



1619 - Jamestown, Virginia

Negro history in "English America" begins with the arrival of 20 Negro slaves aboard a Dutch vessel (August 20).

1624 - Jamestown, Virginia

Baptism of William Tucker, the first Negro child born in the English colonies.

1662 - Virginia

The colony passes a law which provides that the status of children—bound or free—will be determined by the condition of the mother.

1688 - Germantown, Pennsylvania

Signing of the Germantown Mennonite Anti-Slavery Resolution, the first formal protest made against slavery in the Western Hemisphere.

1739 - Stono, South Carolina

An early slave revolt led by Cato results in the death of 30 whites and many more slaves. Some, however, escape to freedom.

1760 - New York City

Jupiter Hammon, believed to be the first Negro poet in the colonies, publishes *Salvation By Christ With Penitential Cries*.

1770 - Boston, Massachusetts

Crispus Attucks is shot and killed during the Boston Massacre.

1773 - Savannah, Georgia

George Lisle and Andrew Bryan organize the first Negro Baptist church in the state.

1775 - Fort Ticonderoga

Negro patriots join Ethan Allan and the Green Mountain Boys in the capture of Fort Ticonderoga.

1775 - Bunker Hill

Peter Salem, Salem Poor and others are among the first Negroes to fight heroically at Bunker Hill.

1776 - Delaware River

Two Negroes—Prince Whipple and Oliver Cromwell—cross the Delaware with Washington en route to a surprise attack of the British and their Hessian mercenaries in Trenton, New Jersey.

1787 - Philadelphia

Negro preachers Richard Allen and Absalom Jones organize the Free African Society.

1787 - Philadelphia

Prince Hall organizes the first Negro Masonic lodge in America—African Lodge No. 459.

1787 - New York City

Opening of the African Free School.

1791 - District of Columbia

On the recommendation of Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Banneker—astronomer, inventor, mathematician and gazetteer—is appointed to serve as a

member of the commission charged with laying out plans for the city of Washington.

1794 - Philadelphia

Dedication of the First African Church of St. Thomas, the first Negro Episcopal congregation in the United States.

1794 - Philadelphia

Organization by Richard Allen of the Bethel Church, a Negro Methodist Episcopal Church.; Allen and Absalom Jones are well known to the citizens of Philadelphia, having been commended by the mayor for organizing Negroes to minister to the sick and bury the dead during an outbreak of yellow fever.

1800 - Richmond, Virginia

Betrayal of Gabriel Prosser's plan to lead thousands of slaves in an attack on Richmond. Gabriel and 15 of his followers are later hanged.

1807 - Washington, D.C.

Congress bars the importation of any new slaves into the territory of the United States (effective January 1, 1808).

1816 - Philadelphia

Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

1818 - Philadelphia

Free Negroes form the Pennsylvania Augustine Society—"for the education of people of colour."

1820 - New York City

The "Mayflower of Liberia" sails for the west coast of Africa (Sierra Leone) with 86 Negroes on board.

1821 - New York City

Founding of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, with James Varick as its first bishop.

1822 - Charleston, South Carolina

Betrayal of the Denmark Vesey conspiracy, one of the most elaborate on record. Vesey and 36 of his collaborators are hanged, while an additional 130 Negroes and four whites are arrested.

1827 - New York City

Freedom's Journal, the first Negro newspaper, begins publication on March 16. "In the spirit of candor and humility we intend...to lay our case before the public with a view to arrest the progress of prejudice, and to shield ourselves against its consequent evils."

1829 - Boston

Publication by David Walker, a free Negro, of a militant anti-slavery pamphlet (*An Appeal to the Colored People of the World*) which is distributed throughout the country and arouses a furor among slaveholders.

1830 - Philadelphia

Chaired by Richard Allen, the first National Negro Convention meets from September 20-24 at Philadelphia's Bethel Church, launching a church-affiliated program to improve the social status of the American Negro.

1831 - Southampton County, Virginia

Nat Turner leads the greatest slave rebellion in history, with some 60 whites killed and the entire South thrown into panic. Turner is captured on Octo-

ber 30, and hanged in Jerusalem (Virginia) 12 days later.

1833 - Ohio

Founding in Ohio of Oberlin College, integrated from the outset and a leader in the abolitionist cause. By the time the Civil War erupts, Negroes constitute fully one-third of Oberlin's students.

1838 - New York City

The first Negro periodical—*Mirror of Liberty*—is published by David Ruggles, a Negro abolitionist.

1839 - Warsaw, New York

Founding of the first anti-slavery political organization, the Liberty Party, with Negro abolitionists Samuel Ringgold Ward and Henry Highland Garnet among its leading supporters.

1839 - Montauk, Long Island

The slave ship *Amistad* is brought into Montauk by a group of Africans who have revolted against their captors. The young African leader Cinque and his followers are defended before the Supreme Court by former President John Quincy Adams, and are awarded their freedom.



1841 - Hampton, Virginia

Slaves revolt on the vessel *Creole* en route from Hampton, Virginia to New Orleans. Overpowering the crew and sailing the ship to the Bahamas, the slaves are granted asylum and freedom.

1843 - Buffalo

Garnet, Samuel R. Ward and Charles B. Ray participate in the Liberty Party convention—thus becoming the first Negroes to take part in a national political gathering.

1843 - New York City

Sojourner Truth takes to the platform as an anti-slavery lecturer.

1844 - California

Jim Beckwourth discovers a pass through the Sierra Nevadas to California and the Pacific Ocean.

1845 - Worcester, Massachusetts

Macon B. Allen becomes the first Negro formally admitted to the bar in the United States.

1847 - Rochester, New York

Frederick Douglass publishes the first issue of his abolitionist newspaper, *The North Star*.

1849 - Maryland

Harriet Tubman, soon to be a conductor on the "Underground Railroad," escapes from slavery in Maryland. (Miss Tubman later returns to the South no less than 19 times, and helps transport more than 300 slaves to freedom.)

Highlights of 350

1850 - New York

Samuel R. Ward becomes president of the American League of Colored Laborers, a prospective union of skilled black workers who will develop black craftsmen and encourage black-owned business.

1852 - Rochester

Frederick Douglass delivers his scathing "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" oration—"...your celebration a sham; your boasted liberty an unholy license; your national greatness, swelling vanity;..."

1853 - London

William Wells Brown publishes *Clotel*, the first novel written by an American Negro.

1854 - Oxford, Pennsylvania

Lincoln University, the first Negro college, is founded as Ashmun Institute.

1855 - Ohio

John Mercer Langston is elected clerk of Brownhelm township, Lorain County, Ohio, the first Negro to win elective office in the history of the United States.

1856 - Ohio

Wilberforce University is founded by the Methodist Episcopal Church.

1859 - Harpers Ferry

John Brown and his band (13 whites, five Negroes) attack Harpers Ferry. Two of the Negroes are killed; two are captured, and one escapes. (Brown is later hanged at Charles Town, West Virginia.)

1862 - Charleston, South Carolina

Negro pilot Robert Smalls, later a Reconstruction Congressman, sails the *Planter*, a Confederate steamer, out of Charleston harbor, and turns the ship over to Union forces as war booty.

1862 - Washington, D.C.

Congress authorizes the enlistment of Negroes for military service.

1863 - Washington, D.C.

President Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation.

1865 - Washington, D.C.

John Rock becomes the first Negro admitted to practice before the Supreme Court.

1865 - Washington, D.C.

