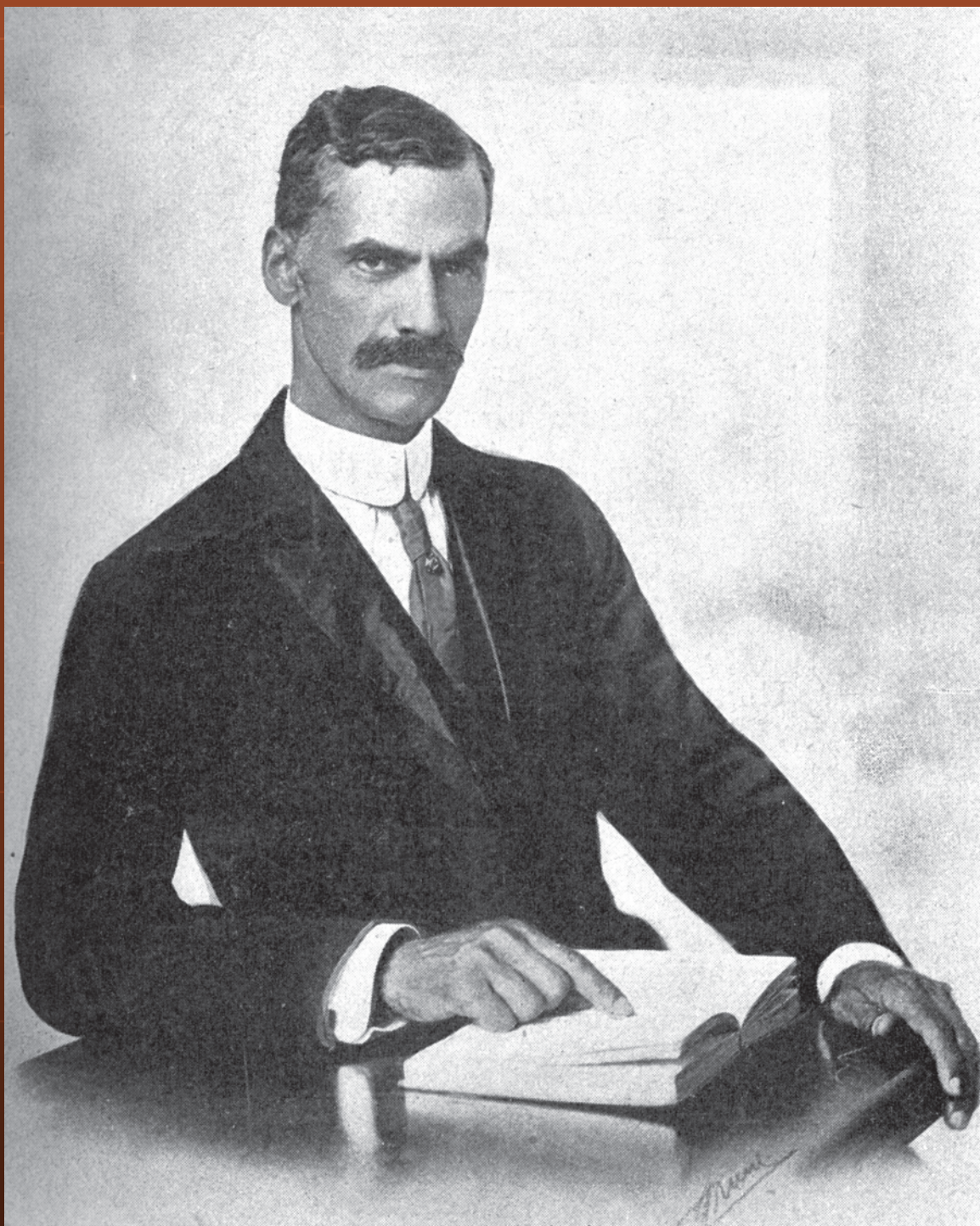


# Black History Month



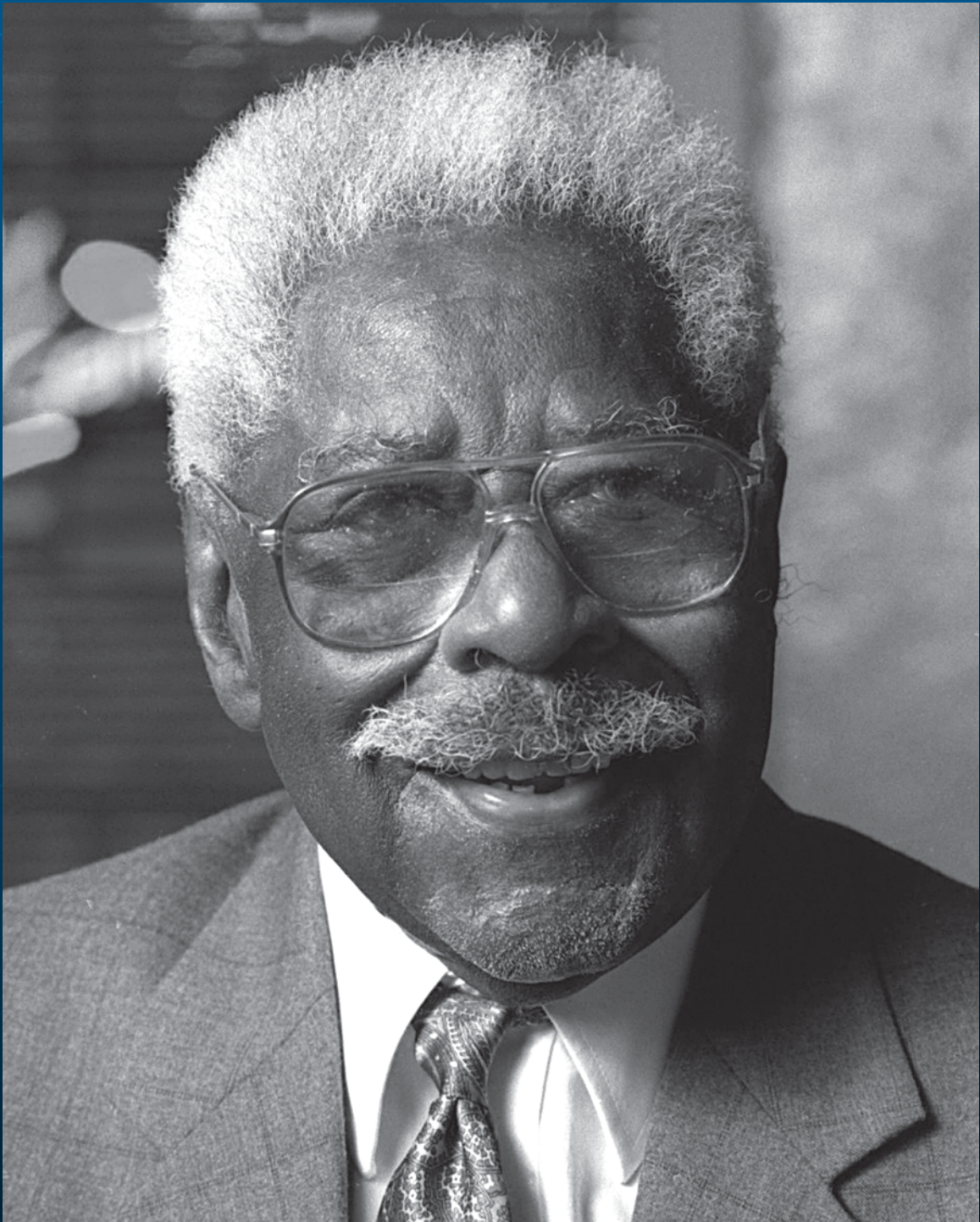
**Samuel W. Bacote**  
(1866 - 1946)

The son of former slaves, Samuel W. Bacote in 1895 became pastor at the Second Baptist Church, one of Kansas City's oldest and largest African American congregations. Bacote had degrees from Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina, the Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia, and received his doctorate in divinity from Kansas City University, Kansas City, Kansas. Instrumental in establishing the Western Baptist Seminary in Kansas City, Bacote was considered the "dean of Baptist ministers in the Midwest." He edited the book *Who's Who Among the Colored Baptists of the United States* (1913), and served at his church until his death.

