



What is history made of?

history
is made
of
many
things
and
people

of
times and
places
and
people
and
places

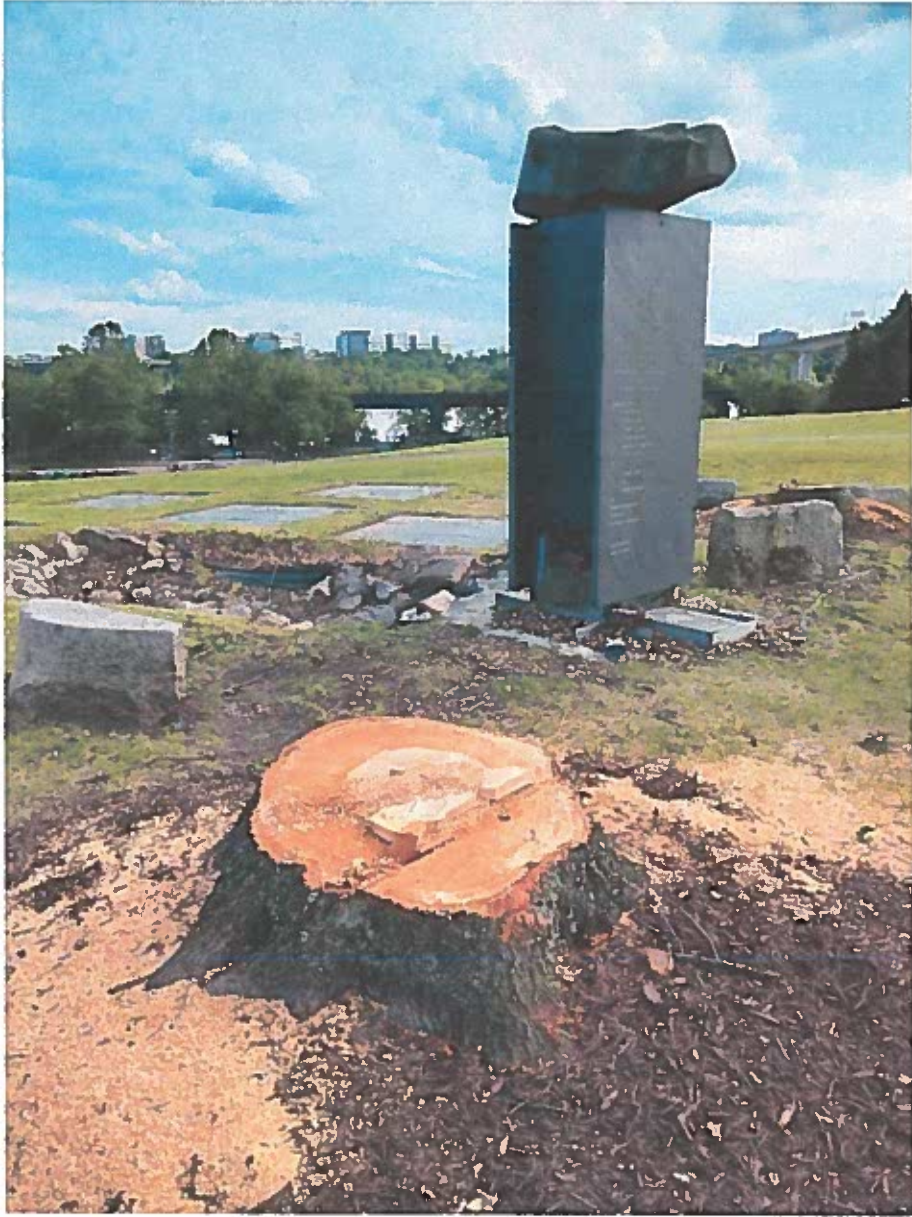
History

History
glances
from the
past
toward
the future

Historians ponder, this or that:

