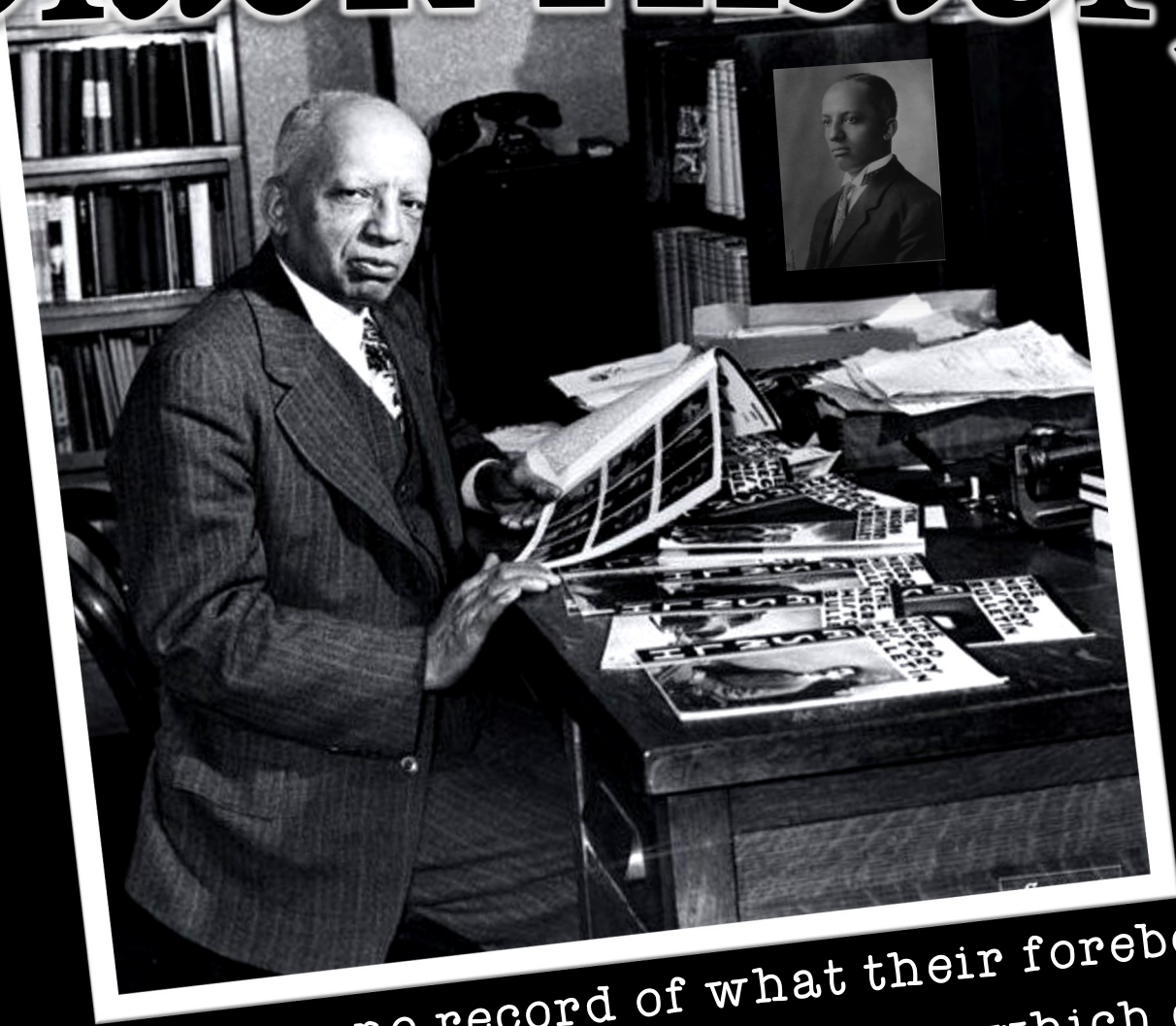




DEBRA DEBERRY
CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT
DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA



Celebrate Black History



“Those who have no record of what their forebears
have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes
from the teaching of... history.”

Carter G. Woodson

The Clerk's Black History Series

Debra DeBerry Clerk of Superior Court DeKalb County



Sarah Marshall Boone

(1832 – October 29, 1904)

“Patent Owner of the Ironing Board Sleeve Extension”



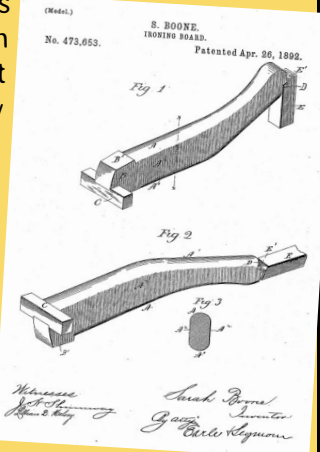
Sarah (Marshall) Boone was born in Craven County, North Carolina in 1832 to Sally and Caleb Marshall, who were both enslaved to James Marshall. James Marshall was reported to be Sarah's biological father. The only education she received was from her grandfather.

According to marriage bond records, on November 25, 1847, when she was 14, Sarah married James Boon (later Boone), a brick mason, and he, a free man, may have bought her freedom. The Boones continued to live in North Carolina, where their children William, James, and Mary Elizabeth were born. It is reported that the Boone's worked within the system of the Underground Railroad to move to New Haven, Connecticut by 1856.

The Moore's settled into a Black neighborhood at 30 Winter Street, near Dixwell Avenue. Many of Dixwell's residents worked for nearby Yale College, and Dixwell Avenue was a vibrant part of town, eventually serving as the main street for the Black community. Sarah began working as one of the many dressmakers in the bustling black community. Her husband worked as a bricklayer until his death in 1876. Before his death, James and Sarah accumulated enough wealth to purchase their own home. Sarah became a valued member of the neighborhood with regular attendance to the Dixwell Congregational Church. Her name is listed in the city directory after 1861 and her location nearby the Yale campus means it's likely that she made dresses for both black and white clients. Through the assistance of others she was able to learn to read and write.

As a dressmaker, Sarah's daily work required her to iron the various garments she was sewing. The method of ironing used by those who could not afford to purchase an ironing table, was to set a plank between two chairs. W. Vandenburg's Ironing Table was patented On April 6, 1853, and later improved by both J. H. Mallory in 1871 and black Inventor Elijah McCoy in 1874. For those in the garment production business like Sarah, the ironing table was limited in the way she could press the slim sleeves of the garments she sewed.

Sarah soon began working on a mock-up of wood that would attach to the end of the ironing board. She designed a narrow, curved board that would extend out, allowing longer sleeves to slide over it, for easier ironing. It would also act as a holder for larger garments, keeping them from touching the floor, without getting wrinkled. The invention also used a support system to flip the garment to its other side, enabling the user to iron both sides of a sleeve. This was necessary so that the ironing of one side would not be undone by the ironing of the other side. Her goal was to produce a cheap, simple effective device that could be used by the many dressmakers in the area. Her addition of a padded surface and a smaller rounded end helped ironing become much more efficient.



List of Patents.
List of patents issued from the United States patent office on Tuesday, April 26, 1892, for the state of Connecticut, furnished us from the office of Earle & Seymour, solicitors of patents, 868 Chapel street, New Haven, Conn.:
Sarah Boone, New Haven, ironing board.
G. H. Dimond, assignor to Wheeler & Wilson Manufacturing company, Bridgeport, tension releasing device for sewing machines.
H. E. Fowler, New Haven, metal bending machine.

On April 26, 1892, Sarah Boone applied for and received U.S. Patent 473,653. It is thought to be the 2nd patent issued to a black woman.

Sarah Marshall Boone died on October 29, 1904 at the age of 65 of Bright's disease, or what today may be classified as acute or chronic nephritis (kidney disease). Her body is interred alongside her husband and her mother in New Haven's Evergreen Cemetery.



OBITUARY NOTES.
Death of Sarah Boone, Aged 65.
Sarah Boone, widow of the late James Boone, died yesterday afternoon at her late residence, 30 Winter street. She was sixty-five years old. The funeral will take place Tuesday afternoon and interment will be in Evergreen cemetery.

The Clerk's Black History Series

Debra DeBerry Clerk of Superior Court DeKalb County



Archie Franklin Williams (May 1, 1915 – June 24, 1993)

“One of First Black Meteorologists, Gold Medal Olympic Athlete”

Archie Williams was born on May 1, 1915 in Oakland, California. As a child, Archie was fascinated with airplanes. In 1931, Archie won the Oakland Tribunes Model Airplane Contest, at the Oakland Airport. Archie attended University High School in Oakland where he ran track. He enrolled in San Mateo Junior College where he studied Mathematics and Physics and also ran track. In the Fall of 1935, he transferred to the University of California, continuing his pursuit of an Engineering degree and joining the track team. During the spring of 1936, Archie won several key races. He won a gold medal for breaking the University of California record for the 440-yard sprint and also set a new world record of 46.1 seconds for the 400-meter race at the 1936 NCAA Men's Track and Field Championships in Chicago. He also ran his 200-meter personal best there at 21.4 seconds. With his win, he qualified in July for the Olympics and traveled with his teammates, including Jesse Owens, by ocean liner from New York City to Germany. In Berlin, Archie's team bunked in the Olympic Village's segregated U.S. quarters while trying to make up for lost training time. On Friday, 7 August 1936, Archie ran his 400-meter race with a time of 46.5 seconds; longer than his own world record, but enough to win the Olympic gold medal. Owens won four Gold Olympic medals. When Archie returned from the Olympics and on September 25, 1936 he was celebrated with a parade to City Hall.



