

**T. THOMAS FORTUNE  
FOUNDATION &  
CULTURAL CENTER**

# History in Your Backyard

Presented by

**The T. Thomas Fortune Cultural Center**

94 Drs. James Parker Blvd, Red Bank, NJ 07701

take our virtual tour at  
[www.tthomasfortuneculturalcenter.org](http://www.tthomasfortuneculturalcenter.org)

## 2025

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for our mission and programming:**

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- On A Sunday Afternoon Author Series
- Special Events



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## History in Your Backyard



## VISIT OUR VIRTUAL TOUR

### *The Black Press: Stewards of Democracy* (T. Thomas Fortune Room)

T. Thomas Fortune  
Carrie Smiley Fortune  
John Wesley Cromwell  
John B. Russwurm  
Samuel Eli Cornish  
Frederick Douglass  
Mary Ann Shadd Cary

Charlotte Spears Bass  
Marjorie B. Parham  
Robert Sengstacke Abbott  
Marcus Garvey  
William Monroe Trotter  
Charles S. Johnson  
Robert Lee Vann

W.E.B. Du Bois  
A. Philip Randolph  
The Double V Campaign  
Early NJ Newspapers  
*The Landscape, Sentinel, Echo Press, The Mail, City News*  
Video: *Soldiers Without Swords*

***The BLACK PRESS: Stewards of Democracy*** delves into the past to reignite a fighting spirit and to uphold the legacy of the times when pen to paper profoundly changed our futures and the course of America for the better. The **Free Press** continues to shape the nation's freedoms and is known as the Fourth Estate of the three branches of government. A call to action has been given as our democracy hangs in the balance. The Black Press provided the blueprint with achieved outcomes like the Double V Campaign of the '40s. It put the spotlight on Black patriotism and what that meant to Black servicemen in the United States Armed Forces, who fought with valor abroad only to be disrespected as Americans on the home front.

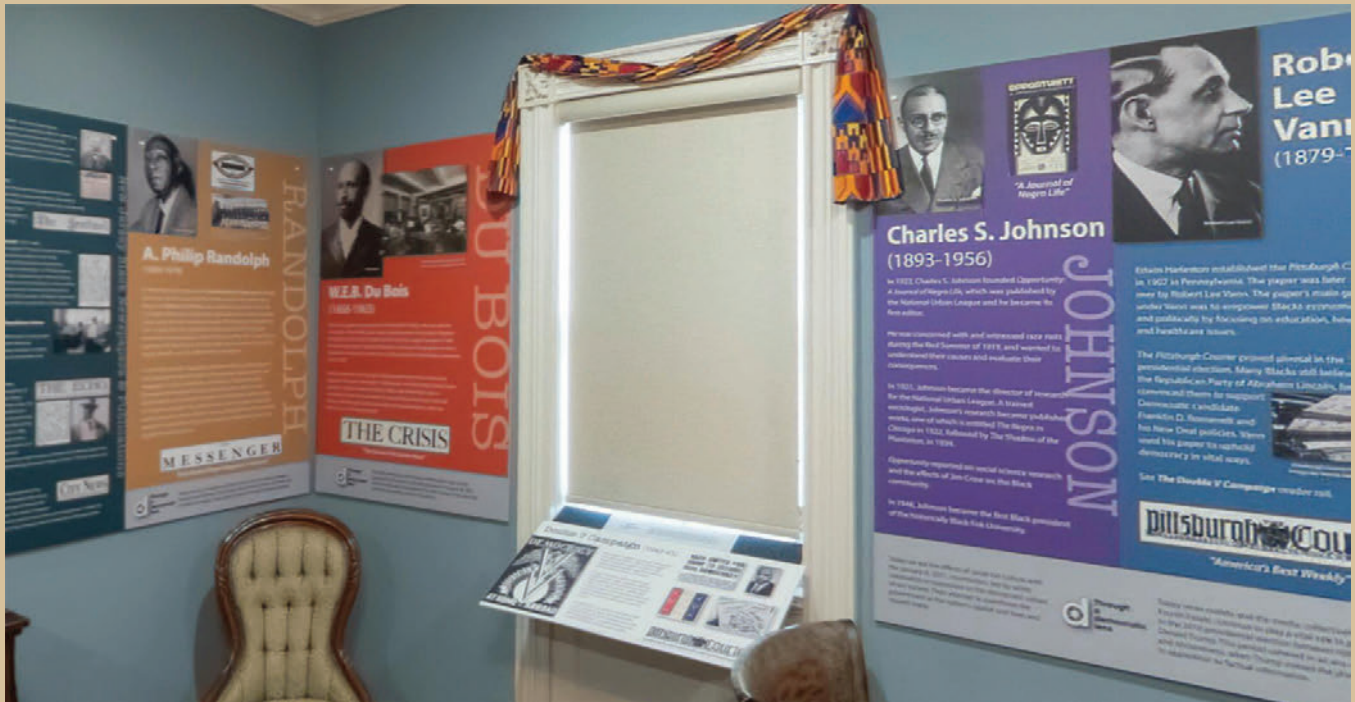


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T THOMAS FORTUNE GALLERY

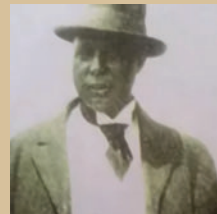
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## Early NJ Black Newspapers & Publications

