

# Landmarks, Legends & Lyrics

## AFRICAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE GUIDE Greenville-Washington County, Mississippi

*The African-American Heritage Guide is your road map to historic landmarks, untold legends, and soulful lyrics from one of Mississippi's most fascinating counties. Boundless landscapes and unique architecture tell the extraordinary history of African-Americans and some of their many contributions to Greenville-Washington County.*

### INTRODUCTION

African-Americans have played a vital role in the growth and development of Washington County from its establishment in 1827 until this present day. When the first enslaved Africans were brought here, they found a vast swamp requiring human hands to clear and develop it for the Antebellum Era and the dawn of King Cotton.

In an agrarian economy dominated by cotton, African Americans cultivated the rich Delta soil and built levees to protect the plantations from the unpredictable flooding of the mighty Mississippi River. However, slave labor was not just limited to the fields. It was frequently used in the construction of stately homes and mansions such as **Mount Holly** and **Belmont**. Those enslaved were also instrumental in the creation of musical genres such as the blues and gospel.

In the 1860's, with the onset of the Civil War, the roles of those enslaved changed significantly. The passage of the 13th Amendment gave thousands of African-Americans a new-found freedom. During the 1900's many relocated as a part of the Great Migration to urban areas such as St. Louis, Chicago, and Detroit rather than remain in the area as sharecroppers.

Many of those who remained became entrepreneurs, educators, doctors, statesmen, and morticians. During this era, the **"Chitlin Circuit,"** a forum of mostly folk entertainers, appeared and provided an avenue for African-American musicians to showcase their unique talents. The soulful sounds of blues burst onto the horizon with gospel, jazz, pop, and rock & roll to follow.

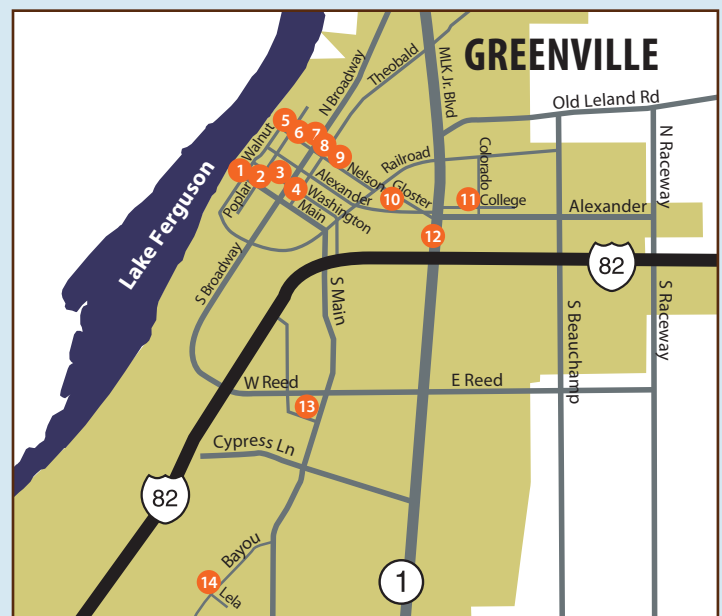
However, the segregated conditions under "Jim Crow" proved to be unbearable for the African-American community, and their struggle was taken to the streets, the courts, and eventually to the voting booths as they fought for equality. The fruits of their labor were evident in the court-ordered integration of public schools, the election of black officials, and the resolution of long-awaited legal battles.

So, come and journey through the sacred spaces and significant places of **Arcola, Glen Allan, Hollandale, Leland, Metcalfe,** and the county seat, **Greenville,** as well as all the quaint stops in between. These places are where the culture and heritage of African-Americans are rooted and intricately woven in the historic fabric of Washington County.

### HISTORIC LANDMARKS & SITES

#### Greenville-Washington County 1 Convention and Visitors Bureau

216 South Walnut Street, Greenville • 1-800-467-3582  
Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



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## Greenville Writers' Exhibit 2

### William Alexander Percy Library

341 Main Street, Greenville • 662-335-2331

Open Daily, Hours Vary

Learn how Greenville and Washington County's rich literary tradition has produced more writers than perhaps any other town its size in the United States. A few of the African-American writers who call Washington County home include Clifton Taulbert, William Alexander Attaway, and Angela Jackson. This exhibit documents the accomplishments of poets, playwrights, composers, and novelists whose work has impacted people of all races and nationalities.