In Archie's senior year, he joined the newly established Civilian Pilot Training Program, which was created to increase the number of available pilots in case the U.S. would get involved in the looming war. He graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering in December 1939. He began working as a mechanic on small planes in Oakland. While searching for work, his attention was drawn to the Tuskegee Army



Flying School, at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. At this time, the armed forces were still segregated. In September 1941, Archie was hired as an instructor to teach civilian pilots and also some of the first of the famed Tuskegee Airmen. The Air Corps sent Archie to UCLA for master's-level training in meteorology. In 1943, commissioned as second lieutenant, he returned to Tuskegee to work as a meteorologist and as a flight instructor. He and his 14 fellow students became the first Black meteorologists in the United States.



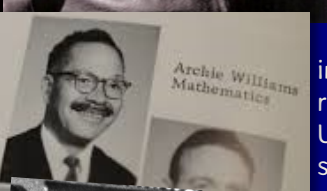
Archie entered the service in late 1942. He was one of only 14 African Americans who were commissioned during World War II in the aviation meteorological cadet program. He drew weather maps, made forecasts, and taught Intro to Flying for the all-Black 99th Pursuit Squadron back at Tuskegee. Due to the success of the Tuskegee Airmen, in 1948 President Harry S. Truman ended segregation in the military. In 1950, Archie was deployed to Korea, Okinawa and Japan. He flew four combat missions in B-29s.

Following the Korean War, Archie helped set up the weather station at Lockbourne AFB in Columbus, Ohio. He had a weather detachment with the Air Defense Command 26th Air Division in New York, then on to Alaska (Elmendorf AFB) and March AFB in California, eventually retiring in 1964 from the military with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. After his retirement, at the age of 50, Archie obtained a teaching credential through The University of California. He began teaching mathematics and science, focusing on students with special needs, at Sir Francis Drake High School in Martin County, where he taught and coached for 22 years.

He retired from teaching in 1987 at the age of 72 to return to his love of flying. He was the co-owner of Blue Sky Advertising.

Archie Franklin Williams died on June 24, 1993, from a heart attack at the age of 78, leaving behind his wife, Vesta, and two sons, Carlos and Archie Jr.

Sir Francis Drake High School was renamed Archie Williams High School in 2021.



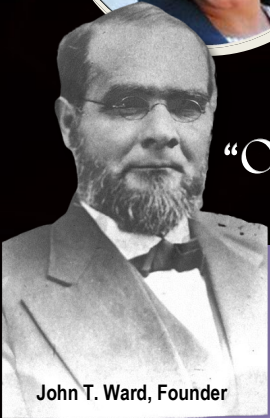
The Clerk's Black History Series

Debra DeBerry Clerk of Superior Court DeKalb County

E.E. Ward Moving and Storage Co.

(1881 – Present)

“Oldest Continuously Operating Black-Owned Business in the United States, Founder Aided in Underground Railroad”



John T. Ward, Founder

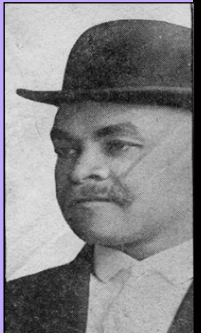
John T. Ward was a black man that was born free in Fauquier County, Virginia in 1820. His family moved to Columbus, Ohio when he was eight years old. In 1824, at the age of 22, he bought a farm-house with land and worked as a janitor in the old City Hall. Around the same time, John became an active member in the Underground Railroad. He originally belonged to the Second Baptist Church but left there to join the Anti-Slavery Baptist Church that worked more openly against slavery. Eventually the two churches would merge and continue the fight against slavery together. John began working with other anti-slavery advocates, including the Quakers, on the south-eastern side of Columbus. John used his two horses and wagon to transport slaves through the Underground Railroad. Many slaves traveled the long and dangerous corridor of the Underground Railroad, from southern states into Ohio, continuing to Canada in some cases. Slave catchers would also patrol the corridor, stopping and inspecting wagons and drivers. Although he was in constant danger, John would travel inconspicuously with horse and wagon for a half a day or even a full day to help the travelers get further up north to the land of freedom. John also offered his farmhouse, located in what is now known as Whitehall, east of Columbus, as safe refuge for the slaves on their journey.



MR. WARD (in buggy) and view of Wagon Shed.

John continued aiding enslaved people escaping the Confederate states, but his involvement was hindered by the Dred Scott decision of the Supreme Court in 1858 (which stated that although Scott lived in a free state, he was still a slave). Harsher Federal Laws were passed against anyone caught aiding “fugitive” slaves. During the height of the Civil War to its end in 1865, John worked as a contractor, moving supplies and equipment for the U.S. Army to the Union Army military staging and training camp Camp Chase.

In 1881, John T. Ward, along with his son William, founded the Ward Transfer Line in Columbus, Ohio moving property and goods for locals. “Let Ward Do It” was the common phrase used in the community, noting the reliability of the Ward reputation. Eventually John passed the company along to his son William Ward, who, in 1899, passed it on to his son, Edgar Earl (E.E.) Ward, Esq. The Company name changed to E.E.



Edgar Earl Ward, Esq.
Grandson of the Founder

Ward Moving & Storage Company and grew to include commercial moving and storage facilities. E.E. was an attorney and a great philanthropist. He was a key donor in the building of a Y.M.C.A. for black people in Columbus. They utilized horse teams until 1921 when they introduced trucks as a modern innovation to the business. Eventually, Eldon W. Ward, John T. Wards, great-grandson, would take over the business in 1945. Eldon would be the last Ward family

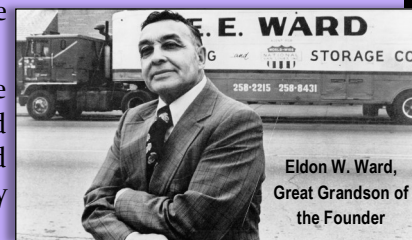


Left to right: James B. Ward, Marie Ward Smith, Delores Smith White
Harold E. Ward and to front: Eldon W. Ward

member to own the company, as he didn't have any children of his own. In 2001, Eldon W. Ward sold the E.E. Ward business to his godson, Brian Brooks. He and his wife continued the business with the same high levels of professional service since John T. Ward was in charge. With their ownership, E.E. Ward Moving & Storage, Co. is the oldest known continuously operating Black-owned business in the United States, as acknowledged by the U.S. Department of Commerce and recorded in the 2003 Congressional Record. In 2021, the E.E. Ward Moving & Storage Co. became the first Black-owned agent to receive the North American Van Lines Agent of the Year Award.



The Ward name and company has survived slavery, the Civil War, the Reconstruction Era, Jim Crow South, the Great Depression, two world wars, the Civil Rights movement, a recession, 27 presidential terms, and a pandemic, and never closed its doors. The company has recently expanded its operation to include Charlotte, North Carolina.



Eldon W. Ward,
Great Grandson of
the Founder

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Betty "Babs" Wingo, Ethel Wingo Johnson, Marva Scott & Kathleen Wimbley
"Pioneering Black Women Professional Wrestlers"

Betty "Babs" Wingo, Ethel Wingo Johnson, & Marva Wingo Scott were three sisters born in the early 1930's in Decatur, Georgia, to Gladys Chase and Clifford Wingo. To escape the Jim Crow South, the family moved north to Columbus, Ohio while the girls were still very young.

Ethel was about 12 years old when she began going to the gym with her older sister, Betty, lovingly known as "Babs." At the local YMCA, Babs and Ethel learned tumbling, judo, wrestling and strength training. Their younger sister, Marva, joined the girls later when she was old enough.

Columbus, Ohio was a hot spot for women wrestling due to the efforts of a man named Billy Wolfe. Wolfe managed at least thirty white women wrestlers, making many wrestling stars. He was also married to one of the better-known woman wrestlers, Mildred Burke, the first woman to win the original World Women's title. Wolfe, inspired by the integration of baseball by Jackie Robinson, went on a search for young black women to integrate women's professional wrestling. He discovered 16-year-old Babs and she became the first Wingo sister to turn pro. Soon after, Ethel, their childhood friend Kathleen Wimbley, and then Marva would become professional wrestlers, fully integrating the sport of "lady wrestlers." The three sisters and Kathleen represented strength, femininity and beauty (a requirement to draw a crowd). Since they were not allowed to wrestle white women, the four women would often fight each other in single matches or tag team fights.