***The Landscape Newspaper***  
Editor, publisher and printer Alfred P. Smith founded the monthly periodical in 1880.



### THE ECHO.

The Only Republican Newspaper in Long Branch; the Only Colored Republican Organ in the State.

William Rock was the publisher of The Echo Press, a c1904 Black owned newspaper - first established in Long Branch and then moved to Red Bank.

### The Sentinel.

Among the first African American newspapers to have been published in the state of New Jersey was Trenton's ***The Sentinel***, established in 1880.

### Lewis O. Summersett

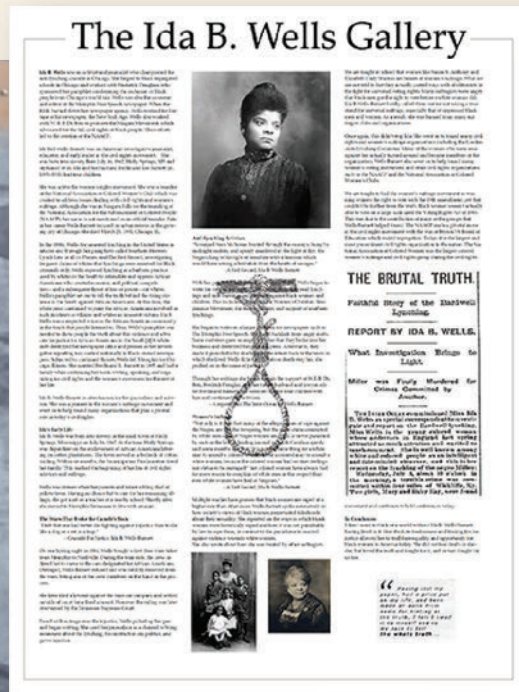
(1877-1960) inspired T. Thomas Fortune to move to Red Bank. Summersett operated a printing business and printed *The Mail* in 1904.



***City News*** (c1983) - was founded in Plainfield, and later relocated to Newark. The weekly newspaper was published by Henry and Jan Johnson.



# History in Your Backyard



## Exhibit: *Shaping Black Identity* (Ida B. Wells Gallery)

### Shaping Black Identity (Ida B. Wells Gallery)

Ida B. Wells was the first Black investigative reporter, who tirelessly worked to record data about Black people lynched across the United States. She worked with T. Thomas Fortune at his newspaper, *The New York Age*, to continue her anti-lynching work, when her newspaper was burned down in Memphis, Tennessee, by the Klu Klux Klan. She was posthumously awarded a Pulitzer Prize for her work. Wells was also a great leader of the Women's Suffragist Movement.

- Ida B. Wells Gallery Dedication - her work, and her ties to T. Thomas Fortune
- Samuel "Mingo" Jack Johnson - 1886 lynching Memorial in Eatontown. The founding of The Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), and The Legacy Museum, in Montgomery, Alabama, by Bryan Stevenson, was informed by the work of Ida B. Wells.
- Fortune Supports Women in Publishing - Ida B. Wells, Gertrude Mossell, Victoria Mathews
- Black Photojournalists - Monetta Sleet Jr., Ernest Withers, James Van Der Zee, Ozier Muhammad, Gordon Parks, Carrie Mae Weems
- In The Newsroom - Black Professional Journalism Organizations
- A Seat at the National Table - Ethel Payne, Harry McAlpin, Alice Dunnigan, Gail Christian
- Black Representation in Broadcast News Media
- Shaping Black Identity Ebony Magazine



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IDA B. WELLS GALLERY

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### Champions of Humanity from Ida B. Wells to Bryan Stevenson

- The founding of The Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), and The Legacy Museum, National Memorial to Peace and Justice, in Montgomery, Alabama, by Bryan Stevenson, was informed by the work of Ida B. Wells.
- Samuel "Mingo" Jack Johnson - 1886 lynching Memorial in Eatontown, and soil display in Ida B. Wells Gallery.



A marker that honors Samuel "Mingo" Jack Johnson was installed at Wampum Lake in Eatontown in collaboration with The Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), founded by Bryan Stevenson and the NJ Social Justice Remembrance Coalition (NJSJRC).

*True Justice* is a documentary about Bryan Stevenson, who is portrayed in *Just Mercy*, a movie starring Michael B. Jordan and Jamie Foxx.



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THE WORK GOES ON

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