



Center for Multicultural and Gender Studies

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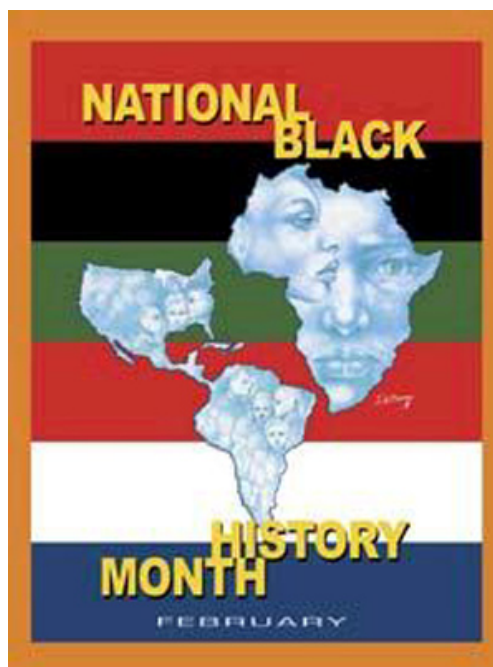
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MCGS Newsletter, February 2004



February is Black History Month



National African American History Month 2004

This year's celebration celebrates the 50th anniversary

Milestones in African American Education:

- **1837** *Institute for Colored Youth* founded by Richard Humphreys; later became *Cheyney University*.
- **1854** *Ashmun Institute*, the first school of higher learning for young black men, founded by John Miller Dickey and his wife, Sarah Emlen Cresson; later (1866) renamed *Lincoln University* (Pa) after President Abraham Lincoln.
- **1856** *Wilberforce University*, the first black school of higher learning owned and operated by African Americans, founded by the *African Methodist Episcopal Church*.
- **1876** *Meharry Medical College*, the first black medical school in the U.S., founded by the *Freedman's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church*.
- **1881** *Spelman College*, the first college for black women in the U.S., founded by Sophia B. Packard and Harriet E. Giles.
- **1922** William Leo Hansberry teaches the first course in *African classification* at an American university, at *Howard University*.

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of the Supreme Court's 1954 decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*. In that landmark decision, the Supreme Court declared an end to the practice of legal segregation in schools, ruling unanimously that the Constitution requires all Americans to be treated equally without regard to their ethnicity. This year we remember all of those involved in this landmark case: the brave schoolchildren who challenged the system, Thurgood Marshall who represented Linda Brown in her fight for equality, the nine justices who made educational equality a reality for African Americans.

To read the [2004 Proclamation for National African American History Month](#), by President George Bush, click on the above link, or the National Black History Month Poster.

Did you Know?



Over 180,000 African-Americans served in the Union Army during the Civil War. Of these, more than 33,000 died. After the war, the future of African-Americans in the U.S. Army was in doubt.

In July 1866, however, Congress passed legislation establishing two cavalry and four infantry regiments

- **1944** Frederick Douglass Patterson establishes the *United Negro College Fund* to help support black colleges and black students.
- **1954** In the landmark case *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas.*, the Supreme Court rules unanimously that segregation in public schools is unconstitutional.

- **1957** President Dwight D. Eisenhower sends Federal Troops to ensure integration of the all-white *Central High School* in Little Rock, Ark. the *Little Rock Nine* were the first black students to attend the school.



- **1960** Black and white students form the *Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)*, dedicated to working against segregation and discrimination.
- **1962** James Meredith is the first black student to enroll at the *University of Mississippi*; on the day he enters the university, he is escorted by U.S. Marshals.
- **1963** Despite Governor George Wallace physically blocking their way, Vivian Malone and James Hood register for classes at the *University of Alabama*.
- **1969** The Ford Foundation gives \$1 million to *Morgan State University*, *Howard University*, and *Yale University* to help prepare faculty members to teach courses in *African American*

(later consolidated to two) whose enlisted composition was to be made up of African-Americans. The majority of the new recruits had served in all Black units during the war. The mounted regiments were the 9th and 10th Cavalries, soon nicknamed Buffalo Soldiers by the Cheyenne and Comanche. Until the early 1890s they constituted 20 percent of all cavalry forces on the American frontier.

