



Famous Firsts

First African American patent holder was Thomas L. Jennings, invented “dry scouring,” a method of dry cleaning, which was patented on March 3, 1821.

<http://afroamhistory.about.com/od/scientistsinventors/tp/blackscientistsinventorsfirsts.htm>

First African-American Supreme Court Justice was Thurgood Marshall, 1967.

http://encarta.msn.com/enenet/departments/homework/?article=african_american_firsts

First African-American woman to obtain a Patent in 1885, for a cabinet bed.

<http://inventors.about.com/library/inventors/blgoode.htm>

Madame C.J. Walker (born Sarah Breedlove) invented specialized hair products for African-American hair and became the first American woman to become a millionaire.

<http://www.biography.com/search/article.do?id=9522174>

Matthew Henson (1867-1955) was a part of the first successful U.S. expedition to the North Pole in 1909.

<http://www.biography.com/search/article.do?id=9335648>

First U.S. Senator: Hiram Revels became Senator from Mississippi from Feb. 25, 1870, to March 4, 1871, during Reconstruction. Edward Brooke became the first African-American Senator since Reconstruction, 1966–1979.

<http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0930432.html>

Eric H. Holder, Jr., confirmed Feb 2, 2009, as the first African American to serve as U.S. Attorney General.

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/a-13-2009-02-03-voa2-68796277.html>

First Nobel Prize for Literature winner: Toni Morrison, 1993.

<http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/people/A0834111.html>

First Major league baseball player: Jackie Robinson, 1947, Brooklyn Dodgers

<http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/people/A0842106.html>

Barack Obama, Democrat from Chicago, became the first African-American president.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/president-obama>

More information available in Heston Collection Room

Information about African Americans with Atlantic City ties is located in the Atlantic City Free Public Library's Alfred M. Heston Collection. The collection contains a vast array of published resources, periodicals, photographs, files about local people and organizations and other special collections.

There is a guide highlighting many of the collection's resources. It is available at the Main Library Reference Desk; or, you can view it in PDF form by visiting:

<http://www.acfpl.org/files/heston/AfricanAmericanguidesingle.pdf>

Resources in the Heston Collection are available for public use during research hours or by appointment. Contact the Heston Room for further information at (609) 345-2269 ext. 3062.

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A GUIDE TO African-American History Resources AT THE LIBRARY

About Our Collection

The Atlantic City Free Public Library features an extensive collection of resources that provides information about African-American history, accomplishments, issues, pivotal figures and more. This guide is a list of just some of the great resources that are available to you at the library and online. Whether you want to listen to the inauguration speech of United States President Barack Obama, collect information about Thurgood Marshall for a school report or teach the younger generation about the Civil Rights Movement, you can accomplish those goals — and this guide tells you where that information is available. Should you need any assistance, a reference librarian at the Main Library will be happy to help. You can stop by and speak to a librarian in person, e-mail reflib@acfpl.org or call (609) 345-2269.

Online Research Library

Oxford African-American Studies Center — Provides online 24/7 access to the best reference resources in African American studies with new titles such as the new *Encyclopedia of African American History, 1896 to the Present*; the second edition of *Black Women in America*; and the much-anticipated *African American National Biography*, featuring many prominent figures like boxer Larry Holmes, writer and civil rights activist Barbara Smith, and former Secretary of Labor Alexis Margaret Herman, the first African American to hold that cabinet position. You can access it from a library computer; or, if you have an Atlantic City Library card, you can use it from home, work or any other computer 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Check it out by visiting www.acfpl.org, choosing the My Library Online tab and then going to the Black History Month resource page.

Biography Resource Center: African Americans — Contains in-depth biographies of notable African Americans including Maya Angelou, Thurgood Marshall, Rosa Parks, Colin Powell, Condoleezza Rice, Usher, Oprah Winfrey, Tiger Woods and many others.

Local African-American History: Atlantic City and New Jersey

African American History in Atlantic City, available online or at the library
<http://tinyurl.com/az8vsd>

African Americans in New Jersey — A history of blacks in New Jersey from colonial times through the 1980s. Originally published in 1989, it was published on the Web by the New Jersey State Library

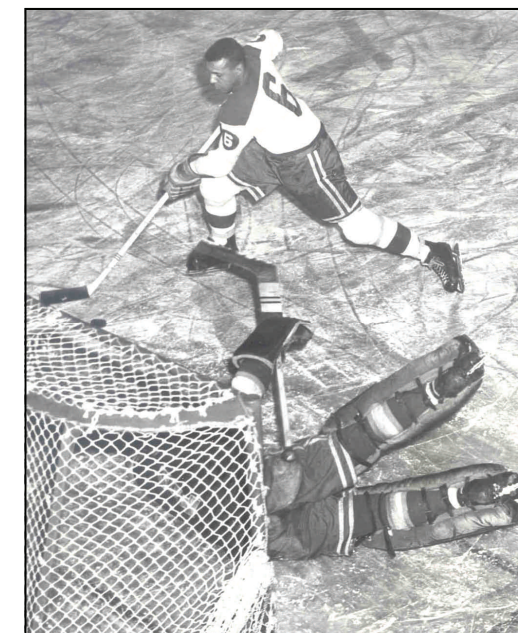
www.njstatelib.org/NJ_Information/Digital_Collections/Digidox9.php

African American Heritage Museum of Southern New Jersey
<http://www.aahmsnj.org/>

The Historic Election of President Barack Obama

Watch Barack Obama, the United States' first African-American President, take the oath on the Lincoln Bible

www.loc.gov/wiseguide/feb09/swear.html



Atlantic City's Art Dorrington was the first African-American hockey player to sign an NHL contract.

