Teaching Resources:  
**Key Arkansans in the Civil Rights Movement**  
in the CALS Encyclopedia of Arkansas

Act 561 calls for teachers to create lesson plans with information on “Key Arkansans in Civil Rights Movement.”

With over 5,000 fact-checked entries, the online Encyclopedia of Arkansas (EOA) by the Central Arkansas Library System is a teacher’s first-stop for background information on all topics in Arkansas history and culture.

To find online resources for Act 561, the best place to begin is with the overview entry, Civil Rights and Social Change, summarizing civil rights history in Arkansas from the end of the Civil War to the present. This one article includes over 30 media images, along with links to 130 related articles about persons, groups, places, events, laws, and landmark court cases named in the entry.

In addition, there are currently more than 400 other entries in the EOA under the category heading of Civil Rights and Social Change, and these are further indexed by sub-categories of issues:

- Civil Rights and Social Change
  - Disability
  - Gender and Sexuality
    - Sexual Orientation
    - Women [includes women’s suffrage movement and first women in political office]
  - Poverty [includes historical efforts by farmer and labor movements for fair prices, wages, etc.]
  - Race
    - African American
    - Asian American
    - Hispanic or Latin American
    - Native American
    - White
  - School Desegregation

*Note: For selected entries from each of these sub-categories, along with entries giving historical background related to each topic, see the lists below the following search tips.*
Search Tips & Suggested Research Activities for Teachers and Students

Since more entries are added weekly, it’s good to know a few simple search tricks to find the latest available information, including entries that may be related to history near your own community and region of the state.

The SEARCH NOW button on the CALS EOA home page lets you type in your own search term (top line). Or you can choose terms from pull-down menus for Categories, Time Period, Type (event, group, person, place, thing), Race, Gender, and Media Gallery (audio, document, map, photo):

Suggested Classroom Research Activities for Students

1) **Search the Category of Civil Rights and Social Change by each Time Period.**
   As historians are quick to point out, the “civil rights movement” in America began well before and continues far beyond the single time period of the 1950s-60s that is usually thought of by students. Securing the promise in the Pledge of Allegiance—of “Liberty and Justice for All”—has been and is still an ongoing process in what French political theorist de Tocqueville once called “the great American experiment in Democracy."

2) **Search each sub-category in the pull-down menu for “Race”, including: African American, Asian American, Hispanic or Latin American, Native American, White:**
   The contributions to this struggle for equal rights and opportunity—in the written rule of law, in the courts, in the voting booth, in the workplace, and in daily life in America—comes from multiple racial and ethnic groups, working individually and in groups.

3) **Search each sub-category in the pull-down menu for “Civil Rights and Social Change” such as:**
   *Disability, Gender & Sexuality, Poverty, Women, etc.*
   Although the civil rights movement is often thought of in terms of the struggle to end discrimination based on race and ethnicity, it extends into issues of discrimination based on disability, poverty, gender, sexual orientation, and religious beliefs.

4) **Do a combined search of the Category (Civil Rights and Social Change) together with the Type (Thing)**
   The civil liberties promised to all Americans do not become established and protected rights of American citizens until they become part of the written rule of law—through acts (laws) passed by the legislative branch of government or through court rulings by the judicial branch interpreting those laws in terms of the Constitution.

   Note: Students, when you use this search, you can identify entries about specific laws by the word “Act” or “Law” (and sometimes “Amendment”) in the title. The entries about landmark court cases will have titles phrased “___ v. ___” (example: *Moore v. Dempsey*).
Selected EOA entries for use in teaching "Key Arkansans in Civil Rights Movement" (Act 561)

Compiled June 2019 / For more information, contact CALS Education Outreach Coordinator George West at gwest@cals.org

The following lists of articles from the CALS Encyclopedia of Arkansas show selected search results related to:

- Background History on Civil Rights Issues
- Key Arkansans in Civil Rights Movement
- Key Arkansas Organizations in Civil Rights Movement
- Key Arkansas Laws & Court Cases in Civil Rights Movement
- Key Events in Arkansas Civil Rights Movement

All lists are alphabetized, and the entries in the lists of Background History and Key Arkansans are grouped by civil rights issues. The list of Key Arkansans includes the first paragraph of the entry for quick identification.

**Background History on Civil Rights Issues** - search results for: Category (Civil Rights and Social Change).

*Civil Rights Movement—1950s-60s:*
- Civil Rights and Social Change
- Civil Rights Movement (20th Century)
- Jim Crow Laws
- Freedom Rides
- Sit-Ins

*School Desegregation:*
- Segregation and Desegregation
- Private School Movement
- White Flight

*Voting Rights:*
- Poll Tax
- Voting and Voting Rights

*Gender & Sexuality:*
- Women’s Suffrage Movement

*Religious Discrimination:*
- Anti-Catholicism
- Anti-Semitism

*Poverty (including Farmer & Labor Movements):*
- Homelessness
- Philanthropy
- Poorhouses (a.k.a. Poor Farms)
- Labor Movement
- Populist Movement

*Physical Disability:*
- Disability Issues
Key Arkansans in Civil Rights Movement

The following entries are selected search results for: Category (Civil Rights and Social Change) + Type (Person). The named individuals are grouped based on their work involving issues of: Community Activism, Disability, Gender and Sexuality (including Women’s Suffrage, First Women in Political Office), Poverty (including Farmer and Labor movements and Economic Opportunity), and School Desegregation. (Places of birth and/or residence, schooling, & work are shown.)

