

Perseverance

1859 to 1930



When did Oregon become a state?

**What do you think were some of the
challenges Black Americans faced
after Oregon became a state?**

Oregon is admitted as a free state. However, written in the state Constitution is a “Whites Only” clause prohibiting African Americans from setting in Oregon.

1866 Oregon Passes Miscegenation Law

Forbids the marriage between whites and African Americans or Asian American/Pacific Islanders. Offenders and any clerk validating the marriage can face prison time.

AN ACT to prohibit amalgamation and the intermarriage of races.

Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

Section 1. That hereafter it shall not be lawful within this State for any white person, male or female, to intermarry with any negro, Chinese, or any person having one-fourth or more negro, Chinese or Kanaka blood, or any person having more than one-half Indian blood; and all such marriages or attempted marriages, shall be absolutely null and void.

Sec. 2. If any white person, negro, Chinese, Kanaka, or Indian, within the above forbidden degrees, shall knowingly intermarry or attempt the same by procuring a solemnization of marriage, under any of the forms or ceremonies legalized in this State, such person or persons upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by imprisonment in the penitentiary or county jail, not less than three months nor more than one year.

Sec. 3. If any person authorized to license marriages, or to solemnize marriages within this State, shall willingly or knowingly license, marry or attempt to marry, any of the persons above forbidden to marry, such person or persons upon conviction thereof, shall be imprisoned in the penitentiary or county jail, not less than three months nor more than one year, and be fined not less than one hundred dollars, nor more than one thousand dollars.

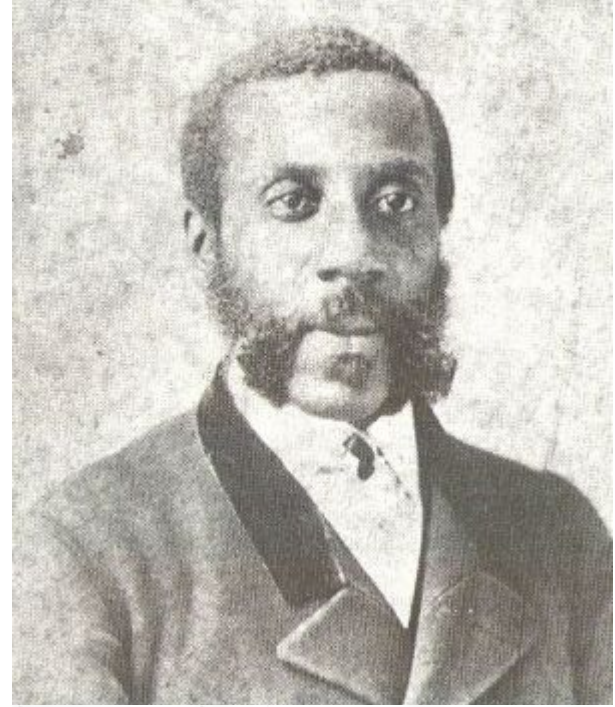
Sec. 4. It shall be the duty of the clerks of the several counties in this State, when applied to for a "license" to marry, to inquire into the facts as to whether either of the parties to such proposed marriage comes within the above forbidden degrees, and for this purpose he may put such applicant on oath, and demand further proof in his discretion; provided, such clerk shall not require more than the affidavit of one other disinterested person.

Approved October 24, 1866.

1870

George Putnam Riley Speaks at Portland Philharmonic Hall

A barber, businessman and speaker, Riley championed Civil Rights for African Americans during Oregon's early statehood. Well known for being an educated man and eloquent speaker, he was a leader in the Portland African American community.



**MR. GEO P. RILEY,
THE ELOQUENT
COLORED SPEAKER,**

Will Speak at
**PHILHARMONIC HALL,
TUESDAY EVENING, APRIL 26th 1870.**

SUBJECT—"The Colored Citizen and the Ballot." What he will do with it—A review of the Past and Present—The Ballot and a glimpse of our future position.

ADMISSION FIFTY CENTS,

(Payable at the Door.)

Doors open at 7 o'clock; Speaking to commence at 8 o'clock. Press and Clergy respectfully invited.
[Geo. H. Himes, Printer.]

