsewhere who self-identify as being of African descent.



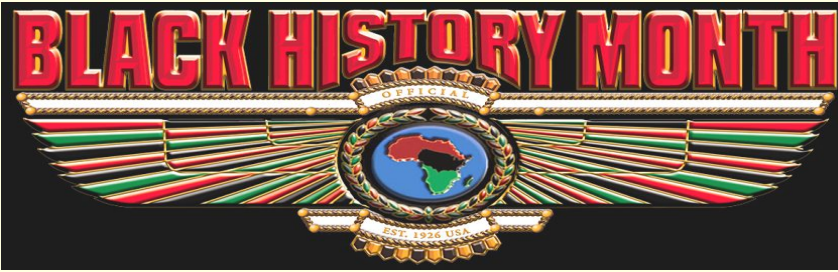
Brewervillians



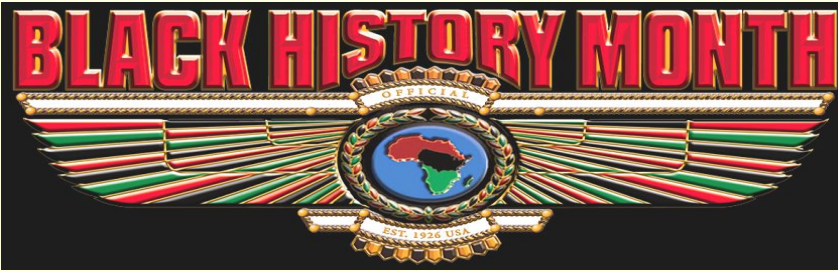
In the Diaspora



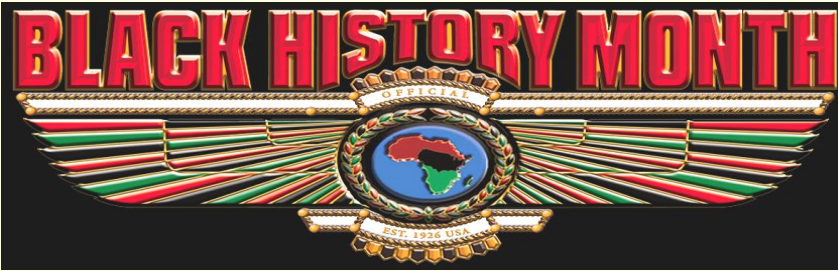
Our ancestors were captured slaves from Africa whose masters were in America. Their children born in America were African Americans, therefore making us, Brewervillians residing in the United States, African Americans.



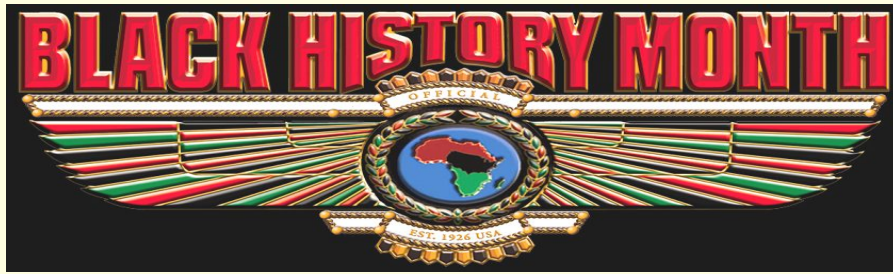
Black History and the culture of the black race is so rich and vast, it is impossible to cover all grounds in this presentation.



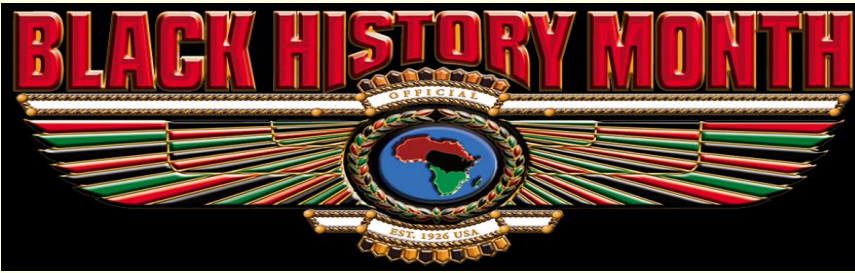
African American culture in the United States refers to the cultural contributions of African ethnic groups to the culture of the United States, either as part of or distinct from American culture.



The distinct identity of African American culture is rooted in the historical experience of the African American people, including the Middle Passage, and thus the culture retains a distinct identity while at the same time it is enormously influential to American culture as a whole.



