

# ANNIE B. ROSE

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THE COLLECTION AT THE ALEXANDRIA  
BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM



# WHO IS ANNIE B. ROSE?



In group photos, Rose will be circled.

Annie B. Rose was born on January 7, between 1893 and 1895 in Catharpin, VA. For over 50 years, she lived at 812 Duke Street in Alexandria, Virginia. She was passionate about her community. As an activist, Rose focused on many issues, including elderly rights, housing, voting, Black history, and education.

The collection has material related to her personal life and community involvement. Items found in the collection include letters, pictures, notebooks, pamphlets and more.

# FAMILY & EARLY LIFE

Lewis Henry Bailey and Ella Bailey were Rose's parents. Her father was a formerly enslaved person. As a child, Lewis Bailey was a victim of the domestic slave trade. Slave traders sold him from the Alexandria Slave Pen, now the Freedom House Museum. As a freed person, Lewis Bailey established many churches. In 1883, he founded Ebenezer Baptist Church in Occoquan, Virginia. The Rose Collection houses some of his papers.

Her mother was a teacher. Rose recalled that Ella Bailey took summer training courses in art at Hampton University. She applied what she learned in her own classroom back home.







# FAMILY & EARLY LIFE

Another great inspiration for Rose was her aunt, Jennie Dean. Dean was the founder of the Manassas Industrial School for Colored Youth (MIS).

The Rose Collection contains papers related to the MIS Alumni Association and the Jennie Dean Memorial.

# EDUCATION

Rose's educational journey began at the Summit [Elementary] School in Occoquan. Her parents founded the school and Ella Bailey also taught classes there. After Summit, Rose attended Manassas Industrial School (MIS). She graduated from MIS in 1913. In 1915, Rose completed the Teacher's Normal Course offered at MIS. This training prepared Rose for a career as a teacher.

Pictured: Rose and other MIS alumni visiting the site of the school, 1954. They are standing in front of Howland Hall, the first building at MIS.





# EDUCATION

In 1948, Rose went back to school. She took a course in public speaking at Howard University. She was unable to finish due to a family emergency. However, education remained an important part of her life.

HOWARD UNIVERSITY—COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Course No.	Sec.	Qtr. Hrs.	TIME							Room No.	BUILDING
			M	T	W	T	F	S			
<i>AC0292 / English I</i>			X	X	X	X	X		<i>1C</i>	<i>Douglass</i>	
<i>Public Speaking</i>			X	X	X	X	X				
<i>OCT-4-48</i>	<i>01</i>	<i>821</i>				<i>A</i>	<i>--</i>	<i>--</i>		<i>43.50</i>	

STUDENT'S CARD Total

Received From *Annie B. Rose*  
Write name in full

Rose's report card from Howard University, 1948

# EMPLOYMENT

Rose taught for eight years in Loudoun, Fairfax, and Prince William counties. Rose left teaching to work for the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

She began her career there as a printer's assistant. By the time she retired, Rose was a currency inspector. She briefly returned to teaching but by 1920, she was back at the Bureau. She remained there until 1945, when she retired after 25 years at the agency.



"In accordance with the provisions of the Civil Service Retirement Act, Annie B. Rose on this date has retired from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing after 25 years in the service of the Government of the United States."

# EMPLOYMENT



As a child, Rose dreamed of becoming a nurse. After retiring, Rose had the opportunity to take home nursing courses with the Red Cross.

In 1952, she completed the Purple Cross Health Unit of the Daughters of the Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World's course in First Aid and Home Nursing. This training allowed her to join a pioneering program with the Alexandria Visiting Nurse Service. Rose was one of 15 Black nurse aides volunteering for this new initiative. She worked primarily with Black patients.

Rose also worked at the Alexandria Hospital and as a home nurse aide until her retirement in 1974.



# EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH



Deaconess  
Chairman - Sis. Inez Thurston

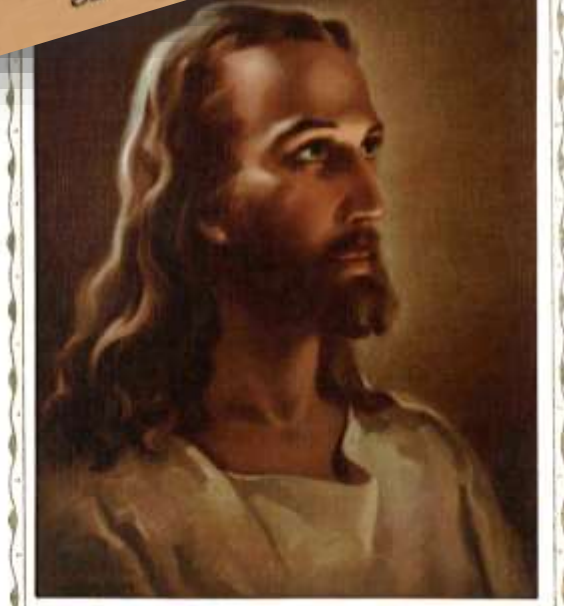
Rose held many positions in her church. She served as a Deaconess (above), an organist (right), and as a member of both the Trustee Board and the Women's Club.

