

TASK FORCE ON CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY

Agenda

Wednesday, March 28, 2018

10:00 AM

Lynwood Roberts Room 1st Floor, City Hall

Tape No. _____

**Jeff Clements, Chief of Research Division
Research Assistant: Yvonne P. Mitchell**

The Honorable Warren Jones, Co-Chair

Ju'Coby Pitman, Co-Chair

Tony Allegretti

Dr. Alan Bliss

Dr. Richard Danford

Ennis Davis

Brenda Frinks

Dr. Tim Gilmore

Dr. Marvin Grant

Chris Hand

Maria Hane

Rhiley Hodges

The Honorable Rodney L. Hurst, Sr.

Dr. Brenda Simmons-Hutchins

The Honorable Rahman Johnson

John Lumpkin

Eric Mann

Bishop Rudolph W. McKissick, Sr.

Hope McMath

Marsha Phelts

Marcus Pollard

Isaiah Rumlin

Darnell Smith

Monica Smith

Adonnica L. Toler

Lloyd Washington

Alton Yates

Meeting Convened:

Meeting Adjourned:

Introductions

Update: U.S. Civil Rights Trail

Civil Rights History Timeline Subcommittee Report

Upcoming Topics for next meeting

- Marketing
- Curriculum

Public Comment

Announcements

Adjournment

Note: Other items may be added at the discretion of the chair.

The next task force meeting will be held Wednesday, April 11, 2018.

JACKSONVILLE BLACK HISTORY CALENDAR INVENTORY

Presented to the

Task Force on Civil Rights History

By: Dr. Brenda R. Simmons-Hutchins

March 28, 2018

Note: All 29 issues of the Jacksonville Black History Calendar can be accessed online at the Jacksonville Public Library

The following editions of the Jacksonville Black History Calendar specifically address Civil Rights and Historical Sites on the First Coast. The Calendar Themes are promoted by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, a national organization founded by Carter G. Woodson, Historian

2005 The Niagara Movement	2007 From Slavery to Freedom: The History of African Americans in the Americas
2009 The Quest for Black Citizenship in the Americas	2010 The History of Black Economic Empowerment
2011 African Americans and the Civil War	2013 At the Crossroads of Freedom and Equality: The Emancipation Proclamation and the March on Washington
2014 Civil Rights in America	2015 A Century of Black Life, History and Culture
2016 Hallowed Grounds: Sites of African American Memories	2018 African Americans in Times of War

The listing below represents categories and people featured in other editions of the Jacksonville Black History Calendar

<p>ARCHITECTURE James Edward Hutchins</p> <p>ARTS Carol Alexander Roslyn Burrough Mamie Butler James Weldon Johnson John Rosamond Johnson Alpha H. Moore Augusta Savage Dr. Rowena Stewart Ruth Stewart Richard Twine - Photography E. L. Weems – Photography</p> <p>AVIATION Bessie Coleman</p>	<p>CIVIL RIGHTS Earl Johnson Rutledge Pearson Asa Phillip Randolph Eddie Mae Steward</p> <p>CIVIL SERVICE Gwendolyn Leapheart</p> <p>COMMUNICATION Ken Knight Rita Perry Emily Timmons Tonyaa Weathersbee</p>	<p>EDUCATION Willye Mae Hardy Ashley Mary White Blocker Dr. Ezekiel Bryant Betty Burney Delphenia Carter Dr. Charles Cline Chester Cowart Amy Currie Dr. Barbara Darby Ben Durham Eleanor Gay Dr. Hortense Gray Dr. Connie Hall Dr. Wendell P. Holmes, Jr. Janet Johnson</p>
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<p>BUSINESS</p> <p>T. Thomas Fortune Frank Hampton T.A. Horne Abraham Lincoln Lewis Luvinia Robinson Deborah Daniels West</p>	<p>COMMUNITY SERVICE David Dwight</p> <p>CONSUMER SERVICES Ethel Moman Powell</p>	<p>EDUCATION, continued Mary Lofton Kennedy Dr. Arthur C. Madry Ava Parker, Esq. Dr. Andrew Robinson Dr. John I.E. Scott Professor Bettye Sessions Ruth Solomon Professor Camilla Thompson Dr. Norma Solomon White Patricia Willis Paula Wright</p> <p>Schools Mary McLeod Bethune Eugene Butler R.L. Brown R.V. Daniels St. Clair Evans Matthew W. Gilbert Smart Pope Livingston Rufus E. Payne William Marion Raines</p>
<p>ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>MaVynee Betsch</p>	<p>GOVERNMENT/POLITICS Betty Burney Jennifer Carroll Rudolph Daniels Corrine Brown Willye Dennis Audrey Gibson Dr. Arnett Girardeau Betty Holzendorf Mia Jones E. Denise Lee Sallye Mathis Mary Singleton</p> <p><i>Warren Jones</i></p>	<p>HUMANITARIANS Raiford Brown Lucille Coleman Emma B. Delaney W.D. Sweet Eartha M.M. White Mrs. I.E. (Mama) Williams</p>
<p>LAW Judge Henry Adams Judge Brian Davis Sheriff/President Nat Glover Joseph E. Lee Samuel Decatur McGill D.W. Perkins Leander Shaw</p>	<p>MEDICINE Dr. Lincoln B. Childs Dr. Richard B. Hunter Dr. Charles B. McIntosh Dr. W.W. Schell, Jr. Dr. Charles Simmons, III Dr. Emmett H. Washington Dr. I.E. Williams</p>	<p>MILITARY Felice Franklin General Daniel "Chappie" James Clarence Richardson Wayman Surcey William Surcey Colonel Porcher Taylor Alton Yates</p>

