BLACK HISTORY MONTH SPECIAL SECTION, PART I

onizing of the "New World", was analogous to a prisoner-of-war; i.e., all captured enemies became "slaves" but they often enjoyed many of the rights

When this "new" concept of slavery was understood, the blacks began to resist in the section of the Kongo then known as Ndongo, now as Angola. Ann Nzinga (also recorded as "Zingha and Jinga" in various writings), the sister of the king of Ndongo was a fierce abolitionist and Supreme Commander of the army who waged incessant bat-tles with her (sometime) allies the Jagas against the Portuguese. For years, guerrilla type warfare was carried out by Nzinga, her strong amazon army and loyal male-warriors until, after repeatedly defeating the Europeans, a peace conference was called in 1622. Ann was appointed her country's emissary.

Upon entering the conference room she and her escorts quickly determined that all whites were seated, but no such provision had been made for her. In a swift movement, the magnificnet carpet brought with them was rolled out and anattendant fell to all fours to form a human throne upon which

Uncompromisingly, she refused to recognize the Portuguese "right" to rule her country and demanded that they leave the capital of Kabasa. The one area of agreement was that prisoners-ofwar would be exchanged. Thus was the treaty enacted. It was quickly nullified when the Portuguese began raids for slaves in the Kongo almost at once.

In 1623, after her brother had died, Nzinga became Queen and relinguished the name of Anna acquired during her conversion to Christianity the year before while at the peace conference. To secure her position of strength and believing firmly in abolition, she declared that the area she controlled was a free country, the only such on the entire continent, and thus a haven for any and all slaves who could reach Angola. In addition, she sent agents into the Portuguese army to infiltrate the ranks and encourage masses of the black soldiers fighting under Portugal to defect to her army bringing their guns and ammunition with them.

Frightened, the Portuguese attacked and forced her to retreat and flee the country. Accepting her flight as a signal of defeat, Portugal appointed a vassal as King Philip I of Ndongo, Nzinga's people refused to accept this for through drum signals they were made aware that she would return when the time was right.

Return she did in 1627 at the head of a stronger army of her dauntless amazons and well-trained men. Those at home had not abandoned her; instead, they flocked together in a force of black unity that has not been duplicated. The Portuguese could not countenance such a show of Black Power and offered a huge reward for her, dead or alive, with freedom and land to be included. Freedom under her they already had, but rather than sacrifice her people's lives in an all-out defense of her, she again slipped out of the country and ordered the rumor be spread that she had been killed.

Once again in 1629, she reappeared, this time with the Jaga as her ally. Again the Portuguese were clearly defeated and a new peace treaty was offered. She refused the majority of their demands. For over three decades she continued warring against the Portuguese and allying herself with the Dutch (who entered the continent to contest Portuguese for colonies) when it seemed expedient.

Queen Nzinga spent the last decade of her life rebuilding her country and a stable economy. It remained a haven for all who were against slavery. Today, Angola continues to fight colonization in the spirit of Nzinga.

Shaka, King of the Zulu (1786-1828)

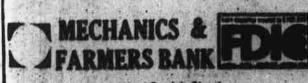
Born the son of the Zulu King Senzangak na, he early acquired the attitudes and posture of one destined to rule. Over six feet tall and wellcoordinated, Shaka excelled in physical contests. His burning ambition to become the catalyst for black unity and rule in southern Africa created excesses that have been well documented; excesses that the noted black historian Chancellor Williams

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miles in a day and still go into battle. ...
Battle plans were similar to Hannibal's, but the

claimed Shaka felt his council should have stopped. Nevertheless, Shaka must be counted among the farsighted black leaders who tried to resist the European incursions and subsequent domination of

In order to do so, Shaka recognized that he had

to unify the various tribes and areas into one. He began by building a superior army, drafting youths into service at thirteen. For four years of rigorous training they remained in special camps until assigned to a regiment. In the interest of national supremacy, Zulu warriors were expected to be fearless in battle, and only the victorious survived. Celibacy was demanded (most particularly the members of the elite corps called Fasimba) until a suitable mate was chosen for the warrior. Even in marriage strict rules of behavior were enforced; divorce and adultery were punishable by death.

New techniques were adopted; the long, throwing spear was shortened to the assegal, a stabbing spear similar to a bayonet. Each man was responsible for his weapon and was instructed to return from battle with it or lose his life. Shoes were eliminated for fleetness, and the Zulu warrior could march 30-50

main force was in the center with surrounding, weaker flanks on either side. Thus, G.K. Osei noted, Shaka "... welded the Zulus into a military force (as) fierce as the Vikings and as well disciplined as the Macedonian phalanx."

In a few short years, what had begun as a small village state Shaka enlarged and unified into an area bigger than France. It was at no small price in human life that these gains were won, for the King of the Zulus would entertain no resistance without wreaking terrible havoc. In so doing, he gained the enmity of many and was assassinated by a half-

During his rule, his nation became wealthy from the spoils of war and, as planned, none of the European powers attempted to seize the lands that he controlled. In addition, the name Zulu has become synonymous with fearlessness and victory

Mosesh, King of Basutoland (1790-1894) Fleeing the onslaught of Shaka and his devastating army, Mosesh led his tribe onto a plateau in the Drakingberg Mountains in South

Africa. There he established the Basuto nation Other refugees floring Shaka swelled the population this isolated, well-fortified area. Here, they ear defended the land against the encre (Butch) who were being pushed out of Cape Colony by the British. Even though the Europeans had superior gun power, Mosesh and his superb horsemen constantly raided the Boers for cattle to increase the Basuto's own herds. Any attempt to invade Basutoland proved fruitless, for from their mountain fortress the Basutos proved to be invinci-

Mosesh, however, recognized that whenever the Europeans decided to unite against him, he would be at a distinct disadvantage. He then signed a peace treaty with the British (rather than the Dutch!), and requested missionaries from many European countries to teach his people. This was designed to acquire "friends in high places", for Mosesh was well aware that Europeans were not too well disposed toward pagans.

When Basutoland was attacked by British/Boer forces, Mosesh was ready. General Cathcart, the British governor of Cape Colony was the leader of an army of well-trained white regulars and natives who advanced upon Basutoland with little or no understanding of the craftiness that Mosesh

The pastoral scene that greeted the European forces lulled them into a dangerous sense of relaxation. Cathcart ordered that the cattle he found grazing upon the plateau (with old women tending them) be rounded up by a third of his force, while another third he sent to seal the pass to prevent the Basutos from fleeing. He then settled in with his remaining troops on a lower valley.

As soon as the cattle were being moved down the mountain, Mosesh sent a force of his cavalry swooping down the mountain, causing the cattle to stampede. The Europeans fled the disorganized animals in a most unmilitary like manner.

(Continued On Page 20)

MOST BLACK ALL-STARS CORD BOOKS

ed in Africa.

prevented Europe from colomizing Africa. Con- military encounters, he ruled an area east of Bome-Long before black Americans made headlines on the playing field, they were making history. Lots of it. In fields like medicine, exploration, industry, and on the field of battle.

The names of these early "all-stars" probably aren't on the tip of your tongue.

That's because they aren't in most history books either.

A black man was the first to reach the North Pole. Matthew Henson, a member of Commodore Perry's expedition, raised the flag there in 1909.

Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, a black surgeon, performed the world's first successful heart operation almost one hundred years ago.

In 1761, Benjamin Banneker designed and built the first striking clock. It was also the first clock made entirely in America.

And, on a September morning in 1864, thirteen black soldiers earned Congressional Medals of Honor. They led the Union Army's successful assault on

