

December 30, 2017

Agenda Item:

Proposed February 25, (Perpetually), as Alexander Clark Day.

Alexander Clark was born on February 25, 1826. He allegedly arrived in Muscatine in 1842. Alexander Clark was the father who sued the Muscatine schools on behalf of his daughter and was victorious in 1868.

He was also known for the following:

1. He was a barber and entrepreneur,
2. He was the founder of Iowa's first African Methodist Episcopal church,
3. During the Civil War, he helped organize Iowa's only black regiment,
4. He was active in the state and national Republican Party,
5. He became a lawyer in 1884, the second black man to graduate from the University of Iowa law school.
6. He published a newspaper in Chicago, and
7. He served as United States Ambassador to Liberia.

Muscatine currently has a housing facility known as the Clark House and across 3rd Street is the Alexander Clark Park. Mr. Clark's former home remains and is being considered for historical value.

According to my understanding, there is on-going discussions for Muscatine to host an event commemorating the 1868 Iowa Supreme Court decision.

This history making resident should be honored and remembered by his hometown perpetually, for his life altering positive contributions to the world.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Oz Malcolm
Councilman, 2nd Ward
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