

Desegregation to Integration at the Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy, 1950-1963

Archive Month

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Segregation at the Missouri School of Mines

1875 State Constitution

Article XI, Section 3, “Separate free public schools shall be established for the education of children of African descent.”



U.S. Constitution, Amendment 14, 1868

No state shall “deny to
any person within its
jurisdiction the equal
protection of the laws.”

A black and white photograph of the Supreme Court Justices in 1896. There are eight men in total, arranged in two rows. The front row consists of four men seated, and the back row consists of four men standing. They are all wearing dark, formal robes or suits. The background is a dark, textured wall.

Doctrine of *Plessy v. Ferguson*, 1896

“Separate but equal” accommodations did not
violate the 14th Amendment.

An aerial, black and white photograph of the Lincoln University campus in Jefferson City during the 1930s. The image shows a large, multi-story brick building complex with several interconnected wings. A central courtyard or open area is visible between the main building and a smaller structure to the right. The campus is surrounded by trees and a road is visible in the foreground. The text "Lincoln University, Jefferson City" is overlaid in white serif font on the right side of the image.

Lincoln University, Jefferson City

Lincoln University Campus
1930s

A black and white photograph of Lloyd Gaines, a young African American man, sitting in a wooden chair. He is wearing a light-colored suit jacket over a patterned tie and a white shirt. He is looking slightly to his right with a serious expression. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. To the left, a dark wooden door is partially visible.

Desegregation at the University of Missouri?

Lloyd Gaines, 1936-1938



Desegregation at the University of Missouri?

Lucille Bluford, 1939



Lincoln University School of Law

Approach of St. Louis
NAACP Lawyer
Sidney Redmond



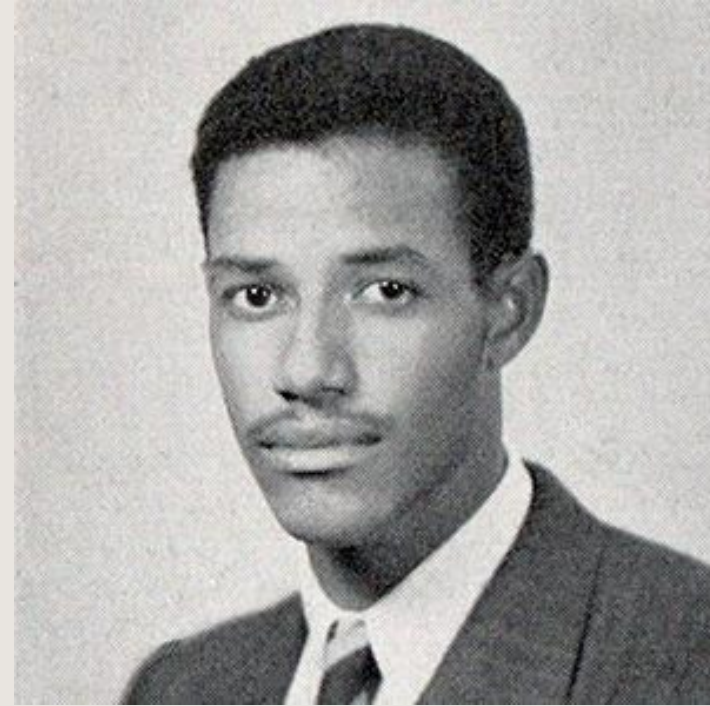
Desegregation at the University of Missouri

Gus Ridgel





Desegregation at the
Missouri School of
Mines, 1950



George E. Horne
and Elmer Bell, Jr.

Integration at the Missouri School of Mines?

Sidney Redmond Recommendation

“I wonder if it would be advisable for you to select some person or persons connected with the University whom these students could consult about any possible situation that might arise. If these students could consult some person in whom they have confidence, and who sympathetically understood the problems involved in their being the first Negro students at the University, I am sure it would be helpful in establishing amicable campus relationships.”

Integration at the Missouri School of Mines?

