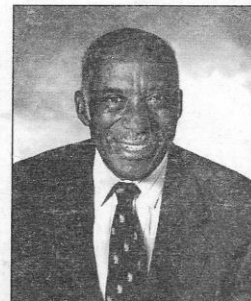
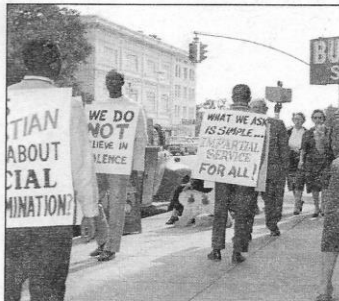


From Freedmen to Free Men:

**Black Political Leaders
In Tallahassee and Leon County, Florida,
1865-1890 and 1950-1971**

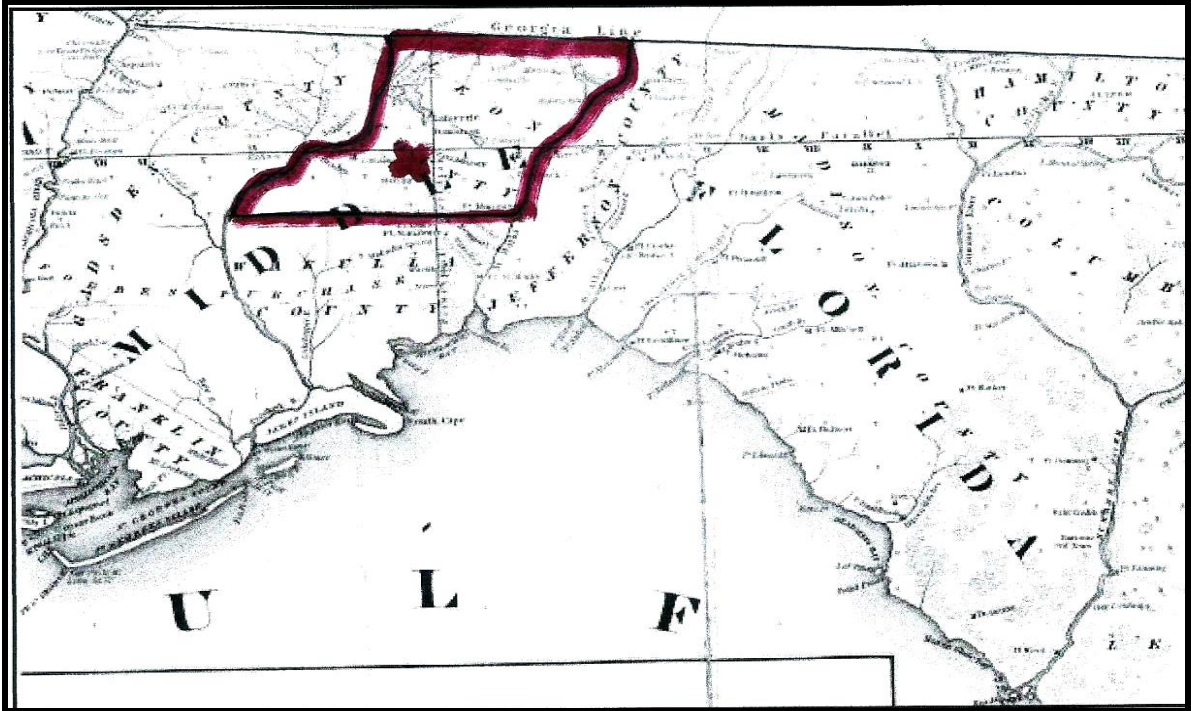


Mary Cathrin May

*Unless otherwise noted, all maps and photographs
are courtesy of the State of Florida Archives*

THE SETTING: 1860-65

1. Middle Florida, the Cotton Kingdom



Leon County outlined in **RED**

Estimated Population:

<u>Leon County</u>	<u>12,000</u>	<u>Tallahassee</u>	<u>1,800</u>
<i>White</i>	2,500		500
<i>Slave</i>	9,000		200
<i>Free Black</i>	400		100

Part I: A Dream Deferred:

**Tallahassee's *Forgotten*
Civil Rights Movement, 1865-1890**

***Led by Black Ministers,
Union Veterans, and Freedmen***

who were

***Devoted to the memory of Abraham Lincoln
and Loyal to the Republican Party***

Milestones

- 1865** **Civil War ends -- slaves emancipated**
- 1867** ***Reconstruction and First Civil Rights
Movement***
- 1871** ***Freedmen appointed & elected to
state, county, and city offices***
- 1885** ***Florida Constitution of 1885* returns
political control to white Democrats**
- 1890** ***First Civil Rights Movement ends
in Tallahassee and Leon County***

