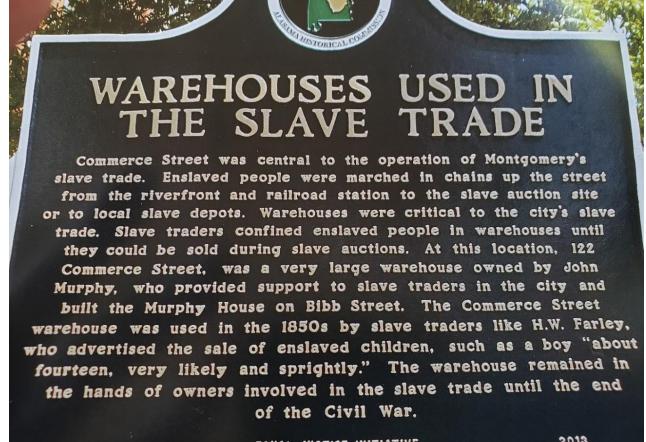
Tracing Images of our Past

Manasota ASALH Historical Trip

To

Alabama

(Montgomery/Selma/Tuskegee) **April 15 – 19, 2019**





"OUR LEADER*"

Her Sheep

Anderson, Constance	Green, Larry	Shelton-Clark, Florence
Bazzini, Rhana	Heath, Ellen	Simpson, Gwyned
Brown, Francine	Hill, Kenneth	Stewart, James
Bryan, Vera	Howard, Doris	Suggs, Sherry *
Elbe, Cyde	Jones, Jacqueline	Twisdale, Donna
Elbe, Gwendolyn	Lawson, Lawrence	Watson, Bernard
Fitzgerald, Jacqui	Lawson, Valeria	Watson, Lois
Fitzgerald, Robert	Mezile, Harold	Webb, Carlotta
Gaines, Lonetta	Melzile, Peggye	Webb, Frank
Gibbs, Geraldine	Planes, Jeanette	White, Bene
Gibbs, John	Planes, Frank	White, Joyce
Giscombe, Bernice	Richardson, Corene	White, Phyllis
Giscombe, Gary	Sheffield, Caryl	Wilkins, David
Green. Dorothy	Rollins, Delores	Wilkins, Lois



Selma





Edmund Pettus Bridge

Now a National Historic Landmark. The site of the brutal "Bloody Sunday" beating of civil rights marchers who were attacked with tear gas and men on horses. The beginning point of March from Selma to Montgomery for voting rights, March 7, 1965





Registrant for voting

Right Hand: Open for those who could register to vote or pass the "test"

Left Hand: Fist closed to show the rolls are not open to anyone to register

Bottle of Jelly Beans: an initial test question to state how many jelly beans there were in the Jar.