Inspired by her family's leadership in the church, religion was very important to Rose. For over 75 years, she remained an active member of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Occoquan, the church founded by her father.



# EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH

You Are Cordially Invited To Attend  
An Appreciation Banquet  
Honoring  
Sis. Annie Bailey Rose  
Saturday, October 4, 1986



Presented To  
Sis. Annie B. Rose  
In Recognition of  
69 Years of faithful and  
dedicated service.  
Date March 25, 1983  
Signed Red James Russell  
A cross symbol is centered below the text.  
"He which soweth beautifully shall  
reap also beautifully."  
— II Corinthians 9:6

Ebenezer's congregation was appreciative of Rose's longtime service. They demonstrated this through various celebrations in her honor. She was presented with a plaque, they held an appreciation banquet for her, and the missionary society was named after her.



Annie B. Rose Missionary Society  
President - Sis. Delores Winston



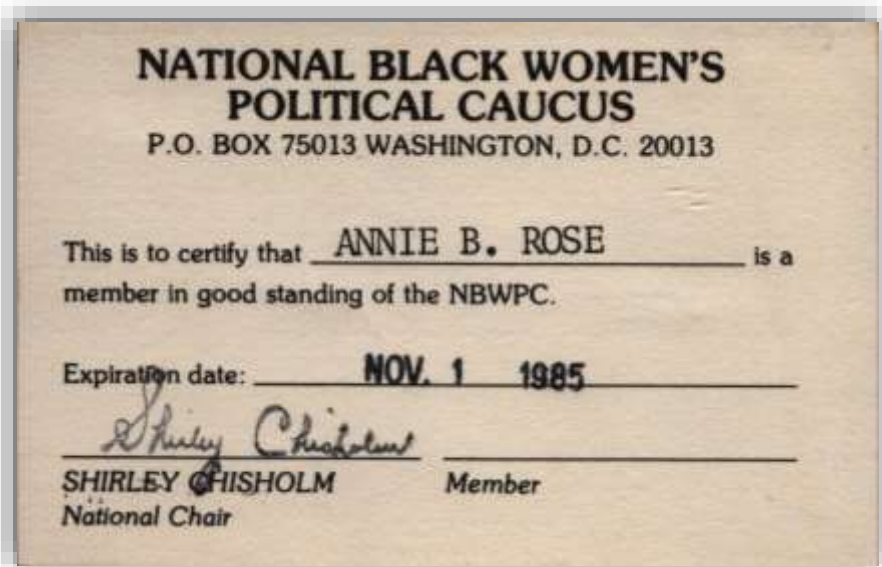
# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



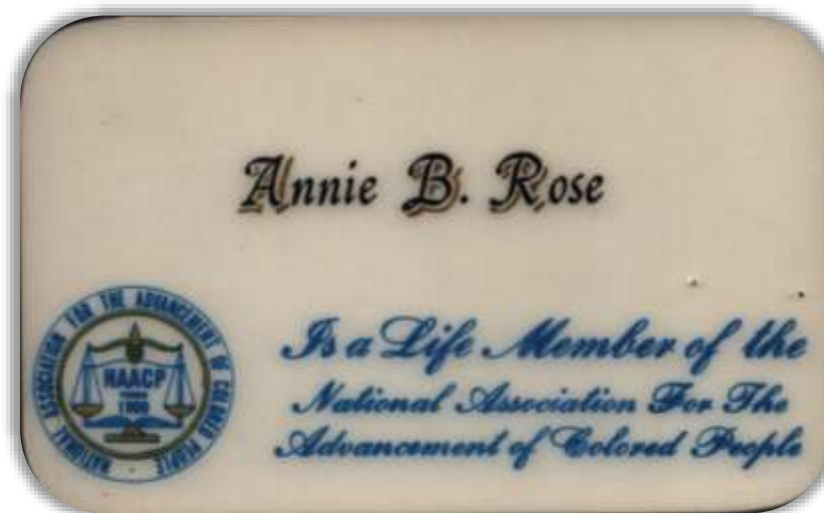
Rose was an active member of many local and national fraternal and community organizations, such as the Daughters of the Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World, the Order of the Eastern Star...



