

# *The Clark Virtual Museum* NEWSLETTER

June 19, 2024

## The Clark Virtual Museum

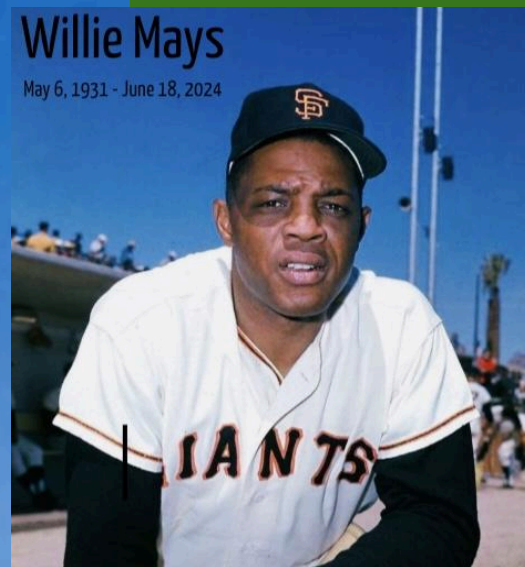
"More Than A Museum, We Honor The Life and Legacy of Our Ancestor"

### What's New

- Willie Mays  
1931 - 2024  
"A Baseball Legend"
- Remembering  
Defense Captain  
Mark Clark On His  
77th Birth  
Anniversary
- "Revolutionary Black  
Panther" A Poem In  
Memory of Mark Clark
- An Update On The  
Historical Preservation  
and Landmarking of  
the Illinois Chapter of  
The BPP !

## Willie Mays

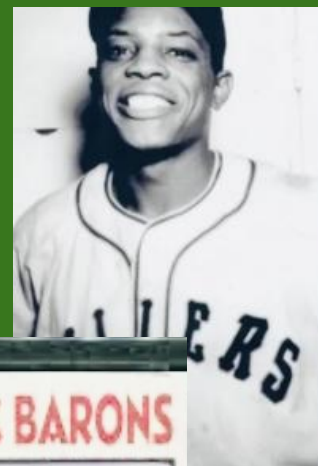
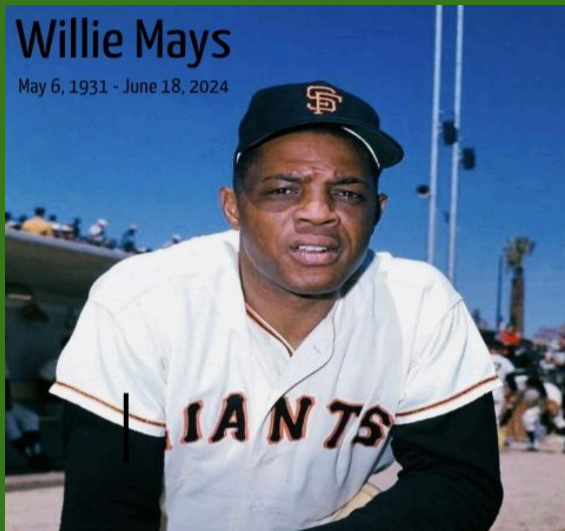
May 6, 1931 - June 18, 2024



# Willie Mays

## 1931 -2024

### “A Baseball Legend”



We are saddened by the loss of Mr. Willie Mays aka “The Say Hey Kid” who passed away on June 18, 2024. Mays was one of the greatest all-round professional baseball players of all time.

Willie Mays received 2 National League Most Valuable Player awards and 12 Gold Glove Awards. His career high stats from the Major Leagues alone are 660 home runs, 2,062 runs scored and 3,283 hits. In 2024 Willie Mays was credited with 10 hits from his days in the Negro League increasing his career record to 3,293 hits.

Willie Mays grew up in Fairfield, Alabama, not far from Rickwood Field, the oldest baseball field in America and home to the Negro League’s Black Birmingham Barons. Major League Baseball will honor the legacy of Willie Mays and other Negro League baseball players during its “Tribute to the Negro League” game between the Giants and St. Louis Cardinals. The regular season game will be played at Rickwood Field on June 20th, 2024.



