



**IN PROFILE**  
Katherine Johnson



**FIELD TRIP**  
March 17, 2020



**DOLL OF THE MONTH**

Satchel Paige  
Bobblehead

# THE DISCOVERY PAPERS



## The Negro Leagues Centennial

February 13 and 14, 2020 marked the founding of the Negro Leagues! The organization was founded in Kansas City, Missouri. Baseball, like many areas of society, was segregated. African-American players could not play on the same team with white players. In 1920, the owners of some of the African-American teams came together and formed a league of their own - The Negro Leagues.





Andrew “Rube” Foster presided over the meeting of eight independent Black Baseball team owners at the Paseo YMCA in Kansas City. The group became the Negro National League. Their slogan was “We Are the Ship, All Else the Sea,” representing the pledge to set their own course.

The Negro League grew and flourished until 1947 when star Jackie Robinson was integrated into Major League Baseball ushering in the start of the Civil Rights Movement and the integration of American society. The Negro League held on returning to their roots of barnstorming in small communities and abroad. The League folded in 1960.



Many outstanding players began their careers as members of the Negro Leagues. Satchel Paige, Jackie Robinson, and even, Hank Aaron were originally members of an all African-American team.

Satchel Paige (1906-1982) Pitcher. He had speed, skill, and sportsmanship. He was the first player from the Negro Leagues selected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

Jackie Robinson (1919-1972) First Baseman. First African-American to play in the Major Leagues. In 2013 a movie of his life and struggles with racism called “42” was made.



Henry “Hank” Aaron (1932-) Outfielder. Broke Babe Ruth’s home run record. He was the last player to play in both the Negro Leagues and the Major Leagues.

*Where it all began - the birthplace of the Negro Leagues - the Paseo YMCA in Kansas City.*



**Time Travelers Reading List.....**

[What Were The Negro Leagues](#) by Varian Johnson

[She Loved Baseball: The Effa Manley Story](#) by Audrey Vemick

[Chasing Freedom: The Life Journeys of Harriet Tubman and Susan B. Anthony, Inspired by Historical Facts](#) by Nikki Grimes

[Who Says Women Can't Be Doctors: The Story of Elizabeth Blackwell](#) by Tanya Lee Stone

[Hidden Figures](#) by Margot Lee Shetterly

[Ada's Ideas: The Story of Ada Lovelace, the World's First Computer Programmer](#) by Fiona

Robinson

# Time Travelers Activities

## Program 411

The Time Travelers is a program of the Westport Historical Society in partnership with the United Federation of Doll Clubs for homeschooling families throughout the Kansas City region. We will have a monthly newsletter and meetings on the third Tuesday of the month from April through October. These meetings may be at the Harris-Kearney House at 4000 Baltimore in Kansas City or we may be on an adventure elsewhere. Sign up to receive our newsletter and information about activities at: [timetravelwestport@gmail.com](mailto:timetravelwestport@gmail.com).



## Time Travelers Field Trip March 17, 2020

The first meeting of the Time Travelers will be from 10 am to 2 pm on March 17 (St. Patrick's Day) at the United Federation of Doll Clubs Headquarters located at 10900 N Pomona Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri 64153. (It's near the KCI Airport.) We will check out their fabulous museum, the EBT Doll Teas Presentation and Exhibit, and have fun getting to know one another.

Be sure to bring your Time Travelers Kit \*and your lunch. Our mascot, Amelia, will be there, too, and she would love to meet your time traveling companion so bring them along. Register by email at: [timetravelwestport@gmail.com](mailto:timetravelwestport@gmail.com).

- \* Information about the Time Travelers Kit is available in the January issue of *The Discovery Papers*. If you need a copy of that issue, email us at the address above and we will send one right away.

## The Time Travelers Mascot..... Meet Amelia



Amelia is named for two famous 19th century archaeologists - Amelia Peabody, a fictional heroine created by Elizabeth Peters and the real Egyptologist, Amelia Edwards. Archaeology was a relatively new and exciting field for men and women in the 19th century. Check out the adventures of some real life archaeologists and their discoveries at the “Gifts of the Nile” exhibit at the Linda Hall Library and “Queen Nefertari Eternal Egypt” at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. (While you’re at the Nelson be sure to see the collection of Gordon Parks’ photographs of boxing great, Muhammed Ali.)

