



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

TWENTY-EIGHTS DAYS OF HIDDEN FIGURES

1. Mary Church Terrell

A lecturer, political activist, and educator, dedicated her life to improving social conditions for African American women. She helped to found two of the most important African American political action groups, the *National Association of Colored Women* (NACW) and the *National Association for the Advancement of Colored People* (NAACP).

2. Lorraine Hansberry

The first African American woman to write a play produced and performed on Broadway, *A Raisin in the Sun*.

3. Claudette Colvin

The first African American to refuse to give up her seat on a bus in segregated Montgomery, AL. in 1955. A 15-year-old HS senior in Montgomery, AL was arrested to refusing to give up her seat in a bus to a white man. This happened just nine months prior to Rosa Parks.

4. Althea Gibson

The first African American woman to win on the world tennis tour, *Wimbledon*.

5. Ruby Bridges

The first African American child to attend an all-white public school in New Orleans in 1960.

6. Hattie McDaniel

The first African American woman and entertainer to win an Academy Award for her portrayal of Mammy in *Gone with the Wind* (1939).

7. Annie Turnbo Malone

She manufactured a line of beauty products for black women and created a unique distribution system that helped thousands of black women gain self-respect and economic independence. However, her contributions to African American culture are often overlooked because her business empire collapsed from mismanagement. One of her students, *Madame C.J. Walker*, created a similar enterprise and is largely credited with originating the black beauty business, a feat that rightly belongs to Malone.

8. Henrietta Lacks

American cell donor Henrietta Lacks provided the cell sample that created the world's first "immortal" cell line, called the HeLa cell line. Her cells were used without her permission and are saving lives today even though she died in 1951.

9. Bessie Coleman

The first African American woman to ever fly an airplane and the first African-American woman to earn a pilot's license in 1921.

10. Dido Elizabeth Belle

The first African American Aristocrat in Britain.

11. Janet Collins

The first African American woman to dance with the *Metropolitan Opera Company*.

12. Sarah Goode

The first African American woman to receive a patent for her invention of the *Folding Cabinet Bed*.

13. Patricia Bath

The first African American to complete a residency in ophthalmology and the first African-American female doctor to receive a medical patent. During the 1980s she invented the first laser-based surgical instrument to remove cataracts from eyes, which increased accuracy and decreased the surgical trauma to the eye.

14. Alexa Canady

The first woman African American neurosurgeon in the United States.

15. Marie Van Brittan Brown

An African American woman inventor, received a patent in 1969, for inventing the first home security system.

16. Robert Abbott

Established a weekly newspaper, called the *Chicago Defender*, one of the most important African American newspapers in history, in 1905.

17. Matthew Henson

The first African American arctic explorer and it is believed that he is the first person to reach the North Pole.

18. John H. Johnson

He is the founder of the *Johnson Publishing Company*, which publishes *Ebony* and *Jet* magazine. He held the distinction of having been the first African American placed on *Forbes'* list of 400 wealthiest Americans.

19. Benjamin O. Davis Sr.

The first African American general for the United States Army.

20. Gordan Parks Sr.

The first African American man to be hired as a photographer on the staff at *Life* magazine. His iconic photography depicted what it meant to be black in America. First African American director of a major Hollywood motion picture.

21. Earl Lloyd

First African American man to play in professional basketball for *National Basketball Association* (NBA).

22. John Mercer Langston

The first African American to be elected into public office in the United States and was the first African American lawyer in Ohio in 1854.

23. Elijah McCoy

American engineer and inventor is best known for inventions that helped lubricate engines without having to shut them down.

24. Robert L. Johnson

Creator of the first cable network, *Black Entertainment Television (BET)* to provide solely black programming, Johnson built his nearly \$3 billion company on a format that featured black music videos and comedy. Johnson became the first African-American billionaire.

25. Alexander Lucius Twilight

Was believed to be the first African American to graduate from an American college in 1823, *Middlebury College*.

26. Tim Scott

The first African American Republican to be elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives in more than a hundred years.

27. Charlie Sifford

The first African American to win a major professional golf tournament, *PGA*.

28. Daniel Hale Williams

The first African American physician to perform open-heart surgery in the United States and established a hospital with an interracial staff.