**Individuals involved in Community Activism:**

**Annie Mable McDaniel Abrams** – Little Rock, Pulaski County
Annie Mable McDaniel Abrams is a retired educator and a political, social, civic, and community activist in Little Rock.

**Maya Angelou** – Stamps, Lafayette County
Maya Angelou was an internationally renowned bestselling author, poet, actor, and performer, as well as a pioneering activist for the rights of African Americans and of women.

**Pickens W. Black Sr.** – Jackson County
Pickens W. Black Sr. was an entrepreneur, community developer, philanthropist, and advocate for the education of black children in Jackson County.

**Wiley Austin Branton Sr.** – Pine Bluff, Jefferson County
Wiley Austin Branton was a civil rights leader who helped desegregate the University of Arkansas School of Law and later filed suit against the Little Rock School Board in a case that went to the U.S. Supreme Court as *Cooper v. Aaron*.

**Evangeline Katherine Brown** – Desha County
Evangeline Katherine Johnson Brown was a longtime educator and activist in the Arkansas Delta who served as a plaintiff and witness in *Jeffers v. Clinton*, a lawsuit that helped create new majority black districts for the AR General Assembly.

**Leroy Eldridge Cleaver** – Wabbaseka, Jefferson County
Leroy Eldridge Cleaver was a leader of the Black Panther Party.

**Beulah Lee Sampson Flowers** Hempstead County
Beulah Lee Sampson Flowers was an African-American educator, community leader, political activist, and businesswoman who was also a mentor to Maya Angelou.

**Marlon DeWitt Green** – El Dorado, Union County
Marlon DeWitt Green broke the airline industry color barrier when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled Continental Airlines had to comply with anti-discrimination laws.

**William Henry Grey** – Helena, Phillips County
William Henry was a Republican member of the 1868 state constitutional convention and the Arkansas General Assembly, as well as serving as the Commissioner of Immigration and State Lands.

**George Williford Boyce Haley** – Pine Bluff, Jefferson County
George Williford Boyce Haley was a U.S. ambassador, politician, civil rights activist, attorney, and policy analyst.
Bill Hansen – Little Rock, Pulaski County
William (Bill) Hansen was the first director of the Arkansas Project of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). Hansen worked as a civil rights activist in Arkansas between 1962 and 1966.

George Edmund Haynes – Pine Bluff, Jefferson County
George Edmund Haynes, the first African American to earn a PhD from Columbia University, was a pioneering sociologist, a social worker, a policy expert, and cofounder of the National Urban League.

Theresa Hoover – Fayetteville, Washington County
Theresa Hoover worked for human rights and unity through the United Methodist Church for nearly fifty years.

George Howard Jr. – Pine Bluff, Jefferson County
George Howard Jr. was a trailblazing African-American attorney and judge in the second half of the twentieth century.

Bobby James Hutton – Jefferson County
Robert James (Bobby) Hutton was the first recruit of the Black Panther Party. He participated in the march on the California State Capitol in 1967, and his death in 1968 became a rallying cry for the Black Panther movement.

Gertrude Newsome Jackson – Marvell, Phillips County
Gertrude Newsome Jackson was a local activist in the Marvell (Phillips County) area who, along with her husband, Earlis, played a central role in the local civil rights movement.

Gertrude Hadley Jeannette – Little Rock, Pulaski County
Gertrude Hadley Jeannette was a playwright, producer, director, and actress with roles on Broadway.

Edith Irby Jones – Conway, Faulkner County
Edith Irby Jones was the first African American to attend and to graduate from the University of Arkansas Medical School, now the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS), in Little Rock (Pulaski County).

Scipio Africanus Jones – Tulip, Dallas County
Scipio Africanus Jones was a prominent Little Rock (Pulaski County) attorney and defended twelve men sentenced to death following the Elaine Massacre of 1919.

Lena Lowe Jordan – Little Rock, Pulaski County
Lena Lowe Jordan was an African-American registered nurse and hospital administrator who managed two institutions for African Americans in Little Rock.

John Gray Lucas – Pine Bluff, Jefferson County
John Gray Lucas was elected to the Arkansas House of Representatives in 1890. He delivered an address against a Jim Crow separate-coach bill in February 1891.

J.H. McConico – Little Rock, Pulaski County
John Hamilton McConico was an African-American educator, newspaper editor and publisher, businessman, national grand auditor for the Mosaic Templars of America, and a civil rights pioneer.
Robert “Say” McIntosh - Osceola, Mississippi County
Robert “Say” McIntosh is a restaurant owner, political activist, and community organizer distinctly tied to the Little Rock (Pulaski County) area and Arkansas politics.

