

Clara Luper:  
Mother of Oklahoma's Civil Rights

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## Primary Sources

"1963-06-11 Report to the American People on Civil Rights." *John F. Kennedy: Presidential Library and Museum*. John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, n.d. Web. 21 Mar. 2015.  
<[http://www.jfklibrary.org/Asset-Viewer/LH8F\\_0Mzv0e6Ro1yEm74Ng.aspx](http://www.jfklibrary.org/Asset-Viewer/LH8F_0Mzv0e6Ro1yEm74Ng.aspx)>.

This is a primary source. It is an audio clip and transcript of John F. Kennedy's Civil Rights Address which was originally broadcasted over the radio. The transcript was a great source because it allowed me to analyze the content without any other interpretations and because of the audio clip, was very reliable.

"1964 Civil Rights Act Fast Facts." *CNN*. Cable News Network, 18 June 2014. Web. 21 Mar. 2015.  
<<http://www.cnn.com/2014/06/18/us/1964-civil-rights-act-fast-facts/>>.

This is a primary and secondary source. It is a timeline of African American history and the path to equal rights, and contains a gallery of images. However, I did not use the timeline at all for any content on my website and focused on the images, especially the one of Martin Luther King, Jr. and former President Johnson.

*African Americans: Many Rivers To Cross*. Prod. Henry Louis Gates. Perf. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. WNET, n.d. *Netflix*. Web. 24 Feb. 2015.

This is a primary and secondary source. It is a documentary with several episodes that spans over African American history since the beginning of time, to the 21st century. I focused on the episodes that covered the 1900s and the Civil Rights Era. This is my most informative source about African American history as a whole and provides a lot of context, however, has nothing about Clara Luper herself.

"Annual Scholarship Retreat." *Oklahoma City University*. Oklahoma City University, n.d. Web. 21 Mar. 2015.  
<<http://www2.okcu.edu/students/THENEWMSAWEBBSITE/pages/AIS-LuperRetreat.aspx>>.

This is a primary source. It contains an image of Clara Luper scholarship alumni along with the conjoined American Indian scholarship of Oklahoma City University. I used the picture to reflect how the scholarship made in honor of Clara Luper affected people.

Brown, Emma. "Okla. Civil Rights Activist Clara Luper, Who Led One of First Sit-in Protests, Dies at 88." *Washington Post*. The Washington Post, 13 June 2011. Web. 19 Mar. 2015.  
<[http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/obituaries/okla-civil-rights-activist-clara-luper-who-led-one-of-first-sit-in-protests-dies-at-88/2011/06/12/AGHIMiTH\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/obituaries/okla-civil-rights-activist-clara-luper-who-led-one-of-first-sit-in-protests-dies-at-88/2011/06/12/AGHIMiTH_story.html)>.

This is a primary and secondary source. It contains numerous sources from Clara Luper herself, and close family members and friends. It is a very informative yet brief biography, and focuses on the sit-in movement she started.

"Brown v. Board at Fifty: "With an Even Hand" A Century of Racial Segregation, 1849-1950." *Library of Congress*. Library of Congress, n.d. Web. 03 Feb. 2015.  
<<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/brown/brown-segregation.html>>.

This is a primary and secondary source. It contains images, as well as explains the history of African Americans. This gave me a deeper understanding of what segregation was like and all the obstacles in the way of integration.

"Civil Rights Movement." *HISTORY*. AETN UK, 12 Mar. 2013. Web. 08 Feb. 2015.  
<<http://www.history.co.uk/study-topics/history-of-america/civil-rights-movement>>.

This is a primary and secondary source. It contains quotes, and gives a brief background over passive resistance and violence as a protesting method. This helped me understand how Clara used nonviolence as a protesting method.

Cooks, Bridget R. "What Do We See When We Look? Photography, Lynching, and Moral Change." *Santa Clara Magazine*. SCU, n.d. Web. 24 Feb. 2015.  
<<http://www.scu.edu/scm/spring2006/photography.cfm>>.

This is a primary and secondary source. It discusses the importance of images and contains pictures of lynching as well as their meaning. Bridget Cooks explains how lynching was seen as a form of entertainment, and how the photography reflects that.

Dean, Bryan. "Election Re-invigorates Oklahoma City Civil-rights Leader Clara Luper." *NewsOK.com*. NewsOK, 21 Jan. 2009. Web. 21 Mar. 2015.  
<<http://newsok.com/election-re-invigorates-oklahoma-city-civil-rights-leader-clara-luper/article/3339500>>.

This is a primary source. It tells us about Clara Luper's reaction to Barack Obama's election in 2008. This helped me understand the cause Clara Luper was fighting for and how she and her entire family felt about the first African American president.

