The parent body of the UNIA was incorporated in Jamaica and sought, among other things, funding from the British Government for the economic, social and cultural transformation of Jamaica.

The UNIA also acted as a catalyst for cultural development in Jamaica and Edelweiss Park became a major cultural centre for black Jamaicans.

Garvey himself wrote poetry and was the author of three plays. Many famous Jamaicans in the field of the Arts began their career at Edelweiss Park, among them Ranny Williams and Una Marson.


In 1935 due to opposition by the Colonial authorities, Garvey decided to promote the work of the UNIA overseas and moved to England.

Marcus Garvey died in June 1940 after suffering two strokes. His remains were returned to Jamaica in 1964 and interred at the National Heroes Park. He became Jamaica’s first National Hero.

**SOURCES**


Jamaica Information Service. Marcus Mosiah Garvey


“\textit{If you have no confidence in self you are twice defeated in the race of life. With confidence you have won even before you have started.}”

Marcus Garvey
Marcus Garvey was born on August 17, 1887 in St. Ann's Bay, St. Ann, the son of a reputable bricklayer, Marcus Senior and a peasant woman, Sarah Jane nee Richards. He was the youngest of eleven children.

He attended infant school and then the St. Ann's Bay Methodist Elementary school until the age of 14. An elementary school education then was the full extent of tuition for most Blacks in Jamaica.

Garvey's parents could not afford to send him to secondary school but he had the advantage of his father's extensive library, as well as that of his godfather, Alfred Burrowes, a printer. This influenced his early taste for reading and later as an apprentice to Mr. Burrowes, he fully utilized the use of the library.

As a teenager he left for Kingston where he joined the staff of P.A. Benjamin, a printer. This was the starting point of his future career as he became deeply interested in politics, cultural organization, trade unionism and journalism.

In 1910 Garvey journeyed overseas to Costa Rica and this was the highpoint of his career as an international leader. The UNIA grew rapidly with attendance. In September of the same year Garvey and his UNIA team published the "Declaration of Rights of the Negro Peoples of the World".

In 1923 Garvey was convicted of mail fraud and was deported to Jamaica in 1927. His international reputation had spread to Jamaica and he received a hero's welcome.

He sailed to England in 1928 and was instrumental in founding the West African Students' Union and presented his famous speech at Albert Hall in London on 'The case of the Negro for International Racial Adjustment'.

Garvey returned to Jamaica in 1929 and founded the People's Political Party (PPP), the first modern political party in Jamaica.

In 1930 the PPP fielded candidates in the general elections to the Legislative Council. Garvey contested the St. Andrew constituency but lost despite drawing huge crowds to his meetings. This was due to the fact that most of his followers could not vote. Universal Adult Suffrage had not yet been won.

He was elected unopposed to the Kingston & St. Andrew Corporation in the Local Government elections in 1930. The same year he launched the People's Political Party (PPP), the first modern political party in Jamaica.

In 1931 he led a deputation to the Governor outlining in details the conditions of the suffering poor, especially the unemployed.

He drew up a petition which he sent to the King through the Colonial Office, copied to the Labour MPs and other liberals. This resulted in the sending of a Royal Commission to investigate the political and economic conditions of the West Indies.

In 1919 the Black Star Line Steamship Company was launched with a capital stock of US$1/2 million. Garvey also established the 'Negro World' newspaper which became the most widely circulated newspaper among Blacks.

On Christmas Day 1919 he married Amy Ashwood. The couple parted company by the following year and were formerly divorced in June 1922. Later that year he married Amy Jacques.

In 1927 was the highpoint of his career as an international leader. The UNIA grew rapidly with attendance. In September of the same year Garvey and his UNIA team published the "Declaration of Rights of the Negro Peoples of the World".

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