

## World History: 1776 to 1865

**1776**

Gen. George Washington invites Phillis Wheatley to his Cambridge, MA headquarters to thank her for her poem, "To His Excellency General Washington," dedicated to him.

**1776**

American revolutionary War begins. During the American Revolution, many Blacks fight for British after being promised freedom.

**1780**

Between 1780 and 1860, almost as many slaves are brought into the United States as had been brought in over the previous 160 years.

**1783**

Blacks establish settlements in Nova Scotia separately from Whites.

American Revolutionary War ends

**1783**

Slavery abolished in Massachusetts

**1784**

The Christmas Conference of the Methodist Church passes a resolution against slave holding



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**1785**

John Marrant, a "free" African, completes and publishes a 40-page narrative, *A Narrative of the Lord's Wonderful Dealings with John Marrant, A Black*. The Narrative focuses on Marrant's conversion to Christianity and his conversion of several Cherokee Indians.

**1785**

The Second Great Awakening begins in Virginia reviving religious anti-slavery sentiments and merging it with the revolutionary spirit in America.

**1786**

Blacks in London sign up for the colony at Sierra Leone; they disembark from their ship in February 1787.

**1786**

Of the 18,791 Methodists in America, 1,890 are African American.

**1787**

Richard Allen and Absalom Jones establish the Free African Society in Philadelphia. It is the first benevolent aid institution founded by African Americans. This is a response to the need to create a place of worship, social welfare, and community for free blacks in the area. Similar societies soon emerge in other cities.

George Liele, an ex-slave from Georgia, brings the Baptist Church to Jamaica.



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**1788**

Andrew Bryan, a slave, is ordained as a Baptist minister. Bryan gains his freedom when his master dies; he becomes the minister of the First African Baptist Church of Savannah with a congregation of more than 500.

**1790**

First Census lists approximately 757,897 Africans in the United States. Of this number, there are only 59,557 “Free Negroes.” Most captive Africans are in Virginia (292,627) and the smallest number is in New Hampshire (157).

**1790**

The number of black Methodists increases to 11,682.

**1791**

The Bill of Rights is added to the Constitution.

**1791**

Benjamin Banneker plays a critical role in surveying and designing Washington, DC

**1791**

Benjamin Banneker publishes his first Almanac



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**1791**

Olaudah Equiano's *The Interesting Narrative of Olaudah Equiano or Gustavus Vassa* is published in the United States. This two-volume work, considered the first major slave narrative in American literature, is translated into several European languages and reprinted several times throughout the nineteenth century. Some critics question the veracity of his conversion, suggesting that his work may be in the folk tradition of "changing the joke to slip the yoke."

As a result of actions commencing in 1791 and ending in 1803 the Haitian Revolution creates the first recognized African nation in the Western Hemisphere.

**1792**

Fifteen ships with African passengers leave Nova Scotia for home in Sierra Leone.

**1793**

Congress passes the first Fugitive Slave Act on February 12th.

**1794**

Sierra Leone attacked by French privateers; colony liberated in two months.

**1794**

Absalom Jones becomes pastor of St. Thomas African Episcopal Church, organized on July 12 of that year. St. Thomas is received into the Episcopal Church on October 12.



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**1794**

Richard Allen founds Mother Bethel AME Church in Philadelphia, PA .

**1795**

Jean Baptist Pointe DuSable establishes a trading post at the mouth of the Chicago River. It is destined to develop into the city of Chicago.

**1797**

The number of black Methodists increases to 12,215. Most of these black members are in Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina.

**1798**

Venture Smith's *A Narrative of the Life and Adventures of Venture, a Native of Africa; but Resident Above Sixty Years in the United States of America; Related by Himself* is published in New London, CT .

Egypt is conquered by Napoleon of France.

**1800**

Gabriel Prosser leads revolt in Richmond, Virginia. Gabriel, "the Black Sampson," uses Old Testament themes as inspiration to rebel against enslavement. Slave revolts in South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Louisiana and Mississippi follow.

**1801**

Africans led by Toussaint L'Ouverture seize power in Haiti from France.

