

# M&F

Museum of the Forgotten



## Station 2: Nearest Green

Our second figure of today was a man called Nathan “Nearest” Green. Born into slavery in the early 1820s, Green, also referred to as “Uncle Nearest”, was owned by a preacher, distiller, and grocer named Dan Call. After being introduced to a young boy by the name of Jasper Newton Daniel. Seeing potential in the young boy, and being a skilled distiller himself, he decided to train the boy in the art of Distilling and whiskey making.

Through the years, Jasper learned all the techniques, tricks, and skills of distilling from Green’s teaching. He began selling his whiskey and gained himself a reputation in the town of Lynchburg, under the brand name of “Jack Daniel’s”, a nickname of his throughout his childhood, which stuck with him through the rest of his life. As his business gained more success, Jack stayed in the limelight from the success of his whiskey, while Green stayed in the shadows.

Green continued to work with Jack, even after the emancipation of all slaves in the USA in 1863, out of respect for the man that the once young boy he once trained had become. Through this, Nearest Green was immediately employed as the Master Distiller. This is the highest possible position in the business of distilling, and he made history being the first African American in history to hold such a title.