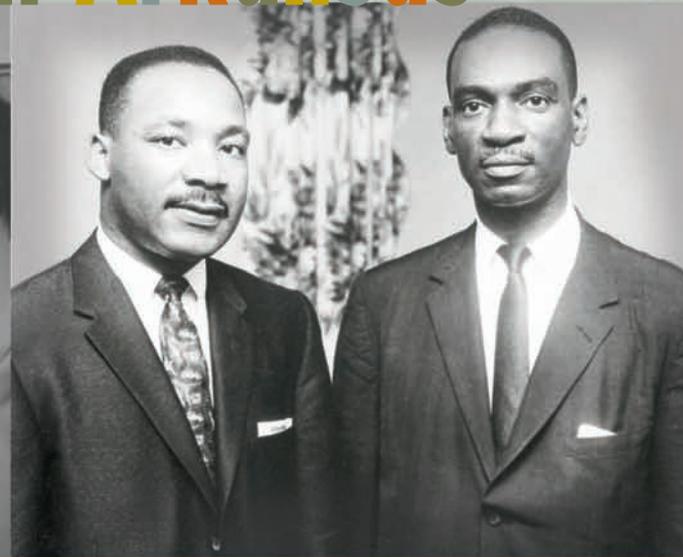


HISTORY HAPPENED HERE

# African-American Heritage in Arkansas



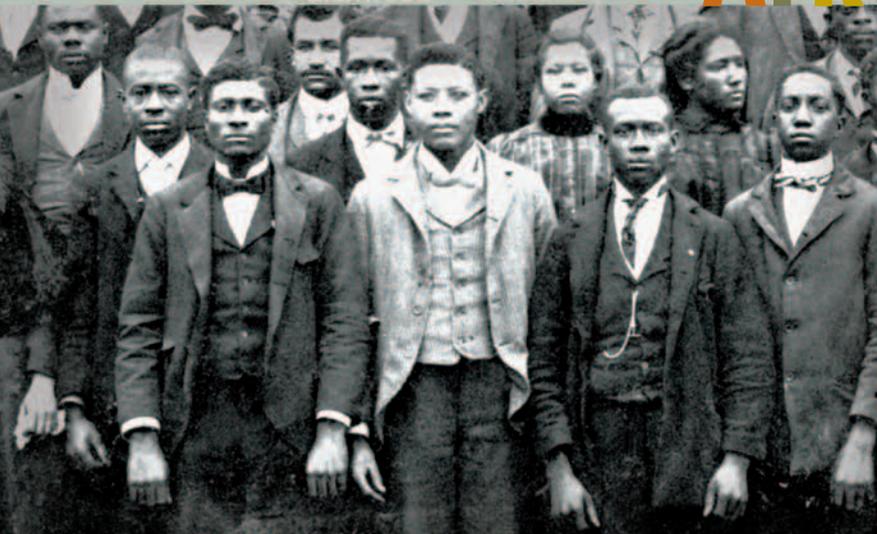
## HERITAGE AND CIVIL RIGHTS PATHWAYS IN ARKANSAS

Follow the dream through Arkansas. Discover and explore the heritage of our civil rights struggles, musical innovations and artistic revolutions that shaped this state known for natural beauty. Visit historic sites in the hometowns of Arkansans who contributed to our common heritage.

A people as diverse as the land where they were born, Arkansans count among their unique leaders visionary civil rights activists, innovative musicians, inspiring poets and distinguished judicial and political figures. Throughout Arkansas's history, some of the most powerful contributions have been made by African-Americans who succeeded in the worlds of arts and entertainment, politics and the civil rights movement.

The stories of these legendary people weave together to reveal the singular heritage and culture of The Natural State. To learn more, visit the places showcased in this brochure and send for a free Arkansas Vacation Planning Kit. Order yours by calling 1-800-NATURAL or logging on to [Arkansas.com](http://Arkansas.com).

# Arkansas's Heritage



# Arkansas and the Civil Rights Movement

The 20th century saw many transformations as African-Americans overcame racial obstacles and fought for equality across America. From the 1919 Elaine Race Massacre to the well-known Little Rock Central High desegregation crisis in 1957, Arkansas's place in the history of the civil rights movement captured the attention of the nation and the world. These heroes of school desegregation and civil rights reform shaped Arkansas and moved us all forward in the march of progress.



DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL.



## THE STREETCAR BOYCOTT OF 1903

The State Legislature in 1903 adopted the Arkansas Streetcar Segregation Act, which assigned blacks and whites to different areas of streetcars. A protest meeting against the act was held by **Little Rock's** black community at the **First Baptist Church** (now the **First Missionary Baptist Church**) at Seventh and Gaines streets. According to the Mosaic Templars Building Preservation Society of **Little Rock**, black boycotts in **Little Rock**, **Pine Bluff** and **Hot Springs** on May 27, 1903, the first day of the streetcar law, led to a 90 percent drop in black traffic on **Little Rock** streetcars.

## AN AGE OF RIOTS

In 1883, short-lived race riots erupted in **Howard** and **Hempstead counties**, beginning with a dispute over property lines and ending in murder, mayhem and questionable justice. The riots were rooted in prejudice and the politics of the post-Reconstruction era.

In **Harrison**, two separate episodes of racist mob activity in 1905 and 1909 resulted in the destruction and total exodus of a long-established African-American community. Many left on foot to seek refuge in the more diverse communities of **Eureka Springs** and **Fayetteville, Arkansas** and **Springfield, Missouri**.

## THE RACE RIOTS IN ELAINE

**Elaine**, a small town in **Phillips County**, was the site of a week-long racial conflict in 1919. Black tenant farmers were holding a union meeting in a church when shots were fired just before midnight on Sept. 30. After two days of violence, federal troops were sent in from **Little Rock** to quell the riots. Five white men were killed, and estimates of the dead among blacks ranged from 20 to more than 800.

Civil rights leader Scipio Africanus Jones was the attorney for the African-American defendants in the **Elaine** race riot. Born into slavery in **Dallas County**, he became a lawyer and community leader in the state capital where he had several homes over the years — from **1911 Pulaski St.**, where he lived during the Elaine trials, to the more substantial and stylish home at **1872 Cross St.**, where he resided from 1928 until his death in 1943. Now known as the **Scipio A. Jones House**, it is one of eight historical black properties in the neighborhood surrounding **Dunbar Junior High School**.

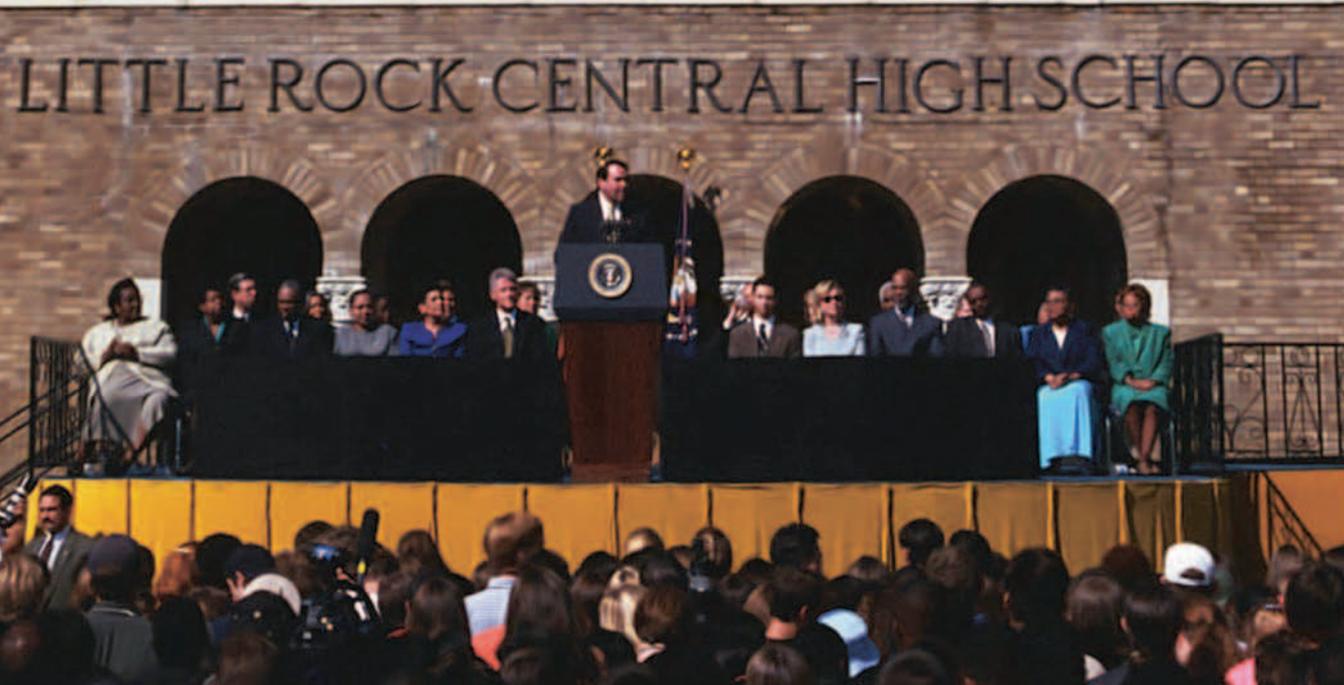


TROOPS ESCORT BRAVE STUDENTS INTEGRATING CENTRAL HIGH.



### CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL DESEGREGATION CRISIS OF 1957

Nine black students were scheduled to enroll (and desegregate) **Little Rock Central High School** in early September 1957. Gov. Orval Faubus ordered the Arkansas National Guard to Central to prevent “the Nine” from entering. President Eisenhower soon ordered Faubus to withdraw the troops and sent in the 101st Airborne, U.S. Army, to make sure the students could enter the school. They were finally allowed to enter Sept. 25, 1957. (For more details, see “Desegregation in Arkansas,” p. 20.)



FORTY YEARS AFTER ANOTHER GOVERNOR KEPT THEM OUT, ARKANSAS GOV. MIKE HUCKABEE WELCOMES THE LITTLE ROCK NINE BACK TO CENTRAL — JOINED BY PRESIDENT CLINTON AND A HOST OF OTHER DIGNITARIES.

# Arkansas and the Civil Rights Movement



LEAVING HOME, Walter Ruffin's children head into morning sun toward school bus stop as he watches. He told them to be courteous to everybody.



RIDING THE BUS, children are wary and uncommunicative as they approach school. Some white children sat with Negroes. Others chose to stand.

## A QUICK ACCEPTANCE FOR THE NEW PUPILS

The school day, as shown in these pictures by Gordon Tenney, began in an atmosphere of self-conscious tension. White children stared curiously and Negroes tended to treat whites with deference. Some teachers seemed to go almost too far by being overattentive to the newcomers. A few white parents accompanied their children and made no secret of their distaste for the new arrangement. In the shade of a nearby tree, watching with disapproval, were some diehard opponents of desegregation, which applies not only to classrooms but also to buses, toilet facilities, drinking fountains, play areas and the cafeteria.

But among the children the novelty soon wore off. During the noon recess white boys sought out Negro boys and invited them to try out for the school team in basketball, played almost year round in eastern Arkansas. Negro and white girls happily romped together. By the end of the day the children were behaving as if they had gone to school together all their lives.



## A NEW DEAL FOR TENANT FARMERS

The Southern Tenant Farmers' Union was established in July 1934 by 11 whites and seven blacks at **Sunnyside School** near **Tyroneza**.

The Union protested the New Deal's enrichment of Southern cotton barons at the expense of suffering sharecroppers, both black and white.

## HOXIE WAS A LEADER

In 1955, the school board of **Hoxie** voluntarily integrated its schools. When outside segregationist forces descended on the town, the board, along with the town's black families, stood firm.

On July 11, 1955, 25 blacks enrolled peacefully amid 1,000 white students in Hoxie, becoming the third Arkansas school system to desegregate and the first in an area of Arkansas with a large black population. Less than a month later on Aug. 20, white opposition to integration and a story in *Life* magazine led to the local school board decision to close its schools early. On Oct. 24, a federal court barred segregationists from preventing the admission of blacks, allowing **Hoxie** schools to reopen.

SILAS HUNT AT HIS ALMA MATER.



## AFRICAN-AMERICAN, ESQ.

The **University of Arkansas at Fayetteville** admitted the first African-American law student, Silas Hunt, in 1948. Wiley Branton from **Pine Bluff** followed Hunt to the campus two years later. Branton would eventually represent, along with Thurgood Marshall, the nine black students who wanted to attend **Little Rock Central High School** in September 1957.

In 1948, Edith Irby Jones broke racial barriers and made national headlines when she became the first African-American student admitted to a Southern white medical school when she entered the **University of Arkansas** medical school.

## COMMON GROUNDS

The Arkansas Council on Human Relations was organized in December 1954. Its purpose was to seek improved human relations by working to secure equal opportunity for all people. The council often met at **Ferndiff Presbyterian Camp** and **Camp Aldersgate** in **Little Rock**.



EARLY STUDENTS AT PHILANDER SMITH COLLEGE.

### A FRIEND IN ROCKEFELLER

Gov. Winthrop Rockefeller is remembered as a friend to African-Americans because of his work on problems peculiar to African-American World War II veterans, his interest in **Philander Smith College** and his support of the Urban League. Rockefeller was the only Southern governor to publicly eulogize Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the days following his assassination. On April 7, 1968, Arkansas Gov. Winthrop Rockefeller stood hand-in-hand with black leaders on the steps of the Arkansas State Capitol and sang "We Shall Overcome." **Little Rock** native Mahlon Martin was named president of the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation. Martin attended **Little Rock** public schools and **Philander Smith College**. Before being named president of the Rockefeller Foundation, Martin also served as **Little Rock's** first African-American city manager and state finance director.

### THE SECOND CADET OF COLOR

The son of former slaves, John Hanks Alexander of **Helena** became the second black graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1887.

### FLOWERS POWER

On March 10, 1940, the Committee on Negro Organization (CNO), headed by civil rights leader and lawyer Harold Flowers, launched a campaign to organize a half million Arkansas Negroes in the **Buchanan Baptist Church** at **Stamps**. More than 45 Negro churches, civic and fraternal organizations, with a numerical strength of more than 30,000 members, endorsed the organization. Flowers was also President of the Arkansas State Conference of NAACP branches.

# Arkansas and the Civil Rights Movement

## DR. KING'S COMMENCEMENT SPEECH

In 1958, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was the speaker for the **Arkansas AM&N College** (now the **University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff**) commencement.



## MLK ATTENDS GRADUATION DAY

In May 1958, Ernest Green became the first African-American to graduate from **Central High School** in **Little Rock**. Civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. attended the graduation ceremony.

## A SAD DAY FOR FREEDOM

Following the April 4, 1968, assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., riots flared up in 110 cities across the United States, including a minor disturbance in **Pine Bluff**.

## JOHN BIRCH ON THE SCHOOL BOARD

One of the largest and most significant racial disturbances to take place during Winthrop Rockefeller's governorship occurred not in **Little Rock**, but in **Forrest City**. In 1969, **Forrest City** had a population of 14,000, 50 percent of which was black. In 1968, members of the John Birch Society gained control of the **Forrest City** School Board and, in March, fired with no explanation the Rev. J.F. Cooley, a black who had taught for 11 years at the city's all-black **Lincoln Junior-Senior High**. His termination seemed to have stemmed from his activities in the civil rights movement, including the December 1968 formation of the Committee for Peaceful Coexistence. Cooley had also helped organize demonstrations and worked with black males to prevent juvenile delinquency. Cooley's firing fueled unrest among junior high students who vandalized **Lincoln** in March and staged a student walkout in April.



### THE LONG WALK TO LITTLE ROCK

In 1969, a “poor people’s march” from **Forrest City** to **Little Rock** was scheduled for Aug. 20-24. The march was meant to “dramatize outdated conditions black people are forced to live in throughout the State of Arkansas.” Although Gov. Rockefeller negotiated with the march organizer, the Rev. Cato Brooks, to postpone the march and allow him time to find some solutions, the march took place as scheduled. Renamed a “walk against fear” and beginning in **West Memphis**, it was led by Lance “Sweet Willie Wine” Watson, the leader of a militant Memphis group called the Invaders. Watson had been in **Forrest City** to help organize a summer boycott of white businesses by the town’s black population. The marchers were escorted by plainclothes state policemen, and the march ended without incident in **Little Rock** on Aug. 24.

BOBBY BROWN, BROTHER OF MINNIEJEAN BROWN, ONE OF THE LITTLE ROCK NINE, PARTICIPATES IN THE “WALK AGAINST FEAR.”



## Heritage and Civil Rights Sites



### WE BUILT THIS LODGE

Built by and for African-Americans, the **Masonic Lodge** was the tallest building in **Pine Bluff** when completed in 1904. Located at Fourth Avenue and State Street, it was completely paid for exactly 14 years after the cornerstone was laid.

### THE BIRTH OF RAGTIME

Scott Joplin, an African-American composer, is known as the “Father of Ragtime Music.” He attended the **Orr School** at **831 Laurel** in **Texarkana**, where he formulated many of his ideas. This building represents one of the few standing symbols associated with Joplin in his hometown. Also visit the **Scott Joplin Mural** at Third and Main streets.

### TELLING THE STORY

The **El Dorado Museum of African-American History** at 312 W. Grove displays memorabilia, oral histories and artifacts of African-American life in South Arkansas. 870-862-1422.

## ARKANSAS ENTERTAINERS

Located in the **Pine Bluff Convention Center**, the **Arkansas Entertainers Hall of Fame** exhibits chronicle the careers of entertainers with Arkansas roots, including Louie Jordan, Al Green and William Warfield. 870-536-7600.



