



## **Bottskill Baptist Church History Minute**

### **Church Historian Ken Perry**

#### **January 2026- The Scott- Green and other families**

In honor and recognition of next month's Black History Month, this month's History Minute concerns some of our church connections with the Black community in Greenwich. We've already become acquainted with Lydia Baker in last May's minute, a person regarded during her time period as having a significant power in prayer among our congregation. In June, Nathaniel Culver was noted as a pastor here who was instrumental in the beginnings of the Abolitionist movement here and later, on the national level.

During the 1890s and up until WW I, there was an early migration from the South that placed farm laborers and domestics in our area, a prelude to the Great Migration that began in the 1920s and 1930s.

Two Virginians who arrived here at separate dates and were part of this movement were Alex Scott and Cora Scott.

Alex was found as a farm laborer here at Ft. Edward in 1900, while Cora arrived here later. Prior to their marriage, Alex and Cora both lived in Bald Mountain, and were united in marriage at Schuylerville in 1917. By 1920, they were living in Middle Falls, where Alex was working in a paper mill. In the 1925 State census, they were found on Wilbur Avenue in Easton. Alex would die at about the age of 45 in 1927 from tuberculosis of the spine, the virus having spread from his lungs to his vertebrae, leaving Cora with four children, ages 3- 10 years old. Alex's funeral was conducted by Leonard W. Cronkhite, who was noted in last month's History Minute.

At that point, Cora moved her family onto Washington Street, in the village, where they became members of this church.

In 1929, Cora remarried, to John Green, a Georgian who worked as a cook on the D & H. They had three children, and one, Jennie Green, who died in September 1930, is buried here in a single unmarked grave near the caretaker's sheds.

We have a Letter of Dismissal for the Scott- Green family, Oct. 29, 1935, to the First Baptist Church of Ballston Spa, where the family lived until some time in 1946. From there, they moved to Saratoga Springs, where Cora Scott- Green united with the Mount Olivet Baptist Church at 100 Crescent Street. Cora served here on the Deaconess Board and as President of the Missionary Dept., and was the oldest member of this church at the time of her death, at 103 years, in the year 2000, making her someone who had lived in three centuries, having been born in 1896. Cora was buried in Saratoga Springs' Greenridge Cemetery.

Mount Olivet Baptist Church happens to have been founded by James L. Mott, who formerly maintained missions on Congress Street in Saratoga. His family came here from Lansingburgh and settled on John Street,

and he was baptized here in 1877. He was educated at Hamilton by funds provided through our church. Pastor Mott was ordained at the First Baptist Church of Ft. Edward and gave his first sermon here in March 1881. He gave another guest sermon here in February 1902.

One other couple of note, who came here in the 1920s, and Roger (DeCorp) may be familiar with, was Obie and Malinda Brundage, who lived at the end of Rock Street. Obie was from Macon, Georgia, and his wife, Malinda Brown, was from Lynchburg, Virginia, the same place as Cora Scott was from.

In the mid 1920s, Obie worked at the S & T mill and, at one point, the mill superintendent, Edward Jones, planned to create a golf course that became the Battenkill Country Club. He approached Obie about clearing the fences on the property and asked if he would become its groundskeeper. Obie, at first hesitated, because he didn't want to lose a steady winter job, but an arrangement would be made where he worked at the country club during the season and at the mill over the winters. He did this for 32 years, without an assistant, and was honored for completing 40 years of service in 1964, later retiring in 1972. He received a pension for his club services, and a regular tournament at the country club is named in his honor.

A history of the Battenkill Country Club was written by Donald Judd, who was one of our school's music teachers. His wife Peggy, incidentally, was a Sunday School teacher here in the early 1960s. Thus, we have several instances of threads woven within our church and the Black community we have served and supported from the Abolitionist period to the present, as we follow the progress of Cole Burgess in his athletic endeavors.