

## Alexander Clark Events • February 2019



**Sunday, Feb. 24, 2:00 p.m.**

**Alexander Clark Room Dedication**

**The Merrill Hotel & Conference Center**

**119 West Mississippi Drive, Muscatine, Iowa 52761**

Featuring remarks by Professor Adrien Wing, University of Iowa College of Law, and an exhibit of historic photos with commentary by Kent Sissel, preservationist and current owner of the Alexander G. Clark House. The event celebrates Alexander Clark Day (born Feb. 25, 1826) and the upcoming first anniversary of the Merrill Hotel and Conference Center. From the top-floor conference room named for Muscatine's famous 19th Century resident, you can enjoy a birdseye view of his 1878 house and the high-rise apartments erected on its original site as well as other nearby sites associated with Clark's life and times. Refreshments will follow the presentations. **RSVP to [cvb@muscatineiowa.gov](mailto:cvb@muscatineiowa.gov).**

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2159587210747043/>

**Monday, Feb. 25, 7:00 p.m.**

**Alexander Clark Lecture Series: "The Legacy of Alexander Clark and Black Activism in Iowa"**

**Muscatine Community College**

**152 Colorado Street, Muscatine, Iowa 52761**

Presenter: Dwain Coleman, University of Iowa Teaching Assistant. Black people have lived in Iowa since before the organization of the territory. Even so, the first legislatures of Iowa enacted "black laws" and "exclusionary acts" to deny black people citizenship rights and restrict black migration. Black activists like Alexander Clark and many others fought back against these discriminatory laws by organizing state Colored Conventions, petitioning the state legislature, appealing to the courts, creating vibrant communities, and utilizing the political capital accrued through black military service. Through the efforts of Clark and many others, the state legislature repealed these discriminatory laws and awarded citizenship rights to black Iowans. Dwain Coleman is a PhD candidate at the University of Iowa. In 2016 he earned his Masters degree in history from Iowa State University with the thesis "Still in the Fight: The Struggle for Community in the Upper Midwest for African American Civil War Veterans," which won the Iowa History Center Award for Outstanding Master's Thesis in Iowa History. His teaching interests include African American History, Nineteenth Century U.S. History, Civil Rights Movement, American Religious History, and Native American History.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/618758991887749/>

**Thursday, Feb. 28, 5:30 p.m.**

**"Alexander Clark: Genealogy and Early Life"**

**Muscatine Art Center**

**1314 Mulberry Avenue, Muscatine, Iowa 52761**

Presenter: Kent Sissel, resident preserver of the Alexander G. Clark House and founder of the Alexander G. Clark Foundation. This is the last day of the local history gallery feature "Alexander Clark: Civil Rights Leader" (1-5 p.m.)

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2234008046881210/>