

Warriors Don't Cry

An Inspiring Account of the Beginning of Desegregation in US Schools

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Kingston University London

11 October 2023

([recording of the session](#))

Black History Month 2023 - Celebrating our Sisters



**Athena
SWAN**
Silver Award



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The Power of One

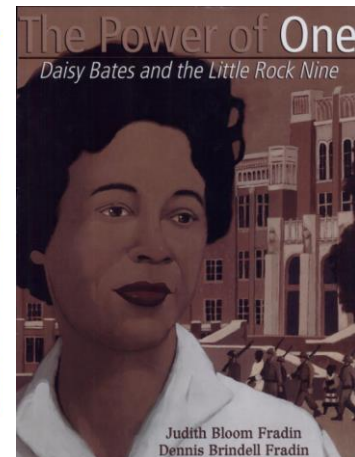
The integration of Little Rock Central started a movement that spread all over the country.

At the time, New York and Chicago schools were segregated too.
Now, we have got Black mayors in so many big cities.

And it all started with the desegregation of a school.

Daisy Bates, 1984

HOW ELIZABETH ECKFORD'S WALK TO
CENTRAL HIGH CHANGED THE COURSE
OF HISTORY





50 Famous Photos That Changed Our World

By All That's Interesting | Edited By John Kuroski
Published September 5, 2021 | Updated September 6, 2021

Photo by Will Counts
Winner of 1958 Pulitzer Prize

HOW A PHOTOGRAPH CHANGED THE FIGHT FOR INTEGRATION **LITTLE ROCK GIRL 1957**

by Shelley Tougas

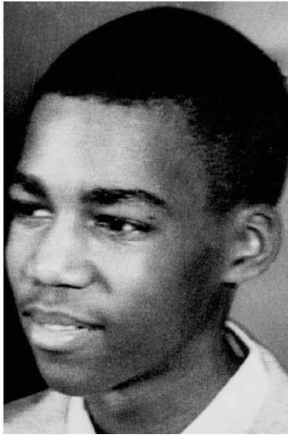


Little Rock Nine

Why do you think the Superintendent for Schools would only choose (Carlotta) Walls to attend Little Rock Central High School?



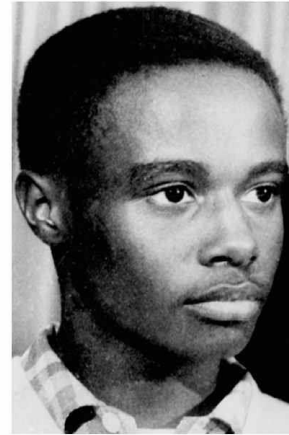
RAY



ROBERTS



PATTILLO



THOMAS



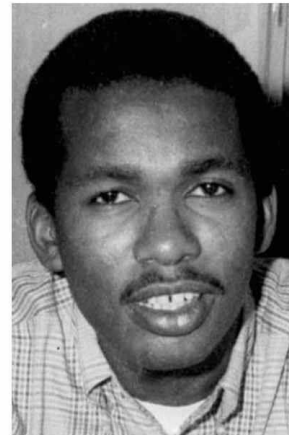
MOTHERSHED



BROWN



ECKFORD



GREEN



WALLS

US Black History

Blacks were brought in Americas as slaves and lived subordinate lives in USA until the Emancipation Proclamation by Lincoln in 1863 (during the [Civil War](#), 1861-1865).

After the civil war, [Reconstruction era](#) began to coordinate transition from slavery to freedom by redressing the inequities of slavery. Thirteenth and Fourteenth Amendments were passed.

[Civil Rights bill was passed in 1866, but vetoed. Became a law in 1875, but effectively nullified in 1883 by Supreme Court. The ruling remained in force until the same Supreme Court nullified it by upholding the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (i.e, 99 years after the Civil War ended). The second Reconstruction began almost 100 years after the end of the Civil War.]

In 1878, US Supreme Court ruled on [Hall v. DeCuir](#) case, and all but endorsed segregation (at least on public transport), and paved the way to the infamous 1896 [Plessy v Ferguson](#) ruling (which constitutionalised segregation).

Civil Rights movement started in 1950s, especially after lynching of [Emmett Till](#) in Mississippi in 1955.

Black Codes

1866 - 1954

Black Codes (United States)

The Black Codes, sometimes called the Black Laws, were laws which governed the conduct of [African Americans](#) (both free and freedmen).

In 1832, James Kent wrote that "in most of the United States, there is a distinction in respect to political privileges, between free white persons and free colored persons of African blood; and in no part of the country do the latter, in point of fact, participate equally with the whites, in the exercise of civil and political rights."

Although Black Codes existed before the [Civil War](#) and although many Northern states had them, the Southern U.S. states codified such laws in everyday practice.

The best known of these laws were passed by Southern states in 1865 and 1866, after the [Civil War](#), in order to restrict African Americans' freedom, and in order to compel them to work for either low or no wages.



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The Free Encyclopedia

Jim Crow Laws

1877 - 1954

Jim Crow law

United States [1877-1954]

In 1877 the Supreme Court ruled in [*Hall v. DeCuir*](#) that states could not prohibit segregation on common carriers such as railroads, streetcars, or riverboats.

In the [*Civil Rights Cases*](#) of 1883, the court overturned key elements of the [*Civil Rights Act*](#) of 1875, thereby sanctioning the notion of “[*separate but equal*](#)” facilities and transportation for the races.

Seven years later the court approved a Mississippi statute requiring segregation on intrastate carriers in *Louisville, New Orleans & Texas Railway v. Mississippi* (1890).

As those cases demonstrated, the court essentially acquiesced in the South’s “solution” to the problems of race relations.

Civil Rights Movement

Civil rights movement

The civil rights movement was a nonviolent social movement and campaign from 1954 to 1968 in the United States to abolish legalized [racial segregation](#), [discrimination](#), and [disenfranchisement](#) in the country.

The movement had its origins in the [Reconstruction era](#) during the late 19th century and had its modern roots in the 1940s, although the movement made its largest legislative gains in the 1960s after years of direct actions and grassroots protests.

The social movement's major [nonviolent resistance](#) and [civil disobedience](#) campaigns eventually secured new protections in federal law for the [civil rights](#) of all Americans.



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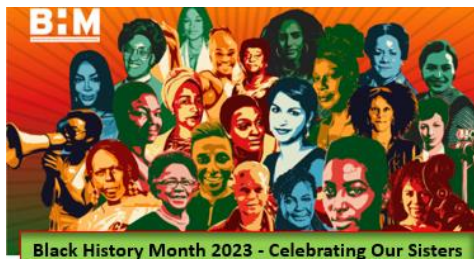
Plessy v Ferguson (1896, May 18)

Separate but Equal Decision

Segregation Becomes Constitutional!

The [Plessy v. Ferguson Supreme Court decision](#) of 1896 confirmed the "[separate but equal](#)" legal doctrine by allowing state-sponsored segregation. Though segregation laws existed before that case, the decision emboldened segregation states during the [Jim Crow](#) era, which had commenced in 1876, and supplanted the [Black Codes](#), which restricted the civil rights and civil liberties of African Americans during the [Reconstruction era](#) (1865-1877).

US Supreme Court upheld the lower court's decision by stating since the separate cars provided equal services, the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment was not violated. Thus, the "[separate but equal](#)" legal doctrine became the constitutional basis for segregation.



Plessy v Ferguson (1896, May 18)



Separate but Equal Decision

130 years after Homer Plessy was ejected from a whites-only train and triggered the “separate but equal” Supreme Court ruling that enshrined him in history, he was finally pardoned in 2022. Down across the years the infamous Plessy v. Ferguson decision of 1896 symbolized segregation and stood as law until Brown v. Board of Education in 1954.

Plessy’s train-car protest presaged Rosa Park’s refusal to give up her bus seat to a white passenger in Montgomery, Ala., in 1955, but where she became revered in civil rights lore, he all but vanished into obscurity, his name synonymous with an odious Supreme Court ruling.

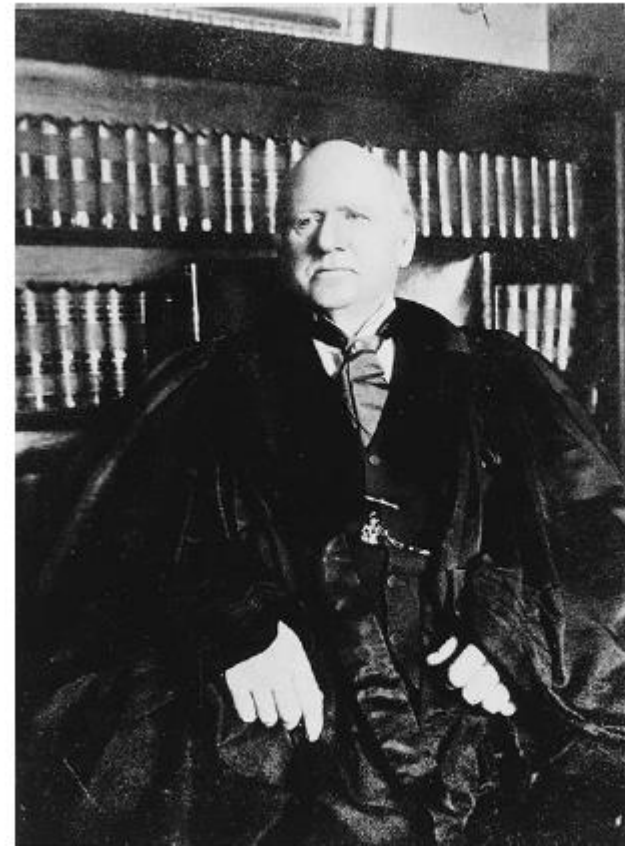
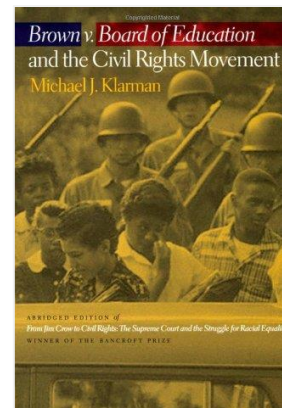


Figure 1.1.
John Marshall Harlan, the sole dissenter in *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896), in 1907. Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, George Grantham Bain Collection.

The sole dissent was by Justice John Marshall Harlan, a Kentucky native and Civil War veteran, who famously declared, “Our Constitution is color blind.”



Plessy v Ferguson (1896, May 18)



Overlooked No More: Homer Plessy, Who Sat on a Train and Stood Up for Civil Rights

He boarded a whites-only train car in New Orleans with the hope of getting the attention of the Supreme Court. But it would be a long time before he got justice.

Legacy

At a book signing in 2004, Medley introduced Keith M. Plessy, a distant relative of Homer Plessy, to Phoebe Ferguson, a documentary filmmaker and the great-great granddaughter of Judge Ferguson.

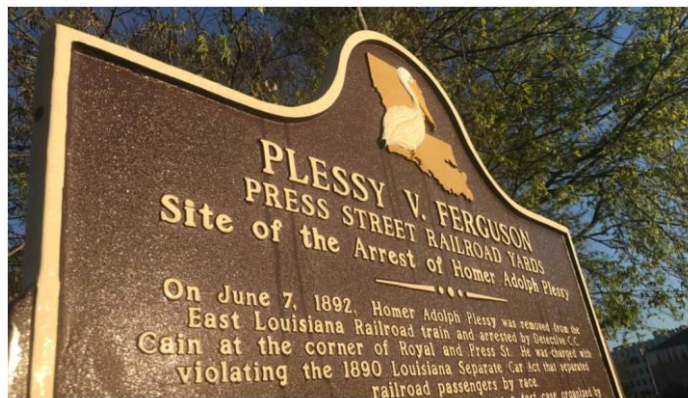
Phoebe Ferguson began to apologize for her ancestor's decision and for the segregation it triggered. "I stopped her," Keith Plessy said in a phone interview. "I told her, 'It's no longer Plessy *versus* Ferguson; it's now Plessy *and* Ferguson. And we became great friends.'"

In 2009, Plessy joined forces with Ferguson to found The Plessy and Ferguson Foundation to preserve Homer Plessy's legacy and influence how it is taught. The organization petitioned New Orleans to hold an annual Homer Plessy Day on June 7 and to rename a stretch of Press Street as Homer Plessy Way. A plaque explaining his act of civil disobedience now stands on the spot where he was arrested.

Plessy &
Ferguson
Initiative



FROM VS TO &: A LIVING LEGACY



■ An historical marker in New Orleans commemorates the spot where Homer Adolph Plessy was arrested on June 7, 1892 at the corner of Press and Royal Streets after sitting in the "whites only" section of a train. His arrest led to the landmark Supreme Court decision of Plessy v. Ferguson, which later became widely derided by scholars for its poor interpretation of the U.S. Constitution. (Greg LaRocca/Louisiana Illuminator)



Keith Plessy and Phoebe Ferguson, descendants of the principals in the Plessy v. Ferguson court case, in front of a historical marker in New Orleans on June 7, 2011. (Bill Haber/AP)

Plessy v Ferguson (1896, May 18)

Legacy



Courtesy Phoebe Ferguson

Members of the Plessy and Ferguson families gathered in February 2009 for the dedication of the Plessy and Ferguson Foundation's first historical marker. Front row (left to right): Kayla Marie Plessy (Keith's daughter), Noël Anderson (Phoebe's daughter), and Judge Michael Bagneris. Back row (left to right): Keith Plessy, Marietta Plessy (Keith's wife), Geraldine Talton (cousin of Keith's father), Paul Gustave Plessy (Keith's father), Vivian Plessy (Keith's stepmother), Stephen Plessy (Keith's cousin).