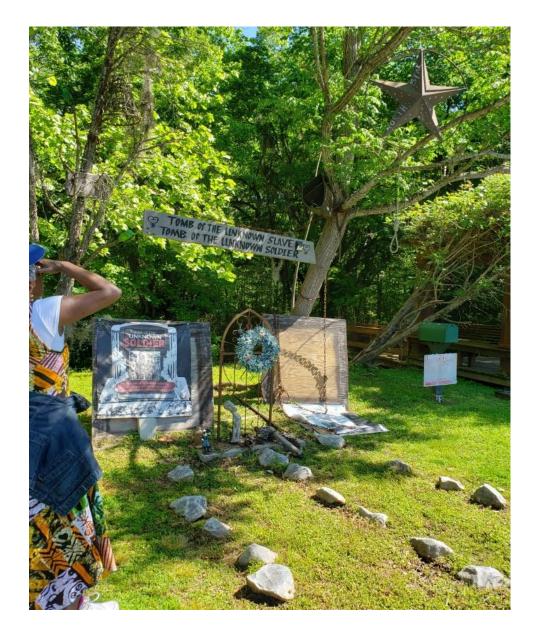








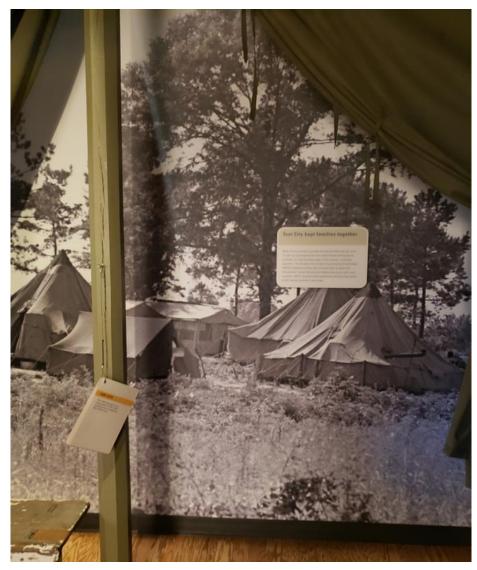
Selma Today





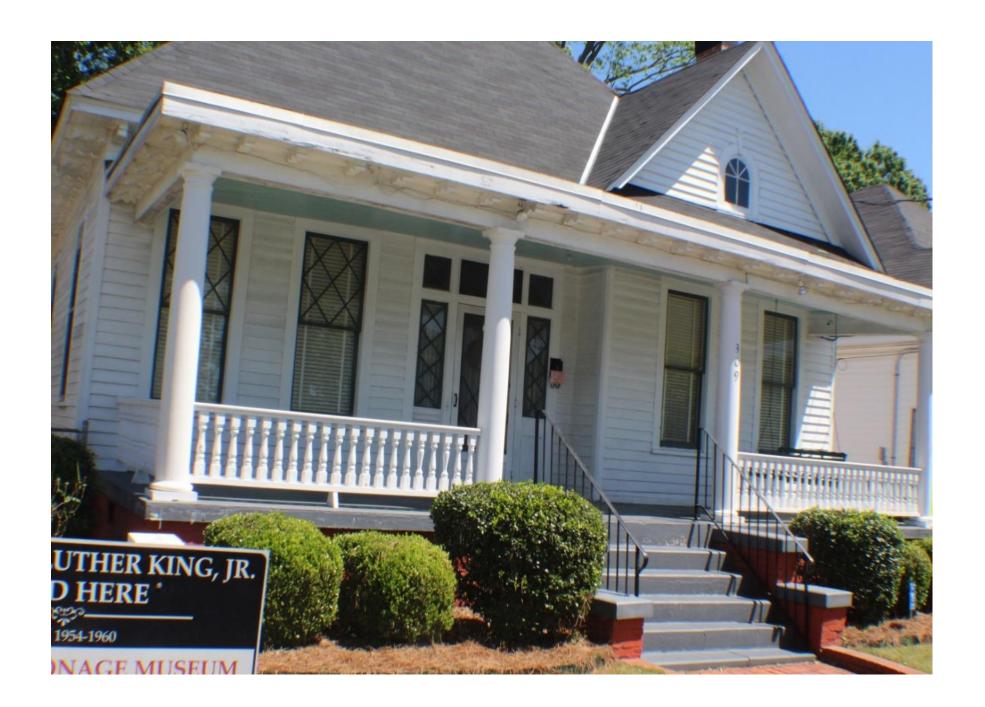
Memorial Park

Lowndes County Tent City





The name Black Panther originates from a SNCC-run voting campaign in Lowndes county, Alabama, in which an organization known as the Lowndes County Freedom Organization (LFCO) attempted to establish themselves as an independent political party to rival the all-white Democrats. Many people in the county were illiterate, so both parties had to come up with mascots to differentiate themselves. The Democrats picked a white rooster, and the LFCO picked a black panther, which according to LFCO chairman John Hulett, "is an animal that when pressured moves back until it is cornered, then it comes out fighting for life and death. We felt we had been pushed back long enough and that it was time for Negroes to come out and take over."





Outside MLK's home, site director, President Stewart and Sherry Suggs

Equal Justice Initiative



Houses displays that traces the practice of Lynching in America as well as the data and information on mass incarceration



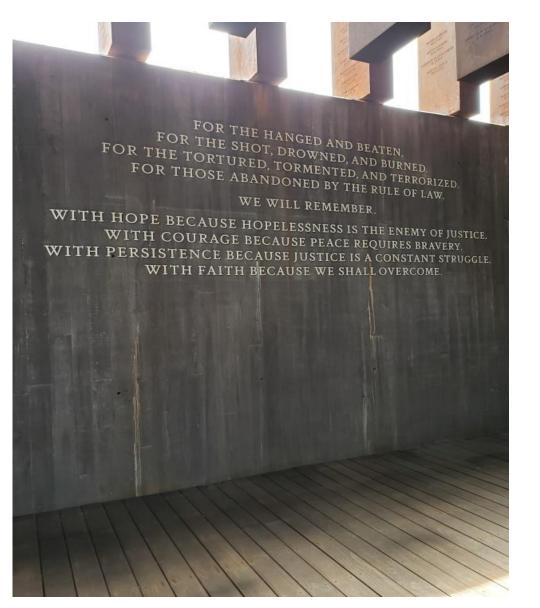
Community Remembrance Project recognizes victims of lynching by collecting soil from lynching sites that acknowledge the horrors of racial injustice.