War in Sierre Leone begins.



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**1803**

Sierra Leone Co. petitions British Parliament for loans; rejected over four years.

**1803**

The Louisiana "Purchase" does not include some three million acres of Louisiana, Arkansas, and Mississippi that belongs to Africans already there when Spain sold the territory to France. It could not be legally transferred to the U.S.A.; however, this land is taken via eminent domain.

**1806**

Benjamin Banneker dies (October 9th).

**1807**

Sierra Leone Co. is dissolved. The British Parliament bans the slave trade.  
War in Sierra Leone ends.

**1808**

The importation of captive Africans is forbidden by the U.S.; the law is ignored.

**1810**

The Afro-American Insurance Company is established by three black men

**1810**

Benjamin Prentiss's *The Blind American Slave, or Memoirs of Boyrereau Brincho* is published in St. Albans, VT.



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**1810**

George White's *Account of Life, Experience, Travels, and Gospel Labours of George White, an African, Written by Himself and Revised by a Friend* is published in New York City.

**1811**

Paul Cuffe, a Black man, begins transporting Africans in North America back to Africa.

**1812**

The British offer Africans a chance to own land and be free - if they fight on their side during the War of 1812. Free Blacks serve with honor in the U.S. military.

**1813**

Sweden abolishes slave trade.

**1815**

Paul Cuffe goes to Africa.

**1815**

Fulani Emirs declared a jihad against the Hausa state of Gobir.

**1816**

The AME Church wins a lawsuit against the Methodist Church, officially becoming the first African American denomination.



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**1817**

American Colonization Society (ACS) is formed to get Blacks to leave U.S., More than 3,000 African Americans resist because they suspected ACS of taking advantage of and controlling the never ceasing desire of Africans to fight for some sort of disengagement from U.S. racism.

**1818**

Frederick Douglass is born on Maryland's Eastern Shore in February.

**1819**

The Canadian government refuses to cooperate with the American government by not allowing the United States access to pursue escaped slaves living in Canada.

**1820**

Mohammed Ali of Egypt captures Sudan.

**1820**

The Missouri Compromise is adopted, allowing Missouri to enter the Union as a slaveholding state and Maine as a free bearing state. The Missouri Compromise keeps the number of free states and slave states balanced.

**1821**

Spain declares slave trade illegal.



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**1822**

Denmark Vesey is arrested for planning a slave rebellion in South Carolina.

African Americans settlers found Monrovia, capital of Liberia.

**1824**

William Grimes's *Life of William Grimes, the Runaway Slave, Written by Himself* is published.

**1825**

Solomon Bayley's *Narrative of Some Remarkable Incidents in the Life of Solomon Bayley, Formerly a Slave in the State of Delaware, North America, Written by Himself* is published.

**1827**

*Freedom's Journal* the first African American newspaper is published. The editors are John Russwurm and Samuel Cornish.

**1827**

Britain declares slave trading piracy, thus punishable by death.

Slavery abolished in New York State for African Americans over 40; more than 10,000 Slaves are freed.



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**1828**

Three poems by George Moses Horton are published in the *Lancaster Gazette* of Massachusetts. Horton is an enslaved African who works as a janitor at the University of North Carolina where his "master" is the college president. Horton's poetry also appears in *Freedom's Journal* the same year.

**1829**

North Carolina Supreme Court Judge Ruffin declares that the "Power of Master is Absolute". Africans have no rights, which the white man is obligated to honor.

**1829**

David Walker publishes his *Appeal* to African American captives in the South urging them to fight for freedom

**1829**

Samuel Cornish continues publication of his newspaper under the new name *The Rights of All* (It ceases publication October 9, 1829).

**1829**

Russwurm emigrates to Liberia, serves as Governor of the Monrovia until his death in 1851. While in Liberia, he establishes a paper, *The Liberian Herald*.

**1830**

The first National Negro Convention is convened at Bethel AME Church in Philadelphia.



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1831

Nat Turner begins his fight for freedom in Virginia; 60 slavers are killed.