RECREATION/YOUTH ACTIVITIES Henry Brown Florida Dwight James P. Small Jessie Word	RELIGION Reverend C. B. Dailey Reverend Dallas Graham Bishop Calvin Kinsey Bishop Rudolph McKissick Reverend J.C. Sams Elder Elizabeth E. Yates	SPORTS Harold Carmichael Albert Chester Charles "Boobie" Clark Artis Gilmore "Bullet" Bob Hayes Otis Smith
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- 1816** April - Isaiah David Hart, who will found the city of Jacksonville, leads a band of cattle and slave wranglers to a plantation on the Northside along the Trout River. The plaintiff records, "They did take away two Negroes of my property namely Pompey and Peggey [and] they have carried the said negroes into the State of Georgia." In his book about Hart's son Ossian, who became governor of Florida, Canter Brown, Jr. writes, "[B]y the summer of 1822 Isaiah Hart had transformed himself from a marauder to a town founder and businessman, based upon the spoils of slave raiding."
- 1838** Bethel Baptist Institutional Church founded... Bethel Baptist Institutional Church is the oldest Baptist congregation in Jacksonville. At its inception in 1838, Bethel had six members: four whites—Reverend James McDonald, the first pastor, and his wife, plus Elias C. Jaudan, who became the first deacon, and his wife—and two enslaved persons known as Bacchus and Peggy.
- 1864** In the Union's fourth occupation of Jacksonville, United States Colored Troops occupied an encampment from McCoy's Creek on the South to Hogan's Creek on the north, as a defensive line against Confederate advancement from Olustee. Camp Foster, manned by USCT, was located in what soon became Brooklyn, near the intersection of Jackson and Magnolia Streets. [Cassanello, Robert. *To Render Invisible: Jim Crow and Public Life in New South Jacksonville*, 2013.]
- Fall 1865** White officers of the USCT's 3rd regiment hung a black soldier by his thumbs on the Jacksonville parade grounds, a routine punishment for petty theft. But this time, a black private named Jacob Plowden raised a musket against Lieutenant Edmund P. Barker. What ensued was been called the Jacksonville Munity of 1865. Plowden and five other United States Colored Troops were summarily executed. Another seven received long prison sentences. [Fannin, John. F. "The Jacksonville Mutiny of 1865," *The Florida Historical Quarterly*, Winter 2010.]
- 1865-66** Confederate Veteran Miles Price plats part of a former plantation and sells lots to freedmen and former fighters from the United States Colored Troops. The community comes to be called Brooklyn. Several former-USCT houses remained until recent years, but only one still stands, 328 Chelsea Street. [Wood, Wayne. *Jacksonville's Architectural Heritage*.]
- 1866** Daniel Duston Hanson, of the United States Colored Troops, purchases land northeast of Jacksonville proper (partly where FSCJ Downtown Campus is today) to lease and sell property to other black veterans and freedmen. He also envisioned a plan where Hansontown residents could work crops communally.
- 1866** The African Methodist Episcopal Church founds Edward Waters College, now the oldest HBCU in Florida.
- 1866** Bethel Baptist remained one of the few interracial churches until after the war. It developed that the congregation was facing a split over which pastor to follow,

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and white members took the opportunity to try to force the Blacks—who were in the vast majority, the church then having 40 white members and 270 Black members—out of the church. They took their case to court, but the court ruled in favor of the Blacks, determining that they were the rightful owners of the Bethel Baptist name and property.

