

Carter G. Woodson

Known as the “Father of Black History,” Woodson (1875–1950) was the son of formerly enslaved people and understood the importance of gaining a proper education when striving to secure and maximize one’s divine right of freedom.



1875

Carter Godwin Woodson was born on December 19, 1875, in New Canton, Virginia, to formerly enslaved parents Anna Eliza Riddle Woodson and James Woodson. As the fourth of seven children, young Woodson worked as a sharecropper and a miner to support his family.



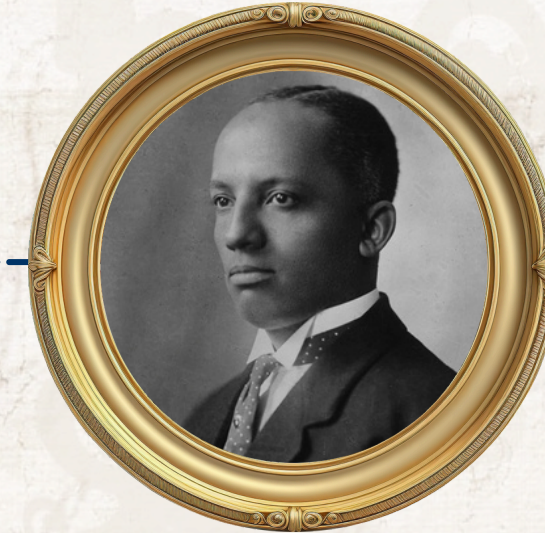
1897

Though he entered high school later in life, he made up for lost time, graduating in less than two years. After attending Berea College in Kentucky, Woodson worked as an education superintendent for the U.S. government in the Philippines.



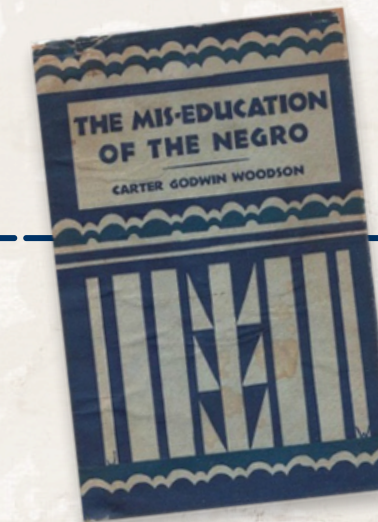
1908

Enrolled at the University of Chicago and earned a second bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree in European History in the spring of 1908.



1912

Became the second African American (after W.E.B. Du Bois) to receive a PhD from Harvard University. He was also the first child of enslaved parents to earn a doctorate in history.



1915

Published *The Mis-Education of the Negro*, his first book.

THE
A.S.N.L.H.

The Association for the Study of Negro Life and History

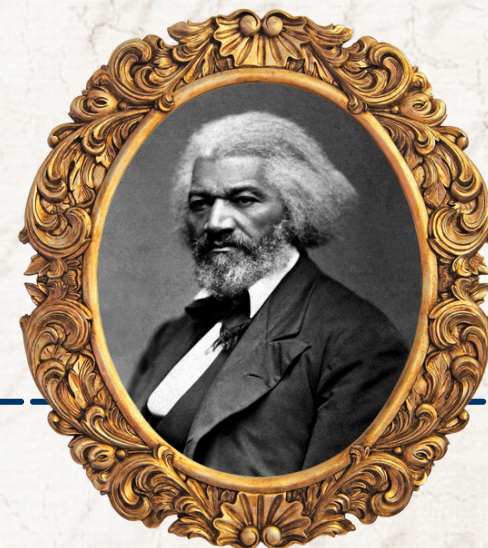
SEPT. 9, 1915

Founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. Today, known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), it is the oldest organization dedicated to studying and promoting Black History.



1930s

Woodson’s home served as the headquarters for ASNLH (now ASALH). It also housed Associated Publishers, a publishing company focused on African American culture and history, at a time when many publishers rejected such works.



1926

Founded Negro History Week in February to honor of the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, two key figures in the fight for freedom and equality, a tradition that later evolved into Black History Month.



1922

Bought a home at 1538 Ninth Street NW in the Shaw neighborhood of Washington, D.C. Dr. Carter G. Woodson’s home was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1976.



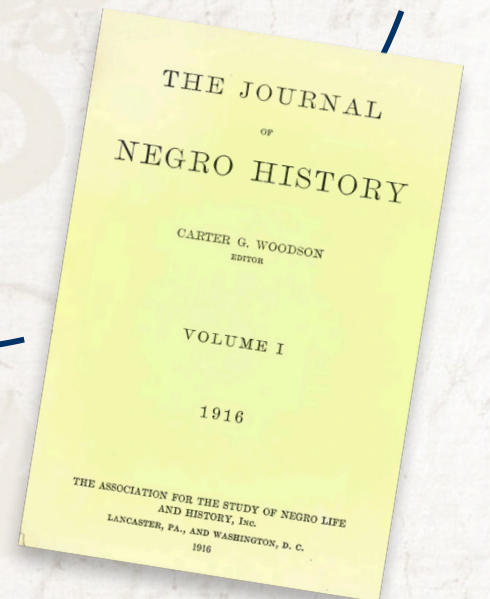
1920

Dr. Woodson became Dean at the School of Liberal Arts and Head of the Graduate Faculty at Howard University.



1918

Moved to Washington, D.C., where he taught American history, English, French, and Spanish languages at the M Street School (now known as Paul Laurence Dunbar Senior High School) and then worked as a principal at the Armstrong Manual Training School.



1916

Published the first issue of *The Journal of Negro History*.



Committee in charge of the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, 1935. Dr. Carter G. Woodson is sitting to the far left, Vivian G. Harsh is sitting in the center (white blouse).



1937

At the urging of Mary McLeod Bethune, Woodson established the The Negro History Bulletin, which focused on the annual theme. *The Negro History Bulletin* was a monthly newsletter for high school teachers, with articles providing ideas for lessons on African American history. ASALH still publishes this educational resource as the *Black History Bulletin*.



Mary McLeod Bethune, Lucy Harth Smith, and Dr. Carter G. Woodson at ASALH’s Annual Conference in Chicago, Illinois in 1940.

1940s

Woodson continued to publish and remain active in civil rights, supporting the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People’s (NAACP) anti-lynching efforts. During this time, ASNLH (ASALH) steadily grew, establishing branches in every major northern city and dozens of cities and small towns across the South, ensuring that Negro History Week would not end with Woodson’s passing.

1950

Dr. Carter G. Woodson passed away on April 3, 1950, at the age of 74 in his living quarters at the Association’s Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

