
Then and Now:

A look at people in your
neighborhood



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Preface

About This Project

During the summer of 2013, eight Omaha Public Schools teachers each developed an iBook on a topic of Omaha and Nebraska history as it relates to African American History. The four 3rd grade books are: Then and Now: A Look at People in Your Neighborhood; Our City, Our Culture; Civil Rights: Standing Up for What's Right to Make a Difference; and The Great Migration: Wherever People Move, Home Is Where the Heart Is. The four 4th grade books are Legends of the Name: Buffalo Soldiers in Nebraska; African American Pioneers; Notable Nebraskans; and WWII: Double Victory.

Each book was written by a local Omaha author, and illustrations were created by a local artist. Photographs, documents, and other artifacts included in the book were provided by local community members and through partnership with the Great Plains Black History Museum.

These books provide supplemental information on the role of African Americans in Omaha and Nebraska history topics. It is important to integrate this material in order to expand students' cultural understanding, and highlight all the historical figures that have built this state. Each book allows students to go beyond the content through analysis activities using photos, documents, and other artifacts. Through these iBooks, students will experience history and its connections to their own cultures and backgrounds.

About this Book

To the Student

This book is viewed vertically only.



There are galleries of photos. If you see a photo tap it and it should expand to a larger size, then you can swipe the screen from side to side to see other photos that are in the gallery.

If you see a button that says tap here, it will show a pop up with extra information.

If there is a tab on a map or photo, you can tap it to make it expand to share more information.

Vocabulary words that are in **bold** black font, you can tap on to see a definition.

Enjoy learning about the people in your neighborhood!

Tap
Here

Teacher's Guide

Introduction: This iBook is geared toward the 3rd grade social studies theme of community. It teaches about African Americans in Omaha, past and present.

Prerequisites: A foundation in the understanding of segregation and civil rights would be helpful.

Objective: The student will learn about the history of some famous people of Omaha from the past and present. Important issues that have affected the community will also be covered.

Vocabulary: These vocabulary words are included throughout the story and when tapped will take students to the glossary definitions.

- activists
- civil rights
- commendations
- detrimental
- discrimination
- equal participation
- founder
- journalism
- politician
- portrayed
- racial injustice
- segregation
- soul food

Activities: Questions and widget activities are located throughout the story. In Chapter 7, there are activities for individuals, small groups, and whole classes.

Survey: Please click on the link below and complete our survey:

https://ops.cor.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_diBncGgPTCsGMTz

You can use the iBook's **Speak Selection** function to listen to the iBook be read aloud.

To enable **Speak Selection**:

Launch the **Settings** app from the Home screen of your iPad.

Now tap on **General**.

Scroll down and towards the bottom, tap on **Accessibility**.

Tap on the **Speak Selection** option and turn it to **On**.

You can customize the speed the selection is spoken.

You can also choose to have each word highlighted as it is spoken.

To use **Speak Selection** in the iBook:

Highlight the text and in the text edit popup, select **Speak**.

Your iPad will now speak the text back to you.

1



Introduction

Guiding Questions

At the beginning of each chapter, guiding questions are provided to help focus your thinking. Use these to help you comprehend what you read.

The old, black-and-white photo waved delicately in the air, held securely at its corner by Kayla's wiry fingers. In the photo, a woman was sporting a beautiful flower corsage on her coat beams.

"This one fell out of the book ... who is it?" Kayla asked, as she handed the photo to her grandma.

The 8-year-old and her grandma were looking through pictures from old photo albums, after Kayla had asked what it was like growing up in Omaha during the **civil rights** era.



2

Meet the Press

Guiding Questions

- Which women are focused on and what are their occupations?
- How did the difference in time periods affect the way these women lived?
- What impact did these women make on their community?
- How did this business empower African Americans?

“Well, that’s one of my favorite people from my neighborhood,” Kayla’s grandma said, as she gently slid the photo back into its place. “That’s Mildred Brown, the **founder** of *The Omaha Star* newspaper.”

Mildred Brown was born in Bessemer, Alabama, and got her start in **journalism** in Sioux City, Iowa. She and her husband, S. Edward Gilbert, moved to Omaha in 1937. In 1938, they started their own paper, *The Omaha Star*.

While other newspapers at the time often **portrayed** African Americans negatively, *The Omaha Star* told positive stories about African Americans in the community. It also gave an honest account of **discrimination**, **segregation** and **racial injustice**, and encouraged people to make a difference.

The Omaha Star was instrumental in working with Omaha's public school system to ensure black teachers had **equal participation**. Brown also used her position to pressure advertisers to hire more African Americans. Her work reporting on civil rights and civil unrest in the 1960s even earned her

Omaha Star Articles



drew the deadline in the contest among the Omaha Star's newspaper boys.

Raymond Miller, pictured with bicycle, was announced the winner of the Omaha Star's second big bicycle contest of 1950 for newsboys, Saturday October 14, by the editor, Miss Mildred Brown at the Omaha Star. Raymond is the son of Mrs. Alice Miller, 2210 Charles Street.

With the assistance of an older brother, Raymond has been right in there selling from the start to finish.

For his exceptional selling of prize a beautiful 1950 model Schwinn bicycle, presented by Miss Brown.

Second prize went to John Henry Gray, a previous first place winner. John is the 12 year old son of Mrs. Elizabeth Gray 521 Blondo Street.

Third place went to Fred Joseph, 2219 Locust St.

There also was a fourth prize which went to Ernest Carter 2722 Burdette St.

After all awards were presented, everyone was treated with refreshments.

—William White Photo



Originally printed in *The Omaha Star*, this young man, Raymond Miller, won a bicycle for selling the most newspapers. Artifact courtesy of History Harvest.



Mildred Brown

Brown was born in 1915 in Bessemer, Alabama. She graduated with her teaching certificate at age 16 from Miles Memorial College. She moved to Birmingham, Alabama, for a teaching job. After she married S. Edward Gilbert, she continued her education at Crane Junior College [now Malcolm X College] in Chicago, Illinois, and at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. Their migration continued to Sioux City, Iowa, and finally to Omaha in 1937 to work for a newspaper. The Gilberts founded *The Omaha Star* on July 8, 1938



Omaha Star building, photo taken from the corner of 24th and Grant Streets.



Dr. Marguerita Washington

Washington was born on August 16, 1948, in Kansas City, Kansas. she graduated from Lincoln High School in 1964 at the age of sixteen. She began college in Jefferson City, Missouri, then went on to get a sociology and elementary education degree at University of Nebraska-Omaha. She continued to work toward her Masters of administration and special education while teaching in Omaha Public Schools. She earned her Doctorate in administration from University of Nebraska - Lincoln in 1985.

