Black History Month Festival
February 26, 2017

FORGOTTEN IMAGES OF ARLINGTON’S AFRICAN-AMERICAN PAST

Mark Dellenbaugh, Local History & Genealogy Librarian
Master of Library and Information Science
Master of Arts in History
Black History Month Festival
February 26, 2017

“Presenting for the first time anywhere*, a preview of newly digitized archival images from the Fielder House Museum that highlights contributions of African Americans to Arlington’s rich history!

Created through a partnership between the public, Arlington Historical Society and the Arlington Public Library, this collection seeks to make these rare images available to school children, citizens, and scholars alike, 24/7 on any internet-capable device!”
From a historian’s perspective, Arlington is odd!
With Arlington’s population in 2015 set as a baseline at 100%,
in 1980 it was only 41%,
in 1960 only 12%
and just 85 years earlier in 1930, it was less than 1% !!
This is critical to notice: the historical fact of Arlington’s explosive population growth, means we have the historical records and resources of a much smaller place!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Census</th>
<th>Pop.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1880</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1890</td>
<td>664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>1,079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>1,794</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>3,031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>3,661</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>4,240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>7,692</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>44,775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>90,643</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>160,113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>261,721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>332,969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>365,438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Est. 2015</td>
<td>388,125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
That’s why we need to make the most of what we do have, while actively searching for and soliciting for more.
And the **African-American** population was smaller still…

United States Census, 1940
1-20 of 4,242 results for Residence: State:, Texas, County:, Tarrant, City, Town, or Enumeration District:, Arlington

United States Census, 1940
1-20 of 347 results for Residence: State:, Texas, County:, Tarrant, City, Town, or Enumeration District:, Arlington, Race:, Black

United States Census, 1920
1-75 of 3,031 results for Event: Residence, Place: Arlington, Tarrant, Texas, USA

United States Census, 1920
1-75 of 220 results for Race:, Black, Event: Residence, Place: Arlington, Tarrant, Texas, USA
Really just a handful of extended families:

Pointer, Ish, Ditto, Gibbons, Childs, Taylor, Johnson, etc.
Not many images survived from the early days:

Cameras and developing film were luxuries beyond most peoples reach at that time.

Picture taking was simply not an everyday (or every waking hour!) activity!

These factors are true, regardless of race or ethnicity!
Again,
that’s why we need to make the most of what we do have, while actively searching for and soliciting for more!
Experiences – Strategic Plan

**Discovering Arlington** — Connect the pieces of Arlington’s history and diversity into a vibrant picture that establishes Arlington as a unique place in North Texas

- Arlington Historical Society Collection Development Project
- Look, Listen, Learn Program Development

**EDUCATION** × **EXPERIENCES** = **EMPOWERMENT**
FIRST YEAR GOALS FOR POSITION:

1) Reinvigorate Relationships with Key Partners

2) Relaunch Genealogy Programming

3) Renew Focus on the Genealogy Collection

4) Reimagine Digital Access to Local History Images
   ≈1,000 images of Arlington’s history, searchable 24/7 on any device
   That’s a great goal!

But where do I get the images?
Families and Community Groups (such as churches or clubs) donate or provide temporary access to their historical images and documents they want preserved and shared.
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Fielder House Museum (AHS)

Supplies historical context. Archives copies or original items. Creates in-house displays & exhibits for visitors & students.
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A YEAR LATER, WE HAVE OUR FIRST 1000 IMAGES ONLINE!
STARTING WITH IMAGES SCANNED BY FIELDER HOUSE VOLUNTEERS

For now, they are safe, secure, and searchable 24/7 in our library catalog.

Later we want to put them in an app or pinboard format. Something made for pictures!


