

GAMMON HOUSE

BEACON

Established 1850

Spring 2026

Let us march on

See inside for...



- Gammon Interpretive Center
- 2025 Juneteenth & Prayer Breakfast
- Gammon Discovery Walk
- So. Many. Tours!
- Collaborating & Connecting
- Black History Month
- Women's History Month
- Barry Black, Senate Chaplain & 2026 Prayer Breakfast Keynote
- New Gammon Board Member, Marvin Jordan
- Gammon Griot Speaker Series

620 Piqua Place, Springfield, Ohio 45506

P.O. Box 724, Springfield, Ohio 45501

www.gammonhouse.org



The Vision: A New Interpretive Center

George and Sarah Gammon were free persons of color who built a home at 620 Piqua Place in Springfield, Ohio, in 1850.

That same year, the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act increased penalties for helping enslaved persons reach freedom. These included harsher prison sentences and \$1,000 fines.

The Gammons did it anyway.

They raised seven children under that roof while sheltering freedom seekers on the Underground Railroad. Evidence shows this property with its five rooms, cellar, and attic helped free people. Their eldest son, Charles, enlisted in the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Regiment and gave his life on James Island, South Carolina.



The Gammon House will remain as the sacred artifact. Across the street, a new Interpretive Center will rise to tell the broader story.



A Courageous Stop on Freedom's Road

CINCINNATI
URBAN
DESIGN &
ARCHITECTURE
STUDIO

David Bosh Design
Architects & Planners

“Our community is creating something that will live long beyond us.”

-Camille Buford, Board Member



Immersive Exhibit Space

Exhibits highlight the Underground Railroad & Gammon family legacy, with interactive displays to bring the 1850s journey to life for all visitors.

Education & Programming

Gathering spaces support field trips, workshops, events, and cultural programming, expanding the reach of the Discovery Walk trail.

Community & Heritage Hub

Home of Springfield's Black History. Celebrations, Cultural Research, and Innovative Storytelling



2025 Juneteenth Celebration

At **no cost to families**, the Gammon House hosted a record Juneteenth celebration for all ages – honoring **freedom, resilience, and community**.



Juneteenth 2025 Program Here

- Visitors of all ages connected with the Gammon House’s rich history as one of Ohio’s few remaining Underground Railroad safehouses owned and operated by people of color.
- Held on the historic grounds of the Gammon House, the celebration brought the Springfield community together for a day filled with joy, reflection, and unity.
- Families enjoyed live music, delicious offerings from local food trucks, and engaging activities for all ages.
- Children loved the event’s “railroad,” a small train that traveled to local-history learning stops along the route.



George & Sarah Gammon Discovery Walk

- The **George & Sarah Gammon Discovery Walk** celebrated its Grand Opening June 7, 2025, giving the community a small but meaningful experience of the Ohio Underground Railroad History Trail.
- Throughout the year, the Discovery Walk welcomed school and homeschool groups, seniors, adults with disabilities, out-of-state visitors, family reunions, and more, offering an engaging and accessible way to learn about the courage and determination of those who traveled the Underground Railroad.
- Made possible by the generous support of the Jud family, the Gammon House created a historical trail symbolizing the journey from the Ohio River to Lake Erie along Route 68, with “secret stops” representing moments in Underground Railroad history.



Dr. Henry
“Hank” Jud
Memorial
Fund



Preserving American history isn't optional.

It's essential.

Prayer Breakfast: *Bishop Ray Caruthers inspired our Prayer Breakfast with a compelling message that highlighted the significant contributions of the local Black church, both historically and today.*



Honoring Leaders: *This year's Legacy Honorees included historian Art Thomas, founder Betty Grimes, past president Dale Henry, past board member William Herchel Miller, designer Dorothy Booker, and historian John Bailey for their contributions to preserving and sharing Gammon House history.*



TOGETHER WE RISE

Prayer Breakfast



Barry C. Black

United States Senate Chaplain
2003–Present

SAVE THE DATE

June 19, 2026, 9 a.m.

St. John's Missionary Baptist Church

Welcome to the board, Marvin Jordan!



- Welcome Marvin Jordan, our newest Gammon Board Member!
- He has a military background and strong leadership experience.
- Marvin is a certified Project Management Professional and Lean/Green Belt practitioner.
- His expertise includes project management, team building, cybersecurity support, and training.

Gammon House, Inc. Board of Trustees



A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Dedicated Board Members

We are pleased to announce that Kenneth Stone has been elected to serve as the Board President.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our ongoing board members! Your wisdom and expertise are truly valued.

Tours Available!

Let us know you're coming & we'll meet you at the Gammon House!
info@gammonhouse.org
937-471-6837



- Visit Ohio.org for specific details on each of the 40 destinations.
- Go to ohio.org/home/ugrrtrail or scan this QR code:

Classes · Organizations · Business · Family · Friends



- Indoor & Outdoor
- Led by trained docents

- What is an Underground Railroad?
- What did the Gammon Family do?
- Why did people have to hide?
- Where did people hide?
- When was the house built?



Media Spotlight

The New York Times

In February, The Gammon House welcomed a *New York Times* journalist and a photographer, linking the concept of “hiding people” to historical and contemporary contexts.

The Gammon House received recognition on the NYT website, was featured on the front page of the March 7 print edition, and appeared across the NYT social media platforms. Thank you to the *New York Times* for your visit!



Gammon Griot Speaker Series

In partnership with the Clark County Public Library, the Gammon Griot Speaker Series features guest historians and storytellers sharing the rich legacy of African American history.



Dale Henry

February 2026

“Black Patriots: Untold heroes of the American Revolution”



Jim Embry & Jennifer Bailey

March 2026

Harriet Tubman: Ohio's connection to the Underground Railroad & Civil War.



