

A Brief History of Racism in the State of Oregon and the City of Ashland

Endnotes and Resources

¹The Lash Law. In 1844, a bill was introduced requiring people holding slaves in Oregon to remove them within three years or the slaves would be freed. A section of this bill required free Blacks over 18 to leave Oregon or be subject to trial. *If found guilty, the person was to "receive upon his or her bare back not less than twenty nor more than thirty-nine stripes, to be inflicted by the constable of the proper county."* The punishment was to be repeated every six months until the person departed. This law was soon changed to replace the whipping provisions with ones calling for forced labor followed by removal from Oregon. The law was repealed in 1845. <https://sos.oregon.gov/archives/exhibits/black-history/Pages/context/slavery.aspx>

² Second exclusionary law: The second exclusion law was enacted by the Territorial Legislature on September 21, 1849. This law specified that "it shall not be lawful for any negro or mulatto to enter into, or reside" in Oregon, with exceptions made for those who were already in the territory. The law targeted African American seamen who might be tempted to jump ship. The preamble to the law addressed a concern that African Americans might "intermix with Indians, instilling into their minds feelings of hostility toward the white race." The law was rescinded in 1854. https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/exclusion_laws/

³ 1857 constitutional vote. <https://blogs.oregonstate.edu/oregonsocialjustice/oregon-black-laws/> quoting Franz Schneider, "The Black Laws of Oregon" (PhD diss., University of Santa Clara, 1970), p. 35

⁴ Exclusionary amendment removed. <https://blogs.oregonstate.edu/oregonsocialjustice/oregon-black-laws/>

⁵ 1862 Discriminatory laws. <https://sos.oregon.gov/archives/exhibits/black-history/Pages/context/chronology.aspx#:~:text=signs%20Homestead%20Act.-,1862,the%20Emancipation%20Proclamation%20in%201863>

⁶ Oregon Donation Land Act to https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/oregon_donation_land_act/go

⁷ Rogue River War <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/equity/NativeAmericanEducation/Documents/Lesson%20%20Rogue%20River%20War%20Presentation.pdf>

⁸ 14th and 15th federal amendments. https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/14th_amendment/, https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/15th_amendment/

⁹ Resistance vs Racist: <https://blogs.oregonstate.edu/oregonsocialjustice/oregon-black-laws/> and <https://www.oregonhistoryproject.org/articles/historical-records/beatrice-morrow-cannady/>⁹ <https://blogs.oregonstate.edu/oregonsocialjustice/oregon-black-laws/> (previous end note) and <https://www.oregonhistoryproject.org/articles/historical-records/beatrice-morrow-cannady/>

¹⁰ 1926 vote: <https://blogs.oregonstate.edu/oregonsocialjustice/oregon-black-laws/>

¹¹ Black Pioneers. <https://oregonblackpioneers.org/learn-and-explore/>

¹² Population <https://oregonremembrance.org/sunrise-project/the-history/>

¹³ Jacob Vanderpool vs. Theophilus Magruder (a competing hotel owner) "The case that would forever stand on United States history books as the only time a person of African descent was prosecuted. Sarah Sanderson, *The Place we Make: Breaking the Legacy of Legalized Hate*, forward, pg. xii, written by Chante Griffin

- ¹⁴ Alonzo Tucker. <https://oregonremembrance.org/alonzo-tucker/the-story/>
- ¹⁵ For a history of the KKK in Oregon, see Oregon Remembrance <https://oregonremembrance.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/KKK-Part-1.docx.pdf>
- ¹⁶ KKK Walidah Imarisha, Oregon Black Pioneers (OBP), March 15, 2022, "Oregon's Klan in the 1920s: The Rise of Hate".
- ¹⁷ KKK kidnapped and "necktie" lynched. <https://www.oregonhistoryproject.org/articles/historical-records/proclamation-against-the-ku-klux-klan-1922/>
- ¹⁸ Nonunanimous juries. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/20/us/politics/supreme-court-unanimous-verdicts.html>, and <https://www.oregon.gov/opds/general/pages/non-unanimous.aspx>
- ¹⁹ Taylor Stewart, Oregon Remembrance Project <https://oregonremembrance.org/sunrise-project/the-history/>
- ²⁰ "As late as 1956," Oregon Live, March 18, 2022 "Powerful 'Green Book' exhibit in Tacoma captures perils, joy of Black travelers in 20th century America"
- ²¹ Darrell Millner. "Blacks in Oregon" Oregon Encyclopedia, Oregon Historical Society
- ²² Robert Goodwin <https://ulpdx.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/State-Of-Black-Oregon-2015.pdf>, p. 83
- ²³ Mulugeta Serawa <https://www.wweek.com/news/2018/10/31/heres-what-happened-the-night-mulugeta-seraw-was-murdered-and-afterward/>
- ²⁴ Patricia Norman
https://books.google.com/books?id=8XnlBgAAQBAJ&pg=PA65&lpg=PA65&dq=%22patricia+norman%22+oregon+shakespeare+festival&source=bl&ots=A3WcqV6RdJ&sig=ACfU3U2DcVymxRtYcjXHQCH-LcqNGSp8jQ&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiAptq_mYn5AhU8DkQIHYN6CDMQ6AF6BAgPEAM#v=onepage&q&f=false
- ²⁵ Christiana Clark, The Post-racial Negro Green Book, 2017, p,146
- ²⁶ Christiana Clark <https://www.denvercenter.org/news-center/in-ashland-turning-rage-into-action/>
- ²⁷ Aidan Ellison <https://www.npr.org/2020/12/04/942946598/oregon-town-grapples-with-shooting-death-of-19-year-old-aidan-ellison>
- ²⁸ Nataki Garrett death threats. <https://www.npr.org/2022/10/27/1130086650/npr-reporting-on-oregon-theater-death-threats-prompt-local-and-national-response>
- ²⁹ Keith Jenkins, Barbara Cervone, "Whites Only: Race in Oregon", Postcards from the Rogue Valley, Next Generation Press, 2021, p. 85
- ³⁰ Oregon Humanities video: September 14, 2022: Consider This on Black Political Power in Oregon with Joy Alise Davis, Keith Jenkins, and Marcus LeGrand.
- ³¹ Keith Jenken: quoted in yet-to-be-released video Say Their Names Memorial by Cassie Preskenis

³² Logo from black student unions



³³ Redemption: David Seaburn <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/going-out-not-knowing/201711/what-is-redemption-after-all>

Resources

The 1619 Project, book and film: New York Times

Sundown Towns: A Hidden Dimension of American Racism, James W. Loewen

Dismantling Racism: Healing Separation from the Inside Out, Rev. Dr. Terrilyn L. Curry Avery

Stamped from the Beginning; The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America, Ibram X. Kendi

Focus on Oregon

A Peculiar Paradise; A History of Blacks in Oregon, 1788 – 1940, Elizabeth McLagan

The Place We Make; Breaking the Legacy of Legalized Hate, Sarah L. Sanderson

The Oregon Encyclopedia: **Blacks in Oregon**, Darrell Milne

Black Exclusion Laws in Oregon, Greg Nokes

Why Aren't There More Black People in Oregon? A Hidden History, Walidah Imarisha. (YouTube)

Oregon Black Pioneers, oregonblackpioneers.org

For more resources, visit ashlandtogether.org