

The Clerk's Black History Series



Debra DeBerry
Clerk of Superior Court
DeKalb County



Mary Eliza Mahoney

May 7, 1845 - January 4, 1926

First African-American Woman Professional Nurse

First African-American Woman Registered to Vote in Boston



Mary Eliza Mahoney was born on May 7, 1845, in the Dorchester area of Boston, Massachusetts. Her parents, Charles and Mary Jane Mahoney, were freed slaves who moved to Boston from North Carolina prior to the Civil War, seeking a safer and less discriminatory environment. The eldest of three siblings (a fourth sibling died as a small child), Mary was admitted to the Phillips Street School in Boston at the age of 10. The Phillips School was one of the first integrated schools in Boston. Around the age of 18, Mary began working odd jobs at the New England Hospital for Women and Children, as a cook, a janitor, a washerwoman and an unofficial nurse's aide. After working for 15 years, at the age of 33, Mary was accepted into a 16-month nursing program at the Hospital. The rigorous program required long, 16 hour days of lectures, lessons and hands-on patient care with little relief in between. The program was so intense that out of 42 students, Mary graduated as a registered nurse with only 3 other colleagues and became the first black woman graduate from a nursing program in the United States. After earning her nursing diploma in 1879, Mary worked for many years as a private care nurse, earning a distinguished reputation. She worked for predominantly white, wealthy families with a majority of her work focusing on new mothers and newborns.



Mary continued working as a nurse, while advocating for racial equality, especially in the field of nursing. In 1896 she became a member of the predominately white 'Nurses Associated Alumnae of the United States and Canada' (NAAUSC) which normally did not allow black members. NAAUSC later became the 'American Nurses Association' (ANA). And in response to the continued discrimination, Mary founded the 'National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses' (NACGN) in 1908 which welcomed nurses as members from all communities. The NACGN later merged with the ANA. She gave the welcoming address at the NACGN's first convention in 1911 where she was made a life member and elected chaplain.

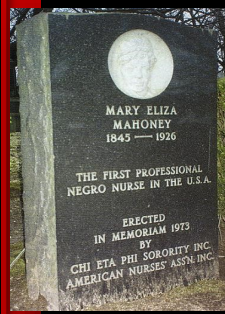


After retirement, Mary participated in the women's suffrage movement and is credited as the first black women to register to vote in Boston following the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920.



The 'Mary Mahoney Award' for outstanding nurses was established in 1936 by NACGN which was continued even after NACGN merged with ANA. Today it is bestowed upon nurses from the minority groups biennially and "recognizes significant contributions, by an individual nurse or a group of nurses, to integration within the nursing profession."

Admitted to New England Hospital for care on December 7, 1925, Mahoney succumbed to breast cancer on January 4, 1926 at the age of eighty-one.



Mary Mahoney continues to be honored for her contributions by those who preserve her memory. In the 1970s Helen S. Miller, author of the biography, Mary Eliza Mahoney 1845-1926—America's First Black Professional Nurse, led a drive to restore Mahoney's grave monument in Everett, Massachusetts. In 1976, the first year that the ANA established their Nursing Hall of Fame, Mary Mahoney was inducted.

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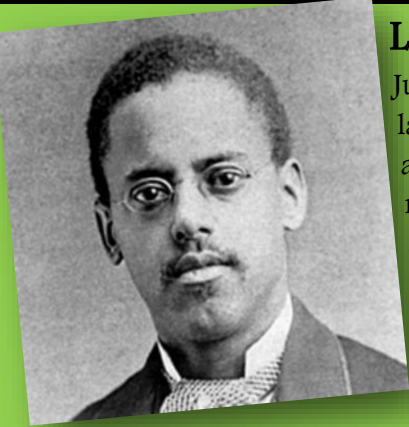


Lewis Howard Latimer

(September 4, 1848 – December 11, 1928)

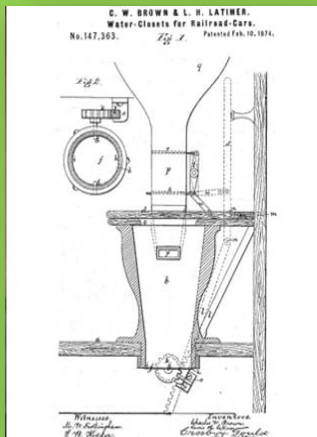
Inventor and Engineer, Vital Contributor in Patent of the Lightbulb and Telephone

Lewis Howard Latimer was born on September 4, 1848, in Chelsea, Massachusetts. Just six years before his birth, his father, George Latimer, escaped slavery in Virginia but was later captured in Boston and brought to trial as a fugitive. He was defended in court by abolitionists, Frederick Douglass and William Lloyd Garrison. With the help of a local minister, George Latimer was able to purchase his freedom for \$400.00 from his owner and began raising a family with his wife, Rebecca. However, after the Dred Scott decision in 1857, George Latimer disappeared in fear of being returned to slavery, leaving his family behind. His father's departure forced a young Lewis Latimer to work and help support the family. In 1863, 15-year-old Lewis lied about his

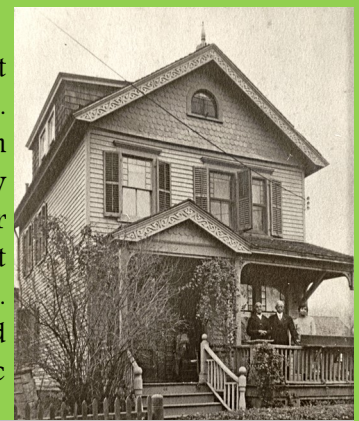


age in order to enlist in the United States Navy and served as a Landsman on the USS *Massasoit*. After receiving an Honorable Discharge, Lewis accepted a position in the patent law offices of Crosby and Gould earning \$3.00 a week. There,

he taught himself mechanical drawing and drafting by observing the work of draftsmen in the firm. Lewis learned how to use a set square, ruler and other drafting tools and by 1872, was promoted to head of draftsman, earning a salary of \$20.00 per week. In November of 1873, he married Mary Wilson and had two daughters.



In 1874, he co-patented, with Charles W. Brown, an improved toilet system for railroad cars called the Water Closet for Railroad Cars (U.S. Patent 147,363). In 1876, Alexander Graham Bell employed Lewis, then a draftsman at Bell's patent law firm, to draft the necessary drawings required to receive a patent for Bell's telephone. In 1879, after moving to Bridgeport Connecticut, Lewis was hired as an assistant



Lewis H. Latimer House
Flushing, New York

manager and draftsman for the U.S. Electric Lighting Company, a rival of inventor, Thomas Edison. Lewis received a patent in 1881 for the "Process of Manufacturing Carbons" an improved method for the production of carbon filaments used in the light bulb. In 1884, The Edison Electric Company hired Lewis as a draftsman and an expert witness in patent litigation on electric lights. Lewis was credited with improving the process for creating a carbon filament, which was an improvement on Thomas Edison's original paper filament, which would burn out quickly. When

the Edison Electric Company was combined in 1892 with the Thomson-Houston Electric Company to form General Electric, Lewis continued to work in the legal department. In 1911 he became a patent consultant to law firms.

In addition to his drafting skills, Latimer enjoyed other creative pastimes, including playing the flute and writing poetry and plays. In his spare time, he taught mechanical drawing and English to immigrants at the Henry Street Settlement in New York. He continued to work as a patent consultant until 1922.

On December 11, 1928, four years after his wife, Lewis Howard Latimer died in Flushing, Queens, New York.

