

Highlights in the Quest for Freedom in the United States:

- 1662 Virginia statute established that children's status was that of the mother.
- 1705 Native American tribes freed from slavery
- 1789-1861 Freedom lawsuits in the Thirteen Colonies and the United States
- 1831 Nat Turner Revolt, Southampton, VA
- 1857 Dred Scott Case
- 1859 John Brown Raid, Harper's Ferry, VA
- 1841 United States v. The Amistad
- 1861 Civil War
- 1863 President Abraham Lincoln signs the Emancipation Proclamation that purportedly freed slaves in the slave states on January 1, 1863.
- 1863-1877 Reconstruction Era
- 1865 Texas slaves freed on June 19th by Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger
- 1865 13th Amendment to Constitution – Outlawed Slavery & Involuntary Servitude, except for convicts
- 1865-1968 Jim Crow or Black Code Laws prevailed as the U.S. did not enforce the 13th, 14th & 15th amendments
- 1868 14th Amendment to Constitution – Rights Guaranteed: Privileges and Immunities of Citizenship, Due Process, and Equal Protection
- 1870 15th Amendment to Constitution – Rights of Citizens to Vote
- 1896 Plessy vs. Ferguson, upheld constitutionality of "separate but equal"
- 1898 Wilmington (North Carolina) Massacre
- 1900 Booker T. Washington, George Washington Carver, and WEB DuBois approaches to education
- 1909 NAACP founded – led crusade against lynching and protested racist movie, *Birth of a Nation*
- 1913 President Woodrow Wilson courted the Black vote, then segregated the federal government.
- 1916 Marcus Garvey and the Back to Africa Movement. Polio Pandemic – 39 years to get vaccine.
- 1917-1919 The Red Summer
- 1917 African Americans in World War I; Houston Race Riot and the 24th U.S. Army Regiment
- 1918 Spanish Flu Pandemic
- 1921 Tulsa (Oklahoma) Race Massacre
- 1923 Rosewood (Florida) Massacre
- 1930 Great Depression – less than 10% of Americans owned stock. Effect of Depression: *When white folk catch a cold, black folk catch pneumonia.*
- 1933-1937 FDR's New Deal
- 1942 African Americans in World War II
- 1947 Major League Baseball integrated – Jackie Robinson
- 1948 President Harry Truman issues Executive Order 9981 to end segregation in the Armed Services.
- 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education
- 1955 Emmett Till killed in Mississippi. Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott. *Polio vaccine.*
- 1957 Central High School integrated in Little Rock, OK by the *Little Rock Nine*
- 1960 Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) began sit-ins in Greensboro, NC
- 1961 Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) began Freedom Rides throughout the south on interstate transportation
- 1962 James Meredith integrates University of Mississippi *Ole Miss*
- 1963 March on Washington – MLK's *I Have a Dream* speech. Bombing of Birmingham, AL, church that killed four innocent young girls.
- 1964 LBJ's War on Poverty, Freedom Summer, "Mississippi Burning" Murders & Civil Rights Act of 1964
- 1965 Malcolm X killed. Selma to Montgomery March. The Reverend James Reeb killed in Selma AL. Voting Rights Act of 1965. Blacks were being beaten and locked up, but the death of a white man turned the tide.
- 1960's Black Power Movement
- 1968 Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.; Fair Housing Act of 1968
- 1970's to now Lawsuits and legal decisions to negate some of the provisions of civil rights legislation.