

(Continued from Page 18)

try, Maroons selected locations that were difficult to find and economically unfeasible for the European colonists to cultivate. Easily defended, these communities were often inaccessible with false trails and natural barriers (swamps, sheer cliffs, etc.) creating hazards for any who were not completely familiar with the terrain. Should the enemy succeed in finding the carefully hidden trail, it was booby-trapped and approached single file only. Escape routes were equally well-hidden with secondary camps developed in caves or sink-holes to enable the Maroons to effectively withstand any siege of their main "village".

Extraordinary defense techniques were developed by the Maroons to overcome the colonists' generally superior weaponry and manpower. The colonists' armies were composed of their own men plus mercenaries, Indians, slaves and (sometimes) free blacks. Many of the slaves were willing to fight for their promised freedom and often proved to be the better soldier. In some cases (particularly in Cuba) dogs, trained to hunt fugitives, were used to flush out the hidden Maroons.

Guerrilla warfare was the tactic used so successfully by the Maroons, while the colonists insisted in marching in proper formation and regimental clothing supported by the drum to give cadence to the march.

Usually armed with sticks, clubs, rocks, bows and arrows, spears, knives and other rudimentary weapons, the Maroons would lie quietly in wait when the general alarm was given. Camouflaging themselves with leaves and twigs, they blended into the underbrush or tops of trees. Ambushing the foe, they would hit and run with devastating results on the morale, human life and economy of the country where the resistance took place.

Maroon settlements could be found throughout Latin America and the Caribbean (and even in the United States — most particularly in Florida and South Carolina). They became fierce fighters whose ability to plan and fight ("fight and flight") made them a source of terror among the colonies.

These settlements developed standards for existence that enabled them to survive in their hostile environment and overcome any intertribal or cultural differences that could become possible sources of conflict. Perhaps what served them best was their collective desire to resist re-enslavement at all costs and the realization that cooperation was the only key to their survival.

Fear of infiltration by spies caused any new entrant to suffer a period of isolation, house arrest or enslavement until loyalty was proved. Harsh sanctions, including death, were enacted for any infractions of the rules developed by the councils, chiefs or kings, and absolutism ruled.

The inability of the colonial government to effectively eliminate all of the settlements (some like Palmares in Brazil were viable and extremely powerful for almost a century before being destroyed) forced them to deal with the Maroons in another manner. At times, the colonists sued for peace with various leaders. In exchange for the Maroons' demand to be free and the acknowledgement that the territory that they claimed was indeed theirs, further raids by the Maroons would be stopped.

Documentation from the archives of the countries of Brazil, Columbia, Cuba, Ecuador, Guadeloupe, Haiti (San Domingo), Jamaica, Mexico and Surinam (Guiana) attest to this practice. (The most enduring communes or societies formed from direct descendants of Maroons living on the original land may be found in the latter country.) Other Maroon settlements have grown beyond neighborhoods (barrios) or towns in their own right.

Purists might argue that to qualify as a Maroon, one must have fled from slavery and become a member of a settlement (or start one). Others subscribe to the theory that any who adhered to the Maroon's philosophy and joined in their fight for freedom, be they slave or free, were so classified.

Some of the more notable Maroon leaders who employed the techniques noted (with some variations) and their country followed.

Columbia

In the early 17th century **Domingo Bloho**, who claimed to be a king of an African state, was the first Maroon to be publicly acknowledged as such, in fact, the term was first used in a description of him. Called King Benkos in archival papers, his organizations skills and fearlessness drew others to him. The settlement he formed was named San Basilio. His persistent raids and invincibility forced the Spanish to sue for peace.

Cuba

Antonio Maceo (1848-1896), who was illiterate until the age of twenty, led a band of insurgents who waged guerrilla warfare against the Spanish even after the first insurrection (The Ten Years War) ended in defeat for the revolutionaries. Refusing to surrender, he and his small band of Maroons ravaged the countryside and defeated a number of Spain's best generals. Although killed before independence was won, Maceo's strong spirit of independence caused the revolutionaries to fight until all Cubans were free.

Guadeloupe

Louis Delgrevs (1772-1802) was a well-educated member of the upper class from Martinique. As a republican, he espoused the cause of the French Revolution and served with distinction under Napoleon. The fervor generated in France swept the colonies, and slaves rose up to demand their freedom as well.

Alarmed, Napoleon sent forces to restore slavery, for he needed the islands in the West Indies to supply much-needed capital. Among the reinforcements was Delgrevs. Landing in Guadeloupe, he discovered that oppression and tyranny were worse than before the Revolution, and he joined forces with the slaves.

Although the Maroons were finally defeated and he wounded, Delgrevs' last stand was to have his body mined with gunpowder blowing up the fort with the enemy forces inside. His sacrifice fanned the flame of rebellion in all of the French colonies in the West Indies.

Haiti

Perhaps the black revolution that has so captured the imagination of many is the one that took place on the island of Haiti. The three men perhaps most responsible for the country's independence were Toussaint L'Ouverture, Jean Dessalines and Henri Christophe. All three had been born slaves, all ruled the island.

Toussaint (1743-1803), the supreme diplomat of the three, was the forerunner who secured the island from the forces of England and Spain for his country of allegiance: France.

