

A History of Black Achievement in America

This original, eight-part series documents Black Achievement in American history, its defining role in the growth of the country, and its influence on current events. Presented by James Avery, the series highlights the many contributions of Black Americans that have influenced our culture, enriched our society with their achievements, and shaped the history of the United States. It's one of the least known stories in American history. It is the story of black achievement and accomplishment. Against all odds, American blacks have built their own institutions: families, schools, churches and businesses. Against all odds, American blacks have created great art and science and fought heroically in every American war. Against all odds, black men and women have worked endlessly to secure their own freedom and equality. The untold Story of blacks in America is a 350-year saga of incredible achievements.

Program 1: Settling the New World and Founding the United States of America

1619 - 1621 - Blacks Arrive at Jamestown

1705 - The Virginia General Assembly Passes the Slave Codes

1762 - Entrepreneur Samuel Fraunces Opens New York City's Most Cherished Revolutionary War Site: The Fraunces Tavern

1770 - Crispus Attucks and the Black Patriots

Program 2: Emergence of the Black Hero

1772 - Chicago is Settled by Jean DuSable

1776 - Lemuel Haynes Helps Lay the Foundation for Abolition

1791 - The First Black Man of Science, Benjamin Banneker, Surveys Washington, D.C.

1821 - African Grove Theatre Founded in New York.

1822 - Denmark Vesey and the Slave Revolts

1823 - Legendary Mountain Man James Beckwourth Enters the Rockies

1849 - Harriet Tubman Uses Underground Railroad to Become Free

Program 3: The Fight for Freedom

1851 - Sojourner Truth Delivers Famous *Ain't I a Woman?* Speech

1854 - First Black University Founded: Lincoln University

1855 - Frederick Douglass Publishes *My Bondage and My Freedom*

1857 - Dred Scott Decision Helps Trigger the Civil War

1863 - Lincoln Signs *Emancipation Proclamation*

1863 - Black Regiment Storms Fort Wagner in the Civil War

1865 - 1869 - 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments Establish Civil Rights for All

Program 4: Blacks Enter the Gilded Age

1875 - Robert Smalls, Former Slave, Elected to House

1878 - The Black Cowboy and George McJunkin

1881 - Booker T. Washington Opens Tuskegee Institute

1884 - T. Thomas Fortune Prophesies the Long and Bitter Struggle for Equality

1887 - Granville T. Woods, Called the "Black Edison", Patents the Induction Telegraph System

1893 - Ida B. Wells-Barnett Crusades Against Black Lynching in America

1896 - Plessy v. Ferguson Case Upholds Segregation

Program 5: The Foundation for Equality

1904 - Scott Joplin and Ma Rainey Initiate the Merger of Two Cultures

1909 - Matthew Henson Discovers the North Pole

1909 - W.E.B. DuBois Founds the NAACP

1924 - George Washington Carver Renaissance Man

1925 - Alain Locke Leads Harlem Renaissance

1926 - Satchel Paige Stars in the National Negro Baseball League

Program 6: Depression and War

1935 - Mary McLeod Bethune: American Woman of the 20th Century

1936 - 1938 - Jesse Owens And Joe Louis Debunk Hitler's Claim of Aryan Superiority

1939 - Hattie McDaniel Wins the Oscar

1940 - First Black General, Benjamin O. Davis Sr., is Stepping Stone to Desegregation of U.S. Army

1943 - Duke Ellington's Band Performs *Black, Brown and Beige* at Carnegie Hall

Program 7: Civil Rights

1950 - Ralph Bunche Wins the Nobel Peace Prize

1950 - Gwendolyn Brooks Becomes the First Black Recipient of the Pulitzer Prize

1954 - Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas

1955 - Rosa Parks Refuses to Give Up Her Seat to a White Passenger on a Montgomery Bus

1956 - Althea Gibson, First Black Woman To Win a Tennis Grand Slam Event

1959 - Lorraine Hansberry's Play *A Raisin in the Sun* is Produced

1963 - Martin Luther King Jr. Delivers His *I Have a Dream Speech*

Program 8: A New Age

1967 - Muhammad Ali Refuses Induction into the U.S. Army on Religious Grounds

1967 - Thurgood Marshall, First Black U.S. Supreme Court Justice

1977 - Alex Haley's *Roots: The Saga of an American Family* Appears on TV

2001 - Colin Powell Appointed Secretary of State

2004 - Neil deGrasse Tyson Becomes Astrophysics' Superstar