

## Quick Facts

### *The Monroe Family*

1st African Americans in Coloma, CA



According to the Gooch-Monroe oral history, Peter and Nancy Gooch came to Coloma as slaves in 1849. In 1850 California was admitted to the Union as a free state, so Peter and Nancy gained their freedom. Peter Gooch worked in construction and at odd jobs, and Nancy did domestic chores for the miners. By 1861 Nancy had saved enough money to buy freedom for her son, Andrew Monroe, who was still a slave in Missouri. Andrew brought his wife Sarah and their three children to Coloma, where they became respected farmers. In the 1940s, the State purchased some of the Monroe landholdings from Andrew Monroe's son Pearley which included the original site of Sutter's Mill and the site of Marshall's gold discovery – the foundation of today's park. The entire Gooch-Monroe family is buried in the park's Pioneer Cemetery.

## U.S. Census Bureau & ASC Workforce Data

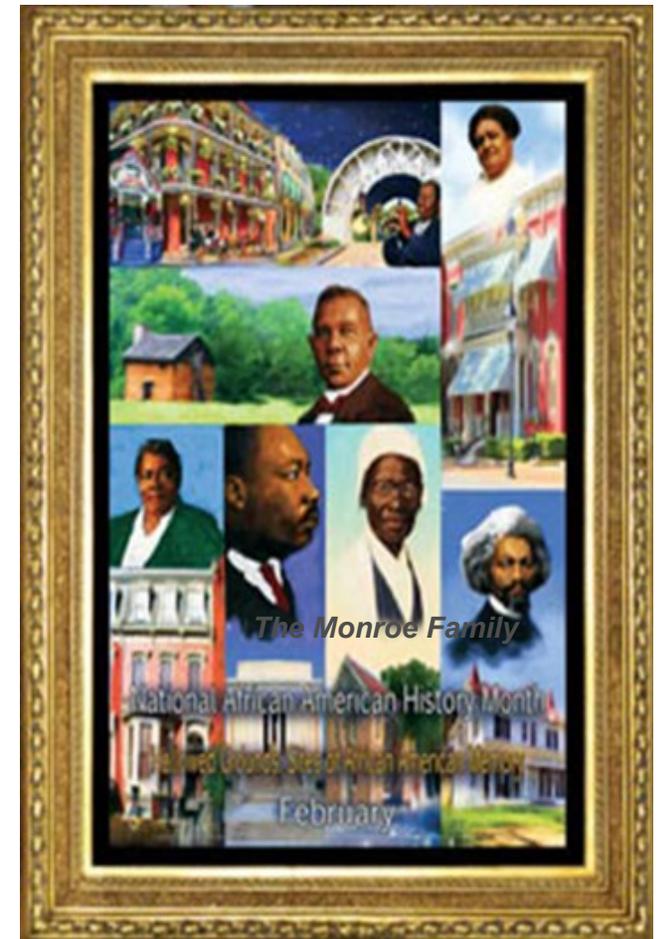
Source	Sac County, California	ENF
Population estimates, July 1, 2014, (V2014)	1,482,026	232
Black or African American alone, percent, July 1, 2014, (V2014) <a href="#">(a)</a>	10.9%	1.3%

### *Allensworth, CA*



Located 30 miles north of Bakersfield, CA in August 1908 by Colonel Allen Allensworth and four other settlers, looking for a place where Blacks could create a better life for themselves outside of the segregated U.S. society. The town features many restored buildings, to include the Colonel's home, historic schoolhouse, a Baptist church, and a library.

National African American History Month  
February 2016



**“Hallowed Grounds: Sites of African American Memories”**

*USDA, Forest Service Eldorado National Forest  
Laurence Crabtree, Forest Supervisor*

## The History of National African American History Month

Black History Month, or National African American History Month, is an annual celebration of achievements by black Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of African Americans in U.S. history. The event grew out of “Negro History Week,” the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating black history.

### *2016 Theme—Hallowed Grounds: Sites of African American Memories*

The history of African Americans unfolds across the canvas of America, beginning before the arrival of the Mayflower and continuing to the present. From port cities where Africans disembarked from slave ships to the battle fields where their descendants fought for freedom, from the colleges and universities where they pursued education to places where they created communities during centuries of migration, the imprint of Americans of African descent is deeply embedded in the narrative of the American past. These sites prompt us to remember and over time became hallowed grounds.

One cannot tell the story of America without preserving and reflecting on the places where African Americans have made history. The Kingsley Plantation, DuSable’s home site, the numerous stops along the Underground Railroad, Seneca Village, Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church and Frederick Douglass’ home — to name just a few — are sites that keep alive the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in our consciousness.

They retain and refresh the memories of our forbears’ struggles for freedom and justice, and their belief in God’s grace and mercy. Similarly, the hallowed grounds of Mary McLeod Bethune’s home in Washington, D.C., 125th Street in Harlem, Beale Street in Memphis, and Sweet Auburn Avenue in Atlanta tell the story of our struggle for equal citizenship during the American century.

The Association for the Study of African American Life & History has selected this annual theme to bring attention to the centennial celebration of the National Park Service and the more than twenty-five sites and the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom that are part of America’s hallowed grounds, including the home of the father of black history, Dr. Carter G. Woodson.

### *Names of those being honored on front cover—from Left to Right*

- 1. Louis Armstrong - with trumpet*
- 2. Maggie L. Walker - top right*
- 3. Booker T. Washington - by the cabin*
- 4. Mary McLeod Bethune - with green blouse*
- 5. Martin Luther King Jr. - with tie and shirt*
- 6. Sojourner Truth - with white hat and dress*
- 7. Frederick Douglass - to the right of S. Truth*