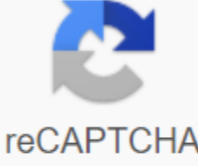


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Go to the main content of an American historian For other people named John Franklin, see John Franklin (disambiguation). John Hope Franklin Bourne (1915-01-02) January 2, 1915Rentiesville, Oklahoma, United StatesDiedMarch 25, 2009 (2009-03-25) (age 94)Duke University Medical Center, Durham, North Carolina, United States. Harvard University (M.A., 1936; Ph.D., 1941)OccupationScholar, historian, author, professorSpouse (s)Aurelia Whittington Franklin (m. 1940; d. 1999)ChildrenJohn Whittington FranklinHonors John W. Kluge Award in the Humanities (2006) 100 Greatest African Americans (2 Presidential Medal of Freedom (1995) Courageous Distinguished Professor of Service, at the University of Chicago (1969) James B. Duke Professor of History at Duke (1983) Jefferson Lecturer (1976) John Hope Franklin (January 2 January 2 , 1915 - March 25, 2009) was an American historian of the United States and former President of the Phi Beta Kappa Kappa , Organization of American Historians, American Historical Association, and Southern Historical Association. Franklin is best known for his work From Slavery to Freedom, first published in 1947 and permanently updated. It has sold more than three million copies. In 1995, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the country's highest civilian award. Franklin was born in Oklahoma, studied at Fisk University and then Harvard University, receiving his doctorate in 1941. He was a professor at Howard University, and in 1956 was appointed head of the history department at Brooklyn College, as part of the City University of New York. Recruited to the University of Chicago in 1964, he eventually headed the Faculty of History and was appointed Chairman. He then moved to Duke University in 1983 as a appointee in the history department. Early life and education Franklin was born in Rentiesville, Oklahoma in 1915 to attorney Buck (Charles) Colbert Franklin (1879-1957) and his wife Molly (Parker) Franklin. It was named after John Hope, an outstanding educator who was the first African-American president of the University of Atlanta. Franklin Buck Colbert Franklin's father was a civil rights lawyer, aka The Amazing Buck Franklin. He was African-American and of Choctaw descent and was born in Chikaso Nation in western Indian territory (formerly Pickens County). He was the seventh of ten children born to David and Millie Franklin. David was a former slave who became Chickasaw Friedman when he was freed after the American Civil War. Millie was born free before the war and was one-quarter Choctaw and three-quarters of African-American descent. Buck Franklin became a lawyer. Buck Franklin is best known for protecting African-Americans who survived the Tulsa riots in 1921, during which whites attacked many blacks and buildings and burned and destroyed the Greenwood area. This was known at the time as the Black and was the richest black community in the United States, the center of the black trade trade Culture. In 2015, Buck Franklin's previously unknown written account of the 1921 Greenwood attack, a 10-page typewritten manuscript, was discovered and subsequently obtained by the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture. Franklin and his colleagues also became experts in oil law, representing black and Native Americans in Oklahoma against white lawyers representing oil barons. His career demonstrated a strong professional black life in the West, at a time when such achievements would be harder to achieve in the Deep South. John Hope Franklin graduated from Booker T. Washington High School (then Segregated) in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He graduated in 1935 from Fisk University, a historically black university in Nashville, Tennessee, then received a master's degree in 1936 and a doctorate in history in 1941 from Harvard University. My Challenge, Franklin said, was woven into the fabric of American history with enough blackness to tell the story of the United States adequately and fairly. In his autobiography, Franklin described a number of uniform incidents in which he encountered racism while trying to volunteer for his services at the beginning of World War II. He responded to the Navy's search for qualified clerical officers, but after he presented his extensive qualifications, a Navy recruiter told him he was the wrong color for the position. He also failed to find a position with the Military Department of the Historic Project. When he went to do a blood test as required for the project, the doctor initially refused to give it to his office. Franklin then took steps to avoid the project, on the grounds that the country did not respect him or were interested in his well-being, because of his skin color. In the early 1950s, Franklin worked on the NAACP Legal Defense Fund team led by Thurgood Marshall and helped develop sociological