TinyURL.com/APL-AHS-2016
Berachah Industrial Home for Redemption of Erring Girls
Arlington, Texas
Summary: The Liberty Bell, touring the nation by rail for the last time, visits Arlington in 1915. A large crowd surrounds turns out for the spectacle. The picture was taken from a vantage point just south of the train tracks.
Half Way Between One-Half Million People

CITY OF ARLINGTON

Beautiful Meadowbrook Park

Superb 9-Hole Golf Course

Students from more than 50,000 families can attend N. T. A. C.

and live at home

Eastern Star Home of Texas

Home for Aged Masons of Texas

Fine Schools, Churches, and Other Social Organizations

Approximately one-tenth of all the young people of college age in Texas

reside within fifty miles of Arlington.

For Information Write

W. F. Altman, Mayor

Benton Collins, City Sec’y.
Goat Cart Ride at Six Flags 1961
Pretty cool stuff!

TinyURL.com/APL-AHS-2016

But not a lot of *diversity* so far...
THERE’S SOME...

African-American child inside the Rogers-McKnight Store

East Main at Mesquite around 1902 - 03
Troy "Nub" Johnson
WW II
Allen Pointer - 1940s
Betty Johnson Hogg - 1950s
Mayor Tom Vandergriff and Ruffin Pointer, Sr. - 1970s
Before APL adds any more pre-scanned AHS images to our collection, we are backing up to digitize the images that were missed (forgotten)!
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APL
Loan Agreement

The items listed on the reverse side of this document have been lent to the Arlington Historical Society for exhibit. The Society agrees to use every reasonable care to keep it in the condition described on the reverse. In the event of loss or damage, the owner may seek a reasonable amount, as determined by a competent appraiser, on the basis of real value, not on sentimental value. No compensation will be given.

I, the undersigned agree to the terms stated above.

Name: Mary Thomas
Address: 524 N. J.
Exhibit date: June 27
Transportation by: D. R.
Signed: 
Date: 

Received by: D. R.

Name: Jessie Dotto
Address: 501 Fuller Apt. 12
Exhibit date: June 27
Transportation by: D. R.
Signed: 
Date: 

Received by: D. R.
BLACK HISTORY EXHIBIT 1998

THIS EXHIBIT IS DEDICATED TO THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE, SO THAT WE WHO LIVE IN THE PRESENT MAY CELEBRATE THE PAST AND MOVE FORWARD TOGETHER INTO THE FUTURE.

ONE CASE IN THIS EXHIBIT IS FOR LOCAL HISTORY. THESE PHOTOGRAPHS AND ARTIFACTS REPRESENT AND HONOR THOSE WHO LIVED IN “the pasture” OR ON “THE HILL”, THE UNIQUE AREA THAT WAS THE HEART OF OUR BLACK COMMUNITY. THAT HEART IS STILL BEATING IN MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH; AND IN THE HEARTS AND MEMORIES OF THE FAMILIES THAT STILL CALL THIS HOME.

Please come enjoy the exhibit/tell us what you think/join with us to make Arlington’s history complete.

Thank you,

Geraldine Nash Mills
President of the Arlington Historical Society
August 14, 1998

Dear Friend,

On Monday, August 31, the Fielder Museum will conclude its Black History exhibit. This exhibit is the first of its kind held at the Fielder House; and it has been a wonderful opportunity to show some of the black history of Arlington. If you have not visited the museum, we would encourage you to come see the exhibit.

As part of the closing activities, the Arlington Historical Society would like to personally invited you to attend the "Black Genealogy: How to Trace Your Family Tree" seminar at the Fielder House, 1616 Abram Street at 7 p.m. Our speaker will be Gayle W. Hanson noted historian and genealogist. Participants will have the opportunity to fill in their pedigree or ancestor charts, and how and where to find the records will be discussed.

Seating is limited, so please RSVP as soon as possible.

It is our hope that each year this exhibit will expand and reflect a different era of Black History. We welcome artifacts and memorabilia which will help increase our Black History collection.

For additional information, please call the Fielder House at (817) 460-4001.