*Image courtesy: Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library*



# Black History Month



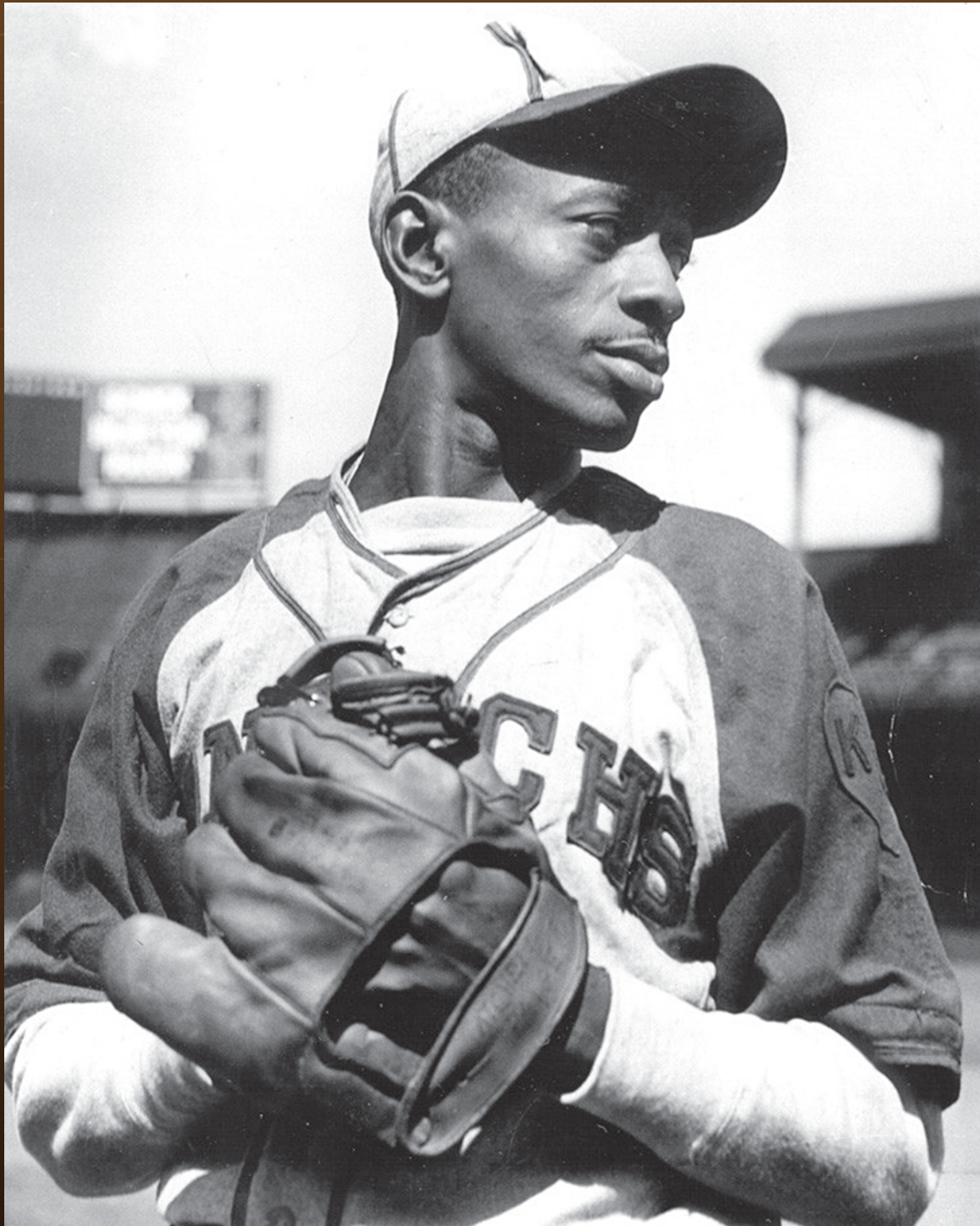
**L.C. “Speedy” Huggins**  
(1913 - 1999)

