



ZELLA MAE WHALEY WARREN

**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

Zella Mae Whaley Warren was born in Ruddles Mill, Bourbon County around 1887. She was the daughter of George Spencer Whaley and Mary Whaley. She married Elias T. Warren, Sr. and they had a son Elias T. Warren, Jr. Their son was born around 1908 which also seems to be when they were married. Zella does not appear in the 1910 census and Elias and his father are shown as living with his father's mother and stepfather on 7th Street. Elias Senior died in 1914 leaving a six year old Elias living with his paternal grandparents. Elias Junior eventually moved to Ohio where he remained until his death in 1991.



MINERVA BEDFORD

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Minerva Bedford was born in 1886 in Ruckerville, Bourbon County to Alfred and Bettie Beford. Her father had served in the U.S. Colored Heavy Artillery and Colored Infantry during the final months of the Civil War. She was attending Berea College and studying to become a teacher in 1904 when the Day Law was enacted, forbidding integrated education. While she did not graduate from Berea, they awarded her a teaching certificate. She began teaching in Paris at Paris Western High School, eventually retiring in 1958 at age 72, just a few years before schools were integrated in Bourbon County. She would live another 40 years and passed away at age 112 in 1998. Though she never married, she did adopt a daughter, Irene Fisher.



**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

TOM CROOKS

Thomas Didymus Crooks known as Tom Crooks was born in Bunker Hill, a "Colored" settlement in Mount Sterling, Kentucky in 1887. He was the oldest son of Lucy Hughes Crooks and Sam Crooks. He was a "mountain of a man standing well over 6'5". He and his brothers would become well known as the fastest tobacco men in the area. As a teenager, Tom witnessed the hanging body of a Black man on the courthouse gates (which have since been removed). Tom moved to Bourbon County in the early 20th century where he married Clyde Denny Carr of Flat Rock, Kentucky also known as Little Rock. Clyde was the daughter of Alec and Lillian Carr. She was the sister of the Carr brothers who owned the Hilltop Restaurant. She died in 1933 during childbirth while being affected by rheumatic fever. They had three children: Ernestine Kizzar Crooks (Allen) (pictured above), Virginia Maxine Crooks, and Roger Thomas Crooks. Tom and his second wife, Jo Etta Barton became the largest African-American landowners in the city of Paris. They owned property on 7th, 8th, West (now known as Horton Drive), Gano Streets and Singers Alley. In the 1950s some of their property on West Street was purchased through eminent domain to build federal housing for black people (housing was segregated during that time). (Information provided by Mrs. Anna Allen-Edwards).



DONNA HAZZARD

**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

A graduate of Paris High School, Donna Hazzard was the first woman from Bourbon County to attend the U.S. Naval Academy. She was also in only the 3rd class of women accepted to the Academy. She attended from 1978-1982 and graduated as an officer. Her mother, Nanna, was a teacher and together with her daughter they integrated Southside Elementary in Paris as teacher and student.



MARY E. KELLIS



Mary Kellis was born in Paris around 1900. She received a college education and went on to serve as a teacher and later principal of Paris Western High School in the 1940s and early 1950s. Her sister Mattie was also a teacher in Paris. In the 1940 census she is listed as owning her own home at 613 Williams Street where her older siblings lived with her.

During WWII she helped organize civilian war efforts through Paris Western. The photo above is from the 1951 Paris Western yearbook, which was dedicated to her. After Brown vs. Board led the way for school integration across the country in 1954, Kellis was named secretary to the integration committee tasked with developing a plan to desegregate Paris city schools. Kellis died in 1956, seven years before desegregation began in Paris city schools.



JAMES C. LETTON

**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

James C. Letton was born in Paris, Kentucky in 1933. A 1955 graduate of Kentucky State University he earned his PhD from the University of Illinois in 1970. He would return to Kentucky State and eventually chair the Chemistry Department. Later, Letton would work for Proctor & Gamble as an organic chemist. He is credited with 20 patents and was widely known in the 1990s while working on the fat substitute, Olestra.