3. United States Colored Infantry (USCI)
--also referred to as U. S. Colored Troops, or USCT

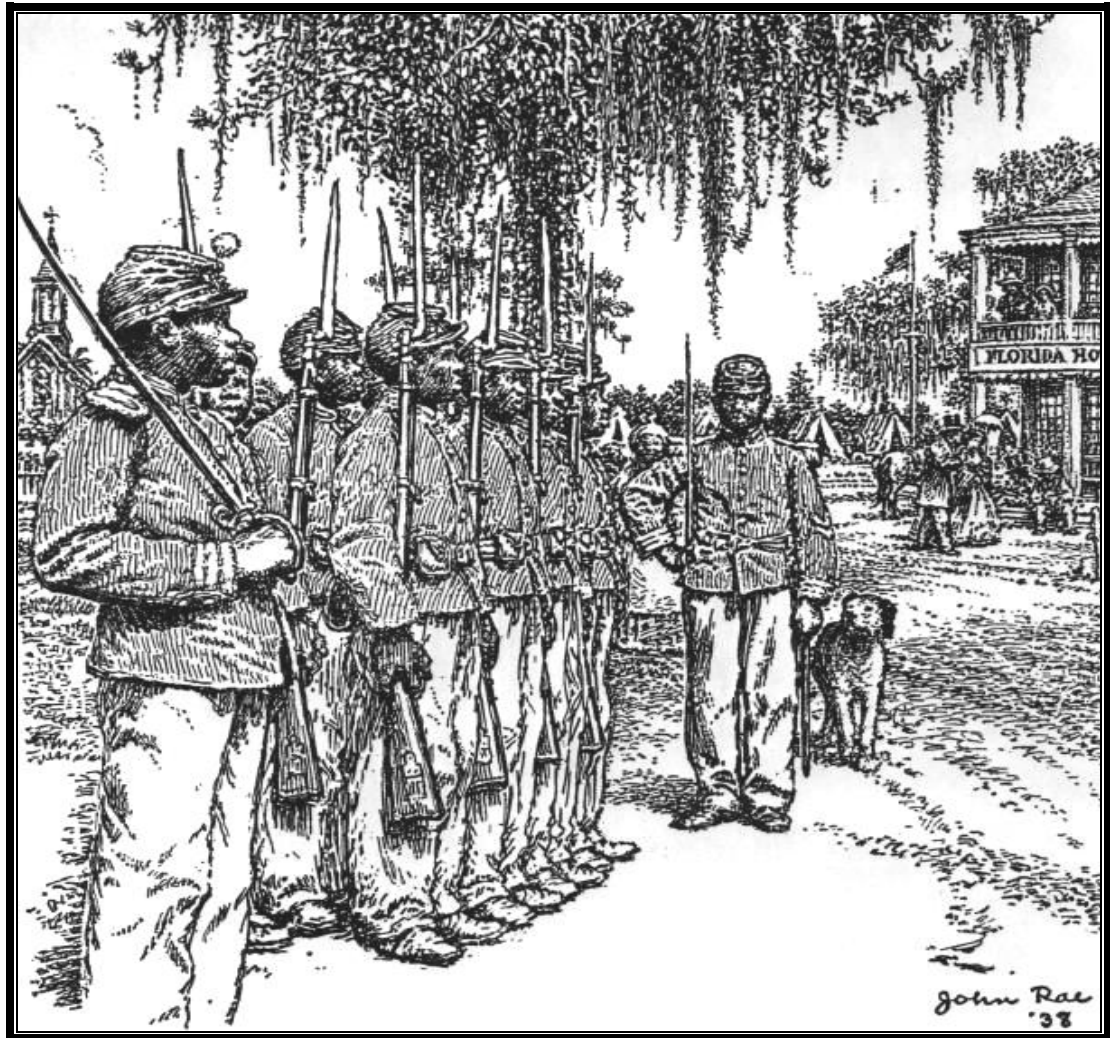
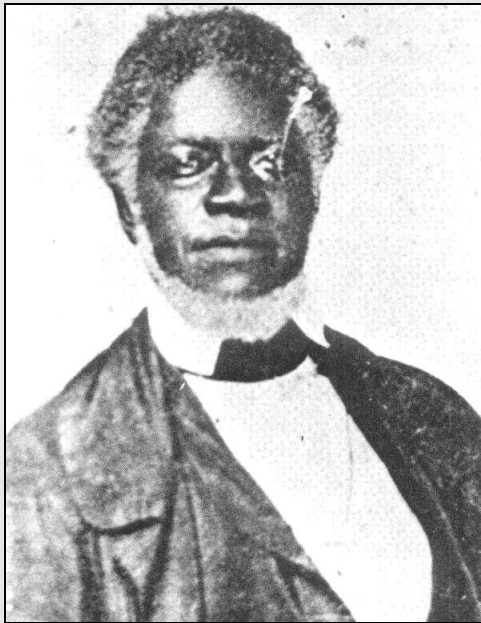


