

The Clark Virtual Museum NEWSLETTER

June 18, 2024

The Clark Virtual Museum

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

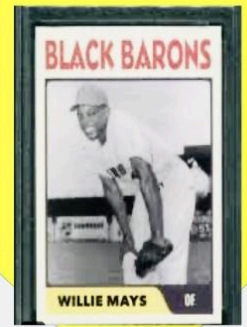
What's New

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

Exhibit Updated!

Famous Baseball Player

Willie Mays



BLACK PANTHER PARTY HERITAGE TRAIL BUS TOUR

Join Us on First Tour! SIGN UP: ILBPP.org
Saturday, June 22, 2024
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Includes box lunch!
Educators earn professional development credits

Heritage Trail

ILBPP.org

ilbpp.org

BLACK PANTHER PARTY HERITAGE TRAIL in IL

ILBPP.org

“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 4th 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.

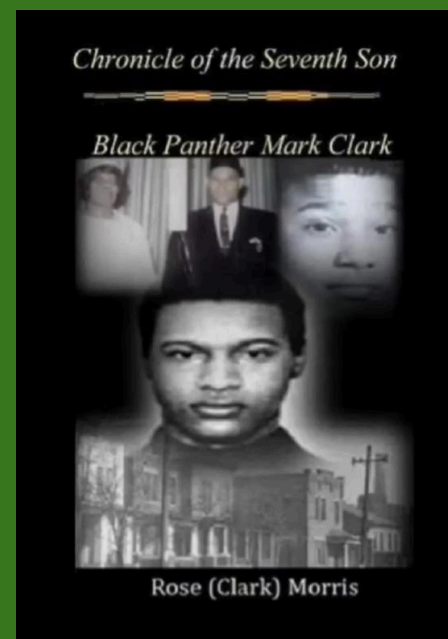
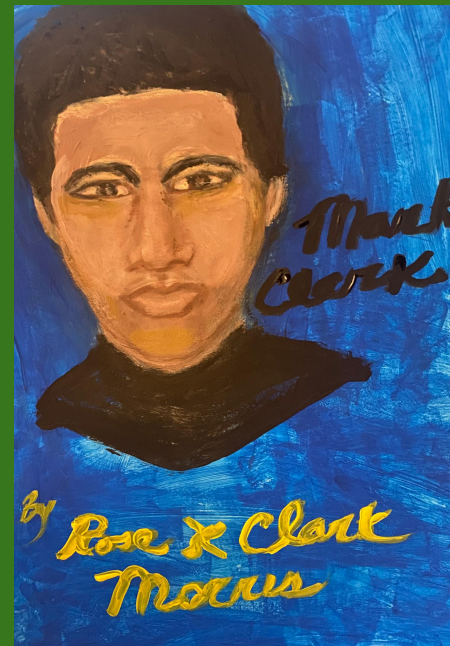
Mark joined the Black Panther Party in late 1968 after being recruited by a Panther member, a family friend who came from California to Peoria. He organized the Peoria Branch of the ILBPP in early 1969, recruiting friends, family and inner-city youth to join up. Initially, Mark held Peoria Branch ILBPP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



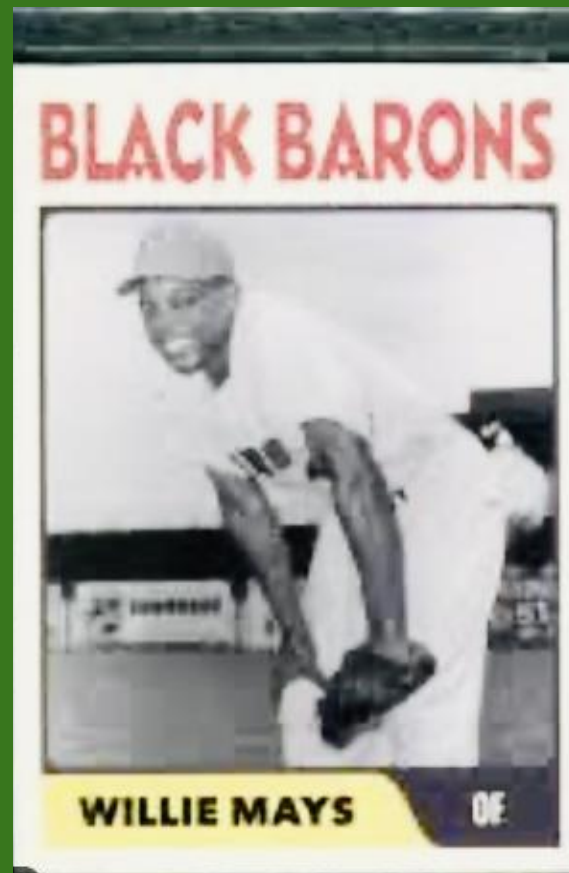
Updated Exhibit: “Famous Baseball Player Willie Mays”



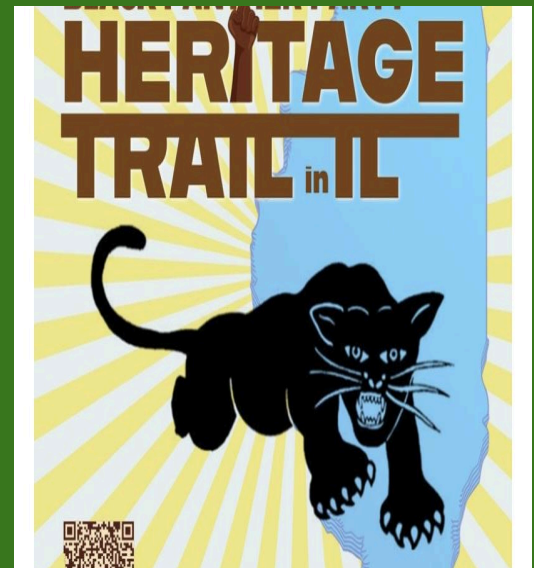
We’ve updated our exhibit “Famous Baseball Player Willie Mays” In honor of his legacy and the upcoming “Tribute To The Negro League” game. Major League Baseball will honor Willie Mays and other Negro League baseball players during its “Tribute to the Negro League” game between the Giants and St. Louis Cardinals. The regular season game will be played at the historic Rickwood Field on June 20th, 2024.

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. In 1947 Mays began playing baseball in the Negro Leagues, starting out playing for the Chattanooga Choo-Choos. He 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.

At age 93, Willie Mays is a living legend. It’s unlikely that Willie Mays will travel to Birmingham for the “Tribute To The Negro League” game, but his presence there will certainly be felt!



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

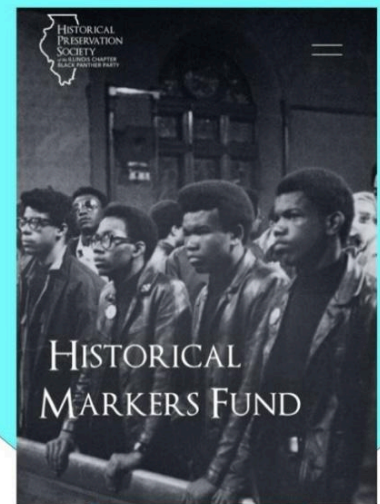


On June 22: 2024 The Historical Preservation Society will host the Black Panther Party Heritage Trail in Illinois Bus Tour. This Bus Tour on June 22 will be the first place-based learning experience and will help develop the Black Panther Party Heritage Trail! The Bus Tour will take place from 10:00 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

Historical Preservation of Illinois Chapter of the BPP



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

Best Regards, Rose X (Clark) Morris, Founder and Curator

The Clark Virtual Museum.

