

# AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY in LANE COUNTY

## Historía del Afroamericanos en Condado de Lane

1806: York, William Clark's slave, comes west with Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery to explore newly purchased Louisiana and the Pacific Northwest.

1806: Edward Rose joins an expedition to the Rocky Mountains becoming one of many black fur trappers and traders to work in the west.

1844: On June 25, the first of a series of black exclusion laws is enacted by the Legislative Committee of the Provisional Government of Oregon.

1844: Slavery is declared illegal in the Oregon Country. The "Lash Law" is passed. It requires that any African-American in Oregon Country be whipped twice a year "until he or she shall quit the territory". The punishment is soon reduced to forced labor.

1848: Oregon's Government passes the first Exclusion Law in the Oregon Country.

1850: Oregon Donation Land Act is passed and "whites and half-breed Indians" are granted free land.

1851: Jacob Vanderpool, a Salem saloonkeeper, becomes the only person known to have been expelled from Oregon Territory under provisions of the black exclusion law.

1851: Abner Hunt Francis successfully campaigns to prevent his brother, Portland merchant, O. H. Francis, from being expelled from the Oregon

Territory under the provisions of the black exclusion law.

1853: In July, Chief Justice George A. Williams, Oregon Territorial Supreme Court, rules that slavery is illegal in the territory in *Holmes v. Ford*.

1854: Oregon's Exclusion Law is repealed.

1857: A bill to protect slave property in Oregon is proposed in the Legislature even though slavery is illegal in Oregon Territory. It is voted down on the grounds that it would grant special rights to slave owners.

1857: Voters in Oregon Territory support a constitution that on one hand bans slavery, yet also prohibits the settlement of African Americans in Oregon.

1858: Oregon elects Governor "Honest John" Whiteaker, and others with pro-slavery positions to office.

1859: On February 14, Oregon is admitted to the Union. It is the first state admitted with an exclusion law in the state constitution.

1861: On April 12 the Civil War begins. The Knights of the Golden Circle, an anti-Union, pro-slavery group, opens chapters in many Oregon communities with the goal of seceding from the US and founding the Pacific Coast Republic.

1862: Oregon adopts a law requiring all African-American, Chinese and Hawaiians residing in Oregon to pay an annual tax of \$5. If the tax was not paid, the law empowered the state to press those individuals into service maintaining state roads for 50 cents a day.

1862: Interracial marriages are banned in Oregon and it is against the law for any Caucasian person to marry anyone who is 1/4 or more African-American. In June, Congress abolishes slavery in the territories of the United States.

1863: In January Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation goes into effect. It legally frees slaves in areas of the South in rebellion including Texas and the Indian Territory.

1864: The Knights of the Golden Circle become militant. As it becomes apparent the Union will win the war the group falls apart.

1865: The Civil War ends.

1865: On February 1, 1865, Abraham Lincoln signs the 13th Amendment to the Constitution outlawing slavery throughout the United States.

1866: Oregon's citizens fail to pass the Fourteenth Amendment, granting citizenship to African-Americans.

1866: The ban on interracial marriages is extended, preventing Caucasians from marrying anyone who is 1/4 or more Chinese or Hawaiian, and 1/2 or more Native American.

1867: On January 10, Congress passes the Territorial Suffrage Act which allows the 800 African-Americans in the western territories to vote.

1868: Fourteenth Amendment passes in Oregon.

1868: On July 21, the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution is ratified, granting citizenship to any person born or naturalized in the United States.

1869: On February 26, Congress sends the Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution to the states for approval. The amendment guarantees African-American males the right to vote.

1870: Despite failing to pass in both Oregon and California, The Fifteenth Amendment, granting African-American men the right to vote, is added to the United States Constitution. This federal law supersedes a clause in the Oregon State Constitution banning African-American suffrage.

1883: An attempt to remove the ban on African-American suffrage from the state Constitution. This effort fails despite the fact that it was rendered moot following the passage of the Fifteenth Amendment. Further attempts to remove the language prohibiting African-Americans from voting were made in 1895, 1916, and 1927.

1914: The Portland chapter of the NAACP is founded. It is the oldest continually chartered chapter west of the Mississippi River.

1926: The Oregon exclusion law is repealed.

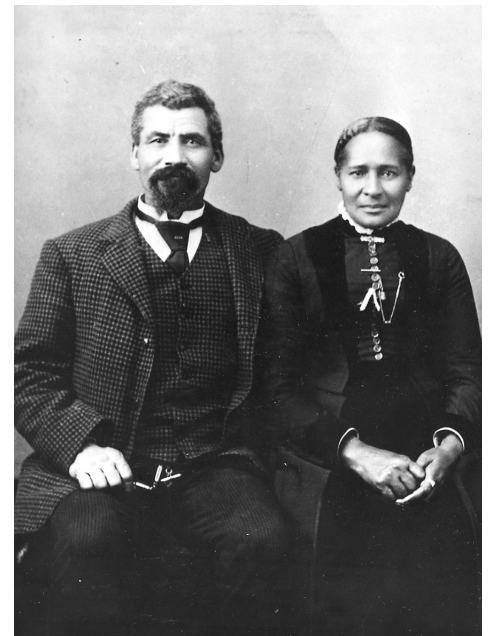
1927: The Oregon State Constitution is finally amended to remove the clause denying African-Americans the right to vote.

1941-1945: During World War II the desperate need for factory labor led to an unprecedented migration of African-American workers from the South to the West. As African-Americans vote in their new home states, particularly in Arizona, California, Nevada, Oregon and Washington, politics is affected. Congress is compelled to protect civil rights throughout the nation. This activism lays the foundation for the Civil Rights Movement a decade later.

1945: September 2, World War II ends. African American soldiers are discharged from the armed services and African-American defense workers are laid off. They choose to remain in the West.

1951: Oregon repeals the law prohibiting interracial marriages.

1959: Oregon voters ratify the Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.



Ben and Amanda Gardner Johnson were Oregon pioneers, and among Oregon's first black citizens.

Ben y Amanda Gardner Johnson fueron pioneros en Oregon y estaban entre los primeros ciudadanos negros de Oregon.