- 1866** Edward Waters College founded by the African Methodist Church.
- 1866** Named after Abraham Lincoln's Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, Stanton Institute, which later became known as Stanton High School, opened in 1868 as the first and only public secondary school for African-Americans in Reconstruction Florida.
- 1868** W.T. Garvin becomes the first black City Councilman. Between 1868 and 1889, during Reconstruction, seven other black City Councilmen were elected. [Bartley, Abel. *Keeping the Faith: Race, Politics and Social Development in Jacksonville, Florida, 1940-1970.*]
The Old Stanton School, named for Edward McMasters Stanton, second Secretary of War under Lincoln, opens its doors. It's the first school for black children in Florida.
- 1871** James Weldon Johnson is born.
- 1872** The Cookman Institute was founded by Reverend S.B Darnell. Darnell named the institute after the Reverend Alfred Cookman, who gave money for the construction of the institute's very first building. The Cookman Institute was the first institution of higher education for African-Americans in the state of Florida, specializing in the religious and academic preparation of teachers.
- 1889** Liberian activist and pan-Africanist Edward Wilmot Blyden visits Jacksonville, staying at the house of Squire English in LaVilla.
- 1891** Asa Philip Randolph, age two, moves with his family to Jacksonville from Crescent City, Florida.
- 1892** Rev. Matthew William Gilbert leaves as pastor of Bethel Baptist Institutional Church to become President of Florida Baptist Academy which later became Florida Norman College...then Florida Memorial College, in St. Augustine...and now Florida Memorial University, in Miami, Florida.
- 1892** In the basement of Bethel Baptist Church, Matthew Gilbert founds Florida Baptist Academy, which eventually becomes the only HBCU in South Florida as Florida Memorial University in Miami Gardens.
- 1895** Bethel, under the leadership of Rev. John Milton Waldron, constructed the first Institutional Church building to be erected in the South by a "colored" congregation. The new structure was built of red pressed brick and trimmed with

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Georgia marble. It contained a main auditorium with a seating capacity of 1,150 and nine classrooms. At the time of its construction it was the most convenient and attractive church building in the city, and at a cost of \$26,000.

- 1897** James Weldon Johnson becomes the first Black admitted to the Bar in the State of Florida.
- 1898** During a reunion of United Confederate Veterans, Confederate veteran Charles C. Hemming donates a statue praising the Confederate soldier in abstract. The statue becomes the centerpiece of the park and influences the city, the following year, to rename St. James Park (named for the St. James Hotel to the north and St. James, the patron saint of pilgrims) *Hemming* Park. This instance is an early part of the South's revision of why it formed the Confederacy, a revision generally called the "Lost Cause," which claimed the Confederacy was about the liberty of the South and not slaves. The Confederates themselves were clear their purpose was defending the institution of slavery.
- 1899** At 7420 Roscoe Avenue, Eartha White builds and teaches at the first black schoolhouse in Southern Duval County.
- 1899-1901** Black businessmen Charles Manigault, John Wetmore, and George Ross are elected as the last black Jacksonville City Council members until the 1960s. [Bartley, Abel. *Keeping the Faith: Race, Politics and Social Development in Jacksonville, Florida, 1940-1970.*]
- 1900** At Florida Normal and Technical Institute, a merger of Florida Baptist Academy and Florida Baptist Institute, James Weldon and J. Rosamond Johnson write "Lift Evr'y Voice and Sing," which later becomes known as the "Negro National Anthem."
- 1900** Manhattan Beach, now part of Hanna Park, opens to black beachgoers.
- 1901** Abraham Lincoln Lewis is joined by Reverend John Milton Waldron and others in founding the Afro-American Life Insurance Company ("the Afro") to provide burial benefits for the "colored" community. The Afro also opened a savings department through which individuals could deposit ten, fifteen, twenty-five cents per week.
- 1901** Reverend Waldron would lead Bethel in a successful boycott of the transportation system of Jacksonville in response to the city's segregation ordinances, and the Plessy v. Ferguson "Separate But Equal" Decision.
- 1901** The Great Fire of Jacksonville in May.
- 1901** After the Great Fire of 1901, the Duval County School Board hired Richard Lewis Brown, the city's first black architect, as its chief builder and repairman, and in the next decade, he constructed several new schools for which no architect was

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recorded. One such school was Public School No. 8, later named J. Allen Axson, near East 17th and Franklin Streets. Brown likely was also the school's architect. He later worked with white architects on Centennial Hall at Edward Waters College and designed Mt. Olive African Methodist Episcopal Church on Franklin Street.

