

AFRICAN AMERICAN FACTS FROM THE CAROL E. MUNDY COLLECTION

THE UCF AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM

THE CAROL E. MUNDY CULTURAL AND DIASPORIC RESEARCH CENTER

October 2010

Volume 1, Issue 1



"Negro History Week"



In 1926 Carter G. Woodson created
Negro History Week

In 1926, Carter G. Woodson created Negro History Week. The goal was to "popularize the truth...[we] are not interested so much in Negro History as in history influenced by the Negro." Dr. Woodson, considered by many to be the "Father of Black History," chose the second week in February because of the birthdays of Frederick Douglass, and Abraham Lincoln. The celebration of Negro History Week continued; however, in the early 1960s the word "Negro" was replaced with "black" and "African American." The week of celebration was then call "Black History Week." In 1976 America celebrated its Bicentennial, at this time, Black History Week became the celebration that we know as "Black History Month." Black History Month is mostly due to an outstanding individual of American history: Carter G. Woodson. Born in 1875 in Virginia, he was the son of former slaves. The eldest of nine children, he began working at an early age to help his family. Guided by a constant thirst for knowledge, he kept up his self-taught education until he was able to enter high school at twenty. He went on to Berea College in Kentucky, then to the University of Chicago and finally earned a Ph.D. from Harvard in 1912.



Carter G. Woodson
Creator of
"Negro History Week"

African American Legacy:
The Carol Mundy
Collection.

A Portion Acquired by
University of Central
Florida Libraries.

From the Collector

It is important that students understand that of all the people who make up the great "mixed salad" of this nation, African-Americans were the only group to arrive here in chains. This factor alone makes the African-American culture unique. Not only did they come involuntarily, but they were denied opportunities to learn the new language and customs. To further their isolation, they were denied the right to speak their native language and to practice their native customs and traditions. This is not true for all other peoples who migrated to this county. Other immigrants came here voluntarily in hope of finding a better life and were not forced to abandon their customs. This profusion of differences among immigrants created a singularity or bond that contributed to making this nation great. It was different for African-American because they were totally disenfranchised, stripped of freedom, rights and dignity.

