
African American family spotlight:

Jesse Vaughn

Jesse Charles Vaughn was born in Butler, Alabama on Nov. 12, 1908. He moved to Chicago during the Great Migration, and he lived in Morgan Park at 1513 W. 113th Place until his death in 1995.

Jesse worked in the stockyards for 35 years as a boner, a position similar to a butcher, an uncommon position to be held by Blacks. Jesse was also an important union organizer who served as president of the United Packinghouse Workers of America, Local 29, at the Roberts & Oake plant. As an organizer, he won the

confidence of both Black and White workers. His union organizing was not limited to Chicago: he also served as a “Night Rider,” traveling from state to state organizing others, a very dangerous job.

Union members in the United Packinghouse Workers, like Jesse, were very active in both local and national politics because they saw their involvement as a way to advocate for better treatment, wages, and civil rights. Jesse also involved his family in activism and advocacy efforts.



Jesse Vaughn, at center.



Jesse Vaughn, at right.

People of the Stock Yards: African American Family Stories



Jesse Vaughn, at right.



Union convention, May 21, 1955: Jesse Vaughn, at right in foreground.

Images courtesy of Allene Carter.