Clifford E. Minton - Des Arc, Prairie County
Clifford E. Minton worked with the Urban League of Greater Little Rock (ULGLR), especially with gaining employment for African Americans during the buildup of defense facilities for World War II.

Oly Neal Jr. - Marianna, Lee County
Oly Neal Jr. headed up a community health clinic in Marianna (Lee County) in the 1970s, became the first black district prosecuting attorney in Arkansas, and served as a circuit court judge and on the Arkansas Court of Appeals.

William Pickens – Woodruff County
William Pickens became a nationally known orator, journalist National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) field secretary, and a contributing editor for the Associated Negro Press.

William LeVan Sherrill - Forrest City (St. Francis County)
William LeVan Sherrill was an executive member of Marcus Garvey’s Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA), and a staunch advocate of Pan Africanist thought.

Maudelle Shirek – Jefferson County
Maudelle Shirek was a longtime civic activist who won her first race for a seat on the Berkley, California, city council at the age of seventy-one, and retired at ninety-two as the oldest publicly elected official in the United States.

Ozell Sutton – Gould, Lincoln County
Ozell Sutton was involved in the 1957 Central High School desegregation crisis and the 1965 march at Selma, Alabama. He was with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. when King was murdered on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee in 1968.

George Edwin Taylor – Little Rock, Pulaski County
George Edwin Taylor was the first African-American standard-bearer of a national political party to run for the office of president of the United States.

Sue Bailey Thurman - Pine Bluff, Jefferson County
Sue Bailey Thurman was an author, lecturer, historian, editor and a pioneer in civil rights and equality long before the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s.

Hattie Rutherford Watson - Pine Bluff, Jefferson County
Harriet Louise Gertrude (Hattie) Rutherford Watson was an educator, librarian, and prominent member of the social and education communities in Pine Bluff (Jefferson County).

Samuel Woodrow Wilson (1912-1970)
Samuel Woodrow Williams was an African-American Baptist minister, college professor, and civil rights activist who had a major impact on race relations in the city of Atlanta, Georgia, from the mid-to-late 1950s until the 1970s.
**Individuals involved in Disability issues:**

**Robert Foreman (Bobby) Fussell** - Forrest City (St. Francis County)
Robert Foreman (Bobby) Fussell had a long career as a lawyer championing the legal rights of disabled veterans and the deaf, prosecuting prominent state political figures, and presiding over federal bankruptcy courts.

**Individuals involved in Gender & Sexuality issues:**

**Hilda Cornish** – Little Rock (Pulaski County)
Brunhilde Kahler Cornish was the founder of the Arkansas birth control movement. She was instrumental in founding the organization that became the Planned Parenthood Association of Arkansas.

**Jocelyn Elders** - Schaal (Howard County), Little Rock (Pulaski County)
Joycelyn Elders was director of the Arkansas Department of Health and the U.S. surgeon general in the administration of President Bill Clinton.

**E. Lynn Harris** - Little Rock (Pulaski County)
Everette Lynn Harris was a bestselling author of novels about African-American men in gay and bisexual relationships.

**Robert Loyd** – Damascus (Van Buren & Faulkner Counties), Greers Ferry and Heber Springs (Cleburne County), Little Rock (Pulaski County), Conway (Faulkner County)
Robert Loyd—along with his husband, John Schenck—was an activist for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) rights in Arkansas, especially same-sex marriage.

**Peter Gregory McGehee** – Pine Bluff (Jefferson County), Little Rock (Pulaski County)
Peter Gregory McGehee was a novelist known for his outrageous comedies of Southern manners, in which he explores what he saw as a hypocritical society that easily rationalizes its own moral lapses even as it enforces a narrow, judgmental morality upon others.

**Suzanne Pharr** – Fayetteville, Little Rock (Pulaski County)
Suzanne Pharr is an author, organizer, and strategist. Pharr’s work at the Women’s Project included the founding of the Women’s Watchcare Network, a group that monitors and documents racist, religious-based, sexist, and anti-gay violence.

**George Hosato Takei** – Rohwer (Desha County)
George Hosato Takei gained international fame as Lieutenant Sulu in the original *Star Trek* television series and six movies. When he was a boy, he and his family were held in Rohwer Relocation Center (Desha County). Takei received the Equality Award from the Human Rights Campaign in 2007 and the American Humanist Association’s LGBT Humanist Award in 2012.
**Women’s Civil Rights/ Individuals involved in Women’s Suffrage Movement:**

**Katharine Susan Anthony** – Roseville and Paris (Logan County), Fort Smith (Sebastian County)  
Katharine Susan Anthony was suffragist, feminist, pacifist, socialist, and author of feminist and psychological biographies of famous women.

**Florence Lee Brown Cotnam** - Little Rock (Pulaski County)  
Florence Lee Brown Cotnam was a leader in the women’s suffrage movement in Arkansas, representing the state by speaking for women’s suffrage across the nation. After women received the vote, Cotnam continued the cause of women by serving as the first president of the Little Rock League of Women Voters.

