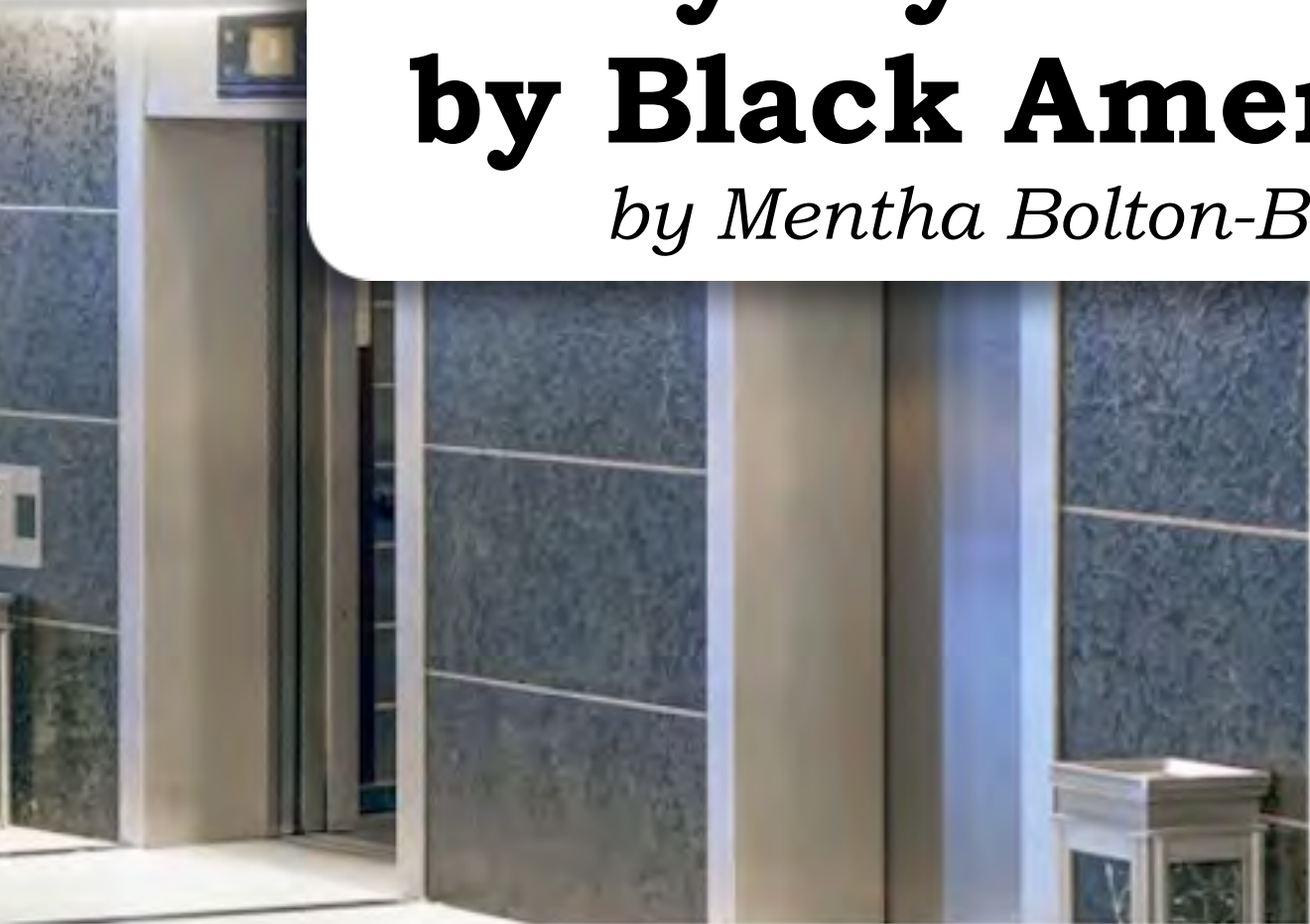




LIR Did You Know?
**Everyday Inventions
by Black Americans**

by Mentha Bolton-Bakari



EX-SLAVES DREAM OF A MODEL NEGRO COLONY COMES TRUE

Mound Bayou, Mississippi, in the Heart of the Fertile "Delta" Is a Community of 8,000 Where No White Man Can Own a Square Foot of Property.

