

# A Look at Black History

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## Obama wins a second term as U.S. president

By David A. Fahrenthold, November 06, 2012



Barack Obama was elected to a second presidential term Tuesday, defeating Republican Mitt Romney by reassembling the political coalition that boosted him to victory four years ago, and by remaking himself from a hopeful uniter into a determined fighter for middle-class interests.

Obama, the nation's first African American president, scored a decisive victory by stringing  
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together a series of narrow ones. Of the election's seven major battlegrounds, he won at least six.

"While our journey has been long, we have picked ourselves up," Obama told a cheering crowd of supporters in his home town of Chicago early Wednesday morning. "We have fought our way back. And we know in our hearts that, for the United States of America, the best is yet to come."

## Gabby Douglas Becomes 1st Black Female Gymnast to Win Solo Gold Medal

Feb 1, 2013 By D.L. Chandler

*This Black History Month, NewsOne takes a look back at the top African-American moments from 2000 to 2012. Some will make you happy while others will undoubtedly make you angry and/or sad. Either way, here's to the last 12 years of our living history. Enjoy!*



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❖ **Moment: Gabby Douglas is the first African-American female to win the All-Around gold medal.**

**Why:** Virginia teenager **Gabby Douglas** leapt her way in to history and our hearts, after snagging the coveted gold medal at the 2012 Summer Olympics. Standing at just 4'11," Gabby became the first African-American woman and the first woman of color of any nationality to win the individual event. Douglas also has the distinction of being the only American gymnast to win both team and solo gold as well. The win catapulted the budding star to mainstream fame, and several endorsements from major corporations were soon to follow. Despite her reported struggles with racism at a gym in her native Virginia Beach, Gabby's talent rose above all.

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**Photos: Black History Makers**

**Dr. M. L. King Memorial**



**Serena Williams' 5<sup>th</sup> Wimbledon Title**



**Michele Obama (Powerful Woman)**



**Tuskegee Airmen**



**The Pots are Ready!**



We will celebrate the closing of Black History Month with our traditional chili gumbo, and soup trio. There will be other treats also. Do not leave after church is over. Go to the Cecil Carter Fellowship Hall and prepare to eat and fellowship.

Special thanks to Rev. Lisa Winston, Mrs. Annie Franklin, Elder Cassandra Wheeler, Elder Robert Bracy, The Calvary Presbyterian Choir, and all who made contributions to Black History Month for 2013.

Black History Month is supported by Rev. Lisa Winston and the Calvary Presbyterian Church Family.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE • HYMNAL



## Amazing Grace

Harriet Tubman's hymnal evokes a life devoted to liberation

BY OWEN EDWARDS

AN 8- BY 5-INCH 19TH-CENTURY HYMNAL, bound in faded paperboard and cloth, bears its owner's name handwritten on the inside cover. The well-worn book of hymns belonged to one of American history's most legendary heroines: Harriet Tubman.

Historian Charles Blockson recently donated the hymnal—along with other Tubman memorabilia—to the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. It represents, says NMAAHC director Lonnie Bunch, an opportunity “to renew our awareness of Harriet Tubman as a human—to make her less of a myth and more of a girl and a woman with astonishing determination.”

Historians continue to investigate the inscription on the inside cover—“Harriet Tubman Davis Book.” (Tubman married Nelson Davis, a Civil War veteran, in 1869.) Denied education as a slave, Tubman, according to historical evidence, never learned to read or write. “We have more study to do,” says Bunch.

Born in 1822 in Maryland, Tubman suffered a serious head injury as a girl, when an overseer hurled a scale counterweight at another slave, hitting Tubman. The injury caused lifelong seizures and hallucinations that the young woman would interpret as religious visions.

In 1849, she fled Maryland to Philadelphia. Soon after, Tubman began her exploits—acts of bravery that would make her a legend. She returned secretly to Maryland to begin escorting other slaves to freedom. She often traveled at night to avoid capture by reward-seeking trackers. During the course of 13 such missions, she led nearly 70 slaves out of bondage. Even after the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 required free states to return runaway slaves, Tubman continued to guide her charges along the Underground

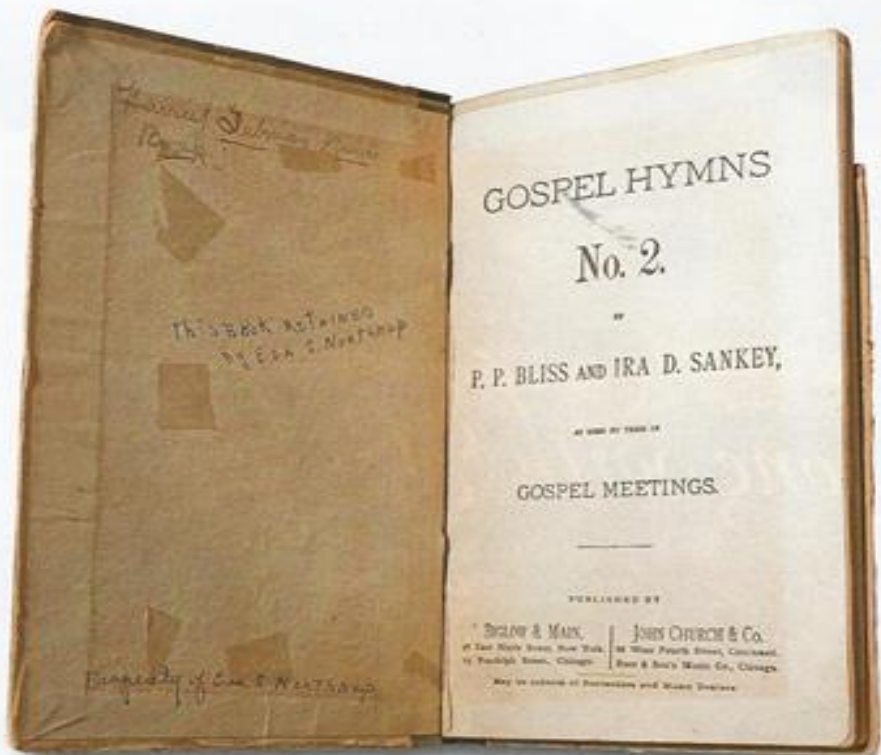
Railroad north to Canada, earning the nom de guerre “Moses.” She would later recall with pride that she “never lost a passenger.”

