**Marjorie Joyner**, October 24, 1896 – December 27, 1994

In 1916, Marjorie Joyner opened her first salon on Chicago’s South State Street. Joyner’s experience in beauty and hair led to her creation of a permanent hair-wave machine. In 1928, Joyner filed a patent petition for her invention, stating, “The object of the invention is the construction of a simple and efficient machine that will wave the hair of both white and colored women.” Although Joyner never received payment for her creation, she continued to give back to the community. In 1945, Joyner co-founded the [United Beauty School Owners and Teachers Association](https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84024221/1946-08-26/ed-1/seq-2/#loclr=blogadm) and the Alpha Chi Pi Omega Sorority and Fraternity. The sorority and fraternity, which seeks to “uplift the educational and economic standards of the beauty industry,” is still in existence today.

**Rose Meta Morgan**, August 9, 1912 – December 16, 2008

Morgan opposed notions of beauty, which hold that kinky hair is bad, believing there is beauty in everyone. She began marketing her own line of cosmetics and staging fashion shows. With her ever-increasing success, Morgan bought a new building. In 1955, Rose Morgan's House of Beauty opened in a more stylish setting with a dressmaking department and a charm school in addition to the existing salon facilities. In the early 1960s, she added a wig salon. Over time, she employed and trained over 3,000 people.

The salon went on to amass more than $3 million in sales only a few years after opening. As with Anthony Overton, Morgan’s entrepreneurial interests expanded beyond the beauty business to eventually include banking. In 1964, Morgan helped start [Freedom National Bank](https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/search/pages/results/?state=&date1=1789&date2=1963&proxtext=freedom+national+bank&x=0&y=0&dateFilterType=yearRange&rows=20&searchType=basic), a black-owned commercial bank operating in New York.

Credits:

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*This guest post was authored by 2020 Junior Fellow Sophia Southard, University of Kansas Graduate, B.A. in History. This is another in a series looking African Americans in business and the sciences.*  
  
Contributions of Black Women to America, vol. 1. Kenday Press, 1982.  
Ebony Success Library, vol. 1. Johnson Publishing, p. 228.  
Notable Black American Women. Gale, 1992, p. 769.

To learn more:

* Explore the Library Guide [Business of Beauty: A Resource Guide](https://guides.loc.gov/business-of-beauty/introduction?loclr=blogadm), as well as the blog posts [Madam C.J. Walker](https://blogs.loc.gov/headlinesandheroes/2020/05/madam-c-j-walker/?loclr=blogadm) and [The Beauty Entrepreneur: Madam C. J. Walker](https://blogs.loc.gov/inside_adams/2020/03/madam-c-j-walker/?loclr=blogadm)
* Read the book [*African American Millionaires*](https://lccn.loc.gov/2004014694?loclr=blogadm) by Otha Richard Sullivan or [*African-American Inventors*](https://lccn.loc.gov/95047863?loclr=blogadm) by Fred M. B. Amram and Susan K. Henderson for a more general overview of African American entrepreneurs.
* For biographies on the people listed above, read [*The Merchant Prince of Black Chicago: Anthony Overton and the Building of a Financial Empire*](https://lccn.loc.gov/2019032958?loclr=blogadm) by Robert E. Weems Jr. and search the [Library of Congress’ Catalog](https://catalog.loc.gov/?loclr=blogadm) for more.
* View [Doing Historical Company Research](https://guides.loc.gov/historical-company-research?loclr=blogadm) to learn how to conduct more in-depth research on these African American entrepreneurs and their companies.