When her aunt, Mildred Brown, passed away in 1989, Washington became *The Omaha Star's* new

commendations from President Lyndon Johnson.

Brown's niece, **Dr. Marguerita Washington**, leads *The Omaha Star* today, continuing Mildred Brown's reporting legacy. In its 75-year history, the paper has never missed an edition. It is published weekly and distributed to 48 states.

"Dr. Washington published an article in *The Omaha Star* about my dance troop," Kayla said.

"That's right," her grandma replied. "Next time you see her, you can thank her for helping to give the community a strong voice for all these years."

THE OMAHA STAR MOTTO

Dedicated to the service of the people that
NO good cause shall lack a champion
and that evil shall not go unopposed



Tap here to listen to Dr. Washington explain the meaning of *The Omaha Star's* motto

Importance of Black Press

In the 1930s, the only major newspaper in Omaha was the *Omaha World-Herald*. Other smaller newspapers were in print, but the majority of readers got their news from the *World-Herald*. *The World-Herald* was founded and published by white journalists, therefore it focused on issues from a white perspective and bias. From the 1930s through the 1960s, segregation and discrimination were the way of life. This shortage of unbiased reporting raised the importance of *The Omaha Star* after Mildred Brown founded it in 1938. *The Star* focused on issues from the perspective of the

black minority, and helped showcase the pride people had in their community.

Importance of Black Media



Click here to learn more about Ms. Brown from NebraskaStudies.org

http://www.nebraskastudies.org/0800/frameset_reset.html?http://www.nebraskastudies.org/0800/stories/0801_0403.html

Photo courtesy of Great Plains Black History Museum

Question 1 of 2

Who fought adversity and founded the *Omaha Star*?

- A. Dr. Marguerita Washington
- B. Mildred Brown
- C. Hubert Humphrey
- D. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Check Answer

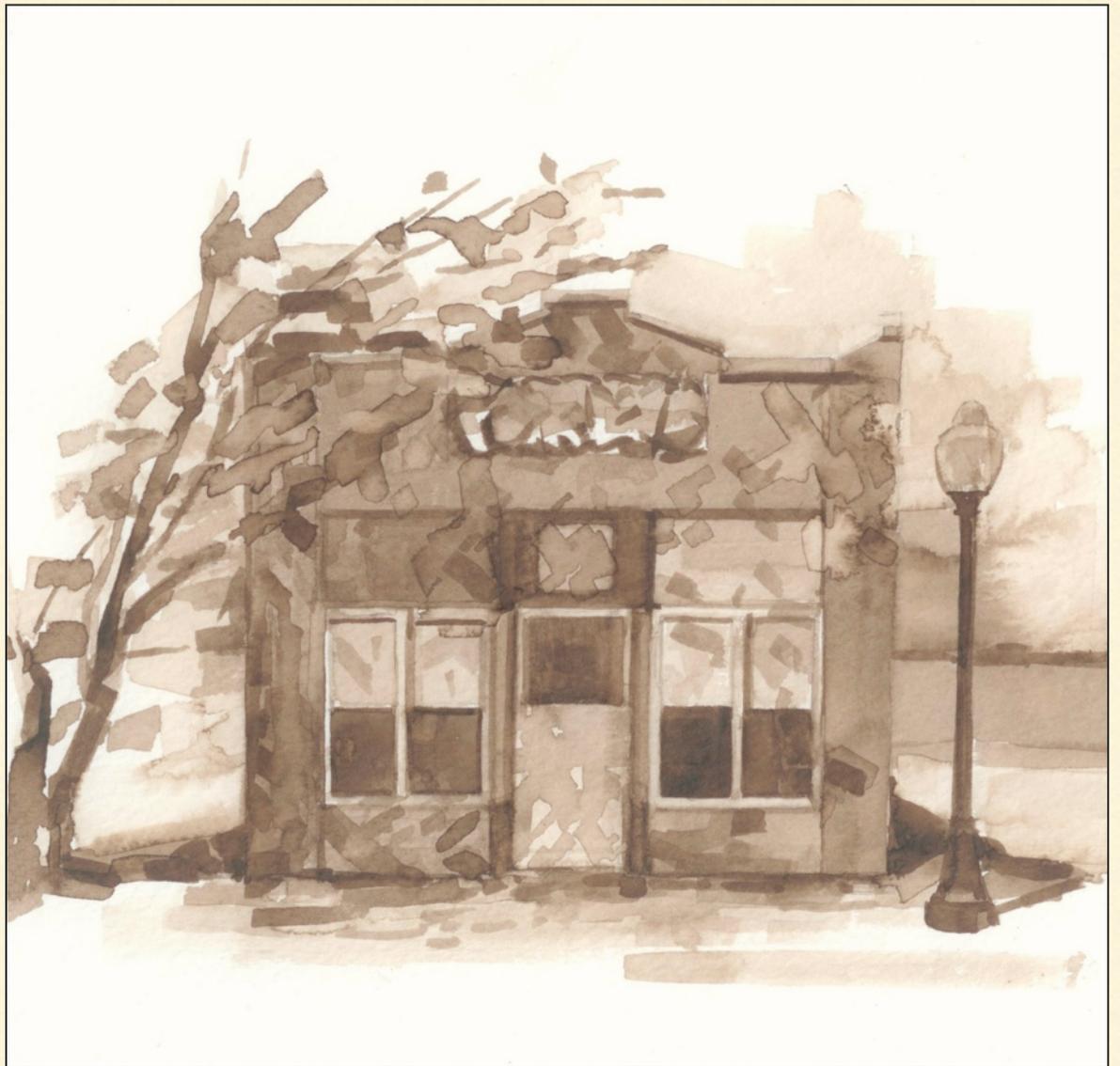
Show What You Know

- Create a newspaper with headlines and ads like you might have seen in *The Omaha Star* in the 1950s or 1960s when it was run by Mildred Brown.
- Write a song or rap that tells about the importance of Brown, Washington, or *The Omaha Star*.
- Pretend that you are an interviewer. Write 5 questions that you would ask to Brown or Washington about their lives and *The Omaha Star* and include what you imagine their answers would be based on what you have learned.



Click here to record your thoughts and questions about this chapter.

3



Good Food, Strong Community

Guiding Questions

- Which occupation do both Charles Hall and Patricia Barron have?
- How did the differences in decades affect the way these business were run?
- What impact did these businesses have on the neighborhood?
- How did the Fair Deal Cafe empower African Americans?

“The African American community in North Omaha was very close when I was growing up,” Kayla’s grandma continued. “There were many African American-owned businesses in north Omaha — shops and restaurants of all types. The 24th Street area, in particular, was the place to be.”

