

# THE BETTER WE KNOW US ..

RALEIGH--When Henry Worth retires from the N.C. Supreme Court as Chief Messenger at the end of May, he will take with him 38 years of memories. Since February 1938, when he signed on with the Court he has worked with eight Chief Justices.

As Chief Messenger, Henry Worth had to see to it that the details of the Court's operation ran smoothly. Every time the

Court sat to hear legal arguments, he made sure the Court Room was in readiness, and he freed the Justices from many details so they could concentrate on their work. Visitors to the Court found him ready to direct them. Over the years he has carried many an opinion in the highly confidential drafting state from one Justice to another, and he was always the soul of discretion. In the early days,

much of his time was spent assisting the Justices in a more personal way, particularly over the weekends when they would hire him to drive them to speaking engagements or for out of town jaunts.

Mr. Worth recently reminisced about his years with the Court, the first one I worked for was Chief Justice Walter P. Stacy (1925-1951). He appeared a little bit stern

but I found him to be one of the nicest men in the world. People did not socialize with him too much. But he was very interesting and he sometimes used baseball expressions in his opinions. He was well-rounded but most people didn't stay around him long enough to find out.

"W.A. Devin (1951-1954) was from Oxford" Mr. Worth said, "he was a fine man, and we used to go on

some trips. He loved to drive and I would be asked to go along because he wanted company. I had a sister living in Baltimore and we'd arrive in town Friday afternoon and I would meet him Sunday morning to drive back to Raleigh."

Prior to joining the Court, Worth attended Shaw University from 1930 to 1933, working on a Bachelor's degree in chemistry. When school was not in session he

worked for Mrs. E.G. Birdsong on West Morgan St. in Raleigh, as a parttime butler for 20 months. Needing fulltime employment, he went with the Odd Fellows Building for several years where he kept the furnace and was general handyman. Under the old WPA he took some business administration courses. He married Rosa Mae Hinton and had three sons, all of whom are graduates

of A&T University. In 1967, Mr. Worth's first wife died. He is now married to Louise H. Peppers. The Court aside, he has had a very busy life. During World War II he was in the army, reaching the rank of Corporal and Acting Platoon Sergeant. He served from July 1943 until November 1945. He is a steward at St. Paul's AME Church, and is a member of Phi Beta Sigma, a college

fraternity. He was president of the PTA at St. Monica's School in Raleigh. He also belongs to the Raleigh Safety Club, a charitable organization.

"I'll still be doing something, even though I am retired," the Raleigh native said. "I've never been one of those 'sitting down' persons. I'll be working in the yard and someone will ask me to help them for an hour or so."

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BLACK NORTH CAROLINA

**BICENTENNIAL  
BLACK HISTORY**  
"Lost-Strayed-Or Stolen"

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.

1818:CONNECTICUT

Disfranchisement of Negroes in this state.

1818:PHILADELPHIA

Free Negroes form the Pennsylvania Augustine Society - "for the education of people of colour."

1819:ALABAMA

Alabama enters the Union as a slave state, although its constitution provides the legislature with the power to abolish slavery and compensate slaveowners. Other liberal measures include jury trials for slaves figuring in crimes above petty larceny, and penalties for malicious killing of slaves.

1820:WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Missouri Compromise provides for Missouri's entry into the Union as a slave state, and Maine's entry as a free state. There are thus 12 slave and 12 free states in the United States. All territory north of 36° 30' is declared free; all territory south of that line open to slavery.

1820:NEW YORK CITY

The Mayflower of Liberia" sails for the west coast of Africa (Sierra Leone) with 86 Negroes on board.

1821:NEW YORK CITY

Founding of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, with James Varick as its first bishop.

1821:NEW YORK

The State Constitutional Convention alters the voting requirements of the 1777 N.Y. Convention by establishing higher proper-

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ty and longer residence requirements for Negroes.

1822:CHARLESTON, S.C.

Betrayal of the Denmark Vesey conspiracy, one of the most elaborate on record. Vesey and 36 of his collaborators are hanged, while an additional 130 Negroes and four whites are arrested.

1822:RHODE ISLAND

The state constitution of Rhode Island deprives free Negroes of the right to vote.

1825:MARYLAND

Josiah Henson, prototype for the original "Uncle Tom," leads a group of slaves to freedom in Kentucky. Henson later crosses the border into Canada, and becomes leader of a community of ex-slaves in present-day Ohio.

## Historical Landmarks Of Black America

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.

PUEBLO  
EL PUEBLO MUSEUM  
905 S. PRAIRIE AVENUE

The El Pueblo Museum houses a replica of the Gantt-Blackwell Fort which Jim Beckwourth, Negro explorer, scout and trader, claimed to have founded in 1842. The validity of the claim has not been established, inasmuch as Beck-

wourth is known to have had something of a reputation as a teller of tall tales.

