

# DREAM NOT OVER YET



MATTHEW BECK/Chronicle

Many attending the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. parade and picnic Monday donned shirts similar to Crystal River resident C.J. Natteal. Many of the shirts included phrases from the "I Have a Dream," speech made famous by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Natteal holds his 1-year-old niece Ariana Hemion as a program on stage in front of the two begins.

## Locals gather for King celebration at Copeland Park

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*Chronicle*

President-elect Barack Obama is living Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream, community members said Monday at the Progress Energy Martin Luther King Jr. Picnic.

To pay homage to King, hundreds of countywide residents gathered at Copeland Park in Crystal River after the Martin Luther Jr. Parade, sponsored by the George Washington Carver Community Center Group.

"Great turnout," said Katrice McCray-Holly, Community Action Foundation



## Hundreds pack church for King Day

*Associated Press*

ATLANTA — The impending inauguration of the nation's first black president is a huge step toward realizing Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream of racial equality, but there is still work to be done, King's nephew told a large crowd Monday at the church where the civil rights leader once preached.

Isaac Newton Farris, president of The King Center, told the jubilant crowd on what would have been King's 80th birthday that the election of Barack Obama was built on a foundation laid by King and was a "gigantic leap" toward the

# County's Afro-American Club turns 20

*Founding members recall organization's beginnings in Citrus*

**NANCY KENNEDY**  
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*Chronicle*

When Gepe Thompson arrived in Citrus County in 1986 he found fewer than 18 African-Americans living in Beverly Hills.

One of them, Sandy Barnes, he met when they both pulled into the parking lot at the Beverly Hills Motel. Barnes had come from New York to close on his house and Thompson was there to start his.

The following year Carol Thomas and her late husband moved to Beverly Hills, as did Clifford Darrien and his wife.

Thompson, Thomas and Darrien are all founding members of the Afro-American Club of Citrus County. The club is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year.

"Everybody had a club at that time, the German club, the New York club," Thompson said. "Sandy and I talked about having a club of our own."

He said whenever he'd be at the



BRIAN L. PETER/Chronicle

Gene Thompson, left, Carol Thomas and Clifford Darrien are founding members of the Afro-American Club of Citrus County, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year.

Piggly Wiggly and he'd see other people of color he'd strike up a conversation and bring up the subject of a club.

As the three sat in Thomas' living room on a recent Thursday morning, they reminisced about the early days of the club and its significance in their lives.

"It was never a social club," Thomas said. "We wanted it to be a club to help the needy and for scholarships."

Fifteen people met in Sylvia Johnston's Florida room and then met at a bank on County Road 491 before moving their meetings to the old

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# CLUB

Continued from Page A1

Beverly Hills library at the top of the civic circle where they still meet today.

Darrien was the club's first president and Thompson its first vice president.

"It gave us an outlet," Thompson said. "When we first got here, it was where we met together and threw our ideas together."

It was also a place where they found understanding of their common experience of being judged negatively just because of the color of their skin.

"White people can't identify with us," Thompson said. "We've been discriminated against all our lives."

As a club, however, their purpose has never been about activism nor about politics, but about service to the community. Throughout the years, they've given thousands of dollars in scholarships to local students.

Education has always been a focus of the club, Thomas said, with many of their members being educa-

tors. Years ago, club members helped with an after-school tutoring program at a church in Inverness.

"When we first started out we had yard sales and we raised money by raffling off savings bonds," Thompson said. "The other thing we did was sell barbecue dinners at the Beverly Hills International festival."

The first year, they made \$1,200.

"When we first started out we gave out \$500 scholarships," Thompson said. "Now we give \$1,000."

Thomas said last year they gave out about 10 scholarships.

"When I first came, we would go around to the stores and solicit for our club," Thomas said. "We'd go to the paint store, to the Ben Franklin and to restaurants."

The club started out as a neighborhood club and grew by word of mouth, Darrien said. When they opened it up as a county-wide organization, membership exploded. Today, there is more than 120 members.

"At first everyone was about the same age," Thompson said. "When we

opened it up to the community we got more ideas and now we have younger folks."

Thomas said the club has also served to enrich the lives and affirm the common heritage of its members. Each month they send out a newsletter with a researched article about significant African Americans in history, such as the Tuskegee Airmen, the World War II Army Air Corps pilots.

"I was so proud to have known one, Lemuel Custis," Thomas said. Custis, who died Feb. 28, 2005, was also the first black police officer in Hartford, Conn. Thomas is also from Hartford.

"We're enriched by hav-

ing a club that people can take part in and help the community and also learn about Negro history, because some of the things we've learned aren't taught in school," she said. "So, it not just a club; it's an education."

11-21-08

# County's black residents reflect on Obama's win

*For many,  
it's the dawn  
of a new era*

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*Chronicle*

Edna Foster grew up in Red Level and remembers the era of segregation. She remembers the days of separate schoolhouses and vast racial inequality. She never thought she would live long enough to witness a black man become president

of the United States. "It was a moment of great jubilation," Foster, 68, said. She said it warmed her heart to see people of all ages and races come together to make such a historical change. Foster said her adult children know the stories about segregation, so they realize the importance of this event. She said her daughter called her and asked her if she was asleep. "I said, 'How can I sleep at a historical moment like this?'" Foster said. Katryna Gaskin, 36, didn't grow up during the era of segregation. Nevertheless, the significance of Barack Obama becoming the nation's

44th president overwhelmed her. "I cried," Gaskin said. "I was an emotional wreck. I didn't expect it to affect me so deeply." Gaskin said her daughter tried to stay up to watch the results. When she woke her up to tell her Obama won, she said her daughter was thrilled. "She wore my Obama shirt to school the next day," Gaskin said. Bonita Fagin's father was the first black Crystal River city councilman. She said Obama's election excites her and makes her optimistic.



DAVE SIGLER/Chronicle

Members of the Citrus County black community sat down for breakfast at Oysters Restaurant in Crystal River to share how they felt about the historic election of Barack Obama. Long-time residents Edna Foster, Katryna Gaskin, Andrea "Katrice" McCray-Holly and Renee Lewis, along with others, shared their enthusiasm for Obama's election.

See WIN/Page A5

# WIN

Continued from Page A1

"Blacks are becoming more motivated," Fagin, 55, said. "Even I'm more motivated."

Andrea "Katrice" McCray-Holly, executive director and founder of the Community Action Foundation of Citrus County, said with an Obama presidency comes great expectations. Her 2-year-old son isn't old enough to realize the impact this election has had on the world.

"But I have hope for him as a mother," McCray-Holly, 34, said.

William Bunch, owner of Oysters restaurant in Crystal River, wasn't sure Obama could win, but people kept telling him to have faith. He expects now the country will be able to pull together and Obama will help the middle class as he promised.

"We're off track right now," Bunch said. "We just need to be on track."

Gaskin said she feels a sense of empowerment in the black community. People now have someone to identify with and being president is no longer out of reach. A barrier has been broken, she said.

"That's something that people can achieve," Gaskin said.

McCray-Holly said the election has already affected the black community. For example, she had a 59-year-old aunt vote for the very first time.

"Culturally, we are doing things we have never done in our lives," she said.

## Blacks are becoming more motivated. Even I'm more motivated.

Bonita Fagin

regarding the significance of Barack Obama's election victory.

Forever gone is the era of "I can't do this, I can't do that," McCray-Holly said.

"It's a clean slate," she said.

Renee Lewis, 41, said Obama's election gives her overwhelming hope for the future. She said she noticed young black men are now going back to school or trying to obtain their GEDs.

Foster said blacks, especially males, are realizing anything is achievable. She admits some will attempt to

take the presidency for granted by trying to invoke some sense of entitlement. But she has faith that the majority will remember it takes hard work to make dreams come true, not free passes.

Not only is hope prevalent, but also, Gaskin said Obama's presidency erases the use of race as a justification to not better one's self.

"It eliminates pulling up the race card," Gaskin said.

She admits there will always be challenges, but she

pointed out her forefathers faced greater obstacles than she ever faced and they still managed to succeed.

"It's all about choices," Gaskin said.

McCray-Holly feels it will force people to look within themselves for the reasons why they don't thrive at something.

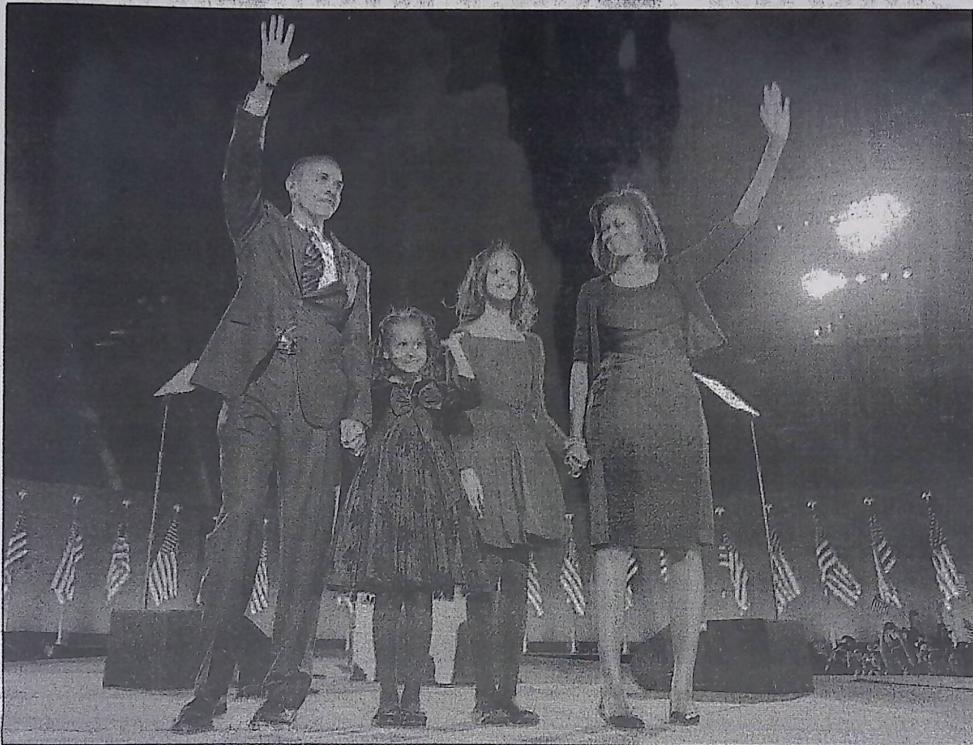
"It takes away the crutch," she said.

She acknowledges discrimination and racism will always exist, but she said Obama demonstrates that race is no longer an excuse.

"Get yourself together," McCray-Holly said. "Today is the day. Your future starts now."

# OBAMA WINS

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Associated Press

President-elect Barack Obama, left, his wife Michelle Obama, right, and two daughters, Malia, 7, and Sasha, 10, wave at the election night rally Tuesday in Chicago's Grant Park.

11-5-08

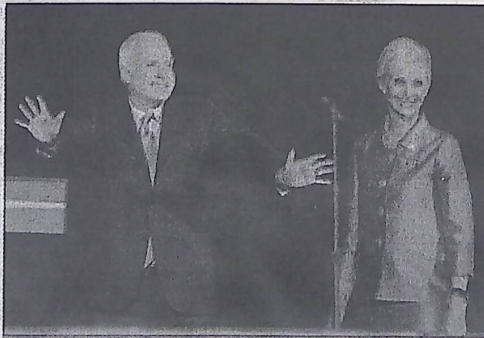
## Illinois senator becomes first African-American to win U.S. presidency

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Barack Obama swept to victory as the nation's first black president Tuesday night in an electoral college landslide that overcame racial barriers as old as America itself. "Change has come," he declared to a huge throng of cheering supporters.

The son of a black father from Kenya and a white mother from Kansas, the Democratic senator from Illinois sealed his historic triumph by defeating Republican Sen. John McCain in a string of wins in hard-fought battleground states — Ohio, Florida, Virginia, Iowa and more.

On a night for Democrats to savor, they not only elected Obama the nation's 44th president but padded their majorities in the House and Senate, and come January will control both



Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., is joined on stage by wife Cindy McCain during an election night rally Tuesday in Phoenix. McCain delivered his acceptance

President Bush added his congratulations from the White House.

Said Bush to his Democratic successor Tuesday: "What an awesome night for you."

"I promise to make this a smooth transition," Bush told Obama at 11:12 p.m., shortly after the Illinois senator captured enough electoral votes to cement his status as president-elect. "You are about to go on one of the great journeys of life. Congratulations and go enjoy yourself."

As usual in American presidential politics, the losing candidate — in this case, Republican John McCain — was gracious in defeat. So was Bush, who though not on the ballot this year found his name immersed in the race to replace him, as both Obama and McCain sought some distance from the administration.

"Mr. President-elect, congratulations

# OBAMA

Continued from Page A1

Joseph Biden of Delaware, will take their oaths of office as president and vice president on Jan. 20, 2009.

Obama will move into the Oval Office as leader of a country that is almost certainly in recession, and fighting two long wars, one in Iraq, the other in Afghanistan.

The popular vote was close — 51.3 percent to 47.5 percent with 73 percent of all U.S. precincts counted — but not the count in the Electoral College, where it mattered most.

There, Obama's audacious decision to contest McCain in states that hadn't gone Democratic in years paid rich dividends.

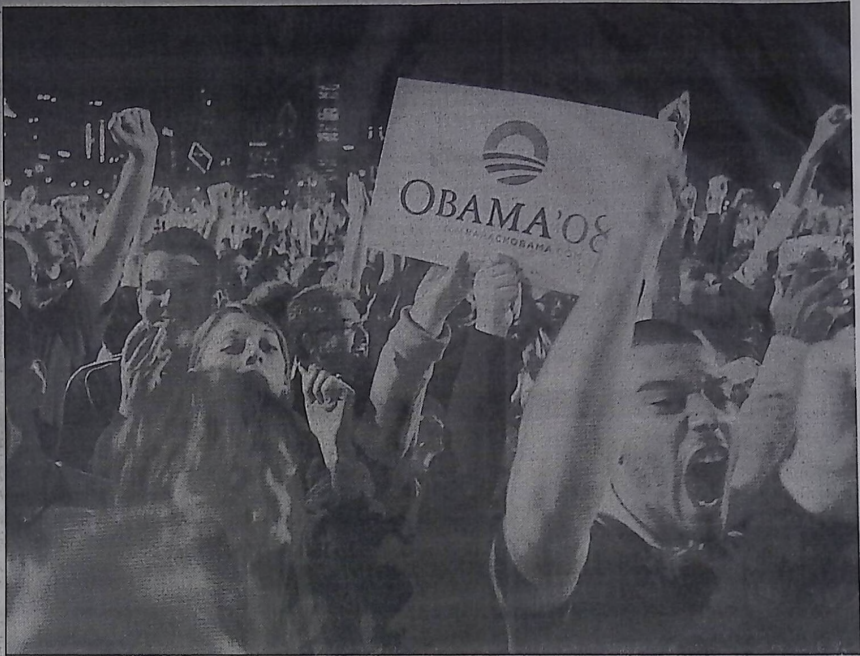
Obama has said his first order of presidential business will be to tackle the economy. He has also pledged to withdraw most U.S. combat troops from Iraq within 16 months.

But his first night as President-elect began with delirious cheers from more than 100,000 people jammed into the city's Grant Park, Obama's hometown embraced his landmark victory as a dream finally come true.

"It's fantastic," said Hulon Johnson, 71, a retired Chicago public school principal celebrating the election of the first black president. "I've always told my kids this was possible; now they'll have to believe me."

Young and old of every race gathered in Grant Park to watch the Illinois senator speak. At just after 11 p.m., he took the stage with his wife, Michelle, and two young daughters to screams and cheers. Celebrities such as Oprah Winfrey were in the crowd.

The downtown Chicago park — where police fought anti-war protesters during the turbulent 1968 Democratic convention — was



The crowd reacts as it is announced on television that Barack Obama has been elected the President of the his election night party Tuesday at Grant Park in Chicago.

jumped in the air and hugged her friend when Obama's victory was announced.

"I'm ecstatic!" she yelled. "It will be the beginning of racial healing in the country."

Also in the park crowd, the Rev. Jesse Jackson had tears streaming down his face as he heard the news. Jackson had to apologize earlier in the campaign for crude re-

marks he made about Obama that were caught by an open microphone.

His son, Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr., called the election "a peaceful revolution."

"Tonight is an extraordinary celebration of an American story," the younger Jackson said at the rally. The Chicago Democrat won reelection Tuesday. "Barack Obama has obviously en-

gaged the American people."

Many had crammed into Grant Park to be a part of something that would be remembered for generations.

"I want her to be able to tell her children when history

was made,

said Almita kept her 16 ter, Raven, they could b

a.m., more t fore the gate

# Speaker remembers experiences of Tuskegee Airmen

**N**OBILITY COMES IN many colors. Take the case of the Tuskegee Airmen, a group of black American pilots who fought their own countrymen to be given the privilege of protecting their nation.

Since the Revolutionary War, black Americans have had to struggle to serve their country, mostly because of the attitudes of their white compatriots. The same held true during World War II.

That was part of what Nasby Wynn had to say to about 40 members of the Citrus Aviation Association and their guests who crowded into the training room at the Crystal River airport to hear Wynn, a Sarasota resident, talk.

Wynn, 73, who retired in 1980 as a lieutenant after 34 years' service with the Mount Vernon, N. Y. police, was part of that seg-

regated group of over 900 World War II pilots who acquitted themselves with bravery and courage above and beyond the call of duty.

Some 66 men in that group were killed in combat, but in so notched over 400 German air combat kills while escorting bombers making long-range runs into Axis-controlled Europe.

In the audience was John Hulser of Homosassa, a man who said he owes a debt of personal gratitude to the fighter pilots who flew with the Red Tail Fighter Squadrons stationed in northern Italy.

Hulser was 19 years old, in the 15th Air Force, 451st Bomber Group, 727th Squadron, a flight engineer assigned to a B-24 Liberator with missions into Nazi territory.

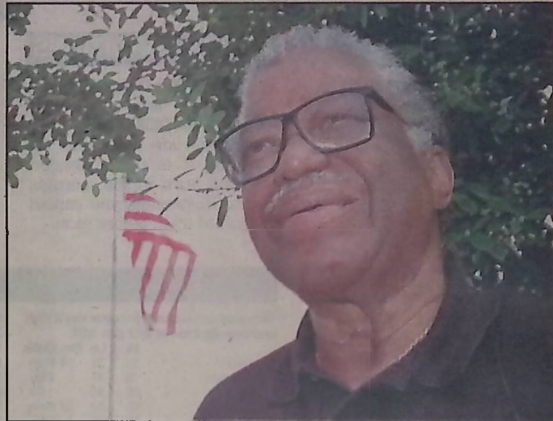
## FABLES & FOIBLES

"Those Red Tails were fantastic pilots. We would fly missions into Austria and when we got to the Alps, there they were in their P-51s and they would stick with us through the entire mission, and I want to say they saved our fannies more than once," Hulser said.

"It was an awful nice feeling to have them there with us. I've seen white fighter pilots take off when the flack came up at us, but those black pilots would dive down and take care of the guns shooting flack at us. They were fantastic, and it's a real shame the way they were treated."

A 1995 HBO movie depicted the struggle, humiliation and ultimate glory attained by these black airmen who had to undergo the insults and distrust of their comrades in arms to prove their capabilities.

Wynn told the group that the American military establish-



Dave Siger/The Chronicle

**Nasby Wynn remembers the times and attitudes toward him and his fellow pilots while he was a member of the Tuskegee Airman group organized during WWII.**

ment was extremely reluctant to allow black men to pilot their aircrafts.

"They thought we were too

irresponsible and not capable of learning, but they needed

*Please see FABLES, Page 2A*

*Steve Arthur is a staff writer at the Citrus County Chronicle.*



Steve Arthur

# FABLES

*continued from Page 1A*

pilots."

In December 1941, after Sen. Harry Truman convinced President Franklin Roosevelt that he would get black votes by allowing blacks to serve as combat pilots, the military establishment was ordered to allow blacks to be trained to fly military aircraft, but under the proviso that their training and their facilities be entirely segregated from facilities used by whites.

"They gave us a squadron with 33 aircraft and 33 pilots and 400 mechanics, the 99th Fighter Squadron," Wynn said.

"We wouldn't have got that if it hadn't have been for the sympathetic white people who wanted to give us a chance to prove ourselves," he said.

Other squadrons were added to become the 332nd Fighter Group which, through the course of the war in Europe, earned the Distinguished Unit Citation and numerous Distinguished Flying Crosses, Air Medals, Bronze Stars and Silver Stars to members of the 332nd.

Wynn was trained as a bomber pilot assigned to another air arm, the all-black 477th Bombardment Group, activated in January, 1944.

He was training to fly in the Pacific theater when Japan surrendered.

The war he fought, he told the group, was in the "American theater," where racial prejudice was the enemy.

"We had some men who never left the base for a year and a half for fear of what might happen to them if they left the base," Wynn said.

After the war, with over 600 hours experience flying multi-engine aircraft, Wynn said he tried to get a job flying for a national airline.

He said the famed aviator Eddie Rickenbacker, then at Eastern Airlines, told him he would not get a job, that the nation wasn't ready to accept black pilots for passenger aircraft.

So, Wynn said, he took employment as a police officer while continuing to fly for private companies and wealthy clients.

Then, last July, after losing power at low altitude near the Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport, he miraculously landed the Cessna 210 he was flying in the front yard of a nearby home, escaping with only a broken arm.

Since then he has not flown, and because of his age, he may be permanently grounded.

But, like the other "Lonely Eagles" that the Tuskegee Airmen called themselves during the war, his dreams of equality for his race continue to gyre, and soar.



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**VIOLATION**

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## Tuskegee Airmen return to arrest site

Associated Press

SEYMOUR, Ind. — The last time 2nd Lt. Roger C. Terry set foot on the tarmac at Freeman Field, he was handcuffed, being taken away for court-martial on a charge of assaulting a superior officer.

Over the weekend, 52 years after he and 60 other black airmen were arrested for trying to enter the segregated officers' club at the Army Air Corps training facility, the retired officer walked the airport's tarmac again.

This time he was an honored guest.

"I never expected to come back to Seymour. I had made up my mind that this was the armpit of America," Terry, 76, of Inglewood, Calif., told about 350 former Tuskegee Airmen and their wives Saturday.

The group made the 65-mile trek to Seymour from Indianapolis, where Tuskegee Airmen Inc. was holding its annual convention. The Tuskegee Airmen, the nation's first black combat pilots, were named because they were initially trained at Tuskegee, Ala.

At what is now Seymour's municipal airport, Terry recalled his joy when the U.S. Air Force admitted in August 1995 that its predecessor had committed a grievous wrong.

"What a burden it was off my back. What came off my back was that all my hatred went away. All of it," he said.

On April 5, 1945, four groups of black officers stationed at Freeman Field were arrested for entering Officer's Club Number Two. They were protesting an order by their commander, Col. Robert R. Selway, banning them from the club.



Associated Press

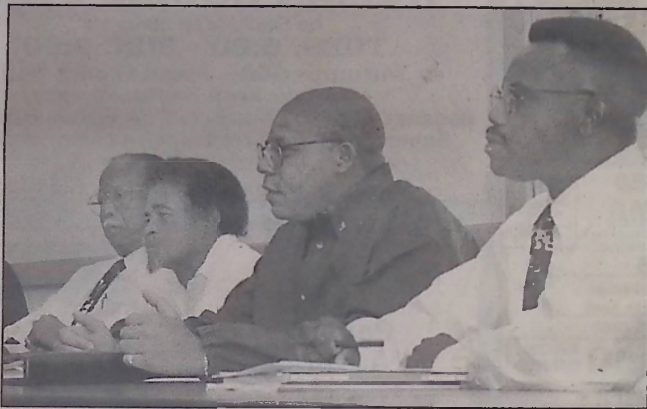
**A group of Tuskegee Airmen, with their families and friends, gather in Seymour, Ind., on Saturday at the unveiling of a monument to the bomber pilots of the group.**

After they were released from the brig a few days later, Selway asked them to sign the order. A total of 101 refused, were arrested and given reprimands that stained their military records until 1995. Three were court-martialed, accused of assaulting an officer. Terry was the only one of the three convicted — for what he says was brushing past a white officer.

Retired Lt. Col. James C. Warren, 73, who went on to serve in combat missions in Korea and Vietnam, told his former Army Air Corps comrades that their actions helped spur integration in the military.

Monday, February 24, 1997 Citrus County (FL) Chronicle

## Black history panel



Travis Long/The Chronicle

Members of Inverness FAMU/Black Male College Explorers Program; Randolph Bellamy, Rev. Allen Henry Jr., Kenny Futch, Patrick Thomas and Willie White speak in a panel discussion Saturday at the Lakes Regional Library as part of Black History Month.

## IN THE COUNTY

### Governor's proclamation



Andy Tretz/The Chronicle

Crystal River City Councilman Levi Phillips presents a Black History Month proclamation from Gov. Lawton Chiles to Mrs. George Ann Jackson, sponsor of the Afro-American Club of Crystal River High School during the 2nd Annual Black History Celebration at Crystal River High School Saturday.

# Ceremony honors black leaders

By Greg Erbstoesser  
Staff writer

In what organizers promise will be an annual event, Citrus County saluted 28 leaders Saturday who serve as a positive influence in improving the county's minority community.

Combining music, poetry and inspirational words, the awards ceremony — the first of its kind — was the brainchild of the Afro-American Social Club of Beverly Hills to celebrate National Black History Month.

"We wanted to do something constructive and give our recognition to

those who have given to others," said Gene Thompson of Beverly Hills and club past president.

With some 300 people in attendance at the Crystal River Primary School auditorium, the club also recognized students who hold at least a 2.7 grade point average.

The Afro-American club has expanded both its base and its focus in recent years to draw members from throughout the county, said Thompson. The club is no longer just confined to members living in Beverly Hills.

The club's purpose has also expanded to encourage and recognize achieve-

ments in the black community.

"It's nice to see us reward the good children," said Sheriff Jeff Dawsy, who with Superintendent of Schools Pete Kelly and County Commission Chairman Jim Fowler, and Crystal River Mayor Curtis Rich served as local dignitaries for the afternoon program.

Noting that all too often only the bad is highlighted when focusing on youths today, Dawsy said little is ever said of the "95 percent who do good work."

Master of ceremonies Ette Alexander urged the audience, particularly the young people, to learn more about their past and history.

"When you know our history, you'll know our greatness," she said.

Speaker Raye Frances Joyner pointed out that changes and improvements occur in "times of challenges and controversy."

"We can turn the tide if we want to."

Keynote speaker Shirley Poe called on young people to "get excited and involved" in learning, and noted that each achievement young people must also accept new responsibilities.

And to the parents and adults, Poe said: "Don't encourage your children to quit."



*Donn Siger/The Chronicle*  
Above: Bennye Milton performs during the first African-American Achievement Recognition Celebration and Awards Program sponsored by the Afro-American Social Club of Beverly Hills. Citrus County leaders watching from left are: County Commissioner Jim Fowler, Sheriff Jeff Dawsy and Superintendent of School Pete Kelley.

Right: Natasha Randle, Octavia Watkins and Tocara Watkins watch the program directed toward education and the introduction of the many great works of art contributed by black Americans.

## 28 recognized for contributions

Twenty-eight Citrus County residents were recognized Saturday for their "unrelenting and outstanding contributions" by the Afro-American Social Club of Beverly Hills Saturday, at an afternoon program in observance of National Black History Month.

The honorees were: Douglas Alexander, Wyndell Alexander, the Rev Leroy Bellamy, the late Benjamin "Ben" Brown, Mary Brown, Frederick Copeland, Marjorie Copeland, Archie Dabney, Mildred Freeman, Allen P Henry Jr, and

Ruby Jackson.

Also, Annie Johnson, Willie Joyner, Raye Joyner, Samuel "Sam" Joyner, Julian "Pete" Kelly, Alida Langley, Annie Mae McCray, Bennye T. Milton, Jerome Randall, William "Bill" Robinson, Daniel W Sawyer, Pamela Wainwright, Wanzalo "Don" Watkins, Mercedia White, Willie White, Carol Wynn and Walter Wynn.

Also recognized were local college graduates and high and middle school students who hold at least a 2.7 grade point average.



## SHARING THE DREAM

# All agencies should observe holiday

**W**HEN THE THIRD Monday of January 1997 rolls around, it would be nice to see all government agencies in Citrus County formally observe the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

While some might question the purpose of losing access to government services for yet another holiday, the fact is the majority of government agencies do shut down for the day to show respect for Dr. King's "dream."

Citrus County needs to be consistent. While Crystal River and the school system formally recognized Martin Luther King Jr. Day this past Jan. 15, the city of Inverness and the county government proceeded with business as usual.

Federal and state agencies annually observe the slain civil rights leader's contributions. Dr. King's efforts to bring equality to a racially fractured nation

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### The issue:

*Martin Luther King Jr. Day*

### Our opinion:

*Governments should be consistent*

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are — as evidenced by the broad-based observations — deemed by the majority as worthy of national recognition.

It's an unsettling fact that hate crimes remain commonplace in our society. Opportunities for minorities, unfortunately, are limited when bigotry is allowed to prevail in any facet of society.

A show of unity by all levels of government in support of Martin Luther King Jr. Day would go a long way to drive home the point that we, as a civilized culture, believe in King's dream of a society of equal opportunity.

After all — isn't that what America is all about?

# Cultural cuisine

*Celebrate Black  
History Month  
tastefully with  
traditional  
soul food*

By Julianne Munn  
Food editor

**C**ORNMEAL ... OKRA ... BENNE (SESAME SEED) ... mangos ... okra ... foods that conjure up images of African-American kitchen culture are ingredients for soul food feasting any time of the year.

It's especially appropriate to try your skills with these foods during Black History Month. The annual observance is in February to coincide with the birthdays of the black leader Frederick Douglass and the Great Emancipator Abraham Lincoln.

The celebration of black culture was originally established as Negro History Week in 1926, sponsored by the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History founded by black historian Carter G. Woodson in 1915.

For many years the occasion has featured a theme and in 1996 it is the contributions of women.

Throughout the month recognition will be given to such outstanding African-American women as Maya Angelou, the nation's first black female poet laureate and Rosa Parks, whose refusal in 1955 to give up her seat on a crowded Tuskegee, Ala., bus marked the start of the civil rights movement.