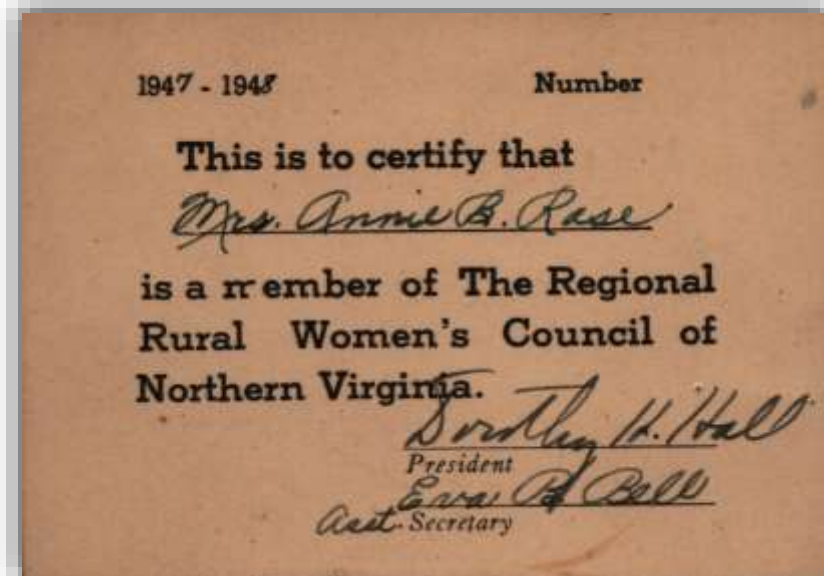
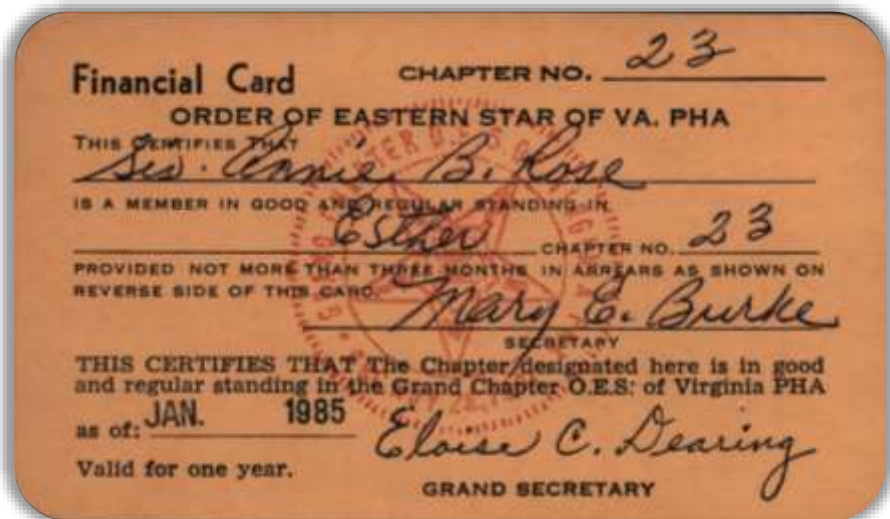
# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



...The National Black Women's Political Caucus...



...The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People...



...The Regional Rural Women's Council of Northern Virginia...

...and more!

# CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

Mr. Leroy S. Bendheim  
Chairman of Alexandria City School Board  
Alexandria, Virginia

Dear Sir:

We, the Women's Civic Club of Alexandria, Virginia, feel that our community would be greatly benefited if a Negro member could be appointed to the Alexandria City School Board. For this reason we wish to submit for your consideration the name of Mr. Ferdinand T. Day for such a position. He is a native Alexandrian, a graduate of Miners' Teachers College of Washington, D. C., has taught in the state of North Carolina and also substituted here in our City. He is a loyal civic minded citizen and furthermore, is a parent, having a daughter who is attending school here in Alexandria.

Trusting you and the members of your Board will give this matter your deep consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Annie B. Rose, President

Harriet Jenkins, Secretary

THE WOMEN'S CIVIC CLUB OF ALEXANDRIA

A trailblazer, Rose was elected the first Black president of the Women's Civic Club of Alexandria. This position allowed her to advocate for Black Alexandrians and their concerns.

In 1952, Rose wrote to Leroy Bendheim, the Chairman of the Alexandria City School Board. She wanted a Black person to hold a position on the school board. Rose suggested Ferdinand T. Day for the job.

In 1964, Day became the first Black school board member in Virginia's history when he was appointed to the Alexandria City School Board. In 1971, Day made history again when he was elected to be the chairman of the Alexandria City School Board. This made him the first Black person to chair a public school board in Virginia.

Pictured: Letter from Annie B. Rose to Leroy S. Bendheim, Chairman of the Alexandria City School Board, dated May 30, 1952.