*Excerpt: Signing of Civil Rights Act*. Perf. Lyndon B. Johnson. *YouTube*. The LBJ Presidential Library, 14 Feb. 2014. Web. 25 Apr. 2015.  
<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YXIaFLPjYgU>>. This is a primary source. It is a video of Lyndon B. Johnson signing the Civil Rights Act. A clip of this video is on my timeline. This helped me understand how Lyndon B. Johnson felt about this document and the cultural impact it had on the United States.

Fernandez, Manny, and Richard PÉrez-peÑa. "As Two Oklahoma Students Are Expelled for Racist Chant, Sigma Alpha Epsilon Vows Wider Inquiry." *The New York Times*. The New York Times, 10 Mar. 2015. Web. 17 Mar. 2015.  
<[http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/11/us/university-of-oklahoma-sigma-alpha-epsilon-racist-fraternity-video.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/11/us/university-of-oklahoma-sigma-alpha-epsilon-racist-fraternity-video.html?_r=0)>.

This is a primary and secondary source. It contains media of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, and the protests by the University of Oklahoma students. This source helped me understand how racism is still alive by referencing other fraternity incidents.

Henderson, Joyce. "Joyce Henderson." Personal interview. 7 Feb. 2015.

This is a primary source. I conducted a personal interview with Joyce Henderson, who participated in the sit-ins and knew Clara Luper personally. This interview gives me a deep and personal understanding of Clara Luper's passion for her students, the influence she had on them, and how they felt participating in the sit-ins.

Hevesi, Dennis. "Clara Luper, a Leader of Civil Rights Sit-Ins, Dies at 88." *The New York Times*. The New York Times, 11 June 2011. Web. 03 Mar. 2015.  
<[http://www.nytimes.com/2011/06/12/us/12luper.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/06/12/us/12luper.html?_r=0)>.

This is a primary and secondary source. It has a lot of references from people who knew her personally and they discussed how she impacted their lives and American history.

Hughes, Langston. "Let America Be America Again." *Poets.org*. Academy of American Poets, n.d. Web. 10 Mar. 2015.  
<<http://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/let-america-be-america-again>>.

This is a primary source. It is a poem, 'Let America Be America Again', written by Langston Hughes. This source reflects the frustration against inequality in a form of art.

Hunter-Gault, Charlayne. "Fifty Years After the Birmingham Children's Crusade." *The New Yorker*. Condé Nast, 2 May 2013. Web. 19 Mar. 2015.  
<<http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/fifty-years-after-the-birmingham-childrens-crusade>>.

This is a primary and secondary source. It contains media over the Children's Crusade and explains the repercussions of their march.

"Integration of Central High School." 2015. The History Channel Website. Mar 8 2015, 4:01 [Http://www.history.com/photos/central-high-school-integration](http://www.history.com/photos/central-high-school-integration).

This is a primary source. It is a gallery of images that are related to the integration of a highschool, and helped me understand how both sides felt about mixed race education.

"Interview with I.G. Purser." Interview by Rodger Harris. Oklahoma Historical Society, n.d. Web.

This is a primary source. It is an audio interview from 01/02/1997 of I.G Purser, the lieutenant assigned to downtown Oklahoma City, specifically to the sit-in demonstrations. This helped me understand the "opposition" and how Clara Luper communicated and worked with him in order to create a safe environment to demonstrate.

Kennedy, Kirin. "The NAACP Youth and College Division Celebrates the Life of Clara Luper." *NAACP*. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 9 June 2011. Web. 09 Feb. 2015.

<<http://www.naacp.org/blog/entry/the-naacp-youth-and-college-division-celebrates-the-life-of-clara-luper>>.

This is a primary and secondary source. It contains images and talks about Clara Luper's story. This helped me understand the details of the sit-ins and had a lot of biographical information.

Korenblit, Michael. "Michael Korenblit." Personal interview. 6 Feb. 2015.

This is a primary source. Michael Korenblit was a close, personal friend with Clara Luper. Speaking with him gave me a deep understanding of the kind of lady she was and how passionate she was.

"Luper, Clara (1923-2011)." *The Black Past: Remembered and Reclaimed*. BlackPast.org, n.d. Web. 02 Mar. 2015. <<http://www.blackpast.org/aaw/luper-clara-1923>>.

This is a primary and secondary source. It contains a lot of biographical information on Clara Luper, and helped me understand her legacy and the effects she had on America.

Luper, Clara. *Behold The Walls*. Oklahoma City: Jim Wire, 1979. Print.