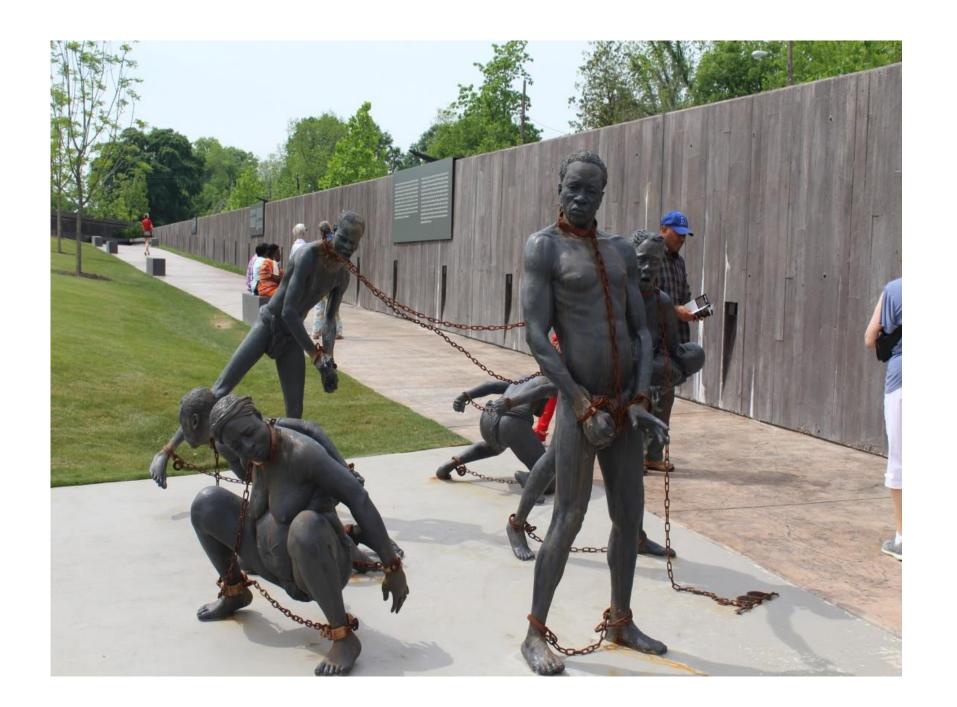
National Memorial for Peace and Justice

"We called it the Hanging Museum"

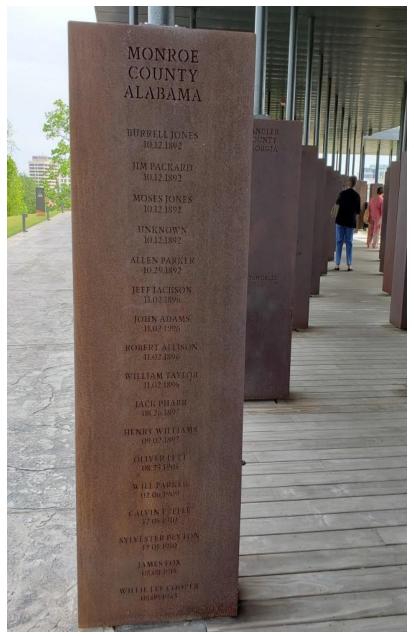


















"Raise Up" by Hank Wills Thomas, 2013

Rosa Parks Museum tells her story in multimedia displays, includes an actual bus from the 1995 fleet and a restored car used for carpools during bus boycott.











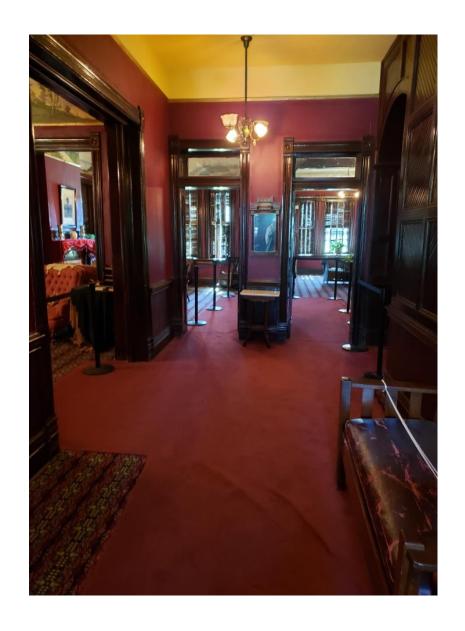
Civil Rights Memorial Center



George Washington Carver Museum



Interior of Booker T. Washington's Home





Booker T. and W.E.B.

BY DUDLEY RANDALL

"It seems to me," said Booker T.,
"It shows a mighty lot of cheek
To study chemistry and Greek
When Mister Charlie needs a hand
To hoe the cotton on his land,
And when Miss Ann looks for a cook,
Why stick your nose inside a book?"

