

ARKANSAS HISTORY COMMISSION

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Little Rock Central High School Crisis Time Line and Source Material

1954

May 17: U. S. Supreme Court finds in *Brown v. Board of Education* that "separate but equal" racial segregation laws relating to public education are unconstitutional.

1955

May 31: U. S. Supreme Court rules in *Brown II* that segregation in public schools must be ended "with all deliberate speed".

September: Peaceful school integration takes place in Fayetteville.

September-October: Strong public protests follow racial integration of Hoxie School District in Lawrence County.

Fall: Formation of the White Citizens Council of Arkansas.

1956

NAACP files suit to force immediate integration in Little Rock schools.

November: Passage of anti-integration Amendment 44 to Arkansas Constitution.

1957

NAACP targets Little Rock's Central High for integration.

February: Passage of anti-segregation laws by Arkansas General Assembly.

August: Nine African-American students assigned to Central High.

September 2: Gov. Orval E. Faubus sends Arkansas National Guard troops to Central High to "keep the peace".

September 4: National Guard turns away seven of the African-American students.

September 20: Federal Court orders Faubus to withdraw troops.

September 23: "Black Monday": crowds gather outside of Central High; "mob action" feared.

September 24: President Eisenhower federalizes Arkansas National Guard.

September 24: Elements of the 101st Airborne Division arrive in Little Rock and began patrolling Central High.

September 25: All nine African-American students allowed to enter Central High.

1958

June 3: Ernest Green becomes Central High's first African-American graduate.

August: Special session of Arkansas General Assembly passes laws allowing governor to close any school "being integrated by force".

September: Faubus closes all Little Rock high schools, including Central High, for 1958-1959 school year.

September: Women's Emergency Committee to Open Public Schools (WEC) formed.

November: Dr. Dale Alford elected to Congress.

1959

May: recall election removed extreme segregationists from Little Rock School Board.

June: a Federal Court rules state's school closing laws unconstitutional.

Summer: Little Rock School Board announces the reopening of closed schools.

August 12: segregationist mob tries to prevent opening of Central High.

September: Central High, and other schools, reopen for 1959-1960 school year; eight African-American students attend Central High and Hall High with little trouble; crisis is over.

Printed Sources:

Dale and L'Moore Alford, *The Case of the Sleeping People*

Daisy Bates, *The Long Shadow of Little Rock: A Memoir*

Virgil T. Blossom, *It Has Happened Here*

Robert R. Brown, *Bigger Than Little Rock*

Ernest Q. Campbell and Thomas F. Pettigrew, *Christians in Racial Crisis: A Study of Little Rock's Ministry*

Wilmer Counts, *A Life is More Than a Moment: The Desegregation of Little Rock's Central High*

Ralph Creger, *A Look Down the Lonesome Road*

Osro Cobb, *Osro Cobb: Memoirs of Historical Significance*

Orval Faubus, *Down From the Hills, volumes 1 and 2*

Brooks Hays, *A Southern Moderate Speaks*

Elizabeth Huckaby, *Crisis at Central High, Little Rock, 1957-1958*

Elizabeth Jacoway, *Understanding the Little Rock Crisis: An Exercise in Remembrance and Reconciliation*

Frances Ross, *Grand Central: A Short History of Little Rock High School and Little Rock*

Beth Roy, *Bitters in the Honey: Tales of Hope and Disappointment Across Divides of Race and Time*

John F. Wells, *Time Bomb*

See also the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*

Microfilm Sources:

General Microfilm File: "Integration", 2 rolls of newspaper clippings from 1957

Arkansas Newspapers 1954-1960, especially the *Arkansas Gazette* and the *Arkansas Democrat Little Rock [Central] High School Tiger*, 1928-1958, (see Educational Publications)

Women's Emergency Committee Collection