

**Elizabeth Thorn Scott Flood**  
SACRAMENTO EDUCATOR AND ACTIVIST



Born in a free woman in New York in 1828.

In 1852 her husband and her moved to Placerville and learned that this wasn't a space she thought was safe for Black folks to live, so they moved to Sacramento where there was a larger Black demographic.

SACRAMENTO PUBLIC SCHOOLS DID NOT ALLOW BLACK CHILDREN TO ENROLL. NOT BY LAW BUT BY TRADITION.

So she was unable to enroll her son Oliver in school once she moved here.

She opened a small school for non white children in her home in 1854. At the time she lived on 2nd street between M Street and N Street.

Her school at first only had Black students but eventually Asian and Indigenous children began to attend. Students ranged from 4 years old to 29 years old.

"A few months later, the Sacramento school board decided to take over the administration of the school but not to provide funding, and an arrangement that Scott accepted but without giving up her fight for equal rights for her students."

In 1855 Elizabeth attended the first Colored State Convention in Sacramento. Where her and other folks in the Black community organized how to lobby politicians for better representation and basic civil rights (like the right to vote).

She moved to a city named Brooklyn California which was close to Oakland and in 1857 her husband and her opened a school for Black students in their home on East 15th.

Elizabeth continued to fight for Black children and teach in her families school until her death in 1867.

It wasn't until 1872 that public schools allowed Black students.

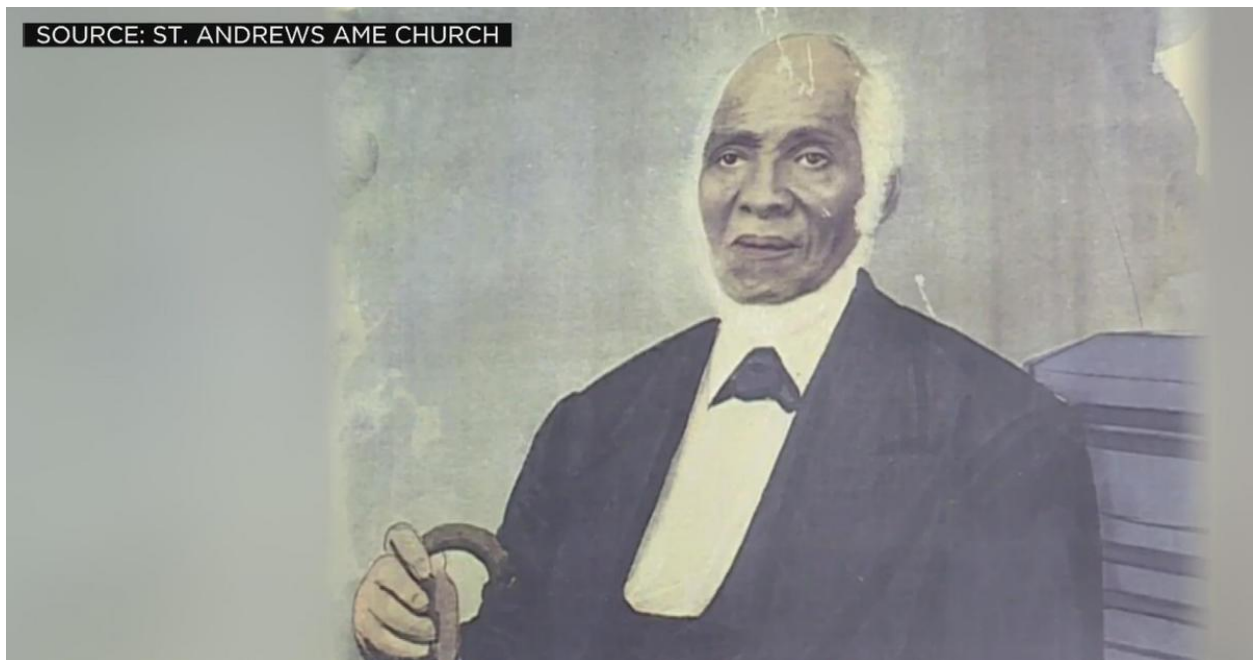
In 1875 all Black schools were closed.  
In 1880 California changed its law to outlaw segregation.

#SacramentoBlackHistory  
#AllBlackSac  
#BlackHistoryEveryMonth  
#ElizabethThornScottFlood  
#SacramentoBlackActivist

Source: <https://aaregistry.org/story/elizabeth-thorn-scott-flood-educator-born/>

## **DANIEL BLUE**

Sacramento formerly enslaved activist, pastor, and educator.



