

ARKANSAS BLACK HISTORY



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Chester W. Keatts (1854–1908) was a formerly enslaved African American born in Little Rock. He was a farmer, a clerk for the U.S. Railway Mail Service, a Republican politician, messenger for the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals, receiver of the Little Rock Traction and Electric Company, U.S. Deputy Marshall of the Eastern District of Arkansas, and Deputy Constable of Big Rock Township. In 1882, he co-founded the Mosaic Templars of America with his friend, John Bush. To learn more about Chester W. Keatts or to find more examples of black excellence, visit the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center.



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