

JUNE QUIZ CONTINUED

5. What connection did our bishops in the Diocese have to the Civil War?

Bishop Rutledge, from South Carolina, was the Bishop of Florida throughout the Civil War. His diocese was left broken and impoverished, but free. The diocese would require considerable commitment and work by his successor in the post-War years.

His successor, John Freeman Young, was deeply engaged in efforts aimed at the education of those recently freed. These efforts were in conjunction with Harriet Beecher Stowe, and those of her brother, the Rev. Charles Beecher, Florida Superintendent of Public Instruction. Beecher was instrumental in designing the structure of the public school system which persists in this day. He was also instrumental in the Freedman's Bureau. These efforts created an atmosphere more tolerant to the African American community education than much of the South. It allowed the creation of a public and several private schools, aimed at this end.

The fruits of the labors of Bishop Young with Harriet Beecher Stowe and Charles Beecher and others were amplified mightily. Others would follow in north Florida who would make strong and significant contributions at the time of the civil rights movement in the twentieth century.

6. Who were some of the leaders of the civil rights movement in the 20th century who were brought up in north Florida?

African Americans born in north Florida who led nationally in the civil rights movement include Howard Thurman, the distinguished theologian and spiritual writer who gave satyagraha to Martin Luther King, Jr. from a visit with Gandhi in India.

Philip Randolph is another. Randolph was head of the porter's union, a powerful force in the African American community generally and the civil rights movement specifically. Randolph invented the idea of the March on Washington and suggested young Martin Luther King, Jr. as a key preacher, resulting in the "I Have a Dream" speech.

James Weldon Johnson and his brother Rosamond, authors of the anthem "*Lift Every Voice*", also came out of this mix. The Episcopal liturgical calendar in *Holy Women, Holy Men* recognizes James Weldon Johnson on June 25th every year. Many from Jacksonville, like James Weldon Johnson, moved to Harlem in reaction to Jim Crow and frustrated by lack of opportunities locally--- birthing the Harlem Renaissance and making a significant contribution to American political, social and cultural life.

In summary, the Diocese of Florida and this area of Florida have significant connections to liberation broadly, and Juneteenth specifically. Black lives have mattered in this diocese long ago and remain so.

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