

The Clerk's Black History Series



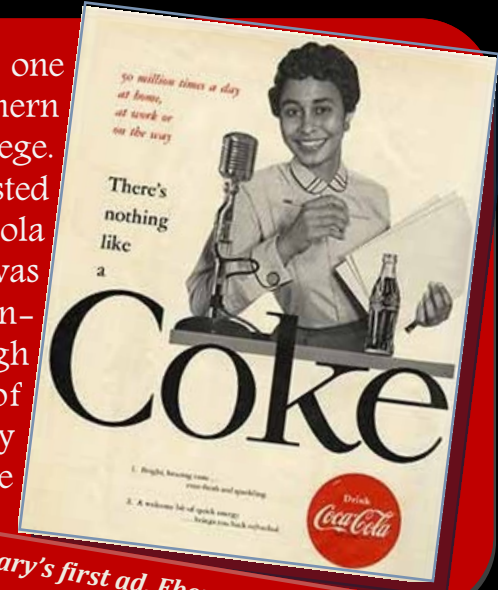
Debra DeBerry
Clerk of Superior Court
DeKalb County



Mary Alexander

First African-American Woman to Appear in Coca-Cola Advertising

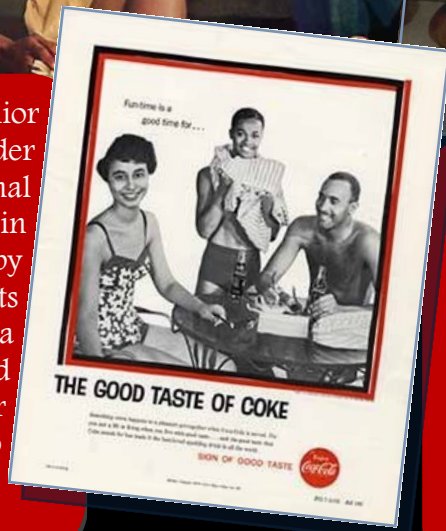
From humble beginnings on a farm in Ballplay, AL, Mary Alexander, one of 10 children, spent most of her days working the fields in the Southern heat. Mary was only the second person in her family to attend college. While at Clark College in Atlanta, GA, the dorm housemother suggested 21 year-old Mary try out for a new campaign by the Coca-Cola company to recruit African-American models. Although Mary was reluctant, she was selected and historically became the First African-American Woman to Appear in Coca-Cola Advertising. Although Mary's ads for Coca-Cola marked the beginning and the end of her modeling career, they were the first in a series of many more "firsts" accomplishments. After graduating from Clark, She moved to Detroit to pursue her Masters degree in Education.



Mary's first ad, Ebony Magazine, 1955



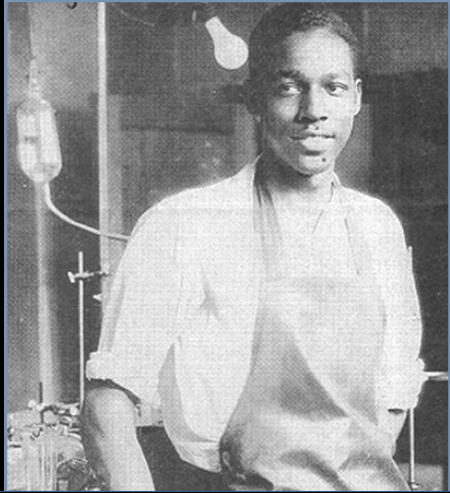
During her junior and senior years of college, Alexander was featured 15 additional ads, including several in which she was joined by two male college students as the trio portrayed a family. In all she earned about \$1,500 modeling for Coke, which she used to help pay tuition.



After college, Mary became the first African-American teacher of Mount Clemons High School and later, the first female African-American principal of Highland Park High School. To continue her legacy of "firsts" she then became the first female African-American director of Michigan's vocational education. She retired to Ocala, Florida.



Debra DeBerry Clerk of Superior Court DeKalb County



Even though in the mid-1930's Thomas was doing the work of a post-doctoral researcher in Dr. Blalock's lab, Vivien Thomas was classified and paid as a janitor at the University.

Vivien Thomas

(August 29, 1910 - November 26, 1985)

Legend in the Field of Heart Surgery

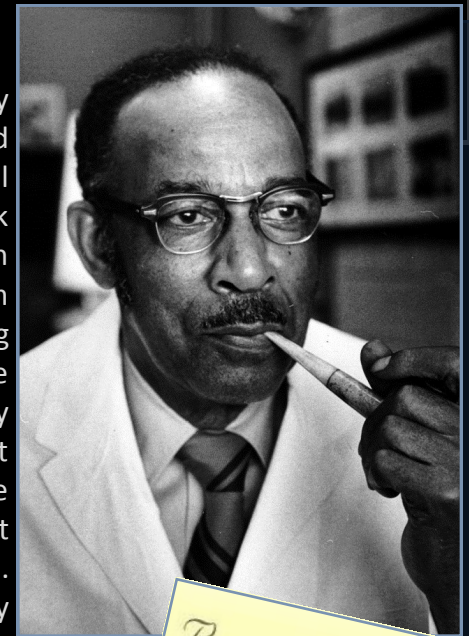
After a bank crash in 1930 wiped out his entire savings and his dream of going to medical school, Vivien Thomas, an aspiring physician, dropped out of college and in the height of the Great Depression, took a job as a lab assistant at Vanderbilt University to Dr. Alfred Blalock.

Thomas was a quick study, with particularly skillful hands. He worked diligently and learned to perform surgical operations, chemical

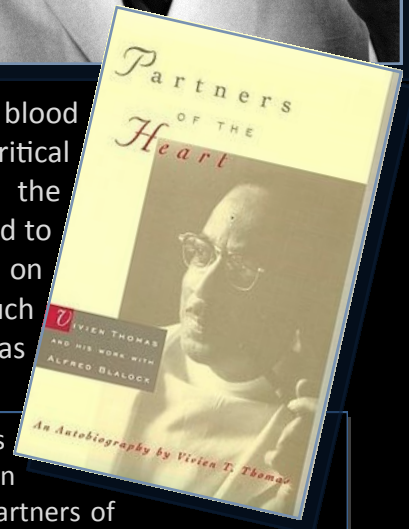
reaction procedures and data analysis with precision. His quiet dedication to Blalock and the experiments were invaluable. When Blalock moved to Johns Hopkins in 1941, he asked Thomas to accompany him. Thomas joined Blalock's surgical team and helped to develop the "Blue Baby" operation, also known as the Blalock-Taussig shunt. Blue Baby (Tetralogy of Fallot) is a congenital defect involving multiple abnormalities of the heart. Before Thomas and Blalock developed the Blue Baby operation, 25 percent of babies born with this condition died before their first birthday to the age of ten, 70 percent would die. The procedure to correct Blue

Baby was painstakingly worked out by Thomas over a two-year period. Ultimately, he joined an artery leaving the heart, to an artery leading back to the lungs. This gave the blood a second opportunity to absorb the critical oxygen and transport it throughout the body. Delicate instruments were needed to perform the corrective heart surgery on their tiny newborn patients. Since no such instruments then existed, Thomas designed and built them himself.

