



Joyce Warren

(1949-)

Joyce Warren was the first Black woman to be appointed as a judge in Arkansas, serving in the Pulaski County system.

Joyce Elise Williams was born in Pine Bluff in 1949. She was the first Black female graduate of what is now the UALR William H. Bowen School of Law, completing her Juris Doctor degree in 1976. In 1972, she married James “Butch” Warren.

In 1977, Warren became the first Black law clerk for the Arkansas Supreme Court. She went on to serve as an assistant attorney general, a legal advisor, and in private practice. Warren became the first Black female judge in Arkansas when she was appointed as a juvenile court judge in 1983. She continued her judicial service in many court systems until her retirement in 2020.

The Arkansas Coalition for Juvenile Justice named Warren “Juvenile Judge of the Year” in 2000. Philander Smith College in Little Rock presented the Living Legends Award to Judge Warren in 2011. In 2023, she was inducted in the Arkansas Women’s Hall of Fame and the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame.





Henri Linton

(1944-)

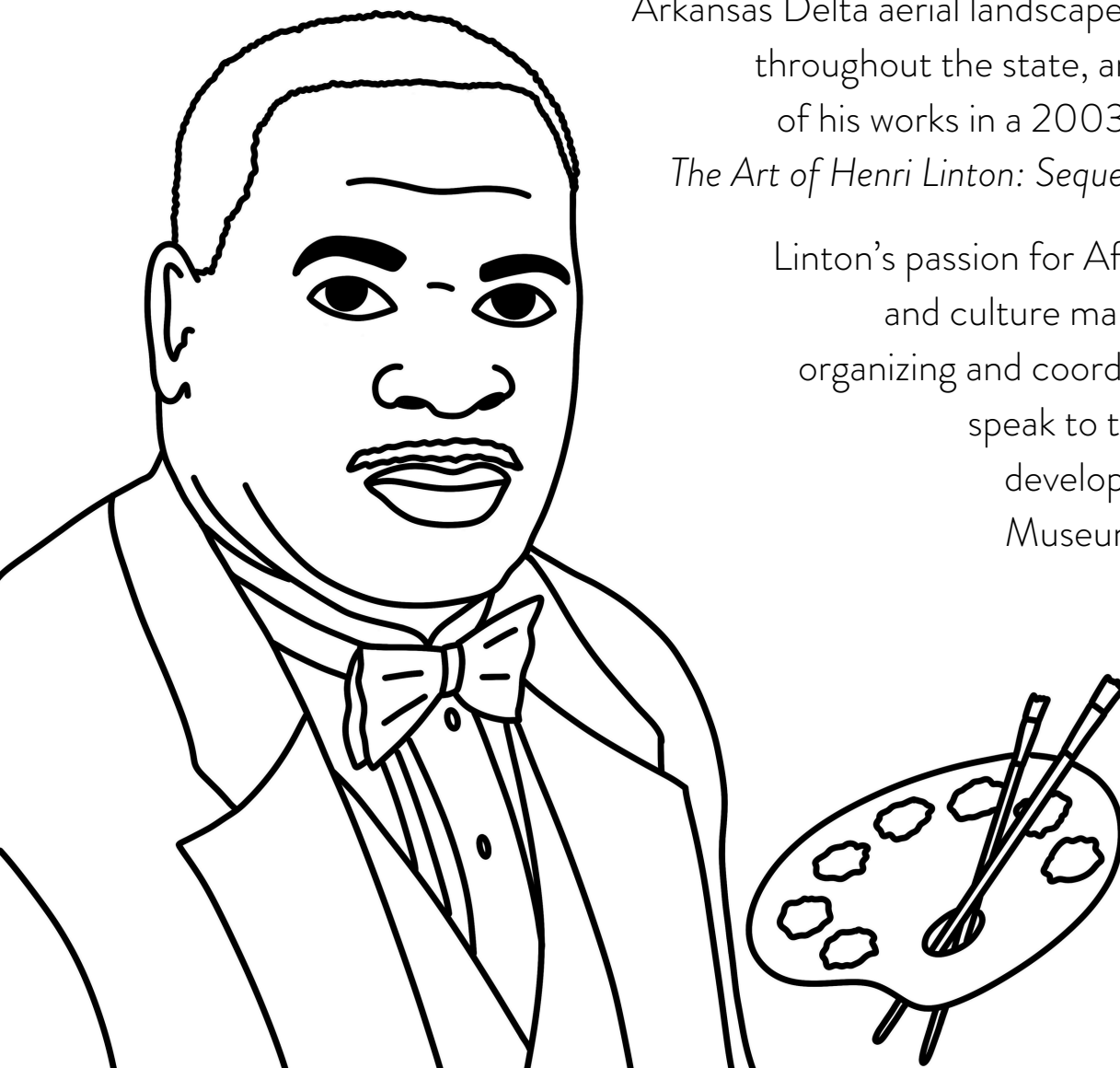
Henri Linton has been recognized as one of the most talented artists working in the state of Arkansas. He served for years as chair of the art department at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB).

