

# THE AFRO-AMERICAN

## The Baltimore Afro-American Coverage: 1893-1988

To see how a former slave influenced national change, start here.



Founded by former slave John Henry Murphy, Sr. when he merged three church publications, *The Baltimore Afro-American* became one of the most widely circulated African-American newspapers on the Atlantic Coast. In addition to featuring the first black female reporter (Murphy's daughter) and female sportswriters, the paper's contributors have included writer Langston Hughes, intellectual J. Saunders Redding, artist Romare Bearden, and sports editor Sam Lacy, whose column influenced the desegregation of professional sports.

Through the decades, the newspaper fought for equal employment rights, urged African-American participation in politics, and advocated state-funded higher education for blacks. In the 1930s, *The Afro-American* launched "The Clean Block" campaign, which is still in existence today, to clean up inner-city neighborhoods and fight crime. It stationed correspondents in Europe and the Pacific during World War II, providing first-hand reports to readers. In the 1950s, working with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the newspaper's efforts contributed to the outlawing of public school segregation. To see history being made, start here.

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## The Baltimore Afro-American

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