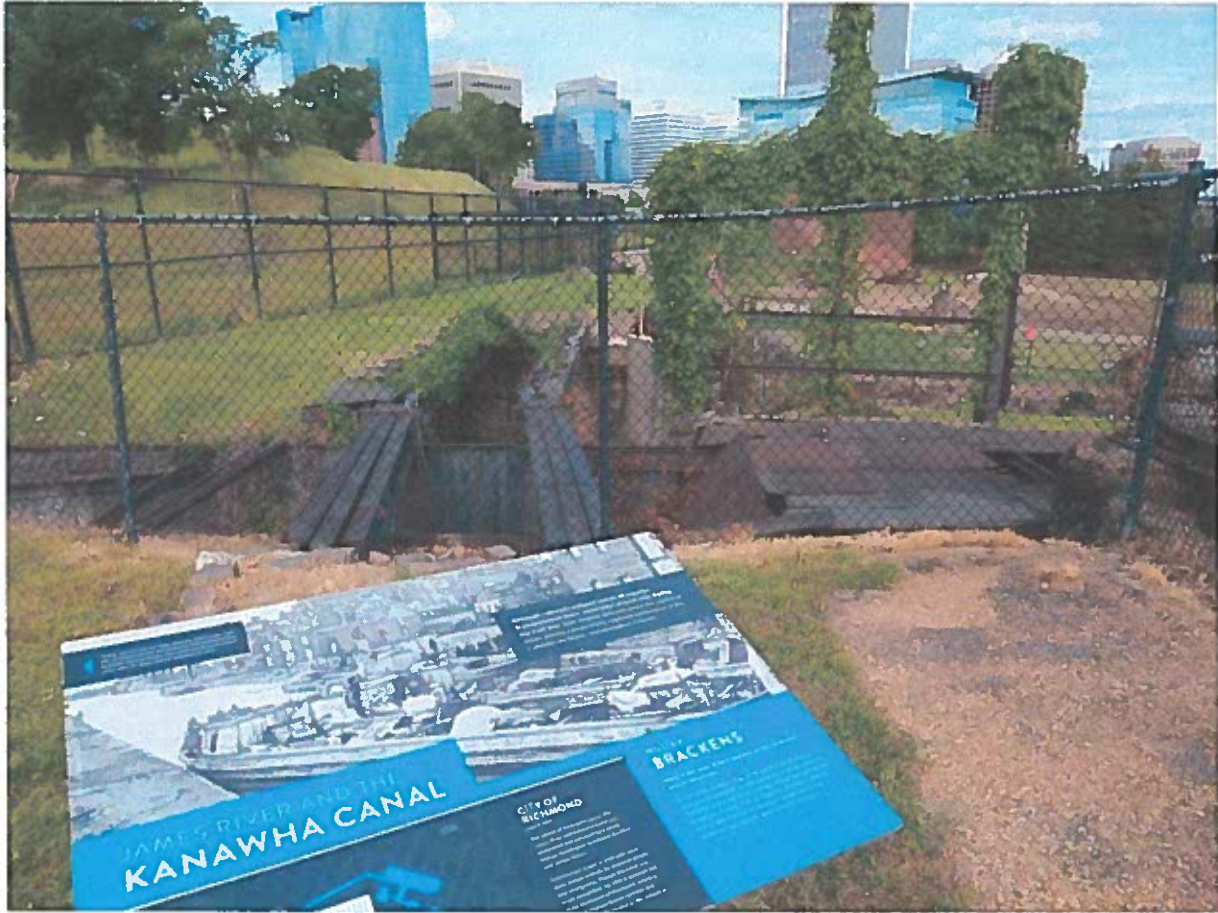
"What is history made of?"
History and bones
rains and mud
something
very early
will become
long ago
women's white necks
stars
from Texas
ridges of earth
or warrens