Henri Linton was born in Alabama in 1944. After discovering his talents early in his life, he earned a BFA and a master's degree in art. In 1969, he was asked to join the art faculty at what is now UAPB, and he became the department chair in 1980.

Linton also thrived as an artist. His paintings are noted for their examination of Arkansas Delta aerial landscapes. His work is displayed throughout the state, and he highlighted some of his works in a 2003 book he co-authored, *The Art of Henri Linton: Sequences in Time and Space*.

Linton's passion for African American history and culture manifests itself in his work organizing and coordinating exhibitions that speak to these themes, including developing UAPB's University Museum and Cultural Center.

Linton was inducted into the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame in 2001.





Eliza Jane Ashley

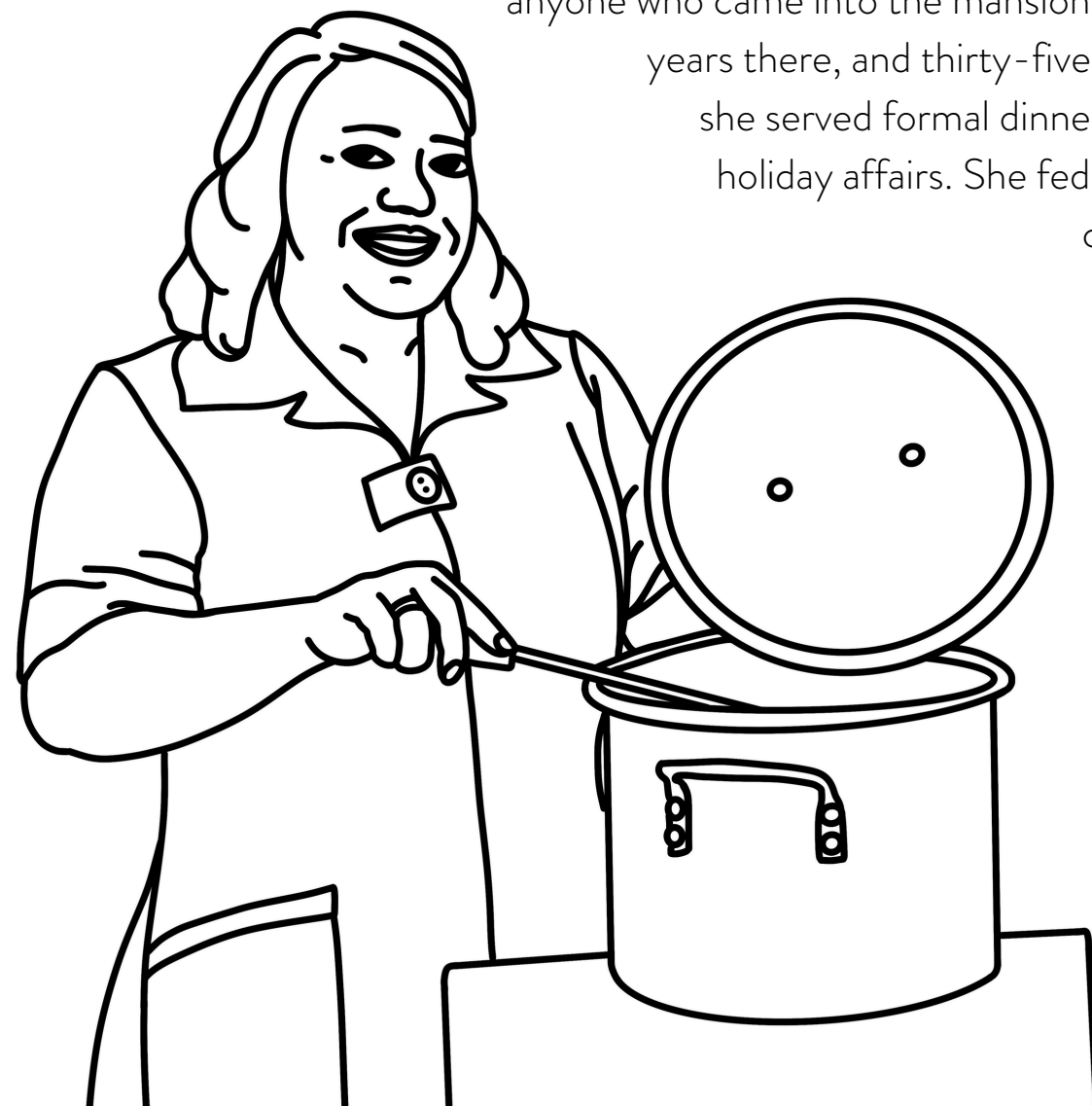
(1917-2020)