1831

Mary Prince's *The History of Mary Prince, a West Indian Slave, Related by Herself, with a Supplement by the Editor, to Which Is Added the Narrative of Asa-Asa, a Captured African* is the first slave narrative published by a black woman in the US.

1832

Chloe Spear's *Memoir of Chloe Spear, a Native of Africa, Who Was Enslaved in Childhood: By a "Lady of Boston"* is published.

1832

Pennsylvania and Louisiana Africans ask permission to migrate to any other part of the U.S.

1833

Noah Calwell W. Cannon's collection of prose and poetry, *The Rock of Wisdom*, is published.

The American Anti-Slavery Society is established in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

1834

Henry Blair is first African American to be granted a U.S. patent; the patent is for a seed planter.



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1834

Jane Blake's *Memoirs of Margaret Jane Blake* is published in Philadelphia, PA.

1834

William Boen's *Anecdotes and Memoirs of William Boen, a Colored Man, Who Lived and Died Near Mount Holly, New Jersey; to Which is Added the Testimony of Friends of Mount Holly Monthly Meeting Concerning Him* is published.

David Ruggles's first pamphlet, *Extinguisher, Extinguished*, is published.

1835

Maria W. Stewart's *Productions of Mrs. Maria W. Stewart*, a collection of speeches and essays on slavery, women's rights, and racial uplift is published in Boston, MA. Stewart is considered the first black woman political writer.

1836

Jarena Lee, one of few female preachers in the AME Church, publishes *The Life and Religious Experiences of Jarena Lee, a Coloured Lady, Giving an Account of Her Call to Preach the Gospel*. This autobiography, along with *Religious Experience and Journal of Mrs. Jarena Lee Gospel*, popularizes the genre of the spiritual narrative.

1836

Aleksandr Sergeyevich Pushkin, famous Russian writer of African descent, is killed in duel.



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1836

Moses Roper's *A Narrative of the Adventures and Escape of Moses Roper from American Slavery, with a Preface by the Reverend T. Price* is published.

After Pennsylvania adopts a new state constitution which includes a provision denying free black men the right to vote, Robert Purvis writes an 18-page pamphlet, *Appeal of Forty Thousand Citizens Threatened with Disfranchisement to the People of Pennsylvania*.

1836

Samuel Cornish edits *The Colored American* (formerly named *The Weekly Advocate*).

Victor Séjour's first work, a short story, "Le Mulatre" ("The Mulatto"), is published in *La Revue des Colonies*. This explicit story of rape, murder and suicide is published in French and is an early representative of what some would later label the protest tradition in African American fiction.

Rev. Hosea Easton's *A Treatise on the Intellectual Character and Political Condition of the Colored People of the U.S.* is published.

1836

Institute for Colored Youth is founded by Richard Humphreys; it later becomes Cheyney University.



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**1838**

*The Mirror of Liberty*, the first African American magazine, is published.

**1838**

The *Memoirs of Elleanor Eldridge* is published, and is one of the few narratives of the life of an early 19th-century free black woman.

Frederick Douglass escapes from slavery.

**1839**

Slaves revolt on Spanish ship *Amistad* and later secure their freedom via the Supreme Court.

**1841**

William Leidesdorff from the Virgin Islands becomes first African American millionaire; his fortune was made through real estate, shipping and a number of other businesses.

**1841**

*Essays, Including Biographies and Miscellaneous Pieces in Prose and Poetry* is published by Ann Plato. While Plato is identified as a black American, her poem, "The Native American," suggests that her father is a Native American.



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1842

Lunsford Lane's *The Narrative of Lunsford Lane, Formerly of Raleigh, NC; Embracing an Account of His Early Life, the Redemption by Purchase of Himself and Family from Slavery and His Banishment from the Place of His Birth for the Crime of Wearing a Colored Skin* is published in Boston, MA .

1843

The U.S. Patent Office issues Norbert Rillieux a patent for a system of refining sugar.

1843

Martin R. Delany begins publishing *The Mystery Newspaper* in Pittsburgh, PA .