GROTON HEIGHTS:  
FORT GRISWOLD STATE  
PARK

Freeman was the Negro orderly of the American commander, Colonel William Ledyard who was forced to surrender the fort to superior British forces. The British officer who accepted the surrender behaved ignobly, however. Ledyard was first induced to give up the sword and then run through with his own wea-

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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 was, 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

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.

Fay Ashe, Black History Editor

# THE AGE OF REFORM 1820-1860

Many Black and White philosophers, writers, orators, ministers and editors spoke out for justice for all people who were mistreated or denied the common rights of humanity.

In America this era included HORACE MANN'S campaign for public schools and DORETHEA DIX'S fight for understanding and help for those in jails and insane asylums. SAMUEL G. HOUSE sought to prove that the deaf, dumb and blind could be educated. SUSAN B. ANTHONY and ELIZABETH CADY STANTON battled for equal rights for women.

Black leaders such as FREDERICK DOUGLASS and SOJURNER TRUTH fought for increased education, universal peace and women's rights. In 1831 when WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON began to publish his famous LIBERATOR, he found his main support came from Black abolitionists. Rich Blacks contributed money, Black newsboys sold the papers on the streets and three quarters of his readers were Black. Garrison became the first of his race to look at the Black problem from a Black point of view.

Levi Coffin, an Indiana Quaker and banker, began using his Newport home to hide runaways. Coffin was soon called The President of the Underground Railroad.

The "railroad" developed its own language. The "trains" were the large farm wagons that could

conceal and carry a number of fugitives. The "tracks" were the back roads which were used to escape the slave catchers. The "stations" were the homes where the fugitives were fed and cared for as they

moved from station to station. The "conductors" were the fearless men and women of both races who led the slaves toward freedom and the "passengers" were the slaves who dared to break for liberty.

Passengers paid no fare and conductors received no pay.

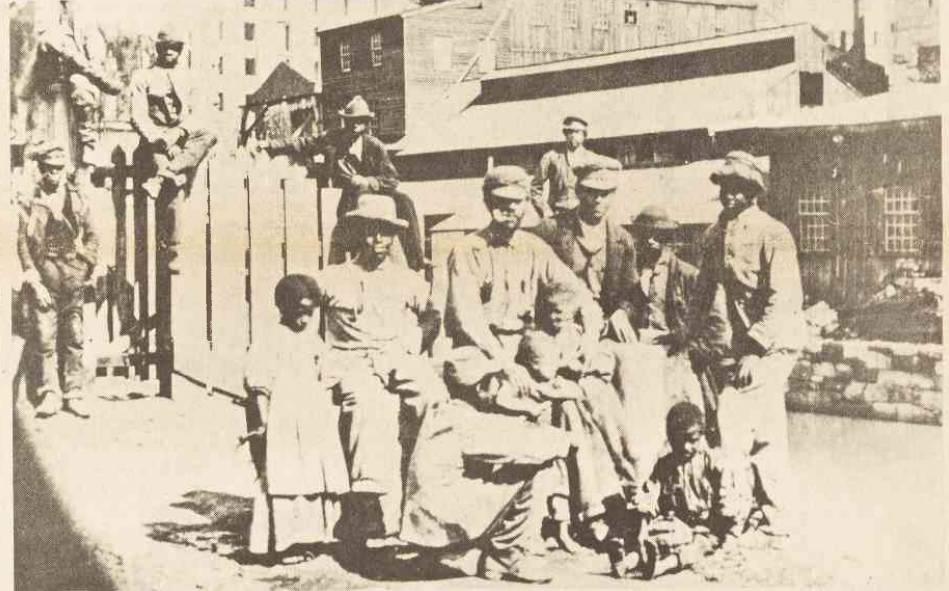
This strange railroad had many ways of moving slaves. Twenty-eighty slaves walked in a funeral procession from Kentucky

to Ohio. Thomas Garrett, a gentle old white Quaker and Samuel Burris, a young free Black, ran a station in the slave state of Delaware during the 1840's. Garrett paid out a fortune in court fines for his crime of aiding

fugitives. Burris was captured and punished by being auctioned off as a slave. No one knew that the highest bidder was sent by Thomas Garrett to buy him and return him to freedom.



Harriet Tubman conducted some three hundred slaves to freedom on the Underground Railroad.



Mathew Brady's photograph shows former slaves facing their new freedom.



Levi Coffin's house in Wayn County, Indiana, was a major Underground Railroad station.

1776 Honoring America's Bicentennial 1976