

Hidden History

The Unsung Saga of the Black Man

as told by



John P. & C. Buck West

MOMENTOUS EVENTS IN NEGRO HISTORY

NEGROES LAND IN JAMESTOWN

As Hidden History will reveal in future articles when the chronology of the series evolves to the American scene, there were Negroes on the American Continent long before the Pilgrims arrived at Plymouth Rock on the celebrated Mayflower. However, in listing events of greatest moment in the Saga of the American Negro, the first would be the arrival of the "Dutch manne of Warre" into the colony of Jamestown's harbor in 1619, for on this ship were 20 Africans.

The crew of the Dutch ship had robbed a Spanish vessel, bound for the West Indies, of its African cargo, and dropped anchor in the port of Jamestown hoping to exchange these Africans who bore such Spanish names as Antony, Pedro, and Isabella, for food. The deal was made; the Africans stepped ashore; thus began the history of the Negro in America.

THE BOSTON MASSACRE

The first cold war in American History was waged in the winter of 1769 when citizens and soldiers schemed to drive British troops out of the city of Boston.

On March 5, 1770, the mounting tension erupted into a fight at the British barracks--Led by Crispus Attucks, a mulatto sailor and a native of Framingham, Massachusetts who had escaped from Slavery, an infuriated crowd, embattled by an attack on a small boy by the sentry at the Custom House, gathered before the sentry in the Square facing the Custom House.

As the British Redcoats charged the crowd, bayonets before them, Crispus Attucks uttered his last words "Do not be afraid, they dare not fire". The British fired upon the crowd, and 11 valiant patriots were dead.

Daniel Webster said "From that moment we may date the severance of the British empire". For, among the dead, was Crispus Attucks, "the first to defy and the first to die". At the site of the Boston Massacre stands the Crispus Attucks Monument dedicated in 1888 to honor the Massacre victims.

THE NAT TURNER REVOLT

On a fateful Sunday, August 21, 1831, Nat Turner, a Virginia slave, an implacable foe of slaveholders and slavebreeders, met with four "disciples" and planned a reign of terror and death for whites.

That night, beginning with the home of his master, Nat Turner's small band of conspirators (which increased to 70 before the night was over) proceeded from house to house, killing every white man, woman and child except the families who owned no slaves.

For some 48 hours, Nat Turner held the Southampton County of Virginia in a state of incredible dread and terror. He was captured after a two month search and, on November 11, was hanged in a town called Jerusalem.

THE CIVIL WAR

Of the millions of words historians have written on the Civil War, the only commentary offered here is that unfortunately, it is still being fought.

THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

VOICE READERS COMPRISE a \$30,000,000 MARKET

EDITORIAL

Take Pride In Being A Negro

A VITAL CHANGING moment of law enforcement in the American democracy has come. If the Americans want a democracy that will live forever, "a government of the people, by the people and for the people," as well as a government which will be a society where life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are the inalienable rights of every man, they must fight to blot out every remnant of race prejudice and race hatred by accepting the saving grace of God as becomes all Christian people. They must enforce equal protection by the law for all American citizens, irrespective of race, color or previous condition of servitude. They must destroy everything that seems likely to be contrary to these ends.

If the American people would but turn the pages of history of this great nation, they would find that they have never faced a more serious problem than the race problem which exists today. But fellow citizens of this community, this problem can never and will never be solved so long as Negroes are looked upon as under-dogs.

BECAUSE HISTORIANS have suppressed the truth about the Negroes capabilities of doing great things in contributing to the progress of civilization, many people doubt the Negro has played an important part in making history of the world. They have mostly concerned themselves with writing about the Negro as only a liability. These so-called writers of history do not tell the readers of their books that the African heritage of the American Negro was an asset to American democracy.

The Negro's devotion to the American Flag has never been found lagging. He has done his part in helping to build the American citizenship into an undefeatable democratic government so that it shall forever be the land of the free and the home of the brave. Not at any time in the history of the American Flag has he insulted the Flag. His devotion to the American Flag has always prevented him from killing or attempting to kill a President of these United States.

BLACK BRAVE MEN ventured from Africa to Europe, to America and even to the North Pole. Despite handicaps, these adventures have proved themselves worth of exaltation in the history of the world. But history, as prejudiced men

have written it, conceals from the general public the black man's identity as one of the world's greatest men. These writers refer to the Black man as an American with no racial identity if his exploits are in connection with a noteworthy cause, but loudly proclaim he is a Negro if he is at fault.

Consequently, the general public is ignorant concerning many facts about the noble deeds of the black race's ancestral greatness, its scientific geniuses and the heroism of many of the world's most gallant soldiers.

LET US INQUIRE into the African background of the Negro question and see if the answer to our inquiry will reveal whether or not his ancestors have made any creditable contributions to the progress of civilization. Some men claim that God sanctioned Noah's drunken delirium and decreed that the descendants of Ham should be slaves as a punishment for his actions. But the after-events in the lives of the sons of Ham showed that before becoming slaves to their brethren they became the leaders, and served them in the onward march to the light of civilization. In order to preserve the idea of White Supremacy, the so-called writers of European and American history do not tell this in their books.

We learn from the Bible that the sons of Ham went into the great wilderness of what is known today as Africa and founded Ethiopia. This nation once upon a time became the most enlightened of all nations on the earth. The Ethiopians built great cities and gigantic pyramids, invented the arithmetic system of numbers and the alphabet of twenty-six letters, the art of writing and the art of science. They also invented the science of stars. The Ethiopians were the first to mark them in twelve divisions of thirty days and added five days to the year which gives three hundred and sixty-five days. These sons of Ham invented the secrets of metal working, melting, tempering, forging, refining, alloying, soldering, inlaying and engraving. This was only natural because they invented the art of smelting iron and with it made various kinds of instruments which have become nothing short of a necessity with mankind.

It has been said of Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation that it was "a curious document." Space here does not provide for amplification of this description of the document. However, it was a signal development in the history of the Negro.

THE FIRST NEGRO IN CONGRESS

Hiram Rhodes Revels, an A.M.E. Minister, was sworn in as the first Negro United States Senator and the first member of the U.S. Congress on Friday, February 25, 1870:

Revels was elected to the Senate from the state of Mississippi, where Negro voters were in the majority, to serve the unexpired term of Jefferson Davis, the former President of the Confederacy.

THE ATLANTA COMPROMISE

On September 18, 1895, Booker T. Washington, President of Tuskegee Institute, before a segregated audience at a Fair in Atlanta, Georgia, made his famous speech now known as the Atlanta Compromise in which he renounced social and political equality. He expected, in return, support for Negro Education, according to Washington's supporters.

Because economic discrimination continued, and lynchings reached an all-time high after "The Atlanta Compromise" speech, William E. B. Du Bois, Negro graduate from Harvard University, led a group of Negro militants in denunciation of Washington's theory, and organized Negro intellectuals and white liberal Americans into a protest group known as the Niagara movement.

The Niagara movement laid the foundation for the National Association for the Advancement

of Colored People. The Niagara movement's stand was "We will not be satisfied to take one jot or tittle less than full manhood rights. We claim for ourselves every single right that belongs to a freeborn American, political, civil and social; and until we get these rights, we will never cease to protest and assail the ears of America."

THE SUPREME COURT DECISION

It was Monday, May 17, 1954 when Chief Justice Earl B. Warren, after receiving the history of cases before the Court charging that segregation in public schools was unconstitutional, read "Does segregation of children in public schools solely on the basis of race, even though the physical facilities and other 'tangible' factors may be equal, deprive the children of the minority group of equal educational (See HISTORY, page 4)

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