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3018 HARFORD RD.
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1708 EAST 32nd ST.
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2714 ASHLAND AVE.
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Rites Thursday for Mrs. Green

Funeral services for Mrs. Martha A. Green were held last Thursday at William C. March Funeral Home.

Mrs. Green, 85, died at her home, 2037 Robb St. She was a lifetime member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

Born in Gloster County, Virginia, she is survived by one son, Charles Moss Sr.; five grandchildren, seven great grandchildren, and two great, great grandchildren.

Burial was in Mt. Auburn Cemetery.

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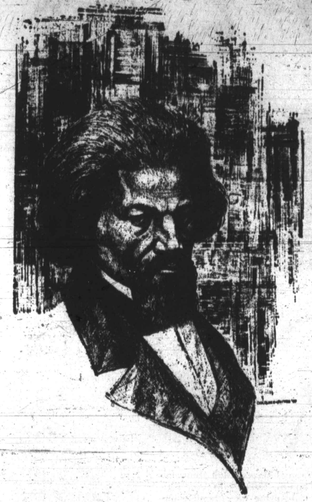
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Artwork From Zenith Books, Doubleday & Co., Inc.

By DR. EDGAR A. TOPPIN
RICHMOND

In 1864 a black soldier in the Union Army Corporal Thomas Long, explained to his fellow black soldiers why they fought.

Like Long, these men were all former slaves, members of the First South Carolina Volunteer Segiment, the earliest regiment of black men formed in the Civil War, though not the first to be mustered into service.

The men of the First South Carolina gained their freedom late in 1861 when Union forces seized the Port Royal region from the Confederates.

Their regiment was initially formed in April, 1862, disbanded except for one company, then reformed late in 1862, and mustered into the Army early in 1863.

On March 24, 1864, Corpocal Long, in a Sunday sermon to his comrades-in-arms of the First South Carolina Regiments aid:

"...suppose you had kept your freedom without enlisting in this army; your children might have grown up free, and been well cultivated so as to be equal to any business; but it would have been always flung in their faces — Your father never fought for his own freedom" —and whate ould they answer? . . . Thanks to this regiment, never can they say that any more, because we first showed them we could fight by their side.

HIS WORDS show that black people consciously fought to gain their freedom and leave a proud record.

The 180,000 black soldiers in the Union Army struck a blow for freedom. Yet, many schoolbooks, by omitting their role, left school children, black and white, with the impression that black people were handed their freedom without lifting a finger themselves.

A popular historian, in a biography of General Grant, published in 1926, went so far as to state:

The American Negroes are the only people in the history of the world, so far as I know, that ever became free without any effort of their own . . . The war that freed them was a war against their masters; their freedom came as an incident of that conflict . . . It was not their business. They had not started the war nor ended it. They twanged banjos around the railroad stations, sang melodious spirituals, and believed that some Yankee would soon come along and give each of them forty acres of land and a mule.

The 38,000 black soldiers who died in the Civil War would have been surprised to learn that they were only twanging banjos around railroad stations.

THIS IS A DRAMATIC example of the distortions that have harmed the black man in the writing of American history. As the great black leader, Frederick Douglass, once pointed out:

"Men are so constituted that they largely derive their ideas of their abilities and their possibilities from the settled judgments of their fellow-men . . ."

The black child can not hold high his head on the basis of the roles in which he is presently shown in most schoolbooks.

What happens to the black child's inspiration to learn when his readers and schoolbooks thunder at him that all the worthwhile achievements in America were made by whites and that blacks have been only backward, lazy, happy-go-lucky slaves before the Civil War; ignorant, grinning tools of crafty politicians during Reconstruction; and irresponsible demonstrators and rioters in recent years?

Where does the black child learn of heroes from his past?

Where does he get guides and models to elevate his goals?

* * *

FORTUNATELY, TODAY, much greater efforts are being made to tell the full story of the black man's part in America. Textbooks increasingly are seekisg to include his role.

One of the best such books is Land of the Free, a junior high school history textbook by John Caughey, John Hope Franklin, and Ernest May.

Henry Graff of Columbia University has written two textbooks that present the black man's role in a better light than the average textbook: The Free and the Brave, for eighth grade American History, and Adventures of the American Peovle (second edition), for 11th grade American History.

Both of Graff's books have been approved for use by the Commonwealth of Virginia and are in use in a number of school systems in Virginia.

Many publishers are issuing supplemental readers for use with English, history and social studies classes, from the elementary through the secondary level.

One of the most widely-hailed of such series is the Zenith Book Series issued by Doubleday and Company.