Plessy v Ferguson (1896, May 18)

Legacy



A mural in New Orleans shows what Homer Plessy, right, might have looked like. On the left is P.B.S. Pinchback, the first black man to serve as a governor in the United States, in Louisiana. Pinchback is often mistaken for Plessy. Mural by Ian Wilkinson; Photo by Jane Morse Rifkin

Overlooked No More: Homer Plessy, Who Sat on a Train and Stood Up for Civil Rights

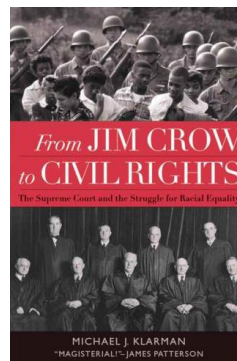
He boarded a whites-only train car in New Orleans with the hope of getting the attention of the Supreme Court. But it would be a long time before he got justice.

Separate but Equal

Really?



FIGURE 4.5
George McLaurin segregated in his classroom at the
University of Oklahoma in 1948. (Bettmann/CORBIS)



Separate but Equal

Really?

Horace Mann High School

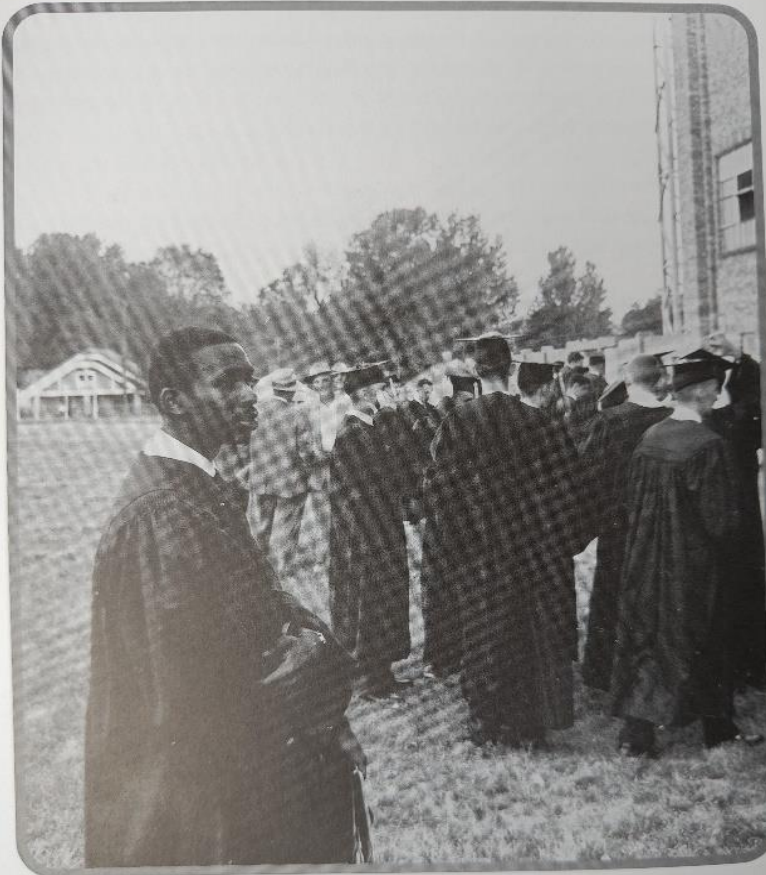
Horace Mann High School at Little Rock (Pulaski County); 1955-1965. The provisions of the original plan to desegregate schools in Arkansas ensured that Horace Mann would remain predominantly African American.



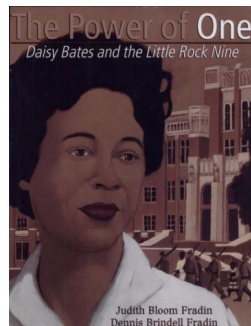
1929—In the fall, Paul Laurence Dunbar High School opens for black students in Little Rock, at a cost of \$400,000, compared to the \$1.5 million spent on Little Rock Central High.

Separate but Equal

Still Going in 1958?



In late May 1958 Ernest Green became the first black graduate of Central High School.

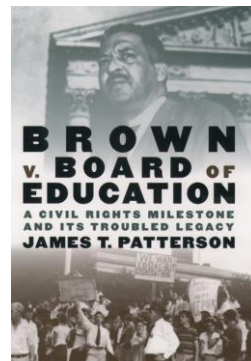
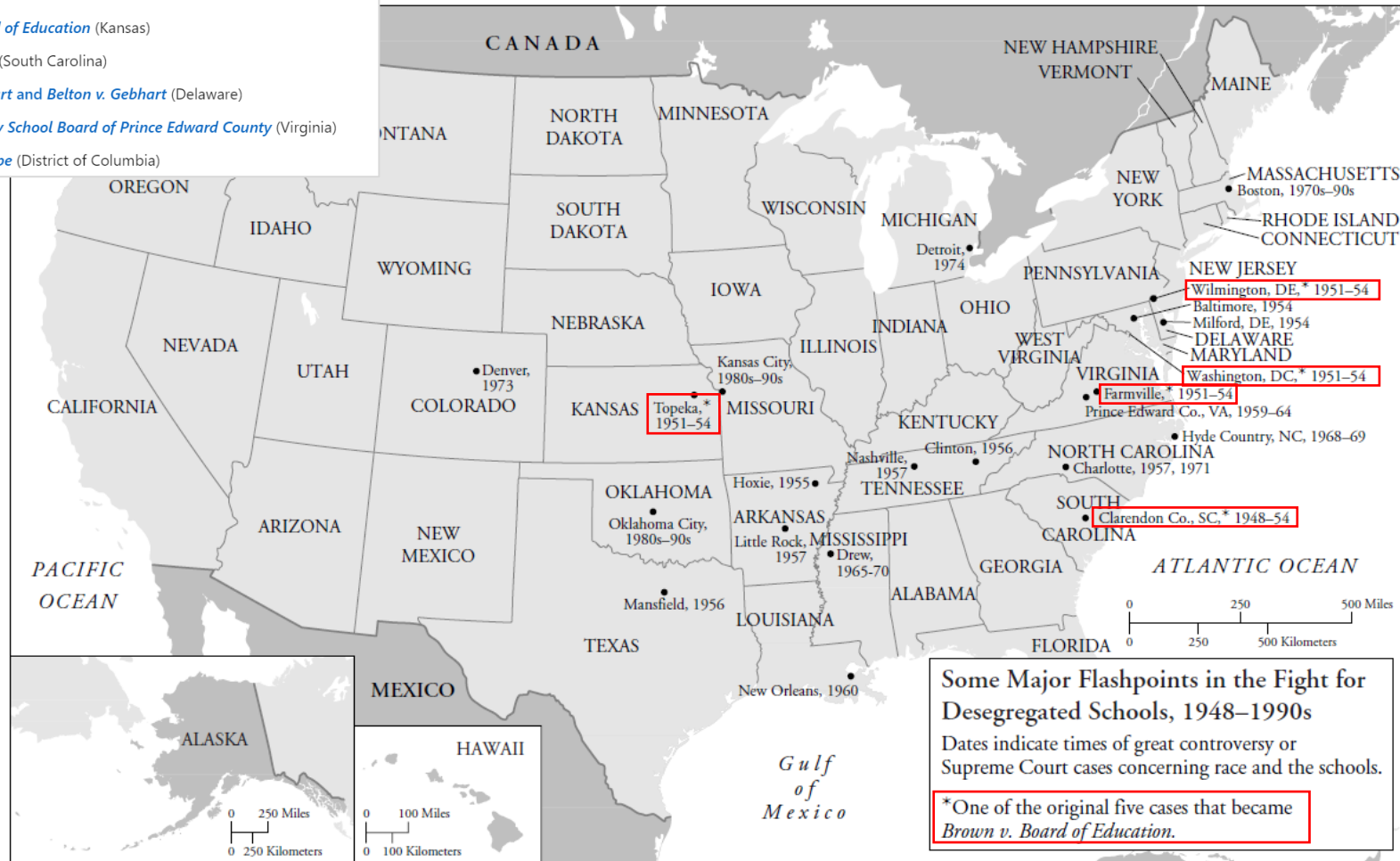


Brown v BoE (1954, May 17)

A combination of five cases

Brown v. Board of Education was actually a consolidation of cases from five jurisdictions:

- *Brown v. Board of Education* (Kansas)
- *Briggs v. Elliot* (South Carolina)
- *Bulah v. Gebhart and Belton v. Gebhart* (Delaware)
- *Davis v. County School Board of Prince Edward County* (Virginia)
- *Bolling v. Sharpe* (District of Columbia)

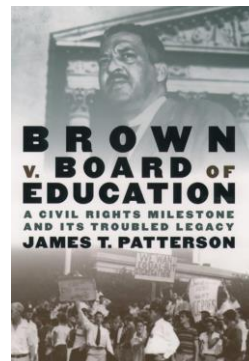


Brown v BoE (1954, May 17)

Supreme Court Ruling: 9-0



The Supreme Court visits President Eisenhower at the White House, February 1953. First row (*l. to r.*), justices William Douglas and Stanley Reed, Chief Justice Fred Vinson, President Eisenhower, and justices Hugo Black and Felix Frankfurter. Back row (*l. to r.*), Sherman Adams (Assistant to the President), Attorney General Herbert Brownell, and justices Sherman Minton, Tom Clark, Robert Jackson, and Harold Burton. (*Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, New York World-Telegram & Sun Collection*)



Brown v BoE (1954, May 17)

Supreme Court Ruling: 9-0



A Mighty Girl

March 29, 2018 · 🌟

Linda Brown, who was at the center of the landmark Brown vs. Board of Education Supreme Court case that struck down legalized racial segregation in U.S. schools, died this week at the age of 76. Brown was in the third grade in Topeka, Kansas, when her father, Oliver Brown, tried to enroll her in the Sumner School, an all-white elementary school a few blocks from their home. After they were turned away, the NAACP's legal division sued on the family's behalf, and the case ultimately went to the Supreme Court in 1954. "Looking back on Brown v. the Board of Education, it has made an impact in all facets of life for minorities throughout the land," Brown reflected in an interview. "I really think of it in terms of what it has done for our young people, in taking away that feeling of second-class citizenship."

The 9-Year-Old Whose Legal Battle
Struck Down "Separate-But-Equal"
Racial Segregation in U.S. Schools

Brown v BoE (1954, May 17)

Supreme Court Ruling: 9-0

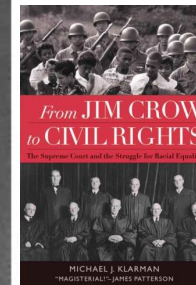
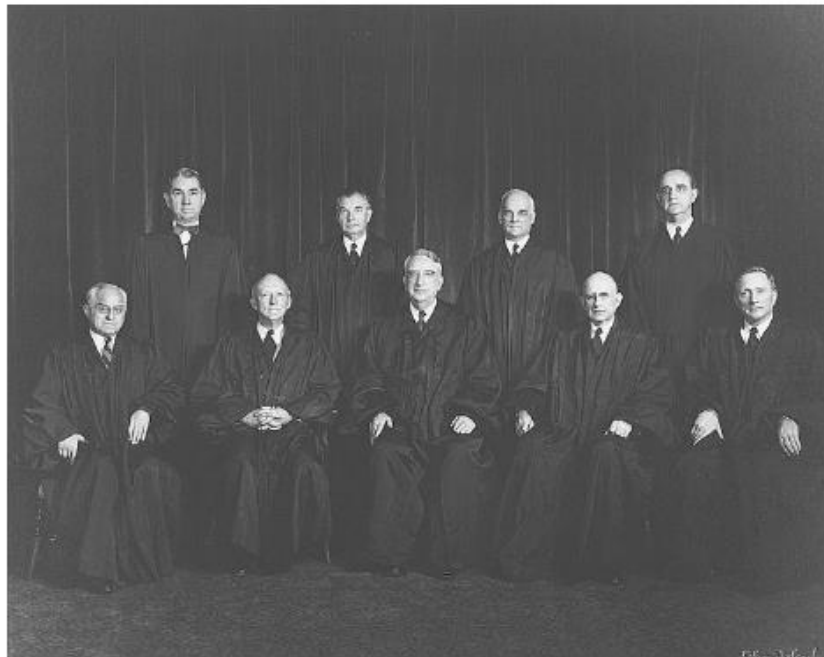
Segregation Becomes Unconstitutional!

On May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court of the United States unanimously ruled that segregation in public schools is unconstitutional. The Court said, “separate is not equal,” and segregation violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.



FIGURE 6.1

The justices who deliberated on *Brown v. Board of Education* in the 1952 term. Standing (left to right): Tom C. Clark, Robert H. Jackson, Harold H. Burton, and Sherman Minton. Seated (left to right): Felix Frankfurter, Hugo L. Black, Chief Justice Fred M. Vinson, Stanley F. Reed, and William O. Douglas. (Photograph by Fabian Bacrach, Collection of the Supreme Court of the United States)



Brown v BoE (1954, May 17)

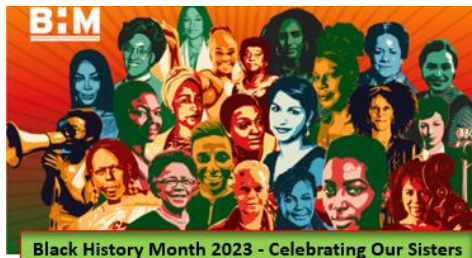
Supreme Court Ruling: 9-0

Segregation Becomes Unconstitutional!



BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION

THE CASE THAT CHANGED AMERICA



Brown v BoE (1954, May 17)

Supreme Court Ruling: 9-0

"All the News That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times.