“Look here,” she told Kayla. “This is a photo of the Fair Deal Cafe. Many Omaha restaurants still wouldn’t allow African Americans to eat inside during the 1960s. But **Charles Hall’s** Fair Deal Cafe was one of the most popular restaurants in the black community.”



[Click Here](#)

The Fair Deal Cafe as it looks since closing its doors in 2003. The building is now owned by Omaha Economic Development Corporation (OEDC), which plans to renovate and use the building to exhibit art by local artists.

The original stools, tin ceiling tiles, and ceiling fans remain from its time as a cafe.

Photo courtesy of Robyn Murray/KVNO News



Charles Hall welcomes all to the Fair Deal Cafe, a historic spot in north Omaha. —photo by Tim Edgler

A Square Meal and a Fair Deal

The Fair Deal Cafe Offers a Foundation of Food and Heritage

Before its close, Charles Hall continued to run the Fair Deal Cafe as he always had: good food and fair prices. Article courtesy of The Reader newspaper.

People called the Fair Deal Cafe the ‘black city hall,’ because it served as a meeting place for community leaders, business people and citizens who wanted to talk about important things, or just have a casual conversation over a hot plate of **soul food**.

“The Fair Deal Cafe sounds kind of like Big Mama’s Kitchen,” Kayla told her grandma.

Charles Hall

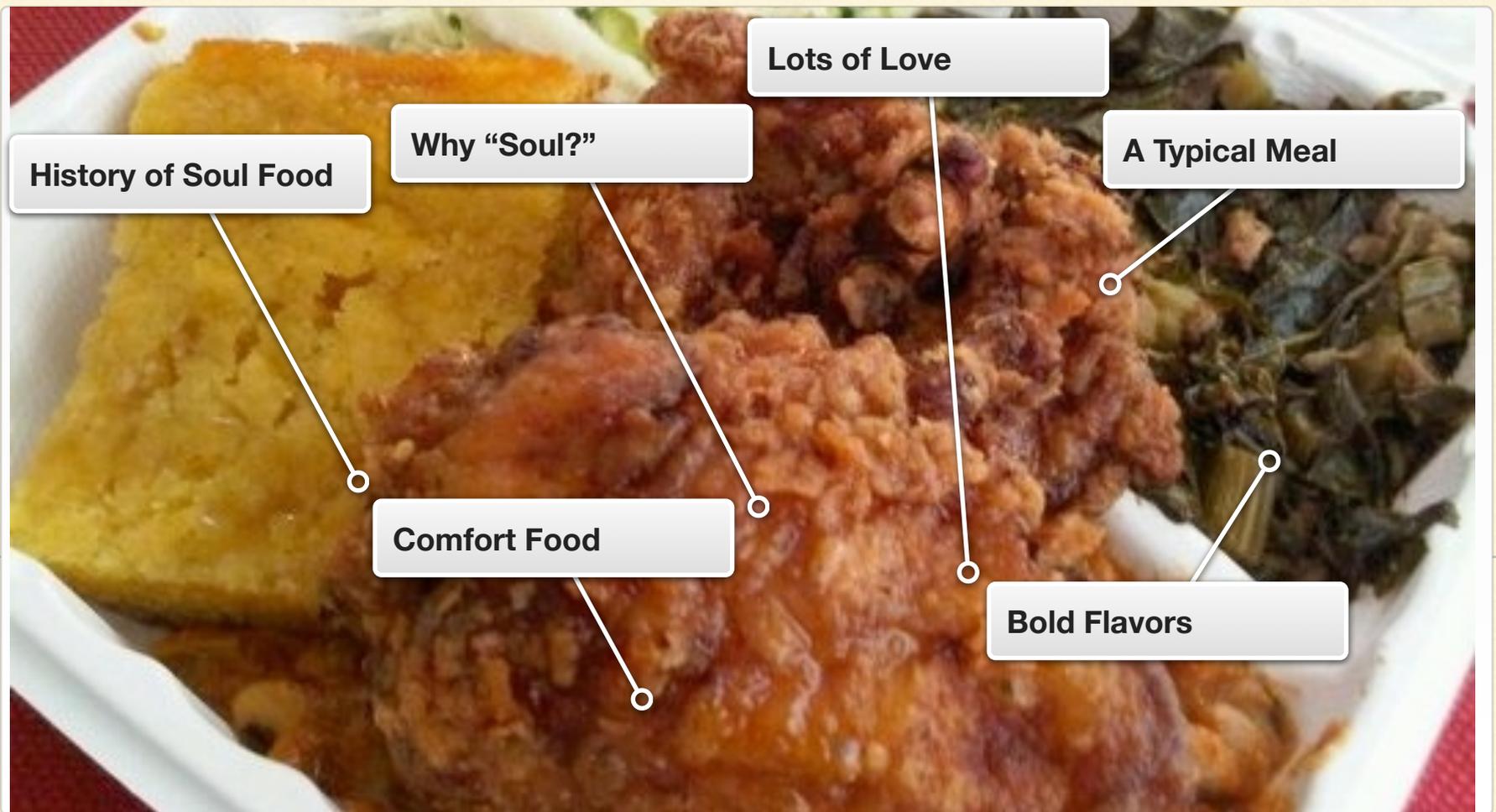
Charles was born in Horatio, Arkansas, on April 8, 1920. His family moved to Omaha when he was 4 years old. He lived around the same area his whole life.

Hall began running the Fair Deal Cafe in 1953, when “North 24th Street had every type of business anybody would need.”

When he was 80-years-old, he shared the secret to his and the cafe’s success: hard

Many people dined at the Fair Deal Cafe, some of whom you may recognize: Ernie Chambers, Brenda Council, Ben Gray, Bill Cosby, Ella Fitzgerald, Jesse Jackson, Mae Williams, and Preston Love.

Soul Food



The owner of Big Mama's Kitchen, **Patricia Barron** (who is known as "**Big Mama**") is in her 70s now, but she was only 6 when her grandma taught her how to make biscuits and cornbread. Eventually, her grandma taught her everything else she knew about cooking.

Soul food is Big Mama's specialty. Soul food is a term that describes the cooking of many African Americans in the rural South. It features meats like pork and chicken, vegetables like collard greens and black-eyed peas, and grains like cornbread and grits. As a result of migration, soul food can be found in many parts of the country, including Omaha.

Big Mama perfected her soul food recipes in her home kitchen, while she worked for the phone company. She ran a catering

Patricia "Big Mama" Barron

After working for 30 years for a telephone company, Barron pursued her dream of opening a restaurant. As a child, she began learning how to cook from her grandmother, Lillie Johnson, and in her twenties studied culinary arts. While working at the telephone company, she operated an in-home catering business.