A griot (GREE-oh) is a West African hereditary storyteller, historian, musician, and praise singer who preserves oral traditions, genealogies, & cultural narratives.

Black History Month

February 2026

February brought a record number of tours to the Gammon House. Saturday Open Houses hosted locals and people from far away. Weekday tours inspired local groups, too!



Some student groups received a free copy of “Black Inventors”, courtesy of LINKS, Inc.



Come to the Gammon House to get your Black History Finger Puppets, inspired by the Freedom Center in Cincinnati!



Rosa Parks

Bessie Coleman



Ketanji Brown Jackson

Barack Obama



Frederick Douglass

Langston Hughes



Toni Morrison

James Baldwin



Josephine Baker

Harriet Tubman



Black History Month

Ohio's Black Inventors, Innovators, & Trailblazers



- This February exhibit connected Ohio legends to the USA using many contributions, celebrating the United States' 250th Anniversary.
- Exhibits were created in collaboration with The Heritage Center, The Links, Inc., and The Gammon House.

Coretta Scott King

American Trailblazer, 1927-2006



Colonel Charles Young

American Innovator, 1864-1922



Toni Morrison

American Innovator, 1931-2019



Beloved.

Ohio Celebrates
Toni Morrison

"Beloved: Ohio Celebrates Toni Morrison" is a yearlong, statewide celebration running from February 2026 – February 2027.

- The program marks what would have been the Lorain-born Nobel laureate's 95th birthday.
- **Catch events** throughout the state highlighting her life and literature.

Women's History Month

Ohio Women Trailblazers



This March exhibit connected Black Ohio women's contributions to the USA to celebrate the United States' 250th Anniversary.



Exhibits were created in collaboration with The Heritage Center, The Links, Inc., and The Gammon House.

SARAH BRADLEY GAMMON
1808-1902

American Trailblazer



RITA DOVE
1952

American Trailblazer



Poet Sonja Sanchez joked "There must be something in that Ohio water" to have produced both Rita Dove & Toni Morrison, two literary greats.

VIRGINIA HAMILTON
1934-2002

American Trailblazer



Mary Church Terrell was sent to Yellow Springs for an education, where Virginia's ancestors lived.

Both Toni Morrison and Virginia used their rural Ohio upbringing as a literary device to destroy stereotypes about African Americans.

DR. IRENE LONG
1950-2020

American Trailblazer



Ohio State Representative Joyce Beatty and Dr. Irene Long both attended Wright State University in the 1970s.

ANNA JULIA COOPER
1858-1964

American Trailblazer



At the 1893 World's Congress of Representative Women in Chicago, Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, Hallie Quinn Brown, and Fanny Jackson Coppin spoke alongside Anna.

Their eloquence and leadership deeply moved Frederick Douglass, who said he was "illuminated with hope and expectation for the race."

LEONTYNE PRICE
1927

American Trailblazer



Other recipients of the Spingarn medal include Mary Talbert in 1922 and Ruby Dee in 2008.

ELLA NORA PHILLIPS STEWART
1893-1987

American Trailblazer



Mary Terrel, Mary Talbert, Hallie Brown, and Ella were all at one time presidents of the National Association of Colored Women (NACW)

Want a deeper dive?



Black History Month

**Ohio's Black
Inventors, Innovators,
& Trailblazers**

SCAN ME



Women's History Month

**Ohio's Women
Trailblazers**

SCAN ME



Collaboration

Our board's theme this year has been **collaboration**. We've been fortunate to work with partners across the city, county, and state. Thank you to many organizations who have supported us or toured. The photos and logos shown here represent just a few of those partnerships.



← Partnering to create & display historical exhibits at both locations



NIGHTINGALE MONTESSORI

↑ Partnering with students who researched, planted, and maintain native trees, enriching the Gammon House landscape

CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

← Connecting kids & history with the Book Mobile & events



Linked in Friendship, Connected in Service

← Connecting students & history with interactive exhibits & books



Cliff Park High School

↑ Connecting students to history for their annual Black History Museum



← Partnering with ODJFS's Case Management & Employment Program's Emerging Leadership Career Academy 2025



Department of Job & Family Services



Springfield Foundation
For good. For ever.®

← Partnering to improve the local quality of life



United Way of Clark, Champaign & Madison Counties

↑ Partnering to educate & strengthen community



← Partnering to ensure safety at Gammon events



↑ Partnering to support tourism & marketing



← Connecting families & neighborhoods



← Partnering to encourage local fathers



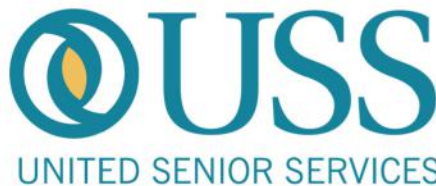
↑ Connecting local service & excellence for all ages



← Collaborating to support local Black history education



↑ Partnering to support local youth education with Akbar Temple #41



← Connecting to inspire local seniors



← Partnering to connect the larger historical conversation in Ohio



George & Sarah Gammon Discovery Walk

*Saturday, June 13th , 11 AM @ the 2025 newly constructed
Interactive walking trail on the Gammon grounds*

Together We Rise Prayer Breakfast

Friday, June 19th @ St. John Missionary Baptist Church | 9:00 AM

Juneteenth Fatherfest Celebration

Saturday, June 20th @ The Gammon House | 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Special exhibit from CliffPark Highschool on statewide Ohio Celebrates "Toni Morrison"



**JOHN LEGEND
LOVED!**

www.gammonhouse.org



Springfield Foundation
For good. For ever.



Cliff Park
NATIONAL BANK