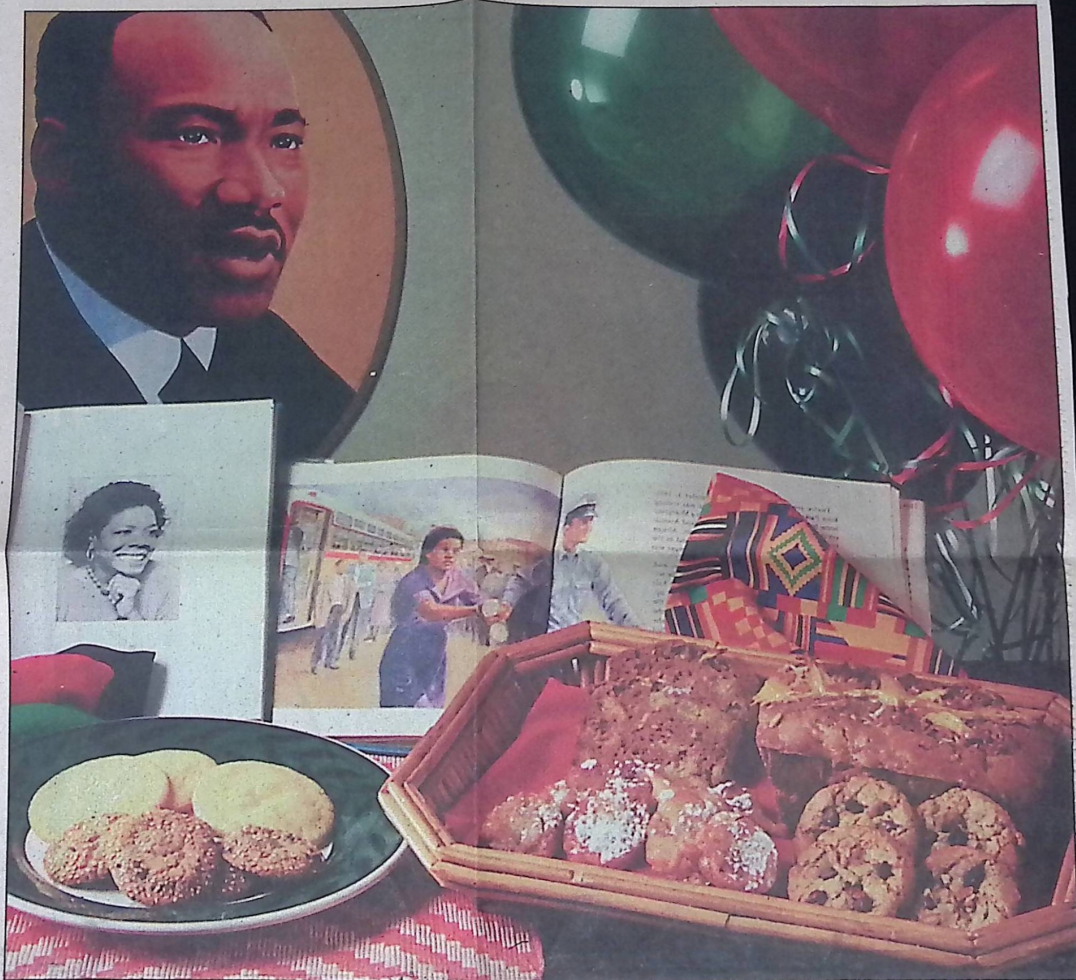
Just as other ethnic groups have done, blacks have contributed to the American food scene via emigration from Africa, the Caribbean islands and other parts of the world.

Some foods native to the United States were incorporated into what is sometimes called soul food by innovative cooks, such as molasses made from sugar cane that slaves harvested as a sweetener for quick breads and other dishes.

Today recipes are for desserts using staples like cornbread, mangos, bananas and molasses.

## BENNE WAFERS

$\frac{3}{4}$  cup sesame seeds, divided  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  cup butter flavor vegetable shortening  
 $1\frac{1}{4}$  cups firmly packed light brown sugar  
2 tablespoons milk



Mango bread with its taste of the Caribbean, the New Orleans flavor of beignets with a creamy banana filling, molasses oatmeal cookies, sesame wafers and cornmeal cookies are all part of Black History Month's cultural cuisine.

1 tablespoon vanilla  
1 egg  
 $1\frac{3}{4}$  cups all-purpose flour  
1 teaspoon salt  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  cup teaspoon baking soda

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Place sesame seeds in a small heavy skillet over medium heat. Stir constantly for 3 minutes or until golden brown. Remove pan from heat. Set aside.

Combine shortening, brown sugar, milk and vanilla in a large bowl. Beat at medium speed of electric mixer until well blended. Beat egg into creamed mixture.

Combine flour, salt, baking soda and  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup sesame

seeds. Mix into creamed mixture until just blended.

Drop by rounded tablespoons of dough 3 inches apart onto ungreased baking sheet. Sprinkle with remaining sesame seeds. Bake one baking sheet at a time for 8 minutes. Do not over bake. Cool 2 minutes before removing from baking sheet. Makes 3 dozen cookies.

## BANANA BEIGNETS

Filling:

4 ripe bananas  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup dark rum or  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup water with 1 teaspoon rum extract

3 tablespoons granulated sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon allspice

Batter:

2 cups, separated  
1 cup all-purpose flour  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon baking powder  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon salt  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup milk  
2 teaspoons rum extract  
1 tablespoon butter flavor shortening, melted  
2 cups vegetable shortening  
Confectioners' sugar for dusting

Special to The Chronicle

# SOUL

continued from Page 1C

For filling: peel bananas and cut each in half lengthwise. Cut each banana half into 4 equal pieces. Toss bananas lightly with rum, sugar, vanilla and allspice. Cover mixture and set aside.

For batter: whisk egg yolks in large bowl. Sift in flour, baking powder and salt. Stir in milk, rum extract and 1 tablespoon melted shortening. Beat egg whites in medium bowl with a pinch of salt until stiff and glossy. Fold whites into yolk mixture.

Heat 2 cups shortening to 375 degrees in deep-sided saucepan. Coat banana pieces with batter a few at a time. Place banana pieces in hot shortening, without crowding the pan. Fry 1 minute. Turn with slotted spoon. Fry 1 minute or until golden. Remove banana pieces with slotted spoons and drain on paper towels. Fry remaining beignets.

Dust beignets with confectioners' sugar. Serve warm. Make 32 beignets.

## MANGO BREAD

- 1 cup vegetable shortening, melted
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 3 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups cubed ripe mango
- 1/4 cup golden raisins (optional)
- 3 tablespoons shredded coconut (optional)

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Grease 9 X 5-inch loaf pan with shortening. Dust with flour, shaking out excess.

Combine shortening and sugar in large bowl. Beat at medium speed of electric mixer until well blended.

Combine flour, baking soda, cinnamon and salt. Stir into sugar mixture gradually, alternating with eggs. Beat in vanilla. Fold in mango, raisins and coconut. Pour

batter into prepared pan.

Bake bread for 45 to 60 minutes, or until top springs back when pressed lightly and toothpick inserted into center comes out clean. Do not over bake. Remove bread to rack. Cool 10 minutes. Remove bread from pan. Serve warm, or cool completely and wrap for storage.

## CORNMEAL COOKIES

- 1 1/4 cups firmly packed light brown sugar
- 3/4 cup butter flavor vegetable shortening
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 1 tablespoon vanilla
- 1 egg
- 1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup yellow cornmeal
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 teaspoon baking soda

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Combine brown sugar, shortening, milk and vanilla in large bowl. Beat at medium speed of electric mixer until well blended. Beat egg into creamed mixture.

Combine flour, cornmeal, salt and baking soda. Mix into

creamed mixture just until blended. Drop rounded measuring tablespoons of dough 3 inches apart on ungreased baking sheet.

Bake one baking sheet at a time for 8 to 10 minutes for chewy cookies, or 1 to 13 minutes for crisp cookies. Do not over bake. Cool 2 minutes on baking sheet. Makes about 3 dozen cookies.

## MOLASSES OATMEAL COOKIES

- 3/4 butter flavor vegetable shortening

- 1 1/4 cups firmly packed light brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/3 cup milk
- 1 tablespoon molasses
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla
- 3 cups quick oats, uncooked
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1 cup coarsely chopped pecans
- 1/2 cup raisins
- 1/4 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

Grease baking sheets. Combine shortening, brown sugar, egg, milk, molasses and vanilla in large bowl. Beat at medium speed of electric mixer until well blended.

Combine oats, flour, cinnamon, baking soda, salt and ground cloves. Mix into creamed mixture at low speed just until blended. Stir in pecans, raisins and chips.

Form dough into 1-inch balls. Place 2 inches apart on prepared baking sheets. Bake one sheet at a time for 10 to 12 minutes, or until lightly browned. Do not over bake. Cool 2 minutes on baking sheet. Makes 2 1/2 dozen cookies.

# Celebrate black history with some soul food and culture

**T**HIS IS THE start of Black History Month and I thought readers might like to do a little soul food cooking.

But before you get started, take time to note these programs and projects created especially to recognize black leaders:

There is a Continuous Dreams display starting today through Feb. 29 at the Crystal River Mall, presented by the Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church in Crystal River.

I am coordinating another black history display at the Mall from Feb. 10 though 29, sponsored by the Boys and Girls Club of Citrus County.

And, there will be a special banquet and program at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10 at the Crystal River High School cafeteria, featuring guest speaker William Robinson, retired, former director of personnel for county schools.

Students will also present a program related to black history. Donations are \$10 each and can be purchased at the door or by



Raye Francis Joyner

calling Ann Jackson, 785-4641.

Hope to see you at these events! Here are those recipes I promised. Hope you enjoy them.

## BEER-BOILED SHRIMP

5 pounds fresh shrimp, cleaned  
2 cups vinegar  
1/4 pound butter  
1 can beer  
1 teaspoon salt  
2 quarts water

Clean the shrimp. Bring water to a boil. Add vinegar, butter, beer and salt. Add shrimp and boil for 2 minutes. Remove from heat. Place on ice or refrigerate until time to serve.

## SOUL BREAD

3 cups cornmeal  
1 tablespoon sugar  
1 1/2 teaspoons salt  
2 1/2 cups boiling water  
1 small sweet potato  
1 cup cold water  
1 cup all-purpose flour  
1 1/4 cups molasses  
1/2 teaspoon baking soda

Combine cornmeal, sugar and salt in large bowl. Pour in boiling water. Beat with electric mixer until well blended.

Boil sweet potato until tender. Peel while hot. Add to meal mixture. Beat 10 minutes. Add cold water. Beat well. Add flour and molasses. Beat well. Cover. Place in warm, draft-free place

overnight.

Heat oven to 250 degrees. Grease and flour 10-inch Bundt pan. Stir baking soda into bread mixture. Pour in pan. Bake for 3 hours. Remove from oven. Cover pan tightly with foil to steam bread. Cool at least 1 hour before removing from pan. (Heritage Recipe from The Black Family Reunion Cookbook)

## METROPOLITAN A.M.E. FAVORITE SAUSAGE RICE CASSEROLE

1 pound sausage  
1 cup uncooked long grain rice  
1 can (10 1/2 ounces) cream of mushroom soup  
1 can (10 1/2 ounces) cream of chicken soup  
1 can (10 1/2 ounces) cream of celery soup  
1 can water

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Crumble sausage into medium skillet. Brown on medium heat. Drain. Spoon into 2-quart casserole. Add rice, mushroom soup, chicken soup, celery soup and water. Stir well. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes, stirring after 25 minutes. Bake until rice is tender. Makes 4 to 6 servings. (Heritage recipe from The Black Family Reunion Cookbook)

Please see RAYE, Page 3C

## RAYE

continued from Page 1C

### PINTO BEAN PIE

1 unbaked 9-inch single crust pie crust  
2 eggs, lightly beaten  
1 cup evaporated milk or light cream  
2 cups mashed pinto beans, home cooked or canned  
2/3 cup sugar  
3/4 teaspoon cinnamon  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1/4 teaspoon ginger  
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg  
1/4 teaspoon cloves  
Whipped cream (optional)

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. For filling, combine eggs and evaporated milk in large bowl. Stir until well blended. Add pinto beans, sugar, cinnamon, salt, ginger, nutmeg and cloves. Beat at low speed of electric mixer until well-blended. Pour into unbaked pie shell.

Bake for 15 minutes. Then reduce temperature to 350 degrees. Bake for 35 minutes, or until knife inserted in center comes out clean. Serve warm or at room temperature. Top with whipped cream if desired. (Heritage recipe from The Black Family Reunion Cookbook)

### BLACK-EYED PEAS WITH TOMATO SAUCE

1 (No. 2) can tomatoes  
1/2 cup sugar  
1/2 cup vinegar  
1 chopped green pepper  
1 1/2 teaspoons salt  
1 teaspoon pepper

Mix all ingredients. Bring to a boil, reduce to simmer. Add 2 cans of black-eyed peas, drained. This refrigerates well.

### BARBECUED SPARERIBS

3 1/2 pounds spareribs, cut in serving pieces  
2 tablespoons cooking oil  
1 medium onion, chopped  
1 cup ketchup  
1 cup hot water  
2 tablespoons vinegar  
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce  
1 teaspoon dry mustard  
1 teaspoon salt  
1 tablespoon brown sugar  
1/2 teaspoon cayenne  
1/2 teaspoon black pepper

Place spareribs in large roasting pan, meaty side up. Cover loosely with aluminum foil. Bake at 450 degrees for 30 minutes. Cook onion in oil until tender. Add remaining ingredients and heat until mixture comes to a boil. Remove from heat. Pour over ribs. Reduce heat to 350 degrees. Bake for 1 hour, uncovered, basting occasionally.

### SWEET POTATO CASSEROLE

3 cups mashed, cooked sweet potatoes  
1 cup sugar  
2 eggs  
1/2 cup butter  
1 tablespoon vanilla

Topping:

1/2 cup butter  
1 cup brown sugar  
1 cup chopped pecans  
1/2 cup plain flour

Mix first five ingredients and put into buttered baking dish. Mix topping ingredients and spread over top of casserole. Bake for 30 minutes at 350 degrees.

### LOUIS ARMSTRONG BEANS

1 pound pinto beans, soaked overnight  
1 ham hock, soaked with beans overnight  
1 medium can tomatoes  
1 large onion, chopped

Salt and pepper to taste

Cook all day over medium heat. Serve over rice.

### BARBECUE BEANS

1 pound ground beef  
1/2 cup onion, chopped  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
2/4 teaspoon pepper  
1/4 teaspoon Texas Pete or Tabasco sauce (optional)  
1 (1 pound 12 ounce) can pork and beans  
1/2 cup ketchup  
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce  
2 tablespoons vinegar

Brown beef and onion. Pour off fat. Add remaining ingredients, mix well, pour into 1 1/2 quart casserole. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

### TANGY MEATBALLS

Sauce:  
2 cloves garlic  
1 medium onion, chopped  
2 cans whole tomatoes  
2 (6 ounce) cans tomato sauce  
2 (6 ounce) cans tomato paste  
1 teaspoon dried basil  
1 teaspoon oregano  
1 teaspoon thyme

Pinch of sage

1 teaspoon salt

Pinch of pepper

1 teaspoon sugar

Meatballs:

2 to 3 pounds ground chuck  
6 to 8 saltines, crushed  
1/2 cup ketchup  
2 teaspoon mustard  
Salt and pepper

Simmer sauce ingredients for 2 hours. Mix meatballs ingredients and roll into small balls. Brown on all sides. Drop into tomato sauce and simmer for 30 minutes to 1 hour, until done. Serve in chafing dish.

### OVEN FRIED FISH

1 pound fish fillets  
1/4 cup milk  
1/2 cup bread crumbs

Butter

Drop fish in milk and then in bread crumbs after salting. Place on broiler pan. Pour melted butter over all. Bake at 500 degrees for 12 to 15 minutes.

Raye Francis Joyner is a former writer for the Chronicle and now writes a weekly food column.

## OUTLOOK

### EPITAPH

**'A SWEET LIFE.'** Bessie Delany, the daughter of an ex-slave who became America's first black Episcopal bishop, lived a relatively sheltered life along with her nine siblings at the turn of the century on the North Carolina campus of St. Augustine's College. But even the black elite couldn't escape the harsh reality of Jim Crow. She and her sister Sadie recalled being sent to the back of trolley cars and being refused service in drugstores. Once Bessie was nearly lynched for talking back to a "rebbly boy" in a train station. In 1917, she and Sadie moved



Six months ago. Bessie, left, and Sadie

north. She became "Dr. Bessie, Harlem's colored woman dentist" — only the second black woman to practice in New York — while Sadie became New York's first black home economics teacher. Never marrying ("We never had husbands to worry us to death," Bessie once said), they made a life together, first in Harlem, where they counted Cab Calloway and W. E. B. Du Bois as friends, and, later, in the suburb of Mount Vernon.

But as extraordinary as these two were throughout their lives, they won their greatest fame just two years ago with *Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years*, a memoir that was adapted for the stage. The play was still running on Broadway when Dr. Bessie died last week at age 104 at the home she shared with her 106-year-old sister. "It was a hard life but it was a sweet life," she once said. "I wouldn't change it with anybody."

BY AMY BERNSTEIN

# Organizers say they are ready to form local NAACP chapter

By Greg Erbstoesser  
Staff writer

Following a two-week membership blitz, organizers of a new NAACP chapter in Citrus County say the organization is finally ready to take flight.

Chris Satchell, interim president of the organizing committee, said Thursday he has received membership applications from 115 people, 15 more than the magic 100 members national organization officials say are needed to form a new chapter.

"The hardest part is over," Satchell said, "but we still are in need of more participation."

The effort to form a local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was launched last fall following the shooting of Jerome Bunch, a Crystal River black man, by white Crystal River Patrolman Joseph Manfredo following an altercation at a Crystal River lounge.

In the tense weeks following the shooting Satchell and other community leaders proposed that a NAACP chapter be formed to improve relations throughout the community.

However, in recent weeks, and a year after the membership drive first began, some questioned why the NAACP chapter had not yet been established.

Satchell and others had said there had been delays because they had been unsuccessful in



**“The hardest part is over, but we still are in need of more participation.”**

**Chris Satchell, NAACP organizer**

collecting the necessary 100 memberships cards, required before the national organization would consider their application.

But Satchell said Thursday, "That's behind us."

He noted, however, there is still much work to be done.

"If people feel they can do this job, we welcome those people to come forward. I encourage anyone who wants to see this move forward to step forward."

Satchell and fellow organizers were to have met Thursday night to announce that they had reached their membership goal, and to discuss the next step in forming the local chapter.

*Please see NAACP, Page 2A*

## NAACP

*continued from Page 1A*

Satchell said he has talked to state NAACP officials in the past week, and he plans to deliver the membership cards in the next two weeks to formally apply for the local charter.

After the chapter is officially recognized, Satchell said the group will then

elect new officers to head up the local organization.

"There are more than 20 positions on the board that need to be filled," Satchell said. "We'll need to get people moving on these things."

Barnett Bank also has joined the organizing effort, offering to contribute up to \$1,000 to help the fledgling organization. Satchell said, though, none of the bank's money has been used to help in paying the membership dues.

# Frederick Douglass: He seized control of his life

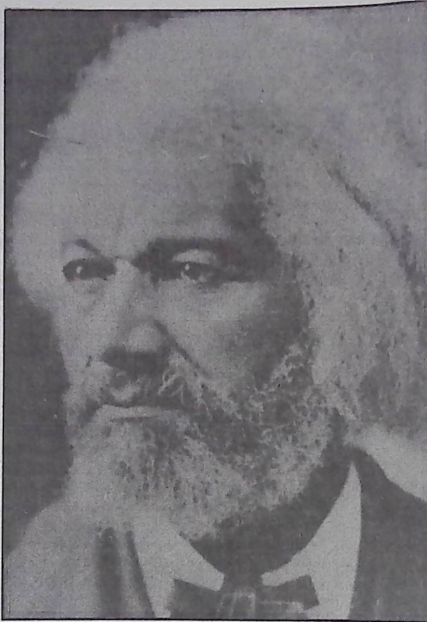
**AUTOBIOGRAPHIES: Narrative of the Life; My Bondage and My Freedom; Life and Times.**  
By Frederick Douglass. Edited by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. The Library of America. 1,126 Pages.

"The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave, Written by Himself" begins ordinarily and yet strangely, as Douglass follows some familiar autobiographical pattern and at the same time twists them to suit his purposes as a black man in America. "I was born in Tuckahoe, near Hillsborough, and about twelve miles from Easton, in Talbot County, Maryland. I have no accurate knowledge of my age, never having seen any authentic record containing it. By far the larger part of the slaves know as little of their age as horses know of theirs, and it is the wish of most masters within my knowledge to keep their slaves thus ignorant." He is very precise locating where he was born, but vague about when he was born, a fact that would have been basic to most whites, and surely a standard detail in the life of any successful American, which Douglass certainly was. But of course slaves were frequently denied knowledge of basic facts of their heritage and Douglass here presents himself as a slave, linking his life to that of countless other enslaved Americans who could never write their autobiographies and similarly would not have known when they were born. In this manner he begins holding himself up as an example to others, suggesting what he had become, they could and should aspire to also.

He further notes that his ignorance of the simple fact of his birth date (which was most probably February 1818) was imposed upon him as it was upon other slaves whose masters wished to keep them ignorant, an ironic detail since these same masters would then use the alleged ignorance of the slaves to justify maintaining these human beings as slaves. He also suggests that in their ignorance the slaves would be like beasts of burden, domesticated farm animals, property.

Through the very act of writing his autobiography Douglass would be insisting he was not such an animal, which is one reason for the "Written by Himself" part of his title. A horse could not write its autobiography. Another reason is that some free citizens would not believe a black man capable of writing such a sustained narrative — Ben Franklin never had to make such a declaration. At the same time he wrote the narrative and it was published in 1845, Douglass, though seven years escaped, was still a slave, and not just technically. He could have been seized by anybody with the force to restrain him, even another slave (though this was unlikely) and against his free will returned to his most recent master who could then sell him to whom-ever and wherever his master wished.

Such a curious specimen of manhood and skilled autobiographer might be extremely intelligent and still if born a slave not be able to discover other simple facts of his life such as who his father was. His mother was Harriet Bailey, "the daughter of Isaac and Betsey Bailey, both colored, and quite dark. My father was a white man. The opinion was also whispered that my master was my father; but of the correctness of this



Frederick Douglass

opinion, I know nothing." It would be good to say he loved his mother deeply but he admits he "never saw (her) more than four or five times in my life," briefly each time, and never during daylight when she worked distant from him. He was not allowed to attend her final illness, her death, or her burial.

**ALL THIS** and more is related in the first four paragraphs — about two pages — of Frederick Douglass's remarkable book, which is contained in The Library of America's collection of his three autobiographies that total almost 1,000 neatly printed pages in this edition, plus textual notes and an extensive and helpful "Chronology" of almost 30 pages compiled by the ubiquitous Henry Louis Gates, Jr. who performs with his usual exemplary skill as editor. An index is provided, though non-biographical works such as Douglass' semi-fictional novella "The Heroic Slave" are omitted and would have been greatly welcome.

One of the great struggles in Douglass' life, spotlighted in all three autobiographies, was to learn to read and write. Knowledge was for him a key to establishing his own identity and eventually freeing himself. His master's wife helped him learn, before her husband ordered her not to. Douglass remarks that she did not immediately cease to instruct him, however, because "she at first lacked the depravity indispensable to shut-

ting me up in mental darkness" and to treat him "as though I were a brute." In her change she proved how greatly slavery corrupted slave owners and was "as injurious to her" as it was to Douglass. "Little white boys" he made friends with were Douglass' next teachers, this time unknowingly. The more he learned, the more he discovered the unfairness and wickedness of his situation, and the more he despaired to remain a slave.

Another great struggle was to maintain — actually to recapture — his sense of manhood which had become degraded. In a memorable phrase he tells his readers "You have seen how a man was made a slave, now you shall see how a slave was made a man." He is quite clear on this issue. When he was 16 Douglass worked for but was not owned by Edward Covey, famed for his harsh treatment of slaves. He describes Covey as being a slave to his slaves, obsessed by them, spending inordinate amounts of time crazily attempting by devious means to discover what they were really doing when he was not openly observing them (what they were doing was generally their work). Covey was a great whipper, and he whipped Douglass several times, until Douglass determined he would be whipped no more. Threatened by Covey with a whipping for an offense trivial or non-existent, Douglass resisted the shocked man and they fought, Douglass says for two hours, after which Covey "puffing and blowing at a great rate," drew away from the 16-year-old boy saying if Douglass had not resisted he would not have whipped him half so much.

But Douglass says "the truth was, that he had not whipped me at all. I considered him as getting entirely the worst end of the bargain; for he had drawn no blood from me, but I had from him." For the next six months, his allotted time with Covey, Douglass had no problems with the man whatsoever. The lesson is clear; learn to read, learn to write — learn to do both excellently well — then fight if you must to gain control of who you are, of your life. Later he said "who would be free must himself strike the first blow," and lobbied successfully for recruiting black soldiers during the Civil War: "Once let the black man get upon his person the brass letters, U.S.; let him get an eagle on his button, and a musket on his shoulder and bullets in his pocket, and there is no power on earth which can deny that he has earned the right to citizenship."

Douglass escaped to the North in 1838, aided by Anna Murray, a free black woman, who sold one of her two featherbeds to help cover his expenses. He married Anna almost as soon as they were together in free territory. Unfortunately, he says relatively little about her in his autobiographies, for her story is worth pursuing. She would later help him hide slaves when they lived in Rochester around 1848, but generally remained in the background, away from the public stage upon which he lived much of his life as soon as his brilliant talents as abolitionist orator, writer, and editor were discovered. She would remain virtually illiterate all her life though Douglass hired tutors for her.

**DOUGLASS WAS** without a doubt the leading black speaker and writer of his day. His life was utterly fascinating and his speeches and writing shrewd, penetrating, often profound, and filled with power. He was also a prose stylist of considerable artistry. He discovered that life for a black man in the North was no picnic. He refused to sit in segregated cars while riding New England railroads when delivering abolitionist speeches. Returning to the United States from England

on a liner, finally legally free, he was required to eat by himself separate from white passengers. He had to send his daughter Rosetta to school in Albany after she was asked to leave her private school in Rochester because of her race.

Never would he accept these acts of discrimination and fought successfully each time to remove the limits placed on black participation in American society. Even as he rose in importance he knew he rose as a black man. In 1865 he was refused entrance to Lincoln's second inaugural reception until the President, whom Douglass had campaigned for, himself admitted him. When several years after his first wife's death, he remarried a white woman and woman's rights activists, her father, who had been a strong abolitionist familiar with Douglass, would not let his new son-in-law into his house.

It is a temptation when discussing Douglass to quote extensively from his books and public utterances to demonstrate the breadth of his humanitarian sympathies and the complexity of his perception. He could be absolute and single-minded when moral judgment called for inflexibility: the only man to speak in favor of woman suffrage at the first woman's rights convention, at Seneca Falls in 1848, he concluded "there was no foundation in reason or justice for woman's exclusion from the right of choice in the selection of the persons who should frame the laws, and thus shape the destiny of all the people, irrespective of sex." On the subject "What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?" he declared uncompromisingly to his white audience that the celebration was "yours, not mine. You may rejoice, I must mourn. Fellow citizens; above your national, tumultuous joy, I hear the mournful wail of millions!" He was also adept at more subtle analysis.

When he wrote of Abraham Lincoln, whom he considered a very great man, who was still evolving away from his limited white perspective on race at the time he was murdered; his observations were carefully nuanced: "Viewed from the genuine abolition ground, Mr. Lincoln seemed tardy, cold, dull, and indifferent; but measuring him by the sentiment of his country, a sentiment he was bound as a statesman to consult, he was swift, zealous, radical, and determined."

**DOUGLASS WOULD** eventually be rewarded for his talent and political loyalty by appointments to official posts such as U.S. Marshal, and recorder of deeds, both for the District of Columbia (not concurrently), and minister to Haiti. In his last years he carried on running battles with politicians who ignored civil rights, fought blatant and covert racism throughout his native land, and maintained rear guard action against black separatists. He periodically suffered bouts of depression, but always tried to present a strong face to the world. He was always his own man.

When Republicans (his party, the party of Lincoln) attacked Democrat Grover Cleveland for replacing him as Washington's recorder of deeds, he defended the President because Cleveland, unlike his predecessor the Republican Chester Arthur, had invited Douglass and his (white) wife to the White House, and Arthur had not. Douglass' writings and life reveal that he was a distinguished autobiographer and altogether an admirable, even heroic person.

— JACK B. MOORE

Jack B. Moore is a professor of English at the University of South Florida.

# Where women made history

A new book salutes the USA's courageous female pioneers: daredevil, tycoon, jock ...

**W**HEN WE SET out to catalog in our new book *Where Women Made History*, we were captivated by pioneers — those women who did something first, almost always against tremendous odds. Abigail Adams (the first uppity first lady) came to mind immediately. Less heralded were Lucy Hobbes of Ohio (the first female dentist) and Maggie Lena Walker of Virginia (the first female bank president). Here are monuments to 10 more American pathfinders that you can visit:

## FIRST GIRL SCOUT

**Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace, 142 Bull St., Savannah, Ga.** The impish little girl who as an adult in 1912 founded what would become the Girl Scouts lived in this Regency-style town house until she married. See girlhood possessions and learn that Low was buried in her uniform at age 67 in 1927 in a service that included an honor guard of Girl Scouts from Savannah's Troop 12. 912-233-4501.



Girl Scout founder Juliette Gordon Low (right, with Troop 1) was buried in her uniform.

## FIRST PERSON TO GO OVER NIAGARA FALLS — AND SURVIVE

**Horseshoe Falls, U.S.-Canadian border.** Imagine volunteering to take a ride over these terrifying waters. The first person — and only woman so far — to do so was Annic Edson Taylor, a schoolteacher from Bay City, Mich. Taylor, hoping to launch a vaudeville act starring herself, took the plunge in a wooden barrel (which you can see in the museum on the Canadian side of the falls) on Oct. 24, 1901. Unfortunately for her, her act did not lend itself to repetition or reward; Taylor died a pauper. 1-800-338-7890.

## FIRST LADY OF THE AMERICAN VOTE

**Susan B. Anthony House, 17 Madison St., Rochester, N.Y.** Anthony's three-story red-brick house, where she died in 1906, also was where

she was arrested in 1872 for the crime of voting in an election. A short drive away is the newly restored Women's Rights National Historic Park in Seneca Falls, N.Y., the site of the world's first women's rights convention. 716-235-6124.

