

***St. Louis and Race:  
The Weight of History***

**Alliance for Interracial Dignity  
September 14, 2017**

**E. Terrence (Terry) Jones  
University of Missouri-St. Louis**

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**RACIAL DISPARITIES IN THE ST. LOUIS REGION**

	<u>Whites</u>	<u>African Americans</u>
Poverty Rate	8.0%	27.8%
Unemployment Rate	4.4%	13.5%
Bachelor's Degree (25 and Older)	35.0%	17.6%
Median Household Income	\$62,802	\$33,790
Low Access: Healthy Food Choices	7.1%	14.4%

**SOURCE: East-West Gateway Council of Governments,  
*Where We Stand? Addressing Racial Equity for a  
Sustainable Region* (June 2017)**

**LAWS OF THE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA  
(1804)**

**“No slave shall go from the tenements of his master...without a pass or some letter or token whereby it may appear that he is proceeding by authority from his master. If he does not, it shall be lawful for any person to apprehend and carry him before a justice of the peace to be by his order punished with stripes.”**

*white deputized*

**“If any negro or mulatto, bond or free, shall at any time lift his or her hand in opposition to any person not being a negro or mulatto, he or she so offending shall for every such offence, proved by oath of the party before any justice of the peace, receive such punishment as the justice shall think proper, not exceeding 30 lashes on his on her back with lard on...”**

**“All negro and mulatto slaves in all courts of judicature within this district shall be held, taken, and adjudged to be personal estate.”**

## LAWS OF MISSOURI

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri as follows:*

1. No person shall keep or teach any school for the instruction of negroes or mulattoes, in reading or writing, in this State. *no education*
2. No meeting or assemblage of negroes or mulattoes, for the purpose of religious worship or preaching, shall be held or permitted where the services are performed or conducted by negroes or mulattoes unless some sheriff, constable, marshal, police officer, or justice of the peace shall be present during all the time of such meeting or assemblage, in order to prevent all seditious speeches, and disorderly and unlawful conduct of every kind.
3. All meeting of negroes or mulattoes, for the purposes mentioned in the two preceding sections, shall be considered unlawful assemblages and shall be suppressed by sheriffs, constables, and other public officers.
4. No free negro or mulatto shall under any pretext emigrate to this State from any other State or territory. *no new freedmen*
5. If any person shall violate the provisions of this act, he shall for every such offence be indicted and punished by fine not exceeding five hundred dollars or by imprisonment not exceeding six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

APPROVED February 18, 1847

## ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS

### High School

- 1875      1<sup>st</sup> African American High School in City of St. Louis  
52 yrs.      (Sumner) *the ville neighb.*
- 1927      2<sup>nd</sup> African American High School in City of St. Louis  
            (Vashon)
- 1928      1<sup>st</sup> African American High School in St. Louis County  
            (Douglass)
- 1937      2<sup>nd</sup> African American High School in St. Louis County  
            (Kinloch)

### College

- 1887      1<sup>st</sup> African American University (Lincoln)
- 1890      1<sup>st</sup> African American College in St. Louis (Stowe)
- 1944      St. Louis University Admits African Americans
- 1947      Washington University Admits African Americans
- 1950      University of Missouri Admits African Americans

## **CITY OF ST. LOUIS**

### **INITIATIVE PETITION (1915)**

**An ordinance to prevent ill feeling, conflict, and collisions between the white and colored races in the City of St. Louis in the City blocks occupied by both races, and to preserve the public peace and promote the general welfare, by making reasonable provisions whereby gradually such blocks may become in time occupied wholly by either white or colored people, thereby promoting the general welfare of white and colored people respectively.**

## **RESTRICTIVE COVENANT**

**...whereas it is to the mutual benefit and advantage of all of the parties of the First Part to preserve the character of said neighborhood as a desirable place of residence for persons of the Caucasian Race and to maintain the values of their respective properties, and to that end they desire to restrict the use and disposition of their several said parcels of land for the benefit of all parties of the First Part...the parties of the First Part do covenant and agree to and with each other...(not to ) sell, convey, lease or rent to a negro or negroes, or deliver possession to or permit to be occupied by a negro or negroes no matter how the right to occupancy or title shall be attempted to be acquired any of the said parcels of land belonging to the parties of the First Part.**



Map 2.1. Designated "Negro" blocks, 1916. "Blocks in Which Negroes May Thereafter Take Up Residence," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* (2 March 1916), St. Louis Public Library, Clippings Collection.

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ST. LOUIS COUNTY WHITE AND AFRICAN AMERICAN POPULATION:  
1940-2010

	White	African American	Total
1940	261,840 (95.5%)	12,309 (4.5%)	274,230
1950	389,336 (95.8%)	16,819 (4.1%)	406,349
1960	683,652 (97.2%)	19,007 (2.7%)	703,532
1970	902,002 (94.8%)	45,495 (4.8%)	951,671
1980	852,104 (87.5%)	109,684 (11.3%)	973,896
1990	836,232 (84.1%)	139,318 (14.0%)	977,347
2000	780,232 (76.8%)	193,306 (19.0%)	1,015,717
2010	701,948 (70.3%)	233,029 (23.3%)	998,883
2015	697,037 (69.6%)	233,777 (23.3%)	1,001,327

SOURCE: U.S. Census (Decennial Censuses for 1940-2000,  
American Community Survey for 2010 and 2015)

## **RACE AND PUBLIC POLICY IN THE ST. LOUIS REGION (MISSOURI) A TIMELINE**

### *1804-1865*

- 1804 Missouri's Territorial Government Adopts Slave Code**
- 1821 Missouri Enters Union as a Slave State**
- 1846 Dred Scott Sues for Freedom**
- 1847 Educating Negroes (Free or Slave) in Missouri Made a Felony**
- 1857 Dred Scott Decision: Negro Slaves Are Property, Not People**
- 1865 Thirteenth Amendment Prohibits Slavery**

### *1865-Present (Education)*

- 1865 Missouri's Constitution Permits Practice of Segregated Schools**
- 1875 Missouri's Constitution Mandates Segregated Schools**
- 1875 1st African American High School (Sumner)**
- 1887 1st African American University (Lincoln)**
- 1890 1st African American College in St. Louis (Stowe)**
- 1927 2nd African American High School (Vashon)**
- 1928 1st African American High School in St. Louis County (Douglass)**
- 1932 1st African American High School in St. Charles County (Franklin)**
- 1937 2nd African American High School in St. Louis County (Kinloch)**
- 1944 St. Louis University Admits African Americans**
- 1947 Washington University Admits African Americans**
- 1947 Archbishop Ritter Desegregates Catholic Schools**
- 1950 University of Missouri Admits African Americans**
- 1954 Brown Decision: Racially Segregated Schools Unconstitutional**
- 1976 Federal Court Orders Ferguson-Florissant/Berkeley/Kinloch Merger**
- 1976 Missouri Voters Remove Segregated Schools Constitutional Mandate**
- 1981 Voluntary Interdistrict Transfer Program Begins**
- 1999 Voluntary Interdistrict Transfer Program Transition Begins**

### *1865-Present (Housing)*

- 1916 City of St. Louis Passes Race-Based Zoning Ordinance**
- 1917 Ordinance Declared Unconstitutional/Restrictive Covenants Expand  
and Are Enforced by State Courts**
- 1948 Shelley v Kraemer Decision: States Cannot Enforce Restrictive  
Covenants**
- 1953 Segregated Public Housing Ruled Unconstitutional**
- 1968 Jones v Mayer Decision: Private Housing Discrimination Illegal**