LATE CITY EDITION
Fair and cool today. Mostly sunny. Continued cool tomorrow.
Temperature Range Today—Max., 60; Min., 52.
Temperature Tomorrow—Max., 60; Min., 61.
Full 12 p.m. Weather Service Report, Page 1.

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FIVE CENTS

HIGH COURT BANS SCHOOL SEGREGATION; 9-TO-0 DECISION GRANTS TIME TO COMPLY

McCarthy Hearing Off a Week as Eisenhower Bars Report

SENATOR IS IRATE

President Orders Aides Not to Disclose Details of Top-Level Meeting

President's letter and excerpts from transcript, Pages 24, 25, 26.

By W. H. LAWRENCE
Special to the New York Times.

WASHINGTON, May 17.—A secrecy directive by President Eisenhower resulted today in an abrupt recess for at least a week of the Senate's Army-McCarthy hearings.

Democratic and Republican Senators, some publicly and some privately, predicted that the investigation might never resume in earnest. However, there were other Senators who insisted that the investigation would go on to completion.

The room was used after Senator Edward J. Brooke, the Attorney General, disclosed tonight that criminal prosecutions might be instituted against those involved in the "persecution and discrimination" of an alleged, confessed but still confidential Federal spy.

Communist Arms Unloaded in Guatemala

By Vessel From Polish Port, U. S. Learns

State Department Views News Gravely Because of Red Infiltration

Special to the New York Times.

WASHINGTON, May 17.—The State Department said today that it had reliable information that "an important shipment of arms had been sent from Communist-controlled territory in Guatemala, to 8,600 the arms, now being unloaded at Puerto Barrios, Guatemala, had been shipped from distant, a former German Baltic seaport, which has been occupied by Communist Poland since World War II. The Guatemalan regime has been frequently accused of being influenced by Communism.

"Because of the origin of these arms, the point of their embarkation, their destination and the



Site of arms arrival (cross)

Embassy Says Nation of Central America May Buy Munitions Anywhere

Barrios last Saturday, the State Department reported, carrying a large shipment of munitions consigned to the Guatemalan Government.

The State Department did not divulge the exact quantity of the arms, their nature or where they had been manufactured.

Reliable sources told The New York Times, however, that they thought our loads of goods listed in the manifest as "hardware" had been unloaded from this ship and sent to the city of Guatemala since Sunday. Guatemala is 100 miles from Puerto Barrios. The

Continued on Page 10, Column 5

REACTION OF SOUTH

'Breathing Spell' for Adjustment Tempers Region's Feelings

By JOHN N. POPHAM
Special to the New York Times.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., May 17.—The South's reaction to the Supreme Court's decision authorizing racial segregation in public schools appeared to be tempered considerably today.

The time lag allowed for carrying out the required transition seemed to be the major factor in that reaction.

Southern leaders of both races in political, educational and community service fields expressed comment that covered a wide range. Some spoke in words that verged on defiance. Others ranged from sharp disagreement to professions of peaceful and successful adjustment in accord with the ruling.

But, underneath the surface of much of the comment, it was evident that many Southerners recognized that the decision had laid down the legal principle rejecting segregation in public education.



LEADERS IN SEGREGATION FIGHT: Lawyers who led battle before U. S. Supreme Court for abolition of segregation.

1896 RULING UPSET

'Separate but Equal' Doctrine Held Out of Place in Education

Text of Supreme Court decision is printed on Page 10.

By LUTHER A. HUSTON
Special to the New York Times.

WASHINGTON, May 17.—The Supreme Court unanimously outlawed today racial segregation in public schools.

Chief Justice Earl Warren read two opinions that put the stamp of unconstitutionality on school systems in twenty-one states and the District of Columbia where segregation is pervasive or mandatory.

The court, taking cognizance of the problems involved in the integration of the school systems concerned, put over until the next term, beginning in October, the formulation of decrees to effectuate its 9-to-0 decision.

The opinions set aside the "separate but equal" doctrine laid down by the Supreme Court in 1896.

SOVIET BIDS VIENNA

Cease 'Intrigues'

The Board of Higher Education was unable to elect a chairman at its second meeting.

CITY COLLEGES' BOARD

Can't Pick Chairman

2 TAX PROJECTS DIE

IN ESTIMATE BOARD

Brown v BoE (1954, May 17)

Supreme Court Ruling: 9-0

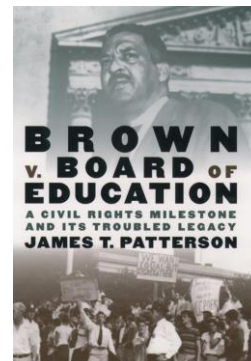


Students and their parents who initiated the landmark Civil Rights lawsuit 'Brown V Board of Education,' Topeka, Kansas, 1953.

Pictured are, front row, from left, students, Vicki Henderson, Donald Henderson, **Linda Brown**, James Emanuel, Nancy Todd, and Katherine Carper; back row, from left, parents Zelma Henderson, Oliver Brown, Sadie Emanuel, Lucinda Todd, and Lena Carper (Photo by Carl Iwasaki/The LIFE Images Collection via Getty Images). Source: <https://www.naacpldf.org/brown-vs-board>



Linda Brown, in the yard of the all-black Monroe School in Topeka, 1953, when she was ten. (Carl Iwasaki, *Life/Timepix*)



Brown v BoE (1954, May 17)

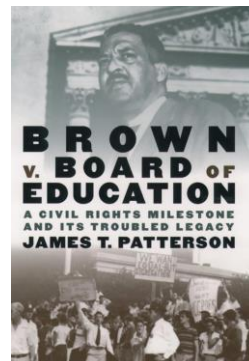
Supreme Court Ruling: 9-0



Three plaintiffs in school desegregation cases attend a press conference in 1964, ten years after the Brown decision. They are (*l to r.*), Harry Briggs Jr. (South Carolina), Linda Brown Smith (Kansas), and Spottswood Bolling (District of Columbia). (*Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, New York World-Telegram & Sun Collection*)

May 1955

The Little Rock School Board approves a plan to gradually integrate its schools, beginning with high school in 1957; advocates for integration want the board to move faster, but a judge supports the board's plan

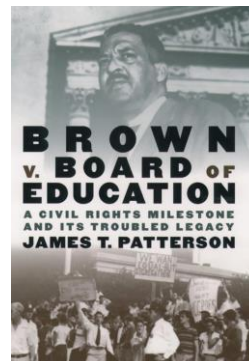


Brown v BoE (1954, May 17)

Supreme Court Ruling: 9-0



Thousands of mourners came to pay their respects to Thurgood Marshall as he lay in state at the Supreme Court after his death in January 1993. (*AP/Wide World photo*)



1956, February 8

Aaron v. Cooper

In January 1956, 27 Black students attempted to enroll for the second semester at Central High, Little Rock Technical High, Forest Heights Junior High and Forest Park Elementary School. They were refused enrollment by the school district, prompting a lawsuit by 12 Black parents and the NAACP.

The case uses the names William Cooper, president of the Little Rock School District Board, and John Aaron, the first listed student of the twelve.

1956, March 11

Southern Manifesto

19 US Senators and 82 Representatives from the Southern US signed a manifesto in opposition to racial integration of public places.

The document denounces the U.S. Supreme Court's decision on integration in education and encouraging Southern states to resist desegregation.

The Southern Manifesto accused the Supreme Court of "*clear abuse of judicial power*" and promised to use "*all lawful means to bring about a reversal of this decision which is contrary to the Constitution and to prevent the use of force in its implementation.*"

1957, September 3

Little Rock Central High

The Mothers' League held a sunrise service at the school on September 3 as a protest against integration.

But that afternoon, federal judge Ronald Davies issued a ruling that desegregation would continue as planned the next day.

1957, September 3

Little Rock Central High

2

*“Blood will run
in the streets.”*

Fall 1957

On the night of September 2, 1957, the day before school opening, Governor Orval Faubus ordered an armed detachment of the Arkansas National Guard to surround Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. At 10:15 p.m. he went on television to tell the people of Arkansas that he had prayed about the matter and acted out of dire necessity—because of “evidence of disorder and threats of disorder.” Otherwise, according to the Daisy Bates version in her *Long Shadow of Little Rock*, Faubus warned that “blood will run in the streets” of Little Rock. Different news agencies reported his prediction in milder terms, quoting his stated fears about “the harm that may occur on the morrow.” In any case, immediately following the broadcast the school board instructed the nine black students who were preparing to enroll to stay away.

The school opened all white on the morning of September 3. Later that day, Federal Judge Ronald Davies ordered integration to start the next day, September 4.

My Father Said Yes

*A White Pastor
in Little Rock School Integration*



Dunbar H. Ogden

Foreword by Archbishop Desmond Tutu

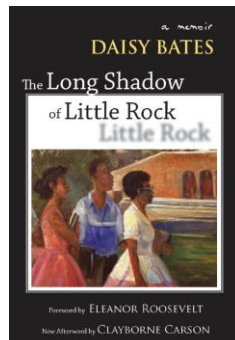
1957, September 4

Little Rock Central High



On Governor's orders, Arkansas National Guard is protecting 2000 white students from the harm of nine Black kids!

National Guardsmen, fully armed, stand watch in front of Central High School.
UPI/Bettmann Newsphotos.



1957, September 4

Little Rock Central High



On Governor's orders, Arkansas National Guard is protecting 2000 white students from the harm of nine Black kids!

1957, September 4

Little Rock Central High



On Governor's orders, Arkansas National Guard is protecting 2000 white students from the harm of nine Black kids!

📷 Minnijean Brown-Trickey and six other other black students are denied entrance to Central high school by the AK National Guard. Photograph: Francis Miller/Life Picture Collection/Getty

1957, September 4

Little Rock Central High

The 1957 Crisis at Central High

Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site

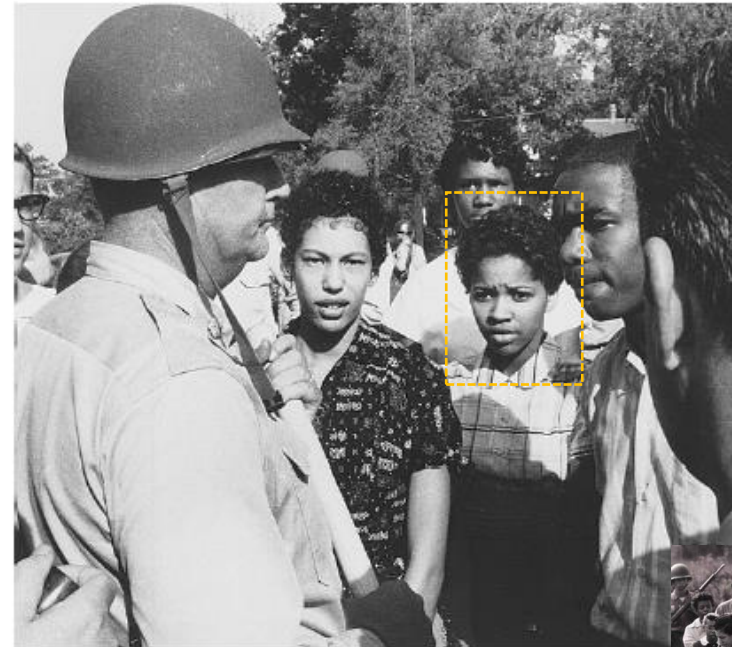
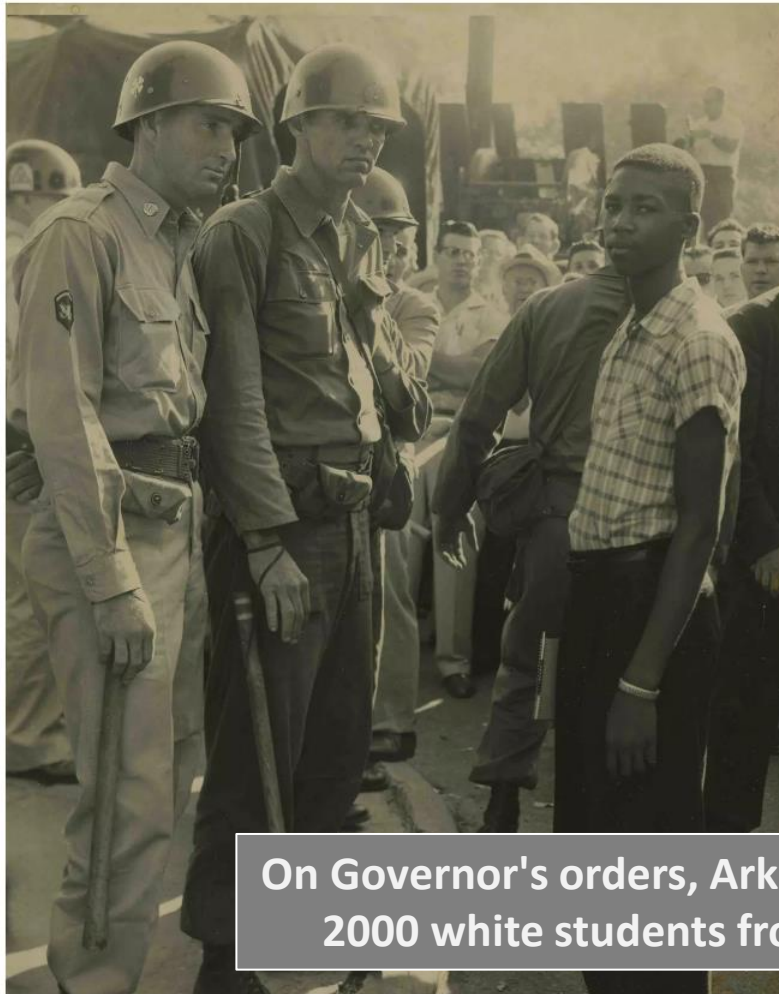
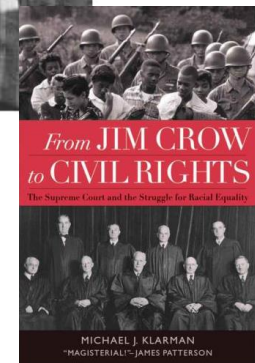


FIGURE 6.3

An Arkansas national guardsman blocks four of the Little Rock Nine from entering Central High School on September 4, 1957. The students are (left to right) Carlotta Walls, Gloria Ray, Jane Hill, and Ernest Green. (*Arkansas History Commission*)

On Governor's orders, Arkansas National Guard is protecting 2000 white students from the harm of nine Black kids!



