



Founder of the NAACP

W.E.B. DuBois (1868-1963) is regarded as one of the most profound scholars of his time and the 'dean' of Black intellectuals. Scholar, spokesman and prolific writer, DuBois was born in Massachusetts. He attended Fisk, Howard and Berlin Universities and headed the department of history and economics at Atlanta University for 13 years. He was one of the founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and was editor of his Crisis Magazine. In 1919 he launched the Pan-African Congresses in Paris. He was persecuted by the government for his political views. When Ghana gained its freedom, he went to that country to help the new government and to work for Pan-Africanism. He died there in 1963.



Champion of the Back to Africa Movement

Marcus Garvey played an important role in focusing Black attention on the homeland—Africa.

In 1917 he founded the Universal Negro Improvement Association in Jamaica, his home. Its purpose was to "take Africa, to organize it, develop it, arm it and make it defender of Negroes the world over."

Membership boomed after Garvey moved to

Harlem in 1916. Preaching that "Black is beautiful" he urged Black people to "combine to re-establish the purity of their own race. . . ."

Garvey claimed 11 million followers. As an economic arm of his organization he founded the Black Star shipping line. He was convicted of mail fraud in selling shares in 1923, was pardoned, and returned to Jamaica.



George Washington Carver (1864-1943)

Dr. George Washington Carver, one of America's leading scientists, experimented with the peanut, and found more than three hundred products that could be made from it, including wood dyes, soap, linoleum, plastics, flour, paint, ink, and many different kinds of oil.

Dr. Carver worked to improve the economy of the South through his experiments, not only with the peanut, but with sweet potatoes, soybeans, and cotton stalks, as well.

In the state of New York, January 5 is known as Carver Day.

Many of Dr. Carver's personal belongings and scientific papers are housed in the Carver Museum on the campus of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, where he served as director of agricultural research.

In 1896, George Washington Carver joined the faculty as director of agricultural research. Today Tuskegee covers nearly 5,000 acres, has more than 150 buildings, and is internationally known for agricultural research.

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