The sisters quickly gained popularity and the crowds grew, becoming more invested in the sport. The addition of other black women wrestlers (Ramona Isabell, Louise Greene, Lula Mae Provo, and Tina Cole) increased the size of the crowds and the demand for larger prizes. In 1952, Babs, Ethel, and Kathleen worked a tag team match in Baltimore, Maryland that drew a record 3,611 fans as the main event. The largest crowd the city's history.

In 1953, Kansas City, Babs wrestled World Wrestling champion, Mildred Burke in front of a crowd of 9,000 fans. It was the first "Interracial Championship". The women's success made them some of the highest earning women's wrestlers of the times.

Ethel went on to be the most commercially successful of the wrestling sisters. She was small, but naturally athletic and was one of the first women (perhaps even wrestlers in general) to use a standing dropkick in her matches. She had great speed and quickness, along with the ability to use drop kicks and flying head scissors.

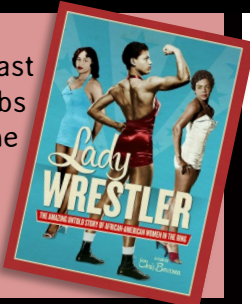
Against all odds, the pioneering black women wrestlers not only broke the race barrier, they also managed to succeed in the male-dominated world of pro-wrestling. The sisters, Babs, Ethel and Marva, all raised families while blazing a trail for female athletes long before the civil rights and feminist movements occurred. The women earned a living, traveled internationally, and left their mark on the sport of women's wrestling.

Babs' wrestling career ended in 1965. Ethel's wrestling career ended with her last match against her sister Marva in 1976. Marva retired three years later in 1979. Babs died unexpectedly in April of 2003 and Marva died of cancer in August of the same year. Ethel died of heart disease in September 2018, in Columbus, Ohio. She was 83 years old. Ethel was recently inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame in 2021.

The video "Lady Wrestler: The Amazing, Untold Story of African American Women in the Ring" is available on video streaming.



Ethel performing her flying drop kick on her sister Babs.



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Hiram Rhodes Revels

(September 27, 1827 – January 16, 1901)

“First Black United States Senator”

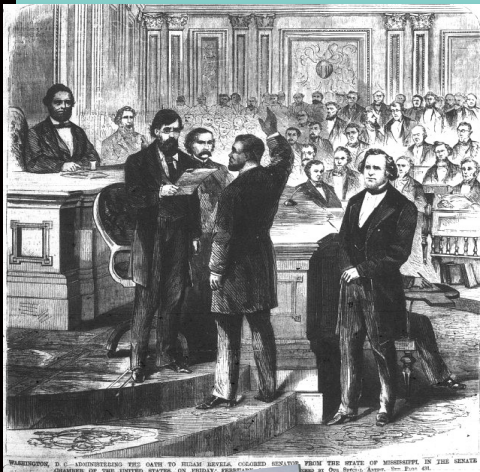


Hiram Rhodes Revels was born September 27, 1827 in Fayetteville, North Carolina to ancestors that had been free for several generations, all the way back to the American Revolution. His father was black and his mother was of Scottish descent. Hiram was home schooled by a local educated black woman. The family moved to Lincolnton, North Carolina in 1838, and Hiram trained and worked as a barber in the shop of his older brother, Elias. After Elias died in 1841, his wife, Mary, deeded the shop to fourteen-year-old Hiram.

Hiram attended Beech Grove Quaker Seminary in Indiana and Darke County Seminary in Ohio in 1844. He was ordained into the African Methodist Episcopal Church, at Allen Chapel, Terre Haute, Indiana, in 1845. Hiram traveled extensively, preaching in Illinois, Ohio, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, and Tennessee. In 1854, he was arrested and jailed in Missouri “for preaching to negroes.” From 1855 to 1857, Hiram took classes at Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois, graduating with a degree in divinity and theology. He then took a minister position in Baltimore, Maryland and served as principal at a local black school.

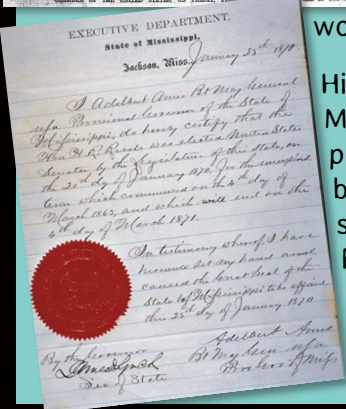
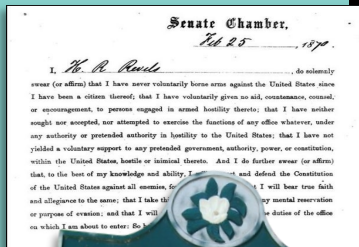
After the Civil War began in 1861, Hiram helped organize Maryland's first two black regiments for the Union Army. Two years later he joined the Federal forces to serve as a chaplain to a black regiment stationed in Mississippi.

In 1863, Hiram established a school in St. Louis, Missouri for freedmen. He left the AME church in 1865 and joined the Methodist Episcopal church; he was briefly assigned to churches in New Orleans, Louisiana and Leavenworth, Kansas. It was during this time that he met and married Phoebe A. Bass, and the couple had eight children together.



In 1866, Hiram took a position as pastor at a church in Natchez, Mississippi, and founded more schools for black youth. He was later elected presiding elder of his church and the southern portion of the state.

In 1868, Hiram was elected alderman in Natchez, and the following year he was elected to the Mississippi State Senate. On February 25, 1870, after a two-day debate, Hiram was elected by a vote of 81 to 15 in the Mississippi State Senate to finish the term of one of the state's two seats in the U.S. Senate, which had been left vacant since the Civil War by Albert Brown. With this election, Hiram became the first African American in the U.S. Senate. His term ended on March 3, 1871, and it would be 100 years until the next African American was elected.



Hiram later served as the first president of Alcorn Agricultural and Mechanical College (now Alcorn State University). He held that position from 1871 to 1874, and again from 1876 to 1882. In 1873, he briefly served as Mississippi Secretary of State. During the last several years of his life, Hiram taught theology at Shaw College (now Rust College), where he also served on the Board of Trustees. He remained active as a minister in Holly Springs, Mississippi. Hiram R. Revels died on January 16, 1901, at a church conference in Aberdeen, Mississippi. He was 73 years old.



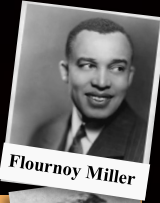
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"Shuffle Along" (1921)

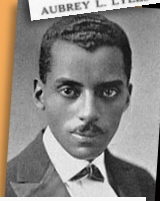
"All-Black Musical Hit on Broadway"



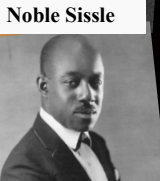
Flournoy Miller



AUBREY L. LYLES



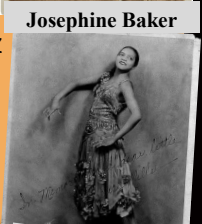
Noble Sissle



Eubie Blake



Josephine Baker



Florence Mills

Shuffle Along, a musical comedy, opened at the Howard Theatre in Washington, D.C. in late March of 1921 for two weeks. The musical review was written by Flournoy Miller and Aubrey Lyle with music and lyrics by Noble Sissle and Eubie Blake – all vaudeville veterans who met for the first time at an NAACP benefit in Philadelphia in 1920. In early 1921, Shuffle Along toured through New Jersey and Pennsylvania, with little money left over to pay the cast after covering travel and production expenses. But all that changed when the show hit Broadway.

Although promoters and theater managers were skeptical as to whether white audiences would accept the "all colored" musical, Shuffle Along premiered on Broadway on May 23, 1921 at the 63rd Street Music Hall (later renamed Daly's 63rd Street Theater). The show was a smash hit. With the colorful costumes, catchy musical numbers, energetic and vivacious dancers, audiences packed the theater. The show was so popular that it produced traffic jams, causing police to convert 63rd Street into a one-way street.

Shuffle Along, by today's standards, would be considered offensive with black actors in "blackface" - a theatrical makeup historically used by non-black people in theater portraying a caricature of a black person. Also, Shuffle Along's comedy was based on demeaning racial stereotypes, like speaking in an artificially grotesque "Negro dialect" and perpetrating minstrel stereotypes. However, the groundbreaking all black cast and crew show demanded that black audiences be able to sit in orchestra seating near the stage rather than being relegated to the balcony, as in the past. Shuffle Along also featured the first sophisticated on-stage black love story, a previous taboo for a predominantly white theatre crowd. The show also introduced several hit songs such as "Love Will Find a Way" and "I'm Just Wild about Harry."

Shuffle Along also laid the foundation for public acceptance of Black performers in roles other than "burlesques." Florence Mills, the female star, gained international fame due to the success of the show. Shuffle Along also had an innovative female chorus which included up-and-coming performer Josephine Baker. They combined jazz dance and jazz music, creating an improvisational style of dancing that encouraged individual expression. Producers of Broadway's Ziegfeld Follies were so impressed that they hired several Shuffle Along girls to teach their choruses. President Harry Truman even picked a Shuffle Along song for his campaign anthem, "I'm Just Wild about Harry."