Along with Dr. Blalock, Vivien Thomas helped develop the 'blue baby' operation at Johns Hopkins Hospital. The book, "Partners of the Heart" and later two feature films were produced telling the amazing story of the unlikely duo.



Vivien Thomas, top left, stands behind Dr. Alfred Blalock during an early operation at Johns Hopkins.



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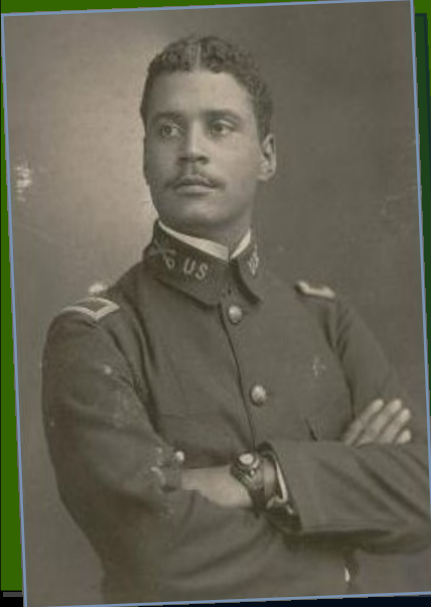
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Benjamin Oliver Davis, Sr. (7/1/1877- 11/26/70)

FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN GENERAL IN THE U. S. ARMY

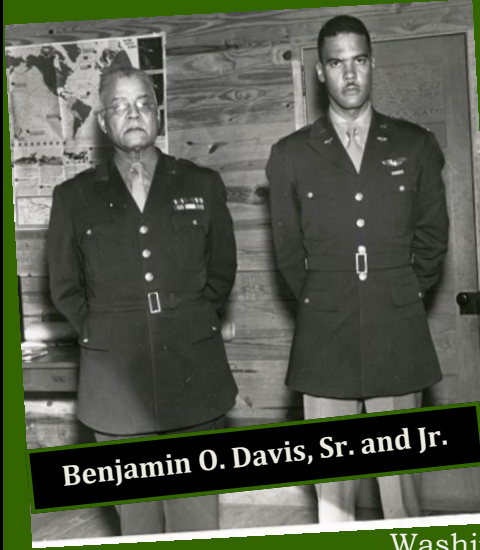
Benjamin Oliver Davis, Sr., was born in Washington, D.C., July 1, 1877, the grandson of a slave. In high school, Davis participated in the cadet program and during his senior year, attended classes at Howard University.



Davis enlisted in the military on July 13, 1898 during the Spanish-American War as a temporary First Lieutenant in the 8th United States Volunteer Infantry, an all-black unit. The unit was disbanded in March 1899 and in June of 1899, Davis enlisted in the Regular Army and was assigned to a cavalry unit, first as the troop's clerk and then as squadron sergeant major. In the years that followed, Davis had a full and admirable record of service to the United States including tours of duty in the Philippine-American War, WWI & WWII. His service also included multiple teaching terms as a Professor of Military Science and Tactic at Wilberforce University in Ohio (1905 through 1937) as well as multiple terms at Tuskegee University in Alabama (1920 through 1933).



In 1997, the U. S. Postal Service issued a 32-cent stamp honoring Benjamin O. Davis, Sr.



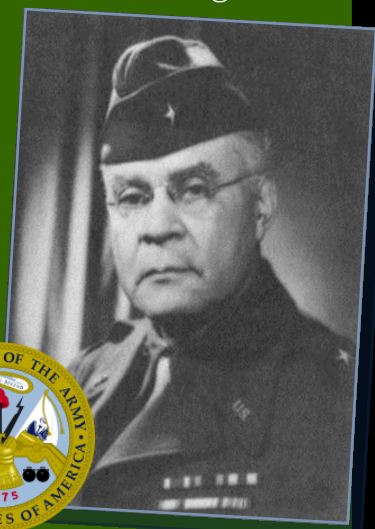
Benjamin O. Davis, Sr. and Jr.

During the summer months of 1930 to 1933, Davis escorted pilgrimages of World War I Gold Star Mothers and Widows to the burial places of their loved ones in Europe. During World War II Davis became the Commanding General of 4th Brigade, 2nd Cavalry Division at Fort Riley Kansas in January 1941. About six months later, he was assigned to

Washington, D.C. as an assistant in the Office of the Inspector General. While serving in the Office of the Inspector General, Davis also served on the Advisory Committee on Negro Troop Policies.

Promoted to Brigadier General on October 25, 1940, the first African-American general in the US Army, General Davis retired on July 31, 1941 and was recalled to active duty the next day. Decorated with a Bronze Star and the Distinguished Service Medal, BG Davis' 50 years of service came to an end on July 14, 1948 when he officially retired.

His son, Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. became the first African-American General in the Air Force.





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Clerk of Superior Court
DeKalb County



"Bessie" Stringfield

(February 9, 1911 – February 1993)

"The Motorcycle Queen of Miami"

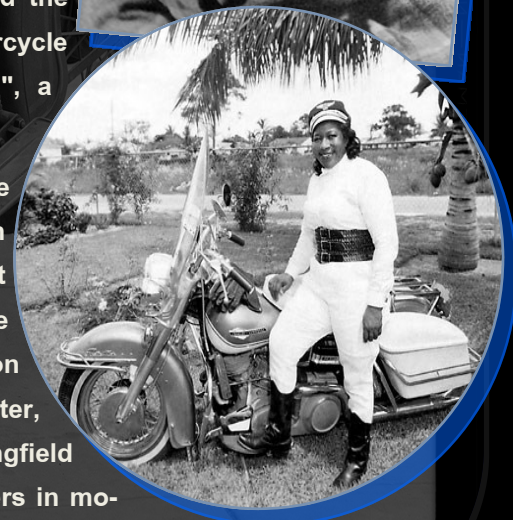


Betsy (Ellis) Stringfield was born in Jamaica February 9, 1911, in Kingston, Jamaica, to a white Dutch mother and Jamaican father. Her parents moved to Boston after her birth and died when she was just five years old. She was adopted by an Irish Catholic woman who gave her a 1928 Indian Scout motorcycle for her 16th birthday. In 1930, at the age of 19, she commenced traveling across the United States. She made several long-distance trips in the US, and eventually rode through the 48 lower states, Europe, Brazil and Haiti. Due to her skin color, Stringfield was often denied accommodations while traveling across country, especially in the South. So during those long trips, she would sleep on her motorcycle at filling stations, using her jacket as a pillow. To earn extra money, she entered and won many flat track races, but was often denied the prize money because she was a woman. During WWII, Stringfield served as a civilian courier dispatch rider for the US Army, carrying documents between domestic army bases. The four years she worked for the Army, she crossed the United States eight times. She affixed the Army crest to the front of her blue Harley 61.