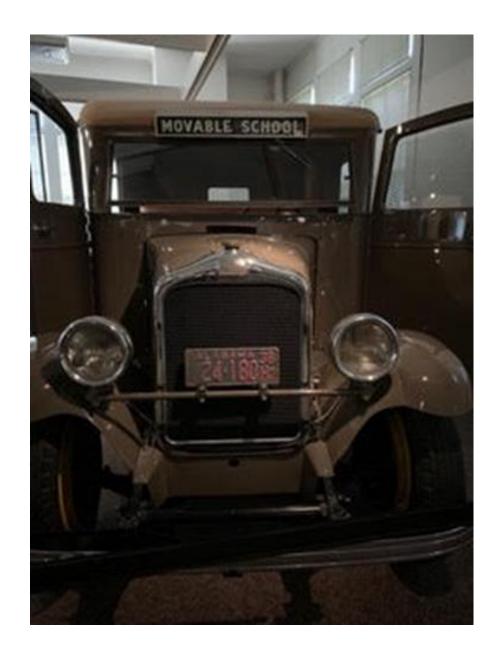
"I don't agree," said W.E.B.,
"If I should have the drive to seek
Knowledge of chemistry or Greek,
I'll do it. Charles and Miss can look
Another place for hand or cook.
Some men rejoice in skill of hand,
And some in cultivating land,
But there are others who maintain
The right to cultivate the brain."

"It seems to me," said Booker T.,
"That all you folks have missed the boat
Who shout about the right to vote,
And spend vain days and sleepless nights
In uproar over civil rights.
Just keep your mouths shut, do not grouse,
But work, and save, and buy a house."

"I don't agree," said W.E.B.,
"For what can property avail
If dignity and justice fail.
Unless you help to make the laws,
They'll steal your house with trumped-up clause.
A rope's as tight, a fire as hot,
No matter how much cash you've got.
Speak soft, and try your little plan,
But as for me, I'll be a man."

"It seems to me," said Booker T.—
"I don't agree,"
Said W.E.B.

Dudley Randall, "Booker T. and W.E.B." (1969). Reprinted with the permission of the Estate of Dudley Randall. Source: *Cities Burning* (Broadside Press, 2004)

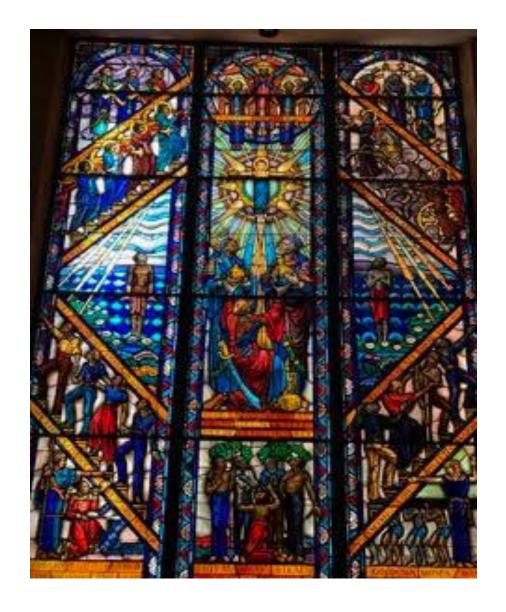


Tuskegee The University





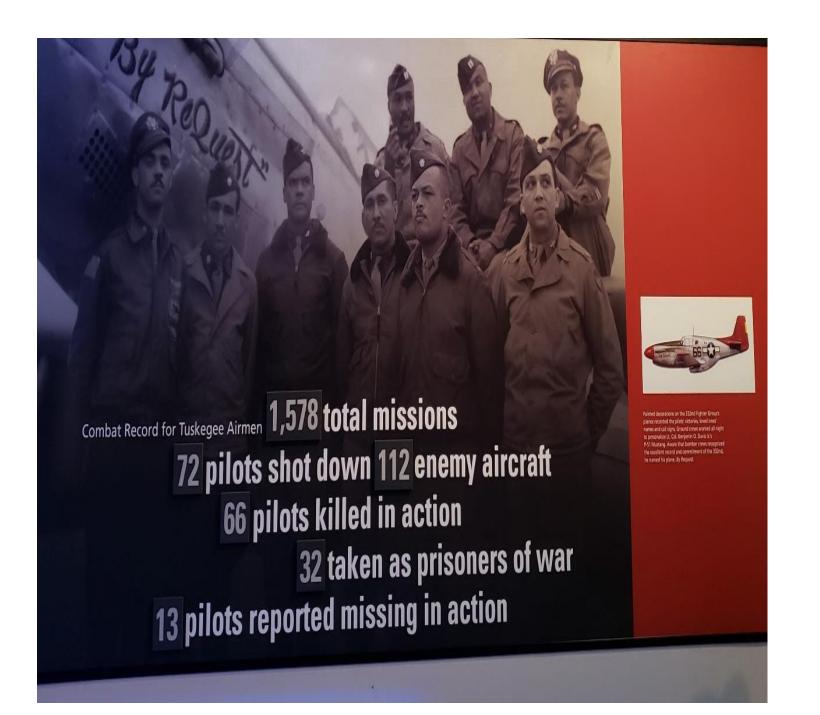




Tuskegee Airmen







The Tuskegee Airmen Legacy



Henry C. Bohler

After retiring from the military, Henry Bohler became the first licensed black electrician in Tampa, FL. In the 1960s, he successfully sued the City of Tampa for denying him access to Lowry Park, setting a precedent that enabled Bohler and others to desegregate other parks in the county.



