

**Today in Georgia History**  
**September 17, 1994**  
**Ma Rainey**

**Suggested Readings**

Angela Y. Davis, *Blues Legacies and Black Feminism: Gertrude "Ma" Rainey, Bessie Smith, and Billie Holiday* (New York: Pantheon, 1998).

Daphne D. Harrison, *Black Pearls: Blues Queens of the 1920s* (New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press, 1988).

Sandra R. Lieb, *Mother of the Blues: A Study of Ma Rainey* (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1981).

Derrick Stewart-Baxter, *Ma Rainey and the Classic Blues Singers* (New York: Stein and Day, 1970).

Image Credits  
September 17, 1994: "Ma" Rainey



Bessie Smith

Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, Carl Van Vechten Collection, LC-USZ62-84619



Carbon microphone

Image courtesy of Ecstatic Electric



Louis Armstrong The Hot Fives Album



Ma' Rainey and her Georgia Jazz Band

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Ma Rainey Stamp

Courtesy of Ed Jackson



Mother Of The Blues

©Frank Driggs Collection/Getty Images



Portrait of Bessie Smith holding feathers

Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, Carl Van Vechten Collection, LC-DIG-ppmsca-09571



Richard & Pringles Famous Georgia Minstrels

Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, Minstrel Poster Collection



Ma Rainey Poster – Georgia History Festival