In the 1950's, Stringfield moved to Miami, became a registered nurse and started the Iron Horse Motorcycle Club. Her skill and antics at motorcycle shows gained the attention of the local press, leading to the nickname of "The Negro Motorcycle Queen". This nickname later changed to "The Motorcycle Queen of Miami", a moniker she carried for the remainder of her life.



The story of Bessie B. Stringfield is the stuff of which legends are made. In 1990, when the AMA opened the first Motorcycle Heritage Museum, Bessie was featured in its inaugural exhibit on Women in Motorcycling. A decade later, the AMA instituted the Bessie Stringfield Award to honor women who are leaders in motorcycling. And in 2002, she was inducted into the Motorcycle Hall of Fame. Stringfield died in 1993 at the age of 82 from a heart condition, having kept riding right up until the time of her death.



Altogether Bessie owned 27 Harleys in her lifetime. She's quoted as saying, "To me, a Harley is the only motorcycle ever made."

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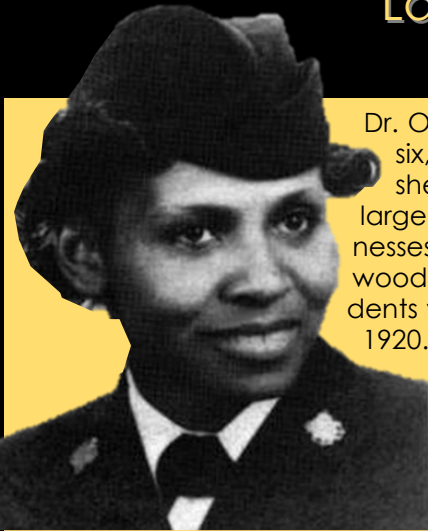
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Dr. Olivia J. Hooker

First African-America to enlist in the Coast Guard
Last Living Survivor of Black Wall Street

(b. February 12, 1915)

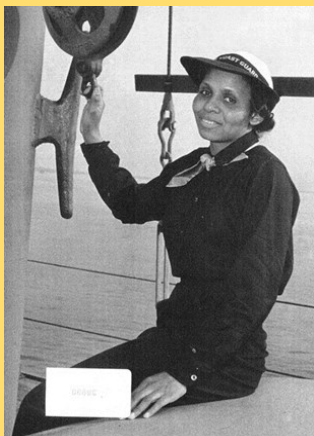


Dr. Olivia J. Hooker was born in Muskogee, Oklahoma on February 12, 1915. At the age of six, she along with more than 10,000 other African-Americans experienced what she called a "planned desecration" of her Greenwood Community. Greenwood was a large, prominent black neighborhood in Tulsa, Oklahoma, with thriving black-owned businesses. It was known as America's "Black Wall Street." It is said that the black dollar in Greenwood circulated 36-100 times before leaving the community. Due to Jim Crow laws, residents were dependent on each other and as a result, their community thrived, until June 1, 1920. Whether it was the fabricated story of a black man assaulting a white woman, or the

better possibility of economic jealousy, on June 1, 1921, white residents massacred hundreds of black residents and destroyed the entire neighborhood within hours. The riot was one of the most devastating massacres in the history of U.S. race relations. It is estimated that the massacre killed nearly 3,000 African-Americans and destroyed over 1,400 homes and businesses. Among the destruction were 21 churches, 21 restaurants, 30 grocery stores, two movie theaters, a hospital, a bank, a post office, libraries, schools, law offices, a half dozen private airplanes along with an entire bus system. Within five years after the massacre, surviving residents who chose to remain in Tulsa rebuilt much of the district, in spite of the opposition of many white Tulsa political and business leaders and punitive zoning laws enacted to prevent reconstruction. It resumed being a vital black community until segregation was overturned by the Federal Government during the 1950s and 1960s. Today, only a single block of the original buildings remain standing in the area.



After the riot, Dr. Hooker's family moved to Columbus, Ohio where she earned her Bachelor of Arts in 1937 from The Ohio State University. While at OSU, she joined the Delta Sigma Theta sorority where she advocated for African-American women to be admitted to the Navy. She applied to the *Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES)* of the U.S. Navy, but was rejected due to her ethnicity. She disputed the rejection and although she was later accepted, she declined because she decided to join the Coast Guard. In February, 1945, Dr. Hooker became the first African-American woman to enter the U.S. Coast Guard, thus becoming a SPAR in the United States Coast Guard Women's Reserve, during World War II. She earned the Yeoman, Second Class rank during her service and the rank of Petty Officer 2nd Class until her unit disbanded in mid-1946. Dr. Hooker went on to earn her Masters degree in 1947 from the Teachers College of Columbia University and moved to upstate New York to work in mental health at the Albion Correctional Facility. She is credited with much of their success in rehabilitating incarcerated women who were saddled with a mental illness stigma. In 1961, she received her PhD in psychology from the University of Rochester. In 1963, she joined Fordham University as a senior clinical lecturer; eventually she became an associate professor until 1985. **Dr. Hooker recently celebrated her 102nd birthday.**



Dr. Hooker recently celebrated her 102nd birthday.

