

## **Breaking Barriers Northeast Ohio Topics List**

### **Women's History**

- Women's Education at Oberlin College
- Rebecca Rouse and the Soldiers' Aid Society of Northern Ohio
- Anna Perkins breaking gender barriers in employment as a Cleveland "newsboy" in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century
- Flora Stone Mather founds the Goodrich House (a settlement house) in 1897
- Harriet Taylor Upton—National American Woman Suffrage Association headquartered in Warren, Ohio, 1903-1909
- Florence Ellinwood Allen, ardent suffragist and woman of many legal firsts
- Cleveland's League of Women Voters innovates for voter education
- Women Pilots fly the Cleveland Air Races
- The Cleveland Orchestra – Adella Prentiss Hughes, Cleveland's Female Impresario
- Almeda C. Adams, Cleveland Music School Settlement and *Seeing Europe Through Sightless Eyes*
- Margaret Bourke-White, pioneering female photographer (worked in Cleveland 1927-1929)
- Phyllis Wheatley Association and Jane Edna Hunter Breaking Barriers by helping single African-American women during the Great Migration
- Maternal Health Association of Cleveland, Ohio
- Dorothy Fuldheim and women in media
- Frances Payne Bolton becomes a Congresswoman
- Judith Resnick and the Challenger Explosion
- Cleveland Women Working/9to5, National Association of Working Women



### **African-American History**

- Educating African Americans at Oberlin College
- The Lucy Bagby Fugitive Slave Case: Breaking Laws that Create Barriers to Freedom
- Urban League of Greater Cleveland's role in Great Migration to Cleveland
- Garrett Morgan and His Inventions
- John P. Greene Cleveland's first African-American elected official, delegate for William McKinley in the 1896 election, and the Ohio creator of "Labor Day"
- Mary B. Martin—a suffragist and the first African American woman elected to Cleveland Board of Education
- Kenneth W. Clement—physician, educator, and leader in Cleveland
- Fair Housing Movement (Fair Housing Inc., Plan of Action for Tomorrow's Housing, Urban League of Cleveland, etc.) - Could focus on a particular neighborhood—Hough, Glenville, or Mount Pleasant in Cleveland or Ludlow and Lomond in Shaker Heights
- Charles Velmon Carr – Ordinances for Fairness in Housing and Access
- Karamu Theater Breaks Racial Barriers in Casting
- Euclid Beach Park Riot – August 1946
- Cleveland Hospital Association and/or Mercy Hospital Association and Forest City Hospital—desegregating Cleveland hospitals

- United Freedom Movement in Cleveland
- Phyllis Wheatley Association and Jane Edna Hunter Breaking Barriers by helping single African-American women during the Great Migration
- John O. Holly and The Future Outlook League breaking barriers for fair employment
- Cleveland School Desegregation – Busing Initiatives and Protests

### **Business and Labor History**

- The Van Sweringen Brothers help open the suburbs to Cleveland's first families
- John D. Rockefeller Removes Barriers Between Cleveland's Oil Refineries
- The Garment Workers' Strike of 1911
- The 1919 May Day Riots
- The Akron Rubber Strike of 1936
- The Fisher Body Sit-Down Strike of 1936
- The Little Steel Strike of 1937
- John O. Holly and The Future Outlook League breaking barriers for fair employment
- Cleveland Women Working/9to5, National Association of Working Women

### **Political History**

- Joshua R. Giddings' Fight Against Congressional Censorship
- Mayor Tom L. Johnson Against Monopolies
- Frances Payne Bolton becomes a Congresswoman
- Frank Lausche Breaks Nationality Barriers in Politics
- The Erieview Urban Renewal Plan in 1961
- Carl Stokes, first Black Mayor of a major American city
- Cuyahoga River Fire and Clean Water Act
- Howard Metzenbaum, US Senator and Master of the Filibuster
- Stephanie Tubbs-Jones breaks legislative barriers

