

ARKANSAS BLACK HISTORY

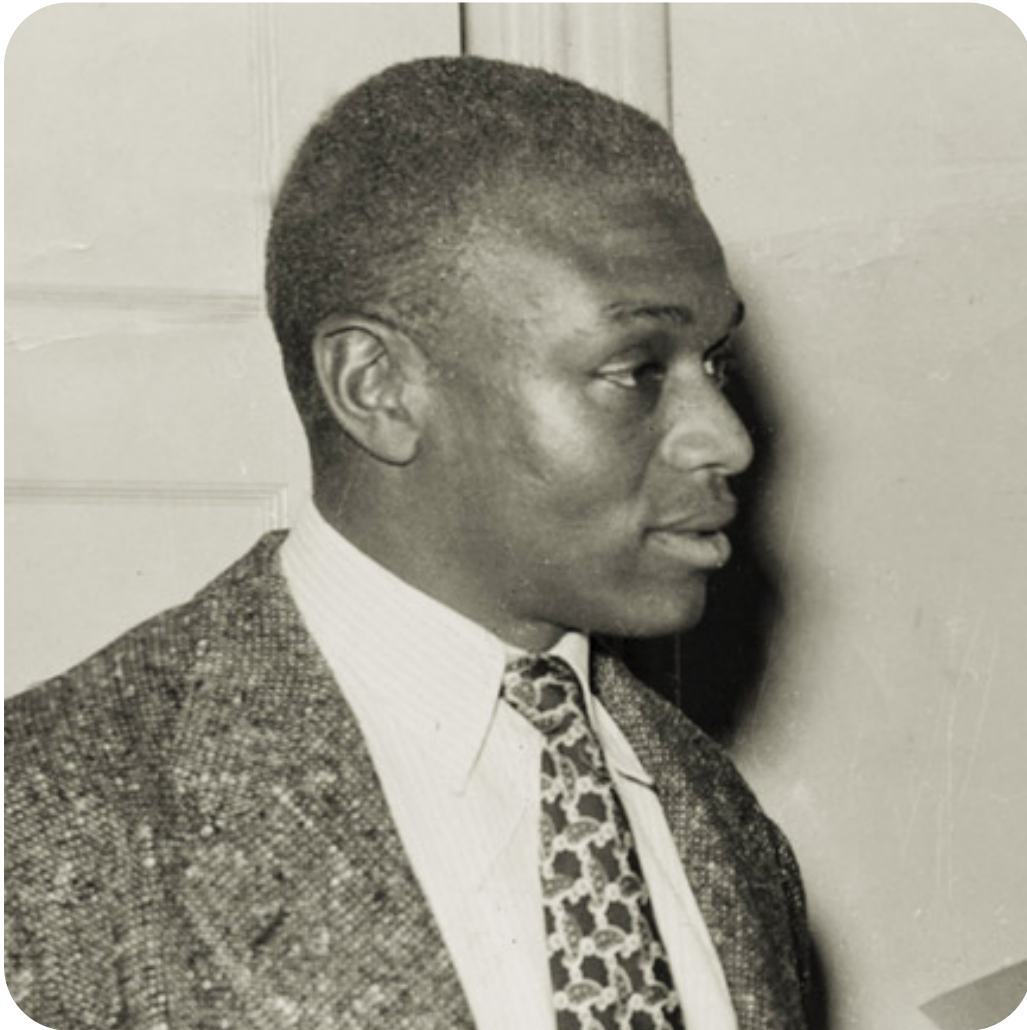


Image courtesy of Encyclopedia of Arkansas

Born in Ashdown, Arkansas (Little River County) before moving to Texarkana, Arkansas (Miller County), Silas Hunt (1922 - 1949) became an important figure in American history through his effort to attend a segregated law school. From an early age, Hunt was gifted in debate, showing promise when he graduated as salutatorian of his high school class in 1941. He began his collegiate career at Arkansas Agricultural Mechanical and Normal College (AM&N), now the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB), before being drafted to serve in World War II. After being seriously injured at the Battle of the Bulge, he returned to Arkansas and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in English in 1947. Despite barriers to graduate education due to segregation, on February 2, 1948, the University of Arkansas Law School quietly admitted Hunt. He attended segregated classes and seemed destined for a bright future. However, Hunt was hospitalized with tuberculosis and died in April 1949. In 2007, the Arkansas Legislature named February 2nd a memorial day in honor of Silas Hunt.



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