- 1901** The George A. Brewster Hospital and School of Nurse Training opens in LaVilla, the only hospital at the time for the treatment of black people in Jacksonville.
- 1902** Eartha White builds what she first calls the "Colored Old Folks' Home" at 1627 Milnor Street.
- 1903** Led by Reverend Waldron, Bethel's congregation proceeded to erect one of the most modern and spacious church buildings in the South. It was designed by architect M. H. Hubbard of Utica, New York, and combined elements of Greek Revival and Romanesque Revival architecture. Bethel's members took pride in the fact that "the church was erected by Colored workers, under the direction of Colored contractors. That now historic sanctuary still stands. Rev. Waldron would become the Treasurer of the Niagara Movement, one of the founders of the National Negro Movement both predecessors of the founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Rev. John Milton Waldron was one of the founders of the NAACP.
- 1904** Eartha White officially founds the Clara White Mission, which offers services to black residents the city itself would not offer. The Mission's work will soon include an orphanage, child placement services, a tuberculosis hospital, a boys' recreational organization, prison ministries, feeding and clothing services, and so on, *ad infinitum!*
- 1914** At least 48,000 Confederate veterans rally in Springfield's Dignan Park. The "Lost Cause" movement is firmly under way.
- 1915** Jacksonville renames Dignan Park *Confederate* Park and unveils a sculpture by a major American sculptor, Allen George Newman, called "In Memory of our Women of the Southland." The dedicatory plaque praises "those noble women who sacrificed their all upon their country's altar." There's no mention of and no concern for slavery.
<https://jaxpsychogeo.com/north/springfield-confederate-park-monument-in-memory-of-our-women-of-the-southland/>.
- 1920** As women receive the right to vote, Eartha White leads voter registration drives to register black women. Strategists hope for a bonus effect from black women's registration—that more black men will find the means to pay poll taxes, thus accompanying the women in their lives to the polls and voting alongside them. The Ku Klux Klan stages an election day parade to intimidate black voters. An NAACP telegram sent to the Duval County sheriff, the mayor of Jacksonville, and

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Florida's governor reads, "Advertized purpose of parade is to prevent trouble on election day. Real motive terrorization and intimidation of colored voters. Instead of prevention will likely lead to trouble and perhaps bloodshed, responsibility for which would rest upon city and county." Though thousands of black voters showed up at the polls and Republican numbers greatly increased, official campaign results erased all but a few black votes. Eartha White and other activists made election-day counts and estimated that between 3,000 and 4,000 black voters had been turned away from their chance to vote. She collected the names and addresses of "qualified electors who stood in line from 8 a.m. to 5:40 p.m." Though they prepared cases on behalf of black people who were denied the vote and planned to present them to the United States Congress when it next reconvened, Eartha White told NAACP officials that many of her claimants were afraid for their safety and refused to speak publically.

- 1920** Norman Studios begins operation, making feature-length films and shorts in which black actors star in non-minstrel roles, roles comparable to those played by white actors in other movies.
- 1922** Eartha White becomes the Florida director of the National Anti-Lynching Committee and pushes for anti-lynching legislation.
- 1925** Cookman Institute merges with the Daytona Normal and Industrial Institute, which had been founded in 1904 by Dr. Mary Bethune. When the merger was finalized in 1925, the school became the Daytona-Cookman Collegiate Institute. In 1931, the school's name was officially changed to Bethune-Cookman College.
- 1926** Princess Laura Adorkor Kofi establishes her headquarters in Jacksonville and, after breaking with Marcus Garvey's UNIA, founds her organization, the African Universal Church and Commercial League.
- 1926** Eartha White serves in fundraising capacities for the Community Chest, which helps take care of the ill and homeless.
- 1926** A. L. Lewis builds Lincoln Golf and Country Club in Northwest Jacksonville for Blacks.
- 1933** Charles H. Loeb, later called "the dean of black newsmen," writes that the Clara White Mission's "community center atmosphere is an outgrowth of the regularly held religious meetings, supplemented as they are by meetings of outside groups of young people, social clubs, the Lyceums, Red Cross classes, Domestic Science class, old fashioned quiltings, mass meetings and sewing bees by members of the Needlework Guild, affiliated with the Mission. These activities aid immeasurably in creating for the Mission a social atmosphere that assists in banishing fear of tomorrow from the face of Jacksonville's unemployed masses."