By Thomas H. Arnold.

THE story of Mound Bayou, Miss., reads like a romance, and yet it is the stern truth of the wonderful work accomplished by a group of ex-slaves, who, while they are employed here as thought or hope of building themselves in competition with the white man as an economic or social factor, who claim that there is much that is good in their people that has been brought out and developed by greater application and endeavor.

They have come up from a race of ex-slaves, but under the leadership of the black Montgomery they have acquired and achieved so that the best results of the environment of slavery is a thing of the past with them, even so that "free slavery" that was so prevalent in the plantation life of the South—the system of "share-cropping," which they regard as a species of bondage worse than was ever endured in the days "before the war."

There is a lesson in Mound Bayou that it would not pay the negro throughout the United States to grow and profit by it in a sense of how they may become prosperous and self-reliant in how they may build for their prosperity in a way that will bring forth the thousands of those who are to come after them.

To separate the negro from the white race and not have him progress and prosper has been, therefore, a great loss that was evidenced throughout an entire race that would have been a living contradiction of the American and a contradiction of the best of human nature.

Other similar colonies are in process of organization, and before another quarter-century has rolled around I predict that they will have blossomed into full being, and that many of the negroes who are leading an idle and humiliating existence in the little quarters of our cities, looking the end of their race in despair, will join the throng that is now building the progress of Mound Bayou.

It is the idea of which they live, the creative workers who work for the great possibilities of the "share-croppers" have their backs to the wall. They will not let the ground under their feet be swept by the only air that breathes about the possession of which they will never be deprived.

In the midst of this struggle of negro farmers for the struggle of Mound Bayou, the plantation and every a unique proposition in the history of laws existing in this great country. It was had said by me a few years ago that it was possible or possible for the negro to progress himself and without the aid of the white man and the advice and assistance to build up a community of his own race, a community that would be a complete credit to himself, his state and his people, a community where white and criminals are not tolerated, where law is enforced along legal lines, where justice is conducted on strict business principles, and where, as a result, the best of the best of justice was their

fellows set for centuries, beyond the millions and tens of thousands of the thousands of poor farmers? Can you not

how hard they work or how moral they may be. The girls become prostitutes and the boys gamblers and vicious thugs as



Isaiah T. Montgomery, Founder of Mound Bayou.



U. S. Agricultural Department Agent Lecturing to Crowd in Front of the Bank of Mound Bayou.

the age when the white children are so selfish, through the idea that they are "only negroes," and that what they do or what they say don't count for anything. We are trying here to separate them from the influence of the fact that the "strange" "strange," well-behaved negro does mean.

Florida is of the pure African race, in its feet is light, broad in hips, and decidedly athletic. To them is his

and instruction, coming with the best banks of New York and the East. Every official of Mound Bayou is a negro, and even the white Sheriff of Bolivar County does not interfere with us in the county, but appoints a colored deputy to represent him in that district.

But there is still one far officer in this colony of black people. It is a great privilege with them that the Deputy Sheriff and the constable are the only white men in town. That's wonderful, isn't it, in a town of negroes? But the condition is perhaps best explained in the language of our Isaiah Montgomery, who said:

"Our people, both educated and illiterate, are behind the scene we make. They know that every law in the constitution of the country, and that it is their law and made for their good. It is a lesson from the outside can learn us, for the better class of white people of the country have just what we are doing and of have the same. The white Sheriff of Bolivar County does not get enough respect from about the best people of Mississippi to permit us to arrest him."