**Alice Sankey Ellington** - Little Rock (Pulaski County)  
Alice Sankey Ellington was a leader in the women’s suffrage movement in Arkansas, an officer of the Southern States Woman Suffrage Association, a war worker during World War I, and a frequent campaigner for suffrage across the country. She oversaw several changes in the statewide organizations that she ran, ultimately leading Arkansas women to gain the right to vote in primary elections in 1917 and win full suffrage in 1919.

**Eliza A. (Lizzy) Dorman Fyler** – Eureka Springs (Carroll County)  
Lizzie Dorman Fyler was an activist in Arkansas in the latter part of the nineteenth century. Although she died at the age of thirty-five, she had already made a mark as a leader in the temperance movement, and she laid the early foundation for the drive to achieve women’s suffrage in Arkansas.

**Clara Alma Cox McDiarmid** - Little Rock (Pulaski County)  
Clara Alma Cox McDiarmid was Arkansas’s foremost nineteenth-century women’s reformer. She supported suffrage, temperance, women’s education, and the women’s club movement. Active locally and nationally and concerned about women’s inequalities under the law, she also supported cultural activities in Little Rock (Pulaski County) and farther afield.

**Women’s Civil Rights/ Individuals involved in First Women in Political Office:**

**Dorothy N. McDonald Allen** – Helena (Phillips County)  
Dorothy N. McDonald Allen was the first woman to serve in the Arkansas Senate. She was elected to fill the unexpired term of her husband, Senator Tom Allen, after his death in 1963. She was reelected in 1966 and 1970 without opposition, serving until January 1975.

**Hattie Ophelia Wyatt Caraway** – Jonesboro (Craighead County)  
Hattie Ophelia Wyatt Caraway was the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate, the first woman to preside over the Senate, the first to chair a Senate committee, and the first to preside over a Senate hearing. She served from 1931 to 1945 and was a strong supporter of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s economic recovery legislation during the Great Depression.

**Hillary Diane Rodham Clinton** - Little Rock (Pulaski County)  
Hillary Diane Rodham Clinton was the first lady of Arkansas, first lady of the United States, United States senator from New York (marking the first time in the nation’s history that a first lady was elected to the Senate), and Secretary of State in the administration of President Barack Obama. She was the only U.S. first lady to keep an office in the West Wing among the president’s senior staff and the only first lady to run for president. Her independence and public involvement with a number of issues often made her a subject of controversy, but her support of women’s and children’s issues won her many admirers. In 2016, she became the first woman nominated for president by a major political party, though she failed to win the general election.

**Nancy Johnson Hall** – Prescott (Nevada), Little Rock (Pulaski County)  
Nancy Pearl Johnson Hall was the first woman to be elected to a constitutional office in Arkansas. A staff member to several agencies and constitutional officers of state government, she was appointed to succeed her husband as secretary of state upon his death and went on to be elected state treasurer by the voters.

**Blanche Meyers Lambert Lincoln** – Helena (Phillips County)  
Blanche Meyers Lambert Lincoln was a United States senator whose career was marked by firsts and by a desire for bipartisanship. She was the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate from Arkansas since Hattie W. Caraway in 1932, the youngest woman elected to the Senate, and was mentioned as a possible running mate for Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry in the 2004 election.
Pearl Oldfield – Cotton Plant (Woodruff County), Batesville (Independence County)

In 1929, Fannie Pearl Peden Oldfield became the first woman from Arkansas elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where she served from January 9, 1929, to March 3, 1931. While a member of the House of Representatives, Oldfield introduced twenty-eight bills, served on three House committees, and spoke in Congress on three occasions.

Susan Hampton Newton Pryor – Camden ( Ouachita County) 

Susan Hampton Newton Pryor was the first woman in Arkansas to run for a political office after women obtained the vote and was one of the first women to hold a seat on a local school board. She also participated in one of the first historic preservation projects in the state, was the mother of David Pryor (who served as governor of Arkansas and U.S. senator), and was the grandmother of Mark Pryor (who served as Arkansas’s attorney general and was elected U.S. senator in 2002).

Elsijane Trimble Roy – Lonoke (Lonoke County), Blytheville (Mississippi County)

Elsijane Trimble Roy was Arkansas’s first woman circuit judge, the first woman on the Arkansas Supreme Court, the first woman appointed to an Arkansas federal judgeship, the first woman federal judge in the Eighth Circuit, and the first Arkansas woman to follow her father as a federal judge.

Vada Webb Sheid was the first woman to serve in both the Senate and the Arkansas House of Representatives in a political career that stretched across five decades.

Effiegene Locke Wingo – Lockesburg (Sevier County), Little Rock ( Pulaski County), DeQueen (Sevier County)

In 1930, Effiegene Locke Wingo became the second of only four women from Arkansas to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where she served from November 4, 1930, to March 3, 1933. Wingo introduced eighteen bills and served on three House committees during her congressional service.

Individuals involved in School Desegregation:

Daisy Lee Gatson Bates – Huttig (Union County), Little Rock (Pulaski County)

Daisy Lee Gatson Bates was a mentor to the Little Rock Nine, the African-American students who integrated Central High School in Little Rock in 1957. She and the Little Rock Nine gained national and international recognition for their courage and persistence during the desegregation of Central High when Governor Orval Faubus ordered members of the Arkansas National Guard to prevent the entry of black students. She and her husband, Lucious Christopher (L. C.) Bates, published the Arkansas State Press, a newspaper dealing primarily with civil rights and other issues in the black community.