## The Flood of 1927 Museum 3

118 South Hinds Street, Greenville  
662-334-2711

662-335-5815

Monday - Saturday,  
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Exhibited in the oldest structure in Downtown Greenville, this museum presents the history of one of the greatest natural disasters this country has ever known. On Thursday April 21st 1927, at 7:45 A.M., the levee at Stops Landing, 8 miles north of Greenville, broke due to the pressure from the swollen Mississippi River and created the greatest single crevasse ever to occur anywhere on the river. View actual flood artifacts and photographs illustrating the flood's impact on life and death during the four months Greenville and the Mississippi Delta was inundated. Screen the twelve-minute documentary video superbly illustrating the cause and effect of the Great flood of '27 and the ensuing struggle of man against nature.

## M.A.C.E. Office Complex 4

119 South Theobald Street, Greenville • 662-335-3523

Mississippi Action for Community Education, Inc. (MACE) is a non-profit community development corporation established in 1967 by civil rights activists and community organizers. Its board of directors has included such notables as Fannie Lou Hamer, Amzie Moore, Annie Devine, and Unita Blackwell. MACE's mission is to empower African Americans and disadvantaged citizens within its service area by developing their individuals and collective capacities to improve their lives and communities. MACE is a proud organizer of the Mississippi Delta Blues & Heritage Festival, which provides funds for MACE programs and workshops.

## Yellow Fever Cemetery 5

Poplar Street and Nelson Street, H.B. Theobald Park, Greenville

The 1878 yellow fever epidemic claimed more than 300 victims, whose names appeared in the Greenville Times. All the victims were laid to rest on a single plot of land once enclosed by an iron fence painted yellow – Yellow Fever Cemetery. Residents did not realize that their cisterns were the breeding grounds for the mosquitoes causing Yellow Fever. During the 1990s the last of the bodies were exhumed and re-buried in other local cemeteries. Yellow Fever Cemetery is today H.B. Theobald Park.



## St. Mathew African Methodist Episcopal Church 6

514 Nelson Street, Greenville  
662-335-4479

Sunday Services 11:00 a.m.

St. Mathew AME Church was organized in 1867, as the first AME Church in the Delta and the fourth in Mississippi. Its original site on Levee Street was swallowed up by the Mississippi River, so the congregation relocated to its present site in 1890. Over the years, St. Mathew has had several renowned visitors such as President Herbert Hoover in 1927, poet Langston Hughes in 1931, and opera star Leontyne Price in 1949.

## Mt. Horeb Missionary Baptist Church 7

538 Nelson Street, Greenville • 662-335-1605

Sunday Services 9:30 a.m., Worship Services 11:00 a.m.

Mt. Horeb M.B. Church, a cornerstone of the community, was established in 1864 by six former slaves and was the first church structure erected by African-Americans in Greenville. It was relocated from Levee Street to its present site in 1909 as a result of the Mississippi River changing its course. Over the years, Mt. Horeb played a vital role in the establishment of the General Baptist State Convention and the founding of the Washington County Congress on Christian Education. In 1971, Rev. Ezzie Smith, a local African-American contractor and minister, built the present structure.



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## Miller Memorial Center 8

*Broadway Street and Nelson Street, Greenville*

During the period of segregation in Washington County, African Americans were forbidden to be patrons of the public library. This building, named in honor of Dr. Miller, served as a library and meeting hall for the African-American community.

## Nelson Street District 9

Nelson Street, anchored by churches at both ends and with several in between, was once a thriving economic, social, cultural, and religious district for the African-American community. The Nelson Street District has been home to many local businesses such as Anderson's Photo Service, Brown's Bakery, The Casablanca, May's Restaurant, The Flowing Fountain, Bailey's Restaurant, The Green Grill, Pete's Barber Shop, Celestine's Shoe Shine Shop, The (Pythian Hall), Union Cab, The Playboy Club, and Annie Mae's Soul Food Café. In addition, the medical practices and residences of Dr. Charles Holmes, Dr. C.B. Clark, G.P. Maddox, and some of Greenville's most prominent African Americans were located in the Nelson Street District.



## Sacred Heart Catholic Church 10

*422 Gloster Street, Greenville* 662-332-0891

*Sunday Mass 9:00 a.m.*

This Romanesque revival church was constructed in 1928 under the leadership of Father Jacobs. However, on this site in 1910, the Divine Word Missionaries started a parochial school for African-American youth. In 1920, Father Mathew Christmann helped form St. Augustine Seminary, the first seminary in the United States dedicated to

training and instructing African-American priests. It was relocated to Bay St. Louis, Miss, in 1923. For 53 years, Sacred Heart School educated African-American youth on both the elementary and secondary levels. The last graduation was held in 1963, and the elementary school closed its doors in 1976. In 1977, Sacred Heart reopened as a Head Start center and continues to impact the education of area youth.