(Information from the Notable Kentucky African Americans database)



BILL BROWN

**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

Bill Brown worked in Paris as a barber at different shops throughout his lifetime. He was born in 1887 to James Brown and Nancy Simpson in Clintonville. At the time of his death in 1954 he was living at west 8th Street. Barbering seems to have been Brown's lifelong occupation as he was working as one by 1910 and maintained that career until his death. Bill Brown also worked for Walter(Walker) Dimmitt around 1920. Dimmitt owned his own barbershop in Paris. We do not know how long he worked for Dimmitt, but his 1942 WWII draft registration card shows that he was working in a barbershop owned by Ed Hitch. Hitch owned his barbershop for over 50 years.



PHYLLIS WHEATLEY CLUB - PARIS, 2008

PHYLLIS WHEATLEY CLUB

**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

The first Phyllis Wheatley Club was established in 1895 in Nashville. These clubs were named for Phyllis Wheatley, the first African American author of a published book of poetry. The purposes of these clubs varied based on location, but most were involved in community & personal improvements in some way - from education, voting rights, literacy, and other forms of social reform.

The Paris chapter focused on education - including recruiting young Black women to attend Kentucky State University - Kentucky's only HBCU. The Paris chapter celebrated its centennial in 2010, they officially joined the Federation of African American Woman's Clubs in 1914. It is still an active chapter today. (Information provided by Mrs. Anna Allen-Edwards).

Kentucky Association of Colored Women

October 1st, 1955

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MRS. ETHEL WRIGHT
621 Ohio St., Paducah

First Vice President
MRS. ALICE HILLMAN
Route 3, Paris

Second Vice President
MRS. JULIA A. COLERANE
2 N. Burns Ave., Winchester

Recording Secretary
MRS. VICTORIA HASLERIG
414 S. 22nd St., Middlesboro

Assistant Secretary
MRS. CORRYE MASON
1024 E. 4th St., Hopkinsville

Corresponding Secretary
MRS. QUEEN E. SULLENGER
730 Hathaway St., Owensboro

Treasurer
MRS. THELMA LOCKHART
2208 W. Madison St., Louisville

Chairman, Executive Board
MRS. ADDIE M. THOMAS
646 S. 21st St., Louisville

State Organizer
MRS. MARY L. WORTHINGTON
221 S. 26th St., Middlesboro

Chairman, Ways and Means
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127 E. Walnut St., Danville

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Box 35, Harrodsburg

Statistician
MRS. MYRNA HALL
Route 9, Frankfort

Parliamentarian
MRS. ELIZABETH THOMAS
Paris

Editor and Business Manager
MRS. ROSA L. GREEN
900 Hall St., Owensboro

Chairman, Scholarship Loan
MRS. MISSOURI Q. BLUSTER
26 Lincoln St., Winchester

Secretary, Scholarship Loan
MRS. ESSIE B. J. CARTER
220 W. Walnut St., Danville

Treasurer, Scholarship Loan
MISS ALBERTA E. BARRY
2503 W. Chestnut, Louisville

Mrs. Alice Hillman
Dear Co-Worker,

I hope you spent a pleasant vacation and hope you are well, and now we approach the Fall Season looking forward to our coming meeting in Elizabeth Town Ky. We are thankful to our Heavenly Father for his loving kindness and care to us during the year. We appreciate your cooperation and hope you have done your best to help make this year our "Banner" year and also hope you have done something special for our Scholarship Department as well as what you have done for other Dept's. and may God bless you as we look forward to our meeting next month.

"God's For Lifting as We Climb"
Your President,

Ethel E. Wright

Teacher, civic leader Alice Hillman dies

By Jennifer Hewlett
Herald-Leader staff writer

Alice Louise Hillman, a retired Bourbon County teacher and civic leader, died Wednesday at Bourbon General Hospital after a long illness. Mrs. Hillman, of the Little Rock community in Bourbon County, was 85.