She faced discrimination and challenges when her family moved to Benson and overcame the challenge of opening a restaurant at 65-years-old in North Omaha. She feels it is good for customers to see an African American woman running a soul food restaurant.



Show What you Know

- List 5 things you learned about soul food.
- Why was the Fair Deal Cafe so important to the people of the neighborhood?
- People come from all over the world to eat at Big Mama's. What would you do to make people want to come and eat at your restaurant?

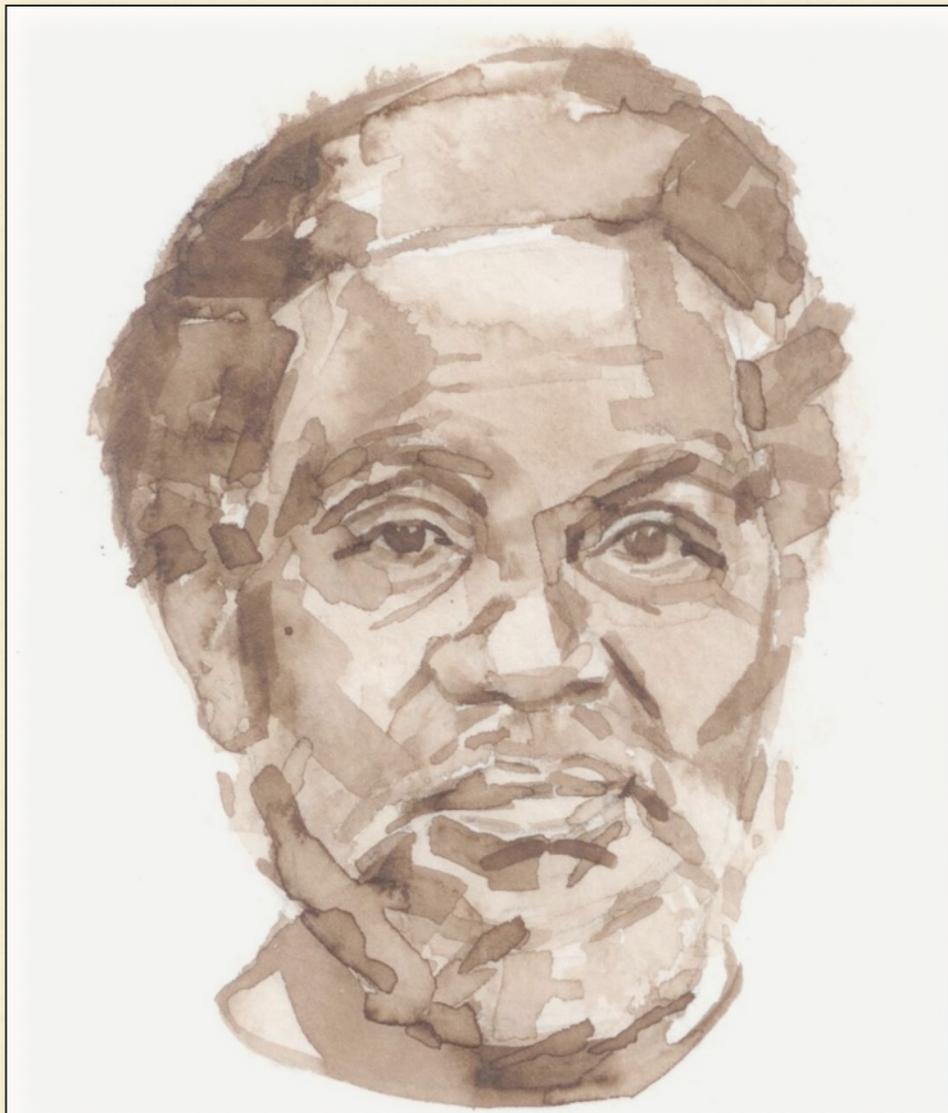
business from her home for 30 years before opening Big Mama's Kitchen. She hoped Big Mama's Kitchen would bring people back to the table for meals with family and friends. Big Mama said she learned early on that food can be a peacemaker, and that it can bring people together to share stories and to settle differences.

During the 1950s and 1960s, the neighborhood around 24th Street in North Omaha was booming with black-owned businesses: *The Omaha Star*, the Dreamland Ballroom, and the Fair Deal Cafe to name a few. The practice of segregation allowed these businesses to thrive by providing places where African Americans could shop, eat, and take pride in their community.

After the 1960s, a lot of these businesses began to struggle and eventually close. The opportunities and freedom to shop and eat elsewhere made it more difficult for these business owners to earn a living. There are still a few places that have maintained their businesses through the years, such as *The Omaha Star*, The Salem Food Pantry, and Skeets Ribs and Chicken. There are also new businesses coming to the area including Big Mama's Sandwich Shop, the Union, and OEDC.



Click here to record your thoughts and questions about this chapter.