## FIRST MONUMENT TO WOMEN, BY A WOMAN

**Suffrage Monument, First Floor Crypt, U.S. Capitol, Washington, D.C.** The nation's first statue to women, by a woman, for women's service to women, was dedicated on Feb. 15, 1921 — the 101st anniversary of Susan B. Anthony's birth and one year after the passage of the constitutional amendment guaranteeing women the vote. Figures of Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott, who devoted their lives to the suffragist cause, were chiseled out of an 8-ton block of marble by Adelaide Johnson. The three busts on their rough-hewn base have been referred to irreverently as the "Ladies in the Bathub." 202-225-6827.

## FIRST FEMALE ASTRONOMER

**Maria Mitchell House, 1 Vestal St., Nantucket, Mass.** The "widow's walk" atop this house is where the nation's first female astronomer, born in 1818, was inspired to look skyward. Mitchell also was the first woman elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, an accomplishment so distasteful to one unliberated academician that he called her an "honorary member" instead of a "fellow." Mitchell's 5-inch telescope is exhibited.

## FIRST FEMALE FEDERAL CONTRACTOR IN ALASKA

**Alaska Nellie's Inn, Seward Highway, north of Seward at Mile 23, Lawing, Alaska.** Nellie Trospey Neal Lawing, who was awarded a federal contract to feed construction crews building the Seward-to-Fairbanks railroad, once ran a roadhouse here. The rustic inn is a reminder of her gutsy exploits on the frozen frontier after 1915. 907-288-3124.

## FIRST PHENOMENAL FEMALE ATHLETE

**Babe Didrikson Zaharias Memorial Museum, 1750 I-10 East, Beaumont, Texas.**

Zaharias was an expert at every sport she tried. After winning one silver and two gold medals in track and field at the 1932 Olympics, she became a champion golfer, the first American to capture the British Women's Amateur title. Her home run-hitting skills earned her her nickname, after Babe Ruth (her real first name: Mildred). The museum displays Didrikson trophies and equipment. 409-833-4622.



## FIRST AMERICAN DEPOSED QUEEN

**Iolani Palace, 364 S. King St., Honolulu.** The only royal palace in the USA was the home of Hawaii's last reigning monarch. Queen Liliuokalani. It was in the palace's Blue Room that the Hawaiians' beloved ruler learned in 1893 that she was about to be deposed by political opponents; the United States annexed Hawaii five years later. An 8-foot-tall likeness of the queen stands outside the state Capitol. 808-538-1471.

## FIRST BLACK MILLIONAIRE

**Walker Building, 617 Indiana Ave., Indianapolis.** See the old headquarters of the business empire founded by Madame C.J. Walker, with such artifacts as store displays of her company's health-and-beauty products. The former Sarah Breedlove, born in 1867 to ex-slave parents, gave generously to African-American causes. 317-236-2099.

## FIRST JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

**Esther Morris Cabin, South Pass City, Wyo.** Morris was appointed justice of the peace in this rugged mining town in 1870, becoming the first U.S. woman to hold a political office. The mighty 6-footer tried 28 cases; none of her decisions was overturned. 307-332-3684.



WALKER COLLECTION OF ALEXIA BUNOLES

# One official's untold story

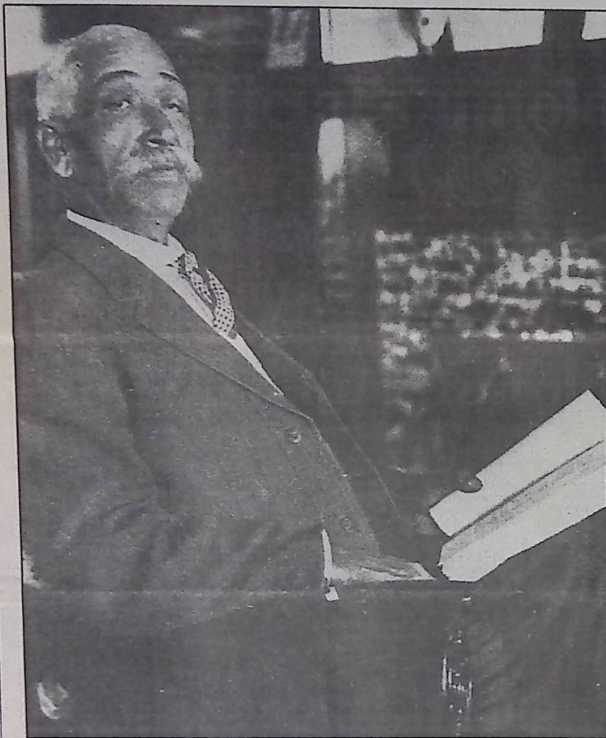


Photo from Canier Brown

Joseph N. Clinton came to Tampa in 1898 as deputy district clerk in the U.S. Internal Revenue office. A Republican, he lost his job after the Democrats regained power in 1913.

## A historian uncovers new information about the political positions of blacks in post-Reconstruction Florida.

By **LELAND HAWES**  
Tribune Staff Writer

Much of the Florida history written about the post-Civil War period gives the impression that blacks got frozen out of the state's political scene once federal support deserted them after Reconstruction.

That certainly was true for the mass of the state's black population until "white primaries" were overturned in the 1910s and "separate but equal" doctrines were reversed in the 1950s and '60s.

But historian Carter Brown Jr. has been gathering material for a book on black officials in Florida. Although he is still digging for facts and researching, he already has learned some surprising things.

For one, there were probably 500 to 600 black officials serving all over Florida into the 1890s and early 1900s, until "Jim Crow" laws began depriving them of the opportunity to run or vote for office.

Last year, readers of this page learned that Tampa named a black city council member, Joseph A. Walker, in the first election after the city received its charter in 1887. Walker won more votes than any other candidate in an all-race race.

Now, thanks to Brown, a native of Fort Meade who is a doctoral student of Florida State University, we know of other black officials who were serving honorably as late as 1913.

### Black Republicans

These were Republicans, appointed to federal patronage positions. This was the era when the role of Abraham Lincoln, the "great emancipator," kept black voters in the GOP camp.

Most of the black officials performed duties in U.S. Customs and Internal Revenue offices through the

William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft administrations.

Through background furnished by Brown and by David Coles of the Florida State Archives, it's possible to tell you about a man named Joseph N. Clinton who served almost 15 years as head of the Tampa office of Internal Revenue.

What makes his story dramatic is the wave of support he drew from the Tampa cigar industry when it appeared he was being targeted by trumped-up charges in 1912 because of his color.

Clinton had started work in the Tampa office Nov. 4, 1888, after having served earlier as a clerk in the land office at Gainesville and in the customs office at Pensacola.

He also had been elected to a term on Gainesville's city council in 1883 and then to a term in the Florida House of Representatives in 1885.

Son of an African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) bishop, Clinton was a native of Pittsburgh and a graduate of Lincoln University. Originally a schoolteacher, he taught in Florida after stints in Maryland and South Carolina.

Married in 1882 to Agnes Stewart of Atlantic City, N.J., Clinton brought his wife to Tampa in 1888 when the Internal Revenue opportunity opened. As he wrote later, the work was heavy from the start and "has increased from year to year."

From all accounts, Clinton was a conscientious officeholder who did his best to accommodate the Tampa cigar companies and liquor firms that needed federal revenue stamps for their products.

In later years, he and his wife lived in a home described by "The National Encyclopedia of the Colored Race" as "an elegant bungalow."

But in the spring of 1912 — the last year of the Republican Taft administration — "special agents" from Internal Revenue visited Tampa and began asking leading questions of businessmen who dealt with the Tampa office.

F. R. Diaz, general manager of V. Guerra Diaz and Co., a cigar manufacturer, said the agents "asked a number of questions desiring to know if Deputy Clinton loafed around barrooms and was thus not to be found when we and patrons of the office needed him."

Diaz said he had known Clinton 12 years and found him "attentive to business at all times, and his character,

honesty and integrity have never been impeached as far as we know."

Diaz was joined by more than 40 other cigar manufacturers and liquor dealers who signed a petition of support for Clinton, attesting to his ability and integrity as well as his knowledge of Internal Revenue regulations. Many of the manufacturers wrote personal notes. Ygnazio Haya, whose factory had been licensed No. 1 in Ybor City, described Clinton as a man "we know we can depend on."

Clinton reacted to the inquiry by writing to his superior, Joseph E. Lee, in Jacksonville (that "Special Agent E.C. Yellowby found me at work when he came and talked with me," adding, "He has never come to Tampa and found me idle or not attending to my duties.") Clinton wound up by saying, "I ... I am to be the victim of some malicious design to accomplish personal ends, my resignation will be filed whenever called for."

His boss, Lee, was also a black Republican who oversaw Florida Internal Revenue activities from Jacksonville. He responded to charges Yellowby brought against Clinton and another Tampa deputy clerk. In a letter to Internal Revenue Commissioner R.E. Cabell, Lee defended the Florida officeholders, calling Yellowby's charges "inconsistent and contradictory."

He blamed the accusations on "a desire upon [Yellowby's] part to eliminate from the service faithful, honest and capable deputies because they are colored ..." as well as a white Civil War veteran who had fought on the Union side.

Lee told Cabell he believed Yellowby's report was motivated to benefit himself "in the event of a change in the administration. In order that he [Yellowby] might then be retained as a revenue agent."

### Wilson elected

Apparently the 1912 storm blew over, but the national election in November toppled Republican rule in Washington after 16 years. Democrat Woodrow Wilson, strongly supported in the "Solid South," swept in.

The actual changeover in Washington did not occur until March 1913. Shortly thereafter, rumblings stirred Tampa's federal building.

Reports of impending resignations in the Internal Revenue and Customs offices appeared in *The Tampa Morning Tribune* and in *The Tampa Daily Times*.

A Tribune writer noted: "The situation appears to be significant in connection with the supposed policy of the Democratic Party to give responsible offices to white men whenever possible instead of Negroes, as has been the case under the Republican regime."

A Times article reported that Hayes Lewis, a Democrat, "recently took control of the district" and was talking of cutting personnel.

On June 4, 1913, a Tribune article announcing Clinton's departure had these comments:

"Clinton has been in charge of the office for 15 years, and his patrons give him credit for being efficient and public. He has handled at least \$10 million of the government's money during his administration, and at no time has there been cause for questioning his honesty."

In the years to come, Tampa's city directory showed Joseph and Agnes Clinton residing at 508 W. Palm Ave. His occupation was unlisted most years but once indicated he was a bookkeeper and later manager of the 5050 Bottling Co.

Joseph Clinton must have died in 1927, for his wife Agnes had the sole listing in 1928 as his widow. A man named Henry Clinton was reportedly at the same address as a student and later as a mechanic.

**BLACK HISTORY**



"ALL GOING OUT AND NOTHING COMING IN." This cartoon in the New York Age showed graphically what happened to most black Republican appointive officeholders when the Wilson administration came in.

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MARK GUSSE/Tribune photo

At left, music teacher Maria Watkins and student Henry Porter II, both of the Westcoast School for Human Development in Sarasota, traveled to Africa,

a requirement for graduation. Watkins has gone seven times to the "Motherland." The Rev. Art Jones has taken members of Bible Based Fel-



TODD L. CHAPPEL/Tribune photo

lowship Church, including Christina James, left, and his daughter, Natalia Jones, to Africa. They display artwork that they brought back.

# Finding the real Africa

More black Americans are visiting the continent to appreciate the culture and find their roots.

By KAREN HAYMON LONG  
Tribune Staff Writer

**L**ike so many Americans, Maria Watkins grew up hearing all the stereotypes about Africa. On television, Africa was mostly home to Tarzan and Jane. Africans usually were "primitives who lived in caves and huts," Watkins recalls.

The Sarasota music teacher wanted to see for herself what Africa was like. So, she went — seven times. Her "Motherland," she tells her students at the Westcoast School for Human Development, is "absolutely, completely different from what has been stereotyped."

"People walk around in suits. Their cities, like ours, have banks, churches, stores, schools, fabulous hotels and beaches," she says.

Now, every year, she returns to Africa with seniors at the Westcoast school, which requires the trip for graduation.

On her visits to Africa, she has taught a seminar on music composition at the University of Nsukka in Nigeria, she has attended concerts where she has heard music very similar to American gospel and she has toured archival and historical museums.

In April, she plans to go back with two more students.

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Watkins visits more often than most, but she is among a growing number of black Americans traveling to Africa. Some enjoy being in what Watkins calls her "Motherland."

Others go to see the continent's beauty and culture. Some go, in part, to seek family roots, see where their ancestors lived or witness for themselves places such as the dungeons and slave house on Goree Island, where 40,000 slaves suffered at the hands of slave traders.

B.J. Ferdinand, owner of BJ Ventures, an Atlanta-based company that arranges African tours, says the trend started with Alex Haley's "Roots" and was a fad for a while. Now, she says, many black Americans are making the trip, not as part of a fad, but in "search of a deeper meaning of self."

"As African Americans in American society, our picture of ourselves for too long has been painted by forces outside



Photos from Bible Based Fellowship Church

Above, the stockade at Goree Island has been turned into a museum. In the middle, residents stroll the streets of the island off the West African coast. At top, the skyline stretches out in the Ivory Coast's capital of Abidjan, the "Paris of West Africa."

of us," Ferdinand says. "Now, we're saying, 'Let's do that from the inside out.' ... In Africa, we find the core of our traditions and their true meanings and why they were important then and why they are important now."

Black American traditions, foods, music, dance, artwork and even such household items as quilts often are rooted in Africa, Ferdinand says.

"You'd think some dances in Africa were break dancing they look so similar. A lot of traditions, even rapping, you can trace back. Africans have a tradition of oral histo-

ry, which they tell to a beat, a beat and cadence very much like rapping."

Ferdinand says it's not uncommon for black Americans to go back to Africa once they have visited.

"They make one-on-one connections, and once they do that, they begin to see Africa from the inside out," she says.

Cost for the trip varies. A 10-day tour BJ Ventures arranged for Tampa's Bible Based Fellowship Church for this November costs \$2,839 per person and includes round-trip air fare from Tampa to Africa, flights within Africa, tips, taxes and local transportation, some sightseeing and excursions and hotel accommodations, based on double occupancy.

Air fare alone can cost about \$2,500 and two-week packages are as high as \$10,000.

## Back to Africa

The Rev. Art Jones, a senior pastor of Bible Based Fellowship Church, went to Africa the first time with a group of ministers concerned about the hunger crisis.

The second time, he took 36 of his members to visit missionaries at a church named after his church in Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso, and to travel to other parts of the continent.

"Africa offers a plethora of splendor unmatched in the Caribbean," Jones says. "It has breathtaking scenes and also poverty, which is also breathtaking."

On his tour with other ministers, Jones visited an area near the Sahara Desert hard hit by famine. There, he says, he fell in love with some people and asked, "What do you want us to do?"

"I expected them to say they needed water and food or continued assistance. They asked for none of that. They said, 'Tell my brothers and sisters to come to see us.'"

A 53-year-old woman told him through an interpreter that he couldn't be from America because no blacks lived there. Now, his goal is to take others to Africa to show them what he has seen and to encourage them to connect with Africans "people to people."

His visits have varied widely. He has been to small villages and to cosmopolitan cities among them the Ivory Coast's capital, Abidjan, the "Paris of West Africa," which has millions of residents and architecture similar to Manhattan's.

In Ouagadougou, the president's sister held a reception in honor of Jones' group, which at the time was the largest contingent of black Americans to visit there.

He and his church members also visited the Institute of

### Astronaut exhibit

Mae Jemison, a physician and engineer, blasted off into space in September 1992 aboard the space shuttle Endeavour. Now a piece of earthbound space at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry has been devoted to the astronaut that city claims as its own.

The exhibit, which opened Jan.



21 in the museum's Henry Crown Space Center, chronicles the scientist's life from growing up in Chicago to her experience as the first black woman in space.

"As a schoolchild, I would go to the museum on field trips, and I was always thrilled about it," Jemison said. "It was all about science and discovery and had interactive exhibits before other museums were doing interactive exhibits. I participated in science fairs there."

Having now resigned from NASA, Jemison, 37, has formed a company, the Jemison Group in Houston, whose projects include development of a satellite-based telecommunications system to facilitate health care in West Africa and an International Student Science Camp planned for next summer at a preparatory school in Connecticut.

The camp's goal, Jemison said, is to "help children link science with society."

— A Tribune  
Wire Services Report

## Art fills in blanks in cultural memory

By JOANNE MILANI  
Tribune Staff Writer

**LAKELAND** — Take away your history, and you'll have a blank space where your identity should be.

But the superbly selected, brilliantly conceived exhibition at the Polk Museum of Art, "Where the Water Tastes Like Cherry Wine," does a wonderful job of filling in the blanks in the emotional history of African-Americans.

The show pulls together the traditions and themes of Africa and America to identify a third, African-American, experience. Not only does the exhibition showcase sophisticated works by highly educated black artists, but it also includes the naive efforts of untrained artists who have their own stories to tell.

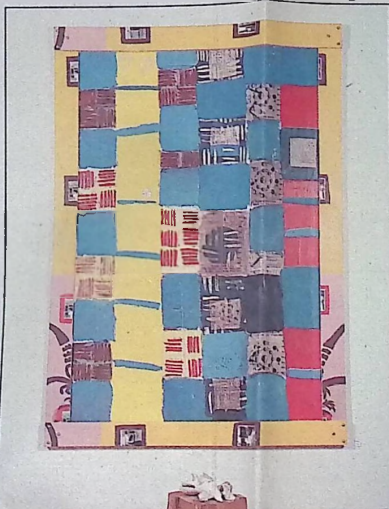
**ART REVIEW** Curator Christoph Gerozissis, who pulled in one artist' collective and 11 black artists from across Florida, chose the show's title from the lyrics of a 1920s ballad about life in Polk County.

He discovered the line, which is the optimistic refrain in a song about hard lives and hard work, in a book by writer Zara Neale Hurston, "Dust Tracks on a Road."

"The show is about reclaiming memory," said Gerozissis. "African-Americans were cut off from their history when they were brought here. They were not allowed to carry their culture with them... not allowed to write down their history. So they put it into musical forms, into dialects and into rituals and ceremonies."

Artists in this show such as Dinizulu Gene Tinnie and Corinne Galle have been able to bind together their life experiences with visions of their own collective unconscious. They've reclaimed the memories of their distant African ancestors, successfully translating them into contemporary art forms.

See EXHIBIT, Page 2



One of the six panels in Corinne Galle's untitled work honors the "keeper of the cycles" or the circular rhythms of nature. She also placed a selection of conch shells on the hand-carved stool.



With his painting "Miami Arena," Charles Humes Jr. shows the disparity between the poverty of the homeless and the prosperity of which the arena is a centerpiece.

### WHERE THE WATER TASTES LIKE CHERRY WINE

- **WHAT:** Exhibition of works by black artists from Florida
- **WHEN:** through Feb. 20, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday
- **WHERE:** Polk Museum of Art, 800 E. Palmetto Ave., Lakeland
- **TICKETS:** Admission is free; call (813) 688-7749 for more information.



Dinizulu Gene Tinnie's "Shrine to the Ancestors of the Middle Passage" salutes his ancestors on both sides of the Atlantic.

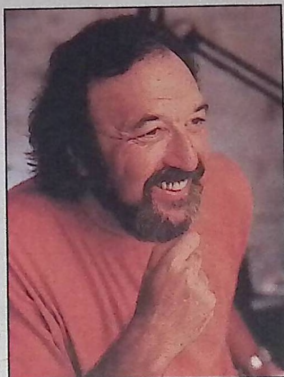


Photo from Columbia Pictures

Writer-producer-director James Brooks' new movie is "I'll Do Anything."

## Brooks gives fans credit

By BOB ROSS  
Tribune Staff Writer

**TAMPA** — To illustrate his filmmaking philosophy, James Brooks shares an anecdote.

"I saw this guy, an actor, on Johnny Carson. And Johnny asks him what he plans to do next," recalls the Oscar-winning writer-producer-director.

"The guy turns and looks right into the camera, points at it and says, 'Whatever you want me to do.' It was the worst moment I ever saw on television." Brooks dislikes the notion of pandering to the audience. It's a concept that fuels bloated eight-figure movie budgets, and it's a practice he savagely mocks in his new comedy-drama, "I'll Do Anything," with Nick Nolte, Julie Kavner and Albert Brooks (no relation).

Brooks readily mentions in a telephone conversation from New York that he spent \$40 million making his own film — and is getting mixed reviews for the effort.

But, he notes, he doesn't base his work strictly on surveys, studies and screenings.

"The object," he says, "is to communicate ideas and thoughts."

Brooks finds fault not with surveys, but with condescending to the audience.

Indeed, it was a test screening of "I'll Do Anything" that got Brooks some unwanted advance publicity.

When filming began, the movie was intended as a musical. But a rough cut — more than 2½ hours long — was shown to a test audience with negative reactions. Brooks axed the song-and-dance numbers and pared the movie down to a releasable length.

But word of this supposedly secret process leaked to the entertainment press, and the director was saddled with bad buzz before he even finished his work.

New that the movie is in theaters, he's philosophical.

"I still think you can learn things from [previews]," he observes. "But you have to read the audience's reaction cards yourself. You have to feel the audience's response. It's not just about reading the charts."

In the film, he explains, he makes fun of "people trying to measure audiences in the wrong ways. They try to make it safe with numbers. You can't do that."

"I've always thought that the audience is enormously intelligent," he says from his New York office.

That's not too surprising for a man whose 32 Emmy nominations were earned with smarter-than-average series such as "The Simpsons," "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," "Lou Grant," "Rhoda," "Taxi" and "The Tracey Ullman Show."

His latest production, the animated sitcom "The Critic," is another series of smart, sharp pokes at show

“ I've always thought that the audience is enormously intelligent.”

JAMES BROOKS  
filmmaker

# Black WWII hero awarded his Navy Cross after 49 years

By DEBORAH BARFIELD  
of Knight-Ridder Newspapers

NEW YORK — Alonzo Swann of Gary, Ind., proudly pushed back his shoulders and occasionally glanced down at his chest as the admiral pinned the Navy's most prestigious medal to his brown suit.

Swann, 68, a World War II Navy gunner, had finally won his toughest battle — he received the Navy Cross that he earned 49 years and five days ago.

"It's a fight coming to an end," said Swann, who long fought the Navy to get the medal. "Nobody likes a loser. I've been losing for 48 years. It's been a long fight and a bitter fight, [but] I was stubborn. I knew I was right."

In an elaborate ceremony aboard the USS Intrepid last Wednesday — a floating museum on the Hudson River — hundreds of Navy officials, family members and World War II soldiers honored Swann and other black combatants, many of whom died in the Oct. 29, 1944, battle on the aircraft carrier.

It was on that date that Swann, a 19-year-old petty officer, and the 21-member all-black crew of Gun Tub 10 downed a Japanese kamikaze plane, saving the Intrepid and its crew. Nine of the tub's crew members died, and several, including Swann, were seriously injured.

Although the courage was marked by presentations of the Navy Cross, the medal was later taken back without explanation and downgraded to a Bronze Star. Swann said it was because the crew was black.

After nearly 50 years and a federal court victory, the Navy relent-ed earlier this year.

“The world owes nobody nothing. If you think you're right, fight your heart out.”

— Alonzo Swann

"I'm glad it's culminated," said Swann, who noted that many blacks, although unrecognized, played significant roles in World War II.

"I'm not sure that it's over yet. We're going to have to get the history books straight."

Swann, a retired health department employee, was anything but bitter. With the U.S. flag as a backdrop and in front of a painting of the Oct. 29 explosion, the Navy Cross was pinned to his chest.

"It is truly remarkable that here, 49 years later, Mr. Swann can return to his ship to receive a well-deserved honor," said Adm. Stan Arthur, who presented the medal. "... Our shipmates of yesteryear were true heroes in every respect."

Swann, a pudgy man with wavy black hair peppered with gray, called his Navy buddy James Dockery of Stamford, Conn., the only other survivor of Tub 10, to join him at the podium. He also asked for a moment of silence for those who died.

"I feel partially vindicated because I've proved my point," Swann said later as he headed out to a concert at Carnegie Hall in his honor.

The ceremony aboard the Intrepid served as a symbol of Swann's victory. "It was the ship he saved," said the spokesman for the carrier. "If he hadn't done that, we would not have the Intrepid today."

Bill White of the Intrepid Museum Society coordinated the ceremony. "This man deserves proper recognition. They were going to give him the medal in Gary, Ind., and send him home.

"This is the ship he served on. ... We should celebrate. It just fits well."

For hours, spectators in Navy uniforms and others in sequined dresses milled around the museum filled with Navy memorabilia, including an exhibit honoring blacks. They talked about the heroics and persistence of folks like Swann.

The Intrepid Museum Society highlighted Swann's courage in a brief black-and-white video of the Oct. 29 battle.

"He's been talking Navy Cross ever since I met him," said Debbie Swann, Swann's daughter-in-law, of Landover, Md. "I just hope that it's all he hopes for. I hope he can be at peace."

"It's his dream," said Swann's sister, Geraldine Mack, 63, of Steelton, Pa. "I'm glad he's lived to see it."

For years Swann was obsessed with his pursuit of the Navy Cross, family members said. He spent hours in Washington searching the Navy and National Archives for documents to prove his case.

"It was a hassle because of what it was doing to him," said his wife, Gussie, of Gary. "It was just something that was stuck in his heart. He said it was his, they took it from him, he was going to get it back."

"The world owes nobody nothing," Swann said from behind the podium. "If you think you're right, fight your heart out."

# Black WW II veteran to receive Navy Cross after 49-year struggle

Associated Press

GARY, Ind. — It is not easy for Alonzo Swann to measure his life. He has lived comfortably enough, yet he cannot shake painful thoughts of what might have been if the Navy had been colorblind.

Swann is a hero, the Navy now acknowledges. But the path from a flaming aircraft carrier 49 years ago to his rightful place among the country's honored has had many detours — all for one reason, he believes.

Swann is black. At age 67, he will finally receive the Navy's highest award for valor — the Navy Cross — this Wednesday in a ceremony aboard the USS Intrepid, the aircraft carrier on which he earned the honor in the face of a Japanese kamikaze pilot.

"I surely don't want to have a feeling that I have a bone to pick," Swann said in an interview at his modest home on Gary's southwest side. "But I surely don't think I feel out of line when I say that the Navy took my life, because they further stopped me from getting an opportunity that I normally would have gotten.

"And I surely feel bad about that." Swann was barely 19 when the enemy suicide plane descended on the Intrepid on Oct. 29, 1944, in the Pacific Ocean near the Philippines. As other crews ran for cover, Swann and more than a dozen other young black men in his crew stayed at their guns.

Nobody can tally how many lives were saved when they shot away the attacking plane's left wing and most of its tail, diverting the kamikaze from the vital flight deck. But the plane instead crashed into their own position, spewing flames that claimed nine of the black sailors and badly burned Swann.

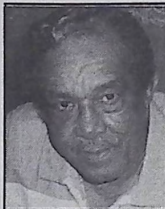
"All you could hear was things blowing up," said Swann, a native of Steelton, Pa., just outside Harrisburg. "And fire. ... Ooh man, I have never had that much pain in my life, and I went out. The last thing I remember is falling, right back into that fire."

Pulled from the inferno, Swann was back in the gun tub within a month.

The ship's commander, Capt. Joseph Bolger, promised Navy Crosses to Swann and five other surviving sailors. They were given citations recognizing the award, and Navy press releases sang their praises. The awards were even mentioned in a front page of The New York Times in late July 1945.

But then the Navy quickly recanted, reissuing its press release to show Bronze Stars were awarded — not Navy Crosses.

On board the Intrepid, the paper citations were recalled and the lesser awards handed out.



Alonzo Swann

*For more than four decades, Swann screamed angrily into the abyss that is government bureaucracy. Racism, he said, had deprived him of his rightful honor.*

For more than four decades, Swann screamed angrily into the abyss that is government bureaucracy. Racism, he said, had deprived him of his rightful honor.

He fought the battle alone most of those years, spending almost all of the money he earned as a 21-year employee of Gary's health and building departments.

Trauma from his war experiences and frustration over his situation led to several nervous breakdowns. He has made a weekly visit to a mental health clinic since he retired in 1977 to pursue his Navy Cross full-time.

"You have to have endurance to fight for what is right," said Swann. "But to have endurance is to take a beating."

Swann finally got legal help in 1991 from Hammond attorney Ron Layer, a Vietnam veteran. Armed with stacks of documents Swann had uncovered, Layer presented the case to U.S. District Judge Rudy Lozano in Hammond.

Lozano ruled last December that Swann was denied the medal "either through error or intentional racial injustice," and the judge ordered the Navy to give Swann the award.

The Navy acted in January but said they had decided in Swann's favor after reviewing the case, not because of Lozano's order.

In World War II, Navy Crosses were awarded to 3,376 members of the Navy, Marines and Coast Guard. Only three were black. Swann becomes the fourth.

About 400 people are expected to attend Wednesday evening's ceremony aboard the Intrepid, now a floating museum on the Hudson River in New York City. The Navy's top officer, Admiral Frank B. Kelso II, will present the cross to Swann.

The Intrepid Museum Foundation also will award a scholarship in Swann's name for inner-city youth.

Asked to comment on Swann's case, Navy spokeswoman Lt. Cate Mueller issued a written statement saying only that the Bronze Star was upgraded to a Navy Cross after a review by former Navy Secretary Sean O'Keefe.

"Without admitting it, they just said, 'Hey, we're going to give him the medal. He deserves it,'" Layer said. "And that's what we were hoping for."

## Postal service honors organic chemist

The U.S. Postal Service today honors Percy Lavon Julian, a brilliant organic chemist from Montgomery, Ala., on the 1993 Black Heritage stamp. Julian's work with soybean extracts remarkably improved the quality of life in the 20th century.

Julian, born April 11, 1899, graduated from DePauw University in 1920 as class valedictorian. After teaching for two years, he entered Harvard University, where he earned a master's degree in chemistry in 1923. A doctorate was conferred by the University of Vienna (Austria) in 1931.

His most notable laboratory triumphs include development of synthetic cortisone for treatment of arthritis and synthetic physostigmine, which is used in the treatment of glaucoma. Julian's invention of fire extinguishing "aero-foam," also derived from soybeans, saved the lives of thousands of World War II servicemen.

Percy Lavon Julian was employed by Glidden Co., a manufacturer of paints and varnishes, for 20 years, where he served as director of research. In 1953, he left Glidden

### STAMPS

David V. Tilton

to form his own companies, Julian Laboratories Inc. in the United States and Laboratorios Julian de Mexico. He remained president of both companies until 1964.

Julian died in Waukegan, Ill., on April 19, 1975.

