

# OUR GIANTS SPEAK

A LOOK AT JUSTIN HOLLAND

This is Part IV on black musicians of our past, excerpted from "Music and Some Highly Musical People," published by James Trotter in 1878.

Professor Trotter's able research and his extensive command of classical literature is evident in his writing. The book is a remarkable example of the accomplishments of blacks in the period of the 1870's.

In 1841 (his age was then twenty-two years), desiring more education than his hitherto limited opportunity had allowed him to

obtain, he entered the public institution, Oberlin College, where, feeling anxious to make up for all time lost, he diligently pursued his studies, and made rapid advancement. In 1844 his progress had been so good, that we find him one of the authors of a book of three hundred and twenty-four pages on certain subjects of moral reform. In 1845 Mr. Holland went to Cleveland, O., then only a small city of less than nine thousand inhabitants.

While prospecting in Cleveland for something to do, it was found that he was an amateur performer on the guitar, playing the best music with a fine degree of proficiency. This brought him applications to give lessons to members of some of the first families in the city, and caused him to make Cleveland his permanent home. His character had now become finely formed, he being quite noticeable for his gentlemanly, scholarly qualities, and for the close attention he gave to the subject of music and to all that concerned true advancement in the profes-

sion in which he had now resolved to remain for life. As illustrating the principles by which he was guided, I give the following extract from a letter of his to a friend, describing his life at the time just mentioned. He says,—"

"I adopted as a rule of guidance for myself, that I would do full justice to the learner in my efforts to impart to him a good knowledge of the elementary principles of music, and a correct system of fingering (on the guitar), as practised by, and sought in the works of, the best masters in Europe. I also decided that in my intercourse as a teacher I would preserve the most cautious and circumspect demeanor, considering the relation a mere business one that gave me no claims upon my pupils' attention or hospitality beyond what any ordinary business matter would give. I am not aware, therefore, that any one has ever had cause to complain of my demeanor, or that I have been in any case presumptive."

And now, if this were not intended as a book on musical history alone, the writer might occupy many more pages in narrating the many important events connected with the life of Mr. Holland as a distinguished member for years of the order of Free Masons.

A sketch of his life, together with his portrait, was published at Vienna, Austria, in the illustrated monthly "Der Freimaurer" ("The Freemason"), in the number for February, 1877. From this journal I learn that Mr. Holland has been a most active and indispensable member of

Excelsior Lodge No. 11 of Cleveland (which he assisted forming in 1865), and of the Grand Lodge of Ohio. In the former he has held the offices of Secretary and Junior Warden; and in the latter he first served two terms (declining a third) as Worshipful Master, and afterwards was elected Senior Grand Deacon, Deputy Grand Master, Deputy Grand High Priest, of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for Ohio, serving three terms, and Most Excellent Grand High Priest. In conducting the foreign correspondence of the Grand Lodge, he has performed a number of years performed a most invaluable service. In his work, his familiar acquaintance with the French, Spanish, German, Italian, and Portuguese languages was put to uses the most important, as through the same, and his very intelligent and painstaking management, the colored Masons of Ohio have been fully recognized by, and brought into communication with, the Grand Lodges of France, Peru, Germany, Portugal, and Spain.

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**Key Questions:**

1. What are three main issues raised in this article?
2. What does this article suggest about our life situation today?
3. How many words did you look up in the dictionary? (If we do not use a dictionary daily and for every word whose FULL meaning we may not know, we cannot grow individually and assure the best use of our resources for group freedom and a better America.)

## Black-On Sports

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While Jacksons exploits were giving the Yankees the World Baseball championship the NBA basketball season was getting under way.

It seems only a few days ago when this writer sat in disbelief as the upstart Portland Trail Blazers defeated the Philadelphia 76ers for the league championship.

Still the ladies won't have to worry about their T.V.'s being covered with basketball, at least not pro basketball for some time. Not with the pro football season not yet half over and the college schedules just now getting down to the nitty gritty. It will probably be after the super bowl before the exploits of NBA stars will be seen on TV in this area unless you tune to Atlanta Hawk owner Ted Turner's stations 96 or 17.

Quite a few trades were made during the off season after the Blazers surprised the league by winning the championship. At this point this writer is still in awe of the football guesses. He will say however, that his picks for the finals of the playoffs are the Los Angeles Lakers and the Philadelphia 76ers with the 76ers going all the way this time.

As to why NBA games are not shown on the tube until after the football season is concluded this writer has a few ideas. This writer will agree that the final games of the NFL season and post season games are more interesting to sports fans than early season NBA battles, but it's hard to understand why college basketball has more interest and better T.V. coverage than the pro game. The opinion here is that the league is just a little to black for some people.

While on the subject of basketball, the waiving of Herm Gilliam by the Portland Trail Blazers just goes to show how quickly people forget. It was the exploits of Gilliam coming of the bench that played a vital part in the Blazers run to the championship last season, but with the roster cuts by the league this season Herm became expendable.