Dr. Yenwith Whitney

After he left the military in 1945. Whitney attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), one of four African American students attending. After graduating, he worked in aeronautical engineering for seven years, then moved to Cameroon, Africa as a missionary with the United Presbyterian Church. While in Africa, he worked with southern African leaders to develop strategies for overcoming apartheid. After returning to the U.S., Whitney acted as the Presbyterian Church's liaison with Africa and oversaw programs to improve minority education.



Spann Watson

Spann Watson (on left) served in the military for 23 years. In 1965 he joined the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as an equal employment opportunity specialist, helping hundreds of African American youths find jobs in aviation and gain appointments to the U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, and U.S. Air Force Academy.



Percy Sutton

Percy Sutton (second from left) graduated from Columbia Law School and became the first African American trial judge advocate in the Air Force. He left the military in 1953 and opened a law office in Harlem, where he represented civil rights activists and organizations. including Malcolm X. He was arrested as a Freedom Rider in the South in 1961. In 1966 he was appointed Manhattan borough president, making him the highest ranking African American official in New York State. In 1971 he and his brother purchased WLIB, making it the first African American-owned radio station in New York City, and ned the Inner City Broadcasting



Reflections

Hi Sherry, the Montgomery trip was very spiritual for me. We viewed our past in Selma, Montgomery, and Tuskegee. It came alive at bridges, museums, churches, parsonages, universities, law centers, slave auctions, homes etc. Viewing our past history was our present living history makers consisting of PhD's, MD, Educators, Authors, Executives, Social Workers, Administrators, Nurses, Lawyers, Actress, etc. Every individual on the trip has a story to tell. Then we went to Tuskegee and saw our future. Educated young men, and young women who are still telling our story. As I viewed our past, our present and our future, I thought about the song Mahalia Jackson sang "How I Got Over." The song says "my soul looks back and wonder how I made it over." We can add "we" to that song. Then I answer that question with another song by Shirley Caesar, "Nobody but you Lord, Nobody but You." **Doris** I took lots of photos and will give them to Sherry. Also made a couple of cd's.... Let me know if anyone is interested in purchasing.. The cost. Is \$3 to make from Walmart. Fran

Once again, Sherry, thanks for a wonderful trip. Everything was perfect and we owe it all to you. I can hardly wait until the next adventure. Happy Easter to all my fellow travelers. Jacqueline Jones

I truly enjoyed this informative, well organized trip and the camaraderie of ASALH. It was memorable, and I look forward to our next adventure. Thank you Sherry. **Gwyned**. Thanks Sherry for an wonderful planned trip! Thank you Flo for inviting me to be your guest!! ASALH members thanks to all of you for making and welcoming me as a part of that amazing journey!! You guys are an AWESOME organization and it was my pleasure to be in the company of each and everyone of you!! Blessings!!! **Delores "Cindy" Rollins**

Cannot think of any other superlatives that have been added to the site. Can add my gratitude for being a part of this trip with the group and for Sherry's efforts in putting it all together

To Sherry's Writing Team:

Below are my reflections on our Black History Trip. Feel free to use (or not) in whatever way that works ... Thank you,

Lonetta

Initially I had a strong calling in my spirit to go on our trip to Montgomery. I was willing to pay for a single room because what I was going to experience was much greater than the monetary cost. But I was given a great roommate for this journey, Corene Richardson. I can't explain it but when I first boarded the bus, I had such a peace, but an excitement, too because the ASALH members that I was to journey with was ordained. And I know this was the case because nothing was lacking; pictures taken, fellowship during meals, great conversation, cooperation, sincere sharing, laugh together, and Bob Fitzgerald helping us with genealogy on the bus. And it wasn't just the bus experience. The validation of the importance of The Montgomery Trip was confirmed when the Gibbs arrived from flying there.

First, the ride itself was remarkably pleasant—our ASALH Travelers were fun to be around and it was wonderful to chat and share along the way. Thanks so much, Sherry, for your masterful work in organizing this trip!!

The centerpiece of the journey for me was our visit to The Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Incarceration and the Memorial in Montgomery. The Legacy Museum is located at the site of a warehouse where our captured ancestors were held awaiting the auction a block away. We looked through bars at eerily realistic video enactments stories and songs —based on actual experiences. I was also struck by the jars of dirt collected — by descendants of people who had been lynched — from the sites of the horrific killings. There was much more to see and experience here, but I was drawn to take the shuttle provided by the Museum to the National Memorial for Peace and Justice where, reflecting a grim reality, 800 steel monuments are hung from the ceiling, one for each county where a lynching took place. Walking through these rust-colored slabs, looking up at the name of the county and the names of our brethren whose lives were brutally cut short, one literally feels the weight of these horrific times ... there are a few brief accounts on small scrolls along the way. Just the tip of the iceberg. One that struck me — a Black man went to vote. In retaliation, white terrorists burned his home and lynched his elderly mother and two small daughters. My Lord!