*Our mascot is “Lia” from the Ruby Red Galleria and was the UFDC Convention Souvenir Doll in 2018. Watch for her at our various Time Traveler events and programs.*

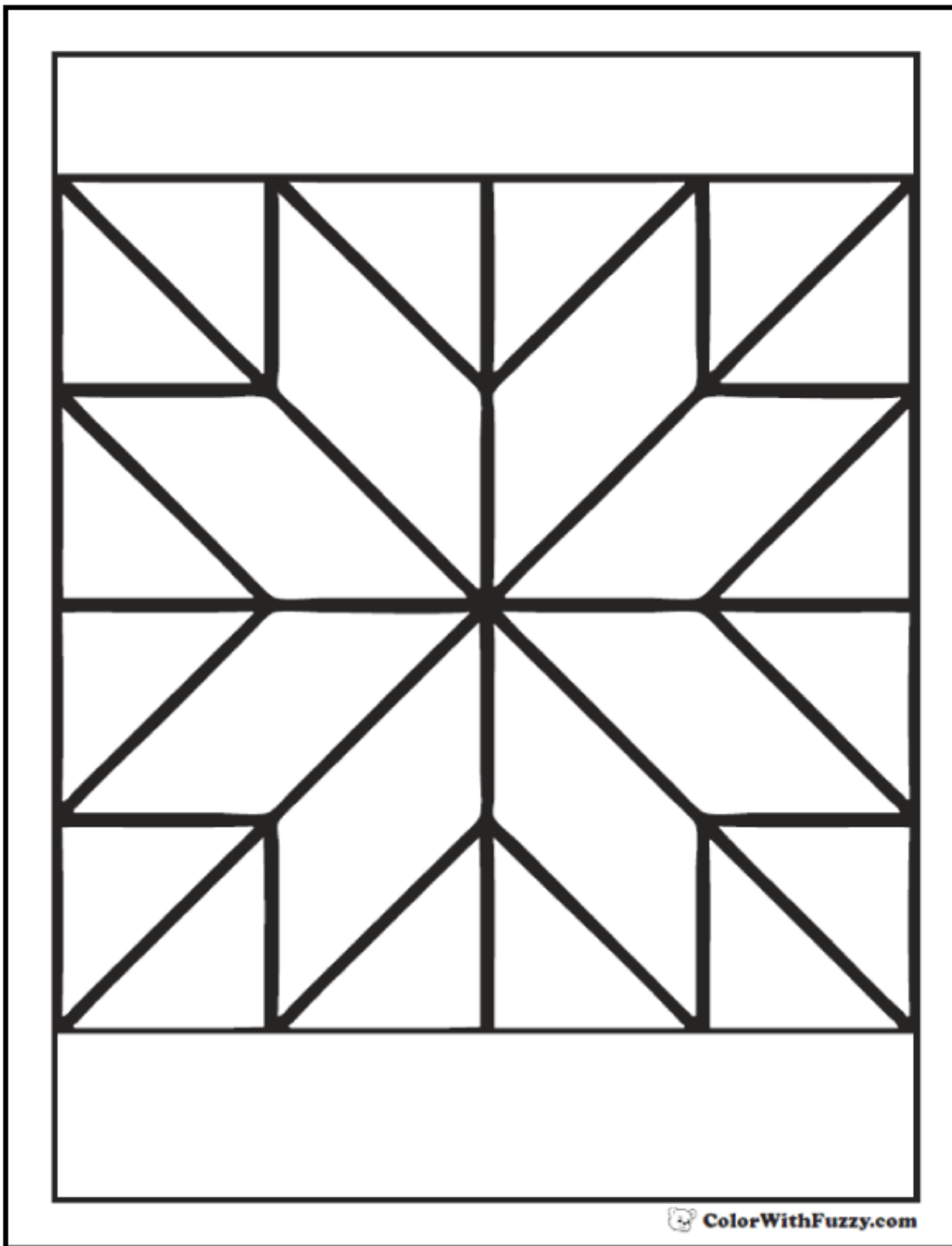
Discover more with these recommendations.....


*A Thousand Miles Up the Nile* by Amelia Edwards, *Gertrude Bell: Queen of the Desert, Shaper of Nations* by Georgina Howell, and *Archaeologists Dig for Clues* by Kate Duke.



Feeling Creative? The Westport Historical Society will be hosting a doll making workshop on May 22. We’ll be making Sophie, this darling 19th century doll. For more information contact:  
[timetravelwestport@gmail.com](mailto:timetravelwestport@gmail.com).