Today's first-day ceremony in Chicago will be followed by nationwide sales of the Julian commemorative starting Saturday at USPS Philatelic Centers and larger post offices. Single stamps are 29 cents; a full pane of 50 stamps costs \$14.50.

### Elvis list

Excitement over this month's release of the Elvis stamp continues.

The United States was not the first country to honor the king of rock 'n' roll, however. Antigua, Dominica, Gambia, St. Vincent, West Germany and Tanzania all beat the U.S. in honoring the music legend from Tupelo, Miss.



Percy Lavon Julian, organic chemist, is honored on the 1993 Black Heritage stamp.

The Tampa Tribune, Monday, February 1, 1993

## February is Black History Month

Historian Carter G. Woodson created Negro History Week in 1926, and it grew into Black History Month in 1976.

"Not to know what one's race has done in former times is to continue always a child," Woodson wrote in 1926.

He called racism "the inevitable outcome of thorough instruction to the effect that the Negro has never contributed anything to the progress of mankind. The doctrine has been thoroughly drilled into the whites, and the Negroes have learned well the lesson themselves."

What is learned can be unlearned. Both blacks and whites should know about black accomplishments, he wrote, and knowledge will destroy prejudice.

The Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, which he founded in 1915, sponsors activities every February.

It offers books, essays, maps,



Carter G. Woodson

posters, calendars, and audio and videotapes. Teaching kits include stamps, T-shirts, lesson plans, plays and photographs.

For a catalog, send \$2 to Associated Publishers, 1407 14th St. N.W., Washington, D.C., 20005. For more information, call (202) 265-1441.

The Tampa Tribune is running a list of some Black History Month events in West Central Florida today in its community sections.

## Black troops to be honored with statue

An Associated Press Report

RICHMOND, Va. — When Jones Morgan ran away from home in 1897 to join the Army, he signed up with a group that only now is beginning to claim its place in history — the Buffalo Soldiers.

The cavalry and infantry units, made up solely of black soldiers, are being honored at their birthplace, Fort Leavenworth, Kan., decades after they first won acclaim by helping to settle the West.

Morgan, now 109, plans to be on hand Saturday for the dedication of a 13-foot statue of a black soldier, rifle in hand and riding a horse, on a tree-lined avenue leading to the base and in sight of where the soldiers first set up camp in 1866.

It pays tribute to the 9th and 10th Cavalry and the 24th and 25th Infantry regiments, whose bravery and toughness prompted Native Americans to name them after the fiercest animals on the Plains.

The first Buffalo Soldiers guarded the Western frontier against Indian attacks, winning 13 Medals of Honor in their early campaigns.

Morgan joined the 9th Cavalry at age 15, tending horses. "They used me for domestic stuff," Mor-



Associated Press photograph

**Jones Morgan, at 109 the oldest living Buffalo Soldier, can recall watching his unit charge up San Juan Hill with Teddy Roosevelt.**

gan recalled.

He watched as Buffalo Soldier units joined Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders in their charge up Cuba's San Juan Hill on July 1, 1898.

Morgan's military records were lost in a fire around the turn of the century, so he receives no veterans benefits. The Army said it has no record of his service, possibly because he was underage.

Nevertheless, Morgan will receive the Bronze Medallion of the Order of St. George — the first Buffalo Soldier inducted into the group. Members are selected by the Army's Armor Branch for outstanding service in the cavalry.

The contributions of Buffalo Sol-

diers, who were phased out of service after World War II, are not mentioned in most history books.

"Actually, the 9th Cavalry got over [San Juan] hill first, but they didn't get the press," said Mike Knapp, an archivist with the military reference branch at the National Archives in Washington.

The memorial was dreamed up about 10 years ago by Gen. Colin Powell, now chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, when he was stationed at Fort Leavenworth.

Powell "was surprised that there was nothing there to remind people that the Buffalo Soldiers had begun there," said Riley Banks of Wichita, a retired Buffalo Soldier.

# Journalists get black history lesson

## Tampa educator-poet conducts awareness-raising class

By MICHELE DRAYTON  
Tribune Staff Writer

TAMPA — With pictures, words and humor, James E. Tokley Sr. held class Monday for a group of journalists, folks who pride themselves on being in the know.

But this lesson was black history and after about an hour, a group of 22 newspaper reporters and editors from The Tampa Tribune found out they didn't know as much as they thought. Tokley quizzed his audience with a test of 15 questions covering knowledge about black history in Hillsborough County and broader contribu-

tions of blacks throughout modern times. No one scored a perfect 75, and most acknowledged results that were far lower.

February marks the national observance of Black History Month. Throughout West Central Florida, seminars such as Tokley's and other happenings spotlight contributions of blacks to America and the world.

"You need only to dig an inch under the soil," Tokley said, "to enrich, enhance, excite, inform the world about the great cornucopia, about the great mass of information in reference to the black community, your readership."

Tokley, 42, is a Tampa educator, poet and historian. He has master's degrees in education and English and also is scheduled to make several other awareness-raising appearances throughout the month. The lessons he proffers are similar to those being taught to the young and old across the region.

"We are a melting pot here," said Len Kizner, principal of St. Petersburg's Woodlawn Elementary School, which has a special assembly planned for Thursday. "And black Americans are a part

See AWARENESS, Page 6



Tribune photograph by CLIFF McBRIDE  
Naaman Johnson views "Slave Boy," a sculpture from the Barnett-Arden Collection on exhibit at the Museum of African-American Art in downtown Tampa. February is Black History Month.

The Tampa Tribune, Tuesday, February 11, 1992

## Awareness-raising sessions part of Black History Month

■ From Page 1

of our culture. If we want children to learn to live together, we need to know all about where we came from."

Carl East, director of Newtown Community Center in Sarasota, said organizers are reaching out to more people and encouraging businesses and restaurants to get involved in black history activities.

"What we're trying to do is network within Sarasota ... with anyone trying to contribute anything to black history," East said. "A lot of people know of black history, but they aren't knowledgeable of our history."

A variety of events will highlight Black History Month across the region.

In Hillsborough County, Jawanza Kunjufu, author of "Countering the

Conspiracy to Destroy Black Boys," and Leonard Jeffries, City University of New York professor, will speak at the University of South Florida's Tampa campus on Feb. 20 and 25, respectively.

In Hernando County, a Black Educators Caucus is scheduled for Feb. 29 while Project Black Cinema of Sarasota plans several showings of "The Real Malcolm X" in St. Petersburg, Tampa, Bradenton and Sarasota throughout the month.

Among other activities, the Winter Haven Human Relations Committee in Polk County will salute black scientists and inventors Feb. 16 at the Fine Arts Auditorium of Polk Community College.

Staff writers Lesley Collins, Steve Newborn, Anmarie Sarsfield, Kevin Shinkle, Doug Stanley and Phil Thompson contributed to this report.

## Show honors black heroes of the ages

By JUDY GERSTEL  
of Knight-Ridder Newspapers

Alexander Pushkin, the father of Russian literature, is a black hero. The grandmother of Queen Victoria, Charlotte Sophia, is too.

And Flip Fraser, son of a Jamaican police officer, just may be in the running.

In 1981, mourning the death of reggae star Bob Marley, Fraser came up with the idea of a show about black heroes. He got it started as a community project three years ago in London, where Fraser, 34, is part of the growing African-Caribbean population.

Now, after a successful three-year West End run that attracted more black Britons than any other theatrical production, Fraser has brought the show to America.

It began its North American tour earlier this month at Howard University in Washington, D.C., and moved on to Music Hall Center in Detroit for eight performances.

"Black Heroes in the Hall of Fame" is no longer a community show, but, says Fraser, "it has maintained that same unity and energy of pride and purpose."

The musical production has been Americanized, with a new text relevant to the American experience, splashy choreography, costumes and production values.

The look of the show has been revised by Amaniya Payne, artistic director of the Muntu Dance Theatre in Chicago, and set and lighting designers with Michael Jackson commercials and Madonna tours to

their credit.

But what's unique and important about "Black Heroes," says Fraser, is that it's not fiction or fantasy.

"Black peoples' appetite all over the world is for facts and reality," he said by phone from Washington between rehearsals. "At one time it was for dreams."

Fraser says he didn't go looking for black heroes. "The heroes were all there — people I have respected and come into contact with throughout the years."

The musical extravaganza spans 4,000 years and includes African kings from Hannibal to Haile Selassie, and American entertainers and athletes from Nat King Cole to Muhammad Ali.

Detroit contributes Diana Ross and Marvin Gaye to the entertainment section and, in the "She-roses" category, Rosa Parks.

Pushkin is present as a black hero because his great-grandfather, a companion to Peter the Great, was an African prince. The author of "Eugene Onegin" and "Boris Godunov" wrote a book about his famous ancestor Peter, in translation, "The Negro of Peter the Great."

Queen Victoria's grandmother, Charlotte Sophia, is one of about 10 "Great Queens of Africa" in the show, along with Nefertiti, Cleopatra, the Queen of Sheba and Hatshepsut, the first woman to rule as Pharaoh.

But while Russia, America, the Caribbean and modern and ancient Africa are represented, "the surprising thing," says Fraser, "is that

there are no black British heroes."

He says the black community in Britain is "very young" and not as cosmopolitan as in America. "We're catching up in Europe. We're going through what America has gone through in the '60s."

Fraser spent his teen-age years in Jamaica and came to the United States to study at Tennessee State University, where he "realized what it was to be a black man, and to be an independent black man. That's when I became proud," says Fraser.

In London, before staging "Black Heroes," Fraser worked on media campaigns for record companies, set up talent competitions for young entertainers, became the first editor of one of the most popular black newspapers and helped launch an international music magazine, Black Beat International.

But for all his success there, he's ready to move on. "I've done my apprenticeship in England," he says. "We really created a market for black theater in England, but we are not particularly loved by authorities there in terms of getting funding, so we're not going to be waving flags."

Besides, he says, "America is where it's at. ... We wanted to test our hands in America, to see how good we are."

Mainly, Flip Fraser wants to keep on learning — and educating and entertaining. "We should remember what our ancestors have done so we can keep doing things for the next generation."

2/27/91 - TRIBUNE

# Teen works to help build Revolutionary War memorial to blacks

By STANLEY HOLMES  
of The Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — Several weeks ago Jamila Bailey, a Waukegan High School Junior, was looking for an article to use in her current events class when she stumbled upon something in the newspaper that bothered her.

In the back pages was an article about the financial woes of a group seeking to build the first national memorial honoring black Revolutionary War soldiers.

The Black Revolutionary War Patriots Foundation, based in Washington, D.C., needed to raise \$5 million by February or, it said, it would have to abandon its efforts

to build the memorial.

The thought of abandoning the project triggered a strong reaction in the student. She told her mom: "This can be done."

From that moment, the determined 15-year-old Jamila has begun the formidable task of building a grass-roots organization that hopes to raise the \$5 million needed for the memorial.

"I feel it's important to show Americans that African-Americans contributed more to the Revolutionary War than being slaves," Jamila said. "African-Americans did make a contribution to our nation's founding."

She cited such individuals as fugitive

slave Crispus Attucks, who led an uprising against British soldiers and was killed in what is known as the Boston Massacre.

"I felt he was a good person and stood up for what was right," Jamila said.

In addition, minuteman Salem Middlesex, a slave, served with Capt. Simon Edgel's Framingham Company in the battles of Lexington and Concord.

Middlesex became a hero at the Battle of Bunker Hill when he shot and killed British Maj. Pitcarin, who was announcing that the British had won the skirmish.

Besides raising money for the memorial, Jamila's other goal is to raise the aware-

ness for African-Americans who not only fought in the American Revolution but contributed to the nation's development.

"This is not just for black students," Jamila said. "This is so everyone could become aware of their contributions."

The memorial will honor 5,000 black soldiers and sailors who served in the American Revolution, foundation leaders said. It will recognize the thousands of slaves who escaped bondage and fled petitions for liberty. And it will honor black spies, nurses, privateers, cooks and others who offered civilian assistance to the war.

The memorial will cost an estimated

\$4.8 million, but the foundation is seeking \$6 million to cover any cost increases caused by inflation.

The memorial site will be on the National Mall near the Reflecting Pool between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. The bronze and granite structure will depict men, women and children in acts of Revolutionary War patriotism and courage, foundation organizers said.

But the foundation has raised only \$800,000. Maurice A. Barboza, president of the foundation, said in a recent interview that major black corporations have not responded to solicitation letters.

MODERN MATURITY  
FEB/MAR. 1992  
PEOPLE

**NO REST FOR THE DEAD** When Robert Prince, M.D., walks through 123-year-old Freedmen's Cemetery in Dallas, he hears the whispers of his ancestors who repose in largely unmarked graves beneath his restless feet. For 26 years the 61-year-old obstetrician/gynecologist has been on a crusade to preserve the acre and three-quarters that is left of the slave cemetery.

There is an urgency to Prince's mission. Part of the original four acres was lost over a century ago—in 1872—through an eminent domain proceeding for the Houston & Texas Central Railroad. That portion is now underneath the adjacent North Central Expressway. Still more land was almost taken in 1985 for an expressway-widening project. What remains is now a park. A marble marker reads, "Freedmen's Memorial Park, A Public Cemetery 1861-1925, Donated to City of Dallas 1965."

"I have a strong feeling I am reincarnated from one who is buried there," says Prince. "That's what gives me my purpose." A family Bible confirms that four great-aunts and great-uncles were interred there.

When it looked like the cemetery would be overrun by the rubber-tired wheels of progress, Prince brought out his



© DOUG MILNER

big guns: He reminded officials of a Texas law against paving over or otherwise desecrating a cemetery. The project was delayed, and in May 1989 a team of archaeologists was directed to excavate the site to locate the 20 to 30 bodies they expected to find. By August 1991 they had turned up more than 1,200 graves.

Robert Prince wants the cemetery designated a historical site and a monument erected so that one day soon, he will be able to rest with the knowledge that the spirits of the Freedmen will finally be at ease. —Ken Wibecan

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Times photos — BOB MORELAND

Anna Robinson, 77, examines a headstone at Frasier Cemetery. Her father, Arthur Norton, who died at 108, is buried at the cemetery.

# Black History Month reminder of days gone by

2-17-92

Second in a series

This year, the state is planning to publish a booklet of 154 sites important in African-American history in Florida. Three of the sites chosen for the Black Heritage Trail are in Citrus County: the Frasier Cemetery and Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, both in Floral City, and the Second Bethel Baptist Church in south Dunnellon. The Citrus Times is profiling each of these sites to mark Black History Month.

By KEN MORITSUGU  
Times Staff Writer

FLORAL CITY — A stroll among the scattered graves in Frasier Cemetery is a walk down memory lane for Anna Robinson.

During a visit last week, the 79-year-old Floral City resident wandered from grave to grave, peering curiously at each marker, trying to make out the faded lettering.

"We went to school together," she declared when she found the Jones family graves.

"He ain't kin to them! Why did they put him here?" she exclaimed when she discovered an outsider next to another family's tombs.

One grave she knew well. She had the headstone put there herself: Arthur Norton, her father, who was the oldest known resident of Citrus County when he died in 1986 at age 108.

Norton, a Tallahassee native, moved to Floral City around the turn of the century to work in the



A small American flag leans next to a headstone.

phosphate mines and stayed here for the rest of his life. His grave is one reason Frasier Cemetery has been chosen as a site on Florida's first Black Heritage Trail.

The cemetery, bordered by the old railroad bed, Great Oaks Drive and East Tower Trail, is neither immaculately manicured nor terribly overgrown. The cones and long needles from a stand of soaring pine trees cover the ground. Ant-hills appear to outnumber the graves.

The graves are scattered in clumps, some linked by family ties and others by their era. Some are marked only by faded wooden crosses, others with concrete or marble headstones. Some markers have no name at all.

Many of the caskets are en-

Please see **CEMETERY** Page 2

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# Cemetery

from Page 1

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cased in concrete vaults. Mrs. Robinson recalled one man who didn't want a vault for fear that, on judgment day, "he couldn't get up with all that weight on him."

A couple of well-tended graves are surrounded by ankle-high chicken-wire fences, painted silver. "I'm going to get some wire and do the same thing," an impressed Mrs. Robinson declared.

The earliest graves date back to the early 1900s, not long after Norton arrived in Floral City.

His wife, Clemmie, who came from High Springs and who died in 1952, lies next to him. He never remarried. "She asked him not to, and he said he wouldn't," said Mrs. Robinson, who cared for her father during his final years.

The family plot includes the graves of Mrs. Robinson's sister, two brothers and a brother-in-law. Her husband, Jesse, who died in 1969, is also buried there. A space between his grave and her father's has been saved for Mrs. Robinson.

Having outlived most of her neighbors, schoolmates and friends, Mrs. Robinson is one of a handful of African-Americans still living in Floral City, a mere shadow of the crowds that once turned out for church picnics and ball games.

"There ain't nobody to have those things now," Mrs. Robinson said. "The older ones died and the younger ones left."

The mines and sawmills that made Floral City a boomtown have been replaced by a smattering of front retirement homes. Together there may be more black people buried in Frasier cemetery than there are living in Floral City.

# ON THE TRAIL OF BLACK HISTORY

A new book traces the contributions of black Floridians throughout the state.

By KATE PURSELL  
of Knight-Ridder Newspapers

**BRADENTON**  
Josiah Thomas Walls was the first black U.S. congressman elected from Florida. The year was 1870, at the time of Reconstruction.

He called Gainesville home. Noted folklorist Zora Neale Hurston (1901-1960) chronicled Florida's culture and was a major contributor to the Harlem Renaissance.

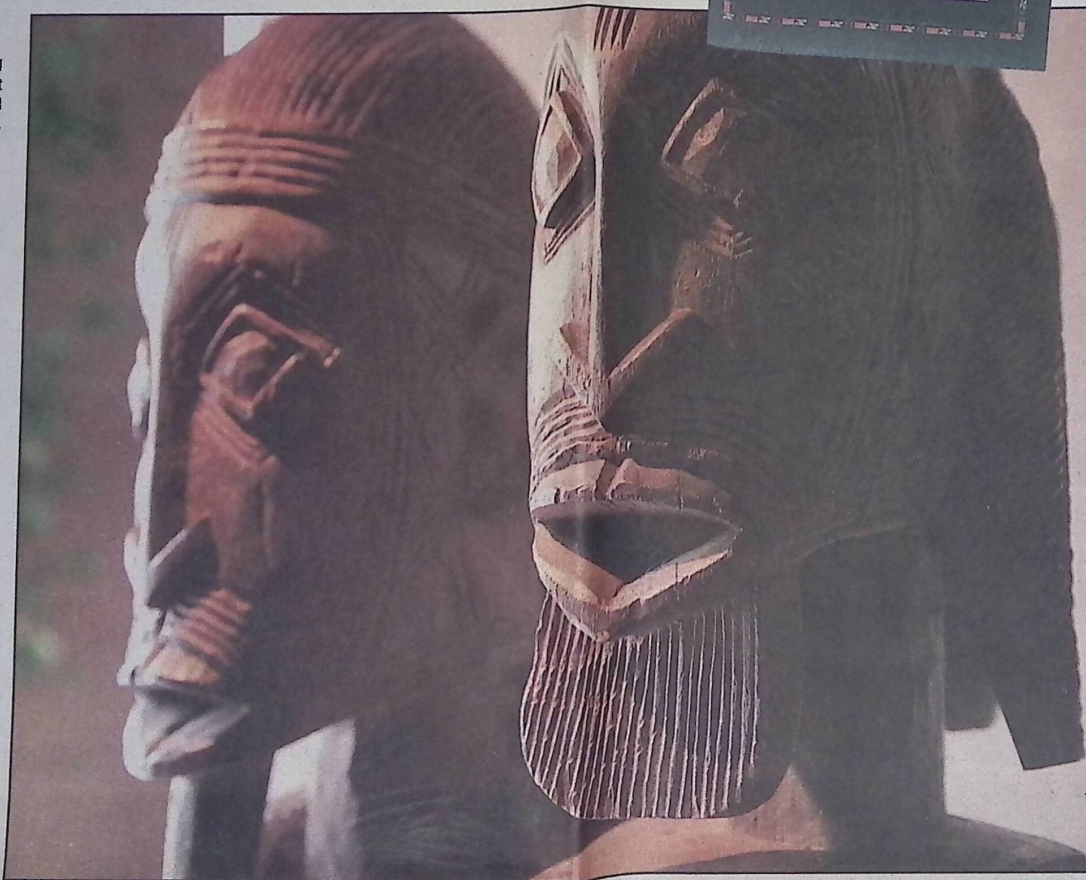
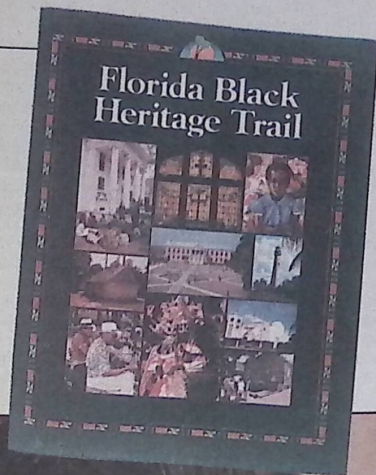
Her hometown was Eatonville, just north of Orlando, the country's oldest black municipality, which was incorporated in 1887.

Gainesville and Eatonville — with commemorative markers for Walls and Hurston — are two of the 141 stops on the Florida Black Heritage Trail, which recently got a boost with the publication of the Florida Black Heritage Trail 33-page guidebook.

The glossy fact-and-photograph-filled guidebook spotlights the trail, which got its start when the 1990 Legislature created a Study Commission on African-American History in Florida.

"They wanted to preserve African-American History," said Gary Goodwin, state historic preservation planner who co-wrote the guidebook with Suzanne Walker, bureau chief of the Bureau of Historic Preservation. Jim Walker provided volunteer editorial assistance.

And the trail was born. "We narrowed it down to 141 sites," Goodwin said. Those sites that made the cut include those 50 years or older, those that are architecturally significant or those that provide some sort of historical perspective, such as the Manatee Family Heritage House, 1707 15th St. E.



Tribune photograph by CLIFF McBRIDE  
Christopher Fleming, artistic director of Bay Ballet Theater, coaches Kim Christi.

## Bringing ballet back to the bay

Christopher Fleming has been on his toes, winning support for a new company.

By MAGGIE HALL  
Special to the Tribune

If it hadn't been for a 14-year-old budding ballerina, Christopher Fleming might have chosen another career.

More interested in basketball than in ballet, the 12-year-old joined a free dance class to be near a friend's sister. His interest in ballet lasted longer than his preteen crush.

"I was studying with Richard Thomas and I discovered I could move well," said Fleming. "That's what started it."

A ballet dancer who begins training at 12 has to compete with veterans who might have begun dancing at 4. Late star

age House, 1707 15th St. E.  
In 1991, the Legislature put aside some funds to produce the guidebook.

Secretary of State Jim Smith, in opening remarks in the guidebook, observes that the guidebook "is certain to stimulate your interest in those places of special significance in the lives of the black Floridians whose wisdom, courage and sacrifice helped forge the character of this great state."

The guidebook starts off with a brief history of the role blacks have played in Florida's history, from 1565 in the establishment of St. Augustine up to the 1990s when Leander Shaw Jr. became the chief justice of the State Supreme Court.

Then there are page after page of entries for the Heritage Trail, filled with thought-provoking insights on the different locales.

Consider the phosphate mines in Floral City. The guidebook notes that 96 percent of those who came to work there were black. Arthur Norton, one of the town's first black settlers, arrived around 1900 to excavate phosphate. He lived to the age of 108.

His grave can be found in the Frasier Cemetery, along with many other black settlers.

Florida laws against integration split apart Cuban society in 1900. Black Cubans in Tampa's Ybor City turned to La Union Marti-Maceo, a mutual aid society that organized self-help and social events.

An historical marker in Fort Lauderdale commemorates the legacy of James F. Sistrunk, the city's first black physician and the only one there for almost 16 years.

St. Augustine is home to St. Mary's Missionary Baptist Church where Martin Luther King Jr. told about 300 supporters on June 9, 1964, that he would participate in a sit-in at a motel restaurant the next day. He told the congregation he would be arrested. And he was.

Brief biographies of black leaders, educators and artists who have played a part in the state's history are included in the guidebook.

African-American Festivals and Events, Black Firsts in Florida and Florida Black Heritage Trail Tours round out the guidebook.

One of the tours — all of which are self-guided — focuses on museums of art and history. One stop is at the Manatee Family Heritage House.

The suggested five-day tour starts in Pensacola at the Julee Cottage Museum, the home of Julee Pantan, a "free woman of color," who sought to purchase the freedom of her fellow, enslaved blacks.

The tour winds its way to the Black Archives at Florida A&M University, then to the Florida Sports Hall of Fame in Lake City, which highlights the careers of some of Florida's great black sports figures.

Other stops include Bethune House at Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach and the Museum of African-American Art in Tampa.



At top, the Florida Black Heritage Trail guidebook details 141 points of interest relating to black history in the state, including the Museum of African American Art in Tampa, above, and Dorothy Thompson's African American Museum in Clearwater, at left.

Tribune file photographs

## Route runs from Pensacola to Key West

By KATE PURSELL  
of Knight-Ridder Newspapers

**BRADENTON** — There are 141 sites that dot the Florida Black Heritage Trail, which wraps up the state from points north and south, east and west.

Soak up the rich historical offerings in a variety of settings, from college campuses to church sanctuaries to museums and much more.

Among the highlights — as detailed in the Florida Black Heritage Trail 33-page booklet — are:

### ALACHUA

■ **Mount Pleasant A.M.E. Church**, 630 N.W. Second St., Gainesville. The congregation was organized in 1867, and the Romanesque Revival church was built in 1906.

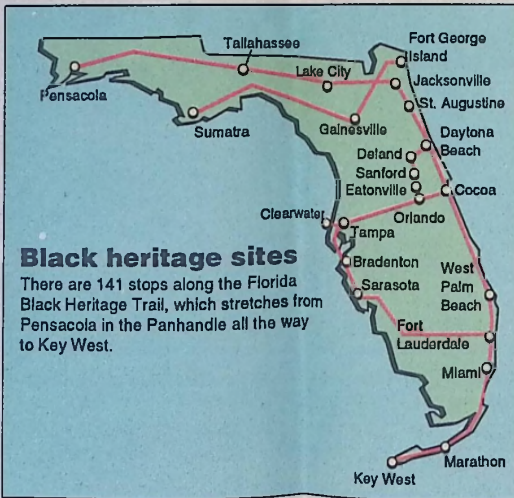
■ **Pleasant Street Historic District**, Gainesville. The area is the religious and social center for the city's black residents.

■ **Josiah Walls Historical Marker**, University Avenue between First and Second streets, Gainesville. It commemorates the first black U.S. congressman from Florida, who was elected in 1870.

### MARION

■ **Second Bethel Baptist Church**, Annie Johnson Center, east of U.S. Highway 41, south of Dunnellon. This frame building was built as a school in 1888.

■ **Fessenden Elementary School**, 4200 N.W. 90th St., Ocala. A school was first established in 1868, but the current buildings date from the Depression.



### Black heritage sites

There are 141 stops along the Florida Black Heritage Trail, which stretches from Pensacola in the Panhandle all the way to Key West.

Tribune map

■ **Howard Academy Community Center**, 306 N.W. Seventh Ave., Ocala. It began as a school in 1885.

■ **Mount Zion A.M.E. Church**, 623 S. Magnolia Ave., Ocala. Behind the original frame building stands a brick church still in use. The Gothic Revival building features a two-story tower. The black architect and builder began work in 1891.

### CITRUS

■ **Frasier Cemetery**, at Great Oaks Drive and East Tower Trail, Floral City. H.C. Frasier established it in 1908 when he buried his son. Many early settlers are buried here, including those who came to work in the phosphate mines.

■ **Pleasant Hill Baptist Church**, 8200 E. Magnolia St., Floral City. The wood-frame church was built between 1895 and 1910.

### PINELLAS

■ **Dorothy Thompson**

**African American Museum**, 1501 Madison Ave. N., Clearwater. The museum houses a collection of more than 5,000 books by black authors, more than 3,000 records and tapes, and art, newspaper clippings and artifacts from the first 75 families of African descent who settled in Clearwater. Appointments: (813) 447-1037.

### HILLSBOROUGH

■ **La Union Marti-Maceo**, 1226 E. Seventh Ave., Tampa. The mutual aid society, founded in 1904, provided self-help and

By KATE PURSELL  
of Knight-Ridder Newspapers

#### BRADENTON

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100's Soft Chews



WHERE SHOPPING  
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# Museums, schools dot heritage trail

■ From Page 1

social activities to black Cubans in historic Ybor City. They were excluded from other Cuban and Spanish clubs; state laws once barred integrated social clubs.

■ **Museum of African-American Art**, 1308 Marion St., Tampa. The museum houses the Barnett-Aden collection, the oldest and foremost collection of African-American art in the United States. Pieces range from 1851 to the present.

■ **St. Paul A.M.E. Church**, 506 E. Harrison St., Tampa. Built between 1906 and 1917, the brick building has Gothic and Romanesque details. Civil rights leaders met here to plan freedom marches and other protests.

■ **St. Peter Claver School**, 1401 Governor St., Tampa. The oldest black school in the county opened in 1894. Arson and segregation laws closed the school, but it reopened both times.

## POLK

■ **Bethune Neighborhood Center**, Eighth Street and Avenue E, Haines City. The former Oakland High School educated children from Haines City, Loughman, Davenport, Lake Hamilton, Dundee and unincorporated areas of northeast Polk.

■ **Brown Home**, 470 S. Second Ave., Bartow. Lawrence Bernard Brown built this Victorian house in 1884.

## HIGHLANDS

■ **Mount Olive A.M.E. Church**, 900 S. Delaney Ave., Avon Park. Church members raised money to build this one-story masonry building with neogothic elements in 1940.

## SARASOTA

■ **Booker Schools**, historical marker, Orange Avenue at 35th Street, Sarasota. Emma E. Booker began teaching black children in 1910 and became principal of Sarasota Grammar School in 1918.

■ **First Black Community**, historical marker, Central Avenue between Fifth and Sixth streets, Sarasota. Lewis Colson, the first black settler, helped survey the town in 1886. He began a prosperous residential and business district.

## WEST COAST

■ **McCullum Hall**, northeast corner of Cranford and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Fort Myers. This entertainment spot for the black community also served as the USO for black World War II soldiers training at Page and Buckingham fields. Legendary entertainers such as Duke Ellington and Count Basie appeared here. The structure now is a store and rooming house.

