

How Gifted And Dedicated Were Our Beautiful Sisters

By Prof. McKinley Burt

Do not their pictures here reflect the dignity and strength of purpose that launched a new era of African American hope and ambition. Had it not been for these committed black women where would we be today? Where indeed? And these accomplishments were in the 1890's, before the turn of the century.

We draw again from the proud chronicles of G.F. Richings' labor of love, "Evidence of Progress Among Colored People". Last week we gave his account of two strong energetic black men who built two major industrial plants in the South during the same time period (Published by the Geo. F. Ferguson Co., Philadelphia, 1902).

Here, we rely on this same dedicated historian for a superb and empathic account of the magnificent accomplishments of two extraordinary African American Women; Dr. Hail Tanner Johnson, "The first lady,

justly proud of her.

Not only as teachers have colored women labored for the race, but they can be found in most of the professions also. The subject in question saw and felt the need of lady physicians, and, acting upon her feelings in the matter, she read medicine at the women's Medical College in Philadelphia, and graduated with high honor. There being an opening at Tuskegee Institute for a resident physician, Dr. Johnson went to fill the place. But before she could practice medicine in the State of Alabama, she had to stand an examination before a state Board of Examiners. She has the distinction of being the first lady, white or colored, to receive a certificate to practice medicine in the State of Alabama. It is with the greatest regret that I call my readers' attention to the fact that since the first edition of my book came out Dr. Johnson has passed away. She died at their home in Nashville, Tenn.

Miss Hattie A. Gibbs is the youngest of five children of Hon. Mifflin W.



DR. HAIL TANNER JOHNSON

white or colored to receive a certificate to practice medicine in the state of Alabama" - and Prof. Hattie A. Gibbs, "a gifted musician and linguist who, after two years of hard study of Greek.

Chapter XXVI.
Prominent Colored Women.

As a splendid type of noble womanhood I know of no better subject than Dr. Hail Tanner Johnson.

She is a daughter of Bishop B.T. Tanner, of the A.M.E. Church, who is



MISS HATTIE A. GIBBS.

Gibbs, of Little Rock, Ark., and his amiable wife, Mrs. Anna Alexander Gibbs.

Miss Gibbs entered the Oberlin Public School at six, and began the study of music at nine under the direction of her sister, who at that had

made considerable advancement in that study. At eleven she entered the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, and also kept up her studies in school for three years, after which she entered the high school and devoted all her time to those studies. After two years of hard study of Greek, Latin and Mathematics, she graduated with honors before her fifteenth birthday.

As a student she was an untiring worker, her hours for study encompassed almost the entire day. She accustomed herself to rising at four o'clock to begin her practice.

In the conservatory Department of Oberlin College the attendance is about 500, and out of this number the average attendance of colored students is eight or ten. Students are required to finish a course of three studies before a diploma is awarded. Besides finishing the studies of piano, pipe organ and harmony, she had the advantage of several terms in voice culture, and since her graduation she has made special study of the violin in order to better prepare herself as director of Eckstein Norton Conservatory of Music, of which she was a founder and of which she is now in charge.

The women of the race should be proud of her. The people of Kentucky should be proud that one so able has placed her services within reach, and ought to show the colored peoples' appreciation, by contributing money toward erecting such suitable buildings, as will stand long after the founder is numbered with the dead - a race monument in itself.

In disposition Miss Gibbs is amiable; in manners she is gentle; she has a steadfast and undeviating love of truth, fearless and straightforward in action and integrity and an honor ever unsullied by an unworthy word or deed, and after all, these traits so prominent in her make-up make her greater than her worldly success in her art, for in themselves they constitute greatness.

She has a clever handicraft at all the arts commonly styled "women's work." Not only have her hands been trained to glide dexterously over the keyboard, but she has made every day of her life tell, and the result of her industry is that she is skilled in painting, crayon work, artistic embroidery, dress-making, cooking and all that

goes to make up an accomplished woman.

This brief sketch has been given with the hope that young people, who wish to accomplish any particular pursuit in life, may herein find and example of what a woman can do, and the truth may be brought to them that "there is no excellence without great labor."

