

**ADVANCE TRUTH-TELLING BY VISITING  
HISTORICAL MARKERS IN  
LOWNDES COUNTY**

**ELMORE BOLLING**  
Hwy US 80 at milepost 114

**THEO CALLOWAY**  
*24-year old abducted from jail by a white mob and hung  
Hayneville Courthouse*

**LYNCHINGS IN LETOHATCHEE**  
*Seven victims of racial terror lynchings between 1900 and 1917  
Rehoboth Missionary Church*

**FOUNDERS OF THE BLACK SHARECROPPERS' UNION**  
*Three men were lynched by a white mob for organizing a strike to  
protest poor pay and mistreatment  
Hopewell Church in Ft. Deposit*

**VIOLA LIUZZO**  
*White civil rights worker from Detroit  
fatally shot by KKK members following Selma to  
Montgomery March  
Hwy US 80 at milepost 111*

**JONATHAN DANIELS**  
*White Episcopal seminarian from New England  
working for voting rights shot by sheriff's deputy  
Hayneville Town Square*



**THE ELMORE BOLLING INITIATIVE, INC.**

Donations may be made online by visiting  
**[www.bollinginitiative.org](http://www.bollinginitiative.org)**

MAIL TO:  
The Elmore Bolling Initiative, Inc.  
P. O. Box 83  
Lowndesboro, AL 36752  
Attn: Brenda Adams

Please make checks payable to The Elmore Bolling Initiative  
(Receipts will be provided for income tax purposes.)

The Elmore Bolling Initiative, Inc. operates exclusively for  
charitable purposes adhering to the guidelines of Section 501©3  
of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

Tax ID: 35-2333112



THE  
**ELMORE  
BOLLING**  
INITIATIVE

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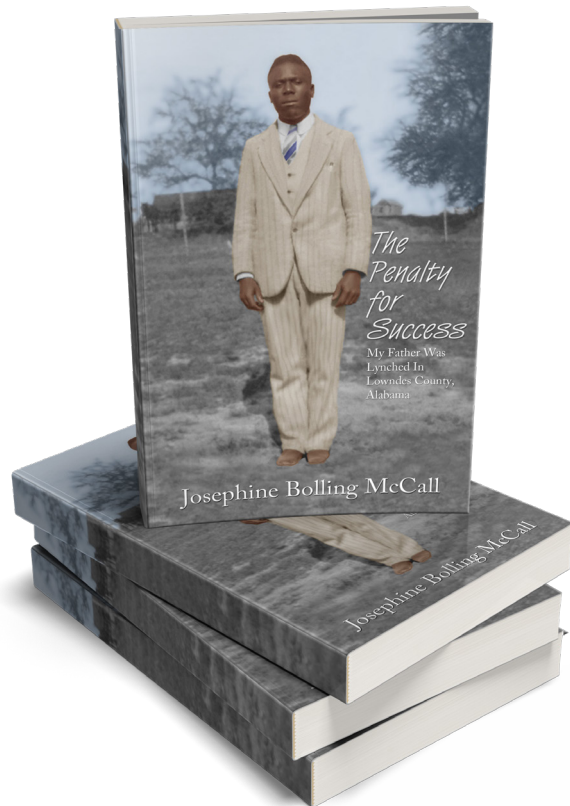
*Preserving the legacy of Elmore Bolling  
in Lowndes County, Alabama by  
expanding awareness of Black history  
and empowering today's citizens.*

# THE LEGACY OF ELMORE BOLLING

In 1940s Jim Crow Alabama, Elmore Bolling was a self-made Black entrepreneur with a genius for business. He nourished his community with good-paying jobs for Black people, transportation services valued and used by whites, and philanthropy for churches and individuals. Unable to read or write himself, he placed a high value on education and sought out the best opportunities for his seven children. His labor and ingenuity earned him a small fortune, about \$500,000 in today's dollars.

Enraged about Elmore's success, a group of white men lynched Elmore in 1947. After his killing, even whites who respected Elmore and patronized his business, falsely claimed his assets, plunging his wife and children into poverty.