Sincerely,

Geraldine Mills, President
Arlington Historical Society
The Fielder House Museum has built on that groundbreaking 1998 exhibit.
"There were blacks in Arlington before there was an Arlington - the first may have been the slaves brought by Col. Middleton Tate Johnson."

The Hill's roots began after the Civil War, when African-Americans in Arlington moved to the six-block area to get away from their former slave owners.

These persons represent and honor all those who lived in "The Pasture" or on "The Hill". These were early references to the unique area that was Arlington's black community until fairly recent history.

(1982) Tract 222 - a predominately black neighborhood in central Arlington just north of downtown received its name from the U.S. Census Bureau designation. It is bounded by Sanford, Cooper, Division and West streets.
THE ARLING T, TEXAS LANDMARK PRESERVATION COMMISSION AND THE EMMANUEL CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

“The Hill” in Arlington, Texas
They’ve also made a concerted effort to blend the new images into the standard exhibit cases. This is one on 1940’s fashion!
This is a collage of members of the armed forces in WW II from Arlington...
We will be taking the same both/and approach digitally.
Here’s a sneak preview of some fascinating images and documents we’ll be adding over the coming year discovered as I was taking inventory of FHM holdings!
Willi Stricklin – WW I soldier from Arlington
Mount Olive Christmas Party late 1940’s
Backrow l-r Velma Cooper, Thelma Walker, Edith Reed, Lou Henry Taylor, Victoria Rose, Jessie Mae Ditto
Frontrow l-r Gussie Mae Gilmore, Sister Brown, Rev. Brown, Elisabeth O’Neal, Frances Psalms, Oneta Johnson, Blanche Purvis, Mattie Rea Hickey
The City of Arlington

Arlington, Texas

Pay to the order of Arthur Manning Col. $15.00

In full payment of account as shown on statement within

To First State Bank

The City of Arlington

T. F. Gatlin

City Secretary

ARLINGTON CITY WATER WORKS

To be paid out of the fund

Void if detached

The endorsement of this voucher is sufficient acknowledgment of the payment of bill No. 86

Arthur Manning
Gladys Akes
Ayles
Mrs. Emzy Akes

Gladys Akes 65
Ayles 7
THE SIXTH-SEVENTH and EIGHTH GRADE

WRITING CLASSES

of

Booker T. Washington School
Arlington, Texas

PRESIDENT

"THE HAUNTED TEA ROOM"

A 'Teen Age Comedy
in Three Acts

June 1, 1955
School Auditorium
7:30 P.M.

Admission 15¢

THE HAUNTED TEA ROOM

Characters

Linda Berry ................ Mary E. Marshall
Lottie Berry ............... Laverne Willis
Ann Smith ................. Rossie Jean Hunt
Horace Witherspoon ...... James Wilbun
Claire Landon ............. Janice Willis
Josephine Boggs .......... Doris Jane Tyler
Geraldine Fenwick ........ Earlie Man McGriff
Jessie Jones .............. Jessie Lee Pointer
Snoopy Crane .............. Virginia Perry

Jo Ann Dean
Lelia Ruth White

Scene: The Willowmere Tea Room

Time: Act I. 7 p.m.

Act II. 9 p.m.

Act III. Midnight

Guest Soloist
Bobbie Lee Foley
PLAY DIRECTORS

Jo Ann Hogg
Virisia Perry

STAGE MANAGERS

Betty Joyce Johnson
Johnny Mae Money
Willie Stafford

COSTUME DESIGNERS

Alma Dean Taylor
Ruby Darlean Wren

LIGHTNING-THUNDER and RAIN EFFECTS

Bennie McGriff
Robert Taylor

SPONSOR

Mrs. Marguerite J. Johnson

STORY OF THE PLAY

The Willowmere Tea Room and Inn has a reputation of harboring a ghost who walks at midnight. Storm bound at the Inn the day of our play, several youngsters set about to solve the mystery, and what a night of it they do have!!!