African American culture is rooted in Africa and is a blend of chiefly sub-Saharan African and Sahelean cultures. Although slavery greatly restricted the ability of Africans in America to practice their cultural traditions, many practices, values, and beliefs survived and over time have modified or blended with European American culture.



There are even some facets of African American culture that were accentuated by the slavery period. The result is a dynamic culture that has had and continues to have a profound impact on mainstream American culture, as well as the culture of the broader world.



We must embrace our heritage and be proud of our culture and ethnicity as the high price for our freedom was paid for by our ancestors many years ago.

We must also teach our children to appreciate their culture and heritage and how far we have come as a people.

Brewervillians

Questions & Answers

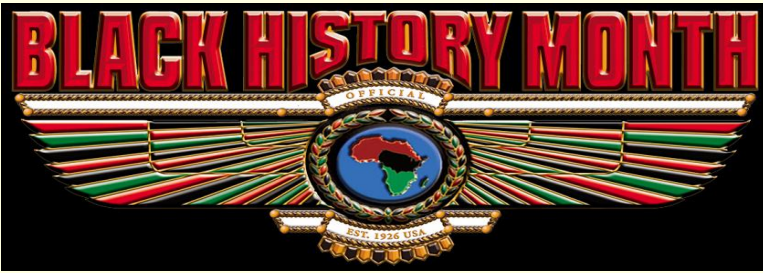


Following are some questions and personal views and opinions from a few BCA members.



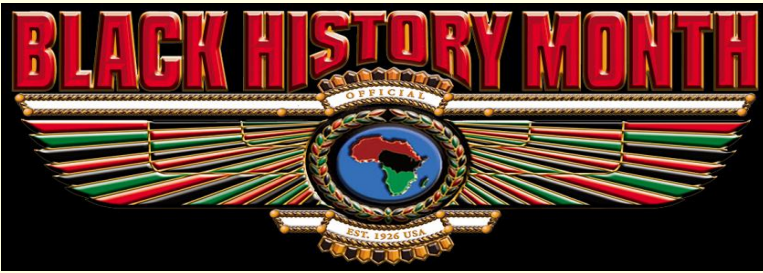
Question # 1

- ❑ What is the meaning of Black History Month?



Opinion #1

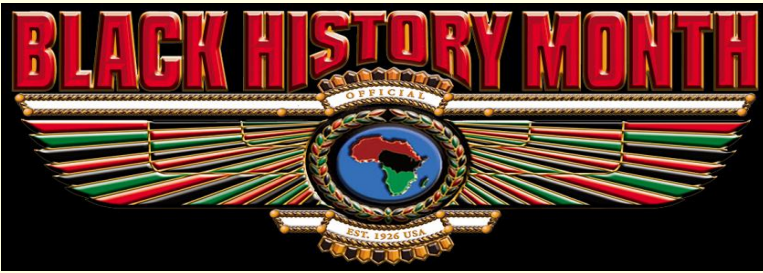
- ❑ *"Black history month to me means a time to reflect and appreciate the sacrifices made by our forefathers for our freedom. It also means a time to educate our children on our heritage and how far we have come as a people."*



Opinion #2

- ❑ *"The celebration of black culture and history in the United States is defined by the African culture and people. Descendants of Africa travailed perils for decades to live in America, but subsequently returned to freedom in Africa, Liberia and Brewerville.*

Black history therefore symbolizes the celebration of our longevity as a people."



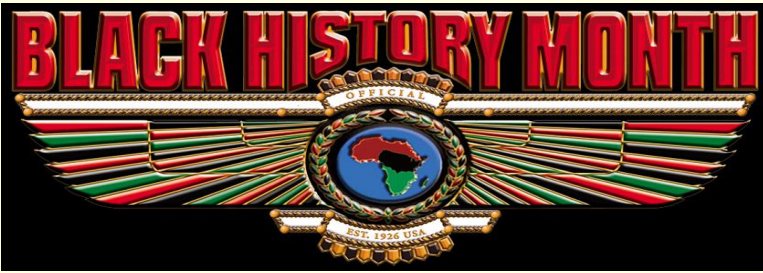
Opinion #3

- *"My appreciation for the value of history can be traced back to my high school days and my studies of the civic book "Things Fall Apart" by Chinua Achebe. While the intent of the book was to instill in me an understanding of African culture and literacy at the time, the sections of the book that touched on the coming of the missionaries to Africa and the events that followed resonated with me and taught me a lot about the beginning of black history as it relates to America."*



