



Carter G. Woodson

The Father of Black History

Carter G. Woodson was convinced that if a race has no recorded history its achievements will be forgotten and finally claimed by other groups.

The son of former slaves, Woodson was born in 1875 in New Canton, Va. Growing up, he couldn't attend school for the entire year because his parents needed him to work on the farm. When he finally was able to attend high school, he finished in two years. He finished college while working as principal of the high school he attended.

Woodson wrote his doctoral dissertation on black history and received a doctorate from Harvard University in 1912. In 1915, he founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. He established Negro History Week, the forerunner of Black History Month, in 1926.

Woodson died in 1950, but his legacy to African Americans lives on.

Planters LifeSavers, makers of Planters nuts and snacks, Life Savers candies, Breath Savers mints, and Care-Free, Fruit Stripe and Bubble Yum gums, salutes the men and women of African American heritage who have made a difference in the world through their example and leadership.