THE WILLIAM E. O'BRYANT BELL TOWER IS THE SYMBOL OF THE UNITY, LOYALTY AND PRIDE OF THE UAPB FAMILY. THE TOWER IS LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES.



## SPIRITED EXHIBITS

The **University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff**, formerly Branch Normal College and later AM&N College, is the oldest existing Historically Black College or University (HBCU) in Arkansas. Founded in 1873, UAPB is home to several outstanding permanent exhibits focusing on the history and contributions of blacks in Arkansas. The “Persistence of the Spirit” exhibit documents 300 years of black history in Arkansas and is on display in the **Hathaway Howard Fine Arts Center**.

The “Keepers of the Spirit” exhibit, comprised of photographs, text panels, artifacts and other memorabilia, traces that 131-year history of UAPB. This exhibit is located in the **R.C. Childress Hall** which now houses the **University Museum and Cultural Center**. 1200 N. University, 870-575-8236.



## Heritage and Civil Rights Sites



### THE FORT SMITH JAZZ

The **Alfonzo Trent House** at **1301 N. Ninth St.** in **Fort Smith** was the childhood home of the famed black jazz musician in the 1920s and '30s. His band was among the first permitted to use front entrances to clubs and restaurants instead of the customary service entrance. (Private site — exterior viewing only.) 800-637-1477.



# Heritage and Civil Rights Sites



THE 1870 VISITORS CHAPEL A.M.E., LONG AN ANCHOR OF THE SPA CITY'S WELCOME FOR AFRICAN-AMERICANS.

A PHOTO FROM THE UZURI PROJECT.



## SPA CITY PROJECT

The primary program of **People Helping Others Excel By Example (P.H.O.E.B.E.)**, **The Uzuri Project**, is a collection of documents, photographs, letters, interpretive displays, built environments and more relating to the African-American experience in **Hot Springs**.  
608 W. Grand, 501-624-9400.

## THE GREAT BLACK WAY

The **Webb neighborhood** in **Hot Springs**, anchored by the **1870 Visitors Chapel A.M.E.**, was known for its “Black Broadway,” where black-owned businesses thrived. Black tourists were welcomed into the segregated spas and bathhouses during the '40s and '50s, an era when they were shunned by other resort towns.



# Heritage and Civil Rights Sites

## FROM SLAVE TO FREE

The end of the Civil War brought a lingering sense of uncertainty about the future for blacks and whites. The old forms and relationships had been destroyed by the war, but exactly what new forms would replace them were unclear. Built in the late 1850s, the **Lakeport Plantation house** near **Lake Village** has been restored as a museum focusing on the land's transition from slavery to tenant farming. The restoration is an official project of the Save America's Treasures program through the National Park Service and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.



THE LAKEPORT PLANTATION HOUSE IS THE LAST ANTEBELLUM COTTON PLANTATION HOUSE STILL STANDING IN THE ARKANSAS DELTA.

HOME OF THE FUTURE SOUTHERN TENANT FARMERS MUSEUM.



## TENANT FARMERS UNITE

The **Mitchell-East Building** serves as the Southern Tenant Farmers Museum in **Tyronza**. The building originally housed a dry cleaners run by H.L. Mitchell and a service station run by Clay East, two of the principal founders of the Southern Tenant Farmer's Union. The museum focuses on the farm labor movement in the South and its role as a forerunner to other civil rights movements.

## OUR TOWN

Located in southeast Arkansas, **Mitchellville** was founded in 1944 by a black church group. Through the efforts of civil rights activist Daisy Bates, it received federal funds to improve city streets and develop housing. Today, **Mitchellville** remains an all-black town.

## EDUCATING THOUSANDS FOR LESS THAN \$3

The **Floyd Brown-Fargo Agricultural School Museum**, **Fargo** was founded by its namesake in 1919. It is said that Brown built the school with \$2.85. The school provided a quality high school education to thousands of black students for 30 years.

## AFRICAN-AMERICAN GOTHIC REVIVAL

**Centennial Baptist Church** at York and Columbia streets in **Helena** in **Phillips County** was built in 1905 from a Gothic Revival design by African-American architect Henry James Price. It has been designated a National Historic Landmark for the civil rights work of Dr. Elias Camp Morris, pastor from 1878-1922, during the Jim Crow era. Dr. Morris' civil rights work included the establishment of the *Arkansas Baptist Vanguard* weekly newspaper, the founding of the **Arkansas Baptist College** in Little Rock and the organization of the National Baptist Convention.



CENTENNIAL BAPTIST CHURCH.

THE DELTA CULTURAL CENTER.



## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO HELENA

The **Delta Cultural Center** in **Helena** features several Civil War displays and tells the story of efforts to settle and cultivate the fertile Mississippi River Valley. "The Arkansas Delta: A Heritage of Determination" exhibit focuses on the trials and accomplishments of African-Americans in the Delta. The center also features the great African-American heritage of gospel and blues music. Missouri and Natchez streets, 870-338-4350 or 800-358-0972.

## CULTURE COMPREHENSION

The **African-American Cultural Center in Jonesboro** emphasizes the history of African-Americans who lived and worked in **Craighead County** and covers the time from the arrival of the first slave in 1860 to the present. It also includes contemporary history of African-Americans in other parts of the country. 110 Cooley Dr., 870-972-2074.

# Heritage and Civil Rights Sites

## THE CLASS OF 1958

The original **Central High School National Historic Site and Visitors Center** is located directly across the street from the high school in a restored Mobil gas station. With the construction of the new, larger Visitors Center, the older building will become an Education Center.



A METICULOUSLY PRESERVED MOBIL SERVICE STATION SERVED AS THE ORIGINAL VISITORS CENTER (NOW THE EDUCATION CENTER).



ARTIST'S RENDERING

## HAIL TO THE BLACK AND GOLD

**Little Rock Central High School** is noted as Arkansas's most important National Historic Landmark associated with the civil rights movement. The desegregation of the school in 1957 by nine blacks assisted by the 101st Airborne is said to symbolize the triumph of the Constitution over racial prejudice. An architectural design award-winning edifice, Central is also one of the largest high schools in Arkansas. 1500 S. Park, 501-447-1400.

## VISITORS WELCOME

The new, 10,000-square-foot **Visitors Center** has three functions: telling the story of the local and national events of the 1957 desegregation crisis; preserving and archiving objects and documents related to the event; and housing administrative space for the management functions of the Visitors Center and National Historic Site. The new Visitors Center is located directly across from the original Visitors Center and across the street diagonally from Little Rock Central High, on the northeast corner of South Park Street and Daisy L. Gatson Bates Drive.

The new Visitors Center, besides introducing visitors to the rich history surrounding **Little Rock Central High School**, also serves as a gateway to the historic neighborhood surrounding the institution. The Visitors Center design respects the history and character of the High School and neighborhood through the use of appropriate scale, building materials and landscaping. 501-374-1957. <http://www.nps.gov/chsc>.



LITTLE ROCK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL WAS ONCE NAMED THE MOST BEAUTIFUL HIGH SCHOOL IN AMERICA.

# Heritage and Civil Rights Sites

## HONORING MISS DAISY

The **Daisy Bates House**, a National Historic Landmark, was the de facto command post for the Central High crisis in **Little Rock**. Located at **1207 W. 28th St.**, the house became the official pick-up and drop-off site for the Little Rock Nine's trips to and from Central High School each school day, and consequently, a gathering spot for the Nine and members of the press. The house also became a frequent target of violence and damage at the hands of segregation's supporters. It is a private residence and not open to the public.

MINNIJEAN BROWN TRICKEY VISITS WITH HER FRIENDS FROM '57.



## TESTAMENT IN BRONZE

They are Ernest Green, Elizabeth Eckford, Jefferson Thomas, Terrence Roberts, Carlotta Walls Lanier, Minnijean Brown Trickey, Gloria Ray Karlmark, Thelma Mothershed-Wair, and Melba Pattillo Beals. And they now stand, forever determined, in a moving, life-sized sculpture on the grounds of the **Arkansas State Capitol**. The sculpture, Testament, was designed by local artists John and Cathy Deering.

## ALMA MATER OF LEADERS

Founded in 1877, **Philander Smith College** was established in **Little Rock** to educate former slaves. The college still thrives today and has produced prominent local and national leaders.

812 W. 13th St., 501-375-9845.



## A HEALING PLACE

**McRae Tuberculosis Sanitarium for Negroes** in **Alexander** is named in honor of the former Arkansas Governor, Thomas C. McRae, who signed a 1923 law authorizing the hospital during a time when the tuberculosis survival rate was 25 percent for blacks. In 1930, Dr. G.W. Ish, a prominent physician in **Little Rock**, offered Hugh A. Browne, a tuberculosis specialist and survivor, the position of administrator and director of medical services at McRae Tuberculosis Sanitarium. McRae was the first institution of its type in the country staffed entirely by blacks. During Browne's 31 years at McRae, he treated more than 7,000 patients and trained 15 young black doctors. The facility closed in 1968 and now houses the **Alexander Human Development Center** at 14701 Highway. 111 South, Saline County.