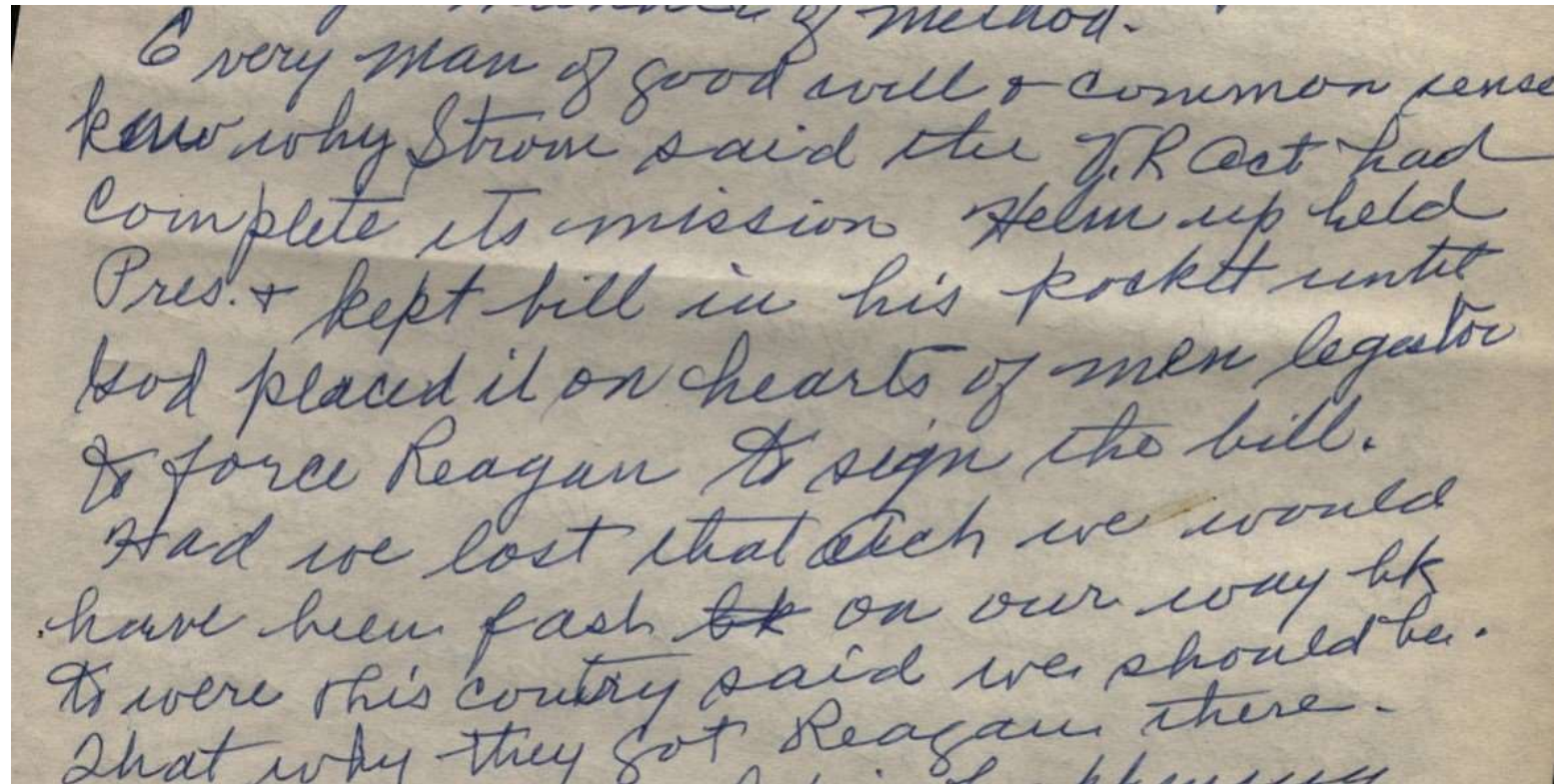


# POLITICS

Rose knew the importance of the right to vote. She called for Black people to use their votes to protect their civil rights. In her writings and speeches, Rose expressed her anxieties surrounding the protection of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. In the excerpt below, Rose reflected on the uncertain future of the Act under the Reagan administration.

***“Every man of good will + common sense know why Strom [Thurmond] said the [Voting Rights] Act had complete[d] its mission...[Jesse] Helm[s] up held Pres. [Reagan] + kept bill in his pocket until God placed it on hearts of men [legislator?] to force Reagan to sign the bill. Had we lost that Act we would have been fast on our way [back] to [where] this country said we should be. That[‘s] why they got Reagan there.”***

--- handwritten draft by Rose, undated



Every man of good will + common sense  
know why Strom said the V.R. Act had  
complete its mission. Helm up held  
Pres. + kept bill in his pocket until  
God placed it on hearts of men, legislator  
to force Reagan to sign the bill.  
Had we lost that Act we would  
have been fast ~~to~~ on our way bk  
to were this country said we should be.  
That why they got Reagan there.



# POLITICS

Rose participated in voter registration drives and transported voters to the polls. She was a member of political organizations like the League of Women Voters. Rose also campaigned for Democratic candidates that reflected her values. Rose believed, “The only way a black person can defend himself—he’s got to know the value of the ballot and use it.”

In the political field, she made many firsts. Rose was the first Black person elected to serve as president of the Elector of Northern Virginia, she was the first Black woman to serve on the Democratic Committee of Alexandria and she was also the first Black woman to be a delegate for the Virginia Democratic Convention.

Letter from Rose to Senator Clyde Duvall recommending Douglas Wilder as the candidate for Lieutenant Governor of Virginia, dated September 21, 1985

812 Duke Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
September 21, 1985

Honorable Clyde Duvall  
Fairfax, Virginia

Dear Senator:

I wish I were in possession of words or language that could express to you and the other gentlemen that joined you, in putting forth Senator Douglas Wilder's name as Lieutenant Governor.