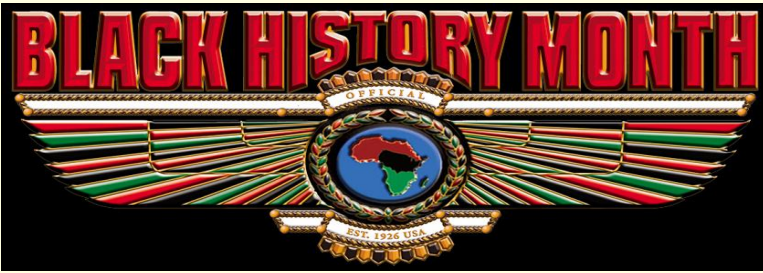
Question # 2

- What is the most significant difference between you, a daughter or son of Brewerville and an African American?



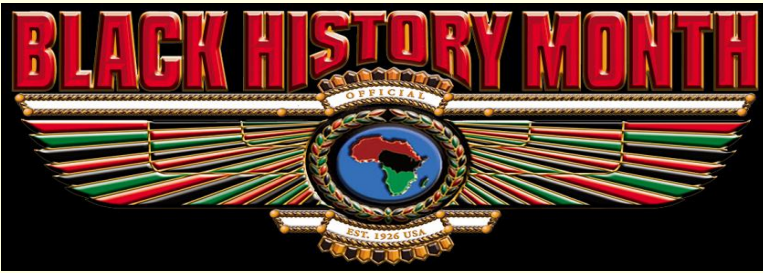
Opinion #1

- ❑ *“I believe the most significant difference is the culture. I think we are also more accepting of certain conditions and situations that might be classified as “immoral” in America but considered “normal” and a way of life in Liberia. I also believe a major difference is how we relate to our elderly and children. African Americans, for the most part place their parents in Assisted Living facilities when they can no longer care for themselves. Africans invite their parents in their homes to care for them.*



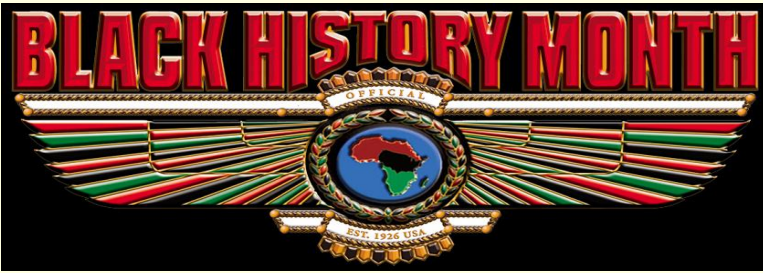
Opinion #1 cont'd

- ❑ *At age 18 for the most part, African Americans are considered adults and have to leave home. African children stay at home until they are married or until they decide they want to leave.”*



Opinion #2

- *“The difference is not significant, but symbolic in nationhood as is defined within the ethnicity of our African continent.”*



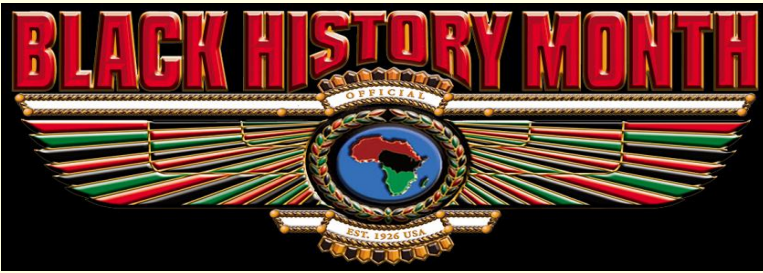
Opinion #3

- *"Having been a part of the American experience for over 14 years and being married to an African American, I sincerely believe the most significant difference between myself and most African Americans is our value system. The things I value as taught by my community growing up, like having a sense of family, being my brother's keeper, etc. seem to be viewed differently by most African Americans."*



Question # 3

- What is the most significant similarity between you, a son or daughter of Brewerville and an African American?**



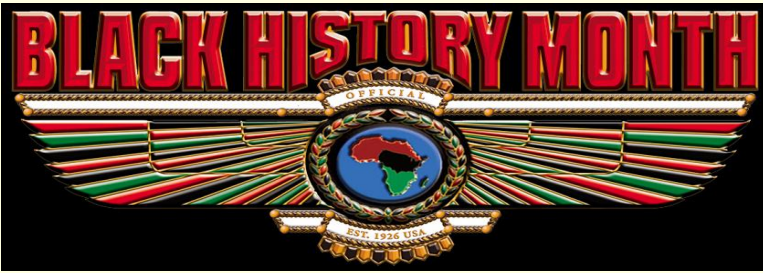
Opinion #1

- ❑ *"The obvious similarity is the color of our skin. My personal experience is that African Americans, once they have gotten to know us and experience a little bit of our culture, tend to fit right in. In corporate America, the similarity is that we are all seen as African Americans again because of the color of our skin."*



