John Ballard

"**Hidden Heroes**" Coloring Page

John Ballard (c. 1830–1905) was a blacksmith and homesteader who settled the Santa Monica mountains. Ballard was born in Kentucky as a slave before being freed and relocating to Los Angeles in 1859. In California, Ballard became a prominent member of Los Angeles's African American community, helping to co-found the city's African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church. In 2010, the name of a mountain where Ballard settled was renamed Ballard Mountain, in his honor. John Ballard is pictured here with his descendants in front of the mountain that bears his name.