# Coloring Page



 ColorWithFuzzy.com

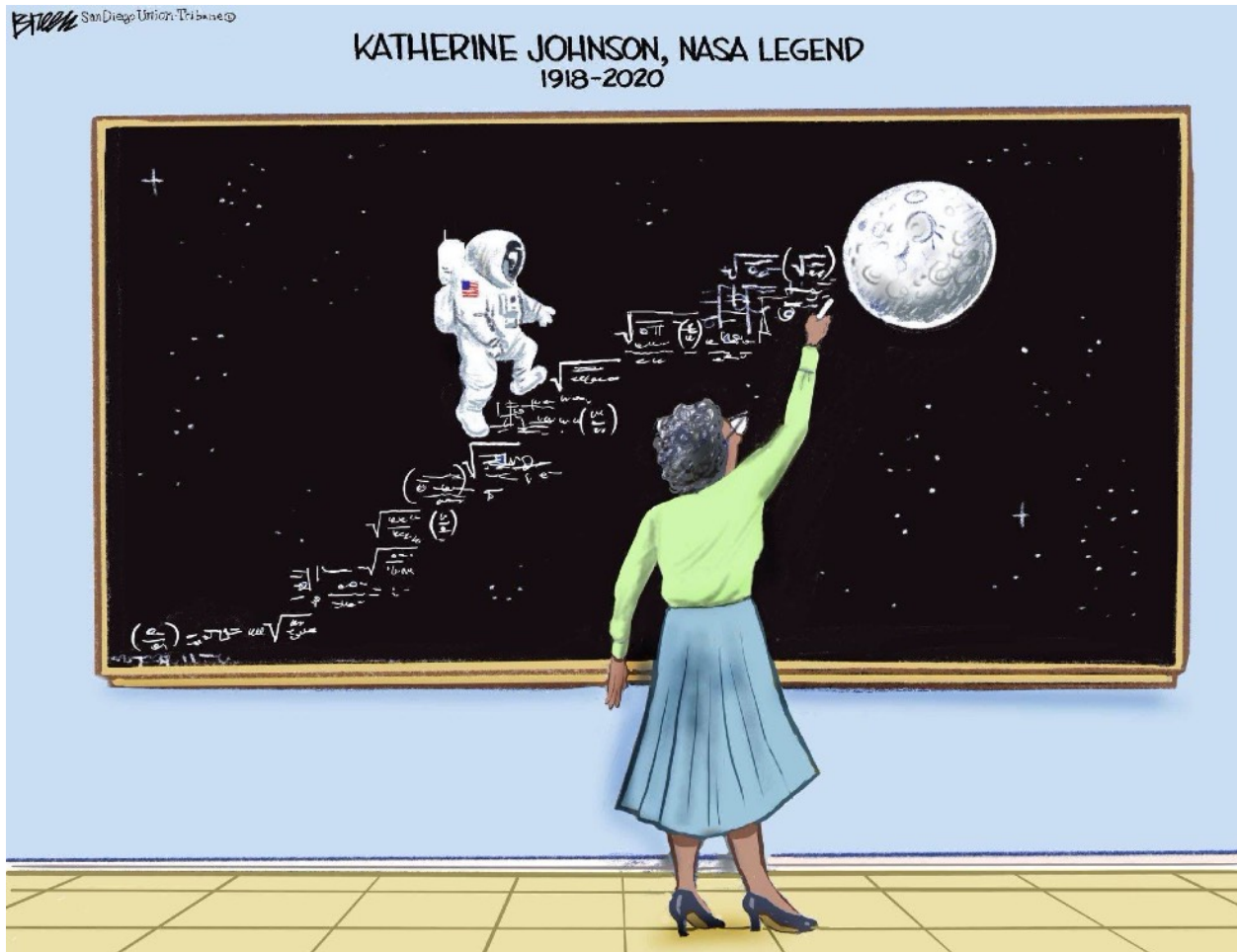
QUILT BLOCK

Some folklife specialists and historians believe that quilt blocks played an important role in helping escaping slaves journeying along the Underground Railroad on their way to freedom. Others do not. Explore the links below and decide what you think!

*You can learn more about quilts and the Underground Railroad at:*

<https://folklife.si.edu/magazine/underground-railroad-quilt-codes>

<http://www.quilthistory.com/ugrrquilts.htm>



## A LADY OF ADVENTURE - KATHERINE JOHNSON



Katherine Johnson loved numbers since childhood. She counted everything she saw. She became a NASA “computer” - a human calculator, calculating orbits and trajectories for space travel and exploration.

She computed the trajectory for the first American in space, Alan Shepard and made the calculations for John Glenn’s mission to orbit the earth. Glenn asked for Katherine to check the figures made by NASA’s IBM computer before he was launched into space.

She started college at the age of 15, graduating at 18 from West Virginia State College with honors in mathematics and French. She had a gift for geometry, a great benefit for her work at NASA. She co-authored the first textbook on space, in other words, “she wrote the book on rocket science.”

The 2016 film *Hidden Figures* depicted the lives of Katherine and two other African-American female pioneers at NASA.

*Barbie* recognized Katherine Johnson with a doll in her likeness as part of their *Inspiring Women* series.



The Time Travelers Program, a partnership of the Westport Historical Society and the United Federation of Doll Clubs, is located at the Harris-Kearney House at 4000 Baltimore, in Kansas City, Missouri 64111.