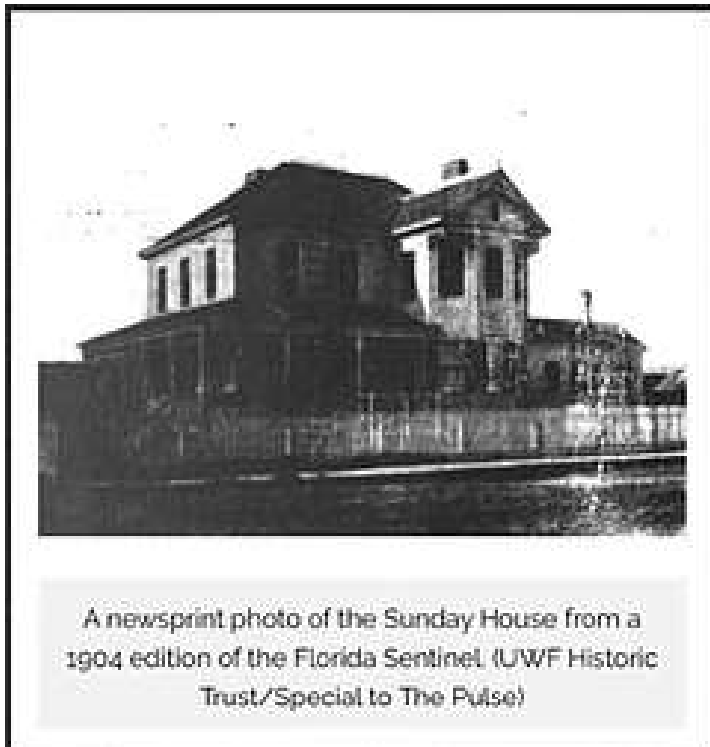


## Points in John Sunday, II's Life

- Below is taken from <https://www.akhealingarts.com/single-post/2018/01/23/who-is-john-sunday>
  - Born March 20, 1838 to mother Jinny Rosa and John Sunday I, a landowner and slave owner, He was born a slave.
  - Served as an apprentice to cabinet-maker Ambrose Vaughn before working in the local Navy Yard.
  - May 5, 1863- Enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in the Civil War, eventually rising to First Sergeant in 6th Corps de Afrique Infantry and 78th Regiment, United States Colored Infantry. Was one of the first African Americans to engage directly with the Confederacy during the longest siege in U.S. History: The Seige of Port Hudson. It's interesting to note that his half-brother, John Sunday II from the union of his father and first white wife, fought with the confederacy and was killed.
  - Met his wife, Seraphine (Landry) on tour in Louisiana.
  - 1873, upon returning to Florida, served as the state's second black legislator, He was removed from office when Gen. Edward Perry revoked a city charter over a technicality, and removed every elected official from office. He subsequently hand-picked and appointed new officials, including a wealthy railroad developer and a Confederate officer. Perry's moves were an assault to black development and leadership in the area.
  - Served 3 years as alderman during the period of reconstruction (1878-1881),
  - Organized and served as the post commander for the B.F. Stephenson Post of the [U]nion soldiers fraternal organization, Grand Army of the Republic. (The GAR served as an advocacy group for Civil War Veterans their families and also established Memorial Day as a holiday in 1868.)
  - 1891: Donated property (in a collaboration with St. Katherine Drexel, founder of the historically black institution, Xavier University of Louisiana) to his sister, Mercedes Ruby Sunday for the establishment of St. Joseph's Church. St, Joseph's was the church home for blacks and creole people. It established schools, an orphanage and was the only place blacks and creoles they could receive medical care.
  - Established a construction firm that erected over 100 homes and structures in Pensacola, FL.
  - Constructed his Romana St. home near the Tanyard, a multiethnic area of the city, in 1901 at the age of 63. This home was a highly significant historical landmark that was recently demolished in 2016.



- In 1905 was reported to be the wealthiest African American in the United States of America, with a net worth of over \$125,000 (equivalent to \$3 million today).
- When Jim Crow laws forced black businesses out of downtown, John Sunday was a pivotal figure in the development of the Belmont-Devilliers area of Pensacola- the hub of black commerce.
- John Sunday, II, died January 7, 1925,
- No streets, parks, buildings, or significant monuments are named for John Sunday, II.
- He was born to a free black family.
- He was the son of John Sunday, Sr., a Dutch cattleman who settled in Walnut Hill and Jane (Jinny) a biracial slave that Sunday, Sr. married after his first wife died during childbirth.
- He was schooled in the building trades, and became fully literate.
- Served in the services of Ulysses S. Grant.
- Met his wife, Seraphine, a Cajun in Louisiana, while serving in the 78<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the United States Colored Infantry during the Civil War.
- After the war, took a job as a mechanic at Pensacola Navy Yard..
- Represented Escambia County in a seat in 1874 Florida Legislature.
- Served as a City alderman from 1878-1881.
- Owned property in the Seville district.
- Died in 1925, and is buried in St. Michael's Cemetery.