



**Leanna N. Martin**

Thesis Defense  
College of Humanities and Social  
Sciences  
Department of History  
MA History

**The Absence of Rafiki Yangu: The Founding of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church and its Political Dormancy during the Civil Rights Movement**

This study examines Stowell, Texas' black community during the 1950s and 1960s and expounding on why St. Paul Baptist Church, the first black church in Stowell, and the black community did not become politically active during the Civil Rights Movement. Interviews as well as court documents from Chambers County offer a portrait of Stowell during the construction of St. Paul. Stowell's black residents, who remember the community before and after St. Paul's construction, provide valuable first-hand accounts that establish the political atmosphere within Stowell's black community during the civil rights movement.

Event Information

April 15, 2021  
10:00 AM  
Templeton Building

Committee Members

Dr. Sam BearKat  
Dr. Samantha Raven  
Dr. Samuel Orange



**Sam Houston State University**