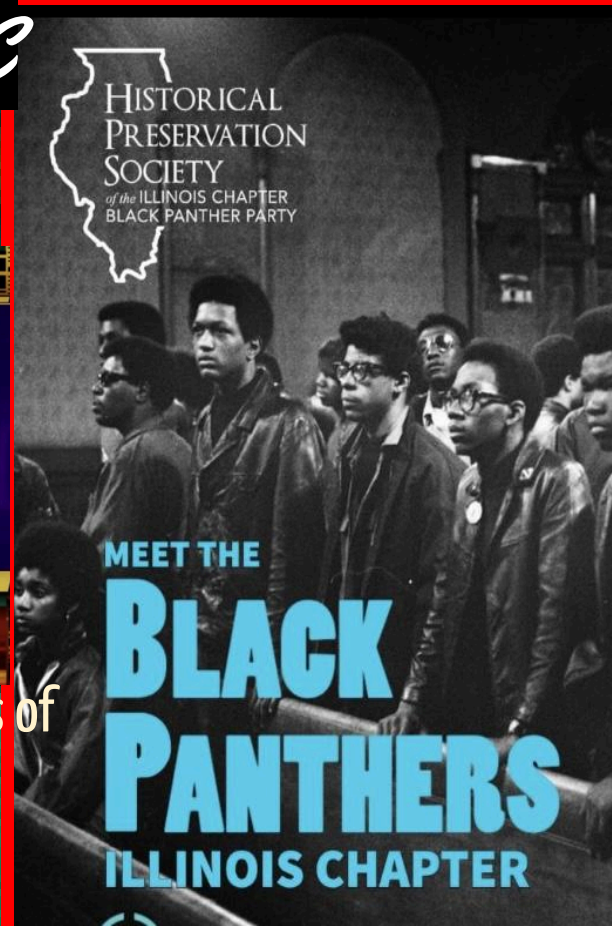


Clark Virtual Museum LLC NEWSLETTER

Black History Month, 2025

Clark Virtual Museum LLC
"More Than A Museum, We Honor The Life and Legacy"
What's New

- WGN Channel 9 Chicago "Black History Month Special" featuring surviving members of the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party
- Mark Clark Series of Public Programs Leading To Installation and Dedication of Historical Marker and Calendar of Events

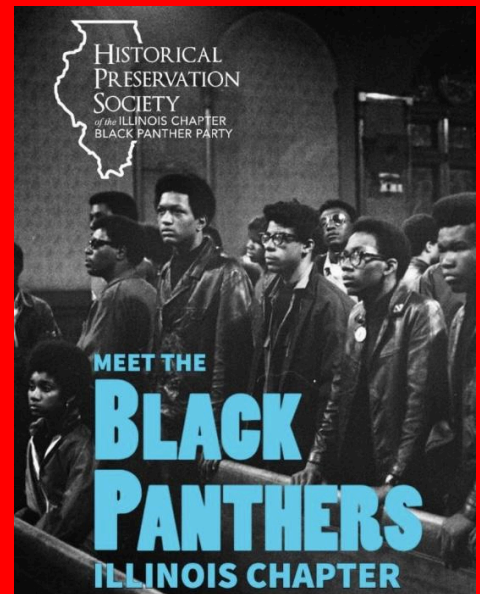


WGN Channel 9 Chicago Black History Month Special



As part of WGN's Black History Month coverage, Micah Materre hosted a half-hour special featuring an exclusive conversation with surviving members of the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party. Rose (Clark) Morris, sister of Defense Captain Mark Clark shared with WGN news how Mark Clark's legacy is inspiring others.

Black Panther Party Leaders, Deputy Chairman Fred Hampton Sr. and Defense Captain Mark Clark were assassinated in Chicago, Illinois. It occurred December 4th 1969. Police described what occurred as a "shoot out" with Black Panthers, but evidence showed it was a "shoot-in". It was also later discovered that the FBI's COINTELPRO unit devised the plan to eliminate Chairman Fred Hampton Sr. after deeming him a potential Black Messiah because of his influence.



Mark Clark Series of Public Programs Leading To Installation & Dedication of Historical Marker

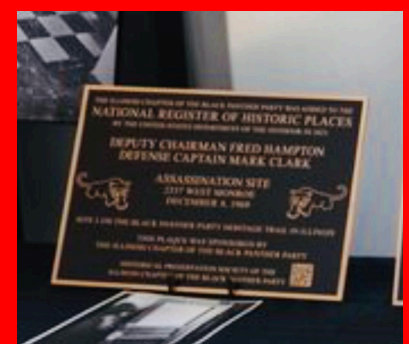
The Historical Preservation Society of the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party, Ward Chapel, A.M.E. and the family of Mark Clark are inviting the community to participate in a series of public programs leading to the installation and dedication of Ward Chapel's historical marker. Mark Clark was assassinated with Illinois Deputy Chairman Fred Hampton on December 4, 1969, during an FBI and Chicago Police coordinated raid. These events are not just about sharing history but also about preserving and celebrating the legacy of Mark Clark. Partners include the Clark Virtual Museum, Trust for Public Land, and JAQ Corp Architects. Illinois Humanities sponsored the historical marker.

WHAT and WHY: Ward Chapel, A.M.E. Church stands as a unique site on the Black Panther Party Heritage Trail in Illinois. It is the only Peoria church that welcomed the Illinois Chapter's Peoria Defense Captain Mark Clark to establish a Free Breakfast For Children Program. This remarkable act firmly established Ward Chapel's place in Panther history. In December 2023, the National Park Service added the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party to the National Register of Historic Places, further cementing Ward Chapel's unique historical significance.

With its legendary past, Ward Chapel is not only the oldest black church in Peoria but also the oldest church in the city. It has hosted speeches from notable figures such as Fredrick Douglas and Booker T. Washington and is now a site on the Black Panther Party Heritage Trail. Plans are underway to nominate Ward Chapel to the National Register of Historic Places.

WHEN and WHERE: These events lead to a public dedication and celebration of the Mark Clark and Ward Chapel historical marker on Mark Clark's birthday, Saturday, June 28, 2025.

We invite media professionals and the public to join us at these free events!



EVENT CALENDAR:

March 18, 2025, 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Online Presentation

- Unlocking Black Panther History in Illinois
- Peoria Defense Captain Mark Clark

April 1, 2025, 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Online Presentation

- Peoria's Historic Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church

April 15, 2025, 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Online Presentation

- Community Planning for the Mark Clark Memorial Park

May 3, 2025, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., In-Person Meeting

- Mark Clark's Feeding Program Relaunch
- In-Person Charette: Mark Clark Memorial Park Planning Meeting

Location: Ward Chapel, A.M.E., Peoria, IL 61605

June 7, 2025, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., In-Person Meeting

- Final In-Person Charette: Mark Clark Memorial Park Planning Meeting

Location: Ward Chapel, A.M.E., 511 N Richard Allen Drive, Peoria, IL 61605

June 28, 2025, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., In-Person Celebration

- Dedication Ceremony for Mark Clark, Ward Chapel Historical Marker

Location: Ward Chapel, A.M.E., 511 N Richard Allen Drive, Peoria, IL 61605

For more information about The Historical Preservation Society of the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party, log on to: www.iLBPP.org



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Our website: <https://ClarkVirtualMuseum.com>

For more information contact us via email:
clarkvirtualmuseum@yahoo.com

Best Regards, Rose X (Clark) Morris, Board Chair

Clark Virtual Museum LLC