■ **Schoolhouse Gallery**, 520 Tarpon Bay Road, Sanibel Island. This Baptist church, built in 1909-1910, was established in 1927 as the only school for the black children of the island and was used un-

#### WEST COAST

■ **McCullum Hall**, northeast corner of Cranford and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Fort Myers. This entertainment spot for the black community also served as the USO for black World War II soldiers training at Page and Buckingham fields. Legendary entertainers such as Duke Ellington and Count Basie appeared here. The structure now is a store and rooming house.

■ **Schoolhouse Gallery**, 520 Tarpon Bay Road, Sanibel Island. This Baptist church, built in 1909-1910, was established in 1927 as the only school for the black children of the island and was used until 1963 when Sanibel Elementary, the first integrated school in Lee County, was built. It currently is a gallery featuring a diversified collection of fine art.

#### EAST COAST

■ **Bethune-Cookman College**, 640 Second Ave., Daytona Beach. In 1904, Mary McLeod Bethune established the Daytona Educational and Industrial Training School for Negro Girls. The 1923 merger with the all-male Cookman Institute in Jacksonville created Bethune-Cookman Institute, now known as Bethune-Cookman College.

#### TALLAHASSEE AREA

■ **Gibbs Cottage**, South Adams Street, Tallahassee. The cottage, built in 1894, was the home of Thomas Van Renssalaer Gibbs, member of the Florida Legislature, who in 1887 introduced the bill that led to the founding of the Florida State Normal and Industrial School for Negroes, now Florida A&M University.

■ **Fort Gadsden State Historical Site**, on the National Register of Historic Places, six miles southwest of Sumatra, off State Road 65. The so-called Negro Fort, located on the lower Apalachicola River, was built and provisioned by the British and manned by black and Indian forces under a black commandant named Garcia. The fort was attacked by American forces June 27, 1816. Hours: 8 a.m. to sunset. Information: (904) 670-8988.

### Buying the book

Florida Black Heritage Trail guidebooks are available through the Museum of Florida History, 500 S. Bronough St., Tallahassee, Fla. 32399-0250.

The charge is \$2.25 by mail, or \$1.50 when purchased at the museum. Information: (904) 487-2333.

# ON THE TRAIL OF HISTORY

■ Thanks largely to the efforts of two Florida legislators, the state's black heritage is documented in a handsome new volume.



**H**istory enthusiasts and tourists can start in Pensacola at the birthplace of this nation's first black four-star general, Daniel "Chappie" James, weave their way through black historical sites statewide, and end up at the Lyric Theatre in Miami, built in 1915 by black entrepreneur Geder Walker.

It's the Florida Black Heritage Trail. And now there's a handsomely laid-out book of the same name that depicts 141 black historical sites throughout the state.

The trail is essentially an elaborate road map with stops at sites marking significant buildings or places involving the history of black people in Florida. The guide features sites such as beaches established by African-Americans, churches started by former slaves, the first public schools built for black students in various cities, African-American art museums and historically black colleges.

In the Tampa Bay area, sites are noted in Sarasota, Bradenton, Clearwater and Tampa. No St. Petersburg place is represented, an oversight that may be corrected in the future.

Suzanne Walker, head of the Bureau of Historic Preservation, says about 175,000 book copies will be distributed to public libraries, museums, middle schools and directly to the public. Florida welcome stations will be given a supply to distribute, but officials have not worked out the details.

Order forms will be available this week, Walker said, although the state had not determined the



**PEGGY PETERMAN**

cost as of last week. She said it would probably be about \$1.50 plus a little more if ordered through the mail.

The books can be purchased in person in Tallahassee at the Museum of Florida History, R.A. Gray Building, 500 S Bronough St. For further information or mail orders, write to historical preservation planner Gary Goodwin, Bureau of Historic Preservation, 500 S Bronough St., Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250, or call (904) 487-2333.

The guide, which easily could substitute as a Florida black history book, took root about two years ago. That's when state Rep. Bill Clark, D-Lauderale Lakes, was able to pass a law establishing the Study Commission on African-American History in Florida. Besides getting such history into school curriculums, the commission was to establish a black historical trail.

A former American history teacher, Clark was the logical one to push for the funding. For eight years, he had worked on getting money for excavations in St. Augustine of Fort Mose, the first black settlement in America. The state finally purchased Fort Mose and it is part of the trail. Clark was assisted by Alzo Reddick, D-Orlando, in his efforts to produce a book on the trail.

Clark, now a candidate for the House of Representatives, is elated about the book but says he was hoping that the Department of State would al-



Florida Department of State photo



## Florida Black Heritage Trail

The trail essentially is a road map of Florida noting the buildings and sites significant to the history of black people in the state.

Times art

low free distribution.

"It was because of my involvement in Fort Mose, that I realized there are lots of sites throughout the state that would be of interest to tourists," Clark says. "I realized that we needed a book, a guide. I have seen other state guides to black historical sites, but nothing to compare with this printed booklet published by Florida."

Clark encouraged local communities to continue the work, preserving their heritage by providing funds to establish historical markers and rehabilitating historical sites.

"This book shows in black and white — in print — that there is a history that we can be proud of, and it gives directions where one can get more information on sites or individuals," Clark says. "It's a form of education. Many of our young people don't know what African-Americans have contributed to Florida. This book explains that and also

## IN JACKSONVILLE:

After the Civil War, several dozen freedmen organized a society for religious worship that became recognized as the Mount Zion A.M.E. Church on July 28, 1868. A fire in 1901 destroyed the building, which was rebuilt within months for about \$18,000. The Romanesque Revival style church features arched windows and doors, and a prominent bell tower.

gives us a trail."

Now disbanded, the study commission included an interracial group of about 10 members, with James N. Eaton as chairman. Eaton is a professor of history and director of the black archives at Florida A&M University.

Eaton says the commission appointed people statewide who sent in information on possible sites. Sites then were narrowed down. Those that remained were verified.

"We got much more information than we could use," Eaton says. "I believe it's the best guidebook printed in Florida."

"In the future, I'd like to see a videotape made to be used in schools for kids to look at. This book needs to be made into an educational teaching tool. These black people are heroes in the state of

Please see HISTORY 3D

## History from 1D

Florida and that book should be used as a history book in this state. The state has money for everything else, so they need to expand this book and make it available."

The book begins with historical facts about black participation in the early 16th century Spanish explorations and moves on to black involvement in the establishment of St. Augustine in 1565. It explores the relationship of runaway black slaves and the Seminole Indians.

There's a picture and biographical sketch of Harry Tyson Moore and information on a center that bears his name in Cocoa. The center is the site of the first black school in that area. Moore organized NAACP branches statewide

and investigated lynchings. He and his wife, Henrietta, were murdered on Christmas Eve in 1951, when a bomb blew up their home.

In Daytona Beach, the trail leads to the home of Dr. Howard Thurman, internationally known theologian, who was dean of Marsh Chapel at Boston University; and to the home of Mary McLeod Bethune on the campus of Bethune-Cookman College. The daughter of former slaves, Mrs. Bethune was founder of the college.

In Gainesville, there's a marker on University Avenue between First and Second streets that honors Josiah Thomas Walls, the first black congressman from Florida, elected in 1870.

Tourists can view a monument honoring Charles K. Steele in Tallahassee. A Baptist minister, Steele was one of the strongest leaders of

the civil rights movement in North Florida during the 1950s and 1960s.

In Sarasota, there are historical markers honoring black educator



**BILL CLARK**

Emma E. Booker, and Lewis Colson, the first black settler, who helped to survey the town of Sarasota. In Clearwater, the Dorothy Thompson African-American

Museum is listed, and there's a color picture of art displayed at the Museum of African-American Art in Tampa. Unfortunately, St. Petersburg is not represented, although it has a black church on the St. Petersburg historical registry, Bethel AME at

912 Third Ave. N, and a center named for a political pioneer and a nationally known pastor, the Rev. Enoch D. Davis. Also, last year, the Fannye Ayer Ponder Council House, 19th Street and Ninth Avenue S, was designated as a St. Petersburg historical landmark site. This was the first council house of the National Council of Negro Women, an organization founded by Mary McLeod Bethune.

Eaton said he didn't receive recommendations from the St. Petersburg area. But sites can be added in the future.

At the back of the book, a map recommends tours. For example, it indicates that it's 41 miles from the Museum of African-American Art in Tampa to the Family Heritage House in Bradenton.

There's a page of black firsts in the Florida judicial, legislative and

executive branches. It includes people such as Joseph W. Hatchett, judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals, 11th Circuit, who was the first black since reconstruction to serve on Florida's Supreme Court (1975-79). And Gwen Sawyer Cherry, the first black woman to serve in the Florida House of Representatives.

African-American festivals and events that take place throughout the year are listed on another page.

Clark hopes that African-American parents will take their children on the Florida Black History Trail as enthusiastically as they take them to Disney World.

"They must take them on the trail and explain how these sites and the people involved were vital to our survival in Florida," he said.

CITRUS COUNTY  
HISTORICAL RESOURCES OFFICE  
Room 105 The Old Courthouse



ONE COURTHOUSE SQUARE  
Inverness, Florida 32650

Telephone 904/726-8500 Extension 541 or 545

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MUSEUM OF CITRUS COUNTY HISTORY - ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

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February 28, 1992

Gary Goodwin  
Bureau of Historic Preservation  
R. A. Gray Building  
500 South Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

RE: Florida Black Heritage Trail Publication

Dear Gary:

As discussed earlier today, I've enclosed the St.Pete/Citrus Times feature articles by Ken Moritsugu on the historic African-American sites in Citrus County selected for the state publication. Each of Ken's articles captures a sensitive understanding of the people--their life and times. I believe these will provide you with additional descriptive information.

Also will check with Bob Moreland regarding the possible use of the site photos used in the articles. Of particular interest for the publication would be the south Dunnellon site. Though there have been exterior changes to the original fabric of the building, its historic integrity is apparent today when viewing the steeple. Will let you know what Bob says.

We would be delighted if the enclosed portraiture of Arthur Norton could in some way be creatively incorporated with the narrative regarding the Citrus County sites. Mr. Norton was around 63 when the studio photo was taken and of course, the original was hand-tinted. Maybe this would lend itself to the cameo idea discussed today.

Give me a call get you have the opportunity. Hope this helps. Just had an afterthought regarding distribution. Southern Living magazine ran a bingo card for the Alabama Black Heritage Trail publication. Pursuing this kind of initial introduction may be something you might consider.

Best regards,

Deborah Scott, Historical  
Resources Officer

Enclosures

Citrus Times papers

Norton photo (on loan)



## CITRUS COUNTY HISTORICAL RESOURCES OFFICE

ROOM 105, THE OLD COURTHOUSE • 1 COURTHOUSE SQUARE  
INVERNESS, FLORIDA, 33450 • (904) 637-9929

Museum of Citrus County, Archives and Special Collections

*Jacqueline Amin*

August 31, 1992

Museum of Florida History  
500 S. Bronough St.  
Tallahassee, FL. 32399-0250

Re: Florida Black Heritage Trail  
Guidebook

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed check in the amount of \$4.50 to  
cover the purchase of two (2) of the above  
mentioned books.

I am a volunteer in Historical Resources  
Office of the Citrus County Historical Society.  
We have an extensive file on Black History,  
especially of Citrus County.

Would appreciate your sending the books to  
the following address:

Historical Resources Office  
Old Citrus County Courthouse  
1 Courthouse Square  
Inverness, FL. 34450-4802  
c/o Mrs. Jacqueline Amin

Thank you for your kind attention to this  
matter.

# 5147  
8/31/92  
enc. \$4.50

Yours Truly,

Jacqueline Amin

# citrus times

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1992

CITRUS COUNTY EDITION — St. Petersburg, Fla.

## Faithful few still come to worship

**P**leasant Hill Baptist Church in Floral City, built before World War I, once thrived. Now the congregation is big only in dedication.



Times photos — BOB MORELAND

Deacon Hal Mobley Jr. leads a prayer during Sunday school at the church on Magnolia Street in Floral City.

*Last in a series*

*This year, the state is planning to publish a booklet of 154 sites important in African-American history in Florida. Three of the sites chosen for the Black Heritage Trail are in Citrus County: the Frasier Cemetery and Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, both in Floral City, and the Second Bethel Baptist Church in south Dunnellon. The Citrus Times is profiling each of these sites to mark Black History Month.*

By KEN MORITSUGU  
Times Staff Writer

FLORAL CITY — They move a little more slowly than they once did. They don't come close to filling even one row of the church.

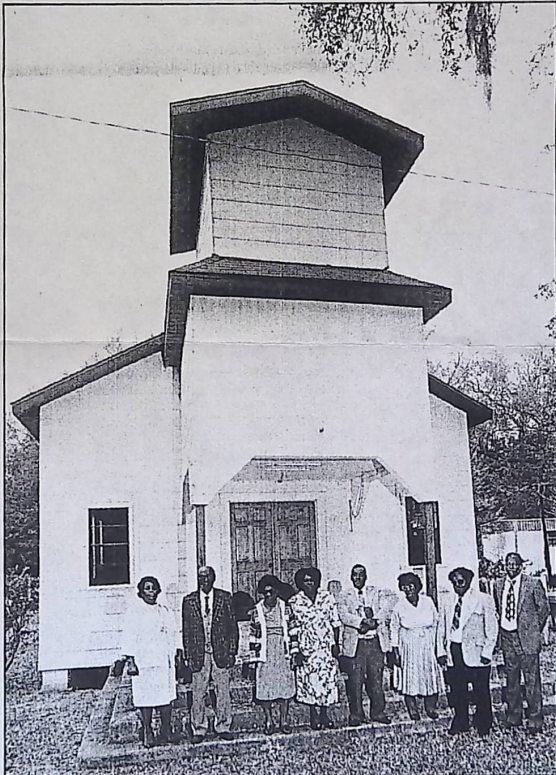
But the faithful still come, as they have for nearly a century, to Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. On Sunday, only a dozen strong, their voices filled the small wooden building on Magnolia Street with song and prayer.

"Someone asked, 'If God's dead, who's his living in my heart?'" Deacon Hal Mobley Jr. said to the congregation. "God is not dead."

The same could be said of the church. What the members lack in numbers and youth, they make up for with heart.

Pleasant Hill is one of three African-American churches in Floral City, a legacy of the days when black people swarmed to bustling Citrus County to work in the phosphate mines, turpentine stills and sawmills.

Today, those jobs are gone. The noisy Sunday afternoon picnics and softball games have been replaced with quiet lunches. Of the few black people who remain in Floral City,



From left, Sadie Simmons, Joseph Burgess, Beatrice Lemon, Berdie Hopkins, the Rev. Andrew Hopkins, Laura Wilson, Willie J. Smith and Hal Mobley Jr.

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**



Times photo — BOB MORELAND

The Rev. Andrew Hopkins leads a hymn. He has been pastor for about a year and a half.

## Worship

from Page 1

most have been grandparents for years.

The congregations have dwindled to a handful of members at all three churches: Pleasant Hill Baptist, Mount Carmel Free Methodist Church, and Grace Temple Church of the Living God.

"It (has an) effect on me be-

cause I used to see the people coming (to church) from all directions," said 69-year-old Chairman Deacon Merrick Simmons. "There's only a few now."

His church, built between 1895 and 1910, is a neat and simple structure. The building gained asbestos siding and modern screen windows nearly 10 years ago, but for the most part still retains its original shape.

The Rev. Andrew Hopkins, who became pastor a little more than a year and a half ago, holds service two Sundays a month. There also are prayer meetings on Wednesday evenings.

"We're looking forward, and I don't know," Simmons said of the future. "Sometimes, they come and sometimes they go. And in 10 or 20 years, if nobody don't come, there won't be no church down there."

## A century's place of worship



Times photo — BOB MORFLAND

In 1976, Second Bethel Baptist left this church building, built in the 1920s. Today, it houses the Annie W. Johnson Senior Service Center.

■ **Dunnellon's Second Bethel Baptist has stood in many places. Now Florida's Black Heritage Trail will list one of them.**

By **KEN MORITSUGU**  
Times Staff Writer

**DUNNELLON** — For more than 100 years, Second Bethel Baptist Church has fulfilled the spiritual needs of many residents of the small community of south Dunnellon.

Its first minister, the Rev. Henry Shaw, preached to the black

people who came to Dunnellon in its heyday to work in the phosphate mines, the sawmills and the turpentine stills.

Now, a building that was home to the church for half a century is being placed on Florida's Black Heritage Trail, a list of more than 150 sites important in African-American history.

The congregation left the building in 1976 for a new, cinder-block chapel across County Road 488. Today, the former church building houses the Annie W. Johnson Senior Service Center.

Shaw founded the church in 1888 in an old house with borrowed chairs and boxes for seats.

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

First in a series

A year later, a local adventurer made a discovery that would transform Dunnellon into a boom town.

In 1889, Albertus Vogt found phosphate in Dunnellon. It might as well have been gold. Over the succeeding years, the towns of

Dunnellon, Hernando and Floral City — which sat on top of a narrow strip of phosphate running north and south — prospered as mining towns.

Mine owners recruited blacks from around the Southeast as workers. The constant activity and growth "brought" Second Bethel Baptist Church on the move.

The first move was from the east to the west side of old U.S. 41. Then, the building was moved farther west by a mule team to its current location on Test Court to clear a path for the new U.S. 41. No one around today seems to

Please see **WORSHIP** Page 7



**Julia Williams, 86, has been a member of the church since 1916.**

## Youth is focus of event

■ **The program, held jointly at two libraries, is aimed at giving youths, particularly African-Americans, information and hope.**

By **JIM TOMLIN**  
Times Correspondent

**INVERNESS** — The event title was "Today's Youth, Black and White, Facing the Challenges, Problems and Needs of the 21st Century."

The rallying cry was more direct: "The 21st Century is eight years away — Think, Unite, Act."

Saturday's daylong program, part of the African-American History and Brotherhood Month Celebration, was held jointly at Lakes

Region Library in Inverness and Coastal Region Library in Crystal River. The program included job training information, voter registration, guest speakers and award presentations.

The Martin Luther King Jr. Cultural Arts Group of Citrus County sponsored the event. Citrus County Schools Superintendent Carl Austin and Citrus County Commissioner Wilbur Langley attended.

The Lecanto High School marching band and the Central Florida Community College Gospel Choral Group performed at both programs.

A main focus of the program, especially at Coastal Region Library, was to give youths, particularly African-Americans, information

Please see **YOUTH** Page 7



Times photo — RON THOMPSON

**Tangelia Mays, center, sings with Central Florida Community College Gospel Choral Group at Coastal Region Library.**

## Worship from Page 1

remember when those moves took place.

Julia Williams does remember a storm — some years after those moves, perhaps 1926 or 1928 — that knocked the church down. While the church was being rebuilt, services were held on the long porch of her mother's house, the 86-year-old woman recalled.

Her mother, Rosa Alexander, would serve a big New Year's dinner at her house for the congregation. "She was the mother of the church," said Mrs. Williams, whose membership, dating back to 1918, is the oldest in the church.

Mrs. Williams also attended school at the church, which was used as a schoolroom for black children four months a year. It was the first school for south Dunnellon native Annie Johnson, who recalled that students knelt on the floor and used the church benches as desks.

Mrs. Johnson went on to become a Citrus County schoolteacher. After her retirement from Her-

## Commemorating Black History Month

The state is planning to publish a booklet this year of 154 sites important in African-American history in Florida. Three of the sites chosen for the Black Heritage Trail are in Citrus County: the Frasier Cemetery and Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, both in Floral City, and the Second Bethel Baptist Church in south Dunnellon. The *Citrus Times* will profile each of these sites to mark Black History Month.

nando Elementary School in the mid-1970s, she founded the Annie Johnson Center that now resides in the church building.

The center, supported mainly by the United Way and donations, provides assistance to the elderly and others in need. The church building has been restored with the help of a \$20,000 grant received in 1987.

Today, it's easy to miss the turnoff from U.S. 41 for south Dunnellon on the Citrus County side of the Withlacoochee River. The boom town days are long gone. Walking down quiet Test Court to the old church building is like taking a step back in time.

Oh, the road is paved now, but the single-story wooden homes that line both sides of the street still have tin roofs and sit up on cinder blocks. At the end of the street stands the cream-colored wooden church, with a tin roof and a short wood-shingled steeple.

"I don't think too many people live here now, because there aren't too many jobs," said Mrs. Williams, who picked beans, peas, okra, watermelon and tomatoes for a living over the years. "They don't plant crops around here like they used to."

Information from *Back Home*, a history of Citrus County by Hampton Dunn, was used in this report.



Times photos — BOB MORELAND

Anna Robinson, 77, examines a headstone at Frasier Cemetery. Her father, Arthur Norton, who died at 108, is buried at the cemetery.

## Silent reminder of days gone by

Second in a series

This year, the state is planning to publish a booklet of 154 sites important in African-American history in Florida. Three of the sites chosen for the Black Heritage Trail are in Citrus County: the Frasier Cemetery and Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, both in Floral City, and the Second Bethel Baptist Church in south Dunnellon. The Citrus Times is profiling each of these sites to mark Black History Month.

By KEN MORITSUGU  
Times Staff Writer

FLORAL CITY — A stroll among the scattered graves in Frasier Cemetery is a walk down memory lane for Anna Robinson.

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

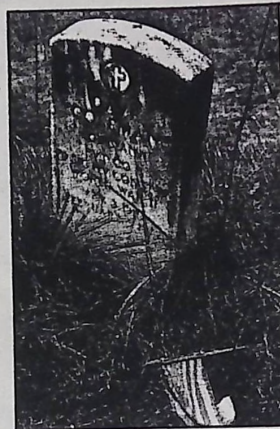
During a visit last week, the 79-year-old Floral City resident wandered from grave to grave, peering curiously at each marker, trying to make out the faded lettering.

"We went to school together," she declared when she found the Jones family graves.

"He ain't kin to them! Why did they put him here?" she exclaimed when she discovered an outsider next to another family's tombs.

One grave she knew well. She had the headstone put there herself: Arthur Norton, her father, who was the oldest known resident of Citrus County when he died in 1986 at age 108.

Norton, a Tallahassee native, moved to Floral City around the turn of the century to work in the



A small American flag leans next to a headstone.

phosphate mines and stayed here for the rest of his life. His grave is one reason Frasier Cemetery has been chosen as a site on Florida's first Black Heritage Trail.

The cemetery, bordered by the old railroad bed, Great Oaks Drive and East Tower Trail, is neither immaculately manicured nor terribly overgrown. The cones and long needles from a stand of soaring pine trees cover the ground. Ant-hills appear to outnumber the graves.

The graves are scattered in clumps, some linked by family ties and others by their era. Some are marked only by faded wooden crosses, others with concrete or marble headstones. Some markers have no name at all.

Many of the caskets are en-

Please see **CEMETERY** Page 2

## Cemetery

from Page 1

cased in concrete vaults. Mrs. Robinson recalled one man who didn't want a vault for fear that, on judgment day, "he couldn't get up with all that weight on him."

A couple of well-tended graves are surrounded by ankle-high chicken-wire fences, painted silver. "I'm going to get some wire and do the same thing," an impressed Mrs. Robinson declared.

The earliest graves date back to the early 1900s, not long after Norton arrived in Floral City.

His wife, Clemmie, who came from High Springs and who died in 1952, lies next to him. He never remarried. "She asked him not to, and he said he wouldn't," said Mrs. Robinson, who cared for her father during his final years.

The family plot includes the graves of Mrs. Robinson's sister, two brothers and a brother-in-law. Her husband, Jesse, who died in 1969, is also buried there. A space between his grave and her father's has been saved for Mrs. Robinson.

Having outlived most of her neighbors, schoolmates and friends, Mrs. Robinson is one of a handful of African-Americans still living in Floral City, a mere shadow of the crowds that once turned out for church picnics and ball games.

"There ain't nobody to have those things now," Mrs. Robinson said. "The older ones died and the younger ones left."

The mines and sawmills that made Floral City a boomtown have been replaced by a smattering of lakefront retirement homes. Today, there may be more black people buried in Frasier cemetery than there are living in Floral City.

# citrus times

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1992

CITRUS COUNTY EDITION — St. Petersburg, Fla.

## Faithful few still come to worship

**P**leasant Hill Baptist Church in Floral City, built before World War I, once thrived. Now the congregation is big only in dedication.



Times photo — BOB MORELAND

Deacon Hal Mobley Jr. leads a prayer during Sunday school at the church on Magnolia Street in Floral City.

*Last in a series*

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Times Staff Writer

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But the faithful still come, as they

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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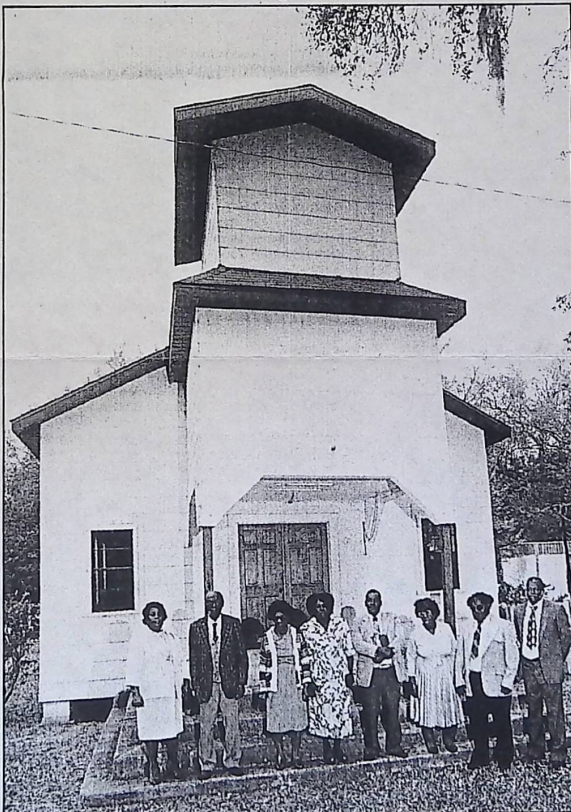
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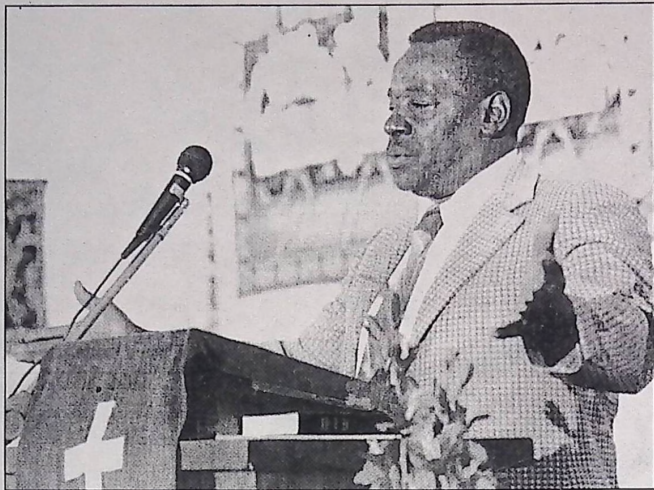
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Please see **WORSHIP** Page 3



Times photo — BOB MORELAND

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## Worship

from Page 1

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CITRUS COUNTY  
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Inverness, Florida 32650

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MUSEUM OF CITRUS COUNTY HISTORY - ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

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February 28, 1992

Gary Goodwin  
Bureau of Historic Preservation  
R. A. Gray Building  
500 South Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

RE: Florida Black Heritage Trail Publication

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Best regards,

Deborah Scott, Historical  
Resources Officer

# Communities, sites named to Florida's Black Heritage Trail

AMERICAN BEACH (AP) — This Amelia Island community, one of the oldest and one of the last predominantly black coastal settlements in the country, is among a handful of sites named to Florida's Black Heritage Trail.

The trail also includes Edward Waters College in Jacksonville, Fort Mose and the Lincolnville neighborhood in St. Augustine, and Florida's other three predominantly black colleges.

The trail, which includes specific monuments and entire communities, is a state-financed project to preserve and link the history of blacks and communities founded by blacks.

The trail sites will be featured in a brochure, which also will include annual black cultural festivals in Florida.

American Beach was named because "it represents the efforts of blacks to establish their own recreational area along the beach when they were barred from other beaches by segregation laws," said Joseph Taylor, who represents Northeast Florida on the commission which selects trail sites.

"It is justice. This is beautiful," said MaVynne Betsch, an American Beach resident who backed the project.

The placement of American Beach on this

trail is an overdue recognition of what the black community did to survive segregation, she said.

"You only hear the bad things about segregation. People don't know what black people did for themselves," she said. "This was a self-contained world. We pulled ourselves up by our bootstraps and we struck together."

American Beach was founded in the early 1920s by the owners of the Afro-American Life Insurance Co. of Jacksonville.

Also selected to the trail were New Smyrna Beach, Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach and Florida Memorial College in Dade County.

4/2/91 - TRIBUNE Florida/Metro-5

## 30 sites now identified for trail to mark role of blacks in history

DAYTONA BEACH (AP) — A study commission has identified 30 potential sites so far for a Black Heritage Trail meant to raise awareness about the role blacks have played in Florida's history.

Joseph E. Taylor, chairman of the Social Sciences Division at Bethune-Cookman College, is among nine regional coordinators helping the Study Commission on African-American History in Florida. The commission was created in 1990 by the Legislature.

Most of the sites identified so far have been in communities along the East Coast and in Central Florida, Taylor said. In the Daytona Beach area, Jackie Robinson Ballpark on City Island, Howard Thurman's boyhood home and the residence of Mary McLeod Bethune have been identified, he said.

Bethune founded Bethune-Cookman College and Thurman was a religious and civil rights leader.

Fort Mose in St. Augustine, part of the outer defense network of Old St. Augustine in the mid-18th century, will be an important part of the trail, officials say.

Meanwhile, Taylor said, officials are recruiting a coordinator to work with historical sites in the western part of the state, especially in the Pensacola area.

"We would like to have input from the entire state," Taylor said, noting that besides identifying the trail, the commission is responsible for producing a brochure for tourists listing the sites, buildings and points of interest.

Taylor said officials would like to have the brochure, which also will include information on such activities as the annual festival honoring Zora Neale Hurston in Eatonville, ready for publication by June when the commission's appointment expires.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE TRAIL  
SITE INFORMATION SHEET  
(Instructions)

Requirements:

1. Site must be submitted on form provided.
2. Narrative answers should be confined to the space provided.

Summary:

NAME: Official name of site, building or structure and general location

2nd/OTHER NAME: Any other designation

CATEGORY: Indicate appropriate general category: - district, site, building, architecture, marker, museum, monument, mural or sculpture.