President Frederick Middlebush Memo, September 12, 1950

“Every Negro student admitted to the University of Missouri shall receive at the hands of the University the same treatment as do students of other races. This shall apply to the seating of students in the classrooms, library, cafeteria, athletic events and concerts; to the use by students of space in University dormitories, hospital or other University facilities; and to any control by the University over the participation by students in athletics, debates, band, Glee Club, dramatics, social events and other University-sponsored student activities.”

Attitudes of University of Missouri Students, 1949

69% of Students Favored
Desegregation

*M. U. Students Vote to Admit
Negro Students to Courses
Not Available at Lincoln*

Attitudes of MSM Students, 1950

March 1950 Poll of
MSM Students

78% of Students
Favored Desegregation



Institution's Characterization

Two Negro Students Are Enrolled at MSM

These are the first Negroes to enroll in the University of Missouri. The boys at Rolla are living in the new dormitory and eating in the school cafeteria. No difficulties of any kind have been experienced.

[*MSM Alumnus Magazine* (September/October), 1950, 6]

Contemporary Scholars' Assessments

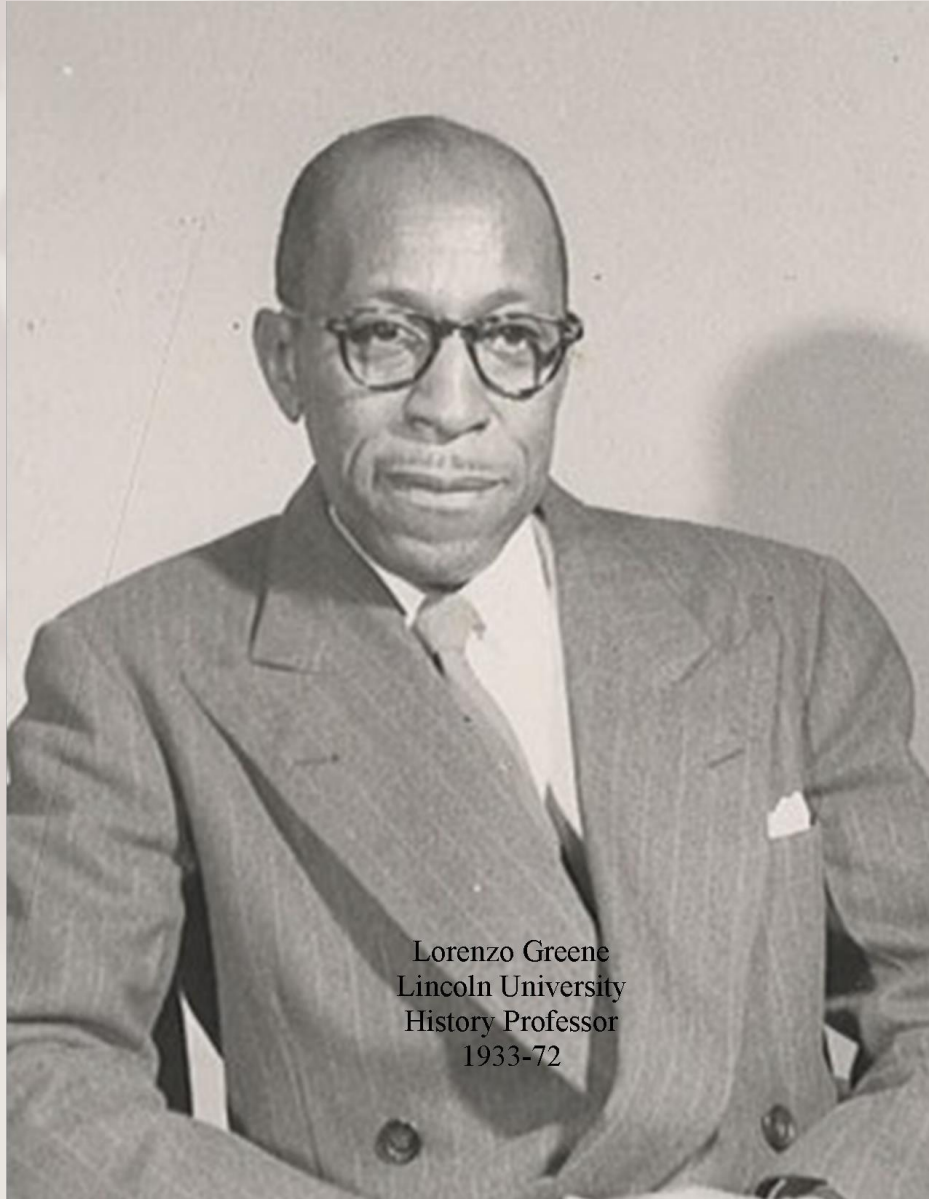
Preston Valien, sociologist at Fisk University (1959):