Shuffle Along ran for 504 shows, an unqualified success by the standards of the day, winning over critics and audiences despite their prejudices. According to Poet Langston Hughes, Shuffle Along was the opening salvo of what would become the Harlem Renaissance.

The many talented Black artists during the Harlem Renaissance helped to establish a form that was not imported from Europe or the English stage but was indigenous to the United States.



The Clerk's Black History Series

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Clerk of Superior Court
DeKalb County



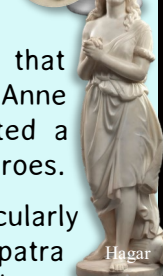
Edmonia Lewis
(July 4, 1845 – September 17, 1907)
“First Black/Native Sculptor to Gain International Prominence”



Mary Edmonia Lewis was born July 4, 1845, in Albany, New York to a mixed black and Chippewa woman and a Haitian black man. Edmonia's parents died when she was very young, and she was raised by her aunt and the Chippewa people in the Niagara Falls area. Edmonia had an older brother, Samuel Lewis, who migrated west during the California Gold Rush. Samuel profited from the gold fields, which he used to send Edmonia to Oberlin College in Ohio.

Although Oberlin was one of the first to admit black people as well as white women, Edmonia faced harassment and discrimination. Edmonia thrived in drawing at Oberlin. In 1862 she was falsely accused of attempting to poison two white coeds. She was cleared of all charges but continued to be the subject of verbal attacks and even a physical assault that left her bedridden for days. Oberlin's administration refused to allow Edmonia to re-enroll to complete her graduation requirements. With Samuel's help, she moved to Boston to study with master sculptor Edward A. Brackett. Shortly into her apprenticeship, Edmonia began to sculpt her own work. Edmonia moved to Boston and opened her own art studio.

In 1864, she created a sculpture of Colonel Robert Gould Shaw, the white commander of the all-black 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment. The sculpture became popular among Bostonians, and she was soon able to sell over 100 plaster copies of the work. She also made popular medallion portraits of abolitionists such as John Brown and William Lloyd Garrison. Her art began providing a financial means to support herself.



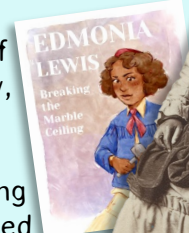
In 1865, Edmonia moved to Rome, Italy. She joined an international artistic community that included writers, poets, artists, and other women sculptors such as Harriet Hosmer, Anne Whitney, Margaret Foley, and Emma Stebbins. Edmonia began to work in marble and adopted a neoclassical style. She continued to find inspiration in the images of abolitionists and Civil War heroes.

Edmonia's sculptures of African, African American, or Native American people were particularly popular among American tourists in Rome. One of her best known works is *The Death of Cleopatra* (1876) a 3,000-pound, marble sculpture depicting the Egyptian queen after her suicide by a venomous asp. The work was presumed lost for over a century but was ultimately rediscovered at a salvage yard in the 1980s. It is now on display at the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington DC. Some of her most famous works included *Forever Free* (1867), which depicted a black woman and black man celebrating the Emancipation Proclamation; *Hagar in the Wilderness* (1868), a sculpture of an Egyptian handmaiden; and *The Old Arrow Maker and His Daughter* (1872), a sculpture of Native Americans (which was acquired by the National Museum of Art in Washington, D.C.). The Smithsonian holds eight of Edmonia's marble sculptures from between 1866 and 1876, including those depicting Moses, Hagar, Cupid, and Young Octavian. Edmonia Lewis disappeared from public view in the 1880s. Although there was an engagement notice, there is no marriage record and no children.



Edmonia Lewis died in London, England on September 17, 1907 of kidney disease. She is buried in the St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery, in London. In 2017, a group raised money to restore her gravesite.

In January 2022, the US Postal Service issued a Forever Stamp honoring Edmonia Lewis. The stamp art of Edmonia is a casein-paint portrait based on a photo of her by Augustus Marshall.



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Charles Richard Drew

(June 3, 1904 – April 1, 1950)

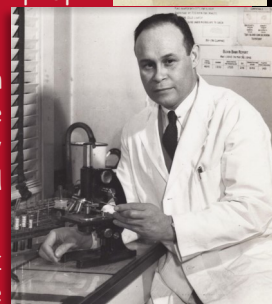
“Pioneer Doctor in Blood Transfusion and Blood Storage”

Charles R. Drew was born June 3, 1904 in Washington, DC. His father was a carpet layer and his mother a teacher. Charles' family lived in the interracial and middle-class community known as Foggy Bottom. Their upbringing emphasized academic education, church membership, civic knowledge, responsibility, and independence. Charles attended Dunbar High School which was one of the best college preparatory schools - for blacks or whites - in the country. He attended Amherst College in Massachusetts on an athletic scholarship for track and football and graduated in 1926. He spent the next two years at Morgan College, an



HBCU in Baltimore, as a professor of chemistry and biology, where he was also the first athletic director and football coach. Charles applied to Howard University and Harvard University, but did not have the proper prerequisites for Howard. Harvard waitlisted him for a year.

In 1929, Charles attended medical school at McGill University in Canada where he studied with anatomy professor Dr. John Beattie. Charles developed an interest in blood storage just before he graduated in 1933. In 1935, he returned to Washington D.C. and became a professor of Pathology at Howard University's medical school until 1936. He then joined the Freedman's Hospital, a federal facility associated with Howard University, as an instructor in surgery and an assistant surgeon.



In 1938, while earning a doctorate at Columbia University, Charles won a fellowship to train at Presbyterian Hospital in New York with eminent surgeon Allen Whipple. While working on research there Charles discovered that blood plasma, the pale yellow liquid without blood cells, could be stored, preserved, and used later in a medical emergency. Shortly after receiving his Doctor of Science, he was asked to direct a pilot program for collecting, testing, and distributing blood plasma in Great Britain. During the five-month program, Charles and his associates collected blood from over 15,000 people and gave about 1,500 live-saving transfusions.

With the success of the program, Charles gained international fame and was appointed director of the first American Red Cross Plasma Bank in 1941. During World War II, he recruited 100,000 blood donors for the U.S. Army and Navy. That collected blood saved the lives of thousands of wounded soldiers. Ironically, the U.S. armed forces maintained a segregated blood donation system that refused to give blood from non-whites to white soldiers. Charles denounced the policy, stating that there was no scientific evidence for separating blood based on race and soon resigned his position. He would also protest the fact that the American Medical Association and the American College of Surgeons allowed local chapters to restrict blacks from membership. He returned to Washington D.C. and became the head of Howard University's Department of Surgery and later chief surgeon at Freedman's Hospital. In 1941, Charles became the first black surgeon to serve as an examiner for the American Board of Surgery. He was invited as guest speaker at many medical conferences.



On April 1, 1950, while driving to a medical conference, Charles fell asleep at the wheel, crashing his car. Severely injured, his fellow passengers, who were also physicians, attended to Charles until he was taken to Alamance Hospital near Burlington, North Carolina, where he died a half an hour later. He was 45 years old. He left behind a wife and four young children.

Charles R. Drew has been honored with historic landmarks, medical centers, universities, bridges, and cargo ships being named after him. In 1981, the U.S. Postal Service issued a stamp in his honor. There are currently 28 medical centers, elementary, middle, and high schools across the United States that carry his name. DeKalb County hosts one of those schools, the Charles R. Drew Charter School that opened in 2000, located off of Memorial Drive.



The Clerk's Black History Series

Debra DeBerry Clerk of Superior Court DeKalb County



Florence Beatrice Smith Price (April 9, 1887 – June 3, 1953)

“First Black Woman Recognized as a Symphonic Composer, and the First to have a Composition Played by a Major Orchestra”

Florence Beatrice Smith Price was born on April 9, 1887, in Little Rock, Arkansas; one of three children in a mixed-race family. Her mother, Florence Gulliver, was a music teacher and her father, James H. Smith, was a dentist. Florence played in her first piano performance at the age of four and had her first composition published by the age of eleven. She graduated from high school as Valedictorian at the age of 14. She enrolled into New England Conservatory and majored in piano and organ.

To avoid discrimination at the school, Florence pretended to be of Mexican decent. At the conservatory, she studied composition and counterpoint with notable composers, George Whitefield Chadwick and Frederick Shepherd Converse. There, she wrote her first string trio and symphony. She graduated with honors in 1906, with an artist diploma and a teaching certificate. She briefly taught music in Arkansas before moving to Atlanta. In 1910, Florence became the head of Clark Atlanta University's music department. In 1912, she married a prominent attorney, Thomas J. Price, and moved to Little Rock, Arkansas. Florence started a music school and continued to compose piano pieces, but she was denied membership in the Arkansas State Music Teachers Association because of her race. After a series of racial attacks and a much-publicized lynching, Florence and Thomas followed the “Great Migration” north, to Chicago. There Florence studied composition and orchestration with some historically notable composers and musicians. She was part of the Chicago Black Renaissance. She published four pieces in 1928.

