

**Ask A. J. ?**

**Local African American History**

With the informer being a based on the African American lifestyle, we publish history and facts about African Americans each month, but this month I will review facts about local African Americans who were trail blazers in some areas of this county's history. A list of firsts follows:  
 Lewis Horton- 1st black City Council member, Jacksonville.  
 James Hayes- 1st black school board member, Jacksonville ISD.  
 Jerlin Christopher- 1st black teacher to teach in an integrated school and classroom.  
 Tommy Hollis- 1st black Movie actor from Jacksonville.

Billy Newsome-1st black professional football player.  
 Clifford Boyd-1st black recording artisit  
 Harold B. Alexander-1st balck mayor pro Team  
 Vera F oreman-1st balck Justice of Peace  
 George Balck-1st black Constable  
 Latitia Jones-1st black Attorney  
 Dr.Sims-1st black medi-



cal doctor  
 Early Guy-1st black cab company owner  
 Morris Coleman-1st black photography studio owner  
 Willie Griffin-1st black general store owner  
 Loy criss- 1st black Dry Cleaner  
 A.D. Lloyd-1st black Ice Man  
 Dr.Etter-1st black pharmacist  
 O.T.Scott-1st black Theater owner  
 Linni Sanders-1st black Motel owner  
 felix Lane-1st black sanitation worker  
 Wiliam Carthon-1st black Mechanic  
 Melvin Whitaker-1st black BBQ restaurant owner

A.D. Lacy-1st black barber  
 Annie Ragsdale-1st black beauty shop owner  
 Radie Silmon-1st black rock worker  
 X.A.Pierce-1st black House builder  
 Grady Franklin- 1st black saw mill owner  
 B.T. Finely-1st black Electronic repair shop owner  
 Sandra Thompson-1st black Loan Officer  
 Dwight Christoper-1st black Government page  
 Joe A. Teague-JISD career counselor  
 Roscoe Lee and Elton Bell-1st blackk poilce officers  
 Charlie Esco-1st black volunteer fire fighter  
 Claude Armsrtong-1st black Engineer  
 Bob Johnson-1st black electrican  
 Felix Lane-1st black to have a building named after them  
 Hallie peoples-1st black ETMC Administrator , Jacksonville  
 Tracy Wallace-1st black principal after desegregation  
 Darryl McGowen-1st black Highway Patrolman in Cherokee County. James Cannon-1st black deputy  
 Donald Stafford-1st black as-

Etheline King and Mr.Blerk- 1st black Liquor store owner  
 Faye Warmsley-1st black Head Start teacher and director.  
 Ceasar Roy-1st Democratic Party Chairperson  
 J.W. Carter-Rusk 1st black Apointed city council, Rusk  
 Donald Dickerson-1st black elected city council member  
 Walter Session-1st Co-publisher of the 1st African American Newspaper published in Rusk, Texas; 1st black Mayor Pro-Tem city of Rusk and board member of the East Texas Council of Government.  
 Maxine Session-1st black to serve on the city of Rusk Zoning Comission, Chamber of Commerce president, and the 1st Co-publisher of an African American Newspaper published in Rusk.  
 Linda Roberson-1st black Rusk State Hospital Unit Director  
 Jerry Liverston-1st black male RN hired at RSH  
 James Green 1st Black Rusk City-Police Officer  
 Sandra Kay Carter-1st black city clerk Rusk, 1st black secretary to work in the Cherokee County Attorney Office, Tonya Foreman-1st black Southern Cherokee Credit Union Loan officer  
 Lahoma Whitaker-1st black Appraisal district employee

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