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Monthly Musings from the Peas August 1, 2010 Vol.2 * No. 8

We will be sending you our literature on a monthly basis and we will be updating our contact list. So, if you want to make any changes, additions or deletions, please contact us at whirledpeasband@gmail.com.

WEEKLY GIG

We are regulars at Catherine Rooney's in Trolley Square, Wilmington. From 7:30 until 10 we perform every Wednesday. For info or menu, directions and so on www.catherinerooneys.com

WEBSITE

We are please to present our new website. www.whirledpeasband.com Please check it out and let us know what you think. All our upcoming gigs, newsletters, merchandise and more is listed. Our next gig is at Bellevue State Park 6:30 August 9th.

Just giving you the heads up...we will be performing at The Queen Upstairs 8 pm September 8th. Tickets can be pre-purchased by logging on to <http://queentickets.worldlive.com/eventperformances.asp?evt=364>

KUDOS EXTENDED TO THE PEAS

Old Ben's Newsletter had some very glowing words about the Peas. To check it out: <http://oldbensnewsletter.blogspot.com/>

WILMINGTON

HOME OF A 198 YEAR OLD TRADITION

Independence Day for the Black people of the Delmarva Peninsula began in 1814 and has been celebrated every year since.

Peter Spencer, organizer of this day, was born 1782 in Kent County, Maryland as a slave. He received his freedom when his master died. He

migrated to Wilmington Delaware in the 1800's where he received a basic education and achieved some financial success as a mechanic.



He married Anne, who had 2 girls from a previous marriage. Spencer proved to be an excellent step-father encouraging education, thrift and industry.

The Black community was emerging in Wilmington and Spencer became a well-known figure befriending and encouraging all. He became known as "Father Spencer."

His personal qualities of leadership, versatility, persuasiveness, integrity and intellect coupled with his mechanical skills and because he studied law he was able to assist people in legal matters, he became a pillar in the Black community.

His credo of "education and religion were twins," compelled him to teach the illiterate to read and write.

While his business acumen was stellar, he is best known for his work as church founder and organizer. In 1813, after rejecting white clerical domination and control, Father Spencer established, in Wilmington, the first independent Black church denomination, the Union Church of Africans, presently known as the African Union Methodist Protestant (AUMP).

This new church held 4 meetings or conferences yearly. In 1814 at their August conference, a time when ministers received new assignments, Reverend Spencer somehow convinced the slave owners in the Peninsula to provide a "1-day pass" to their slaves so that they might come together to worship, sing, dance, testify and feast. This one day "homecoming" has continued every year since its inception in 1914.

This year's celebration will be held at Tubman-Garrett Riverfront Park from 2 until 9 August 26th. Admission is free and the event is filled with music, food and entertainment.

PEAS PONDERINGS

The battle is fought and the victory is won.
Peter Spencer on his death bed, July 25, 1843

You cannot fail if you resolutely determine that you will not.

Abraham Lincoln