I read Bryon Stevenson's wonderful book, Just Mercy and going to His EJI Museum/Memorial with hearing him speak when he came to Sarasota really opened my soul to mass incarceration being the modern day enslavement of people of color. That coupled with seeing Caryl Sheffield's grandfather's name on the "Lynching Tubes" gave me a more powerful revelation of who's shoulder's we stand on and the sacrifices they've made. Seeing the past and today merging together showed me that the struggle still goes on.

And finally, my father said he was a Tuskegee Airman when I was elementary school age but later never mentioned it again. It was at The Tuskegee Airmen's Museum that I found the major purpose for me to go to Montgomery. I learned from the movie that anyone who was instrumental in that initiative was considered a Tuskegee Airmen. My father never said he was a pilot.

I also learned about Ben Davis and how he received a dishonorable discharge for standing up against the injustices of Blacks in the Military. When the docent said anyone involved in the Tuskegee Airmen initiative would be in The Record Book I said ...maybe... just maybe dad's name???.... I turned the pages with skepticism to be honest. But there he was, William G. Simpson 1941, a mechanic. I could tell my father had a sadness in his voice when he spoke about the Tuskegee Airmen. I later found out he had had a dishonorable discharge like Ben Davis. But I understand, Dad. Knowing you...thank you for speaking to me even now..."If you don't stand against something's, you'll fall for anything. Thank you, Sherry, for all your hard work. It wasn't Africa, Europe, Australia etc... but it was a trip of a lifetime for me.

Ellen Heath

I left feeling grateful to Bryan Stevenson, not only for spearheading the development of the Museum and Memorial, but more importantly for his ongoing work representing the unjustly imprisoned and seeking to break the chains that continue to bind us. Because I used this trip time to (finally) read Mr. Stevenson's incredibly moving book, "Just Mercy," his messages about the slavery to prison continuum were heightened for me. Bryan Stevenson and his colleagues continue this incredibly important work at the Equal Justice Initiative, connecting the lessons of the past to the mandates of the present. Powerful!!! Lonetta Gaines What a wonderful educational trip we shared with a wonderful travel group. Many thanks to Sherry and all who made this trip a success. My illegal longdistance driver (14 hours no sleep) got us to Ohio safe. I look forward to our

Thanks Sherry for an extraordinary thought provoking and moving experience. We couldn't have asked for a better guide and travel companions. **John and Geraldine Gibbs**.

Wish we could've attended the meeting, but we are attending our granddaughter's college graduation. Harold's Comments: "My return to Selma and Montgomery caused me to think more deeply about our history of oppression and racism. Visiting the Lynching Museum sent me on a search of lynching in Louisiana. My grand uncle Elmer Seals witnessed a lynching in the early 1900s; the mob saw him; chased him but he hopped onto a passing freight train that went to K.C. His siblings and family were under the thumb of an abusive sheriff. This is how my father's family migrated to Kansas City. I regret not asking more questions. How did they travel, by bus, car, by train? Where did they find work? How did they get a house? What happened? So many unanswered questions. In 1965, my roommate and I were part of the March with MLK in Selma. We had no idea we would become part of an historic event that changed my life and shaped my thinking. Seeing Selma today; a depressed community, losing population, abandoned buildings makes me wonder how much better off Selma is today than in the past. Gaining the vote is not enough. African Americans must gain economic power. The visit to Tuskegee was invigorating; seeing the college, Booker T. Washington's home, the Carver museum and talking to students was uplifting. Seeing the Tuskegee Airmen's Museum was also a positive. I knew many Tuskegee Airmen in KC; but never knew their stories and what a great outfit they were with. They never talked about it. Harold Mezile

This was a remarkable pilgrimage, a special opportunity to visit several of the important historical sites where the forces shaping the contemporary Black experience converged. The well conceived exhibits almost allowed visitors to experience the fervor and commitment of the original pioneers who dared to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge and undertake the long March to Selma. While reveling in the historical triumph over Jim Crow segregation, I was disheartened by the current state of Selma. The widespread dilapidation led me to wonder if we won the battle but lost the war.

For me the highlight of the trip was the visit to the Memorial to Peace and Justice where Caryl was able to find the monument with her grandfather's name inscribed, who was lynched in 1915. This visit also had special meaning to me because my father barely escaped being lynched in Mississippi. I was very impressed to find out that the Equal Justice Initiative has 60 lawyers working to combat unjust incarceration.

The visit to Tuskegee University was uplifting in part because its fiscal health and vitality provide an alternative perspective on the continuing importance of HBCUs. Much of the current media coverage of Black colleges and universities focuses on those experiencing financial and accreditation problems.