research for the Brown v. Board of Education. The case, challenging the de jure segregated education in the south, was brought to the United States Supreme Court. In 1954, the court ruled that the legal segregation of black and white children in public schools was unconstitutional, leading to the integration of schools. Franklin's teaching career began at The University of Fisk. During World War II, he taught at St. Augustine College from 1939 to 1943 and the College of North Carolina for Negroes, now Central University of North Carolina from 1943 to 1947. From 1947 to 1956 he taught at Howard University. In 1956, Franklin was selected to the Department of History at Brooklyn College, the first person of color to head a major historical department. Franklin served there until 1964, when he was recruited by the University of Chicago. In 1962, he was professor at the University of Cambridge, where he was a professor of American history and institutes. David Levering Lewis, who The Pulitzer Prize winner in history said that while he decided to become a historian, he learned that Franklin, his mentor, had been appointed chair of the department at Brooklyn College. Now this is certainly a difference. It's never happened before that a person of color headed a major history department. It meant a lot to me. If I had doubts about the viability of a career in history, this example would certainly have helped put an end to such problems. Exploring his prized biography of W.E.B. Du Bois, Lewis said he learned of Franklin's courage during the 1950s, when Du Bois became a non-human, when many progressives were tarred and feathered with a brush of subversion. John Hope Franklin was a rock; he was loyal to his friends. In the case of W. E. B. Du Bois, Franklin spoke in his defense, not (about) Duois communism, but about the intellectual's right to express ideas that were not popular. I find it wonderful. It was a high risk to take and we could be heading again at a time when a free competition of ideas at the academy would have a price to put on it. In the last years of an active teaching career, I will have the example of John Hope Franklin's high scholarship, great courage and civic activism. From 1964 to 1968, Franklin was a professor of history at the University of Chicago and chair of the department from 1967 to 1970. He was appointed to the position of Distinguished Professor of Service John Matthews Manley, which he held from 1969 to 1982. He was appointed to the Fulbright Council of Foreign Scholarships, 1962-1969, and was its chairman from 1966 to 1969. In 1976, the National Endowment for the Humanities selected Franklin for Jefferson's lecture, the highest award of the U.S. federal government for humanities achievements. Franklin's lecture of three 11 people was the basis for his book Racial Equality in America. Franklin was appointed to the U.S. delegation to the U.N. General Conference in Belgrade (1980). In 1983, Franklin was appointed Professor of History by James B. Duke at Duke University. In 1985, he received honorary status from this position. In the same year he helped set up the Durham Literacy Centre and worked on its council until his death in 2009. Franklin was also a professor of legal history at Duke University Law School from 1985 to 1992. Racial Equality in America for Racial Equality in America is a published series of lectures that Franklin presented in 1976 for the Jefferson Lecture sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The book consists of three lectures that are held in three different cities in which Franklin chronicled the history of race in the United States from the revolutionary times until 1976. These lectures examine the differences between certain beliefs related to race, to the reality documented in various historical and governmental texts, as well as census data, property and literary sources. First called Sleep is postponed and discusses the period from the revolution to 1820. The second lecture is called Old Order Changeth Not and discusses the rest of the 19th century. The third lecture is called Equality indivisible and discusses the 20th century. Later, in 2005, at the age of 90, Franklin published and lectured about his new autobiography, Mirror to America. The Autobiography of John Hope Franklin. In 2006, Mirror to America won the Robert F. Kennedy Center Award for its book on justice and human rights, which is awarded annually to authors whose letter, highlighting past or present injustice, serves as a beacon on the road to a simpler society. In 2006, he also won the John W. Kluge Award and as a recipient lectured on the successes and failures of race relations in America in Where Do We Go From Here? in 2008, Franklin endorsed presidential candidate Barack Obama. Franklin died at Duke University Medical Center on the morning of March 25, 2009. In 1991, Franklin's students honored him with Facts of Reconstruction: Essays in Honor of John Hope