



Sister Rosetta Tharpe

(1915-1973)

Arkansas native “Sister Rosetta” Tharpe was one of gospel music’s first superstars. Tharpe has been cited as an influence by numerous musicians, including Bob Dylan, Little Richard, Elvis Presley, and Arkansan Johnny Cash. In 2023, Tharpe was listed as number six on *Rolling Stone* magazine’s list of the 250 greatest guitarists of all time.

Rosetta Nubin Tharpe was born in Cotton Plant in 1915. Tharpe began performing at age four with her mom. By the age of six, she was regularly performing a mix of gospel and early rock and roll music styles that would eventually make her famous.

After her well-publicized appearance at Carnegie Hall in New York City in 1938, Tharpe went on a concert tour throughout the northeastern U.S. Tharpe signed with Mercury Records by the late 1950s. She first toured Europe in 1957 and made return trips in the 1960s. Tharpe continued to tour and perform until her death in 1973.

Tharpe’s music and influence continue years after her death. In 1998, the U.S. Postal Service issued a Rosetta Tharpe postage stamp. She was inducted into the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame in 2012. In 2018, she was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. In 2022, a mural honoring Tharpe was dedicated in Little Rock.





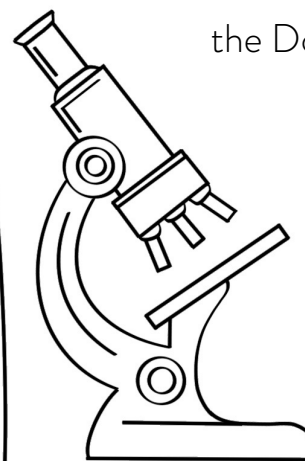
Mary Lowe Good

(1931-2019)

Mary Lowe Good was a renowned chemist, industrial innovator, professor, and government leader. Good, the first woman in Arkansas to earn a PhD in the hard sciences, was the founding chair of the Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America and was a nationally recognized leader in the support of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education, especially for women. Good was also one of the first women inducted into the Arkansas Women's Hall of Fame.

Lowe was born in Texas in 1931 and moved to Arkansas in 1942. She got her bachelor's degree in chemistry and physics in 1950 at the University of Central Arkansas. In 1952, she married lab partner William Jewel Good. She received a master's degree in 1953 and a PhD in 1955, both from the University of Arkansas (UA) in Fayetteville. From 1954 to 1958, she was director of the radiochemistry laboratory and assistant professor of chemistry at Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge. In 1972, Good was the first woman elected to the board of the American Chemical Society.

Good served on President George H. W. Bush's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology. In 1993, she became the U.S. Undersecretary for Technology in the Department of Commerce under President Bill Clinton. In 1997, Good became the Donaghey Professor at UA Little Rock and was the founding dean of the Donaghey College of Engineering and Information Technology. She died in 2019.





Adolphine Fletcher Terry

(1882-1976)

Adolphine Fletcher Terry improved schools and libraries, started a juvenile court system, promoted education and rights for women, and challenged the racism of the Old South by pushing for social change. A library of the Central Arkansas Library System is named for her. In 2023, she was inducted into the Arkansas Women's Hall of Fame.

Adolphine Fletcher was born in 1882 in Little Rock, Arkansas. She graduated college in 1902 at a time when few people had degrees. Fletcher worked on improving Arkansas schools, co-founded a group to encourage women to become college educated, chaired the Pulaski County Juvenile Court board for twenty years, and helped start the Girls Industrial School.

She got married in 1910 and had five children. Terry headed a committee that secured federal funds to pay the salaries of librarians in Arkansas, collected books and found spaces to open free libraries throughout the state, and convinced the Arkansas legislature to create a state library program.

In 1957, Terry and two friends formed the Women's Emergency Committee, the first organized group of white moderates to oppose the governor's efforts to keep public schools segregated.

Terry died in 1976 and is buried in Little Rock.