Opinion #2

- *“Our African cultural heritage and its rich diversity is the strongest link between Brewervillians and African Americans.”*



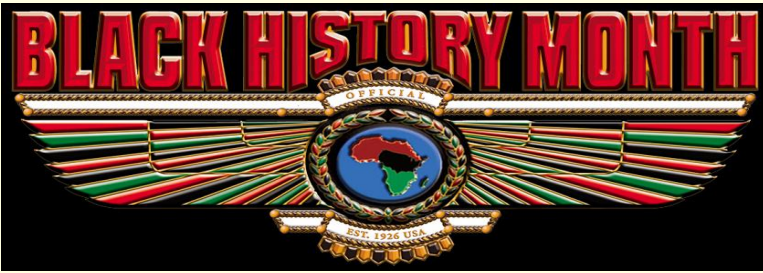
Opinion #3

- ❑ *"I believe we all want for the same things in life – financial security, professional success, spiritual wellbeing, the better things in life – but our roadmap to achieving these things are different."*



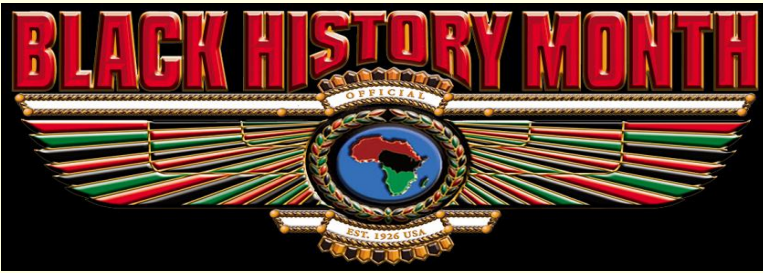
Question # 4

- ❑ How can we bridge the gap between Africans and African Americans?



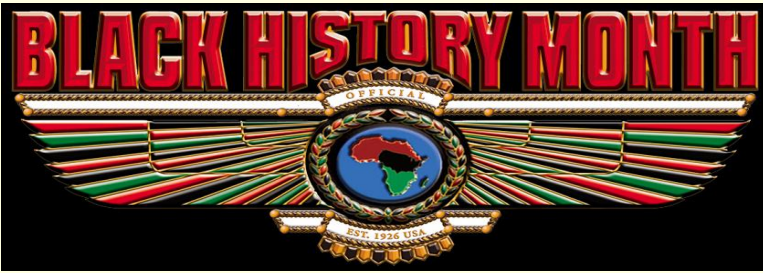
Opinion #1

- ❑ *"Bipartisanship and Networking. We need to unite as a people and by that I mean, getting involved in community programs, reaching out or extending invitations to make a connection." We must also educate African Americans on our heritage and history and let them know not to be misled by what they see on TV. Most of them have no idea that their ancestors are indeed of African descent."*



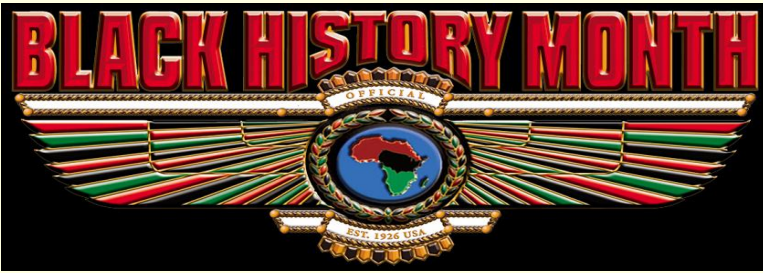
Opinion #2

- ❑ *“Africans everywhere must begin to recognize our commonalities and appreciate them. Our very rich heritage unites us and is a firm foundation on which to build collaboration. We must accept and tolerate our differences by striving to understand the diversity in our culture.”*



Opinion #3

- "We need to socialize with one another more. We need to "trust" first and second guess as a last resort. We need to do away with preconceived notions of one another. Generalizations of each other's cultures and way of life will get us nowhere. We need to organize study groups as much as we can to read about our histories and in it we will find much more similarities than differences.*



