

Jacksonville Civil Rights History Timeline 1st Revision 050118

REVISION CODES

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Yellow highlight - paragraph needs to be modified

Green highlight - additional research needed

Grey highlight - combine paragraphs

Light blue highlight – add reference/footnote

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~~Sammis was an outspoken Unionist, and was forced to leave the area during most of the Civil War. During the fourth Union occupation of Jacksonville, Sammis returned to Jacksonville where he established a successful mercantile business. Actively involved in the Republican Party, he moved to Mandarin where he died in 1884. Sammis and other members of his family, including Anna Kingsley, were buried in the Clifton Cemetery near their home on the Arlington Bluff.~~

~~1816 April Isaiiah 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 Peggy [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 Isaiiah Hart had transformed himself from a marauder to a town founder and businessman, based upon the spoils of slave raiding."~~

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1838 Bethel Baptist Institutional Church founded. ~~(add a reference and footnote);~~
~~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 Theresa A. Pendarvis, later the wife of Reverend McDonald and Elias C. Jaudaon, who became the first deacon, and his wife — and along with two enslaved persons known as Bacchus and Peggy.~~

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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 following the Battle of 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.]

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~~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.]~~

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~~1865 With the end of the Civil War and the start of Reconstruction, the federal government began enacting sweeping political changes aimed at improving conditions for recently freed African Americans. These actions allowed African American men to vote and hold public office for the first time. Branches of the~~

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Freedmen's Bureau were also established in Southern cities and towns to provide assistance and protection for these new citizens.

1865 Mother Midway Church in East Jacksonville was established as the first African Methodist Episcopal Church in Florida.

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~~1865~~ ~~Abraham Lincoln Lewis was born. He became a successful business man. He along with other business men founded Florida's first insurance company to assist with the plight of widows. He founded the Lincoln Golf and country club and the famous American Beach, a resort community for well to do African Americans. (1989 JBHC)~~

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~~1865-66~~ ~~Confederate Veteran Miles Price plats the 300 acres of the old Winter plantation and sells lots for construction of homes many becoming occupied by freedmen and former soldiers from the United States Colored Troops. Contrary to his Confederate sentiments, Price for some reason named the plat as Brooklyn. In 1869, Price sold the remaining 500 acres to Boston millionaire John Murray Forbes for the development of Riverside. [Wood, Wayne. Jacksonville's Architectural Heritage.]~~

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1866 The African Methodist Episcopal Church founds Edward Waters College, now the oldest HBCU in Florida.

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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, 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.

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~~1865-66~~ ~~Confederate Veteran Miles Price plats part of a the former 300 acres of the old Winter plantation and sells lots to lots for construction of homes many becoming occupied by freedmen and former fighters soldiers from the United States Colored Troops. Contrary to his Confederate sentiments, Price for some reason named the plat as Brooklyn. The community comes to be called Brooklyn. Several former-USCT houses remained until recent years, but only one still stands, 328 Chelsea Street. In 1869, Price sold the remaining 500 acres to Boston millionaire John Murray Forbes for the development of Riverside. [Wood, Wayne. Jacksonville's Architectural Heritage.]~~

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~~1869~~ After the Civil War, the LaVilla tract immediately west of downtown was purchased by Francis F. L'Engle and other white owners who subdivided and incorporated the Town of LaVilla in 1869. A member of one Jacksonville's prominent families that included the L' Engles and the Daniels, Francis F. L'Engle, who had been purchasing property in LaVilla since before the Civil War, leased for ninety nine years 1/4 acre plots to forty one freedmen in 1866. Immediately following the Civil War, many freedmen were attracted to urban areas such as Jacksonville because of potential jobs and housing, as well as the protection and welfare services provided by the Freedmen's Bureau. The LaVilla area specifically attracted union veterans from the three black regiments that had been stationed in Jacksonville during and immediately after the war.

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~~1869~~ Being a majority population, African American males were to play a significant role in the political life of LaVilla. The move to incorporate LaVilla as a separate town in 1869 was initiated by Francis L'Engle and other white property owners. Their efforts may have been motivated by the fear of future expansion into LaVilla by the Republican controlled government in Jacksonville. The first elected government for the Town of LaVilla in 1871 included Frances L'Engle as mayor, and four whites as council members. However, African American males were elected as Town Marshall, Tax Collector, Tax Assessor, as well as five serving as Aldermen. Based on surviving records for the Town of LaVilla (1869-1887), two African Americans, Mitchell P. Chappelle (1874-1876) and Alfred Grant (1876-1877) were elected mayor. During this same period, six African American males served as Town Clerk, two as Tax Assessor, three as Tax Collector, one as Town Treasurer, four as Town Marshall, and thirty six as Councilman. Other African Americans were appointed to perform municipal duties such as police officer, lighting street lamps, and trash removal.

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1866 Daniel ~~Duston~~ Dustin Hanson, of the surgeon with the 34 Regiment, United States Colored Troops, purchases land northeast northwest 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.

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~~1866~~ The African Methodist Episcopal Church founds Edward Waters College, now the oldest HBCU in Florida.

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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. It is the oldest historical black college in Florida and is named for Bishop Edward Waters, the third bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

1866 Several freedmen in LaVilla formed the Trustees of the Florida Institute with the stated purpose of increasing educational opportunities for African Americans. With the support of the Freedmen's Bureau, the Trustees established the Stanton Normal School named in honor of General Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War under President Lincoln. Opening in 1869, the Stanton Normal School was located on the block in LaVilla bound by West Ashley Street, West Beaver Street, Clay Street and North Broad Street. The 1.5-acre block, which was purchased from Florida Governor Ossian B. Hart, the son of Jacksonville's founder, Isaiah D. Hart, has been the site of four separate school buildings with the current one being constructed in 1917. 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.

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1868 – **Josiah Walls** was elected to the Florida House of Representatives (2007 JBHC)

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.*]

1869 Between 1869 and 1907, 110 African American men served in public office. Most (54) held offices in the Town of LaVilla with another 23 elected to serve the City of Jacksonville. Duval County had 33 public officials holding office. A great variety of positions were held including voter registrar, clerk of the circuit court, tax assessor, tax collector, county commissioner, justice of the peace, constable, municipal judge, clerk, marshal, councilmen, mayor, and treasurer. Many of them held different offices over the years in the three local governments. William T. Garvin was the first black city councilman serving between 1868 and 1889.

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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.

1869 The historic African American community of Oakland played as part of the

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278 acre property purchased by steamboat captain Charles Willey in 1842. In 1852, Captain Willey and his wife, Francis, deeded four acres to the City of Jacksonville for the purpose of a public cemetery. The cemetery, now known as the Old City Cemetery, was expanded by three acres, with one acre conveyed to the Roman Catholic Bishop of Florida. By 1869, the remaining portions of Captain Willey's properties had come under the ownership of Jesse D. Cole. That same year, Cole filed a plat for the town of Oakland.

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1869

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1869

Being a majority population, African American males were to play a significant role in the political life of LaVilla. The move to incorporate LaVilla as a separate town in 1869 was initiated by Francis L'Engle and other white property owners. Their efforts may have been motivated by the fear of future expansion into LaVilla by the Republican controlled government in Jacksonville. The first elected government for the Town of LaVilla in 1871 included Frances L'Engle as mayor, and four whites as council members. However, African American males were elected as Town Marshall, Tax Collector, Tax Assessor, as well as five serving as Aldermen. Based on surviving records for the Town of LaVilla (1869 – 1887), two African Americans, Mitchell P. Chappelle (1874-1876) and Alfred Grant (1876-1877) were elected mayor. During this same period, six African American males served as Town Clerk, two as Tax Assessor, three as Tax Collector, one as Town Treasurer, four as Town Marshall, and thirty-six as Councilman. Other African Americans were appointed to perform municipal duties such as police officer, lighting street lamps, and trash removal.

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1869

Helen Dillet Johnson

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1870

Reverend James W.C. Pennington arrived in Jacksonville to help organize a Presbyterian Church. Reverend Pennington was the first minister of the new church that later became known as the Laura Street Presbyterian Church. Being

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in poor health, he died that same year and is buried in the black section of the Old City Cemetery. Before coming to Jacksonville, Reverend Pennington, who was born in 1807, had an amazing life that took him from being a nineteen year old runaway slave in 1827 to becoming one of the leading abolitionists in New York and Connecticut. Within eight years of escaping slavery in Maryland, Reverend Pennington was allowed to audit classes in the Yale School of Divinity after which he became a member and minister of several large Presbyterian and Congregational Churches in Connecticut and New York. His churches, as well as his home, became stops in the Underground Railroad. Becoming was one of the most respected abolitionists, Reverend Pennington made several trips to London to attend international conferences on slavery. A popular speaker in both the United States and Europe, Reverend Pennington received an honorary Doctorate of Divinity from the University of Heidelberg. He was author of several books, one being an early history of blacks in America, as well as unsuccessfully challenging discriminatory practices of street car companies in New York.

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1871

James Weldon Johnson is born. Noted educator, lawyer, journalist, writer, and civil rights leader, James Weldon Johnson, was born in the LaVilla neighborhood. John Rosamond Johnson, the brother of James Weldon Johnson, was also born in LaVilla and went on to have a successful career as a song writer and composer.

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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.

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1872 Cookman Institute founded in Jacksonville, and would later merge with Mary McLeod Bethune School for Negro Girls in 1925 and becomes Bethune-Cookman College in 1932.

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1874

Jacksonville's first African American attorney was Joseph E. Lee who resided in East Jacksonville. A native of Philadelphia, Lee obtained a law degree from Howard University in 1873 before moving to Jacksonville. In 1874 he was elected to the Florida House of Representatives, where he served for six years before winning a seat in the Florida Senate. The Republican Party nominated Lee as a delegate to the Florida Constitutional Convention of 1885. In 1888, he was appointed as municipal judge, as well as later received federal appointments as

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customs collector for the Port of St. Johns (1890-1894 and 1897-1898) and Collector of Internal Revenue (1898-1913).

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1874 Joseph E. Lee (1990 JBHC)

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1877 - Eartha M.M. White was born. She opened the Clara White Mission, named for her mother, set up the Eatha White Boys Club, donated buildings to the City of Jacksonville for day care centers and established a museum focusing on the art and history of blacks. She was compassionate towards inmates of the Duval County jail who she visited regularly for more than 40 years. She served the city for nearly 100 years. (1989 JBHC) (foot note)

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1882(?)- Richard L. Brown served in the legislature

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1882 St. Philips Episcopal

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1885 A fire broke out in a four-story warehouse behind S.B. Hubbard's Hardware Store on the south side of West Bay Street between North Main Street and North Laura Street. The fire spread to several other buildings in the general area. While fighting the fire, part of the front wall of the Abell Block collapsed injuring three firemen while killing Fireman Henry J. Bradley is recognized as the first Jacksonville firefighter to die in the line of duty.

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1885 Boylan Haven School for Girls

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1886 Sponsored by the Women's Missionary Society of the Methodist Church, Boylan Industrial Training School for Girls in LaVilla was founded by Miss Harriet Emerson. After relocating in 1910 to a new facility in the Oakland section of East Jacksonville, the Boylan Industrial Home and School merged with the Haven Home School in Savannah, Georgia to become Boylan-Haven School in 1932. In 1959, the school moved to Camden, South Carolina after merging with the Mather.

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1886 James Weldon Johnson hears Frederick Douglass speak at Jacksonville's Sub-Tropical Exposition. He had read *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* after winning it as an academic award at Stanton. Johnson, James Weldon. *Along this Way*. New York: Viking Press, 1968.

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1887 The City of Jacksonville annexed adjacent communities and towns such as LaVilla, Oakland, East Jacksonville, Fairfield, Springfield, Hanson Town, Riverside, Brooklyn, New Town, and Durkeeville. This annexation expanded the

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city from 1 to 8.47 square miles while increasing Jacksonville's population from 11,545 to 21,589

1887 ~~Mount Olive A.M.E., the first African Methodist Episcopal Church in Jacksonville, is established at 84 Franklin Street.~~

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1887-1889 Reverend Capers Vaught was Jacksonville's first black city councilman. (1994 JBHC on the page with Dr. Earlinn Thopson, his father-in-law)

1888 Jacksonville suffered from a major yellow fever epidemic in the summer and fall that virtually shut the city down and resulted in 430 deaths by the end of the epidemic in November of that year. The first black physician in Jacksonville, Dr. Alexander H. Darnes joined in the fighting the epidemic. Even during the medical crisis, many of the white doctors refused to work with Dr. Darnes and saw him as not being professionally equal to them. As a compromise he was brought on the medical team as a "general convenience physician" and was assigned to a specific area that would require less interaction with white doctors.

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1888 ~~Abram Grant, a former slave who escaped twice and joined the Union Army, moves to Jacksonville and is elected 19th Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. <https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/14314>~~

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1889 Liberian activist and pan-Africanist Edward Wilmot Blyden visits Jacksonville, staying at the house of Squire English in LaVilla.

1889 – **John Robert Scott** served Duval County in the Florida House of Representatives (2007 JBHC) *Include with 1869

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1891 Asa Philip Randolph, age two, moves with his family to Jacksonville from Crescent City, Florida. He organized the first black labor union, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. (footnote)

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1892 The Bethel Baptist Institutional Church in 1892, established the Florida Baptist Academy under the direction of its first president, Reverend Matthew Gilbert, and moved to a larger campus in Campbell's Addition in east Jacksonville (current site of Matthew Gilbert Middle School). During his 1905 visit to Jacksonville President Teddy Roosevelt visited the academy and gave a brief speech to an assembly that included several thousand members of Jacksonville's African American community. The Florida Baptist Academy later relocated to St. Augustine to become the Florida Normal and Industrial Institute before finally moving to Dade County in 1962 where it is known today as Florida Memorial

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College. Matthew Gilbert Middle School is located on the site of the Florida Baptist Academy.

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1892 Rev. Matthew William Gilbert, leaves as pastor of the Bethel Baptist Institutional Church to become President of Florida Baptist Academy, which eventually becomes Florida Memorial University.

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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.

1893 or 95 Blues legend Arthur "Blind Blake" Phelps was born. He played at many black clubs and venues in Jacksonville, as well as recorded several records.

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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 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.

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1897 James Weldon Johnson becomes the first Black admitted to the Bar in the State of Florida under an oral exam before a state judge. under an oral exam before a judge.

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1897-1899 John Robert Scott served the Jacksonville City Council. (2007 JBHC)

~~**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.~~

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1898 ~~The American Mutoscope and Biograph Company records and catalogues for sale film footage of the lynching of a black man in Jacksonville, most likely Edward Heinson, accused of “criminal assault” of a 14 year old white girl. The film was advertised as *An Execution by Hanging*. The company catalogued and sold the film at least until 1902, describing is as “a very ghastly, but interesting subject.” The description further noted, “[T]he body is seen to shoot through the air and hang quivering at the end of the rope.”~~

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1898 James Weldon Johnson becomes the first African American admitted to the Florida Bar since Reconstruction.

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1899 At 7420 Roscoe Avenue, Eartha White builds and teaches in one of the at-the first black schoolhouses in Bayard located in south Jacksonville. (make of her footnote 1877)

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-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.*] include with 1869

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1900 Lawton Pratt forms what's now the oldest funeral home in Florida, initially the Lawton Pratt, then Hillman-Pratt, and now Hillman-Pratt and Walton Funeral Home on West Beaver Street in LaVilla

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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 Ev’ry Voice and Sing,” which later becomes known as the “Negro National Anthem.”

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James Weldon Johnson and J. Rosamond Johnson composed *Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing* at their family home in LaVilla. The song was first performed by children in celebration of Abraham Lincoln’s birthday. The song became recognized as the “Negro National Anthem.”

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James Weldon Johnson writes “Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing” music by his brother, John Rosamond Johnson.

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1900 Booker T. Washington formed the National Negro Business League. Business man, A.L. Lewis, Eartha M.M. White, Jacksonville’s most noted humanitarian, and other local African American business owners were present at the official

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meeting when the organization was established. Eartha M.M. White was the only woman present at the meeting.(add more info)

1900

Lawton L. Pratt opened his funeral home which later moved to a new building at 525 West Beaver Street in 1915. Pratt was the second licensed African American funeral director in Florida. He was also one of the organizers of the Florida Negro Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association and worked to open the field of funeral service to women. After his death in 1943, the establishment operated as Hillman-Pratt Funeral Home. The first black owned funeral home in Florida was opened by LaVilla resident, Wyatt J. Geter, in c1895. His nephew, Japhus Baker was the first African American licensed embalmers in Florida.

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1900

Manhattan Beach, now part of Hanna Park, opens to black beachgoers.

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1900

LaVilla native and legendary black promoter, Patrick Henry Chappelle premiered his traveling show, "The Rabbit's Foot" in Jacksonville. Noted performers he promoted included Billy Kersands, Gertude "Ma" Rainey and Ferdinand "Jelly Roll" Morton.

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1901

Brewster Hospital, started under the direction of Harriet Emerson, opened its doors to African Americans in Jacksonville. As part of health training at the nearby Boylan Industrial Training School for Girls, a nursing school, the first for African American women in Florida, was also started. Nurses from the school were well trained and highly recruited by hospitals all over the United States. Originally located in a house at 915 West Monroe Street, the hospital moved to a different location in LaVilla in 1910 before moving to a new facility on North Jefferson Street. With the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Brewster Hospital closed in 1966 and was incorporated into the new Methodist hospital, now part of Shands at Jacksonville.

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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. The company became one of the most important African American owned businesses in the Southeast during the first half of the twentieth century.

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1901

The City of Jacksonville enacted an ordinance mandating the separation of blacks and whites on the city streetcars. The statute was legally challenged by black Jacksonville lawyer, Judson Douglas Wetmore who successfully overturned the ordinance, a decision that was upheld by the Florida Supreme Court. The City soon modified the ordinance to overcome the legal basis for Wetmore's suit which allowed for the separation of races on the street cars to be implemented.

