

# Hidden History

The Unsung Saga of the Black Man



as told by  
**John P. & C. Buck West**

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(Last in the three-part series on the fascinating story of West Indies born Chevalier de St. Georges as related by the late historian-anthropologist, J. A. Rogers, in Volume II of "World's Great Men of Color.")

CHEVALIER DE ST. GEORGES  
Dazzling Black Nobleman of Versailles  
(1745-1799)

"WHEN THE Revolution came, St. Georges threw himself heart and soul into the people's cause. Going to the West Indies, he raised a regiment of black cavalry, which he called the Black Legion. As lieutenant-colonel, he appointed another prominent young nobleman, Count de Pailleterie, later General Alexander Dumas.

"With their dashing cavalry, St. Georges and Dumas soon distinguished themselves, by saving Lille for the republicans after the defection of General Dumouriez, an ex-royalist leader. In the war with the Prussians, St. Georges proved himself as brilliant on the field of battle as in the Salon.

"Later, however, when the revolution got out of hand, even his impeccable conduct did not suffice to save him from suspicion. He was thrown into prison and came near having his head chopped off, the fate suffered by the king, Marie Antoinette, his patron, the Duke of Orleans, and thousands of others of the nobility. His life was saved in the nick of time. Just as he was being led up to the guillotine, the counter-revolutionists, having triumphed, rushed up and saved him.

"AFTER THIS experience, St. Georges retired from public life. His father had left him an annuity equivalent to \$150,000 in our money, but the revolution swept this away. He suffered extremely from poverty, and died on June 12, 1799, from bladder trouble and neglect.

"The news of his passing revived all the old interest in him. E. M. von Arndt, the noted German poet, patriot and traveller, who knew him well and happened to be in Paris at the time wrote:

"St. Georges, the great Georges, died a few days after my arrival. St. Georges, the representative and favorite of the French nation.... St. Georges was dead and so great was public interest that the news made people forget the battles of Verona and Stockhart. All the day they talked about nothing else but that. In all the theatres, promenades, cafes and gardens resounded the name of the great, the amiable St. Georges. In the streets they stopped to exchange the news. For three, four days, his name echoed in all the newspapers. They lauded his skill in all the arts, his fine manner, his force, his generosity and gaiety, and generally concluded with these words: 'He was the perfect Frenchman, that is to say, the most amiable of mortals. He was the Voltaire of equitation, music, dancing, and skill in the use of weapons.'

"In truth, St. Georges is an astonishing figure in the eyes of a German, whose education is so silly that he considers skill in bodily exercises as one of the little supplementary things of life. St. Georges was the handsomest, the strongest, and the most agreeable man of his times (he died at the age of 58). He was a faithful friend, a good citizen, a man of society, full of so many charms and virtues that any single one of them would have caused us to mourn his

## If We Don't Flex Our Voting Muscle, We Have No Race Pride At All

by Alice Key

It is heartening news that the Negro vote is flexing its muscles and the strength of it is making telling blows in Primary Elections throughout the Nation.

Except for Alabama, where the Wallace brand of 'Americanism' continues to reign supreme, the greatest (and most meaningful) indication of the strength of the Negro vote is in the Southern States. It takes no political analyst to explain the reason for this happy situation. At long last, Southern Negroes have been given the right to vote and they are exercising that right. More importantly, they are voting together. There is no apathy among them as to who will or will not represent them in public office. There is not petty politicking among them. Their friends and enemies are clearly identified, and they have the God-given common sense to realize a united vote is the strongest weapon in the world.

We Negroes who live outside the geographical "South" would do well to emanate our southern brothers. We have the same friends and the same enemies. What we don't have is their unity and their determination to get to the polls to vote out the blackguards and vote in a representative who respects us as his constituents, and regards our needs as a mandate.

Here, in the State of Nevada, there is no earthly reason for us to allow Walter Baring, the sole Congressman from Nevada, to return to the United States Congress. He has done everything but spit in our faces, and yet he would have no earthly chance to return to Washington D. C. as the representative from Nevada if the Negroes in Las Vegas, alone, would go to the polls on Tuesday, Sept. 6 and vote against him.

This man voted against the Civil Rights Bill, against the Poverty Program, against the Minimum Wage Law -- that's enough for a black man to know. And he brags about it. He is, he boasts, a "Constitutional Democrat." So is Governor Wallace of Alabama. So are the members of the John Birch Society. So are the Minutemen who,

death. He was the Alcibiades of his time, he loved pleasure, but never abused it. Oh! such marvellous gifts merit immortality and a people with a keen and ever ready recognition of beauty as the French, will admire him eternally.