And the best white people, including the Sheriff, afterward confirmed the statement in the following manner:

As an example of how their affairs are regulated and the respect they have for law and order may be cited as an instance that occurred in 1904, a village meeting was called for it had been discovered that several "blind tigers" were being operated in the village. The matter was thoroughly discussed and the sentiment unanimously expressed that this character of lawlessness would not be tolerated, and the "blind negroes" then and there issued to raise, a village meeting was called for it had been discovered that several "blind tigers" were being operated in the village. The matter was thoroughly discussed and the sentiment unanimously expressed that this character of lawlessness would not be tolerated, and the "blind negroes" then and there issued to raise,

"When I realized," he said, "that we would be compelled to remain over night in Mound Bayou I began to wonder what treatment we, the only two white people in the place, would receive. I asked Montgomery about some place to eat and sleep, and he replied that there was a room at his home that had never been occupied except by white people. To his house my companions and myself were taken. We were met by the hall by Montgomery's wife and two daughters, nicely dressed and with a manner and refinement that were a revelation. They had prepared for us a savory supper, which we ate with much relish in the regular dining room of the restaurant."

"Our bedroom was neat, clean, and as nicely furnished as you will find in the average hotel. After some conversation with Montgomery concerning his colony and the general conditions of the negro farmers of Mississippi we retired to our room. The thought occurred to us, while the storm was raging outside, what a difference between our position and the position of the negroes who sleep in the open air."

They have shared here a town populated entirely by whites, and in which negroes were not permitted to live. Here we were at Mound Bayou—five white men—among 7,000 negroes, and our treatment had been exceptional.

It is one of the great



Cotton-Gin.

the houses of worship being strengthened which the people may well be proud. The Green Grove Methodist Baptist Church has a membership of 600, and the house of worship has a seating capacity of 1,000, and the church maintains a monthly publication, The Baptist Echo. There is also the Baptist African Methodist Episcopal Church, the Christian Church, the Jerusalem Baptist Church, and others of various denominations. As a rule the services are well attended and very conducted.

The character of the schools of Mound Bayou, the methods of administration, the scope of the curriculum, the thoroughness of the instruction, the most complete of the school system most complete education. The Mound Bayou Normal and Industrial Institute is an excellent point of comparison to the negro. They point with pride to good work in the school and the school progress has advanced during the winter years of its present existence. It carries an enrollment of 200 pupils, and there it have passed many young men and women who have proved in 200 years a credit to their race.

The Bayou College carries an enrollment of about 200 students and is a most thoroughly conducted and highly creditable institution. During these two institutions there is a public school that is an admirably and economically conducted one of the great



The Carnegie Library.



J. T. Montgomery's Home.

primary. The Father Abraham of Mound Bayou. A BROTHER in black and white—white folks here. The Black Metropolis of the Delta.

and procedure to have good black schools, I should have fairly good black schools. There are many, many of them, in which the people could learn to get themselves on a level.

perform the same heroic duty for posterity and for your children that are so same after you, that they may worship and develop under their own vine and fig tree.

talk without being able to see the speaker and would imagine him to be a college-bred American. It was Davis who first attracted the attention of the Negro Business Men's Association.

