

Main Street Mural Fact Sheet



General Norman T. Kirk

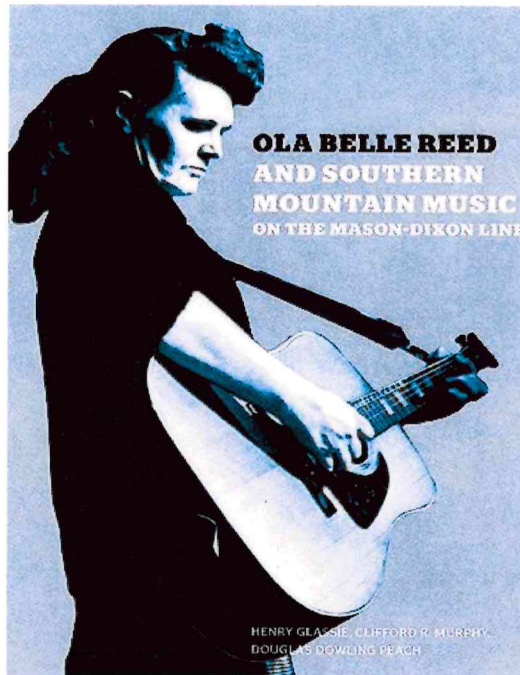


General Norman T. Kirk

Born and raised right here in Rising Sun, General Norman T. Kirk was a pioneering surgeon who specialized in bone and joint surgery during World War I. In 1943, at the height of World War II, General George Marshall appointed him Surgeon General of the United States Army.

General Kirk was instrumental in establishing uniform protocols for treating amputations, dramatically improving care for wounded soldiers and revolutionizing the development of prosthetics. His advancements in wound treatment cut the mortality rate for injured service members to half of what it had been during World War I. In recognition of his remarkable contributions, he received the Distinguished Service Medal in May 1945.

Ola Belle Reed

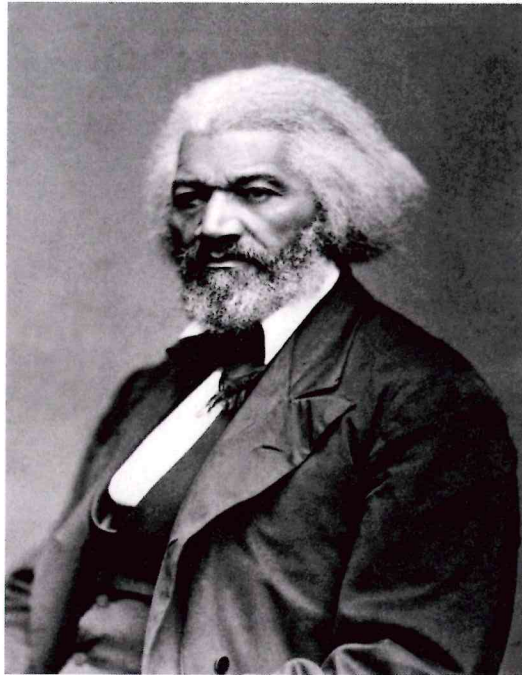


Ola Belle Reed

Ola Belle Reed was a significant figure in American folk and bluegrass music, known for her singing, songwriting, and clawhammer banjo playing. She championed traditional Appalachian music and social justice, with her renowned songs "High on a Mountain" and "I've Endured" gaining national recognition; her 1973 album was inducted into the Library of Congress's National Recording Registry in 2019.

Reed was deeply rooted in the Town of Rising Sun, Maryland, where she and her family established the New River Ranch music park, a noted regional venue that hosted major artists like Hank Williams and Johnny Cash. She was often requested to perform with these major stars even at a time when women were not yet widely accepted in prominent positions within nationally recognized country music circles.

Frederick Douglass



Frederick Douglass

Frederick Douglass is one of Maryland's most influential historical figures. Born into slavery in Talbot County, his escape, writings, and unmatched oratory made him a leading voice in the abolitionist movement and a national champion for civil rights and equality.

Douglass also holds a direct connection to the Rising Sun area. He hosted numerous abolitionist meetings at the community building—formerly a church—located directly across from where our mural now stands. These gatherings helped spark important conversations about freedom, justice, and human dignity right here in our town. His legacy continues to inspire generations and serves as a powerful reminder of the ongoing pursuit of equality for all Americans.