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- 1935** The Jacksonville Negro Welfare League, among whose leaders were Eartha White and Richard P. Daniel, first occupied a space in the Richmond Hotel building at 420 Broad Street.
- 1935** A. L. Lewis develops American Beach, in Nassau County-The Only Black Beach in the South.
- 1930s (late)** Stetson Kennedy records former-slave Annie Whittaker, at the Clara White Mission, who says she's about 70 years old, but sings a song called "Lord, I'm Runnin', Tryin' to Make a Hundred, 99 and a Half Won't Do." In 1965, Wilson Pickett records a distantly related and differently worded "Ninety Nine and a Half (Won't Do)," and Creedence Clearwater Revival sings Pickett's version at Woodstock in 1969. In 1993, Diana Ross records Annie Whittaker's own gospel blues version, originally recorded at the Clara White Mission almost 60 years before.
- 1941** A. Philip Randolph, who grew up in Jacksonville, issues his "Call to Negro America to March on Washington" in his magazine *Black Worker*, after meetings with several Civil Rights leaders, including Jacksonville's Eartha White, in Chicago in 1940. Randolph's call for a march resulted in his meeting with President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the end of legal racial discrimination in defense industries and the federal government. Randolph's friend and fellow activist Bayard Rustin criticized him for calling off the march after FDR met these conditions, but Rustin became the chief organizer of the 1963 march.
- 1941** Jacksonville teacher, Mary White Blocker, was the third client in Florida to file suit for equal salaries for black and white teachers. A teacher at the Davis Street School, (Isaiah Blocker Jr. High School) and later Darnell Cookman, Mary Blocker was forced to retire, but Duval County Negro Teacher's Association paid her salary until her death in 1965. She is also credited with starting the first black PTA in Duval County.
- 1944** Eli B'usabe Nyombolo founds Adorkaville, named for Princess Laura Adorkor Kofi, on the Northside. The 11+ acre property was intended to prepare black Americans to "return" to Africa and to establish business connections between Africa and America.
- 1946** Stetson Kennedy visits the House Un-American Activities Committee asking them to investigate the Ku Klux Klan. The HUAAC refuses.
- 1946** The Council of Social Agencies, including Eartha White and Richard P. Daniel, publish *Jacksonville Looks at its Negro Community: A Survey of Conditions Affecting the Negro Population in Jacksonville in Duval County, Florida*, which leads to the founding, in— f the Jacksonville Urban League.
- 1946** With the encouragement of the Jacksonville Chapter of the NAACP, Reverend Dallas Graham went to the Duval County Courthouse on March 13 where he

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attempted to register as a Democrat. He was informed by the register that the Democratic Party in Jacksonville only accepted whites. The action to refuse registering Reverend Graham as a Democrat was legally challenged by black attorney D.W. Perkins and on March 16, 1945, U.S. Circuit Judge Bayard B. Shields ruled that the county's register had to allow him to register as a Democrat. An appeal was made by the Democratic Party, but the decision was upheld by Judge Mites W. Lewis.

- 1946** City officials refused to allow the Montreal Royals, a farm team of the Brooklyn Dodgers, to play at Durkee Field (James P. Small Stadium) due to the presence of Jackie Robinson on the roster, who broke into the majors a year later.
- 1947** The Jacksonville Urban League formed of a merger between the Jacksonville Negro Welfare League and a new Jacksonville branch of the National Urban League.
- 1947** Wilson Armstrong, a black mortar mixer, loses a City Council race to Claude Smith, 353-278. Smith thanks black voters and organizes the building of the so-called Jefferson Street Pool at Jefferson and Fourth. Armstrong would have been the first black City Council member since Reconstruction.
- 1947** Florida State Senator John Mathews, of Jacksonville, after whom the Mathews Bridge is named, tries, but ultimately fails, to pass a "White Primary Bill," which would exclude black voters from primary elections.
- 1948** Jacksonville native and mason by trade, Wilson Armstrong ran in 1948 to represent the majority black 5th ward in the city council. Unknown and having no political experience, most of Armstrong's qualifying fees were discovered to have been paid by the Jacksonville Chapter of the National Negro Congress, which was recognized as being affiliated with the communist party. As a result, Armstrong did not receive wide support from the established black leadership and lost to the white incumbent, Claude Smith.
- 1949** Fuller Warren, having served Jacksonville on its City Council from 1931 to 1937, then returns to the Florida House in '39. Nominated to fight racism on the Democratic ticket in 1948, when most Florida Democrats still were "Dixiecrats," in 1949, Warren calls the Klan "covered cowards and sheeted jerks," but only after Jax Klansman and Baptist preacher A.C. Shuler outs Warren in a sermon as a former member of the Klan. Governor Warren's administration refuses to investigate a rash of Klan violence in Miami, including three bombings of newly integrated Carver Village public housing and bombings of a synagogue, a Catholic church, and several homes in predominantly Jewish neighborhoods. When the Klan's rage led to the deaths of Harry T. Moore and his wife, Warren's appointed special investigator Jefferson Elliott, another former Klansman, told the press, "The State of Florida is making every effort to find the guilty parties." That didn't seem to be the case.

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See <https://jaxpsychogeo.com/all-over-town/jax-klux-klan-politix/>