It is one of the great



Henry Boyd invented the “Boyd Bedstead”
a corded bed created with wooden rails



Dr. Shirley Jackson

1946-Present

THEORETICAL PHYSICIST

Major developments:
touch-tone telephone,
caller ID, fiber-optic cable



Lewis Latimer

1848-1928

INVENTOR AND DRAFTSMAN

Major developments:
carbon filament



Marie Ban Brittan Brown

1922-1999

INVENTOR

Major developments:
closed-circuit television security



Otis Boykin

1920-1982

INVENTOR

Major developments:
IBM computer, pacemaker



Lonnie G. Johnson

1949-Present

AEROSPACE ENGINEER

Major developments:
the Super Soaker, Johnson
Thermoelectric Energy Converter



Charles Drew

1904-1950

PHYSICIAN AND MEDICAL RESEARCHER

Major developments:
the blood bank



Marian R. Croak

SVP, AT&T LABS

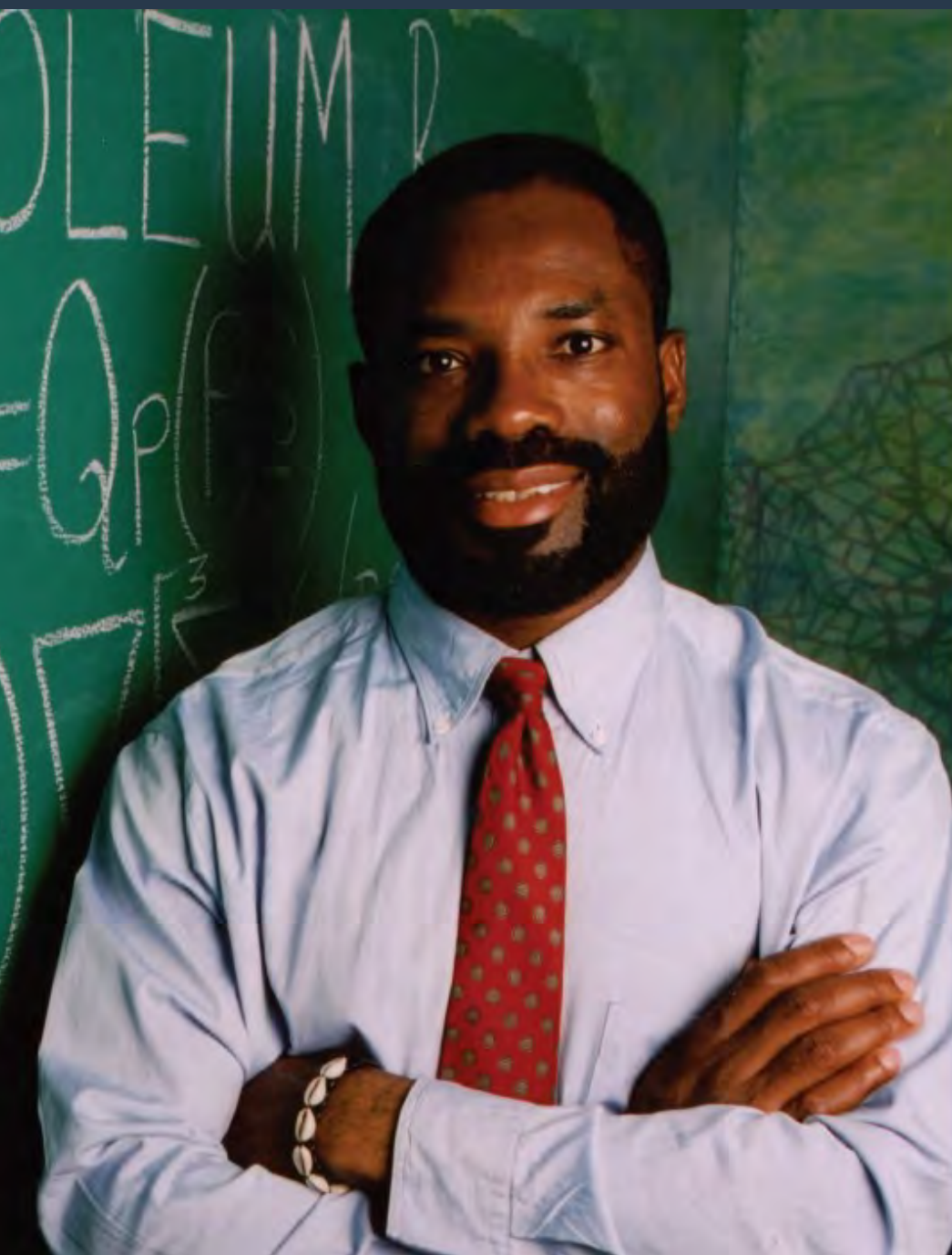
Major developments: VoIP



Lisa Gelobter

VP, BET

Major developments:
Shockwave (genesis of animation
on the web), online video



Philip Emeagwalie

1954-Present

SCIENTIST

Major developments:
world's fastest computer



Jesse Ernest Wilkins, Jr.

1923-2011

MATHEMATICIAN

Major developments:
mathematical models to
explain gamma radiation



Elijah McCoy

1843-1929

INVENTOR

Major developments:
lubricators that revolutionized
steam engines and railroad industry



Garrett Morgan

1877-1963

INVENTOR

Major developments:
gas mask, traffic signal



Mary and Mildred Davidson INVENTORS

Major developments:
the sanitary belt, walker, tissue holder



Carter G. Woodson
created the Negro History Bulletin



Maulana Karenga
created Kwanzaa

ORIGINATORS OF PAPER (PAPYRUS)

Professor Walter A. Fairservis, Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Washington and Director of the Thomas Burke Memorial Washington State Museum wrote:

"One of the most important contributions made by ancient Egypt was papermaking. Paper was made from the papyrus.

