

1855 1865 1875 1885 1895 1905 1915 1925 1935 1945

1857
In the Dred Scott v. Sandford case, the U.S. Supreme Court finds that Blacks were not and never could be U.S. citizens and that the U.S. Constitution and civil rights were not applicable to them.

1857
Virginia passes a code that makes it illegal to hire enslaved people and restricts their movement in certain parts of Richmond. The law also prohibits enslaved people from smoking, carrying canes and standing on sidewalks.

March 4, 1861
Abraham Lincoln is elected 16th president.
April 12, 1861
The American Civil War begins when the Confederates bombarded Union soldiers at Fort Sumter, South Carolina.

February 3, 1870
The 15th Amendment is ratified, saying, "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude." African-Americans may vote now, but women may not.

1863
The Reconstruction Era (1863-1876) begins in the U.S. in which the federal government temporarily takes control—one by one—of the Southern states of the Confederacy. During this period hundreds of schools for blacks are created in the South. When the Republicans come to power in the Southern states after 1867, they create the first system of taxpayer-funded public schools, but apart from a few in New Orleans, almost all the new public schools are segregated.

January 1, 1863
President Abraham Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation changing the legal status of more than 3.5 million enslaved African Americans to permanently free. In addition, the Proclamation allows for former slaves to be received into the armed service of the United States.

November 19, 1863
Abraham Lincoln delivers the Gettysburg Address at the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery in Pennsylvania after the Battle of Gettysburg where Union and Confederate forces combined to lose upwards of 50,000 casualties in three days of bloody fighting.

March 3, 1865
Lincoln sets up the Freedmen's Bureau to aid former enslaved people in finding education, health care, and employment.

April 9, 1865
The American Civil War ends when Robert E. Lee surrenders the last major Confederate army to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Courthouse. There are an estimated 800,000 casualties for the North and a similar number of casualties for the south totaling approximately 600,000-1,000,000 dead after four years of fighting.

December 6, 1865.
Slavery throughout the United States became illegal when Georgia ratified the 13th Amendment to the Constitution.

July 9, 1868
14th Amendment is ratified defining citizenship. It contains the Privileges or Immunities Clause, the Due Process Clause, and the Equal Protection Clause, and deals with post-Civil War issues.

1880
African Americans in the South reach a peak of numbers in being elected and holding local offices, even while white Democrats are working to assert control at state level.

March, 1880
The U.S. Supreme Court rules that Black Americans cannot be excluded from a jury because of their race in *Strader v. West Virginia*.

October, 1883
The US Supreme Court declares the Civil Rights Act of 1875 unconstitutional. The court rules that the Civil Rights Act of 1875 is in violation of the 13th and 14th amendments, which do not grant the federal government power to rule on or correct discriminatory practices taking place in private businesses.

1889
Jane Addams and Ellen Gates Starr established Hull-House in Chicago to provide services and support to the largely immigrant population acclimating to life in Chicago.

1889
President Benjamin Harrison appoints Frederick Douglass as U.S. Minister to Haiti. Harrison's decision to facilitate relations with Haiti is motivated by a desire to expand the United States' territory and his choice of Douglass likely due to Douglass's political and diplomatic success and his popularity with many Black people

1890
Wyoming becomes the first state to grant women the right to vote in its state elections.

1892
Opera soprano Sissieretta Jones becomes the first Black American to perform at Carnegie Hall.

1896
The U.S. Supreme Court upholds the constitutionality of segregation in *Plessy v. Ferguson*, so long as "separate but equal" facilities were provided, a requirement that was rarely met.

August 16, 1896
Gold is discovered in the Klondike region of Yukon, in north-western Canada. It initiates the Klondike Gold Rush, a migration by an estimated 100,000 prospectors to the Klondike region between 1896 and 1899.

April 21–August 13, 1898
The Spanish-American War begins. In the aftermath of the explosion of USS Maine in Havana Harbor in Cuba, the United States intervenes in the Cuban War of Independence. The war resulted in the United States emerging predominant in the Caribbean region, and acquiring Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines. It also leads to United States involvement in the Philippine Revolution and later to the Philippine-American War.

September 14, 1901
Theodore Roosevelt (26th president) succeeds to the presidency upon the death of McKinley.

July 1905
W.E.B Du Bois and William Monroe Trotter convened a conference of Black leaders to renounce Booker T. Washington's accommodation-ism. They met at Niagara Falls, in Ontario Canada because hotels on the U.S side of the falls barred African Americans

1909
The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), a civil rights organization in the United States, is formed as an interracial endeavor to advance justice for African Americans by a group including W.E.B. Du Bois, Mary White Ovington, Moorfield Storey, and Ida B. Wells.

June 1918
During the first major engagement of U.S. forces in World War I, American Marines halt the German advance through a breakthrough of the French line at Belleau Wood resulting in a significant Allied victory. An estimated 10,000 American casualties and an equal number of Germans occur over the course of the 26-day battle.

June 28, 1919
Allied and German representatives sign the treaty of Versailles ending World War I. From 23 nations and allied territories, an estimated 17,000,000 die during the four years of war. The treaty and League of Nations is rejected by the U.S. Senate.