She was a former president and vice president of the Kentucky Association of Colored Women's Clubs. At the time of her death, she was the secretary-treasurer of the scholarship loan fund of the Kentucky Association of Colored Women's Clubs. She also was a member of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs.

Mrs. Hillman was also a former president of the Phyllis Wheatley Charity Club in Paris.

At the time of her death, she was a member of the board of Community Action Lexington-Fayette County, which serves Bourbon, Nicholas and Harrison counties, as well as Fayette County.

A member of Fairview Christian Church, she had taught adult Sunday school classes, was a choir member, and had served on several committees at the church. She also was active in the Christian Women's Fellowship.

Mrs. Hillman, who began her teaching career at the age of 15, had taught at Clintonville and North Middletown schools in Bourbon County for about 21 years until her retirement. She also had taught at schools in Madison County, Lexington and Columbia, Tenn.

"I loved her dearly," said Helen Turner of Paris, a longtime friend. "Whatever she did, she did well. . . . She often referred to herself as a



Alice Hillman

natural-born, called-out teacher.

"She was just someone that I looked up to. . . . I just think she was a real Christian lady and a true friend. . . . True friends are hard to find."

Mrs. Hillman was a graduate of what is now Kentucky State University and a member of the Paris Chapter of the Kentucky State University Alumni Association.

She was the widow of Robert Hillman.

Surviving are three sisters, Paige Battle and Rachel Hall, both of Columbia, Tenn., and Sarah Moore of Nashville; a brother, James Monroe Stephenson of Columbia, Tenn.; and a number of nieces and nephews.

Martyn-Hurley Funeral Home in Paris is in charge of arrangements, which were incomplete last night.

ALICE HILLMAN

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Born in Tennessee in 1896, Alice Hillman eventually moved to Bourbon County where she was a teacher for more than 20 years in North Middletown and Clintonville. Hillman was heavily involved in the Kentucky Association of Colored Women's Clubs, including serving as vice-president and president. At the time of her death in 1986 she was serving as the secretary-treasurer of the scholarship loan fund. She was also president of the Bourbon County chapter of the Phyllis Wheatley Club. Later presidents of the club included Mrs. Elizabeth P. Thomas, Mrs. Helen P. Turner, Mrs. Ernestine C. Allen, and Mrs. Anna Allen-Edwards (these names provided by Mrs. Anna Allen-Edwards).

KINNEY BRO'S.
HIGH CLASS CIGARETTES.
MONTROSE, WINNER OF
THE KENTUCKY DERBY 1887.
RIDER-ISAAC LEWIS.