ARKANSAS PLANTATION AGRICULTURE MUSEUM.

## AN AMERICAN MOSAIC

Located in the hub of Little Rock's black business district, the **Mosaic Templars Building**, constructed between 1911 and 1913, was headquarters to one of the most powerful African-American fraternal organizations in America. Frank W. Blaisdell, the architect who designed the building, also contributed to the landscape plan of the Arkansas State Capitol grounds. The building officially opened in 1913 with a dedication ceremony featuring Booker T. Washington. Famous African-American musicians who performed in the auditorium included Duke Ellington, Count Basie and Billie Holiday. The building burned to the ground in the midst of its renovation. In its place, a brand new **Mosaic Templars Cultural Center** is being built, scheduled to open in 2008. The Center will be the only state-funded museum entirely dedicated to the story of African-American life and business in Arkansas. It will collect, preserve and interpret Arkansas's African-American history from 1870 to the present, including a permanent exhibit on Dunbar Prep. 900 Broadway and 9th streets.



MOSAIC TEMPLARS CULTURAL CENTER.

ARKANSAS BAPTIST COLLEGE.



## PRESERVING THE PLANTATION

**Scott**, a plantation settlement near **Little Rock**, features the Arkansas **Plantation Agriculture Museum** which preserves the rich heritage of plantation life and cotton agriculture in southeast Arkansas. Junction of U.S. 165 and 161, 501-961-1409.

## PIONEERS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

**Arkansas Baptist College** in **Little Rock**, founded in 1884, is one of Arkansas's oldest black educational institutions and was among the first Baptist colleges established in America for African-Americans. 1600 Bishop St., 501-374-7856.

## DUNBAR PREP

From 1929-1955, **Dunbar Junior/Senior High** in **Little Rock** was a segregated high school and was considered the premier school for blacks in Arkansas. Its college preparatory liberal arts curriculum, combined with a vocational education track, made it the only black secondary school and junior college in the state accredited by the North Central Association for Secondary Schools and Colleges. The memorabilia room contains items and artifacts from alumni during the segregation years. 1100 Wright Avenue, 501-447-2600.

## ARKANSAS'S FIRST HOUSE

The **Old State House** in **Little Rock** was the first Arkansas state capitol and was constructed in 1836, partly with slave labor. After the Civil War and during the Reconstruction period, more than 40 black legislators served in the Old State House. The Old State House was the site of an 1891 protest meeting against the adopted "Jim Crow" Separate Coach Law. African-American leaders participating in the meeting included Professor Joseph A. Booker, president of Arkansas Baptist College; Dr. J.H. Smith, a Little Rock dentist; the Rev. Ashberry Whitman; and the Rev. H.T. Johnson. It is believed that Mifflin Gibbs, the first black elected municipal judge in the United States, had his office in the Old State House. Today, the Old State House is an accredited museum which often displays its outstanding collection of quilts made by Arkansas's African-American community as early as 1879. 300 W. Markham, 501-324-9685.



## THE HUB OF ACTIVITY

**Taborian Hall**, constructed in 1916 by an African-American contractor, was considered the hub of the African-American business community in **Little Rock** and served as headquarters for the Arkansas Chapter of the Knights and Daughters of Tabor, a national fraternity. The building's third floor Dreamland Ballroom was often the scene for African-American nightlife. Famous entertainers from the "Chittlin' Circuit" who performed there included Louis Armstrong, Count Basie, Ella Fitzgerald and many others. Ninth and State streets.

## ARE YOU EXPERIENCED?

**EMOBA (Ernie's Museum of Black Arkansas)**, located in a former church building in **Little Rock**, is dedicated to the history of blacks in Arkansas, dating to the 1840s. Changing exhibits explore the black experience in Arkansas. 1208 Louisiana, 501-372-0018.

## WORSHIPPING SINCE 1845

The three oldest African-American churches in **Little Rock** – First Missionary Baptist Church, Wesley Chapel, and Bethel African Methodist Episcopal – were established by slaves prior to the Civil War. Originally organized in 1845 by the Rev. Wilson Brown, today First Missionary Baptist Church (7th and Gaines streets) is housed in an impressive red brick church with Gothic influences that dates to 1882. Built in 1926, Mount Zion Baptist Church (900 S. Cross St.) features the popular Prairie Style. Along with Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Bethel A.M.E. Church, and Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church, Mt. Zion hosted NAACP meetings during the 1950s and '60s to further the Civil Rights movement in Arkansas.

## BIG PRAISE

**St. Mark Baptist Church** in **Little Rock** houses one of the largest active black congregations in Arkansas. 5722 W. 12th St.

## DOWNTOWN TIME MACHINE

The **Historic Arkansas Museum** in **Little Rock** is a testament to Arkansas's frontier days and offers a step back in time. Five pre-Civil War houses, on their original block and built partially with slave labor, are restored to antebellum appearances. The contemporary center features outstanding collections of Arkansas-made decorative, mechanical, and fine arts objects in six galleries, a museum store, living history theater, educational areas and more. Small admission fee. 200 E. 3rd St., 501-324-9351.

# Desegregation in Arkansas

## HOW WE OVERCAME IN LITTLE ROCK

In the 1950s, America struggled to bring children of all races together for a quality public education as ordered by the U.S. Supreme Court in “Brown v. Board of Education.” **Little Rock Central High** became one of the first high-profile battlegrounds in this war between segregationists and civil rights leaders. Nine brave, black students pioneered a path for thousands of future scholars in the halls of this great school.

In 1998, President Bill Clinton signed into law an act of Congress designating **Central High School** a unit of the National Park System, setting aside the entire 21-acre campus, visitor center and surrounding area for preservation and interpretation by the National Park Service. **Central High** is the only high school in the United States to also be designated as a National Historic Site.

Today, an integrated **Central High** is consistently ranked as one of the top high schools in the nation.



## 1954

### May 18:

Gov. Francis Cherry says Arkansas will “comply with the requirements” of the Supreme Court desegregation ruling.

### May 22:

The school boards in **Fayetteville** and **Sheridan** announce that their systems will desegregate in the fall. The **Sheridan** board rescinds its decision the next day in the face of public outcry. The Little Rock School Board issues a policy statement saying it will comply with the Supreme Court’s decision.

### June 5:

Gubernatorial candidate Orval E. Faubus, a former state highway commissioner and the postmaster at **Huntsville**, pledges in his first campaign statement on school integration that “the rights of all will be protected but the problem of desegregation will be solved on the local level, with state authorities standing ready to assist in every way possible.”

### Aug. 10:

Faubus wins the Democratic nomination for governor by defeating incumbent Cherry after a heated primary runoff, 191,328 to 184,509.

### Aug. 23:

Public schools in **Charleston** admit 11 black students, making that **Franklin County** community the first in the former Confederacy’s 11 states to end school segregation. **Charleston’s** school superintendent waits until Sept. 14 to disclose the desegregation to the news media. Dale Bumpers, later the state’s governor and a prominent U.S. senator, served as legal counsel to the school board at this time.

### Sept. 7:

**Fayetteville High School** enrolls nine blacks along with 500 white students, following **Charleston** as the second desegregated system in Arkansas and the Old South.

### Nov. 2:

Faubus wins his first term as Arkansas governor by capturing 62 percent of the vote over Republican Pratt Rummel.

### Nov. 15:

Arkansas and six other Southern states, plus the District of Columbia, file briefs urging that the Supreme Court permit gradual application of its ruling against school segregation. Attorneys for black parent groups in four states petition the court to order total desegregation by September 1955 or September 1956.

## 1955

**May 24:**  
**The Little Rock** School Board and Superintendent Virgil T. Blossom disclose early details of their desegregation plan to comply with the Brown decision. Later known as the Blossom Plan, it is designed to phase in limited desegregation, starting with one high school in 1957 and gradually reaching down to the first grade by 1963.

**July 11:**  
Twenty-five blacks enroll peacefully amid 1,000 white students in **Hoxie**, the third Arkansas school system to desegregate and the first in an area of the state with a substantial black population.

**July 14:**  
**North Little Rock's** School Board adopts a plan to desegregate at the high school level in the fall of 1957.

**Aug. 4:**  
Dr. William G. Cooper Jr., president of the **Little Rock** School Board, sends a letter informing Daisy Bates, president of the Arkansas Chapter of the NAACP, that there will be no integration of students before September 1957.

**Aug. 20:**  
Mounting white opposition to integration in **Hoxie** following a story in *Life* magazine leads the local board to close its schools.

**Oct. 24:**  
**Hoxie** schools reopen after a federal court bars segregationists from preventing the admission of blacks. Widespread white absenteeism is reported.

## 1956

**Jan. 23:**  
Twenty-seven black students, under the aegis of the NAACP's Bates, are turned away when they try to enroll for the spring semester at **Little Rock's Central High, Tech High, Forest Heights Junior High** and **Forest Park Elementary** schools. Their enrollment is refused on the grounds that school authorities haven't yet had time to make plans.