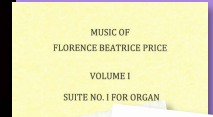
Abuse and financial struggles led to divorce in 1931. Florence was 44 years old. She worked as an organist for silent films and composed songs for radio ads under a pen name to support her two daughters. During this time, she lived with friends and eventually moved in with her student and friend, Margaret Bonds, also a black pianist and composer. Florence met writer Langston Hughes and Opera singer Marian Anderson during this time. Florence and Margaret Bonds performed together and achieved national recognition for their compositions and performances. In 1932, she submitted compositions for Wanamaker Foundation Awards. Florence won first place with her Symphony in E Minor and third place with her Piano Sonata. She came in first place with a song entitled "Sea Ghost." The Chicago Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Frederick Stock premiered in the

Symphony on June 15, 1933, making Price's piece the first composition by a black woman to be played by a major orchestra. In 1940, Price was inducted into the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers for her work as a composer. In 1949, Price published two of her spiritual arrangements, "I Am Bound for the Kingdom", and "I'm Workin' on My Buildin'". She dedicated them to Marian Anderson, who performed them on a regular basis. Under the name Vee Jay she also wrote a number of popular tunes such as “Songs to the Dark Virgin” and “Hold Fast to Dreams.” Marian Anderson chose Price's arrangement of “My Soul's Been Anchored in de Lord” when she gave her historic concert at the Lincoln Memorial in 1939. In 1940 the WPA Symphony in Michigan performed her composition, Symphony No. 3 in C Minor.

On June 3, 1953, Florence Beatrice Smith Price died from a stroke in Chicago, Illinois, at the age of 66. In 1964, the Florence B. Price Elementary School opened in Chicago Public Schools in her honor. The school housed a piano owned by Florence until it closed in 2013. In 2019, the building became a church.



Florence Price with her daughter Florence Louise Robinson. (University of Arkansas Libraries)



The Clerk's Black History Series

Debra DeBerry Clerk of Superior Court DeKalb County



William H. West

(September 1842 – September 15, 1915)

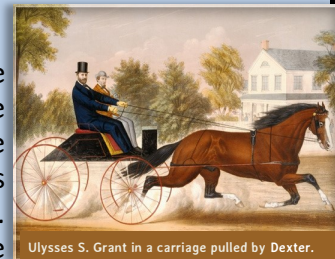
“Black Police Officer that Arrested President Ulysses S. Grant”

William H. West was born into slavery in September of 1842 in Prince George's County, Maryland. In 1863, William joined the Union Army and fought in the American Civil War. He was a soldier in Company K, 30th United States Colored Infantry, an all-black unit created by the United States War Department on May 22, 1863. The Infantry was composed of African American troops commanded by white officers. After the war West married Kathrine “Kate” Bowie on June 11, 1867, in Washington D.C. and the couple would have six children.



On August 1, 1871, William was appointed to the Washington D.C. Metropolitan police force. He was one of only two black officers on the force. In 1872 William was on duty at 12th and M Streets where he was tasked with patrolling the streets in response to a series of accidents involving speeding carriages and pedestrians. On the lookout for speeders, William noticed a horse and carriage approaching quickly. He dashed into oncoming traffic and forced the carriage to stop. Once the buggy was stopped, William recognized the driver was President Ulysses S. Grant. William gave President Grant a verbal warning for speeding and released him. It was reported that the President apologized and promised not to do it again.

The next day, William was investigating a collision when he saw President Grant's horse and buggy speeding in the same area. It took William an entire block to run down the buggy operated by the President and advised him that this time, he had no choice but to arrest him for speeding. William took President Grant to the police station, where the President quickly posted a \$20 bond and was released. There was no controversy involving the arrest of the President and William was commended for upholding the law and trying to make the streets safer.



Ulysses S. Grant in a carriage pulled by Dexter.



THIRD PRECINCT—1872
AN OLD PICTURE OF THE THIRD PRECINCT, TAKEN IN 1872. NOTICE THE CHANGES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE STYLES OF THE UNIFORMS. THE METROPOLITAN POLICE RELIEF ASSOCIATION WAS FORMED SEVEN YEARS BEFORE THIS PICTURE WAS TAKEN. SIMON WEST, THE COLORED OFFICER, SECOND FROM THE RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE ROW, ARRESTED PRESIDENT U. S. GRANT FOR REINING A HORSE TOO FAST DOWN PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE. THE PRESIDENT PAID THE FINE.

President Grant owned up to his mistake — though he did choose to skip his court appearance scheduled for the following day, which meant he forfeited his \$20 bond. He didn't face any further consequences, however. It was reported that 32 women showed up to testify against the drivers who had to appear in court - all who vehemently contested the speeding charges in vain. History would show that President Grant was previously arrested for speeding earlier in 1866. In all, Grant was arrested three times for violating speeding laws. After the arrest, it was reported that William and President Grant became friends, sharing their love of horses and racing.



In his later life, William himself would get into some trouble with the police. In 1884, he and fellow officer, William H. White, were tried before the board of the Metropolitan Police for neglecting their duties. They were both fined \$25. In 1898, William was accused of not paying a debt of \$40. He had borrowed money from a local lender known only as a Mrs. Terrell. The loan agreement called for him to pay 10% interest per month until the loan was paid off. In 19 months, William had paid \$72 on the \$40 loan. He stopped paying prompting Mrs. Terrell to sue him. The case was dismissed as Commissioners reviewed the loan and deemed that the lender was guilty of preying on William. In 1901, West was arrested for disorderly conduct following an argument. Later that year he retired from the Washington, D.C. police force.

William Henry West died on September 15, 1915 in Washington, D.C. He was 73.



William H. West in 1908

PREY OF MONEY LENDERS

Policeman William H. West Has Paid \$72 on a Loan of \$40.

Commissioners Decide He Need Not Pay Any More—An Order Issued Against One of the High Rate of Interest Men.

Washington Post headline—January 29th, 1898

The Clerk's Black History Series

Debra DeBerry Clerk of Superior Court DeKalb County



Anne Raven Wilkinson (February 2, 1935 – December 17, 2018)

“First Black Ballerina to Dance for a Major Ballet Company”

Anne Raven Wilkerson was born February 2, 1935, in New York City. Her father was a dentist and her mother a homemaker. She grew up in a middle-class black neighborhood in Harlem. Raven, as she would later be known, became interested in ballet at the age of five. She fell in love with ballet while attending a performance of the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo's *Coppélia*. At the age of nine, she began taking ballet lessons at the Swoboda School (later the Ballet Ruse School), where she studied under the direction of dancers from Russia's Bolshoi Theatre. She later transferred to the Professional Children's School in the Bronx where she remained through her last two years of high school. Madame Ludmilla Shollar, formerly associated with the St. Petersburg Imperial Russian Ballet, trained Raven in technique.

In 1954, Raven auditioned for a position with the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. She was rejected twice but was not deterred. On her third audition, she was accepted into the company. Her addition to the company in 1955 marked the first time the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo hired a black dancer in the height of the Jim Crow era.

Ballet Russe was a touring company, which meant that traveling with the show through the segregated Southern states could create problems for Raven and the ballet company.

In the 1957 visit to Atlanta, Georgia, a hotel owner asked Raven if she was black. Raven refused to lie and the hotel owner barred her from staying with the rest of the company. He called a cab to take her to a “colored” hotel. The next day, she was sent back to New York and instructed to rejoin the company once the tour took them above the Mason Dixon Line. The company also began using makeup to lighten her complexion to avoid future issues.

During a trip to Montgomery, Alabama, Raven was eating in the hotel dining room with her fellow dancers when they noticed two white men with a pile of white laundry on a chair at the adjacent table. When the two men finished their meal, they donned their white robes and hoods and left. Although she was not immediately approached, two Klan members later stormed the theater and interrupted the performance, looking for the “negro” that they heard was there.

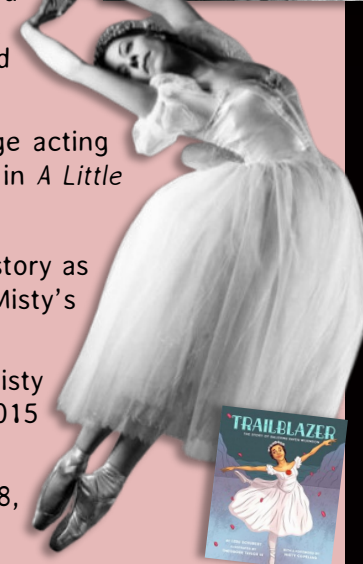
Raven left the Ballet Russe in 1962. For seven months in 1963, Raven, a devout Catholic, joined a convent in Font de Lac, Wisconsin. In 1967 she joined the Dutch National Ballet as a soloist, which at that time was far more diverse than American companies. Then, in 1974, Raven returned to the US and continued dancing with the New York City Opera as an extra.

