

A Timeline of Black History in Idaho

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| <p>1805 York travels with Meriwether Lewis and William Clark through Idaho. York was Clark's man servant.</p> <p>1860 Blacks are among the many miners, explorers, trappers, soldiers and cowboys plying their trade in Idaho. Rhodes Creek in Clearwater County is named after miner, William Rhodes, whose fortune equaled \$80,000.</p> <p>1861 Jane R Allen born in Ada County</p> <p>1864 John West moves to Boise from Philadelphia; named "Dean of Colored Pioneers in Idaho"</p> <p>1865 Bella Carvan born in Boise County</p> <p>1869 John F. Allen leaves Boise because he cannot get his children into public schools.</p> <p>1870 The census indicates 60 Blacks living in Pocatello, Alturas, Lemhi, Nez Perce, Silver City, Idaho County, Shoshone County, Boise County and Boise City. The Desert Land Act encourages many Black Mormons to move to Idaho.</p> <p>1879 George Washington Blackman, a miner, arrives in Hailey. Blackman Peak, in the White Cloud Mountains, is named after him.</p> <p>1890 Idaho becomes a state</p> <p>1892 The 25th Infantry Regiment, a Black unit, is brought from Missoula, Montana to put down labor unrest in the Coeur d'Alene mining district.</p> <p>1899 Jennie Hughes becomes the first Black to graduate from the University of Idaho.</p> <p>1899 Ned Leggroan moves to Bonneville County</p> <p>1900 The 1900 Census lists 47 "colored" people living in Ada County</p> <p>1903 The African American League and the Women's Athenian Club, both of whom work for equal rights, are founded in Boise.</p> <p>1906-1907 Doc Hisom and William White stake mining claim in "The Cove."</p> <p>1908 St. Paul Baptist Church is founded in Boise by Rev. William Riley Hardy</p> <p>1910 The 1910 Census lists 135 Blacks living in Ada County</p> <p>1920 In Pocatello, 2.4 percent of the population is Black - 366 people, compared to 63 in Boise. The Ku Klux Klan becomes active in Boise and Pocatello.</p> <p>1921 St. Paul Baptist Church is built</p> | <p>1942 Mountain Home Air Force Base opens, bringing more Blacks to Idaho</p> <p>1952 Reginald Reeves is the first Black to graduate from the University of Idaho Law School. He joins an Idaho Falls law firm.</p> <p>1964 Dorothy Johnson, a Pocatello resident, wins Miss Idaho USA title</p> <p>1966 Frank Cummings, Jr. a champion model airplane enthusiast, moves to Kamiah with his wife Marion.</p> <p>1968 Idaho's first civil rights rally is held at the Idaho State Capitol following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Memphis, Tennessee</p> <p>1972 Mamie Oliver is the first Black professor at Boise State University</p> <p>1973 Les Purce wins a seat on the Pocatello City Council. He is the first Black elected official in the state.</p> <p>1974 Boise Mayor Dick Eardley declares Boise's first Negro History Week.</p> <p>1974 Aryan Nation compound opens in Hayden Lake.</p> <p>1977 Idaho Purce, daughter of Birdie and Tracy Thompson, and mother of Pocatello Mayor, Les Purce, is named "Humanitarian of the Year" by the Salvation Army.</p> <p>1981 Les Purce is named director of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare</p> <p>1982 St. Paul Baptist Church is placed on the National Register of Historic Places</p> <p>1983 The Idaho State Legislature prohibits malicious harassment based on racial and ethnic identity.</p> <p>1986 Cherie Buckner is first Black woman to be a member of the Boise Junior League</p> <p>1990 Idaho becomes the 47th state to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.</p> <p>1993 Jerome Mapp is first Black elected to Boise City Council</p> <p>1995 St. Paul Baptist Church vacates its original building for a larger facility and donates the original building to the Idaho Black History Museum, Inc.</p> <p>1998 The former St. Paul Baptist Church is relocated to Julia Davis Park</p> <p>1999 The Idaho Black History Museum opens</p> <p>2003 Joe B. McNeal is elected Mayor of Mountain Home</p> <p>2009 Dayo O. Onanubosi becomes first Black Magistrate Judge, Third Judicial District, Canyon County</p> <p>2010 Cherie Buckner-Webb is first Black elected to Idaho Legislature</p> |
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