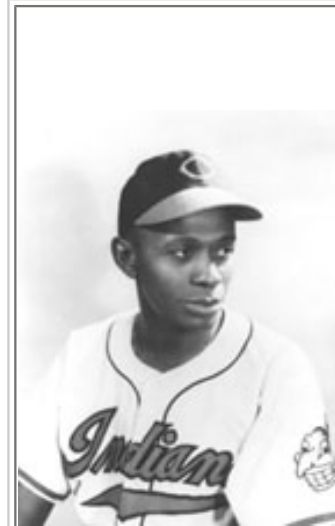
The Buffalo Soldiers explored and mapped vast areas of the southwest and strung hundreds of miles of telegraph lines. They built and repaired frontier outposts around which future towns and cities sprang to life. Without the protection provided by the 9th and 10th Cavalries, crews building the ever expanding railroads were at the mercy of outlaws and hostile Indians. The Buffalo Soldiers consistently received some of the worst assignments the Army had to offer. They also faced fierce prejudice to both the colors of their Union uniforms and their skin by many of the citizens of the post-war frontier towns. Despite this, the troopers of the 9th and 10th Cavalries developed into two of the most distinguished fighting units in the Army.

The History of Black History

from Infoplease.com

Studies.

Notable African-Americans:



Satchel Paige , (b.1906 - d.1982) Baseball Hall of Fame member, pronounced the greatest pitcher in the history of the Negro Leagues, joined the Major Leagues in 1948 for the Cleveland Indians (who won the pennant that year). In addition to Cleveland, he also played for St. Louis and Kansas City. Served as coach for the Atlanta Braves in 1968, elected to join the Hall of Fame in 1971.

Barbara Jordan (b.1936 - d. 1996) "The First African-American Woman Everything" Elected to the Texas Senate in 1966, elected president pro-tempore of the Texas Senate in 1972. Elected to the House of Representatives in 1972, retired from politics in 1979 after three terms in Congress and accepted a position on the faculty at UT Austin. Awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1994.



Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." What you might not know is the black history had barely begun to be studied - or even documented - when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America at least as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a respectable presence in the history books.



We owe the celebration of Black History Month, and more importantly the study of black history, to Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Born to parents who were former slaves, he spent his childhood working in the Kentucky coal mines and enrolled in high school at the age of twenty. He graduated within two years and later went on to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard. The scholar was disturbed to find in his studies that history books largely ignored the black American population--and when blacks did figure into the picture, it was generally in ways that reflected the inferior social position they were assigned at the time.

Woodson, always one to act on his ambitions, decided to take on the challenge of writing black Americans into the nation's history. He established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (now called the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History) in 1915, and a year later founded the widely respected Journal of Negro History. In 1926, he launched Negro History Week as an initiative to bring national attention to the contributions of black people throughout American history.



Fred Shuttlesworth , (b.1922) As pastor of Birmingham, Alabama's First Baptist Church, Shuttlesworth organized the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights in 1956. Shuttlesworth worked closely with Martin Luther King, Jr. in establishing the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in 1958, and organizing the protests in 1963. He continues his campaign for racial and social justice as a minister in Cincinnati.

Dorothy Dandridge, (b.1923, d.1965) Beautiful, vibrant, talented, Oscar nominated, and ultimately tragic actress, called "...our Marilyn Monroe" by Lena Horne. She won fame as a nightclub singer in the 1940s, performing in the nations finest hotels in New York, Miami, Chicago and Las Vegas, though she couldn't stay in any of them due to segregation laws. Her most famous roles came from Carmen Jones (1954 - for which she was nominated for the Best Actress Academy Award), Island in the Sun (1959) and Porgy and Bess (1959).





