

Protect

George Dixon

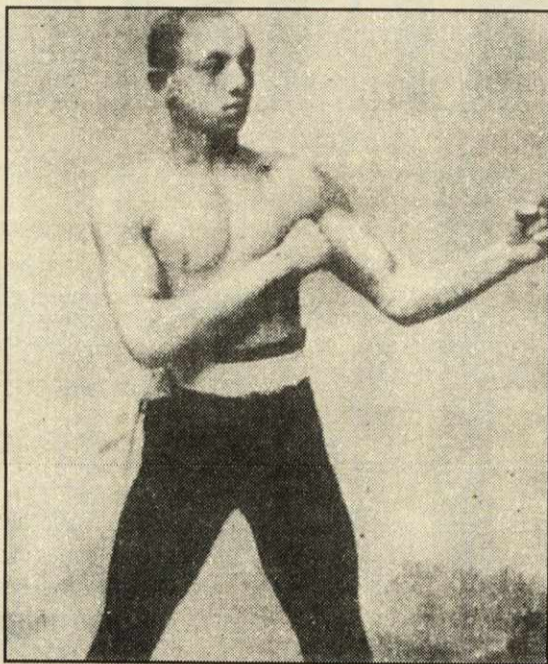
boxer

b. 29 July 1870 d. 26 Jan. 1909

George Dixon was the Bantam Weight Boxing Champion of the World in 1890, and the Featherweight Champion of the World from 1891 to 1900.

Called "The Gamest Pugilist that ever lived," Dixon quite possibly fought more total rounds than any other boxer in history. He fought one bout that lasted 70 rounds. This was in a time before boxing gloves were introduced.

At one point Dixon held World Titles in two separate weight classes at the same time. He is in both the American and Canadian Boxing Halls of Fame.



William Hall

soldier

b. 1827 d. 1904

William Hall was the first Nova Scotian, the first Canadian sailor, and the first black to ever receive the Victoria Cross, the British Empire's highest honour for courage in battle. Hall served aboard the *Victory*, Admiral Nelson's flagship.

Hall was awarded the Victoria Cross for his bravery in the battle for Cawnpore in India.

Hall volunteered to serve on the gun crew assigned to blast a hole through the enemy fortress walls. Though all the rest of the gun crew were shot, Hall persevered and single-handedly continued the barrage, allowing the British troops to storm the fort.



Portia White

classical singer

b. 1910, d 1968

Born in Truro, Portia White went from singing in her father's church at the age of six to international opera stardom.

Noted as a charming, as well as dedicated, professional, White was the first Canadian woman invited to sing in New York's City Hall. She went on to perform in 25 opera houses around the world, and gained a reputation as one of the best contralto voices of her time.

In later years, White coached the original cast of "Anne of Green Gables".



Preserve

Some African Canadian Events in Nova Scotia History

- 1606 — Mathieu Da Costa, first known Black in Nova Scotia
- 1782 — Blacks arrive with the United Empire Loyalists. During the American Revolution the British offered freedom and land to any slaves that escaped their rebel owners. Once they were in the Canadian Maritimes they were cheated of land, forced to work on public work projects such as road building, and denied equal status with whites.
- 1783 — Establishment of Birchtown, largest settlement of free Blacks in North America. Located on the Northwest arm of Shelburne Harbour, there were 1500 freed African-Americans there in 1784.
- 1792 — Black exodus: 1190 men women and children left Halifax on 15 ships for the long voyage to Sierra Leone, 65 dying en-route.
- 1796 — Trelawney Maroons arrive from Jamaica. They faced miserable conditions and opted for Sierra Leone, leaving from Halifax in 1800.
- 1813-15 — Roughly 3000 U.S. Blacks, refugees from the War of 1812, settled in the Maritimes.
- 1834 — Slavery officially abolished in the British Empire.
- 1854 — Black Baptist Churches Unite: African United Baptist Association founded by Rev. R. Preston.
- 1857 — William Hall granted Victoria Cross for bravery.
- 1916 — Canada's first and only black battalion is formed: No. 2 Construction Battalion, C.E.F.
- 1945 — NSAACP formed to represent Blacks fighting civil rights issues.
- 1946 — Viola Desmond is jailed for challenging the segregation policy of a New Glasgow theatre.
- 1946 — First Black newspaper, the "Clarion" edited by Dr. Carrie Best.
- 1954 — Segregated schools abolished.
- 1964-70 — Forced relocation of the Africville community.
- 1983 — Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia opens.
- 1986 — Judge Corrine Sparks officially appointed to Family Court. She is the first Black female judge in Atlantic Canada.
- 1990 — First Black male (Donald Oliver) called to the Canadian Senate.
- 1994 — First Black Member of the Legislative Assembly (Wayne Adams) elected to the provincial government. He is later appointed to cabinet.
- 1996 — Judge Castor Williams becomes the first Black male in Nova Scotia to be appointed to the provincial court.