One of the Little Rock Nine, Terence Roberts, is turned away from Central High on September 4, 1957 by the Arkansas National Guard.
Little Rock Central High School (LRC)

1957, September 4

Little Rock Central High



Elizabeth Eckford, one of the Little Rock Nine, was waved off school grounds by Arkansas National Guardsmen, September, 1957.

Francis Miller/Life Pictures/Shutterstock



GOVERNOR FAUBUS ORDERS—Lt. Col. Marvin Johnson, commander of National Guard troops, leads back group of Negroes seeking to enter Central High School.



GOVERNOR FAUBUS ORDERS—Lt. Col. Marvin Johnson, commander of National Guard troops, leads back group of Negroes seeking to enter Central High School.

Integration Order Covers All 3 Schools

By MORRIS FORTNEY
University Staff Writer

All "senior high schools" in the Little Rock school district are under federal court order to integrate students "whenever" and National Guardsmen were posted at all high schools this morning.

Solon Calls For Curbs On Credit

World Bank Controls Over International Trading

Washington, D. C. (AP)—Senator Charles McNichols today called for curbs on international credit to prevent the world from becoming a "credit market."

McNichols, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said in an address before the Senate that the world is becoming a "credit market" and that the United States should take action to prevent this.

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Armed Troops Turn Back 9 Negroes At Central High School

(By GEORGE HOLMES)
Special Staff Writer

Nine Negro students attempting to integrate into Little Rock Central High School today were turned back by National Guardsmen, "on orders of Governor Faubus."

There were no incidents except for some scuffles as a crowd followed a lone Negro girl who walked the length of the front of the school in defiance of the main group of seven which was halted some minutes later.

The governor, who ordered troops around the high school Sunday night, denied yesterday he was blocking integration as ordered by the federal courts and contended he was only maintaining "law and order" in the face of threatened violence.

Twelve Negro leaders accompanying some of the demonstrators were taken to the state penitentiary after being arrested by the National Guardsmen.

The Negroes, delayed only for names and photographs for a check of fingerprints and mugshots, were taken to the state penitentiary after being arrested by the National Guardsmen.

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Faubus Says Guard Told To Stop Negroes

By R. S. MATTHEWS
Special Staff Writer

Gov. Faubus contended today that the National Guardsmen were ordered to stop Negro students from entering Little Rock Central High School.

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Two Russian Ships Said English Channel

Lloyd, Yugoslav Chief in Center

Auto Traffic Scoreboard

Auto Traffic Scoreboard

My Father Said Yes

A White Pastor in Little Rock School Integration

By R. S. MATTHEWS
Special Staff Writer

Rev. J. Edgar Hoover, pastor of the Central Baptist Church, said today that his father had said "yes" to the integration of Little Rock Central High School.

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Dunbar H. Ogden

Foreword by Archbishop Desmond Tutu



50 Famous Photos That Changed Our World

By All That's Interesting | Edited By John Kuroski
Published September 5, 2021 | Updated September 6, 2021

Photo by Will Counts
Winner of 1958 Pulitzer Prize

HOW A PHOTOGRAPH CHANGED THE FIGHT FOR INTEGRATION

LITTLE ROCK GIRL 1957

by Shelley Tougas



1957, September 4

Little Rock Central High

50 Famous Photos That Changed Our World

By All That's Interesting | Edited By John Kuroski
Published September 5, 2021 | Updated September 6, 2021

ati

History | Science | News | Today In History

Members



10 of 50

Elizabeth Eckford walks to Little Rock Central High School as Hazel Bryan stands behind her screaming on the first day of racial integration. September 4, 1957.

Bettmann/Getty Images

Photo by Will Counts
Winner of 1958 Pulitzer Prize

Report this ad

Ad choices





— Teenager Elizabeth Eckford (L) w. snarling white parents following as she is turned away fr. entering Central High School by Arkansas National Guardsmen under orders fr. Gov. Orval Faubus. FRANCIS MILLER / The LIFE Picture Collection/Gett

1957, September 14

Little Rock to Rhode Island

Ike and Orval meet face to face on September 14, 1957



On September 14, 1957, in an attempt to end the stalemate in Arkansas, President Dwight D. Eisenhower met with Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus. The meeting was brokered by Rep. Brooks Hays, whose district included Little Rock.

The meeting took place in Newport, Rhode Island, where the President was vacationing. After exchanging pleasantries, the President and Governor adjourned to the President's office where they met privately for about twenty minutes. During

that conversation, Faubus proclaimed to the President that he was a law abiding citizen and discussed his own World War II service.

President Eisenhower suggested to Faubus that as a law abiding citizen, he should change the National Guard's orders so that they protected the Little Rock Nine, not kept them from the building. He reminded Faubus that the Justice Department was prepared to issue an injunction against him and that the governor would undoubtedly lose in court.

Following their conversation, Congressman Hays and U.S. Attorney General Herbert Brownell Jr. joined the two in a larger office and continued conversations for approximately another 100 minutes.

When the meeting was over, the President felt like Faubus had agreed to refocus the mission of the National Guard and allow the Little Rock Nine to enter. The President's statement to the press thanked Faubus for his cooperation. Upon returning to Little Rock, Faubus issued his own statement which did not address the President's statement directly. He did not even mention the National Guard or the students.

Apparently, President Eisenhower felt betrayed by the Governor's actions.

The stage was set for these two to continue their face off.

See also:

Dwight Eisenhower's Diary

1957, September 20

Judge Davies' Order

On Sept. 20, 1957, Judge Ronald Davies granted an injunction against Faubus, ruling the governor had exceeded his authority in obstructing the School Board's plan and ordered the integration of Central High School to proceed.

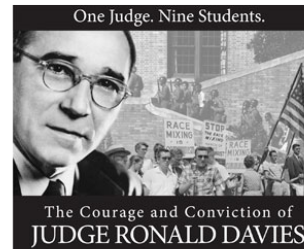
Judge Davies ordered the National Guard be removed from Little Rock and he replaced them with the police.

Documentary about Judge Davies and desegregation ruling debuts Sept. 23

September 19, 2013

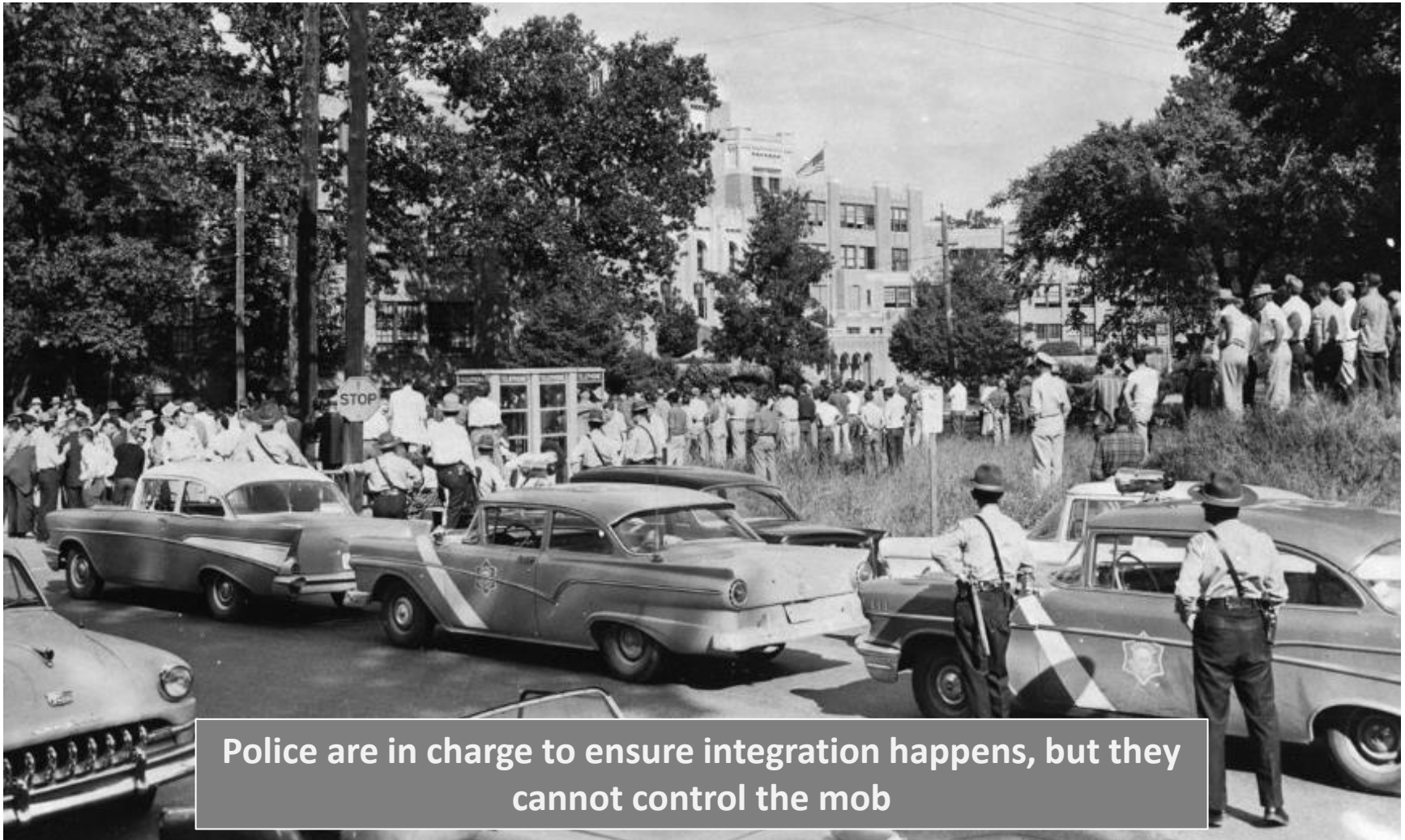
With the White House, a state governor, the National Guard, and later the 101st Airborne involved, it's likely that federal [Judge](#) Ronald Davies knew he was making a landmark decision.

The [Road to Little Rock](#), a documentary about Davies, his famous desegregation ruling, and the brave young African-Americans who squared off against the forces of racism, premieres in Grand Forks next Monday, Sept. 23, 7 p.m., at the Chester Fritz Auditorium on the University of North Dakota campus. The premiere comes during the 50th anniversary year of [Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.](#)'s world-famous "I Have a Dream" speech and close to the anniversary date of Judge Davies's momentous decision. The movie and related activities — including a [North Dakota-wide public school curriculum about the civil rights movement](#) — is part of a two-year research project led by the [Fargo Public Schools](#). The movie premiered in Fargo in January.



1957, September 23

Little Rock Central High



Police are in charge to ensure integration happens, but they cannot control the mob

1957, September 23

Little Rock Central High

"All the News
That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times.

LATE CITY EDITION

U. S. Weather Bureau Report (For 41 States):
Partly cloudy, cool today. Mostly
fair, reasonable cool tomorrow.
Temp. range: 68-58. Yesterday: 75-60.

VOL. CVII—No. 36,403.

© 1957, by The New York Times Company.
Times Square, New York 10, N. Y.

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1957.

Size beyond top-mile zone
from New York City

FIVE CENTS

PRESIDENT THREATENS TO USE U. S. TROOPS, ORDERS RIOTERS IN LITTLE ROCK TO DESIST; MOB COMPELS 9 NEGROES TO LEAVE SCHOOL

PRESIDENT WARNS INFLATION PERILS FREE WORLD GAINS

Other Speakers Cite Danger
—Discord Marks World
Fund and Bank Talks

Text of Eisenhower speech
is printed on Page 8.

By EDWIN L. DALE Jr.

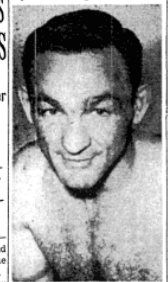
Special to The New York Times.
WASHINGTON, Sept. 23—
The free world's leaders and
its borrowers clashed in polite
but unmistakable terms today.

Finance ministers and other
high economic officials of sixty-
two nations were told by Pres-
ident Eisenhower that world-
wide inflation was a "threat to
sound economic growth."

The occasion was the opening
day of the annual meetings of
the International Monetary
Fund, the International Bank
for Reconstruction and Devel-
opment and the International
Finance Corporation.

[The British Labor party
has asked Prime Minister
Macmillan to summon Parlia-

Basilio Takes Title By Beating Robinson



Carmen Basilio

Carmen Basilio of Chitten-
ango, N. Y., won the world
middleweight championship
by outpointing Ray Robinson
of New York on a split deci-
sion in their fifteen-round
fight at Yankee Stadium last
night before 38,000.

Details on Page 43

DIEFFENBAKER SEES

STUDENTS UNHURT

Return Today Unlikely
—City Authorities
Yield to Crowd

By BENJAMIN FINE

Special to The New York Times.
LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Sept.
23—A mob of belligerent,
sneering and hysterical dem-
onstrators forced the with-
drawal today of nine Negro
students from Central High
School here.