Woodson chose the second week of February for Negro History Week because it marks the birthdays of two men who greatly influenced the black American population, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. However, February has much more than Douglass and Lincoln to show for its significance in black American history.

For example:

- **February 23, 1868:** W.E.B. Du Bois, important civil rights leader and co-founder of the NAACP was born.
- **February 3, 1870:** the 15th Amendment was passed, granting blacks the right to vote.
- **February 25, 1870:** the first black U.S. Senator, Hiram R. Revels (1822-1901), took the oath of office
- **February 12, 1909:** The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded by a group of concerned black and white citizens in New York City.
- **February 1, 1960:** in what would become a civil-rights movement milestone, a group of black Greensboro, NC, college students began a sit-in at a segregated Woolworth's lunch counter.
- **February 21, 1965:** Malcolm X, who promoted Black Nationalism, was shot to death by three Black Muslims.



Wilton Norman Chamberlain, (b.1936 - d.1999) Elected to the Hall of Fame in 1978, he was basketball's unstoppable force, the most awesome force the game had ever seen. He retired as the all-time in career points with 31,419 (later surpassed), but remains tops in rebounds with 23,924.

M. Joycelyn Elders, MD, (b.1933) as US surgeon general, M. Joycelyn Elders, MD held one of the most visible offices in government from which to advocate healthy behaviors. She was the first African American and only second woman to hold the position. She has received numerous honorary doctorates from Morehouse College, the University of Minnesota, Yale University, Philander Smith College and Connecticut College, among others.



"We should emphasize not Negro History, but the Negro in history. What we need is not a history of selected races or nations, but the history of the world void of national bias, race, hate, and religious prejudice"

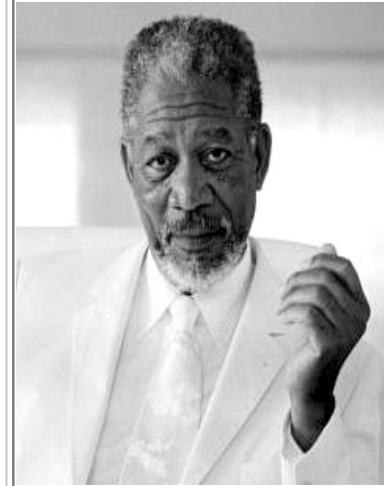
Carter Woodson (1875-1950) on founding Negro History Week, 1926



Coretta Scott King



Born in Heiberger, Alabama, Coretta Scott was the Valedictorian of her graduating class at Lincoln High School in 1945. She received a scholarship to Antioch College, and graduated with a BA in Music and Education. She



Morgan Freeman , (b.1937) Born in Memphis, Tennessee, he has been nominated for three Academy Awards, won 3 Obies, received "Hollywood Outstanding Achievement in Acting Award" in 2000, founded the Frank Silvera Writer's Workshop, made his Broadway debut in *Hello Dolly!* with Pearl Bailey and Cab Calloway, and has played, among other roles: the *President of the United States* and *God*.

Click [HERE](#) for more famous African Americans.

African American Quotations:

"I am America. I am the part you won't recognize. But get used to me. Black, confident, cocky; my name, not yours, my religion, not yours; my goals, my own; get used to me."

- Muhammad Ali, *The Greatest*, 1975

won a scholarship to study concert singing at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, Massachusetts. She married Martin Luther King, Jr in 1953, and completed her degree in voice and violin at the New England Conservatory in 1954. During the civil rights movement, Mrs. King conceived and performed a series of critically acclaimed Freedom Concerts, combining poetry, narration and music to tell the story of the Civil Rights movement. She became the first woman to deliver the Class Day address at Harvard, and the first woman to preach at a statutory service at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. She served as a Women's Strike for Peace delegate to the 17-nation Disarmament Conference in Geneva, Switzerland in 1962.