“She believed in freedom when she shouldn't have had a chance to believe in freedom,” says Bunch. Just as important, he adds, was that her increasingly famous acts of daring “belied the Southern contention that slaves actually liked their lives.”

During the Civil War, Tubman served with the Union Army as a



The hymnal summons up a woman of “astonishing determination,” says NMAAHC director Lonnie Bunch.



rifle-toting scout and spy. In June 1863, she helped lead a gunboat raid on plantations along the Combahee River near Beaufort, South Carolina, an action that freed more than 700 slaves. As Union gunboats took on those who fled, Tubman calmed fears with a familiar abolitionist anthem:

*Of all the whole creation in the east  
or in the west  
The glorious Yankee nation is the  
greatest and the best  
Come along! Come along!  
don't be alarmed.*

In her long, eventful life, Tubman worked with abolitionist Frederick Douglass; anti-slavery firebrand John Brown (who called her “General Tubman”); and women’s rights pioneer Susan B. Anthony. In 1897, Queen Victoria recognized her achievements with the gift of a lace-and-silk shawl. (The garment is among 39 items in the Blockson donation.) Tubman died in 1913 at age 91, in Auburn, New York, where she had founded a nursing home for former slaves after the war.

Blockson, who lives outside Philadelphia, has since boyhood amassed material relating, he says, to “anyone of African descent.” Today, he is curator emeritus of his collection—numbering some 500,000 pieces—at Temple University.

He acquired the hymnal, the Victoria shawl, several rare photographs and other items as a bequest from Meriline Wilkins, Tubman’s great-great-niece who died at age 92 in 2008. The hymnal had belonged to Tubman’s great-niece, Eva S. Northrup. “[Meriline] said to me once, ‘I’m going to give you something one of these days,’” Blockson recalls. “But when the hymnal turned out to be one of the things she left to me, it was awesome to receive it. And it had to go to Washington, where it may attract other Tubman items.”

The gospel song “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot,” which is in the hymnal, was among Tubman’s favorites. Says Blockson: “They sang it at her funeral.”

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**OWEN EDWARDS** *is a freelance writer and author of the book* *Elegant Solutions.*



The West African empire of Mali was larger than Western Europe and reputed to be one of the richest and most powerful states in the world.

## **MORE WAYS TO CUSTOMIZE THIS TEMPLATE**

### **FOOTERS**

To change the text at the very bottom of each page of your newsletter, click Headers and Footers on the View menu. Use the Header and Footer toolbar to open the footer, and replace the sample text with your own text.

### **INSERT SYMBOL**

It is a good idea to place a small symbol at the end of each article to let the reader know that the article is finished and will not continue onto another page. Position your cursor at the end of the article, click Symbol on the Insert menu, choose the symbol you want, and then click Insert.

### **BORDERS**

You can use page borders and text box borders to change the appearance of your newsletter. Borders on text boxes help keep different articles separate, and can set off sidebar articles from the rest of the page. To change a text box border, select it, double click its edge and choose the Colors and Lines tab in the Format Auto Shape dialog box.

## **Inserting and Editing Pictures**

*Type your sub-heading here*

You can replace the pictures in this template with your company's art. Select the picture you want to replace, point to Picture in the Insert menu, and click From File. Choose a new picture and then click Insert. Select the Link to File box if you don't want to embed the art in the newsletter. This is a good idea if you need to minimize your file size; embedding a picture adds significantly to the size of the file.

To edit a picture, click on it to activate the Picture toolbar. You can use this toolbar to adjust brightness and contrast,

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*Choose a new picture, and click the Link to File box if you don't want to save the art with the newsletter.*

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change line properties and crop the image. For more detailed editing, double-click on the graphic to activate the drawing layer. ■

### **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Q: I would like to use my own clip art. How do I change the art without changing the design?

A: To change a picture, click on the picture, then point to Picture on the Insert menu and click From File. Choose a new picture, and click Insert.

Q: How do I change the text and borders that appear at the bottom of every page?

A: Click Headers and Footers on the View menu. Use the Header and Footer toolbar to navigate among headers and footers, insert date or time, or format the page numbers. To change the text in the footer, select it and type your new text. To change the border, click Borders and Shading on the Format menu.

Q: Can I save a customized newsletter as a template for future editions?

A: Yes. First make any changes you want to this newsletter, then click Save As on the File menu. Choose

Document Template from the Save as type drop down list (the extension should change from .doc to .dot). Save the file under a new name. Next time you want to create a newsletter, choose New from the File menu, then choose your template.

