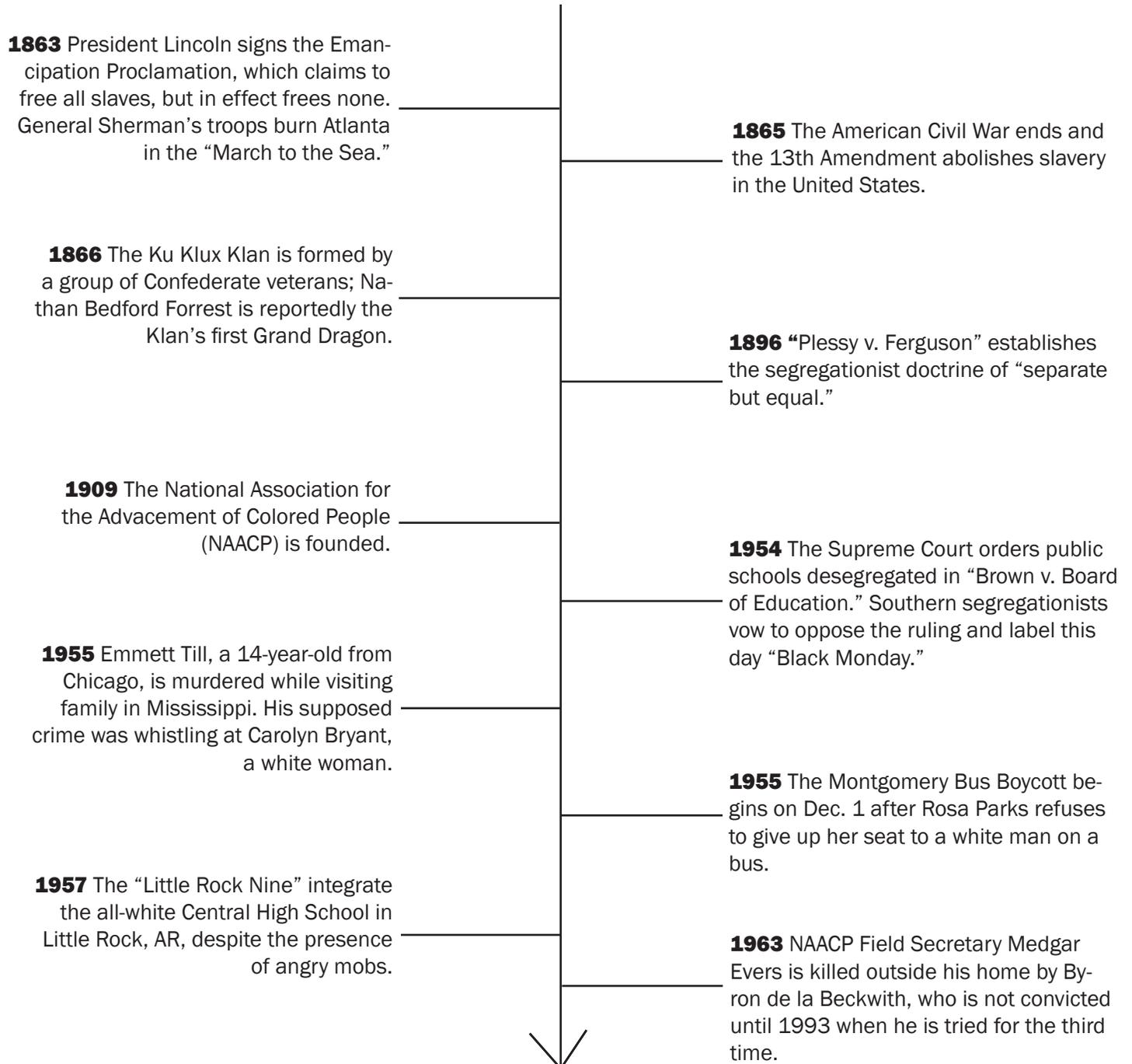


# Change in America: a timeline of the civil rights movement

BY CAT CROWDER

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*The Good Negro* takes place in the midst of the civil rights movement that came to fruition in the 1950s and 1960s in America. This timeline spans the early kindlings of the Movement, the years surrounding the play and a few more recent developments.



**1963** On Nov. 22 President John F. Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas, TX.

**1964** President Johnson signs into law the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

**1965** Malcolm X is assassinated, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is passed and President Johnson issues Executive Order 11246, which codifies affirmative action for the first time and outlaws racial discrimination in admissions and hiring.

**1973** Maynard Jackson is elected Mayor of Atlanta. Jackson is the first African-American mayor of a major southern city.

**1975** The Voting Rights Act is extended.

**1989** Gen. Colin Powell is the first African American appointed chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Douglas Wilder of Virginia is the first African American to be elected a state governor.

**1997** In "Robinson v. Shell Oil Company," the Supreme Court rules in favor of Robinson, who claimed he was fired because he was black and was later given an unfavorable recommendation by his former employer. His right to sue his former employer for discrimination and for their retaliatory action was upheld.

**2009** On Jan. 20, Barack Obama is inaugurated 44th President of the United States. He is the first African American to hold this office.

**1963** On Aug. 28 the March on Washington brings huge crowds to the nation's capital, where Martin Luther King Jr. delivers his "I Have a Dream" speech.



*An African-American boy at a segregated drinking fountain in North Carolina, April 1938. Photo from the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture/Photographs and Prints Division . Courtesy of Photographic Services and Permissions, the New York Public Library.*

**1968** The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is assassinated in Memphis, TN. His memorial service is in Atlanta, GA. The King Center in Atlanta houses his remains and draws millions of visitors each year.

**1978** In "Bakke v. California," the Supreme Court rules that the use of racial quotas in university admissions are unconstitutional. Affirmative action programs designed to give equal opportunity are upheld.

**1992** April riots in Los Angeles kill 53 people. The rioting is a response to the acquittal of four police officers who were videotaped beating Rodney King, an African-American motorist.

**2005** Condoleezza Rice is appointed Secretary of State. She is the second African American (after Gen. Colin Powell) and the first African-American woman to hold the position.

**2006** The Voting Rights Act is extended.