1843

Blacks in New Orleans, LA, begin publishing a monthly review in French titled *L'Album Littéraire, Journal des Jeunes Gens, Amateurs de la Littérature*,. The journal includes poems, stories, fables and articles.

1843

*The Narrative of the Life of Moses Grandy* is published.

1844

Macon B. Allen is admitted to the bar in Maine to practice law as a licensed attorney.

1845

The autobiography *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* is published.



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**1844**

Archer Armstrong publishes *Compendium of Slavery As It Exists in the Present Day to Which Is Prefixed a Brief View of the Author's Descent*.

**1847**

Liberia becomes an independent republic on July 26th.

**1847**

Frederick Douglass begins publishing *The North Star*, an anti-slavery journal.

**1849**

Henry Box Brown's *Narrative of Henry Box Brown, Who Escaped from Slavery in a Box Three Feet Long, Two Wide, and Two and a Half High, Written from a Statement of facts Made by Himself, With Remarks upon the Remedy for Slavery by Charles Stearns* is published in Boston, MA. In the Narrative, Brown recounts his extraordinary escape from slavery in a box.

**1849**

Harriet Tubman escapes from slavery; returns to South 19 times to free others.

**1849**

Henry Bibb's *Narrative of the Life of Henry Bibb, an American Slave, Written by Himself* is published in New York City.



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1849

Josiah Henson's autobiography, *The Life of Josiah Henson, Formerly a Slave, Now an Inhabitant of Canada, as Narrated by Himself*, is published. Henson is the reputed prototype of the character Uncle Tom in *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1852), written by Harriet Beecher Stowe, a white woman. Ishmael Reed's novel, *Flight To Canada* explores this possibility from Reed's unique Neo-HooDoo paradigm. Henson's second book, *Truth Stranger than Fiction: Father Henson's Story of His Own Life, with an Introduction by Mrs. H B. Stowe* was published in 1858.

1850

Slave trade is forbidden in the District of Columbia.

1850

Emperor Tewodros II leads campaigns against Egyptian intruders.

1850

Sojourner Truth dictates her autobiography to Olive Gilbert, a white woman. The narrative was reprinted in 1878, according to historian Nell Irvin Painter, under the title *Narrative of Sojourner Truth; Bondswoman of Olden Time, with a History of Her Labors and Correspondence Drawn from Her Book of Life*.

1850

The Compromise of 1850 again brought up the issue of slavery. California enters the union as a free state, but the territories of New Mexico, Utah, and Texas are allowed to decide, as individual states the choice of being a slave state or a free state.



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**1850**

Another Fugitive Slave Law is passed.

**1850**

*The Colored Man's Journal* begins publication in New York City.

**1852**

Martin R. Delany publishes *The Condition, Elevation, Emigration, and Destiny of the Colored People of the United States*.

**1852**

William Wells Brown's *Three Years in Europe* is published and is the first travel book written by an African American.

**1852**

Harriet Beecher Stowe published her novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, which becomes a best selling book and a major influence for the Anti-Slavery Movement.

**1852**

Mary Ann Shadd Cary wrote "Notes on Canada West," a publication that some assert help convince African American to come to Canada.

**1852**

The Christian Recorder, official organ of the AME Church is established. It is the longest running African American newspaper.



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**1853**

James W. Whitfield's "America" is published in his book of poetry, *America and Other Poems*. The poem is a parody of the patriotic hymn, "America the Beautiful," and is an early example of the irony characteristic of black American folk literature in which "playing the dozens," "dissin," and "signifyin" are contemporary expressions. It was written in response to the Fugitive Slave Law

**1853**

William Wells Brown's novel *Clotel, or, The President's Daughter* is published.

**1854**

The first modern college for Blacks established, Ashmun Institute (Lincoln University)

**1854**

Ellen Watkins (later Harper), publishes *Poems on Miscellaneous Subjects*. This collection of essays and poems sold more than 10,000 copies and was reprinted at least 20 times. Several scholars have noted that this volume ushered in the tradition of African American protest poetry.

**1854**

Rev. Elymas Rogers writes a satirical 725-line poem, "The Repeal of the Missouri Compromise Considered."



