



Rev. Patricia A. Singletary

**First Female Pastor in the History of the Elmendorf Church
First Pastor of the New Millennium**

Rev. Patricia A. Singletary was born in Harlem, Harlem Hospital to be exact, and raised in Brooklyn's Bedford Stuyvesant area. She was educated in the New York City school system, and is a graduate of Franklin K. Lane High School.

Education:

Virginia Seminary & College - [now known as-University of Virginia at Lynchburg]-

Associate of Arts degree [AA] - Christian Education

State University of New York - Empire State College

Associate of Science degree [AS] - Business Administration

Bachelor of Science degree [BS] - Business Organization &

Management

New Brunswick Theological Seminary

Masters of Divinity degree [M.DIV]

Doctor of Ministry degree [D. Min.]- Urban Ministry - candidate

New York University - Investment Banking certification

Manhattan Bible Institute - Bachelor of Theology degree [TH.B], Masters of Religious Education degree [MRE]

Tennessee School of Religion - Doctor of Divinity degree [DD]

Hospital Chaplaincy (CPE) Internship - Lenox Hill Hospital, Harlem Hospital

Former Occupation:

Underwriting Securities Specialist [Investment Banking] - retired - [34 years]

Depository Trust Clearing Corporation - New York Stock Exchange

Religious Affiliation:

Ordained Baptist minister and ordained in the Reformed Church in America. She was former Senior Associate minister of the Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, Jamaica, New York; under the Rev. Dr. Charles E. Betts, Sr.

Marital Status:

She was married to the Late Edward F. Singletary. She is the mother of two sons, Erik and Don. The grandmother of five: Tiana, Erik, Danielle, Janelle, and Don.

Acknowledgements of her accomplishments are found in:

Who's Who of Women in America.

Who's Who of Emerging Leaders in America.

Who's Who in the World.

Motto: *Called for such a time as this!*

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Human remains from an African burial ground circa 1700 may still be present near East 126th St. & 1st Avenue (NW corner) in East Harlem

Ever since Nellie Hester Bailey of the Harlem Tenants Council, Inc. mentioned in passing at a Summer 2008 rally that an African burial ground dating from the Dutch and British colonial era may exist in East Harlem, we have been frantically looking for more details to no avail. Recall that an African Burial Ground dating from the 1600s and 1700s was re-discovered in 1991 in downtown Manhattan near City Hall which finally became a national monument memorial in 2007.

The New York Times has published the most exhaustive survey of the potential site of a Harlem African burial ground we have seen on January 19, 2009 (which coincidentally is the Martin Luther King Day federal holiday): Article from the New York Times: Are traces of the original Harlem settlement — including an African burial ground — awaiting discovery during the replacement of the Willis Avenue Bridge and the planned rehabilitation of the 126th Street Bus Depot? The painting below shows the Harlem waterfront as it appeared in 1765. The steeple of the Reformed Low Dutch Church can be seen at the far right. Just below are what appear to be headstones.

There will be no way to know for certain until the soil is dug up, but the prospect of such a discovery is being greeted both anxiously and eagerly by a couple of stewards of Harlem history. The bucolic farming village of Nieuw Haarlem was established in March 1658, meaning that it is still in its 350th anniversary year. “What an awesome way to celebrate!” said Christopher Paul Moore, a member of the Landmarks Preservation Commission and the research coordinator for the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture of the New York Public Library. “Seems like a cultural bonus could be reaped from this, and not just about preserving the cemetery, but preserving or recapturing a hugely significant era in New York’s history, the founding and settlement of Harlem.”

The map below was hand-sketched in 1910 and shows the site of the original church which was built in 1665. This same site was later used as an African burying ground. The present day location of NYC streets are superimposed. The dashed line is the original Harlem River waterfront, which was extended eastward in subsequent centuries by landfill. The text of the map reads: "Site of the original church built in 1665 which later became a Negro Burying Ground" "The Reformed Low Dutch Church of Harlem," 1910 The area around First Avenue, just north of 125th Street, is critical to Harlem history as the original location of the Reformed Low Dutch Church of Harlem. This religious body, founded in 1660, is perpetuated today as the Elmendorf Reformed Church, 171 East 121st Street. Its first, rudimentary church building stood on a site bounded by First Avenue, East 126th Street and East 127th Street, now occupied by a New York City Transit bus depot. (The depot was constructed for the bus line subsidiary of the Third Avenue Railway.)

