

## **Black History Month**

### **Famous Firsts in the Ann Arbor area**

**Can you match the name with the description?**

**Answers at the bottom**

#### **Names**

- 1. Asher Aray (1806-1871)**
- 2. John Barfield (1927-2018)**
- 3. Moses Fleetwood Walker (1856-1924)**
- 4. Ida Gray (1867-1953)**
- 5. Albert Wheeler (1915-1994)**
- 6. George Jewett (1870-1908)**
- 7. Mary Henrietta Graham (1858-1890)**
- 8. Clayton Collins (1922-2007)**
- 9. Charles "Chief" Eugene Beatty (1909-1998)**
- 10. Donald Calvert (1933-2016)**
- 11. Harry and Joetta Mial (1925-2001)**

\_\_\_\_\_ was among the first free black Americans to move to Washtenaw County when he came with his parents in 1774. He became a contributor to the Underground Railroad, helping move escaped slaves through Washtenaw County to Detroit and toward freedom in Canada. H and his wife Catherine farmed a plot of land on what is now Michigan Avenue near Platt Road in Pittsfield Township.

\_\_\_\_\_ was the first black woman to graduate from the University of Michigan Dental School in 1890 and became the nation's first black female dentist. She started as a seamstress in the dental office of Jonathan and William Taft in Cincinnati, Ohio. It was there her desire to become a dentist was developed. Later she became the first black woman to practice dentistry in Chicago.

\_\_\_\_\_ became Ann Arbor's first black mayor in 1975. He served as the city's mayor until 1978. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan School of Public Health. After completing his degree, he took a job as a research associate at UM. He became an assistant professor of microbiology and immunology. He eventually became the university's first tenured black professor.

\_\_\_\_\_ was recruited to play catcher for the University of Michigan baseball team in March of 1882. He led the Wolverines to a perfect season that year before leaving to fulfill his dream of

playing professionally. In 1884, he became the nation's first black major league baseball player as a member of the Toledo Blue Stockings of the American Association's Northwestern League, according to UM. He was actually the first black player to participate in a major league.

\_\_\_\_\_ Ann Arbor High School graduate and 1889 valedictorian. He was the University of Michigan's first black football player. He was Michigan's top scorer, rusher and kicker during his reign. He was both a terror on defense and an outstanding rusher on offense.

\_\_\_\_\_ She was born in Ann Arbor, became the first black woman admitted to the University of Michigan in 1876. In 1880, she graduated from UM with a degree in philosophy. She along with Dr. Virginia Watts, an 1885 graduate of the medical school, both broke boundaries and allowed for more black women to eventually attend the university.

\_\_\_\_\_ became Michigan's first black principal in 1940 when he became principal at Harriet School in Ypsilanti. He quickly became a leading figure in Ypsilanti's black community. He was inducted into the Eastern Michigan University Athletic Hall of Fame in 1976, the Michigan Education Hall of Fame in 1976 and the EMU College of Education Hall of Fame in 2011.

\_\_\_\_\_ He became Ann Arbor's first black police officer in 1950. He later went on to work in several departments at the University of Michigan and spent most of his adult life living in Ann Arbor and later Ypsilanti. Later, he patented an animal feeder for both squirrels and birds, which he shared with the youth of the community to teach woodworking and marketing skills.

\_\_\_\_\_ This couple achieved two milestones. THe became the first black teacher at Ann Arbor Public Schools in 1954 working at Jones School. He later became principal at Northside Elementary and continued with Ann Arbor through 1986 when he retired. Mial also was a part of the city's human rights commission. His wife, became the first black principal at Ann Arbor's Huron High School in 1986.

\_\_\_\_\_ From Ypsilanti, he became one of the first minority owners of a major business in Washtenaw County when he started his company. in 1977. Headquartered in Southfield, the global workforce management group employs over 2,600 workers and is reportedly worth over \$2 Billion. He received numerous awards over his multi-decade career, including the A.G. Gaston Lifetime Achievement Award from Black Enterprise magazine and the Tree of Life Award, the highest honor given by the Jewish National Fund USA. He was also a committed philanthropist and supported charitable giving to the homeless.

\_\_\_\_\_ He became Ann Arbor's first black firefighter in 1956. He also was a wrestling state champion and served in the U.S. Army from 1953-1956. He became an Eagle Scout at a young age and joined the local Elk Lodge later in life.

Answers: 1, 4, 5, 3, 6, 7, 9, 8, 11, 2, 10.