

Touches for [C.H.A.N.G.E.]



Learn more about New England's Black history while tracking your touches

DATE	NUMBER OF TOUCHES	NEW ENGLAND BLACK HISTORY FACT	TOUCHES COMPLETED?
FEB. 22	315	3/15/1810: The birthdate of David Ruggles. He was born in Lyme, CT and raised in Norwich, CT. Ruggles operated the first black press in the country and used it to advocate for antislavery. The first periodical to be published by an African American, <i>Mirror of Liberty</i> , was published by Ruggles. He was also a journalist for the <i>Freedom Reporter</i> , which is also the country's first black newspaper.	
FEB. 23	73	73 Newbury Street, Portland, ME: The address of the Abyssinian Meeting House which was built in 1828. It is the third oldest standing African American meeting house in the United States. The Abyssinian became the center of social and political life for Portland's African-American Community in the 1800's. The building served many purposes including as a church, segregated public school, and a hall for entertainment.	
FEB. 24	616	6/16/1896: The birthdate of Massachusetts native, Melnea Cass. When the 19th Amendment was passed in 1920, which provided women the right to vote, Cass urged black women to register to vote while encouraging them to express their views. As a social activist, she rallied for racial justice while working for various groups including the NAACP to keep Roxbury safe. Cass eventually became the "First Lady of Roxbury" and served as the president of NAACP Boston and worked to desegregate Boston schools.	
FEB. 25	315	3/15/1825: The birthdate of Milford, New Hampshire native, Harriet E. Wilson. She was the first African American to publish a novel in North America. Her novel titled, "Sketches from the Life of a Free Black," was published anonymously in 1859 in Boston.	
FEB. 26	214	2/14/1778: Creation of America's first African American U.S. military regiment known as the 1st Rhode Island Regiment, or the "Black Regiment." Over four months after creation, a total of 88 slaves enlisted.	
FEB. 27	923	9/23/1795: The birthdate of Alexander Lucius Twilight, a native of Burlington, Vermont. Twilight was the first black American to graduate college when he was awarded his bachelor's from Middlebury in 1823. He would then become a well-known educator in Brownington, VT. In 1836 he was the first African American to be elected to state legislature when he became a part of the Vermont General Assembly.	