At the time, this would have been right on the Harlem River shoreline. What is even more tantalizing is that the original church site “was afterward used as a Negro burying ground,” according to a 1910 historical sketch of the Reformed Low Dutch Church of Harlem by the Rev. Dr. Edgar Tilton Jr. This would make it one of exceptionally few remaining African-American historical sites from the colonial period. The hunger among New Yorkers for any physical trace of a story that was largely ignored or obliterated until recent years was reflected in the tremendous interest generated by the discovery of the African Burial Ground in Lower Manhattan. The Rev. Patricia A. Singletary, pastor of the Elmendorf Church, said that she and the church elders were “concerned about the coming community outcry” should there be no plans to commemorate the site or protect any artifacts or vestiges that may be found.

“Remember,” she said, “this site represents the beginning of Harlem’s existence.” In the near term, the construction project closest to the site involves the replacement of the Willis Avenue Bridge by the city Department of Transportation. Work began last year and is to be finished in 2012. “As a precaution, and in accordance with the State Historical Preservation Office, we have established a monitoring zone on the westernmost part of the project area (First Avenue),” Seth Solomonow, a spokesman for the department, said in an e-mail message, “and we have committed to having an archaeologist on-site in the unlikely event that excavation reveals any artifacts.” “We are aware that historical maps show a former church and a burial ground below the nearby bus depot, but our bridge replacement work is well outside that area,” he said. “Some historical maps show that the current project area is along former waterfront or was actually submerged at the time the cemetery was in use.

In addition, the area has been excavated numerous times over the decades and centuries for development, for sewer, gas and electrical installation, for the development of the existing bus depot, and for construction of the Harlem River Drive and the current Willis Avenue Bridge.” It is the bus depot’s future that is more closely tied to the burying ground itself. Charles F. Seaton, a spokesman for the transit agency, said rehabilitation of the depot is planned around 2014. Asked whether that project might include commemoration of Nieuw Haarlem and the burying ground, he said, “We would have to see what is discovered and then make a determination on how to proceed.” Robert B. Tierney, the chairman of the landmarks commission, is “very interested in a careful review to determine the appropriate level of recognition,” his spokeswoman, Elisabeth de Bourbon, said. That will depend in part on whether any burials can be found. The image below is from a photograph of the area from 1903.

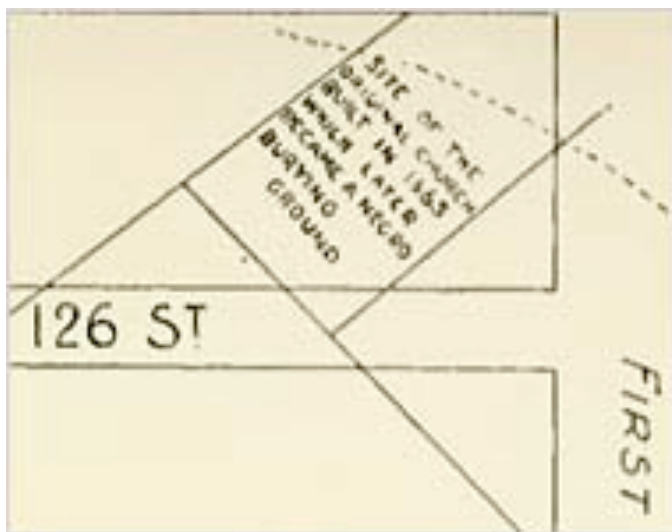
Traces (Perhaps) of Nieuw Haarlem (East 127th)

•May 22, 2009 • [No Comments](#)



“Manual of the Corporation of the City of New-York,” 1863

The Harlem waterfront as it appeared in 1765. The steeple of the Reformed Low Dutch Church can be seen at the far right. Just below are what appear to be headstones.



Map shows the original church site and African burying ground. The dashed line is the original waterfront.



This 106-year-old photograph was originally captioned: “Site of the first church burying ground of New Harlem. Viewed from 127th Street and Willis Avenue Viaduct.”

By David W. Dunlap NY Times