Before the Egyptians invented paper, writing was done on clay tablets."

He goes on to say that: "unlike the rest of the ancient world, the Egyptians required only a brush and some ink, and they could easily carry these materials anywhere they went.

The wooden kits used by the scribes who kept the records may be seen in many museums. Paintings of Thoth, the ibis-headed god of writing, often show him holding one of these kits. In fact, the hieroglyphic sign for writing was a drawing of a scribe's kit."

EGYPT, GIFT OF THE NILE

The MacMillan Co., New York p. 74-75

"What Rollin (French historian) says about the discovery of paper, 'I shall treat only from some plants peculiar to Egypt, and the abundance of corn which it produced, Papyrus. . . At last, the use of paper was introduced and this was made of the bark of papyrus. . . this papyrus was likewise called Byblus; Pliny (Roman naturalist) called it a wonderful invention, so useful to life, that it preserved the memory of great actions, and immortalized those who achieved them."

The Ancient History, by
Charles Rollin, Vol. 11,
p. 15, 1846

"Civilization, or at least the story of humanity," Pliny the Elder remarked in 70 A.D., "rests on papyrus."

CREATORS OF THE THE FIRST UNIVERSITY

Professor G. M. James, STOLEN LEGACY, sheds light on this crucial point:

The Egyptian Mystery System was the One Holy Catholic Religion of the remotest antiquity.

It was the FIRST UNIVERSITY of history and it made knowledge a secret, so that all who desired to become Priests and Teachers had to obtain their training from the Mystery System, either locally at a branch lodge or by traveling to EGYPT.

"The world's first university" was established . . . "in the African city of Alexandria" according to Professor Pappademos of Illinois University at Chicago.

"An Outline of Africa's Role in the History of Physics", Blacks in Science, Edited by Ivan Van Sertima.

Moreover, the distinguished encyclopedist of the History of Science, George Sarton, calls our attention to this fact:

"Greek emigrants were too few in pre-Christian times and too little interested in science and scholarship to affect and change Eastern minds."

(A History of Science, Harvard University, Cambridge, 1959)

Thus, Professor Lumpkin asks the question:

Then why, we must ask, is this period of Alexandrian science not credited to the African people of Alexandria, the people of the Nile Valley?

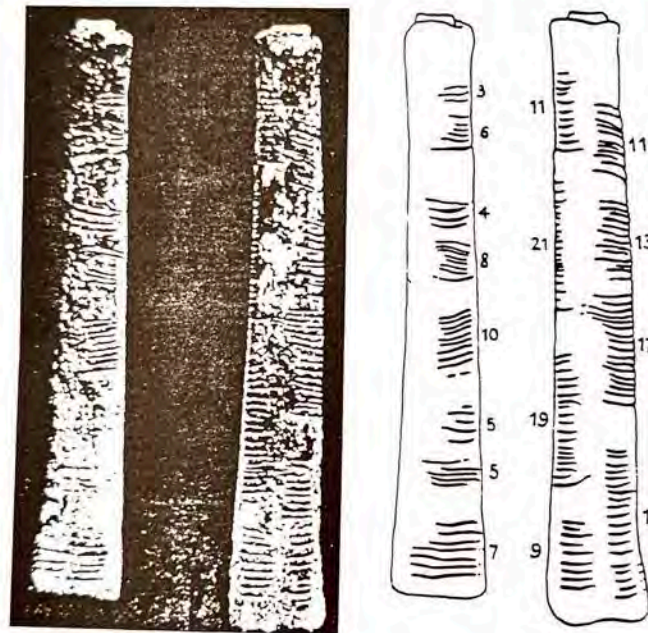
"Mathematics and Engineering in The Nile Valley,"
NILE VALLEY CIVILIZATIONS
Edited by Ivan Van Sertima

INVENTORS OF MATHEMATICS

Evidence of a mathematical system was discovered in Africa over eight thousand (8,000) years ago ---- The Ishango bone found in Zaire (Congo).