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In 1947 Willie Mays began playing professional baseball in the Negro Leagues, starting out he played for the Chattanooga Choo-Choos. *He continued on next page)*

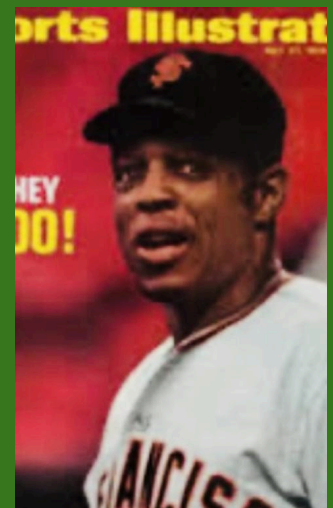
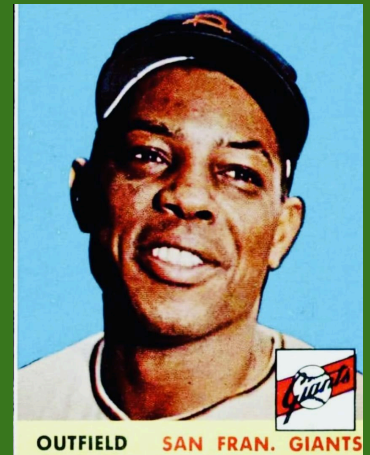
became a player on the Negro League's Birmingham Black Barons when he was 17 years old. He led the Birmingham Black Barons to the 1948 Negro League World Series.

In 1950 Willie Mays graduated from Fairfield Industrial High School. Upon graduation he was signed by the New York Giants and sent to their Trenton, New Jersey farm team. From there he advanced to the Minneapolis Millers AAA farm team before getting the call from Leo Durocher In 1951 to join the Giants in New York City. Mays position was at Center field. He hit another 20 home runs in his first season! Not only could Willi hit, but he made spectacular plays! In a game against Pittsburgh, Mays zoomed across the field stopping a 475-foot drive bare handed. Mays helped the Giants win the National League Pennant in his first major league season!

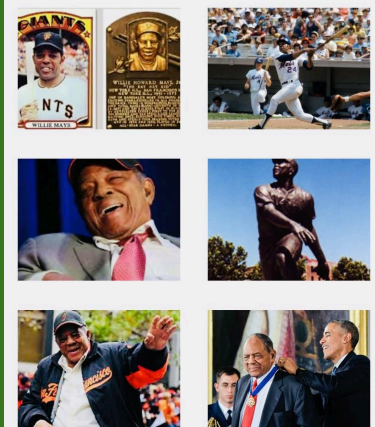
In 1952 Mays was drafted into the U.S. Army. He returned to the Giants in 1954 after serving two years. That year, he pulled off a League-high .345, with 41 home runs. Mays received The Most Valuable Player award, and led the Giants into the World Series against the Cleveland Indians. The Giants defeated Cleveland by winning four straight games. Mays phenomenal over-the-shoulder catch in game 1 continues to be among the most talked about plays in baseball history! In 1955 Mays hit an extraordinary 51 home runs! He also delivered one of his best performances at the All-Star game with an incredible flying catch.

By 1963 Willie Mays hit 52 home runs and received the Most Valuable Player award for the second time in his professional career in 1965. In 1966 Mays signed a new contract with the Giants making him, for a moment in time, the highest-paid player in the history of baseball. In 1970 Willie Mays hit number 3,000! It occurred on July 18, 1970 in San Francisco when the Giants played Montreal.

Willie Mays character, charisma and love for the game of baseball have endeared him to millions of people and are a testament of his greatness!



We Salute Willie Mays!



# “Revolutionary Black Panther”

## A Poem In Memory of Mark Clark

### “Revolutionary Black Panther”

by Jaclyn Clark Hodge

Mark Clark's legacy entails  
All of The amazing things that he did  
He wanted Health care for sickle cell  
And he had a breakfast program for kids

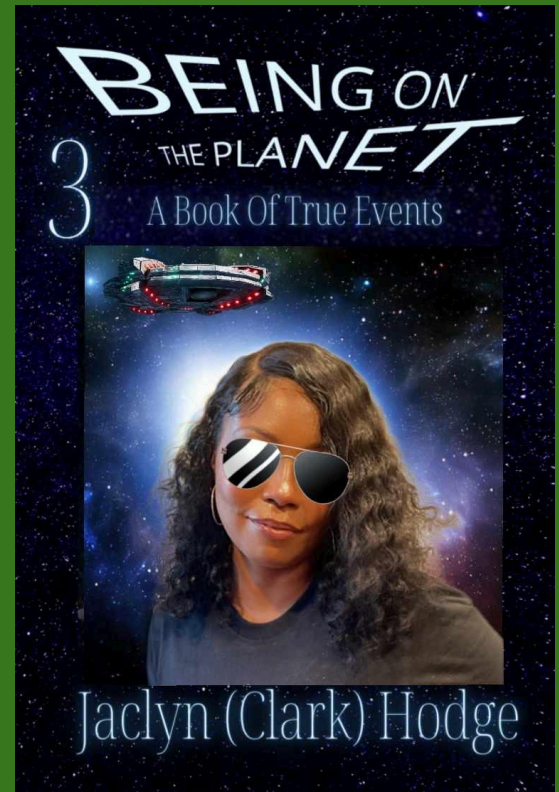
He was the type of black male  
Police tried to take off the grid  
But Mark Clark wouldn't bail  
he never ran he never hid