When I think of our Virginia being the third most conservative state in Union, I rejoice that time has really given us strong courageous men of convictions to dare place themselves and their various and many positions in the society, on the Chopping Block.

Thank you again, for presenting and supporting a prepared, dedicated, concerned Black Citizen as is Douglas Wilder.

I am grateful that the opportunity and pleasure has been mine, to meet in your lovely home with various committees and learned you were concerned about all people and their progress. That's why I address this to you.

Never before has a woman or a Black graced our state for such a high office. Thanks to you and the others. If they don't win, especially Wilder, I feel assured that blessings unseen will fall upon you and all that have shown to our state and the world that we do have those close to us, regardless of tradition, who believe in Justice and real Democracy.

Sir, I pray that God's sun of love will ever continue to bless you as you continue to battle and struggle for ALL of God's people.

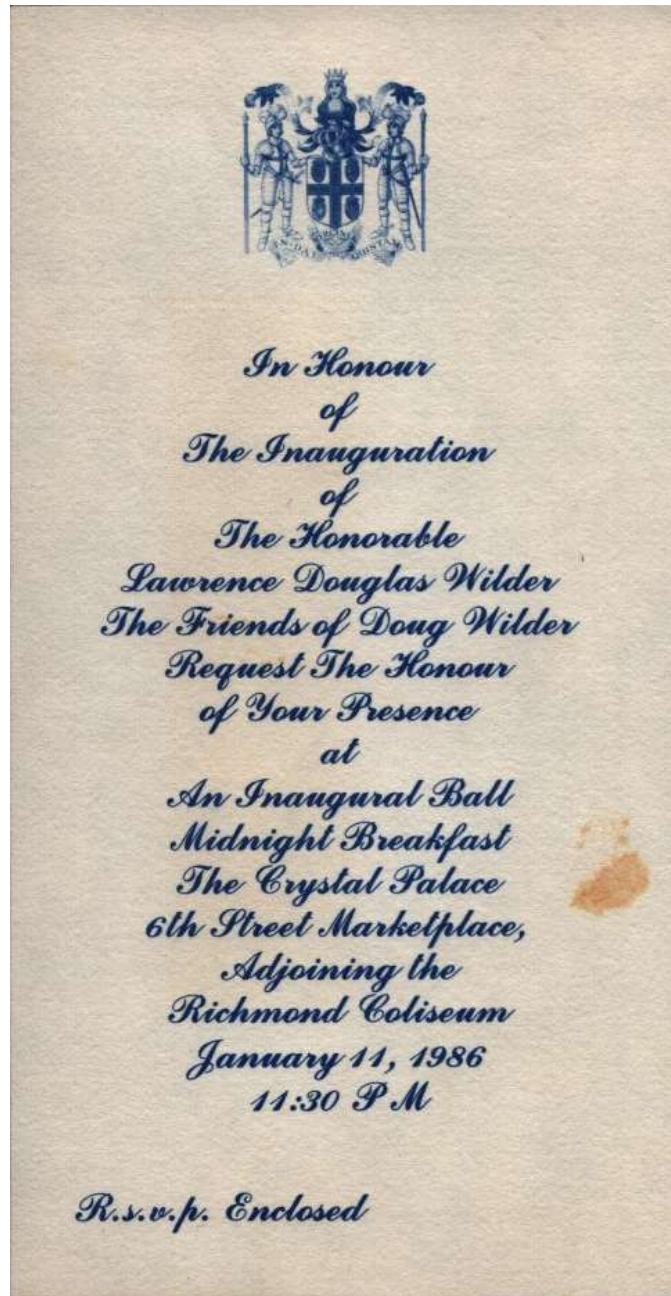
Humbly and sincerely,

Annie B. Rose

Many politicians were grateful for her contributions to their campaigns.



Pictured above: Rose in attendance at dinner in support of Aldai Stevenson's 1956 campaign for president of the United States



# POLITICS



Pictured above: Rose posing alongside Alexandrian politicians, Jim Moran and Patricia Ticer (far right).

Pictured left: Invitation to the Inauguration of Doug Wilder, the first Black Governor of Virginia since Reconstruction. Wilder invited Rose to this event as a show of appreciation for her contributions to his election campaign.



# ELDERLY AND HOUSING ADVOCATE

Rose was passionate about protecting the elderly. She served as an Alexandria Residential Care Home board member. Rose was also a founding member of both the Alexandria Commission on Aging and the Senior Citizens Employment and Services of Alexandria.

