

Hidden History

The Unsung Saga of the Black Man NEGRO HISTORY BAFFLER

By NEGRO PRESS INTERNATIONAL

Sometimes the impression is given that the Civil War was a struggle among whites over slavery and that the Negro had little to do with that battle--except to continue to suffer as a slave.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Frederick Douglass and other Negroes were in the forefront of the Northern abolitionist movement, the "granddaddy" of the modern civil rights movement. And in the South, the threat of slave insurrections kept political leaders worried and edgy.

Today's Baffler will test your knowledge of Negro fighters for freedom of a century ago. Your job is to match the descriptions of these fighters with the names below.

Scoring: 4-7: tops; 3: fair; 0-2: poor. Bonus Question at the end is worth two points. Here's the quiz:

DESCRIPTION:

1. This woman repeatedly endangered her life in making forays into the South to bring hundreds of slaves to freedom. She was said to have threatened to kill slaves who feared to go with her to the North.

2. This man, who became one of Chicago's leading businessmen, also found time to take part in anti-slavery activities and to help the Underground Railroads. One of the wealthiest Negroes at the time of the Civil War and later, this tailor shop operator helped organize the Liberty party and led the fight for non-segregated schools in Chicago.

3. She got her first name because she was to travel up and down the land showing people their sins. And her last name was given to her, because that was what she was to declare to the people. She fled slavery at the age of 50 and spent the remaining years of her life preaching against the hated institution.

4. This slave was not exactly an abolitionist leader, but the 1831 insurrection he led in Virginia was a forerunner of the freedom to come. Some 55 whites died in the reign of terror before order was restored.

5. One of the conductors of the Underground Railroad, which led slaves to the North; this man likely was the prototype of the hero in Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin." He helped 118 Kentucky slaves escape through Ohio and Indiana and lectured extensively on behalf of Negro emancipation.

NAMES: (Some don't go with any description)

A. Sojourner Truth; B. Marcus Garvey; C. Jean Baptists Point DuSable; D. Josiah Henson; E. Booker T. Washington; F. Harriet Tubman; G. John R. Lynch; H. Nat Turner; I. Ida B. Wells; J. John Jones.

* * *

BONUS QUESTION: White people also had a part in the struggle against slavery. Which of the following aided in the fight for freedom at the time of the Civil War and before?

John Brown, Jefferson Davis, William Lloyd Garrison, Charles Sumner, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Cassius M. Clay.

* * *

ANSWERS: 1. F; 2. J; 3. A; 4. H; 5. D.

BONUS: All but Jefferson Davis, who was the president of the Confederacy. (Cassius M. Clay, by the way, was a white abolitionist leader from Kentucky.)

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MANY HAVE the mistaken notion that the

"EYEWITNESS: The Negro In American History"

Negroes sailed with Christopher Columbus; a Negro founded the city of Chicago; a Negro was the first man to reach the North Pole; one of the important Spanish explorers of the New World was a Negro, Negroes fought at Bunker Hill and Concord, rode with Ethan Allen's Green Mountain Boys, and charged San Juan Hill with Teddy Roosevelt.

These and thousands of other little known facts are revealed in EYEWITNESS: THE NEGRO IN AMERICAN HISTORY* the new 554 page book by William Loren Katz published on December 5th by Pitman.

The author uses a unique three-pronged approach in telling his story. First, he tells the reader about the events in lively, clearly written language. Then he documents them with actual eyewitness accounts written at the time the events occurred by people who observed or participated in them. And finally, he illustrates them with pictures, drawings or photographs from that time.

Examples of eyewitness accounts include the Boston Massacre (the colonists were led by a Negro who was killed by the British); a report written by Andrew Jackson about Negroes in the Battle of New Orleans; and letters from George Washington.

Much of the information in EYEWITNESS: THE NEGRO IN AMERICAN HISTORY has never before been in print. Most of it has been dug out of dusty archives, long forgotten articles

Northern states were bastions of freedom for the Negro during the Civil War years when North-South tensions over slavery were building up. This multiple-choice quiz will test your knowledge of the truth of this belief.

