

Elm City Famous

Constance Baker Motley. 1st black woman appointed judgeship in the U.S. Her briefs were presented to the U.S. Supreme Court for the plaintiff in 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education.

Lubbie Harper, Jr. Native, CT Supreme Court Justice and graduate of Wilbur Cross which named its library media center in Justice Harper's honor.

John C. Daniels.* 1st black mayor and honored with a public school and street named for him.

Helene Grant. Civic leader and educator with a school named in her honor.

Dr. Fred Smith and the Freddy Fixer Parade. Prominent physician who spearheaded a neighborhood clean-up campaign that culminated into one of the oldest black annual parades in this country.

Dr. Charles Twyman. 1st black teacher to be appointed principal of a public school, Abraham Lincoln School.

Ella Scantlebury. 1st black *Treasurer* for the city. Named in her honor is a park and a senior citizens housing complex.

Tracy Claxton. Outstanding basketball player at Wilbur Cross and led Old Dominion to a national championship.

John "Super John" Williamson.* Wilbur Cross graduate; NBA player for NY Nets, Indiana Pacers, NJ Nets (1991 retired jersey #23), and Washington Bullets.

Floyd Little.* Attended Hillhouse and Syracuse University where he was a three time "All American Football" running back. Number 1 draft pick for the Denver Broncos.

Bruce "Soup" Campbell.* Attended Wilbur Cross and graduated from Providence College where he was an All-Star basketball player. Played professional ball for the NJ Nets and in Europe.

Reggie Higgins, Jr. Native and a decorated professional light heavyweight boxer.

Chad Dawson. Attended Hillhouse and was a professional light heavyweight boxer who held various titles.

*Native of Elm Haven housing projects.

Your Guides

Diane X. Brown (203) 206-3849

UrbanLibrarianConsulting@gmail.com

Native of New Haven and a 2003 recipient of the Bill & Melinda Gates Fellowship Award that set her on the course to becoming a librarian. In 2006, promoted to Branch Manager of Stetson Library and received the national, "I Love My Librarian" award from the American Librarian Association & Carnegie Corporation.

Diane holds a Master's Degree in Library Science & Information Technology (Southern CT State University) and has received several community service awards and citations. She currently provides counsel to several organizations, serves on several boards, and currently conducts a series of workshops at the Division of Connecticut State Library.

Petisia Monique Adger (203) 687-0548

UrbanGrants4Us@gmail.com

Native of New Haven and the 1st and only black female appointed to Assistant Police Chief. Currently, she is the founder and Executive Director of Urban Grants 4 Us; sustaining black nonprofits through coaching, collaboration and education.

Petisia holds a Masters of Business Administration (University of New Haven), a Bachelor of Arts (Albertus Magnus College) degree, a graduate of the FBI National Academy, and Senior Management Institute for Police. She is the recipient of Letters of Recognition, Unit Citations, Certificates of Commendation, Awards of Special Achievement, Woman of the Year Awards and is a member of various civic groups. Petisia is also a professional official for the International Association of Authorized Basketball Officials (IAABO).

Toni N. Harp: 1st black female elected Mayor.

Dixwell Walking Tour

Wednesday, August 16, 2023

5:00 p.m.

Guides

Petisia Monique Adger

Diane X. Brown



Yale School of Medicine

Foundations of Community Engaged Research
for the School of Medicine's
National Clinician Scholars Program

NCSP

Brochure designed by: Petisia Monique Adger 6/22

William Lanson

“African King” of New Haven

1782 - 1851



Oakland-based sculptor Dana King

Lanson was the key figure in the construction of Long Wharf and the Farmington Canals. He helped create the African United Ecclesiastical Society (Dixwell Avenue Congregational Church); sheltered enslaved runaways; and petitioned for voting rights or tax exemption when a 1814 law forbidding blacks to vote passed. Nevertheless, the mayor, aldermen and Yale, condemned the establishment of the “Negro College” for the “supposed harm” it would bring to white students at Yale, female seminaries, and other schools, when Lanson advocated for a Negro College.

Dixwell Neighborhood Historical Scenes

Monterey Place & Victory Gardens

Elm Haven Projects - High & Low Rise - Mae Ola Riddick



“**The Tribe**” - The community that grew up in the Elm Haven housing project on Dixwell Avenue between Webster and Bristol Streets. At the time of its demolition in 1991, the Elm Haven was the oldest public housing in New Haven. It made way for a development called Monterey Place, a mixed-income housing community that abuts Yale’s campus just past the police station and health center in 2003.



The original **Dixwell Community “Q” House** opened in 1924. The newly constructed site, due to open 9/21, will continue to provide historically structured recreational activities for the black community.

Ella Scantlebury Senior Home

Hannah Gray Home

Wexler - Grant Community School

Stetson Branch Library - NHFPL

Elks’ East Rock Lodge #141

Masonic Brotherhood & Order of the Eastern Star

Davis & Waller Pharmacy - Unique Boutique

Joe Grate’s Soul Food Restaurant

Perkin’s Funeral Home

Bowen - Peters School of Dance

Reaves Barber Shop

Black Panthers’ Headquarters

Walt’s Cleaners - Rite-Way Cleaners

Green’s Record Shop - Sound Track

Churches: Varrick AME Zion and Dixwell Avenue Congregational United Church of Christ.

Doctors: Dr. Paul Taylor (Optometrist), Dr. Ramsey Cole, Dr. Richard Timpson, Dr. William Pitts, Dr. Harold Ince (Dentist), and Dr. Marshall Holley (GYN).



Monterey Café. Rufus Greenlee opened the night club in 1935. The club had a reputation for famous jazz performances in the 40s and 50s. From 1925-1930, Rufus Greenlee performed in France, Germany and other countries with the famous black dancer, Josephine Baker.