



*Heroes of the West* is a set of four paper dolls inspired by African American trailblazers who overcame obstacles to help shape United States history:

Colonel Allen Allensworth (1842-1914) – Political activist, army officer, chaplain, educator, town founder. In 1908, he founded the township of Allensworth, currently, a California State Historic Park, located in Tulare County.

Mary Ellen Pleasant (1814-1904) – Entrepreneur, abolitionist, civil rights activist, boarding house owner. The Mother of Civil Rights had her “Trolley Case” heard in the California Supreme Court, helping to bring an end to racial discrimination on California street cars in 1868, and more than 100 years later, in 1982.

James Beckwourth (1798 -1866) – Mountain man, trailblazer, negotiator, storyteller. Discovered the lowest route through California’s towering Sierra Nevada Mountains. In 1856, his dictated autobiography, *The Life and Adventures of James P. Beckwourth, Mountaineer, Scout, and Pioneer, and Chief of the Crow Nation of Indians*, was published by Harper and Brothers.

Nancy Gooch (1811 – 1901) – Enslaved laundress who, along with her husband, purchased the freedom of her children, and eventually bought 320 acres, including Sutter’s Mill, the famed gold discovery site, which the California Parks Department of Parks and Recreation purchased from her heirs in the 1940s.

For additional biographical information click on the links on the Products page.