Illustration by John Rae

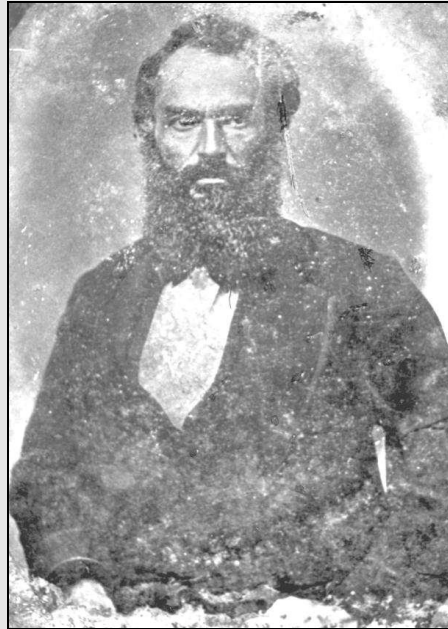
4. Black Ministers step into the Breach, 1865-66

James Page



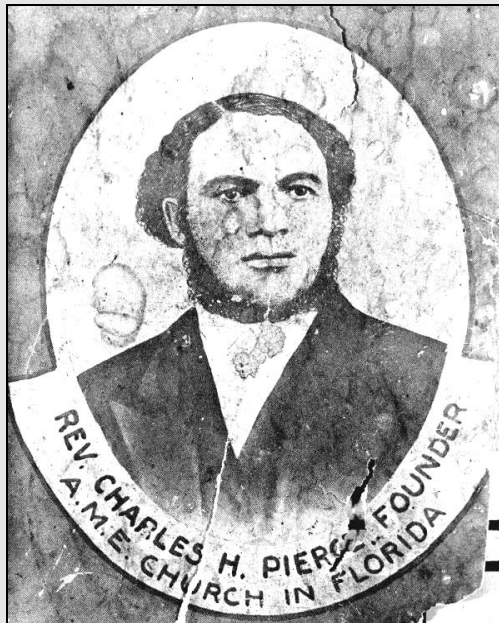
Founder, Black Baptist Church, Tallahassee, 1865

Robert Meacham



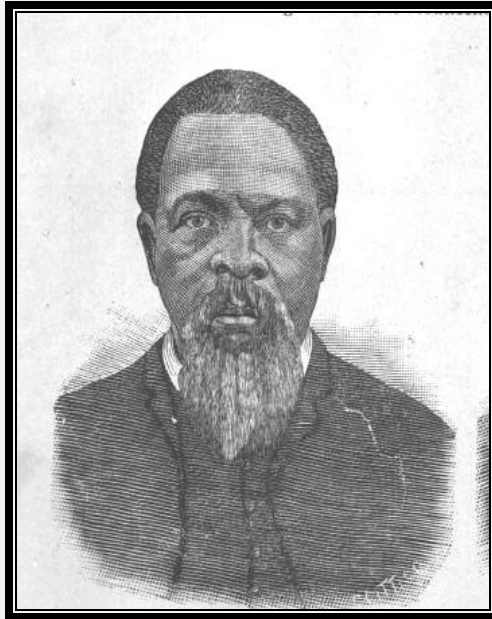
Founder, AME Church, Tallahassee, 1866

Charles H. Pearce



Minister, AME Church, Tallahassee, 1866

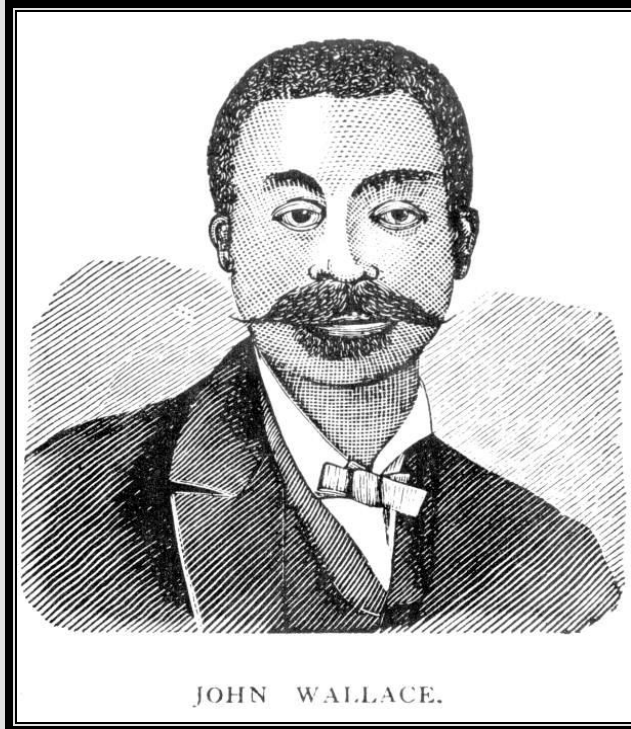
5. William G. Stewart
Cashier, Freedmen's Bank, Tallahassee,
1866-1879



Looking north up Adams Street, ca. 1880;
At left, Freedmen's Bank (old Union Bank);
In background, Presbyterian Church

**6. Veterans of the US Colored Infantry
(USCI)**

John Wallace, 2nd USCI



Some other veterans:

2nd USCI

**Owen B. Armstrong
William Henry Ford**

3rd USCI

**William Franklin
Henry S. Harmon**

7. First Black Officials *Elected* in Leon Co.

Delegates to Constitutional Convention, 1868

District 6 – Leon and Wakulla Counties

Green Davidson

Joseph E. Oates

Charles H. Pearce

John Wyatt

Owen B. Armstrong

Thomas Osborn

Registered Voters in Leon County

725 White

2,225 Black

Note: Black delegates shown in *bold italics*.

