

fair treatment towards these black Cimaroons brought him an army of men to fight against the Spanish. Cimaroons were slaves who escaped into the dense woods of South America and surrounding areas of the "New World." After escaping, they began to form their own colonies. As part of this

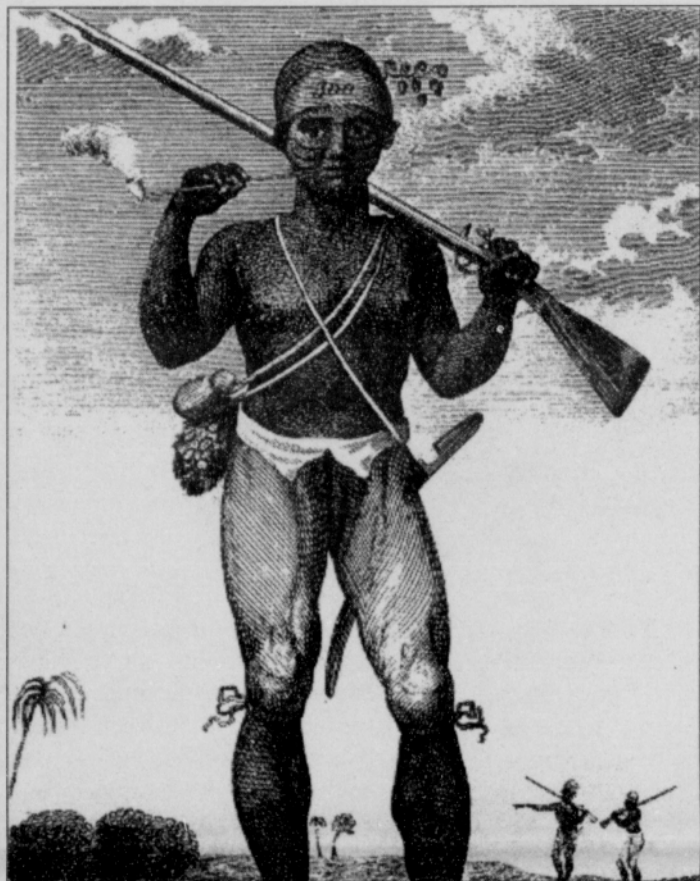
boats, getting them ready for the long trip back to Europe, the ships were loaded with food and water. The services of the Cimaroons were no longer needed. Drake richly rewarded Diego and the other Cimaroons with treasures. As he was never spoken of again, it is believed Diego was left here

Centuries later, we still celebrate the memory of the tall brave black warrior that fought side by side with Sir Francis Drake in vicious, bloody battles against the native Indians. Finding a skeleton that was dated at the time of Diego stationed in the West Coast, and matching him in his rare size through bone findings

during those times, added fuel to the fire that keeps burning. Finding an English sword of that era, and a small, buried wooden boat of South American origin dating to that time including other evidence of Drake's landing here keeps that fire burning even hotter.

It is by permission of the local Siletz Indian Tribe that they can

authorize DNA testing of the bones because they have sole property rights. If results show that the skeletal remains are from a black person, we are a step closer to proving Drake and Diego walked on Oregon soil. Historian or hobbyist, no matter what side you find yourself on, be sure to see the History Channel special coming this summer.



Throughout the New World, Indian and African slaves fled to form settlements in the wilderness. These people, known to Spaniards as Cimaroons, or "wild ones," waged guerrilla warfare against their former oppressors. They were also eager to help enemies of Spain, such as Francis Drake.

