

Black Legacy Our Past, Present and Future.



“Blacks must unite with other Blacks...”

PAST

Marcus Garvey

Born: August 17, 1887

Contribution: Human Civil Rights



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Marcus Garvey, born in St. Ann's Bay, Saint Ann, Jamaica, is best remembered as an important proponent of the Back-to-Africa movement, which encouraged those of African descent to return to their ancestral homelands. During his travels, he had become convinced that uniting Blacks was the only way to improve their condition, and so he formed the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) and African Communities League (ACL). Garvey has been credited with creating the biggest movement of people of African descent. At its zenith, the UNIA claimed over a million members. A businessman and community leader, Garvey also started a steamship company not only to ferry Blacks across the Atlantic, yet to prove Blacks could create and sustain big businesses. He worked towards black economic independence with the goal of supporting businesses that would employ African Americans and produce goods & services to be sold to black consumers. He envisioned a string of black-owned factories, retailers, service providers and other businesses. This movement would eventually inspire other movements ranging from the Nation of Islam to the Rastafari movement.



The 1st Black Billionaire!

PRESENT

Robert L. Johnson

Born: April 8, 1946

Contribution: Business



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Bob Johnson studied history at the University of Illinois and graduated in 1968 with a bachelor's degree and proceeded to earn his master's degree in International Affairs at Princeton University. He then went on to create Black Entertainment Television, the first cable television network aimed at African Americans. Eleven years later, BET became the first black-controlled company listed on the New York Stock Exchange! A year later, Viacom bought BET for a reported \$3 billion in stock, making Johnson America's first black billionaire and the second largest individual shareholder of Viacom. Johnson also serves on the boards of US Airways, General Mills and Hilton Hotels. He is also the first African American to be the principal owner of a North American major-league sports franchise...the NBA Charlotte Bobcats. He also owns the Charlotte Sting of the WNBA, which puts him in a situation that may be unmatched in sports history: His ex-wife Sheila Johnson is the president of the Washington Mystics, a team in the same division as her ex's. In addition to that, he is now the founder and Chairman of RLJ Companies Inc.

What Will You Contribute To The Legacy?