All delegates are Republicans

8. First Black Legislators, Leon Co., 1868

State Legislators, Leon County, 1868

Florida Senate

Charles H. Pearce

Florida Assembly

Robert Livingston

Robert Cox

Noah Graham

Richard Wells

Note: All legislators are African-American Republicans

9. First Black *Candidates* to run for a seat on Tallahassee City Council

Municipal Elections, January 4, 1869

<i>PARTY</i>	People's Ticket*		Republican Ticket	
<i>Office</i>	<i>Candidate</i>	<i>Vote</i>	<i>Candidate</i>	<i>Vote</i>
Mayor	T. P. Tatum	285	S. L. Tibbitts	82
Clerk	John L. Taylor	287	<i>A. C. Lightbourn</i>	80
Assessor	G. A. Ball	280	<i>Philip DeCoursey</i>	88
Marshal	A.L.Woodward	284	<i>J. Jackson</i>	81
Council	John Pratorius	293	Jacob Burkhim	82
	Geo. Meginniss	285	Gilbert F. Avery	82
	J. W. Bowen	282	<i>Noah Graham</i>	81
	F. H. Flagg	282	<i>Thomas Harley</i>	81
	L. E. Johnson	281	<i>Robert Williams</i>	80
	C. E. Dyke, Sr.	279	<i>John Wallace</i>	80
	B. C. Lewis	279	<i>Henry Mathews</i>	80
	T. J. Rawls	277	<i>Mose Reddick</i>	79

* **People's Ticket wins election**

Note: African-American names in bold italics

10. First Black Officials *ELECTED* –
Tallahassee City Council

Election Returns, December 1871

<i>Party:</i>	<i>Republican</i>		<i>Democrat</i>	
<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Vote</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Vote</u>
<i>Mayor</i>	Chas H. Edwards	251	Philip T. Pearce	167
<i>Clerk</i>	<i>Wm. G. Stewart</i>	240	Robert Gorman	177
<i>Marshal</i>	<i>Henry Sutton</i>	240	A. L. Woodward	174
<i>Tax Ass'r</i>	Sam Quaile	246	B. H. Fisher	168

Councilmen

Chas. H. Walton	241	(No candidates)
Robert S. Williams	241	
S. L. Tibbitts	240	
W. Lee Aphorp	240	
Gilbert Avery	240	
<i>Jonas W. Toer</i>	238	
<i>Everett C. Jones</i>	231	
<i>Jonathan C. Gibbs*</i>	249	

***Jonathan Gibbs**

First African-American in Florida Cabinet:

Secretary of State (1868-73)

Sup't. of Public Instruction (1873-74)

11. Legislature 1875: “Death Knell to Reconstruction”



Group of Legislators on Capitol Steps, 1875

John Wallace (*with cane- extreme left*), Leon Co.

Robert Meacham (*3rd row- 3rd from right*),
Jefferson Co.

John Proctor (*front row with hat*), Leon Co.

Thomas V. Gibbs (*second row behind Proctor*),
Duval Co. (*son of Jonathan Gibbs*)

12. Appointed Leon County Public Officials, **1867-1872**

(Page 1 of 2 pages)

Year	Office	Name
<u>Reconstruction Begins</u>		
1867-68	Voter Registrar	Rev. James Page
1868	<i>Republican Governor</i>	
	Supt of Leon Public Schools Justice of the Peace County Commission	Rev. Charles H. Pearce Alfred Cobb; Rev. Jonas Toer Rev. Noah Graham, Alexander B. Hawkins, James Page, Robert Williams
1869	Supt of Schools County Commission	Charles H. Pearce Owen B. Armstrong; Alexander B. Hawkins; James Page; Robert Williams
1870	Supt of Schools County Commission Constable Justice of the Peace	Charles H. Pearce Alfred Cobb; Jonas Toer Wm. Henry Ford Jonas W. Toer
1871	Supt of Schools County Commission Justice of the Peace	Charles H. Pearce Robert Kent; Jonas W. Toer Alfred Cobb; Jonas W. Toer
1872	Supt of Schools County Commission Justice of the Peace	Charles H. Pearce Robert Kent; Benjamin Ross; John Wyatt Charles F. Daley; Samuel Frazier; James d. Haynes; James Page; John Peterson; James D. Thompson; William F. Thompson; John Wyatt

13. Appointed Leon County Public Officials, 1873-79

(Page 2 of 2 pages)

