

ARKANSAS BLACK HISTORY

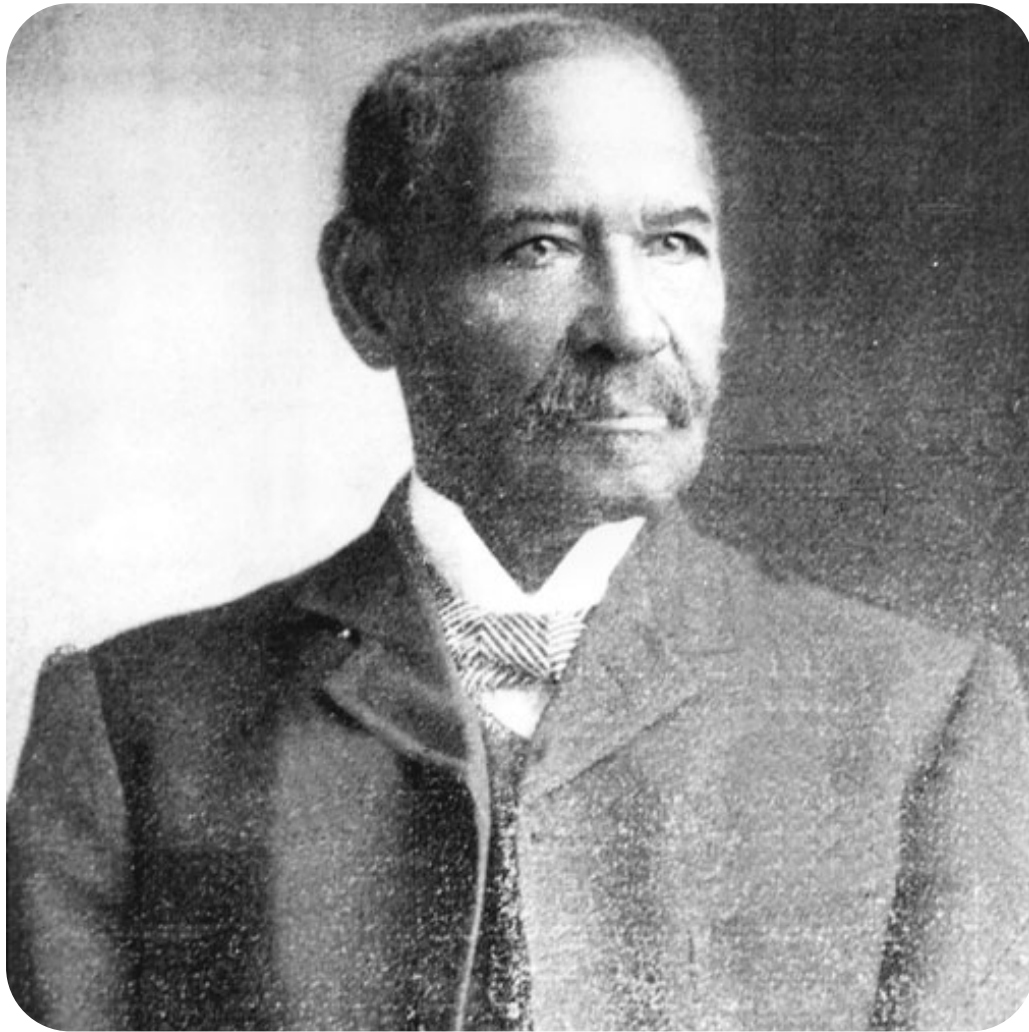


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Mifflin W. Gibbs was an African American entrepreneur and activist born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Gibbs grew to be a successful businessman after relocating to California in 1849 and founded *The Mirror of the Times*, the first Black owned newspaper published west of the Mississippi. In 1858, Gibbs left California to settle in British Columbia, once again creating business opportunities for himself and becoming a leader in the Black community. Gibbs became the first ever Black man elected to Victoria City Council in 1866. He eventually left British Columbia and found himself in Little Rock (Pulaski County) in 1871, where his political career blossomed. Gibbs passed the bar exam in 1872 and partnered with a well-known lawyer, Lloyd G. Wheeler. Gibbs accepted the nomination of police judge in 1873. His loyalty to the Republican Party brought Gibbs several presidential appointments between the years of 1877 and 1897. Throughout his career, Gibbs was a politician, lawyer and real estate agent. He opened the second Black-owned bank in Arkansas, Capital City Savings Bank, in 1903 at the age of 80. Just over 100 years past his death, Gibbs was posthumously inducted into the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame.

