

Leelanau County Commissioners' special meeting and panel discussion

Leelanau County Governmental Center, Michigan

Thursday, November 5, 2020 9:00 am

A 400 Year Story of Race in America:

**Land, Housing, Education, Health, Social Well-Being / Employment,
Criminal Justice, and more...**

Diane Carpenter Emling

A Historical Timeline:

Prior to **1492**, many anthropologists estimate that **54 million people** lived on the North American continent. And archival evidence suggests that "First Americans" native people arrived more than 20,000 years ago...

- 1607 Jamestown Virginia established
- 1619** 1st African slave sale in Jamestown
- 1776 American Colonies declare Independence. 40,000 slaves fought for British
- 1793 Federal Fugitive Slave Law enacted
- 1830 - 1850 "Trail of Tears" - the forced relocations of more than 100,000 Native Americans. Estimated 15,000 died
- 1832 U.S Supreme Court rules that Native tribes are separate nations
- 1857 Dred Scott v. Sandford: U.S. Supreme Court rules that freed slaves taken to free states were still slaves
- 1861 - 1865 Civil War: 186,000 Black Americans served. 40,000 died
- 1862 Homestead Act: 140 acre parcels of free land; 270 million acres claimed
- 1863 Emancipation Proclamation: more than 3,500,000 slaves become free
- 1864 South Carolina enacts "slave codes" and other Southern states follow
- 1865 13th Amendment abolishes slavery and involuntary servitude
January 1865 General Sherman issues Field Order 15.
September 1865 Field Order 15 is revoked.
- 1866 Civil Rights Act grants Black Americans citizenship but not the right to vote

1867 - 1877 Reconstruction Era

- 1868 14th Amendment provides equal protection under the law
- 1870 15th Amendment required states to give Black men right to vote (no enforcement mechanism). Beginning of voter suppression.
- 1875 Civil Rights Act of 1875 enacted "to protect all citizens in their civil and legal rights"
- 1876 Battle of Little Big Horn. U.S. Army 7th Cavalry defeated and 268 U.S. cavalrymen and scouts killed

1877 - 1964 Jim Crow Era

- 1883 U.S. Supreme Court strikes down provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1875 ruling that the public accommodations portion exceeded Court authority
- 1890 Wounded Knee estimated 300 Lakota members are massacred
- 1896 Plessy v. Ferguson: U.S. Supreme Court sets the "separate but equal" standard
- 1896 Louisiana passes "grandfather clause" to prevent Black right to vote
- 1906 Atlanta, Georgia white armed mobs riot for 3 days in reaction against increasing Black elite. Extensive property damage; "dozens" killed
- 1914 - 1918 World War I: 350,000 African Americans serve
- 1917 East St. Louis (Illinois) a white led riot and massacre leaves 6,000 Black residents homeless
- 1919 White race riots erupt in six additional cities nation-wide, including Chicago; unknown number of Black deaths and property damage
- 1920 19th Amendment gives women the vote, but full electoral equality for many women of color is still decades away
- 1921 White race riots in Tulsa, Oklahoma's Greenwood District. 35 square blocks demolished, 6,000 interned, 10,000 blacks homeless; damage + \$1.5 million in real estate and \$750,000 in personal property damage
- 1923 Rosewood, Florida massacre. White mobs burned an all Black town; survivors lived in swamp for several days until rescued
- 1923 Tuskegee Syphilis Study begins — *and concludes in 1972*
- 1924 Indian Citizens Act. Granted citizenship; voting rights left to states,
- 1941 - 1945 World War II: More than 1,000,000 African American men serve
- 1943 Detroit, Michigan three day riot (June 20-22). 6,000 federal troops sent. 34 people killed, 25 people of color died, 433 wounded with more than 75% of those Black.

- 1944 G.I. Bill – Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944
- 1952 first year without a *single* Black American lynching, however, with more to follow in future years (see 1955 Emmett Till)
- 1954 Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka. Earl Warren Chief Justice of Supreme Court’s unanimous decision
- 1955 Emmett Till - a 14-year old African American was lynched in Mississippi
- 1957 - 1963 School desegregation cases in Little Rock, Arkansas; Prince Edward Island, Virginia; New Orleans; University of Georgia; University of Mississippi; University of Alabama, among others
- 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. 250,000 attendees
- 1964 Civil Rights Act: 24th Constitutional Amendment - outlaws poll taxes
- 1965 Selma to Montgomery March — “Bloody Sunday” Pettus Bridge
- 1965 Voting Rights Act prohibits barriers to the right to vote for all Americans (see 2013 Shelby v. Holder)
- 1969 U.S. Supreme Court orders immediate school desegregation throughout the United States
- 1971 U.S. Supreme Court upholds the use of busing in public schools
- 1972 First Blacks from the South since Reconstruction (1877) elected to the U.S. Congress. Tuskegee Study ends
- 1988 The peak year of school integration
- 1991 U.S. Supreme Court rules that schools can drop their desegregation plans
- 1992 Carol Moseley Braun becomes the first Black woman ever elected to the U.S. Senate
- 1997 Tennessee ratifies the 1870 15th amendment
- 2008 Barack Obama elected President
- 2011 - 12 More than 1,200 public school systems officially remain under U.S. Supreme Court’s desegregation supervision
- 2011 - 2013 U.S. Supreme Court rules against seven (7) Southern states enacting voter restrictions to suppress Black voting
- 2013 Shelby v. Holder: U.S. Supreme Court rules that that two provisions of the 1965 Voting Rights Act are unconstitutional and that Southern states and local governments no longer had to have changes in voting laws approved by the Court base on their history of discrimination in voting
- 2015 - 2020 During these five years the United States law enforcement officers kill more than 1,300 Black Americans