

# THE BETTER WE KNOW US ...

## BUREAUCRACY AND GOVERNMENT INEFFICIENCY

"Our government in Washington now is a horrible bureaucratic mess. It is disorganized, wasteful, has no purpose; and its policies -- when they exist -- are incomprehensible or devised by special interest groups with little regard for the welfare of the average American citizen. This is not an inherent, unavoidable aspect of government. We must give top priority to a drastic and

thorough revision of the federal bureaucracy, to its budgeting system, and to the procedures for analyzing the effectiveness of its many varied services. Tight business-like management and planning techniques must be instituted and maintained, utilizing the full authority and personal involvement of the President himself.

## BUSING

"I do not favor mandatory busing of children from their own home communities to distant schools

against the wishes of the children. This well-intentioned idea has contributed little to the equalization of educational opportunity, has often resulted in a decreased level of integration over the long term, and has divided and sidetracked our efforts toward improving education for all children. It is a simplistic and often unsuccessful approach to an extremely complex problem. It is possible to devise a plan which provides many of the benefits and avoids many of

the disadvantages of mandatory, wholesale busing. "During my administration as Governor, we evolved in Atlanta, with the cooperation and approval of the federal courts, the black and white community leaders, and black and white parent groups, a busing system which works as well as any in the nation. It has four basic elements. First of all, any child who desires to be bused can be bused to another school at public expense. Second, the busing must result in

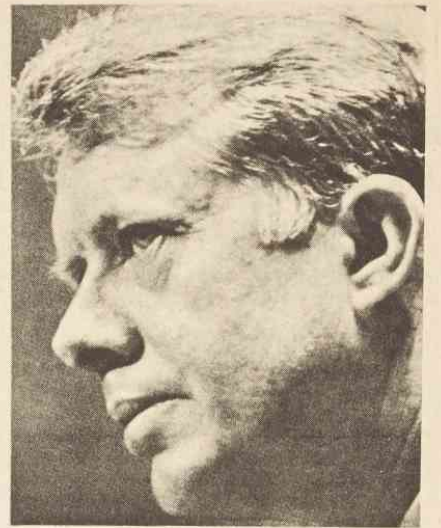
increased integration. Third, minority groups must be adequately represented in policy and administrative positions to insure fair allocation of buildings, supplies, and educational opportunities to all children. And fourth, no child is involuntarily bused to a school outside the home community."

When I'm President, I will be sworn to uphold the law and if Federal Courts rule differently from what I believe, I will support the court.

## FEDERAL JUDICIAL REFORM

"The Attorney General of this nation must be removed from politics and given the full prerogatives, independence, and authority of his or her own office, plus those allotted temporarily to the Special Prosecutor during the Watergate scandals. The Attorney General should be appointed for a specific period of time and should be removed from office only

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# THE TRIBUNAL AID

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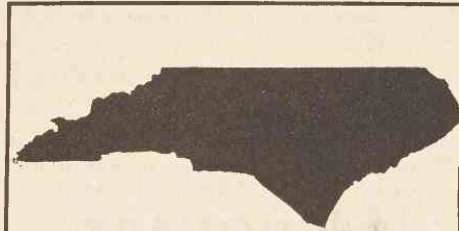
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## BICENTENNIAL BLACK HISTORY

"Lost-Strayed-Or Stolen"

Extracted From  
THE NEGRO ALMANAC  
by Fay Ashe

Black history in the Western Hemisphere most probably begins with the discovery of the New World by Christopher Columbus in 1492. Blacks are known to have participated meaningfully in a number of later explorations made by Europeans in various parts of the United States and Spanish America. Facts such as these at once fashion a new dimension for Black history within the mainstream of American history. Inasmuch as one of the primary purposes of this feature is to record some historical achievements of the Black, it becomes most important to offer the reader chronological accounts through which he can conveniently familiarize himself with the broad sweep of American Black history. The years covered here are 1492-1954.