1873	County Commission Constable Justice of the Peace	Benjamin Jones; Robert Kent; Robert Mickens; Lewis Plater; Samuel C. Watkins William H. Ford; Dennard Quarterman Joseph Broadnax; Alfred Cobb; Charles F. Daly; Herbert B. DeVaughn; Samuel Frazier; Samuel Snowden; James E. Haynes; James D. Thompson; William F. Thompson; Noah Williams; John Wyatt
1874	County Commission Constable Justice of the Peace	Richard Mickens, Samuel C. Watkins Wm. H. Ford; Dennard Quarterman Alfred Cobb; Herbert B. DeVaughn; Zach Morehead; James Page; Samuel Snowden; James D. Thompson; William F. Thompson; Noah Williams; John Wyatt
1875	Sheriff Constable Justice of the Peace	Philip DeCoursey Bradley Robinson Alfred Cobb; Noah Williams
1876	<u><i>Democratic Governor</i></u>	
	Tax Assessor Justice of the Peace	Charles H. Pearce Trapp Milton; Noah Williams
1877	Justice of the Peace	Alfred Cobb; John W. Mitchell; John Wallace
1878-79	John W. Mitchell	
	<u><i>Reconstruction Ends</i></u>	

Note: John W. Mitchell was last *appointed*
black official in Leon County *until 1975.*

14. Black Legislators Elected, Leon County, 1868 -1875

(Page 1 of 2 pages)

Year Elected	Assembly/House	Senate
	<u>Reconstruction begins</u>	
1868	Robert Cox Noah Graham Robert Livingston Richard H. Wells	Charles H. Pearce
1869	Robert Cox Noah Graham Richard H. Wells	Charles H. Pearce
1870	Robert Cox Noah Graham Richard H. Wells	Charles H. Pearce
1871	Noah Graham John Wallace Richard H. Wells John Wyatt	Charles H. Pearce
1872	Noah Graham John Wallace Richard H. Wells John Wyatt	Charles H. Pearce
1873	John Elias Proctor William G. Stewart John Wallace	Charles H. Pearce
1874	John Elias Proctor John N. Stokes John Wallace	Charles H. Pearce
1875	John Elias Proctor Zack H. Morehead Lucien Fisher	John Wallace
1877	William Henry Ford Dennard E. Quarterman William F. Thompson	John Wallace

15. Black Legislators Elected, Leon County,

1878 - 86

(Page 2 of 2 pages)

<u>Year</u>	<u>House/Assembly</u>	<u>Senate</u>
<u>Reconstruction Ends</u>		
1878	John Elias Proctor William Henry Ford Samuel W. Frazier	Everett C. Jones – unseated by John Wallace
1880	Wallace B. Carr Phillip Carroll Isaac Jenkins	John Wallace
1883	Henry Mack Davis Isaac Jenkins Charles H. Rollins	John Elias Proctor
1884	Samuel W. Frazier Clinton Sneed	John Elias Proctor
<u>Constitution of 1885</u>		
1886	Wallace B. Carr Samuel W. Frazier John W. Mitchell Clinton Sneed	----- ----- ----- -----

Notes:

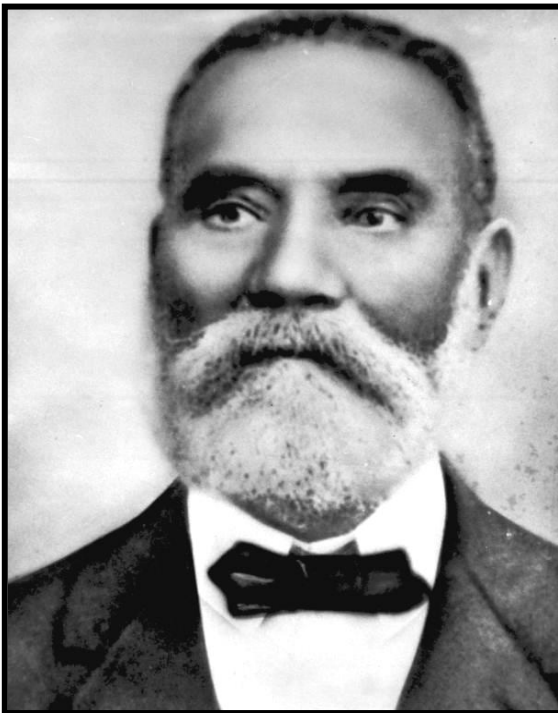
- **John Wallace and John Elias Proctor** elected to both Florida House and State Senate
- 1886 -- Last black legislators elected in Leon County until 1982.