The visit to Moton Field and the marvelous exhibits chronicling the exploits of the Tuskegee Airmen reaffirmed how much Blacks have given to this country typically with limited recognition and appreciation.

Overall the trip reaffirmed the importance of the mission of ASALH. The amazing fellowship exhibited by participants is the latest example of why Manasota ASALH is the crown jewel in the national ASALH network. Thanks to Sherry for her leadership, organizational acumen, and foresight in anticipating needs!

Jim Stewart and Caryl Sheffield

Peggye's comment

I am very happy I attended this well-planned activity. Met a lot of talented, involved and friendly people. I had many emotions during our trip; anger, resentment and sadness as I learned new lessons about our history. But I feel proud that so many of our ancestors survived and came out the other end. Finally, I am pleased to see my father's name in the Tuskegee Airmen's book. He never spoke much about his service experiences; I learned much of what I know at his funeral. Jets flew over the funeral site and there was a gun salute- not sure what it is called. He was a bright, proud man who achieved much professional success as he rose to become VP of Marketing for the USPS Midwest Region.

He was a committed family man and exceptional role model. He would have appreciated the chance to experience our trip.

This trip enabled a group of educated, active, energetic and concerned women and men to become "Woke" in a different way! Little of what we saw and learned was not new, it connected us to our history in a personal and intimate way. I watched people in our group find or reconnect with family, friends and events. I saw members of our group get to know and share with one another in casual and intense ways. We laughed, shared meals and remembered other times and other places. We wanted to share, be with each other and looked forward to the next day, the next place, the next reminder that nothing stays the same. Our leader, Sherry was in charge: knowledgeable, fearless, full of humor and open to group decisions, tireless. I looked forward to this trip and it surpassed my expectations. To all of you, I extend my thanks for your friendship, kindness and sense of humor.

Manasota ASALH is not only the largest, it is the best

Our Bus Driver

Of my heart I **Le' Monte' Hudson** thank U n the n tire group 4 allowing me 2 drive 4 u ladies n men from lake city FI to Montgomery Al. It was an honor 2 spend X with u ladies n men learn from u ladies n men learn more about Black History as well. I pray that U n your group will allow me to drive 4 u ladies n men again 1 day. Once again Mrs. Sherry Suggs I thank U n the group

Appendix 1965 Alabama Literacy Test

196	5 Alabama Literacy Test
	nich of the following is a right guaranteed by the Bill of Rights?
1. W	Public Education
	Employment
	Trial by Jury
	Voting
	federal census of population is taken every five years.
2. The	True False
3. If a	person is indicted for a crime, name two rights which he has.
4 A II	S. senator elected at the general election in November takes
4. A. U.	S. Schlator elected at the general save
	ne following year
on what	
on what	sident elected at the general election in November takes office wing year
5. A Prethe folloon what	sident elected at the general election in November takes office wing year date?
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			*	
			-	
9. Does enumeration states?	on affect the income to	ax levied on citiz	zens in various	
10. Person opposed	to swearing in an oa	th may say, inst	ead:	
(solemnly)	com ne mada a di como			
11. To serve as Pres	sident of the United S	States a person	must have	
attained:25 years of ag		rates, a person	must have	
35 years of ag	ge			
40 years of as	ze.			
45 years of ag	ge			
13. The Supreme Co	ourt is the chief law	making body o	of the state.	
14. If a law passed b Constitution, which prevails?	y a state is contrary	y to provisions	of the U.S.	
		a count of Inc	reflect bord rolls	7.25
5. If a vacancy occu	urs in the U.S. Sen hile the by a temporary app			
lection but meanw	The second second			Toll - 3
lection, but meanwhat lace may be filled b				
lection but meanw				

10010	branch of government.
19. Who	passes laws dealing with
	(vintaja)
on The	number of representatives which a state is entitled to have in
he Hou	se of Representatives is based on
no mo	The state of the s
	Constitution protects an individual against punishments which
1. The	and
2. Whe	n a jury has heard and rendered a verdict in a case, and the
as beco	on the verdict on the verdict one final, the defendant cannot again be brought to trial for the
ame car	ise.
Tr	ueFalse
	e two levels of government which can levy taxes:
3. Nam	e two levels of government which can be y
4. Com	munism was the type of government in:
U.	S.
R1	ussia
Er	ngland
- ~	. 11 6
5. Case	es tried before a court of law are two types, civil and
	Management of the second secon
C D	- inite and of the congress the Congress can
	majority vote of the members of Congress, the Congress can
	provisions of
STATE OF THE PARTY	stitution of the U.S.
	rueFalse
Ti	