This is a primary source. *Behold The Walls* is a book written by Clara Luper herself. This helped me understand things from her perspective and to develop my project accordingly.

Luper, Clara. "Clara Luper Show - 1987/08/08." *Clara Luper Radio Show*. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 8 Aug. 1987. *YouTube*. Web. 24 Apr. 2015.  
<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NbVetJTv8o>>.

This is a primary source. In this radio episode, Clara Luper discusses numerous things including the moral issues of segregation. She was discussing the opinions of those who believed segregation was acceptable and her dissatisfaction towards it. This helped me understand how she did not believe segregation was simply law, but racism and a moral issue.

Luper, Clara. "Clara Luper Show - 1988/09/03." *Clara Luper Radio Show*. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 3 Sept. 1988. *YouTube*. Web. 11 Apr. 2015.  
<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aO-rsps9a1A&index=5&list=PL2cTTbGugbsbZgpNIR0wmosvBEXdP0S7F>>.

This is a primary source. It is one of the nineteen radio episodes of the Clara Luper Show available on the Oklahoma Historical Society's YouTube channel. Clara Luper discusses the NAACP, and goes through a timeline of African American history. Hearing her speak was very important for me to understand how she felt proud of who she was and how she felt about the ongoing struggle for freedom.

Mahatma, Gandhi, and Louis Fischer. *The Essential Gandhi: An Anthology on His Writings on His Life, Work, and Ideas*. New York: Vintage, 1983. Print.

This is a primary source. It is a compiled book of Gandhi's writings. This gave me an extensive understanding of passive resistance and what made his nonviolent method work.

McGuigan, Patrick B. "COMMENTARY: OCU Continues to Honor Clara Luper's Legacy." *CapitolBeatOK*. CapitolBeakOK, 9 Sept. 2014. Web. 06 Feb. 2015. <<http://www.capitolbeatok.com/reports/commentary-ocu-continues-to-honor-clara-luper-s-legacy>>.

This is a primary and secondary source. It contains quotes, as well as interpretations and conclusions of Clara Luper's legacy. This gives me a further understanding of Clara Luper's impact on not only Oklahoma, but the nation.

"Negro Pickets Walk at Doors Of City Cafes." *The Oklahoman* 7 Aug. 1960: 1. *The Oklahoman*. The Oklahoman. Web. 16 May 2015.

This is a primary source. It is an article from The Oklahoman newspaper, published in the mid-1900s, about the sit-ins. This is important because it allows me to see and analyze the perspective of the "opposition."

"Negro Youths Continue Their Store 'Sitting'" *The Oklahoman* 24 Aug. 1958: 1. *The Oklahoman Digital Archives*. Web. 12 May 2015.

This is a primary source. It is a newspaper article from the 1950s describing the sit-ins. This was crucial to helping me understand the perspective of the spectators.

Obama, Barack. "Barack Obama's Feb. 5 Speech." *The New York Times*. The New York Times, 04 Feb. 2008. Web. 21 Mar. 2015. <[http://www.nytimes.com/2008/02/05/us/politics/05text-obama.html?pagewanted=print&\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/02/05/us/politics/05text-obama.html?pagewanted=print&_r=0)>.

This is a primary source. It is a transcript of Barack Obama's speech on February 5, 2008. This was helpful to me in understanding how the struggle for racial equality exists and Barack Obama's encouragement for equal treatment.



"OKC Mod » Signs and Asides, Part 2." *OKC Mod Squad*. OKC Mod, n.d. Web. 29 Apr. 2015. <<http://okcmod.com/?p=3773>>.

This is a primary source. It contains images of old buildings and establishments in Oklahoma City, including Adair's Cafeteria, where Clara Luper conducted a sit-in.

"People and Events: Lynching in America." *PBS*. PBS, n.d. Web. 11 Feb. 2015. <[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/till/peoplevents/e\\_lynch.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/till/peoplevents/e_lynch.html)>.

This is a secondary source. This explain how lynching worked in the South and the laws behind it.

"Photograph of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Addressing the Crowd during the 1957 Prayer Pilgrimage for Freedom in Washington, D.C., 08/28/1963." *National Archives*. The U.S National Archives and Records Administration, n.d. Web. 18 Mar. 2015.

This is a primary source. It is an image of Martin Luther King Jr. presenting his speech in Washington D.C and it can be seen in my 'Passive Resistance' section.

Pilgrim, David. " What Was Jim Crow." *Jim Crow Museum: Origins of Jim Crow*. Jim Crow Museum, n.d. Web. 11 Feb. 2015. <<http://www.ferris.edu/jimcrow/what.htm>>.

This is a primary and secondary source. It contains images, and helped me understand that Jim Crow Laws are not only the actual laws, but the social expectations.