## Frisby Park 11

*College Street and Colorado Street, Greenville*

This park was named in honor of Dr. Noble R. Frisby. He was a prominent African-American physician in Greenville. Frisby Park is home field for several summers Little League sports teams.

## Coleman Middle School 12

**(formerly Coleman Junior/Senior High)**

*400 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard., Greenville*  
662-334-7036

Around 1920, The Greenville School Board established the first public high school for African-American students. The school, located on Redbud Street across from present day Julia L. Armstrong Elementary School, was named in honor of Lizzie W. Coleman, a former principal and teacher. Mrs. Coleman was a woman of vision who made a positive impact on the education of African-Americans, for nearly 40 years. In 1950, construction began on a new high school, which opened its doors the fall of 1951. In 1970, the school changed from a high school to a junior high school and continues to operate in that capacity today.



## Live Oak Cemetery 13

*South Main Street at Crescent Street, Greenville*

The land set aside to accommodate the burial needs of the African-American community is today Live Oak Cemetery. Live Oak has become the final resting place of some of Washington County's most outstanding African-Americans. Bishop Lampton, Mississippi's first African-American bishop; Holt Collier, President Teddy Roosevelt's legendary hunting guide; Rufus

Straughter, an influential banker and businessman; John Stallworth, a prominent mortician; and countless others are buried here. The cemetery has scores of unmarked graves that date back to the mid-1800s.

## Rattlesnake Bayou Levee 14

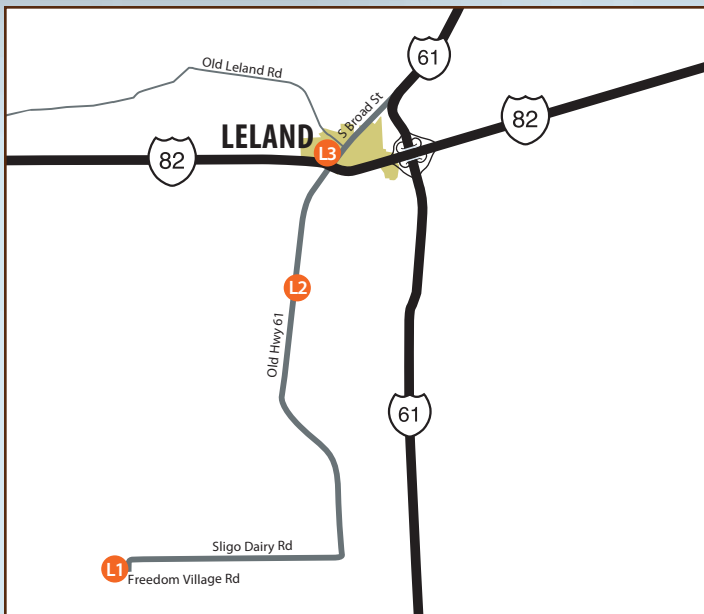
*Bayou Road and Lela Lane, Greenville*

In the 1840's, those enslaved on plantations at Plum Ridge, Wildwood, Locust, and Swiftwater built a levee to protect nearby property from flooding. The section of the levee that can be seen from Bayou Road and Lela Lane in Greenville is located on what was W.P. Montgomery's Locust Plantation.



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## Freedom Village L1

### *Freedom Village Road*

Freedom Village, Mississippi, is a living tribute to the spirit of the Civil Rights Movement that began the transformation of life in the Mississippi Delta. The place called "Freedom Village" stands today as a living monument to the perseverance and foresight of those original settlers. Not a grandiose monument, it provides a method and a model for continued struggle as the rural poor seek the truth of the old Negro spiritual: "Walk together children, and don't ya get weary." Founded by Thelma Barnes, Jake Ayers, and Owen Brooks, its history begins in the winter of 1966.

Thelma Barnes, Jake Ayers, and Owen Brooks were kicked off the land they had been living on for many years because of their aggressive political activist stance. Desperate from facing death by freezing and hunger, the group combined with members of Delta Ministries and the Freedom Democratic Party to become known as the Poor People's Conference. In protest of their plight, they entered and occupied an abandoned building on the Greenville Air Force Base. Thirty hours later, they were officially thrown out of that building and given no other alternative to their critical problems.

Freedom Village is a community southeast of Greenville — take Highway 1 south and go 4 or 5 miles east on Wilcox Road and take a right to the next road. It was the site of the first ten Delta Blues Festivals. Not too far from Mr. Eddie Cusic's birthplace in Wilmot, Mr. Eddie Cusic has appeared at many of the blues festivals here. Freedom Village is the original site for the staging of Delta's blues festival on October 21, 1978 and was staged on a flatbed truck at this site.

