

BLACK HISTORY MONTH • FEBRUARY 1990

1492 - 1500s COLONIZATION and SLAVERY in AMERICA

1492 PEDRO ALONZO NINO, pilot for Columbus.	1513 Balboa's group crossing Panama had 30 blacks.	1517 Bishop Las Casas (Spain) said Spaniards could import 12 Negroes each to New World.	1526 First slave revolt in what is now South Carolina.	1538 ESTEVANICO (Little Stephen) led the expedition which discovered Arizona and New Mexico.	1539 Blacks were with DeSoto on his journey to the Mississippi.	1540 The second settler in Alabama was black (from DeSoto's expedition).	1562 John Hawkins carried slaves from West Africa to Spanish America.	1565 Blacks were among the group that founded St. Augustine, Florida.
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THE LIFE OF A SLAVE IN THE COLONIES -- 2,750,000 SLAVES IMPORTED IN 1600's

SLAVES came from Europe, Africa or West Indies. Sold by white slave traders or by African chiefs after they were captured in wars.	They were traded for trinkets. Slaves would often jump ship into shark-infested waters rather than be forced into slavery.	Slaves were HANDCUFFED wrist and ankle, crowded on ships, often unable to turn or stand. MUCH DISEASE -- MUCH DEATH.	Once in colonies they were SOLD IN MARKET. Families were separated. By 1850 price was about \$1,200 per man.	By 1750 -- 236,000 slaves out of a total population of 1,171,000.	REVOLTS often ended in disaster because "Toms" (blacks who tried to gain favor with the whites) passed on information to their masters.	The NOTION that the slave was happy or content in slavery -- was largely a myth held by slave-holding whites.	It cost \$15-\$50 a year to feed and clothe a slave. A slave's life expectancy was very short.	Slaves lived at a DISTANCE from the "big house" in one-room shacks. A lucky slave might have a trade (blacksmith) or grow a crop if he turned over a percentage of the harvest.	Most slaves worked on PLANTATIONS -- Northern slaves and lucky southern slaves were house servants. Slaves were not generally used in manufacturing.
RUNAWAY SLAVES often joined Indians, some becoming their slaves, some enjoying equality, some becoming chiefs. Many slaves traveled the "underground railroad" to freedom in the north and in Canada.	ABOLITIONISTS -- trying to help slaves, included speakers like ex-slave FREDERICK DOUGLASS or militant John Brown. Lincoln's need for soldiers finally prompted the Emancipation Proclamation.	Their RELIGION copied the emotional qualities of local white churches. The church became a community center, the one place for dignity identity and advancement.	Anything that could make slaves feel more DEPENDENT became a means of controlling them. Slaves were not allowed to sign contracts so there was no legal marriage -- the father's role was minimized.	At first, blacks had same STATUS as INDENTURED SERVANTS -- and eventually gained freedom. BUT by the end of the 17th century slaveholders' rights were absolute.	Slaves were not EDUCATED -- Their health was of some concern to owners because they were needed in the fields. Slaves developed a false servility and humor to hold back the use of the whip against them.				

1600s COLONIZATION and SLAVERY in AMERICA

1619 First cargo of slaves for English America came to Jamestown, Virginia.	1620 First public school for Negroes and Indians in Virginia.	1624 WILLIAM TUCKER, first black child born and baptized in English Colonies.	1638 First slaves came to New England, most as house servants, grooms and footmen.	1641 Massachusetts became first colony to legalize slavery.	1645 First American slaveship -- The Rainbow.	1661 First petition for freedom granted to a slave by New Netherlands (New York).	1662 Virginia law said children of slaves are slaves.	1663 First slave revolt in colonial U.S. in Gloucester, Virginia.	1664 Maryland prohibited intermarriage between black men and white women. Other colonies followed.
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The AMERICAN Revolution and the COTTON Revolution 7,000,000 slaves imported in the 1700's

POST-WAR 1783- 1793	1783 Many slaves freed as a REWARD for their military service.	1784 EDWARD GRIFFIN, hero of the Revolution, given his FREEDOM in North Carolina.	1785 Constitutional Convention upheld slavery in three sections of its writings. * DAVID WALKER born, first Negro writer to openly attack slavery.	1787 Slavery outlawed in all territory included in Northwest Ordinance. * The African Free School, first free school, operated in New York City.	1789 JOSIAH HENSON, abolitionist, born in Maryland (a model for "Uncle Tom").	1790 Out of a total population of 4,000,000 -- 757,181 are Negro. Only 59,557 are free. * Pennsylvania abolitionists petitioned Congress to end slavery.	1791 BENJAMIN BANNEKER appointed by Jefferson as consultant on design for Washington, D.C. * Successful revolt against French in Haiti.	1792 Antoine Blanc founded first American Negro order of Catholic nuns.	1793 BENJAMIN LUNDY, colonizationist, born * Fugitive Slave-Law passed by Congress -- made it a criminal offense to assist an escaping slave.
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AFRICAN AMERICAN REFLECTIONS LOCAL WORKS OF POETRY IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

REFLEXION...

by Sheku G. Kamara

I stand on the West Atlantic
looking across the beautiful horizon
wondering who on the other side might be
meditating pensively afar as I am

The sky is clear and ocean calm
with few ripples that gently wash
clear sand landward in one direction
retreating in the other as each ripple fades

The tide is low at this time of day
and so I walk towards the other side
even if but only a few feet, languid
a step a time on the friendly sand

I proceed as the water retreats
hoping to reach the other side
not to explore what lies beyond
but to tread the shore for which I yearn

The farther I proceed the higher the tide
forcing my beating a landward retreat
losing many feet from the few I have gained
reducing eternal hopes of reaching the other side

I AM DETERMINED

by Robin Marks

I want to
I will
I try to
I do
But it's hard
I continue
It hurts
I begin to like it
I learn to like it
It's my new Friend
It's my new Lover
though not my God
I become obsessed
I am
I am determined
It works
It's working
I'm winning
I succeed
I am determined
to be
Successful
An achiever
That's all me
That's enough
Because I am Determined

I KNOW A BROTHER

by Aruna Kargbo

Ockley Green Middle School

I know a Brother that has been an influence
all over Sierra Leone.
His dark skin shines like a Mighty Prince.
He is like a shining armor
He is my great grandfather, Pa Alimany Sankon.
He knows what you are going to do before you do it.
He was an intelligent man. He was all knowing
and he helped people no matter what their color was
His philosophy was
I shall do what I would do for myself
He was a chief

PRESENTED BY: **U.S. BANK**



Pioneer in the Labor Movement and Executive Board Member of the AFL-CIO

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A. Philip Randolph

The labor/management committee has resolved to cooperate in public service efforts whose objective shall be to enhance the public image of I.B.E.W./N.E.C.A. and publicize the quality product we market.

Facts and figures define the I.B.E.W. electrician as the best trained, most productive electrical worker in the nation today. Our joint objective is to make use of that skill and promote that talent.

Since the first meeting between Jim Brooks of the Urban League and the Metro Electrical Apprenticeship Committee in 1964, many Blacks, women and other minorities have been recruited and employed in the electrical construction industry. Because of this cooperation, Charlye Molden and Donna Hammond were two of the first Black women in the nation to be trained as journeymen electricians.



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