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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 occurred on ~~in~~ May-3rd destroying most of Downtown Jacksonville. Although most of LaVilla was spared, there were charges that firemen concentrated their efforts to protect white owned rental houses rather than nearby Stanton School.

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~~1901:~~ While leading relief efforts in the black communities, James Weldon Johnson experienced a disturbing and pivotal event in his life. While working at a commissary depot to serve victims of the fire, Johnson agreed to an interview by an African American female writer with a very light complexion who was producing a piece on the fire and its efforts on the black population. Johnson arranged for the interview to occur out of the hot and ash filled downtown area to the cooler and quieter comforts of a new waterfront park recently purchased by the city. Mistaking the writer as white, the streetcar conductor that delivered them to the Riverside neighborhood reported their presence to the militia patrolling downtown. A hostile group of soldiers quickly surrounded Johnson with some of them calling for the group to kill him on the spot. However, the lieutenant in command quickly established control, and the provost marshal later released Johnson and his companion. The incident greatly disturbed Johnson for weeks and contributed to his leaving Jacksonville for good.

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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 recorded such as Lackawanna Elementary School, Fairfield Elementary School- One such school was and Public School No. 8, later named J. Allen Axson, near East 17th and Franklin Streets. Brown likely was also the school's architect designed these schools as well. 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 in the Oakland neighborhood of East Jacksonville. (footnote)

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1902 James Weldon Johnson resigned as principal of Stanton High School and moved to New York. There he formed a musical collaboration with his brother John Rosamond and Bob Cole. This talented trio became one of the most successful song writing teams for early Broadway productions. [\(footnote\)](#)

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1902 On July 1, 1902, the Jacksonville City Council granted a streetcar franchise to the North Jacksonville Street Railway, Town, and Improvement Company to construct, operate, and maintain a streetcar line starting at Clay Street and West Bay Street northwest to Moncrief Springs. The franchise was awarded to a streetcar company chartered by a group of prominent black businessmen that included D.W. Eschidge, R.R. Robinson, J.C. Myatt, William Young, George H. Ross, S.P. Pratt, D.G. Adgers, and F.D. Robbs. Walter P. Mucklow, H. Mason, F.C. Eleve, and Frank H. McDermott. With a capital stock of \$150,000, the company was organized and incorporated under the laws of New Jersey. The Duval County Commission allowed the franchise to continue outside the city limits to Moncrief Springs. The establishment of the black-owned and operated company and the awarding of the streetcar franchise generated national attention, particularly since it was accomplished in the South.

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~~1902 – Emma Delaney, born in Fernandina Beach, FL in 1871, became the first black woman missionary to Africa when she went to Nyasaland British Central Africa, now Malawi, where she co founded the Providence Industrial Mission. (1994 JBHC)~~

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1903 The North Jacksonville Street Railway, Town, and Improvement Company ran the line approximately four miles from West Bay Street, up Clay Street, along Kings Road to the Durkee Shell Road (Myrtle Avenue). The line ran north up Myrtle Avenue and turned east at West 13th Street where it turned south on Moncrief Shell Road, continuing along North Davis Street back to West Bay Street. At the city limits near the northwest corner of Myrtle Avenue and West 13th Street, the company opened North Jacksonville Park, which was later renamed Mason Park probably after one of the investors, H. Mason. In addition to a dance and concert hall, Mason Park also included the general office and car barn which is currently occupied by the campus of Stanton College Preparatory School.

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1903 The Jacksonville Electric Company opened an amusement park for blacks at the end of the Highway Avenue. Called Lincoln Park, it was located approximately ¼ of a mile beyond the city limits in the Lackawanna area west of downtown and north of Riverside. In addition to a 50' x 100' pavilion with stage, Lincoln Park also had a restaurant and dining room. But the highlight of the park was the opening of a large roller coaster in 1904 built by the Southeastern Amusement Company using a design similar to ones in St. Louis, Philadelphia, and Savannah.

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Using 60,000 square feet of lumber, the roller coaster was built in the shape of a figure 8 and had a 3,720 foot track that accommodated five cars that completed a ride of 38 seconds. The site of Lincoln Park is currently occupied by Madison Park on Lenox Avenue across from the Lackawanna Elementary School. (footnote somewhere)

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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!*

1904

The Little Savoy opened at the corner of West Forsyth Street and Bridge (Broad Street). It was the first black theatre featuring traveling shows. (footnote somewhere)

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1904

George Edwin Taylor ran for the presidency representing the National Negro Liberty Party. Taylor is recognized as the first black to run for the president as a candidate of a national political party. Born in Little Rock, Arkansas and educated in LaCross, Wisconsin, George Taylor (1857 – 1925) became a journalist and was actively involved in national politics. As a politician, his biographer, Bruce L. Mouser, history professor at the University of Wisconsin, described Taylor, as a "utopian socialist educated in the early European Marxism".¹ Supporting labor, free silver, anti-imperialism, and pensions for former slaves, Taylor changed political parties several times before becoming a member of the National Negro Liberty Party in 1904. At their national convention in St. Louis, Missouri, George E. Taylor was drafted as the party's candidate for the presidency. The small party received no major newspaper endorsements and was not officially listed on any state ballot. However, one

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[estimate is that the party received up to 65,000 votes. In later years, he moved to Jacksonville where he became a leader in Masonic organizations.](#)

[1905 Rev. John Milton Waldron, pastor of Bethel Baptist Institutional Church \(1892\) becomes the Treasurer of the Niagara Movement and one of the founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People \(NAACP\).](#)

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[1907](#) [The last year that African Americans served in Jacksonville's city government because of Jim Crow Laws until 1967.](#)

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[1908 – Samuel Decatur McGill, famous for defending the Scottsboro Boys in Alabama, established a law practice in Jacksonville. \(1995 JBHC\)](#)

[1909 - Reverend J.C. Sams was born. He became President of the 7 million member National Baptist Convention of America and was listed for 13 years in a row by Ebony Magazine as one of the 100 most influential Blacks in America. \(1989 JBHC\)](#)

[1909](#) [The 48 room Richmond Hotel opened under the ownership and operation of Alice Kirkpatrick. The hotel had all the modern amenities of the day along with the famous "Tea Room". The building was the temporary home of such stars as Cab Calloway, Ella Fitzgerald and Billie Holiday when they visited Jacksonville to play in local clubs.](#)

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[1909](#) [The Airdome open by Louis D. Joel and Morris R. Glickstein at 601 West Ashely Street. The first documented performance of the blues in the nation occurred at the Airdome.](#)

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[1912](#) [Jacksonville businessman, Charles Frank Crowd opened the Globe Theatre. The building was later remodeled to become the home of the Clara White Mission.](#)

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[1912](#) [David Dwight became one of the founders of the National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees. He was also a founder of the Duval County Democratic Alliance which was designed to increase voting among Black people in this city.](#)

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1914 At least 48,000 Confederate veterans rally in Springfield's Dignan Park. The "Lost Cause" movement is firmly under way.

[1914](#) [One of the earliest banks in Jacksonville organized and owned by blacks was opened in the Masonic Lodge from 1914 to 1921. Charles H. Anderson established a very successful seafood and poultry wholesale business housed at](#)

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132 North Broad Street in LaVilla under the name, Anderson Fish & Oyster Company. With the assistance of his family, Charles went on to form the Anderson, Tucker & Co. Bankers housed in the Masonic Temple, as well as the Anderson Bank of Harlem in New York City. His brother, Richard D. Anderson, who opened the Anderson Department Store at 965 A. Philip Randolph Boulevard (Florida Avenue) in 1909, served as president of the bank, which reportedly had a quarter of million in assets by 1919.

1914 Sugar Hill

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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/>

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1915 The Strand Theatre opened at 703 West Ashley Street in 1915. It was a movie house with a stage for hosting shows.

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1915 As a part of the 1915 bond proposal, the school board for the second time planned to eliminate the Stanton School and replace it with smaller schools in different locations. In response, the trustees along with prominent members of the black community responded with a petition to the school board on February 23, 1915. The petition requested that an equitable portion of the bond money provide a new Stanton that would be adequate for the county's black population in its original location. When the school board refused, the trustees responded by filing an injunction in Circuit Court. The parties settled out-of-court. In September 1915, the school board agreed to construct another Stanton High School on the same site. The new building was opened for classes in the fall of 1917.

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? In addition to Genovar's Hall, another popular venue was the six story Knights of Pythias Building in the 700 block of West Ashley.

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1915 Daniel W. Perkins

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1915 - **Billy Daniels** was born. He became a show business icon performing in night clubs, four Broadway musicals, several films and a TV network variety series called **The Billy Daniels Show**. His signature song was "That Old Black Magic." (1989 JBHC)

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1915 – May Lofton Kennedy was the first African-American librarian in Jacksonville where she worked at the Downtown Library in the “Colored Division.” (1994 JBHC)

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1916 The Masonic Temple building was completed by the Most Worshipful Union Grand Lodge. The fire proof, five-story brick building had commercial and office spaces and became the address of choice for African American professionals and business owners. Some of the early businesses located in the Masonic Temple included Anderson, Tucker & Co. Bank, Pedro Mendez Tailoring Shop and the law offices of Daniel W. Perkins.

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1917 With the outbreak of World War I on April 16, U.S. Senator Duncan Fletcher and Congressman, William J. Sears was able to convince Secretary of the War, Newton D. Nelson to investigate the establishment of a military camp at Black Point which at the time was serving as a Florida National Guard Camp. Based on the investigation and recommendation of General Leonard Wood, the Federal government took control of the 1,000 acre state reservation south of Ortega (current site of Naval Air Station Jacksonville), and expanded it to serve as a quartermasters training camp named Camp Joseph E. Johnston, after the Confederate General. Opening on November 19, 1917, Camp Johnson eventually housed over 27,000 soldiers of which 2,500 were black soldiers housed in segregated facilities. 4,942 Jacksonville citizens served in combat during World War I with 157 making the ultimate sacrifice in making the “World Safe for Democracy”. The deaths included 108 whites and 49 blacks.

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~~**1918** Outbreak of the deadly Spanish Influenza epidemic. Cases of the worldwide pandemic in Jacksonville were first diagnosed that same month, and were quickly declared an epidemic by City Health Officer, Dr. William W. MacDonnell. Within three weeks of first being diagnosed, 20,000 people were reported as being infected. In response, all schools, amusement parks, theaters, pool halls, dance halls, soda fountains, and cigar stores were closed. The city’s volunteer relief efforts, which were so effective during the 1889 yellow fever epidemic and the Great Fire, were again re-activated in October of 1918 with the establish of the soup kitchens throughout the city. Stanton School again served the black community as a relief center through the operation of one of the soup kitchens, as well as used as an emergency hospital. During a twelve day period, volunteers provided meals for 5,709 whites and 11,084 blacks. Although lasting only a short time, the Spanish Influenza was caught by an estimated one-third of the city’s population which represented approximately 30,000 people. Of that number, there were 464 deaths which exceeded the number in the tragic 1888 yellow fever epidemic. Of the 17,000 soldiers at Camp Johnson, 2,178 were infected and 155~~

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died from the flu. Jacksonville black physician, Smart Pope Livingston, who served as assistant City Health Officer, was instrumental in providing medical serves, particularly in the black communities.

1917 Under the leadership of Eartha M.M. White, Oakland Playground opened at the northeast corner of East Union Street and Ionia Street adjacent to the Old City Cemetery. It was the first city park specifically opened for blacks.

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1918 Outbreak of the deadly Spanish Influenza epidemic. Cases of the worldwide pandemic in Jacksonville were first diagnosed that same month, and were quickly declared an epidemic by City Health Officer, Dr. William W. MacDonnell. Within three weeks of first being diagnosed, 20,000 people were reported as being infected. In response, all schools, amusement parks, theaters, pool halls, dance halls, soda fountains, and cigar stores were closed. The city's volunteer relief efforts, which were so effective during the 1889 yellow fever epidemic and the Great Fire, were again re-activated in October of 1918 with the establish of the soup kitchens throughout the city. Stanton School again served the black community as a relief center through the operation of one of the soup kitchens, as well as used as an emergency hospital. During a twelve day period, volunteers provided meals for 5,709 whites and 11,084 blacks. Although lasting only a short time, the Spanish Influenza was caught by an estimated one-third of the city's population which represented approximately 30,000 people. Of that number, there were 464 deaths which exceeded the number in the tragic 1888 yellow fever epidemic. Of the 17,000 soldiers at Camp Johnson, 2,178 were infected and 155 died from the flu. Jacksonville black physician, Smart Pope Livingston, who served as assistant City Health Officer, was instrumental in providing medical serves, particularly in the black communities.

1918 – 1921 May Lofton Kennedy was the first African American to serve in the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. (1994 JBHC)

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1918 Florida Dwight was appointed Supervisor of Recreation for Negroes. She organized a parade from Stanton School at Broad and Ashley to the new Oakland Playground on East Union Street. She was a champion of youth guidance as she filled the idle after-school hours with the challenges of sports, crafts, literature, physical and intellectual competitions and community service.(1989 JBHC)

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1919 Two black men, Bowman Cook and John Morine, were arrested and charged with the murder of white insurance manager, George W. DuBose, the brother of Justice of the Peace, John W. DuBose. The murder of DuBose occurred on August 20, 1919 at the intersection of North Broad Street and West Ashley Street in LaVilla. Weeks later, another black man, Edward Jones, was charged with criminal assault on a thirteen year old white girl. Duval County Sheriff William H. Dowling heard

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rumors of a possible lynching and assumed the intended victim to be Ed Jones. In response, Sheriff Dowling took Ed Jones down to St. Augustine one evening to be placed in the St. Johns County jail. While the sheriff was traveling to St. Augustine, the jailor, A.C. Tucker, was dragged out of the jail by a group of armed men masked with handkerchiefs. Tucker estimated that eight or so men were involved. The vigilante group asked that Ed Jones be released to them.

Once informed that Ed Jones was taken to St. Augustine, the group of men commanded Tucker to release Morine and Cook. Five automobiles including the one with Cook and Morine, left the jail. Tucker and Chief Deputy Sheriff Frank A. Edwards contacted Sheriff Dowling about the incident who immediately left for Jacksonville. At 1:30 AM, residents living in the area around North Main Street and Cemetery Road heard several shots and saw cars speeding out of the area. On investigating the area, residents found the bullet riddled body of Morine. A motorist driving down North Hogan Street discovered Cook's body in front of the Windsor Hotel in Downtown Jacksonville. It appeared he had been shot one time and his body dragged by an automobile before being dumped in front of the hotel. Although the lynching was widely condemned by political, business and religious leaders, no witnesses came forward to provide any information on the identity of the perpetrators. Tucker stated he did not recognize any of the men that kidnapped Morine and Cook. A grand jury was called to investigate the removal and lynching of the two men; however no one was ever charged with the hideous crime.

1919 At age 23, James Weldon Johnson became Principal of Old Stanton High School which at that time only went to the 3 eighth grade. He expanded the curriculum, added a grade each year thus allowing students to matriculate through the 12th grade. He and his brother, John Rosamond Johnson composed what is now called the Negro National Anthem - Lift Every Voice and Sing (1989 JBHC)

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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 Florida's governor reads, "Advertized Advertised 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

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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 James Weldon Johnson becomes the NAACP’s first Black General Secretary in 1920.

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1921 Bessie Coleman was the first woman of African-American woman to hold a pilot license and the first American woman to earn an international pilot license in 1921. During a practice run at Jacksonville’s Paxon Field for a Barn Storming May Day performance, Coleman’s plane nose-dived, throwing her from the plane and crashed. Here she died on April 30, 1926. Funerals were held for her at Bethel Baptist Institutional Church and the St. Philip’s Episcopal Church. Jacksonville International Airport renamed Bessie Coleman International Airport, 2400 Yankee Clipper Drive, Jacksonville 32218. (2) VERY GOOD. Owned and operated by Jacksonville Airport Authority

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1920–1922

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. The Eagle Film City, which opened in 1916 in the Arlington community of South Jacksonville, was purchased in 1922 by Richard E. Norman, Sr. The property consists of a production building, generator building, a small cottage for visiting actors, a prop storage building, indoor sound stage, and an outdoor pool for water scenes. Norman was one of the first independent movie producers to recognize the commercial potential of making films featuring an all-black cast for viewing in African American communities.

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1922

-Eartha White becomes the Florida director of the National Anti-Lynching Committee and pushes for anti-lynching legislation.

1922

Douglas Anderson leads the effort to convince the Duval County School Board to build a school for black children on the Southside of Jacksonville. It opens as South Jacksonville Grammar School, and Anderson leads the school’s free bus transportation service. In 1945, the school board renames it the Douglas Anderson School. <https://jaxpsychogeo.com/south/pine-forest/>

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1922-25

Richard A. Twine photographed everyday life and events of Blacks living in the Lincolntonville area of St. Augustine, Florida. (1994 JBHC)

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1924 – The Hollywood Music Store, owned by local African American businessman, Joe Higdon, was opened. The store was a popular hub of activity for both professional and amateur musicians.

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-1924 James E. Whittington of Jacksonville, Lawton Pratt of Jacksonville, Charles Chestnut of Gainesville, and other black funeral directors from across the state form the Florida Negro Embalmers' and Morticians' Association, today's Florida Mortician's Association.

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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.

1925 Jacksonville Rosenwalds School #143/Westside Elementary (Land for original school purchased by DC schools from Stockton Telfair)

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1925 A. Phillip Randolph began organizing the railroad porters. (1990 JBHC)

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1926 Bessie Coleman, first Black aviator, licensed in 1921, lost her life in Jacksonville.

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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.

