Rosa Parks is arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, AL. Martin Luther King Jr. leads a boycott of Montgomery buses that lasts over a year.

9 black students integrate with white students at Central High School in Little Rock, AR. President Dwight Eisenhower sends the paratroopers in to ward off any violence.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wins the Nobel Peace Prize.

More than 250,000 civil rights demonstrators march on Washington, DC, where Martin Luther King Jr. delivers his “I Have A Dream” speech.

Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated in Memphis, TN, where he had gone to give a speech to striking garbage workers.

Unita Blackwell, founding member of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, becomes the first black woman mayor in the history of Mississippi in the city of Mayersville. She had once been denied the right to vote there.

Vanessa Williams is crowned the first black Miss America.

Barack Obama becomes first African American president of the United States.

Colin Powell becomes the first black US Secretary of State.