On April 4, 1968, Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee. Channeling her grief, Mrs. King concentrated her energies on fulfilling her husband's work by building the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change as a living memorial to her husband's life and dream. In 1974, she formed the Full Employment Action Council, a coalition of over 100 religious, labor, business, civil and women's rights organizations dedicated to a national policy of full employment and equal economic opportunity.

The King Center opened to the public in 1981. It is the first institution built in memory of an African American Leader, and housed in the Freedom Hall complex encircling Dr. King's tomb in Atlanta, Georgia.

Mrs. King has continued to serve the cause of justice and human rights; her travels have taken her across the globe on goodwill missions. In 1983, she marked the 20th Anniversary of the historic March on Washington, by leading a gathering of more than 800 human rights organizations, in the largest demonstration the capital city had seen up to that time. She led a successful campaign to establish Dr. King's birthday as a national holiday in the United States. By Act of Congress, the first national

"Man, if you gotta ask you'll never know."

-Louis (Satchmo) Armstrong, when asked what jazz is



"It is a peculiar sensation, this double-consciousness, this sense of always looking at one's self through the eyes of others...One ever feels his twoness, -an American, a Negro; two souls, two thoughts, two unreconciled strivings; two warring ideals in one dark body, whose dogged strength alone keeps it from being torn asunder."

-W.E.B. DuBois, *The Souls of Black Folk*

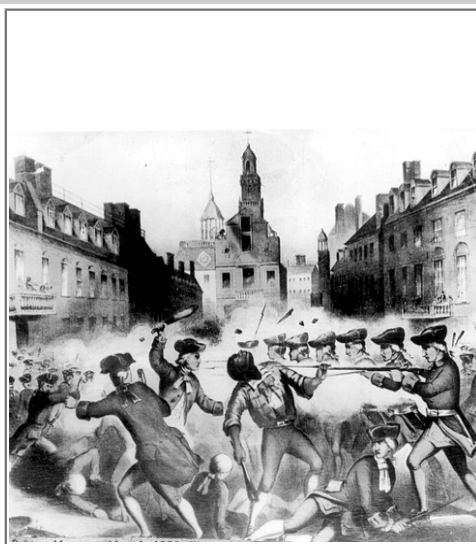
"Our nation is a rainbow-red, yellow, brown, black, and white-and we're all precious in God's sight."

-Jesse Jackson, 1984

"'We the people.' It is a very eloquent beginning. But when that document [the Preamble to the US Constitution] was completed on the seventeenth of September in 1787 I was not included in that 'We, the people.' I felt somehow for many years that George Washington and Alexander Hamilton, just left me out by mistake. But through the process of amendment, interpretation and court decision I have finally been included in 'We the people.'"

-Barbara C. Jordan, 1975

observance of the holiday took place in 1986. She turned over the helm of the King Center to her son, Dexter Scott King in 1995, and continues to be active in the causes of racial and economic justice, and in recent years has devoted much of her energy to AIDS education and curbing gun violence.



One of the first martyrs of the American Revolution was Crispus Attucks, a man of African descent (possibly a runaway slave), who was killed in the "Boston Massacre" on March 5, 1770.



"What's shaking, chiefy baby?"

-Thurgood Marshal,
customary greeting to Chief
Justice Warren E. Burger,
1982

"Sometimes you've got to let everything go-purge yourself... If you are unhappy with anything...whatever is bringing you down, get rid of it. Because you'll find that when you're free, your true creativity, your true self comes out."

-Tina Turner (1986)

For More Information:

- [Infoplease: Black History Month](#)
- [Fathom: African American Studies Learning Center](#)
- [Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture](#)
- [African American Poetry](#) (request free trial)
- [Walmart Black History Month Publications](#)
- [Education First: Black History Month Activities](#)
- [Biography.com presents Black History Month](#)

[Printable Calendar of MCGS & Related
Texas State University-San Marcos Events](#)



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