

Black History Month

Chemist Increased Food Supply



COLOR THIS PICTURE

George Washington Carver helped revolutionize the southern agricultural economy, making it less dependent on cotton. He showed that 300 products could be made from peanuts and by 1938, peanuts became a \$200 million industry. Carver also went on to demonstrate that 100 different products could also be made from the sweet potato. He always enjoyed flowers and wore one on the lapel of his jacket every day.

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He struggled to gain an education, eventually enrolling at Iowa State College where he received a degree in agricultural chemistry.

At Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, Carver demonstrated that agricultural productivity could be increased by crop rotation and by planting soil-enriching crops such as cowpeas, sweet potatoes, peanuts and soybeans.

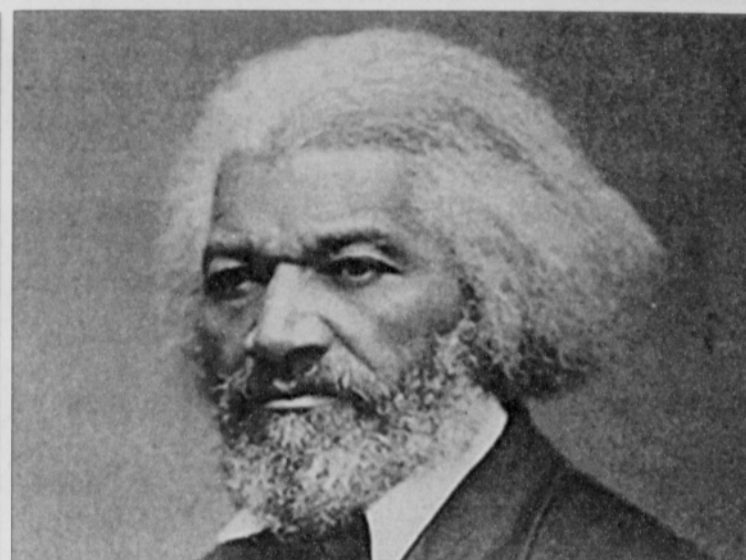
The next step for Carver as an agricultural chemist was to find alternative uses for these crops. From sweet potatoes, for example, came a raft of new products: flours, starches, sugar, a faux coconut, vinegar, synthetic ginger, chocolate, stains, dyes, paints, writing ink, etc.

But it was the lowly peanut that made Carver most famous. From the peanut, Carver developed a host of new products, most notably milk, but also butter, meal, Worcestershire sauce, various punches, cooking oils, salad oil and medicines, as well as cosmetics such as hand lotions, face creams and powder.

All together, he discovered more than 300 food, industrial and commercial products from the peanut.

Not only was Carver a scientist, he also was a teacher and interpreter of scientific information who wanted to guarantee that the fruits of his research reached poor southern farmers. This he did by issuing 44 agricultural bulletins intended to serve as manuals supplying simple cultivation information for farmers.

When Carver died in 1943, the National Park Service made his Missouri birthplace a national monument, the first such honor bestowed on an African-American.



Frederick Douglass helped lead slaves to freedom on the Underground Railroad.

American Hero Freed Himself, Others

Rose up from dire conditions

Frederick Douglass spent 25 of his most influential years as an abolitionist and orator in Rochester, N.Y., and later wrote that it was where "I shall always feel more at home ... than anywhere else in the country."

Born around 1817, Douglass was separated from his mother as an infant and raised by his grandmother, Betsey Bailey, in a log cabin on a plantation on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

Three crucial decisions changed the course of his life: He learned to read, defied a professional "slave breaker" hired to discipline uncooperative slaves, and freed himself by fleeing on a train in 1838 to New York and then Massachusetts, where slavery was prohibited.

His fame spread by way of his autobiography. First published in 1845, "The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass: An American Slave" recounts the dire conditions under which he lived as a slave from age 6.

During a subsequent 18-month tour in Britain and Ireland, Douglass earned \$4,000 in contributions to launch his anti-slavery newspaper here in 1847. The 13th Amendment outlawed slavery in 1865.