1926 Bessie Coleman, the first African American woman to obtain a pilot's license, died in an airplane accident in Jacksonville while practicing for an air show at Paxon Field. In Jacksonville, more than 5,000 people were in attendance for her services at Bethel Baptist Institutional Church, followed by another service at St. Philips Episcopal Church. After a service in Orlando, Bessie Coleman, was buried in Chicago at the young age of 33.

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1927 Wilder Park Branch Library opened. It was the first branch library open to serve Jacksonville's black communities. The library along with the rest of the thirty-acre Wilder Park was removed for construction of I-95.

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1927 Randolph, A. Philip

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Jacksonville Rosenwald School #143/Westside Elementary (School was planned according to Columbia University study)

1927 Mary White Blocker became the president of the Florida Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers after meeting with a group of parents and teachers a year earlier who were concerned that there should be a Parent-Teacher Association for the schools serving black children. (1990JBHC)

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1928 D.W. Perkins argued before the Supreme Court a ten year challenge of the Disenfranchisement Law and the Anti-Negro Lawyer Bill (1989 JBHC)

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1929 Rutledge Pearson was born. He was to become a fierce advocate for civil rights promoting the well praised philosophy of non-violence. In 1960, Rutledge H. Pearson became the president of the Jacksonville Chapter of the NAACP. (1989 JBHC)

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1929 E. L. Weems opened his first studio and became the most prominent Black licensed photographer. Weems designed his own method of colorization before color film was invented. (1992 JBHC)

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1929 LaVilla Park opened as the second playground and recreational facility for Jacksonville's African-American community. The first such facility was the Oakland Playground that opened on East Union Street adjacent to the Old City Cemetery in 1917. Florida C. Dwight, who had directed the recreational program at the Oakland Playground, was appointed as first director of the LaVilla Playground in 1929. A graduate of Stanton High School and a teacher at Cookman Institute, Mrs. Dwight was a pioneer in recreation work among Jacksonville's African-American community

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Jacksonville Rosenwald School #143/Westside Elementary (School was designed for site)

1929 Georgia native, Ellie Lee Weems moves to Jacksonville where he established a portrait studio. Operating for nearly 50 years, Weems took thousands of photographs that recorded African American life in Jacksonville during the first half of the twentieth century.

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1930-31 Jacksonville Rosenwalds School #143/Westside Elementary (Fiske University shows Rosenwald school built called West Jacksonville School – none of the schools in record show addresses.

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- 1931** Mamie Butler became the first supervisor of Public School Music in Duval County. She traveled to all schools in the county where she supervised the “Negro” schools’ music programs during the days of dual education. (1995 JBHC)
- 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 quiltingsquilting, 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.”
- 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 the most popular Black Beach in the South.
- 1935** The current grandstand for Durkee Field, named for Dr. J.H. Durkee, was constructed. Originally called Barrs Field, organized sports have been played on the site of Durkee Field since 1911. The park was home to the Red Caps of the Negro League, and later the field where baseball legend, Hank Aaron started his professional career with the Jacksonville Tars in 1953. In 1980, the park was renamed the James P. “Bubbling” Small Park in memory of longtime coach and mentor at Stanton High School.
- 1936** Boy Scout pioneer, David H. Dwight, Sr. became the first African American in the country to receive the Silver Beaver, scouting’s highest award. Dwight received the honor after he successfully led a campaign for African American boys to join the organization and to be allowed to be allowed to wear the official Boy Scout uniform, as well as opening a Boy Scout camp at New Berlin. .
- 1936** David Dwight, a pioneer in the development of Scouting for Blacks in Florida, was the first Black to receive the Silver Beaver, scouting’s highest council award.
- 1937** Durkeeville Housing Project opened. It was the first public housing project for African Americans in Jacksonville and one of the earliest in the state.

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1937 A. Philip Randolph wins labor contract for the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters against the Pullman Company.

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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.

1930's James Edward Hutchins established himself as a professional builder by founding J.E. Hutchins Construction Company. He drew the blueprints and completed the construction on a number of single family dwellings in the Durkeeville and College Gardens subdivisions. He coordinated with the Veterans Affairs department to train Black carpenters, brick masons and architects. (1991 JBHC)

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1937 Augusta Savage was selected to make the sculpture for the Community Arts Building at the World's Fair. (1991 JBHC)

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1940 George Crockett founded the International United Auto Workers Fair Employment Practices Department (1991 JBHC)

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1940 African American businessman "Charlie Edd" Craddock, who operated numerous businesses in LaVilla that employed over a hundred African Americans, opened the Two Spot Club at 45th Street and Moncrief Road on Christmas Day. The Two Spot could accommodate 2,000 dancers with seating for an additional 1,000 on the first floor and mezzanine. It became the most prominent nightclub for blacks in the city during the 1940s and 1950s.

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

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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.

1941 In November, **Mary White Blocker** filed a suit against the Duval County Board of Public Instruction on behalf of colored teachers for the achievement of equal pay. The plaintiffs won the suit and in September of 1942, the ruling read "the defendants, the board of public instruction of Duval County Florida and W. Daniel Boyd as superintendent shall apply a single salary schedule without discrimination because of race or color." (1990 JBHC)

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1942 Blodgett Homes, the third public housing project in Jacksonville, was built for African Americans. The project was named after the wealthy African American contractor, Joseph Haygood Blodgett.

1943 Dr. Lincoln B. Childs opened his medical practice in Jacksonville. (1991 JBHC)

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1944 Eli B'usabe Nyombolo founds Adorkaville, named for Princess Laura Adorkor Kofi, on the Northside. The 11+ acre property was to include homes for members of the community and a school with the intent to establish business connections between Africa and America.

1944 William Surcey, a Tuskegee Airman, along with his crew successfully completed third and fourth Echelon repairs on seven P-40 warhawks and transferred them to Afigile Group Operational overseas during World War II. (1994 JBHC)

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1945 Dallas Graham (1990 JBHC)

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1945 With the encouragement of the Jacksonville Chapter of the NAACP, Reverend Dallas Graham went to the Duval County Courthouse on March 13 where he 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.

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1945-1951 Ruth Stewart toured the United States as a concert artist. As a Fulbright scholar, she studied at the St. Cecilia Conservatory in Rome and performed concerts throughout Italy and Switzerland.

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1946 Dr. W.W. Schell, Jr. began practicing medicine in Jacksonville. In 1965, he was accepted on the staff of St. Luke's hospital. The fact that Black physicians

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received less respect than their white counterparts probably inspired Dr. Schell to become involved in community affairs and he was very active during the racially sensitive era of the 1960's. (1990 JBHC).

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- 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 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 from a merger between the Jacksonville Negro Welfare League and a new Jacksonville branch of the National Urban League.
- 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. (I believe was successful)
- 1948 Jacksonville native and mason by trade, Wilson Armstrong ran to represent the majority black Ward Five 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.
- 1948 Jessie Word was Executive Director of the newly created “Colored Branch of the YMCA.”
- 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.

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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.

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

1950's Turner A. Horne established Church Well Dry Goods, a grocery store on Jacksonville's Eastside at Bridier and Albert Streets. (1995 JBHC)

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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.

1951 Jacksonville Rosenwald School #143/Westside Elementary (Survey of school shows original school with the same dimensions as site plan and shows wooden barracks)

1952 Mrs. Luvinia A. Robinson opened her own real estate office as a licensed realtor. (1991 JBHC)

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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.

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- 1952 Klansman Bill Hendrix dropped out of the race for governor of Florida, the United Press reported he'd "resumed his old job as grand dragon" of the Florida Klan. The UP report continued, "The only reason he entered the governor's race in the first place, Hendrix said, was because he was persuaded to do so by Edgar Waybright, Sr., chairman of the Duval County Democratic Executive Committee."
- 1952 Billy Daniels from Jacksonville becomes the first Black to host a Television Show.
- 1952 Jacksonville Rosenwald School #143/Westside Elementary (nw school built on the property – verified by plaque in West Jacksonville Elementary. Study done by Reynolds, Smith and Hill says "old school replaced with 2 story brick buildings and whire frame building and 2 wooden barrack type buildings" still there as they were in 1951 survey.
- 1952 **Gamma Rho Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated hosted the world renown singer, Marian Anderson, at the National Guard Armory. She refused to sing unless Blacks and Whites could enjoy the program as a desegregated audience.**
- 1953 **Raiford Brown** operated Brown's Barber Shop for 36 years and for much of that time, his was the only Black shop allowed to operate in the greater downtown area. Brown Eastside Branch Library was named for him in 1994. (1995 JBHC)
- 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 Gamer, 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.
- 1953 Manuel and Lucille Rivera. Manuel and Lucille Rivera took Henry "Hank" Aaron into their very fine home when the unknown baseball player from Alabama came to Jacksonville in 1953. Aaron didn't have the option or opportunity to reside in hotels as did his white teammates. One of the first players to integrate the South Atlantic League, Henry Aaron became the league's Most Valuable Player. *Home originally built for family of Manuel and Lucille Rivera. (1) VERY GOOD.*

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Currently owned and occupied by Nancy Scriven-Watts and her niece, Edith Witherspoon.

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 fictionalizes himself as its protagonist. He later names his homestead in St. Johns County "Beluthahatchee," a name he says 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 school band and correspondingly the first female band director in Duval County.

1956 The Associated Press reports a new affiliation of Southern and Northern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, though based solely in the South, claiming Jacksonville as its "imperial city," in place of Atlanta, led by a new "'emperor' known only as "Nathan II." The press outs "Nathan II," supposed successor to Nathan Bedford Forrest as Jax attorney and Duval County Democratic Party Chairman Edgar Waybright, Sr.

From at least 1956 to at least 1963 The Ku Klux Klan holds flamboyant annual membership rallies across from Jacksonville's Imeson Airport, featuring tall fiery crosses, men in white hoods on horseback, and the mass singing of hymns. These annual events regularly made national *Associated Press* and *United Press International* headlines.

1956 **Rudolph Daniels** is credited with making working conditions more conducive for all U.S. Postal employees for which he received the Prestigious Merit award for outstanding service

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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/>.

1959 A new high school is built on Jacksonville's Westside and named Nathan Bedford Forrest after a Confederate general and first grand wizard of the Ku Klux Klan.

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- 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 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. (West 13th Street & North Myrtle Avenue). 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 Bums 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 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 August 13, 1960-Initial sit-in by the Jacksonville Youth Council NAACP, Downtown Jacksonville Woolworth Department store.
- 1960 Ax Handle Saturday
- 1960 Alton Yates
- 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

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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 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 October 1960-Appointment of Jacksonville Bi-Racial Committee by NAACP, Jacksonville Black Ministerial; Alliance, Jacksonville White Ministerial Alliance, Jacksonville White Business Community to meet at Snyder Memorial Methodist Church...after refusal of Jacksonville Mayor Haydon Burns to appoint Official Bi-Racial Committee.

“Kneel-in” by Blacks at Snyder Memorial Methodist Church

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 daughter Sharon.

1960 **Frank Hampton** (1990 JBHC)

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1960 Ax Handle Saturday – (2009,2013, 2016 JBHC)

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Alton Yates (2004 JBHC) contributions to education as Chair of FCCJ BOD

1961 **Adrian Kenneth “Ken” Knight** originated the first African-American television show in Jacksonville. The purpose was to show the talents of Blacks in music and other forms of entertainment, but also to present other fields of achievement by Negroes. (1994 JBHC)

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1961 Youth Council NAACP president Rodney Hurst and Youth Council Secretary Marjorie Meeks integrate White lunch counters in Jacksonville downtown department stores.

Integration of Downtown Jacksonville White Lunch Counters at Woolworth, Cohen Brothers, W. T. Grant’s, Kress, McCrory’s Department stores, Jacksonville Florida...by Youth Council NAACP members, Marjorie Meeks, and Rodney Hurst

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- 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 Elementary Schools.
- 1963** On December 1, 1963 at the ½ mile dirt track of Jacksonville's Speedway Park in west Jacksonville, 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** Oscar Taylor
- 1963** Sollie Mitchell working as a chair car attendant with Atlantic Coastline Railroads witnessed the long ride to Washington D.C. by a entire rail car of Negroes from all over the State of Florida attended the historic March of Washington.
- 1963** Lloyd Pearson was among the travelers on the "Freedom Train" to Washington to attend the historic March on Washington.
- 1964** Bob Hayes (1990 JBHC)
- 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/>

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- 1964** First grader, Donal Godfrey, 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 the 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 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

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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.

1964 Jacksonville native Robert Lee “Bullet Bob” Hayes won two gold medals, one in the 100 meter race and another as the anchor in the US 400 meter relay team at the Tokyo Olympics. At the time, Bob Hayes was called the “World’s Fastest Human”, and later went on to have professional football career playing for the Dallas Cowboys, where he received two Super Bowl rings.

1964 **Dr. Andrew A. Robinson** became principal of William Marion Raines High School. At that time, the entire Duval County School System had been discredited; however, with Dr. Robinson’s leadership, William M. Raines became the first school in the system to pass the reaccreditation process. (1989 JBHC)

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1964 **Dr. Alpha Hayes Moore** enjoyed a brilliant music career that spanned 40 years. She was as well very active in her community. In 1964 her choral students at Stanton High School attended the New York World’s Fair. This exposure added to the other trips to Washington, D.C., Delaware, Pennsylvania and the Bahamas she made possible for her students.

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1967 **Sallye B. Mathis** (1990 JBHC)

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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.

1967 SNCC leader H. Rap Brown speaks to an audience of 300 at Durkee Field. Governor Claude Kirk, running for reelection, hops the fence, campaigns through the crowd, walks up to Brown at the pitcher’s mound, takes the microphone from his hand, and tells Brown he hopes he’s not trying to cause trouble.

1968 Consolidation of Jacksonville and Duval County made the city the largest in land area in the lower 48 states.

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

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

1969 Wendell P. Holmes, Jr. elected to the Duval County School Board. He would later become the 1st A-A chair. (1996 JBHC)

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1970 Jacksonville Rosenwald School #143/Westside Elementary (permit shows one story frame school moved to 1925 W. 13th Street – Susie B. Tolbert School.

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 Sheriff's 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 (J.J. Daniel ?) 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, Dr. Andrew Robinson, Alton Yates. 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 in the 1950s and 1960s as reflected in the annual

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Status of Blacks in Jacksonville, 1977, produced by the Urban League under President, Clanzel Brown.

1971 Harold Carmichael was drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles in the seventh round of the NL draft. After spending two years as a tight end, he finally found his niche as a wide receiver. From that point on, number 17 was headed for the record books. He broke the Eagles' record for games played with 180 to his credit. His 589 successful receptions broke another record and his 79 touchdowns still another. (1989 JBHC)

1971 Artis Gilmore, a Jacksonville University graduate, signed a \$2 million contract with the ABA. His professional basketball career included playing time with the Chicago Bulls and the Celtics. (1992 JBHC)

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1971 Porcher Taylor rose to the rank of full colonel in the United States Army (1992 JBHC)

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1971 Eddie Mae Steward and her children became plaintiffs in the federal desegregation suit first filed in 1960 by Mrs. Sadie Braxton. The suit filed against the Duval County School Board alleged that Duval County maintained 113 totally segregated schools- 89 white and 24 Black- and that the white schools were staffed by white personnel and Black schools were staffed by Black personnel. She became president of the NAACP in 1972. (1991 JBHC)

1972 Chief Justice Leander Shaw was the first African American in Florida to serve in this capacity. In 1972, he was appointed Judge of the Florida Industrial Relations Commission; 1979, he was appointed to the First District Court of Appeal (1991 JBHC)

1972 Mary L. Singleton, one of the first Blacks elected to the Jacksonville City Council, was elected to the State Legislature. (1992 JBHC)

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1972 Charles "Boobie" Clark was a 12th round draft choice for the Cincinnati Bengals where he played fullback for 7 years. He was named Rookie of the Year and Most Valuable Player for the Bengals. He also played for the Houston Oilers.

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1973 Reverend C.B. Dailey established the First Baptist Church of Oakland Outreach Center which provided all manner of resources for the needy. Rev. Dailey himself was a past vice president of the NAACP where he organized, led and was ultimately arrested for participating in demonstrations for public accommodations, equal opportunity for jobs and education, and equal representation in government. (1992 JBHC)

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- 1974** Dr. Ezekiel W. Bryant was the 1st African American in the State of Florida to be appointed Provost at a community college – Florida Community College. Formatted: Font: Bold
- 1976** Mary L. Singleton was appointed Supervisor of Elections (1992 JBHC) Formatted: Font: Bold
- 1976** Dr. Arnett Girardeau, a local dentist, was elected to the Florida HOuse of Representatives where he was an advocate for prison reform and social service issues. He also led the movement to require the State of Florida to withdraw investments from South Africa as a protest against apartheid. (1989 JBHC) Formatted: Font: Bold
- 1976** Earl Johnson, first Black City Council President (1992 JBHC) Formatted: Font: Bold
- 1976** Lawyer and civil rights activists, Earl Johnson became the first black City Council President.
- 1977** The Jacksonville Urban League’s (JUL) annual “State of Black Jacksonville Report” initiated by League Director, Clanzel T. Brown
- 1977** Coach James P. Small inducted into the Jacksonville Sports Hall of Fame (1990 JBHC) and in 1980 Durkee Ball Park, home of Hank Aaron, was named for Coach Small.
- 1978** Albert Chester was named Black Player of the Year as quarterback for FAMU in JET Magazine and Ebony’s All American Team. He played professionally for the Toronto Argonauts. (1991 JBHC)
- 1979** Harold Carmichael set an NFL record for catching 127 passes in as many consecutive games. The record stood for seven years. (1989 JBHC) Formatted: Font: Bold
- 1979** Judge Henry Adams was appointed Circuit Judge of the 4th Judicial Circuit (Nassau, Clay and Duval) Formatted: Font: Bold
- 1982** Representative Corrine Brown elected to the Florida House of Representatives (1195 JBHC) Formatted: Font: Bold
- 1982** Dr. Arnett Girardeau was elected the State Senate. He was the first Black from Duval County since Reconstruction to hold that office. He became senior member and Chairman of the Duval Delegation (1989 JBHC) Formatted: Font: Bold
- 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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1982 In February, Sheriff Dale Carson fires Robert McMullen, a sheriff's office records clerk when Carson discovers McMullen is "kleagle" for a Jacksonville "klavern." Just over a week later, Imperial Wizard Bill Wilkinson of Louisiana marches with McMullen, four other Klansmen in front of the Duval County Courthouse. The Associated Press reports that about 300 black counterprotestors peacefully outnumber the Klan members and supporters. A counterprotestor named Rose Marie Seay pulls the white hood from the head of Clyde Wayne Royals, whose Klan title was "Grand Titan of Georgia." places it on her own head in mockery and poses with fist in the air and big smile for the national press.