Four or five is tops; three is fair; and less than that is poor. The Bonus question at the end is worth two points. Here's the quiz:

1. Illinois, the "Land of Lincoln," had hundreds of Negro slaves as late as:

A. 1776; B. 1840; C. 1867.

2. In the early 19th century, what educational provisions did Connecticut make for Negroes moving into the state?

- A. It outlawed de facto segregation in public schools.
B. It gave preferential consideration to Negro pupils.
C. It forbade, without approval of civil authorities, the establishment of any educational institution for the instruction of non-resident Negroes.

3. What did Indiana, Oregon and Illinois legislatures have to say about Negro in-migration, in the early part of the 19th century?

- A. They flatly forbade Negroes to enter the state.
B. They interpreted the "Fugitive Slave Law" in such a way as to allow newcomers to enter.
C. They let them in, then executed them.

4. What voting rights did New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and Maine allow Negroes around 1820?

- A. None; B. Full franchise; C. Depended on official paid off.

5. In 1869, four years after the Civil War, New York voters acted on Negro voting rights. What action was taken?

- A. Nation's first Voting Rights Act was passed.
B. All residents required to vote whether they wanted to or not.
C. Proposals defeated granting equal voting rights to Negroes.

BONUS QUESTION: Abraham Lincoln, the "Great Emancipator," vigorously supported the idea of allowing Negroes to vote, be jurors, hold office, and intermarry with white people. TRUE OR FALSE

ANSWERS: 1. B; 2. C; 3. A; 4. A; 5. C; BONUS: False. While running for the U.S. Senate in 1858, three years before the Civil War, Lincoln specifically opposed extension of these rights to Negroes.

and stories in old newspapers and magazines, and from memoirs, letters and other authentic sources of the times.

EYEWITNESS is the culmination of 15 years of intensive research by the author. William Loren Katz, who is a graduate of New York and Syracuse Universities, first became interested in American Negro history while a high school student in the early 1940's when he began to read his father's extensive book selection on the subject. Then in 1952 after a wartime hitch in the Navy and attendance at college, he became a teacher of high school American History. He was immediately struck by the fact that the textbooks he was to use omitted references to Negroes or distorted their contributions.

His interest was rekindled and he embarked on the long term research that has produced EYEWITNESS: THE NEGRO IN AMERICAN HISTORY. Along the way he was aided by research grants from the New York State Education Department and the New World Foundation.

Mr. Katz has served as a consultant to President Kennedy's Committee on Juvenile Delinquency and Youth Development and to the New York State Education Department. He has contributed numerous articles to the JOURNAL OF NEGRO HISTORY, NEGRO HISTORY BULLETIN, and the SATURDAY REVIEW.

*By William Loren Katz, Pitman Publishing Corporation, New York, New York, 1967, 554 pages, \$9.75.

THIS WEEK IN NEGRO HISTORY

AN "NPI" FEATURE

- Dec. 14, 1829 John M. Langston, Negro congressman, was born in Louisa county, Va.
- Dec. 15, 1784 Phyllis Wheatley-Peters, poetess, was brought from Africa at age 7; died at age 31.
- Dec. 15, 1791 The Bill of Rights was passed by Congress and ratified by the states.
- Dec. 15, 1870 The Christian (formerly Colored) Methodist Episcopal church was established.
- Dec. 15, 1864 Negro troops participated in the Battle of Nashville.
- Dec. 16, 1859 John A. Copeland, Jr., member of John Brown's raiding party, was executed.
- Dec. 17, 1807 John Greenleaf Whittier, anti-slavery poet, born.
- Dec. 17, 1951 Genocide in U.S. petition presented to United Nations.
- Dec. 18, 1815 Battle of New Orleans had more than 500 free Negroes as soldiers.
- Dec. 18, 1865 Thirteenth Amendment abolishing slavery ratified.
- Dec. 18, 1875 Dr. Carter G. Woodson, historian-founder, Association for Study of Negro Life and History, was born. He established Negro History Week.
- Dec. 20, 1850 Harriet Tubman made first Underground Railroad trip. Smuggled more than 300 slaves to freedom. Served as scout and spy in Civil War.
- Dec. 20, 1860 South Carolina seceded from the Union, giving rise to the Civil War.
- Dec. 20, 1892 Paul Laurence Dunbar, Negro poet, published "Oak and Ivy."
- Dec. 20, 1952 First time in 72 years, in which no lynchings occurred in the United States.
- Dec. 20, 1958 Harry Willis, boxer, died.

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