# Important events and dates in Afro American history

## January

1.—Emancipation Proclamation issued by Abraham Lincoln, 1863. The Liberator first issued by William Lloyd Garrison, 1831. Haiti declared its independence, 1804.
1.—Kumbi (Ghana) discovered to be in its apogee, 990.
3.—Lucretia Mott, Pennsylvania abolitionist, born, 1793.
4.—Benjamin Lundy, colonizationist, born, 1789.
6.—Charles Sumner, fearless advocate of equality and justice, born, 1811.
17.—Benjamin Franklin, a supporter of the anti - slavery movement, born, 1706.
17.—The Virgin Islands purchased by the United States, 1917.
20.—Angelina E. Grimke, South Carolina abolitionist.
21.—Osai Tutu Kwamina defeated the British under Sir Charles McCarthy at Assamako, Ashanti, 1824.
22.—Battle of Isandhlwana, 1879.
23.—Lott Carey, minister and pioneer leader in Liberia, sailed for that country in 1821.
26.—Bishop William Capers, founder of missions in South Carolina, born, 1790.
28.—George S. Boutwell, author of the Thirteenth Amendment, born, 1818.
29.—Thomas Paine, an advocate of freedom, born, 1737.
31.—Anthony Benezet, a teacher and promoter of the anti - slavery cause in Pennsylvania, born, 1713.

## February

1.—Charles Lenox Redmond, abolitionist, born, 1810.
4.—James G. Birney, Free Soil candidate for President of the United States, born, 1792
10.—Joseph C. Price, orator and educator, born, 1854.
12.—Abraham Lincoln, born, 1809.
14.—Frederick Douglass' "Birthday."
15.—Senator B. K. Bruce presided over the United States Senate, 1897
16.—Henry Wilson, abolitionist, born, 1812.
20.—Angelina E. Grimke, South Carolina abolistionist, born, 1805.
22.—George Washington, the liberator of his slaves, born, 1732.
22.—James Russell Lowell, liberal poet, born, 1819.
24.—Bishop Daniel A. Payne, reformer and educator of the AME Church, born, 1811.
25.—Hiram R. Revels, first black United States Senator, took the oath of office, 1870.
27.—Dominican Republic established, 1844.
27.—Henry W. Longfellow, liberal poet, born, 1807.
28.—Phillis Wheatley, writer of verse, invited by George Washington to visit him, 1776.

## March

1.—The Abyssinians defeated the Italians at Adowa, 1896.
1.—B. K. Bruce, United States Senator, born, 1841.
1.—Cudjoe, leader of the Maroons in Jamaica, brought the Jamaican Government to terms in 1738.
5.—Crispus Attucks, a seaman, fell in the Boston Massacre, 1770.
7.—Little Stephen, set out to explore the Southwestern part of the United States, 1539.
10.—El-Hadj Omar, Tukulor Conqueror, started his empire with the capture of Segu, 1861.
12.—Benjamin Banneker with L'Enfant to lay out Washington in the District of Columbia, 1791.
14.—Menelik became ruler of Abyssinia, 1889.
17.—Texas, as a republic, abolished the slave trade, 1836.
18.—Gabriel de la Concepcion Valdes (Placido), poet, born in Havana, Cuba, 1809.
23.—The abolition of slavery in Puerto Rico, 1873.
25.—Slave trade abolished by British Parliament, 1807.
25.—Samori, the builder of the Wasulu Empire, signed with the French the Treaty of Bisandugu, 1887.
28.—Samuel Sewall, anti - slavery author, born, 1652.
28.—Thomas Clarkson, British abolitionist, born, 1760.
30.—Promulgation of the Fifteenth Amendment, 1870.

## April

1.—Thomas Powell Buxton, British emancipationist, born, 1786.
3.—Edward Everett Hale, anti-slavery writer, born, 1822.
3.—James Madison Bell, poet, born, 1826.
4.—Thaddeus Stevens, distinguished reconstructionist, born, 1792.
5.—Booker T. Washington, "born," 1856.
9.—Surrender of Robert E. Lee, 1865.
9.—Judge John Belton O'Neal, of South Carolina, advocate of the enlightenment of the slaves, born, 1793.
12.—Battle of Fort Pillow during the Civil War, 1864.
13.—Thomas Jefferson, advocate of freedom, born, 1743.
14.—First abolition society in the United States, founded 1775.
16.—Emancipation in the District of Columbia, 1862.
17.—Francis Williams, first black college graduate in the Western Hemisphere, published Latin poem in 1758.