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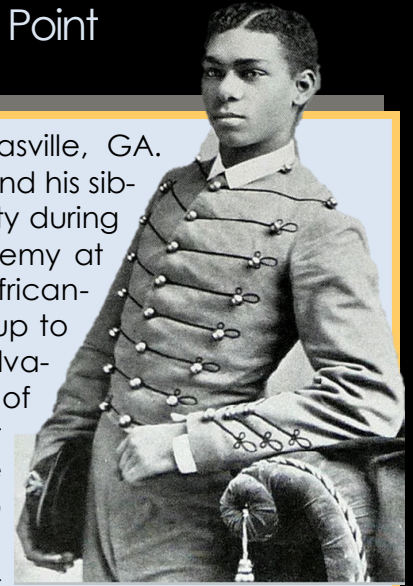
Henry Ossian Flipper

First African-American U.S. Army officer to Command Black Troops

First African-American to graduate from West Point

(March 21, 1856 - May 3, 1940)

Henry Ossian Flipper was born into slavery, March 21, 1856 near Thomasville, GA. Despite the bleak conditions surrounding his birth, his parents instilled in him and his siblings the philosophy of pursuing excellence. While attending Atlanta University during Reconstruction, Flipper received an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Although he faced hatred and rejection along with four other African-American students, he persevered and in 1877, became the first of the group to graduate, earning a commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Cavalry. He was assigned to the 10th Cavalry Regiment, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, one of the four all black Buffalo Soldier regiment in the Army and became the first black officer to command regular troops in the U.S. Army during battle. He earned distinction during the confrontation between Apache leader Victorio and the U.S. Army in Texas and New Mexico between 1879 and 1880. In the



Victorio Campaign, he led A Troop under the command of Captain Nicholas M. Nolan. Flipper also distinguished himself at Fort Sill with his effective engineering skills. He constructed roads and built drainage systems that facilitated the removal of stagnant water and prevented the spread of malaria. Flipper's Ditch" became a National Landmark in 1977.

THE COLORED CADET
AT
WEST POINT.
—
AUTOBIOGRAPHY
OF
LIEUT. HENRY OSSIAN FLIPPER,
U. S. A.

FIRST GRADUATE OF COLOR FROM THE
U. S. MILITARY ACADEMY.



His military career ended in 1881 when his commanding officer accused him of embezzling almost \$2,000 of commissary funds while serving as a quartermaster in Fort Davis, Texas. Flipper was acquitted of all charges except "conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman" at a U.S. Army court-martial at Fort Davis on September 17, 1881. It was revealed that his association with Mollie Dwyer, the white sister-in-law of Captain Nolan, was the real motive behind the charges and the harsh sentence was racially motivated. When President Chester A. Authur refused to reverse the verdict, Flipper was discharged from the Army on June 30, 1882. He spent much of the rest of his life challenging the charges and attempting to clear his name. He went on to work as a civil mining engineer, surveyor, translator, newspaper editor, historian and folklorist in Arizona, New Mexico, Mexico and primarily Texas (El Paso) until 1919. In 1921, he went to Washington, DC as the assistant to former U.S. Sen. Albert Fall of New Mexico when the Senator was appointed Secretary of the Interior by President Warren G. Harding. By 1923, he was employed by Texas oilman William F. Buckley Sr. as an engineer in the petroleum industry in Venezuela. Then Flipper retired to Atlanta, GA in 1931 where he died in 1940.

In 1976, President Jimmy Carter granted Flipper, posthumously, an honorable discharge. In 1999, President Bill Clinton gave Flipper a full presidential pardon.

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Alexander Lucius Twilight

First African-American to Graduate from a U.S. College

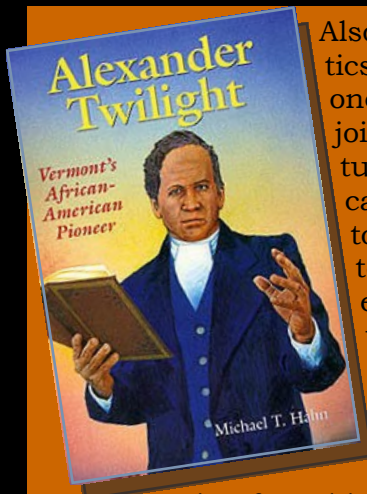
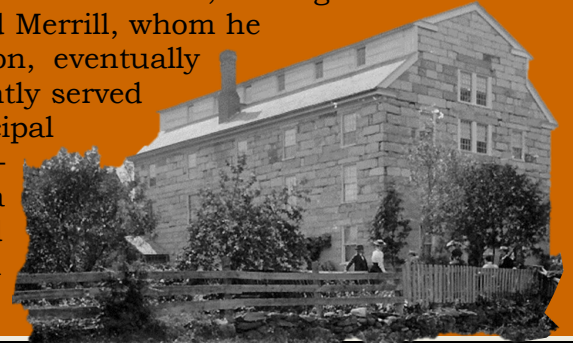
First African-American elected to Public Office

(September 9, 1795 - June 19, 1857)



Alexander Lucius Twilight was born on September 23, 1795, in Corinth, Vermont. Alexander Lucius Twilight was one of six children born to a fair skinned mother, Mary Twilight and a mixed race father, Ichabod, who had served in the American Revolution. The Twilights were one of the few African-American families living in the area at the time. At an early age, Alexander Twilight worked as an indentured servant on a nearby farm. While on the farm, he learned some of basics of reading, writing and arithmetic. At the age of 20, in 1815, he enrolled in the Orange County Grammar School (also known as the Randolph Academy) in Randolph, Vermont and managed to complete his entire secondary education in six years. In 1821, Twilight enrolled at Middlebury College, located 30 miles east of Randolph. Two years later, he made history when he became the first African-American to graduate from a U.S. college, earning a bachelor's

degree from Middlebury in 1823. After completing his degree, Twilight was offered a teaching position in Peru, New York, a small community located in the northeastern part of the state, serving in that role for several years afterward. While in Peru, he met Mercy Ladd Merrill, whom he married in 1826. Twilight also had a strong interest in religion, eventually receiving credentials to become a preacher. In 1829, he concurrently served as the Brownington Congregational Church's minister and principal of the Orleans County Grammar School, later known as Brownington Academy also designing and helping the school construct a granite building named Athenian Hall (now known as the Old Stone House Museum). The structure housed classrooms and served as a dormitory.



Also a pioneer in Vermont politics, Twilight made history once again in 1836 when he joined his home-state legislature, becoming the first African American to win election to public office. He continued to thrive in his varied roles, educating and preaching until the late 1840s. During this same time, Twilight developed conflicts with both his school and church that ultimately led him to re-

sign from his posts. He went on to teach in Quebec, Canada, for several years.

In 1852, Alexander Twilight returned to Brownington to work as a minister and to run the academy. He gave up his church duties after only a year into his new role, but stayed on at the school until a stroke forced him into retirement in 1855. He died two years later, on June 19, 1857, in Brownington.



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Benjamin Oliver Davis, Jr.