Veterans health care proposed

House Speaker Newt Gingrich has proposed a veterans health care initiative that would give veterans access to genetic and biomedical breakthroughs but also emphasize preventive care.

Gingrich told 5,000 attending the Veterans of Foreign Wars convention that he will work with veterans' advocates to launch a commission to design new health care standards over the next two years.

"You ought to have the best care, the best technology, the best medicine because of the risks you took for your country," Gingrich told the group's 98th annual convention Wednesday.

Gingrich, fresh from a two-day swing through Southern California and an appearance on Jay Leno's "Tonight Show," said he envisions teaming VA hospitals and outpatient clinics with the world's top specialists.

That could mean installing telemedicine equipment in the hospitals and clinics so doctors can consult with specialists - via video con-

nection - no matter where the specialist is located.

Such equipment is enhancing rural health care throughout the country, and could do the same for veterans, he said.

The Georgia Republican and self-described "army brat" said his 21st Century Veterans Health Initiative would emphasize preventive care because, "You get better quality of life for less costs if you do the right thing early."

On other topics, Gingrich urged the veterans to press their senators to pass legislation, as the House has, to reassert the preference for veterans in bidding on federal contracts.

"Veterans preference is an earned preference, earned at the price of life and limb. It is morally right," he said.

He also pledged to work with former Sen. Bob Dole and President Clinton to finish the job of erecting a memorial to World War II veterans.

Gingrich said he was disgusted that red tape and politics have held up the memorial, which was approved in May 1993 - a delay of longer duration than World War II.

Some 14,000 VFW delegates and 4,000 women's auxiliary members are attending the convention here through Thursday.

While in Salt Lake, Gingrich also met with organizers of the 2002 Winter Games, Republican Gov. Mike Leavitt and Salt Lake's mayor, Democrat Deedee Corradini.

Gingrich, who was involved in last year's Olympics in Georgia, said Salt Lake appears better prepared five years before its Olympics than Atlanta was.

He promised to help Salt Lake get the federal money it needs for transportation and security during the Games.

"You're going to be very high on the priority list because these are America's Games, too," he said at a news conference after the meeting.

Gingrich, just weeks after a failed coup attempt, said he expects to be Speaker of the House in 2002 if voters continue returning a Republican majority to the House.

But he'll be at the end of his stint, the 10th term congressman said. "I've term-limited myself out."

OEA, US West Launch 2nd year

Of Internet Training Program for Oregon Teachers



Area teacher's in training.

Teachers from school districts all over Oregon, ranging in size from Annex and Days Creek to Portland and Lake Oswego, gathered at the University of Oregon last week to begin a year-long training session to learn to use the Internet and e-mail to improve teaching and learning.

This is the second and final year of the OEA-US West Teacher Network Project, involving a second round of 150 Oregon public K-12 school teachers. The teachers work together as two-person teams from a school district, comprising a total of 75 teams.

Enthusiasm ran high among the 1997 teacher participants as they gathered at the University of Oregon last week and received their own laptop computers and logged onto the Internet -- some of them for the first time.

The OEA-US West Teacher Network is a joint project of the Oregon Education Association (OEA), US West Communications and the University of Oregon. Because each of the teacher participants are expected to train 10 of their colleagues following their year of training, the Project will reach at least one-tenth (3,000) of Oregon's public school teacher

population. The goal of the program is to help teachers improve teaching and learning through use of the Internet and e-mail.

OEA member Dr. Sam Miller, science and math teacher at Monroe Middle School in Eugene, directs the Teacher Network which is funded by a \$975,000 grant from the US West Foundation to the University of Oregon.

Last year's 150 participants are now "graduates" of the program and are prepared to train other teachers in the use of the Internet and to share classroom projects they developed during their year of training. The 1996 participants hail from virtually every county in Oregon.

Educators and other interested parties can discover more about the work of the participants by visiting the Oregon Teacher Network Web Site at <http://www.otn.uoregon.edu>, or by contacting individual participants.

Oregon Education Association (OEA) is an affiliate of the 2.2 million-member National Education Association, and is Oregon's largest teacher organization, representing more than 40,000 public school employees throughout the state.

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