

Hazel Lucile Harrison (1883-1969), a concert orchestra pianist, was the **first** fully American-trained musician to perform with a notable European Orchestra in the 1920's.

Mamie Smith (1883-1946), a vocalist, was the **first** performer to make a phonograph record, paving the way for all of the classic blues women of the 1920's and beyond.

Ethel Hedgeman Lyle (1887- 1950), an educator, often referred to as the "guiding light" of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., was the principal founder of the **first** Greek Letter sorority for African American Women founded at Howard University in 1908.

Florence Beatrice Smith Price (1887-1953), a composer and pianist, was the **first** to have her work performed by a major symphony in the late 1930's.

Martha Euphemia Lofton Haynes (1890-1980), an educator and mathematician, was the **first** to earn a Ph.D. in mathematics in 1943 from the Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

Lillian Evanti (1891-1967), a lyric soprano, was the **first** to perform with a major European company in the 1920's, while simultaneously maintaining deep ties to her native home in Washington, D.C.

Nella Larsen (1891-1963), a poet, was the **first** to receive a Guggenheim Fellowship Award for creative writing in 1930.

Bessie Coleman (1892-1926), an airplane pilot, was the **first** to earn an International Pilot's License in 1921.

Ella Myers Phillips Stewart (1893-1987), a pharmacist, was the **first** to graduate from the College of Pharmacy at the University of Pittsburgh in 1916.

Crystal Bird Fauset (1894-1965), a former teacher, was the **first** state legislator in the United States, when elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1938.

Jackie "Moms" Mabley (1894-1975), a comedian, was the **first** to establish herself as a single act in standup comedy during the early 1960's.

Eva Jessye (1895-1992), a choral director, actress, author and poet, was the **first** to win international distinction as director of a professional choral group. She was the **first** choral director for *Porgy and Bess* (1935).

Hattie McDaniel (1895-1952), an actress, was the **first** woman to win an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress for her performance as Mammy in the 1939 film, *Gone with the Wind*.

Ethel Waters (1896-1977), a film, television, theater actress and singer, was the **first** to broadcast on radio, April 21, 1922.

Florence Mills (1896-1927), an entertainer and jazz dance performer, was the **first** International female superstar when she appeared in England's *Plantation Review*, in 1923.

Marian Anderson (1897-1993), a world known contralto singer, was the **first** to perform with the New York Metropolitan Opera in 1955.

Sadie Tanner Mosell Alexander (1898-1989), a lawyer and civil rights activist, was the **first** to earn a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Pennsylvania in 1921.

Eva Beatrice Dykes (1893-1986), an educator, was the **first** to earn a Ph.D. in English - Philosophy from Radcliff College in 1921.

Georgiana Simpson (1866-1944), an educator, was the **first** to receive a Ph.D. in German from the University of Chicago in 1921.

Lucy Diggs Slowe (1885-1937), an educator was the **first** president of Alpha Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc. (1908), **first** to win a major sports' title from the American Tennis Association (1917) and was the **first** to serve as dean of any American university (Howard) in 1922.

Arizona Cleaver Stemons (1898-1978), an educator, was a founder and served as the **first** president of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority in 1920, and became the **first** national president of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

Mary Lou Allison Little (1896-1992), an educator, was the founding principal and **first** National President of the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. (1925-1926).

African American Ladies' Legacy Foundation

Each One, Reach One; Each One, Teach One;
Each One, Leave One...A Legacy

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A
FORGOTTEN
HERSTORY

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HONORING Pioneering African American ForeMOTHERS

(Born 1746 -1898)

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Lucy Terry Prince (c. 1732-1821), a poet and abolitionist, was the author of the **first** poem, *Bars Fight*, a ballad published in 1746.

Elizabeth (Mum Bett) Freeman (1742-1829), an enslaved abolitionist, was the **first** to successfully sue for her freedom, encouraging Massachusetts to abolish slavery in 1781.

Phillis Wheatley (1754-1784), an enslaved poet, was the **first** to publish a book in 1773. Her book of poems was entitled, *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral*.

Jarena Lee (1783-1855), an evangelist and itinerant preacher, was the **first** sanctioned to preach in the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E) Church by its founder, Richard Allen, during the 1800's.

Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange (1789-1829), a religious founder, was the **first** superior of the *Oblate Sisters of Providence*, established to help African American women enter the Catholic Church in 1829.

Sojourner Truth (Isabella Baumfree) (c1791-1883), an abolitionist and women's rights activist, was the **first** to be honored and represented with a sculpture placed permanently in the Emancipation Hall of the United States Capitol building in 2009.

Maria W. Stewart (1803-1879), a journalist, lecturer, abolitionist and women's rights activist, was the **first** to address a diverse race and gender audience on the topic of abolition in Boston on September 21, 1832.

Elizabeth Hobbs Keckley (1818-1907), an enslaved fashion designer and entrepreneur, was the **first** to serve as a personal confidante, companion and dress designer for First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln from 1861-1865.

Elizabeth Taylor Greenfield (1819-1876), a concert artist, was the **first** to win recognition outside the United States when she gave a command performance for Queen Victoria at Buckingham Palace in 1853.

Harriet Tubman (Araminta Harriet Ross) (c1821-1913), an abolitionist, humanitarian and Civil War Spy, was the **first** to become a conductor of the Underground Railroad and was the **first** to be

honored on an U.S. Postage Stamp in 1978.