Franklin (edited by Eric Anderson and Alfred A. Moss Jr. of Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, c1991). Franklin was president of the American Historical Association (1979), the American Association for Research (1967), the Southern History Association (1970) and the Organization of American Historians (1975). He was a member of the board of trustees of Fisk University, the Chicago Public Library and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association. Franklin was elected as a member of the foundation of the new head of Fisk Phi Beta Kappa in 1953, when Fisk became the first historically black college, he had the head of the honor society. From 1973 to 1976, he served as President of the United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa. Franklin was also appointed to national commissions, including the National Humanities Council, the Presidential Advisory Commission on Ambassador Appointments, and One America: The Presidential Race Initiative. Franklin was a member of the Alpha Fi Alpha fraternity. He was one of the first beneficiaries of the Brotherhood Publishers Foundation, which provides financial support and scholarship for writers addressing African-American issues. In 1962, honored by a distinguished historian, Franklin became the first black member of the exclusive Space Club in Washington, D.C., and the John Hope Franklin Research Center for African and African American History and Culture resides in the library of a rare book and manuscript of Duke University's David M. Rubenstein and contains his personal and professional documents. The Archive is one of three academic units named after Franklin at Duke. Others include the John Hope Franklin Center for Interdisciplinary and International Studies, which opened in February 2001, and the Franklin Institute of Humanities. Franklin had previously rejected Duke's offer to name the Center for African American Studies followed it, saying he was a historian of America and the world, too. In 1975, he was awarded the St. Louis Literary Award from the Library of St. Louis University Associates. In 1975, Franklin received an honorary doctorate in law (LL.D.) from Whittier College. In 1978, he was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame. In 1994, the Society of American Historians (founded by Allan Nevins and other historians to promote literary differences in the writing of history) awarded Franklin the Bruce Catton Prize for Lifetime Achievement. In 1995, he was awarded the Spingarn Medal from the NAACP. In 1995, President Clinton awarded Franklin the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award. In his remarks, the president mentioned after the award that Franklin had worked all his life as a history teacher and student, seeking to gain a better understanding of the relationship between whites and blacks in our time. In 1995, he received the Chicago Historical Museum's History Award for honors in a historical scholarship. In 1996, Franklin received the American Academy of Achievement's Golden Plate Award. In 1997, Franklin was selected for the Peggy W. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award, a literary award awarded annually by the Tulsa Library Foundation. Franklin was the first (and still only) Oklahoma native to receive the award. During his visit to Tulsa to accept the award, Franklin made several appearances to talk about his childhood experiences with racial segregation, as well as his father's experience as a lawyer after the 1921 Tulsa racial riot. In 2002, the scientist Molefi Kete Asante was included in Franklin's list of the 100 Greatest African Americans. Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry presented the Governor with the Dr. Franklin Arts Award in 2004. In 2005, Franklin received the North Carolina Society Award for a long and outstanding service in promoting, producing, improving, promoting, and preserving North Carolina. On May 20, 2006, Franklin was awarded an honorary doctorate in humane letters at the 171st Lafayette College Exercise. On November 15, 2006, John Hope Franklin was announced as the third recipient of the John W. Kluge Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Study of Humanity. He shared the prize with Yu Ying-shih. On October 27, 2010, the city of Tulsa renamed reconciliation park, created in memory of the victims of the 1921 racial riot in Tulsa, as John Hope Franklin Reconciliation Park in his honor. It includes a 27-foot bronze called the Tower of Reconciliation by sculptor Ed Dwight, expressing a long history of Africans in Oklahoma. On November 2, 2019, Franklin was recognized as the Principal Laureate of the Sesquicentennial Honor Commission at the Durham 150 closing ceremony in Durham, North Carolina, on November 2, 2019. Dying was bestowed by 29 people whose dedication, accomplishments and passion helped shape Durham in important ways. 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