



# NOTABLE MINORITIES WHO CHANGED HISTORY

August 22, 2008

Featuring  
**Daisy Lee Bates**

"The man who never makes a mistake always takes orders from one who does."

- A Daisy Bates' Quote

## "Equality"

I saw a King, who spent his life to weave  
Into a nation all his great heart thought,  
Unsatisfied until he should achieve  
The grand ideal that his manhood sought:  
Yet as he saw the end within his reach,  
Death took the scepter from his failing  
hand,  
And all men said, "He gave his life to  
teach  
The task of honour to a sordid land!"  
Within his gates I saw, through all those  
years,  
One at his humble toil with cheery face,  
Whom (begin dead) the children half in  
tears ,  
Remember oft, and missed him from his  
place.  
If he be greater that his people blessed  
Than he the children loved, God knoweth  
best.

Poem by : John McCrae

## August Dates to Remember:

- 4 - Civic Holiday (Canada)
- 7-8 - 2008 Summer Enrichment Program
- 9 - Bon Festival/Feast of Lanterns (Japan)
- 14 - Pakistan's Independence Day
- 15 - India's Independence Day
- 15 - Liberation Day (Korea, South Korea)

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*Daisy L. Bates*

## Daisy L. Bates (1913?- November 4, 1999) Journalist, Civil Rights Activist and Social Reformer

Daisy Bates was raised in Huttig, Arkansas, by her foster parents Orlee and Susie Smith. At the age of fifteen, Daisy meet a traveling salesman from Memphis, Tennessee by the name of L.C. (Lucius Christopher) Bates. In 1932, after her father's death, Daisy moved to Memphis and on March 4, 1942 Daisy and L. C. married in Fordyce, Arkansas and then moved to Little Rock.

In Little Rock L. C. Bates started a newspaper called the *Arkansas State Press* that advocated the civil rights of African Americans in the state of Arkansas. Daisy rarely wrote for the paper but she soon became active in the paper's operations and was named city editor by her husband in 1945.

Both Bates were avid supporters of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and were actively involved in the branches activities. In 1952 Bates was elected as president of the Arkansas Conference of Branches, which served as the umbrella organization for the state NAACP.

Although well known in the black community for her social reforms and civil right advocation she became known to white Arkansans as the civil advocate as a result of her testimony during the pre-trial proceedings of the federal court case, *Aaron v. Cooper*. Which would later result in desegregation of Central High School in 1957. During the proceedings she refused to be called by her first name stating, "You addressed me several time this morning by my first name. That is something that is reserved for my intimate friends and my husband. You will refrain from calling me Daisy." This statement challenged the long held belief that intimidating African Americans by treating them like children was a way to control and dominate blacks. Thus Daisy Bates and her actions soon made their way to the front page of the *Arkansas Gazette*.

In the following year Daisy became mentor to the Little Rock Nine and their families as segerationist did everything to make them give up the struggle. She became recognized as the main spokesperson and leader for the forces behind school desegregation, becoming one of the few influential female civil right activist during this time period.

Daisy Bates went on to do may great things to the civil rights movement but in 1999 she died of a heart attack and was buried in Haven of Rest Cemetery in Little Rock. A year later President Bill Clinton acknowledged her achievements and in 2001 the Arkansas legislature enacted a provision that recognized the third Monday in February as "Daisy Gatson Bates Day."