4

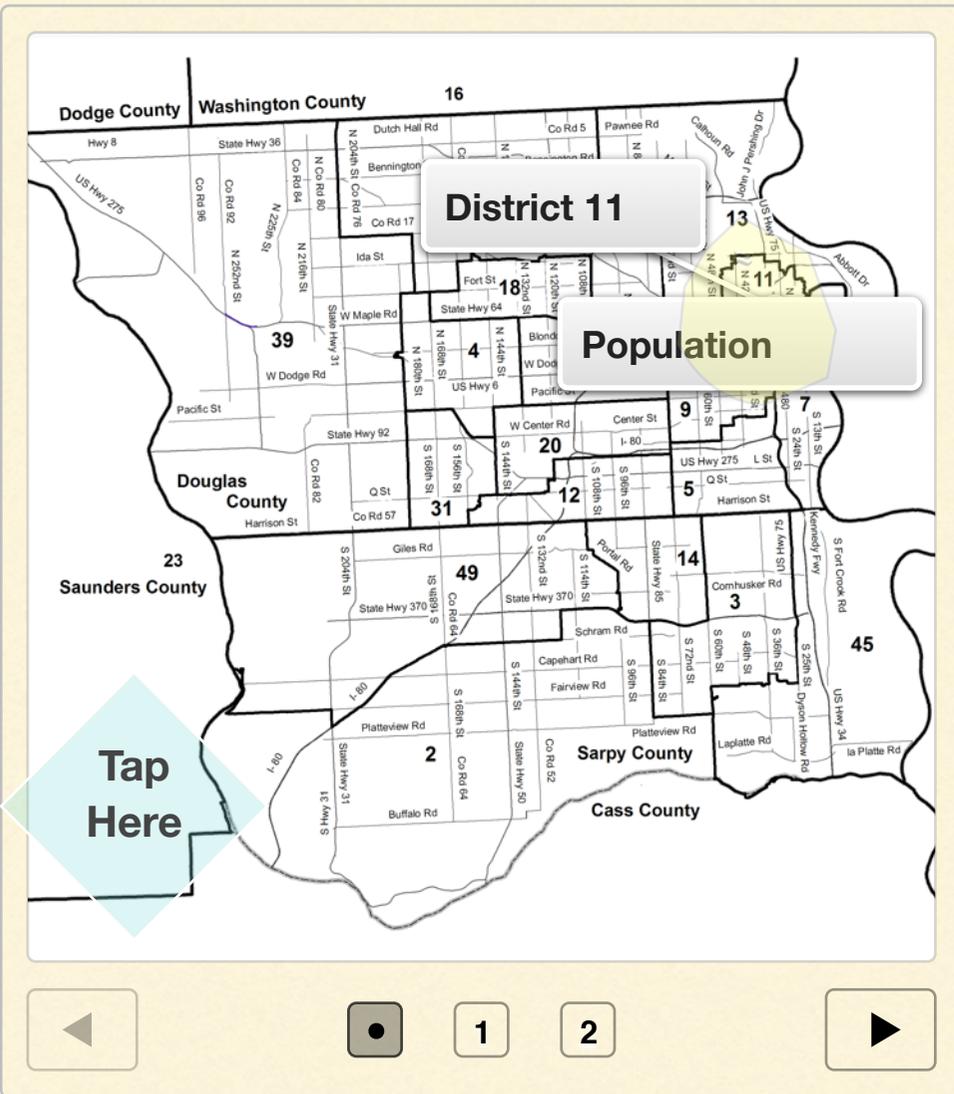
Making a Difference

Guiding Thoughts

- Who is focused on in this section and what is their occupation?
- How did the time period affect the focus of these men's careers?
- What impact did these people make on their community?
- How do these men work to empower others?

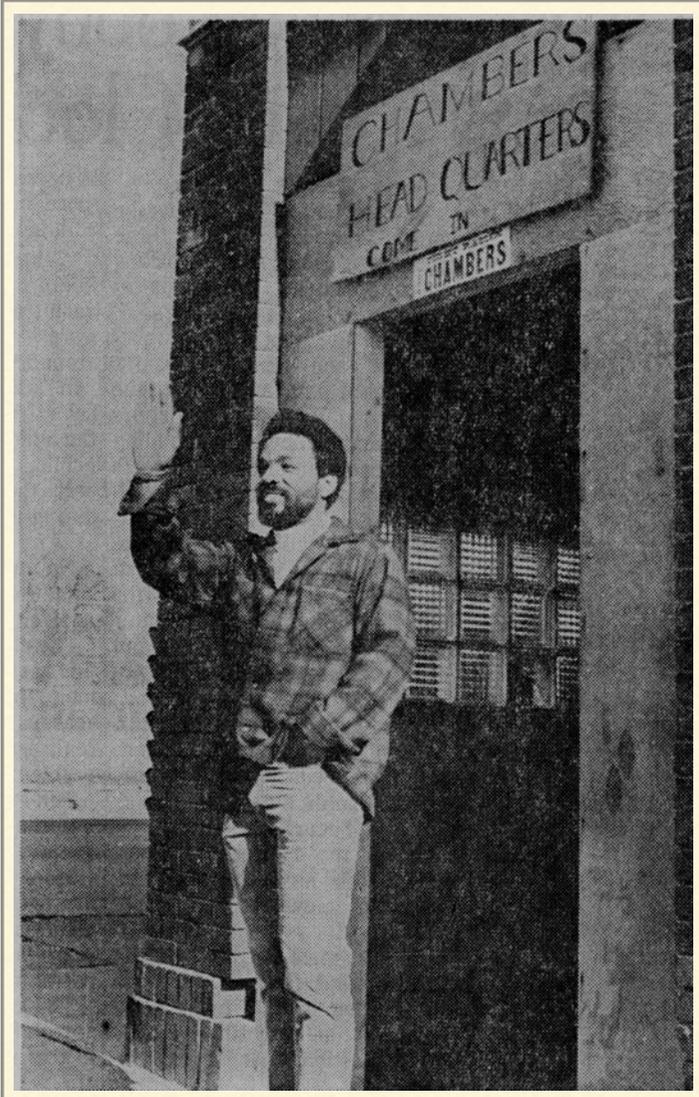
“You know who this is,” Kayla’s grandma said, pointing to a photo of a young man cutting hair. “But I bet you didn’t know that **Ernie Chambers** was a barber at the Spencer Street Barber Shop before he became a Nebraska state senator.”

Chambers is a lifelong Omahan, and one of Nebraska’s most famous **activists**. He started making his name around 1963, when he was fired from the Omaha Post Office for speaking out about management referring to African American staff as “boys.” He quickly became an effective activist on civil rights issues and a respected community leader. In 1970, Chambers



ran for the state legislature, to represent North Omaha’s 11th District. He won the race, and went on to become the longest-serving state senator in Nebraska’s history. Chambers was reelected again in 2012, and still serves today. He is famous for his incredible knowledge of legislative rules, which he uses to stop legislation that he believes is **detrimental** to people he calls “the downtrodden.”

“**Chris Rodgers** is a young, local **politician**, whom you might see in our neighborhood,” Kayla’s grandma said.



Ernie Chambers worked as a barber prior to becoming a state legislator. Photo courtesy of Douglas County Historical Society

Ernie Chambers

Ernest Chambers was born in Omaha, Nebraska, on July 10, 1937.

Chambers graduated from Omaha’s Tech High School, after which he attended Creighton University and Creighton School of Law.

Chambers has been a leading civil rights activist in Omaha. In 1963, he was fired from the Omaha Post Office for speaking out against discrimination. He was working as a young barber when he made an appearance in the 1966 documentary *A Time for Burning*.

In 1970, he was elected to the Nebraska Legislature from North Omaha’s 11th District. With the

Christopher Rodgers

Chris Rodgers was born and raised in East St. Louis, Illinois. He moved to Omaha in 1987 to attend Creighton University, where he received a basketball scholarship. Rodgers was part of the Creighton Bluejays' 1989 and 1991 Missouri Valley Conference championship teams.