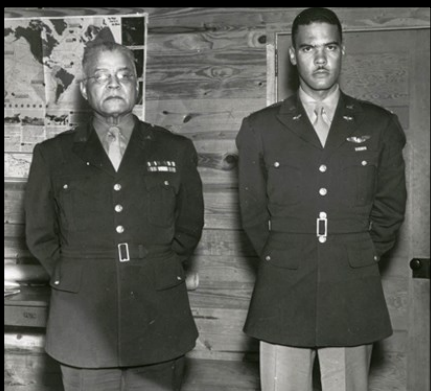
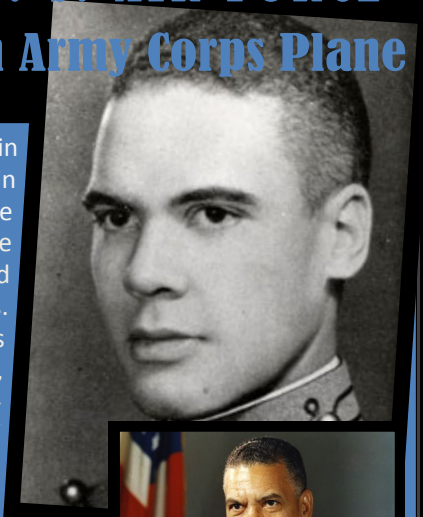
First African-American General in the U. S. AIR FORCE

First African-American to Make a Solo Flight in an Army Corps Plane

(December 18, 1912 – July 4, 2002)

Benjamin Oliver Davis, Jr., was born December 18, 1912, in Washington, D.C. The son of Benjamin Oliver Davis, Sr., the first African-American General in the U. S. Army, the younger Davis followed in his father's military service footsteps, but paved his own path to a place in history by becoming the first African-American General in the U. S. Air Force. After attending the University of Chicago, he entered the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York in 1932. He was sponsored by Representative Oscar De Priest (R-IL) of Chicago, at the time, the only black member of Congress. In spite of racial isolation and mistreatment from fellow cadets, Davis, Jr., graduated 35th in a class

of 276. When he was commissioned as a second lieutenant, the Army had a grand total of two black line officers – Benjamin O. Davis, Sr. and Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. Because of his high standing in his graduating class, Davis should have had his choice of assignments, but when he opted to apply for the Army Air Corps he was denied because the Air Corps did not have a Black squadron. He was instead assigned to the 24th Infantry Regiment, an all-Black division located in Fort Benning, Georgia. After attending the U.S. Army Infantry School, he traveled to Tuskegee, Alabama to teach a military tactics course at the Tuskegee Institute. Despite the prestige of being an instructor, Davis wanted to fly. Thanks to pressure on the administration and the fact that the country was moving towards war, President Roosevelt directed the War Department to create a black flying unit. Davis was assigned to undergo training in the first class at the Tuskegee Army Air Field. In



Benjamin O. Davis, Sr. and Jr.

1942 he finished his training and was one of only five blacks to complete the course and then became the first Black Officer to make a solo flight in an Army Air Corps plane. He was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and in July 1942, he was assigned as the commander of the 99th Pursuit Squadron.

In 1943, Davis organized and commanded the 332nd Fighter Group, The Tuskegee Airmen. By the end of the war, Davis himself had flown 60 combat missions and had been promoted to Colonel. After the end of World War II, when President Harry Truman fully integrated the military branches, Colonel Davis was called upon to help draft the new "Air Force" plan for carrying out this order. For the next few years he was assigned to the Pentagon and to posts overseas. When the Korean War broke out, he once again participated in the fighting, manning a F-86 fighter jet and leading the 51st Fighter-Interceptor Wing. In the summer of 1949, Davis was the first black permitted to attend the Air War College. Despite the tense racial climate in Montgomery, Alabama, he persevered and excelled and upon graduation, received an assignment to serve at the United States Air Force Headquarters at the Pentagon.



Davis, Jr. was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General in May 1960 and to Major General in January 1962. He was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General in April 1965 and retired from active duty on February 1, 1970 after more than 33 years of military service. Finally, on December 9, 1998, President Bill Clinton decorated him with a four-star insignia, advancing him to the rank of General, U.S. Air Force (Retired).

Davis's wife Agatha died in early 2002. Davis, who had been suffering from Alzheimer's disease, died at age 89 on July 4, 2002 at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. Davis was buried July 17, at Arlington National Cemetery. A Red Tail P-51 Mustang, similar to the one he had flown in World War II, flew overhead during funeral services.



The Clerk's Black History Series



Debra DeBerry Clerk of Superior Court DeKalb County



Condredge Holloway

First African-American Quarterback in the Southeastern Conference (S.E.C.)

First African-American Quarterback to Start for University of Tennessee

First African-American Member of the University of Tennessee Baseball Team

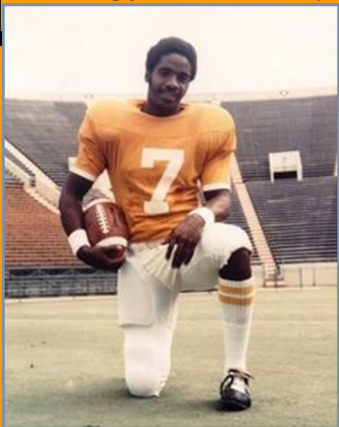
(b. January 24, 1954)



Condredge Holloway was born January 24, 1954 in Huntsville, Alabama to Condredge Holloway, Sr., and Dorothy Holloway. Holloway's paternal grandfather was born a slave, but was emancipated as a child in 1865. His mother Dorothy was the first African-American employee of NASA. Condredge's athletic career started as a successful quarterback at Lee High School in Huntsville, AL., where he was also a star baseball player and the fourth overall pick in the 1971 MLB Draft by the Montreal Expos. Since he was only 17 years old at the time of the draft, Alabama law required Condredge's mother to sign the MLB contract. His mother refused, insisting that Condredge go to college. In her refusal, she secured her son's place in history. His high school coach called him "the best school athlete I've ever seen" and created a recruiting frenzy Condredge's senior year of high school. Both Alabama and Auburn showed interest in Holloway but not as a quarterback. College Football Hall of Fame coach Paul "Bear" Bryant was brutally honest with him, saying "Alabama wasn't ready for a black quarterback." Condredge ultimately signed with the University of Tennessee where then Coach Bill Battle told him, "if you're good enough to play quarterback at Tennessee, then you're going to be our quarterback." As a sophomore, Holloway took over as the starting quarterback for a Volunteers team that finished the prior season 11-1 after defeating Air Force in the Sugar Bowl. Becoming the first African-American starting quarterback in the Southeastern Conference, he led Tennessee to a 10-2 record, capped off by a 24-17 victory in the Astro-Bluebonnet Bowl over No. 10 LSU. He finished the season with 73 completions for 807 yards and three touchdowns, ranking in the top-10 of the SEC in all categories. Earning the nickname of "The Artful Dodger," Holloway also ran for 266 yards and three touchdowns. In his three seasons (1972-74) as a starter, Holloway directed the Vols to the 1972 Astro-Bluebonnet, 1973 Gator and 1974 Liberty Bowls and an overall record of 25-9-2. He ended his career with the best interception-to-attempt ratio in Tennessee history, throwing just 12 interceptions in 407 collegiate attempts.



