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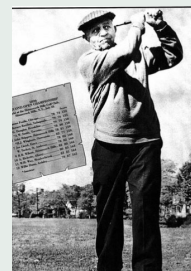
Celebrating Union County's Black History Notable People & Places



2016 is the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the National Park Service.

To honor this celebration, the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History, the Organization that provides the theme for National Black History Month, has selected, "Hallowed Ground: Sites of African American Memories".

This map highlights some of the notable people and places in Union County that have been an important part of the history of African Americans.



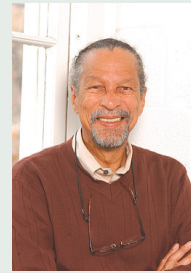
1 John M. Shippen Jr. was the first African-American to play in a US Open Championship (1896), and served as Golf Pro at the Shady Rest Golf and Country Club from 1931 - 1964 in Scotch Plains.



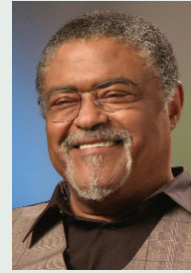
2 Zora Neale Hurston the American novelist, short story writer, folklorist, and anthropologist, worked with Langston Hughes on the play "Mule Bone" while they were both residents of Westfield.



3 James Mercer Langston Hughes, the American poet, novelist, playwright and columnist, completed his first novel, "Not Without Laughter" while residing in Westfield.



4 James Edward Maceo West, was an American inventor and acoustician. Along with a colleague, Dr. West pioneered the design of the microphone. He was a long-time resident of Plainfield.



5 Roosevelt "Rosey" Grier, a former American Football Player, actor, singer and Minister, lived in Roselle, and attended Abraham P. Clark High School there.



6 Milton Gray Campbell, was an American decathlete of the 1950s. In 1956, he became the first African-American to win the gold medal in the decathlon of the Summer Olympic Games. He was born, raised and resided in Plainfield.



7 Deborah Cannon Partridge Wolfe An educator, civil rights activist, U.S. presidential advisor, and minister was the first Black Woman ordained by the American Baptist Church. She was born and raised in Cranford.



8 Amalya Lyle Kearse, an attorney and jurist, was the first woman named to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and a world-class bridge player, was born in Vauxhall.



9 Joseph Black, a pitcher in Major League Baseball for the Brooklyn Dodgers, he became the first black pitcher to win a World Series game, in 1952. He was born and raised in Plainfield.



10 Donald Newcombe, was a pitcher for the Brooklyn/Los Angeles Dodgers. In 1951, Newcombe was the first black pitcher to win 20 games in one season. In 1956, named the National League's MVP, and was awarded the first-ever Cy Young Award. He was raised in Elizabeth.



11 Robert Hamilton Blackburn, an African-American artist, teacher and printmaker, was born in Summit. Blackburn revolutionized the field of color lithography and shared his techniques with thousands of artists.



12 Paul Leroy Robeson, an entertainer and athlete, he was active in the civil rights movement. His distinctive bass voice made him a famous singer and a star in theater and movies. He lived in Westfield and attended both Middle and High School.



13 Ronald John "Ron" Freeman III, an American former athlete, he won a gold medal in the 4x400 meter relay and a bronze medal in the 400 meter dash at the 1968 Summer Olympics. He was from Elizabeth



14 Shade Lee, was one of the original Tuskegee Airmen. He wrote recommendations which became a model for President Truman's 1948 Executive Order to integrate the military. He is from Elizabeth.



Important historic sites & people from Union County

11 Robert Hamilton Blackburn was an African-America artist, teacher and printmaker. Blackburn was born in Summit.

Saint Luke's AME Zion Church
500 Downer Street

The Pastor from 1907 to 1910 was Rev. William Drew Robeson, and he lived there with his son,

13 Paul Robeson, the renowned athlete, actor, singer and Civil Rights activist.

Paul Robeson attended elementary school at **Washington Elementary School, 900 St. Marks Avenue**

514 Downer Street (private residence)

3 Langston Hughes, American poet, social activist, novelist, playwright, lived at this residence in the early 1930's. He wrote his first novel, "Not Without Laughter" here.

2 Zora Neale Hurston, an American folklorist, anthropologist, and author also lived at this address and collaborated with Langston Hughes on the play "Mule Bone".

6 Milton (Milt) Campbell, the First Black Olympic Decathlon Gold Medalist ('56), was born in Plainfield.

Shady Rest Golf and Country Club Clubhouse, 820 Jerusalem Road in Scotch Plains, was the first Black-owned Country Club in the United States.

Rahway Cemetery, at 1670 Saint Georges Avenue, Rahway. 24 Civil War Veterans of United States Colored Infantry (USCI) are buried and honored at this Cemetery.

8 Amalya Lyle Kears, the First woman to be named a judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and a world-class bridge player, was born in Vauxhall.

13 Ron Freeman, who won the gold medal in the 4x400 Meter Relay and a bronze medal in the 400 Meter Dash, was born in Elizabeth.

14 Master Sergeant Shade Meshack Lee, one of the original Tuskegee Airmen that served in World War II. He lives in Elizabeth.

7 Deborah Cannon Partridge Wolfe, an Educator; was the first Black female to be ordained by the American Baptist Church. She was also the First Black female to be named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She was born in Cranford.

