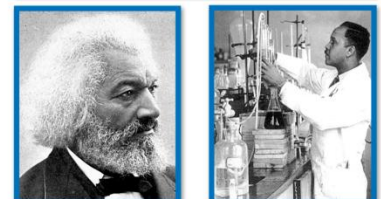
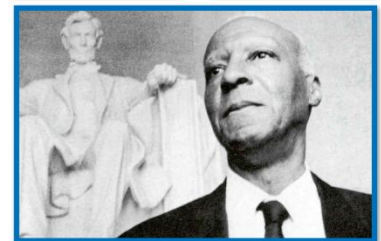

Black History Month

BY KATHY BUCKSON

Over the years, there have been many great men and women who have contributed to African-American history. During the month of February, thanks to Carter G. Woodson, founder of Black History Month, people from all around the globe give tribute to prominent African-Americans and study their achievements.

Notables include Harriet Tubman, the runaway slave from Maryland, known to many as the “Moses” of her people, who led thousands of slaves to their freedom via the underground railroad; Sojourner Truth, orator, and women’s rights activist, famous for her response “Ain’t I a Woman?”; A. Phillip Randolph, who organized the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and achieved the first union contract signed by a white employer; Frederick Douglass, journalist and activist, who started his own anti-slavery newspaper, *The North Star*, and later published his autobiography; George Washington Carver, agricultural scientist, who discovered the many products that the peanut could yield; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the leader of the civil rights movement; Rosa Parks, the determined African-American woman who refused to give up her seat on a city bus; and Dr. Percy Julian, a scientist and medical researcher who was responsible for the mass production of a drug (physostigmine) used to treat glaucoma.

Others recognized for their endeavors important not only to African-American history, but also to the overall history of our country, are inventors, such as Frederick Jones (air conditioning), Granville T. Woods (automatic cut-off switch), and Garrett Morgan (traffic light). These are familiar names Americans have celebrated throughout the years.



Above: Harriet Tubman; George Washington Carver; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; Rosa Parks; Sojourner Truth; A. Phillip Randolph; Frederick Douglass; and Dr. Percy Julian.

At left: Frederick Jones, Garrett Morgan, and Granville T. Woods.

But do you know deaf African-American leaders such as Dr. Andrew Foster (the first African American to graduate from Gallaudet University, who also began schools in Africa for the deaf), Sheryl Emery (the founder of National Black Deaf Association), Linwood Smith (an author and a pioneer of mental health services for deaf

RELATED RESOURCES

Visit the following Web sites to learn more:

[National Black Deaf Advocates](#)

[Deaf and African American Children](#)

[Deaf and African American](#)

people), Dr. Ernest Hairston (the education research analyst at the U.S. Department of Education and coauthor of *Black and Deaf in America: Are We That Different*), Curtis Pride (a professional and minor league baseball player who is deaf), C.J. Jones (an internationally known deaf entertainer), Kenny Walker (a professional football player who is deaf), Mary Herring Wright (author of the book *Sounds Like Home*, a story of growing

up black and deaf in the South), or Claudia Gordon (the first African-American deaf attorney in America)? Their achievements too have impacted hearing and deaf African Americans in the United States.

As you study the lives and contributions of these individuals, remember that the Described and Captioned Media Program (DCMP) has a wealth of information to assist you. The DCMP, funded by the U.S. Department of Education (ED) and administered by the National Association of the Deaf (NAD), was the first to provide open-captioned educational media titles related to African-American history and today houses the largest such collection in the nation. At no charge, teachers of K–12 deaf and hard of hearing students and their families may borrow DVD copies or view these materials online.

Black History Titles Available From the DCMP

[African-American Heroes of Sport](#)

[A. Phillip Randolph: For Jobs and Freedom](#)

[Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad](#)

[Black American History series Volume 1-5](#)

[Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.](#)

[African Americans Marching to Freedom](#)

[The Peanut Man: George Washington Carver](#)

[Rosa Parks: The Path to Freedom](#)

Don't miss out! February is the time for celebration of the achievements of both hearing and deaf African-Americans, but we should celebrate our collective heritage every day! Captioned media from the DCMP can help you learn and celebrate year-round.

About the Author

Kathy Buckson is the administrative specialist for the Described and Captioned Media Program. She is often found assisting clients in their selection of media, including items for Black History Month, as well as helping people find information in the DCMP's [clearinghouse of articles](#). She can be reached at kbuckson@dcmp.org.