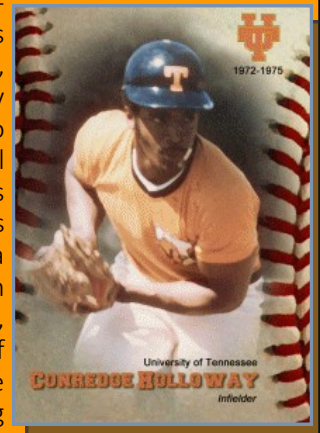
Condredge is in his 18th year within the Tennessee athletic department, currently serving as the assistant Athletics Director for Student-Athlete Relations/Lettermen at his alma mater.



Holloway left Knoxville and played 13 seasons in the Canadian Football League, compiling impressive numbers for the Ottawa Rough Riders (1975-80), Toronto Argonauts (1981-86) and British Columbia Lions (1987). He threw for more than 25,000 yards and rushed for another 3,167 while scoring 155 touchdowns. He was league MVP in 1982.

After his professional playing days ended, Holloway returned to UT and earned his degree.

In addition to being the first African-American quarterback in the SEC, Holloway was also the first black baseball player at Tennessee. An All-America shortstop in 1975, he finished with a .353 career batting average, and he still owns the school's longest hitting streak at 27 games. Holloway was selected to Tennessee's All-Century Baseball Team, making him the school's only student-athlete named to All-Century squads in baseball and football. In addition to his induction in Alabama Sports Hall of Fame, Holloway is a member of the Canadian Football Hall of Fame, Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame and the Tennessee Baseball Hall of Fame, among others.



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Fanny Jackson-Coppin

African-American Educator, Missionary, and Advocate for Black Female Higher Education
First African-American Woman School Principal
(October 15, 1837 - January 21, 1913)

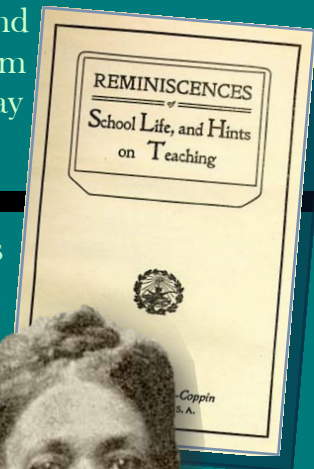


Frances (Fanny) Marion Jackson Coppin was born into slavery in Washington, D.C., October 15, 1837 and when she was just twelve-years-old, her aunt purchased her freedom. Soon after, she was sent to live with another aunt in New Bedford, MA, where she worked as a domestic servant for George Henry Calvert, an American editor, essayist, dramatist, poet, and biographer. With his influence, Fanny learned to read and write. At the age of 14, Fanny moved to Newport, Rhode Island alone. She continued her desire for education stating, "It was in me to get an education and to teach my people. This idea was deep in my soul." She briefly attended the segregated Rhode Island State Normal School and then in 1860, she relocated to Oberlin, Ohio, where she enrolled in Oberlin College,

the first college to accept both black and female students. She was the first black person chosen to be a pupil-teacher there. In her senior year, she organized evening classes to teach freedmen reading and writing. In 1865, at the age of 28, Fanny graduated with a bachelor's degree. That same year, she accepted a position as Principal of the Ladies Department at the Institute for Colored Youth, a Quaker school in Philadelphia, now known as Cheyney University of Pennsylvania, teaching Greek, Latin and mathematics. After only four years, Fanny was appointed to Head Principal of ICY becoming the First African-American woman to become a school principal. With her new position, Fanny was able to influence and improve opportunities for young African-American women. She expanded the curriculum to include an Industrial Department, established a women's industrial exchange to display the artistic work of young women and founded a home for girls and young women.

In December 1881, at the age of forty-four, Fanny married Reverend Levi Jenkins Coppin, a prominent leader and minister of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (A.M.E.). She continued to work at ICY, but missionary work became her primary focus. In 1902, at the age of 56, Fanny retired from ICY and began to focus all of her efforts on missionary work. She accompanied her husband, now a bishop, to Cape Town, South Africa, where they continued their missionary work counseling African women. While in South Africa, Fanny and her husband founded the Bethel Institute. Fanny returned to the United States in 1907 and settled back in Philadelphia. After almost a decade of missionary work Fanny's health began to decline. In her last years, she completed her autobiography, *Reminiscences of School Life, and Hints on Teaching*, which remains a record of a remarkable life. Fanny Jackson Coppin passed away on January 21, 1913, at the age 76.

In 1926, Baltimore, Maryland Teacher Training School was named the Fanny Jackson Coppin Normal School, now Coppin State University, in her honor.



The Clerk's Black History Series



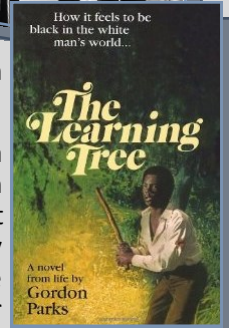
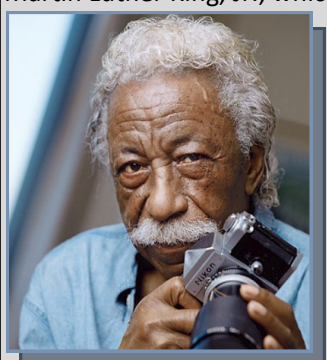
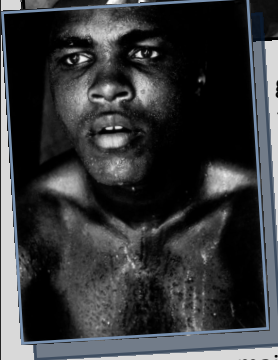
Debra DeBerry Clerk of Superior Court DeKalb County



Gordon Roger Alexander Buchanan Parks

First African-American Photographer for Life and Vogue Magazines
First African-American to Direct a Major Hollywood Movie
(November 30, 1912 – March 7, 2006)

