



PAUL CUFFE: A MAN AHEAD OF HIS TIME

“I hope if I as an individual, should I not live to see the object carried into effect, it may not finely fail and come to naught.”

—Paul Cuffe, 1814



1780

African American voting rights

Paul, his brother and other men of color petitioned for the town to give “Negroes and Mulattoes the same rights as the white people have.” This was nstrumental in the state of Massachusetts extending the right to vote to African American men in 1783.



1780

Native American citizenship and voting rights

Paul’s brother John convinced him to join in protesting a Dartmouth town meeting tax. Their petition asked for relief from their taxes because they were “Indian men and by law not the subjects of taxation for any estate, real or personal...” Paul and his brother believed that if they did not have the right to vote, they should not be taxed.



1780

Abolition of slavery

Paul Cuffe, along with other men of color and some members of the Quaker community actively fought against the institution of slavery from the 1780s onward. Paul Cuffe was so forward thinking that his goal was to create economic industry in Africa to replace the economy of slavery.



1798-1800

Paul Cuffe founded what was likely the first integrated public school in the country in Westport, MA. He also provided the funding for the school’s teacher.



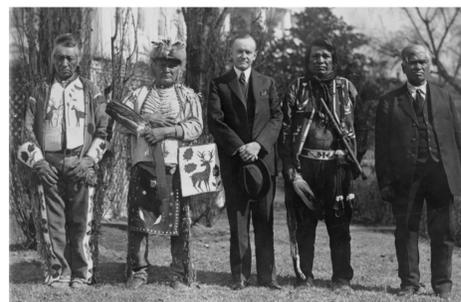
1811

Although Marcus Garvey is often called the “Father of Black Nationalism,” Paul Cuffe, as early as 1811 was among the earliest African Americans to put forward the idea of African Americans repatriating to Africa to promote industry and education.



1965

The 15th Amendment of 1870 theoretically granted African American men the right to vote. However, poll taxes, literacy tests and other means were used to prevent African Americans from voting. The voting rights act of 1965 ensured that African Americans everywhere in the country were free to exercise their right to vote.



1957

Native Americans weren’t granted citizenship until 1924. Even after this, many could not vote because voting rights were determined by states. It wasn’t until 1957 that Native Americans were granted the right to vote in every state.



1863

The Emancipation Proclamation, which freed all enslaved persons, went into effect on January 1.



1954

Brown vs. Board of Education found

That school segregation was unconstitutional and legally ended school segregation. However, even at this time, many were still opposed to integrating public schools.



1914

Marcus Mosiah Garvey put forward his Black Nationalist movement.

184 years

177 years

**Approximately
83 years**

156 years

103 years