

FEBRUARY IN HISTORY

- 1692** Dr. William Griggs diagnosed two girls as “bewitched,” eventually leading to a series of witch trials in this Massachusetts village.
- 1848** *The Communist Manifesto*, one of the world’s most influential political manuscripts, was published. Who wrote it?
- 1886** This holiday was first observed in Punxsutawney, PA.
- 1896** Candy inventor Leo Hirshfeld introduced this chewy treat: a chocolate-like candy that would not spoil nor melt in the heat. By World War II, it had become a standard part of American soldiers’ field rations.
- 1909** This association was founded by W.E.B. Du Bois, Ida Wells-Barnett, and others to battle against lynching and other forms of racial oppression.
- 1935** Dr. Wallace Carothers discovered this synthetic silk-like material, which was first used commercially in toothbrush bristles.
- 1954** This physician led the first test of his newly developed polio vaccine in Pittsburgh, PA. It was the most elaborate mass inoculation in history.
- 1959** This thirty-three-year-old revolutionary was sworn in as prime minister of the Caribbean country he would control for more than half a century.
- 1960** Four African American college students began a sit-in protest at a lunch counter inside this store in Greensboro, NC.
- 1964** More than 40 percent of the U.S. population tuned in to *The Ed Sullivan Show* to watch this new rock and roll band.
- 1964** A twenty-two-year-old boxer knocked out Sonny Liston to win the heavyweight title for the first time. By what two names is that boxer known?

CONTINUED



- 1965** Canada replaced the Union Jack with a new flag that featured this prominent design in its center.
- 1972** President Richard Nixon became the first U.S. president in history to set foot in this country.
- 1974** The first issue of this magazine, now ubiquitous in doctors' offices, hair salons, and airports, went on sale. On the cover was a photo of Mia Farrow, then starring in *The Great Gatsby*.
- 1983** A record-breaking 106 million Americans gathered in front of their television sets to watch the two-and-a-half-hour final episode of this much beloved series.
- 1990** Nelson Mandela was freed after twenty-seven years in prison in this country.
- 1992** This businessman appeared on CNN's *Larry King Live* to announce his intention to run for president as an Independent if his supporters could get his name on the ballot in all fifty states.
- 1993** This tennis player died of AIDS, a disease he contracted from contaminated blood received during heart surgery.
- 1998** President Bill Clinton signed a bill changing the name of Washington's National Airport to this.
- 2000** The last original *Peanuts* comic strip appeared in newspapers – one day after the death of this cartoonist.