Dr. Girardeau was elected to the Florida Senate in 1982 as Florida's first Black senator since Reconstruction. In 1989 Senator Girardeau becomes the first Black person to serve as pro tempore of the Florida Senate.

1988 Senator Arnett Girardeau was appointed President Pro tempore of the Florida Senate. (1989 JBHC)

1989 the only Jacksonville Black History Calendar was printed for the first time. This publication chronicles the life, history, culture and contributions of African Americans from the First Coast. All publications were digitized in 2015 and are accessible on the Jacksonville Public Library's website. The publication was a recipient of the Jacksonville Historic Commission's Historic Preservation Award in 2016.

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1989 Otis Smith, a former Orlando Magic Basketball player, Forest High School great who matriculated at Jacksonville University, established the Otis F. Smith Foundation to encourage disadvantaged youth through education, health, sports and community outreach programs. (1995 JBHC)

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1991 Warren Jones was the first black candidate to qualify by petition and then won a seat on the City Council. He served as President for two consecutive fiscal years (1991-1993) (1997 JBHC)

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Warren Jones served two consecutive terms as City Council President from July 1, 1991 to June 30, 1993.

1992 Reverend Rudolph McKissick received the Humanitarian award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews marking his distinguished career as a leader and great motivator. (1994 JBHC)

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1993 Congresswoman Corrine Brown elected to the United States House of Representatives (1995 JBHC)

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- 1993 Dr. Barbara Williams White becomes the First Black dean in the history of the University of Texas.
- 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.
- 2014 James Weldon Johnson and A. Philip Randolph inducted in the State of Florida Civil Rights Hall of Fame.
- 2015 Sallye Mathis inducted in the in the State of Florida Civil Rights Hall of Fame.
- 2016 Attorney Earl M. Johnson, and NAACP stalwart Rutledge H. Pearson inducted in the State of Florida Civil Rights Hall of Fame.
- 2017 Dr. Arnett E. Girardeau Sr. inducted in the State of Florida Civil Rights Hall of Fame.
- ? O'Children's Center (2919 Phillips Hwy). The center is a youth lounge for children ages 5 to 18 years old. They provide mentoring and tutoring services after school Mondays through Fridays and Saturdays. A different theme is emphasized each month. The members are equipped with tools and resources to help them mentally, emotionally, and academically. The activities, lessons, and workshops are designed to have the children challenge themselves and identify areas of improvement.
- Old City Cemetery/Adorkaville (Princess Laura Adorka Kofi was an emissary of the Universal Negro Improvement Association. She lived and worked here in Jacksonville. Because of her work in civil rights she was assisted in Miami and is buried at the Old City cemetery. Her following started Adorkaville in the north Jacksonville to continue her work.
- Florida's First Integrate Private Law Firm (215 N. Washington Street). The firm continues to operate as a law office (now Sheppard, White, Kachergus and DeMaggio, PA). It was the home of the Florida's First integrate private law firm (Sheppard, Fletcher, Hand, Adams, & Carithers). News clips and resolution provided partners were honored in 2012 on 40th anniversary.

Anderson, Charles H.

Anderson-Lewis, Charlotte S.

Blocker, Mary White

Blodgett, Joseph H.

Braxton, Sadie

Brown, Clanzel

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[Chapell, Johnnie Mae](#)
[Dennis, Willye](#)
[Dixieland Park](#)
[Dixon, Florence](#)
[Duval County Armory](#)
[Florida Baptist Academy](#)
[Floyd, John](#)
[Girardeau, Arnett](#)
[Hampton, Frank](#)
[Hargraves](#)
[Holmes, Wendel](#)
[Hurston, Zora Neale](#)
[Jackson, Ernest D.](#)
[Johnson, Earl and Janet](#)
[Johnson, James Weldon](#)
[Johnson, James William](#)
[Johnson, John Rosamond](#)
[Lewis, Abraham Lincoln](#)
[Lewis, James Leonard](#)
[Lucas, Elcee](#)
[Manhattan Beach](#)
[Masonic Temple](#)
[Mathis, Sallye](#)
[McGill, Simuel D.](#)
[McKissick, Rudolph Sr.](#)
[McLaurin, Benjamin F.](#)
[Mother Midway AME](#)
[Norman Studios](#)
[Pearson, Lloyd](#)
[Pearson, Rutledge](#)
[Randolph, James & Elizabeth](#)
[Ribault Ten](#)
[Rutledge, Willamena](#)
[Scott, J. Irvin](#)
[Singleton, Isadore](#)
[Singleton, Mary](#)
[St. Pius Catholic State & Davis](#)
[Stanton School](#)
[Steward, Eddie Mae](#)

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Wilson, R. L., Sr. 1st Black Housing Inspector for the City of Jacksonville. Mayor Ritter, LOU Pastor of West Friendship Baptist Church for 53+ years. Builder of Buildings and Character

Dates from the 1991 Calendar

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Bishop Phillip R. Cousin became the first Black President of the Interfaith Council for the City of Jacksonville (1991 JBHC)

George Crockett, Jr., Esquire was the first Black lawyer to be appointed within the Department of Labor. (1991 JBHC)

Lucille Coleman an influential woman who grew up in Tabernacle Baptist Institutional Church and later became affiliated with Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church. (1991 JBHC)

Others who are featured in the Jacksonville Black History

Mary McLeod Bethune founded Bethune Cookman College through the merging of Daytona Educational Training School (1904) with Cookman Institute of Jacksonville (1923) and Cookman Institute (1872) (1997 JBHC)

Ma Bvnee Oshun Betsch believed strongly in the sanctity of nature, fought to preserve NaNa, an historic sand dune on American Beach.

W.W. Sweet served as Field Director for the Suwannee District of the Boy Scouts of America. He was awarded the Silver Beaver Award, the highest honor in scouting. (1992 JBHC)

Mrs. I.E. "Mama" Williams – community volunteer, served on numerous boards. (1990 JBHC)

African American businessman "Charlie Edd" Craddock, who operated numerous businesses in LaVilla that employed over a hundred African Americans, opened the Two Spot Club at 45th Street and Monerief Road on Christmas Day. The Two Spot could accommodate 2,000 dancers with seating for an additional 1,000 on the first floor and mezzanine. It became the most prominent nightclub for blacks in the city during the 1940s and 1950s.

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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

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her salary until her death in 1965. She is also credited with starting the first black PTA in Duval County.

~~1942~~ — ~~Blodgett Homes, the third public housing project in Jacksonville, was built for African Americans. The project was named after the wealthy African American contractor, Joseph Haygood Blodgett.~~

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~~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 was to include homes for members of the community and a school with the intent 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 1947, of the Jacksonville Urban League.~~

~~1946~~ ~~1945~~ — ~~With the encouragement of the Jacksonville Chapter of the NAACP, Reverend Dallas Graham went to the Duval County Courthouse on March 13 where he 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.~~

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The son of General Dennis Taylor, Porcher Taylor, Sr. (1903-1964) was probably named after Peter Porcher L'Engle, the son of Francis Fatio L'Engle and Charlotte Johnson Porcher from Charleston, South Carolina. Peter Porcher L'Engle's father, Francis, was instrumental in the formation of the Town of LaVilla in 1869. After graduating from Stanton High School, Porcher Taylor, Sr., attended Tuskegee Institute receiving a degree in 1922. A year later he married Mary Virginia Bell of Albany, Georgia. He continued his education receiving a law degree from LaSalle University in Chicago. Before attending Tuskegee, Porcher worked as a pressman for the *Florida Sentinel*. —After graduating

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from college, came back to Jacksonville and worked for a short time as a writer for the Afro-American Life Insurance Company. Forming the Taylor and Son Printing Shop in 1934 located at 614 North Broad Street, Porcher began publishing the *Florida Tattler* in 1934. Printed to serve Jacksonville's black community, the *Florida Tattler* was modeled after the *Broadway Tattler* in New York. Working out of the Knights of Pythias Building, the *Florida Tattler* published both

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 1946, of the Jacksonville Urban League.

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 from 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. (I believe was successful)

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- 1948** — Jacksonville native and mason by trade, Wilson Armstrong ran in 1948 to represent the majority black 5th Ward Five 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.
- 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.

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- 1951** — Jacksonville Rosenwald School #143/Westside Elementary (Survey of school shows original school with the same dimensions as site plan and shows wooden barracks)
- 1952** — Poreher 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 from Jacksonville becomes the first Black to host a Television Show.
- 1952** — Jacksonville Rosenwald School #143/Westside Elementary (nw school built on the property — verified by plaque in West Jacksonville Elementary. Study done by Reynolds, Smith and Hill says “old school replaced with 2 story brick buildings and whire frame building and 2 wooden barrack type buildings” still there as they were in 1951 survey.
- 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 Garner, 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 fictionalizes himself as its protagonist. He later names his homestead in St. Johns County “Beluthahatchee,” a name he says 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.

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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/.

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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 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. (West 13th Street & North Myrtle Avenue). 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 Bums establish a broadly represented biracial committee to address a multitude of issues.

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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 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

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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 Elementary Schools.
- 1963** — On December 1, 1963 at the 1/2 mile dirt track of Jacksonville's Speedway Park in west Jacksonville, 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

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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-klk/>

<https://jaxpsychogeo.com/west/murray-hill-heights-klk-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 the 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 did not attend school. Within a three day period, the absent of 34,000 students caused the School Board a loss of \$75,000.

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- 1964** — Johnnie Mae Chappell, 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 losses, 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.
- 1964** — Jacksonville native Robert Lee "Bullet Bob" Hayes won two gold medals, one in the 100 meter race and another as the anchor in the US 400 meter relay team at the Tokyo Olympics. At the time, Bob Hayes was called the "World's Fastest Human", and later went on to have professional football career playing for the Dallas Cowboys, where he received two Super Bowl rings.
- 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.
- 1968** — Consolidation of Jacksonville and Duval County made the city the largest in land area in the lower 48 states.

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

1970 — Jacksonville Rosenwald School #143/Westside Elementary (permit shows one story frame school moved to 1925 W. 13th Street — Susie B. Tolbert School.

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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 Sheriff's 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 (J.J. Daniel?) 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, Dr. Andrew Robinson, Alton Yates. 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

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racial issues confronting the city in the 1950s and 1960s as reflected in the annual *Status of Blacks in Jacksonville, 1977*, produced by the Urban League under President, Clanzel Brown.

~~1976~~ — ~~Lawyer and civil rights activists, Earl Johnson became the first black City Council President.~~

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~~1977~~ — ~~The Jacksonville Urban League's (JUL) annual "State of Black Jacksonville Report" initiated by League Director, Clanzel T. Brown~~

~~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.~~

~~1991~~ — ~~Warren Jones served two consecutive terms as City Council President from July 1, 1991 to June 30, 1993.~~

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~~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.~~

~~1995~~ — ~~Nathaniel Glover was elected as the first black Sheriff of the City of Jacksonville, and the second black Sheriff in the state of Florida.~~

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~~2011~~ — ~~Alvin Brown was elected as Jacksonville's first black Mayor.~~

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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.~~

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~~?~~ — ~~O'Children's Center (2919 Phillips Hwy). The center is a youth lounge for children ages 5 to 18 years old. They provide mentoring and tutoring services after school Mondays through Fridays and Saturdays. A different theme is emphasized each month. The members are equipped with tools and resources to help them mentally, emotionally, and academically. The activities, lessons, and workshops are designed to have the children challenge themselves and identify areas of improvement.~~

Jacksonville Civil Rights History

Timeline Timeline 1st Revision 050118

Old City Cemetery/Adorkaville (Princess Laura Adorka Kofi was an emissary of the Universal Negro Improvement Association. She lived and worked here in Jacksonville. Because of her work in civil rights she was assisted in Miami and is buried at the Old City cemetery. Her following started Adorkaville in the north Jacksonville to continue her work.

Florida's First Integrate Private Law Firm (215 N. Washington Street). The firm continues to operate as a law office (now Sheppard, White, Kachergus and DeMaggio, PA). It was the home of the Florida's First integrate private law firm (Sheppard, Fletcher, Hand, Adams, & Carithers). News clips and resolution provided partners were honored in 2012 on 40th anniversary.

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Wilson, R. L., Sr. — 1st Balck Housing Inspector for the City of Jacksonville. Mayor Ritter, LOU Pastor of West Freindship Baptist Church for 53+ years. Builder of Buildings and Character

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¹ [Marlene Sokol, "Black Journalist Wrote and Politicked for Change", *Florida Times Union*, February 27, 1984.](#)

Jacksonville Civil Rights History

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McEachin's Submission (5/3/18) - Timeline

INTRODUCTION:

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Starting in the middle of the nineteenth century and on into the twentieth, state-sanctioned segregation became the law of the land that affected all aspects of American life. Blacks suffered a loss of political power due to disenfranchisement caused by confusing multi-ballots, grandfather clauses, and gerrymandering of electoral districts. Nevertheless, many blacks did not accept the status quo and continued to actively and passively resist by various means including lawsuits, boycotts, strikes, and mass migration. Usually with the tacit support of law enforcement, white reaction often turned violent with blacks subject to intimidation, property loss, injuries, and death. The timeline below is a list of events and actions in Jacksonville that directly attacked segregation and inequality in its various forms. It also includes examples of deplorable and racist actions taken by whites to maintain this inequality or to further tighten the grip of segregation.

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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 Peggy [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."~~

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~~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 Bacehus and Peggy.~~

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~~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~~

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~~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~~

~~With the end of the Civil War and the start of Reconstruction, the federal government began enacting sweeping political changes aimed at improving conditions for recently freed African Americans. These actions allowed African American men to vote and hold public office for the first time. Branches of the Freedmen's Bureau were also established in Southern cities and towns such as Jacksonville to provide assistance and protection for these new citizens.~~

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~~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, 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.~~

~~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.~~

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McEachin's Submission (5/3/18) - Timeline

~~1866~~ — ~~The African Methodist Episcopal Church founds Edward Waters College, now the oldest HBCU in Florida.~~

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1866 — Edward Waters College founded by the African Methodist Church.

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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.

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1871 — James Weldon Johnson is born.

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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.

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1889 — **In response to the continued presence of Republicans, particularly African Americans, in public office and to attack Mayor C.B. Smith's lack of leadership**

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particularly during the 1888 yellow fever epidemic, a successful initiative was launched by white political and business leaders in 1889 culminating in House Bill # 4 that changed the charter in order to relinquish local elections of City Council members, and allow them to be appointed by the governor. The appointed City Council would continue to have the authority to appoint other officers including the mayor. Governor Francis Fleming, a Jacksonville native, appointed 11 Democrats and 7 Republicans to the City Council that in turn elected Patrick McQuaid, a conservative Democrat, as mayor. Although only in effect until 1893, House Bill # 4, along with a growing number of Jim Crow laws and gerrymandering of wards, greatly diluted African American political power, significantly reducing their involvement in local politics until the Civil Rights movement of the 1960's.

- 1889** — Liberian activist and pan-Africanist Edward Wilmot Blyden visits Jacksonville, staying at the house of Squire English in LaVilla.xxxx
- 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 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 under an oral exam before a judge.
- 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

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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 Roseoe 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 The City of Jacksonville enacted an ordinance mandating the separation of blacks and whites on the city streetcars. The statute was legally challenged by black Jacksonville lawyer, Judson Douglas Wetmore who successfully overturned the ordinance, a decision that was upheld by the Florida Supreme Court. The City soon modified the ordinance to overcome the legal basis for Wetmore's suit which allowed for the separation of races on the street cars to be implemented.
- 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 occurred on in May-3rd destroying most of Downtown Jacksonville. Although most of LaVilla was spared, there were

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charges that firemen concentrated their efforts to protect white owned rental houses rather than nearby Stanton School.

1901, While leading relief efforts in the black communities, James Weldon Johnson experienced a disturbing and pivotal event in his life. While working at a commissary depot to serve victims of the fire, Johnson agreed to an interview by an African American female writer with a very light complexion who was producing a piece on the fire and its efforts on the black population. Johnson arranged for the interview to occur out of the hot and ash filled downtown area to the cooler and quieter comforts of a new waterfront park recently purchased by the city. Mistaking the writer as white, the streetcar conductor that delivered them to the Riverside neighborhood reported their presence to the militia patrolling downtown. A hostile group of soldiers quickly surrounded Johnson with some of them calling for the group to kill him on the spot. However, the lieutenant in command quickly established control, and the provost marshal later released Johnson and his companion. The incident greatly disturbed Johnson for weeks and contributed to his leaving Jacksonville for good.

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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 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.

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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

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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!*

1907 — The last year that African American, City Council member George Ross, served in Jacksonville's city government because of Jim Crow Laws until 1967.

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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/>.