He could have came to Flint  
But he chose Chicago instead  
He wouldn't go where his mother went  
He spent his last days with Chairman Fred

Because he felt what that brother meant  
He stood on the words that Fred said  
Together they'd be killed by the government  
Because FEDS wanted them dead

We all miss  
The slain activists  
We'll never forget the 4<sup>th</sup> of December  
Now, Bro and sis  
We Raise our fist  
Salute The Revolutionary Black Panther Members.

(From the newly released book  
*Being On The Planet 3 A Book Of True Events*)



# Remembering Mark Clark On His 77th Birth Anniversary



June 28th, 2024 marks the 77th Birth Anniversary of Defense Captain Mark Clark. In remembrance of Mark's birth anniversary, we invite you to read the following biographical summary.

## Biographical Summary

Mark Clark was born on June 28, 1947 in Peoria, Illinois. He was the seventh son born to Elder William and Fannie Clark, and he was ninth of their seventeen children. Mark was an intelligent and unique individual. He was a gifted artist who excelled at sketching portraits. He was also a talented amateur boxer who won numerous competitions at Peoria's Carver Community Center.

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At thirteen years of age Mark was protesting against injustice at NAACP sponsored demonstrations. In 1963 he participated in the Peoria Bus Boycott, where he exhibited leadership qualities and ability to influence youth. As a member of the local NAACP youth council, he played a major part in keeping teenagers in line. Mark could call them to order when older persons could not. Mark continued to engage in protests, sit-ins and demonstrations for jobs, housing and equality.

Mark was a deep thinker. He read encyclopedias, studied history, and educated himself about the injustice done to Indigenous people, Native Americans, Africans and Aborigines. After attending Peoria Public Schools and completing his high school education, he studied at Illinois Central Junior College.

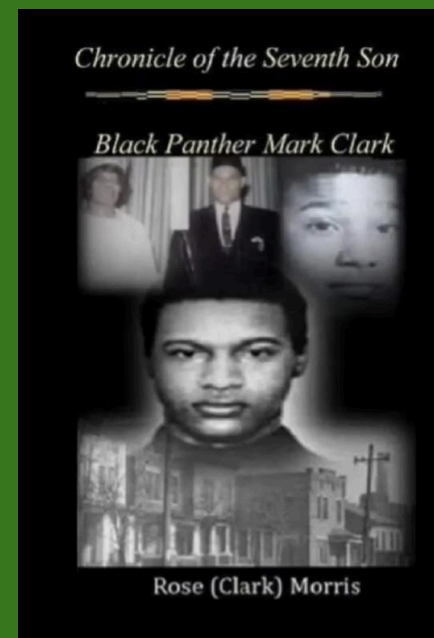
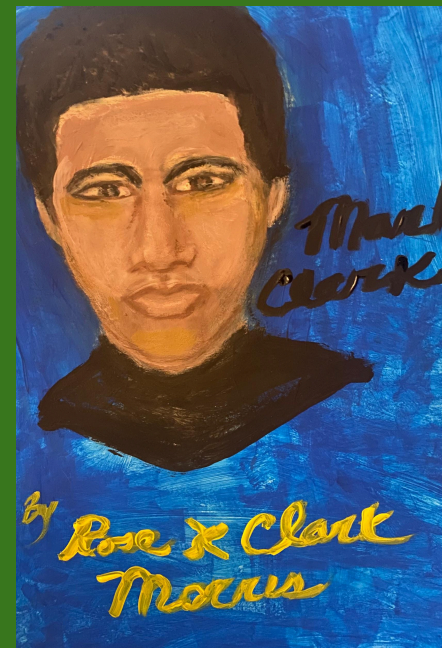
Mark joined the Black Panther Party in late 1968 after being recruited by a Panther member, a family friend who came from California to Peoria. He organized the Peoria Branch of the ILBPP in early 1969, recruiting friends, family and inner-city youth to join up. Initially, Mark held Peoria Branch ILBPP meetings in the Clark's residence on Seventh Street.