Eliza Jane Ashley spent more than thirty years as the cook in the Arkansas Governor's Mansion, serving from the administration of Francis Cherry to Bill Clinton. Her 1985 book *Thirty Years at the Mansion* garnered her national attention.

Eliza Jane Burnett was born in Lonoke County, Arkansas, on Oldham Plantation in 1917. She left plantation life in 1942 and had several jobs before finding employment at the Arkansas Governor's Mansion in 1954. She married Fred Ashley in 1960.

Ashley's smile, personality, and loyalty won the hearts of Arkansas's first families and anyone who came into the mansion. She spent at least thirty-six years there, and thirty-five as the cook. Over the years, she served formal dinners, banquets, receptions, and holiday affairs. She fed governors and their families, celebrities, senators, and first and second ladies of the United States.

"Eliza Jane Ashley Day" was proclaimed on December 20, 1974, by Governor Dale Bumpers. Ashley retired in late 1990 and moved to California, where she died in 2020. Her personal papers are archived at the CALS Butler Center for Arkansas Studies.





Scott Joplin

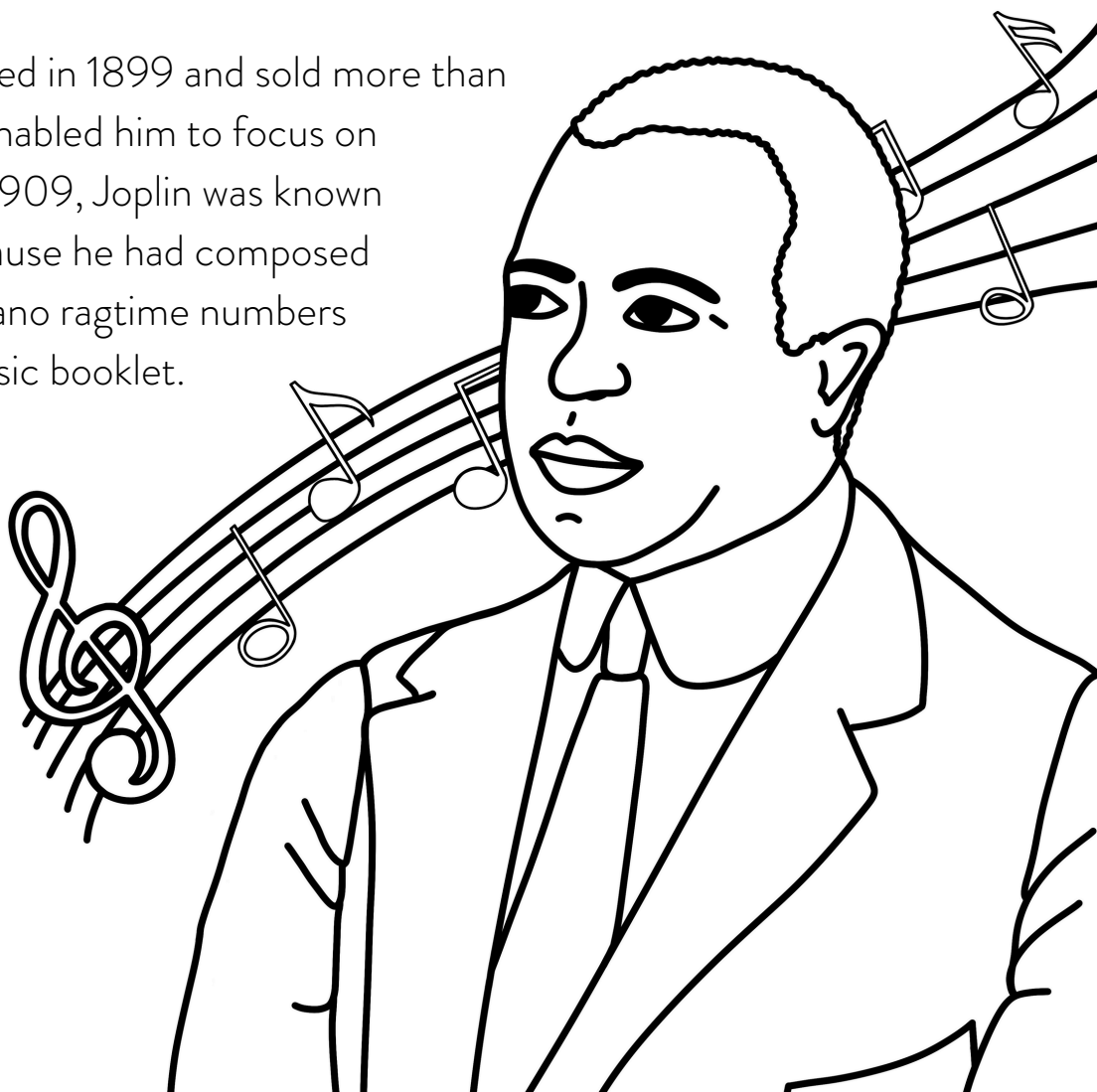
(1868?-1917)

