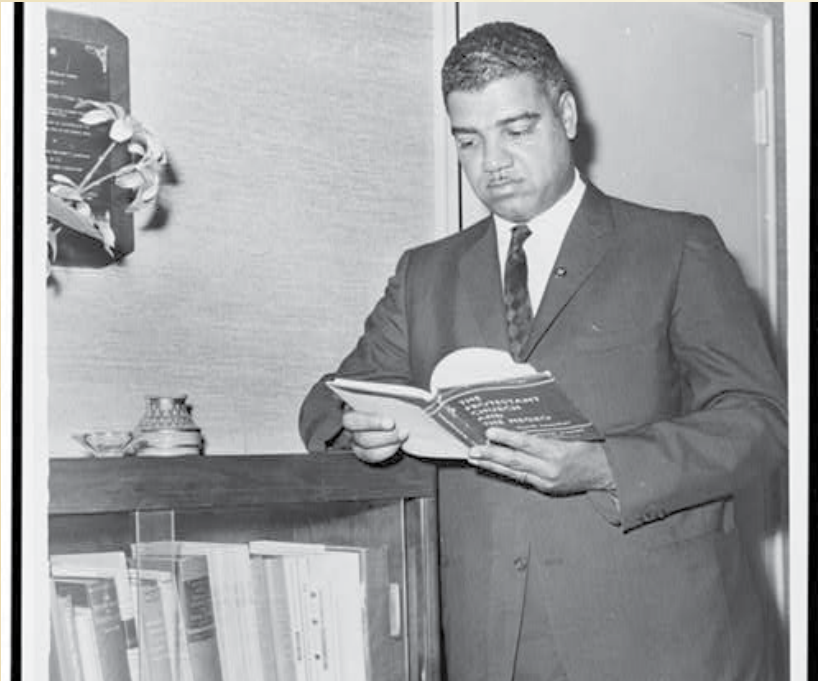


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CIVIL WAR TO CIVIL RIGHTS: WHITNEY M. YOUNG JR. (CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER)



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SHELBY COUNTY — Whitney M. Young Jr. was one of the primary personalities of the civil rights movement. Young was born in Lincoln Ridge, Ky., (Shelby County) in 1921.

Young was educated at Kentucky State College in Frankfort and later earned his master's degree in social work from the University of Minnesota.

In 1961, Young became the executive director of the National Urban League; he held the post until his death in 1971. During that time, he developed

strategies that changed the NUL from a relatively benign organization to one that became dynamic and outspoken during the civil rights movement.

Like other civil rights leaders, Young pushed for voting rights, racial equality and equal opportunity for all Americans. He was an important adviser to Presidents John Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon. In 1969, Johnson presented Young with the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Tragically, Young drowned while swimming with friends at a conference in Lagos, Nigeria. Nixon had Young's body flown back to the United States and delivered the eulogy at his funeral.

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