### 1793: MULBERRY GROVE GEORGIA

Eli Whitney patents his invention of the cotton gin.

### 1794: PHILADELPHIA

Dedication of the First African Church of St. Thomas, the first Negro Episcopal congregation in the United States.

### 1794: PHILADELPHIA

Organization by Richard Allen of the Bethel Church, a Negro Methodist Episcopal Church. Allen and Absalom Jones are well known to the citizens of Philadelphia, having been commended by the mayor for organizing Negroes to minister to the sick and bury the dead during an outbreak of yellow fever.

### 1795: VIRGINIA

George Washington advertises for the return of one of his slaves although he stipulates that the notice for his retrieval not be run North of Virginia. This same year, John Adams writes: "I have never owned a Negro or any other slave (even) when it has

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The 1976 Editions of THE TRIBUNAL AID will be dedicated to America's bicentennial Celebration, with emphasis on contributions our Race has made in the making of America, from birth to the present.

In 1976 there should not be a need to lift these contributions from isolated sources. Our

past should be interwoven into the fabric of our civilization, because we are, except for the Indian, America's oldest ethnic minority.

We have helped make America what it is, and what it is, since the founding of Virginia. We have been a factor in many major issues in our history. There have been many misdeeds

Fay Ashe, Black History Editor

against us, yet we have been able to live through them and fight back. This is living proof of our history.

Our role in the making of America is neither well known or correctly known. Many positive contributions have escaped historians and have not found their way into the pages of

many history books.

We will strive to give readers, Black and white, many little-known facts about our past and it is hoped that a proper perspective of our history will be of value to persons who may believe that as Black People we have an unworthy past; and hence, no strong claims to all rights of other Americans.

## THE POST-REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD Social Improvement And Independence

As the eighteenth century grew to a close, there was a beginning of genuine racial consciousness. For the first time in our history, because of the war, Black men who had been held in one place moved about, sometimes in considerable numbers. They were free to exchange ideas with men from other places, and because of units formed during the war, they became accustomed to being together and acting together. Because of the war there had to be some political and social advances for Blacks.

There was an organized effort to improve the social conditions of Blacks. On January 1, 1794 delegates from nine societies organized in Philadelphia, the AMERICAN CONVENTION OF ABOLITION SOCIETIES. Some of the state organizations were very active and interested in cases that came before the courts. The various branches, however, were not satisfied with mere liberation of Blacks, and the organizations did anything they could for the promotion of the welfare of Blacks in their respective communities. Each society was expected to report to the convention the number of freedmen in its States and on their employment and conduct.

During this post-revolutionary period Blacks had to seek ways to secure for themselves a measure of independence. One of the first Blacks to make the search for a form of intellectual and spiritual independence was JUPITER HAMMON, a slave on Long Island. HAMMON was greatly influenced by the writing of Charles Wesley and William Cowper. In 1761 he published "AN EVENING THOUGHT. SALVATION BY CHRIST WITH PENITENTIAL CRIES". In 1778 he published a twenty-one stanza poem "TO MISS PHILLIS WHEATLEY". These were the first compositions printed by a Black within the limits of the United States. For a long time these works were eclipsed by the works of PHILLIS WHEATLEY.

PHILLIS WHEATLEY, another Black in search of intellectual independence was born in Senegal, on the West Coast of Africa, about 1753, and brought to Boston on a slave ship in 1761.

PHILLIS became the special servant for Susannah Wheatley and was taught to read by a daughter in the family. Within a few years she was composing verses. In 1773 she went to England to care for Nathaniel Wheatley, and while in

England arrangements were made to publish her little book "POEMS ON VARIOUS SUBJECTS" and "RELIGION AND MORALS". Other poems were written, among them "LIBERTY AND PEACE". Her achievements helped the cause of Blacks.