**Jan. 28:**  
Gov. Faubus reports that "85 percent of all the people" in Arkansas opposed school desegregation in a statewide poll he commissioned in November.

**Feb. 8:**  
A federal lawsuit is filed in **Little Rock** by 12 black parents on behalf of 33 students to compel the school board to desegregate the city's schools without further delay. NAACP lawyers in the suit include Thurgood Marshall, a future U.S. Supreme Court justice.

**March 11:**  
All eight members of Arkansas's congressional delegation are among the 19 U.S. senators and 81 U.S. representatives to sign the Southern Manifesto. The document denounces the Supreme Court's 1954 Brown decision and pledges to use "all lawful means" to have it reversed. Arkansas signers include Sens. John L. McClellan and J. William Fulbright and Reps. Wilbur D. Mills, Brooks Hays, James W. Trimble, Oren Harris, E.C. Gathings and W.F. Norell.

**March 18:**  
Pro-segregation candidates win the school board election in **Hoxie**.

**April 26:**  
**Little Rock** integrates its municipal bus system three days after the U.S. Supreme Court outlawed segregation on intrastate buses. No trouble is reported.

**April 30:**  
Former State Sen. James D. "Jim" Johnson of **Crossett** announces his Democratic candidacy for governor at a rally in **Little Rock**, after **Hoxie**

segregationist leader Herbert Brewer comes to the stage and "suggests" that he run. Johnson attacks Faubus' "do-nothing stand on segregation."

**May 9:**  
**Little Rock's** new **Horace Mann High School**, a segregated facility for black students, opens at **McAlmont Street** and **Roosevelt Road**. Superintendent Blossom calls the \$925,000 school "the very best this community could offer."

**July 11:**  
Faubus tells a campaign rally in **Marianna**: "No school district will be forced to mix the races as long as I am governor of Arkansas."

**July 31:**  
Faubus wins the Democratic primary without a runoff, garnering 180,760 votes to 83,856 for Johnson.

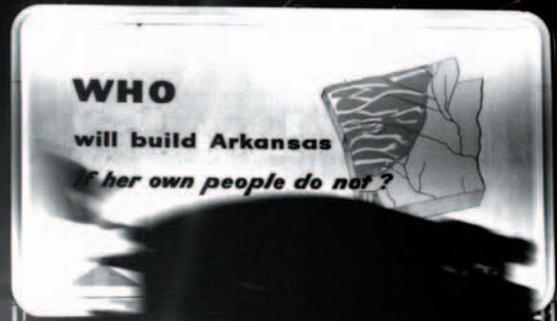
**Aug. 28:**  
U.S. District Judge John E. Miller upholds the **Little Rock** School Board's gradual desegregation plan in the case brought by black parents. "This court shall not substitute its own judgment" for the school board's, Miller writes.

**Sept. 25:**  
Democratic presidential candidate Adlai E. Stevenson, introduced by Faubus at a rally in **Little Rock's MacArthur Park**, says the Supreme Court's school desegregation ruling was right and asks Arkansans for peaceful compliance.

**Nov. 6:**  
Faubus is re-elected governor with 80 percent of the vote over Republican Roy Mitchell. Voters statewide approve three segregation measures. Initiated Act 2, which authorizes school boards to assign pupils to preserve segregation, gets 73 percent of the vote. The Arkansas Resolution and Act of Interposition, which puts the state on record as opposing racial mixing in schools, gets 60 percent. Constitutional Amendment 44, which propounds nullification of the Supreme Court's Brown ruling by interposing the sovereignty of the state, gets 56 percent. Many Arkansans, both black and white, were effectively kept from voting on these issues due to the required payment of a "poll tax."

**Feb. 26:**

Faubus signs into law four segregation bills passed by the Arkansas Legislature. The laws establish the Arkansas Sovereignty Commission to make anti-integration investigations, authorize parents to refuse to send their children to desegregated schools, require organizations such as the NAACP to disclose membership and financial data, and allow the use of school district funds to hire lawyers and pay other legal costs of opposing desegregation suits.

**April 29:**

A federal appellate court upholds the previous August's District Court approval of the **Little Rock** School Board's gradual desegregation plan. Expressing his pleasure with the decision, Superintendent Blossom says **Hall High School**, being built at 6700 H St., will open on schedule in September.

**April 30:**

The pro-segregation Capital Citizens Council of **Little Rock** appeals to Faubus in a letter from its president, Robert E. Brown, to "order the two races to attend their own schools" in the fall.

**June 22:**

The **North Little Rock** School Board announces that 28 black seniors will be eligible to enter previously segregated **North Little Rock Senior High** in September.

**June 25:**

The school board in **Fort Smith** votes to desegregate classes in the fall.

**June 27:**

Attorney Amis Guthridge and the Rev. Wesley Pruden, both opposed to integration, submit official requests to the **Little Rock** School Board posing a series of questions. Guthridge asks the board to act under a 1957 legislative act and provide separate schools for white and black children whose parents don't want them attending integrated schools. Among Pruden's questions: "If Negro children go to integrated schools, will they be permitted to attend school-sponsored dances and would the Negro boys be allowed to solicit the white girls for dances?"

**June 30:**

A newspaper advertisement by the Capital Citizens Council calls on Faubus to require maintenance of school segregation, “since a sovereign state is immune to federal court orders and since the governor as head of the sovereign state is also immune to federal court orders.”

**July 2:**

**Ozark’s** School Board discloses its desegregation plans for the fall term.

**July 27:**

The **Little Rock** School Board, answering the June 27 questions submitted by Guthridge and Pruden, says maintaining separate schools for whites or blacks who oppose integration would violate the U.S. Supreme Court ruling. It assures Pruden that the mingling of races at social events will be forbidden. The school board also reveals that **Central High** will be the system’s only school with integrated enrollment in September. All 700 students at the new **Hall High** will be white, it reports, and **Mann High** will remain all black for the 1957-58 school year.

**Aug. 16:**

Two black ministers file a federal suit seeking to have declared unconstitutional the four segregation bills passed by the Arkansas Legislature in February.

**Aug. 17:**

A suit filed in state Chancery Court by **Little Rock** businessman William F. “Billy” Rector questions the validity of the Arkansas Resolution and Act of Interposition adopted by voters the previous November.

**Aug. 19:**

A Chancery Court suit filed by Eva Wilbern for her 14-year-old daughter Kay asks that the **Little Rock** School Board allow white **Central High** students to transfer to a school that remains segregated.

**Aug. 20:**

**Van Buren’s** schools, desegregating under federal court order, report that they expect 23 black students.

**Aug. 23:**

Just after midnight, a rock is thrown through the picture window at the home of Daisy Bates and her husband, L.C. Bates, publisher and editor of the black *Free Press* newspaper. Daisy Bates tells police that a note tied to the rock said, “Stone this time. Dynamite next.”

**Aug. 25:**

A cross eight feet high is burned on the lawn of L.C. and Daisy Bates. A sign near the cross bears a white-lettered message: “Go back to Africa. KKK.”

**Sept. 2:**

Gov. Orval Faubus sends Arkansas National Guard troops to **Central High** to keep the peace.

**Sept. 4:**

National Guard troops turn away seven of the black students.

**Sept. 20:**

Federal Court orders Faubus not to interfere with the integration.

**Sept. 23:**

Crowds gather outside **Central High** on what would become known as “Black Monday.”

**Sept. 24:**

President Eisenhower federalizes Arkansas National Guard.

**Sept. 24:**

Elements of the 101st Airborne Division arrive in **Little Rock** and begin patrolling **Central High**.

**Sept. 25:**

All nine black students are allowed to enter **Central High**, escorted by the 101st Airborne Division troops.

**June 3:**

Ernest Green becomes **Central High’s** first black graduate. The next month, a special session of the Arkansas General Assembly passes laws allowing the governor to close any school “being integrated by force.”

**Sept.:**

Gov. Faubus closes all **Little Rock** high schools, including **Central High**, for the 1958-1959 school year.

**Sept.:**

Women’s Emergency Committee to Open Public Schools (WEC) formed.

**Nov.:**

Segregationist Dr. Dale Alford is elected to Congress from Arkansas’s 5th congressional district as a write-in candidate.

## 1959

**May:**

A recall election is held to remove extreme segregationists from **Little Rock** School Board.

**June:**

A Federal Court rules state’s school closing laws unconstitutional.

**Summer:**

**Little Rock** School Board announces the reopening of closed schools.

**Aug. 12:**

A segregationist mob tries to prevent the opening of **Central High**.

