

POCH 26
S3: F15

PHOTOGRAPHS

COAST GUARD EXHIBITION PANELS
THREE COLOR 8"X10" PHOTOGRAPHIC PRINTS

CIRCA 1977

REMOVED FROM "THE HISTORY OF BLACKS IN THE COAST GUARD FROM 1790"

ITS MISSION AND MUST FORGE

"WE FOUGHT THE WAR AND WON"



Lieutenant Commander Franklin Lee Fontaine
Marine Inspector
Seattle, Washington



Commander (on list for Captain) Bobby Charles Wilks
Executive Officer Coast Guard Base
Brooklyn, New York
First Black Pilot in the US Coast Guard
Highest Ranking Black officer in the US Coast Guard



Lieutenant Commander Antoinette G. Townsend
Medical Administrative Officer
Coast Guard Training Center
Alameda, California
First Black Hospital Corpsman to make Warrant in the US Coast Guard



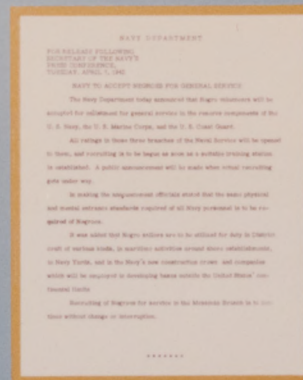
Lieutenant Commander Merle J. Smith, Jr.
Law Instructor, US Coast Guard Academy
New London, Connecticut
First Black Graduate, US Coast Guard Academy



Lieutenant Commander Charles A. Thornton
Chief Customer Service Division
Curtis Bay, Maryland



Alexander Palmer Haley, first Coast Guard journalist and author of "BLACKS" - seminal history text



Captain Samuel, the oldest living retired Coast Guardsman, became the first Black flying officer and the second photographer of the Coast Guard. He distinguished himself later by being the first Black man to command a vessel during wartime.



Harry Russell
2nd Black OCS Graduate



Em Thomas Scrimm
2nd Black Female OCS Graduate



Joseph Berry
1st Black OCS Graduate

The Berry Family

From about 1902 until the present, the Berry family has been active for over 73 years in the Coast Guard. The first known Berry to enter the Coast Guard, then called The Lifesaving Service, was Joseph Berry who served as surfman at Pea Island Life Saving Station.



Eva Linda Redington
1st Black Female OCS Graduate

OUR COUNTRY WITH ESTEEM.....TRYING TO EXCELL

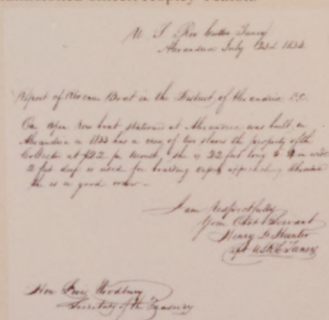
EACH GENERATION INHERITS



THE COLOURED TIMES Negroes in the Coast Guard - A Perspective

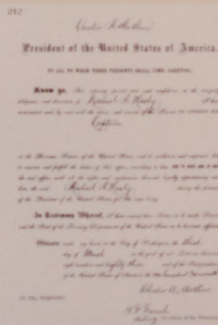
Revenue Cutter Service

On August 4, 1790, Secretary of State Alexander Hamilton asked Congress for ten boats to launch a sea-going military force. This force became the Revenue Cutter Service. The earliest encounter of any Negro connected with the cutter service was of a slave aboard the Scammel mastered by the first commissioned officer, Hopley Yeaton.



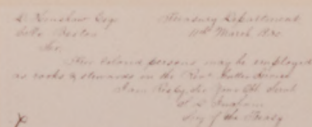
Black Maria

"Black Maria" was a colored teamstress named Maria Lee. She is known for her courageous fight with smugglers who attempted to hijack swivels her wagon was delivering to Captain Hopley Yeaton for the Scammel in 1791.



Policy Letter

The above and below letters reflect the official policy of the officials of the Revenue Cutter Service regarding the status of Coloreds at that time.



Captain Mike Healy: Renowned Captain of the Bear



Captain Michael Healy was so known throughout the Northwest that the New York Sun Jan. 28, 1884 described him in the following way: "Capt. Mike Healy is a good deal more distinguished in the waters of the far Northwest than any president of the United States or any potentate of Europe has yet become..."

Reindeer

Captain Healy, with the aid of Rev. Sheldon Jackson, introduced reindeer to Alaska, bringing a dozen over from Siberia. Many Eskimos were saved from starvation as a result of this action by Healy.



Negroes and Lights

The history of Negroes in the lighthouse service is scanty. However, records show that Negroes worked in lighthouses. Some of these were St. Simons Island, Point Comfort lighthouse in Virginia, etc.



Lighthouse Service

The first lighthouse in America was built in 1716 in Boston, before that only bonfires or blazing barrels of pitch on headlands guided ships to ports at night.



Cardenas Medal The Card

The Cardenas Medal, a bronze medal of honor, was presented to each enlisted member of the cutter Hudson for action during the battle of Cardenas Bay, Cuba, in 1898.

Pea Island

Pea Island was manned totally by Negroes from 1880 until its closing in 1947. From November 1879 to January 1915 more than 600 persons were saved and only ten lives were lost.



Richard Etheridge

Richard Etheridge was the first Negro to become a keeper of a life saving station. He was captain of the famous Pea Island life station for ten years—1880-1890. As captain of the station, he insisted on drills, obedience to order and enforced the dress code. That was an important factor in having the station being called one of the "toughest stations on the Carolina sea coast."

Surfmen Save Lives of Newman Crew

One of the best known rescues of Pea Island is that of the E.S. Newman. She had run aground October 11, 1896. Despite the overwhelming odds of a storm tide, sweeping currents, and immobile mule teams, the surfmen fought their way to the vessel and managed to rescue everyone aboard. The Newman was a total loss. It is interesting to note that the rescue was effected in darkness. This fact helps one to appreciate the courage of Etheridge and his men.



"WE WERE SLAVES AND FREE... FIGHTING FOR

A BETTER WAY FOR THE NEXT



MISSIONS OF THE
UNITED STATES
COAST GUARD
SEARCH AND RESCUE
AIDS TO NAVIGATION
MARINE SAFETY
OCEAN OPERATIONS
MILITARY READINESS
LAW ENFORCEMENT
MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION
ICE BREAKING

AND BE.....AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE TEAM"