The villain in the piece is the last person you'd suspect - but that's the way with mystery plots!! All's well that ends well, and, with the closing of the final curtain, it's dollars to doughnuts that everyone, cast and audience, has had a grand good time!!
The Olivers
1920s
Eliza Griffin Johnson on Sanford St.

Eliza Griffin Johnson

c. 1940's
Elizabeth Butler O’Neal
Emily Johnson Butler
Lou Henry Taylor was a pioneer business woman in The Hill. She opened a small grocery store on Taylor Street in 1946 and eventually moved her enterprise to the corner of Indiana and Houston Streets about 1957. There she developed a side-by-side grocery and lounge known as Lou’s Blue Lounge or The Blue Magic Club. The building stands today, across from the Church of God in Christ on Indiana Street.
Massie Oliver
Allen Pointer owned and operated a Domino Parlor in The Hill. He and his wife Trular had nine children: Jessie, Vernice, Clyde, Ruffin, Virgil, Wilbert, Nell, Eulysee and Robbie.
State of Texas
Parker County

Marriage License

GREETING:

You are hereby authorized to solemnize the
rites of matrimony
between

Mr. Calypso Hunter
and
Mrs. Deloma Heap
and

make due return to the Clerk of the County Court of said county within six days thereafter certifying
your action under this license.

Witness my official signature and seal of office

Orrville Milburn

Parker County, Texas

Married on May 15, 1950

Orrville Milburn

County Clerk

Parker County, Texas
In Loving Memory
Mr. Willie Hugh Walker

MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH
Arlington, Texas
Pastor N. L. Robinson

Services
Monday, December 31, 1990
11:00 A.M.

OFFICIATING

"I will not leave you, orphaned; I will come to you, now and the world will see me no more, but you will see me; and you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me." 

Memorial Services
For
Mrs. Mae Merle Taylor

Sunrise July 6, 1915
Sunset April 23, 1984

A Service of Memory
Celebrating the Life of
Mrs. Ollie V. Smothers

SERVICE
THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 1986
11:00 A.M.

St. John Baptist Church
1701 W. Jefferson • Grand Prairie, Texas
Reverend Donny Davis, Servant
OFFICIANT

Memorial Services –
Mount Olive Baptist Church
N. West Street
Arlington, Texas

Friday, April 27, 1984
1:00 O’Clock PM

Reverend N.L. Robinson (Pastor)
Mount Olive Baptist Church
Officiating
The Beaus:
[back, from left] JoVaughn Ewing (SHHS), Andrew Mackey (Bowie), Steve Lorio (LHS), Jay Gilliam (MHS), Bruce Busby (Collyville), Korey Wright (LHS), Justin Rogers (Bowie), Cory Fittsgill (Bowie), Craig Stewart (Ambassadors of Christ),
[middle] Marcus Burnett (LHS), Randy Duglas (SHHS), Benedict Parsons (Bowie),
[front, standing] Ezra Jones (Bowie), Ian Gaines (Denton), Amaziah Thompkins (Bowie), Chris Hardy (LHS) and
[front, kneeling] Lyndell Newman (LHS).
+ [NOTE: these are either called the "Divas" or the "Belles"... On the tape, I heard BOTH names attributed to these ladies.]
[back, from left] Trezlyn Williams (MHS), Danielle McClain (BHS), Courtney Barksdale (LHS), Cindy Quandt (AHS), Carmen Jones (Denton), Cherry Jackson (LHS), Shonda Harris (SHHS), Mariah Owens (SHHS), Brittany Busby (Collyville),
[middle] Stephanie Richards (Bowie), Courtney Holman (MHS), Codie Brooks (Trinity Valley), Morgan Mosley (LHS), Crystal Johnson (Carroll), Melissa Felix (AHS),
[front] Jessica Pittsgill (Bowie), Michelle Davis (LHS)
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Questions??