## Old Highway 61 • "Blues Highway" L2

Travel east on Highway 82 from Greenville and you will intersect Old Highway 61, better known as the 'Blues Highway.' The route takes its nickname from the many blues musicians who migrated from the Mississippi Delta to the industrial North in search of a better way of life. In doing so, they took their music to the cities, where it would continue to evolve into what is today one of America's truest musical forms.



## Highway 61 L3 Blues Museum

307 North Broad Street, Leland  
662-686-7646  
Monday - Saturday,  
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday, 1:00 p.m. -  
5:00 p.m.

The Highway 61 Blues Museum features a chronology of the blues within a 100 mile radius of Leland, from which nearly 150 nationally and internationally known blues artist have emerged. Memorabilia from Little Milton, B.B. King, Willie Foster, James "Son" Thomas, Eddie Cusic, Boogaloo Ames, and others is on display.



## Leland Blues Murals

*Downtown Locations:*  
Highway 61 Blues •  
Fourth Street and Main Street • B.B. King Mural •  
East Third Street  
Delta Dancing • North Main Street (drive-by only)

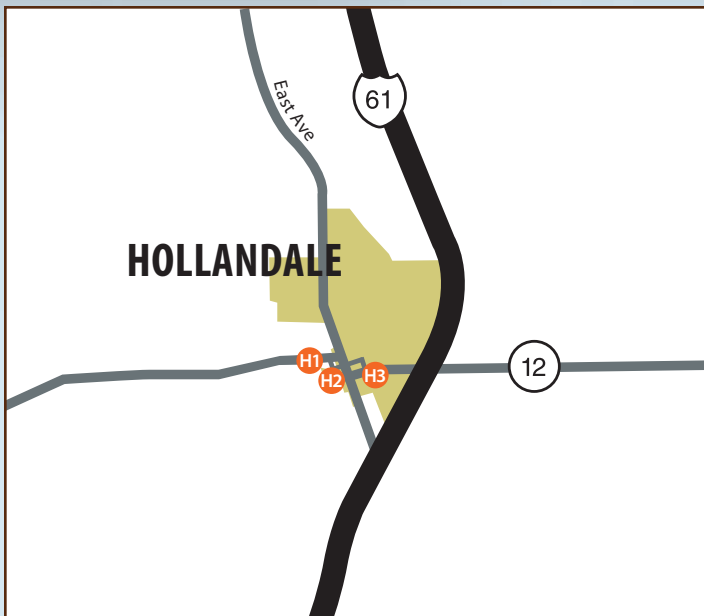
In 2000, local artist and volunteers painted a series of blues murals featuring blues singers born within 25 miles of Leland. The list includes Jimmy Reed, Little Milton, and James "Son" Thomas. Postcards and t-shirts depicting the murals are available at the Highway 61 Blues Museum.



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## Simmons High School H1

501 West Washington Street, Hollandale • 662-827-2228  
 Following his emancipation from slavery, Emory Peter “E.P.” Simmons moved to Hollandale and became an educator in the town’s Colored Schools. In 1891, the Thomas School opened as one of the first schools for African-American in the Hollandale area. This one-room building, which had no ceiling or windows, served as the school until a three-room building was moved to the site. In 1923, financial support from the Julius Rosenwald Fund, county and city government, and private donors made it possible to construct the first brick school for African Americans.

Simmons continued to work as an educator and administrator in the Hollandale’s schools until his retirement in 1942. On May 21, 1950, the Hollandale Colored School was renamed Simmons High School in honor of Emory Peter “E.P. Simmons”, who served an incredible 52 years.

## Sanders Garden Memorial H2

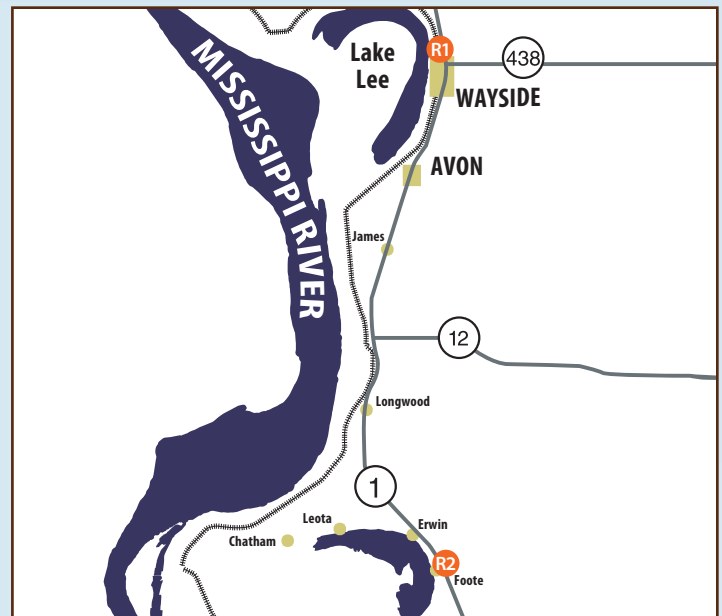
North Morgan Street, Hollandale  
 This cemetery is the final resting place of the bluesman Sam Chatmon, Educator E.P Simmons, and several other African American who have played significant roles in the development of Hollandale, Washington County, and Mississippi.

