MISSISSIPPI HISTORY FAMOUS PEOPLE AND EVENTS

Hiram Revels
1. I was the first African American in the United States to be elected to the U.S. Senate.
2. I lived in Natchez and also served in the Mississippi legislature.
3. I was a Methodist minister and educator.
4. I founded Alcorn University and was its first president.

Medgar Evers
1. I was born in Newton County and attended Alcorn University.
2. My home was located in Jackson.
3. I was state Field Secretary for the NAACP in Mississippi.
4. I was a civil rights activist and was assassinated in 1963 by Byron de la Beckwith.

Laurence C. Jones
1. I was from Missouri but taught in Mississippi at Utica Institute.
2. I founded Piney Woods School in 1909.
3. I appeared on the television program “This is Your Life” in 1954, where my life’s story was told.
4. I inspired many Americans to send one dollar each to Piney Woods School, and $700,000 was raised.

Jacob L. Reddix
1. I was born in Van Cleave and was an educator and civic leader.
2. I served for twenty-seven years as president of Jackson State University.
3. I founded a credit union in Hinds County that became the forerunner for the only black operated commercial bank in Mississippi.
4. I am a member of the Mississippi Hall of Fame.

John R. Lynch
1. I was born in Louisiana and migrated to Natchez.
2. I was a photographer, attorney, and author.
3. I became a member of the Mississippi House of Representatives and was later elected the Speaker.
4. I was the first African American from Mississippi to be elected to the U. S. House of Representatives.

Unita Blackwell
1. I live in Issaquena County in the town of Mayersville.
2. I was the first black woman to serve as mayor of a Mississippi town.
3. During the 1960s, I was project director of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee.
4. I helped organize the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party.

Aaron Henry
1. I was president of the Mississippi NAACP from 1960 to 1993.
2. I was a civil rights activist and a co-founder of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party.
3. I was a member of the Mississippi House of Representatives from 1980 to 1996.
4. I served as chairman of the board of TV-3 WLBT.

Blanche K. Bruce
1. I lived in Bolivar County after the Civil War.
2. I established a newspaper, the Floreyville Star.
3. I was the first black man to serve a full term in the U.S. Senate.
4. I was the first black Register of the U. S. Treasury.

Abd al-Rahman Ibrahima
1. I was the son of a tribal king and was educated in Africa at the University of Timbuctoo.
2. I was captured by a rival tribe and traded to an English slaver.
3. I lived on a plantation in Natchez as a slave.
4. I returned to Africa as a free black man.

Isaiah T. Montgomery
1. I was a former slave of Joseph Davis, a brother of Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy.
2. A planter and businessman, I also founded the all-black community of Mound Bayou.
3. As the only black delegate to the 1890 Constitutional Convention in Mississippi, I represented Bolivar County.

Holt Collier
1. I was born a slave in Jefferson County and later served as a Confederate soldier during the Civil War.
2. I became one of the best hunting guides in the South.
3. I guided President Theodore Roosevelt on the famous bear hunt in the Delta that resulted in the Ideal Toy Company’s naming the teddy bear after the President.

Past Politicians
1. Theodore Bilbo
2. Medgar Evers
3. James Meredith
4. William Waller
John C. Stennis

Authors
5. John Grisham
6. Eudora Welty
7. Tennessee Williams
8. Margaret Walker
9. Willie Morris
10. William Faulkner

Artists
11. Walter Anderson
12. George Ohr
13. Theora Hamblett

Musicians
14. B.B. King
15. Muddy Waters
16. Robert Johnson
17. Elvis Presley
18. Faith Hill
19. Leotyne Price
20. Jimmy Buffet

Entertainers
19. James Earl Jones
20. Jim Henson
1. Oprah
22. Sela Ward
23. Morgan Freeman

Sports Stars
24. Walter Payton
25. Jerry Rice
26. Steve McNair
27. Dizzy Dean
28. Monte Ellis

BROAD THEMES
slavery
role of women in society
advertising
civil rights
educational systems
use of water systems
and the economy
civil war

EVENTS
1716: Fort Rosalie, the beginning of the town of Natchez, is established
1729: French settlers at Fort Rosalie massacred by Natchez Indians
1732: French retaliated against Natchez Indians; tribe ceased to exist
1763-1779: Mississippi passed into English control after the French and Indian War
1781-1783 (Treaty of Paris): Mississippi divided – Spain controlled south; America controlled north
1798: Mississippi organized as an American territory
1801-1802: Treaty with the Indians allows the Natchez Trace to be developed as a mail route and major road
1803: Louisiana Purchase opens the Mississippi River for Commerce
1805: (Treaty of Mount Dexter) Choctaw sold 4.5 million acres of land to U.S.
1817: Mississippi became a state; Indian lands opened for white settlement (six major treaties with the Choctaws and the Chickasaws between 1805 and 1834)
All Choctaw territory east of Miss. River ceded to U.S.; Choctaws left state; all Chickasaw territory in north ceded to U.S.; Chickasaws moved to Oklahoma
1850: Compromise of 1850 allowed slavery
1854: Mississippi Institute for the Deaf and Dumb opens in Jackson
1861-1865: Civil War
1868: Voters rejected biracial constitutional “Black and Tan Convention” which protected rights of ex-slaves, punished ex-Confederates
1869: Under the leadership of James L. Alcorn, Mississippi ratifies a constitution which does not punish ex-Confederate soldiers
1877: Jackson College, a private college for blacks, is established at Natchez
1907: Boll weevils destroyed cotton crops
1908: Statewide prohibition adopted
1922: The State Legislature authorizes a system of junior colleges, the first in the nation
1923: Two women, Senator Belle Kearny and Representative Nellie Nugent Somerville, are elected to the State Legislature
1929: Great Depression begins
1932: state’s first sales tax becomes effective
1932: Mississippi’s first modern-day black member
1954: Brown v. Board integrates public schools
1962: James Meredith, first black registrant, entered University of Mississippi
1963: Medgar Evers, NAACP field secretary, is assassinated
1964: Civil Rights Act passed outlawing segregation in public places; 3 civil rights workers are murdered near Philadelphia, MS
1968: Circuit Court judge O.H. Barnett rules that Choctaw Indians are subject to their tribal laws, a reversal of an 1830’s ruling that abolished tribal government; Robert Clark begins serving his first term in the Mississippi House as its first modern-day black member
1969: Segregation in public schools ended
1979: ’Mattie T. Consent Decree initiates procedures providing equal education for handicapped children in the states’ public schools
1982: Governor William Winter: Education reform Act, pioneering nationwide school reform
1985: Justice Reuben Anderson becomes Mississippi’s first black Supreme Court Justice
1986: Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway completed