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Barbara Charline Jordan

(February 21, 1936 – January 17, 1996)

First African-American Woman elected to the Texas Senate after Reconstruction
First Southern African-American woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives
First African-American Woman to give Keynote Address at a Democratic Convention

Barbara Charline Jordan was born on February 21, 1936 in Houston, Texas's Fourth Ward to Arlyne Patten and Benjamin Jordan. The youngest of three children, Barbara graduated with honors from Phillis Wheatley High School in 1952. After hearing a speech in high school by Edith Sampson, the first African-American U.S. Delegate appointed to the United Nations, Barbra was inspired to become a lawyer. Barbara majored in Political Science and History, graduating from Texas Southern University, an HBCU (Historically Black College or University) as a National Champion Debater, Delta Sigma Theta and *magna cum laude*, in 1956. She graduated from The University of Boston School of Law in 1959 and went on to teach political science at Tuskegee Institute, returning to Houston and passing the bar in 1960. That year, Barbara worked on the John F. Kennedy presidential campaign and eventually helped manage a highly organized get-out-the-vote program that served Houston's 40 African-American precincts.



After two unsuccessful campaigns, Barbara Jordan won a seat on the Texas Senate in 1966, becoming the first African-American state Senator since 1883 and the first African-American woman to do so. Re-elected to a full term in the Texas Senate in 1968, she served until 1972. She was the first African-American female to serve as president *pro tem* of the state senate and served one day, June 10, 1972, as acting governor of Texas. In 1972 Barbara Jordan was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, and with extensive support of the former President of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, secured a position on the House



Judiciary Committee. Her powerful and influential televised speech before the House Judiciary Committee in 1974, during the impeachment hearings of President Richard Nixon, is known as one of the best speeches of the 20th century. But that impassioned speech could not compare to her inspirational and commanding speech at the 1976 Democratic National Convention. Her introduction was delayed as the crowd continued celebration and applause for nearly three minutes at her appearance. Despite not being a candidate, Barbara received one delegate vote for President at the Convention. Barbara retired from politics in 1979 and returned to teaching, this time at the University of Texas, Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs. She was invited back as a keynote speaker at the Democratic National Convention in 1992.

In August 1994, President Bill Clinton awarded Barbara Jordan the nation's highest civilian honor, the Medal of Freedom. She was honored alongside civil rights activist and former National President of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority, Dorothy Height. In a delightful coincidence, Height's signature appears on Barbara's Delta pledge certificate, dated 1953.

Despite her declining health she continued to teach and remained active in public service. Barbara Charline Jordan died of pneumonia at the age of 59 on January 17, 1996 and was survived by her partner of 30 years, Nancy Earl. Jordan was eulogized by President Clinton and former Texas Governor Ann Richards. On January 20, 1996, Barbara Jordan was buried at the Texas State Cemetery with her Presidential Medal of Freedom. She is believed to be the first African-American to be buried there.



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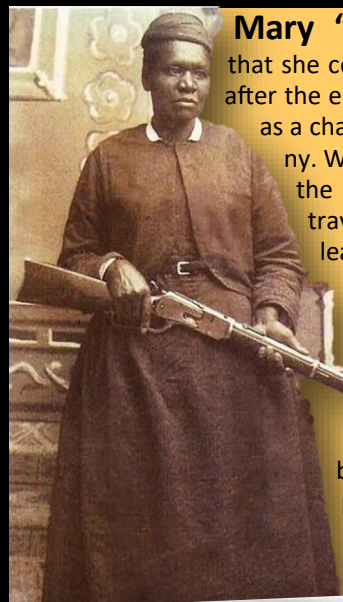
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Mary "Stagecoach Mary" Fields

(c. 1832 – 1914)

First African-American Woman Star Route Mail Carrier in the U.S.



Mary "Stagecoach Mary" Fields was born a slave in Hickman County, Tennessee sometime in 1832. It is said that she celebrated her birthday on March 15, but not much is known about her early years during slavery. However, after the end of the Civil War in 1865, Mary moved to Mississippi and began to work on the steamboat, 'Robert E. Lee' as a chambermaid. It was here that she met Judge Edmond Dunne and began working for him as a caretaker and nanny. When the Judge's wife died in 1883, Mary transported the Judge's five children to their Aunt, Mother Amadeus, the mother superior of an Ursuline convent in Toledo, Ohio. In 1884, Mother Amadeus traveled to Montana to establish a school for Native American girls at St. Peter's Mission leaving Mary behind in Ohio. Upon hearing that Mother Amadeus was suffering with pneumonia, Mary traveled to Montana to nurse her back to health and work in the Mission. Mary stayed in Montana at the mission and worked as a forewoman for the next 10 years, raising chickens, growing vegetables, chopping wood, doing various carpentry work and hauling supplies from nearby Cascade. And when supplies were low, she would travel to Great Falls or the city of Helena, Montana. Mary was known for having the "temperament of a grizzly bear" and for being protective and devoted to the nuns and their students. During one fateful trip to pick up supplies at night, Mary's wagon was attacked by wolves. The horses were startled and overturned her wagon, tossing the cargo to the ground. Mary staved off the wild animals and protected the cargo and horses with her revolver and rifle until morning, returning to the mission missing only a small amount of molasses.



Mary was a baseball fan and transcended traditional gender roles. She never married or had children and wore men's clothing.

Mary's temper was as large as her six foot frame and because of her tendency to smoke, swear, and fight with other hired men at the mission, she found herself being challenged on a daily basis. She was known to make five dollar bets that she could "punch a grown man out with one hit," and many men took her up on the challenge. Many men also lost five dollars, as Mary had a strong hand and an even stronger temper. When confronted by a cowpuncher about the money she earned at the mission, Mary responded with a shootout behind the nunnery. Although the man was only slightly wounded and embarrassed,



Mary was asked to leave the Mission by the Bishop in 1894. Although the nuns defended Mary, they had no choice but to follow the bishop's orders. Mary moved to Cascade County, Montana, where she was the only black resident. The nuns didn't let Mary go empty-handed though and with her own money and money from the nuns, Mary opened a small café. The café failed after only ten months because of Mary's generosity to feed people that couldn't pay.

In 1895, at almost 63 years of age, Mary earned a contract as a Star Route Mail Carrier delivering mail from Cascade to Saint Peter's Mission, becoming the first African-American Woman to hold the job. In spite of her age, she was known as the fastest applicant to hitch a team of six horses. With this job, "**Stagecoach Mary**" was born and with her mule named Moses, she never missed a day or delivery. If the snow was too deep for horses, Mary would put on a pair of snowshoes and carry the sacks of mail on her shoulders. She continued delivering mail into her 70's and became a local hero. At the age of 71, Mary retired from the star route carrier service and continued babysitting and doing laundry until her death. Mary Fields died in 1914 of liver failure at Columbus Hospital in Great Falls. Her neighbors buried her in the Hillside Cemetery in Cascade.



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William DeHart Hubbard

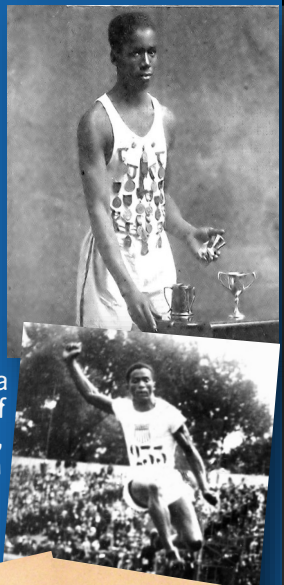
(November 25, 1903 – June 23, 1976)

First African-American to Win an Olympic Gold Medal in an individual Event (Long Jump)

Founder of the Negro American League Baseball Team, Cincinnati Tigers

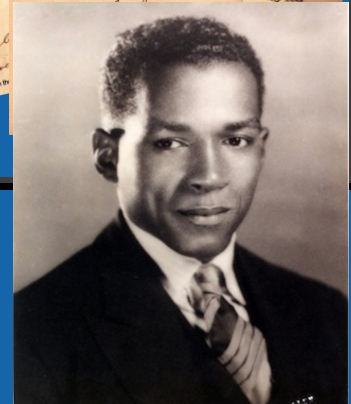
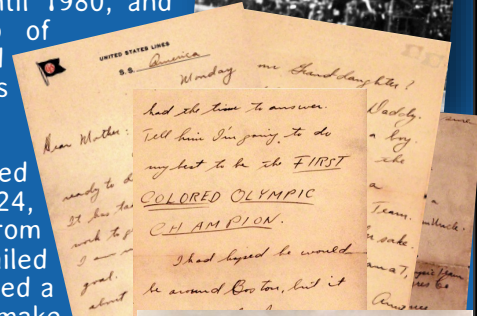