BENJAMIN BANNEKER was the first American Black to challenge the world by the independent power of his intellect. Having an inventive mind, BANNEKER made a clock that not only kept time but also struck the hours. In 1789 when a commission was appointed to survey Federal Territory, later the District of Columbia, Banneker became a member of the group. In 1791 he began to issue a series of Almanacs. BANNEKER was referred to at home and abroad as proof of the INTELLECTUAL CAPACITY OF BLACKS.

GUSTAVUS VASSA was not an American Black. Vassa was born in Benin in 1745 and at an early age he was kidnapped and taken to America. He worked on a Virginia plantation and later became a servant of a British Naval Officer. Vassa saved money while in the service of a Philadelphia merchant to purchase his freedom. Later he went to

England where he made his home. He joined the Anti-Slavery movement and in 1790 presented to Parliament a petition for the suppression of the slave trade.

In 1789 Vasa published in two volumes "THE INTERESTING NARRATIVE OF THE LIFE OF OLOUDAH EQUIANO, OR GUSTAVUS VASSA". In his narrative he vigorously condemns the Christians for their enslavement of Blacks. Only a person who had achieved a measure of personal independence could have condemned slavery in the language used in this Narrative.

PAUL CUFFE was one of the most outstanding Blacks during the post-revolutionary period to search for economic independence and group self-respect. He was born on one of the Elizabeth Islands near Bedford, Massachusetts, his father was an African and his mother was of Indian descent.

Still in his youth, he persuaded his brothers to drop their father's slave name and use his Christian name for their surname. Interested in navigation CUFFE became a sailor on a whaling vessel when he was only sixteen years of age, and at twenty he went into business for himself. After some misfortunes he was able to purchase a good-sized schooner, and by 1806 he was the owner of one ship, two brigs, and several smaller vessels, besides considerable property in houses and land. In the History of Black Americans, PAUL CUFFE is remembered primarily for three things: (1) In 1780 he and his brother John raised questions about paying taxes in Massachusetts when Blacks were denied the privilege of voting, as a result, Blacks were given the suffrage in the state in 1783. (2) When a school was needed near his home, CUFFE at his own expense built a school for the children in the vicinity. (3) In 1815, CUFFE took nine families with him to Sierra Leone at his expense, hoping that he might improve their conditions.

PRINCE HALL, was the son of an Englishman and a mulatto woman of Barbados. At the age of 17 he worked his way from Bridgewater, the capital of the Island, to Boston. In Massachusetts he was impressed by the lowly state of the people and he worked to improve their welfare. He entered the Methodist ministry and took a firm stand on all questions relating to freedom and justice.

In 1775, after vain attempts to get recognition from the American Masonic Bodies, PRINCE HALL and fourteen other Blacks initiated in a British Army Lodge attached to the regiment stationed near Boston. In March 1784, these men applied to the Grand Lodge of England for a warrant. The warrant was issued the following September to "AFRICAN

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## Historical Landmarks Of Black America

Extracted From  
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by Fay Ashe

No more substantial testimony to the role of the Black in the growth and development of America can be found than the numerous historical landmarks in various regions of the country which are associated with Black Americana. Many of these--like the Alamo and Bunker Hill--are not conventionally known as sites involving chapters of Negro history.

### ARKANSAS: HELENA The Battle of Helena

Among the defenders of this Mississippi River port where members of the 2nd Infantry Regiment of African Descent. Black soldiers fought shoulder to shoulder with whites in repulsing a confederate siege of the city in July 1863. The experience of one Black unit stationed there - the 56th U.S. Colored Troops - is typical of many which confronted Negroes during

the war. Disease was an even more potent enemy than combat. Only a handful of men lost their lives as a result of armed conflict, whereas literally hundreds fell victim to disease and poor medical treatment.

### ARKANSAS, Little Rock Philander Smith College

Opened in 1877 under the sponsorship of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Philander Smith (then known as Walder College) was renamed five years later after receiving a large donation which enabled the school to construct a permanent brick edifice.



PHILLIS WHEATLEY



BENJAMIN BANNEKER



PRINCE HALL

1776 Honoring America's Bicentennial 1976