

African Americans and New Jersey History



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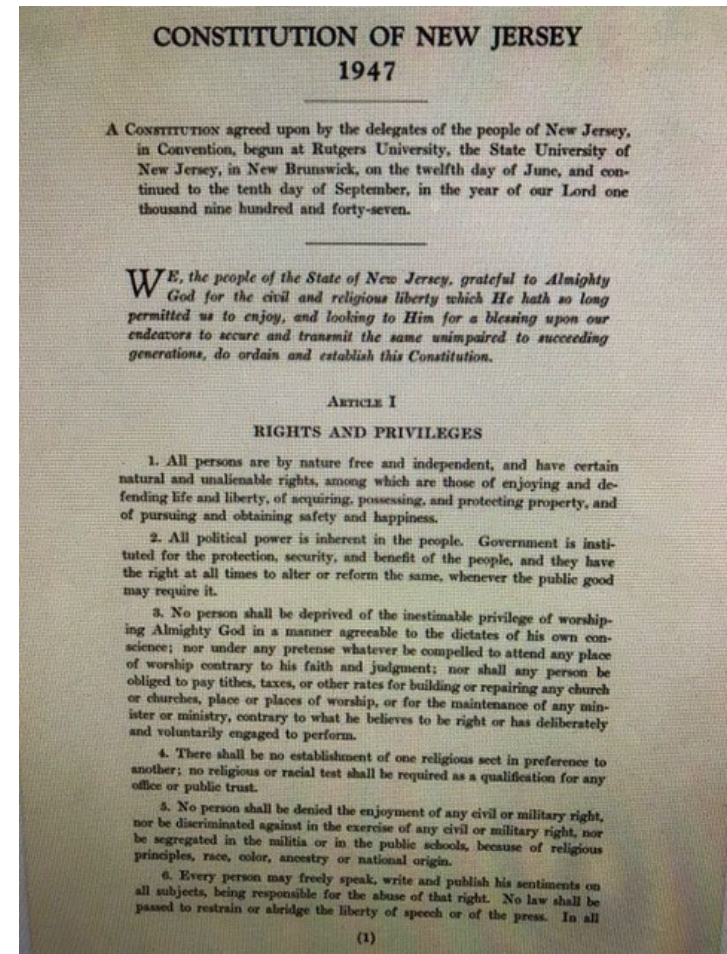
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Themes in African American History in New Jersey

- Great Migration
- Black Women
- Civil Rights Movement
- Gentrification



Great Migration

- Phase I (1910-1940)
- Phase II (1940-1970)
- Reasons:
 - Crop failures
 - Jim Crow
 - WW I & WW II
 - Economic opportunity



**132% increase in Black Population (1910-1930)

Great Migration to New Jersey

- Atlantic City
- Trenton
- Camden
- Newark**



Social Effects of Migration

- Ghettos
- Low wage labor
- De facto segregation
- Blockbusting
- Redlining
- Restrictive covenants
- Federal subsidies financed segregation**
- Suburbanization



Sara Spencer Washington (1889-1953)



Apex Beauty School (1976)



Graduating Class at Apex (1946)



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Anna Arnold Hedgeman (1899-1990)

- FEPC Executive Director
- MOWM
- March on Washington
- NOW





Marion Thompson Wright (1905-1961)





Hedgepeth-Williams v. Trenton Board of Education (1944)

New Jersey Constitution (1947)

CONSTITUTION OF NEW JERSEY

1947

A CONSTITUTION agreed upon by the delegates of the people of New Jersey, in Convention, begun at Rutgers University, the State University of New Jersey, in New Brunswick, on the twelfth day of June, and continued to the tenth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and forty-seven.

WE, the people of the State of New Jersey, grateful to Almighty God for the civil and religious liberty which He hath so long permitted us to enjoy, and looking to Him for a blessing upon our endeavors to secure and transmit the same unimpaired to succeeding generations, do ordain and establish this Constitution.

ARTICLE I

RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES

1. All persons are by nature free and independent, and have certain natural and unalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, of acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and of pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness.

2. All political power is inherent in the people. Government is instituted for the protection, security, and benefit of the people, and they have the right at all times to alter or reform the same, whenever the public good may require it.

3. No person shall be deprived of the inestimable privilege of worshipping Almighty God in a manner agreeable to the dictates of his own conscience; nor under any pretense whatever be compelled to attend any place of worship contrary to his faith and judgment; nor shall any person be obliged to pay tithes, taxes, or other rates for building or repairing any church or churches, place or places of worship, or for the maintenance of any minister or ministry, contrary to what he believes to be right or has deliberately and voluntarily engaged to perform.

4. There shall be no establishment of one religious sect in preference to another; no religious or racial test shall be required as a qualification for any office or public trust.

5. No person shall be denied the enjoyment of any civil or military right, nor be discriminated against in the exercise of any civil or military right, nor be segregated in the militia or in the public schools, because of religious principles, race, color, ancestry or national origin.

6. Every person may freely speak, write and publish his sentiments on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of that right. No law shall be passed to restrain or abridge the liberty of speech or of the press. In all

New Jersey Civil Rights Act (1949)

The New Jersey Afro-American, April 9, 1949

Civil Rights Bill Called Milestone in Democracy



"I hope that my signature on this bill will mark a milestone in the history of New Jersey and the nation," Gov. Alfred E. Driscoll of New Jersey tells a group of supporters who came to witness the signing of the Freeman Civil Rights Bill (A-65) in Trenton on Tuesday. The Governor warned that "in getting tolerance, we must emphasize the education of ourselves as well as the other fellow." In left foreground (wearing striped suit and bow tie) is Herbert Tate of Newark, chairman of the Joint Council on Civil Rights, which drafted bill and spearheaded fight for passage. Behind him is Dr. Charles Broadus, president of the Trenton NAACP. Behind the Governor's chair is Mayor Vincent J. Murphy of Newark. Standing behind him is Dr. James Otto Hill, former assemblyman and author of New Jersey Fair Employment Law. At

Sources

- Atlantic City Public Library, Sara Spencer Washington Collection, Atlantic City, New Jersey
- New Jersey State Archives, Urban Colored Population Commission Papers, Trenton, New Jersey
- Moorland Spingarn Center, Howard University, Photographs and Prints Collection, Washington, D.C.
- New Jersey Historical Society, Florence Spearing Randolph Collection, Newark, New Jersey
- Yale University, Lester Granger Papers, New Haven, Connecticut
- Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture (various collections)