"President Barack Obama." *The White House*. The White House, n.d. Web. 16 Mar. 2015. <<https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/president-obama/>>.

This is a primary source and secondary source. It contains an image of Barack Obama and a biography of his life.

*President Kennedy Civil Rights Address*. Perf. John F. Kennedy. 1963. *C-Span*. Web. 12 Apr. 2015.  
<<http://www.c-span.org/video/?313142-1/president-kennedy-civil-rights-address>>.

This is a primary source. It is the full video of John F. Kennedy giving his Civil Rights Address speech to the public.

Raymond, Ken. "Clara Luper Remembered as a Champion of Equality." *NewsOK*. NewsOK, 10 June 2011. Web. 3 Mar. 2015.  
<<http://newsok.com/civil-rights-leader-clara-luper-has-died/article/3575634>>.

This is a primary and secondary source. It contains images and gives details of Clara Luper's life and the sit-in movement. This gave me a lot of media to use on my website and biographical information.

"Resistance." *Oklahoma Historical Society*. Oklahoma History Center, n.d. Web. 3 Mar. 2015. <<http://www.okhistory.org/kids/resistance>>.

This is a primary and secondary source. It contains images and an interview with Clara Luper. This source helped me understand Clara Luper's struggle for equality and her legacy.

"Sitdowns in Oklahoma Score Gains in Peace." *New Journal and Guide* (1916-2003): 1. Mar 05 1960. ProQuest. Web. 13 May 2015 .

This is a primary source. It discusses how the sit-ins remained nonviolent and the actions taken to ensure that. This was important in helping me understand the importance of the safety of the protestors and the impact of the sit-ins.

"Students Winning Rights in Oklahoma." New York Amsterdam News (1943-1961), City edition ed.: 24. Aug 30 1958. ProQuest.Web. 13 May 2015 .

This is a primary source. It is a newspaper article discussing the impact of the sit-ins and the gain of rights for African Americans. This helped me understand their advancement in society and how the children instigated that.

Svrluga, Susan. "Sigma Alpha Epsilon Launches National Effort to Eliminate Racism from Its Chapters." *Washington Post*. The Washington Post, 18 Mar. 2015. Web. 19 Mar. 2015.

<<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/grade-point/wp/2015/03/18/sigma-alpha-epsilon-launches-national-effort-to-eliminate-racism-from-its-chapters/>>.

This is a primary and secondary source. It contains video footage and explains Sigma Alpha Epsilon's wrongdoing and their consequences.

*The Muskogee Cimeter*. (Muskogee, Indian Territory, Okla.), 10 Jan. 1908. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress.

<<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83025060/1908-01-10/ed-1/seq-1/>>

This is a primary source. It is an editorial that was published in 1906 in Muskogee, Oklahoma, that speaks out against Jim Crow laws and the treatment of African Americans. This helped me understand that people have disagreed with the inequality for a long time and also gave me an understanding of the fearful environment colored people were subjected to.

"Untitled Document." *Race In 19th Century America*. Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media, n.d. Web. 24 Feb. 2015.

<<http://chnm.gmu.edu/courses/omalley/race/four.html>>.

This is a primary source. It contains images of lynching and allowed me to analyze them.

Walker, Devona. "Oklahoma City's Clara Luper Helped Give Birth to a Movement National Effort Gained Steam after First Desegregation Sit-in." *NewsOK*. NewsOK, 22 Feb. 2008. Web. 08 Feb. 2015.

<<http://newsok.com/oklahoma-citys-clara-luper-helped-give-birth-to-a-movement-national-effort-gained-steam-after-first-desegregation-sit-in-span/article/3207432>>.

This is a primary and secondary source. It contains quotes, and explains the events of the sit-in, Clara Luper's activities and her legacy. This helped me understand Clara Luper's life and her impact on her peers.

Williams, Portwood, Jr. "Portwood Williams Jr." Personal interview. 7 Feb. 2015.

This is a primary source. Portwood Williams Jr. was one of the original 13 kids who participated in the sit-in with Clara Luper, and she was a mentor to him. Speaking to him gave me more knowledge about Clara Luper's activities, and how the sit-in affected the kids.

"Woolworth's Lunch Counter - Separate Is Not Equal." *Separate Is Not Equal*. Smithsonian National Museum of American History, n.d. Web. 08 Mar. 2015.

<<http://americanhistory.si.edu/brown/history/6-legacy/freedom-struggle-2.html>>.

This is a primary source. It is a gallery of images related to the Greensboro Sit-In.