28. The e bodies. N	electoral vote for President is counted in the presence of two
vote, who	candidate for President receives a majority of the electoral o decides who me President?
30. Of the	e original 13 states, the one with the largest representation in Congress was
Exe	nich branch of government is the Speaker of the House a part? ecutive gislative icial
	al punishment is the giving of a death sentence. eFalse
	e the President is unable to perform the duties of his office, mes them?
crime.	duntary servitude" is permitted in the U.S. upon conviction of eFalse
5. If a staurisdiction	ate is a party to a case, the Constitution provides that original on shall be in
6. Congr	ress passes laws regulating cases which are included in those the U.S. Supreme Court has

37. Which of the following is a right guaranteed by the Bill of Rights
of the U.S.
Constitution.
Public Housing
Education
Voting
Trial by Jury
38. The Legislatures of the states decide how presidential electors may
he chosen.
TrueFalse
39. If it were proposed to join Alabama and Mississippi to form one
state, what groups would
have to vote approval in order for this to be
done?
done!
THE STEEL SECTION AND ADDRESS OF THE SECTION AS A PARK THE SECTION AS
40. The Vice President presides over
41. The Constitution limits the size of the District of Columbia to
page for the agent of a section of the section of t
42. The only laws which can be passed to apply to an area in a federal
passed by
provided consent for the
burchase of the land is given by the
outchase of the failt is given by the
The state of the s
3. In which document or writing is the "Bill of Rights"
ound?
Count insting a nort?
4. Of which branch of government is a Supreme Court justice a part?
Executive
Legislative
Judicial

45. If no person receives a majority of the electoral votes, the Vice
President is chosen by the Senate.
TrueFalse
a North true this parent is to the
46. Name two things which the states are forbidden to do by the U.S.
Constitution
47. If election of the President becomes the duty of the U.S. House of Representatives and it fails to act, who becomes President and when?
48. How many votes must a person receive in order to become President if the election is decided by the U.S. House of Representatives?
49. How many states were required to approve the original
Constitution in order for it to be
in effect?
50. Check the offenses which, if you are convicted of them, disqualify you for voting: Murder
Issuing worthless checks
Petty larceny
Manufacturing whiskey
The state of the s
1. The Congress decides in what manner states elect presidential lectors.
True False
2. Name two of the purposes of the U.S. Constitution.

4. All legislative p	owers granted in the U.S. Constitution	may legally
5. The population	census is required to be made very	years.
5. Impeachments	of U.S. officials are tried by	
7. If an effort to ir resides at the trial	appeach the President of the U.S. is many	de, who
ne U.S., who tries	ment of the chief justice of the Suprer the	ne Court of
ne U.S., who tries	d by order of: ss at's Cabinet	ne Court of
9. Money is coine U.S. Congre The Presider State Legisle	d by order of: ss at's Cabinet atures I to case a state's vote for U.S. Preside	ded by des to de la della de la della de la della della della della della della dell

the same
62. If a person flees from justice into another state, who has authority to ask for his return?
63. Whose duty is it to keep Congress informed of the state of the union?
64. If the two houses of Congress cannot agree on adjournment, who sets the time?
Chy distry of registers where the children was a second of
65. When presidential electors meet to case ballots for President, must all electors in a state vote for the same person for President or can they vote for different persons if they so choose?
66. After the presidential electors have voted, to whom do they send the count of their votes?
67. The power to declare war is vested in
68. Any power and rights not given to the U.S. or prohibited to the
states by the U.S. Constitution are specified as belonging to whom?

Answers to Alabama Literacy Test

- Trial by Jury only
- False (every 10 years)
- Habeas Corpus (immediate presentation of charges); lawyer; speedy trial.
- January 3
- January 20
- Proposed change, as in a Constitution
- Life (with good behavior)
- Yes
- Affirm
- 11. 35
- In God We Trust
- 13. False
- U.S. Constitution
- The governor
- Six
- 17. Two
- 18. Executive
- Congress
- Population (as determined by census) less untaxed Indians 20.
- 21. Cruel and unusual
- 22. True
- 23. State and local
- 24. Russia
- 25. Criminal
- 26. False
- 27. Militia
- House of Representatives, Senate 28.
- House of Representatives 29.
- 30. Virginia
- 31. Legislative
- 32. True
- The Vice President 33.
- True 34.
- The Supreme Court 35.
- Co-appellate 36.
- Trial by Jury 37.
- 38. True
- Congress and the legislatures of both states
- The Senate
- 10 miles square
- Congress; state legislatures
- Constitution
- Judicial

- True
- Coin money; make treaties
- The Vice President, until the House acts
- 26 48.
- 9 49.
- Murder 50.
- False 51.
- (Preamble statements) "to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity."
- House of Representatives and Senate
- Congress 54.
- 55. 10
- The Senate 56.
- The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court 57.
- The Senate 58.
- The U.S. Congress 59.
- Electors
- Pass laws, coin money, declare war
- The Governor
- The President
- The President
- They can vote for different people
- Vice President (President of the Senate)
- Congress 67.
- The states; the people