

# THE TRIBUNAL AID

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A VIABLE, VALID REQUIREMENT  
RESPONDING TO  
BLACK NORTH CAROLINA

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

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.

1839  
Montauk, Long Island

The slave ship *Amistad* is brought into Montauk by a group of Africans who have revolted against their captors. The young African leader Cinque and his followers are defended before the Supreme Court by former President John Quincy Adams, and are awarded their freedom.

1839  
Washington

The State Department rejects a Negro's application for a passport on the grounds that Negroes are not citizens.

1840  
Indiana

The state forbids racial intermarriages and set fines of \$1,000-\$5,000 and prison terms of 10-20 years from violators. Clerks who issue licenses and ministers who perform ceremonies are also implicated.

1841  
Hampton, Virginia

Slaves revolt on the vessel *Crole* en route from Hampton, Virginia to New Orleans. Overpowering the crew and sailing the ship to the Bahamas, the slaves are granted asylum and freedom.

## Historical Landmarks Of Black America

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.

### ILLINOIS

Chicago: The Art Institute the Historical Society—Milton L. Olive Park Museum of African American History and Art—Provident Hospital and Training School—Underground Railway Maker—Victory Monument

Among the nation's great art galleries, the Art Institute has works by Negro artists and sculptors, including Tanner's "The Two Disciples at the Tomb," Richard Hunt's "Hero Construction," and Marion Perkins, "Man of Sprows."

Among the treasures and exhibits of the Chicago Historical Society are many which relate to Negroes, including a replica of the cabin built by Jean Du Sable and the numerous other artifacts relative to the days of slavery. John Jones (1811-1879), a successful businessman who settled in Chicago in 1845 and was Cook County Commissioner from 1871 to 1875, and his wife Mary are preserved for posterity by two Aaron Darling portraits. Other material explores the role played by black units from Illinois during campaigns of the Civil War.

The Du Sable Marker on the Michigan Avenue Bridge marks the site of the first building in the area that is now part of the city of Chicago. It was also the home of Jean Baptiste Pointe Du Sable, a Negro fur trapper and trader from Santo Domingo.

According to records in Cahokia, Illinois, Du Sable was married to a Potawatomi Indian in the year of 1788. The earliest known reference to him appears in an army report by a British colonel in 1779, but there are several other descriptions of him and his home after that date. For instance, he is known to have owned a farm in Peoria, Ill., as well as other property in St. Charles, Missouri, where his son eventually settled.

In 1790, Du Sable's sold his 'Chicago' home, and went to live with his son in St. Charles, where he died in 1814.

The site of Du Sable's home is marked by a plaque on the northeast approach to the Michigan Avenue

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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

Faye Ashe, Black History Editor

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.

## PROFILES OF BLACK WOMEN IN BLACK HISTORY

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, lecturer and the

great "conductor" of the underground railroad.

In the civil war which followed, Black women served as nurses, spies and sol-

diers in the ranks.

As the century progressed, the Black woman emerged "As the mainstay of the Negro race."

During the next few weeks we will introduce to you some of these Black women that were the mainstay of the past.



IDA B. WELLS BARNETT  
Anti-Lynch Crusader

Ida B. Wells Barnett (1864-1931) was born in Holly Springs, Mississippi and educated at Rusk University before marrying Ferdinand L. Barnett, Assistant State's Attorney for Cook County in 1895. Mrs. Barnett went directly into social work, although she was affiliated with a number of newspapers, notably as editor of FREE SPEECH in Memphis, Tenn.

In 1895, Mrs. Barnett compiled the first statistical pamphlet of lynching, THE RED RECORD. She later became chairman of the Anti-Lynching Bureau of the National Afro-American Council and a famous speaker on Negro rights. In 1908 she organized the Negro Fellowship League and became its first President. She was also a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. In 1913 she was appointed probation officer for the city of Chicago and in 1915 was elected Vice-President of the Chicago Equal Rights League.

Her work as a crusading newspaper woman and civil rights leader is commemorated in a housing project named after her by the city of Chicago.

MARY JANE PATTERSON  
First Black Woman to Receive Bachelor  
Of Arts Degree at Oberlin

Mary Jane Patterson (1840-1894) was probably the first American Black woman to receive a Bachelor of Arts degree. Born in Raleigh, North Carolina, Miss Patterson was brought to Oberlin, Ohio by her parents while she was very young. Her parents are believed to have been fugitive slaves. After one year of study in the Preparatory Department and four years in the college, she received her degree from Oberlin College in 1862.

Upon graduation she went to Philadelphia and taught for seven years in the Institute for Colored Youth. In 1871 she became the first Black Principal of the newly established Preparatory High for Blacks, holding the position, until 1884. In this capacity she was largely responsible for building up the institu-



tion. Today the famed Dunbar High School occupies the site. She was later succeeded by a black man, but remained active as a teacher until her death.

MARIA SELIKA WILLIAMS  
International Concert Singer

Maria Selika Williams was a coloratura soprano considered one of the great Black prima donnas of the 19th century. She was heard by Mrs. Frances Gaskin in San Francisco and was persuaded to come to Boston to pursue a professional career in the East.