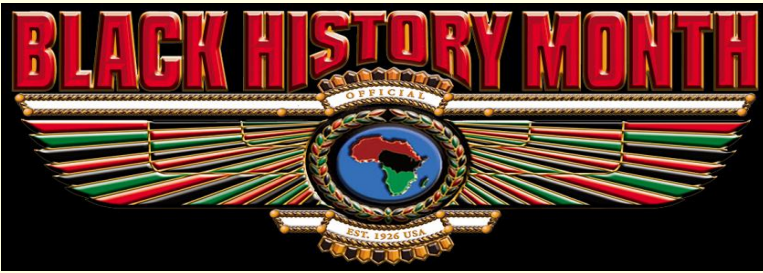
Opinion #3 cont'd

- ❑ *"In doing so it may just be helpful to include studying the culture of other races to see how they have impacted us and the cause behind their actions. These types of initiatives will bring us a lot closer together than divide us."*



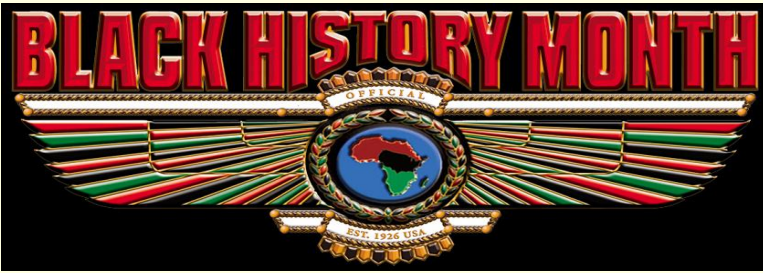
Question # 5

- What does the presidency of the first African American in the United States of America mean to you?



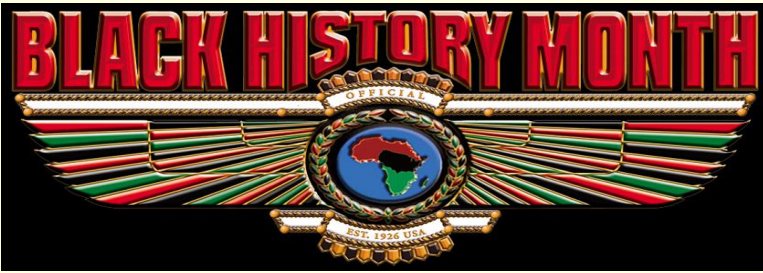
Opinion #1

- *"It means we have come a long way as a people; God has answered the prayers of our forefathers; their blood, sweat and tears were not in vain; we will hopefully begin to see a change in racism and discrimination."*



Opinion #2

- ❑ *”Prophetically, ‘the stone, which builders have rejected for several hundred years, has now become the corner stone’. This presidency is symbolic to all disenfranchised people and concretized the struggles of our forefathers. The unfortunate reality is that we have not yet overcome, for there is more work to be done ... and ... ‘work we must!’”*



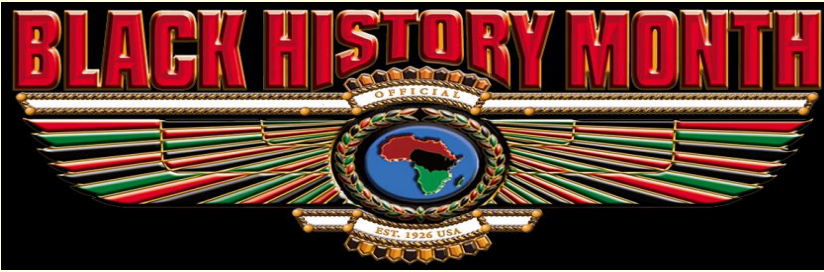
Opinion #3

- ❑ *"It means with God All Things are Possible! It means America the Beautiful, land of the free, home of the brave is not merely words on a piece of paper but substance. That truly we live in a country where any achievement is possible if you put your mind, heart, soul and sweat into it."*



Sources:

1. www.Africanamericans.com
2. www.wikipedia.org/wiki/african_american-history
3. www.archive.org
4. www.loc.gov
5. www.brewervilleinc.org



Suggested Readings:

- 1. The Price of Liberty** — by Claude Andrew Clegg
- 2. Power & Press, Freedom In Liberia, 1830- 1970** — by Carl Patrick Burrower
- 3. The African Repository** — by American Colonization Society
- 4. Liberia: The History of the first African Republic** — by C. Abayomi Cassell