1915 — As a part of the 1915 bond proposal, the school board for the second time planned to eliminate Stanton School and replace it with smaller schools in different locations. In response, the trustees along with prominent members of the black community responded with a petition to the school board on February 23, 1915. The petition requested that an equitable portion of the bond money provide a new Stanton that would be adequate for the county's black population in its original location. When the school board refused, the trustees responded by filing an injunction in Circuit Court. The parties settled out-of-court. In September 1915, the school board agreed to construct another Stanton High School on the same site. The new building was opened for classes in the fall of 1917.

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1919 — Two black men, Bowman Cook and John Morine, were arrested and charged with the murder of white insurance manager, George W. DuBose, the brother of Justice of the Peace, John W. DuBose. The murder of DuBose occurred on August 20, 1919 at the intersection of North Broad Street and West Ashley Street in LaVilla.

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Weeks later, another black man, Edward Jones, was charged with criminal assault on a thirteen year old white girl. Duval County Sheriff William H. Dowling heard rumors of a possible lynching and assumed the intended victim to be Ed Jones. In response, Sheriff Dowling took Ed Jones down to St. Augustine one evening to be placed in the St. Johns County jail. While the sheriff was traveling to St. Augustine, the jailor, A.C. Tucker, was dragged out of the jail by a group of armed men masked with handkerchiefs. Tucker estimated that eight or so men were involved. The vigilante group asked that Ed Jones be released to them.

Once informed that Ed Jones was taken to St. Augustine, the group of men commanded Tucker to release Morine and Cook. Five automobiles including the one with Cook and Morine, left the jail. Tucker and Chief Deputy Sheriff Frank A. Edwards contacted Sheriff Dowling about the incident who immediately left for Jacksonville. At 1:30 AM, residents living in the area around North Main Street and Cemetery Road heard several shots and saw cars speeding out of the area. On investigating the area, residents found the bullet riddled body of Morine. A motorist driving down North Hogan Street discovered Cook's body in front of the Windsor Hotel in Downtown Jacksonville. It appeared he had been shot once and his body dragged by an automobile before being dumped in front of the hotel. Although the lynching was widely condemned by political, business and religious leaders, no witnesses came forward to provide any information on the identity of the perpetrators. Tucker stated he did not recognize any of the men that kidnapped Morine and Cook. A grand jury was called to investigate the removal and lynching of the two men; however no one was ever charged with the hideous crime.

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 Florida's governor reads, "~~Advertized~~~~Advertised~~ 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

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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.”~~
- ~~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.~~

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1935 — A. L. Lewis develops American Beach, in Nassau County The Only Black Beach in the South. **1936** — Boy Scout pioneer, David H. Dwight, Sr. -became the first African American in the country to receive the Silver Beaver, scouting's highest award. Dwight received the honor after he successfully led a campaign for African American boys to join the organization and to be allowed to wear the official Boy Scout uniform, as well as opening a Boy Scout camp at New Berlin.

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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.

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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.

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~~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 ~~1946~~ of 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 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.

~~The son of General Dennis Taylor, Porcher Taylor, Sr. (1903-1964) was probably named after Peter Porcher L'Engle, the son of Francis Fatio L'Engle and Charlotte Johnson Porcher from Charleston, South Carolina. Peter Porcher L'Engle's father, Francis, was instrumental in the formation of the Town of LaVilla in 1869. After graduating from Stanton High School, Porcher Taylor, Sr., attended Tuskegee Institute receiving a degree in 1922. A year later he married Mary Virginia Bell of Albany, Georgia. He continued his education receiving a law degree from LaSalle University in Chicago. Before attending Tuskegee, Porcher worked as a pressman for the Florida Sentinel. After graduating from college, came back to Jacksonville and worked for a short time as a writer for the Afro American Life Insurance Company. Forming the Taylor and Son Printing Shop in 1934 located at 614 North Broad Street, Porcher began publishing the Florida Tattler in 1934. Printed to serve Jacksonville's black community, the Florida Tattler~~

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~~-was modeled after the~~

~~Broadway~~

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~~-in New York. Working out of the Knights of Pythias Buildi~~

~~ng, the~~

~~Florida Tattler~~

~~-published both~~

~~fie~~

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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. (I believe was successful)

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- 1948** Jacksonville native and mason by trade, Wilson Armstrong ran ~~in 1948~~ to represent the majority black 5th ~~Ward~~ **Five** in the ~~e~~City ~~e~~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.
- 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.

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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 Gamer, and Felix Mantilla. The attendance ~~at games~~ ~~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~~ ~~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 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.**~~

~~**1955** — **With the creation of the Jacksonville Expressway Authority by the state legislature in 1955, a seventy million dollar bond program was initiated in 1957 for the purposes of extending I-95 south from Dunn Avenue across the Fuller Warren Bridge to the southside. In addition to the construction of the Trout River Bridge and the development of the 20th Street Expressway from U.S. 1 to Haines Street, the bond program also included extending I-10 from I-95 west to Lane Avenue. The entire bond project required the acquisition of approximately 2,594 parcels located in and along the right-of-way. In addition to the acquisition and**~~

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demolition of houses along the west boundary of Hansontown and Sugar Hill, the east side of Durkeeville, and all of Campbell's Hill, the construction of I-95 eventually resulted in the loss of Wilder Park, the third and largest public park developed specifically for the African American community. In addition, expressway construction resulted in physically dividing neighborhood destroying connectivity.

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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 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. (West 13th Street & North Myrtle Avenue). 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

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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 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

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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 Elementary Schools.
- 1963** On December 1, 1963 at the 1/2 mile dirt track of Jacksonville's Speedway Park in west Jacksonville, 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 Godfrey, 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

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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 the 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 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 Chappell, 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 losses, 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.

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1968 **Marshalling support for the consolidation of the city and county in the African American community was challenging since the population of blacks in the City of Jacksonville was substantial and growing as whites left for the surrounding suburbs. However, with consolidation the population of blacks in the city would represent only 40 percent of the total number of voters. In response, black supporters of Consolidation emphasized that three of the proposed City Council districts would have a majority population of black voters. By creating a more efficient government with a stronger tax base, consolidation would also result in more infrastructural improvements in black communities. A major snag occurred in the consolidation campaign when it was discovered that the proposed district maps would place Singleton and Mathis in the same district. Many blacks saw this obstacle as a deliberate action to eliminate one black seat while others attributed it to opponents of consolidation as a way to reduce support in the African American communities. Although the map was adjusted to place them in two separate districts, Mary Singleton was concerned enough about the situation to drop her support of consolidation. However, a majority of black voters supported consolidation which reflected a general desire for a more efficient and fair government and more black representation on the City Council.**

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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.

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

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1969 **After approval by the state legislature in 1969, the City of Jacksonville began to participate in the Federal urban renewal program. Initiated in four phases during the 1970's, the Hogans Creek urban renewal project in conjunction with earlier**

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expressway construction and later institutional expansion resulted in the demolition of the majority of houses, businesses, and churches that constituted Hansontown and Sugar Hill. Although new residential units did not make a significant presence until much later, the urban renewal project did clear significant parcels to accommodate major institutional expansion. Presently, most of the Sugar Hill area is occupied by the extensive campus of Shands at Jacksonville, that originally included Methodist Hospital (Brewster Hospital), University Hospital, and St. Luke's Hospital. Most of Hansontown has been incorporated into the spacious campus of the Downtown Campus of the Florida Community College of Jacksonville that line most of the north side of West State Street from North Main Street west to North Jefferson Street. In more recent years, the old Blodgett Public Housing Complex was completely removed in order to accommodate the campus of a new state office complex, which is bounded on the north by new housing.

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- 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~~Sheriff's 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 successfully convinced respected business and community leader, Clanzel Brown (J.J. Daniel ?) 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

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formed under the joint supervision of J.J. Daniel, Dr. Andrew Robinson, and Alton Yates. 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 in the 1950s and 1960s, as reflected in the annual *Status of Blacks in Jacksonville, 1977*, 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

1999 In an act of environmental justice, the City of Jacksonville began making mitigation plans for some of the 300 or so dumps and landfills across the city. Some of the most contaminated sites were the location of three incinerators in operation from the 1940s to the late 1960s, all placed in predominately African American neighborhoods. The incinerators included McCoy's Creek in Mixontown, West 5th and Cleveland Street in Durkeeville and one in the south Jacksonville neighborhood of Pine Forest. Contaminated ash from these incinerators was also dumped in adjacent neighborhoods such as Brown's Dump around West 33rd Street and Pearce Street and Lonnie Park, Moncrief Road at Soutel Drive. The contamination resulted in the closer of two schools and polluted the grounds of two active parks.

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~~**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.~~

~~**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.~~

~~**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.~~

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DRAFT

Tim Gilmore—collation of three lists, mine including sources

Where is input item from Chris Hand?

Items for Discussion of Jacksonville Civil Rights Timeline

April 1816 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.”

Brown, Jr. Canter Ossian Bing Hart: Florida’s Loyalist Reconstructionist Governor. LSU Press, 1997.

Gilmore, Tim The Book of Isaiah: A Vision of the Founder of a City. JaxPsychoGeo Books, 2017.

1864 In the Union’s fourth occupation of Jacksonville, United States Colored Troops occupy an encampment from McCoy’s Creek to Hogan’s Creek, as a defensive line against Confederate advancement from Olustee. Camp Foster, manned by USCT, is located in what soon becomes Brooklyn, near the intersection of Jackson and Magnolia Streets.

Cassanello, Robert. To Render Invisible: Jim Crow and Public Life in New South Jacksonville. University Press of Florida, 2013.

Fall 1865 White officers of the USCT’s 3rd regiment hang a black soldier by his thumbs on the Jacksonville parade grounds, a routine punishment for petty theft. A black private named Jacob Plowden raises a musket against Lieutenant Edmund P. Barker. What ensues has been called the Jacksonville Munity of 1865. Plowden and five other United States Colored Troops are summarily executed. Another seven receive 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.

Jacksonville Historic Landmarks Commission, McEachin, Joel and Wayne Wood. Jacksonville’s Architectural Heritage. University Press of Florida, 1989.

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 envisions a plan where Hansontown residents could work crops communally.

Kenney, Patricia Drozd, "LaVilla, Florida, 1866-1887: Reconstruction Dreams and the Formation of a Black Community" (1990). UNF Theses and Dissertations. 699. <http://digitalcommons.unf.edu/etd/699>.

1866 The African Methodist Episcopal Church founds Edward Waters College, now the oldest HBCU in Florida.

“Edward Waters College: Historical Sketch,” The Negro College Quarterly, Special Issue: Institutions of Higher Learning among Negroes in the United States of America. Wilberforce University, 1947

1868 W.T. Garvin becomes the first black City Councilman. Between 1868 and 1889, during Reconstruction, seven other black City Councilmen will be elected.

Bartley, Abel A. Keeping the Faith: Race, Politics, and Social Development in Jacksonville, Florida, 1940-1970. Westport: Greenwood Press, 2000.

1868 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.

Bartley, Abel A. Keeping the Faith: Race, Politics, and Social Development in Jacksonville, Florida, 1940-1970. Westport: Greenwood Press, 2000.

1888 Abram Grant, a former slave who escaped twice and joined the Union Army, moves to Jacksonville and is elected 19th Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. <https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/143142>

1889 Liberian activist and pan-Africanist Edward Wilmot Blyden visits Jacksonville, staying at the house of Squire English in LaVilla.

Gilmore, Tim. In Search of Eartha White, Storehouse for the People. JaxPsychoGeo Books, 2014

Smith, Peter Dunbaugh. “Ashley Street Blues: Racial Uplift and the Commodification of Vernacular Performance in LaVilla, Florida, 1896-1916.” (2006) FSU Theses and Dissertations. <https://diginole.lib.fsu.edu/islandora/object/fsu:168486/datastream/PDF/view>

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.

“Florida Memorial University,” Encyclopedia of the African Diaspora: Origins, Experiences, and Culture. Edited by Carole Elizabeth Boyce Davies, ABC-CLO, 2008.

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. It's this cultural movement that makes possible Jim Crow laws.

Gilmore, Tim. “Springfield: Confederate Park: Monument “In Memory of our Women of the Southland.” JaxPsychoGeo.com, 24 March 2018, <https://jaxpsychogeo.com/north/springfield-confederate-park-monument-in-memory-of-our-women-of-the-southland/>.

Jacksonville Historic Landmarks Commission, McEachin, Joel and Wayne Wood. *Jacksonville's Architectural Heritage*. University Press of Florida, 1989.

1898 The American Mutoscope and Biograph Company records and catalogues for sale film footage of the lynching of a black man in Jacksonville, most likely Edward Heinson, accused of "criminal assault" of a 14 year old white girl. The film was advertised as *An Execution by Hanging*. The company catalogued and sold the film at least until 1902, describing it as "a very ghastly, but interesting subject." The description further noted, "[T]he body is seen to shoot through the air and hang quivering at the end of the rope."

<https://catalog.afi.com/Catalog/moviedetails/44301>

1899 At 7420 Roscoe Avenue, Eartha White builds and teaches at the first black schoolhouse in Southern Duval County.

Gilmore, Tim. *In Search of Eartha White, Storehouse for the People*. JaxPsychoGeo Books, 2014.

Jacksonville Historic Landmarks Commission, McEachin, Joel and Wayne Wood. *Jacksonville's Architectural Heritage*. University Press of Florida, 1989.

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 A. *Keeping the Faith: Race, Politics, and Social Development in Jacksonville, Florida, 1940-1970*. Westport: Greenwood Press, 2000.

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 Ev'ry Voice and Sing," which later becomes known, informally and not by the Johnson brothers' wishes, as the "Negro National Anthem."

Johnson, James W. *Along This Way: The Autobiography of James Weldon Johnson*. New York: Viking Press, 1968.

<http://www.pbs.org/black-culture/explore/black-authors-spoken-word-poetry/lift-every-voice-and-sing/>

1900 Manhattan Beach, now part of Hanna Park, opens to black beachgoers.

Phelts, Marsha. *An American Beach for African Americans*. University Press of Florida, 1997.

1900 Lawton Pratt forms what's now the oldest funeral home in Florida, initially the Lawton Pratt, then Hillman-Pratt, and now Hillman-Pratt and Walton Funeral Home on West Beaver Street in LaVilla.

<https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/839>

1901 After the Great Fire of 1901, the Duval County School Board hires Richard Lewis Brown, the city's first black architect, as its chief builder and repairman, and in the next decade, he constructs several new schools for which no architect is recorded. One such school was Public School No. 8, later named J. Allen Axson, near East 17th and Franklin Streets. Brown is likely the school's architect. He later works with white architects on Centennial Hall at Edward Waters College and designs Mt. Olive African Methodist Episcopal Church on Franklin Street.

Gilmore, Tim. "Fairfield: Mount Olive A.M.E. Church" *JaxPsychoGeo.com*, 27 February 2016, <https://jaxpsychogeo.com/the-center-of-the-city/fairfield-mount-olive-a-m-e-church/>

Jacksonville Historic Landmarks Commission, McEachin, Joel and Wayne Wood. *Jacksonville's Architectural Heritage*. University Press of Florida, 1989

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.

Sessions, B.J. *A Charge to Keep: Brewster Hospital, Brewster Methodist Hospital, Brewster Hospital School of Nursing, Brewster-Duval School of Nursing, 1901-1966*. Brewster and Community Alumni Nurses Association, 1996.

1902 Eartha White builds what she first calls the "Colored Old Folks' Home" at 1627 Milnor Street.

Crooks, James B. *Jacksonville after the Fire, 1901-1919: A New South City*. University Press of Florida, 1991.

Gilmore, Tim. *In Search of Eartha White, Storehouse for the People*. JaxPsychoGeo Books, 2014

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!*

Crooks, James B. *Jacksonville after the Fire, 1901-1919: A New South City*. University Press of Florida, 1991.

Gilmore, Tim. *In Search of Eartha White, Storehouse for the People*. JaxPsychoGeo Books, 2014

1914 At least 48,000 Confederate veterans rally in Springfield's Dignan Park. The Jim Crow laws of the South are made possibly by the cultural movement known as the "Lost Cause."

Gilmore, Tim. "Springfield: Confederate Park: Monument "In Memory of our Women of the Southland." *JaxPsychoGeo.com*, 24 March 2018, <https://jaxpsychogeo.com/north/springfield-confederate-park-monument-in-memory-of-our-women-of-the-southland/>.

Jacksonville Historic Landmarks Commission, McEachin, Joel and Wayne Wood. *Jacksonville's Architectural Heritage*. University Press of Florida, 1989.

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, but it's this cultural movement that enabled Jim Crow legislation.

Gilmore, Tim. "Springfield: Confederate Park: Monument "In Memory of our Women of the Southland." *JaxPsychoGeo.com*, 24 March 2018, <https://jaxpsychogeo.com/north/springfield-confederate-park-monument-in-memory-of-our-women-of-the-southland/>.

Jacksonville Historic Landmarks Commission, McEachin, Joel and Wayne Wood. *Jacksonville's Architectural Heritage*. University Press of Florida, 1989.

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 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.

Gilmore, Tim. In Search of Eartha White, Storehouse for the People. JaxPsychoGeo Books, 2014.

Ortiz, Paul. Emancipation Betrayed: The Hidden History of Black Organizing and White Violence in Florida from Reconstruction to the Bloody Election of 1920. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005.

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.

<http://normanstudios.org/>

Bean, Shawn C. The First Hollywood: Florida and the Golden Age of Silent Filmmaking. University Press of Florida, 2008

1922 Eartha White becomes the Florida director of the National Anti-Lynching Committee and pushes for anti-lynching legislation.

Gilmore, Tim. In Search of Eartha White, Storehouse for the People. JaxPsychoGeo Books, 2014

1922 Douglas Anderson leads the effort to convince the Duval County School Board to build a school for black children on the Southside of Jacksonville. It opens as South Jacksonville Grammar School, and Anderson leads the school's free bus transportation service. In 1945, the school board renames it the Douglas Anderson School.

