

**Schumann Farm**  
**Liberia**  
**Happy Hill**  
**Liberian Organization of the Piedmont**  
(visit [oldsalem.org/hidden-town-project](http://oldsalem.org/hidden-town-project)  
for contextual history)

**Schumann Farm**

Salem's Moravian leadership sought the services of Dr. Henry Schumann who lived in the nearby Moravian town of Bethania. His wife was ill, and he insisted on bringing Coelia, the woman he enslaved, and her children with them to Salem. Because of the slave regulations which prohibited residents from owning enslaved people in town, Dr. Schumann was placed across Salem Creek on the former Salem Farm where a new house was built in 1815. It was this farmland – across the creek – that became Happy Hill after Emancipation.



This painting was made around 1840 from a point of view near the present day intersection of Liberia and Free Streets in Happy Hill, looking across the creek towards Salem. The foreground is the land of the former Schumann farm, with the 1815 Schumann house to the right of the horses. At the lower center of the picture is a human figure that may be a person of African descent. The town of Salem is prominent rising from left to right, with the Salem Church (Home Moravian) at the high point. The Negro Church is just visible above the tree line at the center left. Artist Daniel Welfare was living in the former Schumann house when he made this painting. "Salem from the Southeast," Daniel Welfare, 1840, Wachovia Historical Society Collection.

## Liberia

### Immigration to Liberia

Liberia has its origins in the United States in the founding of the "Society for the Colonization of Free People of Color of America" in 1816-1817, which became the American Colonization Society. The Colony of Liberia began in 1822. In 1847, the Republic of Liberia was established, the first and oldest modern republic in Africa, with a flag and constitution modeled after the United States. A total of twenty-five people from Salem, North Carolina immigrated to Liberia in the 1830s.

In Salem, Dr. Schumann increased his ownership of enslaved people and ran a successful farm. In 1836 he decided to move into town where the slave regulations prohibited bringing the people he enslaved. He manumitted the seventeen people he owned and sent them, with six other free people (several related by marriage to the seventeen) to Liberia. He also provided funds for their establishment in Liberia, the new colony in West Africa for freed slaves. In 1839 Salem resident Gottlieb Schober's will freed and sent two additional people from Salem to Liberia: Enoch Morgan Shober and his wife Nancy. Enoch was a son of Timothy (ca. 1736-1838) and Fanny (ca. 1749-1834), both born in Africa and enslaved in Salem, who are buried in the Negro God's Acre. They have many descendants, including Happy Hill residents.

### Who were the immigrants and what happened to them?

Most of the 1836 group was associated with the Negro Congregation in Salem (St. Philips Moravian), and a lovefeast was held in the log church as farewell. They departed Salem in late October 1836 for Wilmington, NC, to board the ship "Roundout" for their crossing of the Atlantic Ocean. Departing the Cape Fear on December 31, 1836, they arrived in the Monrovia, Liberia, harbor on February 3, 1837. They settled in Millsberg, Liberia. The twenty-three immigrants included several family groups:

Celia Schumann  
Flora Schumann Blum  
Savorick Schober Blum  
William Blum  
Lucretia Corinna Blum  
Augustus Blum  
Sarah Blum  
Lucretia Schumann Wooten  
Julius Wooten  
Nancy Corinna Schumann Wooten  
Joseph Wooten  
Corinna Wooten  
Solon Wooten  
Casper Schumann  
James Schumann  
Clarissa Schumann  
Montreville Schumann  
Dorus Schumann  
Willis Schumann  
Susannah Schumann  
Lydia Schumann  
Philip Coleman  
Nathan Legan



The Negro Church is shown in this detail of a 1832 painting of Salem. A Moravian lovefeast service was held on October 23, 1836 to honor the group departing for Liberia. Collection of Moravian Archives Winston-Salem, NC.

In 1839 Enoch Morgan Shober and Nancy Shober left Salem for Liberia. They were both born in the community of Hope Moravian Church but enslaved as adults by Gottlieb Schober at the Paper Mill on Peters Creek. For their passage to Liberia, they traveled from Salem to the port at Norfolk, Virginia, for their voyage on the ship "Saluda," sailing in mid-August 1839. As they crossed the Atlantic, a fever spread on the ship. Enoch and Nancy arrived in Liberia unwell, and they both died in Liberia in October 1839.



