

HISTORIC EUREKA SCHOOL MUSEUM PROJECT

a focus on FREEDOM SUMMER 1964

BEGINNINGS -

Why did African Americans Come to Hattiesburg?

Early Slave families to the area
Kelly Settlement (Sarah Kelly)

What was life like African Americans in Hattiesburg area from late 1800's through WWII?

Work
Social
Business
Religion

PRECURSORS -

Education

Limited Access
Eureka School (built in 1921 for blacks) (see also, Rowan and Royal Schools)
EURO Alumni Association (EURO Room)

Segregation

Lack of Voting Rights for African Americans

Restricted registration

Growing Seeds of Discontent

Return of WWII veterans; denial of rights to vote
NAACP efforts for equal rights
Poll Taxes
- Hercules
- Peggy Connor
Clyde Kennard's denial of admission to USM
Theron Lynd conviction
SNCC comes to Hattiesburg in 1962 (Vernon Dahmer houses them)
Victoria Jackson Gray Citizenship Classes
Freedom Ballot - 1963

THE EVENT -

SNCC, COFO, CORE, SCLC, NAACP Voter Drives in 1964
Freedom Day – Jan 1964 (inter-racial picketing at Hbg courthouse)
Mobile Street Center of Organizing (Woods-Freedom House, Negro Masonic Lodge)
Seven AA Churches set up Freedom Schools and Voter Registration
Palmer's Crossing Freedom School authors "Declaration of Independence"
Denise Nicholas, Pete Seeger, Dick Gregory arrive and perform in support of FS-1964
Hbg, home of Freedom Democratic Party
MFDP sets up Headstart program in Hattiesburg
MS Freedom Democratic Party candidate - Victoria Jackson Gray goes to Dem Conv 8/24-27/64

AFTERMATH -

First African American admissions to USM (1965)
Gwendolyn Elaine Armstrong Chamberlain
Raylawni Branch

Dahmer Firebombing (1966)
Ku Klux Klan convictions (need date here)
National Media Coverage awakened conscience of America

(need to fill this gap. Both good and bad from 1967 through early 1990's)

First Black County Supervisor? (Charles Marshall?)
First Black School Board Member
Et. al.

Osceola McCarty's gift (1994-96...)
- not if can attend, but how to do so. (The question changed)

Johnny DuPree's election as 1st Black Mayor of Hattiesburg (2001)

Ancillary Components in Museum –

Mobile Street – An African American Business Community (cafeteria)
Where does the Hbg Civil Rights Struggle fit in MS's Civil Rights History (auditorium)
The History of the EURO group in this period of change (EURO Room)