<https://jaxpsychogeo.com/south/pine-forest/>

1924 James E. Whittington of Jacksonville, Lawton Pratt of Jacksonville, Charles Chestnut of Gainesville, and other black funeral directors from across the state form the Florida Negro Embalmers' and Morticians' Association, today's Florida Mortician's Association.

<http://www.floridamorticians.org/our-history.html>

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.

Bair, Barbara. "Ethiopia Shall Stretch Forth Her Hands unto God': Laura Kofey and the Gendered Vision of Redemption in the Garvey Movement." *A Mighty Baptism: Race, Gender and the Creation of American Protestantism*, Cornell University Press, 1996.

1926 Eartha White serves in fundraising capacities for the Community Chest, which helps take care of the ill and homeless.

Crooks, James B. *Jacksonville after the Fire, 1901-1919: A New South City*. University Press of Florida, 1991.

Gilmore, Tim. *In Search of Eartha White, Storehouse for the People*. JaxPsychoGeo Books, 2014

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."

Gilmore, Tim. *In Search of Eartha White, Storehouse for the People*. JaxPsychoGeo Books, 2014.

Loeb, Charles H. "The Clara White Mission: What It Is and What It Means to Jacksonville," *The Friend*, June 1933.

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.

Gilmore, Tim. *In Search of Eartha White, Storehouse for the People*. JaxPsychoGeo Books, 2014.

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.

Gilmore, Tim. *In Search of Eartha White, Storehouse for the People*. JaxPsychoGeo Books, 2014.

WPA field recordings in Key West and Jacksonville (January 1940 recording expedition)
<https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/238032>

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.

Crooks, James B. Jacksonville after the Fire, 1901-1919: A New South City. University Press of Florida, 1991.

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.

Gilmore, Tim. "Adorkaville." JaxPsychoGeo.com, 27 December 2015, <https://jaxpsychogeo.com/north/adorkaville/>.

1946 Stetson Kennedy visits the House Un-American Activities Committee asking them to investigate the Ku Klux Klan. The HUAAC refuses.

Kennedy, Stetson. The Klan Unmasked. University Press of Florida (2nd ed.) 1990.

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—

Committee of the Council of Social Agencies. Jacksonville Looks at its Negro Community: a Survey of Conditions Affecting the Negro Population in Jacksonville and Duval County, Florida, Southern Regional Council, Inc., 1946.

1947—of the Jacksonville Urban League. 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.

Bartley, Abel A. Keeping the Faith: Race, Politics, and Social Development in Jacksonville, Florida, 1940-1970. Westport: Greenwood Press, 2000.

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.

Associated Press. "Poll Shows Little Support for White Primary Bill," Miami News, March 8, 1947.

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

Ortiz, Paul. *Emancipation Betrayed: The Hidden History of Black Organizing and White Violence in Florida from Reconstruction to the Bloody Election of 1920*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005.

<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.

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 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.

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.

Gilmore, Tim. "Magnolia Gardens / Gardenvale: St. Paul Lutheran Church." *JaxPsychoGeo.com*, 27 March 2017, <https://jaxpsychogeo.com/north/magnolia-gardens-gardenvale-st-paul-lutheran-church/>.

1964 After Donal 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:

Gilmore, Tim. "Lackawanna Elementary School." *JaxPsychoGeo.com*, 27 May 2017, <https://jaxpsychogeo.com/west/lackawanna-elementary-school/>.

Gilmore, Tim. "J.B. Stoner and the KKK." *JaxPsychoGeo.com*, 27 May 2017, <https://jaxpsychogeo.com/all-over-town/j-b-stoner-and-the-kkk/>.

Gilmore, Tim. "Murray Hill Heights: KKK Bombing Site: Donal Godfrey's House," *JaxPsychoGeo.com*, 27, May, 2017, <https://jaxpsychogeo.com/west/murray-hill-heights-kkk-bombing-site-donal-godfreys-house//>.

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.

Input Items from Genaro Urso

Prince Hall Masons Incorporate

June 17, 1870 in the city of Jacksonville, Florida, a general assembly of the Craft was called to meet, presided over by the RW Charles F. Dailey, Deputy Grand Master for the Southern Jurisdiction, under Hiram Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, with RW Charles H. Pierce as Grand Secretary. The convention lasted two days. A code of laws for the jurisdiction was adopted and the lodges were consolidated, renumbered, and chartered by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Florida. AYM 1st African American Fraternal Organization incorporated in Florida

Ku Klux Klan Hearings

1871 Florida Regulators Under the Name Young Democratic Club was exposed as the Ku Klux Klan during congressional hearings held In Jacksonville Florida.

G.A.R.

June 19th, 1884 O. M. Mitchell Post of the Grand Army of the Republic was formed in Jacksonville FL.

The Grand Army of The Republic was the 1st integrated veterans association

The Grand army fought for voting rights and veteran benefits for African Americans who served in the USCT

Josiah T Walls

1871 A veteran of the 3rd Regiment of the USCT in Jacksonville Florida becomes the 1st African American to serve the United State Congress from Florida

Masonic Temple, Most Worshipful Union Grand Lodge PHA

Masonic Temple Jacksonville, FL. The Masonic Temple (also known as Masonic Temple, Most Worshipful Union Grand Lodge PHA) is a historic site in Jacksonville, Florida. Constructed by the Grand Lodge between 1912- 1916. it was added to the U.S. National Register of Historic Places on September 22, 1980. # 80000949. The architects were Mark and Sheftall. The building currently contains retail space and non-masonic office space as well as the offices and meeting rooms for the Most Worshipful Union Grand Lodge of Florida and Belize. One of the 1st African American multi-level building in the south and was one of the significant building of its kind when erected.

Jonathan C. Gibbs

Served November 6, 1868 to January 17, 1873, as Secretary of State. Served January 23, 1873, to his death on August 14, 1874 as Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Chief Justice Leander Shaw

Leander Jerry Shaw Jr. (September 6, 1930 – December 14, 2015) was an American jurist who served on the Florida Supreme Court from 1983 until 2003. He was Chief Justice from 1990 to 1992.

Jacksonville's First African-American Lawyer: Joseph E. Lee

Joseph E. Lee was one of the most influential African-American men in Florida during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. For over four decades, Lee worked as a public servant, acting at various times as a state legislator, a lawyer, federal customs collector, and educator.

Final Input Items from Joel McEachin

INTRODUCTION:

Starting in the middle of the nineteenth century and on into the twentieth, state-sanctioned segregation became the law of the land that affected all aspects of American life. Blacks suffered a loss of political power due to disenfranchisement caused by confusing multi-ballots, grandfather clauses, and gerrymandering of electoral districts. Nevertheless, many blacks did not accept the status quo and continued to actively and passively resist by various means including lawsuits, boycotts, strikes, and mass migration. Usually with the tacit support of law enforcement, white reaction often turned violent with blacks subject to intimidation, property loss, injuries, and death. The timeline below is a list of events and actions in Jacksonville that directly attacked segregation and inequality in its various forms. It also includes examples of deplorable and racist actions taken by whites to maintain this inequality or to further tighten the grip of segregation.

- 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** With the end of the Civil War and the start of Reconstruction, the federal government began enacting sweeping political changes aimed at improving conditions for recently freed African Americans. These actions allowed African American men to vote and hold public office for the first time. Branches of the Freedmen's Bureau were also established in Southern cities and towns such as Jacksonville to provide assistance and protection for these new citizens.
- 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, 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.
- 1889** In response to the continued presence of Republicans, particularly African Americans, in public office and to attack Mayor C.B. Smith's lack of leadership particularly during the 1888 yellow fever epidemic, a successful initiative was launched by white political and business leaders in 1889 culminating in House Bill # 4 that changed the charter in order to relinquish local elections of City

Council members, and allow them to be appointed by the governor. The appointed City Council would continue to have the authority to appoint other officers including the mayor. Governor Francis Fleming, a Jacksonville native, appointed 11 Democrats and 7 Republicans to the City Council that in turn elected Patrick McQuaid, a conservative Democrat, as mayor. Although only in effect until 1893, House Bill # 4, along with a growing number of Jim Crow laws and gerrymandering of wards, greatly diluted African American political power, significantly reducing their involvement in local politics until the Civil Rights movement of the 1960's.

- 1901** The City of Jacksonville enacted an ordinance mandating the separation of blacks and whites on the city streetcars. The statute was legally challenged by black Jacksonville lawyer, Judson Douglas Wetmore who successfully overturned the ordinance, a decision that was upheld by the Florida Supreme Court. The City soon modified the ordinance to overcome the legal basis for Wetmore's suit which allowed for the separation of races on the street cars to be implemented.
- 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 occurred on May 3rd destroying most of Downtown Jacksonville. Although most of LaVilla was spared, there were charges that firemen concentrated their efforts to protect white owned rental houses rather than nearby Stanton School.
- 1901,** While leading relief efforts in the black communities, James Weldon Johnson experienced a disturbing and pivotal event in his life. While working at a commissary depot to serve victims of the fire, Johnson agreed to an interview by an African American female writer with a very light complexion who was producing a piece on the fire and its efforts on the black population. Johnson arranged for the interview to occur out of the hot and ash filled downtown area to the cooler and quieter comforts of a new waterfront park recently purchased by the city. Mistaking the writer as white, the streetcar conductor that delivered them to the Riverside neighborhood reported their presence to the militia patrolling downtown. A hostile group of soldiers quickly surrounded Johnson with some of them calling for the group to kill him on the spot. However, the lieutenant in command quickly established control, and the provost marshal later released Johnson and his companion. The incident greatly disturbed Johnson for weeks and contributed to his leaving Jacksonville for good.
- 1907** The last year that African American, City Council member George Ross, served in Jacksonville's city government because of Jim Crow Laws until 1967.
- 1915** As a part of the 1915 bond proposal, the school board for the second time planned to eliminate Stanton School and replace it with smaller schools in

different locations. In response, the trustees along with prominent members of the black community responded with a petition to the school board on February 23, 1915. The petition requested that an equitable portion of the bond money provide a new Stanton that would be adequate for the county's black population in its original location. When the school board refused, the trustees responded by filing an injunction in Circuit Court. The parties settled out-of-court. In September 1915, the school board agreed to construct another Stanton High School on the same site. The new building was opened for classes in the fall of 1917.

1919

Two black men, Bowman Cook and John Morine, were arrested and charged with the murder of white insurance manager, George W. DuBose, the brother of Justice of the Peace, John W. DuBose. The murder of DuBose occurred on August 20, 1919 at the intersection of North Broad Street and West Ashley Street in LaVilla. Weeks later, another black man, Edward Jones, was charged with criminal assault on a thirteen year old white girl. Duval County Sheriff William H. Dowling heard rumors of a possible lynching and assumed the intended victim to be Ed Jones. In response, Sheriff Dowling took Ed Jones down to St. Augustine one evening to be placed in the St. Johns County jail. While the sheriff was traveling to St. Augustine, the jailor, A.C. Tucker, was dragged out of the jail by a group of armed men masked with handkerchiefs. Tucker estimated that eight or so men were involved. The vigilante group asked that Ed Jones be released to them.

Once informed that Ed Jones was taken to St. Augustine, the group of men commanded Tucker to release Morine and Cook. Five automobiles including the one with Cook and Morine, left the jail. Tucker and Chief Deputy Sheriff Frank A. Edwards contacted Sheriff Dowling about the incident who immediately left for Jacksonville. At 1:30 AM, residents living in the area around North Main Street and Cemetery Road heard several shots and saw cars speeding out of the area. On investigating the area, residents found the bullet riddled body of Morine. A motorist driving down North Hogan Street discovered Cook's body in front of the Windsor Hotel in Downtown Jacksonville. It appeared he had been shot once and his body dragged by an automobile before being dumped in front of the hotel. Although the lynching was widely condemned by political, business and religious leaders, no witnesses came forward to provide any information on the identity of the perpetrators. Tucker stated he did not recognize any of the men that kidnapped Morine and Cook. A grand jury was called to investigate the removal and lynching of the two men; however no one was ever charged with the hideous crime.

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

Florida's governor reads, "Advertised 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.

- 1936** Boy Scout pioneer, David H. Dwight, Sr. became the first African American in the country to receive the Silver Beaver, scouting's highest award. Dwight received the honor after he successfully led a campaign for African American boys to join the organization and to be allowed to wear the official Boy Scout uniform, as well as opening a Boy Scout camp at New Berlin.
- 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.
- 1945** With the encouragement of the Jacksonville Chapter of the NAACP, Reverend Dallas Graham went to the Duval County Courthouse on March 13 where he 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** 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** 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** 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. (I believe was successful)
- 1948** Jacksonville native and mason by trade, Wilson Armstrong ran to represent the majority black Ward Five 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.
See <https://jaxpsychogeo.com/all-over-town/jax-klux-klan-politix/>
- 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.

- 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 Gainer, 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.
- 1955** With the creation of the Jacksonville Expressway Authority by the state legislature in 1955, a seventy million dollar bond program was initiated in 1957 for the purposes of extending I-95 south from Dunn Avenue across the Fuller Warren Bridge to the southside. In addition to the construction of the Trout River Bridge and the development of the 20th Street Expressway from U.S. 1 to Haines Street, the bond program also included extending I-10 from I-95 west to Lane Avenue. The entire bond project required the acquisition of approximately 2,594 parcels located in and along the right-of-way. In addition to the acquisition and demolition of houses along the west boundary of Hansontown and Sugar Hill, the east side of Durkeeville, and all of Campbell's Hill, the construction of I-95 eventually resulted in the loss of Wilder Park, the third and largest public park developed specifically for the African American community. In addition, expressway construction resulted in physically dividing neighborhood destroying connectivity.
- 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 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. (West 13th Street & North Myrtle Avenue). 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 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, county jail and prison farm. To avoid the lawsuit, the County Commissioners agreed to the desegregation of those facilities.
- 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 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 Elementary Schools.
- 1963** On December 1, 1963 at the ½ mile dirt track of Jacksonville's Speedway Park in west Jacksonville, 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.
- 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 Godfrey, 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 the 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 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.
- 1968** Marshalling support for the consolidation of the city and county in the African American community was challenging since the population of blacks in the City of Jacksonville was substantial and growing as whites left for the surrounding suburbs. However, with consolidation the population of blacks in the city would represent only 40 percent of the total number of voters. In response, black supporters of Consolidation emphasized that three of the proposed City Council districts would have a majority population of black voters. By creating a more efficient government with a stronger tax base, consolidation would also result in more infrastructural improvements in black communities. A major snag occurred in the consolidation campaign when it was discovered that the proposed district maps would place Singleton and Mathis in the same district. Many blacks saw this obstacle as a deliberate action to eliminate one black seat while others

attributed it to opponents of consolidation as a way to reduce support in the African American communities. Although the map was adjusted to place them in two separate districts, Mary Singleton was concerned enough about the situation to drop her support of consolidation. However, a majority of black voters supported consolidation which reflected a general desire for a more efficient and fair government and more black representation on the City Council.

- 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 containing many sound suggestions, the report produced by the special committee was never seriously implemented.
- 1969** After approval by the state legislature in 1969, the City of Jacksonville began to participate in the Federal urban renewal program. Initiated in four phases during the 1970's, the Hogans Creek urban renewal project in conjunction with earlier expressway construction and later institutional expansion resulted in the demolition of the majority of houses, businesses, and churches that constituted Hansontown and Sugar Hill. Although new residential units did not make a significant presence until much later, the urban renewal project did clear significant parcels to accommodate major institutional expansion. Presently, most of the Sugar Hill area is occupied by the extensive campus of Shands at Jacksonville, that originally included Methodist Hospital (Brewster Hospital), University Hospital, and St. Luke's Hospital. Most of Hansontown has been incorporated into the spacious campus of the Downtown Campus of the Florida Community College of Jacksonville that line most of the north side of West State Street from North Main Street west to North Jefferson Street. In more recent years, the old Blodgett Public Housing Complex was completely removed in order to accommodate the campus of a new state office complex, which is bounded on the north by new housing.
- 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 Sheriff's 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 successfully convinced respected business and community leader, Clanzel Brown (J.J. Daniel ?) 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, Dr. Andrew Robinson and Alton Yates. 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 in the 1950s and 1960s as reflected in the annual *Status of Blacks in Jacksonville, 1977*, 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
- 1999** In an act of environmental justice, the City of Jacksonville began making mitigation plans for some of the 300 or so dumps and landfills across the city. Some of the most contaminated sites were the location of three incinerators in operation from the 1940s to the late 1960s, all placed in predominately African American neighborhoods. The incinerators included McCoy's Creek in Mixontown, West 5th and Cleveland Street in Durkeeville and one in the south Jacksonville neighborhood of Pine Forest. Contaminated ash from these incinerators was also dumped in adjacent neighborhoods such as Brown's Dump around West 33rd Street and Pearce Street and Lonnie Park, Moncrief Road at Soutel Drive. The contamination resulted in the closer of two schools and polluted the grounds of two active parks.

