

The Honorable Elijah Muhammad

- Elijah Poole was reportedly born in 1897 in Sandersville though some believe he was actually born in Deepstep.
- He was a religious leader who led the Nation of Islam (NOI), often referred to as Black Muslims, from 1934 until his death in 1975.
- He grew up in Cordele, GA and migrated north to Detroit, MI in 1923.
- After joining the NOI, he changed his name to Elijah Muhammad and later moved to Chicago, IL.



Washington County Courthouse

- General Sherman burned the courthouse on his march through Georgia in 1864.
- Completed in 1869, the present structure was built on the same foundation as the one destroyed by fire in 1864.
- Extensive renovations were made in 1899 and the annex was constructed in 1938.
- It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Court documents dating back to the 1800's are available for viewing.



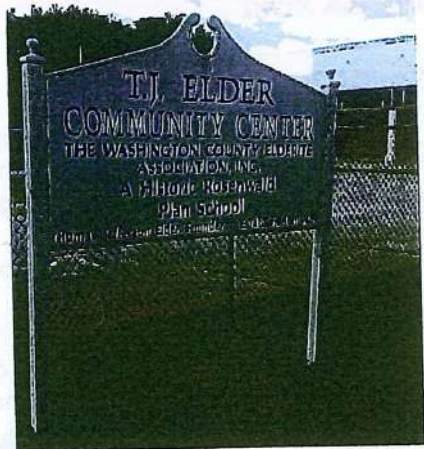
Address: 132 West Haynes Street
 Sandersville, GA 31082
 Contact #: (478) 552-3304

Washington County Historical Society: Genealogy Research Center and Old Jail Museum

- Built in 1891, the old Sheriffs House and Jail is home to the Historical Society's Genealogy Research Center (GRC) and Old Jail Museum.
- Family books, files, digitized old newspapers and other Washington County history is stored at the Center and are available for research.
- Tours of the Center and Old Jail may be arranged by contacting the GRC.



Address: 129 Jones Street
 Sandersville, GA 31082
 Contact# 478-552-6965



Brochure created by:
 Ms. Eddie Mae Miller (Washington County Historical Society)
 Mrs. Briana C. Nelson (Hidden Jewels of WACO)
 Mrs. Harriet A. Williams (T. J. Elder HS Class of 1967)

9/2018



Visit www.hiddenjewelsofwaco.com



Follow Hidden Jewels of WACO on Facebook



hiddenjewelsofwaco@gmail.com
 Email us for brochure information.

Washington County:
 The African American Connection



Davisboro
 Deepstep
 Harrison
 Oconee

Riddleville
 Sandersville
 Tennille
 Warthen



This brochure was carefully created to provide brief profiles of some of the significant people and memorable places associated with Washington County and its African American history. Included are educators, founders of schools and historic buildings and places of business. A couple of structures are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Around the county, historical markers have been placed, a street has been renamed and a highway dedicated in honor of some of the remarkable individuals mentioned.

David A. Gordon Historical Marker

- Mr. David A. Gordon (1866-1947) was an entrepreneur, educator, religious and political leader in Washington County.
- In 1897, he founded the Royal School for young Negro children and served as principal.
- It was located in the Oak Grove Community and closed in the 1960's due to school consolidation.
- In 2009, a historical marker was erected at the intersection of GA Hwy 88 and Gordon School Road.



Address: GA Highway 88 at
Gordon School Road
Sandersville, GA 31082

Davisboro Academy

- Mrs. Frankie Walker Brown was instrumental in the establishment of the school in 1951.
- At an early age, her family moved from Warthen to Davisboro where as a teen she began teaching.
- She led a movement to consolidate the one-room schools in the area into a new Davisboro school.
- It is now home to the Washington County N. B. & P. W., Inc. Head Start/Pre-K Program.



Address: 216 Steel Creek Road
Davisboro, GA 31080

Gordy's Barbershop

- Mr. Robert Daniel Gordy (1926-1998) started the barbershop in 1951.
- He was a master barber for over 50 years and owner and operator of the shop.
- Located in the Smith-Lucas Building, it is currently owned and operated by his son, Mr. David Gordy.
- Well-known relatives include, Washington County High School graduate and retired NFL Super Bowl Champion, Mr. Josh Gordy (David's son) and Motown's founder, Mr. Berry Gordy, Jr. (or III).



Address: 125 Gilmore Street
Sandersville, GA 31082

M. C. Smith Funeral Home

- It was founded in 1931 at 804 Lovett Street in Sandersville by Mr. Marconi Calvin (M. C.) Smith.
- He was a funeral director, embalmer, nursing home administrator and owner of other businesses.
- In 1936, the address of the funeral home changed to Gilmore Street.
- Since his death in 1976, the management of the funeral home has been under the direction of his second wife, Mrs. Katie Harris Smith-Poole and family.



Address: 117 Gilmore Street
Sandersville, GA 31082

McHenry Boatwright

- A Tennesse native, he was a world famous bass-baritone opera artist and voice teacher.
- He studied piano and voice at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston and debuted in 1953.
- Mr. McHenry Boatwright (1928-1994) performed for several presidents at the White House.
- He married Duke Ellington's only sibling, Ruth.
- Prior to his death, he had a home built for his mother on East Montgomery Street.
- On September 22, 2018, East Montgomery Street in Tennesse was renamed McHenry Boatwright Dr.



Pvt. Willie Lee Duckworth, Sr. Historical Marker

- In 1944, while serving in the U.S. Army at Ft. Slocum NY, Pvt. Duckworth (1924-2004) created one of the most popular marching cadences in military history, "Duckworth Chant".
- "Sound Off", as it later became known, has been featured in numerous movies and sung by soldiers and others all over the world.
- In 2004, a portion of GA Hwy 242 was dedicated as the Willie Lee Duckworth Highway in his honor and in 2011, a historical marker was placed on the side of the courthouse.

Address: 132 West Haynes Street
Sandersville, GA 31082

Smith-Lucas Building

- The Smith-Lucas building was opened by Mr. M. C. Smith and Mr. W. T. Lucas in 1951.
- It has been home to many businesses, including a billiard parlor, cafe, dental office and florist.
- During the 1950's and 1960's, social events were held upstairs in the auditorium, including appearances by Little Richard, James Brown and other entertainers.

Address: 129 Gilmore Street
Sandersville, GA 31082

T. J. Elder Community Center

- The Center is maintained by the Washington County Elderite Association, Inc. and its members.
- In earlier years, the present building, completed in 1928, was a school founded by Professor Thomas Jefferson Elder (1869-1946).
- Professor Elder and his wife, Mrs. Lillian Phinizy Elder, are buried on site.
- In 1981, the building, formerly Thomas J. Elder High and Industrial School, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- School memorabilia is on display inside the Center.
- Tours may be arranged by contacting the Center.

Address: 316 Hall Street
Sandersville, GA 31082
Contact # 478-553-9050