16. Neighbors, Kinsmen, & Officials



**John Elias Proctor
(1844 – 1944)**

**Florida House;
Florida Senate**



**Charles Rollins
(1832 – 1919)**

**Leon Co.
Commission;
Florida House**

17. Elected, Tallahassee City Council, 1871-1879

<i>Year</i>	<i>Office</i>	<i>Name</i>
1871	<i>Marshal City Clerk Councilmen</i>	Henry Sutton William G. Stewart Jonathan C. Gibbs, Everett C. Jones, Jonas Toer
1872	<i>Marshal Councilmen</i>	Henry Sutton Lloyd Crampton, James W. Jefferson, Everett C. Jones, William G. Stewart
1873	<i>Marshal Assessor Councilmen</i>	Henry Sutton Philip L. DeCoursey Robert Cox, Andrew Ramsey, Robert Williams
1874	<i>Marshal/Tax Col Assessor Councilmen</i>	Henry Sutton Philip DeCoursey Benjamin DeCoursey, George Fitzgiles, Henry Hicks, Henry Mathews, Daniel Vaughn
1875	<i>Marshal Clerk/Treas</i>	Henry Fitzgiles Everett C. Jones
1876	<i>Marshal Clerk/Treas Assessor Council Pres. Councilmen</i>	Henry Sutton Everett C. Jones James W. Jefferson *Samuel C. Watkins Henry Mathews, John Shepherd
1877	<i>Marshal Assessor Councilmen</i>	Henry Fitzgiles John Shepherd Benjamin DeCoursey George Fitzgiles John N. Stokes
1879	<i>Assessor Councilmen</i>	James W. Jefferson Stanford Harrison, Henry Jones

*** 1876--Council President Samuel C. Watkins served briefly as Acting Mayor, thereby making him Tallahassee's first African-American mayor.**

18. Elected, Tallahassee City Council (cont'd)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Office</i>	<i>Name</i>
1880	<i>Marshal/Collector</i> <i>Clerk/Treasurer</i> <i>Assessor</i> <i>Councilmen</i>	Archer D. Crowell W. T. Chester William Henry Mat(t)hews Wesley Davis, Stanford Harrison Benjamin DeCoursey, George Fitzgiles
1881	<i>Marshal/Collector</i> <i>Assessor</i> <i>Councilmen</i>	Henry Douglas James W. Jefferson Benjamin DeCoursey, Henry Jones George Fitzgiles, John N. Stokes
1882	<i>Marshal/Collector</i> <i>Councilmen</i>	Henry Douglas Alfred Cobb, Henry N. Douglass George Fitzgiles
1883	<i>Marshal/Collector</i> <i>Assessor</i> <i>Councilmen</i>	Henry Douglas James W. Jefferson Edward W. Yellowhair
1884	<i>Marshal/Collector</i> <i>Assessor</i> <i>Councilmen</i>	Henry Douglas William F. Thompson Alfred Cobb, Henry N. Douglass
1885	<i>Marshal</i> <i>Assessor</i> <i>Councilmen</i>	Henry Douglas Edward W. Yellowhair George Fitzgiles, Henry Garnett
<i>Constitution of 1885—Return to Democratic Rule</i>		
1886	<i>Marshal</i> <i>Assessor</i> <i>Councilmen</i>	Henry Douglas James W. Jefferson Alfred Cobb
1887	<i>Assessor</i> <i>Councilmen</i>	William F. Thompson Alfred Cobb
1889	<i>Assessor</i> <i>Councilmen</i>	Esau W. Hall Alfred Cobb
1890	<i>Councilman</i>	*Alfred Cobb

***Alfred Cobb** was the last African-American on the Tallahassee City Council until 1971.

Part II: The Dream Fulfilled:

A Second Civil Rights Movement in the 20th Century

Milestones in Tallahassee

**1900-40s Emerging Black Middle Class
*with growing expectations!***

1944 -- Leon's FIRST Black Dem. Vote

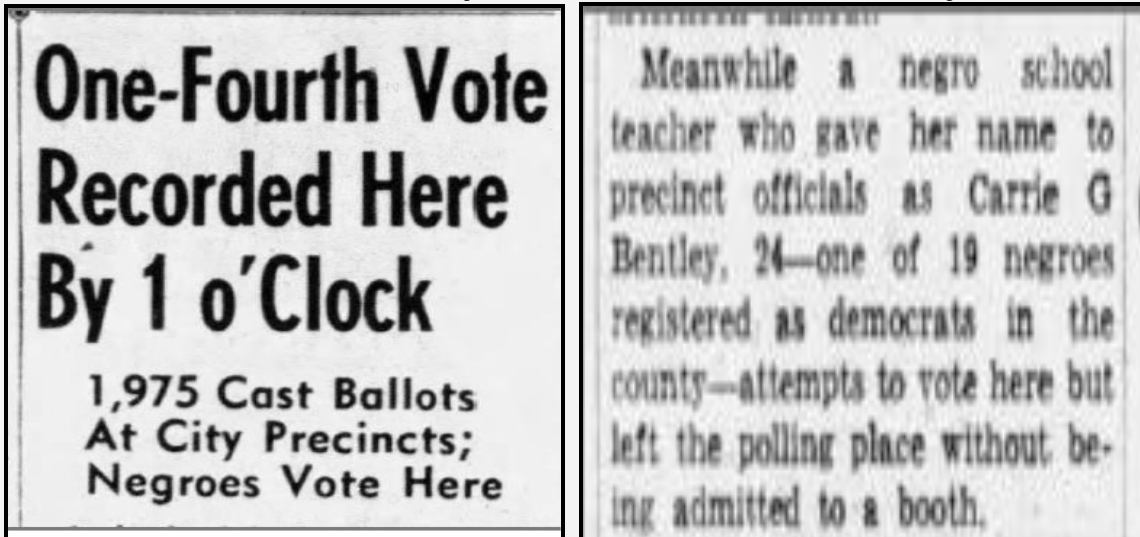
**1952 – Tall Police Dept hires FIRST
black patrolmen *since 1891***