Zenith Books deal with various minorities: Passage to the Golden Gate tells of Chinese Americans; Island in the Crossroads and The Quiet Rebels tell of the Puerto Ricans. Most of the titles, thus far, deal with black men.

Three Zenith Books cover Africa: A Glorious Age in Africa describes the great Ghana, Mali, and Songhay empires of antiquity; Great Rulers of the African Past gives biographies of the leaders of these three empires and also of two other kingdoms, Kongo and Bornu; A Guide to African History surveys the continent from prehistoric times to the present.

The other six Zenith Books tell the story of black Americans during the American Revolution, the Civil War and Reconstruction, the post-Reconstruction, and the 1920's and 1930's. Their titles are: Pioneers and Patriots; Worth Fighting For; Four Took Freedom; The Unfinished March; Lift Every Voice; and Time of Trial, Time of Hope. Together, these six books tell the story of Afro-Americans from 1760 ot 1941.

THESE AND OTHER BOOKS tell many things about black men that white and black schoolchildren, teachers, and parents should know.

Africans were skilled farmers and had advanced civilizations. African explorers accompanied the expeditions that explored the Americas and conquered the Indian civilizations.

The oldest city in the United States, St. Augustine, Florida, had black inhabitants from its founding by the Spaniards in 1565-6.

The famed black explorer, Estevanico, pioneered in Arizona and New Mexico in the 1530's, long before Jamestown was founded or the "Mayflower" set sail.

America's second largest city, Chicago, grew up around the trading post of a black western pioneer, Jean B. P. DuSable.

Benjamin Banneker, born free in Maryland, was named by President Washington to the commission to survey and lay out the national capital.

When the Revolution began at Lexington and Concord, black militiamen who were members of integrated companies of Minutemen in Massachusetts participated. One of these Minutemen, Peter Salem, a former slave, was a hero at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Phyllis Wheatley, a slave in Massachusetts, became a celebrated poet.

A former slave physician, James Derham, was praised by America's greatest colonial physician, Dr. Benjamin Rush.

Five thousand black soldiers fought in the Revolution, mostly in integrated units.

THESE 18TH CENTURY black achievers were followed by others in the 19th Century.

Black soldiers and sailors served valiantly in the War of 1812 under Oliver Perry on Lake Erie and under Andrew Jackson at New Orleans.

Many prospered, including James Forten, who had a sailmaking business in Philadelphia; Thomy Lafon, who was a merchant and realtor in New Orleans; and Paul Cuffe, who owned a fleet of ships.

Norbert Rillieux of New Orleans invented the vacuum-chamber process that revolutionized the sugar refining industry.

Jan Matzeliger invented the shoe-lasting machine that revolutionized the manufacture of shoes.

MILLIONS OF AFRICANS died resisting enslavement.

Their descendants in America fought back against the slave system by sabotage, shirking, self-maiming, suicide, running away, and revolts.

Frederick Douglass escaped from slavery, became an abolitionist lecturer, and published an antislavery newspaper.

Harriet Tubman made many trips south to help her fellow slave escape to freedom.

John Chavis, a black man, ran schools in North Carolina during slavery times, teaching children from prominent white families; some of his pupils became governors and congressmen.

During Reconstruction, many black men held high office, such as United States Senator Blanche K. Bruce and Congressman Robert Smalls; most of those is high offices were qualified.

Out West, black cavalry regiments (the 9th and 10th U.S. Cavalry) fought in the Indian Wars and 5,000 black cowboys rode the western ranges, including the famed bulldogger Bill Pickett, who was the world's most spectacular rodeo performer.

In the late 19th Century, a black physician, Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, was nationally acclaimed as the first surgeon to perform successfully open-heart surgery.

OVERCOMING HANDICAPS, Afro-Americans continued to make notable contributions in the twentieth century.

W. E. B. DuBois, rejecting the conciliatory leadership of Booker T. Washington led the fight for militant agitation for equal rights, a movement that made him a pioneer leader of the NAACP.

James Weldon Johnson served as the NAACP Executive Secretary and was one of the outstanding poets of his race.

Matthew Henson led the way when Peary's expedition went to the North Pole.

Mary Church Terrell was a pioneering woman civic leader and fighter for equal rights.

Henry O. Tanner, the first black American to make a living from art, became a renowned painter of Biblical scenes while living in Paris.

Dr. Charles Drew devised blood plasma techniques and established the British Blood Bank, saving thousands of lives in World War II.

* * *

THESE BRIEF GLIMPSES indicate a tiny portion of the proud history of black Americans.

