



Cobblestone and brick-lined streets, magnolias and live oaks, mansions and old churches, the river and the railroad, the Cotton Exchange and Chandler's Wharf – all harken back to an era of gracious Southern living from days gone by.

But intertwined with the prosperity enjoyed by many are the struggles and hardships of the African American Community.

No tour of Wilmington is complete without exploring the history of its African American citizens. Some are stories of everyday lives; some are so profound they changed American history.

Black Wilmingtonians in 1898 enjoyed a remarkable degree of social, economic, and political equality. In addition to overthrowing a legally elected government, the **Coup d'état of 1898** emboldened white supremacists, becoming a catalyst for "Jim Crow" and disenfranchisement laws nationwide.

Althea Gibson lived in Wilmington with **Dr. Hubert Eaton, Sr.** and his family, graduating from high school and training on the grass court at his home. She broke the color

barrier in tennis, becoming the first black to play at the U. S. Nationals and Wimbledon, winning both twice.

Dr. Eaton was later instrumental in the desegregation of Wilmington schools. In the resulting climate of racial unrest and violence, the conviction of the **Wilmington 10** brought notoriety to the city as many considered the men to be political prisoners. Amnesty International took up the case, and a *60 Minutes* broadcast suggested evidence had been fabricated. Their convictions were later overturned.

Hear the stories, see the sites with

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