Lucious Christopher Bates – Helena (Phillips County), Little Rock (Pulaski County)

Lucious Christopher Bates was the founder of the Arkansas State Press newspaper. Under his direction, the State Press, published in Little Rock (Pulaski County), waged a weekly statewide battle against the constraints of the Jim Crow era of segregation until the paper’s demise in 1959. Bates was a member of the executive committee of the Little Rock chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and, along with his wife Daisy, helped lead the fight that resulted in the admittance of the first nine black students to Little Rock’s Central High School in 1957.

Melba Pattillo Beals – Little Rock (Pulaski County)

Melba Pattillo Beals made history as a member of the Little Rock Nine, the nine African-American students involved in the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School in 1957. ... She later recounted this harrowing year in her book titled Warriors Don’t Cry: A Searing Memoir of the Battle to Desegregate Little Rock’s Central High School. ... In 2017 a musical tribute based on Beal’s words in Warriors Don’t Cry was commissioned by the Oxford American magazine. First created as a septet, the piece No Tears Suite was performed at the sixtieth anniversary of the Central High desegregation; the six-movement piece was expanded with orchestral parts for a 2019 premiere performance at the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center that included jazz musicians alongside Arkansas Symphony Orchestra members.

Virgil Tracy Blossom – Fayetteville (Washington County), Little Rock (Pulaski County)

Virgil Tracy Blossom was a professional educator who served as superintendent of Little Rock (Pulaski County) public schools during the Little Rock Central High School desegregation crisis that began in 1957. Although he was generally a progressive and effective school administrator, his leadership during the crisis proved to be ineffectual, and historians remain harsh in their assessments of his actions.

Vivion Mercer Lenon Brewer – Little Rock (Pulaski County)

Vivion Mercer Lenon Brewer is best known for helping to found the Women’s Emergency Committee to Open Our Schools (WEC) in 1958 during the desegregation of Central High School in Little Rock (Pulaski County). She helped arrange the WEC’s initial meeting and served as the organization’s first chairperson until September 1960.

Mamie Katherine Phipps Clark – Hot Springs (Garland County)

Hot Springs (Garland County) native Mamie Phipps Clark was the first African-American woman to earn a Doctor of Philosophy degree in psychology from Columbia University. The research she did with her husband was important in the success of the 1954 case Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas, in which the United States Supreme Court declared the doctrine of “separate but equal” with regard to education to
be unconstitutional on account of such separation generating “a feeling of inferiority as to their status in the community” on the part of African-American students.

**Will Counts Jr. - Little Rock (Pulaski County)**
Ira Wilmer (Will) Counts Jr. was a photographer best known in Arkansas for his photographs during the 1957 desegregation of Central High School in Little Rock (Pulaski County). His photographs have been widely recognized as among the most memorable of the twentieth century.

**L. Clifford Davis – Wilton (Little River County), Little Rock (Pulaski County)**
L. Clifford Davis is an attorney whose active participation in the legal challenges of the civil rights movement began when he first sought admission to the all-white University of Arkansas School of Law. That effort was the precursor to a distinguished career in the legal profession, one that included two decades of service as a judge in the Texas court system. He was inducted into the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame in 2007.

**Elizabeth Ann Eckford - Little Rock (Pulaski County)**
Elizabeth Ann Eckford made history as a member of the Little Rock Nine, the nine African-American students who desegregated Little Rock Central High School in 1957. The image of fifteen-year-old Eckford, walking alone through a screaming mob in front of Central High School, propelled the crisis into the nation’s living rooms and brought international attention to Little Rock (Pulaski County). ... In 2018, Eckford released a book for young readers, *The Worst First Day: Bullied while Desegregating Central High*, co-authored with Dr. Eurydice Stanley and Grace Stanley and featuring artwork by Rachel Gibson. Later that year, the Elizabeth Eckford Commemorative Bench was dedicated at the corner of Park and 16th streets, and she received the Community Truth Teller Award from the Arkansas Community Institute.

**Eugene Orval Faubus – Huntsville (Madison County)**
Orval Eugene Faubus served six consecutive terms as governor of Arkansas, holding the office longer than any other person. His record was in many ways progressive, but he is most widely remembered for his attempt to block the desegregation of Little Rock’s Central High School in 1957. His stand against what he called “forced integration” resulted in President Dwight D. Eisenhower’s sending federal troops to Little Rock (Pulaski County) to enforce the 1954 desegregation ruling of the Supreme Court.

**Ernest Gideon Green - Little Rock (Pulaski County)**
Ernest Gideon Green made history as the only senior of the Little Rock Nine, the nine African-American students who, in 1957, desegregated Central High School in Little Rock (Pulaski County). The world watched as they braved constant intimidation and threats from those who opposed desegregation of the formerly all-white high school. Green’s place in Arkansas’s civil rights history was solidified when he became the first African American to graduate from the previously all-white Central High School. ... Green is the subject of a Disney movie called *The Ernest Green Story*, produced in 1992 and starring Morris Chestnut and Monica Calhoun. In 2011, Green was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Arkansas (UA) in Fayetteville (Washington County).