## May

5.—The Will of Thaddeus Kosciusko, providing for the education of blacks, 1796.
6.—Martin R. Delany, army officer and author, born, 1812.
9.—John Brown, the martyr, born, 1800.
10.—Elizabeth Taylor Greenfield, invited to sing before Queen Victoria, 1854.
10.—P. B. S. Pinchback, reconstruction statesman, born, 1837.
13.—Robert Smalls, of South Carolina, dared to take the Planter to the Union Fleet, 1862.
14.—Abolition of slavery in Brazil, 1888.
20.—Toussaint Louverture, Haitian liberator, born, 1743.
22.—Arthur Tappan, abolitionist, born, 1786.
23.—Assault of Port Hudson, 1863.
23.—Lewis Tappan, abolitionist, born, 1788.
25.—Ralph W. Emerson, advocate of freedom, born, 1803.
28.—Daniel Reaves Goodloe, North Carolina emancipationist, born, 1814.
31.—Walt Whitman, open - minded poet, born, 1819.

## June

3.—The United States recognized Haiti and Liberia as nations, 1862.
10.—Richard Allen started independent African Methodist movement, 1794.
10.—Antonio Candido Gonzales Crespo, Portuguese poet, born, 1846.
14.—Harriet Beecher Stowe, born, 1811.
16.—Dessalines declared emperor of Haiti, 1804.
20.—Charles Waddell Chesnutt, novelist, born, 1858.
21.—Henry Ossawa Tanner, famous American painter transplanted to France, born, 1859.
22.—Lord Mansfield's decision in the Somerset case, 1772.
24.—Henry Ward Beecher, promoter of equal rights, born, 1813.
27.—Paul Laurence Dunbar, born, 1872.

## July

1.—Abolition of slavery in the Dutch West Indies, 1863.
4.—Booker T. Washington began his work at Tuskegee, 1881.
4.—E. M. Bannister, painter of African blood, exhibited "Under the Oaks" at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia and was awarded first prize, 1876.
16.—Pompey at Stony Point was with Anthony Wayne, 1779.
17.—The arming of blacks approved by Congress, 1862.
18.—Lemuel Haynes, preacher to whites, born, 1753.
21.—Charles L. Reason, teacher and poet, born, 1818.
26.—Alexandre Dumas, pere, the great French novelist, born, 1803.
26.—Ira Aldridge, Shakespearean actor acknowledged in Europe, born, 1804.
25.—Maria Weston Chapman, abolitionist, born, 1806.
28.—Fourteenth Amendment declared ratified, 1868.
29.—Alexandre Dumas, fils, French author, born, 1824.
31.—Europeans had their first glimpse of Chaka, the distinguished chieftain of the Zulus, 1824.

## August

1.—Slavery finally abolished in British dependencies, 1834.
3.—Edward W. Blyden, scholar and diplomat, born, 1832.
4.—Robert Purvis, abolistionist, born, 1810.
20.—Twenty blacks brought as slaves to Jamestown, 1619.
21.—Nat Turner's Insurrection, 1831.
23.—Jean Baptiste Lislet-Geoffrey, a distinguished French geographer, grandson of Touca Niama, King of Galam, born, 1755.
29.—African Methodist Episcopal Church incorporated, 1796.
24.—Theodore Parker, liberal - minded minister, born, 1810.
24.—Independence of Liberia proclaimed, 1847.
31.—Gonga Musa (Mansa Musa), the most famous of the rulers of the Manding, went on a pious pilgrimage to Mecca, 1324.

August 1, 1982 — AFRO - AMERICAN Newspaper chain founded in Baltimore, Md. by John H. Murphy Sr.

