

Before embarking upon this performance task, please ensure that the following steps have been implemented..

- Step 1: Read *The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story* page 10 to the entire class.
- Step 2: Complete [this 3-2-1 activity](#).
- Step 3: Facilitate [this quote analysis activity](#).

The Origins of Durham's Black Wall Street



Historic Stagville Plantation, Durham, NC

With emancipation at the end of the Civil War, many freedmen continued to live on the land of their enslavers as sharecroppers and tenant farmers. Others chose to distance themselves from the plantation. In what will soon become the county of Durham, many of the freedmen from the Stagville plantation, one of the largest plantations in the south, decided to leave the land of their violent and cruel enslaver in search of a better life. According to plantation owner Paul Cameron:

“I instructed them as follows: That Government had made them free but that it gave them nothing more: that they had no claim on the property of the planter the taking of which was theft & subject to severe & dire punishment. That in the present condition of the country they were dependent upon their former master for support and that it was desired they should remain where they were & labor.” (Source: [NC Historic Sites website](#))

Many of the freedmen of Stagville would reject this way of life. They settled on the muddy flats near Durham Station, a railroad depot known for its gambling parlors and other businesses of ill-repute! The new settlement was well out of sight from the white majority population, who believed a policy of ignoring the settlement would result in its eventual demise. By 1877, the settlement, now called Hayti, began to prosper. Here Blacks who had migrated from all over the south created a community that advanced racial pride and unity, self-help, and autonomy. The upbuilding of strong Black social

What is the Legacy of Durham's Black Wall Street?

Unit by Bull City Scholars, part of the 2023 cohort of

The 1619 Project Education Network

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networks laid the groundwork for the eventual economic prosperity of the neighborhood. By the turn of the century, Hayti and its financial district on Parrish Street would be known as America's "Mecca of the Black Middle Class."

Questions:

1. Who were the original settlers of Durham's Hayti community? Why does this matter?
2. Why do you think the settlers chose to build a community segregated from the larger white community? How did this decision affect its success?

Who were the entrepreneurs who built Durham's Black Wall Street?

Scholars, please choose *at least four entrepreneurs* (see the list below) for your research. You are provided with corresponding research links, which are embedded in each picture. You are also provided with another resource to start you on your research journey. Once you have completed your research, the next step is to create a poster or a newspaper article reporting your findings. The final step is writing at least a two paragraph commentary answering this question: *Who were some of the outstanding Black entrepreneurs who made Durham, North Carolina's Black Wall Street a strong and prosperous community?*

Part A: Research Your Entrepreneurs

Scholars, please ensure that you thoroughly answer the following questions for each one of your selected entrepreneurs and turn in your completed research via your Social Studies Notebook.

1. **Who** was (the name of your selected entrepreneur)?
2. **What** were the major contributions (the name of your selected entrepreneur) made to the Durham community?
3. **Where** did (the name of your selected entrepreneur) live in Durham, NC?
4. **Why** was (the name of your selected entrepreneur) important to the Durham community?
5. **How** did (the name of your selected entrepreneur) influence the Durham community?
6. **When** was (the name of your selected entrepreneur) the most influential in the Durham community? Explain why.
7. Present your findings to the class.
8. Complete [this assessment](#).

Part B: Create A Poster or Newspaper Article

Scholars, utilize the rubric below to guide you in creating your research poster or newspaper articles, and writing your commentary paragraph.

Durham's Black Wall Street's Entrepreneurs' Performance Task Rubric

Task	Description and Points
Research Poster - OR - Newspaper Article	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Neatly Done (15 Points)● Includes Six Pictures (10 Points)● Provides information about each entrepreneur and proper grammar and mechanics are utilized (15 Points)● Incorporates creative word art or graphics (10 Points)
ACES Paragraph Commentary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The question 'Who were some of the outstanding Black individuals who contributed to making Durham, North Carolina's Black Wall Street a strong and prosperous community?' has been addressed using the ACES method in two paragraphs (30 Points)● Clearly present your work to the class (20 Points)

A Selected List of Black Wall Street's Entrepreneurs

John Merrick



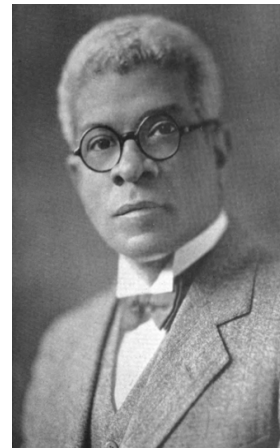
[NCPedia](#)

Aaron McDuffie Moore



[NCPedia](#)

Charles Clinton Spaulding



[BlackPast Article](#)

Margaret Faucette



[Durham History Museum](#)

Viola Mitchell Turner



[BlackPast](#)

Lynda Moore Merrick



[“And Justice for All”](#)

[Mrs. Lynda Moore
Merrick Spoken Word ~
Video](#)

[Adapted Biographies for ELLs \[zip file\]](#)

Extension Activity

Research the founders of Mechanics and Farmers Bank and create a presentation explaining why they made Durham, NC's Black Wall Street a strong and prosperous community. Here is a list of the founders: R.B. Fitzgerald, J.A. Dodson, J.R. Hawkins, Aaron M. Moore, John Merrick, W.G. Pearson, James E. Shepard, G.W. Stephens, and Stanford L. Warren.