## New Hope Missionary Baptist Church H3

Walcott Road at Deer Creek, Estill  
 Worship Services: Second and Fourth Sundays 11:30 a.m.  
 New Hope M. B. Church was considered the church for the “well-to-do” African Americans of the era. This congregation was established in May of 1887, when William Jenkins,

Isaac Wilson, Allen Williams, Augustus Malone, Nelson Butter, Stephney Jones, Andrew Hill, and Zack Johnson purchased the site for the sum of \$120.00. Rev J.B. Scruggs became the church’s first pastor.

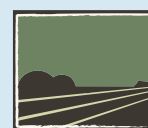
The intricately crafted pulpit furniture dates back to 1903, and the acoustics in this original beadboard- covered sanctuary help provide a wonderful accompaniment to the metered hymns and gospel music heard during Sunday services.



## Belmont Plantation R1

Highway 1, Wayside (drive-by only)  
 Belmont is one of the few antebellum mansions in the Mississippi Delta to escape burning by Union Forces during the Civil War.

Constructed entirely of slave-made bricks, it was completed in 1859 and was originally the home of Dr. Williams W. Worthington. Union troops visited the home several times during the course of the Civil War but confiscated only live-stock and crops, leaving it otherwise unharmed.



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## **Mt. Holly Plantation**

Highway 1, Foote **R2**  
(drive-by only)

Built by Margaret Johnson Erwin, this spectacular mansion featuring 14-foot ceilings and two-foot thick walls was constructed

entirely of slave-made bricks in the 1856's. The magnificent structure overlooking beautiful Lake Washington is located in the community of Foote and was once owned by the family of noted Civil War historian, Shelby Foote. Listed on the National Historic Register, it is one of the finest examples of Italianate architecture in Mississippi and the country.

## **HISTORIC AND NOTABLE PEOPLE**

### **Reverend H.C. Anderson**

(1911-1998) *Photographer/Archivist*

Reverend H.C. Anderson, a native of Nitta Yuma, opened Anderson Photo Service in 1947 in Greenville. Over the next 30 years, he captured every aspect of the African-American community on film. This included baptisms, funerals, weddings, community celebrations, family portraits, and more.

As the only photographer in the African-American community, he became an integral part of the preservation of its history. Anderson archived thousands of images depicting the prosperity and success, struggles and sorrow of African Americans. His photographs of the funeral of Rev. G. W. Lee, a civil rights activist, were featured in both *Ebony* and *Jet*. Despite his accomplishments, Anderson remained relatively unknown until Shawn Wilson, an independent filmmaker and native of Greenville, featured him in a documentary entitled *Anderson's Photo Service*. He was also featured in another documentary entitled "Separate, But Equal."

### **T.R. Sanders**

*Activist/Entrepreneur/Educator*

The first schools created for African-American students were established shortly after the Civil War. These schools were referred to as the "Colored Schools." By 1876, there were 11 Colored Schools in Washington County. Several of them, including the Thomas School near Hollandale, were funded through the Julius Rosenwald Fund, which provided financial support to over 5,000 schools throughout the South.

### **William Alexander Attaway**

(1911—1986) *Composer/Author*

Born in Greenville, William Attaway wanted to be an auto mechanic until he read a poem by Langston Hughes that inspired him to become a writer. Attaway authored several critically acclaimed novels including *Let Me Breathe* and *Thunder*. However, his songs and screenplays brought him greater notoriety. Attaway's *Wide Wide World* and *The Colgate Hour*, both TV series, and *A Hundred Years of Laughter*, featuring comedic legends Redd Foxx and Moms Mabley, were also among his most notable works. Attaway also wrote more than 500 songs during his career.

### **Jake B. Ayers, Sr.**

(1920-1986) *Civil Rights Activist*

In 1975, Jake Ayers, Sr. of Glen Allan filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of his son Jake Ayers, Jr., a student at Jackson State University, and other students attending Mississippi's historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs). Ayers claimed that HBCU's did not receive funding relative to that of the state's predominantly white colleges and universities. The Department of justice joined Ayers and other plaintiffs in the suit. Twenty-five years later, the suit was settled for \$513 million to be distributed over 17 years for academic programs at the state's three public HBCUs.

