



The Hopkins Diaspora ERG *Celebrates* **400 Years of African-American History in Maryland**

1600

- 1619** — In August 1619, a ship arrived in Point Comfort, Virginia, carrying more than 20 enslaved Africans, the first on record to be brought to the English colony of Virginia. They were among the 12.5 million Africans forced into the trans-Atlantic slave trade through the Middle Passage.
- 1634** — Mathias de Sousa, the first black in Maryland, arrived aboard the Ark in St. Mary's City.
- 1642** — The first documented Africans were brought to Maryland in 1642, as 13 slaves arrived at St. Mary's City.
- 1661** — The Maryland Assembly passed a law forbidding miscegenation (interracial marriage). In 1664, the Maryland Assembly ruled that all enslaved people should be held in slavery for life and that children of enslaved mothers should also be held in slavery for life.

1700

- 1731** — Benjamin Banneker was born in Baltimore County, Maryland. Banneker was a free black almanac author, surveyor of the District of Columbia, naturalist, and farmer.
- 1739** — A conspiracy for the most massive slave revolt in America's history was planned by Jack Ransom in Prince George's County to include over 200 slaves with a target date of December 1, 1739. A loyal slave told his master of the plot, and Mr. Ransom, along with five other slaves, were arrested. Mr. Ransom was eventually hanged in March 1740.
- 1792** — Mr. Thomas Brown, a black Revolutionary War veteran from Baltimore, made an unsuccessful bid for a seat in the state legislature.




1800

- 1807** — Ira Aldridge, a Shakespearean actor, was born in Harford County. The Shakespearean Memorial Theater in Stratford-on-Avon in England has a chair designated in his memory.
- 1818** — Frederick Douglass was born into slavery as Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey on the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay in Talbot County, Maryland. Douglas escaped from slavery on September 3, 1838, in Baltimore, Maryland, and later became a national leader of the abolitionist movement in Massachusetts and New York.
- 1820** — Harriet Tubman was born Araminta "Minty" Ross in Dorchester County, Maryland. She successfully escaped from slavery on September 17, 1849. Tubman returned to the Eastern Shore of Maryland through the Underground Railroad rescuing over 70 slaves in 13 expeditions.
- 1831** — A network of secret routes and safe houses used by black and white abolitionists to help black people escape from slavery, was officially named "The Underground Railroad."
- 1831** — Maryland responded to Nat Turner's rebellion by drafting a new, more comprehensive law, further curtailing slaves' privileges and usurping the rights of free blacks.
- 1835** — Isaac Myers, a pioneer of the African-American trade union movement and the first the first known African-American postal inspector, was born in Baltimore, Maryland.
- 1863** — The Emancipation Proclamation freed enslaved blacks on January 1, 1863.
- 1864** — Slavery did not end in Maryland until the adoption of a new State Constitution on November 1, 1864. However, new state law allowed former slaveholders to force African-Americans under age 21 into "apprenticeship" if they had no other means of support.
- 1870** — African American men won the right to vote with the 15th amendment to the Constitution. In the same year, lawmakers in Maryland and many other states enacted property requirements for voters, barring all men without land from voting. Few African-Americans owned farms or homes.
- 1873** — William H. Butler became the first black elected official in the state when he won a seat on the Annapolis City Council in 1873.
- 1882** — Joseph I. Collins was elected City Commissioner in Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland.
- 1889** — Mr. William Thomas, the beloved and much-admired doorman, opened the doors of The Johns Hopkins Hospital to receive its first visitors on May 7. He remained at Hopkins for 59 years until his death in 1948.
- 1889** — Mr. Benjamin Frisby was a porter at The Johns Hopkins Hospital and started the annual Turtle Derby and the Frisby Farm. He later became a messenger to the superintendent of JHH.

- 1890** — Henry Scythe Cummings was elected to the Baltimore City Council.
- 1892** — The Afro-American newspaper was founded. In 1896, John H. Murphy purchased the newspaper and ran the paper until his son, Carl Murphy, succeeded him as president in 1922.
- 1894** — Provident Hospital was established in Baltimore by leading black physicians in 1894.