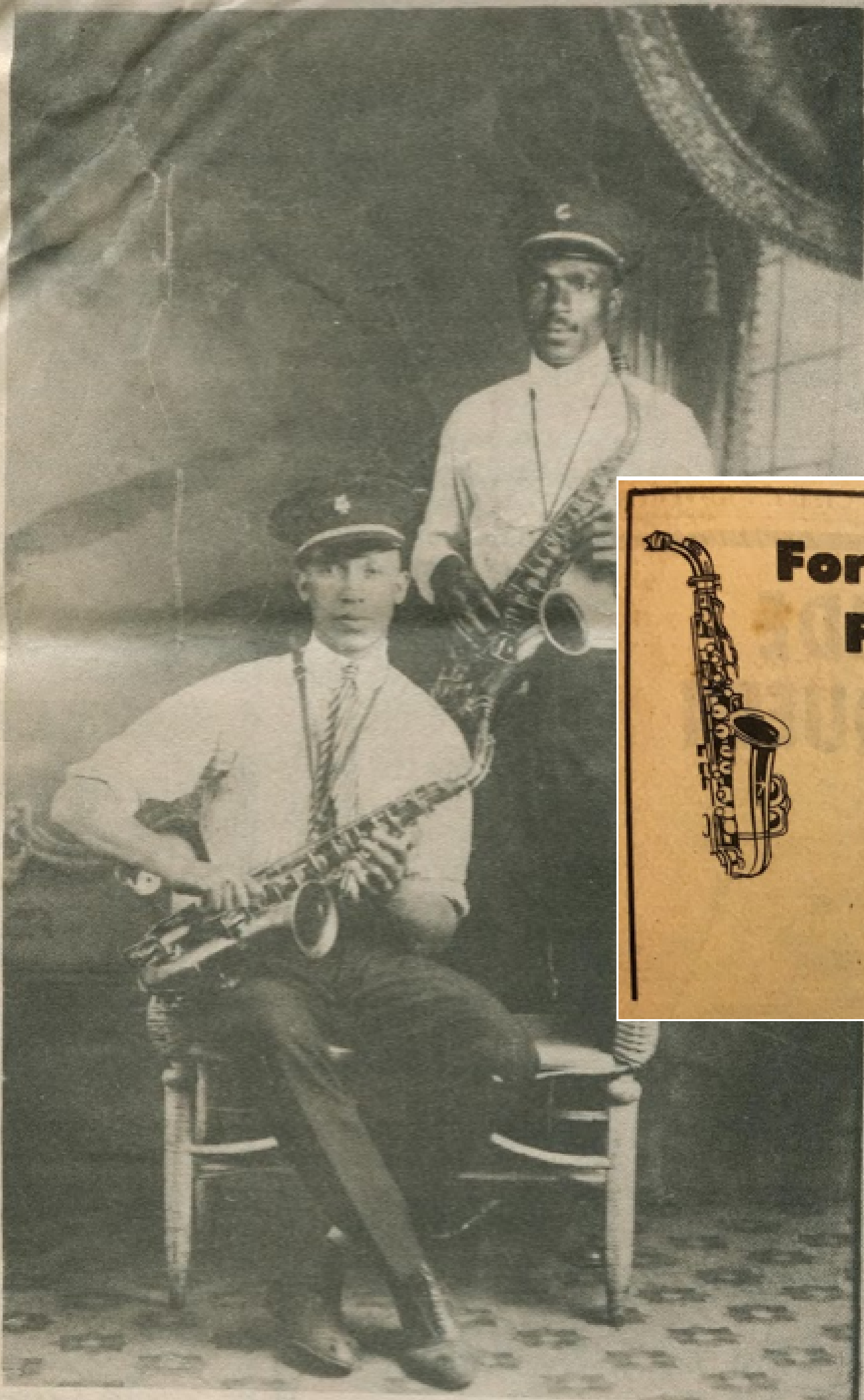


ISAAC LEWIS

**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

Isaac Lewis was born in Hutchinson Station, Bourbon County in 1867. He and his brother Garrett Davis Lewis both worked as jockeys. Isaac rode Montrose to win the 1887 Kentucky Derby. He would later work as a groom at the Harlem Jockey Club in Illinois and was managing a Turkish bath in Chicago in 1910. He died in 1919.

[Image from the Library of Congress]



Maceo Bishop, whose recollections about the dance bands of the Twenties made the accompanying piece possible, is shown seated above with the sax he played at many dances in and around Paris. Standing is another accomplished saxaphonist of the era, George Lewis. Both men were much in demand in the heyday of jazz music in these parts.



CHARLES MACEO BISHOP

**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

Bishop was born around 1897 and was a well-known musician around Paris, especially during the 1920s and 30s. He played many a local dance, especially during the heyday of Jazz in the area. He was an organist at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Paris for 67 years, only retiring in 1984. He played saxophone, piano, and drums and learned to play while a student at Western High School. He also taught music while a student. Bishop was married to Daisy Hitch in 1919. They lived in Newtown, a Black community in Bourbon County. They both passed in 1990 and were married for 70 years. (Images from the Bourbon County Citizen and provided to us by Tessa Bishop Hoggard).