**Amis Robert Guthridge – Hot Springs (Garland County), Fort Smith (Sebastian County), Little Rock (Pulaski County)**
Amis Robert Guthridge was a Little Rock (Pulaski County) attorney and businessman best known for his role in organizing resistance to school desegregation in Hoxie (Lawrence County) in 1955 and at Little Rock Central High in 1957. Though he first gained national notoriety as the lead spokesman for these anti-integration campaigns, Guthridge’s activist career began in the late 1940s when he held prominent positions in the “Dixiecrat” Party and the anti-union Arkansas Free Enterprise Association. Indeed, Guthridge’s passion for rolling back what he saw as the “socialistic” takeover unleashed by the New Deal was equal to and integral to his passion for maintaining racial segregation.

**Elizabeth Paisley Huckaby – Hamburg (Ashley County), Fayetteville (Washington County), Fort Smith (Sebastian County), Little Rock (Pulaski County)**
Elizabeth Paisley Huckaby, who served as an instructor of English for thirty-nine years, was vice principal for girls at Central High School in Little Rock (Pulaski County) during the desegregation of Central High School. The author of *Crisis at Central High: Little Rock 1957–58*, Huckaby documented events within the school as the first black students, the Little Rock Nine, were admitted. Charged with protecting the six female members of the Little Rock Nine, she earned hostility and anger from segregationists within the school and in the community.

**Silas Herbert Hunt - Ashdown (Little River County), Texarkana (Miller County), Pine Bluff (Jefferson County), Fayetteville (Washington County)**
Silas Herbert Hunt was a veteran of World War II and a pioneer in the integration of higher education in Arkansas and the South. In 1948, he was admitted to the University of Arkansas School of Law, thus becoming the first African-American student admitted to the university since Reconstruction and, more importantly, the first black student to be admitted for graduate or professional studies at any all-white university in the former Confederacy.

**James Douglas “Justice Jim” Johnson – Crossett (Ashley County)**
James Douglas “Justice Jim” Johnson served as an Arkansas state senator and an associate justice on the Arkansas Supreme Court in the 1950s and 1960s. He was an outspoken segregationist and ran unsuccessfully against Orval Faubus for governor in 1956. In the 1966 race for Arkansas governor, he became the first Democrat since Reconstruction to lose to a Republican. Johnson helped to make school desegregation a major political issue in the state by protesting the integration of the Hoxie School District in Hoxie (Lawrence County), as well as by working to get an anti-federalist amendment added to the state constitution.
Gloria Cecelia Ray Karlmark – Little Rock (Pulaski County)

Gloria Cecelia Ray Karlmark made history as a member of the Little Rock Nine, the nine African-American students who desegregated Central High School in Little Rock (Pulaski County) in 1957. ... Following high school, she attended Illinois Institute of Technology and received a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry and mathematics. ... Karlmark graduated from Kungliga Patent & Registreringsverket in Sweden as a patent attorney, and from 1977 until 1981, she worked for IBM International Patent Operations. From 1976 to 1994, Karlmark founded and was editor-in-chief of Computers in Industry, an international journal of computer applications in industry.

Carlotta Walls LaNier - Little Rock (Pulaski County)

Carlotta Walls LaNier made history as the youngest member of the Little Rock Nine, the nine African-American students who desegregated Central High School in Little Rock (Pulaski County) in 1957. ... In 2009, she published her memoir, A Mighty Long Way: My Journey to Justice at Little Rock Central High School. In October 2015, she was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, New York. ... She has also served as president of the Little Rock Nine Foundation, a scholarship organization dedicated to ensuring equal access to education for African Americans, and is a trustee for the Iliff School of Theology and the University of Northern Colorado.

Mary Brown (Brownie) Williams Ledbetter - Little Rock (Pulaski County)

Mary Brown “Brownie” Williams Ledbetter was a lifelong political activist who worked in many controversial and crucial campaigns in Arkansas, as well as nationally and internationally. A catalyst in many local grassroots organizations, she exhibited a dedication to fair education and equality across racial, religious, and cultural lines.

Grace Lonegran Lorch - Little Rock (Pulaski County)

Grace Lorch, wife of Philander Smith College mathematics professor Lee Lorch, was a civil rights and labor rights activist. She is best known for lending aid to one of the Little Rock Nine during the Central High School desegregation crisis in 1957.

Lee Lorch - Little Rock (Pulaski County)

Lee Lorch was a professor of mathematics at Philander Smith College in Little Rock (Pulaski County) during the second half of the 1950s. He and his wife, Grace Lorch, became involved in the black civil rights struggle in central Arkansas. As a lifelong leftwing activist, he also came to the attention of investigatory commissions at both the federal and state levels.

Christopher Columbus Mercer Jr. – Pine Bluff (Jefferson County), Fayetteville (Washington County), Little Rock (Pulaski County)

Christopher Columbus Mercer Jr. was an advisor to Daisy Bates during the 1957 desegregation of Little Rock Central High School. As field secretary for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), his legal background helped Bates understand and respond to the flood of litigation against the NAACP.