#AllBlackSac  
#SacramentoBlackHistory

Daniel Blue was a Black man who was formerly enslaved. There is not much information on his birth or how he became a free man. Blue settled in California. A lot of the articles about who folks affectionately referenced as “Uncle Daniel, claimed that he was rich because he mined for gold and was able to invest and sustain himself from the money he made mining. Daniel bought a home in Sacramento located next door to a pro-slavery governor. Daniel opened a laundry

business, and started giving the first St. Andrews' church sermons from his basement. St. Andrews church now is housed on 8th street in Sacramento, California.

Daniel led his church based on anti-slavery and social justice activism.

Daniel Blue and his wife Lucinda Blue opened up a school out of their church for Black children, along with other children of color. The state refused to fund it so it was funded and sustained by the people.

In November of 1855, St. Andrews hosted the first statewide convention of the California Colored Citizens where they organized and strategized to advance the rights of people of color.

#### CALIFORNIA (SACRAMENTO) LAST KNOWN SLAVERY CASE

A 12 year old girl was brought to Sacramento and sold as a slave to a local farmer, Walter Gammon, who was from Tennessee and residing in Sacramento. Edith was often beaten and not given her essential needs like clothing and care.

On February 29th, 1864, Daniel Blue filed a writ of habeas corpus in the county court that would force Gammon to bring Edith to the judge. Gammon lied to the courts saying that Edith was there of her own free will. Daniel Blue requested legal guardianship of Edith, through the courts. The judge ruled in Daniel Blue's favor citing that it was unlawful to detain and restrain Edith.

This was the "last known slavery case in California history. This happened 15 years after California entered the union as a free state. "

"Blue is buried in Sacramento's East Lawn Memorial Park. His headstone says he was one of the most familiar figures in Sacramento who "lived up to his highest development."

Sources:

<https://sites.rootsweb.com/~aagriots/CA/DBlue.htm>

<https://www.kqed.org/news/11818409/how-the-founder-of-californias-first-black-church-fought-its-last-known-slavery-case>

## Black Panther Party and Oak Park Four



Most people think of California as a state full of liberals, the most diverse state in the country, and historically a place where formerly enslaved Black people came to build a life and escape the south. However, California's racist past isn't brought into the light enough, which buries and erases the stories of Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC). One of the stories that should be brought into the light more is the history of the Sacramento chapter of the Black Panther Party and its connection to the Oak Park Four.

By the 1970's most of the Black residents in Sacramento County were forced to live in the communities of Oak Park or Del Paso Heights, due to housing discrimination. Oak Park was considered the center of Black political activity so naturally, the Sacramento branch of the Black Panther Party opened there in 1968. The headquarters sat on 35th Street between 4th and 5th avenues. The Party ran the Free Breakfast Program in Oak Park for a year but had to hand the program off to the Black Student Union (BSU) of Sacramento City College after the headquarters was raided on June 17, 1969.

The Father's Day Raid, as it's called, occurred after a group of Black residents posted a sign in McClatchy Park, renaming it Brotherhood Park. The sign provoked a fight where reportedly over 100 shots were fired, but no one died. The cops arrested at least 40 people and later barraged the Black Panther Party Sacramento headquarters with bullets and tear gas, endangering the lives of citizens in and around the building. Police officers justified the raid by claiming shots were fired inside the Party headquarters, but this was likely part of a larger ploy to destroy the

Party. After the raid, the Sac City BSU took over the Free Breakfast Program, running it from the Oak Park United Church of Christ.

Nearly a year after the Father's Day Raid, on May 9, 1970, white officer Bernard Bennett was shot while driving north on 35th street and 4th avenue; he later died on May 13, 1970. The police launched a manhunt for Bennett's killer in Oak Park. Black residents describe the cops descending on them like an "occupational force" rounding up Black males and interrogating them in mass. The manhunt produced seven alleged Black male co-conspirators in the death of Bennett, originally called the Oak Park Seven. But three men were released leaving the Oak Park Four, a group of four young Black men who were activists and leaders of the community, with ties to the Sac City BSU and the Sacramento chapter of the Black Panther Party.

On June 12, 1970, the Oak Park Four: Mark Teemer, Jack Strivers, Booker T. Cook, Jr., and Ceariaco Cabrallis, were indicted by an all white, all male Grand Jury on one count of conspiracy to commit murder, and one count of murder. Much was written in the Sacramento Bee, Sacramento Observer, and the Sacramento Union about the trial and the unconstitutionality of the Grand Jury process. Basically, the Sacramento County District Attorney did not have strong evidence linking the Oak Park Four to Officer Bennett's murder, rather than risk the case being thrown out in a preliminary hearing, the DA used a Grand Jury to indict the four men on murder and conspiracy charges.