Mary Ann Shadd Cary (1823-1893), an abolitionist, journalist, publisher, teacher and lawyer, was the **first** newspaper editor of the *Provincial Freeman* in 1853.

Frances Ellen Watkins Harper (1825-1911), an abolitionist and author, was the **first** to publish a short story, *The Two Offers* in 1859.

Harriett E. Adams Wilson (1828-1900), a writer, was the **first** to publish a novel, *Our Nig: Sketches from the Life of a Free Black* in 1859.

Sarah Jane Woodson Early (1825-1907), an educator, abolitionist and feminist, was the **first** to become a college professor at Wilberforce University in 1859.

Lucy Day Stanton Sessions (1831-1910), an educator and abolitionist, was believed to be the **first** to graduate from college after completion of a Ladies Literary Course at Oberlin College in 1850.

Rebecca Lee Crumpler (1831-1895), a medical doctor, was the **first** to earn a medical degree in 1864 from what is now Boston College School of Medicine.

Mary (Stagecoach) Fields (1832-1914), postal service worker, was the **first** to become a mail carrier for the U.S. Postal Service in 1895 in Montana at approximately 60 years of age.

Charlotte Forten Grimke (1837-1914), an educator, poet and abolitionist, was the **first** teacher in the world to work with white students at Salem Public School in 1855.

Fannie Jackson Coppin (1837-1913), an educator and missionary, was the **first** to receive the title of Principal of a school at the Institute for Colored Youth in Philadelphia in 1869.

Mary Jane Patterson (1840-1894), an educator, was the **first** to receive a B.A. Degree from Oberlin College in 1862.

Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin (1842-1924), a publisher, journalist and civil rights activist, was the editor of the **first** African American women's newspaper, *Women Era* from 1890-1897.

Edmonia Lewis (1845-1907), an artist, was the **first**

to become a professional sculptor in the United States during the 1860s.

Mary Eliza Mahoney (1845-1926), a nurse, was the **first** to graduate with a nursing degree from the New England Hospital for Women and Children located in Boston in 1879.

Susan King Taylor (1848-1912), a nurse and teacher, was the **first** nurse with the 33rd U.S. Colored Troop during the Civil War from 1861-1865, as well as, the **first** teacher to openly instruct the formerly enslaved students at a school in the state of Georgia.

Cathay Williams (1850-), a Buffalo Soldier, was the **first** documented female to serve in the U.S. Army in 1866. She enlisted as a male, William Cathay, and became the **first** and the only known female Buffalo Soldier.

Charlotte E. Ray (1850-1911), a lawyer and suffragist, was the **first** permitted to practice law in the United States in 1872. She was also a graduate of Howard School of Law that same year.

Lucy Craft Laney (1854-1933), a famous educator, was the founder of the **first** school for black children in Augusta, Georgia in 1883.

Sarah Goode (1855-1905), an entrepreneur and inventor, was among the **first** to be granted a patent by U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for the invention of a folding bed in 1885.

Anna Julia Cooper (1858-1964), a distinguished scholar, author, and pioneering black feminist, was the **first** to publish a black feminist analysis, *A Voice from the South* in 1892.

Ida B. Wells-Barnett (1862-1931), a civil rights activist, journalist and crusader of justice, was the **first** writer to document lynching of African Americans in Southern United States during the 1890s.

Mary Church Terrell (1863-1954), an educator and activist, was the **first** president of the National Association of Colored Women in 1896, and was the **first** to serve on the Washington, DC School Board in 1898.

Maggie Lena Walker (1864-1934), a teacher and business woman, was the **first** to become

a bank president at the St. Luke Penney Savings Bank in Richmond, Virginia in 1903.

Mary Burnett Talbert (1866-1923), a civil rights and anti-lynching activist, was the **first** to receive the NAACP Spingarn Medal Award in 1922.

Ida Gray Nelson Rollins (1867-1953), a dentist, was the **first** to earn an oral surgeon's degree when she graduated in 1890 from the University of Michigan at Anna Arbor.

Madam CJ Walker (Sarah Breedlove, 1867-1919), a civil rights activist, philanthropist and entrepreneur, was regarded as the **first** to become a self-made millionaire; however, history now records her mentor in the hair care industry, Annie Turnbo Malone, as the first millionaire.

Annie Turnbo Malone (1869-1957), an entrepreneur, philanthropist, and scientist, was the **first** United States millionaire, based on her \$14,000,000 in assets, owned by her company in 1920. She was a mentor to Madame CJ Walker and introduced her to the black hair care industry.

Sissieretta "the Black Patti" Jones (1869-1933), an international renowned soprano, was the **first** to perform at New York City's Carnegie Hall in 1892.

Charlotta Bass (1879-1969), a newspaper publisher-editor and civil rights activist, was the **first** to be named to the Progressive Party as its nominee for the Vice President of the United States in 1952.

Mary Annette Anderson (1874-1922), an American Professor, was the **first** to be inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society in 1899.

Mary McLeod Bethune (1875-1955), an educator and civil rights activist, was the **first** to head a federal agency as Director of the Division of Negro Affairs, appointed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1930. Additionally, she was the founder and **first** president of the National Council of Negro Women established in 1935.