After retiring from ballet in 1985, Raven taught ballet at the Harlem School of Arts. Her stage acting credits include the role of Bloody Mary's Assistant in Broadway's *South Pacific* 1987 and Malla in *A Little Night Music* 1990-1991.

Raven went on to mentor dancer Misty Copland, who herself made history as the first Black principal ballerina at the American Ballet Theater. Misty's book, *The Firebird*, was inspired by her relationship with Raven.

In 2014, Raven presented the 2014 Dance Magazine Award to Misty Copland. In June 2015, Raven received the 2015 Dance/USA Trustee Award.

Anne Raven Wilkinson died on December 18, 2018, at her home in Manhattan. She was 83.



The Clerk's Black History Series

Debra DeBerry Clerk of Superior Court DeKalb County



Paul Revere Williams

(February 18, 1894 – January 23, 1980)
"Architect Pioneer"

Paul Revere Williams was born on February 18, 1894, in Los Angeles, California to Chester and Lila Wright Williams. His parents had just relocated to Los Angeles from Memphis, TN and had dreams of starting a fruit business, but their failing health limited their abilities. Paul's father died in 1896 from tuberculosis and his mother died in 1898 from the same illness. Paul and his older brother, Chester, were sent to live in foster care. Paul was placed in the home of C.D. and Emily Clarkston, which afforded Paul the opportunity to attend Polytechnic High School and study at the Los Angeles School of Art, the Beaux-Arts Institute of Design, and the engineering school at the University of Southern California. Even though his teachers discouraged him from considering a career in architecture, noting that he wouldn't attract the white wealthy clients to make his business a success and he wouldn't have enough Black clients to sustain a profit, Paul was not discouraged. He married Della Mae Givens in 1917, at the First AME church. The couple had three children with one dying in childbirth. At the age of 25, Paul won an architectural competition.

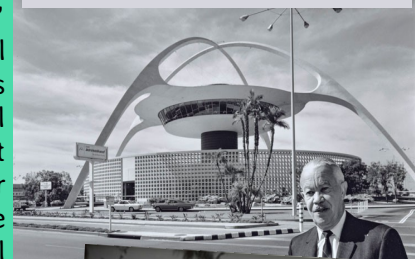
Paul became a licensed architect in 1921, making him the first black architect west of the Mississippi. That next year, Paul opened his own office. In 1923 he became the first black member of the Southern California chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Paul perfected an exclusive skill of drafting and rendering home drawings "upside down" - mainly because in the 1920s, many of his white clients felt uncomfortable sitting directly next to a Black man. In the late 1930s Paul received some important nonresidential commissions, most notably the Music Corporation of America building (1937) and the Saks Fifth Avenue store (1939), both in Beverly Hills. During World War II Paul worked for the Navy Department as an architect to design public housing for war workers.

After the war, Paul continued designing homes. His unique style of "conservative modern" captured the attention of wealthy European Americans including William Barron Hilton. Paul soon became known as "The Architect to the Stars," designing homes for Hollywood elites, including Carey Grant, Frank Sinatra, Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz, Barbara Stanwick, Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, Bert Lahr, and Danny Thomas. His work has come to signify the glamour of Southern California living to the rest of the country — and to the world. Paul also designed numerous public and commercial buildings that shaped L.A., including the Los Angeles County Courthouse. He worked with Pereira & Luckman on the Theme Building at LAX airport, as well as the buildings of landmark black-owned Los Angeles businesses such as the Angelus Funeral Home, Golden State Mutual Life Insurance, and Broadway Federal Savings and Loan. He also designed a new home for Los Angeles's First A.M.E. Church, of which he was a member. He was a co-designer on the addition made to the Beverly Hills Hotel in 1949-50.

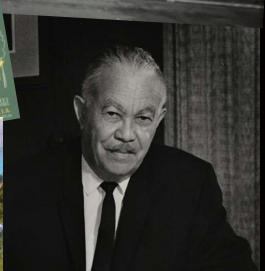
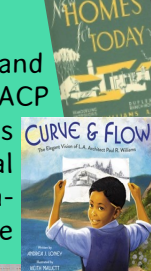
In 1952, Paul received an honorary degree from Howard University and another from Tuskegee in 1957. He was also the recipient of the NAACP Springarn Medal. In his life, he designed over 2000 private homes and 41 major buildings, hotels, and structures, including the final tomb of Al Jolson. In 1957 Williams, a member of Sigma Pi Phi fraternity, was the first African American honored with election to the AIA College of Fellows. Paul retired in 1973.

On January 23, 1980, Paul R. Williams at the age of 85. There is a life-size memorial just north of the Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Building.

Paul Revere Williams was part of the team that designed the Theme Building at Los Angeles International Airport.



Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz House, Palm Springs, built 1954-55, Paul R. Williams (architect).

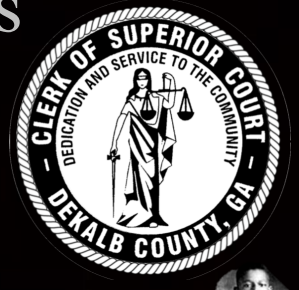


The Clerk's Black History Series

Debra DeBerry Clerk of Superior Court DeKalb County

Harry and Harriette Moore

"First Martyrs of the Civil Rights Movement"



Harry T. Moore was born on November 18, 1905, in a tiny farming community in Houston, Florida. When Harry's father died in 1914, Harry's mother sent him to live with his three aunts in the vibrant bustling black community in Jacksonville, Florida. They were a nurse, a school principal and a teacher and were all strong influences on Harry's education and confidence. After graduating high school, Harry became a 4th grade teacher. **Harriette Vyda Simms (Moore)**, was born June 19, 1902, in West Palm Beach. She met Harry while also teaching at the Titusville "Negro School". Harry and Harriette married on December 25, 1926. The couple moved to Mims, FL and had two daughters, Annie Rosalea (Peaches) born 1928 and Juanita Evangeline (Evangeline) born 1930. After marrying, the couple completed their college education at Bethune Cookman College, an HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities). The family spent evenings together playing cards or gathering with friends. They often went to the movie theater in Orlando. In 1933, a cousin of Harriette's received information on the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He brought the information to Harry, who immediately reached out to the organization to join.

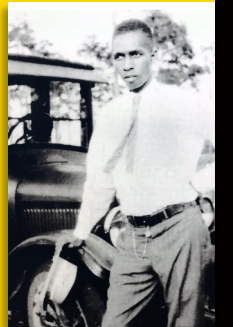
In 1934, Harry and Harriette founded the Brevard County chapter of the NAACP. Initially, Harry kept his job as a teacher, working in an unpaid capacity for NAACP for more than a decade. Utilizing his writing skills and education, Harry wrote eloquent letters, prepared circulars, and broadsides (a large sheet of paper printed on one side only) protesting unequal salaries for black teachers, segregated schools, and the disenfranchisement of black voters. Later, Harry began investigating lynchings, police brutality, questioning witnesses, and demanding prosecution of those responsible. The couple went door to door attempting to register black voters. With the increased attention that Harry and Harriette brought to discrimination and racial injustices, came increased visibility from the mostly white members of the community. Harry and Harriette were fired from their jobs teaching. Harry went on to become a paid NAACP organizer. He was appointed an executive secretary for the Florida NAACP. With the help of NAACP attorney Thurgood Marshall in 1937, Harry filed the first lawsuit in the South calling for black and white teacher salaries to be equal. Although the lawsuit failed, it generated other federal lawsuits that led to equal salaries in Florida.

Following a 1944 US Supreme Court ruling that all-white primary elections were unconstitutional, Harry registered a record 31 percent of eligible Black voters. Over six years he added 116,000 members to the Florida Democratic Party between 1944 and 1950.

In 1949, Harry began investigating the case of the "Groveland 4" where four young black men (Charles Greenlee, Ernest Thomas, Walter Irvin, and Samuel Shepherd) were accused of violating a white woman. Within 10 days on the accusation, Thomas hunted down and shot more than 100 times by a posse. Following the arrests of the other three teenagers, an angry white mob of 400 people rampaged through Groveland's Black neighborhood, destroying businesses and burning homes. The National Guard was called in to restore order. After an all-white jury convicted the young men and sentenced them to death, Harry led a campaign to overturn the wrongful convictions. In 1951, the Supreme Court granted the appeal and ordered a new trial.

On November 6, 1951, while Sheriff Willis McCall transported two defendants, Walter Irvin and Samuel Shepherd, back to Lake County for a pre-trial hearing, he stopped the patrol car on a dark road, pulled both men out of the car and shot them. Shepherd died of his wounds, but Irvin survived. Irvin testified that Sheriff McCall had forced the two men from the car and then shot them both. Irvin was tried once again and found guilty. Harry Moore called for the suspension and indictment of Sheriff Willis McCall, the most notorious lawman in the country. Sheriff McCall was never indicted for the murder of Shepherd.