### **Science, Medicine, and Technology History**

- Cleveland State Hospital and the Kirkbride Plan Attempt to Eliminate Barriers to Mental Health
- The first Automobile Dealership, the fastest car, and long distance travel, how Alexander Winton broke into and dominated the early Auto Industry
- Michelson and Morley: Eliminating Intellectual Barriers to Further Research
- Dr. Benjamin Spock: Breaking Barriers to Child Development
- TRW and NASA John H. Glenn Research Center at Lewis Field breaking Earth's barriers to space and the moon
- Judith Resnick and the Challenger Explosion

### **Sports History**

- The Life of Moses Fleetwood Walker (Ohio Native, first black major league baseball player)
- Louis Sockalexis, first Native American baseball player, with the Cleveland Spiders
- Stella Walsh, Female Olympian for Poland and the United States



- Jesse Owens Breaks the Myth of Aryan Supremacy
- Bill Willis and Marian Motley break with NFL's color barrier with the Cleveland Browns
- Larry Doby breaks the American League color barrier
- Charles Sifford breaks the Professional Golf Association (PGA) color barrier
- League Park – records broken, Negro League in Cleveland
- The evolution of protective gear in baseball and football (Ray Chapman's death)

### **Social and Cultural History**

- Early Chinese Immigration to Cleveland – A society of single men, barred from bringing their wives by the Chinese Exclusion Act
- E.W. Scripps Breaks the Rules of Cleveland Journalism
- Little Italy: An ethnic neighborhood eliminating barriers for immigrants
- Achievement Center for Children/Camp Cheerful – evolution of barrier-free spaces for disabled kids
- Cleveland Survey of Criminal Justice, 1921, and Barriers to Criminal Justice Reform in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century
- Karamu Theater Breaks Racial Barriers in Casting
- Bill Wilson and Alcoholics Anonymous
- On Leong Tong: A Chinese merchants association breaking barriers to entrepreneurship
- Cleveland churches ease barriers to Japanese resettlement in Cleveland during World War II
- Alan Freed and the Moondog Coronation Ball
- Shaker Lakes: how a community built a barrier by protest, stopped the construction of the I-290 Clark Freeway being built, and saved the land that would have been lost



## Breaking Barriers in History Topic List

*Suggestions from John Vacha, Emeritus Region 3 Ohio History Day Coordinator*

### Global History

- The Rosetta Stone Unlocks the Mystery of Egyptian Hieroglyphics
- Hannibal Crosses the Alps
- Caesar Crosses the Rubicon
- Breaking the Rules of Architecture in Gothic Cathedrals - *Noire Dame/Henry Adams*
- Columbus Challenges the Barrier of the "Ocean Sea"
- Henry VIII Breaks England Away from the Church of Rome
- Copernicus Reassembles the Solar System
- Women Break the Male Monopoly of England's Restoration Stage
- Parisians Storm the Bastille
- Beethoven Breaks the Confines of the Classical Symphony
- Commodore Matthew Perry Opens Japan to the West
- Sigmund Freud Unlocks the Door to the Subconscious
- Arnold Schoenberg Breaks the Rules of Tonality in Music
- Mahatma Gandhi Walks to the Sea for Salt
- Hitler Marches into the Rhineland
- Otto Hann and Fritz Strassmann Split the Atom
- The German Blitzkrieg Breaks the Maginot Line
- The Allies Crack Germany's Enigma Code
- Roger Bannister Breaks the Four-Minute Mile
- North Korea Crosses the 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel
- Sputnik Breaks into Space
- Nixon Goes to China
- Germans Dismantle the Berlin Wall
- *WWI - Zimmerman Telegram*

### American History

- The Thirteen Colonies Break Ties with Great Britain
- Daniel Boone Crosses the Cumberland Gap
- Jedediah Smith Discovers South Pass Through the Rockies
- Frederick Douglas Breaks the Bonds of Slavery
- John Quincy Adams and the Campaign to Break the Gag Rule in Congress
- Elizabeth Blackwell Breaks the Male Monopoly in Medicine
- Dorothea Dix Breaks the Stigma of Mental Illness
- Henry David Thoreau Refuses to Pay His Taxes and Justifies Civil Disobedience
- *Breaking the Blacklist in Hollywood*
- *Go Howard Silva / Dalton Trumbo*

