

The Clark Virtual Museum

NEWSLETTER

January 15, 2024

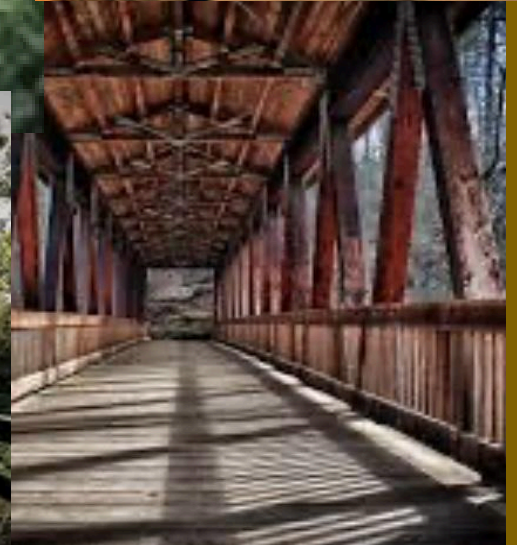
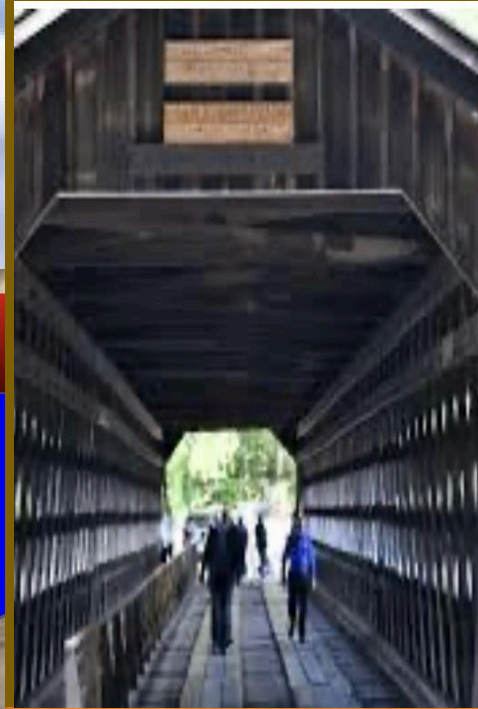
The Clark Virtual Museum
"More Than A Museum, We Honor The Life and Legacy of Our Ancestor"

What's New

- Commemorating Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 95th Birth Anniversary.
- The Clark Virtual Museum exhibit "Horace King - The Great Bridge-BUILDER" premieres this month!
- Illinois Chapter of The Black Panther Party Landmarking and Thematic Listing Approved by National Park Service - Celebrations Planned!
- The Clark Virtual Museum Newsletter now available on our website!

New Exhibit!

Horace King,
The Great
Bridge Builder

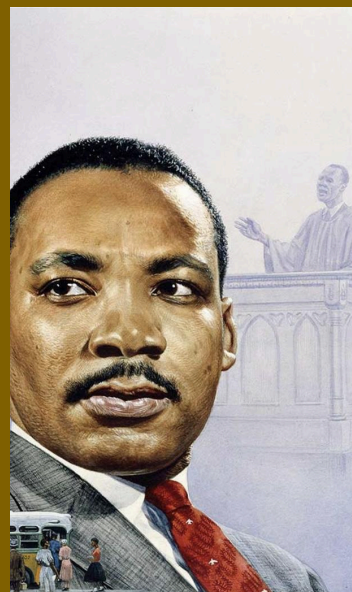


We Commemorate The 95th Birth Anniversary of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Civil Rights Leader, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was born January 15, 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia. This year we celebrate Dr. King's 95th Birth Anniversary.

As we celebrate the anniversary of Dr. King's birth, and commemorate his life, legacy and philosophy of Nonviolent Social Action; let us reflect on his words spoken on April 3, 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee (the day before he was assassinated). Dr King told us to go tell our neighbors not to buy Coca-Cola, Sealtest milk, Wonder Bread and products from companies who have not been fair in their treatment of God's children. Dr. King said now we must "redistribute the pain"!