Despite a heavy turnout of
local and state police to see
that the Negroes were not
molested in Little Rock's new-
est attempt to integrate the
high school, city authorities
bowed to the fury of about
1,000 white supremacists. They
ordered the Negro students to
leave the school about noon.
The integration attempt had
lasted 3 hours 13 minutes.

While fringe fights broke out,
and several persons were
"roughed up" by hate segrega-
tionists, the mob shouted insults
and obscenities against the
"niggers" and "nigger lovers."
Groups of white students who
had walked out of the school
after the nine Negroes entered



VIOLENCE IN LITTLE ROCK: Alex Wilson, Negro reporter, is kicked at Central High by white man holding brick

EISENHOWER IRATE

Says Federal Orders
'Cannot Be Flouted
With Impunity'

By W. H. LAWRENCE

Special to The New York Times.
NEWPORT, R. I., Sept. 23—
President Eisenhower angrily
threatened today to use "what-
ever force may be necessary" to
prevent obstruction of law and
enforce court-ordered school in-
tegration in the Little Rock,
Ark., high school.

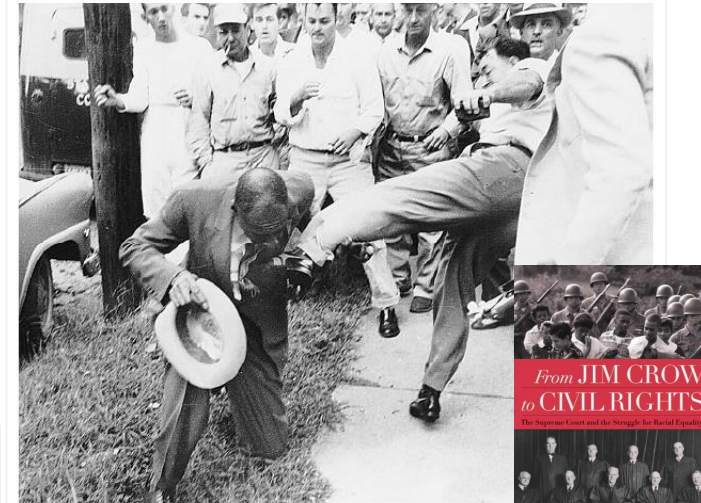
He signed at 6:23 p. m. to-
night an emergency proclama-
tion commanding all persons ob-
structing justice to cease and
desist and to disperse.

The White House said that
the proclamation was a neces-
sary legal prerequisite to the
calling out of Federal troops if
the enforcement of law in Little
Rock continued to be impeded.

The President invoked little
used authority to declare that
"certain persons in the state of
Arkansas, individually and in
unlawful, assemblages, combi-
nations and conspiracies have
willfully obstructed the enforce-
ment of orders" of the Little
Rock United States District
Court.

FIGURE 7.7

A white man kicks black newspaper reporter Alex Wilson as a mob watches outside of Little Rock's Central High School, September 23, 1957. Wilson said, "I fought for my country, and I'm not running from you," as he was attacked. (Arkansas History Commission)



From JIM CROW
to CIVIL RIGHTS

The Supreme Court and the Struggle for Racial Equality

MICHAEL J. KLARMAN
"MAGISTERIAL": JAMES PATTERSON

"The only assurance I can give you is that the federal constitution will be upheld by me by every legal means at my command."
President Eisenhower in telegram to Governor Faubus.

1957, September 23

President Issues an Executive Order



NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Milestone Documents

Home > Executive Order 10730: Desegregation of Central High School (1957)



EXECUTIVE ORDER

PROVIDING ASSISTANCE FOR THE REMOVAL OF AN OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE WITHIN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS

WHEREAS on September 23, 1957, I issued Proclamation No. 3204 reading in part as follows:

"WHEREAS certain persons in the State of Arkansas, individually and in unlawful assemblages, combinations, and conspiracies, have wilfully obstructed the enforcement of orders of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas with respect to matters relating to enrollment and attendance at public schools, particularly at Central High School, located in Little Rock School District, Little Rock, Arkansas; and

"WHEREAS such wilful obstruction of justice hinders the execution of the laws of that state and of the United States, and makes it impracticable to enforce such laws by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings; and

"WHEREAS such obstruction of justice constitutes a denial of the equal protection of the laws secured by the Constitution of the United States and impedes the course of justice under those laws:

"NOW, THEREFORE, I, DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, President of the United States, under and by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and statutes of the United States, including Chapter 15 of Title 10 of the United States Code, particularly sections 332, 333 and 334 thereof, do command all persons engaged in such obstruction of justice to cease and desist therefrom, and to disperse forthwith;" and

WHEREAS the command contained in that Proclamation has not been obeyed and wilful obstruction of enforcement of said court orders still exists and threatens to continue;

1957, September 23

Screaming Eagles are in Town



THE D-DAY STORY
PORTSMOUTH



2030, 5 June 1944



General Eisenhower meeting troops from the US 101st Airborne Division at Greenham Common near Newbury, only hours before they take off for France. (Photo: Photo: Conseil Régional de Basse-Normandie / US National Archives)



1957, September 25

Little Rock Central High

Civil Rights Digital Library

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for Items and Collections



Central High School, Little Rock, Arkansas, African American students arriving in U.S. Army car

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Collection: [Voices of Civil Rights](#)

Title: [Central High School, Little Rock, Arkansas, African American students arriving in U.S. Army car](#)

Creator: [Keating, Bern](#)

Date of Original: [1957-10](#)

Subject: [African Americans--Education--Arkansas--Little Rock](#)
[African American students--Arkansas--Little Rock](#)
[African Americans--Civil rights--Arkansas--Little Rock](#)
[School integration--Arkansas--Little Rock](#)
[Soldiers--Arkansas--Little Rock](#)
[Students--Arkansas--Little Rock](#)
[Central High School \(Little Rock, Ark.\)](#)

Location: [United States, Arkansas, Pulaski County, Little Rock, 34.74648, -92.28959](#)

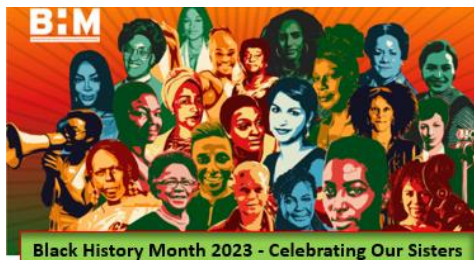


1957, September 25

Little Rock Central High



Members of the Little Rock Nine arrive at Central High under federal troop escort, October 1957. 📷 Courtesy Central High School NHS/UALR Archives



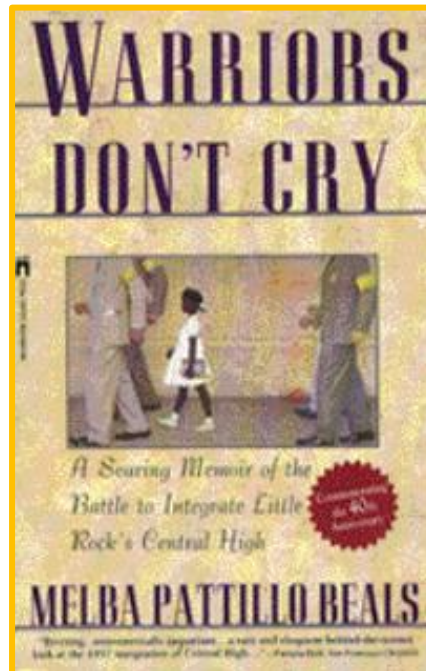
1957/58 School Year

Warriors Don't Cry

THE BOOK

Warriors Don't Cry

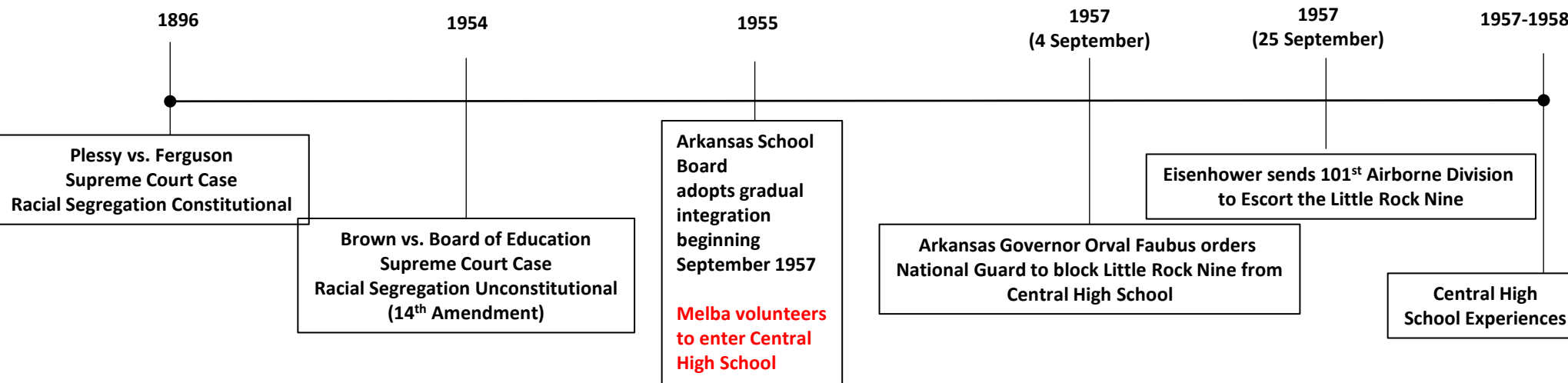
The Searing Memoir of the Battle to Integrate Little Rock's Central High





[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-ND](#)

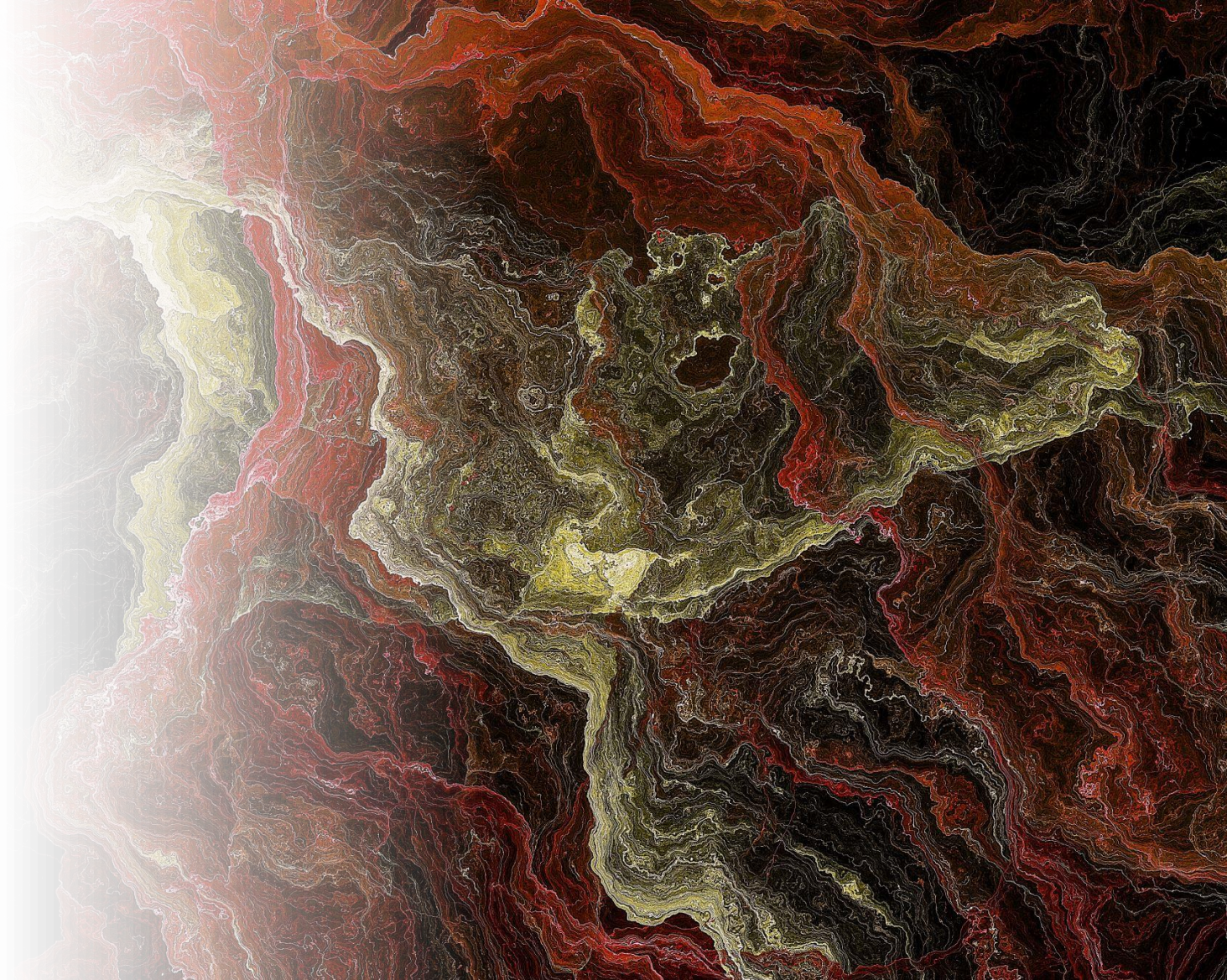
TIMELINE



“We were children...”