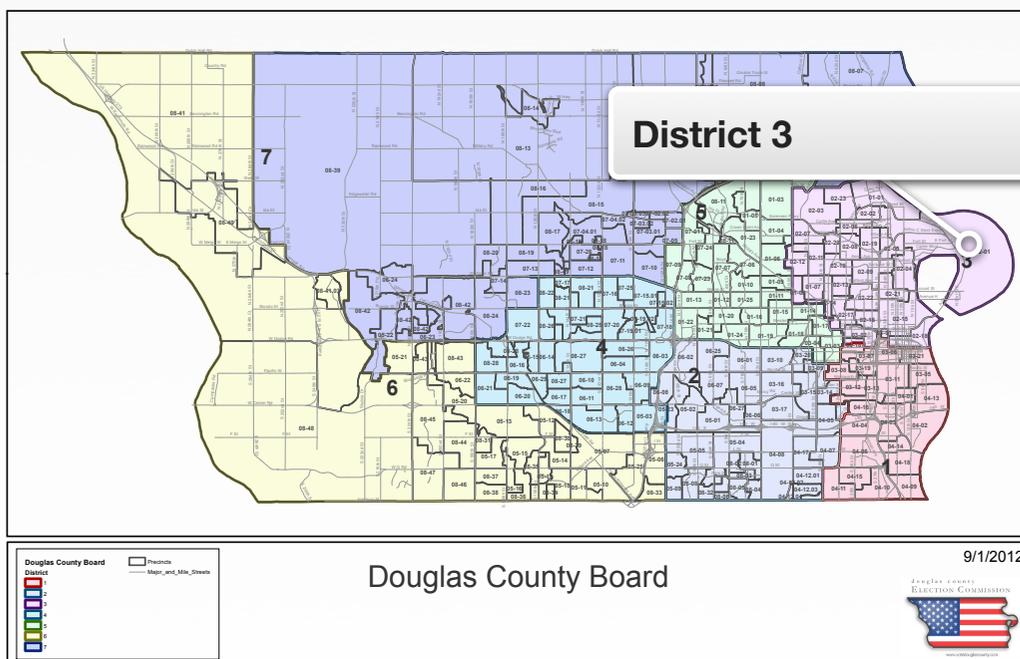
Rodgers graduated from Creighton in 1992 with a journalism degree. He received a Master's degree for business administration in 1999, and a Master's degree for public administration in 2002.

Rodgers is currently the Douglas County Commissioner for District #3, a position he has held since 2005. As the



Rodgers moved to Omaha when he accepted a basketball scholarship from Creighton University. He was part of the Bluejays' 1989 and 1991 conference championship teams before graduating with a degree in journalism. He later earned master's degrees in business administration and in public administration.

Rodgers was elected to represent North Omaha as a Douglas County Commissioner in 2004 and worked his way up to become the President of the



National Association of County Officials. He still serves today. Rodgers is responsible for administering county services, including juvenile justice programs and health services.

Question 1 of 2

How many years did Ernie Chambers work for the State Legislature until term limits forced him to retire?

- A.** 39 years
- B.** 4 years
- C.** 22 years
- D.** He didn't retire

Show What you Know

- Both of these men have become politicians so they can positively affect their community. What issues has each one focused on?
- Pretend you are running for office, what issues are do you feel are important to you and your neighborhood? Are your issues similar to those of Chambers or Rodgers?
- Create a crossword puzzle using important words from this chapter and their meanings in the clues.
- Explain why Chambers and Rodgers have a challenging time getting their legislation passed.



Click here to record your thoughts and questions about this chapter.



5

Hometown Heroes

Guiding Thoughts

- What occupation do these individuals have?
- How was Bill Johnson's experience different than Anthony Gaines' experience?
- What impact did these people make on their community?

Kayla's grandma turned the photo album's page to reveal a photo of a man wearing firefighting equipment.

"This is **Bill Johnson**," she said. "He served our neighborhood as a firefighter when I was young."

Omaha has a long and proud tradition of black firefighters breaking barriers, starting in 1895 when the first black firefighters were hired. But while they were proud of their accomplishments, they were not treated as equals. The Omaha Fire Department was desegregated in 1957, which

meant that black firefighters could serve along with their white counterparts. But discrimination continued.

When Bill Johnson started as a firefighter in 1961, black firefighters could not eat with white firefighters and they often had to clean up after everyone else. Black firefighters could not even sleep in the same rooms as their white coworkers — they had to sleep on the floor of the station, with the trucks.

Johnson worked his way through the ranks, however, becoming Omaha's first black acting chief in 1990. He retired as acting chief in 1999 after 38 years on the force. Johnson said there was not a day that he dreaded going to work. And in all those years, he was never late once.

Kayla chimed in, "I know a firefighter at the station today - Captain Gaines! I interviewed him for a school project."



Tap Here



Bill Johnson explains the differences between himself and his white co-workers in 1961.

These five men were the first black firefighters that were hired in North Omaha in 1895. They were hired for the Hose Company #12 located at 27th and Jones. This was a segregated unit. In this decade and for many that followed, new black firefighters could only be hired when another black firefighter retired or died.

Tap Here



Bill Johnson describes how things changed after a few years.



William “Bill” Johnson

Johnson was hired in 1961 as a firefighter. He began working at an integrated fire station on 12th and Dodge Streets. He worked there for approximately three and a half years, although there were racial restrictions. In 1964, he was transferred to a different station where he was not restricted by color.

Johnson was named Acting Chief in 1990 when the previous chief retired. He never really expected to become chief, but because he served for so long, he moved up through the ranks and became leader of the department

Anthony Gaines

Gaines was born on June 20, 1955. He attended and graduated from Bellevue West High School. He continued his education at Creighton Free Hospital to become a paramedic.

He currently works as a captain for the Omaha Fire Department and as a paramedic. He also spends his time educating kids on fire safety and has been doing so for a year and a half.

He became a fire fighter because he always wanted to help people. He feels this is a worthy goal in life and this occupation allows him to help others and make a living

Young firefighters like **Anthony Gaines**, a fire captain and paramedic for the Omaha Fire Department, credit Johnson and other predecessors for their patience, tolerance and strength while opening doors for future black firefighters.

“Captain Gaines said it takes courage to stand up for change. He told me it took strength for Chief Johnson and others not to physically fight back when they were being pushed into a corner.” Kayla

recalled. “Captain Gaines believes he now has a chance to make a difference as a firefighter. He says its an honorable job, and helping a person on what possibly could be the worst day of their life makes you feel good when you go home.”

“Now it’s your turn, Kayla,” her grandma said as she closed the photo album, “What job do you hope to do one day in your neighborhood?”

Tap
Here



Omaha's First Female Firefighter

Linda Brown was hired in 1987 and became the first black female firefighter. She rose through the ranks and was promoted to Captain. Her list of firsts is pretty impressive. They include:

- First black female firefighter
- First female paramedic
- First African American female captain
- First female fire inspector

People affecting Fire Fighting Around the Country

Black inventors around the country made an impact on firefighting during this time of segregation.