William DeHart Hubbard was born on November 25, 1903 in Cincinnati, Ohio. The oldest of eight children born to William and Carrie Hubbard, he attended and graduated from Walnut Hills High School where he excelled in the classroom and athletics. William played football while in high school and when the League Athletic Board declared him ineligible to play because of his race, the entire football team refused to play without him. However, it was Hubbard's achievements on the track that won the attention of a University of Michigan Alumnae, Lon Barringer who advocated for his attendance at Michigan. Barringer convinced William to enter a contest by the Cincinnati Enquirer wherein the student that sold the most new magazine subscriptions would win a \$3,000 scholarship to the University of their choice. With Barringer's help, by contacting every Michigan alum in the country and encouraging their purchase of a subscription, William won the contest and chose to attend the University of Michigan where he continued competing in track & field. While at Michigan, William was a three-time National Collegiate Athletic Association champion in the outdoor long jump and 100-yard dash as well as a seven-time Big Ten Conference champion in track and field. His 1925 outdoor long jump of 25 feet 10 1/2 inches stood as Michigan's team record until 1980, and today it still stands in second place. His 1925 jump of 25 feet 3 1/2 inches stood as a Big Ten Championship record until Jesse Owens broke it with a jump of 26 feet 8 1/4 inches in 1935.

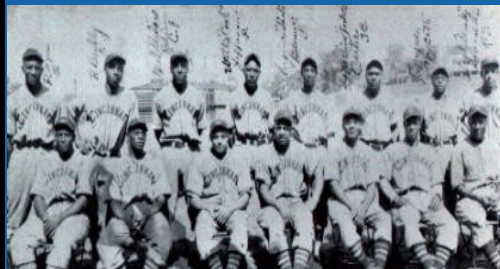


William's incredible track and field accomplishments earned him a position on the 1924 Olympic team. On June 26, 1924, William DeHart Hubbard boarded the *S.S. America*, from Hoboken, NJ, leaving for Paris, France. Before the ship sailed for what would be nine turbulent days at sea, William penned a letter to his mother defining the goal that he knew would make Olympic History - to be the first "Colored Olympic Champion." And that's exactly what he did. William DeHart Hubbard won the

Olympic gold medal for the running long jump, becoming the first African-American to win an Olympic gold medal in an individual event. After the Olympics, William returned to Michigan and set several more track and field records before graduating in 1927.



After college, William returned to Ohio where he became the supervisor of the Department of Colored Work for the Cincinnati Public Recreation Commission and remained there until 1941. During this time, in 1934, he founded the *Cincinnati Tigers*, a professional black baseball team that played in the Negro American League. The team wore hand-me-down uniforms from the Cincinnati Reds and lasted only one year. In 1957, William was elected to the National Track Hall of Fame.



The Cincinnati Tigers, 1934.

He worked as the manager of Valley Homes, a public housing project in Cincinnati until his retirement in 1969. And in 1976, after a series of small strokes, William DeHart Hubbard died at the age of 72.

In 2010, the Brothers of Omega Psi Phi, Inc., PHI Chapter established The William DeHart Hubbard Scholarship Fund honoring William DeHart Hubbard.

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William Harvey Carney

(February 29, 1840 – December 9, 1908)

First African-American Medal of Honor Recipient

William Harvey Carney was born a slave on February 29, 1840, in Norfolk, Virginia. His father, William Harvey Carney Sr. escaped slavery through the Underground Railroad and eventually earned enough money to purchase the freedom of his wife and son. When they reunited, the family moved to New Bedford, MA. Early on, Carney wanted to pursue ecclesiastical training to become a minister in the church, however, instead of following the call to preach, he decided to enlist in the Union Army after the Emancipation Proclamation allowed African-Americans to serve in the military. Recruited out of New Bedford, Carney joined the all-black 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment, commanded by 26-year-old Robert Gould Shaw, the son of a wealthy Boston abolitionist. During the summer of 1863, The 54th Infantry Regiment was sent to James Island, South Carolina, where it saw its first battle of the war. On July 18, 1863, after two days of food and sleep deprivation, Colonel



Shaw lead the 54th's charge on a heavily fortified Fort Wagner. They managed to capture the outer rifle pits surrounding the fort, however, Colonel Shaw was pinned down under a parapet and desperately tried to rally his troops forward as he lay suffering from a mortal wound. In addition to Shaw's injuries, the Union flag bearer was also mortally wounded and Carney, in a fit of patriotism and duty, seized the flag from the flag bearer and marched forward, preventing the flag from touching the ground. Although he was also wounded in the legs and chest, Carney planted the flag at the top of the parapet. The 54th continued to advance but after brutal hand-to-hand combat, were driven out with heavy casualties. The 54th Regiment held their position until reinforcements arrived and provided protective cover for their retreat. When they returned behind Union lines, Carney, severely wounded himself, was still clutching the Union flag.

After the devastating battle of Fort Wagner left many soldiers in the 54th dead or seriously wounded, William H. Carney Jr., returned a wounded hero and was promoted to Sergeant for his valor and bravery. Carney received an Honorable Discharge and returned to New Bedford, MA and took a job working for the city. He married Susannah Williams and had one daughter, Clara. In 1869 he began working for the post office as one of the city's four mail carriers. As a public speaker, he addressed veterans' groups and other civic organizations.

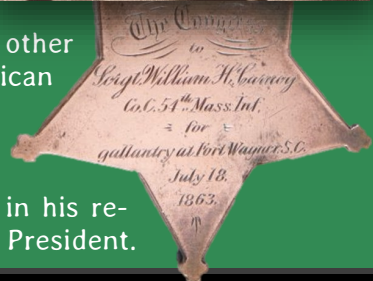
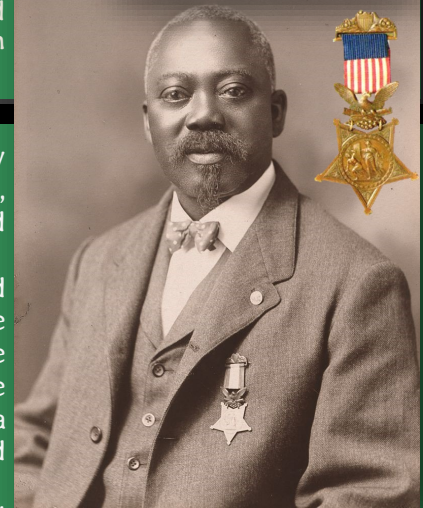


"Storming of Fort Wagner"

On May 23, 1900, 37 years after the battle at Fort Wagner, William H. Carney received the Medal of Honor. And because his actions took place earlier in the war than any of the other 20 medals issued after the Civil War, Carney is considered the first official African-American recipient of the Medal of Honor.

Carney died at the Boston City Hospital on December 9, 1908 as a result of an elevator accident at the Massachusetts State House, where he worked.

Upon his death in 1908, the flag at the Massachusetts state house was flown half mast in his remembrance, an honor usually given to a deceased governor, senator, congressman or U.S. President.