Despite the weak case, the trial commenced. The prosecution's witnesses included an informant and former Black Panther, Lamont Rose whose credibility was damaged due to his drug addiction and diminished mental capacity, and several people who changed their story on the stand or pled the Fifth Amendment. The trial revealed at least one witness was coerced into providing a statement that the cops wanted to hear. The coerced statement was thrown out and the DA's case continued to crumble. On January 26, 1971, the case was dismissed and the Oak Park Four were freed. This historical case was the first time in America where "Black men accused and charged with the murder of a white policeman have been released."

The story of the Oak Park Four is an important part of California history. Many of the problems Black Sacramentans dealt with in the 1960's and 1970's are not unlike what we deal with today. When we fail to share the histories of BIPOC communities, we erase the people and their descendants, and rob everyone of the truth. This article included information taken from the sources identified below. We encourage you to check out the links and do research on your own to uncover the truth and the rich history of Black people in Sacramento.

#SacramentoBlackHistory  
#AllBlackSac

Sources:

Mediated memory: the case of the "Oak Park Four" - California State University, Sacramento  
<https://csu-csus.esploro.exlibrisgroup.com/esploro/outputs/graduate/Mediated-memory-the-case-of-the/99257831151401671>

Oak Park - Black Panthers | California Revealed

<https://californiarevealed.org/islandora/object/cavpp%3A78308>

### **Misha Green**

Well Known Television Producer from Sacramento



Misha is a director, screenwriter, and producer born September 22nd 1983 in Sacramento, California.

She produced HBO's Lovecraft Country, Underground, and a few episodes in Sons of Anarchy.

Writer and/or Producer:

Lovecraft Country (Producer/2020)

Underground (Producer/2016)

Sons of Anarchy (Writer/2009)

Helix (Producer/2014)

- IMDB

Working on:

The Mother

Cleopatra Jones

Sunflower

Black Canary (DC)

“Yes. The thing is, in all the contexts we’re in, we’re speaking from “the center of the universe is a white man.” And I think the center of the universe is only a white man because those are the

stories we've allowed to become our story. I don't think that's the story of the world at all. I think that the story of the world is diverse and has many voices in it, including white men's. I just don't think Hollywood has allowed that to be the case."

<https://www.marieclaire.com/culture/a33606785/lovecraft-country-creator-misha-green/>

Misha studied and got her BFA in Film and Television at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts from 2002 - 2006. She then moved to Southern California where she continued to pursue her dream. She went on to write episodes of the popular television shows Sons of Anarchy, Spartacus, Heroes, and Helix.

She then went on to be the writer and executive producer of the television series Underground in 2016. Underground was a television series that was about a group of enslaved people during the antebellum era, who planned an escape from a Georgia plantation. It was unique because it highlighted the actual horror of these experiences documented with modern music.

Underground didn't emphasize the passivity or helplessness of folks that were enslaved, but instead showed us that our ancestors were going to get free by any means necessary.

Underground aired for two seasons. "The cancellation came after the network's parent company Tribune Media was attempted to be purchased by conservative corporation Sinclair Broadcasting Group, which led to speculation that the latter did not approve of the subject matter of the show." -Wikipedia

"I feel like my work currently—not to say for forever—but currently, is about connections," she explained. "I think looking at history...Underground and Lovecraft Country are both shows that I'm trying to connect things to say, 'Let's look in the past and see how that connects to this moment here.'"

<https://www.motionpictures.org/2021/03/lovecraft-country-creator-misha-green-on-confidence-and-taking-risks-in-hollywood/>

Lovecraft Country was a phenomenal HBO television series described as a horror drama in 2020. Lovecraft Country was about a group of Black folks that take a road trip in the 1950's across America, and through many sundown towns. This road trip turned into a suspenseful battle against the horrors of white America and also the horrific fictionist characters inspired by the 2016 novel of the same name.

Misha Green on the horror in Blackness

"Because that's when horror works the best way when it's a metaphor for something else," Green added. "So the ghost is a metaphor for the things that are haunting you. And being Black in America is like being in a horror story so it just fits perfectly."

<https://deadline.com/2021/05/lovecraft-country-jurnee-smollett-jonathan-majors-misha-green-interview-contenders-tv-1234757350/>

#CreatingBlackHistory

#AllBlackSac