Ironically nicknamed “Speedy” for his slow, soft-shoe dancing style, L. C. Huggins’s roots stretched back to the city’s Golden Age of Jazz. Born in Fort Smith, Arkansas in 1913, Huggins grew up in Kansas City, Kansas. As a teen the self-taught tap dancer performed in the legendary 18th and Vine District. In 1933 he was among the opening night acts at the Cherry Blossom Club. After military service in World War II Huggins entertained throughout Europe; returning home he added singing and drumming to his repertoire. Kansas City’s “King of Nightlife” was a fixture of the jazz scene until his death.

*Image courtesy: The Kansas City Star*



# Black History Month



## Leroy Robert "Satchel" Paige (circa 1906 - 1982)

Legendary for his play and his personality, Leroy Robert "Satchel" Paige entered the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1971, the first Negro Leagues player so honored. Born in Mobile, Alabama about 1906, his nickname sprang from his job carrying suitcases at the train station. But it was his pitching that was the stuff of legend. He began his career in segregated baseball in 1926, eventually settling in with the Kansas City Monarchs. In 1948 Paige signed with the Cleveland Indians, the oldest rookie ever in the majors. He played into his sixties and died in Kansas City in 1982.

*Image courtesy: The Kansas City Star*



# Black History Month



**William J. Thompkins**  
(1884 - 1944)

Physician, hospital administrator, newspaper publisher and civil servant, William J. Thompkins helped found General Hospital No. 2 in Kansas City, the first U.S. hospital staffed entirely by African Americans. Thompkins’s efforts to improve health and housing for African Americans in Kansas City were adopted as a national model by President Herbert Hoover. He later turned to partisan politics, founding a Democratic newspaper for the black community and serving as president of the National Colored Democratic Association. Thompkins was appointed recorder of deeds for the District of Columbia by President Franklin Roosevelt, a job he held until his death.

*Image courtesy: Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library*



# Black History Month



**Roy Wilkins**  
(1901 - 1981)

Roy Wilkins led the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) from 1955 to 1977 and today is recognized as a giant of the civil rights struggle. Born in St. Louis and raised in Minnesota, Wilkins in 1923 joined the *Kansas City Call*, where the young newsman chronicled racial injustice and championed civil rights. In 1931 he went to New York City, succeeding W. E. B. DuBois as editor of the NAACP's magazine *The Crisis*. Under his leadership the NAACP grew from 25,000 to more than 400,000 members, earning this "senior statesman" of the U.S. Civil Rights Movement the respect of millions.

*Image Courtesy: Minnesota Historical Society Photographer: Cecil Layne*



# Black History Month



**Mary Lou Williams**  
(1910 - 1981)

Among the greatest female jazz musicians, Mary Lou Williams was a piano prodigy and became a professional performer while in her teens. With her husband John Williams she moved to Kansas City in the late 1920s and shattered barriers in the male-dominated jazz scene with her immense talents as a piano soloist, composer and arranger. Leaving Kansas City in 1942, she formed her own small group, later joined Duke Ellington’s band, retired briefly, but remained active into the 1970s. A section of 10th Street between The Paseo and Woodland is named “Mary Lou Williams Lane” in her honor.

*Image courtesy: The Kansas City Star*

# Black History Month



**Josephine Silone Yates**  
(1859 - 1912)

An inspiring teacher and passionate communicator, Josephine Silone Yates devoted her life to fighting racial prejudice. The first African American certified to teach in Rhode Island public schools, she later headed the natural sciences department at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri. Moving to Kansas City in 1889 she became the first president of the Women's League of Kansas City and the second president of the National Association of Colored Women – positions that gave her a national forum from which to speak and write on the betterment of her people. She ended her career teaching at Lincoln High School in Kansas City.

*Image Courtesy: Library of Congress, LC-USZ62-134336*



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