## September

1.—Hiram R. Revels, first black United States Senator, born, 1822.
1.—Bishop Charles Betts Galloway, of Mississippi, prisoner of interracial goodwill, born, 1849.
6.—Marquis de Lafayette, friend of the blacks, born, 1757.
9.—John Gregg Fee, Kentucky abolitionist founder of Berea College, born, 1816.
11.—Angelo Solimann (Mmadi-Make) warrior under Joseph II, of the Holy Roman Empire, born, 1721.
12.—Samuel J. May, abolitionist, born, 1797.
18.—Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 passed.
22.—Lincoln gave notice of his intention to proclaim the emancipation of the slaves, 1862.
24.—Jupiter Hammon published his Address to the Negroes of New York, 1786.
28.—David Walker, author of the "Appeal" against slavery, born, 1785.

## October

7.—William Still, abolitionist and agent of the Underground Railroad, born, 1821.
Juan Latino, Spanish poet, wrote Latin poem in celebration of the Battle of Lepanto, 1571.
10.—Robert Gould Shaw, colonel of the Fifty - Fourth Massachusetts Regiment, born, 1837.
16.—John Brown's attack on Harper's Ferry, 1859.
19.—Cassius Marcellus Clay, Kentucky emancipationist, born, 1810.
19.—John Woolman, anti-slavery worker, born, 1720.
25.—William Goodell, abolitionist and author of the American Slave Code, born, 1792.
28.—Levi Coffin, founder of the "Underground Railroad," born, 1792.

## November

3.—William Cullen Bryant, liberal-minded poet, born, 1794.
7.—Elijah P. Lovejoy, the abolitionist, killed by a pro-slavery mob at Alton, Illinois, 1837.
9.—Benjamin Banneker, inventor and astronomer, born, 1731.
11.—Elihu Embree, Tennessee emancipationist, born, 1782.
11.—Bishop William Meade, preacher in Virginia, born, 1789.
17.—Behanzin, King of Dahomey, made his last stand against the French in defense of his native land, 1892.
17.—Henrique Dias, distinguished general, won a decisive battle against the Dutch in Brazil, 1636.
17.—Stephen S. Foster, abolitionist, born, 1809.
25.—Andrew Carnegie, philanthropist, born, 1835.
26.—Sara Grimke, South Carolina anti-slavery worker, born, 1792.
29.—Wendell Phillips, orator of the abolition cause, born, 1811. Edmonia Lewis, a sculptor of African blood, presented medallion portrait of Wendell Phillips.
29.—Louisa May Alcott, anti-slavery sympathizer, born, 1832.
30.—Askia the Great claimed the throne vacated by the death of Sonni Ali, 1492.

## December

2.—John Brown executed at Charles Town, West Virginia, 1859.
4.—Bishop Henri Gregoire, anti-slavery worker in France, born, 1750.
6.—Christopher Columbus discovered the Island of Haiti, 1496.
7.—Antonio Macco, the martyr, died in battle for the liberty of Cuba, 1898.
10.—William Lloyd Garrison, born, 1805.
12.—Joseph H. Rainey took his seat as the first black member of the House of Representatives, 1870.
14.—John M. Langston, black Representative in Congress, born, 1829.
15.—Colored Methodist Episcopal Church established, 1870.
15.—Frank Sanborn anti - slavery author, born, 1831.
17.—John G. Whittier, the anti-slavery poet, born, 1807.
18.—Thirteenth Amendment declared ratified, 1865.
20.—Charles Colcock Jones, missionary to blacks in Georgia, born, 1804.
22.—Thomas Wentworth Higginson, commander of black soldiers in Civil War, born, 1832.
23.—Henry Highland Garnet, black minister and reformer, born, 1715.
25.—Le Chevalier de Saint Georges, distinguished French musician and soldier of African blood, born, 1745.
25.—John H. Murphy Sr. born, 1840 in Baltimore, Md., founder AFRO - AMERICAN Newspapers.
28.—The American Colonization Society organized, 1816.

LOIS MAILOU JONES is being honored with an art exhibition: Black Women in the Visual Arts at Martin Luther King Library. The show can be seen through March 10.

DANSUN CAFE A PARIS (Leigh Whipper) by Lois Mailou Jones. Whipper, the famed black actor, was spotted having a snack in a Paris cafe and became the subject in this famous painting.