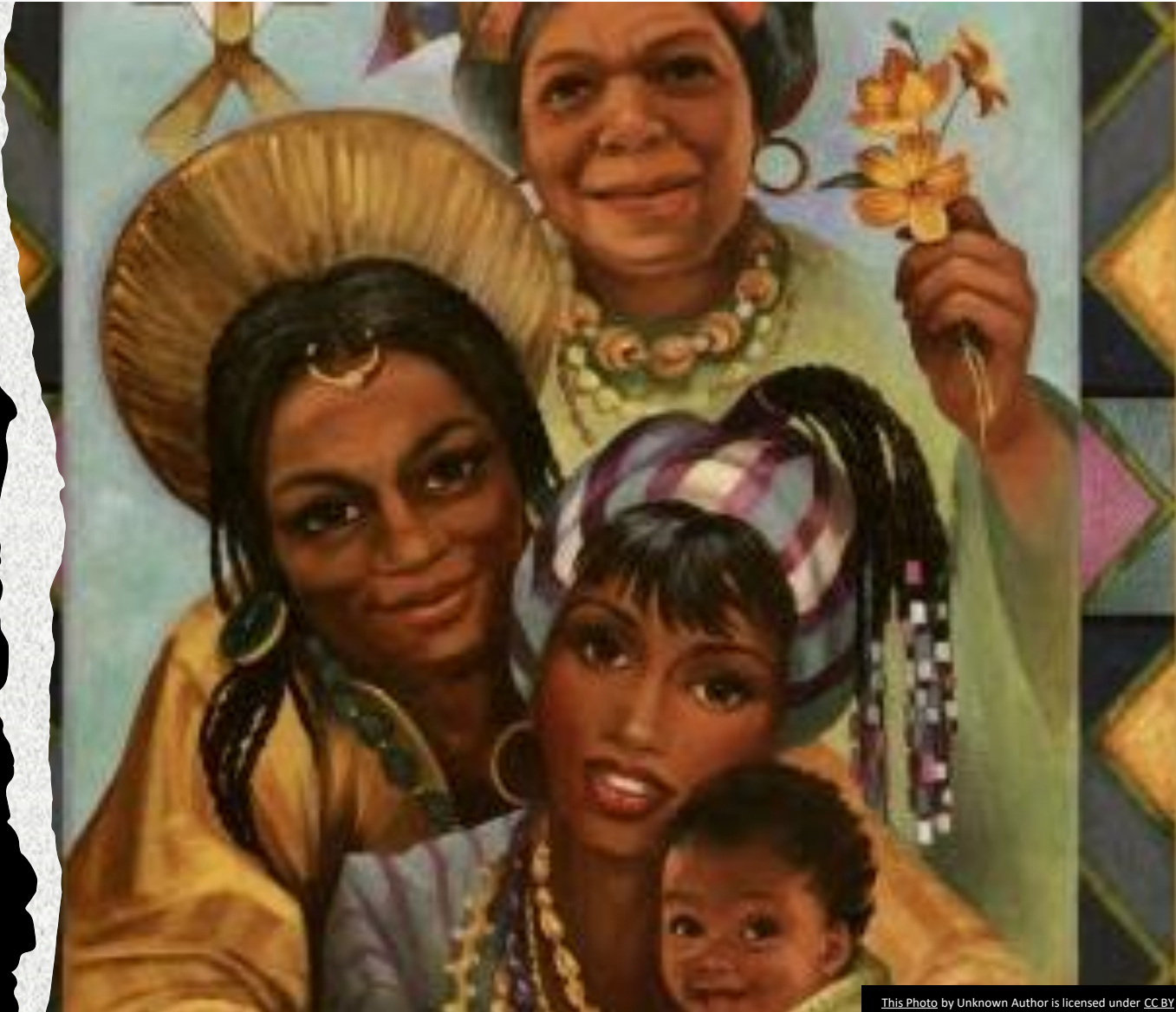
THEMES



Ostracization



Family



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY

Religion



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA-NC

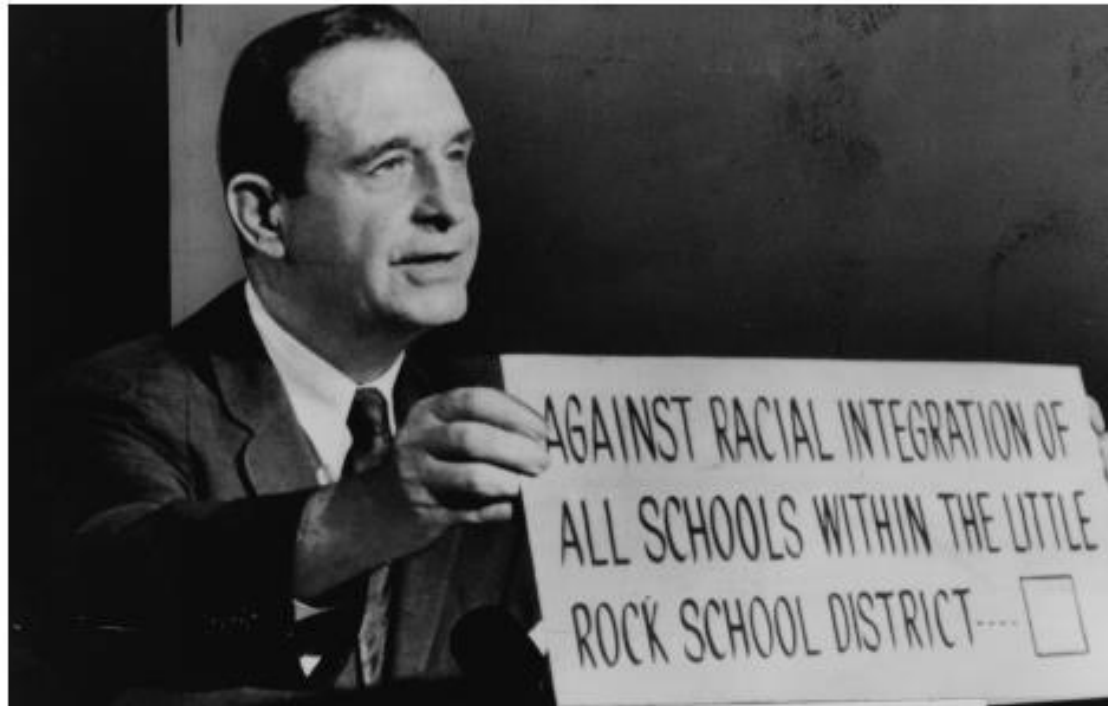
1958/59 School Year

The Lost Year

What is Next?

1958, September 12

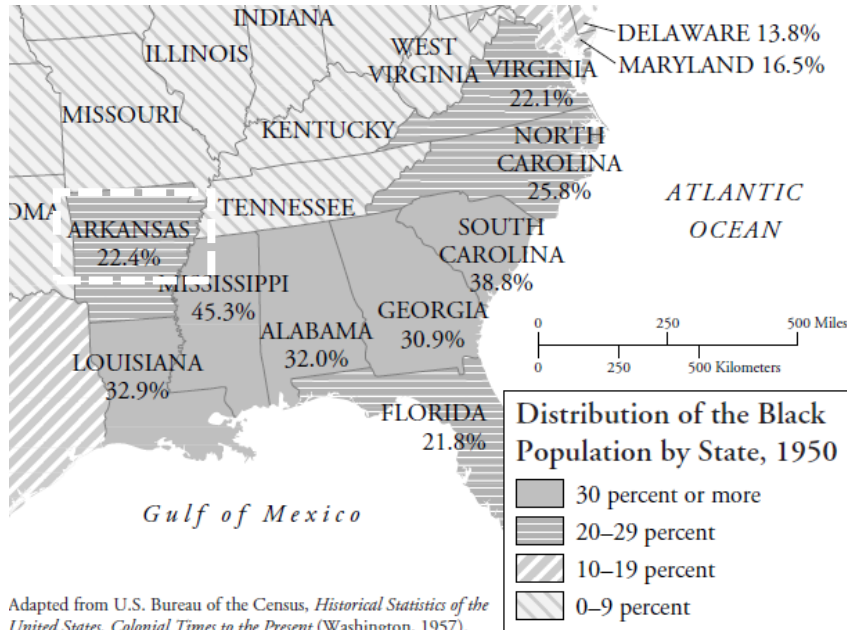
Cooper v. Aaron



When the Supreme Court handed down its 1958 decision in *Cooper v. Aaron* ordering the desegregation of schools in Little Rock, Alabama, Governor Orval Faubus chose instead to close the city's schools.

1957, September 28

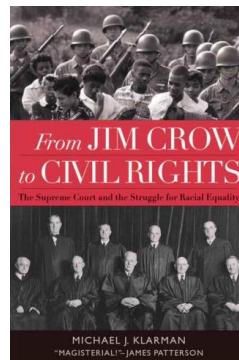
Little Rock, AR



Adapted from U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Historical Statistics of the United States, Colonial Times to the Present* (Washington, 1957).

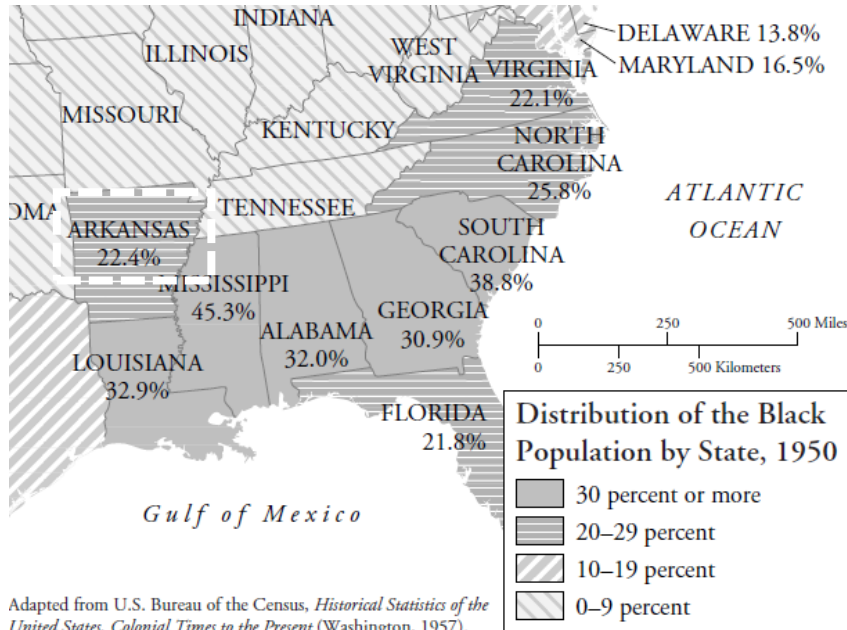
FIGURE 7.6

Governor Orval Faubus holds up the front page of the *Manchester (N.H.) Union Leader* after President Dwight Eisenhower sent federal troops into Little Rock, September 28, 1957. (Bettmann/CORBIS)



1958, September 27

Little Rock, AR



In the five Deep South states, every single one of 1.4 million Black schoolchildren attended segregated schools until the fall of 1960. By the start of the 1964-65 school year, less than 3% of the South's African American children attended school with white students, and in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, and South Carolina that number remained substantially below 1%.

On this day — Sep 27, 1958

White Little Rock Voters Choose to Close Public Schools Rather Than Integrate



Library of Congress

The Role Women Played

Little Rock Central High Crisis

8. Women played key roles on both sides of the integration crisis.

The segregationist Mothers' League formed in August 1957 and filed lawsuits to prevent integration at Central High School. Among their activities, they held a sunrise service at the school in September, singing "Dixie" and waving Confederate flags.

Those advocating for the Little Rock Nine included **Daisy L. Gatson Bates**, president of the state chapter of the NAACP. She led the NAACP's protest against the school board's plan for gradual integration, pressing instead for immediate desegregation.

During the crisis, Bates organized logistics for the Little Rock Nine's arrival and departure from school each day, with her home as the meeting spot. The street along the high school's north side is now named in her honor.

The Council of Church Women protested the governor's use of the National Guard. The Women's Emergency Committee to Open Our Schools formed a year later to publicly condemn the governor's decision to close Little Rock high schools for the 1958-59 school year. This group also supported the reinstatement of the 44 teachers and administrators who were fired for suspected support of integration.

9 Things You May Not Know About the Little Rock Nine

50 Famous Photos That Changed Our World

By All That's Interesting | Edited By John Kuroski

Published September 5, 2021 | Updated September 6, 2021

ati

History | Science | News | Today In History

Members

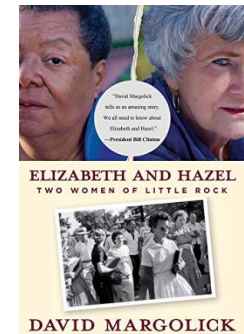


10 of 50

[Elizabeth Eckford](#) walks to Little Rock Central High School as Hazel Bryan stands behind her screaming on the first day of racial integration. September 4, 1957.

Bettmann/Getty Images

See also:



Elizabeth Eckford and Hazel Bryan: the story behind the photograph that shamed America

One was trying to go to school; the other didn't want her there. Together, Elizabeth Eckford and Hazel Bryan starred in one of the most memorable photographs of the Civil Rights era. But their story had only just begun.

By David Margolick
09 October 2011 • 12:01am

Hazel Massery

1997



The two women met again in 1997 when they were asked to pose for a photo in front of the school by the same newspaper photographer who took the 1957 image, Will Counts. After this meeting they became real friends and spent time together socially, even attending a months long seminar on race relations. But by the early 2000s the two women had stopped being friends, unable to overcome their differences. Their story was recounted in David Margolick's book "Elizabeth and Hazel: Two women of Little Rock."

