

HISTORIC
AUGUSTA



Delta House, Inc.
The Lucy Craft Laney
MUSEUM OF BLACK HISTORY
AND CONFERENCE CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Robyn Macey
706-724-0436
Macey@historicaugusta.org

GEORGIA HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATION FOR AMANDA DICKSON TOOMER HOME

Augusta, GA April 6, 2021 – The unveiling ceremony for a Georgia Historical Marker honoring Amanda America Dickson Toomer (1849-1893) will be held on Friday, May 21, 2021, 11:00 A.M. The marker will be erected at 448 Telfair Street, which was her last home. The marker is sponsored by the Georgia Historical Society, the Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History, Historic Augusta, Inc. the Augusta University Center for the Study of Georgia History, and Hock Development Co., Inc. A small group of guests will be invited to attend. The event will be live-streamed on Facebook and will later be available through social media.

Hock Development bought the home in 2014 with little knowledge of the home's history. John Hock, Vice President of Hock Development, hired Doug Law of Promark to rehabilitate the home in late 2020 and early 2021.

The story of Amanda America Dickson Toomer is an important if not amazing part of Georgia history. A Biracial socialite, she was one of the wealthiest women of the 19th century. Amanda was born on November 20, 1849 in Sparta, Georgia to a white forty-one-year old plantation owner, David Dickson and an enslaved twelve-year-old girl. Amanda died at her home at 448 Telfair Street on June 11, 1893.

Amanda's mother, Julia, was owned by David Dickson's mother, Elizabeth Sholars Dickson. Amanda was raised by her white grandmother with loving care and a thorough education which included piano lessons. She attended the normal school of Atlanta University from 1876 to 1878 where she earned her teaching degree.

It is questionable whether she was legally married to her white cousin, Charles Eubanks. Due to interracial laws in Georgia, the couple was forbidden to legally marry. They had two sons, Julian Henry Dickson and Charles Green Dickson.

David Dickson died very suddenly in 1885. His death caused total chaos within the mixed-race families since he left his extremely valuable estate almost entirely to his daughter, Amanda. His white family contested, and lengthy court battles ensued. Finally, the Georgia Supreme Court ruled in Amanda's favor. On July 14, 1892, Amanda married Nathan Toomer, a wealthy, educated man of mixed race. They resided at Amanda's elegant home on Telfair Street. Amanda Dickson was known to be very generous with her inheritance and contributed to many organizations in Augusta including Trinity AME Church where she was a member.

For information contact Historic Augusta at (706) 724-0436

###