

This is an incomplete list of influential Black Americans from South Omaha. If you have any modifications or additions to suggest, please email rebecca.midsummer@gmail.com

Activists and Leaders

Senator Edward Danner

Homer Early- community and civil rights activist

Alyce Wilson-Director of the Woodson Center- Have Picture, see Woodson Center

Mosel Barnes- Worked at Woodson Center

LaFern Williams- fought for civil rights, community center named after her

George Davis- Vice President of the Amalgamated Meat Packers Union in 1950, Chief Steward at Armors, Stormed Omaha Beach

Hellen Gausse, Addie Jones and Lavita Bush were part of the Social Settlement that broke away in 1926 and created the Cultural Center Community League which became Woodson Center.

Robert Patterson- Chairman and Founder of the Charles Drew Health Center in North Omaha, in the US Air Force, head of Big Brothers in North Omaha, Masters degree in Social Work from UNL.

Roweena Moore- Worked to get black female workers equal pay and employment in packing plants, sued Armors and won the court case. She worked to get the Malcom X Historical site recognized.

Sal Issaka

Trevis Sallis

John Beasley- a famous, local actor, who re-opened Center Stage Theatre, renaming it the John Beasley Theatre, in November of 2000.

Educators

Willa Holmon-first Black teacher to teach at Robbins School.

Part of the first wave of integrated teachers in Omaha.

Ida Gitlin- Indian Hill Principal "She was an very instrumental administrator and educator in the area. She knew her kids, and she knew their families, and the community"-Sherry Wright Harris

Granville Welch- Taught at South High and started African American History Club and Classes

Claudelle Thomas- Worked at the Woodson Center

Mrs. Prater- Woodson Center

Winston Rogers- Woodson Center

Mosel Barnes- Woodson Center

M.L. Reid- Woodson Center

Bob Lewis- Woodson Center

Idelle Littlejohn

Charles Bryant- Athletic Director at Bryan and Asst. Principal

Robert Hodges

Beatrice Robinson Mosley
1909-1988

Ministers

Union United Methodist-
Rev. Hooks
Rev. G.W. Hubbard
Rev. Roy Neal
Pastor Charlotte Abrams

Church of God and Christ- The Holiness Church

Mt. Olive Baptist Church
Rev. Clayton
Rev. O.D. Clark
Rev. Dixon

Bethel Baptist

Rev. Curtis Brown

Rev. Williams

Rev. Robinson

Rev. Temple

Allen Chapel AME

Rev. Carter

Rev. Rhone- helped create Woodson Center

Rev. Scott

Pastor Porsha Cabot

Rev. Benjamin Finnel

Rev. Willie Morris

Rev. Carter

Business Owners

LeRoy Franklin-Franklin Transport, Laundry, and Cafe,
delivered for Sears and Roebuck and many others

Virginia Franklin- owned a small grocery store

Al Hollingsworth- business leader, international speaker,
minister, author and founder and CEO of the Aldelano
Corporation, the Alhatti Private Christian Resort and B.O.S.S.
the Movement global ministries.

Miss Ruth Hollingsworth- Mr. Hollingsworth's mother, was a
beautician and had a shop in her home.

Mrs. Henderson- Beauty shop across the street from Ardie
Sayers' house, in her home

Mrs. Kathleen Curtis- Beautician

Lillard Lofton- Barbershop

Eugene McGill- Owned a boardinghouse and restaurant, would
find jobs for African Americans coming to South O

Dean Harris- First Barber

J.C.Harris- First Grocery Store 2631 Z st, and 30th and Rst

Lina Mae Pratt- Beauty Shop

Harold McDonald-record shop by Bam and Bees

Netty Jones- Clarence Jones' Mother- Beauty Shop

Velma Hill- Beauty Shop

Michael Lee- Rib House

Paul and Cindy Rose- Fat 3 Restaurant

Podge and Louise Mansfield- Workman's Club

Harold Franklin- Relay Bar

Veterans

Edwin "Duke" Jones- Died on a ship in the Vietnam War, was in Navy and Marines

Clarence Jones- Air Force Korean War, served 1953-63

Bobby Jones- Korean War Navy

Charles Jones- Fought in WWII

Father of Duke, Clarence, Bobby, and Charles- Fought in France in WWI

John Clay Smith-See entry in Law and Police

Kathleen Pierce Greer- Navy, 5 years

George Davis- Stormed Omaha Beach WWII

Civil War Veterans at Laurel Hill- get names* Corporal Edward Jones

Stacy Hobbes

Sam Harris Sr. WWII and Korean War -Army

Theodore Roosevelt Mallory- WWII Army

Fred Sterns

Frank Sterns

Lucious McClinton- Vietnam Army

Cappel Curtis Jr.- Vietnam Army

James Prater Jr. Vietnam Army

James Gullie

Waler Melvin Agee- Korean War Army

Renee Jones- Air Force Reserves

Levi Franklin- Navy

William Rose

Rodney Rose

Armour Wright- WWII Army

Mike Mallory

Gary Agee- Marines

Guy Bullard- Army

Robin Gullie- Air Force

Tony Curtis- Marines

Policemen

Officer Ronnie Beasley

Michael Crocker

John Young

Clarence Jones- South High Graduate. First African American to play Basketball at Creighton on scholarship. Creighton for 2 years, then went to Military, 10 years in the Air Force 53-63. Got out of Air Force then went to Police Force and went back to school at UNO Phsycology and Sociology. 5.5 years Police Officer, 2.5 years as homicide detective, then worked for ATT, Northwestern Bell, IBM as Account Executive. First African American to start a telecommunications company called Ask Me ran it for 4 or 5 years. Then began working with children, grandfathers home in North Carolina. Was a councilor in Clarinda Academy in Iowa, then started own treatment center in Firth Nebraska.