William Starr (Will) Mitchell Jr. - Little Rock (Pulaski County)

William Starr Mitchell was a distinguished Arkansas lawyer who emerged as a leader in 1959 during the crisis involving the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School and the subsequent closing of the city’s schools, serving as campaign manager for Stop This Outrageous Purge (STOP). Mitchell was long remembered for his television appearance in the midst of a recall election aimed at ousting segregationists from the school board when he told Governor Orval Faubus: “Governor, leave us alone! Let us return our community to a rule of reason.”

Dunbar H. Ogden Jr. - Little Rock (Pulaski County)

Dunbar Hunt Ogden Jr. was a minister who played an important role in the effort to desegregate Central High School in Little Rock (Pulaski County) in the mid-twentieth century. His support for the Little Rock Nine was controversial, and his efforts split his congregation. Ultimately, faced with diminishing support, Ogden resigned his pastorate and left Arkansas, taking over a church in West Virginia and eventually retiring in California.

James Wesley Pruden Sr. - Little Rock (Pulaski County)

James Wesley Pruden Sr., a Southern Baptist minister, was first chaplain and then president of the Little Rock (Pulaski County) chapter of the White Citizens’ Council during the volatile school desegregation period of 1957–58. Pruden led a campaign in the newspapers and in the streets to stop the desegregation of Central High School. Journalist Roy Reed's analysis of Pruden is that, had it not been for the school crisis, he would have been “destined for the obscurity of a second-tier Baptist Church,” and that he was “a man whose ambition out-paced his abilities.”

Terrence James Roberts - Little Rock (Pulaski County)

Terrence James Roberts made history as a member of the Little Rock Nine, the nine African-American students who desegregated Little Rock Central High School in 1957. ... In 1976, Roberts earned a Ph.D. in psychology from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. He served as co-chair of the department of Master of Arts in Psychology Program at Antioch College in Los Angeles, California, and also taught several graduate courses there. In addition to serving as CEO of Terrence J. Roberts and Associates Management Consulting Firm, he maintains a private psychology practice and is a desegregation consultant to the Little Rock School District.

Irene Gaston Samuel – Van Buren (Crawford County), Little Rock (Pulaski County)

Irene Gaston Samuel is best known for her work with the Women’s Emergency Committee to Open Our Schools (WEC) that arose in the fall of 1958 during the Little Rock desegregation crisis. Samuel served as the organization’s executive secretary until it disbanded in 1963. Later in her life, she worked as an administrative assistant for Governor (and later U.S. Senator) Dale Bumpers until she retired in 1981.
Jerome Bill Becker served as president of the Arkansas American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) from 1964 to 1996. At the time of his death, Becker was noted as the longest-serving state AFL-CIO president in the United States.
Cornelius Tyree Carpenter – Jonesboro (Craighead County), Marked Tree & Tyronza (Poinsett County)
Cornelius Tyree (C. T.) Carpenter was an educator, minister, and attorney in northeastern Arkansas. In addition to serving as president of Woodland Baptist College in Jonesboro (Craighead County) and being minister of the First Baptist Church of Marked Tree (Poinsett County), he gained national attention as the attorney for the Southern Tenant Farmers’ Union (STFU) from 1935 to 1936.

Robert Lee Hill – Dermott (Chicot County), Winchester (Drew County), Elaine (Phillips County)
Robert Lee Hill was an African-American leader who was forced to flee Arkansas during the bloody Elaine Massacre of 1919. He spent the rest of his life in Topeka, Kansas, repairing freight cars for the Santa Fe Railway.

Edd Jeffords – Rector (Clay County), Eureka Springs (Carroll County)
Edd Jeffords was one of the most visible figures in the Arkansas counter-culture movement centered in Eureka Springs (Carroll County) during the 1970s. In addition to organizing—along with Bill O’Neill and a host of others—the Ozark Mountain Folk Fair in 1973, Jeffords founded the Ozark Access Catalog, organized the Conference on Ozark In-Migration, and created the Ozark Institute (OI).

Claude Lightfoot – Lake Village (Chicot County), Little Rock (Pulaski County)
Claude Lightfoot was an Arkansas-born Communist who became involved in politics after moving to Chicago, Illinois. A frequent candidate for public office in Chicago from the 1930s to the 1950s, Lightfoot represents the impact of the Great Migration out of Arkansas and both the possibilities and limitations of black liberation in northern cities.

Wade Rathke - Little Rock (Pulaski County)
Wade Rathke is a longtime community organizer and the founder of the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now. He was living in Arkansas when he started an organization that would evolve in 1970 into ACORN. His efforts to achieve social justice were highlighted in a 2017 documentary film titled The Organizer.

Odell Smith - Little Rock (Pulaski County)
Odell Smith was the state’s foremost trade union leader in the middle of the twentieth century, serving at various times as president of International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 878, the Little Rock Central Trades Council, the Arkansas State Federation of Labor, and the Arkansas AFL-CIO.