TALLEYRAND, Napoleon's great chancellor, declared that St. Georges was the most accomplished human being he had ever met. Perhaps his only defect was that he stammered slightly.

Like Dumas, the novelist, St. Georges gave pensions from his private purse to several poor people. Larousse says: 'He distinguished himself among the personages of his time, selfish, wicked, and corrupt for the most part, by a generosity and a rectitude of character very rare. To the end of his days he did good and he had a special list of poor people, whom he supported entirely.'

"Biographie Universelle says: 'He was unselfish and benevolent. He suffered privations to relieve the unhappy, and several indigent old people were his pensionaires as long as his money lasted.'

"HIS NOBILITY of character never shone brighter than the manner in which he received his humble black mother, once a slave, when she came to Paris. Taking her into the most brilliant salons, he presented her to his aristocratic friends, letting it be quietly known that whoever attempted to snub her would in turn be snubbed by him. 'Who refuses her, refuses me,' he said.

"Biographie de Musiciens' gives a list of his works, principal among which were the St. Georges Minuet, two operas, several symphonies, and a comedy, 'Fille Garçon.' His plays, according to several critics of the day, lacked originality, and were a failure, but his 'Concertos,' which became the rage of the day, possess genuine merit. As a technician of the violin, he is considered one of the most brilliant in the history of music.

"King Arthur or Lancelot, or any traditional figure of chivalry, was no more gallant than he. His conduct at all times was exemplary, and for that portion of humanity which admires nobility of character and excellence in attainment, he will ever remain a model.

Chevalier de St. Georges was Prince Charming come to life."

incidentally, have only recently announced their political ambitions -- foremost of which is to smother us 'pushing' Negroes, and they've got a Chapter in Las Vegas.

When Walter Baring, the Congressman from Nevada, was engaged in his last campaign two years ago, Dr. West, Publisher of the Las Vegas VOICE, wrote an editorial calling for Negroes to vote against Baring in the Democratic Primary and urged them to vote for Ralph Denton who was opposing him then, as he is now. Subsequent to the publication of that editorial, a very sizable advertisement appeared in the June 3, 1964 issue of the Review Journal, signed by the "American Association for the Advancement of White People, Chas. Kane, Volunteer." It carried a picture of Dr. West, and one of Ralph Denton, and the whole premise was that if Negroes say vote for someone other than Baring, your best bet is Baring.

Well, I don't want to make an indictment, but Baring was re-elected. There must have been a lot of voters who bought it; that's there business, but, let's face it, a lot of Negroes must not have gone to the polls.

I don't know about you, but I'd rather drink muddy water, and sleep in a hollow log than see a man who uses his own prejudices against Negroes to get elected to office.

We've got a lot of votes in Nevada, and it is my sincere opinion that everyone should vote as he chooses, but if Walter Baring gets back to Congress this time, it ain't nobody's fault but ours. Because, you see, Baring has not only been bad for Negroes, he's voted against the interests of many segments of State, and they know it. We're not the only element of the Nevada electorate who say "Baring has to go," but, unfortunately, the minority "no good for us" element of the voters go to the polls on election day. Therein lies the difference. Let us march to the ballot box on September 6 and flex our muscles too. If we do, we've got it made, chums.

While we're deposing Baring, we have a great opportunity to show the rest of the nation that Nevadans aren't as big fools as they might think. We'll let them know that we recognize a hatchet man when we hear him and see him operate.

I am, of course, referring to the job that Charles Springer whose candidacy for Governor is an obvious cloak. This man is not campaigning to be the Governor of Nevada; he is committed to the impossible task of tarnishing our good Governor Sawyer's image.

One thing may not have anything to do with the other (as my mother always reminds me), but there is an awful lot of out-of-state money working in Nevada, California, and other states where there is just too much progressive 'liberality' going on. That's the stuff you gotta watch.

### Congressman Hawkins' Wife Dies

WASHINGTON - (NPI)--One of the prominent husband and wife political teams on Capitol Hill was split last week when death claimed Mrs. Pega A. Smith Hawkins, 51, wife of Rep. Augustus F. Hawkins, Los Angeles Democrat.

Mrs. Hawkins, who died in a local hospital after a long illness, worked closely with her husband in politics and was a member of the D.C. Women's Democratic club. She was also a trustee and board member of the National Multiple Sclerosis society.

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