

Clark Virtual Museum LLC

NEWSLETTER

April 14, 2025

Clark Virtual Museum LLC

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

What's New



- Combating Actions To Remove Black History
- Focus On Peoria Program Series Kickoff "Historical Preservation of ILBPP and Peoria Defense Captain Mark Clark"
- Focus On Peoria Series "The History of Peoria's Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church and Feeding Program"
- Schedule of Public Programs Leading To June 28th Historical Marker Installation Ceremony



Black Panther Party Heritage Trail in Illinois Peoria Calendar Mar 18 - June 28, 2025		
03/18/2025 6 PM - 7 PM	Online Presentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Unlocking Black Panther History in IllinoisPeoria Defense Captain Mark Clark	Webinar Registration: ILBPP.org/events
04/01/2025 6 PM - 7 PM	Online Presentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Peoria's Historic Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church	Webinar Registration: ILBPP.org/events
04/15/2025 6 PM - 7 PM	Online Presentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Community Planning for the Mark Clark Memorial Park	Webinar Registration: ILBPP.org/events
05/03/2025 10 AM - 11:30 AM	In-Person Community Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none">8:00 A.M. Relaunch of Mark Clark's Feeding Program10:00 A.M. In-Person Charette: Mark Clark Memorial Park	Ward Chapel A.M.E. 511 N Richard Allen Drive Peoria, IL 61605
06/07/2025 10 AM - 11:30 AM	In-Person Community Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Final In-Person Charette: Mark Clark Memorial Park Planning Meeting	Ward Chapel A.M.E. 511 N Richard Allen Drive Peoria, IL 61605
06/28/2025 11 AM - 1 PM	In-Person Celebration <ul style="list-style-type: none">11:00 a.m. Historical Marker Dedication Ceremony12:00 p.m. Food, Fellowship, and Fun!	Ward Chapel A.M.E. 511 N Richard Allen Drive Peoria, IL 61605

Combating Actions To Remove History of Black Achievements

In recent weeks we've witnessed alarming actions to remove from the historical records the achievements of Harriet Tubman, Lewis Latimer, General Colin Powell, Medgar Evers, Jackie Robinson, Tuskegee Airmen, Navajo Code Breakers and others. This so-call DEI purge is simply an attempt to erase pivotal aspects of Black history, undermine civil rights and downplay the important achievements of these great individuals.

Pressure is being placed on institutions like the National Museum of African American History and Culture, challenging their efforts to present comprehensive narratives of our heritage. These developments highlight a concerted effort to diminish the significance of Black contributions to American history.

In times when our history faces erasure, standing together becomes imperative. We MUST build for our own and we must take action!

At Clark Virtual Museum LLC, we recognize the urgency of preserving and celebrating our stories. Our commitment to authentic Black narratives has never been more critical.

We invite you to join us by becoming a member and sponsor of Clark Virtual Museum LLC. You'll not only be supporting Clark Virtual Museum but also championing the broader cause of cultural preservation and representation.

Together we can counteract these challenges! Simply make a donation using the QR code or at: <https://ClarkVirtualMuseum.com> Your contribution will help us to continue producing content that reflects our rich heritage!

Let's unite to keep our stories alive and thriving.

With gratitude,

Clark Virtual Museum LLC Board of Directors

Mark Clark June
2025 Peoria Exhibits
& Program Fund

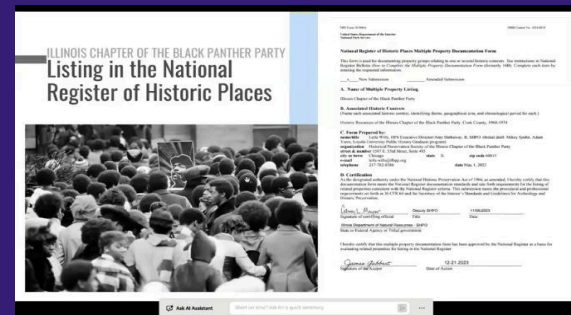
Donate, Become A
Member or Sponsor

Your support of Clark Virtual Museum LLC means more than you know.

We simply could not produce the exhibitions and educational content we do without supporters like you.



Focus On Peoria Program Series “Historical Preservation of the ILBPP and Peoria Defense Captain Mark Clark”



Leila Wills, Executive Director of the Historical Preservation Society for ILBPP speaking to participants during a public webinar on March 18th..

Tuesday, March 18, 2025 was the official kick-off the *Focus On Peoria Program Series*. Leila Wills, Executive Director of the Historical Preservation Society of the Illinois chapter of the Black Panther Party moderated the online webinar. Ms. Wills shared slides on the landmarking of the Illinois Chapter, its listing on the national register of historic places, and other information about the party.