### **Roosevelt "Booba" Barnes**

(1936-1996) *Musician/Band Leader*

Roosevelt Barnes was born in Longwood, Mississippi. At a young age, he became infatuated with harmonicas. His field work soon became unimportant as he spent his time dancing and playing between the cotton rows of cotton, actions that earned him the nickname "Booba" after his brother claimed he was worse than a booby trap.

Barnes taught himself how to play the guitar, and his playful antics increased. He was known for duck-walking, playing the guitar with his teeth, under his legs, and lying on his back. In 1990, he released his first and only full-length album, *The Heartbroken Man*, which brought him international stardom. After a long battle with lung cancer, he died in 1996.



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## Sam Chatmon

(1899-1983) *Bluesman*

Born in Bolton, Miss., Sam Chatmon was an original member of the famed Mississippi Sheiks. After launching a solo career in the 1930s, Chatmon traveled throughout the South playing with minstrel and medicine shows. He stopped in Hollandale and found work as a laborer on the plantations, a job he did for the next 20 years.

During the 1950's and 60's there was a resurgence in the popularity of the blues, and Chatmon capitalized on the moment. He began recording music again, playing in the clubs, and participating in folk festivals throughout the country. He was an active recording artist and performer until his death in 1983 at age 84. Chatmon is buried in the Sanders Memorial Garden Cemetery in Hollandale.

## Holt Collier

(1846-1936) *Outdoorsman/Hunter*

Holt Collier was born in Jefferson County, Miss., in 1846. In 1906, the noted outdoorsman and Confederate scout headed a bear hunting expedition in the Mississippi Delta for President Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt. As the legend goes, during a tall-tale session, Collier vowed to capture a bear for the President and tie it to a tree if necessary.

On the morning of the big hunt, Collier captured a bear. However, before he could alert the President and the rest of the hunting party, the bear attacked one of Collier's prized hunting dogs. In his dog's defense, Collier struck the bear with the butt of his rifle and tied it to a tree. When President Roosevelt came near the helpless animal, he was overcome with compassion and refused to shoot it. Later, a political cartoonist popularized the event and a toy maker named his cuddly stuffed toys "Teddy Bears."

Holt Collier died in Greenville in 1936 and is known throughout the Mississippi Delta as the greatest bear hunter of all time. Collier's funeral was held at Mount Horeb M.B. Church. He was buried at Live Oak Cemetery.

## Mamie "Galore" Davis

(1940-2001) *Blues Singer*

As a child, Mamie grew up singing in church. She was given her first chance at public entertainment by Herman Scott of Greenville. Scott's bands, The Swinging Kings, were regulars at the Elks Club. In the early 1960s, Davis toured with Ike & Tina Turner, which led to her recruitment by "Little Milton" Campbell. Davis moved to Chicago and released three hits: It Ain't Necessary, Special Agent 34-28-38 Mamie Galore, and I Want To Be Your Radio. In 1989, Davis focused on her solo career. In 1991, she entertained thousands at the Smithsonian America Folklife Festival in Washington, D.C.

## Tyrone Davis

(1938-2005) *Rhythm & Blues Performer*

Tyrone Davis was born in Greenville in 1938. He is one of the original performers who worked the "Chitlin" Circuit in the Mississippi Delta for over 30 years. Davis considers himself a rhythm, blues, and soul performer. While residing in Chicago during the 1960s, Davis saw his recording career take root as he befriended guitarists Freddie King, Otis Rush, and soul singer Otis Clay. Success came after a Texas deejay played Davis' first single, *Can I Change Your Mind*, which rose to the top of the Billboard Charts with tremendous crossover to rhythm & blues and pop. Other chart toppers include Turn Back the Hands of Time, Turning Point, and Give it Up/Turn It Loose.

## Ruby "Red Ruby" Hall Edwards

(1910-2001) *Entrepreneur*

Ruby Hall Edwards moved to Leland with her parents from Brandon when she was a child. She joined her mother as a domestic worker but realized that her dream was to become an entrepreneur. Edwards saved her money and established Ruby's Night Club during the 1930's. She expanded over the next two decades and Edwards' chain of nightclubs and juke joints grew in popularity with fans and blues musicians playing the "Chitlin Circuit." Due to her financial success, she became known as "Red Ruby" and later relocated to Indianola where she opened Club Ebony. Red Ruby's nightspots hosted famous performers such as Ike Turner, Little Milton, Little Richard, B.B. King, Ruth Brown, Bobby "Blue" Bland, and Ivory Joe Turner.

