

ARKANSAS BLACK HISTORY



Image courtesy of Encyclopedia of Arkansas

George Haley was the son of Simon and Bertha Haley from Henning, Tennessee, a little town in the western part of the state. He had two siblings, one of whom was Alex, author of the successful book "Roots." The family later moved to Pine Bluff, Arkansas (Jefferson County). In 1939, Haley's father was appointed to head the agriculture department at Arkansas Agricultural Mechanical and Normal College (AM&N), now the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB). During his time at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia (1946-1949), Haley became close friends with fellow classmate Martin Luther King Jr. He was part of a group called the "Six Pioneers," the first Black students admitted to the University of Arkansas School of Law at Fayetteville (Washington County) since Reconstruction. Haley served as a U.S. Ambassador to Gambia from 1998-2001. During his lifetime, he served as a government official, and was a civil rights activist and lawyer.