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Claude Dixon, Henry Hooks, Johnnie Jones, Ernest Lyons, Robert McKibbens, John Sanders, Willard Strickland and Willie Elkins

(April 3, 1948)

Atlanta's First African-American Police Officers



Front: Henry Hooks, Claude Dixon, Ernest H. Lyons; back: Robert McKibbens, Willard Strickland, Willie T. Elkins, Johnnie P. Jones, and John Sanders

The first African-American Atlanta Police Officers, Claude Dixon, Henry Hooks, Johnnie Jones, Ernest Lyons, Robert McKibbens, John Sanders, Willard Strickland and Willie Elkins began their shift on April 3, 1948. All but one of the newly commissioned officers were WWII veterans and ranged in age from 21 to 32. Mayor William Hartsfield, under pressure from local African-American leaders, consented to hire the officers, along with Police Chief Herbert Jenkins. Before their first shift, Hartsfield gave a solemn speech reminding the officers that most white officers didn't want them on the force, but they were there to do what Jackie Robinson had done for baseball. When the officers left roll call on the first day, they stepped into a circus-like atmosphere with a crowd of nearly 400 people parading behind them down Auburn Avenue. Even after they separated to patrol their specific beats, the crowds stayed close behind. The new officers were first to integrate the Atlanta Police Department, but operated under different rules than their white counterparts. The "Eight" were not allowed to use the Atlanta Police Headquarters, instead they operated out of the Butler Street YMCA basement or rather the "Black City Hall." The officers also had restrictions on their level of authority.

They were not allowed to drive police cars or wear their uniforms to or from work. They were not allowed to arrest "well-to-do" white citizens, but were required to stop any crimes in progress. They were allowed to arrest white vagrants or drunkards, but the color limitations left the officers frustrated and defeated when many white offenders would walk or drive away, refusing to acknowledge their authority. In more serious offenses, black officers were forced to call white officers to make the arrest. The officers however did make the same pay rate as their white counterparts of \$196 .00 a month. Officer Jones and Hooks made the first arrest in 1948 with a charge of "holding illegal whiskey." The perpetrator was found guilty and fined \$300.00.



The officers brought hope to the black neighborhoods they served. For many residents, having police officers who not only lived in their community but were members of their community, gave them a sense of safety and dignity. The pressure of policing under racial tensions proved to be too much for some of the officers and after only two months, Willie Elkins left the force. He went on to attend Morehouse College and died in 1970. John Sanders left the force after one year, and reenlisted in the Army. He died in 2003. Willard Strickland stayed with ADP until 1964 when he left to go to the City of Decatur to help integrate their police department, becoming one of the first two African-American police officers to patrol those streets. He retired in 1969 and died in 1990. Henry Hooks, Robert McKibbens and Ernest Lyons all retired from APD in 1980. Henry Hooks who retired as a Sergeant, died in 1996. Robert McKibbens, who also retired a Sergeant, died in 1994. Ernest Lyons, who dreamed of being a police officer since he was a child, died in 2000. And Claude Dixon, the youngest of the eight officers died in 1982.

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John Arthur "Jack" Johnson

(March 31, 1878 – June 10, 1946)

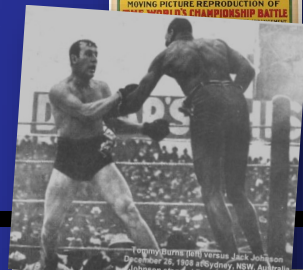
First African-American World Heavyweight Boxing Champion



John Arthur "Jack" Johnson was born in Galveston, Texas, in 1878, the first son of Henry and Tina Johnson, two former slaves who worked as a janitor and dishwasher to support their nine children. His father, Henry, also served as a civilian teamster of the Union's 38th Colored Infantry, and was a role model for his son. In spite of his father's small frame, Jack Johnson grew to be an intimidating 6'2", earning the nickname, "The Galveston Giant." After completing only a few years of school, Johnson dropped out and began working on boats and sculleries in Galveston. At the age of 16, he traveled to New York and Boston before returning home to fight in his first unofficial bout. After winning a local fight and taking home a prize of \$1.50, Johnson began seeking bigger opponents. His boxing skills were sharpened when he met Walter Lewis who taught Johnson to use his size and strength to strike his opponents. Although he fought in a series of fights, earning his a reputation amongst black fighters, Johnson had his



eyes set on a bigger prize, Heavy Weight Champion. The current Heavy Weight Champion title was held by white boxer, Jim Jeffries, but Jeffries, like other white boxers, refused to fight Johnson. But Jack Johnson, being a spirited and talented fighter, caught the attention of Tommy Burns, a white fighter who succeeded Jeffries in his retirement as Heavy Weight Champion. Jack Johnson followed Tommy burns around the world, taunting him and vying for a chance at the title. Finally, when promoters promised Burns a \$30,000 prize, the two met in Sydney, Australia. The fight proved to be more than Burns could handle and in the 14th round, in front of 20,000 spectators, the fight was mercifully stopped, by the police.



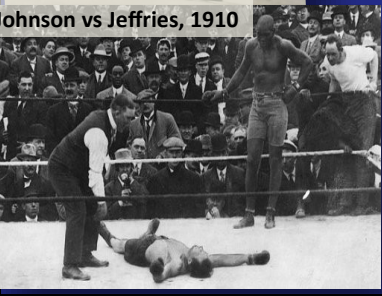
For the first time in history, in December 1908, a black man wore the title of Heavy Weight Champion. But, since Jim Jeffries had carried the title for so long before Tommy Burns, Jack Johnson had one more thing to prove. He called continuously for Jim Jeffries to come out of retirement and step into the ring. After being pressured by Johnson and members of the white community that wanted redemption, Jeffries agreed.

"Fight of the Century"

On July 4, 1910, in Reno, Nevada, Jim F. Jeffries, dubbed "The Boilermaker" met Jack Johnson, "The Galveston Giant" in the ring. Racial tensions were high during the time leading up to this fight. Many of Jeffries' supporters didn't like the way Johnson boasted about taking the Heavy Weight Champion title away from Burns. They also didn't like the fact that Johnson had married a white woman. Johnson thrived on the publicity leading up to the fight.



While Jeffries was met with cheers, Jack Johnson was introduced to a hostile crowd. Adding to the tension, Jeffries also refused to shake Johnson's hand before the fight. Although Jeffries began the fight aggressively, Johnson pummeled the former champ leaving him on the mat at least three times in the 14th round. By the 15th round, Jeffries' corner threw in the towel. Police again jumped into the ring, however this time, it was to prevent a riot. Jack Johnson was pronounced the winner by decision but the win came with consequences as news of race riots spread throughout America. The Fight of the Century earned Johnson \$65,000 and silenced the critics. Johnson was the undisputed Heavy Weight Champion of the World. As riots and incidents of violence continued, so did the jubilant celebrations and parades in his honor.



Johnson went on to have a turbulent career and life after the "Fight of the Century," but his story of becoming the First African-American Heavy Weight Champion remains one of the greatest boxing stories told.

On June 10, 1946, John Arthur "Jack" Johnson died in a car crash in Franklinton, North Carolina after racing away from a diner that refused to serve him. He is buried in Graceland Cemetery in Chicago.

In 1969, Actor James Earl Jones won a Tony Award for portraying Johnson in "The Great White Hope."

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Georgia Teresa "Tiny" Gilmore

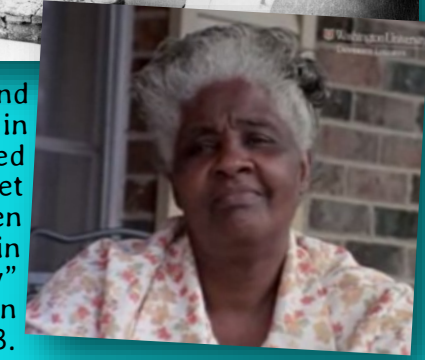
(February 5, 1920 – March 3, 1990)

Unsung Hero of Montgomery Bus Boycott / "The Club from Nowhere"



Georgia Teresa "Tiny" Gilmore was born February 5, 1920. A mother of six children with no formal education, she worked for white families for most of her life as a cleaner, a cook and a midwife. Although she has been described as the "sweet, motherly type," Georgia was known for her fiery temper, especially when it came to the fight for civil rights. She resisted racial injustices and Jim Crow laws and was outspoken, even confronting white men if they disrespected her or her family. Her fiery temper and determination helped drive the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott.

After Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on December 1, 1955, local black leaders and the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA), declared a boycott of the Montgomery bus system. Although Georgia had already refused to ride the bus, she joined the MIA and became a very vocal opponent of the systematic racism she experienced. Coordination of the boycott was a massive undertaking and included meetings, carpools of workers with long distances to walk and fundraising. Georgia, along with many other women looking to help, decided the best way to fundraise would be to cook and sell food. They went from selling sandwiches to selling full dinners along with pies and cakes. Georgia and her "club" collected money and gave it to the MIA officers to support the cause. The money was recorded as coming from "nowhere." Thus "The Club From Nowhere" made up of cooks, maids, and service workers, was founded. Only Georgia knew who bought food and donated money. When her employer at the National Lunch Company heard of her activism and participation in the boycott, she was fired and blacklisted. Unable to find work, Minister and Community Leader, Martin Luther King, Jr., suggested Georgia could continue cooking from her home and even helped her remodel her kitchen to meet city code standards. Georgia would wake up at four o'clock in the morning and began making stuffed pork chops, meat loaf, barbecued ribs, fried fish, spaghetti in



GEORGIA GILMORE
February 5, 1920 - March 3, 1990
Georgia Gilmore, cited as a "solid, energetic boycott participant and supporter," lived in this house during the days of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Once arrested on a bus, Gilmore was ardent in her efforts to raise funds for the Movement and organized "Club From Nowhere," whose members baked pies and cakes for sale to both black and white customers. Opening her home to all, she tirelessly cooked meals for participants including such leaders as Dr. Martin Luther King and Dr. Ralph Abernathy. Her culinary skills continued to aid the cause of justice as she actively worked to encourage civil rights for the remainder of her life.

meat sauce, collard greens and black-eyed peas, stuffed bell peppers, corn muffins, bread pudding, and sweet potato pies. She cooked lunch daily out of her kitchen for people involved in the boycott, including Martin Luther King, Jr. When King, who called Georgia "Tiny" needed a safe and secret meeting place, he would often have them at Georgia's house. Presidents Lyndon B. Johnson and John F. Kennedy ate in Georgia's Kitchen.

In 1959 Georgia took on the City of Montgomery (See *Gilmore v. City of Montgomery*) challenging segregation in Montgomery's public parks.

In a 1986 interview, Gilmore credited African-American women with being a driving force behind the boycott's success saying, "you see, they were maids, cooks, and they was the ones that really and truly kept the bus running."

Georgia Gilmore died in early March 1990, with her home being commemorated as a historical site. Her son, Mark Gilmore Jr., went on to become a Montgomery, Alabama city councilman.

The Clerk's Black History Series



Debra DeBerry
Clerk of Superior Court
DeKalb County



Juanita Hall

November 6, 1901 – February 28, 1968

First African-American Tony Award Winner



Juanita (Long) Hall was born on November 6, 1901, in Keyport, New Jersey to an African-American father, Abram Long, a farm laborer and an Irish-American mother, Mary Richardson. Juanita's mother died when she was an infant and she was raised primarily by her grandmother, who encouraged her interest in music. As a child, Juanita sang in the church choir and became fascinated with the old Negro spirituals she heard at revival meetings. Juanita knew then that she would pursue a career as a singer. At the age of 14, Juanita began teaching Singing at Lincoln House in East Orange, NJ. A few years later, she married actor Clement Hall, however the marriage didn't last long and they had no children. Clement Hall died in the 1920's. Juanita went on to attend New York's Julliard School of Music and studied Orchestration, Harmony, Music Theory and Voice.

While teaching music, Juanita had small stage roles and worked with the Hall Johnson Choir, becoming a soloist and serving as assistant director until she formed her own choral group, The Juanita Hall Choir, in 1936. Her choir operated for five years and gave more than 5,000 performances, including radio appearances three times a week. Her choir also performed at the 1939 World's Fair in New York City.

Juanita performed in several stage productions, but her breakthrough in musical theater came when she appeared in an annual talent show called "Talent 48." There, the songwriting team of Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II, who were in the process of writing the play, *South Pacific*, heard Juanita sing. Her high spirited, graceful and mischievous nature won her the part of "Bloody Mary," an Asian woman who sells souvenirs on a Pacific island where U.S. naval personnel are stationed during World War II. Her opening night's performance on April 7, 1949 at the Majestic Theater in New York was called a "masterpiece." Juanita played "Bloody Mary" for over 1,900 stage performances of *South Pacific* and many of its songs, including "Bali Hai," sung by Juanita, became internationally known.

South Pacific won the Pulitzer Prize for drama and nine Tony awards. In 1950 Juanita Hall became the first African American to win a Tony Award when she was named Best Supporting Actress for her role in *South Pacific*.

Juanita Hall and the role of "Bloody Mary" was so synonymous that the Post Office delivered letters to her addressed "'Bloody Mary, N.Y.C.'" When *South Pacific* was made into a film in 1958, Juanita again played Bloody Mary. However, her songs for the film were dubbed by Muriel Smith, who had played the role in a London production.

In 1958 she recorded *Juanita Hall Sings the Blues*, backed by an impressive group of jazz musicians including Claude Hopkins, Coleman Hawkins, Buster Bailey, Doc Cheatham and George Duvivier.

The same year, Juanita starred in another Rodgers & Hammerstein Broadway show, *Flower Drum Song*.

Affected by diabetes with failing eyesight and health, Hall performed in *A Woman and the Blues*, featuring her nightclub and Broadway acts in 1966. Her condition led the Actors Fund of America to stage a benefit performance on her behalf in 1967. A year later, on February 28, 1968 Juanita Hall died in Bay Shore, Long Island.



The Clerk's Black History Series



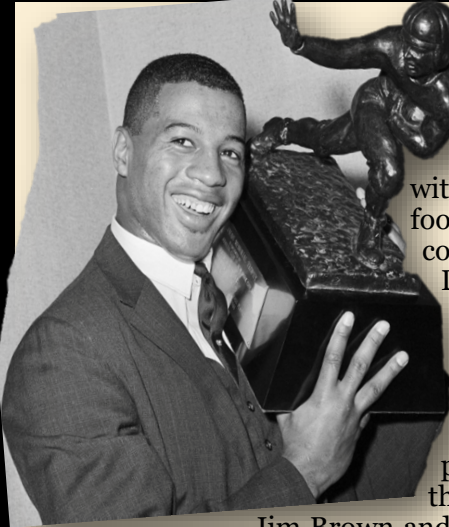
Debra DeBerry
Clerk of Superior Court
DeKalb County



Ernie Davis

(December 14, 1939 – May 18, 1963)

First African-American Heisman Trophy Winner



Ernie Davis was born on December 14, 1939, in New Salem, PA. His father died shortly after he was born and his mother struggled to raise him alone. At 14-months old, Ernie was sent to live with his maternal grandparents in Uniontown, PA. He faced multiple struggles in his early years but credits those hard times with instilling in him discipline and determination. At the age of 12, Ernie went to live with his mother and step-father in Elmira, New York and played baseball, basketball and football at Elmira Free Academy. Davis led the high school's basketball team to 52 consecutive victories, and some felt his natural gifts were best suited for the hardwood. Davis however, loved football and was heavily recruited by some of college football's top programs. But it was NFL great and Syracuse Alum, Jim Brown, who convinced Davis that Syracuse University, Brown's alma mater, would be a welcoming place for a young black athlete.