- 1951** *The Florida Star* is founded by Eric O. Simpson, becomes Northeast Florida's oldest African American newspaper, since mainstream news of the period was hardly reliable for minority populations.
- 1951** Jacksonville Civil Rights activist and writer Stetson Kennedy, amongst several other writers, releases *We Charge Genocide: The Crime of Government against the Negro People* at U.N. meetings in Paris on behalf of an American organization calling itself the Civil Rights Congress.
- 1951** After an earlier unsuccessful attempt by Wilson Armstrong to win a City Council seat representing Ward Five, Porcher Taylor joined with Elcee Lucas in 1951 to enter the City Council race against three white candidates. Since ward elections were done on an at-large basis, the two black candidates had to obtain some of the white votes in order to win. Although the black community was more united and organized than in the previous election with a black candidate, Porcher Taylor and Elcee Lucas were not successful, but did increase their political prestige in black Jacksonville while establishing a solid foundation for future candidates.
- 1952** Porcher Taylor's attempt to be elected as a Justice of Peace in 1952 was thwarted, but was part of a political strategy to seek more minor offices that would receive less attention from whites and thus hopefully prevail in black majority wards. In the 1955 election, Taylor ran again for a seat on the City Council representing Ward Five. Taylor and his two black opponents, Isadore Singleton and Ernest Jackson, lost due to not obtaining enough white votes required by the at-large voting system.
- 1952** Billy Daniels becomes the first Black to host a Television Show.
- 1953** The Jacksonville Braves along with the Savannah team were the first teams in the Class A - South Atlantic League to break the color line when new team owner, Samuel Wolfson, hired three African American players, Henry "Hank" Aaron, Horace Gomer, and Felix Mantilla. The attendance at games skyrocketed as the presence of these three players drew the curious as well as many African American fans to Durkee Field. Although withstanding a full season of verbal abuse generated by racial hatred, as well as forced to seek accommodations in private homes, nineteen-year old Aaron went on to have a successful season hitting twenty-two homeruns and achieving a batting average of .362. After being named the Most Valuable Player in the League and leading the Braves in winning a pennant, Aaron was promoted to the Milwaukee Braves in 1954.
- 1954** Stetson Kennedy, while living in France, has his later-named *The Klan Unmasked* published as *I Rode with the Ku Klux Klan* by existentialist philosopher Jean Paul Sartre. The book refers to Kennedy's infiltration of the Klan, though it

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fictionalizes himself as its protagonist. He later names his homestead in St. Johns County "Beluthahatchee," a name he said his friend Zora Neale Hurston said meant, in what Indian language or tradition is unclear, a "Florida Shangiri-La." The Klan periodically sent Kennedy death threats at Beluthahatchee, and once set the woods on fire around it. Woody Guthrie wrote a song about it.

- 1955** Norma Ruth Solomon becomes the first Black female band and correspondingly the first female director in Duval County.
- 1959** By early 1959, a year and a half into his pastorate at St. Paul Lutheran Church on Edgewood Avenue, James Bouman decides for his family's safety to leave town. In 1957, Bouman had been sent by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, headquartered in St. Louis, to preach to a mostly black congregation in northwest Jacksonville. Nearby black churches received bomb threats tied to this white preacher's dedication to a black congregation. The Boumans left town for South Florida. See <https://jaxpsychogeo.com/north/magnolia-gardens-gardenvale-st-paul-lutheran-church/>.
- 1960** Thirty-five African Americans, mostly from the Youth Council of the NAACP under the leadership of popular history teacher, Rutledge Pearson began staging demonstrations in Downtown Jacksonville seeking access to "whites only" lunch counters at F.W. Woolworth, W.T. Grant, Kress, McCrory's and Cohen Brothers. On August 27, 1960, they were met by over 200 white men carrying axe handles and baseball bats that were used to intimidate and injure many of the demonstrators. Nationally publicized, this event, known "Ax Handle Saturday", was a turning point in Jacksonville's civil rights movement.
- The next day, representatives of the local and national NAACP, along with members of the Youth Council, met and decided to hold a mass meeting at St. Paul's A.M.E. Presided over by Rodney Hurst, President of the Youth Council, the large crowd in attendance heard comments by Alton Yates and Marjorie Meeks, Vice President and Secretary of the Youth Council along with speeches by Rutledge Pearson and by NAACP legal counsel, Earl Johnson. Mrs. Ruby Hurley and Bob Saunders from the regional and national offices of the NAACP also spoke. Those present overwhelmingly approved a resolution by the Youth Council that no further demonstrations would occur for the next two weeks giving the local white power structure the opportunity to respond to other demands, particularly that Mayor Haydon Burns establish a broadly represented biracial committee to address a multitude of issues.
- 1960** Following the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Brown vs. the Board of Education of Topeka Kansas* that overturned the "separate but equal" principle, local NAACP attorney, Earl Johnson, working with Sadie Braxton, president of the Jacksonville NAACP and mortician Wendell Holmes chair of the NAACP's Education Committee to desegregate local schools, filed a suit on behalf of seven black parents and fourteen children, charging the Duval County School Board of

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operating a system of racially segregated schools. Holmes went on to become the first African-American to be elected to a school board in Florida, and later served as Chair of the Duval County School Board.