1997



Counts' 1997 photo of Elizabeth Eckford and Hazel Bryan Massery at Central High School symbolized reconciliation, not hatred.

The Legacy

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Eckford Bench

Commemorative bench dedicated on September 4, 2018. It is a replica of the bench where Elizabeth Eckford of the Little Rock Nine took refuge from a segregationist mob outside Central High School on September 4, 1957.



The Legacy

When you find yourself in a tough
situation...

Keep your head up, stay strong, and
FIND A WAY TO WIN.

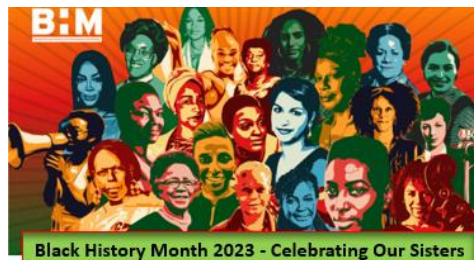


Elizabeth Eckford and the statue depicting her, which the sculptor, John Deering, said is "looking ahead with a mix of stoicism and apprehension."

The Legacy

30 Years Later at Central High School

A Picture from Little Rock Central High School in 1987 (30th Anniversary)



The Legacy

40 Years Later at Central High School

**40th Anniv. of Desegregation of
Little Rock Central High (1997)**

**President Clinton holds the door open to Central High School
and greets Elizabeth Eckford as she enters the school**



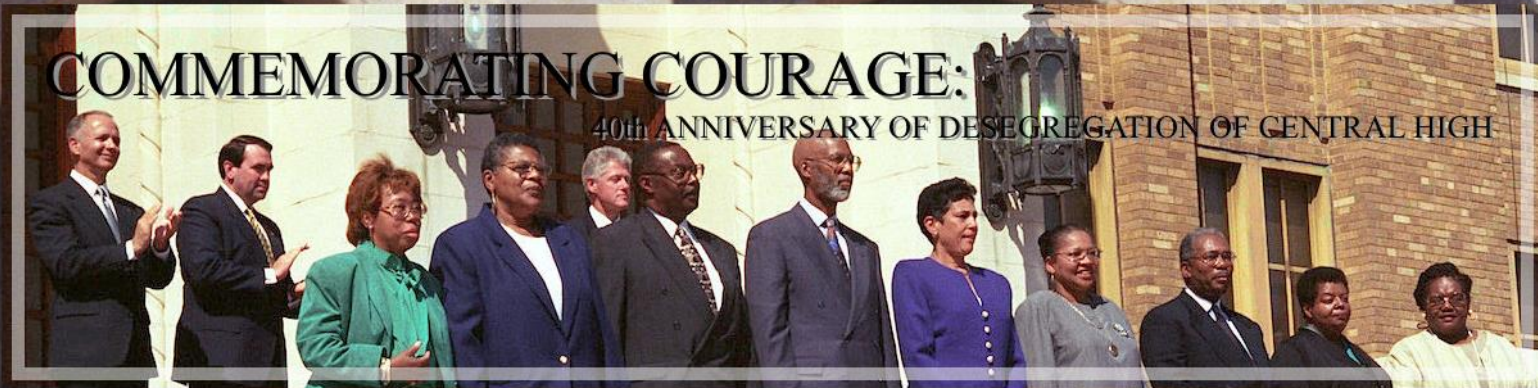
Master Tape #s 07401 - 07403

Remarks at the 40th Anniversary of Desegregation of
Little Rock Central High School

September 25, 1997

Please Credit: Courtesy, William J. Clinton Presidential Library

The Legacy



Honor Those Who Made it Possible

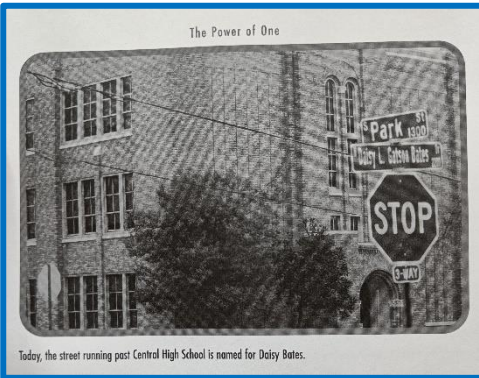
"Today we honor those who made it possible, their parents first – as Eleanor Roosevelt said of them, "To give your child for a cause is even harder than to give yourself;" to honor my friend Daisy Bates and Wylie Branton and Thurgood Marshall, the NAACP, and all who guided these children; to honor President Eisenhower, Attorney General Brownell, and the men of the 101st Airborne who enforced the Constitution; to honor every student, every teacher, every minister, every Little Rock resident, black or white, who offered a word of kindness, a glance of respect, or a hand of friendship; to honor those who gave us the opportunity to be part of this day of celebration and rededication."

-President Clinton, 9/25/1997

President Clinton's quote above thanked some of the most crucial players in the desegregation of Central High in 1957, including President Eisenhower. President Clinton and President Eisenhower both celebrated the transformation of a federal power that once blocked school desegregation into a government that demanded integration.

The nine students had originally tried to enter the school again on September 23rd but had to be removed by Little Rock Police for the sake of their safety due to the segregationist rioting. In response, President Eisenhower placed the Arkansas National Guard under federal orders and sent 1,200 members of the 101st Airborne Division to Little Rock to quell the unrest and protect the students, allowing their entry on September 25. [\[Executive Order 10730\]](#) The troops remained in Little Rock throughout the school year. In May 1958, Ernest Green became the first African-American student to graduate from Central High School.

The Legacy



Little Rock Central High School, 1500 S Little Rock Nine Way, Little Rock, AR 72202, United States

<https://www.bing.com/maps?osid=ac7ec88f-0525-447d-b95b-384805f805ad&cp=34.736743~-92.302711&lvl=16&v=2&sV=2&form=S00027>

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Address:

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<https://goo.gl/maps/x8KiDSX7TmBaePWQ7>

The Legacy

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Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site

Situated at the intersection of Daisy L. Gatson Bates Drive (formerly 14th Street) and Park Street in **Little Rock (Pulaski County)**, the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, a unit of the National Park Service (NPS) since 1998, stands as one of the most significant landmarks of the **civil rights movement**. In 1957, during the **desegregation of Central High School**, nine **African-American** students—the **Little Rock Nine**—attended classes under federal protection amid internationally publicized protests, violence, and staunch opposition from Governor **Orval Faubus** and other segregationists.

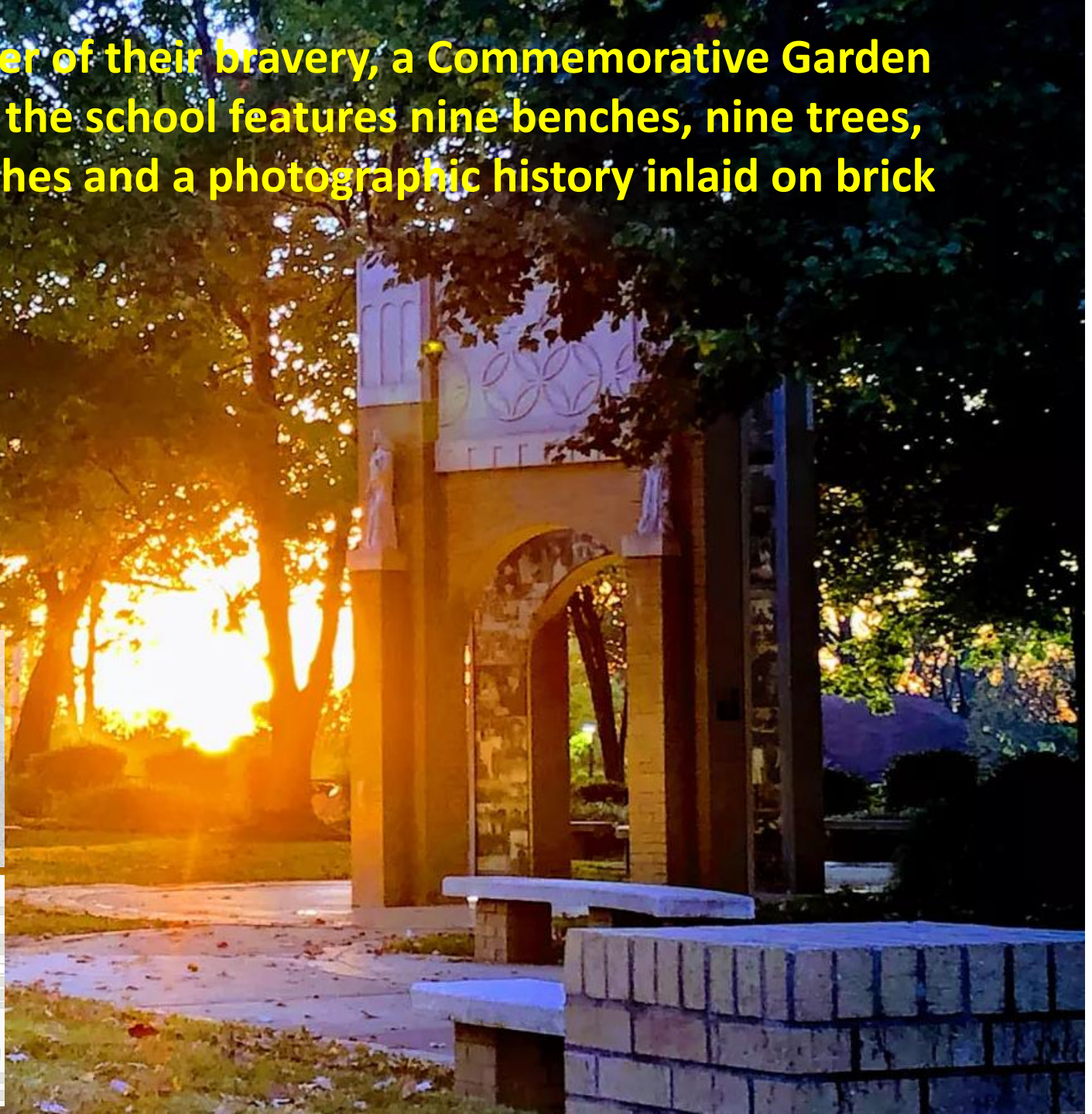
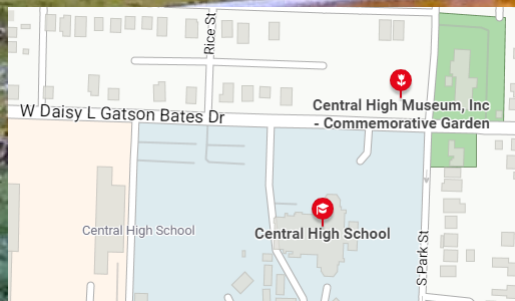
Originally known as Little Rock High School, the building was completed in 1927, replacing the outgrown all-white high school located at 14th and Cumberland streets. Classes for African-Americans were held at **Dunbar High School**, constructed in 1929 a few blocks away. Architects **John Parks Almand**, Lawson L. Delony, **George R. Mann**, Eugene John Stern, and George H. Wittenburg designed the \$1.5 million structure, which the *New York Times* dubbed the most expensive school ever built in the United States at that time. The name was later changed to Central High School in anticipation of the construction of a new white high school, Hall High.

As a reminder of their bravery, a Commemorative Garden adjacent to the school features nine benches, nine trees, concrete arches and a photographic history inlaid on brick