Known as the “King of Ragtime,” Scott Joplin composed more than forty ragtime piano pieces, including “Maple Leaf Rag” and “The Entertainer.” He spent his formative years in Texarkana (Miller County), and his major opera, *Treemonisha*, is set in the plantation area of Rondo north of Texarkana.

Scott Joplin was born in 1867 or 1868 in Texas. Joplin showed an early interest in the piano, and he practiced in the homes where his mother did domestic work. At seventeen, he began traveling across many southern states, eventually arriving in Missouri where he played in the Williams Brothers Maple Leaf Club. His moniker, “The Entertainer,” was printed on the club business card.

“Maple Leaf Rag” was published in 1899 and sold more than a million copies. These sales enabled him to focus on teaching and composing. By 1909, Joplin was known as the “King of Ragtime” because he had composed more than forty successful piano ragtime numbers and had published a sheet music booklet.

Though Joplin died in 1917, his fame returned in the 1970s when “The Entertainer” was used in the film *The Sting*. Later, his opera *Treemonisha* was performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington DC. He was posthumously awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1976.





Josephine Pankey

(1869–1954)

Josephine Pankey was a real estate developer, educator, philanthropist, and leader in the African American community of Little Rock.

Josephine Irvin was born in 1869 in Ohio. By 1892, Irvin had moved to Arkansas to serve as a teacher and missionary for the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. She began her teaching career in DeValls Bluff (Prairie County) and soon became the principal of a group of African American schools scattered around the lower White River.



Irvin married Eugene Harris of DeValls Bluff, and the couple moved to Pine Bluff where she taught and gave music lessons. They divorced three years later, and she moved to Little Rock where she continued teaching. She met Samuel Pankey at church, and they were married in 1904.

In the early 1900s, restrictive covenants in Little Rock limited where Black families could live and buy land. Pankey addressed these issues by developing land and making it affordable and accessible to local Black families. In 1907, she purchased and began developing eighty acres of land in West Little Rock. At its peak, the Pankey community stretched for several miles along what is now Cantrell Road.

Pankey continued to develop more properties and made land ownership possible for many Black families in Little Rock. She also continued to be a fierce advocate for African American schools, successfully lobbying the Pulaski County Special School District to establish a school in Pankey. She retired in 1947 and lived in Pankey until her death in 1954.

