

Abram Colby was enslaved in Penfield, Georgia around 1820 on John Colby



Plantation. His Mother was a sixteen year old slave girl. Abram Colby became Greene County First African American State Representative elected in 1868. Although born into slavery, Abram Colby became one of the most influential political figures in Greene County's history. Shortly after the Civil War, Colby attempted to lead a mass exodus of freedpeople to Arkansas, where the U.S. government promised to grant them land. When this promise fell through, Colby ran for a seat in the Georgia General Assembly and won in a landslide. As a legislator, he faced betrayal once again: he and the other "Original 33" African American legislators were expelled from their seats on account of their race, and Colby himself was attacked by members of the Greene County Ku Klux Klan. Although partially paralyzed in the assault, Colby retook his old seat, testified about his attack before members of Congress and President Ulysses Grant, and defeated the father of one of his KKK assailants in the election of 1870. Colby also played an instrumental role in creating the county's first school for African American children -- despite the fact that he could neither read nor write. No matter the obstacle, Colby never wavered in his effort to improve the lives of the freedpeople of Greene County.

Acknowledgement and honoring the lives of the following who did not have an opportunity to be and become: Daniel Ahern was killed April 6, 1894. He was taken from the Greene County Jail brought to a place about a mile below Greensboro, Georgia where he was lynched, and repeatedly shot by a mob.



Felix Cremer was lynched on September 24, 1920 near a place referred to as "the Forks" north of Greensboro, Georgia.



Mack C. Barnhart, was a 17 years old enlistee in the United States Army. He was killed in 1955 on Hwy. #70, Union Point, Georgia.

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without the generosity of others!

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IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS



Greene County
African American Museum



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"I often say that "we as human beings will never be able to return to the historical narratives of Greene County, Georgia." Those beliefs, decisions, behaviors, active engagements, and atrocities that exhibited the worst of humanity. Nevertheless, we are here in 2025 to acknowledge, honor, and celebrate those individuals who actively engaged in pursuing "The Impossible Dream." Unlike many others who arrived here in this place to fulfill their dreams. By the promise of opportunity and freedom. Not like our beloved Ancestors who came as slaves in chains, and shackles. Being denied what many others took for granted. Our Ancestors within our communities committed themselves to the quest for dignity, and freedom. Nevertheless through their struggle and strain they became preservers of our communities and families. Creating a seed bed for dreams of a new day of truth, fairness, respect and acknowledgement of their significance as human beings. Even today we as remnants of these, our predecessors. We continue to remember, acknowledge, honor, and celebrate these individuals. That is why we chose this initiative for 2025. For "In Their Footsteps," their struggle and strain for significance was real. Not for themselves but for this community. For we as a people of color has historically been undervalued. This devaluing continues in some hearts and minds today. Nevertheless, we know that these chosen individuals life long testimonies as citizens of Greene County, Georgia was that of producing lasting works of value. It is a matter of heart that we acknowledge, honor and celebrate the foot steps of these individuals. With the installation of historical plaques that will be installed throughout the City of Greensboro, City of Union Point, Greene County, Georgia Courthouse, and Board of Education.



Mr. Eli Jackson was an educator, and our first African American to serve on the Greensboro City Council.



Mr. Willie English Chester, Sr. was an educator, served on the Greensboro City Council, and as Mayor Pro Tem. He also was a business man, licensed Barber, owned and operated Chester & Son Music/ Cycle Shop from 1972-1995. The Shop was in the building that is presently owned by Attorney Russell Wall.



Mr. Benny Asbury was an educator, businessman, and the first African American to serve as a member of the Greene County Board of Commissioners. Also the first African American to serve as Chairman of the Greene County Board of Commissioners as well.

Dr. Calvin Melvin Baber was Greene County second African American Physician (1921-1945) and a businessman. He owned a Lodge Building where First Franklin Building is presently located. This Lodge Building was an epic center for entrepreneurship within the City of Greensboro in the 1920's. This building housed a barber, cosmetologist, shoe shop, and Dr. Baber's Office.



Mr. Felton Hudson was an educator, community advocate, civic leader, and the first African American to serve as Chairman of the Board of Education (2000- 2003).

Mr. Glenn Wright is a business man, and the first African American to be elected as Mayor in the City of Greensboro (2001-2021). Prior to that he served on the Greensboro City Council for numerous years.

Mr. William J. Breeding, Sr. was an educator, civic leader, community advocate and President of the Greene County Chapter of the NAACP for numerous years.