- 1960** Local black business owner, Frank Hampton, successfully filed numerous suits requiring the City of Jacksonville to desegregate all municipally owned facilities including golf courses, the Gator Bowl, Civic Auditorium, Wolfson Park, the Jacksonville Zoo and swimming pools along with other parks and playgrounds. The initial response by the City was to close down or sell these facilities to private parties. Another suit was filed requiring desegregation of the Duval County Courthouse, Duval Hospital, beaches and county jail and prison farm. To avoid the lawsuit, the County Commissioners agreed to the desegregation of those facilities.
- 1960** August 13, 1960 Jacksonville Youth Council NAACP sit-ins begin at segregated White lunch counters in downtown Jacksonville's department stores.
- 1960** August 27, 1960--200 Whites with Ax handles and baseball bats attack Jacksonville Youth Council NAACP members who were sitting in at White lunch counters, and attacked Blacks in downtown Jacksonville. The press refers to that day as Ax Handle Saturday.
- 1960** Bi-racial Committee appointed by the NAACP, The White Jacksonville Ministerial Alliance, The Black Jacksonville Ministerial Alliance, and the White business community to discuss a number of Black community grievances after Mayor Haydon Burns refuses to officially appoint a City Bi-racial committee.
- 1960** December 1960-NAACP Attorney Earl M. Johnson files School Desegregation suit against the Duval County School System, on behalf of Sadie Braxton, and her son Daly, and her daughter Sharon.
- 1961** Youth Council NAACP president Rodney Hurst and Youth Council Secretary Marjorie Meeks integrate White lunch counters in Jacksonville downtown department stores.
- 1962** Federal Judge Bryan Simpson ruled that the Duval County School Board must develop a plan for ending total segregation of local public schools. The School Board plan approved by Judge Simpson allowed for the integration of first and second grades in 1963 with a different grade level added each year until in full compliance with the court order.
- 1963** Because of residential segregation, only thirteen black students enrolled in five white schools in September of 1963. The schools included Fishweir, Hyde Grove, Oak Hill, Lackawanna and Venetia.

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- 1963** On December 1, 1963 at the ½ mile dirt track of Jacksonville's Speedway Park, Wendell Scott was the first African American to win on NASCAR's highest level. Unfortunately, his win was not recognized until almost two hours after the race had ended with Buck Baker previously flagged as the winner. The decision not to declare Scott the winner was to avoid having the 5,000 white fans seeing a black man in victory lane with the trophy and performing the ritual of kissing the white beauty queen. Since Scott had never received the trophy, the Jacksonville Stock Car Hall of Fame had one replicated and presented to his family in 2010. In 2015, Wendell Scott was inducted into the NASCAR Hall of Fame.
- 1963** In September 1963, a year after Judge Simpson issued the order to integrate the Jacksonville school system, Iona Godfrey King enrolled her son, Donal, in Lackawanna Elementary School. Donal was one of thirteen Black first-graders to enter formerly all-white Jacksonville schools that year because of the order to desegregate schools. On February 1964, a bomb was detonated under Godfreys' Gilmore Street home. They were not injured.
- 1964** 1964 For the most part, re the 1960s and on, I defer to my senior, the Hon. Rodney Hurst, but if anything can be gained or gleaned from my own previous writings on this period, I'd hope my stories and interviews with Donal Godfrey might. After Godfrey became the first black child to attend Lackawanna Elementary School, the Klan bombed his home. The stories can be found at the following links:
<https://jaxpsychogeo.com/west/lackawanna-elementary-school/>
<https://jaxpsychogeo.com/all-over-town/j-b-stoner-and-the-kkk/>
<https://jaxpsychogeo.com/west/murray-hill-heights-kkk-bombing-site-donal-godfreys-house/>.
- 1964** First grader, Donal Godfey, started attending the white Lackawanna Elementary School near his home. He and his mother, Iona Godfrey King were heckled and threaten by white demonstrators while walking to school which was also being picketed each day by a group of white women. The threats got so severe that Donal was escorted to school by police detectives. In February of 1964, a bomb ripped through the Godfrey home located near the intersection of Gilmore Street and Owen Avenue. The explosion did not cause any injuries since it was placed under the house opposite the side containing the bedrooms. Two months later, William Rosecrans, a member of the KKK in Indiana, along with five local Klan members, was charged with placing the bomb. Rosecrans was sentenced to seven years, however, one of the five local Klan members was acquitted and other four released due to a mistrial. Donal transferred to a black school, but returned to Lackawanna for the 5th grade.
- 1964** Frustrated with the School Board's slow pace in following the desegregation order, the NAACP requested all black students to not attend school during a three day period starting on December 7, 1964. On the first day 17,000 black students

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did not attend school. Within a three day period, the absent of 34,000 students caused the School Board a loss of \$75,000.