Norfolk State's Ray Epps who passed up his final year of college to sign a contract with the Golden State Warriors managed to survive the final cut by the club but he has been placed on the inactive list. Another local player who seems to have made it in the league is Norton Barnhill who has found a spot on the New Jersey Nets roster.

## Prayer Poem

In 1849 the hymnist F. W. Faber wrote of God's goodness in this way:

My God, how wonderful thou art,  
Thy majesty how bright  
How beautiful thy mercy-seat,  
In depths of burning light.

O how I fear thee, living God,  
With deepest, tenderest fears,  
And worship thee with trembling hope  
And penitential tears!

\*\*\*  
In church and home, when we are honest and faithful,  
"all things work together for good"



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## Rams Win

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setting up quarterback Jeff Strong's four yard run. The Rams did not abandon their passing attack however. On the ensuing kickoff they built their lead to 33-12. George Miles, who has become the teams deep threat caught a 48 yard scoring pass from Blount. Robert Johnson's interception set up the Rams final score. Blount's 12 yard run and Brewington's conversion ended the Rams 40 point output. The Broncos final score came on a 38 yard interception return of a John Turner pass.

"This was a game I really wanted to win," said Hayes remembering the loss his team suffered at the Broncos hands last season in the game's final 30 seconds. "They couldn't defense our veer and our defense really played well." The coach would not comment about what post season route the team might take with the prospect of an undefeated season becoming closer to reality every week. "I don't know who or where we will be playing after the regular season. That's up to the athletic director."

## Black Cowboys

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cowboy that ever lived," was a black rodeo performer from Oklahoma who invented the sport of "bulldogging". Bulldogging involves riding after a steer on horseback and then leaping from the saddle to grab a steer's horn in each hand, and wrestling the animal to the ground.

As a master practioner of bulldogging, Pickett toured in rodeo shows all over the country, assisted by two white cowhands whose fame eventually eclipsed his: Tom Mix, the movie cowboy, and American humorist Will Rogers.

Pickett retired to a 160-acre ranch in Oklahoma where he died in 1932 at the age of seventy-one, felled by the flying hoof of a cow pony.

Isom Dart, a black cattle rustler, tried many times to go straight in his fifty-one years, but never quite succeeded. Born a slave in Arkansas the year of the gold rush, Dart began his criminal career scrounging for Confederate officers. After the way he worked in Texas as a rodeo clown, and later joined a young Mexican in a cattle-stealing operation. Although he alternated between honest work and rustling, he never went to jail.

Dart is represented as a "thief with a heart of gold" in a story told of his arrest by a Sweetwater, Wyoming deputy. As Dart was being taken to jail, the deputy's buckboard ran off the road, injuring him, but leaving Dart unharmed. Instead of escaping, Dart gave the deputy first aid, put the buckboard on its wheels, and drove the deputy to the hospital. Then he stabled the team, and turned himself in at the jail.

They let him go. By 1890, when the frontier had more or less been "tamed," Texas and Oklahoma had half a million black residents. Some historians estimate that 25% of all cowboys were black.

## Alice

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a rabbit in troubador costume marked up to Alice and handed her a piece of paper.

Alice unfolded it, and saw that it was printed on the queen's personal stationery, but when she read the message, it was not from the queen at all. It was a recipe for oyster stew written by the carpenter.


The Queen smiled condescendingly. "My dear child, I said nothing of the kind. What I said was: it is forbidden to be CAUGHT using the court property." "Another loophole," sighed Alice.

Waving the piece of paper, Alice ran to the Red Queen demanding an explanation.

"YOU said that it was forbidden for anyone to use the court property for personal purposes," she accused. "And you made Humpty Dumpty leave. How do you explain THIS? It's signed by the Carpenter. But you SAID it was forbidden to use court property..."


## TELL ME

DOES THE BARK OF A TREE CONTAIN SAP?




NO! THE BARK IS PROTECTION FOR THE TREE AND IS COMPOSED OF DEAD CELLS! THE CAMBIUM LAYER, UNDER THE OUTER BARK, CARRIES THE VITAL SAP!

WHICH IS THE LOFTIEST MOUNTAIN IN NORTH AMERICA?




MT. MCKINLEY IN ALASKA, 20,320 FEET HIGH!

DO STARS MOVE OR ARE THEY MOTIONLESS AS THEY SEEM?



ACTUALLY STARS ARE MOVING RAPIDLY... BUT THEY ARE SO FAR DISTANT WE CANNOT PERCEIVE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR LIFETIME!

WHAT ANIMAL IS KNOWN AS 'THE POOR MAN'S COW'?




THE GOAT! PRODUCING MILK RICHER THAN COWS' MILK, IT THRIVES IN PLACES THAT LACK ENOUGH PLANT LIFE TO FEED CATTLE AND SHEEP!

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