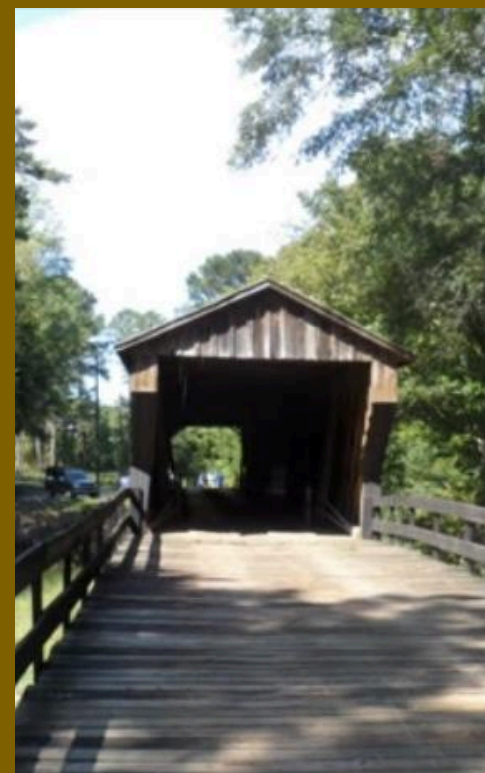
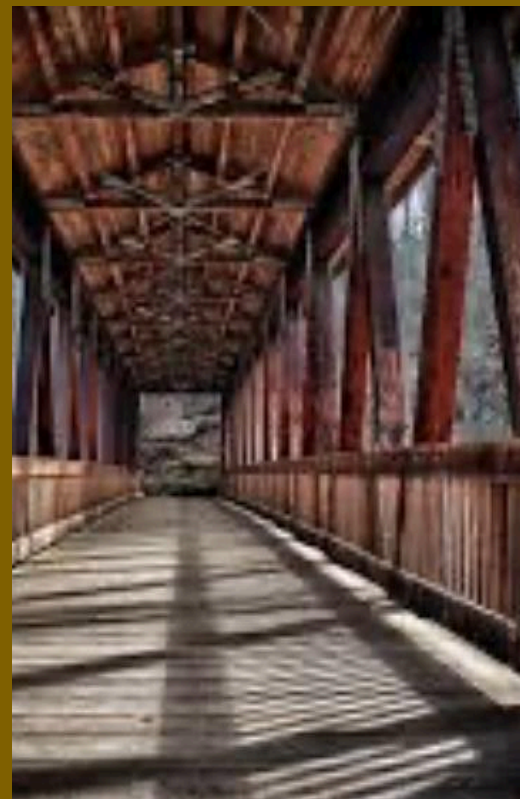
As we remember Dr. King and the Civil Rights Movement, let us be reminded that the human rights struggle continues as people around the world suffer under tyrannical government, war, violence, poverty and injustice.



“Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle”

Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The Clark Virtual Museum Presents A New Exhibit, “Horace King, The Great Bridge Builder”

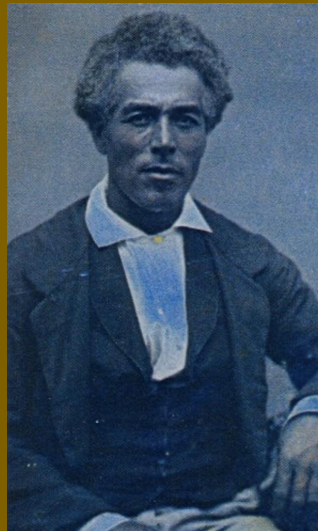


Horace King was an engineer and architect of major bridges in North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi. King, an enslaved Black man, was born in 1807 in Chesterfield District, South Carolina. He learned to read and write as a young boy and became proficient at carpentry and mechanics by his early teens. King’s owner was contracted to build the first public bridge connecting North Carolina to Alabama; and he, assigned the work to his slave. By the mid 1800’s King became widely known for his ingenuity, and was touted as the best bridge builder in the Deep South. Horace King’s signature lattice truss bridges were constructed over almost all the rivers spanning from the Oconee in Georgia to the Tombigbee in Mississippi. According to the article “Horace King.” (French, Thomas and John Lupold, 2020) “he was responsible for nearly every crossing of the Chattahoochee River from Carroll County to Fort Gaines”