Ernie Davis entered Syracuse University in 1958, and although freshmen weren't allowed to play in varsity games, he dominated practices with his power and speed. At the start of his Sophomore year, Ernie took the field, donning the legendary jersey number 44, after his idol,

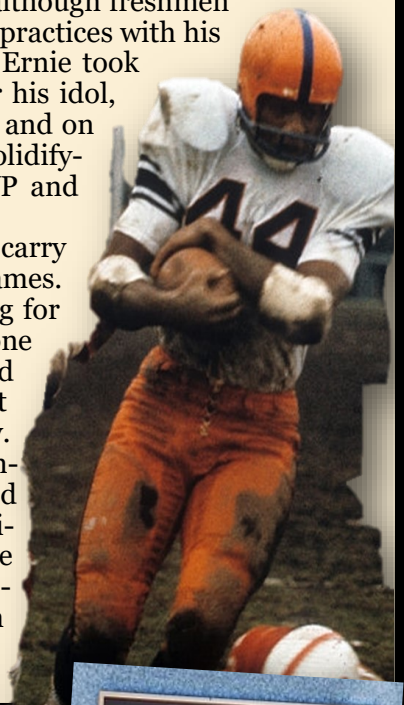
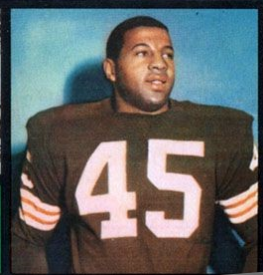
Jim Brown and compiled 686 yards on 98 carries and 10 touchdowns and on New Year's Day in 1960, Davis scored two touchdowns against the University of Texas, solidifying a 23-14 win for the National Championship. That year Ernie was named the MVP and earned the nickname, "The Elmira Express."

His Junior year earned him All-American honors when he set a record of 7.8 yards per carry and was the third leading rusher in the country having rushed 100 yards in six of nine games. But it was Ernie's Senior year that changed the history of the Heisman Trophy. Rushing for 823 yards on 150 carries, scoring 15 touchdowns, with 12 rushing, two receiving and one interception returned for a score, Ernie Davis dominated college football. On Dec. 6, 1961, he became the first African-American to win the prestigious Heisman Trophy.

The honor garnered a meeting with President John F. Kennedy. After graduating from Syracuse, Ernie was drafted first overall by the Washington Redskins but was immediately traded to the Cleveland Browns. His selection as the first pick in round one of the draft, was also an African-American first. But shortly after the trade, Ernie began having serious nosebleeds and swollen glands. His teeth would bleed and he began to tire easily. Something was wrong.



ERNE DAVIS
CLEVE. BROWNS
BACK

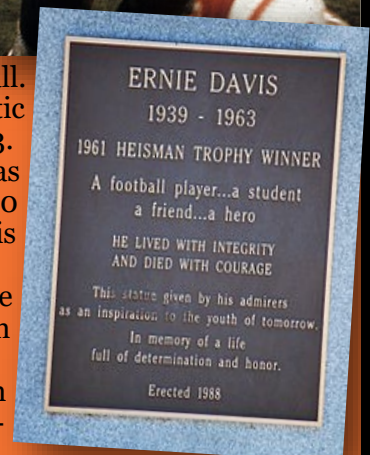


President Kennedy & Heisman
Trophy winner Ernie Davis 12/6/1961

Davis was elected to the National Football Foundation in 1979 and the College Hall of Fame in 2008. In October of 2009, Syracuse University renamed their football field, "Ernie Davis Legends Field."

Ernie Davis never played one game of professional Football. And after a sixteen-month battle with acute monocytic leukemia, Ernie Davis died on May 18, 1963, at the age of 23. Both houses of Congress eulogized Davis and a wake was held in his hometown of Elmira with more than 10,000 mourners. A letter from President Kennedy was read at his funeral.

His commemorative statue now stands in front of the school named in his honor, Ernie Davis Academy, in Elmira New York. In 2005, Syracuse retired jersey No. 44.



ERNE DAVIS

1939 - 1963

1961 HEISMAN TROPHY WINNER

A football player...a student
a friend...a hero

HE LIVED WITH INTEGRITY
AND DIED WITH COURAGE

This statue given by his admirers
as an inspiration to the youth of tomorrow.

In memory of a life
full of determination and honor.

Erected 1988

The Clerk's Black History Series



Debra DeBerry Clerk of Superior Court DeKalb County



Bessie Smith

(April 15, 1894 – September 26, 1937)
"Empress of the Blues"

Bessie Smith was born on April 15, 1894, in Chattanooga, TN. Bessie's father, William Smith died when Bessie was just a small child. A younger brother, along with her mother, Laura Owens, would die by the time Bessie was nine years old, leaving Bessie's sister Viola to raise her and her brother Clarence.

Bessie and her siblings struggled to survive. The much younger Bessie would accompany Clarence "busking" on the streets of Chattanooga. "Busking" or street performing, came natural to Bessie who would sing and dance while Clarence played the guitar. In 1904, when Bessie was just 10 years old, Clarence left to travel and perform with the Moses Stokes Company. Bessie was devastated, but continued to perform making money for the family. In 1912, Clarence returned to Chattanooga with the Stokes group and arranged an audition for Bessie. Bessie was hired as a dancer because the group already had a singer, blues legend, Ma Rainey. But Bessie also had the talent to sing and eventually moved on to performing in various chorus lines. In 1913, Bessie moved to Atlanta, establishing her reputation as a singer in the theater, "81." Her gift for singing the blues caught the attention of talent agent Frank Walker, and in 1923, Bessie was signed to Columbia Records. When Columbia established "race records," records recorded by black artists, Bessie's



song, Cemetery Blues" was the first song released on September 26, 1923. Bessie's first record "Downhearted Blues"

and the B side, "Gulf Coast Blues" were big hits and earned Bessie the headliner spot on the black-owned, *Theater Owners Booking Association*, circuit. Down Hearted Blues sold a reported 780,000 copies in 1923. Bessie traveled in her own railroad car and became the highest paid black entertainer of the day. Columbia records nicknamed Bessie the "Queen of the Blues" but the press upgraded her title to "Empress of the Blues." Bessie's stardom was elevated even more with the introduction of technology when they played her songs on radio stations in the segregated South. She made 160 recording with Columbia records and was often accompanied by Blues legends such as, Louis Armstrong, Coleman Hopkins and Charlie Green. Columbia Records paid Smith an average of \$200 per recording with no royalties. By the end of the 1920's, the Great Depression started to take its toll in the recording industry, but Bessie never stopped performing. In 1929 she made her one film appearance in "St. Louis Blues." In 1933, recorded four songs for Okeh records and was paid a royalty fee of \$37.50 for each recording. These Okeh recordings would be evidence of her transformation from blues to swing music, however, they were also her last recordings.



In the early morning hours of September 26, 1937, Bessie Smith was critically injured in an automobile accident on Route 61 between Memphis, Tennessee, and Clarksdale, Mississippi. The brunt of the damage was on the passenger side of

the automobile, where Bessie was seated. A doctor on the scene shortly after the accident found Bessie in the middle of the road, bloody and in shock, her right arm nearly severed. But before they could call for help, another automobile plowed down the dark highway, striking their vehicle and narrowly missing Bessie who had been moved to the side of the road. Two ambulances arrived on the scene from Clarksdale, one from the black hospital, summoned by her boyfriend who ran to a local house, the other from the white hospital, acting on a report from a truck driver passing by, who had not seen the race of the accident victims. Bessie was transported to the J.T. Thomas Afro-American Hospital, which was not the closest hospital, but was the closest black hospital. Bessie's right arm was amputated, but that wasn't enough to save her. She died that morning without ever regaining consciousness. She was buried a week later at Mount Lawn Cemetery, PA. Many questioned if Bessie would have survived her injuries had been delivered to the closet hospital, which was the whites only hospital. Bessie Smith's grave remained unmarked until August of 1970 when singer Janis Joplin and Juanita Green, a friend of Bessie's, paid for a headstone. The hospital where Bessie died was later turned into the Riverside Hotel where visitors can view the room where she died.



