

African Americans have been Present in Yellow Springs since its earliest days as a village. The following is a summary of some of the important moments in this history.

1835 Adbner & Betsy Morton are first-knownBlacks to settle in the YS area.

1846 Little Miami RR connects Black communities in Cincinnati, YS & Springfield areas.

1853 Antioch College begins with co-ed curriculum. Anti-Slavery Society meets in YS area.

1856 YS Village incorporated one “colored“ child in Miami Township School. Fannie & Virginia Hunster are first documented Black students to attend Antioch Prep. Antioch Trustee A. Harlan resigns to protest admission.

1858 Lucy Jefferson attends Antioch Prep.

1860 Wheeling Gaunt, a businessman and philanthropist, moves to YS.

1862 “Conway Colony” of 32 Blacks settles in YS. Wheeling Gaunt donates \$5,000 to Wilberforce College. America Randolph attends Antioch Prep.

1863 A “colored school” operates at 324 Elm St. Anti Slavery First Baptist Church founded.

1865 Thomas Adams and Richard Herod become Civil War veterans.

1866 Colored Methodist Church (Central ChapelAME) founded.

1869 Mary Church Terrell attends Antioch Prep. 60 students enroll in YS “Colored School.”

1870 Union School House built for Whites only on Dayton St.

1871 16% of YS population is Black.

1873 Rev. J. M. Meek runs for School Board.

1874 Old South School house, former white highschool, becomes K-12 school for Blacks.

1876 First Baptist Church moves to Xenia Ave.

1881 81 Black students are enrolled at old South School.

1882 Jefferson Williams elected to Village Council.

1884 P. L. Dunbar performs his *Stolen Calf* at Central Chapel A.M.E.

1885 Sandy Pettiford Barber Shop opens.

1888 Alfred Hampton is first Black graduate of Antioch College.

1893 Joe Curl coaches Antioch’s baseball team.

1894 Wheeling Gaunt dies, bequeaths future Gaunt Park and endows funds to A.M.E. Church, Wilberforce University, and annual gifts of flour to “worthy widows.”

1895 Hunster Home & Restaurant burns in blockfire. Walter Mason of Wilberforce graduates Antioch. Xenia Torch features Joe Curl.

1899 Walter Wills graduates Antioch. Wills laterbe queathed Livermore & S. College Sts. Property to Antioch. Mayme Banks (Bowles) is first black womanto graduate Antioch.

1925 Antioch Blaze uncovers Black male denied admission due to race.

1926 National “Negro History Week“ establishedby Dr. Carter G. Woodson.

1939 33% of Greene County Blacks live in YS,9.8% of U.S. population is Black, and 57% of Blacks in Greene County own their own homes.

1941 Edythe Scott is the only Black student at Antioch. Antioch Inter-Racial Scholarship established by Antioch Race Relations.

1942 YS residents, with Antioch and Wilberforce students integrate Little Art Theatre.

1944 Elmer Lawson,YS Village Council ‘44–’51.

1945 William Perry, first Black elected to YSSchool Board. Macie & Venerable Hunter develop homes on Lincoln Court.

1946 Dr. Walter Anderson, Professor of Music at Antioch. YS Committee for Racial Equality founded. William Perry, YS School Board ‘46–’57.

1947 Bayard Rustin visits YS Committee for Racial Equality.

1948 Lewis Adams, Village Council‘ 48–’50.

1949 A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr. graduates Antioch.

1950 Coretta Scott (King) attends Antioch.

1951 E. Ted Hamilton, Village Council ‘51–’57;‘71–’75.

1955 Omar Robinson develops Black middle class Omar Park Estates.

1956 YS schools adopt anti-discrimination policy. Bertha C. Hull named “Ohio Mother of the Year.” YS hires first black teacher.

1957 Virginia Hamilton, children’s author, attends Antioch. James E. Lawson, Village Council, ‘57–’69; YS Mayor ‘69–’74.

1958 Paul Ford, YS School Board, ‘58–’69.

1960 James McKee is first Black Police Chief in Ohio.

1963 Eddie Wingard, first black coach in YS schools. Antioch Committee for Racial Equality (ACRE) replaces NAACP chapter.

