

ABBOTT NEWS



Abbott Race Unity Institute Newsletter

December, 2017

Irrespective of your religious beliefs or the traditions you observe, we hope that this special season will be one of exceeding joy and happiness for you and your entire family.

Abbott Institute Board of Directors

Abbott Institute Undertakes Massive Fundraising Project

(page 2)

The Saga of Green Cottenham December's Unity in Diversity Luncheon

(page 5)

(We have several other items to share with you, so we will be issuing a second newsletter before the end of this month.)

Work of Art to Honor Civil Rights Leader



Original clay carving of the bust, Robert S. Abbott and His Newsboys, on display at last year's International Festival at the College of Coastal Georgia, Brunswick, Georgia

Robert Sengstacke Abbott was in the forefront of the earliest civil rights efforts in the United States. In 1905 he founded a newspaper, *The Chicago Defender*, which became the largest and most important black publication in the country during more than half of the last century. This was his pulpit and from it he ceaselessly fought racism, educating his readers to demand their right to equality and making the

world aware of the atrocities his people had endured.

Even today Robert Abbott is widely regarded as the greatest single force in African-American journalism. Lawrence D. Hogan commented in his 1984 study of this country's black newspapers that Abbott "was the pioneer for the Negro press as Hearst was for the White metropolitan press."

In 2015, Kevin Pullen, Artist in Residence at the College of Coastal Georgia, Brunswick, Georgia, sculpted a bust titled *Robert S. Abbott and His Newsboys*. In collaboration with Kevin, the Robert S. Abbott Race Unity Institute is seeking to honor this great civil rights leader by having four bronze copies of the bust produced. Three of these works of art will be presented for permanent display in the following locations:

Hampton University Museum, Hampton, Virginia. In 1889 Robert Abbott entered this institution, founded as the Hampton Institute in 1868 to educate former slaves. It was here that he refined his skills as a printer. Today, the sprawling campus has 5,000 students and offers 48 baccalaureate, 23 masters, and eight doctoral programs. Hampton will celebrate its 150th anniversary in April of next year and the unveiling of the bust in the university's museum will take place at that time.

Chicago Defender Charities Headquarters, Chicago, Illinois. Founded in 1967 primarily to oversee the annual Bud Billiken parade which was initiated by Robert Abbott in 1929 and is still the largest African-American parade in the country. This organization also performs extensive work in providing scholarships for needy high school graduates as well as food and clothing for disadvantaged families.

We are finalizing specifics for a third bust to be located at a National Historic Site operated by the National Park Service and will announce details regarding this location in the near future.

The fourth copy of the bust will be loaned on a temporary basis by the Robert S. Abbott Race Unity Institute to museums and other appropriate venues throughout the country.



The preceding is from a handout that has been prepared for Institute members to give to others who might be interested in participating in this unique project.

So, how much will this bronzing effort cost? Perhaps you should sit down! If you remain standing, perhaps you should have someone nearby who could help you off the floor! OK, here goes:

\$27,400.00

Are you still breathing normally? Yes, this is a massive amount of money. Far more than our group can likely raise by itself. So, we will need to seek out a wide variety of other sources, and we have already started this process. One of the actions the Board has taken is to appoint a Finance Committee. These talented Institute members are being asked to devise ways to reach out to churches, social groups and others in our area and beyond whom we hope will be able to help. We are also working with individuals in Chicago and Virginia to help raise funds there.

We need your assistance in three ways. Obviously any contribution you can make will be invaluable and your sharing the project with friends and neighbors is also important and greatly appreciated. But, we also need your ideas for promoting this project. Please share any suggestions you have with and/or request handouts from our Treasurer, Diane Knight, at rlmiller@netbox.com.

**To Make a Contribution:
Visit [gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com)
Search for Robert Abbott
Open our Go Fund Me page and follow the instructions**

The Saga of Green Cottenham

Unity in Diversity luncheon, Saturday, December 9th

Fifty years after the end of the Civil War, this young southern black man, like tens of thousands of others, was seized and sold into slavery where he would eventually die.

Join us this coming Saturday as our president, Bruce Whitmore, shares the horrific story of how slavery continued in this country for eight decades after Abraham Lincoln's enactment of the Emancipation Proclamation. It is a story you will not want to miss hearing.

This luncheon will be held this coming Saturday at noon at the Golden Corral, 114 Golden Isles Parkway. ***Bring your friends!***

All membership renewals for 2017 are now due. If you have not paid your membership dues for this year, you may do so on Saturday or you may mail your check to LaTanya Abbott-Austin, Membership Director, 158 Zachary Drive, Brunswick 31525. If you are not yet a member, we would love to have you join us. Call LaTanya at 912-996-4500 for more information.