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**1854**

George Vashon, a well-educated attorney, writes "Vincent Ogé," the first narrative, non-lyrical poem by a black American writer in the United States. This epic poem of 139 lines is a tribute to the Haitian revolutionary Vincent Oge.

**1855**

The Berlin Conference partitions Africa into European colonies. The powers of Europe, together with the United States, defined their spheres of influence and laid down rules for future occupation on the coasts of Africa and for navigation of the Zaire and Niger rivers. No African states were invited to the Berlin Conference, and none signed these agreements.

**1855**

Founder of modern Ethiopia, Emperor Tewodros II, unifies nation, teaches Menelik

**1855**

The New Era, established in 1855, was the "first newspaper in Sierra Leone to be owned by a private individual." The independent African newspaper press was "used as a means of expressing opposition to various of the local governors"

**1855**

The Mirror of the Times is the first black paper in California; it is published in San Francisco, CA by Melvin Gibbs



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**1856**

The African Methodist Episcopal Church founds Wilberforce University; Wilberforce is the first school of higher learning in the United States to be founded by African Americans.

**1857**

The Supreme Court denies Blacks U.S. citizenship; Dred Scott loses his case.

**1857**

Frank J. Webb, a free African American from Philadelphia, PA, publishes *The Garies and Their Friends in London, England*. The novel deals with the caste system that Blacks face. More than one hundred years later, John O. Killens would publish a similar novel titled, *The Cotillion, Or One Good Bull is Half the Herd*. Killens's novel is extraordinarily sarcastic.

**1859**

After raiding a federal arsenal in an attempt to make war against those who enslave Africans, militant White abolitionist John Brown is captured and hung for treason.

**1859**

Harriet Wilson's novel *Our Nig* is published.

**1859**

The Anglo-African Magazine is published in New York City.



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1860

Abraham Lincoln elected president of the United States, and South Carolina secedes.

1860

Isaac Myers begins organizing the Colored National Labor Union

1860

William Craft's narrative, *Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom, or the Escape of William and Ellen Craft from Slavery*, is published. In the narrative, Craft details how he and his wife, Ellen, escaped from slavery with Ellen posing as a white male slaveholder and William posing as her slave.

1861

Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia secede. Formation of the Confederate States of America. Attack on Fort Sumter

1861

Harriet Jacobs's *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* is published under the pseudonym, Linda Brent.

1861- 1865

The Civil War.

1861

The Yoruba, attacked by African Muslims, draws closer to Britain, which annexes Lagos



## World History: 1776 to 1865

**1862**

Ida B. Wells is born on July 16th.

**1862**

Slavery is abolished in Washington D.C.

**1863**

The first school for freed enslaved people is founded in Frogmore, South Carolina.

**1863**

Abraham Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation.

**1863**

On July 11, anti-draft riots break out in New York City, and over a thousand people, primarily African Americans, are killed.

**1863**

The Emancipation Proclamation is signed by President Abraham Lincoln. On January 1st, slaves living in areas of the south that were at war with the United States are freed.

**1863**

William Brown publishes *The Black Man: His Antecedents, His Genius, and His Achievements*.



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**1864**

On June 15, Congress passed a bill authorizing equal pay, equipment, arms, and health care for African American Union troops.

**1864**

On October 4, the *New Orleans Tribune* begins publication. The Tribune is one of the first daily newspapers produced by blacks.

**1864**

Rebecca Lee graduates from the New England Female Medical College. Lee is one of the first African American female physicians.

**1865**

Adam Clayton Powell, Sr. is born in Virginia. Powell is remembered as the social and religious leader of Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem and father of controversial politician Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.

**1865**

General William T. Sherman issues Field Order No. 15. on January 16th, This order set aside a maximum of 40 acres of land in South Carolina and Florida exclusively for African Americans; however, President Andrew Johnson reverses the policy.

**1865**

General Lee surrenders to General Grant at Appomattox ending the U.S. Civil War.

**1865**

The Thirteenth Amendment, which outlaws slavery in the U.S., is ratified.