The Clerk's Black History Series



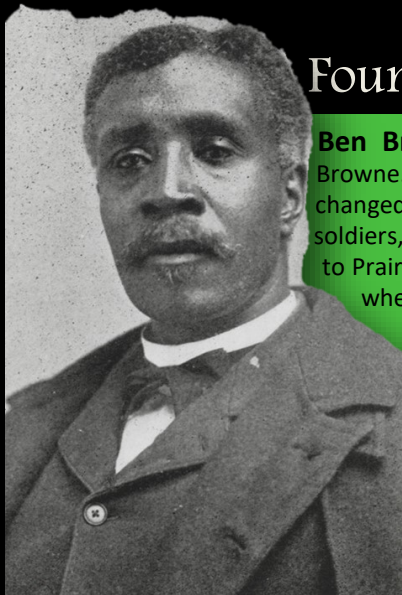
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William Washington Browne

(October 20, 1849 – December 21, 1897)

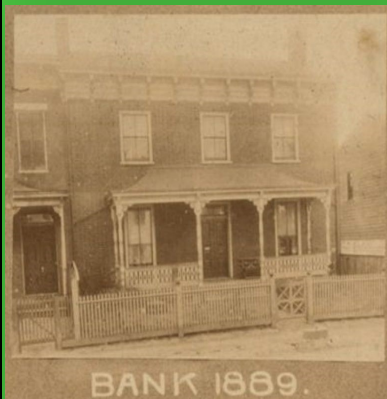
Founder of the First African-American Owned Bank



Ben Browne was born into slavery on October 20, 1849 in Habersham County, Georgia, to Joseph and Mariah Browne. At the age of eight, he was sold to a horse trader who took him to a plantation near Memphis, TN and changed his name to William Washington. William was 13-years old when he fled the plantation and joined Union soldiers, first serving on a Union Gunboat before joining the infantry. After his discharge in 1866, William moved to Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, where he attended school. In 1869, he returned to the South to teach in Alabama, where he met Mary A. Graham. They married on August 16, 1873. William's experience as a soldier and teacher, along with his willingness to speak out against the Klan, made him a respected leader in the black community. After being denied admittance to the Independent Order of Good Templars, because the local body still recognized segregation, William was allowed his own charter and sponsorship under the name of the Grand United Order of True Reformers. In early 1876, William left his teaching position and headed for Richmond, Virginia to lead the local branch of True Reformers. When interest in the Virginia Reformers started to diminish, William returned to Alabama where he continued to develop plans to transform his temperance society into an insurance organization with a bank. Unfortunately he could not obtain the necessary state charter, so, in 1880, he returned to Richmond. During this time he served as pastor of the Leigh Street Methodist Episcopal Church.

In 1881, he founded the Grand Fountain of the United Order of True Reformers, a black fraternal organization, and created the Mutual Benefit and Relief Plan of the United Order of True Reformers. The plan was an unsuccessful savings and death benefit that depended on the financial contributions of new members. In January 1884 and with some reform, the General Assembly passed a bill incorporating the Supreme Fountain Grand United Order of True Reformers and in 1885 the True Reformers instituted the first insurance plan of an African-American fraternal society that was based on actuarial calculations of life expectancies. The insurance business became profitable for the True Reformers and allowed them to purchase real estate around Richmond and the east coast.

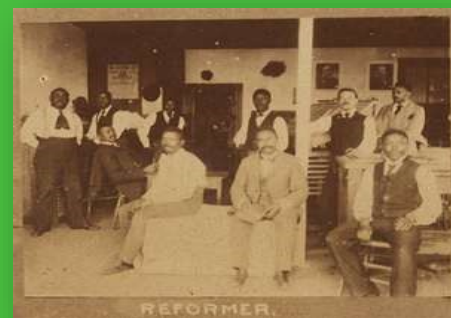
In 1887 when William visited Charlotte County, Virginia to establish a local branch of the True Reformers, he found that the branch kept its savings deposits with a white shopkeeper in the county. With racial tensions high after an 1887 lynching, the shopkeeper reported to other white residents that local blacks were organizing and raising funds, and the branch was forced to disband. William decided the True Reformers would need to establish and operate their own bank to keep the whites from monitoring their finances.



In 1888, the True Reformers received a charter from the state to establish the Savings Bank of the Grand Fountain, United Order of True Reformers. One year later in 1889, The Savings Bank of the Grand Fountain, United Order of True Reformers opened, operating from William's house at 105 West Jackson Street, in Jackson Ward, Richmond VA. The first day's deposits totaled \$1,269.28 (\$33,476.29 today). In 1891, the bank moved several blocks away to 604-608 North Second Street. The bank grew and survived the financial panic of 1893, and was the only bank in Richmond to maintain full operation, honor all checks and pay out the full value of accounts.

In 1895, William Washington Browne was one of eight men, including Booker T. Washing, selected to represent African-Americans at the Cotton States and International Exposition in Atlanta.

In 1897 physicians discovered a cancerous tumor and urged William to have the affected arm amputated. William refused and the cancer spread quickly. On December 21, 1897, William Washington Browne died in Washington, D.C. He was buried in Sycamore Cemetery, and his funeral was one of the largest ever seen in Richmond, Virginia's black community. Browne bequeathed his estate to his widow, except for small legacies to the boy and girl they had adopted. After his death the True Reformers initially continued to prosper, but the order collapsed in the wake of the scandalous failure of its bank in 1910.



105 West Jackson Street, Richmond, VA

The Clerk's Black History Series



Debra DeBerry Clerk of Superior Court DeKalb County



Dr. Barbara Ross-Lee

(June 1, 1942 –)

First African-American Dean of Medical School

Barbara Ross was born the eldest of six children, on June 1, 1942. Raised in the housing projects of Detroit, Michigan, Barbara became caretaker of her younger siblings at the age of ten, when her mother became ill with tuberculosis. Although several of the Ross children showed an early interest in show business, Barbara had a passion for education. And while her younger sister Diana pursued a career in music, Barbara left her mark on medicine. After high school, Barbara enrolled in Detroit's Wayne State University in 1960, during the boom of the Civil Rights movement, hoping to pursue a degree in pre-med. However, a pre-med counselor advised her that women should not be doctors and denied her request for admittance. Barbara married her first husband James Lee during her junior year and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Biology & Chemistry in 1965. She joined the National Teacher Corps to earn her Master's degree while working in Detroit Public Schools. After completing the program in 1969, she was given an opportunity to return to her first love of medicine. Barbara applied to and was accepted into the newly opened School of Osteopathic Medicine at Michigan State University in Pontiac.

Divorced and now with a small child, Barbara moved in with her mother to finish school. After graduating in 1973, Dr. Barbara Ross-Lee opened a family practice in Detroit, serving inner city, low income, people of color until 1984. Leaving her practice, she joined the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as a Consultant on education in the health profession. From 1990 to 1993, Dr. Ross-Lee was a community representative on the Governor's Minority Health Advisory Committee for the state of Michigan. It was during this time she changed history by becoming the first osteopathic physician to participate in the prestigious Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellowship in 1991.

And in 1993, Dr. Barbara Ross-Lee became the first African-American Dean of a Medical School, The College of Osteopathic Medicine of Ohio University, where she remained until 2001. During her tenure there, Barbara seized the opportunity to right some wrongs from her past. She reformulated the entire course of study and drafted a women's curriculum, earning a reputation as a "Change Agent."

In 2001, Dr. Ross-Lee was appointed Vice President for Health Sciences and Medical Affairs at the New York Institute of Technology, and in 2002, she became dean of the New York Institute of Technology's New York College of Osteopathic Medicine. In 2012, she was appointed to chair the board of directors for the Institute for the Advancement of Multicultural & Minority Medicine.

Today, Dr. Barbara Ross-Lee remains one of only seven woman deans of medical schools.