Notewell: Europeans had not even learned to read or write until well over two thousand (2,000) years later.

Professor Claudia Zaslavshy illustrates proof of this fact in the Journal of African Civilizations (Vol. 5, No. 2, Nov. 1979):



The importance of the Ishango Bone is expressed by the scientist, J. D. Bernal in The Extension of Man: A History of Physics Before the Quantum, (MIT Press); he calls it the "oldest scientific document we have."

"The Step Pyramid was built at Sahara (Saqqara). The architect and builder of said structure was Imhotep, also known as Imhopteh (the Greeks renamed him "Aesculapius", etc.), who was before his death recognized and "DEIFIED" as the "GREAT GOD OF MEDICINE" by the African and Europeans of his lifetime.

HIPPOCRATIC
OATH

I swear by Apollo the physician and Aesculapius and Health, and All-heal, and all the gods and goddesses, that, according to my ability and judgement, I will keep this Oath.....

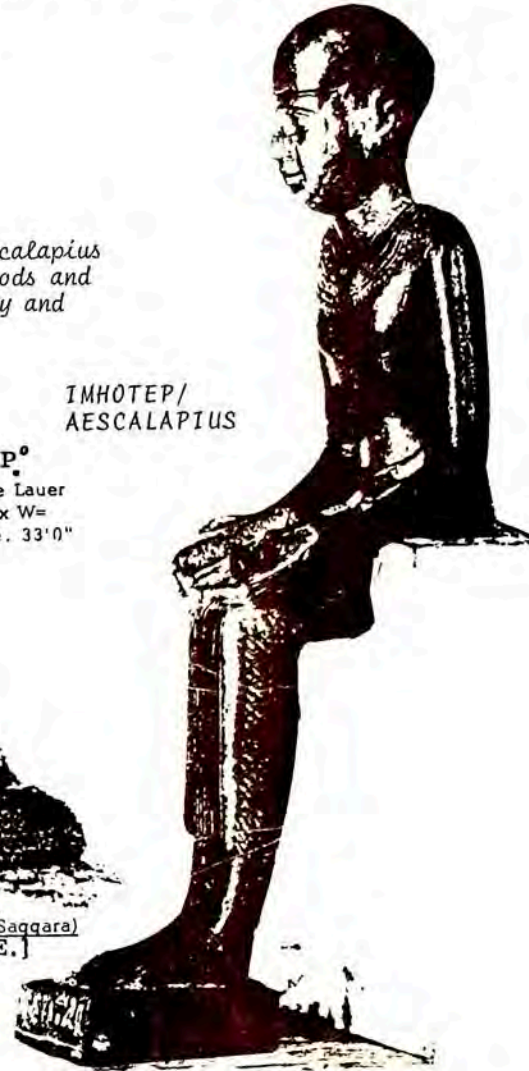
STEP PYRAMID OF SAKHARA by IMHOTEP^o

Reconstruction of funerary buildings by Jean-Philippe Lauer Paris, France. Main PYRAMID dimensions: L=431'0" x W=344'0" x H=200'0". Height of exterior wall enclosure. 33'0"
[Review p. lxii of this volume]



Southern Elevation of the Step Pyramid of Sakhara (Saqqara)
[As it stands today - January 1981 C. E.]

IMHOTEP/
AESCALAPIUS



[Bronze Statue, Paris Museum, Paris, France]

Physician, Prime Minister, Grand Vizer, Poet, Magician, Architect and Builder of the STEP PYRAMID OF SAKHARA for Pharaoh Djoser - IIIrd Dvnasty, 2780 BCE

Imhotep lived more than 2,000 years before the Europeans and European- Americans "Father of Medicine" - Hippocrates of Greece was born. Imhotep was probably the world's first multi-genius. He was an astronomer, poet, philosopher, engineer and world-famous physician.

DISCOVERS OF MEDICINE

"BLACK CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE EARLY HISTORY OF WESTERN MEDICINE"

- Frederick Newsome, M.D. -

"Summary: During several millenia, Blacks in ancient Egypt made numerous contributions to medicine and were acknowledged as the inventors of the art of medicine. They produced the earliest physicians, medical knowledge, and medical literature. They contributed to the development of medicine in ancient Greece. Ancient writers, including Herodotus, Isocrates and Diodorus affirm this.