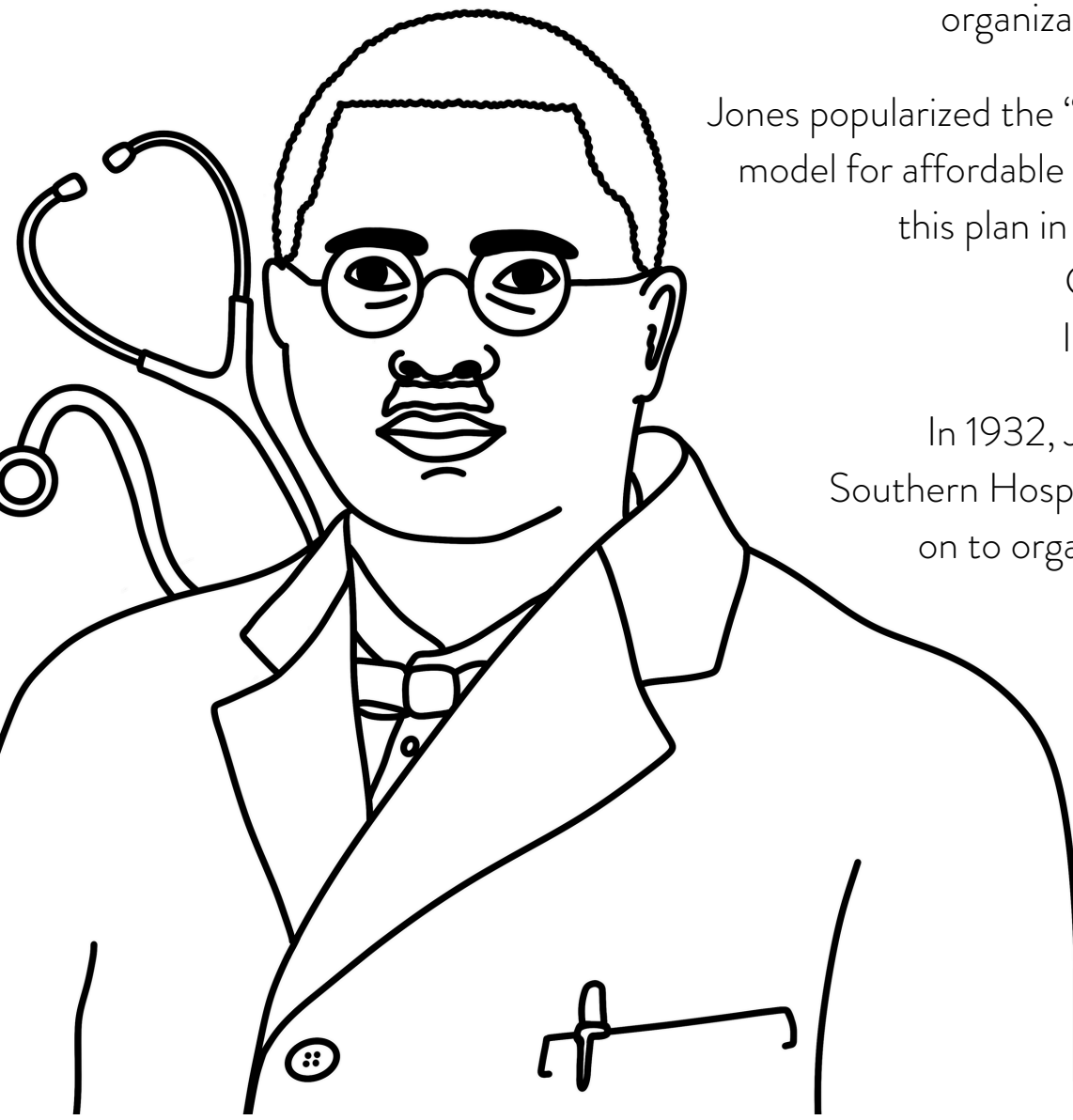


Fred T. Jones

(1877-1938)

Fred Thomas Jones Sr. was a physician and pioneer in providing insurance and medical care for Black patients in Arkansas and Louisiana.

Fred T. Jones was born in 1877 in Louisiana. In 1905, he received his medical degree from Meharry Medical College. He moved to Shreveport and founded the Mercy Sanitarium in 1915. He moved to Little Rock and established the Booker T. Washington Hospital in 1918, later renamed the J. E. Bush Memorial Hospital. In 1919, he established the Great Southern Fraternal Hospital in Little Rock, providing medical care for members of Black fraternal organizations until it closed in 1929.



Jones popularized the “hospital plan,” an insurance model for affordable healthcare. He copyrighted this plan in 1920, and he organized the Great Southern Mutual Life Insurance Company in 1921.

In 1932, Jones established the Great Southern Hospital in Pine Bluff, then went on to organize the Southern Hospital Association in North Little Rock. He served as chief surgeon at the hospital until his death in 1938.

The Dr. Fred T. Jones Sr. collection is held at the CALS Butler Center for Arkansas Studies.