Six weeks later, on December 25, 1951, which was Harry and Harriette's 25th wedding Anniversary, a bomb exploded in the crawl space directly under their bed. The explosion was heard over four miles away. Neighbors took Harry to the closest hospital that would treat black people, 30 miles away. By the time they arrived, he was dead. Harriette died from her injuries nine days later, on January 3, 1952. Harry's mother and their oldest daughter, Annie, were also in the house but survived. The Moore's death was the first assassination of any activist to occur during the Civil Rights Movement and the only time that a husband and wife were killed during the history of the movement. In 1952, the year following their deaths, Harry was posthumously awarded the NAACP's Spingarn Medal. In 1999, the site of the Moore's home in Mims, Florida, where the bombing occurred became a Historical Heritage Landmark of the State of Florida. Five years later, Brevard County's local government christened the "Harry T. and Harriette Moore Memorial Park and Interpretive Center". For more information, go to: <https://www.harryharriette.moore.org>.



The Clerk's Black History Series

Debra DeBerry Clerk of Superior Court DeKalb County



Gloria Hayes Richardson Dandridge

(May 6, 1922 – July 15, 2021)

“First Black Woman to Lead a Grassroots Civil Rights Organization Outside the Deep South”

Gloria Hayes Richardson was born Gloria St. Clair Hayes on May 6, 1922 in Baltimore, Maryland. During the Great Depression, her family moved to Cambridge, Maryland, where her maternal grandfather, Herbert M. St. Clair was one of the town's wealthiest citizens, and the only black member of the Cambridge City Council.

Gloria was sixteen years old when she enrolled in Howard University. She graduated with a degree in Sociology in 1942 and worked for the federal government during WWII, in Washington, DC. Despite her education and her grandfather's influence, Gloria couldn't land a job as no agencies would hire a black social worker. Gloria went on to marry her first husband in 1948, and raised her family for the next thirteen years. When Freedom Riders arrived in Cambridge in 1961, the segregated town had a 40% unemployment rate for black people. Gloria's teenage daughter Donna, joined the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) to desegregate public facilities. Gloria refused to commit to non-violence as a protest tactic. She watched her father, a wealthy businessman in Cambridge, die of a heart attack due to lack of medical facilities available to black people. To Gloria, passive, “non-violent” protests did not work, although she supported her daughter during the sit-ins and picketing of segregated businesses. Meanwhile, Gloria was working in the background with the Black community's secretive intelligence-sharing network, known as the “grapevine”, providing information to SNCC on Cambridge's political system and the opinions of the Black community. Gloria refused to remain silent while observing her daughter and other student protesters be attacked and demeaned by counter-protesters. Gloria attended workshops that trained protesters to withstand the hatred of violent mobs, who used racial slurs and demeaning acts to prevent peaceful assembly.

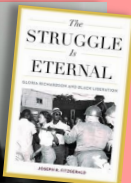
When the SNCC protests started to lose momentum, Gloria, along with other parents of SNCC members founded the Cambridge Nonviolent Action Committee (CNAC) which became the only adult-led SNCC affiliate in the civil rights organization's history. CNAC's focus went further than desegregated public facilities, it included housing, employment discrimination, and inadequate healthcare in its demands. In 1962, Gloria was selected to lead the CNAC, making her the first black woman to lead a grassroots civil rights organization outside of the deep South. That same year, the group focused their efforts on voter registration to mobilize the power of the vote.

Gloria and CNAC refused to commit to non-violence and their protests were often confrontational. Race Street, which separated the city's black and white communities, became a battle zone. Their 1963 protests prompted Maryland Governor J. Millard Tawes to send in the National Guard. The city remained under martial law, for more than a year. On July 14, 1963, Governor Tawes met with Gloria and other leaders. He offered to integrate schools, hire a black person in the State Employment Office, apply for a federal loan for a “Negro housing project”, pass a public accommodations ordinance, and a biracial commission to work on the other problems, in exchange for a year-long suspension of civil demonstrations. Gloria rejected committing to stopping demonstrations unless there was a full desegregation of schools and complete fairness in job opportunities.

While Cambridge remained under National Guard control, Gloria met with Attorney General Robert Kennedy to negotiate the “Treaty of Cambridge”, an agreement covering desegregation, housing and employment. The Treaty required cooperation from the local community which did not support the proposed changes. Later that year, Gloria attended the March on Washington on August 28, 1963. She was one of six women permitted on stage that day including Rosa Parks, Diane Nash, Myrlie Evers, Prince Lee, and Daisy Bates. None of the women were permitted to address the crowd on this historic day.

History would mark CNAC as the symbol of radical Black activism in Cambridge. With the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, CNAC's influence diminished. But the Treaty of Cambridge marked an important transition in the importance of public accommodations for Black citizens along the Eastern Shore.

By the summer of 1964, Gloria, now 42 year old, resigned from CNAC and married her second husband, photographer Frank Dandridge. She moved to New York, but maintained ties to CNAC's successor organization, Black Action Federation (BAF). Gloria worked for the City's Department of Aging and National Council for Negro Women and Harlem Youth Opportunities Unlimited and Associated Community Teams for the next 50 years. In 2017, the state of Maryland honored her legacy by dedicating February 11 as “Gloria Richardson Day”. On July 21 of the same year, Gloria's image appears on a 50'x20' mural in Cambridge. She is prominently placed left of center next to Dorchester native and Underground Railroad conductor Harriet Tubman. On July 15, 2021, Gloria Richardson Dandridge died of natural causes at the age of 99.





The Clerk's Black History Series

Debra DeBerry Clerk of Superior Court DeKalb County



Shady Rest Golf & Country Club

(Est. 1921)

“First African-American Country Club in the U.S.”



The Shady Rest Golf & Country Club was established in 1921, in Scotch Plains, New Jersey. In the late 1890s, the 31-acre property, a previous farm, was leased to the Westfield Golf Club. The members of the golf club worked to turn the farmland into a 9-hole golf course, keeping the farmhouse as the clubhouse.

In 1921, the Progressive Realty Corporation was formed by prominent African American residents and investors. They leased the property and opened the Shady Rest Golf and Country Club on July 28, 1921, with nearly 2,000 people attending.

During a time of racial segregation, Shady Rest provided a safe recreational and social setting for its members. Black golfers and their families came from the surrounding New Jersey area to the club to enjoy entertainment, fine dining, the outdoor life, golf, croquet, skeet shooting, horses, tennis and other social events.

The golf course was home to the first National Colored Golf Championship (held in 1925) and sponsored by the United States Colored Golfers Association which had been founded earlier that year and led by its president, B.C. Gordon, the president of Shady Rest.

In 1931, John Shippen, American golf professional and the first African American to compete in the U.S. Open, became the club golf pro and groundskeeper. He lived there for over thirty years, until 1964, in an apartment on the third floor of the clubhouse.

In 1938, the township of Scotch Plains added concrete roadways to cover the large ruts, from the lack of roadway maintenance. The club was not able to pay for the cost of the added roadways, so Shady Rest changed ownership to the township of Scotch Plains through a tax lien foreclosure. In 1964, after a legal battle, the township of Scotch Plains gained ownership of the Club and made the grounds public and racially integrated. It also changed the name to the Scotch Hills Golf and Country Club. The Club House still survives. When under a threat of demolition in 2013, local residents formed The Preserve Shady Rest Committee and raised money to have the clubhouse renovated and restored. It now includes a small museum dedicated to John Shippen and his contribution to golf history.

“A Place For Us” was the motto of the club as many prominent black activists such as W.E.B. DuBois lectured there. As a result of its location, just thirty miles west of New York City and its inclusion in The Negro Motorist Green Book, the clubhouse became a haven for many prominent black entertainers such as Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Cab Calloway, and Sarah Vaughan. Tennis great Althea Gibson, who won a singles title at the French Open, followed by two at Wimbledon and in the U.S. Open, also won the Shady Rest doubles championship. It was at Shady Rest that pioneer Gibson also developed a golf game that eventually placed her on the Ladies Professional Golf

Association tour. Ora Washington, tennis great and basketball player, also frequented Shady Rest. The former heavyweight champion boxer Joe Louis, teed off there.

On May 18, 2022, Shady Rest Golf & Country Club was added to the New Jersey Register of Historic Places.

On July 7, 2022, the National Park Service granted the Shady Rest Golf and Country Club, the first African American country club in the United States, a listing on the National Register of Historic Places.



The Clerk's Black History Series

Debra DeBerry Clerk of Superior Court DeKalb County

Willa Beatrice Brown

(January 22, 1906 – July 18, 1992)

“First Black Woman Pilot Licensed in the United States, First Black Woman to Possess a Commercial Pilot *and* a Master Mechanic's License”



Willa Beatrice Brown was born on January 22, 1906, in Glasgow, Kentucky. Her family moved to Terre Haute, Indiana where she graduated from Wiley High School. She attended Indiana State Teachers College and graduated in 1927 with a Bachelor's degree. Willa began teaching at Emerson High School's Roosevelt Annex the same year. In 1932, Willa moved to Chicago where she worked various jobs. In 1934, she met John C. Robinson, who introduced her to the Challenger Air Pilots Association, a group of Black pilots. Inspired by Bessie Coleman, the first woman to hold an international pilot's license (1921, from France), Willa began flight lessons at Chicago's Aeronautical University. She studied with Cornelius R. Coffey at the racially segregated Harlem Field in Chicago.