*The Art World*

# Lois Mailou Jones exhibit features 'Black Women'

By Charles Hall

Black Women in the Visual Arts: A Tribute to Lois Mailou Jones is currently being exhibited at the Martin Luther King Library, 9th and G Sts., N. W. The show, fourteen oils, acrylics and watercolors, will continue through March 10.

Viewing the show is comparable to seeing a bit of snow blown under the door. To visit the Jones "museum" is to open that door to a snow-covered landscape.

The "museum" — a stone structure located in upper Northwest D.C.— houses her collection, probably one of the most valuable in Washington.

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Joining in the tribute to Ms. Jones and displaying their works are the following regional artists:

Rose Auld, Jane Wheat Bettistea, Starmanda Bullock, Lillian Burwell, Roslyn Cambridge, Yvonne Carter, Doris Colbert, Juette Day, Gloria Freeman, Martha Jackson, Georgia Jessup, Patricia Landry, Edith Martin, Valerie Maynard, Corinne Mitchell, Winnie Owens, Cynthia Paige, Georgette S. Powell, Delilah Pierce, Malkia Roberts, Sylvia Snowden, Teixeira, Wendy Wilson and Roberta Wolfe.

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Ms. Jones has produced quality paintings for more than half a century. She has painted and exhibited abroad. A list of her exhibitions, honors and awards in the United States, Europe, Haiti, and Africa is startling.

More and more, she is being called America's first black female painter of note. Edmonia Lewis, sculptor, Augusta Savage, sculptor, and Laura Waring, portraitist, were among the women who preceded her and proved their skills in several media.

None, however, dealt exclusively and masterfully with all phases of painting.

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The "museum," her home, is loaded with art from Picasso prints to unsigned African carvings, but is mostly Jones — watercolors of Haiti, oil paintings of France, — acrylics of Africa.

Jones enjoys leading a guest on a tour of the fourteen room house, giving a mini lecture as each painting comes into view.

On several crowded walls the paintings themselves "speak," crying out for more room. It is not easy to concentrate on one fine painting while another is flexing its muscles just inches away.

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A visitor's first impression must be in the form of a question: How can one artist complete so many excellent paintings? Then an astounding idea supplants the question: "This is only a fraction of the total production!"

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The signature Lois Mailou Jones appears in museums and private collections in several parts of the world. The Boston Museum of Fine Arts has the acrylic painting UBI GIRL FROM TAI REGION. Washington's Hirshhorn Museum bought the collage "CHALLENGE" AMERICA. William (Bill) Cosby Jr. purchased VILLE D'HOUDAIN, FRANCE, an oil painting.

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The Jones selections in the "black women" exhibition are dated 1935 to 1978 and represent two approaches to painting. The earlier works are naturalistic with extensive color mixing and form modeling.

Later, the artist assumes a flat, hard-edge approach. Tension is created by colors and shapes which compeled for attention. These are Haitian—African in—Buenos.

Undramatic subject matter does not prevent STILL LIFE WITH GERANIUMS from being a spectacular painting. It seems to show the relief and exuberance felt by the artist upon returning to France after World War II. It was completed in 1957, and the firm composition and colorful shadows suggest the ghosts of Cezanne and Van Gogh were muses.

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MOB VICTIM is an oil painting in which a black man with hands tied looks skyward. Significantly, the sky in this painting appears ready to erupt as after the Crucifixion.

Ms. Jones' teaching career began when she was quite young. She also spent many years at what might be termed "good" commercial art, but she was not satisfied with the relative success of a textile designer and book illustrator.

Quite frankly, she sought fame, and decided painting was the answer. How could she gain the most the quickest? Harry T. Burley, the noted arranger-composer of Negro spirituals and Meta Fuller, the sculptor, offered her simple and direct advice: "Go abroad."

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In France, she was influenced by more than French art and sunlight. A black man in a wide-brimmed hat with food and drink on the table became the subject of a famous painting. DANS UN CAFE A PARIS (Leigh Whipper) is an oil painting of the pioneer black actor who appeared in OF MICE AND MEN. It is one of many oils in which Jones "throws away the brush" and uses the painting knife to define shapes which, like shingles, sometimes overlap. In places, the paint has been scraped to expose the underpainting and the texture of the canvas weave.