**STILL LOOKING
FOR AN OUTSTANDING
NEW YEARS
RESOLUTION?**

**REGISTER
&
VOTE**




**George W. Wilson
Secretary of State**

by George, Just Do It!

Paid for by the Committee to Elect George W. Wilson to Secretary of State of Kentucky

Win With Wilson

**GREAT MOMENTS IN THE
HISTORY OF GEORGES**

George Washington	George Foreman	George W. Wilson
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The First American President **The Oldest Heavyweight Boxing Champ** **The First for Kentucky Secretary of State**

vote



**George W. Wilson
Secretary of State**

by George, Just Do It!

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Win With Wilson

GEORGE WILSON

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

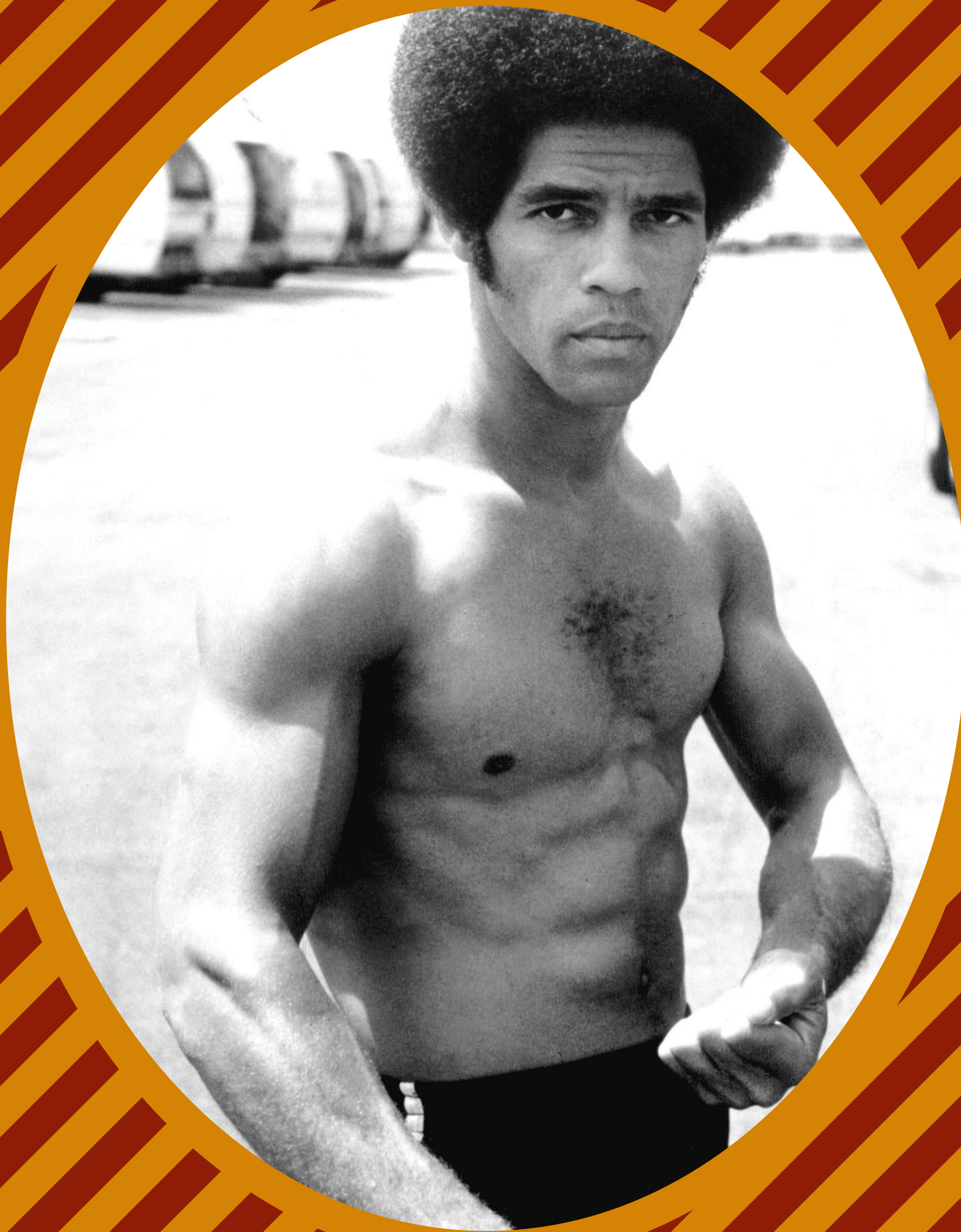
“Win With Wilson” - A Paris native, George W. Wilson was the first African-American to serve in a gubernatorial cabinet when Governor John Y. Brown, Jr. appointed him the secretary of the Department of Corrections in 1981. He held that position for 8 years at a time where he said “no black had ever exercised power in the state”. During this time he was one of state government’s most visible executives. He would later serve in the same position in Ohio before returning to Kentucky. After his return he ran for Kentucky’s Secretary of State in the 1995 primary where he ultimately lost to John Y. Brown III.



