



YORK COUNTY
HERITAGE TRUST

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PRESS RELEASE

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SALUTING THE BLACK HISTORY AND DIVERSITY THAT SHAPED YORK COUNTY

York, PA, February 11, 2010: In commemoration of Black History Month and to celebrate the diversity found within the York community, the York County Heritage Trust unveiled several temporary exhibits, which are now on display, at the Historical Society Museum, 250 E. Market St.

Through a partnership with the York City Human Relations Commission, *Civil Rights Heroes- Barrier Breakers* is an impressive three-panel, intricately painted mural. The artwork serves as a monument to York men and women who have served the causes of peace and social justice. Portraits featured within the artwork's design include Mattie Chapman, York County's first African American elected county official; Dr. George Bowles, who served as York County's only African American doctor throughout a majority of his career; Maulana Karenga, who founded Kwanzaa in 1966; and 15 fellow influential African American pioneers.

Additionally, the Trust introduced *African American Contributions to York County* in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's annual theme, *Black History in Pennsylvania: Communities in Common*. Showcasing a sampling of contributions from the York County African American community, 12 individuals are featured who demonstrate the profound ways in which African Americans helped to shape York County.

To plan your visit or to learn more about the Trust's current selection of temporary exhibits, visit www.yorkheritage.org or call 717-848-1587.

The York County Heritage Trust is a not-for-profit educational institution that preserves and uses its collections, historic sites, and museums to inspire people to explore the history and culture of York County, Pennsylvania.

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