

# THE BETTER WE KNOW US ...

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Many in the North and South were surprised to find that Negroes, especially those who had been slaves, made good soldiers. The idea of their doing any serious fighting against white men was simply ridiculous. The Negroes fought in more than two hundred battles, they fought bravely and won praise from both friends and enemies. Twenty Negroes won the Medal of Honor, America's highest military honor.

The contributions of the Negro soldier were remarkable in light of disadvantages under which he served. He was placed in segregated units under white officers who were often prejudiced. Negro regiments were sent into battle with less training than the white regiments had received and with weapons inferior to those issued to whites. Their medical facilities were worse and their doctors fewer. They suffered greater casualties than whites for all of these reasons.

For more than a year, the War Department paid Negro soldiers half as much as whites. Until their pay was made equal some negro regiments refused to accept any pay at all. However, they all continued to fight.

The worst hazards which Negro troops faced was capture by Confederates. The South sold some into slavery and put others to death. At Fort Pillow, Tenn., Negro troops were massacred after their surrender on April 12, 1864.

The Confederacy dared not arm its slaves. When New Orleans free Negroes volunteered to fight, they were issued broomsticks instead of guns. After the city was captured by federal troops, General Butler provided these soldiers with guns and they went into action against the Confederacy.

Negro women played a major role in serving the troops behind the lines and organized relief societies. Susie King was one of many negro nurses who worked with Clara Barton tending the sick and wounded. Harriet Tubman, familiar with the south after ten years as a conductor for the Underground Railroad, led Union raids deep in confederate territory. Mrs. Elizabeth Keckley, the White House seamstress, began a relief society for the freed men who poured behind the Union lines or spilled over the country side in wake of General Sherman march through Georgia.

Northern negroes as well as the President and Mrs. Lincoln contributed to Mrs. Keckley's Contraband Relief Society. In Nashville and other southern

cities held by Union troops, negro men and women organized their own committees for relief.

Sergeant William H. Carney, one of the twenty Negro Medal of Honor men during the Civil War, took part in the recapture of Fort Sumpter.

An ex-slave is transformed into a Union soldier. There were more than 200,000 negroes who served in the Union armies and Navy. Their courage was admired by friends and feared by foes.

Negro soldiers served on famous Union ironclad, the Monitor. Their were large numbers of negroes who served on Union vessels.

American Negroes immediately answered President Lincoln's call for 75,000 volunteers to suppress the rebellion, but were turned away. One hundred and fifteen Negro students from Wilberforce University enlisted. They

were told this was a white man's war and the negro had nothing to do with it.

From the beginning, President Lincoln made it clear that his central purpose was saving the Union. He assured North and South he would not meddle with slavery. While Negroes and abolitionists called for an end to slavery and the use of the Negro soldier, Lincoln was concerned with keeping the loyalty of the four slave states that remained in the Union. He also knew that most northerners would not support a war fought to end slavery.

Although Lincoln has long opposed slavery, he had also favored sending Negroes back to Africa for he didn't believe that two races could live in peace in America.

Then to prevent slavery from becoming an issue in the conflict, the President and

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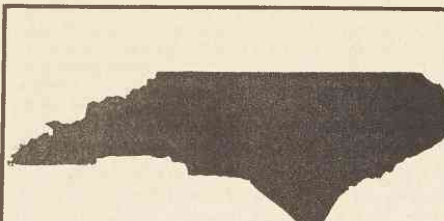
## THE TRIBUNAL AID

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A VIABLE, VALID REQUIREMENT  
RESPONDING TO  
BLACK NORTH CAROLINA

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

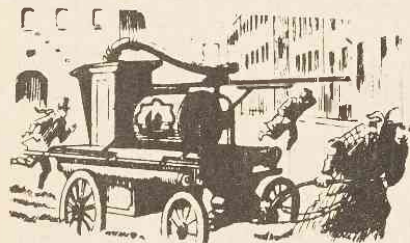
many history books.

