

ARKANSAS BLACK HISTORY



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Born in Ohio, Joseph Carter Corbin began his career as a teacher in 1848, where he taught in Kentucky and Ohio. He earned a B.A. in art and an M.A. in art in 1853 and 1856 respectively. After moving to Little Rock (Pulaski County) with his wife and children, Corbin eventually served as the state superintendent of public instruction during Reconstruction. As such, he served on the board of trustees for the University of Arkansas, where he was board president and superintendent of public instruction. In his position as president, Corbin ordered the construction of the first building on the University of Arkansas campus in Fayetteville (Washington County), University Hall (currently known as Old Main). Later, Corbin opened Branch Normal College of the Arkansas Industrial University, known today as the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.