MANES HAZZARD

**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

Manes Hazzard was born in Tennessee in 1933. He worked for the Ford Motor Company in Detroit before and while on break from attending Kentucky State University. His time there was interrupted by service in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He would return and finish his degree where he would meet alumnus Nana Crumbie. They married and he began work at IBM in Lexington and he would eventually retire from there after 27 years. Hazzard was active in the Paris community at St. Paul's Methodist Church.



JIM KELLY



Jim Kelly was born in Millersburg, Bourbon County in 1946. He attended Bourbon County High School where he played a variety of sports. He eventually found martial arts, training in the in Lexington. During the 1970s he became one of the most decorated in the sport. Kelly is known as the first Black martial arts film star, with his most famous role as co-star in Bruce Lee's *Enter the Dragon* from 1973. Kelly stood out as the only prominent Black martial artist during a period when most Black fighters were boxers. He largely retired from film in 1982. He operated his own dojo in California for many years. He passed away in 2013.



DR. JAMES COMBS ALLEN

**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

Dr. James "Jim" Combs Allen was born to William Sterling and Anna Rebecca Jackson Allen in Currentsville and attended the primary "Colored" school helped founded by his grandfather, Israel Jackson. He later attended Western High School where he was a member of the 1950 basketball team that held the distinction of being the tallest basketball team in the nation. All the members stood over 6 feet tall.

Jim reached the height of 6'9". After graduation Jim went to the renowned Tuskegee Institute where he majored in veterinary medicine.

Bourbon county did not have any use for an African American veterinarian so he set out for California with his wife Madelyn, the daughter of the Vice-President of Meharry Medical School. They stopped in Scottsville, KY, to interview for a job to work on large animals. Although they were not keen on his being black when they saw his skills and looked at his stature they offered him the position. He would go on to own and establish the first African American owned veterinary practice in the state of Kentucky. He died in 1996.

(Information credit: Mrs. Anna Allen-Edwards)



PARIS WESTERN



Organized in the 1870s, Paris Western was the city colored school for more than 80 years. The Western High School opened by 1888 as more and more Black students enrolled in school. The Western School served all grades until 1963 when the high school was desegregated. All city schools were desegregated by 1970. The building was eventually torn down in the 1970s.

Paris Western served as a focal point of the community with a record of excellence in academics and sports. Their colors were blue and white and they were the Western Tigers. They gained national attention when the basketball team won the 22nd National Basketball Tournament for Black High Schools in 1953 led by William Reed. Reed would also serve as the school's last principal.