Learn more about Elmore Bolling's remarkable life in the book



[www.penaltyforsuccess.com](http://www.penaltyforsuccess.com)

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION AND CITIZENSHIP

*These are the ideals Elmore Bolling stood for throughout his life.*

### EDUCATIONAL ESSENTIALS PROJECT

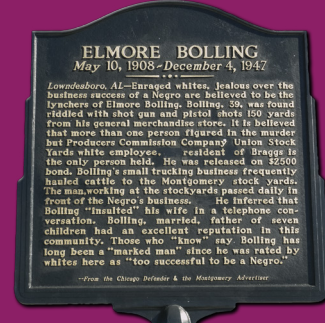


### EDUCATION ESSENTIALS

Educational Essentials programs help Lowndes County children and families thrive through a book buddy program, literacy tutoring, test preparation, and parental involvement. The annual Elmore Bolling Legacy Luncheon honors citizens and students who embody Elmore Bolling's ideals and awards scholarships to local high school seniors.

### THE ELMORE BOLLING MARKER

For decades, Elmore Bolling's family believed myths perpetuated by white people, and even by Rosa Parks, about why he was killed—that he was in a love triangle or had insulted his assailant's wife. When lynching victim Elmore's daughter Josephine petitioned the Alabama Historical Association to tell the truth about her father, they rejected her application for a marker, claiming circumstances of her father's death were "speculative." So the Bolling family provided the funds and erected the marker on donated land near the site of Elmore's lynching.



### THE LOWNDESBORO SCHOOL

A beacon of hope for the first post-slavery generation when founded in 1868 by Dr. Mansfield Tyler, the Lowndesboro School's connection to the Bolling Family spans generations: Elmore's grandparents were among its

first students during Reconstruction and five of his children attended there on the day Elmore was lynched. In 2021, TEBI was awarded a \$236,313 grant by the National Park Service Civil Rights Project to preserve the building in recognition of the school's role in the African American struggle for equal rights as citizens.

When completed, the school will be a historic site that tells the long history of African Americans striving for education in Lowndes County and throughout the South, filling a gap in the narrative told by tourist sites in Lowndes County. It will also serve as a community center and vocational training site.

**YOUR DONATION WILL HELP US FINISH THE SCHOOL RENOVATION.**

### HISTORY REVEALED IN BLOODY LOWNDES

Lowndes County earned the epithet "Bloody Lowndes" for its long history of extreme racial terror violence. Sixteen lynchings were recorded here, including Elmore Bolling's.

We formed the Lowndes County Remembrance Coalition in 2019 with the Lowndes County Friends of the Civil Rights Movement to address the county's history of white supremacy and foster meaningful dialogue about race and justice. Together, we erected two new markers recognizing racial terror victims and collected soil at lynching sites for the Equal Justice Initiative's memorial.

In 1964 Stokely Carmichael called Lowndes "the most backward and violent county in Alabama." The county was 80% Black but not a single Black citizen was registered to vote after decades of violent intimidation by whites. In 1965, Selma to Montgomery marchers walked 22 miles through Lowndes County and, several months later, Voting Rights Act-mandated federal registrars enabled Blacks to register in large numbers. Whites retaliated by firing and evicting them. But hundreds chose to live in "Tent City" rather than lose their right to vote in the county — a heroic mass action for civil rights that lasted almost twice as long as the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Artifacts and records of Black history have been systematically erased here, as throughout America.

### TODAY

The UN ranks poverty in Lowndes County the same as the poorest areas of the world. Only 18% of households have high-speed internet, essential as electricity to access online education and telemedicine. The county has the highest rate of unemployment in Alabama—26%. And the wastewater crisis allows hookworm, a disease of extreme poverty to run rampant here. Hookworm slows mental and physical development in children.

When the COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately impacted Lowndes County, TEBI organized clinics that brought the vaccine to rural residents and delivered it directly to the homebound. With Elmore Bolling as our inspiration, we are dedicated to reversing the erasure of Black history and improving conditions in Lowndes County.