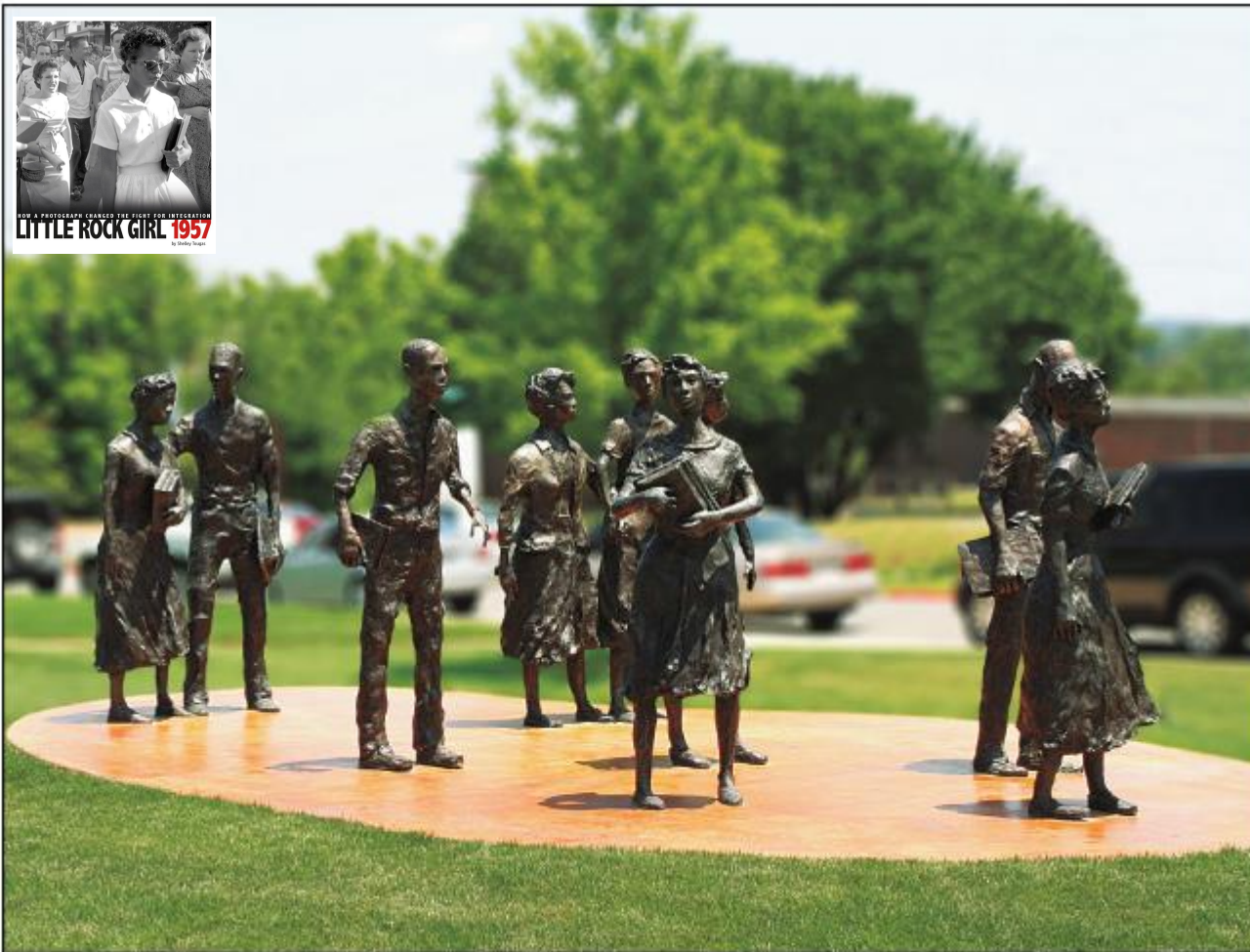
THE SPIRIT OF CENTRAL HIGH

THIS COMMEMORATIVE GARDEN IS TO CELEBRATE
THE ABILITY OF PEOPLE TO OVERCOME ADVERSITY
AND TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR TRIUMPH OF THE
COLLECTIVE GOOD OVER THE BETTERMENT OF ONLY A FEW
THE SCULPTURE WILL GIVE VOICE TO THE VALUES OF HUMAN
EQUITY OVER NARROW FAVORITISM OF SOCIAL JUSTICE
OVER OLIGARCHY OF DECEIT AND CIVILITY OVER BIGOTRY
THROUGH THE YEARS CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL HAS BEEN SEARED
BY THE HEAT OF CONTROVERSY. SCARRED BY EPISODES OF HATRED
AND STRIFE YET IN SPITE OF THOSE EVILS IT HAS SURVIVED INDEED
NOT JUST SURVIVED BUT SUCCEEDED BEYOND ANYONE'S BELIEF
BECOMING ONCE AGAIN ARKANSAS PREMIER HIGH SCHOOL.

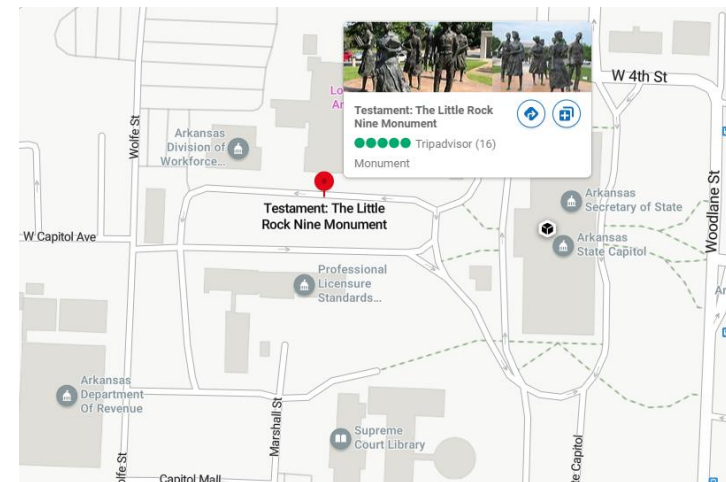
IT HAS ACHIEVED THIS NOT BY RETURNING TO ITS
OLD FORM. MERELY SHOWING ITS PRETTY FACE
BUT BY MODELING THE DIVERSITY AND PLURALISM
THAT CAUSED THE ORIGINAL STORM OF PROTEST.



The Legacy



Pulitzer Prize-nominated photos by Will Counts provided the basis for the features of the life-size statues honoring the Little Rock Nine on the grounds of the Arkansas State Capitol.



The Legacy

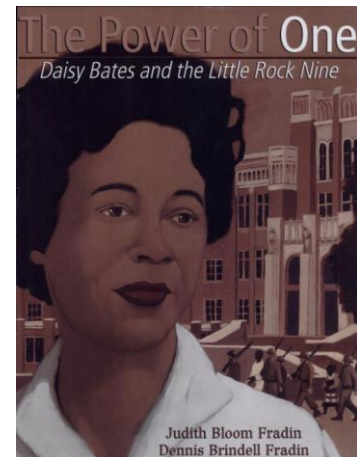


This day is forever etched in our minds. The fact that we received this incredible honor confirmed that indeed we had taken the right action by moving forward through this dangerous task.

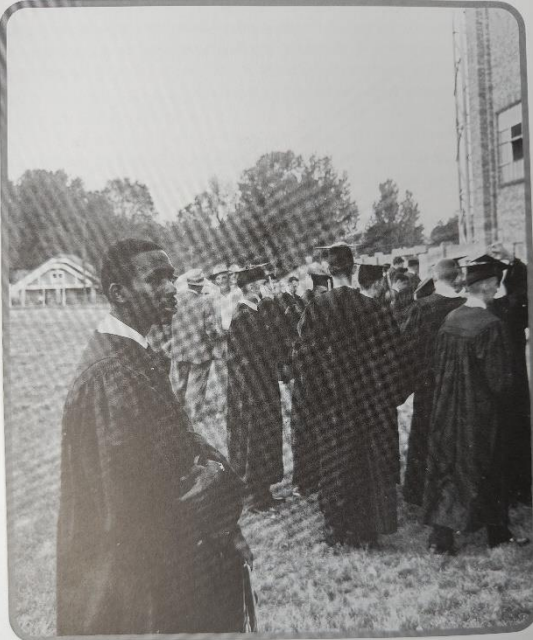
The Legacy



Eighty-two-year-old Daisy Bates carrying the Olympic torch in 1996.



The Legacy



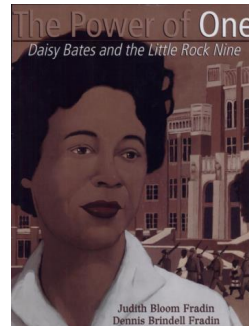
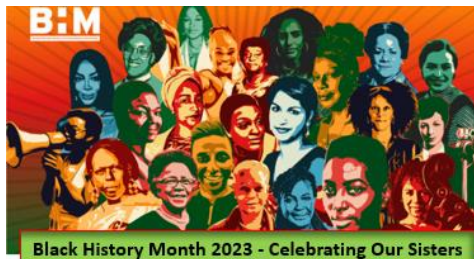
In late May 1958 Ernest Green became the first black graduate of Central High School.

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Forty years later . . . Central High graduates.

1972—In the fall, all Little Rock public schools are fully integrated.



The Legacy

On August 31, 2005, the United States Postal Service dedicated a 37-cent postage stamp recognizing the Little Rock Nine as part of its "To Form a More Perfect Union" collection.

A U.S. postage stamp honoring the Little Rock Nine was issued August 30, 2005, the same day a memorial was dedicated at the Arkansas State Capitol.



"MY CHOICE TO JOIN THIS GROUP OF NINE
WAS AN ACT OF BEARING WITNESS TO THE
SACRIFICES OF ALL THOSE WHO HAVE
SPILLED THEIR BLOOD IN THE ONGOING
FIGHT FOR EQUAL RIGHTS IN THIS
COUNTRY. MY ACCEPTANCE OF THE
BATON THEY PASSED ALONG IS MY
TESTIMONY TO FUTURE GENERATIONS
WHO MUST FINISH THE WORK STARTED BY
THE ANCESTORS WE SHARE IN COMMON."

DR. TERRENCE J. ROBERTS

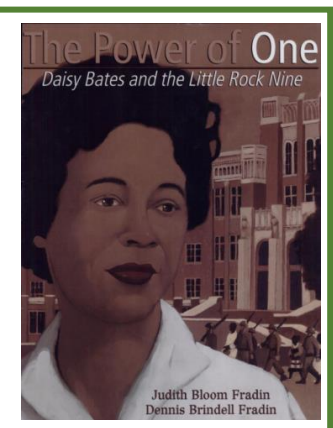
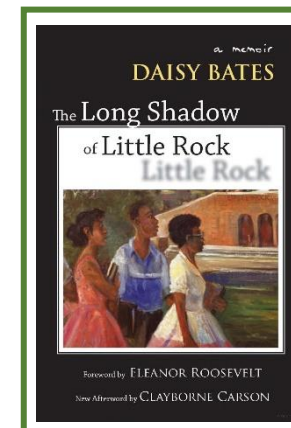
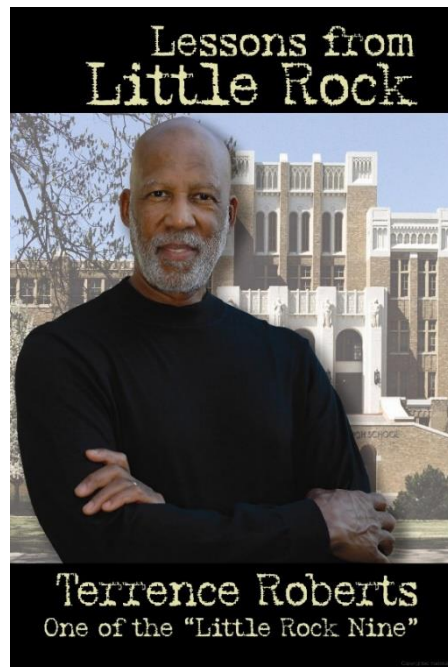
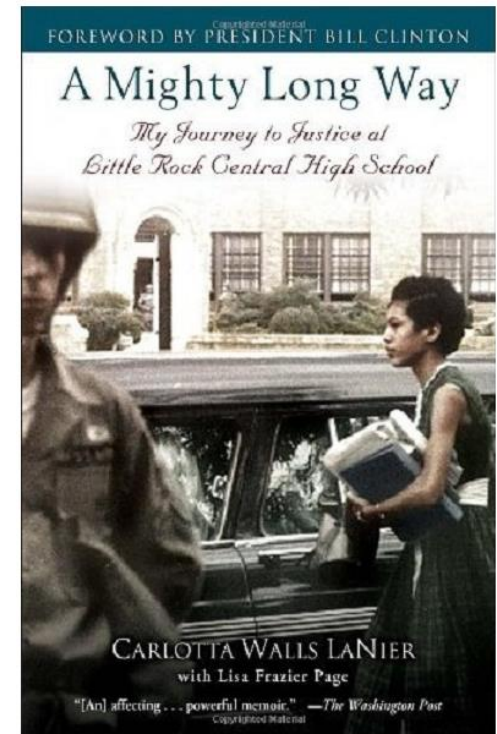
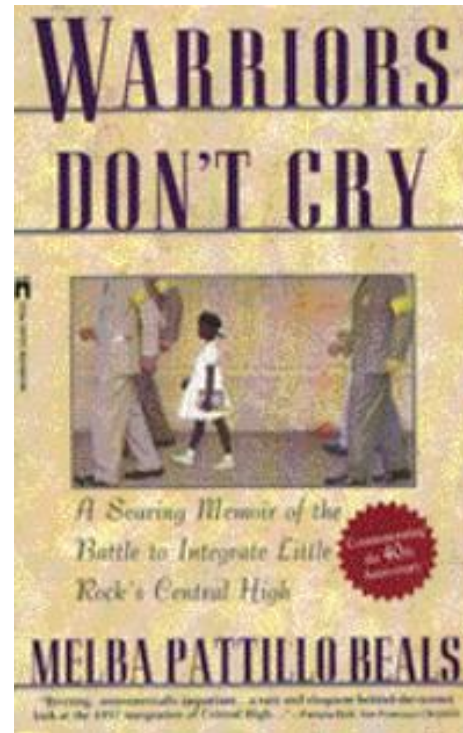
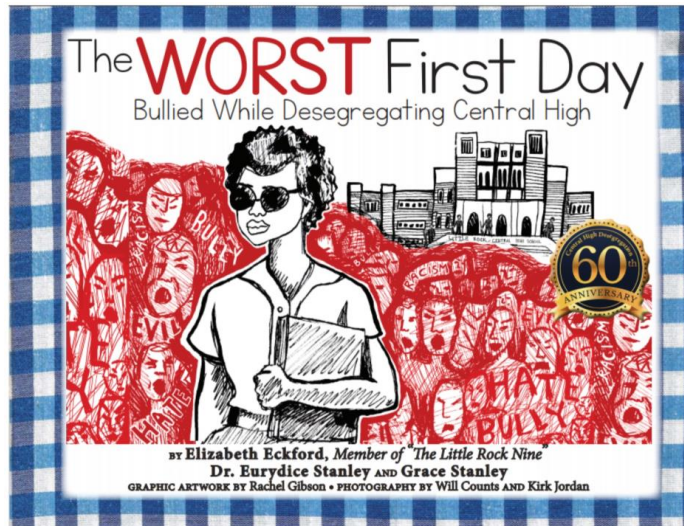


HOW A PHOTOGRAPH CHANGED THE FIGHT FOR INTEGRATION
LITTLE ROCK GIRL 1957
by Shelley Stapp

THE WARRIORS



Books by Little Rock Nine



A Documentary History of Little Rock Crisis

RACE, POLITICS, AND MEMORY

A Documentary History of the Little Rock School Crisis



Edited by Catherine M. Lewis and J. Richard Lewis