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General Interest Megasites

African American Inventions and Inventors — This site provides a great collection of resources on African American inventors.

www.patent-search-information.com/african-american-inventors.html

African American History — This site on African-American history contains the text of significant speeches. There's also biographical information about famous African-Americans.

<http://afgen.com/history.html>

African American Women's History — Uncover the history of African American women: the history of black women in America, from slavery through Reconstruction, Harlem Renaissance and civil rights. Biographies, organizations, events and movements.

http://womenshistory.about.com/od/africanamerican/African_American_Womens_History.htm

African American World: A PBS Guide to African American History & Culture — A-Z guide to African American history and culture

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/aaworld/>

Black History Month Resource Center — This site, from Gale Research, offers biographies, historical information and activities. In the biography section, 60 prominent African-Americans are featured, while a timeline highlights events from 1619 to the present.

www.gale.cengage.com/free_resources/bhm/

Black Past.org — An online reference center that offers articles, speeches, and links to other black history resources.

www.blackpast.org/

BlackRefer — Directory of hard-to-find websites for the black community.

<http://blackrefer.com/>

Celebrating Black History — Articles, essays, photographs, and transcripts about the black experience from Time and Life magazines. Includes transcripts of TIME.com's exclusive online conversations with newsmakers like Toni Morrison and Angela Davis.

<http://www.time.com/time/reports/blackhistory/>

Encyclopedia Britannica Guide to Black History — Provides illustrations, biographies of people from many walks of life, as well as essays on movements and events.

<http://search.eb.com/blackhistory/home.do>

From Slavery to Civil Rights: A Timeline of African American History — This timeline, from the U.S. Library of Congress, covers the 1600s through the Civil Rights movement.

<http://memory.loc.gov/learn/features/civilrights/flash.html>

The Faces of Science: African Americans in the Sciences — This helpful site contains profiles of past and present African American men and women scientists in the fields of science and engineering. The areas of biology, chemistry, computer science, engineering, medicine, and general inventors are just some of the fields of study included. This site contains biographies, photographs, and bibliography lists may be helpful for further research.

<https://webfiles.uci.edu/mcbrown/display/faces.html>

The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database: Voyages — This database provides information on 35,000 slave ship voyages, which forcibly transported 10 million Africans to the Americas between the 16th and 19th centuries.

www.slavevoyages.org/tast/index.faces

E-books

African-American Studies Reference Books are available through Atlantic City Free Public Library's Virtual Reference Library; includes digitized resources such as encyclopedias, dictionaries, documents, photographs and more. Go to our webpage at www.acfpl.org and click on My Library Online, select Online Research Library and then African American Studies Reference Books. Use from your home or office computer 24/7 with an Atlantic City Free Public Library card. Here are the titles of the books you will find:

African American Almanac 2008 • Notable Black American Men, Book II • Encyclopedia of African-American Culture and History • Who's Who Among African Americans • Black Literature Criticism: Classic and Emerging Authors since 195 • Encyclopedia of Race and Racism • Gale Library of Daily Life: Slavery and America • Minorities: Race and Ethnicity in America

Websites

Black History Month: About.com Guide — This site explores the issues, events, and people that have made a difference in African-American history.

<http://afroamhistory.about.com/od/blkhistorymonth/u/blackhistorymonth.htm>

Black History Month — This Information Please site features articles on black history as well as biographies of notable African Americans in politics, history, arts, entertainment and sports.

www.infoplease.com/spot/bhm1.html

Black History Month Resource Center — This site offers biographies, historical information, and activities. In the biography section, 60 prominent African-American men and women are featured, while a timeline highlights events from 1619 to the present.

www.gale.cengage.com/free_resources/bhm/

Biography — Black History Month from Biography.com on A&E.

<http://www.biography.com/blackhistory/>

Issues in Depth — Black History Month from the NY Times Learning Network.

www.nytimes.com/learning/issues_in_depth/20030116.html

Library of Congress African American History month.

<http://www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov/>

African American Inventions and Inventors — This site provides a great collection of resources on African American inventors.

www.patent-search-information.com/african-american-inventors.html

African American Journey — To celebrate Black History Month, this World Book site covers the slave trade, antislavery movement, Civil War, emancipation, Reconstruction through World War II, and the Civil Rights Movement.

www.worldbook.com/wb/Students?content_spotlight/aajourney

Non-fiction Books

April 4, 1968: Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Death and How It Changed America • Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream • Birth of Black America: The First African Americans and the Pursuit of Freedom • From Slavery to Freedom: A History of Negro Americans • In their Footsteps: Inspirational Reflections on Black History • Inventive Spirit of African Americans • Powerful Words: More than 200 years of Extraordinary Writing by African Americans • A Slave No More: Two Men Who Escaped to Freedom • The Audacity to Win: The Inside Story and Lessons of Barack Obama's Historic Victory • Black Literate Lives: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives • The Hemingses of Monticello: An American family • Lift Every Voice: The NAACP and the Making of the Civil Rights Movement • A Long Time Coming: The Inspiring, Combative 2008 Campaign and Historic Election of Barack Obama • Michelle Obama: First Lady of Hope • Slavery by Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of Black People in America from the Civil War to World War II • The Ties that Bind: A Memoir of Race, Memory, and Redemption • What Would Martin Say?

DVDs

Black History: From Civil War Through Today (six discs) • Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years • Roots • Barack Obama People's President: The Campaign That Changed History • Barack Obama The Power of Change • Obama: All Access: Barack Obama's road to the White House • Yes We Can!: The Barack Obama Story • Black Is — Black Ain't [videodics]: A Personal Journey through Black Identity

Blogs

Jessica's African-American History Blog

<http://afroamhistory.about.com/b/>

Black Voices Bookshelf

<http://www.blackvoices.com/blogs/category/bv-bookshelf>