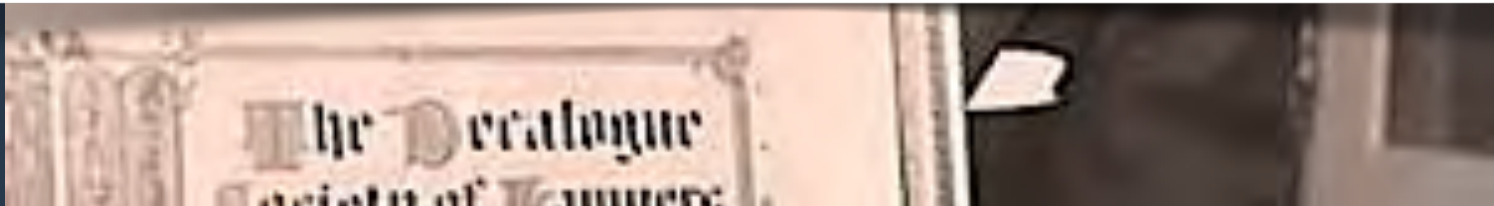
Three major contributions made to the early history of Western medicine by the ancient people of Kmt (Egypt) or, literally of the Black community:

- They produced the world's first physicians
who for millenia enjoyed the reputation of
being the most skilled in the world.
- They produced the world's first medical
knowledge and literature.
- They influenced and contributed to Hippocrates,
the Hippocratic tradition, and the development
of medicine in ancient Greece."



Percy Julian

pioneer of chemical synthesis of medicinal drugs





Charles Drew
inventor of blood plasma





Vivien Thomas
invented cardiac surgery



Articles to Pass Around

This corkboard features a collection of articles about notable inventors and their creations. Each article includes a photograph of the inventor or their invention, a short biography, and a description of the invention's impact. The articles are:

- Chlorine Dioxide:** Invented by Dr. Charles Dreyer, a chemist who discovered a method of separating red blood cells from plasma and then using the two components separately. This method is used for blood banks today.
- Automatic Gear Shift:** Invented by Lewis Lullier, an engineer who designed a shift mechanism that allowed drivers to change gears without using a clutch pedal.
- Black Heritage USA:** A postage stamp honoring Jan E. Matzeliger, an inventor who created the first automated shoe-making machine.
- Ironing Board:** Invented by Sarah Boone, who designed a foldable ironing board to make ironing easier for women.
- Potato Chips:** Invented by George Crum, a chef who created the first potato chips as a response to a customer's complaint about soggy french fries.
- Automatic Elevator Doors:** Invented by Alexander M. Lee, who designed a door-opening mechanism for elevators.
- Dr. Shirley Jackson:** A physicist who worked at Bell Laboratories and contributed to the development of the transistor and the laser.
- Clothes Dryer:** Invented by George T. Sengston, who designed a clothes dryer that could be used in a kitchen.
- Golf Tee:** Invented by Dr. George Grant, who designed a tee that could be used to launch a golf ball.
- George Washington Carver:** An African American inventor who developed many products from peanuts and soybeans.
- John Lee Love:** An inventor who designed a portable telephone and a device for laser eye surgery.

. . . story about Theo . . .

Black Inventors of Many Items

Folding cabinet bed — Sarah Goode
Potato Chips — George Crum
Gas Mask — Garrett Morgan
Protective Mailbox — Philip B. Downing Blood Bank
Improved Ironing Board — Sarah Boone
Home Security System — Mary Van Brittan Brown
Three-Light Traffic Light — Garrett Morgan
Refrigerated Trucks — Frederick McKinley Jones
Automatic Elevator Doors — Alexander Miles
Electret Microphone — Dr. James E. West
Color IBM PC Monitor and Gigahertz Chip — Mark Dean
Super Soaker — Lonnie Johnson's
Tissue Holder — Mary Davidson
Peanut Butter — George Washington Carver
Laserphaco — Patricia Bath
Automatic Gear Shift — Richard Spikes
Clothes dryer — George T. Sampson
Dust pan — Lloyd P. Ray
Folding chair — John Purdy
Golf Tees — Dr. George Grant
Ice Cream Scooper — Alfred L. Cralle
Lawnmower — John Albert Burr
Lawn sprinkler — Joseph A. Smith
Modern toilet — Thomas Elkins
The Mop — Thomas W. Stewart
Reversible Baby Stroller — William Richardson
Drag Queens — William Dorsey Swann