- General Sherman Cuts His Supply Line to March through Georgia
- Chinese Laborers Push the Central Pacific Railroad through the Sierra Nevada
- European immigrants Break Ties with Their "Old Country"
- The Supreme Court Breaks Up the Standard Oil Monopoly
- The Panama Canal Breaks the Land Barrier between Atlantic and Pacific
- Bert Williams Breaks the Color Barrier in the Ziegfeld Follies
- Breaking Barriers at the U.S. Supreme Court
  - Religious: Louis Brandeis
  - Racial: Thurgood Marshall
  - Gender: Sandra Day O'Connor
- The New Deal Breaks Conventional Economic Wisdom to Bring America Out of Depression
- Franklin D. Roosevelt Breaks the Presidential Two-Term Tradition, *Disability, New Deal,*
- Navy Codebreakers Crack Japan's Naval Code *Frances Perkins,*
- The Manhattan Project Breaks into the Atomic Age *Fireside chats*
- Jackie Robinson Breaks the Major League Color Barrier
- Chuck Yeager Breaks the Sound Barrier
- John F. Kennedy Breaks the Religious Barrier to the White House
- James Meredith Integrates "Ole Miss"
- Rosa Parks Breaks the Segregation Ordinance of Montgomery, Alabama
- Martin Luther King Practices Civil Disobedience in Birmingham Jail
- Otto Preminger and Dalton Trumbo Break the Hollywood Blacklist
- The Immigration Act of 1965 Eliminates the National-Origin Quota System
- Nixon's "Southern Strategy" Cracks the "Solid South"
- The "Stonewall Riots" for LGBT Rights.
- White House Burglars Break into Democratic Headquarters in the Watergate

### Local History

- The Ohio and Erie Canal Opens an All-Water Route from Portsmouth to Cleveland
- Oberlin College Removes the Barrier between Blacks and Females to a College Education
- E.W. Scripps Breaks the Rules of Cleveland Journalism
- The Michelson-Morley Experiment Breaks Ground for Albert Einstein
- Newton D. Baker Breaks State Control over Local Home Rule
- Karamu Theater Breaks Racial Barriers in Casting
- Florence Allen Breaks through Legal Gender Barriers
- John O. Holly Breaks Racial Barriers to Hiring in Cleveland
- Breaking Racial, Religious and Gender Barriers at Western Reserve University
- Jesse Owens Breaks the Myth of Aryan Supremacy
- Larry Doby Breaks the American League's Color Barrier
- *RTA - Cleveland - city to suburbs*
- *Cleveland Browns - color barriers*

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- Zelma George Breaks Barriers in Theater and Diplomacy
- Frank Lausche Breaks Nationality Barriers in Politics
- Crossing the Color Line at Euclid Beach
- Real Estate Blockbusting Resegregates Housing on Cleveland's East Side
- Carl Stokes Becomes the First Black Mayor of a Major American City
- Elaine Hadden Breaks the Glass Ceilings on the Boards of Union Commerce Bank and CWRU

- Karamu House
- Anne O'Hare McCormick
- Katharine Graham + The Post







## Rock and Roll History Topics

### Music censorship

- Banned album covers
- Banned bands
- Censored songs
- Parents Music Resource Center (PMRC)

### Music for Political and Peace Movements

- World War II
- Labor movements
- Student revolts of the 1960s
- Civil Rights
- Counterculture
- Vietnam War
- The South Bronx in the 1970s and 80s
- 9/11
- Riot grrrl movement
- LGBTQ+ Rights
- Rock & Roll in the Soviet Union

### Benefit concerts

- Concert for Bangladesh
- Rock Against Racism
- Live Aid
- Farm Aid
- Band Aid
- Amnesty International
- Rock the Vote

### Breaking racial barriers

- Mixed race concert venues in the '60s
- Motown tours through the South, meeting racial tension
- Beatles refuse to play segregated venues in the U.S.
- Nina Simone – politically themed music and activism
- Sam Cooke – civil rights activism; started a black-owned publishing co. & label
- Sister Rosetta Tharpe – racial & gender barriers as a black female guitarist in the '40s
- Prince/Michael Jackson and MTV – getting black artists played on MTV



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