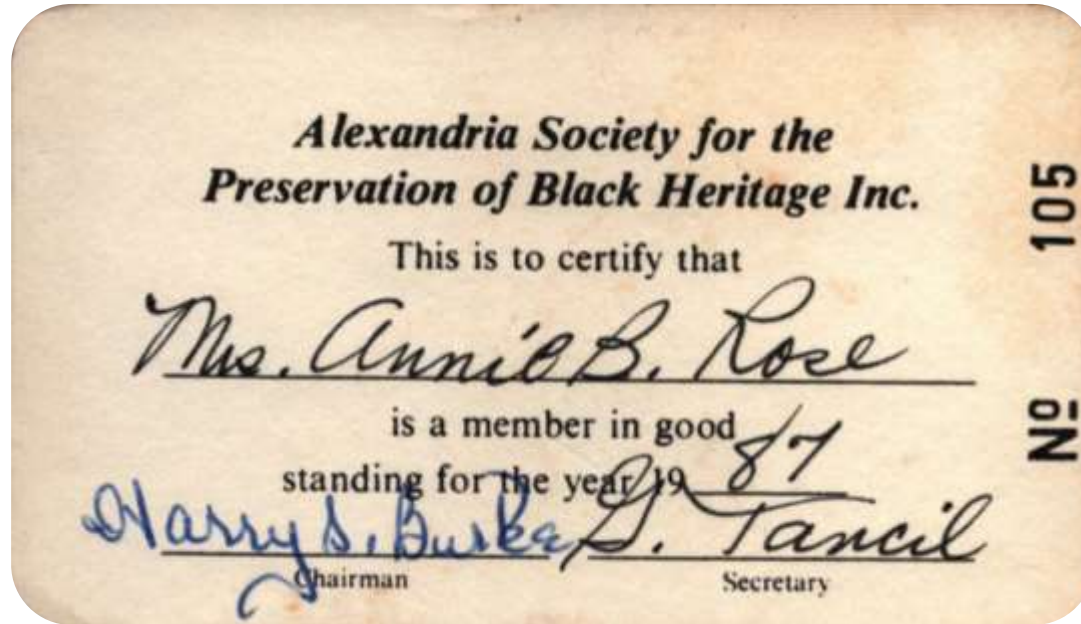
Rose was also a housing advocate for impoverished Alexandrians. She witnessed the impact of urban renewal on her neighborhood, during which she almost lost her home on Duke Street. Other Black families did lose their homes and communities to urban renewal projects. Rose criticized politicians who did little to help those most affected by this problem. The lack of affordable housing in Alexandria continues to be an issue, just as it was in Rose's day.

After her passing, she was given a fitting tribute when Pendleton House, an apartment building for senior citizens, was dedicated in her honor. The building was renamed the Annie B. Rose House on November 17, 1990.





# BLACK HISTORY



Rose was a founding member of the Alexandria Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage. This organization grew from the efforts of Rose and other concerned Alexandrians to preserve the old Alfred Street Baptist Church. Following their successful effort to save the old church building, the organization opened the Alexandria Black History Resource Center in 1983. Now the Alexandria Black History Museum, this institution is a testimony to Rose's activism.



Pictured: (above) Rose's membership card for the ASPBH.; (right) Rose and Lorraine Funn Atkins in front of Alfred Street Baptist Church, c. 1981.

# BLACK HISTORY



Rose was dedicated to making sure that young people in Alexandria were aware of the history of Black people in this country. She frequently spoke in schools to educate students about this history.

Rose is pictured here talking to a group in front of 1315 Duke Street, during a Black history walking tour. Her connection to this building was rooted in her father's, Lewis H. Bailey, experience as an enslaved person.



Alexandria was a major port in the domestic slave trade. As a child, Lewis H. Bailey was separated from his mother and sold from the Alexandria Slave Pen at 1315 Duke Street. His experiences inspired much of Rose's activism. She made sure to talk about him and his life at every opportunity she had.

In 1978, the Franklin and Armfield Office on 1315 Duke Street was designated a National Historic Landmark. A decade later, the site was rededicated as Freedom House in Bailey's honor. Playing an instrumental role in both efforts, Rose made sure that her father's memory was enshrined in Alexandria's history.



# AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

## Rose wins Burke award

Annie Bailey Rose added to her long list of civic honors last Sunday when she was named the recipient of the Burke Award. The award, given by the Alexandria Red Cross, honors the individual whose humanitarian and philanthropic service to the community is outstanding.

Rose has been a fixture in Alexandria for more than 90 years, and her commitment to housing, the elderly and minority voting has led her to involvement with nearly every city group so aligned.

Also honored, though posthumously, was Elizabeth E. Smith, a former member of the Alexandria Red Cross.

Pictured right: In 1986, Rose received the Alexandria Red Cross Burke Award for her community service.

Rose's contributions to the community of Alexandria did not go unnoticed.

She was the recipient of countless awards and tributes in recognition of her tireless service.



In 1987, Rose received the Living Legacy Award of the National Caucus and Center on Black Aged.

Pictured above: Rose accepting the award, presented by actress Phylicia Rashad.





# The Collection also contains...CORRESPONDENCE

<sup>III</sup>  
illness.  
Dearest Anna now this  
is what you want to hear  
I have not given up  
I have just begun to fight  
one defeat only makes me  
fight harder, so keep on  
fighting to get me one -  
witness who can truthfully  
tell in a higher court what  
he saw as this is no -  
small case this case can.