- 1872 - Thomas J. Martin invented the fire extinguisher
- 1890 - D. McCree patented the first portable fire escape
- 1912 - Garret Morgan invented the gas mask
- 1945 - Dr. Percy Lavon Julian invented the aero-foam extinguisher to fight gas and oil fires

Show What you Know

- Think about the challenges of a firefighter. What kinds of exercises do you think a firefighter would need to do to stay strong and in shape for the job? Create a work out plan so he or she can stay prepared.
- How would you feel to be discriminated against like Chief Johnson? How would you handle the situation and why?
- Create a list of interview questions that you would ask to either Johnson, Gaines, or Brown. What questions and what do you think their answers would be?



Click here to record your thoughts and questions about this chapter.

Some of the men and women included in this book have given advice to help guide younger people of today in their future.



Tap to listen to Dr. Washington's advice

6 Advice

- What advice do these men and women give?
- Is there a theme to what they tell you?
- How does this advice connect to you?



Don't be afraid to try something new to see if you like it. It might click if you take the risk. Education is the base, you must master reading because it is critical for most jobs. Read the newspapers, read biographies related to what interests you and analyze what is included. Don't waste time - get a library card and get reading!

~Chris Rodgers



“Whatever you want to be, be the best, and whatever you’re doing, you do the best.”

~ Mildred Brown



Bill Johnson shares advice he would give to you.



My advice for 3rd and 4th graders especially? Take your basic learning and education seriously. The tools you learn, like reading and math, you’ll use for the rest of your life. No matter what, education helps you learn to learn. The goal isn’t just to graduate, continue to learn new things. Never quit learning.

~ Anthony Gaines

Tap to hear more advice from Dr. Marguerita Washington



Click here to record your thoughts and questions about this chapter.

7

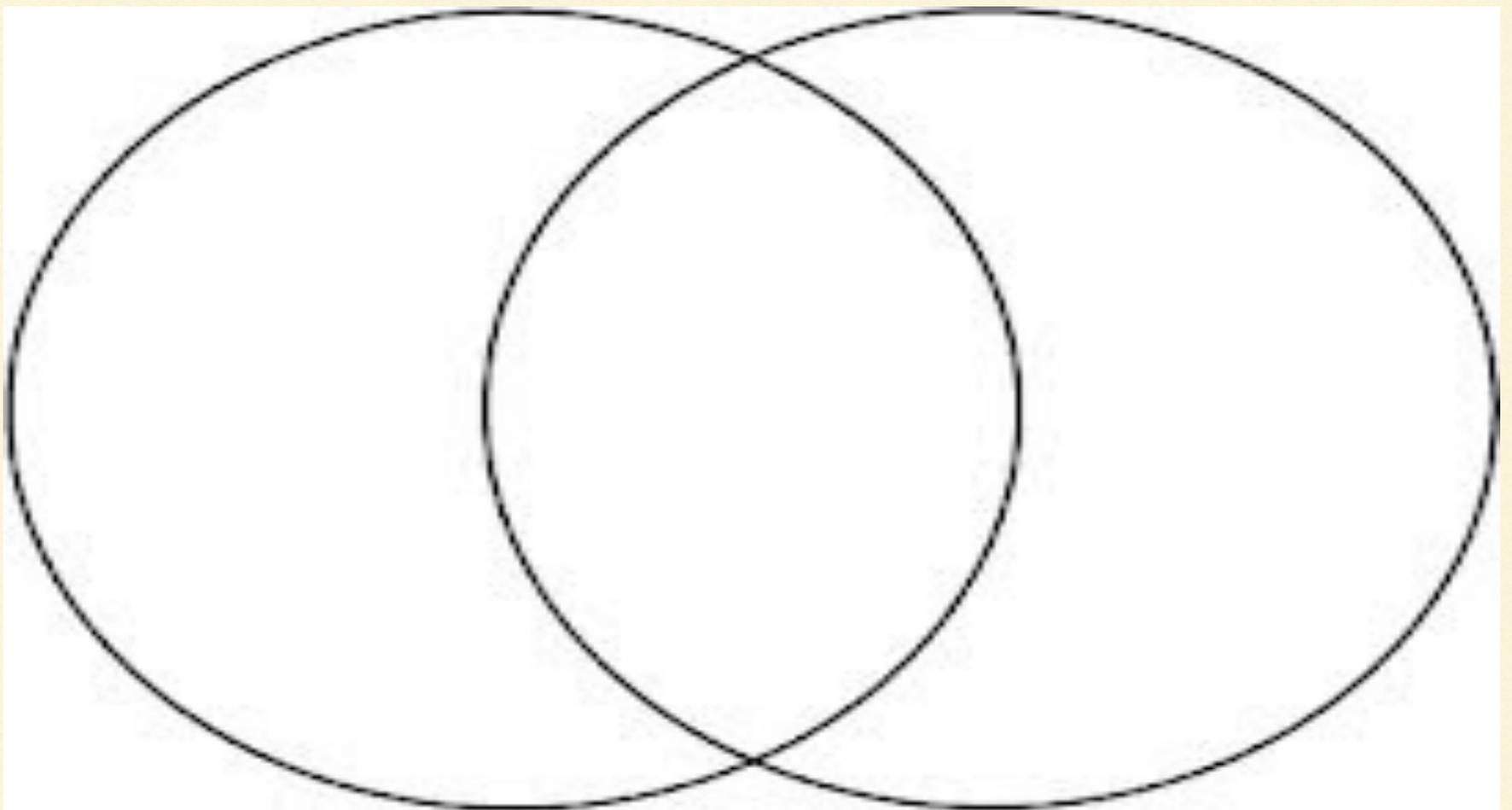
Questions and Activities

Questions:

1. What themes did you notice throughout the chapters?
2. Which of these people would you be most interested in meeting and why?
3. Do the conflicts that some of these people faced still affect our neighborhood? Give examples of why or why not.

CREATE A VENN DIAGRAM

- This iBook introduced you to African Americans of importance in Nebraska's history and connected them to important individuals in the present. Think about how these people were connected.
 - Choose two people that have the same occupation such as Mildred Brown and Dr. Marguerita Washington, then create a Venn Diagram to show the similarities and differences between their jobs and lives. Make sure to focus on differences and similarities that are due to the time period in which they lived.
 - Step 1: Choose two individuals with the same occupation. Put one person's name above the circle on the left. Put the other person's name above the circle on the right.
 - Step 2: Find similarities between these 2 people. Record the similarities in the area where the two circles meet on the notepad widget below.
 - Step 3: Find differences in their jobs or the problems they faced. Record things that apply to only one person in the part of their circle that does not touch the other circle.
 - Step 4: Publish for your teacher.