Mark Clark took to heart the establishment of BPP survival programs and by the spring of 1969, he had established the BPP Free Breakfast Program For Children at the historic Ward Chapel African Methodist Church in Peoria. Additionally, he implemented a BPP Sickie Cell Awareness program, letting people know about the prevalence of sickle cell anemia, especially in the Black community.

Peoria's Defense Captain Mark Clark was dedicated to carrying out the Black Panther Party's platform, programs and initiatives. When it came to pushing The Black Panther newspapers, political education, patrolling the neighborhood, protecting the community, curtailing prostitution and standing against injustice, he was always out in front. Mark made a commitment to struggle for the people and even in the face of overwhelming forces, he would not back down from his principles and values.

Defense Captain Mark Clark was just 22 years old when he and Chairman Fred Sr. were assassinated on December 4, 1969. Although his life was cut short, it is clear that Mark Clark was a man of action, an influential leader, and a young Black revolutionary! ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE!

For more detailed information on Defense Captain Mark Clark, read *Chronicle of the Seventh Son Black Panther Mark Clark* (2019) by Rose (Clark) Morris.



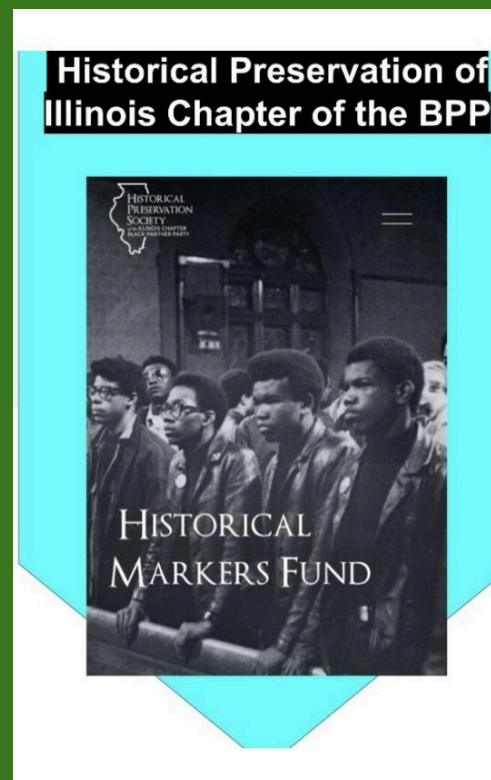
# An Update On The Historical Preservation and Landmarking Of The ILBPP!



On June 22: 2024 The Historical Preservation Society will host the Black Panther Party Heritage Trail in Illinois Bus Tour. This Bus Tour on June 22 will be the first place-based learning experience and will help develop the Black Panther Party Heritage Trail! The Bus Tour will take place from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Pick up and drop off is at the Better Boys Foundation. 1512 South Pulaski Road, Chicago, IL, 60623. To learn more about the Bus Tour visit <https://ilbpp.org/events>

The Black Panther Party Heritage Festival will take place on Saturday, October 26, 2024 from 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM at the Better Boys Foundation, 1512 South Pulaski Road, Chicago, IL, 60623. This event will mark the Official Launch of the Black Panther Party Heritage Trail in Illinois. To learn more about the Black Panther Party Heritage Trail in Illinois visit <https://ilbpp.org/events/black-panther-party-heritage-festival>

The work of the Historical Preservation Society of the ILBPP continues. So far eleven historical Markers have been confirmed and will be placed at various sites. To learn more about the Historical Preservation and Landmarking of the ILBPP visit their website: [ilbpp.org](https://ilbpp.org)



# Visit The Clark Virtual Museum!

Please encourage your family and friends to log on to our website, view our exhibits, watch our videos, visit The Clark Virtual Museum Bookstore and Black History Library Archives!

Subscribe to Our Newsletter and view our Newsletter Archives!

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

For more information contact us via email:  
[clarkvirtualmuseum@yahoo.com](mailto:clarkvirtualmuseum@yahoo.com)

Best Regards, Rose X (Clark) Morris, Founder and Curator  
The Clark Virtual Museum.