France was a place to visit. The Caribbean has become a place to stay. Ms. Jones is married to Pierre Noel, a distinguished Haitian designed and former classmate at Columbia University.

Ms. Jones recent works have been strongly Haitian-African, and a book "Caribbean and Afro-American Women Artists" is to be published soon.

## Answers

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | a | 21. | b |
| 2. | c | 22. | a |
| 3. | c | 23. | a |
| 4. | c | 24. | a |
| 5. | c | 25. | a |
| 6. | a | 26. | c |
| 7. | c | 27. | b |
| 8. | a | 28. | a |
| 9. | a | 29. | b |
| 10. | a | 30. | c |
| 11. | c | 31. | a |
| 12. | a | 32. | b |
| 13. | b | 33. | a |
| 14. | b | 34. | b |
| 15. | c | 35. | a |
| 16. | a | 36. | c |
| 17. | b | 37. | a |
| 18. | a | 38. | a |
| 19. | c | 39. | a |
| 20. | a | 40. | a |

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# Black History Quiz

*(See Answers)*

1. In what year did the first cargo of slaves imported for English use reach Jamestown, Va.?
a. 1619.
b. 1492
c. 1620
2. In 1770 he was the first of five men killed in the Boston Massacre and is now considered a martyr.
a. James Weldon Johnson
b. William C. Handy
c. Crispus Attucks
3. Sometimes referred to as the "Black Rose of Texas," she gained national prominence for her role in the Watergate hearings.
a. Cardiss Collins
b. Shirley Chisholm
c. Barbara Jordan
4. He was the first black elected to serve a full term in the U.S. Senate and in 1879 he presided over the Senate.
a. John S. Rock
b. Edward Brooke
c. Blanch K. Bruce
5. She was the first black woman bank president, founding St. Luke Penny Savings Bank in Richmond, Va. It later became St. Luke Bank and Trust Company.
a. Sojourner Truth
b. Madame C. J. Walker
c. Maggie Lena Walker
6. He fought against slavery in England and in 1789 published an autobiography that was the first description of African society written by an African.
a. Olaudah Equiano
b. Paul Cuffee
c. Kunta Kinte
7. Who wrote SOUL ON ICE?
a. Fred Hampton
b. Huey Newton
c. Eldridge Cleaver
8. He created the popular literary character Jesse B. Semple (also known as Simple).
a. Langston Hughes
b. Ishmael Reed
c.Anna Bontempes
9. His fables are famous for their morals.
a. Nicaeus
b. Aesop
c. Olympius
10. Who wrote BLACK BOY?
a. Richard Wright
b. Paul Robeson
c. Sterling A. Brown
11. A top black historian, he was the long time director of The Association for the Study of Afro - American Life and History.
a. Lerone Bennett
b. Dr. Benjamin Mays
c. Carter G. Woodson
12. This astronomer, mathematician, writer and inventor helped plan and design the city of Washington, D.C.
a. Benjamin Banneker
b. Pierre L'Enfant
c. David Ruggles
13. Gwendolyn Brooks won the 1950 Pulitzer Prize for which one of her works?
a. THE BEAN EATERS
b. ANNIE ALLEN
c. MAUD MARTHA
14. Miss Jane Pittman was a character created by:
a. Sam Greenlee
b. Ernest Gaines
c. Richard Allen
15. What Harlem Renaissance poet wrote IF WE MUST DIE?
a. Countee Cullen
b. Alain Locke
c. Claude McKay
16. Who wrote BLACK BOY?
a. Richard Wright
b. James Baldwin
c. Chester Himes
17. Who led the mutiny on the slave ship "Amistad"?
a. Nat Turner
b. Joseph Cinque
c. Denmark Vesey
18. Who was the first black man to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor?
a. Sgt. William H. Carney
b. Lt. Cmdr. Samuel L. Gravely
c. Gen. Daniel "Chappie" James Jr.
19. Oscar De Priest, a black Republican, was the first of his race elected from a northern state. Which one?
a. Ohio
b. New York
c. Illinois
20. He operated the first steamer to pass through the Golden Gate and a street is named for him in San Francisco.
a. William Alexander Leidesdorff
b. George Washington Williams
c. William Monroe Trotter
21. He is called the father of modern black journalism and the founder of the CHICAGO DEFENDER.
a. Carl Murphy
b. Robert Abbott
c. Prince Hall
