

In Memory of Hannah Jones and Tinnan Morehead: Two of More than Thirty Enslaved People at Blandwood

Unlike most of the people who were enslaved at Blandwood, Hannah Jones and Tinnan Morehead were documented by name in the personal records of the Morehead family. Hannah, born in 1823, was married to Jack Doak, with whom she had a son named Edward. A second marriage to Samuel Jones in 1861 brought two additional children—John, born in 1862, and Anne, born in 1868.

As an enslaved woman at Blandwood, Hannah was likely responsible for household tasks including cooking, child rearing, and cleaning. She and her family remained at Blandwood after emancipation, until the early 1870s, when Hannah purchased land in nearby Warnersville, the first African American community in Greensboro. As a free Black woman, she owned and operated her own laundry service in the community. At the time of Hannah Jones' death in 1895, her real estate holdings, valued at \$650, were divided among her grandchildren and other beneficiaries.

Born in 1846, Tinnan Morehead was the son of Samuel Ellison and Sarah Walker. As an enslaved man at Blandwood, Tinnan was likely responsible for the care of the house and animals. Like Hannah Jones, he remained at Blandwood several years after emancipation until he purchased land in Warnersville. A few years later, at the age of twenty-eight, Tinnan married Mary McLean. The couple had one daughter named Mary in 1877.

Outside of his family, Tinnan was active in his community, serving a two-year term on the Morehead Township's executive committee in the early 1880s. He was also a member of Saint John's Lodge No. 12, Free and Accepted Masons—Greensboro's first Prince Hall Lodge for African American men chartered in 1873. After 1890, no references to Tinnan Morehead appear in newspapers or other printed sources.