Use this notepad to help you plan your Venn Diagram

PLAN AND CREATE A MAP

- This iBook focused on the people who helped make the 24th street neighborhood a strong community. You are going to create a map of your neighborhood and the places that make it a strong community.
 - Think about your neighborhood. What specific places would you like to focus on and why? Are these places that lots of people go to for a particular reason?
 - Step 1: Make a list of what places in your neighborhood you want to include in your map. Aim for five or more places to include.
 - Step 2: Using a pencil and paper, draw the layout of the blocks in your neighborhood. Add color and details after you feel your map is correct.
 - Step 3: Add the places you put on your list and highlight them in a way that makes them clearly visible to the reader. Add information about those places, make sure to include why they are important to the community.

City of Omaha Click on the tabs to learn more about places



DEBATE AN ISSUE - SMALL GROUP

- One of the important places discussed in the story was the Fair Deal Cafe. This cafe was very important to the community during the time of segregation because it was a safe place for people to meet and discuss issues and debate possible solutions. As a result Charles Hall's restaurant became known as the "Black City Hall."



The Fair Deal Cafe as it looks today

- As a class, brainstorm a list of the issues of the 1950s and 1960s.

These issues might include: riots, integration, segregation, black coverage in the news, etc.

- In a small group, choose one issue of the time to focus on. Imagine yourself as a person of that decade for the issue and discuss the solutions that you might have.
- Make sure to think of all the positive things (pros) that might come from your decided solution. Likewise, make sure to try to think of all the negative things (cons) that might happen after your decided solution.
 - After your discussion, answer these questions
 1. Would these discussions have happened if the Fair Deal Cafe hadn't been open?
 2. How do you think would they have been different?
 3. What about the Fair Deal Cafe allowed it to be such an important place for these types of discussions?
 4. If the Fair Deal Cafe was still open today, what issues might you discuss there now?

BECOME A LIVING STATUE

- This iBook introduced you to two people with the same occupation who faced different conflicts and were from different decades.
 - You will become a living statue of one of the people from your community. You will need to research that person and have a short speech prepared. When your button is pushed, you will come to life and tell about your self. When you have finished your speech, turn back into a statue.
 - Step 1: Choose your person of interest. Choices for people might include: Mildred Brown, Dr. Marguerita Washington, Charles Hall, Big Mama, Ernie Chambers, Chris Rodgers, Bill Johnson, and Anthony Gaines.
 - Step 2: Imagine what that person is thinking and what they would like to share about themselves. Think also about why that person is included in this story.
 - Step 3: Research more about this person using books, magazines, or the internet (with permission). Write a short speech (30 seconds to 2 minutes) about this individual.
 - Presenting: Determine your statue's pose and "freeze" into position. When your shoulder is touched, come to life and share your speech. When you finish, freeze back into your position.

CONNECT THE THEME TO YOURSELF

- One of the themes of this iBook was keeping tradition alive through the community. These businesses provided the community with places to get together, discuss and share their opinions on issues they faced, and a way to keep traditions alive. Segregation was primarily a negative time, but it fostered a feeling of connectedness and pride in the community for the people of the neighborhood.
 - Think about your family. Do you have any traditions that you and your family share?
 - Think about places that your family goes and how they act at these places. What places does your family visit? Why are they important?
 - Is there any food that is special or part of a ritual in your family? Is there a way that you prepare food that is a tradition?
 - How does your family keep these traditions alive?

8

Meet the Author



Andrew Norman is a veteran journalist and copywriter. He is the co-founder of the nonprofit Hear Nebraska, and a copywriter at Phenomblue, a brand-experience agency. A native of Imperial, Nebraska, he lives in Omaha with his wife, Angie.

9

Meet the Illustrator



Originally from Pennsylvania, Christina Renfer Vogel holds a BFA from Temple University and a MFA from the Massachusetts College of Art. She has exhibited nationally and is a recipient of awards including a grant from the Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation and an artist fellowship from the Nebraska Arts Council. From 2010 to 2013, she worked as an arts administrator at the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts and taught drawing at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. In the summer of 2013, Christina relocated from Omaha to Chattanooga with her husband, Brandon, and their two cats to teach painting at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

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Meet the Developer



Sara Adams is originally from Omaha, Nebraska. She graduated from Millard. After high school, she received her Bachelors of Science in Elementary Education from the University of Missouri in Columbia. She taught in Independence, Missouri while earning her Masters of Curriculum and Instruction. After half a decade, she moved back to Omaha and has worked as a teacher for Omaha Public Schools since. She currently teaches fourth grade at Boyd Elementary School. She lives with her husband, daughter, two beagles, and two cats.

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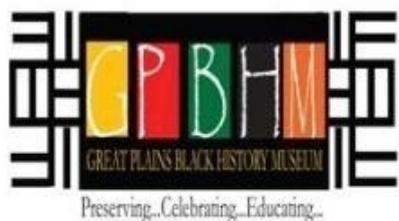
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Activists

Someone who takes action to advance a cause that he or she believes in

Related Glossary Terms

Drag related terms here

Index

Find Term

Chapter 4 - Making a Difference

Civil rights

The equal rights of everyone to be free from discrimination based on gender, religion, or other aspects of their identity.

Related Glossary Terms

Discrimination, Equal participation, Racial injustice, Segregation

Commendations

A recognition of good work

Related Glossary Terms

Drag related terms here

Detrimental

harmful, damaging, or negative

Related Glossary Terms

Drag related terms here

Discrimination

Treating another person differently based on his or her race, gender, or other aspect of their identity.

Related Glossary Terms

Civil rights, Equal participation, Racial injustice, Segregation

Equal participation

Allowing and ensuring that people of all backgrounds are represented in government, employment, schools and other organizations.

Related Glossary Terms

Civil rights, Discrimination, Racial injustice, Segregation

Founder

The person who created something.

Related Glossary Terms

Drag related terms here

Journalism

The study of writing and reporting news.

Related Glossary Terms

Drag related terms here

Politician

Someone who runs for or holds an elected position in government.

Related Glossary Terms

Drag related terms here

Portrayed

described or represented

Related Glossary Terms

Drag related terms here

Racial injustice

When someone is treated in an unequal or unfair way due to their race

Related Glossary Terms

Civil rights, Discrimination, Equal participation, Segregation

Segregation

The separation of people based on race.

Related Glossary Terms

Civil rights, Discrimination, Equal participation, Racial injustice

Soul food

A type of food that originated in the South, using the food ingredients accessible to slaves and would feed large, hardworking families. It is usually associated with strong, bold flavors that come from slow cooking methods.

Related Glossary Terms

Drag related terms here

Untitled

A fancy and decorative pin, usually worn on the front of a suit jacket

Related Glossary Terms

Drag related terms here