1964 Dr. Kenneth B. Clark is an Antioch Trustee. Program for Interracial Education founded.

1965 Dr. Martin L. King Jr. addresses Antioch Commencement against the Vietnam War.

1967 Antioch’s Black Student Forum established.

1968 Antioch’s New Direction Program founded.

1969 Dan Smith, Principal of Mills Lawn Elementary. Antioch Afro-American Studies Institute established.

1970 Antioch’s Black students establish Nyambi Umoja (Unity House). 27% of YS population is Black. Perry Little League named in honor of Donald Perry. Jean Hopson, YS Village Council ‘72-’72.

1971 Jean Hopson, YS Village Council ‘72-’72.

1972 Antioch student enrollment reaches historic peak at 2,470, 8.4% of student population is Black.

1973 Antioch New Direction Program ends, students strike. Emmett Burks, YS Village Council & Vice Mayor ‘73-’79.

1974 Antioch 3rd World Alliance founded for students of color. Joseph Anthony, Principal of YS High.

1975 Murdoch Williams, YS Mayor ‘75-’81. Jewel Graham is tenured Antioch Social Work professor. Paul Graham, YS School Board ‘75-’83.

1978 Charles McGill, YS School Board ‘78-’85. Ambrose Nutt, YS Scool Board ‘78-’95. Albert Garner, YS School Board ‘78-’95.

1979 William Simpson, YS Village Council ‘79-’81. Shelbert Smith, YS Village Council School Board ‘79-’85.

1980 Joseph Dowdell, YS Mayor ‘80-’87. 23% of YS population is Black.

1981 Earl Holiday, YS High Principal, ‘81-’90

1982 Randall Newsome, Mills Lawn Principal ‘82-’97.

1983 Dr. Hazel Latson, Morgan Middle School Principal ‘83-’88. Kelvin Liggins, YS Village Council ‘83-’86.

1986 Dr. Hazel Latson, YS Village Council ‘86-’03. Gerald Simms, YS School Board ‘86-’88.

1990 20% of YS population is Black. Cynthia Holt, YS High School Principal ‘90-’95.

1991 African American Cross Cultural Heritage Group, Inc. established. Dr. Joseph Jordan, 1st chair of Antioch African American Studies program and Cape Verde Antioch Education Abroad program.

1993 Antioch-Knight Foundation funds Antioch faculty & staff tour of West Africa.

1995 John W. Gudgel II, YS High School Principal until 2010. James McKee founds The Men’s Group.

2000 15% of YS population is Black.

2008 365 Project is founded.

# Blacks in Yellow Springs a history

## Map Legend:

- A) Gwinn Homestead: Grinnell & Allen St.
- B) Antioch College: 795 Livermore St.
- C) First Formal Black School House: 909 S. High St. & E. South College St.
- D) Gaunt Park: W. South College & Wright Sts.
- E) Omar Estates: W. South College & Barbara Sts.
- F) Central Chapel A.M.E. Church: 411 S. High St.
- G) First Baptist Church: 600 Dayton St.
- H) Hunter Homes: 151 Lincoln Ct
- I) First Colored School House: 324 Elm St.
- J) Union School House: 314 Dayton St.
- L) Black-owned Businesses: Dayton St. (Walnut & Corry Sts.)
- M) Glen Forest Cemetery: Yellow Springs-Fairfield Rd. (Xenia Ave. & Cemetery St.)
- N) James H. McKee Way: Limestone Rd.
- O) Old First Baptist Church: 604 Xenia Ave.

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The mission of The 365 Project is to serve as a catalyst that challenges and supports the people of Yellow Springs and Miami Township to engage critically and respectfully in dialogue and action that promotes and sustains diverse African American heritage and culture, and educational equity, 365 days a year. The365ProjectYS.org; P.O. Box 165, Yellow Springs, OH 45387



Pictured Above (top to bottom, right to left)  
Ambrose Nutt, Chet Benning, Virginia Hamilton  
Dan Smith, Ted Hamilton, Earl Hull  
Emmett Burks, the Gwinn family, Harry Roberts  
Hazel Latson, James McKee, Paul Ford  
Coretta Scott King, Shelbert Smith