Barbara and her younger sister, Diana



Barbara and her younger sister, Diana



The Clerk's Black History Series



Debra DeBerry Clerk of Superior Court DeKalb County



E. Frederic Morrow

(April 9, 1909 - July 20, 1994)

First African-American to Hold White House Executive Position

Everett Frederic Morrow was born on April 9, 1909 in Hackensack, New Jersey to John Morrow, an Ordained Minister and Mary Ann Hayes, a former farm worker and maid. In high school, he served on the debate team for three years and was senior class president, graduating from high school in 1925. Morrow attended Bowdoin College from 1926 to 1930 as one of only two African-American students enrolled and although he was a good student, he was forced to withdraw from Bowdoin College during his senior year to help his family. In 1935, Morrow joined the National Urban League as a business manager of Opportunity Magazine, and two years later became field secretary for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), traveling across the nation to promote membership and fundraising.

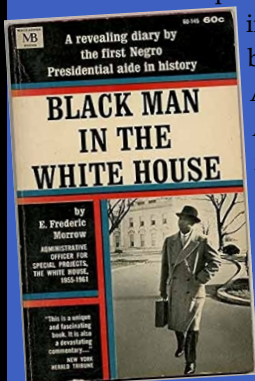
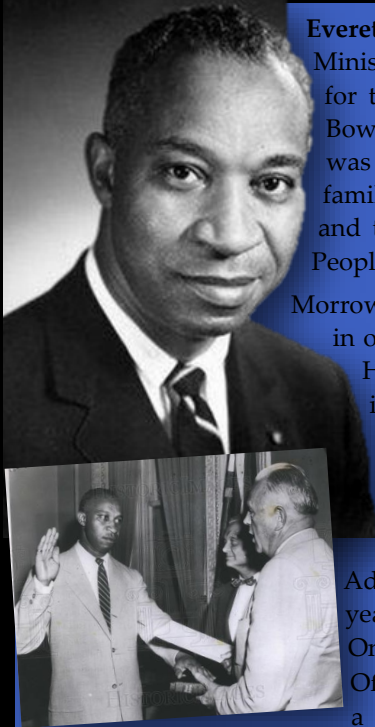
Morrow joined the United States Army during World War II, and served in with the Field Artillery Unit. Within one month he was promoted to Sergeant and a year later, he graduated from Officer Candidate School. He was discharged in 1946 as Major of Artillery. Morrow went on to graduate from Rutgers Law School in 1948 and was called back into the military during the Korean War, briefly, before becoming a public affairs writer with Columbia Broadcasting Company (CBS).

During his time at CBS, Morrow worked on Dwight Eisenhower's campaign during the 1952 presidential elections. At the end of the campaign, Morrow resigned from CBS and accepted an offer from Sherman Adams, Eisenhower's Chief of Staff, for a job in the administration. In July 1953 he was hired as Advisor on Business Affairs in the Department of Commerce. It would be two years later that his next appointment would change history.

On July 9, 1955, Morrow was sworn in as Eisenhower's Administrative Officer for Special Projects, making him the first African-American to serve as a Presidential Executive Assistant. His swearing in ceremony was held behind closed-doors to attract little attention. His duties included support services for two special assistants to the President in the areas of nuclear disarmament and psychological warfare. Part of his administrative responsibility was to accompany President Eisenhower and Vice President Richard Nixon on diplomatic trips abroad, especially in Africa. Morrow was decorated and received presidential honors from several African countries.

As monumental as his appointment was, so were the challenges. As the first African-American in this position, Morrow faced daily indignities and frustrations. White House secretaries refused to work in the building with Morrow without having a security guard present at all times. His advice was sought only on questions of race relations and then his advice was often ignored. During his tenure, the country was undergoing racial challenges and changes. The 1954 ruling in the Supreme Court's landmark *Brown v. the Board of Education*, the Montgomery Bus Boycott from 1955 to 1956, and the Little Rock Crisis in 1957 were the backdrop for Morrow's White House years. However, Morrow was able to use his position for improving the progress of racial equality by arranging an important meeting between Eisenhower and Martin Luther King and other civil rights leaders.

After his service in the White House, Morrow became Vice President of the African-American Institute in New York. In 1967, after working with The Bank of America for three years, E. Frederic Morrow was the first African-American to be promoted to Vice President of its New York based international subsidiary, specializing in foreign loans and business development. He retired as a senior Vice President in 1975, and later worked as an executive for the Education Testing Service in Princeton, New Jersey. E. Frederick Morrow died on July 20, 1994, at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York at the age of 88. His extraordinary story is told with candor in his three books, *Black Man in the White House*, *Way down South up North* (about racial discrimination in the Hackensack of his youth), and *Forty Years a Guinea Pig*.



The Clerk's Black History Series



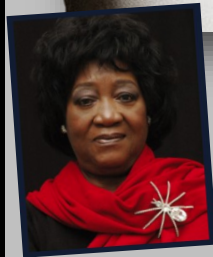
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Dorothy Pitman Hughes

(October 2, 1938 –)

Civil Rights & Women's Rights Activist and Icon



Dorothy Pitman Hughes was born on October 2, 1938 in Lumpkin, Georgia. At the age of ten, Dorothy saw her father beaten and left for dead on the front porch of the family home, a victim of a brutal Ku Klux Klan attack. Determined to make a difference in racial equality, Dorothy finished high school in 1957 and moved to New York City, initially pursuing a career in music and entertainment. In 1964, Dorothy produced the "Ballad of the Winter Soldiers," a performance at the Philharmonic Hall at Lincoln Center.

The performance starred notable black entertainers and civil rights activists such as, Sidney Poitier, Diahann Carroll, Dick Gregory, Ruby Dee, and Ossie Davis. The production benefited The Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). Soon she began raising bail money for civil rights protesters and working beside Martin Luther King, Jr, Malcom X and A. Philip Randolph. She also worked as a leader in African Americans Against the Vietnam War. Dorothy recognized the link between racial injustices and fighting classism and sexism and organized the first battered women's shelter in New York. She noticed that women were being forced to leave their children at home alone, while working to feed their families and co-founded the New York City

Agency for Child Development, a pioneering child-care facility. That same year, Hughes co-founded Ms. Magazine with Gloria Steinem along with the Women's Action Alliance, a pioneering national information center that specialized in non-sexist, multiracial, children's education. From their partnership also came the iconic black and white photo of Steinem and Hughes raising their fist, in a salute first popularized by members of the Black Power movement, in a show of feminist and racial solidarity. The two women toured together speaking about race, class and gender throughout the 1970's. Dorothy continued appearances as a guest lecturer throughout the 1980's and in 1992 co-founded the Charles Junction Historic Preservation Society in Jacksonville, Florida, combating poverty through community gardening.

In 1997, Dorothy became the first African-American woman to own an office supply/copy center - the Harlem Office Supply, Inc., and offered \$1.00 stock shares to individuals, corporations, and non-profit organizations that focused on African-American children. She wrote about her experiences in *Wake Up and Smell the Dollars!* advocating African-American small business ownership as a form of empowerment. Writing became another form of activism for Dorothy and her next book came from the gentrification of Harlem. In 1994, Dorothy was involved with the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone (UMEZ), a federal program designed for the economic development of Harlem, as part of the research team that created Business Resource and Investment Service Center (BRISC). Their goal was creating more small business owners, but instead, the program ultimately brought large "big box stores" into Harlem creating more competition for locally owned businesses. Dorothy knew that without African-American business ownership, there was no local empowerment. Dorothy protested the distribution of funding resources in her book *Just Saying... It Looks Like Ethnic Cleansing (The Gentrification of Harlem)* to provide advice to African-American business owners wanting to utilize similar government programs.

Dorothy Pitman Hughes currently operates two gardens in the Northside community of Jacksonville with the Episcopal Children's Services to combat poverty, with continued support from friend and co-activist Gloria Steinem. Ms. Dorothy Pitman Hughes celebrates her 80th birthday this year.