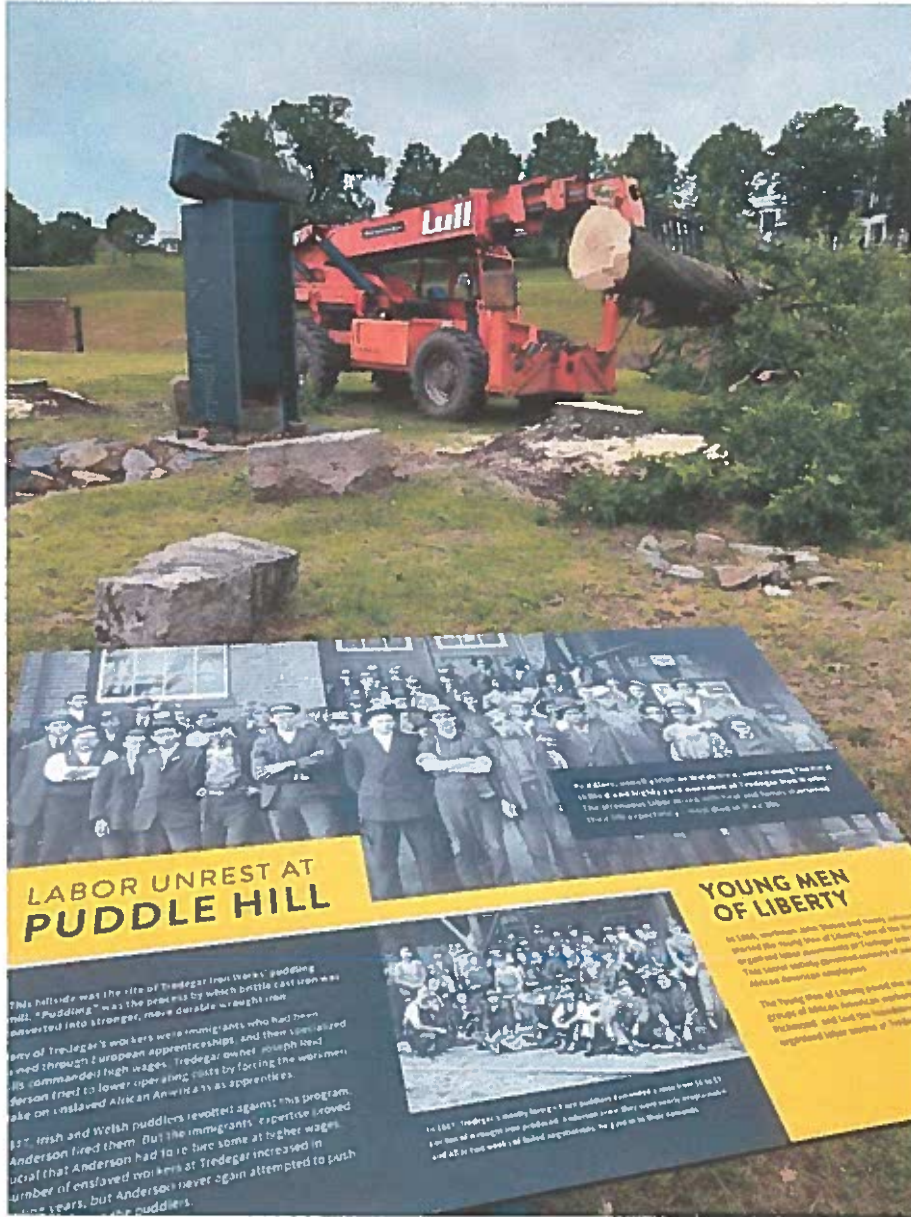






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LABOR UNREST AT PUDDLE HILL

This hillside was the site of Tredegar Iron Works' puddling mill. "Puddling" was the process by which brittle cast iron was converted into stronger, more durable wrought iron.

Many of Tredegar's workers were immigrants who had been trained through European apprenticeships, and they specialized in its demanding high wages. Tredegar owner Joseph Anderson tried to lower operating costs by forcing the workers to take on enslaved African Americans as apprentices.

In 1847, Irish and Welsh puddlers revolted against this program. Anderson fired them. But the immigrants' expertise proved crucial that Anderson had to re-hire some at higher wages. A number of enslaved workers at Tredegar increased in value over the years, but Anderson never again attempted to push out the puddlers.



In 1847, Tredegar's mostly foreign-born puddlers revolted against Anderson's plan to re-hire some at higher wages and fire the rest of the workers. The revolt proved successful, and Anderson never again attempted to push out the puddlers.

YOUNG MEN OF LIBERTY

In 1848, workers John Thomas and Henry Anderson started the Young Men of Liberty, one of the first labor unions in the South. The group's goal was to gain and defend workers' rights to higher wages and shorter hours. The group's motto was "The laborer is the master of his own destiny."

The Young Men of Liberty proved the success of labor unions in the South. The group's efforts led to higher wages and shorter hours for workers in the region.





Amazing Messages
of hope
in an era
unheard

By
night of Congo
sation of grates & whips
with time's tick
in
Lower stone
men's flesh

children whistles in play in whistles
for the sugar or
for the metal dust

Gracious past
calls home
many places
where slavery
of overcoming
and never forgetting
is not moved

By
water's walk
or
words in stone

as
tomorrow unravels
believe us
as down as tenkess.

njeli Jackson
April 29, 1994