<sup>IV</sup>  
be the beginning of the  
colored race freedom in  
the whole South.

***“Dearest Anna now this is what you want to hear. I have not given up I have just begun to fight one Defeat only makes me Fight Harder, so keep on fighting to get me one witness who can truthfully tell in a higher court what he saw as this is no small case this case can be the [beginning] of the colored race freedom in the whole South.”***

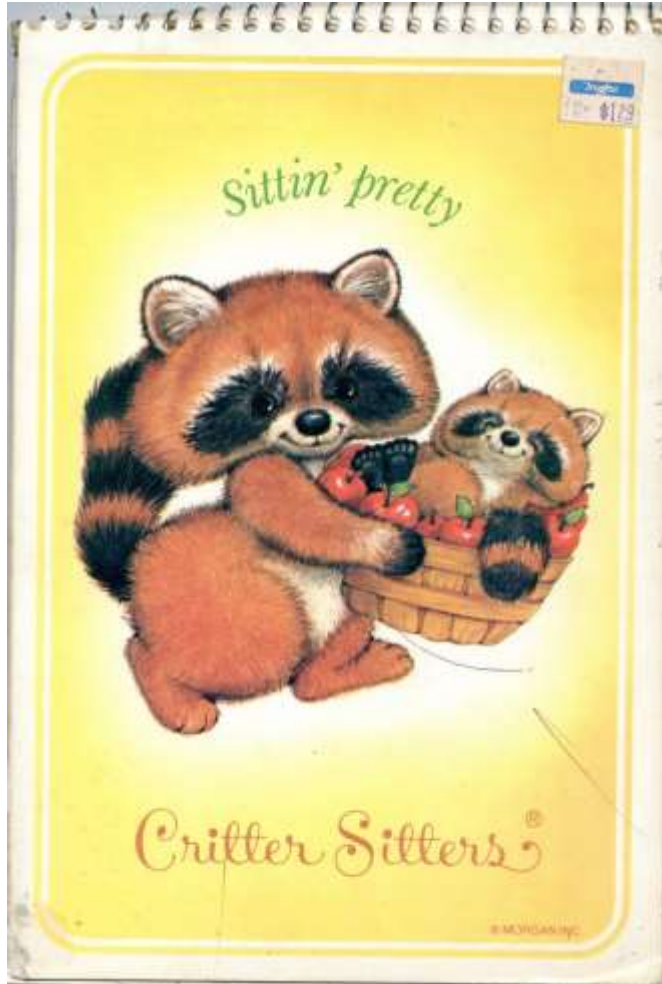
***---excerpt of letter from Tonita Holmes to Annie B. Rose, dated January 23, 1946.***

In 1946, Tonita Holmes was beaten by a bus driver and arrested in Alexandria. Like Rosa Parks, she refused to move from her seat to the back of the bus.

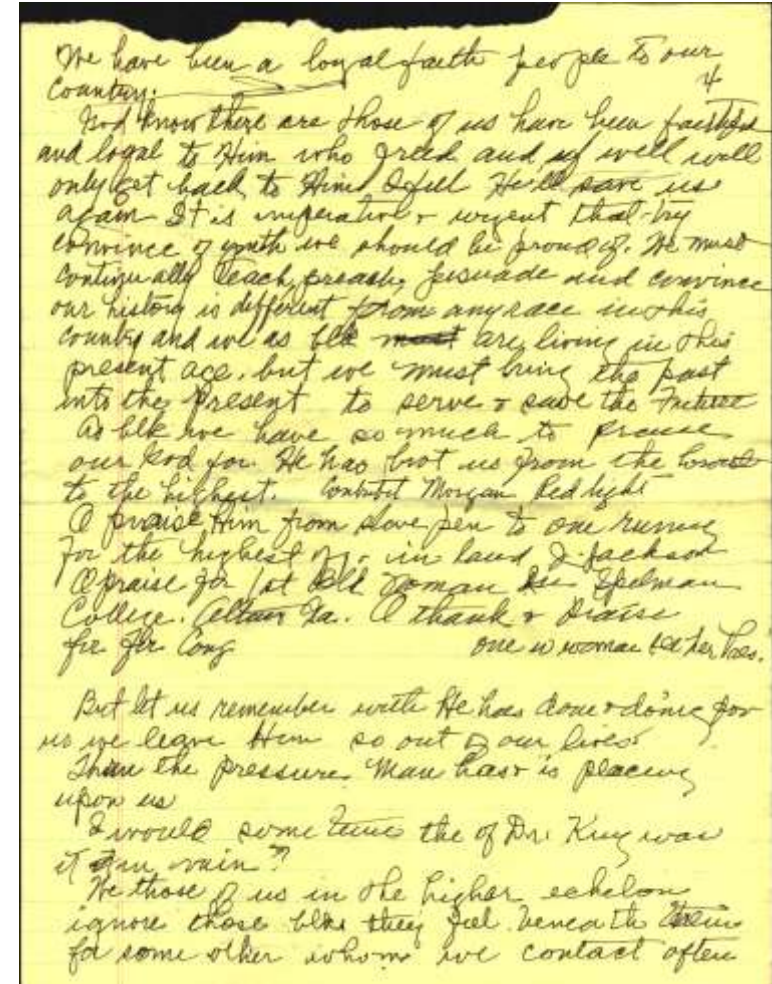
There were many instances of racial violence against Black women on public transportation in the South. Still, women like Parks and Holmes resisted this oppression.