22. The world's first successful open heart operation was performed by this man in 1893.
a. Dr. Daniel Hale Williams
b. Dr. Delano Meriwether
c. Dr. Charles Drew
23. Until his death in 1915, he was the most important spokesman for blacks. He also founded Tuskegee Institute.
a. Booker T. Washington
b. George Washington Carver
c. Marcus Garvey
24. In 1908, it was he and not Admiral Perry who was the first man to stand at the top of the world.
a. Matt Henson
b. Henry O. Flipper
c. James Durham
25. She served as an advisor to F. D. R. and founded the National Council of Negro Women.
a. Mary McLeod Bethune
b. Harriet Tubman
c. Marian Anderson
26. Which Black broke Babe Ruth's record for number of lifetime home runs?
a. Reggie Jackson
b. Willie Mays
c. Henry (Hank) Aaron
27. Which black woman was the first to win three gold medals in Olympic track?
a. Shirley Jo Feeny
b. Wilma Rudolph
c. Althea Gibson
28. Who was the first black to win the world's heavyweight title?
a. Jack Johnson
b. Muhammed Ali
c. Joe Frazier
29. He wrote "St. Louis Blues."
a. Scott Joplin
b. William Christopher Handy
c. Duke Ellington
30. Which Pennsylvania institution is the oldest black college in the United States?
a. Wilberforce
b. Howard University
c. Lincoln University
31. He was a black frontiersman and discovered a major emmigration route to California.
a. James Beckworth
b. Boss Ikard
c. George Glenn
32. What is the name of the first black newspaper?
a. BOSTON GUARDIAN
b. FREEDOM'S JOURNAL
c. CHICAGO DEFENDER
33. He is one of three blacks to win the Nobel Peace Prize.
a. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
b. Robert C. Weaver
c. Ralph Abernathy
34. Who is the current U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations?
a. Julian Bond
b. Andrew Young
c. Maynard Jackson
35. Who was the first black justice of the United States Supreme Court?
a. Thurgood Marshall
b. Frederick Douglass
c. W. E. B. DuBois
36. Which slave led a successful revolt before he was captured and eventually hanged?
a. Gabriel Prosser
b. Denmark Vesey
c. Nat Turner
37. Who was the first black to play Shakespearean characters?
a. Ira Aldridge
b. James Earl Jones
c. Terrence
38. What freedman revolutionized the sugar industry?
a. Norbett Rillieux
b. Dred Scott
c. William Wells Brown
39. He was a runaway slave who became one of the greatest orators ever and advised President Lincoln.
a. Frederick Douglass
b. Andrew F. Brimmer
c. Alex Haley
40. Who founded the AME Church?
a. Richard Allen
b. Jean Baptiste Pointe de Sable
c. James Augustine Healy

# Long record of courage and bravery often ignored

"History: Torch for the Future" is the theme of Black History Month, this year.

Black men and women have fought bravely against America's foes since 1652. Free and enslaved blacks fought in the colonial wars. They died assisting the birth of the American nation — more than 5,000 blacks served in the Continental Army. And, blacks shed their blood in the War of 1812 assuring the results of the Revolution.

According to President Lincoln, Afro - American participation in the Civil War insured Northern victory and preservation of the Union. More than 186,000 blacks served in the Union Army. Two black cavalry regiments — the 9th and 10th and two black infantry regiments — the 24th and 25th — played a large role in the "winning of the West" during the quarter century after Appomattox. These four regiments later fought in Cuba during the Spanish - American War.

In the "war to make the world safe for democracy," more than 40,000 of the 200,000 black soldiers sent overseas served in combat. One of the leading American units was the 369th Regiment which fought so well with the French, it was awarded the Croix de Guerre. Two black divisions, the 93rd and 92nd, also saw action during World War I. These two divisions along with many other black combat units saw action in the Second World War.