By 1935, Willa received her master mechanic's certificate and joined the Challenger Air Pilot's Association. She also joined the Chicago Girl's Flight Club and enrolled in a master's program at Northwestern University.

In 1938, with airman's certificate No. 43814, Willa Brown became the first Black woman to be licensed as a private pilot in the United States.

Willa and Coffey, along with then others, founded the National Airman's Association of America (NAAA). The organization had more than 2000 members across the Midwest and East Coast. In 1938, Will and Coffey opened the Coffey School of Aeronautics at the Harlem Airport. Their school, the first black-owned and operated flight school, was created to train black men to fly and provide cadets to the U.S. Air Force. And when Congress appropriated \$5,675,000 for the Civil Aeronautics Authority (CAA) to begin 220 pilot training programs across the country, the Coffey School of Aeronautics was authorized as a CAA school by January 1940. Willa acted as director and coordinator of training. Despite not being approved to provide training for the Army pilot training program, the Coffey School was selected to provide black trainees for the Air Corps' pilot training program at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. This pilot training program led to the creation of the Tuskegee Airmen and Brown trained nearly 200 of the men and women who

went on to become cadets or instructors. Many of her former students made up the 99th Fighter Squadron, also known as the “Red Tails”. Willa continued her work at Coffey, and in 1942 she achieved another “first” when she was the first black woman promoted to officer in the Civil Air Patrol (CAP). In 1943, she became the first woman in the United States who possessed both a mechanic's license and a commercial license in aviation. In 1946, Willa ventured into politics, running in the primary for Illinois's 1st Congressional District - making her the first woman to run in a congressional primary election. She lost, running again in 1950; she lost that bid as well.

Shortly after WWII, the Coffey School of Aeronautics closed. Willa continued advocating for equality in the skies. On January 26, 1948, President Truman signed E.O. 9981 abolishing segregation and ordering full integration of the armed forces. Willa returned to teaching in 1962 until her retirement in 1971. In 1972 Willa was the first black woman appointed to the Federal Aviation Administration's Women's Advisory Board and served on the board until 1974. In her life, she was married three times and widowed by 1999. On July 18, 1992, Willa Beatrice Brown died at the age of 86. In 2003, she was inducted into the Kentucky Aviation Hall of Fame.



Willa being sworn in as the first black woman Civil Air Patrol (CAP)



The Clerk's Black History Series

Debra DeBerry
Clerk of Superior Court
DeKalb County



Ralph Elwood Brock

(February 15, 1881 – December 9, 1959)

“First Black Forester in the United States”



Ralph Elwood Brock was born in February 1881, near Pottsville, Pennsylvania. His father was a Civil War Veteran, a school-teacher, and a minister and his mother was a homemaker. Ralph graduated from Howard High School in Wilmington, Delaware, the class of 1900. His father died one year later in 1901 at the age of 57.

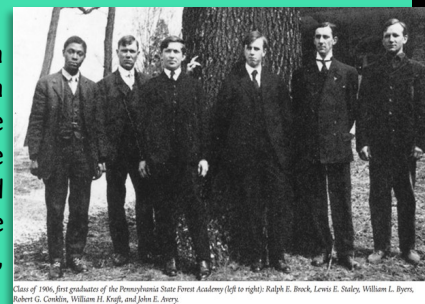
That same year, Ralph's high school principal, Professor Addison Jones, wrote Pennsylvania's first commissioner of forestry, Dr. Joseph T. Rothrock, inquiring about placement for Ralph in the newly forming State Forrest Academy.

In April 1902 Ralph accompanied George H. Wirt, Pennsylvania's first state forester, to Mont Alto, PA (now Michaux State Forest) to establish the Commonwealth's first forest nursery. The Pennsylvania Department of Forestry had recently purchased a tract of 22,000 acres of forestland, and needed foresters to manage and care for the land.

In May 1903 the State Forest Academy was established by act of legislature and approved by Governor Samuel W. Pennypacker. The first class at the Mont Alto State Forest Academy began with 13 members in September 1903 - ten new students and the three student assistants, including Ralph. The academy trained foresters who would ultimately care for the lands that the state purchased for forestry purposes. Students learned to preserve natural resources and maintain a tranquil environment of flora and fauna in wooded areas. Only three forestry schools existed at that time in the United States; forestry graduates were scarce and most were headed to federal service or were not practical enough for Dr. Rothrock's liking.



In 1906, Ralph was one of only six graduates of the first class of foresters at Pennsylvania State Forestry Academy, and the only black student. Ralph was immediately hired as a supervisor by the academy after graduation. Not only did Brock manage students in the academy, but his technical reports and other writings were also collected by the Department of Forestry. Ralph abruptly left the academy in 1911, after years of racism and disrespect from incoming white students, who refused to accept his expertise, experience and seniority. Ralph began a new career as a forester in Philadelphia and Chester County, where he worked in private gardens and orchards in country estates.

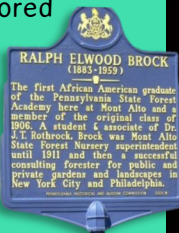


In the early 1920s, Ralph and his wife Pauline moved to Cleveland, Ohio where he worked in the nursery business. From 1928 to 1937, they moved to New York and became the private gardener of the Paul Laurence Dunbar Apartment complex in New York City's Harlem, the Harlem River Houses. Ralph also worked at the city's Riverside Park and Radio City Gardens in Rockefeller Center.



Ralph retired in 1957 and two years later, Ralph Elwood Brock died on December 9, 1959. He was 78 years old. He was buried in his home town of West Chester, PA.

In February 2000, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources honored Ralph Brock by renaming a seed-production orchard after him. The South Mountain Seed Orchard in Franklin County, was renamed the Ralph E. Brock Seed Orchard. In April 2003, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's Division of History approved an historical marker to introduce Ralph Elwood Brock and his historical significance to the general public. The roadside marker is placed near the entrance to the Penn State Mont Alto campus, along Route 233. George Wirt was also recognized with a historical marker nearby.



Ralph Brock at the Paul Laurence Dunbar Apartments, New York City, 1931.

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DeKalb County



Opal Lee

(October 7, 1926 -)

“Grandmother of Juneteenth”



Opal Lee was born in Marshall, Texas on October 7, 1926. She was the oldest of three children born to Mattie and Otis Flake. When Opal was ten years old, her father left town to find work while her mother moved the family to Fort Worth. When her father heard the family was in Fort Worth, he joined them. Opal's mother fell on a city bus and was awarded a settlement, which the family used to purchase a home at 940 East Annie Street on the south side of Fort Worth in June 1939. They were the first Black family in the neighborhood, prompting an angry mob of 500 white residents to burn down their home on, of all dates, June 19, 1939.

Opal graduated from I.M. Terrell High School (Fort Worth's only black high school), in 1943, at the age of 16. She graduated from Wiley College with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and later received her Master's Degree in Counseling and Guidance at North State University. She got married, had four children, and divorced after five years of marriage. She worked as an educator in Fort Worth, Texas for fifteen years and another nine at a home school counselor before retiring in 1977. She is a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.

After retirement, Opal began a new career working at a community food bank in the Jax beer-distributing building. When the building burned down, she and other community workers moved into a warehouse where initially the rent was \$4,000 a month. After a year, however, the owner donated the building after he recognized the importance of the food bank to the community. For the past five decades, the community food bank has fed an average of 500 families each week. Opal lives near the warehouse and owns a thirteen-acre farm, growing food for the food bank.

Opal along with twenty other charter members founded the Tarrant County Black Historical and Genealogical Society, in April 1977. Since its founding, the society organized local annual Juneteenth celebrations. Each year thousands gathered at Sycamore Park to commemorate the official end of slavery in Texas.

In 2016, at 90 years old, Opal began a campaign to make Juneteenth a national holiday. In 2017, she began "Walk Across America" walking symbolic distances of 2.5 miles each time to symbolize the 2.5 years that it took for enslaved people in Texas to learn they were freed. She walked from her home state of Texas to Washington, D.C. She walked again in the Summer of 2019 and again in 2020. With her efforts, Opal delivered a petition with over 1.6 million signatures to Washington, D.C.

On June 17, 2021, Opal Lee stood next to President Joe Biden as he signed Senate Bill S. 475, making Juneteenth the eleventh federal holiday. With President Biden's signature, Juneteenth became the first federal holiday created by Congress since 1983, when lawmakers established Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Opal Lee continued working in the Fort Worth Community with the local food bank but has since retired.

In 2022, Opal Lee was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize "in recognition of her work to establish Juneteenth as a national holiday and bring awareness to the contributions and struggles of African Americans in the United States, as well as her mission to create a more equitable society for humanity."