Dan Fraser Tomson – Hot Springs (Garland County), Little Rock (Pulaski County)
A native of Tennessee, Dan Fraser Tomson helped organize—and was a charter member of—the first local assembly (or lodge) of the Knights of Labor in Arkansas. He also served as a state organizer and lecturer and, eventually, as the Knights’ highest-ranking state officer. In addition, he edited a weekly newspaper, the Industrial Liberator, which served as the official organ of the Arkansas Knights of Labor.

Claude Clossey Williams – Paris (Logan County), Fort Smith (Sebastian County), Little Rock (Pulaski County)
Claude Clossey Williams was a Presbyterian minister and human rights activist who was long involved in the civil rights movement. In addition, he was an active labor organizer and served as national vice president of the American Federation of Teachers.

Sue Cowan Williams – Eudora (Chicot County), Little Rock (Pulaski County)
Sue Cowan Williams represented African-American teachers in the Little Rock School District as the plaintiff in the case challenging the rate of salaries allotted to teachers in the district based solely on skin color. The tenth library in the Central Arkansas Library System (CALS) is named after her.

[See list of “Key Arkansas Organizations in Civil Rights Movement” on next page]
Key Arkansas Organizations in Civil Rights Movement

These entries are selected from search results for Category (Civil Rights and Social Change) + Type (Group):

Abba House
American Civil Liberties Union of Arkansas
American Missionary Association
Arkansas Association of Colored Women (1905)
Arkansas Association for the Deaf
Arkansas Fair Housing Commission
Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission
Arkansas Negro Democratic Organization
Arkansas Right to Life
Arkansas State Grange (a.k.a. Patrons of Husbandry)
Arkansas State Sovereignty Commission
Arkansas Woman Suffrage Association (AWSA) 1881,1914
Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN)
Black Americans for Democracy (BAD)
Black United Youth (BUY)
Brothers of Freedom (Farmers)
Congress of Racial Equality (CORE)
Council on Community Affairs (COCA)
Council for the Liberation of Blacks (CLOB)
Just Communities of Arkansas
League of Women Voters of Arkansas
Little Rock NOW
Mosaic Templars of America
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
National Farmers Alliance and Industrial Union of America
Office of Removal and Subsistence (1831)
OMNI Center for Peace, Justice and Ecology (2001)
Original Tuskegee Airmen
Ozark Institute (1976)
Panel of American Women 1963
Planned Parenthood
Political Equality League (for Women) 1911
Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)
Students United for Rights and Equality (SURE)
Supreme Royal Circle of Friends of the World
Urban League
Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA)
Volunteers in Service to America
Women’s Emergency Committee to Open Our Schools (WEC)
Women of the Ku Klux Klan (WKKK)
Women’s Library (1982)
Women’s Project (1980)
Key Arkansas Laws & Court Cases in Civil Rights Movement
These entries are selected from search results for Category (Civil Rights and Social Change) + Type (Thing):

Laws:
Separate Coach Law of 1891
Streetcar Segregation Act of 1903
Act 258 of 1909 (a.k.a. Toney Bill to Prevent Lynching)
One Drop Rule (a.k.a. Act 320 of 1911)
Right to Work Amendment (1944)
Arkansas Civil Rights Act of 1993
Arkansas Fair Housing Act of 2001
Arkansas Married Woman’s Property Law
Equal Rights Amendment
Jim Crow Laws
Landlord-Tenant Laws
Abortion [laws, cases]

Court Cases:
Arkansas “Scottsboro” Case (1935)
Daisy Bates et al. v. City of Little Rock (1960)
Little Rock School Desegregation Cases (1982-2014)
Mitchell v. United States (1941)
Moore v. Dempsey (1923)
Post Bellum Black Codes (1865)
Raney v. Board of Education (1968)
United States v. Waddell et al. 1883
Wright v. Arkansas (2015)

[See list of “Key Events in Arkansas Civil Rights History” on next page]
Key Events in Arkansas Civil Rights History

These entries are selected from search results for Category (Civil Rights and Social Change) + Type (Event):

Arkansas State Capitol Desegregation (1964)
Blytheville Boycotts of 1970-71
Cotter Expulsion of 1906
Crossett Strike of 1940
Cummins Prison Strike of 1974
Desegregation of Charleston Schools (1954)
Desegregation of Fayetteville Schools (1954)
Desegregation of Hoxie Schools (1955)
Desegregation of Van Buren Schools (1954)
Earle Race Riot of 1970
Freedom Rides
Great Southwestern Strike of 1886
Gregory, Dick (Arrest of)
Labor Day Bombings of 1959
Little Rock Convention of Colored Citizens (1865)
Little Rock Uprising of 1968
Negro Boys Industrial School Fire of 1959
North Little Rock Six (1957)
March Against Fear (1969)
Freedom Rides
Sebastian County Union War of 1914
Sit-Ins
Southern Cotton Oil Mill Strike (1945)

The above articles can be used in accordance with Act 561 for teaching about Key Arkansans in the Civil Rights Movement. For more information on these and other online resources for teachers, contact CALS Education Outreach Coordinator George West at gwest@cals.org.