

# TASK FORCE ON CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY

## Combined Subcommittee Meeting

### Agenda

**Monday, May 21, 2018**

**10:00 AM**

**Lynwood Roberts Room, City Hall**

**Tape No. \_\_\_\_\_**

**Jeff Clements, Chief of Research Division**

**Research Assistant: Yvonne P. Mitchell**

#### Finance

Chris Hand, Co-chair

Marcus Pollard, Co-chair

Maria Hane

Darnell Smith

Hope McMath

Eric Mann

#### Repository

Rahman Johnson, Co-chair

Adonnica Toler, Co-Chair

John Lumpkin

Lloyd Washington

Richard Danford

Dr. Marion Grant

#### Marketing

Tim Allegretti, Co-chair

Monica Smith, Co-chair

Alton Yates

Dr. Alan Bliss

Marsha Phelts

Brenda Frinks

Rhiley Hodges

**Meeting Convened:**

**Meeting Adjourned:**

---

Call to Order

Introductions

Task Force Priorities

1. Repository
  - a. Digital (Timeline)
  - b. Artifacts
  - c. Temporary location
  - d. Permanent location (Civil Rights Museum)
2. Funding
3. Marketing

Subject Matter Expert Presentations

- Tim Rogers, Jacksonville Public Library
- Joy Bradley Walker, ITD
- Marsha Oliver, Public Affairs
- Dr. Cheryl Brown, City Council
- Mr. Bill McConnell, SMG

Subcommittee Members Discussion

Public Comment

Adjournment

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

# Timeline 1st Edited Draft 050118

---

- 1865 Mother Midway Church in East Jacksonville was established as the first African Methodist Episcopal Church in Florida.
- 1865 **Abraham Lincoln Lewis** was born. (1989 JBHC)
- 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.
- 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. Stanton Institute, which later became known as Stanton High School, opened as the first and only public secondary school for African-Americans in Reconstruction Florida.
- 1868 – **Josiah Walls** was elected to the Florida House of Representatives (2007 JBHC)
- 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.
- 1869 The historic African American community of Oakland platted as part of the 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

# Timeline 1st Edited Draft 050118

---

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.

**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  $\frac{1}{4}$  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.

**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.

**1869** Helen Dillet Johnson

**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 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

# Timeline 1st Edited Draft 050118

---

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.

- 1871** 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 customs collector for the Port of St. Johns (1890-1894 and 1897-1898) and Collector of Internal Revenue (1898-1913).
- 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)
- 1882(?) -** **Richard L. Brown** served in the legislature
- 1882** **St. Philips Episcopal**

# Timeline 1st Edited Draft 050118

---

- 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.
- 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.
- 1886 James Weldon Johnson hears Frederik 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.
- 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 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 841 Franklin Street.
- 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.
- 1888 Abram Grant, a former slave who escaped twice and joined the Union Army, moves to Jacksonville and is elected 19<sup>th</sup> Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. <https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/143142>

# Timeline 1st Edited Draft 050118

---

- 1889 – **John Robert Scott** served Duval County in the Florida House of Representatives (2007 JBHC) \*Include with 1869
- 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)
- 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 College. Matthew Gilbert Middle School is located on the site of the Florida Baptist Academy.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 state judge. \_.
- 1897-1899 **John Robert Scott** served the Jacksonville City Council. (2007 JBHC)
- 1898 James Weldon Johnson becomes the first African American admitted to the Florida Bar since Reconstruction.
- 1899 Eartha White builds and teaches in one of the first black schoolhouses in Bayard located in south Jacksonville.(make of her footnote 1877)
- 1899-1901 Black businessmen Charles Manigault, John Wetmore, and George Ross are elected as the last black Jacksonville City Council members until the 1960s.

# Timeline 1st Edited Draft 050118

---

[Bartley, Abel. *Keeping the Faith: Race, Politics and Social Development in Jacksonville, Florida, 1940-1970.*] include with 1869

- 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.
- 1900 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."
- James Weldon Johnson writes "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing"—music by his brother, John Rosamond Johnson.
- 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 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.
- 1900 Manhattan Beach, now part of Hanna Park, opens to black beachgoers.
- 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.
- 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

# Timeline 1st Edited Draft 050118

---

Hospital closed in 1966 and was incorporated into the new Methodist hospital, now part of Shands at Jacksonville.

- 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.
- 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.
- 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 and Public School No. 8, later named J. Allen Axson, near East 17<sup>th</sup> and Franklin

# Timeline 1st Edited Draft 050118

---

Streets. Brown likely 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.

- 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)
- 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)
- 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.
- 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)
- 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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.
- 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

# Timeline 1st Edited Draft 050118

---

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. 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 Mallison Park on Lenox Avenue across from the Lackawanna Elementary School. (footnote somewhere)

- 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)

## **Begin here on 5/8/18**

- 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*".<sup>1</sup> 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

# Timeline 1st Edited Draft 050118

---

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).
- 1907** The last year that African Americans served in Jacksonville's city government because of Jim Crow Laws until 1967.
- 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.
- 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.
- 1912** Jacksonville businessman, Charles Frank Crowd opened the Globe Theatre. The building was later remodeled to become the home of the Clara White Mission.
- 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
- 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 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

# Timeline 1st Edited Draft 050118

---

(Florida Avenue) in 1909, served as president of the bank, which reportedly had a quarter of million in assets by 1919.