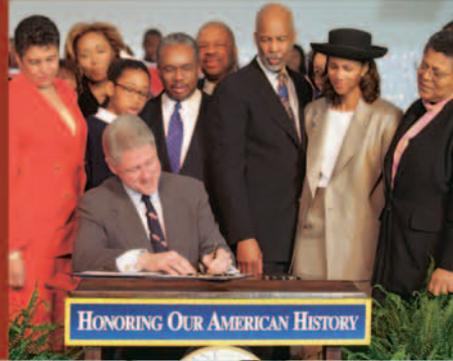
**Sept.:**

**Central High** and other schools reopen for 1959-1960 school year. Eight black students attend **Central High** and **Hall High** with little trouble. The **Central High** crisis is considered over.

# The Most Inclusive President in History

President William J. Clinton's solid relationship with African-Americans began during his years in Arkansas politics and continued throughout his presidency. It's particularly appropriate that once he left the White House, Clinton would further the relationship by opening an office in Harlem, the most famous black district in the country.

CLINTON HONORS THE HERITAGE OF ALL AMERICANS.



During his administration, Clinton appointed more African-Americans to his cabinet and other federal posts than any other president in history, earning respect and admiration for both his words and his deeds. It was President Clinton who insisted that we “mend, not end” affirmative action and kept his promise to put together a Cabinet and White House staff that “looked like America.”

Clinton's association with the black community would lead writer and poet Toni Morrison to proclaim him, “the nation's first black president.” Arkansans embraced this statement in 2002 as they named Bill Clinton an honorary inductee of the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame. The next year, Clinton was named a winner of the National Civil Rights Museum annual Freedom Award. Clinton was also responsible for bringing the Little Rock Nine together for a reunion at the 30th anniversary of the Central High crisis, hosting them at the Governor's Mansion in 1987. Another reunion was held during the 40th anniversary of the crisis. Clinton also began the process by which Mrs. Bates' home was named a National Historic Landmark in 2000.





Clinton's legacy is on display at **The William J. Clinton Presidential Center** – a museum and educational and archival research facility on the banks of the **Arkansas River** in downtown **Little Rock's River Market District**. **The Clinton Center** houses the largest archival collection in American presidential history.

The center's main glass and steel building suspended over the **Arkansas River** almost literally fulfills Clinton's call to "Build a Bridge to the 21st Century." This beautiful, urban park replaces a former wasteland of warehouses and abandoned industrial sites – revitalizing the riverfront and adding new momentum to the rebirth of downtown **Little Rock**.

**The Clinton Center** is located east of Interstate 30 and is easily visible from the highway when crossing the **Arkansas River**. The center is within 10 minutes of the **Little Rock National Airport**.

Permanent exhibits at the **Clinton Center** utilize documents, photographs, videos and interactive stations to illustrate the 42nd president's legacy in many areas, including the civil rights struggle. President Clinton signed the Motor Voter Bill, which expands voting rights for all, including the poor and the young, by creating new voter registration locations. His cabinet included five African-Americans, two Hispanics and six women.

# Arkansas's Musical Legacy

The Natural State's contributions to music and entertainment came not only from African-Americans but many others who helped establish Arkansas as a significant influence in the arts and entertainment of the South. Not only did Arkansas produce many native performers, but it also proved to be a stopping point for others on the road to success.

From the King Biscuit Blues Festival to the folk music that makes up the Ozarks tradition, Arkansans' love of good music and a good time is legendary. Many well-known musicians have called Arkansas home at one time or another, from world-renowned soul singer Al Green to jazz bandleader Louis Jordan, and all are showcased at the **Arkansas Entertainers Hall of Fame** in **Pine Bluff**. Listen closely to the heartbeat of Arkansas as you travel to view the locations these musicians called home.



ANOTHER FAMOUS SAX PLAYER FROM ARKANSAS.

## HELLO, LUCILLE

B.B. King, the legendary blues singer, named his guitar Lucille after an incident in a nightclub in **Twist** in 1949. He was performing one cold night when a couple of intoxicated patrons fought over a woman named Lucille, knocked over the kerosene heater and started a fire that burned the place down. King risked his life to retrieve the guitar from the burning building. The original Lucille has had at least 16 successors.

## THE BRINKLEY BOOGIE

Louis Jordan, celebrated bandleader and saxophonist often called the “father of American rhythm and blues,” was born in **Brinkley**. Jordan is known for touring with jazz legend Ella Fitzgerald and writing popular songs including “Choo Choo Cha Boogie” and “Is You Is Or Is You Ain’t My Baby.”

SCOTT JOPLIN MURAL



## “THE ENTERTAINER” FROM TEXARKANA

Scott Joplin, the self-proclaimed King of Ragtime, was born near **Texarkana**. His “Maple Leaf Rag” composition made him famous and retains its popularity after a century. In 1902, Joplin wrote “The Entertainer” which was later revived in the film score of “The Sting” in 1973. Joplin is also said to be the first black composer to have written an opera.

## SINGING WITH THE DUKE

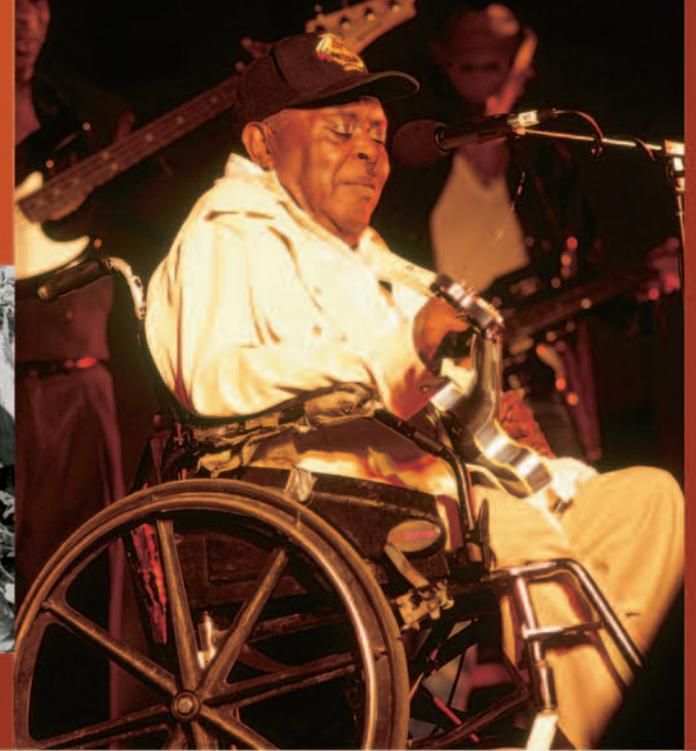
Albert “Al” Hibbler, a blind jazz singer born in **Little Rock**, was the lead male vocalist for Duke Ellington’s orchestra for several years. During that time, the orchestra had five Top 30 songs in the 1950s, including a famous rendition of “Unchained Melody” in 1955.

### SYMPHONIC LITTLE ROCK

Known as the “Dean of Afro-American composers,” William Grant Still was born in **Little Rock** and became the first important black classical music composer in the United States. He was also the first African-American to write a symphony that was performed by a major symphony orchestra and the first to conduct a major symphony (the Los Angeles Philharmonic). Still’s personal collections are housed at the **University of Arkansas** libraries at **Fayetteville**.



WILLIAM GRANT STILL

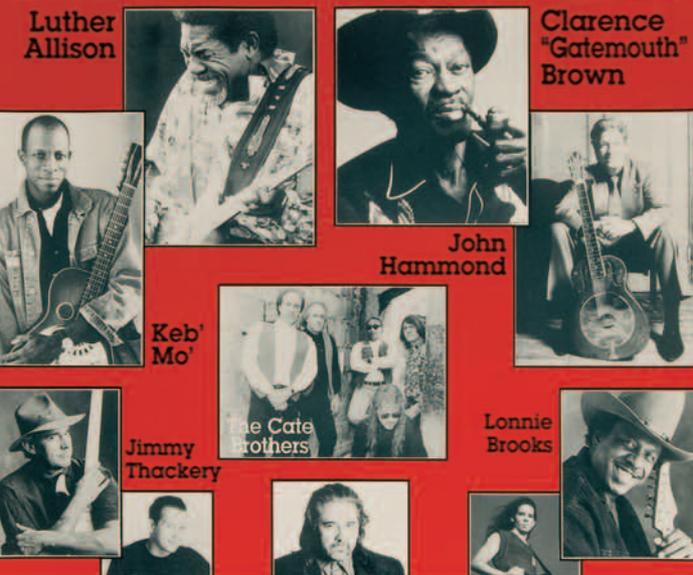


CEDELL DAVIS

## 1997 EUREKA BLUES FESTIVAL

MAY 29 – JUNE 1

### EUREKA SPRINGS, ARKANSAS



### WE'RE STILL BLUE

Winner of three W.C. Handy Awards in 1997, blues superstar Luther Allison was born in **Widener** near **Forrest City**. Allison, a singer, songwriter and guitarist, was twice named Blues Entertainer of the Year prior to his 1997 death. Luther would often return to Arkansas to perform in the **Eureka Springs Blues Festival**.