## Willie Foster

(1921-2001) *Bluesman*

Willie Foster was born in 1921 on a cotton sack while his mother was picking cotton four miles east of Leland. At age 7, he purchased his first harmonica with 25 cents he earned from carrying water to the fields. Foster later moved to Detroit and joined the Army. While serving overseas, he had the opportunity to perform for Joe Louis and Betty Grable at a London show. After WWII, Foster returned to the Mississippi Delta and played in the local juke joints. In 1991, a New Zealander named Midge Marsden heard Foster and invited him to come to New Zealand and play for three months. After Foster returned home, his career took off. He and his band, "The Rhythm and Blues Upsetters" toured all over the United States and played overseas as well.



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## **John F. Harris**

*Confederate Veteran/Politician*

John Harris, former slave and Confederate soldier, served as a Republican Party delegate for Washington County in the Mississippi Legislature from 1890 to 1891. He and several others were responsible for organizing the Colored Bar Association of Mississippi.

The first Bar Association organized by African-American lawyers, The Colored Bar Association of Mississippi, held its first meeting in Greenville March 5-6, 1891. The two-day gathering set in motion a national movement to form African-American Bar Associations in other states.

## **Angela Jackson**

*(1951-Present) Poet/Playwright*

Born in Greenville July 25, 1951, Angela Jackson is widely known for her collections of poetry and fiction including *Voodoo/Love Magic*, *The Greenville Club*, and *Dark Legs And Silk Kisses*. Jackson is a gifted poet, playwright, dramatist, and author.

## **Martin Marble**

*Good Samaritan*

Martin Marble, a slave of Washington County Sheriff Andrew Carson, was credited with saving county records when Union troops burned Old Greenville during the Civil War. Marble loaded the records in a wagon and hid in the swamps until the Yankees had left. Unlike many Southern counties, Washington County's records are very complete, thanks to Marble's quick wit. A plaque on the wall outside the Washington County Courthouse at Edison Street commemorates Marble's actions.

## **Thomas Roosevelt "T.R." Sanders**

*(1905- Aug 28, 1998) African American Educator/Activist/Entrepreneur/Alderman*

T.R. Sanders, of Hollandale was born December 3, 1905. Sanders became the first black superintendent of Hollandale Colored School District and organized Hollandale's first Head Start program. As a businessman, he developed Hollandale's first subdivision, Sanders Estates. Sanders were elected to Hollandale's Board of Alderman, where he organized the Murphy-Darlove Water Association, which provided running water to citizens in neighboring Sharkey County. Sanders were also responsible for recruiting Hollandale's first industry, catfish processing.

## **Reverend Ezzie Roy Smith**

*(1949-Present) Minister and Building Contractor*

Reverend Ezzie Smith has contributed much to the landscape of Washington County. There are numerous homes, commercial buildings, churches, subdivisions, and retail businesses that can attribute their construction and design to this master builder. Reverend Smith often sub-contracted jobs with noted area contractor William S. Rode, who recognizes Smith's talent and ability. Reverend Smith's handiwork has earned him several accolades and awards throughout his career.

## **Clifton Taulbert**

*(1945—Present) Entrepreneur/ Author/Motivational Speaker*

Born in Glen Allan, Clifton Taulbert is a noted author and motivational speaker. His books, *Once Upon A Time When We Were Colored*, *The Last Train North*, *Watching Our Crops Come In*, *Eight Habits of the Heart*, *Little Cliff*, and *The Porch People*, have earned him many awards, including a Pulitzer Prize nomination. His lectures, seminars, and workshops have encouraged thousands to embark on campaigns for improved living, regardless of obstacles and boundaries, while keeping him in demand as a motivational speaker and guest writer for national publications.

## **Walter Turnbull**

*(1944-Present) Founder and Director of Harlem Boys Choir*

Born in Greenville in 1944, Walter Turnbull is noted for his love of music and children, which has impacted the lives of countless African-American youth. Turnbull attended Greenville's Coleman High School, where he studied music under Mrs. Heticene Jones, who was a great influence in his life. After completing his formal education, Turnbull formed the Harlem's Boys Choir in 1968 at Harlem's Ephesus Church in New York. Over the years, the choir grew, and a girls' choir was formed in 1979. In 1986, the Choir Academy of Harlem was established, and 10 years later its first 12th-grade class graduated. Turnbull and the Harlem Boys choir have been featured in the national media, in movies, on Broadway, and on many of the world's stages.



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## Frank White

*(1950- Present) Kansas City Royals Baseball Hall of Famer and Coach*

Born in Greenville in 1950, these legendary second basemen set the standard for the American League's Golden Glove Award. A spectacular player who often did what seemed impossible. White claimed the award eight times. A few of his accolades include the 1980 ALCS Most Valuable Player Award, 1983 and 1986 Royals Player of the Year honors, eight All-Star honors and the official retiring of his Royals #20 in 1994. White ranks in the Royals top five all time players for total games, at-bats, hits, doubles, triples, homers, RBI's, and stolen bases. Today, White serves on the Royals staff as the second base coach.