1900

- 1901** — Through various means, including attempted amendments to the state constitution, Maryland tried to take the right to vote away from blacks. Though unsuccessful, attempts were not abandoned until the 1910s.
- 1908** — Thurgood Marshall was born in Baltimore, Maryland. He served as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States from 1967 until 1991. Marshall was the Court's 96th justice and its first African-American justice. Before his judicial service, Marshall successfully argued several cases before the Supreme Court, including *Brown v. Board of Education*.
- 1911** — Clarence Maurice Mitchell, Jr. was born in Baltimore, Maryland. Mitchell was an American civil rights activist and was the regional director and chief lobbyist for the NAACP for nearly 30 years.
- 1930** — Founded in the 1930s, Carr's Beach and Sparrow's Beach each attracted thousands of African-Americans to the shores of the Chesapeake Bay just south of Annapolis. Carr's Beach was a regular stop for famous entertainers such as Ray Charles, James Brown, and Sarah Vaughan.
- 1935** — A lawsuit required the University of Maryland School of Law, to admit its first black students.
- 1941** — Dr. Vivien Thomas assisted Dr. Alfred Blalock at The Johns Hopkins Hospital and was instrumental in developing the life-saving cardiac surgical procedure for "blue" babies in 1944. He served as supervisor of the surgical laboratories at Johns Hopkins for 35 years.
- 1946** — Dr. Ralph Jonathan Young was the first black physician appointed to The Johns Hopkins Hospital medical staff.
- 1954** — Baltimore became the first city in Maryland and the first in the nation to implement school desegregation following *Brown v. Board of Education*.
- 1958** — Verda Welcome was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates to represent the Fourth District of Baltimore City, becoming the first black woman to be elected to a state senate.
- 1959** — Ms. Gertrude Hodges was the first African-American to graduate from The Johns Hopkins Training School for Nurses.

- 
- 1965** — The U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in *Robert M. Bell v. The State of Maryland* outlawed discrimination in Maryland restaurants and public accommodations.
- 1971** — Parren J. Mitchell became the first African-American from Maryland elected to the U.S. Congress. He served from 1971 – 1987.
- 1971** — Dr. Levi Watkins began his medical residency at The Johns Hopkins Hospital. He later became chief resident of cardiac surgery and the first African-American chief resident at JHU.
- 1973** — Dr. Franklin W. Knight was the first African-American faculty member to gain academic tenure at Johns Hopkins University.
- 1978** — Dr. Roland T. Smoot became the first African-American faculty member and assistant dean at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.
- 1984** — Dr. Ben Carson was appointed Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins, and in 1987, was the lead neurosurgeon of a 70-member surgical team that separated conjoined twins.
- 1987** — Clarence "Du" Burns was appointed as Mayor of Baltimore for half a term. However, Kurt L. Schmoke became Baltimore's first African-American elected mayor in 1987.
- 1990** — Michael Moore became the first African-American elected county legislator in Calvert County.
- 1999** — Gwendolyn Parrish became the first African-American woman on motorcycle patrol and to rise to the rank of Sergeant in the Baltimore County Police Department.
- 2000**
- 2002** — Michael S. Steele, lieutenant governor of Maryland from 2003 - 2007, was the first African-American elected to a statewide office.
- 2007** — Shelia Dixon became the first African-American woman to serve as president of the Baltimore City Council and Baltimore's first female Mayor.
- 2007** — Fannie Gaston-Johansson was the first African-American woman to be a tenured full professor at Johns Hopkins University. She was also named the first chair of the School of Nursing Department of Acute and Chronic Care.
- 2007** — Dr. Lisa Cooper was the first African-American woman to become a tenured professor in the School of Medicine at Johns Hopkins University.
- 2018** — Lt. Col. LaTonya Lewis became the first African-American woman to rise above the rank of lieutenant in the Baltimore City Police Department.
- 2019** — Dr. Sherita Golden becomes the first African-American woman to serve as Chief Diversity Officer at Johns Hopkins Medicine.

□ For more information, please contact: HopkinsDiaspora@jhmi.edu.