



AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA

EDWARD FELLS

PUBLIC SERVICE, MINISTRY & LEGACY

City Council Member • Constable • Painter • Methodist Minister

PUBLIC OFFICES

City Council
1874–1876

Constable
1890

A LIFE CONNECTED TO PUBLIC SERVICE & COMMUNITY

Edward Fells was born in 1852 in either Florida or Georgia. Historical records identify him as a painter and Methodist minister who lived in Green Cove Springs at least through 1920.

Fells served on the Green Cove Springs City Council from 1874 to 1876 and was later elected constable in 1890. He is also said to have served in ministry at Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church in Green Cove Springs.

SERVICE ON THE GREEN COVE SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL

Edward Fells served as a member of the Green Cove Springs City Council from 1874 to 1876. His service places him among the African American men who participated in municipal government during the years following the Civil War.

ELECTED CONSTABLE

In 1890, Fells was elected constable, adding another public office to his record of civic service in Green Cove Springs. His service in more than one municipal role reflects continued participation in the public life of the community.

MINISTRY & COMMUNITY LIFE

Beyond government service, Fells worked as a painter and was a Methodist minister. The submitted history states that he served in ministry at Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church in Green Cove Springs. Records cited in the family material indicate that he remained in Green Cove Springs at least through 1920.

FATHER OF AUGUSTA FELLS SAVAGE

Edward Fells was the father of Augusta Fells Savage, the renowned sculptor and artist born in Green Cove Springs. This family connection links his civic and religious service to one of the community's most significant artistic legacies.

A LEGACY OF SERVICE & CULTURAL CONNECTION

Edward Fells's story connects African American political participation, public service, faith, and the cultural history of Green Cove Springs through the remarkable legacy of his daughter, Augusta Fells Savage.

SOURCES

- Brown, Canter Jr. *Florida's Black Public Officials, 1867–1924*. Tuscaloosa and London: University of Alabama Press, 1998.
- Board of County Commissioners. *Who's Who Politically Speaking in Clay County, Florida 1858–1986*. 1988.

ARCHIVAL NOTE: The submitted history gives Edward Fells's birthplace as either Florida or Georgia and describes his association with Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church as reported rather than definitively documented. These details have been preserved as supplied.