Gordon Roger Alexander Buchanan Parks was born on November 30, 1912, in Fort Scott, Kansas. Gordon Parks was the youngest of 14 children born to Sarah and Jackson Parks. He attended a segregated elementary school and was barred from participating in activities at his high school because of his race. At 14, Parks was sent to live with relatives in St. Paul, MN after the death of his mother. He was soon forced out on his own and working at odd jobs to survive. While working as a train waiter, traveling across the United States, Parks found a photo magazine that would inspire his love of travel and photography. At 25, he bought his first camera at a second-hand store for \$12.50 and after returning to Chicago, received a fellowship in photography from the Julius Rosenwald Foundation. Parks started working at the Farm Security Administration, a New Deal agency designed to combat poverty in rural life. It was in 1942, while working at the FSA, that Parks took his first professional photograph dubbed, "American Gothic" for its similarities to the original photograph taken in 1930. Parks' iconic image depicts a black woman, Ella Watson, who mopped floors in the FSA, standing before the American flag holding a mop and broom. It has become his signature image and appeared on the front page of *The Washington Post* that year. Parks' career in photography had begun. After moving with his wife to Harlem, NYC, Parks became the first African-American fashion photographer for *Vogue* magazine. But it was his continued work photographing social injustice, poverty, crime, violence, civil rights, and segregation throughout America that earned him a position on staff as the first African-American photographer with *Life* Magazine. Parks remained at *Life* magazine for two decades, chronicling subjects related to racism and poverty, as well as taking memorable pictures including Muhammad Ali, Malcolm X, and Stokely Carmichael. Parks' photographs with both *Vogue* and *Life* are some of the most iconic pictures in American photography history.



Parks also made a name for himself in film as the first African-American film producer for a major studio. He wrote his biographical novel, *The Learning Tree*, based on his childhood in Fort Scott, penned the screenplay, then composed the musical score. However, it was the movie *SHAFT* in 1971 that cemented Parks as the first commercially viable African-American director. *Shaft*, a 1971 detective film directed by Parks and starring Richard Roundtree as John Shaft, became a major hit that spawned a series of films that would be labeled as, "Blaxploitation." Not widely recognized, but among the great works of Parks is a ballet written to honor Martin Luther King, Jr., which premiered in Washington, D.C. in 1989. Also to his credit is a piano concerto, a symphony for an orchestra and 23 books. Although he did not graduate from high school, Parks received 50 honorary doctorate degrees and hundreds of other honors including Photographer of the Year, American Society of Magazine Photographers and Kansan of the Year.

The 93-year-old Gordon Parks died of cancer on March 7, 2006, in New York City. He is buried in his hometown of Fort Scott, Kansas. Today, Parks is remembered for his pioneering work in the field of photography, which has been an inspiration to many. The famed photographer once said, "People in millenniums ahead will know what we were like in the 1930's and the important major things that shaped our history at that time. This is as important for historic reasons as any other."

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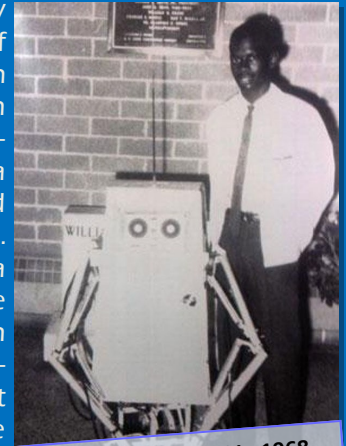
Lonnie G. Johnson

Engineer and Inventor of the SuperSoaker

(b. October 6, 1949)



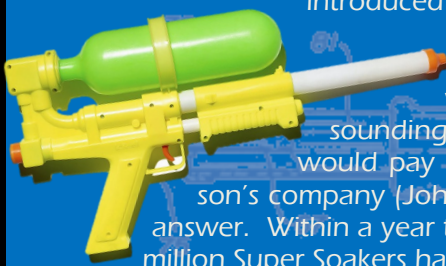
Lonnie George Johnson was born October 6, 1949 in Mobile, Alabama. As a child in the 1960s, Lonnie showed a brave curiosity and a natural inclination for engineering and inventing. His father, a World War II veteran, taught Lonnie and his brother the value of repairing household items. Lonnie's inquisitive nature and propensity for invention led to him nearly burning down the family house trying to create rocket fuel out of sugar and saltpeter and building a go-cart out of scrap metal and an old lawn mower motor. Lonnie's talents became more refined in Williamson High School where he entered a national science competition sponsored by the University of Alabama. There he displayed a remote controlled robot named "Linex" which he built from scraps and spare parts from his brother's walkie-talkie and his sister's reel-to-reel. He won first place with "Linex" and entered Tuskegee University on a Mathematics scholarship. While at Tuskegee, he was elected into the Pi Tau Sigma National Engineering Honor Society and graduated with distinction in 1973 with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and a Master's Degree in Nuclear Engineering. After graduation, Johnson went



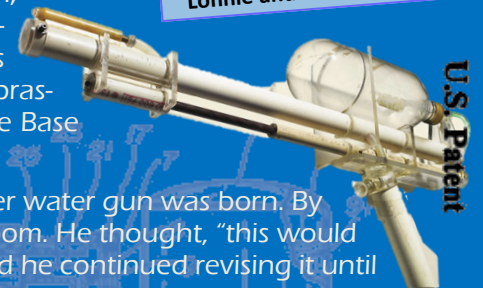
Lonnie and "Linex" in 1968.

on to work in the field of thermal analysis on plutonium fuel spheres, joined the U.S. Air Force where he served as the Acting Chief of the Space Nuclear Power Safety Section, worked for NASA as the Senior Systems Engineer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and worked on the Galileo Mission to Jupiter. In 1982, Johnson returned to his military career, working at the Strategic Air Command (SAC) facility in Bellevue, Nebraska and then moved to the SAC Test and Evaluation Squadron at Edwards Air Force Base in Edwards, California where he worked on the Stealth Bomber.