Stabilizing the economy and encouraging unity among all Haitians, regardless of color, he reestablished Haiti as the jewel in France's empire.

Napoleon, now in power, fearing the popularity and power that Toussaint was acquiring, sent a force of 65,000 men in 1802. Taking to the mountains, Toussaint and his men fought bravely against



Toussaint L'Ouverture
Emperor of Haiti

the tremendous odds.

Lured into a trap by General Leclerc's request for a meeting with the promise of Toussaint's safety, he was captured and exiled to France where he died in solitary confinement.

Jean Jacques Dessalines (1758-1806), a general under Toussaint, was a fierce warrior. Inspired to

revenge the treachery the French had used to take Toussaint, Dessalines defeated the French from his mountain hideout in every encounter. Declaring himself emperor, he became despotic and tyrannical and was assassinated by one of his own officers when reviewing troops.

Henri Christophe (1767-1820) was also a member of Toussaint's forces. Inspired to rebel by his leader's exile, he became Commander in Chief of the army when Dessalines became emperor. After the latter's death, Christophe was elected president by the people. Initially, his approach was a democratic one, but continuing incursions by the British and French caused him to assume a more monarchical role. In 1811, he declared himself king. Once more, prosperity returned to Haiti. However, his totalitarian attitudes caused him to lose favor with the people. Fearing their anger, he committed suicide in 1820.

Jamaica

Maroon activity began after the British defeated the Spanish in 1655. Difficulty in colonizing was initially experienced by the British for they were beset by problems stemming from the inhospitable climate and internal governmental strife. During the first decades of British rule, slaves readily escaped and formed Maroon settlements in the interior. The loosely knit and often despotic political climate was advantageous to the runaways.

During the late 17th century, two leaders **Juan de Bolas** and **Juan de Berros** constantly harassed the British. Their success signalled the beginning of the Maroon War, which lasted for some 85 years.

Possibly the most forceful of the Maroon leaders was one called **Captain Cudjoe**, a short, stocky, hump backed ex-slave who forced the British to sue for peace in 1740.

Mexico

Insurrections in Mexico are recorded as early as 1519 and their increase is noted as a response to the Spaniard's frequent enactment of restrictive codes.

Raiding Maroons began the transport of goods and a militia was formed to combat them.

Yanga (c. 1560) was the Maroon leader of a settlement near Veracruz that wreaked havoc on the sugar plantations in eastern Mexico. So disruptive were he and his men that the Spanish Viceroy sued for peace. Under the terms, the Maroons were to be free, allowed to establish the city of San Lorenz de los Negros and Yanga was named governor of the town with his descendants to succeed him. This treaty is notable, for it is recorded in Mexican archives as the only revolt ending in freedom for the Maroons (or any slaves) that was sanctioned and governed by law.

Vincent Guerrero (1782-1831), an illiterate ex-slave, fought against the Spanish and the Mexican aristocracy to free the poor and enslaved. He has been called the George Washington and Abraham Lincoln of Mexico. First, he drove the Spaniards out of Mexico, then he declared that all men were free and entitled to hold public office.

During the three wars that he opposed the forces in power, Guerrero fought with guerrilla tactics from settlements in the mountains.

Popular with the masses who elected him president but despised by the aristocracy for emancipating the slaves, he, too, was betrayed by a friends with \$13,000 blood money.

The revolution that followed his assassination firmly established his democratic policies and honored his memory by naming a state and city after him.

The history of Latin America and the Caribbean is written in revolutionary language, even today. Unrest marks much of the territory, and uneasy truces between the classes constantly threaten the peace.

Retire Rich.



\$608,000
\$1,000 a year for 35 years.

\$1,216,000
\$2,000 a year for 35 years.

\$2,432,000
\$4,000 a year for 35 years.

a retirement plan where they work to also have one where they bank.

And, you can now make much bigger deposits than before.

For example, a married couple, both age 30, can each put away up to \$2,000 a year of earned income in their own IRA at NCNB. At age 65, before income tax, they'll have over \$2.4 million.*

Or, looking at it another way, depending on your age, marital situation and income, just a little bit every week now means a very big payoff later on.

Just look over the chart, think over the amount that you can afford every year, and see how big your NCNB IRA can grow over the years.

Then come see us. And, the sooner, the better.

The New NCNB IRA.

*Based on a working couple's \$4000 (or single person's \$2000) annual deposit made on the first of each year, earning interest at an annual rate of 12%, compounded daily on a 365/360 basis. Working individuals can contribute as much as 100% of their salary or wages up to a maximum of \$2,000. Substantial interest penalty required for early withdrawal. All depositors insured to \$100,000 by FDIC.

Now, we'd like for everyone in the neighborhood to retire well-off.

And our new IRA can help you do just that. The new tax laws allow even people with

Sign Up Now.

The sooner you start the richer you get.

AGE NOW	SINGLE PERSON AT 65*	WORKING COUPLE AT 65*
30	\$1,216,000	\$2,432,000
35	654,000	1,308,000
40	348,000	696,000
45	181,500	363,000
50	91,000	182,000
55	41,500	83,000