They did not fight alone. Their communities rallied to support them. For Rose's part, she posted a \$25 bond to help Holmes get released from jail. She also took care of a badly injured Holmes at her home. Per Holmes' request, Rose helped her find witnesses to her attack.

# ...WRITINGS AND SPEECHES...



Pictured: The cover of one of Rose's notebooks. She wrote about her daily activities, drafted letters and speeches, and took notes on meetings she attended.



Pictured: An excerpt from a draft for a speech, undated. Rose frequently discussed issues related to religion, race and gender, history, education, community, and politics in her speeches.



# ...PHOTOGRAPHS...



There are a variety of photographs in this collection. Many of them are images of Rose. In the left photo, Rose stands with Hannah Adams at an unknown event in Atlanta, 1953.

There are also photos of Rose's family and historic images of individuals with an unknown connection to Rose. On the right is a photo of an unidentified group standing in front of a bus, 1961.



# ...AND ALBUMS!



Pictured: The cover of one of the photo albums in the collection. This album is a scrapbook of images and newspaper articles collected after Rose's death.



Pictured: A page from one of the albums in the collection. In this image, Rose is singing into a microphone. This album is a scrapbook of articles, pictures, and certificates related to the various tributes that Rose received in her life.



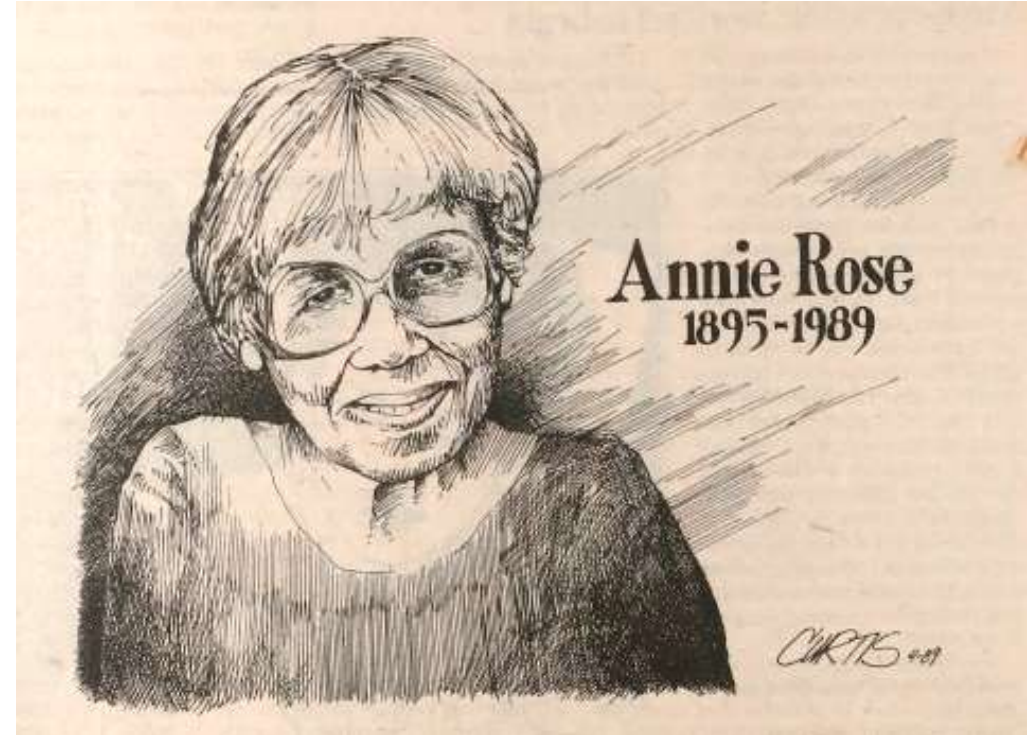
# LEGACY

Rose died on April 25, 1989. She received many tributes following her death. Various newspapers eulogized Rose through articles that recounted her life and her contributions to the City of Alexandria.

The Virginia House of Delegates passed a resolution to recognize her passing. In 1990, a building housing senior citizens was renamed the Annie B. Rose House in honor of her activism on the issue.

In 1991, the Black History Resource Center unveiled an exhibit dedicated to her life and activism. The Alexandria Commission on Aging created the Annie B. Rose Lifetime Achievement Award. It recognized individuals who committed themselves to helping their community.

Rose's legacy is felt the most by the lasting impact she made on Alexandria's community.



Explore the Annie B. Rose Collection at:  
[Historic Alexandria Collections Online](#)