Marvin McClarty

Officer Bill Coleman

Bill Munroe

Felandis Marion

Arthur Allen

David Allen

Lawyers

Lawyer John Clay Smith- Dean of Howard Law, Creighton University Hall of Fame, George Washington University Law School, U.S. Army Judge Advocate, 1st African American to be on FCC Board, worked for Reagan, Bush, Clinton, and Bush. Was on the Equal Opportunity Employment Commission, written over 30 books (Speeches of Thurgood Marshall, Emancipation: Making of a Black Warrior, Rebels in Law: The History of Black Women Lawyers)

Chief Judge Julie Robinson- the first African American

appointed a U.S. District Judge for the District of Kansas.

Stephen Smith- MN Supreme Court Judge

Paul Richard- Lawyer for Democratic Party, served during Clinton Administration

Firemen

Cappel Curtis- one of the first Black Fireman

Tony Curtis- Son of Cappel Curtis, Battalion Chief

Robin Gullie Sr. Battalion Chief at Offutt AFB

Walter Agee

Medical

Dr. Stephen B. Northcross was the first if not only Black Doctor in South Omaha, next to Bethel Baptist

Kathleen Pierce Greer was an electron microscope technician and Navy Veteran

Loretta Agee Houston- Ardie Sayers' sister, went to college at Fisk University, worked at St. Joseph Hospital

Sylvia Curtsy- Nurse

Sharon Rose Davis- X-Ray Tech- Creighton

Olene Rose Marion- Prairie Flabotomist

Diane Curtis- Nurse

Barbara Anne X-Ray Tech

Charlene H. Womack Robinson
1931-2020, Judge Julie Robinson's Mother, died of Covid in 2020

Robert Patterson

Class of 1954 - Inducted 2019

Musicians

Pianists- Ministers of Music

Alice Mae Cribbs-Phillips- Piano Player B July 27, 1920-Oct.
5, 2013

Eleanor Davis Lucky

Mrs. West Church of God in Christ

Willa Holmon- Piano at Allen Chapel

James Holmon- Choir Director

Janice Collins Brookes

Judy Collins Noble

Marshall Bowden-Saxaphone, listened to Alice Mae play piano
from her front porch and was inspired

Pat Smith

Clarence Dorsey- Fiddle, Bass

Billy Cooper

Walie Ali

Wilburn Brookes

Phyllis Briggs

Robert Hodges

Theodore Mallory- Singer, story of singing at First Unitarian
Church and had to leave service after singing

Fred "Sonny" Sutton III- Allen Chapel AME

Athletes

Marlin Briscoe- First Black Starting Quarterback in the AFL, Omaha South High School

Odiuous Lee- Philadelphia Eagles and More

Charles Bryant- One of the Greatest Football players in Nebraska Football History, was also an artist, musician, and sculptor

Bearcat Wright- Boxer, fought Jack Dempsey in Omaha for the Championship. During WWII black officers were not allowed in USO clubs, so he founded one in South Omaha for Black Soldiers. His son, Bearcat Wright, also a boxer, became a professional Wrestler.

Edward Bearcat Wright JR. Professional wrestler, first African American professional wrestling champion in 1963

Terrence Crawford- Bryan High School Graduate- North O

Kenny Clark- Running back, Nebraska Cornhuskers, played professionally

Noah Fant-Broncos, Omaha South High School- North O

Leonard Hawkins- Trainer, went to South High School

Rashawn Jackson

Terrance Badget-Basketball

DeWayne Dillard- Harlem Globe Trotters

Reshea Bristol-Janice Bristol's Daughter. Went to Bryan High, Scholarship to University of Arizona, drafted into Charlotte Stings, played overseas in Russia, Czeckoslovakia, Turkey, Spain, Puerto Rico. Established a semi-pro team in California, then was head coach at Bryan High. Then went to work for the Omaha home for Boys. Is working towards becoming a referee for the NBA.

Dick Davis

Mike Green

Joe Harris- Boxer

Percy Keith- Pro Football

Kenton Keith- Pro Football

Other Important People

Henry Sims- First African American in South Omaha, in Albright Area in 1880's

Karlana Tolston-

<https://www.ketv.com/article/pregnant-teenager-s-murder-still-unsolved-30-years-later/7641977>

Design Team Members

Sherry Wright Harris--Ardythe Sayers--Gladys M. Briggs-Rose--Jackie Craigmiles--Kathleen Pierce Greer--Janice Bristol--Ronnie Franklin Beasley--Clarence Jones--Gail Mallory--Claude Thomas--Marlin Briscoe--Eula McKell