## Happy Hill

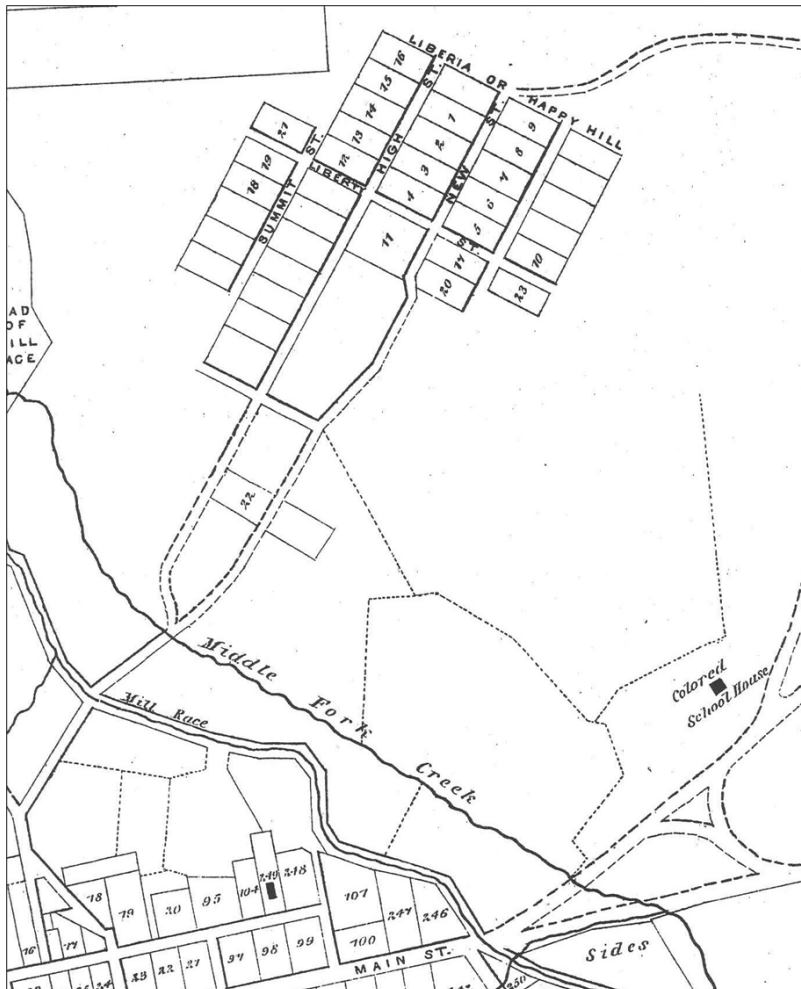
After Dr. Schumann moved into town, the farm where he had lived was leased to other Moravians. Following Emancipation, announced in the African Church in Salem (St. Philips Moravian Church) on May 21, 1865, the Freedmen prioritized education and negotiated with the Moravian Church for land on which to build a school for their children. On the western end of the former Schumann farm near the Brothers' Spring, a parcel was provide free of charge, and the Freedmen's School was built in 1867.



Freedmen's School was located east of Waughtown Road and above the Brothers' Spring. It was the first school for African American children in Salem, post-bellum.

Collection of Moravian Archives, Winston-Salem.

In 1872, the Moravian Church transformed the former Schumann farm into a planned Freedmen's neighborhood named "Liberia." Streets and lots were laid out, with lots for sale to Freedmen for \$10 each. The neighborhood was immediately called "Happy Hill," the first African American neighborhood in Winston-Salem.



Detail from EA Vogler's "Map of Salem and Winston, North Carolina," 1876, showing the Freedmen's neighborhood "Liberia or Happy Hill," and the Freedmen's school "Colored School House," both across the creek from Salem.

Collection of Moravian Archives, Winston-Salem.



## Liberian Organization of the Piedmont

### Salem – Liberia relationship today

Since 2009, Old Salem Museums & Gardens has partnered with the Liberian Organization of the Piedmont (LOP) to elevate the historic connection between Salem and Liberia, and Liberian dignitaries regularly visit the city and the museum.

The history is memorialized at the corner of Liberia and Free Streets in Happy Hill at the City of Winston-Salem Historic Marker, installed in 2019. The marker is 400 feet upslope from the archaeological presence of the Schumann house.



**Liberians gather following the Historic Marker Ceremony, September 2019.** The marker is located at the corner of Liberia Street and Free Street in Happy Hill.



## Highlights from LOP at Old Salem Museums & Gardens



**Liberian Flag Presentation to Old Salem in St. Philips Moravian Church, March 2010.**  
Pictured (L-R): James Hunder, LOP President; NC Rep. Larry Womble; The Rev. Dr. Seth O. Lartey; Mayor Allen Joines; Edwin F. Sele, Deputy Chief of Mission, Liberian Embassy.



**Mayor Julia K. Bono of Buchanan, Liberia, laying wreath at St. Philips, August 2015.**  
Buchanan, Liberia, and Winston-Salem, NC, are Sister Cities.



**The Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf visited Winston-Salem, September 2016.**

The Moravian Archives presented Her Excellency with a reproduction of a Liberia map from their collection. Pictured (L-R) Cheryl Harry, Old Salem; Mayor Pro-Tempore Vivian Burke; President Sirleaf; Moravian Archivist Richard Starbuck with map; Dorothy Pettus, St. Philips Moravian Church; Liberian Ambassador Jeremiah C. Sulunteh; Mayor Allen Joines. Photo by Jeffrey L. Toomer, City of Winston-Salem.



**Liberian Ambassador George S. W. Patten, Sr. visited Old Salem, September 2021.**

Ambassador Patten listened to Phyllis' story in the museum's Log Church exhibition. Phyllis was a daughter of Ceolia, and like her mother, enslaved by Dr. Schumann. Phyllis died in 1828, prior to the 1836 voyage to Liberia; however, her son Casper Schumann immigrated with the group that included her mother and siblings.