1880's Black Railroad Workers

Beginning in the 1880's African Americans were recruited from the South to work in various positions such as porter or baggage handler in Portland's rail station.



1894

George Hardin

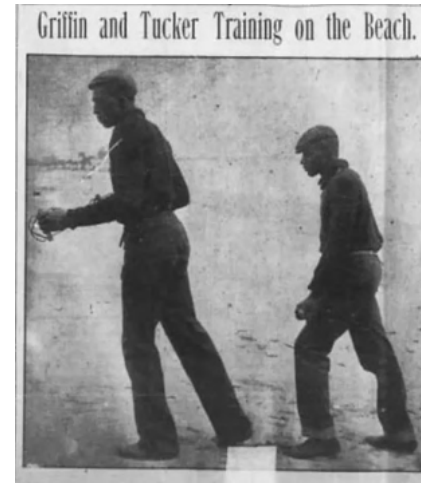
Hardin became the first African American police officer in Portland. He later went on to serve with the Multnomah County Deputy Sheriff office.



1902

Alonzo Tucker

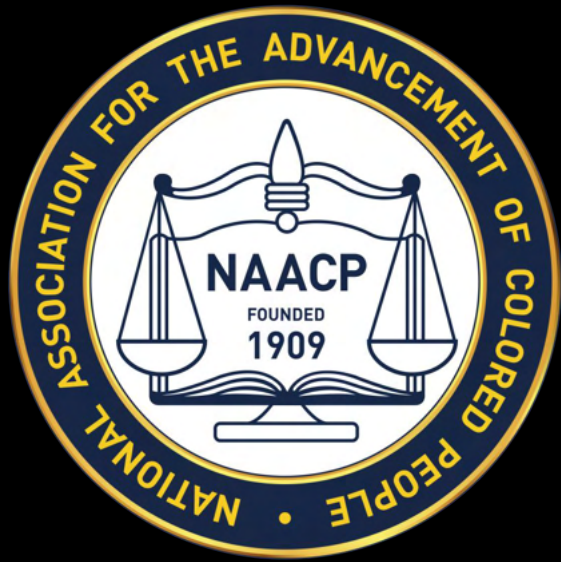
The only known lynching of an African American in Oregon occurred in Coos Bay. Tucker was accused of raping a white woman. He escaped from jail and hid from the mob, but he was found by two young boys and shot several times before being lynched.



1911 George Fletcher

Considered the greatest
African American stock rider.
Fletcher won second place at
the Pendleton Round-up in the
Finals.





1914

Oregon's First NAACP

National Association for the
Advancement of Colored People

The Portland chapter is the oldest continuously running NAACP chapter west of the Mississippi River. The organization fought the Exclusion Laws, set up labor unions for African Americans, and fought housing policies that discriminated against African Americans.





1916

Lizzie Koontz Weeks Becomes First African American Social Worker in Multnomah County

Koontz was part of the suffrage movement in Portland and then active in ensuring women of color voted. She led numerous voter registration drives while also advocating for women and children in her social work.



1922

Beatrice Morrow Cannaday

**Becomes first African
American woman lawyer**

Co-founder of Portland NAACP
and editor of *The Advocate*

(Portland's only African American
newspaper 1903-1938) she spent her
life confronting racial
discrimination and taught about
African American history on the
radio.

1926

Voters repeal the exclusion language from the Oregon Bill of Rights

Voter restrictions on African Americans and Chinese Americans were also removed. The laws had been unenforceable since the passage of the 14th and 15th Amendments to the US Constitution in 1870, but exclusion language was still on paper until 1926.



1933 Maxville

A thriving mixed race logging community near Wallowa that eventually declined due to the Great Depression. Despite Oregon's Exclusion Law's loggers worked together though the town itself was segregated.



“Paradoxical as it may seem the Negro Women of America must become the teachers of the white race. In this interracial program there will grow up a strong sisterhood between white and colored women which will be the safest protection of the ideals for which the NAACP stands.”

BlackPast, B. (2008, April 15). (1928) Beatrice Morrow Cannady Speaks to the NAACP.

BlackPast.org.

<https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/1928-beatrice-morrow-cannady-speaks-naacp/eatrice Cannady Morrow>