## Mary Wilson

*(1944-Present) Charter Member of the Supremes*

Born in Greenville in 1944, Wilson grew up just a few blocks from Nelson Street. Following her dream to become a singing sensation, Wilson, along with her high school friends, Florence Ballard and Diana Ross, formed a group known as the Primettes. After the women signed a contract with Motown Records, their name was changed to the Supremes. Between 1964 and 1967 the Supremes had over 30 top 40 hits, 12 of which reached number one on the Billboard Charts. Wilson has since written two autobiographies: *Dream Girl: My Life as A Supreme* and *Supreme Faith: Someday We'll Be Together*.

## HERITAGE TIME LINE

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| 1867  | St. Mathew AME Church is established  |
| 1869  | Evening Star Baptist Church is established in Washington County   |
| 1876  | 11 Colored Schools in Washington County   |
| 1878  | Yellow fever epidemic hits Washington County claiming hundreds of lives   |
| 1887  | Church at Estill is established   |
| 1891  | Thomas Colored School opens in Hollandale; The Colored Bar Association of Mississippi holds its 1st meeting in Greenville   |
| 1905  | T.R. Sanders (educator, activist and entrepreneur) is born in Hollandale  |
| 1910  | The Divine Word Missionaries establish a school for African-American youth in Greenville, MS  |
| 1911  | William Alexander Attaway (author/composer) is born in Greenville, MS   |
| 1920  | Coleman High School is named in honor of Lizzie W. Coleman; St. Augustine Seminary is established in Greenville by Father Mathew Christmann of the Divine Word Missionaries |
| 1921  | Willie Foster (blues musician) is born on Dunleith Plantation   |
| 1719  | Enslaved Africans are first brought to the Mississippi Territory  |
| 1827  | Washington County is established  |
| 1840  | Rattlesnake Bayou Levee is constructed by slaves  |
| 1859  | Belmont Plantation is completed   |
| 1860s | Martin Marble saves county records from destruction during Civil War  |
| 1864  | Mt. Horeb M.B. Church is established  |
| 1865  | The 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery, is passed  |



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# Landmarks, Legends & Lyrics

- 1927** In April, the levee breaks at Mounds Landing, and Washington County is under water until June
- 1928** Sacred Heart Catholic Church is built
- 1930s** Red Ruby's clubs are established along the "Chitlin' Circuit"
- 1936** Roosevelt "Booba" Barnes" (musician/ band leader) is born in Longwood; Holt Collier (hunter/outdoorsman) dies
- 1938** Tyrone Davis (rhythm & blues performer) is born in Greenville, MS
- 1940** Mamie "Galore" Davis (blues singer) is born in Erwin, MS
- 1944** Mary Wilson of the Supremes is born in Greenville, MS; Walter Turnbull (Harlem Boys Choir founder) is born in Greenville
- 1945** Clifton Taulbert is born in Glen Allan
- 1947** Anderson's Photo Service opens in
- 1949** E.P. Simmons (educator, activist, and entrepreneur) dies
- 1950** Coleman Junior/Senior High School is built in Greenville; Frank White (Kansas City Royal's second baseman) is born in Greenville; Hollandale Colored School is renamed Simmons School in honor of E.P. Simmons
- 1951** Angela Jackson (poet/playwright) is born in Greenville, MS; Willie Carson is the first African American to be hired by the Greenville Police Department.
- 1964** George P. Maddox becomes the first African American administrative assistant to the superintendent
- 1966** Gertrude Campbell is hired as the first African-American female postal clerk
- 1970** Coleman Junior - Senior High School becomes Coleman Junior High School; Court-ordered integration of Public Schools takes place
- 1975** Jake Ayers files a lawsuit spawning the Ayers Case
- 1976** Sacred Heart closes elementary school
- 1977** First Mississippi Delta Blues & Heritage Festival is held in Freedom Village
- 1983** Sam Chatmon (blues musician) dies
- 1986** Jake Ayers, Sr. (civil rights activist) dies
- 1990** First Nelson Street Festival is held
- 1993** First Little Wynn Festival is held
- 1996** Roosevelt "Booba" Barnes dies
- 1998** Eugene Powell aka "Sonny Boy Nelson" (blues soloist) dies
- 2000** Leland Blues Murals are completed
- 2001** Red "Red Ruby" Edwards dies
- 2002** Highway 61 Blues Museum opens



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