If “integration is defined as the participation of Negro and white students in extra-curricular and school related activities, as well as classroom activities, **it becomes apparent that we are dealing largely with desegregation and not integration.**”

Contemporary Scholars' Assessments

Guy Johnson, sociologist at the University of North Carolina (1959):

“Negro students participate freely in practically all campus affairs.” “It is only in the intimate and private social world of dating, partying and ‘fraternizing’ that interracial contacts have remained at almost zero.”



Lorenzo Greene
Lincoln University
History Professor
1933-72

Lorenzo J. Greene and Rev. Lee F. Soxman, *Report to the United States Commission on Civil Rights on Desegregation of Schools in Missouri, by the Missouri Advisory Committee* (Washington, D.C., 1959)

Conclusion of Missouri Advisory Committee on Desegregation of Schools (1959)

“Although much remains to be done, **desegregation**, on the whole, in Missouri has been a gratifying experience, one in which Missourians can take pride.”

Number of Black Students at Missouri Public Colleges and Universities, 1963

“Missouri’s public institutions, including the University of Missouri and its divisions, the five state colleges, Lincoln University, and the eight junior colleges, had about 1,247 Negro students in 1955 and 2,598 in 1963.”

[“41 Colleges Reply to Questionnaire on Race Policies,” SSN, December 1963, p. 11

Number of Black Students at the University of Missouri

1955-Estimate of 25-30

1963-Estimate of over 200

1959-First Black Faculty
Member

1973-16 Black Faculty
Members

Recollections of Their Experiences—Gus Ridgel



Recollections of Their Experiences

MU Alumni interviewed by Delia Crutchfield Cook for her dissertation, "Shadows Across the Columns," (1996)

Number of Black Students at MSM, 1950-1963

1950-2

1954-0

1957-5

1963-10

1963-No Black Faculty Members

Black Students at MSM, 1950-1963

George Horne	Joseph Haynes	William Harris	Howard Manning
Elmer Bell, Jr.	Rodney Scott	Nathaniel Moore	Louis Smith
Silas Garrett	Reuben Crenshaw	Ronald Riley	
Lawrence Bowie	Robert Gray	Tommy Dorsey	
John Shavers	Paul Silvers	Carlton Scott	
Wayne Byas	Curtis Watson	Larry Stewart	
Lelia Thompson	Marvin Harris	Henry Brown	

Profile of the 23 Students

Most were transfer students

Harris Teachers College-7

Lincoln University-2

One each from Central State College (Ohio), Washington University, Flat River Jr. College, Virginia State College, Howard University, and St. Benedicts College (Kansas)

Profile of the 23 Students

Most were involved in college clubs and councils.

Chi Epsilon, American Society of Civil Engineers, Newman Club, Dorm Council, Pershing Rifles, Shamrock Club, M Club, Phi Kappa Phi, Glee Club, Independents, Baptist Student Union, ROTC Band, Wesley Foundation, Campus Club

Recollections of
Their
Experiences—
George Horne,
1950



Recollections of
Their
Experiences—
Lelia Thompson,
1956



Recollections of
Their
Experiences—
Henry Brown,
1963



Recollections of
Their
Experiences—
Louis Smith, 1963



Recollections of Their Experiences

Survey of Black Alumni, 1991-1992

Recollections of Their Experiences

Alumni who were early members of Alpha Phi Alpha established in 1965 recollecting that era:

“I’ve never been stranded on a desert island before, but if I had been I believe this is what it would feel like.”

“The environment here is racially toxic.”

“The professors here don’t believe that Black people . . . are intelligent enough to be engineers.”

“The administration seems to be apathetic.”

Recollections of Their Experiences



Were They Successful?

14 of the 23 Students Graduated