ADDRESS: Street address or directions to site. Include city and county. If outside city limits, list nearest city.

DESCRIPTION: Provide a brief synopsis explaining why this site is historically, architecturally or culturally significant.

CURRENT USE: Indicate specific use and accessibility.

OTHER REMARKS: Self explanatory.

CONTACT: Indicate person responsible for site information. Include daytime telephone number.

PHOTOGRAPH: Black and white or color prints acceptable, no slides please.

SEND TO:

Division of Historical Resources  
Bureau of Historic Preservation  
R. A. Gray Building  
500 South Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE TRAIL

SITE INFORMATION SHEET

Site Name: \_\_\_\_\_

2nd/Other Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Category: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of significance \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Current use and accessibility \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Telecopier: \_\_\_\_\_

(Attach Site Photograph)

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE TRAIL  
EVENT INFORMATION SHEET  
(Instructions)

Requirements:

1. Event must be submitted on form provided.
2. Narrative answers should be confined to the space provided.

Summary:

NAME: Official name of event

DATE/TIME/DURATION: Indicate annual day of event, operational hours of event and the number of days event takes place. If the date varies each year, indicate general timing such as "second week in January".

PLACE: Location and directions to event site.

SPONSOR: Individuals or organizations responsible for event.

YEARS CELEBRATED: Self explanatory.

ADMISSION: Cost to attend event or to participate.

ATTENDING: Estimate number attending

DESCRIPTION: A brief synopsis explaining the event's significance.

CONTACT: Indicate person(s) responsible for event information and include daytime telephone number.

SEND TO:

Division of Historical Resources  
Bureau of Historic Preservation  
R. A. Gray Building  
500 South Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE TRAIL

EVENT INFORMATION SHEET

Name of Event: \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Time/Duration: \_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor(s): \_\_\_\_\_

# of Years Celebrated: \_\_\_\_\_

Admission cost: \_\_\_\_\_ # Attending? \_\_\_\_\_

Visitors Welcome \_\_\_\_\_ OK to List? \_\_\_\_\_

Brief Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Telecopier #(s): \_\_\_\_\_



A FLORIDA HERITAGE PUBLICATION

# Florida Black Heritage Trail





Welcome—It gives me great pleasure to introduce you to the **Florida Black Heritage Trail**. I know you will find this new guidebook attractive and interesting, as a ready reference to landmark sites representing black contributions to our state's heritage. African Americans helped establish St. Augustine, the earliest European settlement in Florida, and have played key roles in our cultural growth ever since, frequently overcoming great adversity. As the guidebook illustrates, many have achieved great stature and acclaim, and their influence reaches far beyond Florida's and the nation's boundaries.

Whether this is your first visit to Florida or you are a lifelong resident, I hope you will take advantage of the wonderful opportunities presented in this book to learn more about our state's roots.

Enjoy your trip along history's way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lawton Chiles". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lawton Chiles, Governor



Florida's African Americans have made significant contributions to the state's rich history. In 1990, the Florida Legislature created a Study Commission on African American History in Florida to explore ways to increase public awareness of these contributions. The Commission was asked to recommend methods to establish a Black Heritage Trail to identify sites, buildings and other points of interest significant in black history that should be preserved and promoted as tourist attractions.

The **Florida Black Heritage Trail** is the product of the hard work of the Study Commission, the staff of the Division of Historical Resources, and the many citizens who assisted the Commission in developing the **Florida Black Heritage Trail**.

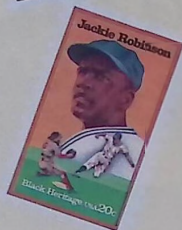
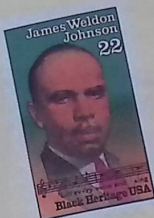
We believe that the **Florida Black Heritage Trail** will stimulate your interest in those places of special significance in the lives of the black Floridians whose wisdom, courage and sacrifice helped forge the character of this great state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra B. Mortham". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sandra B. Mortham, Secretary of State

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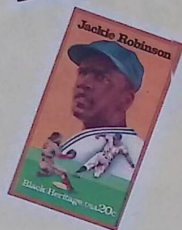
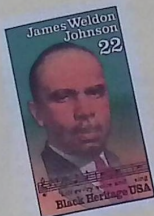
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These four stamps, issued by the U.S. Postal Service, are part of the *I Have a Dream* Collection commemorating the contributions and gifts of African Americans to this country.



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These four stamps, issued by the U.S. Postal Service, are part of the *I Have a Dream* Collection commemorating the contributions and gifts of African Americans to this country.

# Florida's Black Heritage

African Americans have played a significant role in Florida's history. The rich, bitter-sweet story of African Americans has woven a vibrant pattern through the fabric of our state's history, from the time that blacks participated in the early exploration of Florida, to the 1990s, when a black became Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court.

Blacks participated in the early 16th century Spanish explorations and were involved in the establishment of St. Augustine in 1565. In the 17th and 18th centuries, African-born slaves escaped

Fort Mose soldier



Eleanor Roosevelt and Mary McLeod Bethune at a meeting of the National Council of Negro Women, Bethune home, 1952

from English plantations in Georgia and South Carolina to seek asylum in Spanish Florida, where slavery laws were less harsh. The Spanish also offered two routes out of slavery, conversion to Roman Catholicism and military service to the Spanish government. As early as 1683, a company of black and mulatto militia was formed in St. Augustine. In 1738, Spain established a fortified town specifically for runaway slaves under the command of black Captain Francisco Menendez. The resulting Gracia Real de Santa Teresa de Mose (Fort Mose) was the first legally sanctioned free black town in the United States. The fort was occupied until the end of the French and Indian War in 1763 when Florida was turned over to the British and the Spanish were forced to evacuate. A number of blacks left with the Spaniards for Cuba.

After Spain regained control of Florida at the end of the American Revolution in 1783, another fort, at Prospect Bluff, a strategic point on the Apalachicola River, became the center of contention between the United States and Spain. The British had abandoned "the Negro Fort", as it was known, to the Indians and former slaves. In 1816, American gunboats assaulted the fort, firing heated cannon balls that struck the magazine, igniting the gunpowder. The resulting explosion destroyed the fort and killed many occupants.

Unable to maintain effective control over the area, Spain ceded Florida to the United States in 1821. It became an American slave territory.

The Second Seminole War (1835-1842) disrupted Florida's territorial years. Although many blacks had gained their freedom by

escaping to Florida, many others had become slaves of the Seminoles. Their servitude was benign, however, as the Indians allowed blacks to live in separate villages and demanded only 1/3 of their crops. The blacks were expert cultivators and provided food for the Seminoles. In addition, the former slaves, who spoke both the Indian languages and English, were valuable interpreters for the Seminoles during treaty negotiations. They sometimes fought with the Indians against the U.S. Army.

As the fortunes of war turned against the Seminoles, some blacks changed loyalties and served as guides and interpreters for the U.S. Army. Many, however, accompanied their "masters" to the Indian Territory at the end of the war, when the Seminoles were forced to give up their lands in Florida. Descendants of these "Black Seminoles" still live in Oklahoma and

Texas. Others were returned to or bought back by their former white owners.

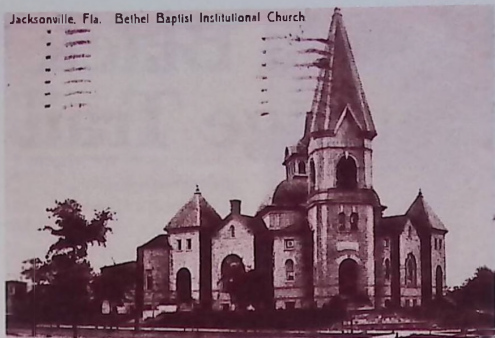
In 1845, Florida entered the Union as the twenty-seventh state. On January 10, 1861, Florida seceded from the Union, the third state to join the Confederate States of America. The Battle of Olustee on February 20, 1864 was the largest engagement of the Civil War in Florida.

Union troops, including three all-black infantry regiments, marched westward from Jacksonville. Confederate forces battled them at Olustee, near Lake City, eventually forcing a Union retreat.

The Confederate loss of the war ushered in the Reconstruction period, when blacks and whites struggled with the economic and social turmoil that accompanied the end of slavery. Ratification of the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments to the U.S. Constitution was vitally important in

the development of values, ideologies, and institutions among African Americans. The Bureau of Freedmen, Refugees and Abandoned Lands, created by an act of Congress in 1865 to deal with the urgent problems created by the sudden emancipation of four million slaves, worked to establish hospitals, schools, courts, banks and other necessary institutions.

One of the most important areas of development in Florida at this time was education. Jonathan Gibbs, Florida's only black cabinet member during Reconstruction, was appointed Secretary of State in 1868, and later served as State Superintendent of Public Instruction. As Superintendent, Gibbs developed the state's first public school system. The establishment of the school system was a milestone since African Americans had been denied education during the years of slavery.



Other social and cultural institutions were also established during Reconstruction in response to the adversity of disenfranchisement, racial discrimination, and segregation. The rise of independent black churches unfolded against a background of political crisis, social adjustment, and vivid memories of the slave experience. The churches were the centers of social and political activities, as well as religious life.

During Reconstruction, the newly freed blacks began to establish homes and businesses in the white communities. By the 1880s, this created great tension which led to the beginnings of segregation between blacks and whites. In 1887, Eatonville became the first all-black, incorporated city in Florida. A more common form of segregation was the restriction of blacks to a particular area of a community. One of the earliest examples is Miami's "Colored Town" which was designated in 1896. Now called Overtown, it is one of the oldest neighborhoods in Miami. Black residents were continually reminded of their "place" by a variety of other barriers, including the segregation of public facilities

and schools, and severely limited economic opportunities. In spite of these restrictions, African Americans in Florida had expectations of political, social and economic advancement. Florida's segregated society continued throughout the first half of the 20th century. After the 1954 Supreme Court decision, *Brown v. the Board of Education of Topeka*, which ordered the integration of public schools, the civil rights movement broadened and accelerated. Florida experienced the upheaval of the time, and was the site of murders, boycotts, and marches. Yet because of the calm leadership of Governor LeRoy Collins, the state was spared the tragic riots which were occurring elsewhere.

Florida's African Americans have contributed richly to the development of our state and nation. Their achievements are varied, including contributions to the armed forces, the space program, arts and entertainment, education, and politics. Recognition of these significant contributions enriches our lives and contributes to the pride all Floridians share in our state.

Artist's rendition of Fort Mose, established in 1738.



# Florida Black Heritage Trail

## American Beach Nassau County

**American Beach**, eight miles south of Fernandina Beach off Highway A1A on Amelia Island. Established in the 1930s by Abrams L. Lewis, founder of the Afro-American Insurance Company, the resort area included vacation cottages for company executives and lucky employees who won company sales contests. What began as a perk for those employed by one corporation became the playground for tens of thousands of segregation-stricken blacks. Blacks built restaurants, owned the motel, and hired the bands that played at the pavilion. American Beach has remained a predominantly black oceanfront resort community. The I. H. Burney Park, the first park in Nassau County to be named after an African American, is located at the southeast end of Burney Road one block south of Lewis Street. Open 7 am-7 pm, daily.

## Avon Park Highlands County

**Mt. Olive A.M.E. Church**, 900 S. Delaney Avenue. This one-story Masonry Vernacular style building with Neogothic elements was built in

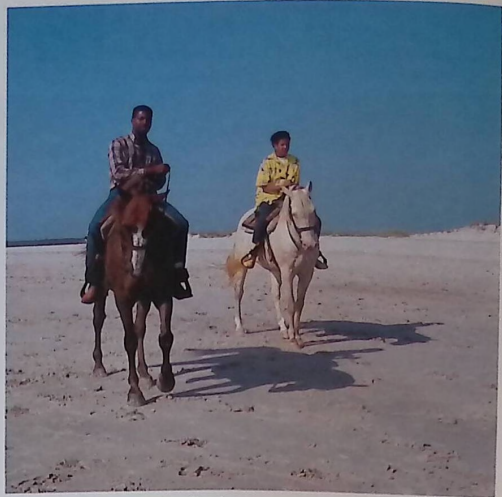
1940 with funds raised by church members. The congregation was organized by Rev. A. M. Wadell in 1920.

## Bagdad Santa Rosa County

**New Providence Missionary Baptist Church** (Bagdad Museum Complex), 4512 Church Street. This church is among the oldest in Santa Rosa County. The original church was built by carpenters who were sons of the pastor, Rev. John Kelker, Sr. The current structure is a wood frame Vernacular building constructed in 1901. Moved to its present location in 1989, the building is being restored as a community center and museum devoted to the history of Bagdad, the churches and the black community.

## Bartow Polk County

**Brown Home**, 470 South Second Avenue. (Private residence.) Oldest black residence in Bartow. This Folk Victorian style building was built in 1884, during the first period of significant development in Bartow, by Lawrence Bernard Brown.



Horseback riding at American Beach

## Bradenton Manatee County

**Manatee Family Heritage House**, 1707 15th Street East. A resource for the study of African American achievements, this collection of books, newspaper clippings, magazines, photographs and audio cassettes represents over 50 years in the cultural and economic life of African Americans. Open 2 pm-7 pm, Tu, W and Th.

## Bushnell Sumter County

**Dade Battlefield State Historic Site**, NR\*, off S.R. 476, west Highway 301. Louis Pacheco (Fatio), a Negro slave and interpreter for Major Francis L. Dade, was one of only four survivors of the Dade Massacre. This battle in 1835 marked the beginning of the Second Seminole War, the most protracted and costly of the

nation's Indian wars. Open 9 am-5 pm, Th-M.

## ChIPLEY Washington County

**Roulhac Middle School**, 101 North Pecan Street. Named for Washington County's distinguished black educator, T. J. Roulhac, who became supervisor of Washington County's schools for black children in 1913. In 1938, he became principal of ChipleY's first black high school.

## Clearwater Pinellas County

**Dorothy Thompson African American Museum**, 1501 Madison Avenue North. The museum houses a collection of over 5,000 books by African American authors, over 3,000 records and tapes, and art, newspaper clippings and artifacts from the first 75 families of

African descent who settled in Clearwater. Call (813) 447-1037 for appointment.

## Cleveland

### Charlotte County

**Brown House, 27430** Cleveland Avenue. (Private residence.) This Frame Vernacular structure was the home of boatbuilder George Brown and his wife Tommie. Brown had originally built a large, two-story house for his family. However, he heard of some grumbling that the town's only black would have the largest home. Not wishing to jeopardize his community relations, Brown sold the house to a white family and built a smaller residence for himself.

**Cleveland Steam Marine Ways, 5400** Riverside Drive. George Brown, a black carpenter, came to the Peace River area in 1890 to work for a phosphate mining company. In 1897 he purchased a small Punta Gorda boat repair business which he later moved to Cleveland. Specializing in building luxury yachts, the Cleveland Steam Marine Ways was able to launch and haul up the

largest boats in Southwest Florida. Brown was an "equal opportunity employer" who hired both whites and blacks, paying equal wages for equal skills. Today, the machine shop is the recreation hall for a mobile home park.

## Cocoa

### Brevard County

**Harry T. Moore Center, 307** Avocado Avenue. This single-story concrete block structure built in 1924 is named in honor of Harry Tyson Moore. The building is the site of the first black school in Cocoa and is the only original black high school now standing in Brevard County. It is presently used as a child care facility and community center.

**Malissa Moore Home, 215** Stone Street. (Private residence.) This home was built beside the Indian River in 1890 and later moved to its current location where it became a restaurant and then a boarding house. Local legend declares that railroad tycoon Henry M. Flagler occasionally stopped in for dinner. Mrs. Moore helped establish the Mt. Moriah

A.M.E. Church, raising funds through Saturday night socials and donations of 50 or 75 cents.

**Mt. Moriah A.M.E. Church, 304** Stone Street. The original church building was destroyed by fire in 1922. Malissa Moore, a founding member of the church, once again raised funds to rebuild the church. The present Gothic Revival style building was built in 1923.

**Richard E. Stone Historic District, 121-304** Stone Street. The district is named for Richard E. Stone who invented and patented a directional signal light for automobiles in 1935. He also helped start the civic organization which is today known as the Cocoa-Rockledge Civic League.

## Coconut Grove

### Dade County

**Black Heritage Museum, 3301** Coral Way, in the Miracle Center Mall. This museum has a permanent collection of more than 60 tribal artifacts from the West Coast of Africa and New Guinea, as well as a large collection of black Americana. Open 11 am-4 pm M-F; 1 pm-4 pm weekends/holidays. Call (305) 446-7304 or (305) 252-3535.

**Charles Avenue Historic District, marker** at Charles Avenue and Main Highway. The first black community on the South Florida mainland began here in the late 1880s when blacks, primarily from the Bahamas, came via Key West to work at the Peacock



**Harry Tyson Moore**

**1906-1951**  
**Civil rights activist**

A native of Suwannee County, Harry T. Moore was president of the Brevard County Branch of the NAACP and later president, then state coordinator, of the Florida Conference of the NAACP. For seventeen years, Moore traveled through Florida, organizing NAACP branches, investigating lynchings, protesting acts of police brutality and organizing voter registration campaigns. On Christmas Eve 1951, a bomb planted under Moore's small six-room cottage in Mims killed Moore and his wife Henrietta. The case remains open at the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Stetson Kennedy, a white civil rights activist, has pursued the unsolved case for 40 years. "He would have done the same for me," Kennedy said.

Harry T. Moore Center, Cocoa





**Dr. Howard Thurman**

**1900-1981  
Theologian**

Reared by his illiterate grandmother who was a former slave, Howard Thurman was the first black child to finish the eighth grade in Florida. He later became a celebrated minister and theologian. He was a key figure in introducing Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of non-violent protest to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who regularly carried one of Thurman's books, *Jesus and the Disinherited*, reading it in quiet moments before a civil rights march. Undaunted by the harsh times when blacks weren't allowed to cross the Halifax River at night without prior permission, Thurman successfully pleaded for funds to go to high school from James N. Gamble of Procter and Gamble. *Ebony* Magazine called Thurman one of the 50 most important figures in Black American history while *Life* rated him among the 12 best preachers in the nation.

Inn, the first hotel in the Miami area.

**Coconut Grove Cemetery.** around 3650 Charles Avenue. This cemetery was developed in 1913 by the Coconut Grove Colored Cemetery Association which included several of the most prominent black citizens of Coconut Grove — E. W. F. Stirrup, Walker Burrows and Joseph Riddick. It is the final resting place of many influential pioneer settlers of the area.

**Macedonia Baptist Church,** 3315 Douglas Road. The congregation was organized in 1895 as the first Baptist church in Dade County for black people. The church was then known as the Fifty-Six Baptist Church because it had 56 charter members. In 1903 the first church building was erected on Charles Avenue, and the name was changed to St. Agnes Missionary Baptist Church. In 1922, the name was again changed, from St. Agnes to Macedonia. The present structure was completed in 1948.

**Stirrup House,** 3242 Charles Avenue. (Private residence.) This two-story Frame Vernacular structure was built in 1897 of tough Florida pine by Ebenezer W. F. Stirrup, a native of the Bahamas who came to the United States in 1888. Stirrup invested his earnings in land and built over 100 homes to rent or sell to other Bahamian blacks who came to Coconut Grove around the turn of the century. Many of the houses still stand, occupied by descendants of some of those early pioneers.

**Coral Gables**

**Dade County**

**MacFarlane Homestead Subdivision Historic District,** bounded by Oak Avenue, Grand Avenue, Brooker Street and Jefferson Street. The residences were built primarily in the late 1920s and 1930s in a vernacular type of architecture not seen elsewhere in Coral Gables. The styles in the district include hungalows and one-story frame "shotgun" houses. St. Mary's Baptist Church at 136 Frow Avenue was built in 1927.

*Mary McLeod Bethune House, Daytona Beach*



**Crestview**

**Okaloosa County**

**Carver-Hill Memorial Museum,** Fairview Park, 900 Block, McClelland Street. This Masonry Vernacular building was constructed in 1942 as a military barracks. The museum is dedicated to the preservation of black culture and to the achievements of the black citizens of Crestview. Call (904) 682-3494.

**Daytona Beach**

**Volusia County**

**Mary McLeod Bethune House,** NR, 641 Pearl Street off of Second Avenue. This simple two-story Frame Vernacular structure was the home of Mary McLeod Bethune from the time of its construction in the 1920s until Dr. Bethune's death. The structure is now a house museum containing original furnishings and an archives for the Mary McLeod Bethune papers. Open M-F; tours upon request. Call (904) 255-1401, Ext. 372.

**Bethune-Cookman College,** 640 Second Avenue. In 1904 Mary McLeod Bethune established the Daytona Educational and Industrial Training School for Negro Girls. The 1923 merger with the all male Cookman Institute in Jacksonville created Bethune-Cookman Institute, now known as Bethune-Cookman College. One of the most striking buildings on campus is White Hall, a two-story Georgian Revival style building constructed in 1916.



Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach



**Mary McLeod  
Bethune**

**1875-1955**  
**Educator**

The daughter of former slaves, Mary McLeod Bethune rose to become a noted black educator and advisor to presidents from Coolidge to Truman. She was President Franklin Roosevelt's Director of Black Affairs in the National Youth Administration and later was a consultant to the founding conference of the United Nations. She had launched a school for girls in Daytona in 1904 with \$1.50 and sheer determination. "We burned logs and used the charred splinters as pencils and mashed elderberries for ink...I haunted the city dump and the trash piles behind hotels, retrieving discarded linen and kitchenware, cracked dishes, broken chairs... Everything was scoured and mended," she wrote.

**Museum of Arts and Sciences**, 1040 Museum Boulevard. A wing of the museum is dedicated to the African cultural history of black Floridians. The African art collection is considered one of the best in the Southeast.

Open 9 am-4 pm, Tu-F; 12 noon-5 pm, weekends.

**Jackie Robinson Memorial Ball Park**, City Island. Baseball Hall of Famer Jackie Robinson played his first exhibition game as a member of the Brooklyn Dodgers farm club in Daytona Beach on March 17, 1946. This was professional baseball's first integrated game. The following year, Robinson joined the Brooklyn Dodgers and made baseball history. A commemorative statue by Montreal sculptor Jules LaSalle was dedicated in September 1990.

**Howard Thurman House**, NR, 614 Whitehall Street. The childhood home of Howard Thurman is located in one of the oldest residential sections of Daytona Beach. Constructed c. 1888, the two-story Frame Vernacular structure was one of the first located on this quiet, tree-lined street. Thurman lived in the house from his birth to his departure for high school in Jacksonville in 1917. He returned to visit his childhood home on many occasions throughout his life.

## DeLand

### Volusia County

**Bradley Hall—Safe Home Orphanage**, 511 S. Clara Avenue. (Private residence.) This two-story Masonry Vernacular building constructed c. 1925 was an orphanage for black children. The building represents sensitivity to the needs of

poor children in the community.

**Old DeLand Colored Hospital**, NR, Stone Street. The Masonry Vernacular building was constructed in 1926 and is significant in the development of medical services for African American residents of Volusia County. When contrasted with the Old DeLand Memorial Hospital for whites, the plain and unadorned building is an architectural statement of the dissimilarity in segregated public facilities during the 1920s.

**J.W. Wright Building**, 258-264 W. Voorhis Ave., in the Yemassee settlement. Constructed in 1920 at a cost of \$15,000, the building was designed by architect Francis Miller, who was active in the Florida land boom of the 1920s. The Wright building is a two-story Masonry Vernacular structure. Another



### Zora Neale Hurston

#### 1901-1960 Folklorist/ anthropologist

Born in Eatonville, Zora Neale Hurston was a major contributor to the Harlem Renaissance and a chronicler of Florida's culture. A recipient of Rosenwald and Guggenheim fellowships, Hurston was one of the first blacks to receive a bachelor's degree from Barnard College. Her autobiographical work, *Dust Tracks on the Road*, won the Anisfield-Wolf award from the *Saturday Review* in 1943. She was a master story teller. Her works, however, faded into obscurity and, receiving a rejection of her manuscript on King Herod, she died nearly penniless and in a welfare home. Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Alice Walker rediscovered and brought back to popularity Hurston's marvelous spirit. Today, Hurston's novels, stories and autobiography are on reading lists of schools across the nation.

er of Miller's works is the facility built for whites at Old DeLand Memorial Hospital.

**Yemassee Settlement**, centering around Voorhis, Euclid, Adelle, and Clara Avenues. Yemassee began to develop as an exclusive black settlement in the Progressive Era. The area contains some of the oldest buildings associated with black residential neighborhoods in DeLand. Embodying Late Gothic Revival styling, the Greater Union Baptist Church was constructed at 240 South Clara Avenue in 1893.

### Delray Beach

#### Palm Beach

**B.F. James & Frances Jane Bright Mini-Park**, east side of N.W. 5th Avenue, 100 feet south of N.W. 1st Street. This site contains a bronze marker indicating five historic sites in one of the oldest sections of Delray Beach. These sites played a vital role in the early development of the town. They are: School No. 4 Delray Colored, located at the site; Greater Mount Olive

*Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts and Humanities, Eatonville*



*Old Dillard High School, Fort Lauderdale*

Missionary Baptist Church, 40 N.W. 4th Avenue; St. Paul A.M.E. Church, 119 N.W. 5th Avenue; Free and Accepted Masons, Lodge 275, 85 N.W. 5th Avenue; and St. Matthew Episcopal Church, 404 S.W. 3rd Street.

### Dunnellon

#### Marion County

**Second Bethel Baptist Church**, Annie Johnson Center, east of U.S. Highway 41, south of Dunnellon in Citrus County. Now a Human Resource Center, this Frame Vernacular style building was completed in

1888 and served as a school for the black community. The pastor, Rev. Henry Shaw, was the first to minister to black turpentine, sawmill and phosphate workers in the area.

### Eatonville

#### Orange County

**Eatonville**, off U.S. 17-92, north of Orlando, between Winter Park and Maitland. The hometown of Zora Neale Hurston, Eatonville is the country's oldest black municipality, incorporated in 1887. Hurston's life and literary work were most influenced by her childhood in Eatonville. A commemorative marker is located in the Zora Neale Hurston Memorial Park, 11 People Street in the Eatonville Municipal Complex. Eatonville hosts the annual "ZORA!" festival.

### Floral City

#### Citrus County

**Frasier Cemetery**, corner of Great Oaks Drive and East Tower Trail. This African American cemetery was established by H. C. Frasier in 1908 when he used the



Walker Museum, Old Dillard High School

land for the burial of his son. Arthur Norton, one of the first black settlers in the town, is buried here. He moved to the area around 1900 to work in the phosphate mines and lived to be 108. Ninety-six percent of those who came to Floral City to excavate phosphate were African-Americans. The earliest graves in the cemetery date back to the early 1900s.

**Pleasant Hill Baptist Church**, 8200 E. Magnolia Street. Built between 1895 and 1910, this wood frame Folk Style church is the oldest religious building for African Americans in Floral City.

## Fort Lauderdale

### Broward County

**Old Dillard High School**, NR, 1001 N.W. 4th Street. This Masonry Vernacular structure was built in 1924 and is one of the oldest buildings in the city. Originally known as the "Colored School", it was the first school for blacks in Fort Lauderdale. The building is used for education and houses

a museum dedicated to Clarence C. Walker. As principal, Walker traveled throughout the county collecting signatures on petitions urging a full nine-month school term for Dillard High School. Until 1942, black schools were closed from November until March so the children could harvest area crops such as green beans and peppers.

**Dr. James F. Sistrunk Boulevard Historical Marker**, 1400 Block, Sistrunk Blvd., N.W. 6th Street. In recognition of distinguished civic and medical service to the citizens of Broward County, this street was dedicated to Dr. James F. Sistrunk in September 1971. Dr. Sistrunk was

Dunbar High School, Fort Myers



the first black medical doctor in the city and the only one for almost sixteen years.

## Fort Myers

### Lee County

**Paul Lawrence Dunbar School**, NR, 1857 High Street. Completed in 1927, the Dunbar School served as the colored high school for the predominately black Dunbar community and the surrounding area. Prior to September 1925, educational opportunities for blacks were limited to grades 1-6. The Masonry Vernacular structure now houses adult education classes and other community services. Williams Academy, which served as the black school until Dunbar School opened, has been relocated to the site.

**McCullum Hall**, N.E. corner of Cranford and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. This entertainment spot for the black community also served as the USO for black WWII soldiers training at Page and Buckingham Fields. Legendary entertainers such as Duke Ellington and Count Basie appeared here. Built c. 1938, the structure is presently a store and rooming house.

**Etta Powell Home**, 2764 Lime Street. (Private residence.) Black major league baseball players used to reside in private residences when their teams were training at Terry Park since they were not allowed in area hotels. The Etta Powell Home was last used by baseball players in 1970.

## Fort Pierce

### St. Lucie County

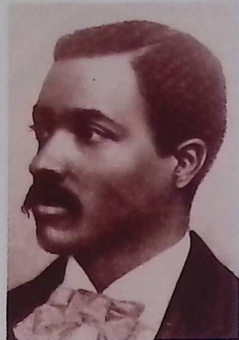
**Zora Neale Hurston House**, 1734 School Court Street. (Private residence.) This modest one story concrete block house is the only known extant dwelling in which Hurston lived and worked. Hurston moved to Fort Pierce in 1957 and was the first tenant to live in this house on the city's north side. Hurston lived here while working as a reporter and columnist for *The Fort Pierce Chronicle* and while writing her manuscript on Herod the Great.

## Gainesville

### Alachua County

**Mt. Pleasant A.M.E. Church**, 630 N.W. 2nd Street. This Romanesque Revival style structure was constructed in 1906 and is the most important building in the Pleasant Street Historic District from an architectural standpoint. The congregation was organized in 1867, making it the earliest formal black congregation in the city.

**Pleasant Street Historic District**, NR. This is the oldest and largest continuously inhabited black residential



**Josiah Thomas Walls**

**1842-1905**  
**Politician**

Impressed into the Confederate forces, later joining Union forces by choice, Josiah Walls carved out a political career in the tumultuous days of Reconstruction. He won election to the Florida House of Representatives in 1868, to the Florida Senate in 1869 and became Florida's first black Congressman in 1870. He served three terms, promoting the cause of black education including a bill to grant one million acres of land for the college now known as Florida A&M. Congress eventually granted the college 90,000 acres. A Gainesville attorney, Walls preferred farming but was wiped out financially when a freeze destroyed his orange groves. He then became assistant to the superintendent of farms at Florida Normal and Industrial School for Negroes.

area in Gainesville. The district is significant as the religious and social center for black entertainment, commerce, education and church life in the city.