August 18, 1920
19th Amendment ratified prohibiting the United States and its states from denying the right to vote to citizens of the United States on the basis of sex, in effect recognizing the right of women to vote. The amendment is the culmination of a decades-long movement for women's suffrage in the United States, at both the state and national levels, and is part of the worldwide movement towards women's suffrage and part of the wider women's rights movement.

1932
Hattie Wyatt Caraway, of Arkansas, becomes the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate.

1933
Labor Secretary Frances Perkins is the first woman to serve on a Presidential Cabinet under Franklin D. Roosevelt.

1935
Mary McLeod Bethune organized the National Council of Negro Women, and the following year saw the first meeting of the National Negro Congress, an umbrella movement of diverse African-American organizations that fought for anti-lynching legislation, the elimination of the poll tax and the eligibility of agricultural and domestic workers for Social Security.

1937
The U.S. Supreme Court upholds Washington state's minimum wage laws for women.

1937
Young African Americans formed the Southern Negro Youth Congress registered voters and organized boycotts.

June 1946 The U.S. Supreme Court rules that segregation on interstate bus travel is unconstitutional in *Morgan v. Virginia*.

March 1942
The Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), an African-American civil rights organization is founded by James Leonard Farmer Jr., Anna Pauline "Pauli" Murray, George Mills Houser, Elsie Bernice Fisher and Homer A. Jack with a mission "to bring about equality for all people regardless of race, creed, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, religion or ethnic background." The organization would play a pivotal role for African Americans in the civil rights movement.

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1855
On February 12th, Fannie Barrier Williams was born in Brockport, NY, to mixed-race parents in a predominantly white community. Race and gender had little impact on her childhood, as her parents were upper-class northern blacks who had never been enslaved, and the community she was raised in had no segregation based on race.

1870
Earned her teaching certificate from Brockport Normal School. At the graduation exercise, Barrier presented an essay titled "All the World's a Stage," highlighting her curiosity and desire to explore the world beyond Brockport. Attending school here equipped Barrier with the skills she needed to move beyond Brockport, with the establishment of segregated black schools in the South.

1875-1877
Moved to Hannibal, Missouri and then to Washington, DC to teach. It was in these cities that Barrier Williams first felt the impact of race and gender as a black woman. Though her race limited her to teaching in segregated schools, her profession earned her a degree of respect and social class standing. These moves and the experiences she had in each location allowed her to gain an appreciation for geographically based differences in racial experiences.

1884
Attends New England Conservatory. On short-term leave from her position as a teacher in a D.C. school, Barrier moved to Boston to attend the New England Conservatory to cultivate her artistic skills. She attended the school for only two terms before a Southern White student's complaints about the school's approach to integration resulted in her being asked to leave.

1887
Married Samuel Laing Williams in Brockport and moved to Chicago. Williams was an attorney and well-connected to the Washington DC black elite social circles. Following a visit there, they continued on to Chicago where they quickly established their prominence among the city's black elite. Williams joined a law practice with Ferdinand Barnett, a well-respected attorney, further cementing their place amongst Chicago's black aristocracy.

1888-1894
Barrier Williams became involved with the IWA, eventually serving as Vice-President. The Illinois Women's Alliance (IWA) formed in 1888, bringing together black elite and prominent white activists to address the welfare needs of women and children. It was here that she developed her skills in navigating between black and white communities and went on to leverage those skills to become a labor activist for Black women.

1893
Presented at Chicago World's Fair Aided by prominent white civic leaders like Cecilia Parker Woolley, Barrier Williams was one of the few black female presenters at the Chicago World's Fair. Her address "The Intellectual Progress of the Colored Women of the United States Since the Emancipation Proclamation" garnered her national attention as a powerful intellectual leader for black women.

1893-1899
Instrumental in the club women's movement and the formation of the National Association of Colored Women. After over a year of debate, Barrier Williams became the first black woman admitted to the Chicago Women's Club in 1893, and in 1896 guided the formation of the NACW. The NACW allowed black women to gain recognition as a force for social and political change for the black community. It was in this role that she spearheaded the creation of the Illinois Federation of Colored Women's Clubs in 1899, placing her firmly on the national stage as a prominent black female thought leader.

1903-1918
Advocated for the Frederick Douglass Center Along with the growing Settlement House movement in Chicago, she and S. Laing Williams became active and vocal supporters of the FDC. Barrier Williams referred to it several times as the "black Hull House," positioning it as a respectable and successful social settlement and linking her ideologies to that of Jane Addams.

1921
S. Laing Williams' Death and a Return to Brockport. S. Laing Williams passed away. Five years later, his widow permanently left Chicago for her hometown of Brockport.

1924
Served on Chicago's library board in the same year, her husband passed away, and Barrier Williams became the first woman and black American to be named to the Chicago Library Board.

March 4 1944
Died in Brockport, NY Barrier Williams had returned to Brockport in 1926 with her sister, Ella, to whom she had always been close. While local news items about her life focused primarily on her class-based accomplishments and Brockport connection, national media highlighted her achievements fighting racial discrimination and her prominence in the civil rights movement. Her estate and proceeds were divided among people and causes that were important to her, including the Phyllis Wheatley Home of Chicago and the Brockport public library. She was buried with her parents in the village cemetery.



Fannie Barrier Williams