Logomania — Dapper Dan
Airplane propelling — James S. Adams
Biscuit Cutter — A.P. Ashbourne
Coin Changer — James A. Bauer
Rotary Engine — Andrew J. Beard
Car Coupler — Andrew J. Beard
Letter Box — G.E. Becket
Stainless Steel Pads — Alfred Benjamin
Torpedo Discharger — H. Bradberry
Disposable Syringe — Phil Brooks
Corn Planter — Henry Blair
Cotton Planter — Henry Blair
Street Sweepers — C.B. Brooks
Horse Bridle Bit — L.F. Brown
Horseshoe — Oscar E. Brown
Train Alarm — R.A. Butler
Paints and Stans — George W. Carver
Lotions and Soaps — George W. Carver
Automatic Fishing Reel — George Cook
Ice Cream Mold — A.L. Cralle
Printing Press — W.A. Lavalette
Envelope Seal — F.W. Leslie
Laser Fuels — Lester Lee
Pressure Cooker — Maurice W. Lee
Window Cleaner — A.L. Lewis
Portable Pencil Sharpener — John L. Love
Fire Extinguisher — Tom J. Marshal

Black Inventors of Many More Items

Shoe Lasting Machine — Jan Matzeliger
Rocket Catapult — Hugh MacDonald
Hair Brush — Lyda Newman
Heating Furnace — Alice H. Parker
Blimp — J.F. Pickering
Hand Stamp — W.B. Purvis
Fountain Pen — W.B. Purvis
Dust Pan — I.P. Ray
Insect Destroyer Gun — A.C. Richardson
Sugar Refinement — N. Rillieux
Cellular Phone — Henry Sampson
Curtain Rod — S.R. Scottron
Urinalysis Machine — Dewey Sanderson
Player Piano — Joseph Dickinson
Arm for Record Player — Joseph Dickinson
Door Stop and Knob — O. Dorsey
Photo Print Wash — Clatonia J. Dorticus
Photo Embossing Machine — Clatonia J. Dorticus
Guitar — Robert Flemming Jr.
Motor — J. Gregory
Gas Burner — B.F. Jackson
Kitchen Table — H.A. Jackson
Bicycle Frame — Issac R. Johnson
Wrench — John A. Johnson
Eye Protector — P. Johnson
Programmable Remote Controllers — Joseph N. Jackson
Lantern — Michael Harney

Egg Beater — W. Johnson
Air Conditioning Unit — Frederick M. Jones
Two-cycle Gas Engine — Frederick M. Jones
Internal Combustion Engine — Frederick M. Jones
Starter Generator — Frederick M. Jones
Refrigeration Controls — Frederick M. Jones
Clothes Dresser — John H. Jordan
Bottle Caps — Jones and Long
Electric Lamp — Latimer and Nichols
Hydraulic Shock Absorber — Ralph Sanderson
Refrigerator — J. Standard
Stairclimbing Wheelchair — Rufus J. Weaver
Fire Escape Ladder — J.B. Winters
Telephone Transmitter — Granville T. Woods
Electric cut-Off Switch — Granville T. Woods
Relay Instrument — Granville T. Woods
Telephone System — Granville T. Woods
Electro Mech Brake — Granville T. Woods
Galvanic Battery — Granville T. Woods
Roller Coaster — Granville T. Woods
Auto Air Brake — Granville T. Woods
Helicopter — Paul E. Williams
Ice Cream — Augustus Jackson
Pace Maker — Otis Boykin
Space Shuttle Retrieval Arm — WM. Harwell
Thermo Hair Curlers — Solomon Harper
and many more . . .

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