Article continued on pages 3. and 4

Horace King continued

In 1839 Horace King married Frances Gould Thomas, a free Black woman, The couple had five children and several of his son later joined him in the bridge building business. In 1849, after the Alabama State Capitol building burned down, King rebuilt it and received high acclaim for its architecture and flowing spiral staircase. During the mid-1850s King was granted his freedom. He continued to build bridges, stores, houses, and other structures including Moore's Bridge, over the Chattahoochee River. In 1864 Moore's Bridge was burned down by the Union cavalry.



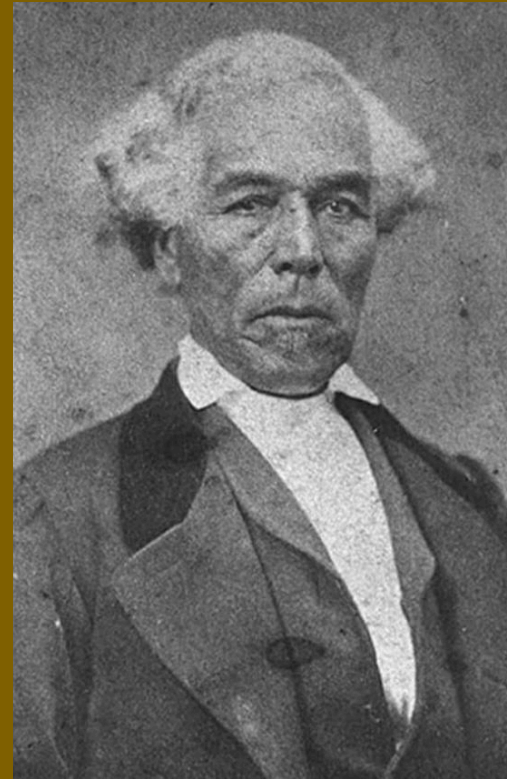
Flint River Bridge



Horace King continued

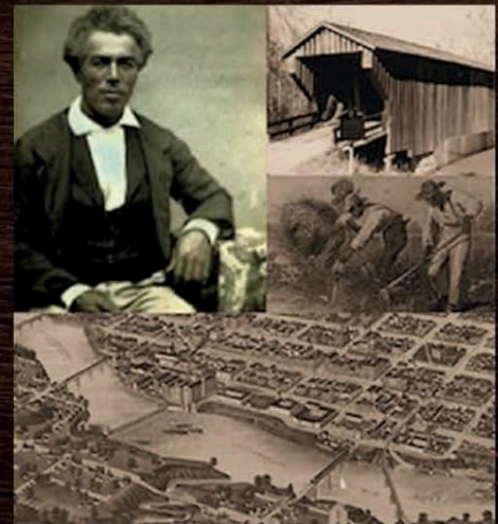
During the Civil War, Horace King reluctantly assisted the Confederacy. After Union troops confiscated and plundered some of his property he petitioned the Federal government for compensation for his losses.

During the period of Reconstruction Horace King became a Republican politician, serving twice as member of the Alabama House of Representatives for Russell County, Horace King continued to stay busy designing and constructing many more bridges and structures. He died on May 28, 1885.