**Josiah Walls Historical Marker**, University Avenue between 1st and 2nd Streets. The marker commemorates the first black United States Congressman elected from Florida (1870).

## Haines City

### Polk County

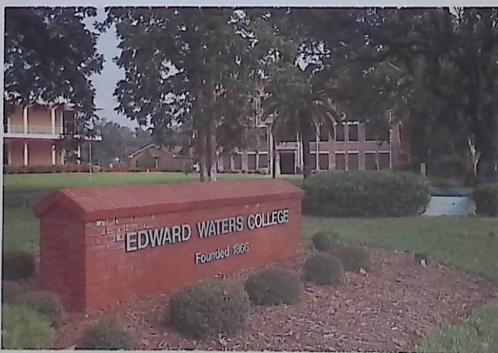
**Bethune Neighborhood Center**, 8th Street and Avenue E. Previously known as Oakland High School, this complex of five buildings was a school for black children from Haines City, Loughman, Davenport, Lake Hamilton, Dundee and the unincorporated areas of Northeast Polk County. Presently used for a variety of civic, recreational, and educational functions.

## Jacksonville

### Duval County

**Bethel Baptist Institutional Church**, NR, 1058 Hogan

*Edward Waters College, Jacksonville*



*Kingsley Plantation house, Jacksonville*

Street. Since its construction in 1904, this Neo-classical Revival style building has served as the focal point for the religious and community life of Jacksonville's black citizens. The congregation was first organized in July 1838 with six charter members including two slaves belonging to the Rev. J. Jaudan.

**Catherine Street Fire Station #3**, 12 Catherine Street. Built in 1902 to replace a station destroyed by the Great Jacksonville Fire of 1901, the station was manned by black firemen for several years. It is now the city's first historical museum. Among its features are a large, arched

door to accommodate horse-drawn fire wagons and star-shaped tie rod ends in the facade for windstorm protection. Now surrounded by new construction, the fire station may soon be moved to a location in Metropolitan Park approximately 1/4 mile to the east. Tours by appointment. Call (904) 630-2453.

**Centennial Hall**, NR, 1715 Kings Road. Named to commemorate the centennial celebration of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, this three-story brick structure was built in 1916 by the Rev. Richard L. Brown, one of the few black architects and builders of the period. It now houses the library for Edward Waters College.

**Kingsley Plantation State Historic Site**, NR, 11676 Palmetto Avenue, on Fort George Island off Highway A1A. Kingsley Plantation is one of the few remaining examples of the plantation system of Territorial Florida and is the site of the oldest plantation house in the state. Although Zephaniah Kingsley was married to an African woman and advocated lenient treatment of slaves, he believed that slavery



*Catherine Street Fire Station #3, Jacksonville*

assured the success of agriculture in the South. The 1817 house and the tabby slave cabins still exist. Open 8am-sunset, daily. Guided tours Th-M. Call (904) 251-3122.

**Masonic Temple Building,** NR, 410 Broad Street. Built in 1912 by the Black Masons of Florida, the six-story red brick structure serves as Headquarters of the Masons of the State of Florida Grand East and focal point for the

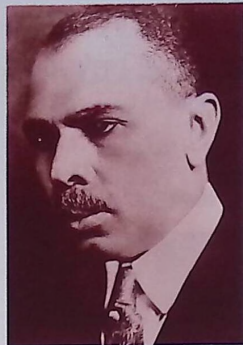
*Old Brewster Hospital, Jacksonville*



**Asa Philip Randolph**

**1889-1979**  
**Labor leader**

Born in Crescent City, Florida, Randolph was one of the nation's foremost spokesmen for black labor. In 1925 he organized and served as first President of the all black International Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. He organized two major marches on Washington, D.C., in 1941 and 1963, which resulted in important advances in black civil rights. The 1963 march made Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. a national figure. Randolph was the first black to serve as an International Vice President of the AFL-CIO in 1957, and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Johnson in 1964.



**James Weldon Johnson**

**1871-1938**  
**Poet/novelist/activist**

A native of Jacksonville, Johnson became one of the leading poets of the Harlem Renaissance in the 1920s. He was also the first black to pass the bar examination in the State of Florida. During President Woodrow Wilson's administration, he served as consul to Nicaragua and Venezuela. In 1916 he became the first executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Johnson is best remembered, however, for his poem "Lift Every Voice and Sing", known as the black national anthem.

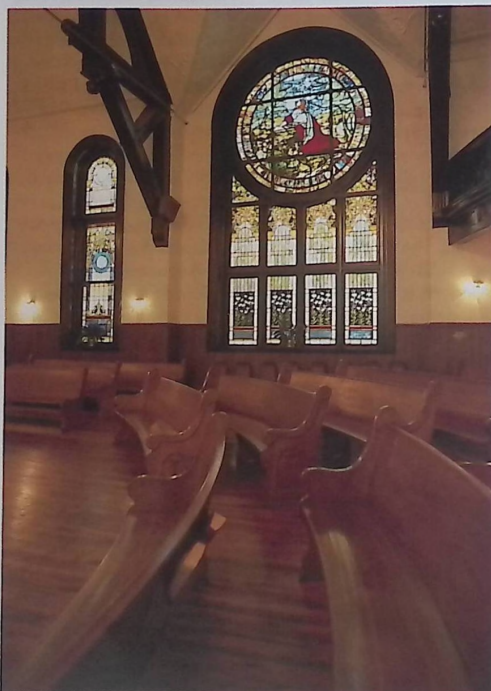
black community's commercial and fraternal activities.

**Mount Olive A.M.E. Church**, 841 Franklin Street. Designed by Richard L. Brown, Jacksonville's first black architect, the 1921-22 church reflects Brown's



Masonic Temple, Jacksonville

Mount Zion A.M.E. Church, Jacksonville



eclectic style. Built of concrete block, textured on the upper stories to simulate quarry stone, and with brown mortar to add rich contrast, the church includes a large portico at the main sanctuary entrance.

**Mount Zion A.M.E. Church**, 201 East Beaver Street. After the Civil War, several dozen Freedmen organized a "society" for religious worship and became formally recognized as the Mount Zion A.M.E. Church on July 28, 1866. The 1901 fire destroyed their brick sanctuary which seated 1500. Within months the church was rebuilt at an estimated cost of \$18,000. The Ro-



Ritz Theatre, Jacksonville

manesque Revival style church features arched windows and door openings, art-glass windows, and a prominent bell tower.

**Old Brewster Hospital**, 915 West Monroe Street. (Private residence.) Built in 1885, this Queen Anne style residence was sold in 1901 to the Women's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Church. With a gift of \$1500 from Mrs. George A. Brewster, the Missionary Society established a hospital and nurse training facility which was the first Jacksonville hospital for blacks. The hospital moved to other facilities in 1910, but the original structure still stands, featuring a two tier veranda with jigsaw scroll work.

**Ritz Theater**, Davis and State Streets. Located in a traditionally black commercial district in the La Villa neighborhood, the building was designed by locally prominent architect Jefferson Powell. This exuberant Art Deco style building which opened in 1929 included a cinema, shops and offices. The Ritz and the surrounding commercial area quickly grew into a thriving arts, enter-

tainment and shopping area for Jacksonville's black community. Now deteriorated and vacant, the theater may undergo rehabilitation to help revitalize the area.

**Stanton High School**, NR, 521 W. Ashley Street. Stanton High was established in 1868 as the first public school for black children in Jacksonville. It was named for Edwin M. Stanton, an outspoken abolitionist and Secretary of War in the Cabinet of Abraham Lincoln. The present Masonry Vernacular style structure, completed in 1917, was at that time the only high school for blacks in the county. James Weldon Johnson was a student at Stanton High and served as principal from 1894 to 1902.

**Edward Waters College**, 1658 Kings Road. The oldest center of black learning in Florida, Edward Waters College was created in 1866, in the aftermath of the Civil War as New England teachers migrated south, assembling former slaves for classes in church basements, box cars, jails and old buildings. The African Methodist Episcopal Church established the

original school, which was destroyed by fire in 1901. The college was moved to Kings Road in 1904. Asa Philip Randolph, national leader in the black labor movement, was a graduate.

**Clara White Mission**, 611-13 West Ashley Street. The mission is a memorial to the humanitarian activities of Clara English White and her daughter Eartha M. M. White. Clara White was a pioneer member of Bethel Baptist Church and her influence was felt throughout community life—at free dinners, soup kitchens and holiday celebrations. The Masonry Vernacular style building by architect H. J. Klutho continues to be a symbol of hope to the needy.

## Key West

### Monroe County

**Bahama Village**, bounded by Whitehead, Louisa, Fort and Angela Streets. Bahama Village is the principal black residential area of Key West. Settlement of the neighborhood began in the 1870s by persons of African descent who had arrived from the U.S. mainland, the Bahamas, and the Caribbean. Most of the neighborhood buildings are Frame Vernacular houses built before 1912 with historic churches scattered among them. Many prominent African-Americans had homes in the area including Robert Gabriel, Monroe County's representative in the State Legislature in 1879, and Mildred Shaver, principal of the Frederick Douglass School in the early twentieth century.



*Caribbean House, Bahama Village, Key West*

**Cornish Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church**, 702 Whitehead Street. This wood frame, Gothic Revival structure is architecturally distinctive as well as historically significant. It was built in 1903 and named in honor of Sandy Cornish, an early Bahamian immigrant who founded the congregation in 1865.

**Nelson English Park**, corner of Thomas and Amelia Streets. Located in Bahama Village, this park is named for the African-American civic leader who was the island's postmaster from 1882-1886.

## Kissimmee

### Osceola County

**Bethel A.M.E. Church**, 1702 North Brack Street. This one-story Masonry Vernacular church was constructed in 1916. The name of Lawrence Silas, a prosperous black cattleman in Florida's range country, appears on the cornerstone. His father's estate gone, Lawrence Silas rebuilt the family fortune, butchering for men who had large herds.

Zora Neale Hurston wrote of Silas' exploits, character and skill. He eventually owned thousands of head, contained within 50 miles of fences.

## Lake City

### Columbia County

**Florida Sports Hall of Fame**, 601 Hall of Fame Drive, 1/4 mile north of U.S. 90 and 1/2 mile west of Interstate 75. The Florida Sports Hall of Fame was founded in 1958 as a showcase for Florida's sports legends. Exhibits and video displays highlight the careers of some of Florida's great black sports figures. See page 14. Open 9 am-9 pm, M-Sa, 10 am-7 pm, Su.

*Florida Sports Hall of Fame, Lake City*





## Black Members of the Florida Sports Hall of Fame

### Baseball

Andre Dawson  
Hal McRae  
Tim Raines

### Basketball

Artis Gilmore  
Jack "Cy" McClairan

### Football

Ottis Anderson  
Wes Chandler  
Alonzo S. "Jake" Gaither  
Willie Galimore  
Bob Hayes  
Deacon Jones  
Larry Little  
Nat Moore  
Ken Riley  
Lee Roy Selmon  
Paul Warfield

### Golf

Charlie Owens

### Tennis

Althea Gibson

## Live Oak

### Suwannee County

**African Missionary Baptist Church**, 509 Walker Avenue S.W., two blocks south of Highway 90. The first church was built on the corner of Parshley and Houston Avenue on land given by Mrs. Nancy Parshley, a wealthy, compassionate white woman. This Masonry Vernacular building was built in 1910.

## Marathon

### Monroe County

**Adderly House**, 5550 Overseas Highway. (Private residence.) Located in the Crane Point Historic and Archaeological District, this Masonry Vernacular house was built c. 1906 by George Adderly, a black Bahamian immigrant who was a sponger, boatman, and charcoal maker. It is a one-story building with a hip roof similar to residences built by blacks in the Bahamas during the 19th century.

*Russ Home, Marianna*



*Pigeon Key Historic District, Marathon*

### Pigeon Key Historic District, NR, off U.S.

Highway 1 at mile marker 45. Seven Frame Vernacular structures built between 1909-1920 as a railroad construction work camp for laborers on Henry Flagler's "overseas railroad". The camp includes a 1912 "Negro Workers' Cottage" which housed blacks during the period. The site is being developed as a recreational facility to include interpretation of the railroad era.

## Marianna

### Jackson County

**Joseph W. Russ, Jr. House**, NR, 310 W. Lafayette Street. (Private residence.) This was the main plantation house near Timothy Thomas Fortune's birthplace. Fortune, often called the dean of black journalism, was born a slave on the plantation in 1856. During his lifetime, Fortune authored three books, published the acclaimed newspaper, *The New York Age*, and made contributions in education, economics, civil rights and politics. Alterations between 1910 and 1912 gave the house a Classical Revival appearance.

## Melbourne

### Brevard County

**Wright Brothers House**, 2310 1/2 Lipscomb Street. (Private residence.) Wright Brothers was among the first settlers of Melbourne, establishing his homestead in the area by 1877. Brothers' Frame Vernacular house was constructed around 1892.

## Miami

### Dade County

**Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Recreation Area**, south Key Biscayne, off U.S. Hwy. 1. Cape Florida was the site where many black Seminoles and escaped slaves sought passage to the Bahamas when Florida was transferred from Spain to the United States in 1821. Those who could afford passage bargained with "wreckers" from the Bahamas while others elected to make the crossing in Seminole dugout canoes fitted with sails and paddles. The lighthouse, which was built in 1825, was attacked by Seminole Indians during the Second Seminole War. The assistant lighthouse keeper and his black servant

were shot and trapped in the burning lighthouse. While the assistant lighthouse keeper lived through the ordeal, the black man died. Open 8 am-sunset, year round.

**Black Archives, History and Research Foundation of South Florida**, Joseph Caleb Community Center, 5400 N.W. 22nd Avenue, Suite 702. A repository of manuscripts and photographs which document the black experience in Dade County. Several art pieces are located in the building, including a portrait of black artist Joseph Caleb for whom the center is named. Open 1 pm-5 pm, daily. Research hours by appointment. Call (305) 636-2390.

**Chapman House**, 1200 N.W. 6th Avenue. This Colonial style residence was built in 1923 by Dr. William A. Chapman, Sr., the first known African American hired by the State Board of Health as a consultant for disease control. The site is scheduled to open in the fall of 1993 as the Dade County Ethnic Heritage Children's Folklife Museum.

Greater Bethel A.M.E. Church, Miami



Booker T. Washington High School, Miami

**Greater Bethel A.M.E. Church**, NR, 245 N.W. 8th Street. Greater Bethel A.M.E. Church was organized in 1896, several months before the city was incorporated. Construction of this Mediterranean Revival style building began in 1927 but was not completed until 1942. It is one of the few examples of this architectural style in Overtown.

**Florida Memorial College**, 15800 N.W. 42nd Ave (LeJeune Road). In the late 1800s, the American Baptist Home Mission Society created two colleges in North Florida - The Florida Baptist Institute for Negroes in Live

tions merged in 1941 and in 1968 moved from Saint Augustine to the present modern campus in Miami.

**Lincoln Memorial Park**, N.W. 46th Street and N.W. 30th Avenue. Lincoln Memorial, opened in 1924, was for decades the cemetery for blacks in Miami. Blacks sometimes marched to Lincoln Memorial playing tuba and trumpet in Dixieland funeral processions. Black pioneers buried here include Dana Albert Dorsey, Miami's first black millionaire, and Gwen Sawyer Cherry, the first black woman to serve in the Florida Legislature.

**Lyric Theatre**, NR, 819 N.W. 2nd Avenue. This masonry vaudeville and movie theater was built by prominent black entrepreneur Geder Walker in 1915. Once one of the major centers of entertainment for blacks, this building is the lone survivor of the district known as "Little Broadway" which flourished in Overtown during the 1930s-1940s. The exterior still shows evidence of its former elegance, through the three

Oak (1879) and the Florida Baptist Academy in Jacksonville (1892). Following a series of name changes and relocations, the two institu-

Bahamas Goombay Festival, Miami



part composition of the facade and applied classical details.

**Overtown Neighborhood**, between N.W. Second and Third Avenues and N.W. Eighth and Tenth Streets. Dating from 1896, Overtown is one of the oldest neighborhoods in Miami. The area developed into a vibrant community where schools, churches and businesses flourished. Plans for the restored village include a regional cultural and entertainment tourist attraction highlighting the legacy of Miami's Overtown as well as black cultural heritage.

*Mount Zion A.M.E. Church, Ocala*



*Bethune-Volusia Beach, New Smyrna Beach*

**St. John's Baptist Church**, NR, 1328 N.W. 3rd Avenue. The congregation was organized in 1906. The current building, designed by the black architectural firm of McKissack and McKissack, was completed in 1940. The two-story masonry building is

an eclectic architectural blend of Art Moderne details on Gothic style massing.

**The Vanguard—Miami's Forerunners of Human Progress**, Historical Museum of Southern Florida, 111 Flagler Street. This mural of Miami's black personalities was commissioned by the Urban League of Greater Miami, Inc. to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Open 10 am-5 pm, M-Sa; 10 am-9 pm, Th; 12 noon-5 pm, Su.

**Booker T. Washington High School**, 1200 N.W. 6th Avenue. Construction began in 1926, amid protest of the citizens living in the area. Many men in the community took turns standing guard at night and working during the day, until the school was built. Officially opened on March 28, 1927, this was the first school in South Florida to provide a 12th grade education for black children. The school presently serves the middle grade levels.

## Milton

### Santa Rosa

**Mount Pilgrim African Baptist Church**, corner of Alice and Clara Streets. The Mount Pilgrim African Baptist Church was organized in 1866 by blacks who left the First Baptist Church. This 1916 building is an excellent example of Gothic Revival architecture. It was designed by Wallace A. Rayfield, a leading black architect in the South in the early twentieth century. Members of Mount Pilgrim helped establish four other black congregations in the community.

## New Smyrna Beach

### Volusia County

**Bethune-Volusia Beach**, Highway A1A six miles south of New Smyrna Beach. Notable educator Mary McLeod Bethune, insurance executive G. D. Rogers of Tampa, rancher Lawrence Silas of Kissimmee and other black investors purchased this ocean-front property in the 1940s to develop a black residential resort community and recreation area. Amenities include a bath house, picnic facilities, and a snack bar.

**Old Sacred Heart/St. Rita (Colored) Mission Church**, 312 N. Duss Street. Constructed in 1899, this Frame Vernacular building was a house of worship for a community of black Roman Catholics. One of few places in the area where the Catholic Church played an



*Fessenden Elementary School, Ocala*

active part in black community life, it is the only building still standing that represents such activism.

## Ocala

### Marion County

**Fessenden Elementary School**, 4200 N.W. 90th Street. Established in 1868, the school became Fessenden Academy in 1898. It was named in honor of Ferdinand Stone Fessenden, a wealthy businessman from Boston who provided financial support and encouraged the American Missionary Association to sponsor the school. The existing buildings date from the Depression Era. Call (904) 622-5234.

**Howard Academy Community Center**, 306 N.W. 7th Avenue. Established in 1885 by the Board of Public Instruction as a graded school for Negroes, Howard Academy now serves as a neighborhood center.

**Mount Zion A.M.E. Church**, NR, 623 S. Magnolia Avenue. The present church, the only surviving brick 19th-century religious structure in Ocala, stands behind the site of the original

white frame building. Construction of this first brick church owned by a black congregation began in 1891 under the supervision of black architect and builder, Levi Alexander, Sr. The Gothic Revival style structure's most prominent feature is its two-story tower.

## Olustee

### Baker County

**Olustee Battlefield State Historic Site**, NR, two miles east of Olustee on U.S. Highway 90. This site commemorates Florida's major Civil War battle. On February 20, 1864, approximately 5500 Union troops under the command of General Truman A. Seymour marched westward from Sanderson. Confederate forces were defending positions near Ocean Pond. The battle lasted for five hours until Union forces retreated. Casualties amounted to an estimated 1860 Union and 946 Confederate soldiers. Participants in the battle included three all-black, infantry regiments: 1st North Carolina, the 8th U.S. Colored and the 54th Massachusetts. About one-third of the Union troops were blacks. Open 9 am-5 pm, daily. Re-enactment held each February. Call (904) 752-3866.

*Opa-locka City Hall, Opa-locka*



## Opa-locka

### Dade County

**Opa-locka Thematic Development**, NR. Located northwest of Miami, largely black Opa-locka is one of Florida's unique communities because of its widespread use of the Moorish Revival architectural style. Today, 65 of the original 100 buildings remain.

**Harry Hurt Building**, NR, 490 Ali-Baba Avenue. One of the most prominent Moorish Revival style buildings in Opa-locka, this 1926 building was constructed to serve as a shopping and service center. The building retains much of its original character, including a central dome and flanking minarets.

**Opa-locka City Hall**, NR, 777 Sharazad Boulevard. Inspiration for the design of this building was supposedly found in the tale "The Talk Bird" and the building itself fashioned after the palace of



*J. A. Colyer Building, Orlando*

the fantasy's Emperor Kosroushah of Persia. The building was an advertising focus for the fanciful Boom time development of Opa-locka. Acquired by the City in 1939 for use as a city hall, the building has been restored.

**Opa-locka Railroad Station, NR, 500 block of Ali-Baba Avenue. An**

*Bethel A.M.E. Church, Palatka*



important building architecturally and commercially to the development of Opa-locka, the 1927 railroad station enticed the first-time visitor and the potential investor. The design was based on the tales "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" and "Alladin and his Lamps". Fine tile work survives.

## Orlando

### Orange County

**Callahan Neighborhood,** bounded by Colonial Drive, Central Avenue, Division Street and Orange Blossom Trail. This neighborhood, started in 1886, is one of the oldest black communities in Orlando. The district includes the Callahan Neighborhood Center, formerly the old Jones High School which was established in 1895.

**J. A. Colyer Building, 27-29 Church Street. Currently**

an Irish pub, this Romanesque style building was built in 1911 and housed the Colyer and Williams tailor shop. This early black business was located among white businesses in downtown Orlando.

**Dr. I. S. Hankins House,** 219 Lime Street. (Private residence.) This Mediterranean Revival style residence was built in 1935 as the home of Orlando's pioneer black physician who campaigned for improved race relations and for black home ownership.

**Old Ebenezer Church, 596 West Church Street.** This Gothic Revival church was built c. 1900 by the congregation of the Ebenezer United Methodist Church. After the congregation moved, this structure became home to the Greater Refuge Church of Our Lord.

**Old Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, 701 West South Street.** This Romanesque style building, constructed in 1920, now houses the Tabernacle of the Enlightened Church of God. The congregation first met in a rough shed in 1919, eventually erecting a stone church.

**The Riley Building, 571-75 West Church Street.** This Masonry Vernacular building was constructed in 1947 by businessman Zellie L. Riley, who operated a tailor shop and men's ready-to-wear store at the site. Riley championed black business opportunity through the Negro Chamber of Commerce.

## Palatka

### Putnam County

**Bethel A.M.E. Church, 719 Reid Street.** This Romanesque Revival style building was constructed by the congregation c. 1908-1912. The residents of the adjacent community of Newtown organized the church in 1866.

**Finley Homestead, 522 Main Street.** (Private residence.) This two-story Frame Vernacular structure was the home of Adam Finley, a free, African American artisan. Finley acquired the property in 1883. His grandson, Dr. Harold E. Finley, was a nationally known zoologist.

**Old Central Academy High School, 1207 Washington Street.** Established in 1892, Central Academy became the first accredited Negro high school in Florida in 1924. The first Central Academy building was destroyed by fire in 1936. The present building replaced it in 1937 and now serves as the County School Board Service Center.

## Pensacola

### Escambia County

**Daniel "Chappie" James' Birthplace, 1606 N. Alcaniz Street.** The site where Chappie James was born and where his mother, Lillie A. James, ran a school for black children. There is a small shelter covering the front steps which are painted white and labeled "Chappie's First Steps".



St. Michael's, Pensacola

**Julee Cottage Museum**, 210 E. Zaragoza Street, Seville Square Historic District. This simple wood frame building, built between 1804-1808, is Pensacola's only surviving "to the sidewalk" construction. It belonged to Julee Panton, a "free woman of color", who sought to purchase the freedom of her fellow, enslaved blacks. The cottage's pegged framing and beaded ceilings were preserved during rehabilitation as a Black History Museum. Open 10 am-4:30 pm, M-Sa. Call (904) 444-8986.

**Mount Zion Baptist Church**, 528 West Jackson Street. After the congregation was organized in 1880, the church buildings were twice destroyed by fire. The present Romanesque Revival style structure was erected in 1918.

**Saint Michael's Creole Benevolent Association Hall**, NR, 416 East Government Street, Seville Square Historic District. Constructed in 1895-96 by members of the St. Michael's Social Club, the

Frame Vernacular hall was used for social and cultural activities by Creoles, a racially mixed group isolated from both the white and black communities. It was restored in 1972 using the original color scheme. Open 10 am-4:30 pm, M-Sa. Call (904) 444-8986.

## Perry

### Taylor County

**Painting entitled "Cypress Logging"**, U.S. Post Office, 1600 S. Jefferson Street. Commissioned by the U.S. Treasury Department, Florida artist George Snow Hill

Julee Cottage, Pensacola



Painted this depiction of the lumber industry in which many blacks worked. Through the Public Works of Art Project, the federal government selected artists and subjects to embellish public buildings. Installed in February 1938 in the Old Perry Post Office at 201 East Green Street, the panel was moved in 1987.

## Punta Gorda

### Charlotte County

**Baker Elementary School**, 311 East Charlotte Avenue. The school was named for the first principal-teacher of the county's first "colored school", Benjamin Joshua Baker. Baker was persuaded to come to Punta Gorda by Dan T. Smith, the first black appointed to the DeSoto County Board of Education. In 1942, a few months after Baker's death, a school for black children was built near his home and named for him. It is used today for pre-school classes.



**Daniel "Chappie" James, Jr.**

**1920-1978**  
**Military officer**

A Pensacola native, "Chappie" James became the first black four-star general in American military history in 1976. His illustrious career included 101 combat missions as a fighter pilot in Korea and 78 more in Vietnam. He was decorated for valor and air tactics. Once, as commanding officer of the U.S. Air Force base in Libya, and wearing a 45 automatic stuffed under his belt, he confronted the new dictator, Muammar Khadafy, at the front gate and forced his withdrawal. Khadafy had intended to seize the base with his half-tracks. In the late 1970s, the General was sought out as a potential candidate for lieutenant governor of Florida but died of a heart attack a few weeks after his retirement. James was a widely acclaimed national spokesman for black self-respect.



Arnett Chapel A.M.E. Church, Quincy

## Quincy

### Gadsden County

**Arnett Chapel A.M.E. Church**, 209 South Duval Street. Organized in 1866, the congregation is among the oldest in Gadsden County. The Romanesque Revival style building was constructed in 1938-39 and named for the Rev. Benjamin W. Arnett, the Presiding Bishop in Florida from 1888-1892.

**Hardon Building**, 16 W. Washington Street. Owned by William Hardon, a black

man, this was one of the earliest ice and electric plants in Quincy. Hardon's small generator was located in the rear of the building, with the ice plant adjacent to it. In the front of the building was a bar and in the basement, a dice and card room patronized by some of the town's elite. The Masonry Vernacular building, constructed around the turn of the century, is now an office supply business.

**Masonic Lodge**, 122 South Duval Street. Since 1907, this building has been the masonic lodge meeting hall for black masons. It is a

Representative Bill Clark at Fort Mose archaeological dig site, St. Augustine



simple, two-story Frame Vernacular building with an open hall on the first floor. It was moved from its original site in 1976 and remodeled.

**William S. Stevens Hospital**, corner of Roberts and Crawford Streets. (Private residence.) Dr. William Spencer Stevens practiced medicine in Quincy for more than fifty years. His fame spread during the yellow fever outbreak of 1906 and the influenza epidemic of 1918. In the years following, Dr. Stevens established a clinic, a hospital, and a drug store. The hospital was located in this two-story Frame Vernacular structure.

## St. Augustine

### St. Johns County

**Butler Beach**, on Anastasia Island, approximately 8 miles south of St. Augustine on Highway A1A. In 1927, Lincolnville businessman Frank B. Butler bought land between the Atlantic Ocean and the Matanzas River which he developed into Butler Beach, for many years the only beach African Americans were allowed to use between Jacksonville and Daytona Beach.

**Willie Galimore Community Center**, 399 South Riberia Street. This recreational facility is named in honor of St. Augustine native Willie Galimore. The former Florida A&M three time All-American played seven years with the Chicago Bears in the National Football League. Galimore led the Bears in scoring in 1958, and was the team's top rusher in 1961. Call (904) 824-5209.



Clay pipes from Fort Mose, St. Augustine

**Gracia Real de Santa Teresa de Mose**, two miles north of St. Augustine off Highway A1A. In 1693, King Charles II of Spain decreed runaway slaves were to be given sanctuary in his colonies. Black fugitives from British Georgia made their way south and fought so bravely against a retaliatory attack on St. Augustine by the British in 1728 that the governor abolished the slave market and freed any remaining soldiers who were slaves. Ten years later, Governor Montiano established Fort Mose for the black runaways. The fort and village were abandoned in 1763. The site has undergone archaeological research but currently has no exhibits or facilities. A traveling exhibit about Fort Mose is operated by the Florida Museum of Natural



St. James A.M.E. Church, Sanford

History. Call Darcie MacMahon, (904) 392-1721.

**Lincolnton Historic District**, NR, bounded by Cedar, Riberia, Cerro, and Washington Streets and DeSoto Place. In 1866, former black slaves began settling a three block area in St. Augustine at first known as "Africa" but later renamed Lincolnton. By 1885, Lincolnton was a growing black business and residential community. Lincolnton has the greatest concentration of late nineteenth century architecture in the city.

**St. Mary's Missionary Baptist Church**, 69 Washington Street. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on June 9, 1964, told 300 supporters here he would participate in a sit-in at a motel restaurant the next day, anticipating correctly that he would be jailed. Segregation practices in St. Augustine drew national coverage when police arrested and jailed the 72-year-old mother of the governor of Massachusetts as a demonstrator. The protests in St. Augustine, called "America's oldest segregated city", were a major factor in propelling Congress to pass

the Civil Rights Act on June 20, 1964. This Italian Gothic style church was constructed in 1920.

**St. Paul's A.M.E. Church**, 85 Martin Luther King Avenue. This 1910 Gothic Revival church served as an assembly point for blacks demonstrating against segregated beaches, lunch counters and other facilities in 1964. The kitchen fed hundreds of volunteers who came from other states. Baseball great Jackie Robinson addressed a crowd of 600 here, urging them on in a determined, peaceful struggle.

