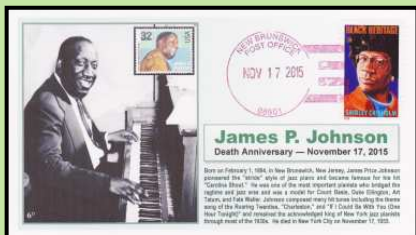


BORN IN

my home state of

NEW JERSEY

by Don Neal

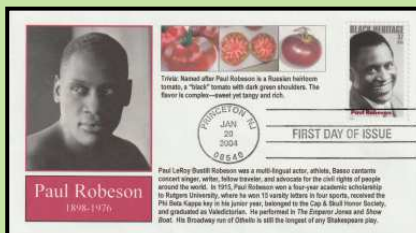


JAMES PRICE JOHNSON

(February 1, 1894 – November 17, 1955)

Born in **NEW BRUNSWICK**

Johnson was a pianist and composer. A pioneer of stride piano, he was one of the most important pianists in the early era of recording and one of the key figures in the evolution of ragtime into what was eventually called jazz. Johnson was a major influence on Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Art Tatum, and Fats Waller, who was his student.



PAUL LEROY ROBESON

(April 9, 1898 – January 23, 1976)

Born in **PRINCETON**

Robeson was a bass baritone concert artist, stage and film actor, athlete, and activist who became famous both for his cultural accomplishments and for his political stances.

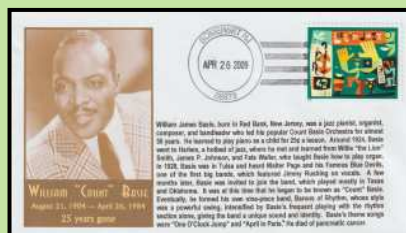


SARAH LOIS VAUGHAN

(March 27, 1924 – April 3, 1990)

Born in **NEWARK**

Vaughan was a jazz singer. Nicknamed “Sassy” and “The Divine One,” she won four Grammy Awards, including the Lifetime Achievement Award. She was given an NEA Jazz Masters Award in 1989. Critic Scott Yanow wrote that she had “one of the most wondrous voices of the 20th century.” Her signature songs include “Send in the Clowns,” “Broken Hearted Melody,” and “If You Could See Me Now.”



WILLIAM JAMES “COUNT” BASIE

(August 21, 1904 – April 26, 1984)

Born in **RED BANK**

Basie was a jazz pianist, organist, bandleader, and composer who introduced several generations of listeners to the Big Band sound and left an influential catalog.



Larry Doby and Althea Gibson, both pioneering athletes in their respective sports of baseball and tennis, were both born in South Carolina, and both of them were New Jersey residents at the time of their passings.