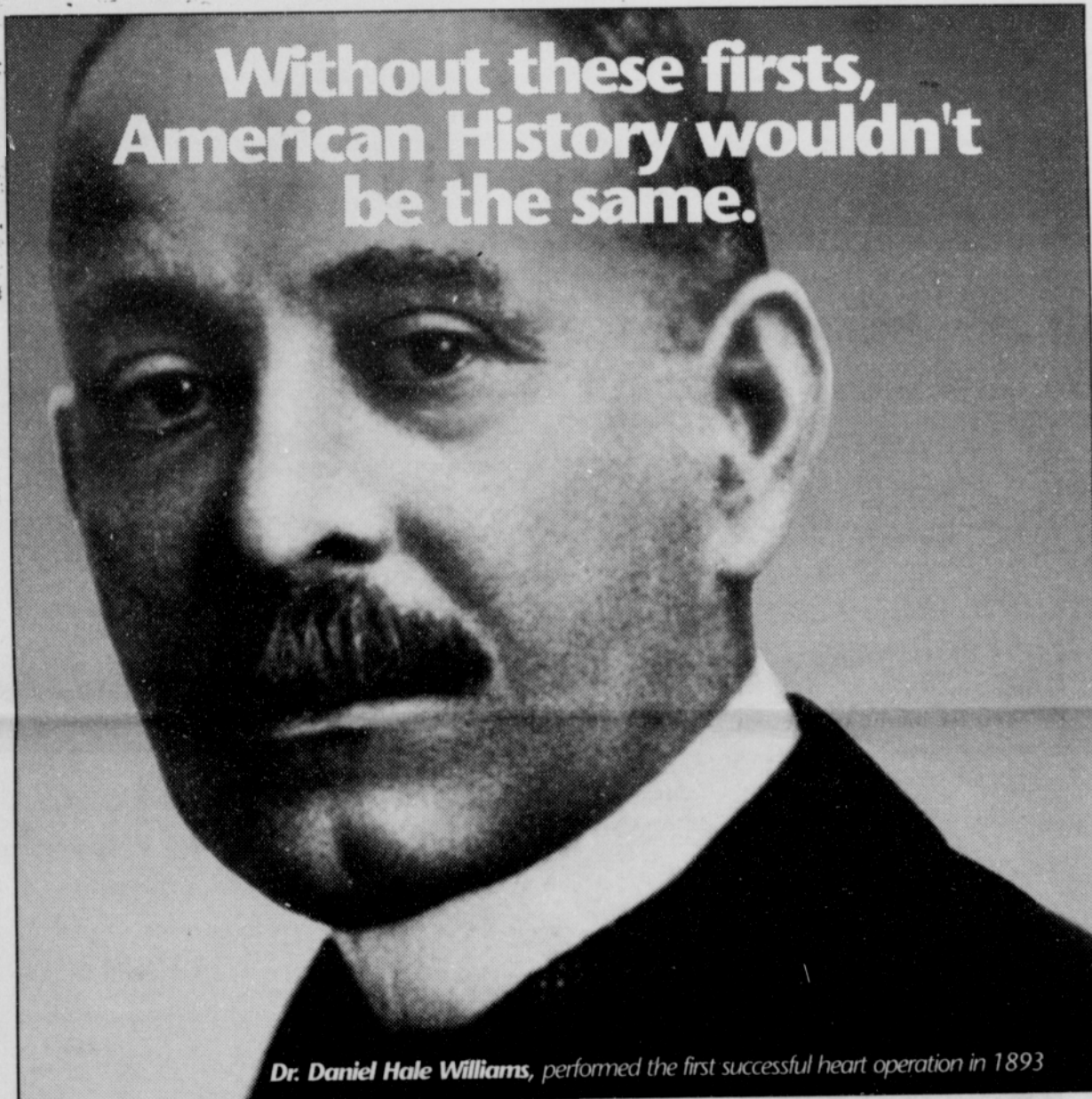
strange and close friendship between these two men, Diego would also become the first reported African circumnavigator, sailing around the world with Drake.

On a return trip to England, they sailed along the West Coast of North America. Drake's ships would stop in numerous ports for boat repairs and needed food, water, or other supplies. Factual evidence has shown Drake stopping not only near Vancouver Island in Canada, but also other west coastal areas, causing great historical debates over the years. One extended stay in 1579 was said to be in a port near San Francisco. In the late twentieth century, Bob Ward, an English Historian would spend twenty years proving the actual stop may have been at Whale Cove. Ward's incredible efforts will be the subject of a History Channel special on Sir Francis Drake airing this June.

The next leg of Drake's journey would lead the tired but rich sailors home to England. After Diego helped coordinate repair of the

the West Coast. Because of the unusual height of the skeleton found in the 1930's, history buffs are even more intrigued by it. This significant archeological find crushed the hopes of Californians who believed that Diego landed down there was an embarrassing find in 1979. A brass plate believed to be from Drake's ship was found near the sight where Californians assumed where he landed. The plate was found in the mid-1930's and hailed as a sign of Drake's arrival. Building a commercial image around it, hotels, restaurants, shops and a roadway were built as a tourist attraction in Drake's memory. But in 1979, the plate was tested and proven to be a fraud, leading some historians to consider the Oregon landing an even greater possibility than before.

Without these firsts,
American History wouldn't
be the same.



Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, performed the first successful heart operation in 1893

Madame C.J. Walker, first self-made American woman millionaire • **Hyman S. Thomas**, invented the potato chip, originally known as the Saratoga chip • **Matthew A. Henson**, first man to set foot on the North Pole • **Jessie Jarue Mark**, first woman to earn a doctorate in botany • **Isaac Murphy**, won the very first Kentucky Derby • **Dr. Charles Drew**, discovered the method for preserving blood plasma • **Jewel LaFontant Mankarious**, first woman to argue a case before the U.S. Supreme Court • **Yvonne Clark**, first woman to earn B.S. in chemical engineering at Harvard • **Louis Armstrong**, first to sing in "scatting" style • **Otis Boykin**, invented guided missile device • **Jane Wright**, pioneered several advances in the field of chemotherapy • **Frederick Mckinley Jones**, inventor of portable X-ray machine • **William A. Hinton**, developed first test for syphilis • **Norbert Rillieux**, developed the first system for refining sugar • **S. Boone**, invented the first ironing board • **Frank Grant**, inventor of the baseball chinguard • **L.D. Newman**, inventor of the hairbrush • **Shelby J. Davidson**, created the first adding machine • **William Warwick Cardozo**, pioneered the study of sickle cell anemia • **Kurtis Blow**, first rap artist

You can't talk about Black history without talking about American history.
Let's remember the African Americans who helped build America.



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