REVISED LIST – MAY 3, 2018

**PROPERTIES OWNED BY THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE THAT HAS
SIGNIFICANCE IN BLACK HISTORY (April 11, 2018)**

1. The Old City Cemetery – 600 Block of East Union Street.
2. James Weldon & John Rosamond Johnson Birth Site and where *Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing* was composed – Northwest corner of North Lee Street and Houston Street.
3. Hemming Park- Block bounded by Duval, Laura, Monroe and Hogan Streets.
4. Brewster Hospital – 843 West Monroe Street.
5. Mallison Park – Site of Lincoln Park – 3100 Block of Lenox Avenue.
6. 601 Ashley Street – Site of the Airdome (first publicized blues performance).
7. Confederate Park – 1000 block of North Main Street.
8. Emmett Reed Community Center – 1093 West 6th Street (Old Mount Herman Cemetery).
9. Genovar's Hall – 636-648 West Ashley Street.
10. Oakland Playground – Northwest corner of East Union Street and Ionia Street.
11. Norman Film Studios – 6337 Arlington Road.
12. LaVilla Park – Bounded by West Beaver, Eaverson and West Church Streets.
13. James P. Small Memorial Stadium (Durkee Field) – Southeast corner of West 8th Street and North Myrtle Avenue.
14. Three shotgun houses – Northeast corner of North Jefferson and West Church Streets.
15. Ritz Theatre – 829 North Davis Street.
16. Catherine Street Fire Station (fire museum) 1406 Gator Bowl Boulevard.
17. Old St. Joseph School – Walter Jones Historical Park (Mandarin).
18. Hanna Park – Site of Manhattan Beach.
19. Old Duval County Armory – 851 North Market Street.

20. Jefferson Street Swimming Pool and Police Substation- West 4th & North Jefferson.Streets.
21. Snyder Memorial Methodist Church – 226 North Laura Street.
22. St. James Building (Cohen Brothers) – 117 West Duval Street.
23. Everbank Field (Gator Bowl)

St. Augustine had a multi-ethnic population composed of three main groups: Spaniards, Africans, and Native-Americans.

Intermarriage and godparenting occurred between members of these groups.

Spaniards: Most Spanish men in St. Augustine were soldiers. Some also worked as traders, merchants, and craftsmen. The most important person in the colony was the governor, who was always a high ranking military officer. He lived with his family in Government House on the Plaza. Women married to military officers or wealthy merchants did not work. Less well off women worked as tavernkeepers, seamstresses, bakers, and laundresses.

African-Americans: The first Africans to settle in Florida were slaves who arrived with Pedro de Menendez in 1565. Though most African-Americans in St. Augustine during the 17th century were slaves, there was a free black population. African-Americans worked as soldiers, blacksmiths, cattlemen, carpenters, bakers, seamstresses, laundresses, and tavernkeepers. At the beginning of the 18th century, the free black population of St. Augustine increased as the Spanish encouraged slaves in the British colonies of South Carolina and Georgia to escape to Florida. Upon arrival in St. Augustine, runaway slaves converted to Catholicism and could attain their freedom. British plantation owners were furious at Spanish interference in their affairs and frequently attacked Florida. In 1738, the Spanish governor organized a free black militia and stationed it about two miles north of St. Augustine as a first line of defense against British attacks. This free black settlement, which was comprised of about 38 soldiers and their families, was named Gracia Real de Santa Teresa de Mose. Known as Fort Mose, this was the first free black community in what is now the United States.

Native-Americans: By 1633, all of the Native-Americans in Northeast Florida lived in mission villages. After the mission system outside St. Augustine was destroyed by the British in 1702, most Native-Americans under Spanish influence lived in mission villages close to town. They grew crops and supplied food to the townspeople. Some native-Americans intermarried with the Spanish, moved into the town, and became completely integrated into Spanish society. Native Americans worked as harbor pilots, cattleherders, soldiers, laundresses, and seamstresses.

In 1763, Spain was forced to cede Florida to Britain.

In the Seven Years War (1756-1763), which was fought in Europe and in the Americas, Spain sided with France against Britain. Britain emerged victorious, and, at the Treaty of Paris in 1763, forced the Spanish to give up Florida. In return, the Spanish regained Cuba, which the British had captured during the war. The entire population of St. Augustine, which numbered about 3,000, along with the nearby Indian villages and **the free black settlement at Fort Mose, evacuated Florida** and sailed to Cuba. Two hundred years of Spanish rule had come to an end.

During the British Period, hundreds of settlers arrived in East Florida.

East Florida is “happy in a pure air and a fruitful soil, equal to any of our colonies.” – Gentleman’s Magazine (London), January 1763

In spite of some positive publicity, settlers did not immediately flock to Britain’s youngest colony. When James Grant, the first governor of East Florida, arrived in August 1764, he found the place deserted. Almost every single Spaniard had left and the only inhabitants of St. Augustine were British troops stationed at Fort St. Mark’s, which was the British name for the Castillo de San Marcos. A colony without people was worthless to the British, who required all their colonies to be useful and profitable. East Florida had to be filled with loyal settlers who would defend it, and whose taxes would pay for the government of the colony. A populated East Florida would also contribute to the British economy through the export of local raw materials and the import of British-made products.

Generous land grants were offered to people who would come and live in East Florida. Hundreds of settlers came from Georgia, the Carolinas, Virginia, Pennsylvania, England, Scotland, Ireland, and elsewhere. **Many brought African slaves with them.** One Scottish planter brought 1,403 colonists from the Mediterranean. By 1775, East Florida’s population, excluding the military, numbered over 3,000 people. Later, during the American Revolution (1775-1783), the population of East Florida reached 17,000 as a flood of loyalist refugees from Georgia and South Carolina arrived in the colony.

African Slaves did most of the work on East Florida’s plantations.

After experiments with European labor proved unsuccessful, planters became convinced that only African slaves could transform undeveloped land into profitable plantations. Slaves cleared the land, planted and harvested crops, and raised livestock. By 1771, there were over 900 slaves in the colony. Most were brought from Georgia and South Carolina by their owners. Others were imported directly from Africa. Planter Richard Oswald brought three cargoes of slaves from Africa. In 1767, he had 100 slaves on his 20,000 acre plantation on the Timouka River.

Zephaniah Kingsley was a prominent planter and slave trader in Northeast Florida.

Zephaniah Kingsley, Jr. was born to Quaker parents in Charleston, South Carolina, and lived there for most of his youth. The Kingsleys were Loyalists during the American Revolution and moved to Canada after the war. Kingsley eventually returned south to become a West Indies trader. Before he arrived in Florida in 1790, he lived in Brazil, Cuba, and Haiti, and was also an African slave trader. After he settled in Florida, he acquired several rice and cotton plantations along the St. Johns River. He eventually owned over 32,000 acres of land in Florida.

Anna Madgigine Jai, a young African girl, was sold as a slave to Zephaniah Kingsley in 1806.

Anna Madgigine Jai was born in 1793 in Jolof, Senegal to a distinguished and noble family. When she was 13 years old, she was captured by an enemy tribe during a raid and sold to European slave traders. Anna, along with other captives, was shipped to Cuba where she was purchased by Zephaniah Kingsley in 1806. Kingsley brought her to his Laurel Grove plantation (near Doctor's Lake).

Zephaniah Kingsley acknowledged Anna as his wife and partner in his management of his Laurel grove plantation.

"She has always been respected as my wife and as much as I acknowledge her, nor do I think that her truth, honor integrity, moral conduct or good sense will lose in comparison with anyone." Zephaniah Kingsley, Jr.

Though never legally married, Kingsley acknowledged Anna as his wife. He chose Anna to be household manager at his Laurel Grove plantation near Doctor's Lake. In addition, Anna supervised the slaves and managed the plantation when Kingsley was absent. Though she was still legally a slave, Anna bore two sons, George and John Maxwell, and two daughters, Mary and Martha, to Kingsley. Kingsley freed Anna and her children on March 4, 1811, when Anna was 18 years old. As a free woman, Anna petitioned for and received five acres in Mandarin from the Spanish government. She built a home, a farm, and cabins for her 12 slaves. During the Patriot Rebellion of 1813, both Anna's homestead and Kingsley's plantation at Laurel Grove were destroyed.

They both moved to a new plantation on Fort George Island where they lived for the next 23 years. By the 1837, new restrictive slave codes had passed by the government of Florida – now a U.S. territory. Concerned for Anna's welfare and safety, Kingsley sent her and their two sons to Haiti a sanctuary for free blacks. He then sold the plantation to his nephew, Kingsley Beatty Gibbs, in 1839. Anna enjoyed a comfortable life in Haiti for two decades. Kingsley died at the age of 78 while conducting business in New York. Anna returned to Jacksonville sometime after the Civil War. She lived with one of her daughters on a plantation in Arlington until her death in 1870.

Tabby Slave Quarters

Enslaved people on Kingsley Plantation built tabby slave quarters like this one over 200 years ago. The tabby mixture was made of burnt and ground oyster shell, sand and water.

The oyster shells used in tabby came from Native American shell mounds left by the Timucua Indians. Because tabby is such a durable material, the slave quarters at Kingsley Plantation still remain today.

A People Divided: The American Civil War in Jacksonville and Northeast Florida

The major cities and towns of Northeast Florida were all heavily involved in Civil War military actions. The ocean ports, St. Augustine and Fernandina, were captured by Federal forces early in the war and remained as part of the U.S. Naval blockade of the South. Control of the river ports, Jacksonville, Palatka, and Picolata, passed back and forth several times, each change damaging the towns severely. Federal actions on the St. Johns River became known as the “back-door blockade.”

The major ground campaign of the Civil War in Northeast Florida was the Battle of Olustee, February 1864, near Lake City, west along the railroad line from Jacksonville to Tallahassee. The Federal forces, under General Truman Seymour, attempted to cut off supply lines from South Florida to the Confederate armies and to capture Tallahassee. **Confederate troops under Generals Alfred H. Colquitt and Joseph Finegan defeated the Federal forces and drove both the white and black soldiers back to Jacksonville, where they remained to become the military reconstruction occupying army after the eventual defeat of the Confederacy.**

The Steamer *Maple Leaf*, a Federal troop transport vessel sunk by a Confederate mine in the St. Johns River on April 1, 1864, has yielded hundreds of pieces of military equipment. Select items are on display in MOSH's *Maple Leaf* exhibit, **Some elements of the famed 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, the first African-American troops, traveled on this ship, along with thousands of others.**

A “...city of fair proportions...”

The population of Jacksonville and city services began to grow dramatically after the Civil War.

Many former Union officials and soldiers stayed in Florida after the Civil War. **By 1870, 3,989 blacks and 2,923 whites lived in Jacksonville.** The streets of Jacksonville were shaded by immense live and water oaks. Orange and semitropical trees and shrubs flourished. LaVilla, s suburb was incorporated as a town in the eastern section. During the tourist season, the temporary population nearly quadrupled, with many staying on as residents.

Although the city was not legally segregated, African Americans tended to live in separate areas, particularly in the eastern and central sections, close to the saw mills, shipyards, and the business and hotel districts where they worked. In the 1880 census Duval County has a population of 34,775 (14,871 whites and 19,895 blacks). The growth of the black population caused many to move to LaVilla, Oakland, and Hansontown. By 1887 these areas had become predominately black.

Along with this dramatic rise in civilian population, the municipal government also grew to meet its needs. There was a larger bureaucratic staff and more public services, such as road paving, sanitation, utilities, police and fire fighting personnel and equipment.

People Joining Together

The people of Duval County founded many philanthropic organizations and social clubs. During the 19th century, many clubs and organizations were established in Northeast Florida. They reflected the social customs of the time; their membership was usually divided between men and women, young and old, black and white.

There were a range of purposes: from social welfare to purely social. For example, the St. Mary's Home for Orphan Girls was philanthropic the Duplicate Whist Club was social, based on playing a card game.

Some of the larger White organizations listed in the Florida Times-Union in 1898 were:

- YMCA and YWCA
- Loyal Order of the Elks
- Daughters of the American Revolution
- Florida Yacht Club
- Women's Club

African-Americans were excluded from these organizations and faced the growing need for services by founding their own. Some African-Americans organizations of the same time period were:

- Daughters of Israel
- Benevolent Association of Colored Folks
- Colored Orphan's Home Association
- Firemen's Trust
- Colored Auxiliary Bureau

Churches

The late 19th century was an important period for church building.

Before the Civil War, several major denominations established congregations in Jacksonville. Among them was the first Baptist church, which was formed in 1868 by six people, two of whom were slaves. White and black members eventually agreed to form two churches. The white church was the Tabernacle Baptist Church, which in 1892 became the First Baptist Church on Hogan and Church streets. The African-American church was Bethel Baptist in West LaVilla.

The Jacksonville Presbyterian Church was formed in 1843 and used by the Freedmen's Bureau from the end of the war until 1866. The next year, the congregation split. One groups established what became the Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville and the other affiliated with St. Paul's Methodist Church. They reunited in 1900 to become the First

Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville. After the Civil War, African-Americans began a Presbyterian church with the encouragement of white parishioners. A new building was completed in 1875 and named the Laura Street Presbyterian Church. It is now the Woodlawn United Presbyterian Church.

Previously established congregations built new buildings after the Civil War, including the reconstruction of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in 1871 and a new building for St. John's Episcopal Church in 1877. The Union Congregational Church was organized in 1876. German residents built a Lutheran church at the corner of Ashley and Laura streets in 1878. In 1882, a Jewish synagogue was dedicated at Laura and Union streets. The Christian Scientists began meeting in the 1800s and organized the First Church of Christ Scientist in 1897.

Churches played a major social role in the black community. Several black ministers were political leaders in the 1880s and churches often provided welfare activities. For example, the Colored Pastor's Union of Jacksonville initiated the move to abolish discrimination on railroads.

From the Ashes

Progressive business and political leaders began to rebuild the city.

On May 4, 1901, the day after the Great Fire, the Board of Trade (renamed the Chamber of Commerce in 1914) called an emergency meeting. City officials appointed a panel of 15 prominent local male citizens, including one African-American, to coordinate relief efforts. The Women's Club of Jacksonville oversaw emergency shelter and other needs for the white community, while the black churches divided their efforts between rebuilding and providing relief for African-American victims of the fire.

The City Rises Again

Under new political leadership and the influence of Henry Klutho, Jacksonville was reconstructed.

"He was in a city being rebuilt from scratch and he was trusted and admired by the men in power..." Robert Broward, contemporary Jacksonville architect.

In June of 1901, one month after the Great Fire, newly elected Mayor Duncan U. Fletcher and city leaders contracted the services of architect Henry Klutho. For three decades, Klutho, a native of the Midwest and student of Frank Lloyd Wright, designed buildings in Jacksonville. They ranged from the St. James Building, which housed Cohen Brothers, the first department store in the city, to Klutho's own residence, which was inspired by Wright's Prairie School designs. Others, including Richard L. Brown, Jacksonville's first African-American architect, and Henrietta Dozier, a native of Fernandina and the city's first woman architect, contributed to the new Jacksonville.

The Great War (1914-1917)

World War I first brought depression, then progress, to Jacksonville.

The outbreak of World War I in Europe in 1914 plunged Jacksonville into a two-year depression because of the interruption of the trans-Atlantic trade in pine, nitrates, and naval stores. Construction slowed, with many shops and offices remaining vacant. World War I interrupted immigration from Europe to the industrial centers in the North, reducing the supply of inexpensive labor. Six thousand African-Americans left Jacksonville and North Florida seeking the many industrial jobs in the North which became open to them. Their exodus created a serious labor shortage in Northeast Florida, contributing to the economic slump.

By 1916, the city was beginning to recover from the economic downturn. The revival was boosted the next year when the U.S. entered the war. Jacksonville's shipbuilding industry experienced major growth with orders from civilian ships to support the war effort. The Merrill-Stevens Company, the largest ship builder and boiler-maker between Richmond and New Orleans, expanded dramatically. This created a demand for housing to accommodate the rapidly growing numbers of new workers who migrated to the area from other parts of the South.

Jacksonville's construction industry increased with the building of Camp Johnston, a major arm post and training facility (later Naval Air Station Jacksonville). **It was built to train white combat troops, and had segregated facilities housing black men who were part of the mess crew.**

Fun in the Sun

The new Jacksonville offered a growing number of leisure and recreational activities. Hotels that catered to the tourist trade continued to hire bands and musical acts to entertain their guests. Sunday evening sacred concerts remained popular, as literary recitations attracted audiences starting in the late 19th century. An innovation after 1910 was Sunday afternoon concerts in the parks by concert bands, which replaced the brass bands. Hotel music, park excursions, and special entertainment served both tourists and Jacksonville residents.

Amusement parks were a growing feature of the recreational life of Jacksonville after the Great Fire of 1901. The most prominent was the Dixieland Amusement Park, which opened in 1907 in South Jacksonville and closed in 1912. The park included a dance pavilion, a swimming area, a botanical garden with an alligator display, and an ostrich farm. The park featured a variety of rides including a roller coaster, a carousel, and hot air balloon rides. The park also included a theater and a concert hall. After the park closed, these buildings were used as studios by various movie making companies.

Southland Amusement Park, the precursor of the Jacksonville Zoo, opened on the site of the Ostrich Farm, which had burned in the fire. **Lincoln Park, located on the northwest edge of the city, was available to African Americans.**

Norman Studios Presents “...Real Red-Blooded Romance and Thrills”

Richard Norman

One of America’s most prolific producers and distributors of “all colored” pictures was Richard E. Norman, a white man, who was born in Middleburg, Florida, in 1891. Norman’s films did not portray African-Americans as stereotyped caricatures. There were well developed characters, exciting stories, skillful action and stunt sequences, amid interesting backgrounds. Norman produced eight full-length features and a variety of comedy shorts between 1920 and 1928.

In 1928, as silent films were being replaced with sound, Norman invented a practical synchronization device that matched picture with voice. He went bankrupt when Western Electric introduced its photoelectric sound-on-film system. Norman ceased film production, but continued with the distribution of movies and film chemical products into the 1950s.

Rebuilding the Core

The physical reconstruction of the city was accompanied by community building. **Both men and women, white and African American, devoted attention to rebuilding the city, expanding economic opportunities, and providing services to the new community that was emerging.** Government officials worked for the improvement of health and sanitation for the residents of Jacksonville, while the women’s clubs concentrated on the particular concerns of women and children.