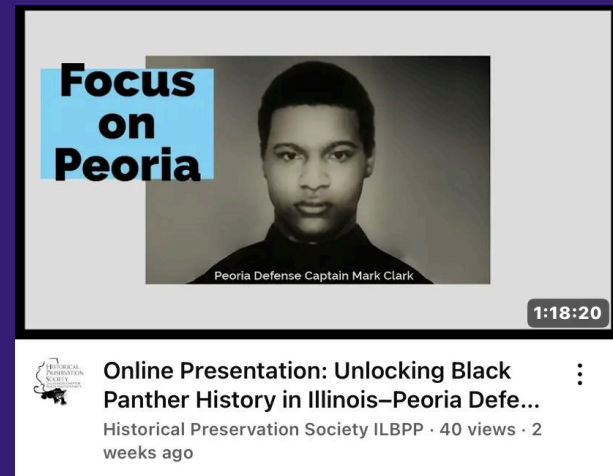


Dr. Patricia Brown speaking to participants during a public webinar on March 18th.



Rose (Clark) Morris

Sisters of Mark Clark, Dr. Patricia Brown and Rose (Clark) Morris (both are board members of Clark Virtual Museum LLC), had brief remarks before introducing the video *“Let Me Tell You About Mark Clark”*.



The videos *“Let Me Telll You About Mark Clark”* and Focus On Peoria Online Presentation *“Unlocking Black Panther History in Illinois”* are currently available on Clark Virtual Museum and Historical Preservation Society ILBPP YouTube Channels.

Focus on Peoria Series “The History of Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church and Feeding Program”



Rev. Dr. Cyrus Burns, Pastor of Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church and Rev. Dr. Elaine Gordon, retired Pastor of Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church speaking to participants during the public event on April 1st.

On Tuesday, April 1, 2025 the *Focus On Peoria Program Series* streamed live from Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church. Leila Wills, Executive Director of the Historical Preservation Society of the Illinois chapter of the Black Panther Party made brief remarks before turning over moderation to Rev. Dr. Elaine Gordon, retired Pastor of Ward Chapel.

Rev. Dr. Gordon introduced Rev. Dr. Cyrus Burns, Pastor at Ward Chapel who shared historical facts about the formation of the African Methodist church, establishment of Peoria's Ward Chapel A.M.E., and how the church has been a beacon of light during its 178 years of service to the community. The video “Ward Chapel A.M.E. Down Thru The Years” provided a look back at the church's congregation over the years.

Among the in-person audience at Ward Chapel were volunteers who served in the feeding program over the years.



“Mama G” Wilson, Rev. Kimberly Hayes, Bro. Cleo Carter and Bro. Thomas Mosley shared their involvement in the program.



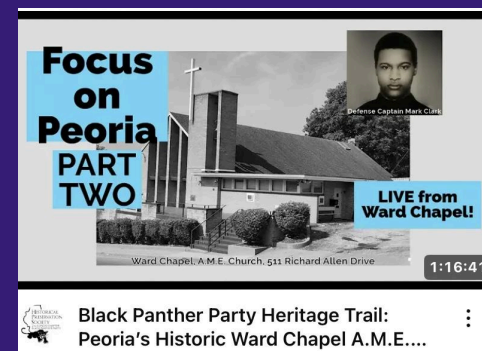
Robert Clark, brother of Mark Clark, at Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church speaking to participants during the public event on April 1st.



Robert Clark, board member of Clark Virtual Museum introduced other members of the Clark family that were at Ward Chapel. Mr. Clark commended Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church and the Historical Preservation Society of the ILBPP on the tremendous work that is being done. He stressed the importance of continuing to meet the needs of the poor, especially in this political environment.

Rev. Dr. Gordon spoke about the leadership and social activism of Rev. Blaine Ramsey, who in 1969 was First Vice-President of the local NAACP chapter. When Mark Clark came seeking a home for The BPP free breakfast for Children Program, Rev. Ramsey agreed and the doors of Ward Chapel A.M.E. were opened. Dr. Gordon introduced Evangelist Mae Katherine Godhigh who shared her memories of Mark Clark.

Rev. Dr. Gordon shared how the needs of the community shifted leading to Ward Chapel's shift toward serving the homeless. She also talked about the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic and the relaunch of the feeding program on Saturday, May 3,



Schedule of Public Programs Leading To June 28th Historical Marker Installation Ceremony



WHEN and WHERE: These events are a combination of online webinars and in-person events at Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church in Peoria, Illinois. The series leads to a public installation dedication and celebration of the Mark Clark and Ward Chapel historical marker on Mark Clark's birthday, Saturday June 28, 2025.



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

Best Regards,

Clark Virtual Museum LLC