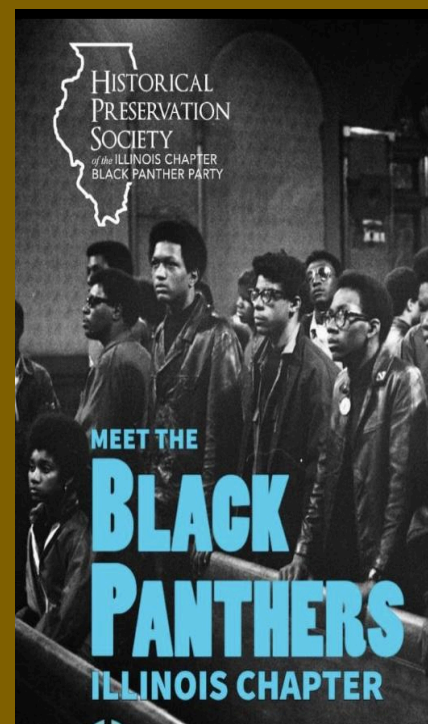
Horace King

FROM SLAVE TO MASTER
BUILDER AND LEGISLATOR



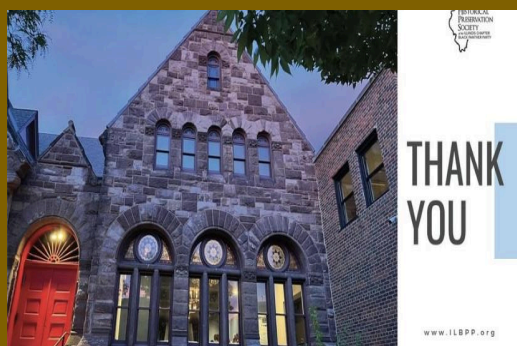
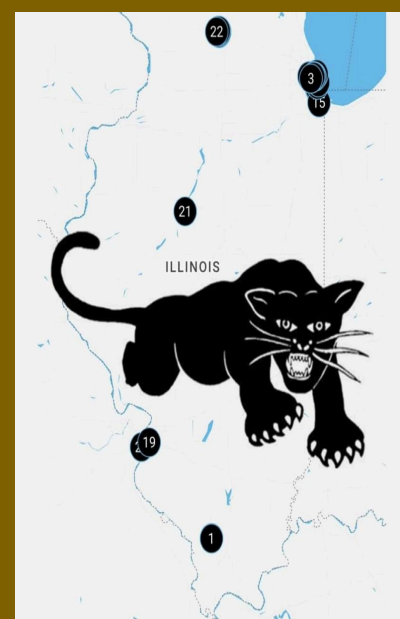
J. David Dameron

Black Panther Party Landmarking Approved and Special Online Celebration Planned!

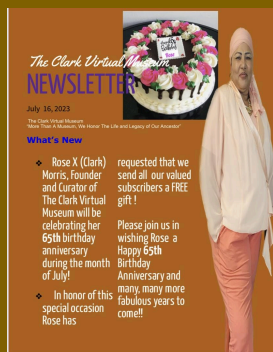
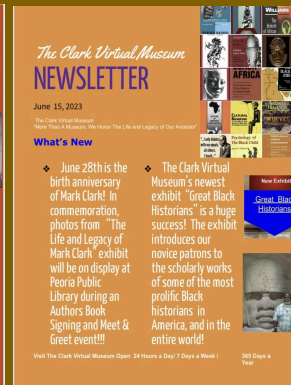


Congratulations to the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party, HPS Executive Director Leila Wills, HPS Landmarking Committee, and all parties involved in Thematic Listing and Landmarking of the ILBPP. This approval successfully adds the historical context of the Black Panther Party to the Illinois record and sets the criteria for properties affiliated with the chapter to be added to the National Register of Historic Places.

There will be a special online celebration marking the successful landmarking initiative to commemorate the work and legacy of the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party. The event will be held Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. For more information go to <https://ilbpp.org/events/online-celebration-illinois-chapter-landmarking-achievement>



View The Clark Virtual Museum Newsletter Online!



Beginning January 16, 2024 patrons can view The Clark Virtual Museum Newsletters online!

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 Book store and subscribe to our Newsletter!

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

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

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