- 1914** Sugar Hill
- 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** The Strand Theatre opened at 703 West Ashley Street in 1915. It was a movie house with a stage for hosting shows.
- 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.
- ?
- In addition to Genovar's Hall, another popular venue was the six story Knights of Pythias Building in the 700 block of West Ashley.
- 1915** Daniel W. Perkins
- 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)
- 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)
- 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

# Timeline 1st Edited Draft 050118

---

included Anderson, Tucker & Co. Bank, Pedro Mendez Tailoring Shop and the law offices of Daniel W. Perkins.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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)
- 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

# Timeline 1st Edited Draft 050118

---

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)

**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 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<sup>rd</sup> 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)

**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

# Timeline 1st Edited Draft 050118

---

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.

- 1920** James Weldon Johnson becomes the NAACP's first Black General Secretary in 1920.
- 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*
- 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.
- 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/>

# Timeline 1st Edited Draft 050118

---

- 1922-25** **Richard A. Twine** photographed everyday life and events of Blacks living in the Lincolnville area of St. Augustine, Florida. (1994 JBHC)
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 Rosenwald School #143/Westside Elementary (Land for original school purchased by DC schools from Stockton Telfair)
- 1925** A. Phillip Randolph began organizing the railroad porters. (1990 JBHC)
- 1926** Bessie Coleman, first Black aviator, licensed in 1921, lost her life in Jacksonville.
- 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.
- 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.

# Timeline 1st Edited Draft 050118

---

- 1927** Randolph, A. Philip
- 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)
- 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)
- 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)
- 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)
- 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
- 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.
- 1930-31** Jacksonville Rosenwald School #143/Westside Elementary (Fiske University shows Rosenwald school built called West Jacksonville School – none of the schools in record show addresses.
- 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

# Timeline 1st Edited Draft 050118

---

“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 quilting, 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 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 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.
- 1937** A. Philip Randolph wins labor contract for the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters against the Pullman Company.
- 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

# Timeline 1st Edited Draft 050118

---

(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)
- 1937** Augusta Savage was selected to make the sculpture for the Community Arts Building at the World’s Fair. (1991 JBHC)
- 1940** George Crockett founded the International United Auto Workers Fair Employment Practices Department (1991 JBHC)
- 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 45<sup>th</sup> 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 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)

# Timeline 1st Edited Draft 050118

---

- 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)
- 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)
- 1945** Dallas Graham (1990 JBHC)
- 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.
- 1945-1951** Ruth Stewart toured the United States as a concert artist. As a Fulbright scholar, she studied at the St. Cecelia Conservatory in Rome and performed concerts throughout Italy and Switzerland.
- 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 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).
- 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.

# Timeline 1st Edited Draft 050118

---

- 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. 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)
- 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.

# Timeline 1st Edited Draft 050118

---

- 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)
- 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** 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.

# Timeline 1st Edited Draft 050118

---

- 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, 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

# Timeline 1st Edited Draft 050118

---

Forest 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

**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.

**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 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

# Timeline 1st Edited Draft 050118

---

- 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 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)

# Timeline 1st Edited Draft 050118

---

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

# Timeline 1st Edited Draft 050118

---

- 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/>.
- 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.
- 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

# Timeline 1st Edited Draft 050118

---

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

# Timeline 1st Edited Draft 050118

---

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 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 1<sup>st</sup> A-A chair. (1996 JBHC)
- 1970** Jacksonville Rosenwald School #143/Westside Elementary (permit shows one story frame school moved to 1925 W. 13<sup>th</sup> 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

# Timeline 1st Edited Draft 050118

---

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 *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 contact with the ABA. His professional basketball career included playing time with the Chicago Bulls and the Celtics. (1992 JBHC)
- 1971** Porcher Taylor rose to the rank of full colonel in the United States Army (1992 JBHC)
- 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)

# Timeline 1st Edited Draft 050118

---

- 1972** Charles “Boobie” Clark was a 12<sup>th</sup> 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.
- 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)
- 1974** Dr. Ezekiel W. Bryant was the 1<sup>st</sup> African American in the State of Florida to be appointed Provost at a community college – Florida Community College.
- 1976** Mary L. Singleton was appointed Supervisor of Elections (1992 JBHC)
- 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)
- 1976** Earl Johnson, first Black City Council President (1992 JBHC)
- 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)
- 1979** Judge Henry Adams was appointed Circuit Judge of the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit (Nassau, Clay and Duval)
- 1982** Representative Corrine Brown elected to the Florida House of Representatives (1995 JBHC)

# Timeline 1st Edited Draft 050118

---

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

# Timeline 1st Edited Draft 050118

---

- 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)
- 1993** Congresswoman Corrine Brown elected to the United States House of Representatives (1995 JBHC)
- 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 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

# Timeline 1st Edited Draft 050118

---

Anderson-Lewis, Charlotte S.  
Blocker, Mary White  
Blodgett, Joseph H.  
Braxton, Sadie  
Brown, Clanzel  
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

# Timeline 1st Edited Draft 050118

---

Stanton School  
Steward, Eddie Mae

Wilson, R. L., Sr. 1<sup>st</sup> 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

**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 Bynee 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)

---

<sup>i</sup> Marlene Sokol, "Black Journalist Wrote and Politicked for Change", *Florida Times Union*, February 27, 1984.