These developments should be woven into the fabric of textbooks and courses as part of the total story of America.

Until they are, teacher and pupil, parent and child, black and white, layman and scholar should all make an effort to learn more about black history.

It is essential for improving the confidence, aspirations, and self-image of Afro-Americans and for furnishing white Americans a better understanding and appreciation of their black brothers.

About the Author

Edgar A. Toppin was born in Harlem Hospital in New York's teeming black ghetto in 1926, the second of six children in a laboring family that weathered the depression with aid from New Deal relief agencies. In his senior year at Franklin High, he won the competitive scholarship awarded by Howard University for the New York area.

After receiving the bachelor's and master's degrees in American History in 1949 and 1950, Toppin continued his graduate training at Northwestern University where he received his Ph.D. degree in American History in 1955.

He has taught history at Alabama State College (1954-55), Fayetteville State College (1955-59), The University of Akron (1959-64), and Virginia State College since 1964. He has also been a visiting professor at Western Reserve University, North Carolina College and the University of Cincinnati.

Toppin has published 43 articles and book reviews and three books. His books are: Pioneers and Patriots: The Lives of Six Negroes of the Revolutionary Era (N.Y.: Doubleday, 1965), with Lavinia Dobler as co-author; A Mark Well Made: The Negro Contribution to American Culture (Chicago: Rand and McNally, 1967); and The Unfinished March: The Negro in the United States Reconstruction to World War I (N.Y.: Doubleday, 1967), with Carol Drjsko as co-author.

At present, Toppin serves on the board of directors or executive council of The Southern Fellowships Fund, The Associated Publishers, and The Association for the Study of Negro Life and History.

He is on leave from Virginia State College to prepare and produce a television course entitled Americans from Africa: A History, which will be shown on the educational television channels in Richmond (WCVE-23; WCVW-57) and in other parts of the state and nation. A grant of $40,000 from the Old Dominion Foundation provides the financial backing for this project.

He is married to the former Miss Antoinette Lenox of Nottoway, Va. They have three children.

$1 million set for businesses

RICHMOND

The Consolidated Bank and Trust Co. Thursday put up $1 million to spearhead a three-pronged venture to develop profitable, black-owned businesses in Richmond.

The city's lone colored bank joined with the Small Business Administration and the Metropolitan Business League in the effort to prop up the sagging economic life of the inner city.

The plan was announced at a press conference at the John Marshall Hotel by J. Jay Nickens, president of the bank, Howard J. Samuels, administrator of the SBA and Garfield Childs of the Metropolitan Business League.

NICKENS TOLD newsmen and guests that the new program was "a partnership effort aimed at speeding up the formation and expansion of minority owned businessmen."

Towards this end, Nickens said, the bank was putting up the money either directly or in conjunction with the SBA.

Under the SBA program it makes money available to small businesses or prospective businessmen through three channels. It guarantees bank loans, makes outright loans or participates in loans with local banking institutions.

According to Samuels, the SBA was to act as a "catalyst" in bringing money and know-how to those wanting to start or expand minority businesses.

He said he would ask other Virginia banks to join in the effort to hypo the ghetto economy.

THROUGH ITS 8-month-old Project Outreach, the Metropolitan Business League assumed a key job in the project. Childs said the League's function was to provide technical knowledge to those already in business or seeking to go into business and to help them secure loans from the bank or the SBA.

"What we're doing is to go out and find faltering businesses or men with plans to go into business and to provide them with the know-how to make their businesses work," Childs said.

He added that the big problem lies with convincing floundering businessmen that their businesses are in trouble and could be managed better.

"More finances are not the only solution. They need management training too," he added. Such training is administered in seminars, through local business schools and by sending resource people into the businesses.

SAMUELS said the SBA plement the economic dewas working to launch similar programs elsewhere because "less than one per cent of the nation's businesses are minority owned." And, he said the development of ghetto business is central to improved race relations in the nation.

"If there's going to be a better understanding between blacks and whites you're going to have to build inner city businesses," he said.

Since many black businessmen are struggling and lack the financial ratings of their white counterparts and since many would-be minority businessmen lack money and training, Samuels said the SBA is going to take risks in helping them get started.

MILLION DOLLAR EVENT: Howard Samuels symbolically cuts a birthday cake for his Small Business Administration during ceremonies marking a million dollar program to develop small ghetto businesses in Richmond. J. Jay Nickens, president of the Consolidated Bank and Trust Co. which is putting up a cool million dollars for the project, (left) and G. F. Childs, whose Metropolitan Business League will provide the technical knowhow, flank Samuels.