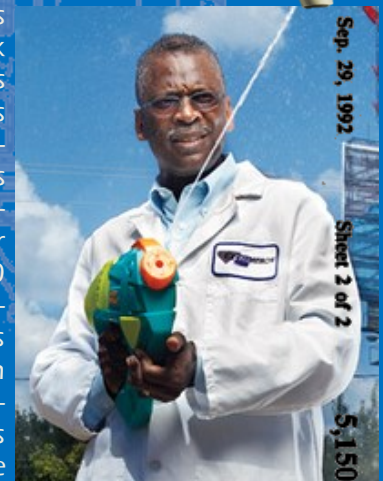
In 1982, while Johnson was developing an eco-friendly heat pump, the Super Soaker water gun was born. By accident, his heat pump invention created a stream of water that shot across the room. He thought, "this would make a great water gun." He called his initial invention a "pneumatic water gun" and he continued revising it until it could shoot almost 50 feet. After a series of rejections for two years, Johnson was



introduced to Al Davis, an executive with Larimi Corp., at a New York City Toy Fair. Two weeks later, Johnson was in Larimi's headquarters in Philadelphia with company executives watching a demonstration of his invention. With a resounding "Wow" their only question was whether consumers would pay \$10.00 for a water gun. After signing a deal with Johnson's company (Johnson Research and Development Co., Inc.) they had their answer. Within a year they knew they had a hit. Within 10 years more than 200 million Super Soakers had been sold. The Super Soaker became the toy of the decade. Johnson continued inventing and would eventually hold more than 80 patents. For his contributions to science (and in light of his great success with the Super Soaker) Johnson was inducted into the Inventor Hall of Fame in 2000. His company has continued to innovate, creating improved radon detectors, heat pumps and lithium battery products as well as new toy concepts. Johnson is a part of a small group of African-American inventors whose work accounts for 6 percent of all U.S. patent applications. Johnson operates his companies in the Sweet Auburn neighborhood of Atlanta, Georgia, where he lives with his wife and four children.



U.S. Patent



Sep. 29, 1992

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The Clerk's Black History Series



Debra DeBerry Clerk of Superior Court DeKalb County



Ruth Ella Moore

First African-American Woman in the U.S. to Earn a Ph. D.
First African-American to Earn a Ph. D. in Bacteriology
First Woman to Chair or Lead a Department at Howard University
(May 19, 1903 - July 19, 1994)

Ruth Ella Moore was born May 19, 1903, in Columbus, Ohio.

Not much is known about her early life, but in college she attended The Ohio State University and earned her Bachelor of Science degree in 1926 and her M.A. in 1927.

After earning her master's degree, she immediately started teaching English and Hygiene at Tennessee State College (now Tennessee State University) until 1930 when she returned to Ohio State to complete her Doctorate degree. Her dissertation on tuberculosis earned her a Doctorate degree in Bacteriology from The Ohio State University in 1933, making her the first African-American Woman to earn a Ph.D., as well as the title of the first African-American to earn a Ph.D. in Bacteriology.

After earning her Ph.D., Moore moved to Washington, DC and began teaching at the Howard University College of Medicine.

Ruth Ella Moore spent her entire teaching career, with the exception of her time at Tennessee State, at the Howard University College of Medicine. During those 40 years she rose through the teaching ranks, first as an instructor, then as an assistant professor, then to the acting head of the Bacteriology Department until finally being promoted to the Head of the Department of Bacteriology, Preventative Medicine and Public Health in 1955. In 1960, at the age of 57, Moore stepped down as the department head to continue work as a researcher and associate professor until her retirement in 1973 at the age of 70. Moore remained in Washington, D.C., until the age of 88 when she was moved to Rockville, MD.

After all her accomplishments and contributions to our history and to her field, her obituary simply read:

Ruth E. Moore, 91, a retired professor of microbiology and chairman of the department of microbiology at the Howard University College of Medicine, died of heart ailments July 19 at the National Lutheran Home for the Aged in Rockville. She leaves no immediate survivors.



The Clerk's Black History Series



Debra DeBerry Clerk of Superior Court DeKalb County



Xernona Clayton

First Southern African-American Television Show Host
Founder of the Trumpet Awards
(b. August 30, 1930)



Xernona Clayton was born August 30, 1930, in Muskogee, Oklahoma to Reverend James and Elliott (Lillie) Brewster, who were both administrators of Indian affairs in Muskogee, Oklahoma. In 1952, she graduated with honors from Tennessee State Agricultural and Industrial College in Nashville, Tennessee where she majored in music and minored in education. At TSU, Clayton became a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. She later earned a scholarship and pursued graduate studies at the University of Chicago. In 1957, Clayton married Edward Clayton, a noted journalist and associate of Dr. King with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. She later co-authored a revised edition of her late husband's biography of Martin Luther King Jr., called "The Peaceful Warrior". Clayton began her career in the Civil Rights

Movement with the National Urban League in Chicago, working undercover to investigate racial discrimination committed against African-Americans by employers. After moving to Atlanta, she began working with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) under the direction of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. She developed a deep friendship with Coretta Scott King and played a significant role in the organizing, planning and funding of Dr. King's marches. In 1966, Clayton coordinated the Doctors' Committee for Implementation, a group of African-American doctors who worked on the desegregation of all Atlanta hospitals. The Doctors' Committee served as a model for nationwide hospital desegregation and was honored by the National Medical Association. After Ed Clayton's death in 1966, Xernona married jurist Paul L. Brady, the first African-American appointed as a Federal Administrative Law judge. By the mid-1960s, Clayton was writing for the Atlanta Voice, and in 1968, she became the first black woman in the South to host a regularly scheduled prime-time talk show, "Variations", which became "The Xernona Clayton Show" on WAGA-TV in Atlanta. Her guests included Harry Belafonte and Lena Horne. Later that year, Clayton successfully convinced the Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan to renounce the Klan.

In 1982, Clayton began her long and impressive work with Turner Broadcasting, working as the first black female corporate executive and in 1988, as the Corporate Vice President of Urban Affairs with Turner Broadcasting, Inc. In 1993, Clayton, with Turner Broadcasting, created the Trumpet Awards to honor achievements of African-Americans. The program is seen in over 185 countries. She serves as the Chair, President and CEO of the Trumpet Awards Foundation which was formed in late 2004. In early 2004, Clayton created the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame. Clayton's footprints were added to the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame in 2006. In recognition of Xernona's contribution to broadcasting, her community and the nation, the American Intercultural Student Exchange (AISE) has created a scholarship in her honor. Each year, since 1987, Ms. Clayton chooses an outstanding minority high school student to spend a year living abroad with a European family, all expenses paid. The Xernona Clayton Scholarship is dedicated to increasing open relationships, internationally, through a global high school student exchange program. Additionally, the Atlanta Association of Black Journalists named its scholarship in her honor and annually presents the Xernona Clayton Scholarship to a student pursuing a career in communications. Xernona Clayton's autobiography, "I've Been Marching All the Time", was published in 1991. On September 2011, the Atlanta City Council renamed a street and park plaza at the intersection of Peachtree Street and Baker Street in downtown Atlanta in Clayton's honor.