- 1964** Johnnie Mae Chappel), a mother of 10, was killed as she walked along New Kings trying to find a lost wallet. Her killers were four white men looking for a black person to shoot following a day of racial unrest. Of the four men in the car, only one, J.W. Rich, was ever charged. He was sentenced for ten years on manslaughter charges, but served only three years. In 2000, Johnnie Mae Chappell was recognized as a Civil Rights Martyr and was added to the Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery, Alabama.
- 1964** As part of their American tour, the Beatles were scheduled to perform at the Gator Bowl on September 11. Being a City owned facility; the Gator Bowl was by municipal ordinance segregated. Five days before the concert, the Beatles released a statement that they would not play unless blacks could attend and sit anywhere. John Lennon stated, "I'd sooner lose our appearance money" than play to a segregated audience. Because of the fear of bad publicity and severe financial loses, the City relented and allowed the show to be open to all.
- 1964** Dr. Robert Hayling, a leader of the St. Augustine Civil Rights Movement and a fellow dentist and friend of Dr. Arnett Girardeau, was viciously beaten by the Ku Klux Klan. Fearful of the treatment or lack thereof that he might receive in St. Augustine's hospitals because of his civil rights activities, friends saw to it that Hayling was taken to Brewster Hospital—a segregated but not segregating Black hospital Jacksonville—in a hearse provided by Leo Chase, a Black funeral director in St. Augustine. Hayling received emergency medical treatment by Black doctors at the hospital, which saved his life. Those Black doctors also maintained their professional medical care of Dr. Hayling until he was healthy enough to return home, and Dr. Girardeau provided extensive oral surgery. All medical and dental care was provided to Dr. Hayling at no cost.
- 1967** Attorney Earl Johnson, Sallye Mathis, Mary Singleton and Oscar Taylor were the first African Americans to be elected to the Jacksonville City Council since 1907. Sallye Mathis and Mary Singleton were also the first women ever elected to the City Council. Charles E. Simmons, Jr. was elected to the City Civil Service Board after having been appointed to the position in 1966.
- 1969** While parked on Florida Avenue, a white cigarette salesman shot at a group of black youth trying to break into his delivery truck. With one member of the group being shot in the leg, a large angry crowd formed upon hearing of the shooting. Several smaller groups began to riot along eight blocks of Florida Avenue. In response to the Halloween Riot of 1969, Dr. Arnett E. Girardeau, Chairman of the Community Urban Development Council requested Mayor Hans Tanzler to have the Jacksonville Community Relations Commission to investigate the cause of the riot and actions by local police officers. A special committee was formed that had five subcommittees to investigate various aspects of the event. Although

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containing many sound suggestions, the report produced by the special committee was never seriously implemented.

- 1971** Implementation of the desegregation case was transferred to U.S. District Judge Gerald Bard Tjoflat to re-work the plan. Because of a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision determining that the use of busing was an appropriate action for achieving desegregation, Judge Tjoflat ordered mass busing to integrate Duval County schools which proved to be a burden more on black students.
- 1971** In June of 1971, a police officer shot and killed a black teenager, Donnie Ray Hall, on suspicion of being part of a group that had stolen an automobile. 300 black demonstrators under the local NAACP chapter picketed the Duval County Court House. After the demonstrators dispersed, small groups started looting and burning buildings along Florida Avenue that continued for several days and escalated to other parts of the city. The Community Urban Development Council under Dr. Girardeau began documenting cases of police brutality and harassment and provided this information to Governor Reuben Askew. After a police officer was shot and killed with another one wounded, a grand jury investigated the recent incidents concluding that the actions by the Sheriffs Office demonstrated proper restraint, but recommended better communication between the police and the black communities.
- 1971** City Council member Sallye Mathis and Dr. Andrew Robinson with the University of North Florida successful convinced respected business and community leader, Clanzel Brown to bring together fifteen white and fifteen black community leaders that met at Shiloh Baptist Church. From that meeting the Council of Leadership for Community Advancement (COLCA) was formed under the joint supervision of J.J. Daniel and Dr. Andrew Robinson. The Council formed five task forces that met to address education, employment, housing, media and law enforcement. With the momentum of the COLCA slowing down in 1972, the recommendations of the task forces were never significantly implemented. As a result the decade ended with the same racial issues confronting the city as reflected in the annual *Status of Blacks in Jacksonville, 1979*, produced by the Urban League under President, Clanzel Brown.
- 1977** The Jacksonville Urban League's (JUL) annual "State of Black Jacksonville Report" initiated by League Director, Clanzel T. Brown
- 1993** Dr. Barbara Williams White becomes the First Black dean in the history of the University of Texas.
- 1982** Dr. Arnett Girardeau is the first Black to serve in the Florida Senate from Northeast Florida since Reconstruction and during those terms, he becomes the first Black and only Black to serve as the Florida Senate Pro Tempore.

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2013

The Duval County School Board votes to rename Nathan Bedford Forrest High School, named in 1959 for a Confederate general and first Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan. The school was renamed Westside High School.