

Claudette Colvin

You have heard of Rosa Parks, but have you heard of Claudette Colvin? Claudette Colvin was born on September 15th, 1939 in Montgomery Alabama. At the age of 15, on March 2nd, 1965, this young lady refused to move to the back of the bus in order to allow a white person to have her seat.



She stated that she had been inspired by Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman, two women that she had just been studying at school. This occurred 9 months before Rosa Parks did the very same thing. She was later part of the court case that successfully terminated Montgomery's bus segregation laws.

Miss Colvin is not well known because she was told that the NAACP and the other black organizations felt that Rosa Parks would be a more appropriate icon because, "she was an adult. They didn't think teenagers would be reliable." Claudette also felt that Rosa Parks had the "right hair" and the "right look". Miss Colvin stated that Rosa Parks' "skin texture was the kind that people associate with the middle class. She fit that profile." Claudette was a member of the Youth NAACP and had a close relationship with Rosa Parks.

Black History

David Garrow, a historian and the author of *Bearing the Cross: Martin Luther King Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference*, said that people may think that Parks' action was spontaneous, but Black civic leaders had been thinking about how to fight against the Montgomery buses for years.



After Colvin's arrest, she was shunned by parts of her community. She later became pregnant and civil rights leaders felt that she would be an inappropriate symbol as a test case.

Colvin's actions solidify her as an underappreciated agent of change. She truly was the first to challenge the Montgomery Bus segregation law. The record of her arrest and adjudication of delinquency was expunged by the district court in 2021.

was the third such arraignment to be scheduled.

The accused, John A. Baker, was arrested last September and was accused of committing Night-Time Burglary, a charge which

NAACP to represent the defendant. Dr. G. A. Rogers, dentist and president of the Anniston branch NAACP has led a campaign to secure support for defending Baker.

Girl, 15, Convicted Under Alabama Segregation Law

Montgomery, Ala — Claudette Colvin, age 15, student at Booker Washington High School, Montgomery, was convicted for refusing to give her seat to another white passenger boarding the same bus. Prior to the trial in Juvenile Court, she was given 3 charges, Assault and Battery Disorderly Conduct, and Violating

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the Chapter 6, Section 11 of the City Court. However when the case came up for trial the presiding Attorney, Mr. Thetford asked for an Amendment to the charge which was in effect saying the girl was violating the segregation law of the State of Alabama. This was upheld by Judge Hill, who was presiding over the case at Juvenile Court. The Amendment was sustained under violent observation of the Defense and the Defendant. The girl was placed on probation for an indefinite period.

