

# Black Entrepreneurs

of the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries

<http://www.economicadventure.org>

*This exhibition focuses on enterprising black entrepreneurs of the 18th and 19 centuries in New England. Black entrepreneurs in this time period engaged in small-scale and large scale enterprises – ranging from home based businesses and small shops to regional, national and international companies. During the 18th and 19th centuries African-Americans faced a number of obstacles in their quest for social and financial gain; this exhibit showcases a wide range of their success and failures. While their gains varied, each of these entrepreneurs had an impact on future social and economic gains of African-Americans in America.*

## High School Scavenger Hunt: *Route 1*

**Timeline:** With a partner, identify the single most important event in African American History as depicted on this chronology.

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**Rare Books:** Using these excerpts find the passage these excerpts belong to and in 1-2 sentences identify what message they were trying to deliver.

“I have addressed large and influential meetings in New Castle and neighboring towns and the more I see and learn of the condition of the working classes of England, the more I am satisfied of the utter fallacy...”

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“...by colored Americans, have (sad, but true, confession) yet left the necessity for a second revolution...”

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“Traps slyly laid by the vicious to ensnare her, she resolutely avoided. In one of her tours, Providence favored her with a friend who, pitying her cheerless lot, kindly provided her with a valuable recipe...”

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**Entrepreneurs:** Find the placards discussing the lives of the following entrepreneurs: Wilson, (Edward) Bannister, Degrasse and Cuffe. Visit each entrepreneurs placard and with your partner identify which entrepreneur you think had the largest impact on the advancement of African Americans?

Using the large and small placards find an entrepreneur who made a contribution to the:

Arts: \_\_\_\_\_

Literature: \_\_\_\_\_

Sports and Recreation: \_\_\_\_\_

Maritime: \_\_\_\_\_

Medicine: \_\_\_\_\_