Douglass helped lead slaves to freedom on the Underground Railroad, a string of safe houses and hiding places from the South to the North.

An eyewitness described his home in Rochester as "a labyrinth of secret panels and closets, where he secreted the poor human wretches from the man hunters and the bloodhounds, who were usually not far behind."

An exhibit scheduled through 2006 at the Rochester Museum and Science Center explores Douglass' life and ties with the city, where he was later buried and a public statue of him, the first in the nation to honor a black American, was erected.

The exhibit features 300 photographs, maps, handwritten letters and other artifacts.

Quotation to Provoke Interest, Learning:

'It grew on me, black men especially, were expected to be subservient even in groups where ostensibly everyone was equal.'

— Shirley Chisholm (1924-2005), first African American woman elected to Congress.



FINALLY RELEASED !!!

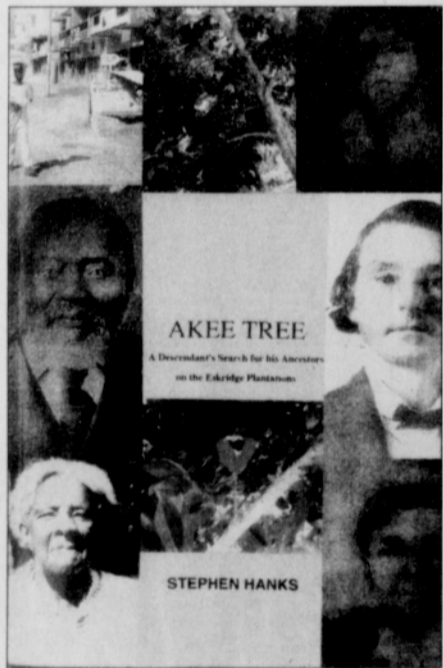
PepperBird Books is pleased to finally release "AKEE TREE, A Descendant's Search for his Ancestors on the Eskridge Plantations," by Portland writer Stephen Hanks.

It began as mere curiosity when the funeral letter from Kansas arrived. It ended with discovering his African roots and preserving the saga of four matriarchs who kept the family bloodline alive during 140 years under American Slavery.

Four women: Akey, Jenny, Rose, and Eliza, labored to keep different generations of the family together while under slavery until it was finally abolished and the family left Mississippi for Kansas after changing their last name.

Author Stephen Hanks' painstaking 10-year research takes him back in time through four plantations, ending up at the early 18th century plantation of a Virginia attorney whom George Washington was named after. AKEE TREE delivers to readers a fresh, raw, and revealing account that will have them turning each page until reaching the last leg of the journey: to Africa! AKEE TREE is not only a dramatic family biography, but also a compelling investigative search for identity. Paperback. 420 Pages. \$28.00 ISBN: 0-976-58660-6. Order at your local bookstore or send mail order to: PepperBird Books, 4515 N. Interstate, Suite 4, Portland, OR 97217, 503-282-6696.

Stephen Hanks reads from his book and signs copies, 3 p.m., Sunday March 6, Genealogical Forum of Oregon, 1505 SE Gideon St., Portland (North of Powell Blvd and SE 13th Place) 503-963-1932.



If you haven't had the flu yet, celebrate.

And then go get a flu shot.

You can catch influenza right through April.

We have vaccine available for adults and children older than 6 months.

We'll offer flu shots to the public as long as our supply lasts. Shots are free to members; nonmembers pay \$20 to cover costs.

Go to the Nurse Treatment Room at:
Kaiser Permanente Interstate Medical Office East
3550 N. Interstate Ave., Portland

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

kaiserpermanente.org

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

"I WILL CONTINUE FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM UNTIL THE END OF MY DAYS."

- NELSON MANDELA



NELSON MANDELA - A TRUE TRAIL BLAZER IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY AND A TRUE INSPIRATION FOR ALL COMMUNITIES.

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT THE FEBRUARY 25TH TRAIL BLAZERS VS. HAWKS GAME