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 LITTLE PEOPLE WHOSE BRAVE DEEDS ARE WORTHY OF COMMEMORATION. AT A TIME WHEN OTHER WOMEN WERE THINK-

ING OF THEIR SAFETY, MOLLY WILLIAMS AND CHLOE REVEALED RARE QUALITIES OF BRAVERY AND UNSHELFISHNESS.



VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTER Molly Williams is shown at the goose neck of Engine No. 11, "pulling away for dear life."

MOLLY WILLIAMS  
A FIRE-FIGHTER

An old Black Woman named MOLLY WILLIAMS was a slave of John Aymar, one of the last of the old Knickerbockers of New York. She used to "hang around" a volunteer fire company, Oceanus Co. No. 11, and the boys of the company nicknamed her "Volunteer No. 11." She became a familiar sight at the fire house in her calico dress and checkered apron, with a clean bandanna neatly folded over her breast and another one about her head. On one occasion, during a blinding

snow storm, there was a fire on Williams Street. It was hard work to draw the engine and the first to take hold of the engine's two rope was Molly, "pulling away for dear life." Later, when asked what engine she belonged to, she would always reply "I belongs to old 'leven; I falls run wid dat ole bull gine". One of the men of "Volunteer No. 11" wrote: You could not look at Molly without being impressed by her honest face. It was a beaming lighthouse of good nature.



CHLOE  
A FLOWER SELLER

During the 1822 Yellow Fever Plague in New York, John Street, a quiet middle-class neighborhood, suffered more than other areas.

People were stricken "like flies;" anyone who had a chance fled to Greenwich Village and other uncontaminated sections of the city. An old Black woman, a flower seller who did other odd jobs, lived on John Street. She was popular with lawyers in the area and often cleaned their

offices. When the John St. residents got ready to go, Chloe refused to leave the city and remained behind alone in order to feed the abandoned dogs, cats, goats and birds.

When the people returned and learned what she had done, they quickly raised money to have the Black woman's portrait painted, surrounded by the pets whose lives she had saved.

THE LATE SOCIOLOGIST E. FRANKLIN FRAZIER PAID THIS TRIBUTE TO THE 19th CENTURY WOMAN: "AFTER EMANCIPATION WHEN THE WHOLE SOCIAL FABRIC OF LIFE

CRUMBLE AND THE VERY ECONOMIC BASIS OF NEGRO EXISTENCE WAS DESTROYED, IT WAS THE NEGRO WOMAN WHO MADE THE SURVIVAL OF THE NEGRO POSSIBLE."

THE DARKEST DAYS OF SLAVERY DID NOT BREAK THE SPIRIT OF THE BLACK WOMAN. INSTEAD THESE DAYS PRODUCED AN AMATEUR LAWYER, ABOLITIONIST LECTURERS,

THE GREAT "CONDUCTOR" OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD. IN THE CIVIL WAR BLACK WOMEN SERVED AS NURSES, SPIES, AND SOLDIERS IN THE

FEW WEEKS WE WILL INTRODUCE TO YOU SOME OF THESE BLACK WOMEN THAT WERE THE MAINSTAY OF THE PAST.

### LENA MASON 1864? METHODIST EVANGELIST

Lena Mason was an evangelist from Quincy, Illinois. She attended the Douglass High School in Hannibal, Missouri and Professor Knott's School in Chicago. In 1883, she married George Mason and the couple had six children, five of them died before reaching adulthood.

At the age of 23, Lena entered the ministry, preaching at first to all white audiences and later to mixed congregations. She became attached to the Black Conference of the Methodist Church and preached in almost every state of the Union, reportedly accounting for some 1,617 conversions.

Mrs. Mason was also a noted lecturer, artist and poet. Much of her poetry dealt with the Black liberation movement. Typical sentiments can be found in the following lines taken from THE NEGRO IN EDUCATION.

"We are pressing on and upward  
And for education crave,  
For it's written now in history  
We shall never more be slaves."



LENA MASON

ANNIE WEALTHY HOLLAND STATE SUPERVISOR OF NEGRO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN NORTH CAROLINA

ANNIE WEALTHY HOLLAND (1871-1934) was born in the Isle of Wright County, in Virginia and received her diploma from the Virginia Normal Industrial Institute in Petersburg, Virginia. After teaching for a short period in the Isle of Wright County, she became State Supervisor of Negro elementary schools in North Carolina, where she also organized industrial classes.