**1956 – Tallahassee Bus Boycott:
*A new generation of black activists***

**1960s—Civil Rights Movement:
*A decade of black protest, candidates, and
voter registration***

1970s—Breaking Down Racial Barriers

20. FIRST Black Voters, May 1944
Leon County Democratic Primary



(Tallahassee Democrat, May 2, 1944)

Population, Leon County: 40,000

Registered: 212 Republicans & 10,000 Democrats



L-R: Myrtle Williams, Raymond Fields, Laura Triplett, and **Patsy Lee Payne, 1957.**

21. May 1952 -- First Black Policemen
Tallahassee Police Dept. *since 1891*



(Tallahassee Democrat, May 1, 1952)

**L to R: Police Chief W. E. Hurlbert,
Clarence Mitchell, Fred Douglass Lee
*and Freddie D. Golden***

**22. Tallahassee Bus Boycott begins,
May 1956**

**Front-Sitting
Negro Women
Arrested Here**

Two Negro women were arrested on a City Transit Bus Saturday afternoon after they refused to sit in the rear.

Arrested on charges of "placing self in position to incite a riot" were Wilhelmins Jakes, 26, of 123 Jennings St., and Carrie F. Patterson, 20, of 123 Jennings St.

Officer Fred Lehman said the two women sat down in a front seat by a white woman, and refused to move to the rear when requested by Bus Driver Max Coggins.

Coggins stopped the bus on South Adams Street and called police.

(Tallahassee Democrat, May 27, 1956)

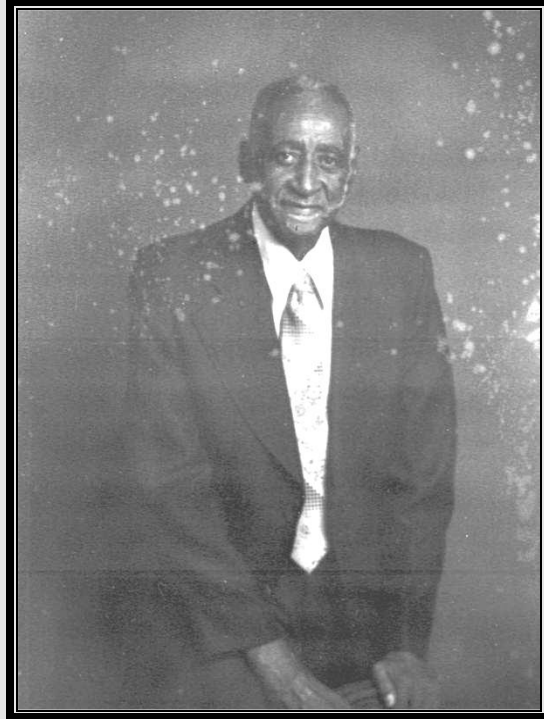
23. Three Civil Rights Leaders, 1950s – 1960s



**Reverend J. Metz Rollins,
Edwin Norwood, Sr.
& Reverend C. K. Steele**

**24. First Black Candidates
for City Commission in 20th Century**

Reverend King Solomon Dupont, 1957



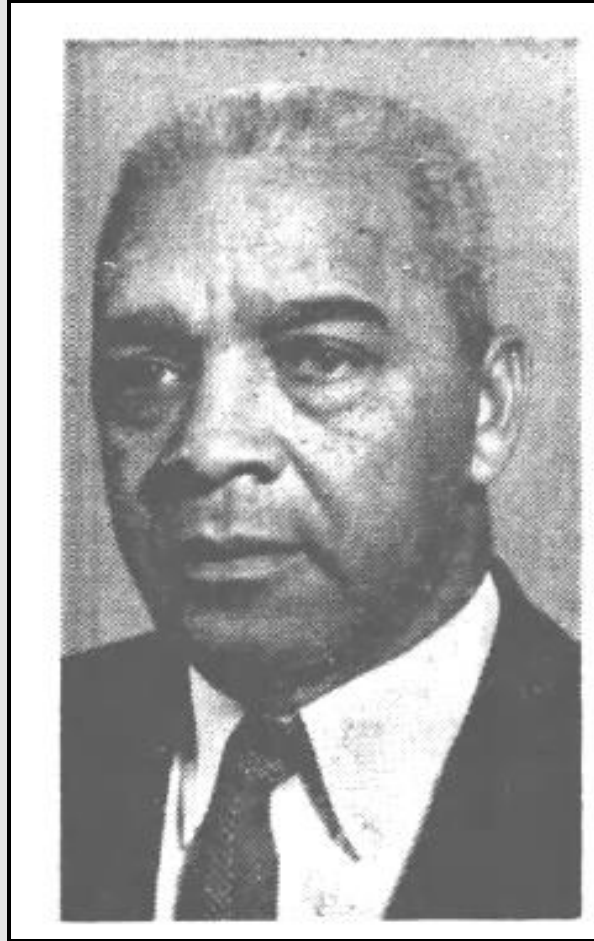
**Pastor, Fountain Chapel AME Church
Vice President, Inter-Civic Council**