**Cary A. White, Sr. Complex**, Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, 207 N. San Marco Avenue. This classroom and dormitory area is dedicated to the memory of the first black deaf graduate of the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind who worked at the school for 46 years. Mr. White was an assistant in the dorm where Ray Charles lived while he was a student.

## Sanford

### Seminole County

**Hopper Academy**, 1111 South Pine Avenue. This Frame Vernacular two-story "T"-shaped building was built between 1900-1910 and served as Sanford High School (Colored). It was one of the few early black high schools in Florida. There are plans to develop this facility into an educational and community service center.

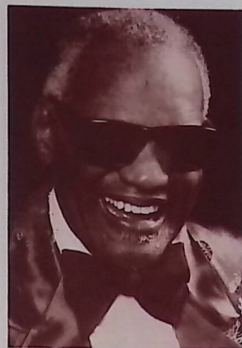
**John M. Hurston House**, 621 East 6th Street. (Private residence.) The Rev. John Hurston was the father of noted author/anthropologist Zora Neale Hurston as well as a forceful preacher and effective pastor. Rev. Hurston and his wife Mattie lived in this Second Empire style residence.

**St. James A.M.E. Church**, NR, 819 Cypress Avenue. Organized in 1867, the church purchased the land on the corner of East 9th Street and South Cypress Avenue in 1880. The current structure is a red brick English Gothic Revival Style building with four matching stained-glass windows, constructed in 1913, and is an excellent example of the work of black architect Prince W. Spears.

## Sanibel Island

### Lee County

**Schoolhouse Gallery**, 520 Tarpon Bay Road. This Baptist Church, built in 1909-1910, was established as the only school for the black children of the Island in 1927, and was so used until 1963, when Sanibel Elemen-



**Ray Charles**  
Ray Charles Robinson

**1930-  
Singer, composer**

A Georgia native, this singer, arranger, composer, and band leader grew up in Greenville, Florida, and began playing piano at seven years of age while attending the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind in St. Augustine. He began touring with dance bands at age fifteen. Charles recorded his first major hit, "I Got a Woman", in 1954. He was inducted into the Florida Artists Hall of Fame in 1992. The world-class singer started his career in Jacksonville as a youngster, playing side-man to the jazz musicians congregating around the old Wynn Hotel on Ashley Street and other nearby nightspots. "Lots of days, I was hungry, no place to stay, and even when you work, you might not get paid," Charles recalled. He laughs at those hard times and tells youngsters, "You gotta' believe."

tary, the first integrated school in Lee County, was built. It is currently a gallery featuring a diversified collection of fine art.

## Sarasota

### Sarasota County

**Booker Schools, Historical Marker, Orange Avenue at 35th Street.** Named for black educator Emma E. Booker, who began teaching black children in 1910 and rose to become principal of Sarasota Grammar School in 1918. She attended college during summers for two decades

in order to earn her bachelor's degree.

**First Black Community, Historical Marker, Central Avenue between 5th and 6th Streets.** Lewis Colson, the first black settler, helped survey the Town of Sarasota in 1886 and began what would become a prosperous black residential and business district.

## Sumatra

### Franklin County

**Fort Gadsden State Historic Site, NR, six miles southwest of Sumatra, off**

State Road 65. The so-called Negro Fort, located on the lower Apalachicola River, was built and provisioned by the British and manned by black and Indian forces under a black commandant named Garcia. The fort was attacked by American forces on June 27, 1816. A round of hot shot hit the magazine of the fort causing a huge explosion and killing some 270 of the 320 defenders. Open 8 am-sunset, year-round.

Call (904) 670-8988.

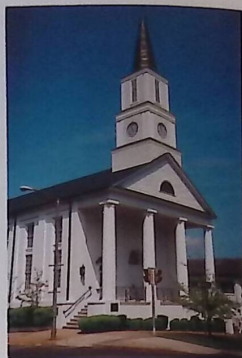
## Tallahassee

### Leon County

**Black Archives Research Center and Museum, Carnegie Library Building, NR, Florida A&M University.** The two-story, columned, brick veneer building built in 1907 is the oldest building on campus. The center has more than 100,000 visitors annually who come to see the vast collection, which includes slave irons, tribal masks and ancient art demonstrating the cultural maturity of African kingdoms. Open 9 am-4 pm, M-F.

**First Presbyterian Church, NR, 102 N. Adams Street.** Built in 1838, this is the only church still standing in town from territorial days. The Classic Revival style building with Gothic doors and windows is prominent in downtown Tallahassee. The north gallery was set aside for slaves who sat apart from their masters, but were allowed membership.

**Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, South Adams Street.** This is the oldest historically black



First Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee  
Balcony for slaves (below)



Gibbs Cottage, Tallahassee



university in Florida, established in 1887 as the Florida State Normal and Industrial School for Negroes. The first president, Thomas DeSaille Tucker, was born in Sierra Leone and graduated from Oberlin College in 1886. He practiced law in Pensacola before coming to Tallahassee in 1887. Today, twelve schools and colleges make up the international, multiracial university.

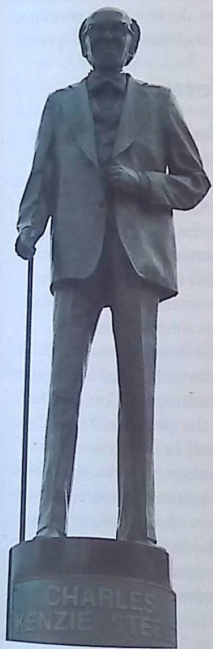
**Gibbs Cottage, South Adams Street.** Gibbs Cottage, constructed in 1894, was the home of Thomas Van Renssalaer Gibbs, member of the Florida Legislature who, in 1887, introduced the bill which resulted in the founding of the Florida State Normal and Industrial School for Negroes, now Florida A&M University.

**Knott House, 301 East Park Avenue.** Union General Edward M. McCook entered



Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Tallahassee

Tallahassee on May 10, 1865 with orders to accept the surrender of the capital. He made his headquarters at the C. K. Steele Memorial, Tallahassee



Knott House, then owned by Thomas and Catherine Hagner. On May 20th, on the steps of the house, McCook issued a general order: President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. The home was remodelled in the 1920s, the alterations inspired by the Georgian Revival style. The Knott House is now operated as a house museum, with emphasis on the Knott family and the Depression years.

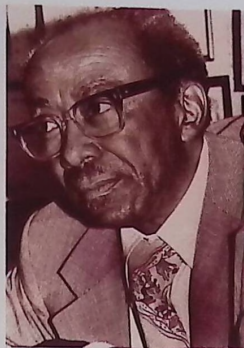
**John G. Riley House, NR,** 419 West Jefferson Street. John Gilmore Riley was a black educator and civic leader in Tallahassee in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He became the first principal of Lincoln Academy, the first high school for blacks in Leon County. The Frame Vernacular house which he built in the 1890s was his home until his death in 1954.

**St. James C.M.E. Church,** 104 N. Bronough Street.

(Private offices.) The present Gothic Revival structure was constructed in 1899 on land purchased by black members of the Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church who formed a separate organization known as the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church. There were at least two earlier structures on the site. It is believed that one of these functioned as a hospital for wounded soldiers from the Civil War Battle of Olustee and served as a school for black children during Reconstruction. The building is the oldest black church structure still standing in Tallahassee.

**C. K. Steele Memorial,** 111 West Tennessee Street. A statue and marker commemorate the work of the Rev. Charles Kenzie Steele, one of Florida's outstanding civil rights leaders.

**Union Bank Building, NR,** on the corner of Apalachee Parkway and Calhoun Street,



**Charles Kenzie Steele**

**1914-1980**  
**Civil rights leader**

The Reverend Charles Kenzie Steele was pastor of the Bethel Baptist Church in Tallahassee and marched with Martin Luther King, Jr., in the civil rights movement of the 50s and 60s. He organized the Tallahassee bus boycott by setting up a station wagon pool for black patrons, eventually ending segregated seating. "I'd rather walk in dignity than ride in humiliation," Steele proclaimed. Fittingly, the new Tallahassee city bus terminal bears his name and displays a statue of this frail, but determined minister.



Museum of African American Art, Tampa

one block from the Old Capitol. The Union Bank, chartered in 1833, played a major role as a planters' bank in the territorial period of Florida history. Constructed in 1841 and displaying elements of Federal and Greek Revival architecture, the building has housed a wide variety of business and cultural interests including the National Freedman's Bank for newly emancipated slaves during Reconstruction. Open 10 am-1 pm, Tu-F; 1 pm-4 pm, weekends. Call (904) 487-3803.

## Tampa

### Hillsborough County

**La Union Marti-Maceo,** 1226 E. 7th Avenue. Located in the Ybor City National Historic Landmark District, this building serves Afro-Cubans excluded from other Cuban and Spanish clubs. Since its founding in 1904,

the Marti-Maceo mutual aid society has provided social and self-help activities for the black Cubans in Ybor City, who confronted both racial and nativist discrimination. Although black and white cigarmakers were initially part of the same mutual aid society, Florida laws against integrated social clubs required them to split in 1900.

Museum of African American Art, Tampa



**Museum of African American Art,** 1308 Marion Street. The Barnett/Aden Collection is America's foremost collection of African American art depicting the history, culture and lifestyle of blacks in America. This is the oldest collection of African American art in the U.S., with one piece dating from 1851. Open 10 am-4:30 pm, Tu-Sa; 1 pm-4:30 pm, Su (except holidays).

**St. Paul A.M.E. Church,** 506 East Harrison Street. A brick vernacular building with Gothic and Romanesque detailing constructed between 1906 and 1917, the church has played an important role in the social, political and cultural events of the community. During the 1950s and 1960s, black leaders of the civil rights movement met at the church to organize their Freedom Marches and "sit-ins" to

protest segregated restaurant facilities in downtown Tampa.

**St. Peter Claver School,** 1401 Governor Street. St. Peter Claver is the oldest black school, public or private, still functioning in Hillsborough County. Opened on February 2, 1894, it was destroyed by arson ten days later. Rebuilt and reopened, the school resumed classes under two Sisters of the Holy Names. Within seven years, it was turning out black graduates capable of becoming certified teachers. In 1916, Governor Trammell issued a warrant for the arrest of three Sisters at another black school, accusing them, as whites teaching black students, of violating an 1895 Florida law. Since St. Peter Claver School could be accused of violating the same law, a decision was made to close the school. The law was later declared unconstitutional, and the school reopened.

## Vernon

### Washington County

**Moss Hill United Methodist Church,** NR, three miles southeast of Vernon, off Vernon-Greenhead Road. Built in 1857 by church members and their slaves, this simple, weathered, woodframe church is the oldest unaltered building in Washington County. Many of the planks still bear the hand or fingerprints of the workers, and the barefooted imprints of children may be seen on the ceiling planks. The building is one of the nation's best examples of frontier church architecture.



Moss Hill United Methodist Church, Vernon

## West Palm Beach

### Palm Beach County

**Gwen Cherry House**, corner of 6th Street and Division Avenue. This Masonry Vernacular structure served as the home of Gwen Cherry, the first black woman elected to the Florida Legislature. The residence is being renovated as museum space for the Black Historical Preservation Society of Palm Beach County.

**The Mickens House**, NR, 801 Fourth Street. (Private Residence.) The house was built in 1917 by Helen Mickens, who operated the wicker carriage concession at Colonel Bradley's casino. His widow, Alice Frederick Mickens, rose to national prominence in promoting higher education for blacks. She was chosen "Outstanding Woman of the Century" at

the American Negro Emancipation Convention in 1963. She entertained such black notables as Dr. Ralph Bunche, Mary McLeod Bethune, and A. Philip Randolph at the home.

**Northwest Neighborhood Historic District**, NR, bounded by N.W. 2nd and 11th Streets, North Rosemary and Douglas Avenues. Most

of the buildings were constructed by local black builders and contractors such as Simeon Mather, R. A. Smith, J. S. Woodside, Alfred Williams and Samuel O. Major. A few buildings, notably churches, were designed by local architects such as West Palm Beach's first black architect, Hazel Augustus, and the firm of Harvey and Clarke. The first

Florida Folklife Festival, White Springs



blacks arrived in the area between 1885 and 1890, when the black residents of the area in Palm Beach known as the "Styx" were forced to relocate to the northwest section of the city. This district is the only remaining portion of the original black settlement.

**Tabernacle Baptist Church**, 801 Eighth Street. This church was founded in 1893 as Mount Olive Baptist Church. The first public school for blacks in West Palm Beach was organized in 1894 and held classes in the church through 1896. The Neo-Romanesque Revival style structure, the sole example of this style in the Northwest Historic District, was built in 1925.

## White Springs

### Hamilton County

**Stephen Foster State Folk Culture Center**, U.S. Highway 41 North, 3 miles east of I-75. This memorial to composer Stephen Foster is located on the banks of the Suwannee River, with animated dioramas, carillon concerts, and displays of Florida folklife. Black craftsmen participate in the annual folk festival demonstrating artisanship of another century and offering gospel and blues musical programs. Park open 8 am-sunset; buildings open 9 am- 5 pm. Call (904) 397-2733.

# African American Festivals and Events

## January

**Belle Glade**—Muckstepper's Reunion  
407 996-2161

**Clearwater**—Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Breakfast, March and Rally, King Center and Coachman Park  
813 462-4880

**Eatonville**—Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts and Humanities, Kennedy Boulevard and College Avenue  
407 647-3307

**Lake Wales**—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Bok Tower Gardens  
813 676-1408

**Miami**—Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade and Festival, Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard  
305 261-8385

*Dizzy Gillespie, Jacksonville Jazz Festival*



**Ocala**/other locations in Marion County—Year of Jubilee Celebration, Various churches  
904 351-0824

**St. Petersburg**—Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday in St. Petersburg; Southern Christian Leadership Conference Drum Major for Justice Parade; Festival of Bands  
813 541-8178, 327-0085

**Tampa**—Martin Luther King, Jr. Festival, Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreation Complex  
813 223-8615

## February

**Crestview**—Florida-Alabama Progressive Seven-Shape Note Singing Convention Quarterly Meeting, Convention Center  
904 834-2713

**Fort Lauderdale**—Sistrunk Historical Festival, Sistrunk Boulevard  
305 765-4663

**Lake City** and Olostee Battlefield State Historic Site—Olostee Battle Festival and Battle Re-enactment  
904 758-1355

**Ocala**—Soul Food Festival, Central Florida Community College  
904 237-2111



*Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts and Humanities, Eatonville*

**Stuart**—Martin County Black Heritage Festival, East 10th Street Recreation Center  
407 283-6349

**Tallahassee**—Harambee Festival, Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center  
904 559-3155

## March

**Winter Park**—Africana Fest, Rollins College  
407 646-1586

## April

**Green Cove Springs**—Augusta F. Savage Cultural Arts Festival, Spring Park  
904 264-5801

**Miami**—Dade Heritage Days  
305 358-9572

## May

**Clewiston**—Brown Sugar Festival  
813 983-9134

**Crestview**—Carver-Hill Memorial Day Festival, Carver Hill Memorial Museum, Fairview Park  
904 682-3494

Florida-Alabama Progressive Seven-Shape Note Singing Convention Quarterly Meeting, Convention Center  
904 834-2713

**Gainesville**—Fifth Avenue Arts Festival, Fifth Avenue  
904 372-0216, 491-1364

**Greenville**—May 20th Emancipation Day Celebration  
904 948-2071

**Orlando**—West Indian-American Carnival Celebration (Mardi Gras), Central Florida Fairgrounds

407 298-0612, 298-2717

**St. Petersburg**—Celebration of Movement, Pinellas County Center for the Arts  
813 327-1907, Ext. 277

**White Springs**—Florida Folk Festival, Stephen Foster State Folk Culture Center  
904 397-2192

## June

**Miami**—Bahamas Goombay Festival, Coconut Grove  
305 445-8292

## July

**Delray Beach**—Roots Cultural Festival, Pompey Park  
407 243-7556

**Ocala**—African American Artsfest, Webb Stadium Complex  
904 629-1644

**West Palm Beach**—Festival of Afro Arts, Gaines Park  
407 659-8099

## August

**Campbellton**—Bethel Community Sacred Harp Sing, Bethel C.M.E. Church  
904 263-4159

**Crestview**—Carver-Hill Evening in Black Culture, Carver-Hill Memorial Museum, Fairview Park  
904 682-3494  
Florida-Alabama Progressive Seven-Shape Note Singing Convention Quarterly Meeting, Convention Center  
904 834-2713

**Delray Beach**—Roots Cultural Festival, Pompey Park  
407 243-7356



Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts and Humanities, Eatonville

## September

**Miami Lakes**—Miami Lakes Taste of Jazz, Main Street  
305 821-1130, Ext. 206

## October

**Clearwater**—Clearwater Jazz Holiday, Coachman Park  
813 734-0140, 462-6360

**Fort Lauderdale**—African Heritage Festival, Jamaican Domino Club  
305 938-7383

**Hollywood**—Hollywood Jazz Festival, Young Circle Park

*Lincolville Festival, St. Augustine*



## November

**Crestview**—Florida-Alabama Progressive Seven-Shape Note Singing Convention Quarterly Meeting, Convention Center  
904 834-2713

**Miami**—Sun Street Festival, 7th Avenue  
305 756-8702

**Saint Augustine**—Lincolville Festival, Willie Gallimore Recreational Facility  
904 829-8379

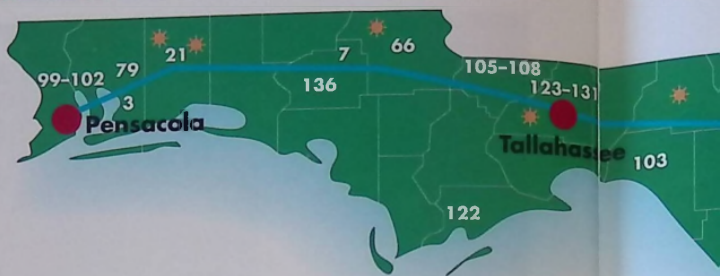
**Tampa**—Bethune-Cookman College and Florida A&M University, Florida Football Classic, Tampa Stadium  
904 599-3200

## December

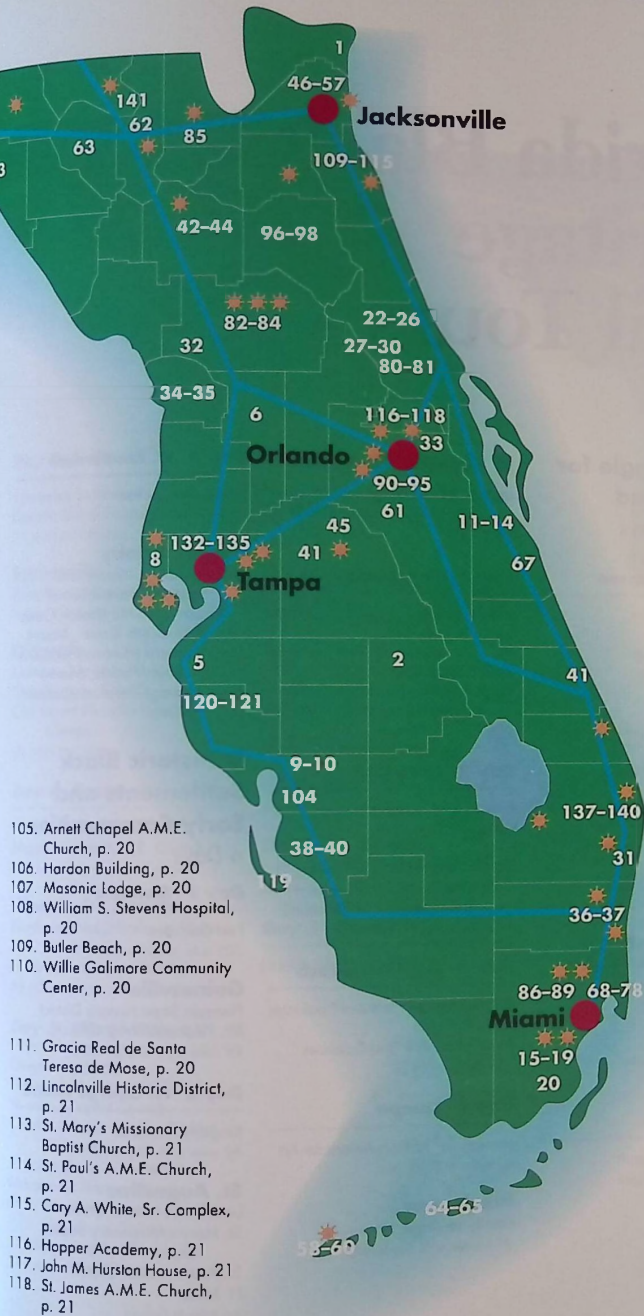
**Orlando**—Kwanzaa Celebration, The Callahan Neighborhood Center  
407 246-2305

**Tampa**—Antonio Maceo Day, Sociedad la Union Marti-Maceo, Ybor City  
813 223-6188

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## Festivals

For information concerning festivals and special events, see pages 26-27.

# Florida Black Heritage Trail Tours



Jackie Robinson Memorial, Daytona Beach

## ■ The Struggle for Freedom and Justice 3 Days

### Day 1 Tallahassee

Knott House Museum  
C.K. Steele Plaza  
Union Bank Building  
104 miles to Lake City

### Lake City

Olustee Battlefield (vicinity of Lake City)  
91 miles to St. Augustine

### Day 2 St. Augustine

St. Mary's Missionary Baptist Church  
St. Paul's A.M.E. Church  
53 miles to Daytona Beach

### Daytona Beach

Jackie Robinson Baseball Park  
Howard Thurman Home  
65 miles to Cocoa

### Cocoa

Harry T. Moore Center  
122 miles to Tampa

### Day 3 Tampa

St. Paul A.M.E. Church  
St. Peter Claver School

## ■ Museums of Art and History 5 Days

### Day 1 Pensacola

Julee Cottage  
191 miles to Tallahassee

### Tallahassee

Black Archives (Florida A and M University)  
104 miles to Lake City

### Day 2 Lake City

Florida Sports Hall of Fame  
60 miles to Jacksonville

### Jacksonville

Catherine Street Fire Station (Jacksonville Fire Museum)  
80 miles to Daytona Beach

### Day 3 Daytona Beach

Bethune House (Bethune-Cookman College)  
Museum of Arts and Sciences  
139 miles to Tampa

### Day 4 Tampa

Museum of African-American Art  
41 miles to Bradenton

### Bradenton

Family Heritage House  
211 miles to Ft. Lauderdale

### Day 5 Ft. Lauderdale

Old Dillard School  
25 miles to Miami

### Miami Vicinity

Black Archives, History and Research Foundation of South Florida (Joseph Caleb Community Center, Miami)  
The Vanguard (Historical Museum of South Florida, Miami)  
Black Heritage Museum (Coconut Grove)

## ■ Historic Black Settlements and Early Communities 6 Days

### Day 1 Sumatra

Fort Gadsden  
205 miles to Gainesville

### Gainesville

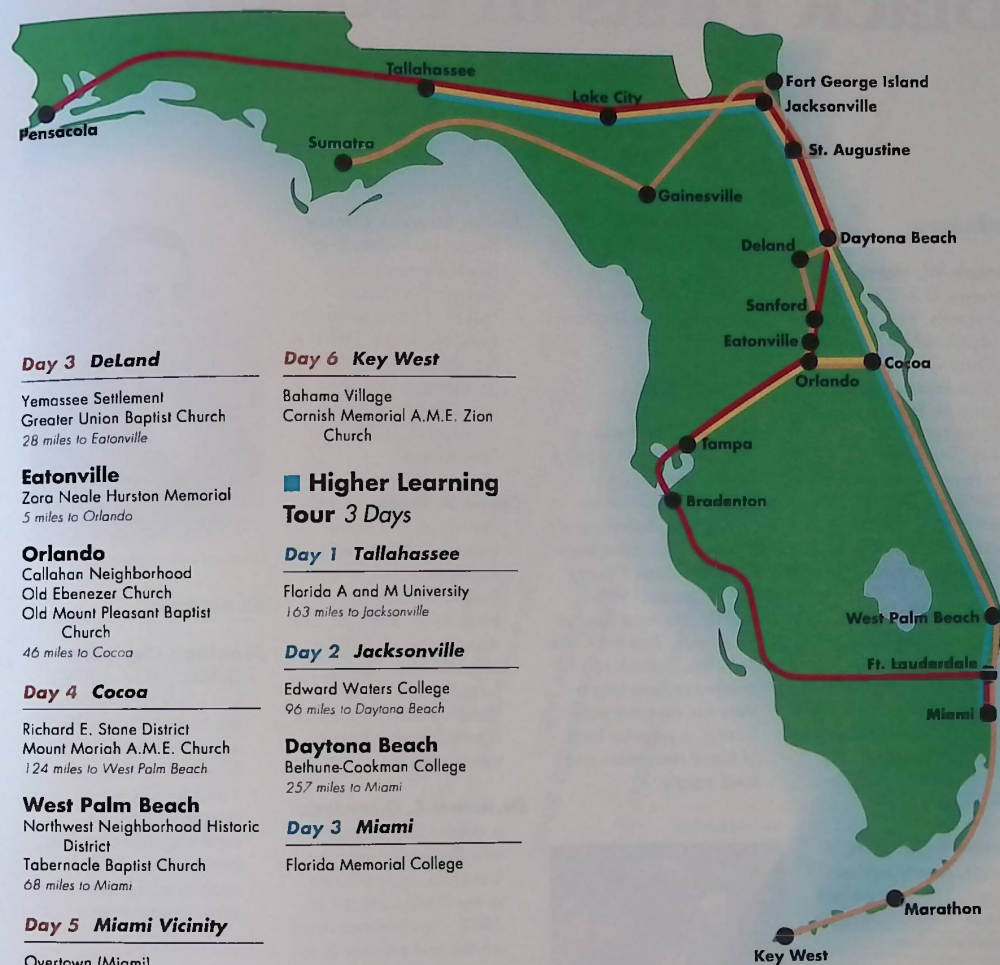
Pleasant Street Historic District  
Mt. Pleasant A.M.E. Church  
98 miles to Ft. George Island

### Day 2 Ft. George Island

Kingsley Plantation  
68 miles to St. Augustine

### St. Augustine

Lincolnton Historic District  
St. Mary's Missionary Baptist Church  
St. Paul's A.M.E. Church  
Ft. Mose  
64 miles to Deland



### Day 3 Deland

Yemassee Settlement  
Greater Union Baptist Church  
28 miles to Eatonville

### Eatonville

Zora Neale Hurston Memorial  
5 miles to Orlando

### Orlando

Callahan Neighborhood  
Old Ebenezer Church  
Old Mount Pleasant Baptist Church  
46 miles to Cocoa

### Day 4 Cocoa

Richard E. Stone District  
Mount Moriah A.M.E. Church  
124 miles to West Palm Beach

### West Palm Beach

Northwest Neighborhood Historic District  
Tabernacle Baptist Church  
68 miles to Miami

### Day 5 Miami Vicinity

Overtown (Miami)  
Greater Bethel A.M.E. Church  
St. John's Baptist Church  
Charles Avenue Historic District (Coconut Grove)  
Coconut Grove Cemetery  
Macedonia Baptist Church  
MacFarlane Homestead Subdivision (Coral Gables)  
St. Mary's Baptist Church  
109 miles to Key West

### Day 6 Key West

Bahama Village  
Cornish Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church

## ■ Higher Learning Tour 3 Days

### Day 1 Tallahassee

Florida A and M University  
163 miles to Jacksonville

### Day 2 Jacksonville

Edward Waters College  
96 miles to Daytona Beach

### Daytona Beach

Bethune-Cookman College  
257 miles to Miami

### Day 3 Miami

Florida Memorial College

# Black Firsts in Florida

## Judiciary:

**Joseph W. Hatchett**, Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals, 11th Circuit, appointed by President Jimmy Carter. First black since Reconstruction to serve on Florida's Supreme Court (1975-79). First black elected to remain on the court; first black elected to public office in a statewide election in the South.

**Leander J. Shaw Jr.**, appointed to Florida Supreme Court in 1983, retained by statewide vote. First black judge to become Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, for a two-year term (1990-92).

**Lawson E. Thomas**, Judge, Miami Police Court, 1950, first black judge in the South since Reconstruction.

**Melvia Green**, Dade County Circuit Judge, 1989, first black woman circuit judge.

**Leah Aleice Simms**, Dade County Judge, first black woman judge in Florida, appointed by Governor Bob Graham in 1981.

## Legislative:

**Joe Lang Kershaw**, a civics teacher, first black since Reconstruction elected to the Florida Legislature. Served as a Democratic House member from Dade County for 14 years (1968-1982). His most famous issue was "Axe the Cane Pole Tax," which succeeded in reversing a state tax on cane pole fishing, a popular form of black recreation and food supply.

Joe Lang Kershaw



**Gwen Sawyer Cherry**, Miami Democrat, first black woman ever to serve in the Florida House of Representatives, elected in 1970. A Florida A&M *cum laude* graduate in law, she was killed in a car accident in 1979 in Tallahassee.

**Carrie P. Meek**, Miami Democrat, first black woman ever elected to the Florida Senate and the first black to serve since Reconstruction. She was elected in 1979 to succeed Mrs. Cherry. A former track star at Florida A&M, Sen. Meek is noted for her humanitarian causes.

**Dr. Arnett E. Girardeau**, a dentist and Jacksonville Democrat, was the first black male elected to the Florida Senate in 1982. He defeated three whites and another black in winning his first term.



Jonathan Clarkson Gibbs

## Executive:

**Jonathan Clarkson Gibbs** (1827-1879), first black to serve on the Florida Cabinet when he was chosen as Secretary of State in 1868 by Governor Harrison Reed. As superintendent of public instruction in 1873, he established the state's first public school system.

# Credits

Cover design by Bill Celander, Museum of Florida History.

Publication design by Lynn Rogers, Museum of Florida History.

Written and edited by Gary Goodwin and Suzanne Walker, Bureau of Historic Preservation, with volunteer editorial assistance from Jim Walker.

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We gratefully acknowledge the support and guidance of State Representative Alzo

Reddick and former State Representative Bill Clark who took the lead in obtaining legislative funding for this publication. The project was one of the results of the work of the Study Commission on African American History in Florida, created in 1990 by the Florida Legislature. The legislation to create the commission was sponsored in the House of Representatives by former State Representatives Bill Clark, James C. Burke and T. K. Wetherell. A companion bill in the Senate was sponsored by former State

Senator Tom McPherson.

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For ordering information, please write: Florida Black Heritage Trail Florida Department of State Division of Historical Resources R. A. Gray Building 500 S. Bronough Street Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250 or call (904) 487-2344

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