In 1915, Mrs. Holland was both a home



ANNIE WEALTHY HOLLAND

demonstration agent for North Carolina and a Jeanes Fund supervisor of 19 county training schools and ten city schools. (The JEANES FUND was a Black Rural School Fund founded by a Philadelphia Quaker, Anna T. Jeanes.) She organized reading circles and teacher training groups and founded the first Black P. T. A. in North Carolina.

DR. HALLIE TANNER JOHNSON FIRST WOMAN PHYSICIAN IN ALABAMA



DR. HALLIE TANNER JOHNSON

DR. HALLIE TANNER JOHNSON was the first woman, regardless of race, to practice medicine in the state of Alabama, a post given her by Booker T. Washington. Dr. Tanner Johnson also established a nurses' school and a dispensary at Tuskegee.

Dr. Johnson was one of several women who faced the State Board examination, but she was the first to fulfill the necessary requirements to practice. Prior to her acceptance, Alabama newspapers ridiculed the fact that a Black was even to appear before the State Board. After she qualified as a practitioner, her achievement was recorded in all the major American newspapers.

Dr. Johnson was the sister of Henry Tanner, the celebrated American painter. Her husband, John Quincy Johnson, was president of Allen University.

### ANNA ELIZABETH HUDLUN "CHICAGO'S GRAND OLD LADY"

ANNA ELIZABETH HUDLUN (1840-1914), known as the "Fire Angel" or "Mother Hudlun" and finally "Chicago's Grand Old Lady", was a religious and social worker born in Uniontown, PA shortly after her mother was set free by the Quaker family which owned her.



ANNA ELIZABETH HUDLUN

Anna and her mother relocated in Chicago in 1854 before her marriage to Joseph Hudlun. Mrs. Hudlun soon became an active member in the Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church and ministered to the sick and needy of the area in which she and her husband had settled. The Hudlun house (one of the first in the area contracted for and built by Black owners) was also open-

ed to people of both races who sought refuge from the disastrous Chicago fire of 1871. Mrs. Hudlun's work during the fire gained her the title of "FIRE ANGEL."

In the second Chicago fire of 1874, she again worked to relieve many homeless and distressed citizens, supplying good clothing and necessary food to families of both races. This time she won the title of "CHICAGO'S GRAND OLD LADY". Mrs. Hudlun organized clubs for the purpose of placing needy old people in the Home for the Aged and Infirm.

### A SLAVE WHO TRIED TO RESIST

Slaves resorted to various means of resisting slavery. One that was most popular among women was simulating pregnancy.

When Becky gave pregnancy as her reason for continued slackness in her work, her master became skeptical. He told her that she was to be examined and would be punished in the event that she was not pregnant. Two days later a Black mid-wife announced that Becky's baby had been born. At the same time a neighboring planter began a search for a child nine months old which had been missing. The child was found in Becky's cabin, two teeth pulled and the tip of its navel cut off. The baby died and Becky was convicted of manslaughter.

### DESPERATE SLAVE MOTHER MARGARET GARNER

Many slaves were not only to take the lives of their masters or overseers, but were on occasion charged with murder of their own children. This ghastly crime was generally committed to prevent the children from growing up in bondage. One of the saddest cases was that of Margaret Garner.

Margaret and her husband had planned to escape from slavery in the winter when the Ohio River would be frozen and they could flee across the frozen river from Kentucky to Ohio. The trip was made in the winter of 1865. After crossing the river at night they went to the house of a free Black in Cincinnati. Their pursuers tracked them down in their hideout and after some resistance broke down the door and discovered that Margaret, the mother, who, preferring death to slavery for her children, had sought to take their lives. One of the children lay dead on the floor. The case was brought to court, and her return was ordered.

On their return to slavery, Margaret overwhelmed with despair, attempted to drown herself and her child by jumping into a section of the river where the ice had melted, but even "deliverance through death" was denied her. She was sold to a trader who took her to the cotton fields in the deep south.

1776 Honoring America's Bicentennial 1976