While in Boston, Madame Selika stayed with a relative of Mrs. Gaskin, continuing her studies until she became proficient in French, Italian and German. As a result of this intensive study, she became one of the earliest Black singers to have received rigorous training necessary to launch a full-fledged operatic career. For her stage name, she took that of "Selika", the heroine of MEYER-BEER'S OPERA L'AFRICAINNE.



After a successful American concert season in 1880, Madame Selika left for Europe with her husband, as aspiring baritone known as "VILOSKI". Her success abroad was immediate. The Paris newspaper FIGARO reported that she had a very strong depth and compass trilled like a feathered songster. Her performance in short was an "artistic triumph". In Berlin, according to the newspaper TAGESBLATT, she "roused the audience to the highest pitch of enthusiasm."

After several years of successful concert appearances, Madame Selika and her husband settled in Philadelphia. After the death of her husband in 1921, she moved to New York and taught voice at the Martin-Smith School of Music in Harlem.

SUSAN ELIZABETH FRAZIER  
President of Women's Auxiliary of the  
369th Infantry Regiment, New York  
National Guard



Susan Elizabeth Frazier (1864-1924) was a teacher born in New York, the daughter of Louis and Helen Eldridge Frazier. She attended public schools in New York and graduated from Hunter College in 1888. Susan became a full-time teacher in the New York City Schools in 1895, a post she held until her death.

During World War I, she organized and became President of the Woman's Auxiliary of the OLD FIFTEENTH NATIONAL GUARD. After the war, she continued to work with the 369th Infantry New York National Guard, successor to the wartime regiment. Susan won a contest sponsored by the New York Evening

Telegram and undertook a trip to the European battlefields seen by the regiments she had served.

Susan Frazier served as President of the WOMAN'S LOYAL UNION, a group engaged in social work. She was an active church member of St. Phillips Protestant Episcopal Church, where she was a Sunday School teacher and President of the Church Missionary Society. Full military honors were held in the 369th Regiment Armory, and her casket was draped with the American flag as taps were sounded. The occasion is thought to be unique in the annals of Black womanhood.

ALICE DUNBAR NELSON  
Author-Editor

Alice Dunbar Nelson (1875-1935), the wife of the noted Black poet, PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR, was an accomplished editor and writer who published several volumes in her lifetime. Mrs. Nelson was born in New Orleans and educated in her native city at Straight College and later attended the University of Pennsylvania, Cornell University and the School of Industrial Art in Philadelphia. She married Paul Laurence Dunbar in 1898, that same year her VIOLET AND OTHER TALES was published in the Boston MONTHLY REVIEW. A year later, her GOODNESS OF ST. ROCQUE was published by DOOD, MEAD CO. Among her other published work was MASTERPIECES OF NEGRO ELOQUENCE (1914) and PEOPLE OF COLOR IN LOUISIANA (1916).

In 1904 Dunbar died and Mrs. Dunbar remained a widow until 1916 when she married Robert J. Nelson of Pennsylvania. Mrs. Nelson was not only a writer, she taught school in New Orleans, New York City, and Wilmington, Delaware. In Wilmington she was also engaged in social service work at the Industrial School for Colored Girls. She was the



Associate editor of the AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL REVIEW and the WILMINGTON ADVOCATE.

Among other organizations in which she took part were the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, The National Federation of Colored Women's Clubs and the International League for Peace and Freedom.

GERTRUDE BUSTILL MOSSELL  
Pennsylvania Editor

Gertrude Bustill Mossell (1855-?) a noted Black writer and author was born in Philadelphia, Pa. and educated in the Robert Vaux Grammar School. Her graduating essay was published in the CHRISTIAN RECORDER, and she decided to devote most of her time to writing free-lance articles which were published in the Recorder and the Standard Echo.

Mrs. Mossell also taught school in



Pennsylvania and New Jersey for seven years. She remained active professionally, serving as editor of the Women's Departments of two newspapers, the New York AGE and the Indianapolis WORLD. In 1880 she also assisted her husband in the publication of an alumni magazine. For the next seven years, she worked on three of the most influential dailies in Philadelphia: the PRESS, the TIMES, and the INQUIRER.

By this time, several magazines across the country were featuring her literary efforts, which soon culminated with the publication of the book in 1894 entitled THE WORK OF THE AFRO-AMERICAN. Her book soon became a best-seller.

### CIVIL WAR RELIEF ORGANIZER

SUSAN PAUL VASHON (1838-1912) distinguished herself particularly during the Civil War in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania when she cared for the sick and wounded soldiers and organized "sanitary relief bazaars" to raise money to house Black refugees. Thousands of dollars were netted and the money was used to relocate displaced war victims. Mrs. Vashon was originally from Boston Massachusetts. Her father, Elijah W. Smith, was a famed composer and cornetist; her mother, Ann Paul Smith, died when Susan was very young.

Her early education was completed at Miss O'Meara's Seminary in Somerville, Massachusetts, from which she graduated with valedictory honors as the only Black pupil. For a short while she taught school in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania before marrying Professor George B. Vashon.

Mrs. Vashon was widowed in 1878 after having given birth to seven children. During her marriage, Mrs. Vashon taught in the public schools of Washington, D.C. and later served as principal of the Thaddeus Stevens School (named after the Republican Senator) active during the Civil War period. In 1882 she and her family moved to St. Louis, where she lived until her death.



1776 Honoring America's Bicentennial 1976