

The Hingham Historical Society is pleased to name Marion Lindsey Teague a “Hingham History Maker.” We jumped at the opportunity to honor Marion in this way for two reasons: first, her pioneering interest in studying the history of Hingham’s people of color and, second, her long and eventful life well-lived in our Town.

Marion was born 98 years ago in Hingham—one house up Ward Street from her current house—in the neighborhood that she has helped us remember was once widely known as Tuttleville, an historically Black neighborhood on Hingham’s west side.

She has been witness to and an active participant in many of the important historical events and trends of the past century. In 1942, with her father, Herbert Lindsay, she co-founded the South Shore Citizens Club, which initially provided social support to the many Black military troops stationed in the area, where other recreation opportunities were still racially segregated.

After the war, the organization became a civilian social and benevolent organization for families of color in the area, including raising funds to provide scholarships for students of color on the South Shore.

She experienced the racial inequities of the North and the South, after moving to Paris, Tennessee, with her husband Robert Teague after the war. She both observed first-hand and participated in the civil right struggles of the 1960s, again with Mr. Teague, through his involvement with the Urban League, the NAACP, and the South Shore Freedom Movement.

And all through this period Marion was a working woman and a mother, training as a cosmetologist and running businesses in Tennessee, in Hingham, and for a period of time, in Oak Bluffs.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, Marion was at the forefront of the Black history movement, as persons of color began exploring the history of their families and communities, conducting research with the Town Clerk’s offices in Hingham and Weymouth, government archives, and university libraries.

To provide some context, Black History Month was established in 1970 and in 1976 Alex Haley published his groundbreaking popular work, *Roots*. But Joyce tells me that Marion had the jump on Alex Haley by two years, reporting on her findings about Tuttle and Simpson family genealogy at a Tuttle-Simpson family reunion in 1974.

As she plumbed her roots, Marion also learned more about her Indigenous ancestry, which include connections with the Chappaquiddick and Nipmuc tribes. Her connections to the Chappaquiddick grew and in 2017 she took a name as a member of that tribe at a naming ceremony held on Ward Street.

We are indebted to Marian for her work in preserving and teaching the history of Tuttleville and the families who have resided there for over 200 years; for her work in documenting the genealogy of Hingham's families of color; and for her work in educating us about the enduring presence of indigenous people in Hingham and the South Shore.

So, thank you, Marion, for being a "Hingham History Maker."