### PLAYING THE BLUES LIKE BUTTER

Born Ellis Davis on June 9, 1927, in **Helena**, blues entertainer Cedell Davis was stricken with polio at nine years old. The effects of his childhood illness denied him full use of his hands, so Davis learned to play the guitar upside down and used a butter knife for a slide.

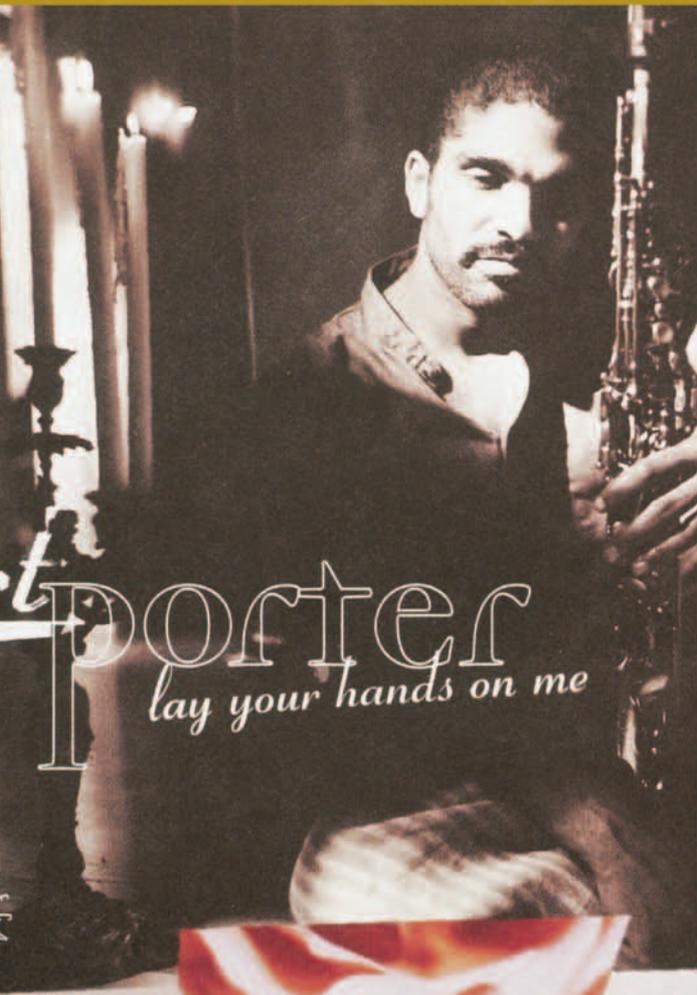
### KING BISCUIT HIMSELF

Willie “Sonny Boy” Williamson is known as one of Arkansas’s famous Delta blues performers and inspired the fall tradition that became **Helena’s King Biscuit Blues Festival** and is now the **Arkansas Blues and Heritage Festival** held each year in October.

EUREKA, YOU'VE GOT THE BLUES.

## JUNIOR AND SENIOR JAZZMEN

Father and son jazz musicians Art Porter Sr. and Art Porter Jr. were both natives of **Little Rock**. Art Porter Sr. was born in 1934 and graduated from **Dunbar High School** and **AM&N College** (now known as the **University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff**). After earning a Master of Science in Music Education from **Henderson State University**, Porter would teach at **Horace Mann High School**, **Parkview High School** and **Philander Smith College**. Porter formed the now-legendary Art Porter Trio in 1962 that performed at jazz clubs around the state until his death. The trio regularly played at the **Camelot Hotel** (now the **DoubleTree**) and **Cajun's Wharf** restaurant.



### PLAYING WITH THE CHOIR

Art Porter Jr. began his musical career at an early age with his first audience being the congregation of **Bethel A.M.E. Church**. Although Porter would go on to share his music worldwide, he would come back to Arkansas to perform from time to time before his untimely death in 1996.

### IN SYNCHO

Pianist and bandleader Alphonso Trent was born in **Fort Smith** in 1905. Trent attended **Shorter College** in **North Little Rock** and played around the capital city with a group called the "Syncho Six."

AL GREEN



### LEARNIN' TO HOWL

Raised on a plantation near **Parkin**, Howlin' Wolf received his first guitar at age 18. Howlin' Wolf later learned to play the harmonica from another influential Delta blues musician, Sonny Boy Williamson. Wolf would later go on to record songs with Ike Turner and perform as the warm-up act for the Rolling Stones.

### THE KING OF OSCEOLA

**Osceola** native and W.C. Handy International Blues Awards Hall of Fame inductee Albert King taught himself how to play music on a homemade guitar created from a cigar box played upside down. In 1969, King became the first blues musician to perform with a symphony orchestra. King would eventually release a tribute album to Elvis Presley, "Blues for Elvis: Albert King Does the King's Things."

### THE REVEREND OF ROCK AND SOUL

Eight-time Grammy winner and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee Al Green was born in **Forrest City** in 1946.

## Other Famous Arkansans

MAYA ANGELOU, STAMPS NATIVE AND INAUGURAL POET.



JERMAIN TAYLOR RECEIVES A HERO'S WELCOME IN HIS HOMETOWN AFTER EARNING THE UNDISPUTED MIDDLEWEIGHT CHAMPION OF THE WORLD TITLE.

### ARKANSAS LAUREATE

Maya Angelou, author of *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* and other autobiographical works, grew up in the **Stamps** community in South Arkansas. Angelou recited her poem *On the Pulse of Morning* at President Bill Clinton's inauguration in 1993.

### BEST-SELLING RAZORBACK

E. Lynn Harris was born in Michagan, raised in **Little Rock** and graduated from the **University of Arkansas at Fayetteville**, where he was the school's first black yearbook editor and the first black male Razorback cheerleader. Between 1996 and 1999, he became the nation's all-time best-selling African-American novelist for works including *Invisible Life*, *Just As I Am*, *And This Too Shall Pass*, *If This World Were Mine* and *Any Way the Wind Blows*.

### VOICE OF THE PANTHERS

**Wabbaseka** native Eldridge Cleaver was a well-known political activist in the 1960s. Once considered the chief spokesperson for the Black Panthers, Cleaver wrote the 1968 autobiographical work *Soul On Ice* and followed it in 1978 with *Soul On Fire*.

### AND IN THIS CORNER...

Arkansan Jermain Taylor, boxing's Middleweight World Champion, still calls The Natural State home. He grew up in **Little Rock** poor, fatherless and with a world of responsibility on his shoulders. Through hard work, dedication, and good mentors, he rose through the boxing ranks to earn an Olympic Bronze Medal and the undisputed middleweight crown.

## A PUBLISHING POWERHOUSE

The head of the most powerful African-American publishing company in the United States, John H. Johnson was born in **Arkansas City** and went on to own a leading cosmetics company, Fashion Fair, and publish *Ebony* and *Jet* magazines. Located on the same block as the former **Arkansas City High School**, the **John H. Johnson Delta Cultural and Entrepreneurial Center** preserves the life and achievements of Johnson.



JOHN H. JOHNSON CHILDHOOD HOME.

LAWRENCE HAMILTON



## BROADWAY STAR

Arkansas native Lawrence Hamilton was born in **Foreman**. Hamilton graduated from **Henderson State University** and made his 1979 Broadway debut in “Timbuktu” starring Eartha Kitt. Hamilton also performed in other Broadway shows including “Ragtime,” “Sophisticated Ladies,” “The Wiz,” “Play On!” and “Jelly’s Last Jam.”

## THE BLACK ROCKEFELLER

According to some reports, Scott Bond, a former slave from Mississippi, became Arkansas’s first African-American millionaire and was called the “Black John D. Rockefeller of the South.” Bond became the largest individual African-American planter during his time because of the rich, fertile land from the basin of the **St. Francis River** near his home of **Madison**.

# The Arkansas Black Hall of Fame

The Arkansas Black Hall of Fame honors those who have led the way in the long march to ensure civil rights for all Arkansans, inducting educators, doctors, activists, athletes, artists and leaders from all walks of life since 1993.