But, ironically, most of these black men and women are denied the very freedom, equality, and citizenship they believed they were fighting for. Their contributions to the nation generally were unrecognized and unappreciated.

Since the white majority tended to doubt the black's soldiering ability, blacks initially were not allowed to join the war effort. But as the struggle deepened, whites were ready to have blacks as allies for the duration. Just as surely, blacks seeking to prove their worth would join the fight — only to be thrust aside when peace returned. And even in wartime, black soldiers faced the same inequalities they found in civilian life.

Not until the early stages of the Korean war did the blacksoldier fight in other than a segregated status. The 24th Infantry would be the last all black combat unit.

Equality in the armed forces took steps toward reality when President Truman issued an executive order in July 1948 directing that "equality of treatment and opportunity" be implemented "as rapidly as possible."

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During the last 28 years, a policy of gradual integration has expanded to one of equal opportunity in all aspects of Army life and beyond. Equal opportunity policies now apply to off - post housing and public - accommodations. Race relations education and training programs are designed to foster the active support and participation of all soldiers. The guiding light for equal opportunity today is the Affirmative Actions Plan — a step beyong nondiscriminations.

# When Banneker saved day for the capital

Nearly everybody knows that Benjamin Banneker is responsible for planning the city of the nation's capital. But few can recall just exactly how that story goes.

Others simply remember Banneker as a black man who assisted the white architect, Major Pierre L'Enfant, in laying out the routes and borders of the city.

In fact, Banneker today has only a local school named for him; while L'Enfant has a massive and spectacular plaza, replete with stores, offices, and its own subway station, named for him.

It should be the other way around; for L'Enfant was a quitter and a man of stormy temper, who left the city in a lurch.

Here's how it happened.

President Thomas Jefferson wanted to be sure that the new headquarters city for the government would be properly planned, with streets carefully organized in all directions, and with natural boundaries woven together into a new unified whole.

He appointed a famous French group to oversee the project, since France was and still is regarded as having the most beautiful system of boulevards and parks of any country in the world.

At the head of the project was Major L'Enfant, a French military engineer.

L'Enfant was assisted in the undertaking by a commission of men responsible for surveying the District.

Knowing that L'Enfant, as a Frenchrian, would have a fairly liberal outlook on working with blacks, President Jefferson decided to request L'Enfant to hire a man named Benjamin Banneker as a member of the commission.

Jefferson had been writing back-and-forth with Banneker for some time. He had been a faithful follower of Banneker's almanac (which contained his own yearly computations of tides, astronomical forecasts and observations for planting). He had also been a reader of Banneker's controversial but famous essays on philosophy.

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Although Banneker was an older man — at least 76 years old — he was recommended by the president to assist the Frenchman in planning the new city.

In fact, Jefferson sent copies of Banneker's publications alongside his personal recommendation of him, to the French Academy of Sciences.

With such high recommendations, Banneker got the job. Actually, he became one of the chief surveyors for the project.

All went well until the "crazy" Frenchman L'Enfant got mad and quit. Some say he found the work too tedious and demanding; others say he was a man who lost interest in projects that took too long to finish.

At any rate, L'Enfant left the country and went back to France, taking with him every plan and map and survey and blueprint that the commission had.

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Jefferson told the public that "all was lost." But Banneker came to the rescue.

"I can remember every detail of all the plans," Banneker told the astounded Jefferson. "And what I can't remember, I can design on my own."

With no other alternative, the commission agreed with the president that Banneker should be given the chance.

And he did. In only three days, Banneker had reproduced every major plan for the capital. He stayed with the project, overseeing it to completion.

But while his genius was responsible for its completion; and while his "photographic memory" was a lifesaver; he was soon forgotten.

Jefferson had called Banneker the "savior of the city." But the city's white governors in later years forgot about the "savior" and instead honored the "quitter."

BENJAMIN BANNEKER

# The woman who built a school on a dump

Mary McLeod Bethune now has a statue in her honor in Lincoln Park in the northeast section of the District. But the magnificence of her character far outshines the magnificence of the monument.

