

ARKANSAS BLACK HISTORY



Courtesy of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Central Arkansas Library System

John E. Bush (1856—1915) was a formerly enslaved African American born in Moscow, Tenn. He was brought to Arkansas shortly after the beginning of the Civil War. He struggled through his early life, finally becoming a teacher. He met his future business partner as a railway postal clerk. In 1882, he and Chester Keatts founded the Mosaic Templars of America. President Benjamin Harrison appointed him as a receiver of the General Land Office. Bush was actively involved in politics and the fight for African American civil rights in the state. To learn more about John E. Bush or to find more examples of black excellence, visit the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center.



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