## 1993

Dr. Maya Angelou, Poet, Author and Educator – (Stamps)  
Mr. Ernest Green, First Black Graduate of Central High School – (Little Rock)  
Mr. John H. Johnson, Publisher, *Ebony* Magazine – (Arkansas City)  
Mrs. Daisy Bates, Civil Rights Advocate – (Little Rock)  
Dr. G.W. Stanley Ish Sr., Little Rock Physician and Community Activist  
Ms. Lottie Shackelford, Democratic National Committee, Former Little Rock Mayor

## 1994

Mr. Art L. Porter, Entertainer/Pianist – (Little Rock)  
Mr. Ernest Joshua, Business Leader, Owner of J.M. Products, Inc. – (Little Rock)  
Ms. Debbye Turner, Former Miss America – (Russellville)  
The Honorable George Howard, Federal Judge – (Pine Bluff)  
James McKissic, Concert Pianist – (Little Rock)  
Evangeline Brown, Educator – (McGehee, Portland and Dumas)

## 1995

Mr. Hubert "Geese" Ausbie, Harlem Globetrotters, Basketball Player – (Little Rock)  
Col. Woodrow W. Crockett, Tuskegee Airman – (Texarkana)  
Dr. Joycelyn Elders, Former U.S. Surgeon General – (Schaal)  
Mr. James T. & Mrs. Ethel Kearney, Parents of 20 College Graduates – (Gould)  
Mr. Robert McFerrin, Singer – (Marianna)  
Dr. William Grant Still, Composer – (Little Rock)

## 1996

Scipio A. Jones, Lawyer – (Tulip and Little Rock)  
Herwald H. Morton, Career Minister, U.S. Foreign Services – (Little Rock)  
Dr. Lawrence A. Davis, Educator – (McCrory)  
Andree Layton Roaf, Associate Justice, Arkansas Supreme Court – (Pine Bluff)  
O.C. Smith, Singer – (Little Rock)  
Dr. Grover Evans, Olympic Gold Medalist, Swimmer – (Jonesboro)

## 1997

Barbara Higgins Bond, Artist – (Little Rock)  
Gretha Boston, Opera Singer – (Crossett)  
Dr. Lloyd C. Elam, Psychiatrist, Educator – (Little Rock)  
Keith Jackson, NFL Football Star (Green Bay Packers) – (Little Rock)  
Dr. Samuel Lee Kountz, First Kidney Transplant, Surgeon – (Lexa)  
Rodney Slater, Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation – (Marianna)

## 1998

Daisy Anderson, Oldest Surviving Widow of Civil War Veteran – (Forrest City)  
Willie Branton Sr., Civil Rights Lawyer – (Pine Bluff)  
Mike Conley, Olympic Gold Medalist – (Fayetteville)  
Danny K. Davis, U.S. Congressman – (Parkdale)  
Samuel P. Massie, Chemist – (North Little Rock)  
Anita Pointer, Singer – (Prescott)  
Phyllis Stickney, Actress – (Little Rock)

## 1999

Dr. Ernest James Harris, Ph.D., Entomologist/Research Scientist  
Gertrude Hadley Jeanette, Actress – (Little Rock)  
Admiral Edward Moore, U.S. Navy, Commander Pacific Surface Fleet – (Little Rock)  
Johnnie Taylor, Legendary Rhythm and Blues Singer – (Crawfordsville)  
John W. Walker, Civil Rights Attorney – (Little Rock)  
Eliza Miller, Entrepreneur/Educator/Civic Leader – (Arkadelphia)

## 2000

Dr. Floyd Brown (Posthumous), Educator/Founder of the Fargo School  
Mr. E. Lynn Harris, Award-Winning Author – (Little Rock)  
Ms. Theresa Hoover, International Church Leader – (Fayetteville)  
Dr. Wilbert Jordan, M.D., Medical Research Specialist – (Little Rock)  
Mr. Roy Roberts, Fortune 500 Executive (Retired) – (Magnolia)  
Ms. Lela Rochon Fuqua, Actress – (Camden)

## 2001

Mr. Granville Coggs, M.D., Medical Specialist/Inventor – (Pine Bluff)  
Ms. Amina Claudine Myers, Jazz Musician/Entertainer – (Blackwell)  
Mr. Sidney Moncrief, Star Athlete/Business Leader – (Little Rock)  
Mr. Henry Linton, Artist/Educator – (Pine Bluff)  
Mr. Ozell Sutton, Civic Leader – (Gould)  
Mr. Mahlon Martin (Posthumous), Business/Government Leader – (Little Rock)

## 2002

Mr. Al Bell, Legendary Music Industry Executive – (Brinkley)  
Mrs. Faye Clark, Philanthropist and Co-founder Educate the Children Foundation – (Pine Bluff)  
The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton, 42nd President of the United States (Honorary Induction) – (Hope, Hot Springs and Little Rock)  
Dr. Edith Irby-Jones, First Graduate University of Arkansas Medical School-First Woman Head of National Medical Society – (Hot Springs)  
Dr. Haki R. Madhubuti, Poet/Lecturer/Educator/Publisher – (Little Rock)  
Bishop Charles Harrison Mason (Posthumous), Founder of the Church of God in Christ – (Plumerville)

## 2003

Dr. James Cone, Ph.D., Internationally Renowned Theologian – (Bearden)  
Ms. Deborah Mathis, Nationally Syndicated Columnist/Author and Television Commentator – (Little Rock)  
Evangelist Gladys McFadden and the Loving Sisters, Grammy-Nominated Gospel Recording Artists – (Little Rock)  
Mr. Lawrence Hamilton, Broadway performer and choral music director at Philander Smith College – (Foreman)  
Mr. J. Donald Rice, Financier/Entrepreneur/Noted Business Leader – (Hot Springs)  
The Honorable Lavenski Smith, U.S. Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals – (Hope)

## 2004

John H. Stroger Jr., Distinguished Civil and Political Leader – (Helena)  
Pharaoh Sanders, Internationally Renowned Jazz Musician – (North Little Rock)  
Fatima Robinson, World Renowned Dancer and Choreographer – (Little Rock)  
Dr. Patricia Washington McGraw, Educator, Author and Humanitarian – (Wrightsville)  
Hazel Shanks Hynson, Educator and Musician Extraordinaire, (Little Rock)  
W. Harold Flowers (Posthumous), Pioneering Attorney and Civil Rights Leader – (Stamps)

## 2005

Dr. Sybil Jordan Hampton, President—Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation – (Little Rock)  
David L. Evans, Harvard University (Phillips County)  
Lou Brock, Major League Baseball Hall of Fame Inductee – (El Dorado)  
Louis Thomas Jordan (Posthumous), Composer, Musician, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Inductee – (Brinkley)  
Fran Bennett, Actress, Master Voice Teacher – (Malvern)  
Martha Dixon, Fashion Designer, Business Leader – (Arkadelphia)

## 2006

Dr. Oliver Baker, PhD., World-renowned Particle Physicist (McGehee)  
Honorable Charles Bussey, Sr. (Posthumous), Civic, Social and Political Leader (Stamps)  
Honorable Justice Glen T. Johnson, Pioneering Lawyer and Distinguished Jurist (Washington)  
Dr. Emma Kelly-Rhodes, Innovative Social Leader and Educator (Little Rock)  
Henry Shead, Singer, Songwriter, Las Vegas Performer (Fordyce)  
Ms. Lencola Sullivan, Miss Arkansas 1980, Performer and International Motivational Speaker (Morrilton)

# Thanks to Our Partners

## Information gathered from:

*The Arkansas Historical Quarterly*

The Butler Center for Arkansas Studies,  
Central Arkansas Library System, Little Rock

Arkansas History Commission, Dr. Wendy Richter, Director

Clinton Presidential Materials Project

Arkansas Jazz Heritage Foundation

Dr. Ruth Hawkins, Arkansas Delta Byways Regional Association

*Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*

Dr. Johanna Miller-Lewis,  
University of Arkansas at Little Rock Public History Program

John Kirk, *Redefining the Color Line*

John William Graves, *Town and Country: Race Relations in an Urban-Rural Context, Arkansas, 1865 – 1905* (Fayetteville and London: University of Arkansas Press, 1990.)

Fon Gordon, *Caste and Class: The Black Experience in Arkansas, 1880 – 1920* (Athens and London: University of Georgia Press.)

Berna J. Love, *End of the Line: A History of Little Rock's West Ninth Street* (Little Rock: Center for Arkansas Studies, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, 2004.),

## Photos courtesy of:

Geleve Grice

Dr. Ruth Hawkins,  
Arkansas Delta Byways

*Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*

The Butler Center for Arkansas  
Studies, Central Library

Camp Aldersgate

Arkansas History Commission

Special Collections, University of  
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Ethel Tompkins

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Dr. Gordon Morgan

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To learn more about the African-American experience in Arkansas, contact the Arkansas History Commission's Black History Advisory Committee at [www.ark-ives.com](http://www.ark-ives.com) or the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Arkansas Chapter, at [www.aahgs.org](http://www.aahgs.org).

The "Heritage and Civil Rights Pathways in Arkansas" publication is not meant to serve as an all-inclusive authority on Arkansas's civil rights movement or heritage, but points out some must-see destinations that shaped Arkansas's history. Arkansas has a strong background in African-American culture, and it was impossible to include all sites and locations in this brochure.



REQUEST, SINGING "DAVY CROCKETT"



**A MOTHER IS DOUBTFUL BUT DAUGHTER TAKES**



**SHOWING CONCERN.** Mrs. John Cole (right), who brought daughter Peggy, 8, looks at integrated group while two teachers confer before class begins.



**TAKING HER LEAD.** She said she put it on to have to obey the law.

**AFTER HER MOTHER'S DEPARTURE, PEGGY (CENTER) STROLLS ARM IN ARM**





**Arkansas**  
THE NATURAL STATE®



**1997 EUREKA BLUES**  
— MAY 29 — JUN 1  
**EUREKA SPRINGS, AR**

**Luther Allison**