Zangrado, Robert L., John F. Callahan, and Dickson D. Bruce, Jr. "About Lynching." *Modern American Poetry*. Department of English, University of Illinois, n.d. Web. 15 Mar. 2015.

<[http://www.english.illinois.edu/maps/poets/g\\_1/lynching/lynching.htm](http://www.english.illinois.edu/maps/poets/g_1/lynching/lynching.htm)>.

This is a primary and secondary source. It contains images on lynching and three excerpts about the background of those images. This helped me understand the cruelty in which African Americans were treated with.

Zizzo, David. "Nonviolent Sit-Ins Spur Civil Rights." *The Oklahoman* 24 Apr. 1994: 183.  
*The Oklahoman*. The Oklahoman. Web.

This is a primary source. It is a newspaper article from the late 1900s explaining how the sit-ins impacted equal rights in Oklahoma. This helps by giving me a deeper understanding of how the sit-ins instigated a movement and pushed equal rights.

## Secondary Sources

"Gandhi, Mohandas Karamchand (1869-1948)." *Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Global Freedom Struggle*. The King Center, n.d. Web. 10 Mar. 2015.  
<[http://mlk-kpp01.stanford.edu/index.php/encyclopedia/encyclopedia/enc\\_gandhi\\_mohandas\\_karamchand\\_1869\\_1948/](http://mlk-kpp01.stanford.edu/index.php/encyclopedia/encyclopedia/enc_gandhi_mohandas_karamchand_1869_1948/)>.

This is a secondary source. It is a biography of Mahatma Gandhi and discusses his influence on Martin Luther King, Jr. This source helped me understand Gandhi's take on passive resistance and his indirect influence on Clara Luper.

"The Greensboro Sit-In." *History.com*. A&E Television Networks, n.d. Web. 10 Mar. 2015.  
<<http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/the-greensboro-sit-in>>.

This is a secondary source. It gives me details about the Greensboro Sit-In and helped me understand how they followed Clara Luper's footsteps.

"Jim Crow Laws." *National Parks Service*. U.S. Department of the Interior, 05 Feb. 2015. Web. 11 Feb. 2015.  
<[http://www.nps.gov/malu/forteachers/jim\\_crow\\_laws.htm](http://www.nps.gov/malu/forteachers/jim_crow_laws.htm)>.

This is a secondary source. It is a list of Jim Crow Laws in certain states. This guided me in my writing by helping me give examples of prohibitions and also reflected the difference of segregation in states.

"Lynching." *Digital History*. Digital History, n.d. Web. 08 Mar. 2015.  
<[http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp\\_textbook.cfm?smtID=2&psid=3178](http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtID=2&psid=3178)>.

This is a secondary source. It describes how spectators viewed lynchings as a form of entertainment and the extent of their amusement, such as taking home souvenirs.

"Lynching Statistics by Year." *Famous American Trials*. N.p., n.d. Web. 18 Feb. 2015.  
<<http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/shipp/lynchingyear.html>>.

This is a secondary source. This gave me numbers in approximately how many people were lynched between the 1880s to the 1970s.

McCoy, Terrence. "The Ghosts and Terror of America's 'last Mass Lynching' ." *Washington Post*. The Washington Post, 18 Feb. 2015. Web. 18 Feb. 2015.  
<<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2015/02/18/the-ghosts-and-terror-of-americas-last-mass-lynching/>>.

This is a secondary source. It gave me a lot of background on the treatment of African Americans and helped me develop my 'Context' section.

"Most of You Have No Idea What Martin Luther King Actually Did." *Daily Kos*. Kos Media, n.d. Web. 03 Mar. 2015.  
<<http://www.dailykos.com/story/2011/08/29/1011562/-Most-of-you-have-no-idea-what-Martin-Luther-King-actually-did#>>.

This is a secondary source. It is an editorial on what Martin Luther King, Jr. truly did and the culture he changed. This helped me understand more about passive resistance and the cultural and social conflicts.

"People and Events: Lynching in America." *PBS*. PBS, n.d. Web. 11 Feb. 2015.  
<[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/till/peoplevents/e\\_lynch.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/till/peoplevents/e_lynch.html)>.

This is a secondary source. This explains how lynching worked in the South and the laws behind it.

Ramos, Tarso. "Legacies of Lynching: An Interview with On The Courthouse Lawn Author Sherrilyn Ifill." *Political Research Associates*. Political Research Associates, 2007. Web. 10 Mar. 2015.  
<<http://www.publiceye.org/magazine/v22n3/lynching.html>>.

This is a secondary source. It is an interview with Sherrilyn Ifill, a lawyer and author, about lynching and its impact. This gave me a deep understanding about how lynching was used as a way of punishment and terrorism to other African Americans.