She was one of 17 children born to former slaves on a plantation where hard work and cruelty were the order of the day. In fact, she was her parents' first child after emancipation.

Emancipation meant little however as far as a change in working conditions for the family. On hot afternoons in South Carolina's fields, the young 9-year-old Mary soon learned to pick 250 pounds of cotton a day all by herself.

Sometimes in the evenings, she would get a chance to go with her mother up to the "big house." There she looked at the long rows of books in the library.

She somehow knew that the secret to the wealth and prosperity of the plantation owners lay in those books.

So she determined then to learn to read and master the master's knowledge.

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Her self-taught abilities brought her scholarships to attend elementary school. Later she got other scholarships to college, beginning with Moody Bible Institute, a school still existent (though always predominantly white) in Chicago.

Later she married; but she always continued her emphasis on education. After her husband died, in 1904, she went to Florida.

Thousands of blacks were migrating to east Florida to get jobs building a new railway there. Mrs. Bethune longed to provide some kind of schooling for the many children who would accompany their families to that area.

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But she had only $1.50 in savings to her name! What could she do with that?

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She did not know; but she said she knew a God who did. By faith, she found a deserted 4-room shack, which she turned into a school, with herself as teacher.

There were no desks or chairs, except for orange crates and old boxes turned-on-end.

Logs were burned and the charred splinters were used for pencils. Juice from berries was utilized for ink.

And there were many, many trips to old dumps. There amidst the rats and filth, Mrs. Bethune found and scoured cracked but usable dishes, old lumber, broken but repairable chairs and even discarded linen.

She once said she even pulled Spanish moss from the trees to use for stuffing for pillows and mattresses.

One day she felt God telling her to buy the dump she had been rummaging for useful articles. At first, she doubted. After all, the dump was on old swamp land, and had little value.

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Precisely because of that, she was able to get it for almost nothing.

To raise the money, she made pies and sold them. She also took her students to hotels to sing, begging shamelessly from the wealthy travelers for funds.

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It worked. She not only bought the land, she improved it. It became no longer a dump or a swamp. And there were new buildings which followed for an even newer school.

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Bethune-Cookman College (after a merger) is still known for its illustrious founder, Mary McLeod Bethune, who took a dump and faith and built an eternal memorial all her own.

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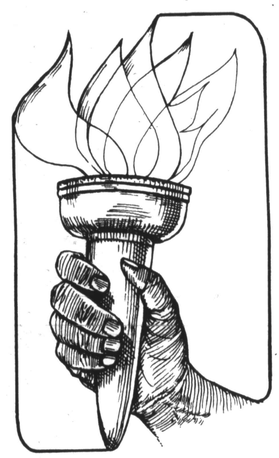
That's not all. Mrs. Bethune served as an advisor to four U.S. presidents. She was, some say, the very closest friend that Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt ever had.

In 1935 she founded the National Council of Negro Women. She was selected by President Truman to be present at the founding conference of the United Nations.

And she was always a churchwoman and an educator.



## Former slave still

One man still lives in the Washington, D.C. area who can tell you about what it was like in times of slavery.

In fact, William Pinckney of Southeast D.C., just turned 116 years old a few days ago. Born into slavery in Prince George's County, Md., Pinckney lived for most of his life as a sharecropper.

No one knows for sure just how old this pioneer is. But it has been certified that he is at least 116 (born on or before 1863). Genealogists who have attempted to trace his birth earlier have been refused information prior to that point because of white Pinckneys who don't wand to admit that they are any relation to the gentleman.

His youngest daughter, however, is herself 56 years old. And she is one of a total of 17 children he had.

Pinckney is a religious man, who credits his living right and keeping the commandments as the clue to his long life.

He helped build the first log cabin church in Croom, Md. many years ago.

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Pinckney now lives on Capitol Hill. But he recalls the old days — and they were not all so good.

He remembers, for instance, how they used to beat his mother when she refused to obey orders.

Sometimes, he said, the whites would put the family's food (sometimes only a pastry of milk and flour) on the floor of the log cabin and order them to eat it off the ground.

Encounters with the Ku Klux Klan are also a part of his memory. They would come, he said, and take the women and do with them whatever they wanted. And there was no way to stop them.

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