

Queens College
Black History Month February 2010
Notable Facts - Part 1

February is the celebration month of Black History. Queens College is proud to showcase events and individuals who have changed the course of World history, contributed and enriched the world's culture”.

POLITICS:

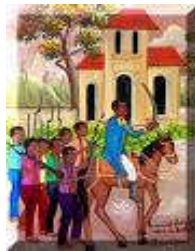
Events and Giants of the past

**1- HISTORY OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH – DR. CARTER G. WOODSON
1875-1950**



Black Month History was founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson in 1926 to celebrate Negro Life, preserve the history and culture of people of African descent. To commemorate events, deeds, and individuals who greatly impacted Black life. The son of former slaves, he was born in Virginia in 1875, began high school at the age of 20, pursued his studies, obtained a Doctorate Degree at Harvard University in 1912. He published *Journal of Negro History* in 1916. He launched the Negro History Week in February 1926 and expanded it to the whole month of February, chosen by him for the following reasons: 1) the 15th Amendment prohibits the U.S. government from denying a U.S. citizen the rights to vote based on race or color, it was ratified on February 3rd, 1870; 2) the birthday celebration of President Abraham Lincoln, and Abolitionist Frederick Douglass in the month of February; 3) the formation of the NAACP on February 12th 1909
4) W.E.B. Dubois birthday on February.

2- HAITIAN REVOLUTION -1791-1803



The first and only successful slave revolt in world history that transformed Saint Domingue, a former French colony, into the first independent Black Republic in the world. The leaders of the revolution are: 1) Toussaint L'Ouverture, a former slave whose army formed of former slaves defeated the French, the Spanish and The British armies of that period. 2) Jean Jacques Dessalines who led the war of independence in the Battle of Vertieres on November 18, 1803 that finally defeated the French army of Napoleon. He became the first leader of the independent black nation which he renamed: HAITI on January 1st, 1804. 3) Henri Christophe, king of Haiti from 1806-1820 who built LA CITADELLE LAFERRIERE. 4) Alexandre Sabes Petion 1806-1818 known as the Pan-Americanist.

3- CIVIL WAR OF THE UNITED STATES -1861-1865



The war fought between the Northern and the Southern states of the United States over the questions of expansion of slavery, secession and preservation of the Union. Called the bloodiest war in U.S. history, the Civil War ended with the South being defeated and the abolition of slavery with the passing and ratification of the 13th amendment in 1865. The Reconstruction Period – 1865 to

1877, was the period to rebuild the country and to establish race relations, the 14th and the 15th amendments were passed. Ratified in 1868 the 14th amendment recognizes all people born in the United States as citizens having Equal Rights, Due Process and Protection of the Law including black people. Note that: prior to the ratification of the 14th amendment black people were not considered as citizens of the United States and had no rights. The 15th amendment ratified on February 3rd, 1870 grants the right to vote to all citizens of the U.S. regardless race or color. Notable individuals who impacted the ante and post bellum periods are: 1) President Abraham Lincoln, 16th president of the United States, 2) John Brown, American abolitionist, martyr, who incited slaves to revolt at Harpers Ferris, Virginia 3) Dred Scott, slave from Missouri who sued for his freedom, 4) Frederick Douglass, African-American abolitionist orator, editor of the *North Star*, 5) Sojourner Truth African-American woman abolitionist, 6) Harriet Tubman, African-American abolitionist, 7) William Lloyd Garrison, American abolitionist, editor of the *Liberator*, an abolitionist journal, 8) John Fairfield, American abolitionist, Underground Railroad conductor. Etc...

4- MARCUS GARVEY 1887-1940



Born in St. Ann Bay, Jamaica, West Indies, founder of the UNIA, Universal Negro Improvement Association and ACL African Communities League. Promoter of the movement “Back to Africa”, he is considered as the first Black Nationalist and Pan Africanist. His movement to mobilize the African Diaspora to return to Africa and redeem the continent is called Garveyism. His motto is: 1) race first, 2) self-reliance 3) nationhood. He published *The Negro World*. Garvey migrated to the United States in 1916 to promote his ideas; he became a popular and

polarizing figure in the U.S. especially in Harlem, New York where he had his headquarters. He galvanized the African American communities of Harlem, uplifted them stating they “come from a mighty race”, and urged them to go back to Africa. He incorporated the Black Star Line, a shipping company to repatriate blacks to Africa, in 1919. Accused of mail fraud, Garvey was found guilty, convicted and sentenced to five (5) years in prison. President Calvin Coolidge commuted his sentence; he was released on November 1927. Garvey was deported to Jamaica. Garvey traveled the world around to promote his ideas; he died in London, England on June 10, 1940. He is known as one of the founding fathers of Pan-Africanism and he is a hero in Jamaica, W.I.

5- **W.E.B. DUBOIS (William Edward Burghardt Du Bois) 1868-1963**



Born in Great Barrington, Massachusetts on February 23rd 1868, Dubois earned in 1890 a B.A. degree cum laude at Harvard; he traveled extensively in Europe, attended the University of Berlin, Germany, and is the first African-American to have received a Ph.D. degree at Harvard University in 1895. He wrote several books among them the classic: *The Souls of Black Folk*. He founded and published *The Crisis* in 1910 and *Phylon* in 1940, both

are magazines which advocated social reform and racial equality. Dubois was a historian, a sociologist, an author, a journalist, an educator, and above all a Civil Rights Activist who fought all his life for black equality. His great legacies are: the establishment of the NAACP in 1909; an organization founded to compel the U.S. government to execute and enforce the 14th and the 15th amendments, to combat racial injustices, the famous case to exemplify this, is: *Brown v. Board of the Education of Topeka* in 1954; the organization of the 5th Pan-African Conference in 1945; the doctrine of the *Talented Tenth*, an idea that one in ten black men could become a leader of their race and that can only be achieved through Higher Education, a classical and liberal education to uplift the black race. A prominent intellectual, Dubois was one of the leaders of the Harlem Renaissance, he encouraged black artists from all walks of life to express themselves in all facets of art: writing: poetry, fiction, drama, literature; music: jazz, blues, ragtime style etc.; painting, sculpture etc.. He published weekly in several newspapers about race relations, African American, social reform. A staunch socialist, Dubois moved to Ghana in 1963 after he was refused a U.S. passport. He died in Ghana on August, 1963

6- **BOOKER T. WASHINGTON 1856-1915**



Born in Hales' Ford Virginia in 1856, a prominent political leader after the Reconstruction Period, a teacher an author, he wrote *Up from Slavery* in 1901. He is famously known for his *Atlanta Address of 1895*, a speech that advocated the doctrine of accommodation that required African-Americans to give up civil rights, higher education and political power and to embrace an agricultural and vocational education. He was the director of the

Institute of Alabama, founded to educate former slaves after the Reconstruction Period. This Institute is now known as the Tuskegee University. Washington died in Tuskegee on November 14, 1915.