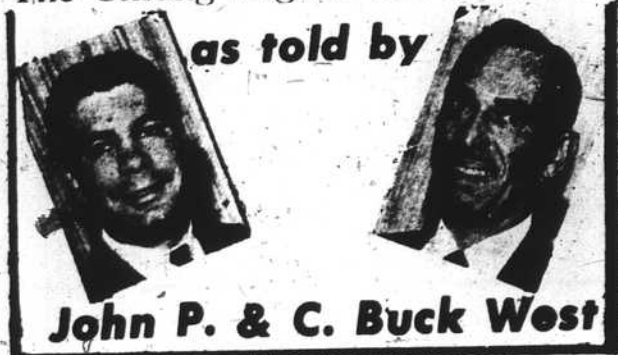


Hidden History

The Unsung Saga of the Black Man

as told by



John P. & C. Buck West

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NAT TURNER

Leader of America's Greatest Slave Revolt (1800-1831)

Conclusion

"BEFORE MORNING dawned, he had collected an army of fifty. Riding ahead with a mounted guard, he surrounded each mansion, holding it besieged until his foot-soldiers arrived to complete the slaughter. In this way some 50 white persons were killed without the loss of a single man by the attackers.

"The neighborhood was sparsely settled by whites. Not far away was Jerusalem, the county seat. Nat meant to surprise the inhabitants and kill them before the news of his invasion could reach Richmond or Peterburg. He would seize arms, ammunition and money.

"He gave the order to march. Every white person met on the way was killed. When the men came to the gate of the Parker plantation, someone suggested that they go in, kill the master, and pick up more recruits.

"Nat objected. Time was pressing. They must hurry on to Jerusalem. But the majority thought otherwise, and Nat reluctantly yielded. Forty of the men started off for the mansion six miles away. Nat, with the remainder stayed behind to block the roadway.

"HOURS PASSED and the men did not return. Nat started off in search of them. While he was away, a body of armed white men appeared. The rebels were just retreating when Nat and the others returned.

"The whites, sure that they could bluff the Negroes, shouted to them to drop their guns on penalty of a whipping. Nat, reminding his men that they were no longer creatures of the banjo or the shake-down, but soldiers of Christ fighting for the right, gave the order to fire. When the smoke cleared, the whites were fleeing in disorder leaving behind several of their number, dead or wounded.

"Nat dashed after them, cutting them down. The survivors ran into a strong body of white reinforcements. In the encounter that followed, Nat's force was beaten and he fled with twenty others. Still determined to attack Jerusalem, he urged his men to follow him, but they hesitated. He then picked up twenty more men and attacked the plantation of Major Ridley. When he reached the plantation of Dr. Hunt the next day, he found the whites there organized, and after a skirmish, he was forced to retreat. Telling his men to scatter, he instructed them where to meet that night. No one came, however. Nat was alone. Knowing that it was the end, he took to the woods.

"IN THE MEANTIME the news had reached Richmond and the United States government appealed to. It sent two warships, the Warren and Natchley, to the scene with 800 marines. The Virginia State Militia was also summoned in force.

"An indiscriminate slaughter of the blacks began. Fully a hundred were killed the first day alone. Others were tortured for secrets they were supposed to know.

"Six hundred men with bloodhounds started after Nat. Digging a hole under a pile of fence-rails in the woods, he hid there for eight weeks.

"At last he was cornered by accident. He had left some fresh meat in his hiding place and while he was away, a dog, attracted by its scent, came in and ate it. The next day, the dog, who

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EDITORIAL

THANKSGIVING 1966

The Majority Has Ruled - All Must Abide

Today, Thanksgiving Day, 1966, we should give thanks that we, of this great nation, are counted among God's chosen people.

The Democratic way of life is the way that God would choose for his children. The people of a Democracy govern themselves by rules which conform to the guide lines of God's Golden Rule -- our laws of the land are spelled out to direct us to do unto our fellows as we would have them do unto us.

We, the people, make our own laws to guide our own destiny. We lay down the ground rule for operation of government, changing the rules from time to time to fit the changing patterns of our socio-economic structure.

We select, by secret ballot, the officials who run the game, and enforce the rules. These officials are chosen under the democratic concept of 'majority rule'. Under this concept, all citizens of a Democracy are bound by law to abide by the decision of the majority.

On November 8, the majority of Nevada voters

selected Paul Laxalt to govern the affairs of state for four years beginning January 1, 1967. As governor, Laxalt has been placed in a position above partisan lines. He has been chosen by the majority to guide the destiny of Republicans and Democrats alike until December 31, 1970.

The people of Nevada are obligated, under the rules of democracy, to abide by the decision of the majority. The welfare of Nevada and of Nevadans has been delegated to Governor-elect Paul Laxalt. In our own interests, we the people, must forget the partisan differences that divided us before the mandate of the majority, and extend a hand of welcome to Paul Laxalt, and offer a prayer to God that Nevada will continue to grow and to prosper under the new leadership.

We pray for Divine guidance for Paul Laxalt to guide us wisely and fairly. For as long as he leads us along the "Golden" way, we pledge him our support.

C. I. West

Let us give THANKS

happened to be out with a group of slaves, came back. Nat was in and it barked wildly. The slaves came up to investigate, and Nat, thinking that they had come in search of him, begged them not to betray him.

"Learning who he was, they fled in terror, running straight to their master to tell the news. A posse of 1,000 armed men set out to look for him. They finally discovered him on top of a tree, where he had taken refuge. When they threatened to shoot, he came down and gave himself up.

"A FEW DAYS later he was brought to trial. Nat faced his accusers with courage. Thousands came to catch a glimpse of the man who had spread the fear of insurrection in all the Slave States. Nat boldly acknowledged his deeds and told of his hope of freeing his people. His lawyer, Gray, said: 'Clothed with rags, covered with chains, yet daring to raise his manacled hands to heaven, with a spirit soaring above the attributes of men, I looked at him, and my blood froze in my veins.'

"He was hanged on November 11, 1831, walking serenely to the gallows convinced to the end that he had obeyed the dictates of the voice within -- the voice of God and the Right.

"His revolt brought many sleepless nights to the slaveholders and the whites in all the slave states for years to come. How could they be sure that on their plantation was not another Nat Turner waiting for a chance to butcher them?

"Nat Turner, with his talents suppressed by servitude, is surely a case of one who was capable of being of great service to America and to humanity but whose genius, thrust aside by the hand of a most brutal system, was diverted into an instrument of ruthless slaughter and revenge. Between fifty-five and sixty-one whites were killed.

*Footnote

"The rebels made no attempt to violate the white women. R. R. Howison says, 'It is remarkable that through the whole series of assaults not one female was violated. Remembering the brutal passions of the Negro we can only account for this fact by supposing the actors had been appalled by the very success of their hideous enterprise.' (Hist. of Virginia, Vol. 2, p. 443, 1848.) The more likely answer to this is that Nat and his followers hated white people too thoroughly for that, as did the Haitians in their massacre of the French, who also killed the white women but did not rape them."

We give Thanks

for all our Many Blessings

TO OUR MANY FRIENDS

Thank You!

LET US SEEK THE FUTURE CONFIDENTLY!

Just as our forefathers set sail for strange, uncharted lands, let us all join together in seeking the best future for us all!

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