VOTE FOR K. S. DUPONT
For City Commissioner of Tallahassee

Dupont Received 25% of 9,578 votes

25. Candidate, Tallahassee City Com., 1963

Samuel F. Howell



(Tallahassee Democrat, February 1963)

**Insurance Businessman
Member, Inter-Civic Council**

***Howell won 11% of 6,979 total votes
-- came in second in three-man race***

26. Candidate, Edwin F. Norwood, Sr., 1969



Professor, FAMU

**First to reach a *run-off*;
Received 48% of final vote**

*Vote For Greater Unity
In Tallahassee*

ELECT

Edwin F. Norwood

City Commissioner

Feb. 18

"It's Time To Be Fair"

Pd. Pol. Adv.

**27. First African-American *ELECTED*
to Tallahassee City Commission, 20th Century**

James R. Ford, 1971



Democrat photo by Earl Warren

James Ford, left, Loring Lovell Win City Commission Seats
depose veteran incumbents in tight vote upset

**Ford Will Go in as First
Black City Commissioner**

(Tallahassee Democrat, 1971)

10,516 votes cast – Ford received 5,655 (53.8%)

**Tallahassee City Commission, 1971-1984
City Mayor, 1972-73**

28. Tallahassee City Commission, 1984-2016

Dot Inman-Johnson--

**FIRST and ONLY African-American Female
EVER on the Tallahassee City Commission**



(Tallahassee Democrat, 1986)

**City Commission, 1984-94
City Mayor, 1989**

City Commission, 1984-2018

<u>Name</u>	<u>Years in Office</u>
Jack McLean	1984–1992; Mayor, 1988
Dot Inman-Johnson	1984--1994; Mayor, 1989
Ron Weaver	1994 – 1998
Charles Billings	1998 – 2002 (died in office)
John Marks	Mayor, 2003 – 2014
Andrew Gillum	2003; Mayor 2014 – 2018
Curtis Richardson	2014 – Present
Elaine Bryant (appt'd)	2018 --Present
Diane Williams-Cox	2018 – Present

29. City Officials, 1997-2018

Anita Favors-Thompson



www.talgov.com

City Mgr., 1997-2015

Walt McNeil



www.flsheriffs.org/sheriffs/bio/leon-county

Chief of Police, 1997-2007

**Sheriff, Leon County,
2016 –Present**

Cassandra Jackson

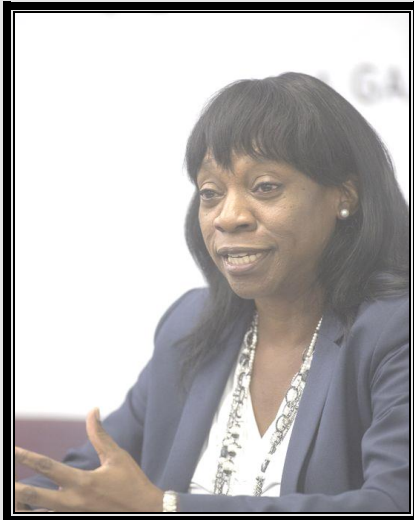


City Attorney, 2018--present

30. Leon County Commission, 1986-2012

<i>Commissioner</i>	<i>Elected</i>
Henry Lewis	1986
Anita Davis –<i>FIRST & ONLY black female</i>	1989
Rudy Maloy	1992
Bill Proctor	1996
Akin Akinyemi	2008
Nick Maddox	2012

Doris Maloy, Tax Collector



(Alvin McBean, *Tallahassee Democrat*)

Akin Akinyemi, Prop. App.



(Faith Ministries, Facebook)

Gwen Marshal, Clerk of Court



(web.clerk.leon.fl.us/public/index.html)

31. Leon County School Board, 1975-2018

<i>Member</i>	<i>Years in Office</i>
Doris Alston (FIRST apptd)	1975 – 1978
Curtis Richardson (FIRST elected)	1990 – 1996
Maggie Lewis-Butler	1996 – 2018
Georgia M. “Joy” Bowen	1998 – Present
Darryl Jones	2018 -- Present

Leon County Judges

Nikki Clark, 2009-2015

Judith Hawkins, 1996-2014

Augustus D. Aikens, Jr., 1998—present

Nina Ashenafi Richardson, 2008--present

Florida State Legislature

<i>House</i>	<i>Elected</i>	<i>Senate</i>	<i>Elected</i>
Al Lawson	1982	Al Lawson	2000
Curtis Richardson	2000		
Alan Williams	2008		
Ramon Alexander	2016		

32. U. S. Congress

Alfred (Al) Lawson
U. S. Congress, 5th District, 2016--Present



Distinguished African-American, Leon Co. :

- ***FIRST to be elected to Florida House of Representatives since 1886***
- ***THIRD elected to BOTH the Florida House & Senate***
- ***FIRST ever elected to the U. S. Congress***
- ***FIRST ever to serve in the Florida House, Senate, & U. S. Congress***