By Law...Segregation

Segregation changed the face of Jacksonville and Northeast Florida.

By 1900, African-Americans in Jacksonville (about 50% of the population) had been excluded from political offices and were largely disenfranchised. The Jacksonville City Council passed a law in 1905 which segregated the races on the city’s street cars. Most blacks were relegated to low paying jobs, but a small middle class consisting of teachers, ministers, and merchants did emerge. Two of the most prominent were the building contractor Joseph E. Blodgett, who constructed new housing for blacks in College park, Northside Park, and Highland Heights after the Great Fire, and Abraham Lewis, one of the founders of the Afro-American Insurance Company in 1901. Working class blacks migrated to the area, attracted by jobs in the construction trades and the port business. At the same time, a growing number of middle class, highly educated blacks began to leave the South because of the lack of opportunity due to segregation.

Within 10 years after the Fire, Jacksonville had lost future Harlem Renaissance stars James Weldon Johnson and J. Rosamond Johnson as well as labor and civil rights activist A. Philip Randolph.

James Weldon Johnson

Johnson was born in Jacksonville in 1871 and graduated from Atlanta University in 1896. He served as principal of Stanton, a school for African American students in Jacksonville, until 1902, when he resigned and moved to New York City to work in musical theater with his brother, J. Rosamond Johnson. In 1906 he became a diplomat, serving as consul to Venezuela and Nicaragua.

His first major literary sensation was *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man*, a fictional account of a light-skinned black man's attempts to survive and succeed in the early 20th Century. While serving the NAACP from 1920 through 1931 – starting as an organization's history – he continued to write and edit in a variety of genres. In 1922, he edited *The Book of American Negro Poetry*, which the Academy of American Poets calls “a major contribution to the history of African-American literature.” One of the works for which he is best remembered today, *God's Trombones: Seven Negro Sermons in Verse*, was published in 1927 and celebrated the tradition of the folk preacher.

Johnson composed the lyrics of “Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing,” for which his brother J. Rosamond Johnson composed the music, during his years at Stanton. This song, originally composed in 1900 to celebrate the birthday of Abraham Lincoln, is commonly known as the “negro (or Black) National Anthem.” The song was entered into the Congressional Record as the official African American National Hymn following the success of a 1990 rendition by singer Melba Moore and a bevy of other recording artists.

Eartha White

Nationally recognized as an outstanding humanitarian, White may be best remembered as the founder of the Clara White Mission, established in 1904 in honor of her mother. The Mission included a senior citizen center, an orphanage, and a tubercular hospital. It also offered employment-training and programs for delinquent youth. The mission was, and remains, located at 613 West Ashley Street.

At a time when opportunities were limited for African-Americans, Eartha White achieved many “firsts”: she was the first women realtor in Jacksonville; the first social worker hired by the city; and the first African-American census taker in Florida. In addition, she was a schoolteacher and business woman, operating a department store, taxi service, laundry company, and janitorial service.

The Mission was a center for the African American community over the years. Visitors included James Weldon Johnson, Bessie Coleman, Dr. Martin Luther King, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Dr. Mary McCleod Bethune, founder of Bethune Cookman College in Daytona Beach.

In 1970, President Richard M. Nixon awarded White the Lane Bryant Volunteer Award. She died four years later at the age of 97.

The Land Boom Bubble

Advertising, attractive real estate, and opportunities for investment propelled Jacksonville into the Florida Land Boom.

Booming land development in Central and South Florida in the 1920s attracted investors from Jacksonville, and resulted in the expansion of the city as the chief business center of the state. Locally, the Florida Land Boom produced planning for 56 new subdivisions, such as the all-white San Jose and San Marco on the south side and Avondale, Ortega, and Venetia on the west side.

Despite some growth, including a few small subdivisions along Kings Road and the construction of the Ritz Theater in 1927, the land boom was not for African Americans.

One area, San Jose, originally intended as a major new area of tourism, attracted the attention of financier Alfred I. duPont and his wife, philanthropist Jesse Ball duPont. It was there in the late 1920s, along the St. Johns River, that they built their winter home. When the Land Boom failed in 1926, construction slowed and then ceased altogether. Many housing developments never got past the planning stage or were only partially built. Construction workers, particularly blacks, lost their jobs. This was the beginning of the decline which led to the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Camp Blanding

Camp Blanding was originally established as a small National Guard Post in 1939. But by 1943, the post had transformed into a full-fledged Infantry Replacement Training Center. **Nine Infantry Divisions and two African-American General Service Regiments trained at Camp Blanding between 1940 and 1943.**

Camp Blanding also served as a Prisoner of War Camp. It housed approximately 1,000 German civilians and soldiers.

Civil Rights Movement in Northeast Florida

Axe Handle Saturday

The first major confrontation of the civil rights movement in Jacksonville took place on Saturday, Aug. 27, 1960. Young African-Americans from the NAACP Youth Council, under the leadership of the charismatic Rutledge Pearson, had begun peacefully

demonstrating for access to lunch counters and other public accommodations. That Saturday, as the youths marched to Woolworth's and other stores at Hemming Park, a group of whites attacked them with axe handles and baseball bats. Serious injuries were avoided due to the intervention of a local, black street gang. Police and fire fighters restored order, but random violence continued throughout the night. In 1964, Congress passed civil rights legislation opening public accommodations to all Americans.

Civil Rights Movement in Northeast Florida

Desegregating Public Places

In 1959, Frank Hampton, an African-American businessman, went to court to desegregate the city's municipal golf courses. When the federal courts ordered their integration, the city sold them to private parties at bargain prices.

A year later, Hampton sued to desegregate all recreational facilities, including the Gator Bowl, baseball stadium, and parks. On Dec. 7, 1960, Federal District Judge Bryan Simpson ruled in Hampton's favor. The city could not sell all of these facilities because of their bonded debt. Desegregation of the courthouse, hospital, jail, and beaches followed as white and colored signs were taken down.

Consolidation 1967

The Voting

Aug. 8, 1967 – More than 86,000 Duval County residents voted in the referendum, and they voted overwhelmingly in favor of consolidation.

For: 54,493

Against: 29,768

- A majority of voters in both Duval County and in the City of Jacksonville supported consolidation.
- The three Beaches community and Baldwin voted to retain their own municipal governments, but also favored the Consolidation of Duval County and Jacksonville.
- The African-American precincts favored consolidation in 24 precincts and opposed in only four.
- Opposition votes came mainly from more rural areas of the north and west.

Consolidation 1967

The Referendum

June to August 1967 – The debate on consolidation intensified in the two months before the referendum on August 8.

The Anti-Consolidation Arguments

- Consolidation would result in a big, unresponsive government with too much power in the Office of the Mayor. Some also suggested that the new government would become “dictatorial” or Communistic.”
- Consolidation would result in higher taxes.
- African-American leaders were concerned that consolidation would dilute the power of the black vote in Jacksonville.
- Opposition in the three Beaches communities focused on the loss of autonomy.

The Pro-Consolidation Arguments

- The present form of two tiered government was demonstrably inadequate. Problems of rapid urbanization and overwhelmed local government’s capacity to provide services.
- Consolidation would save taxes by increasing efficiency.
- Consolidation would end the problem of “one community, two governments,” which needlessly divided the community and wasted valuable resources.
- The African-American community would benefit from consolidation by finally receiving effective governmental services.
- The beaches communities would be able to both join consolidation and retain separate identities.



INCORPORATING AFRICAN-AMERICAN CONTENT INTO EXHIBITS AT MOSH

The current strategy for including more African-American exhibition content at MOSH is seven-fold:

- 1) The development of **partnerships** around initiatives that concern African-American history. Currently, this involves:
 - a) The Community Remembrance Project of the Equal Justice Initiative of Montgomery, Alabama – in addition to programming, this initiative, which seeks to shed light of racial terror lynchings in the U.S. from 1877 to 1950, includes the erection of historic site markers at lynching sites, the collection of soil samples from lynching sites and the hosting of a monument on which are inscribed the names of Duval County’s seven known lynching victims.
MOSH may play a role in the display of soil samples and the monument. Depending on how this initiative develops, a spotlight on Jacksonville terror lynchings and violence may become a special temporary display or a part of Phase I of *Currents of Time* changes (see below).
- 2) The development of **signature exhibitions** that include African-American content. These include:
 - a) Mission: Jax Genius – an exhibit to open in June 2018 – five of the twelve highlighted Jax Geniuses (deceased creative talents with ties to Jacksonville) are African-American -- Augusta Savage, Charlie “Hoss” Singleton, Frankie Manning, J. Rosamond Johnson and Mildred Thompson.
 - b) Neighborhoods – an exhibit to open in September 2018 – the stories of African-American neighborhoods are highlighted in both historical and contemporary contexts in several parts of this exhibition, including illustrated text panels and touch screen interactives.
 - c) Jacksonville Jukebox – an exhibit currently under initial development – the contributions of popular recording artists with ties to Jacksonville include jazz (Billy Daniels, Jackie Davis), R&B/soul (Ray Charles, Jackie Moore, the Commodores’ Clyde Orange, Glenn Jones), rock and roll (Gary U.S. Bonds), hip-hop (Quad City DJ’s, 69 Boyz), and rap (Mase, J. Dash).
- 3) The development of **new spaces** that incorporate African-American content. These include:

- a) Creation Station – MOSH’s first maker space will include displays about Jacksonville makers (taken from Mission: Jax Genius) and a special audio element called “MOSH Radio,” which features 30 hit recordings by different Jacksonville artists, including ten by African Americans.
 - b) DiverCity – a space dedicated to hosting community exhibits and programs and traveling exhibitions that deal with cultural diversity, social justice and community engagement. African-American stories will be among those that shed light on underrepresented communities.
- 4) The hosting of **traveling exhibitions** that showcase or include African-American stories. One recent example is *African Americans in World War II*, hosted by MOSH in 2017 and supplemented by local content. MOSH also plans to advocate for African-American representation in traveling exhibits about science topics.
 - 5) The inclusion of African-American artists in MOSH’s **Arts Infusion** exhibit program. One of the program’s rotating annual themes is “ImagInclusion,” scheduled for 2019. MOSH invites proposals by African-American artists in its Artist in Residence program.
 - 6) The revamping of current **core exhibitions** to ensure better representation of African-American stories. The greatest opportunity is in *Currents of Time*, MOSH’s exhibition about the history of Jacksonville and northeast Florida. See below for further details.
 - 7) Intentional planning of **new visitor experiences** in MOSH’s Visitor Experience Plan for future expansion and museum redevelopment – these experiences will be more representative of diverse populations and will seek to make history more relevant to a variety of contemporary audiences, reflective of Jacksonville’s demographics.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INCORPORATING MORE AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY INTO *CURRENTS OF TIME*:

Phase I:

The transformation of a key portion of the exhibition into a presentation about African-American life and achievement during the Jim Crow Era – more specifically, the first forty years of the 20th century, from the Great Fire of 1901 to World War II. The xx square feet of exhibit space in this area is strategically situated both thematically/temporally and in terms of high visibility.

Phase II:

A series of minor, incremental changes throughout *Currents of Time* that will increase representation of African Americans in the city’s overall story, visually, textually, and perhaps, aurally. This representation will be more integral to the larger storyline and will emphasize the significant size of the city’s African-American population.

Phase III:

The reconfiguration of the last portion of *Currents of Time*, which focuses on post-World War II Jacksonville. This area will need to be reorganized to accommodate the new DiverCity gallery. The 1960s kitchen and living room represents a middle-class, suburban ideal that speaks to a specific segment of Jacksonville's population, and this display will be replaced. The saga of highway construction, suburbanization and desegregation that the current exhibit covers had an untold tale of displacement and urban renewal. The exhibit's coverage of civil rights and city consolidation will be rethought, and connections to present-day Jacksonville will be considered.

The timing of these phases will depend on funding and opportunity. Phase I is scheduled for fiscal year 2019-2020.

CURRENTS OF TIME: PHASE I

Phase I Summary:

Few visitors to MOSH realize the significance of African-American culture in Jacksonville during the period 1901-1941. Jacksonville has been called the "Harlem of the South" because the city was the type of cultural Mecca that is most popularly represented by New York's Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s. Some have argued that Harlem should be called "the LaVilla of the North" because Jacksonville's LaVilla neighborhood was the cradle for such Harlem Renaissance luminaries as civil rights activists, Asa Philip Randolph and James Weldon Johnson, composer J. Rosamond Johnson, sculptor Augusta Savage and choreographer Frankie Manning. Jacksonville served as a hub of the Southeast's music and entertainment circuit, with ties to New Orleans (and artists such as Ma Rainey and Jelly Roll Morton). And Jacksonville made its own contributions to the development of ragtime, blues and jazz music, including musicians such as Blind Blake and the Jacksonville Rounders Dance (1907) that became the Black Bottom dance popular in the 1920s. (Jacksonville's flourishing red light district in LaVilla might not be a topic to emphasize.)

African-American working- and middle-class neighborhoods developed and thrived during this period, supported by a number of churches, schools, social institutions, business enterprises and cultural and recreational venues.

Phase I Goals:

- 1) Provide a broader audience to partner organizations that tell the stories of Jacksonville's African Americans, specifically the Ritz Theatre & Museum, the Durkeeville Historical Society, the Clara White Mission, and the A.L. Lewis Historical Society at American Beach (in addition to Norman Studios, already noted).
- 2) Increase the use of images/text/video/audio that depict and represent the experiences of African Americans in Jacksonville.
- 3) Spotlight individuals, groups and places that have had an impact on Jacksonville and the world beyond our region in a way that is more intentional than current practice.

Phase I Approaches:

Goal #1:

Currents of Time cannot tell all the stories that deserve to be told, nor can it do so in great detail. It doesn't need to do this, since our partner organizations already do a great job. *Currents of Time* needs to provide basic information and stimulate a desire among a broad audience to learn more. Goal #1 can be achieved two ways:

- 1) By implementing a program of rotating loans of authentic artifacts from partner organizations. These objects will populate exhibit cases and will both illustrate and provide evidence of the stories being told in this portion of the exhibit.
- 2) By encouraging visitors to visit African-American historical sites and exhibits elsewhere in greater Jacksonville. This can be done through the use of signage, QR codes that link to partner websites and phone app content.

Goal #2:

This revamped area of *Currents of Time* will increase the representation of African-American stories visually (through historic photographs, including some by noted photographer Ellie Lee Weems) and possibly aurally (through historic recordings, including music), and both (through video). Revamping this section of *Currents of Time* also introduces the possibility of an interactive visitor experience in a exhibit that currently lacks it.

Goal #3:

Despite the larger environment of systemic segregation and discrimination, significant African-American individuals, institutions and places played important roles in Jacksonville's history and helped shape the city's identity. The current exhibit touches on John Weldon Johnson and Eartha White (previous add-ons to the original installation), but the displays need improvement. The current exhibit has a major section on Jacksonville as the "World's Winter Film Capital," including coverage of the race films produced by Norman Film Studio (1922); this display will anchor one end of the proposed new area on African-American history in the early 20th century. The new exhibit can offer the opportunity to discuss both working-class and professional middle-class experiences among Jacksonville's African Americans.

Stories that may be covered in this area of the exhibition may involve the following interrelated individuals, institutions and places:

Individuals:

Abraham L. Lewis, Florida's first African-American millionaire

Asa Philip Randolph, civil rights and labor leader

David H. Dwight, pioneered inclusion of African Americans in Boy Scouts (1920s)

Eartha M.M. White, humanitarian with a vast array of civic accomplishments

Florida C. Dwight, recreational director

Joseph E. Lee, attorney

Joseph Haygood Blodgett, architect
Lawton L. Pratt, funeral director
Richard L. Brown, architect
William Marion Raines, educator
Zora Neale Hurston, writer

Institutions and Businesses:

Afro-American Life Insurance Company (1901), very significant throughout Southeast
AME Churches (e.g., Mount Zion, Mother Midway, Mount Olive)
Bethel Baptist Institutional Church (new building, 1904)
Bijou Theater (1908)
Brewster Hospital and Nursing Training School (1901), the first medical facility to serve
 Jacksonville's African-american community
Central Hotel (1912)
Clara White Mission (1932)
Colored Airdome Theater (1909)
Cookman Institute, first college for African-American teachers in Florida
Durkee Field (1911), home to local Negro Leagues Baseball
Edward Waters College (current campus started 1908)
Globe Theatre (1912)
Hollywood Music Store (1924)
Jacksonville Negro Welfare League (
Richmond Hotel (1909), where famous African-American performers stayed when in town
Ritz Theatre (
Strand Theatre (1915)
Two Spot Club (1940)
Union Grand Lodge of Masons (building 1916)
Wilder Park Branch Library (1927), first in Jacksonville to serve African Americans

Places:

American Beach (1935)
Brooklyn
Campbell's Addition
Durkeeville
Durkeeville Housing Project (1937), first public housing for African Americans in Jax
East Jacksonville
Hansontown
LaVilla
LaVilla Park (1929)
Moncrief
Oakland
Oakland Park (1918)
Sugar Hill – prestigious upscale streetcar suburb

Other stories to consider are the seeds sown during this period (particularly the Great Depression) for such developments as urban blight and redlining, which were to have major impacts on African-American life in Jacksonville after World War II.

Space constraints will require us to make decisions about the scope and nature of content in this section of *Currents of Time*. These are decisions that MOSH must make with community consultants on whom we would call to co-curate Phase I.

Phase I Consultants:

This new exhibition cannot proceed without the counsel and input of key African-American stakeholders. MOSH sees this project as an opportunity to co-curate content with such individuals as:

Adonnica Toler, Ritz Theatre & Museum

Ju'Coby Pittman, Clara White Mission

Lloyd Washington, Durkeeville Historical Society

Rodney L. Hurst, Sr., author

Yuwnus Asami, American Beach Museum