

# **BLACK “AMERICAN” LIVES THAT MATTERED**

**(The Africans)**

**By Jimmy Edward Harvey**

## **Dedication**

**To all Americans of African descent.**

## **Introduction**

**This book is about Black peoples lives in America. To better understand my purpose for writing this boook, it is important that readers understand the Treaty of Paris, which when signed on September 3 1783, officially ended the British North American colonial Revolutionary War against Great Britain.**

**I insist that prior to July 4, 1776 the Republic of the United States of America, did not exist. Especially because of the way that the royal charter system was allocated, it was not the intention of the King that the colonies themselves be united.**

### **British colonization of Africa and slavery in Great Britian.**

**It is without question that the slavery that culturally existed in Britian was carried to “Colonial British North America” (1619 - 1776).**

**However vage the language, or how fine the line, slavery was ‘officially’ abolished early in the creation of the Republic of the United States of America. Therefore, America was never a slave state. The Constitution established 1807 as a date thereafter which, slaves could no longer be imported into the United States.**

**Slavery was abolished in the United States of America at the 1865 signing of the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution.**

**It is clear that the presidential Executive Order 95 issued by President Arbaham on 22 September 1862 to his military leaders, had no national implication, nor was it intended to end slavery in the United States of America.**

### **A Division of Classes in a United Country:**

**It is inconceivable that when in 1775 the English architects of a new nation; the elitist males of a male dominated, Royal class society of Britian, when conceiving of a new nation, that they would think inclusively of females, the poor, the bonded or the enslaved peoples.**

**Many male elite of the English Royal class, were required to be highly educated in law. The chartered settlers of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century British North American colonies were of the Royal, Trader or religious classes.**

**The English architects of the Constitution were young, and well versed in the law. This qualified them to write a document which focused on “representative government”; equal justice, and religious freedom.**

**It is no coincidence, that following, independence from Britian, it was these well educted young men who created the new Constitution that the protected against one-man rule, and embrased a Democratic Republic under a preamble that begins, “We The People”.**

**A fact that is often overlooked is, while these Royal class settlers were well educated, they were not workers, and workers were needed to build a new naton. Throughout the new nation, the worker class would come in the form of, the two labor classes of bonded servants and slavery.**

**The bonded, were usually young men from British poorest subjects and impoverished Europeans. These men signed contract to come and work in the new nation.**

**The enslaves had no contracts, no pay, no rights, and no freedoms. They were all Africans.**

**The bonded were the builders of the shipyards and factory workers of the north and middle colonies. The enslaved worked plantations of the south.**

**This project acknowledge the contributions of the bonded and enslaved classes, and the fact that without their hard work and dedication, the new United States of America may not have ever reached it's economic successes, or may not have survived as a nation.**

**While the servile system ended during the colonial era, Africans continued to be legeally imported into America until 1807.**

**Successive Constitutional Amendment were intended to address inequities and injustices.**

**Because of vague language, the disrespect, the unfair, and disadvantage treatment towards descendants of Africans continues into 21<sup>st</sup> century America as though the lives of these Black Americans does not matter.**

**When I seek answers, I first consider the truth.**

**Statement:**

**One topic that I would like to deal with at the outset is that of slavery.**

**The history of slavery spans many cultures, nationalities, and religions from ancient times to the present day. Slavery was widespread in the ancient world found in almost every other ancient civilization such as the Roman Empire.**

**Although slavery is no longer legal anywhere in the world, human trafficking remains an international problem and an estimated 25 – 40 million people were enslaved as of 2013, the majority in Asia.**

**Slavery in the 21<sup>st</sup> century continues and generates \$150bn in annual profits; in 2019 there were an estimated 40 million people worldwide subject to some form of slavery. [1]**

**This essay is not about slavery it is about the African diaspora of the United States of America and the myriad of positive literary, scientific, humanitarian, , and social contributions which, has been made by a people, both enslaved and free, that continues to benefit the known world.**

**[1] History of slavery, [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=history\\_of\\_slavery&oldid=988485062](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=history_of_slavery&oldid=988485062)**

## Chapter One

### “My Country tis of thee, Sweet Land of Liberty”

**There has been no greater ‘people’ in the history of the world than those African souls that were enslaved, brought and sold within those British North American colonies to toil for centuries to produce food and enhance the economic wealth of a nation.**

**Thru their blood, sweat, and tears over 40 million of these richly strong individuals endured, for over two centuries, against the worst evils men could conjure, and inflict upon another human. Strengthened by their inherent benevolence, and as long as humanly possible, those enslaved souls remained true to their strong spiritual values.**

**I discovered later in my eighth decade of life that my family was of the mixed ancestories of North European, Native American, and Creole. Through the examination of my DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) I learned that I am 82% African.**

**My Caucasian DNA is reported as only 25% with the Native American being undefined. Therefore my African descendency is clear.**

**During my early childhood (the1940s), Blacck people in America were referred to as Negros. In my teenage years (the 50s and 60s), we were called Colored and Blacks. Then in the 70s, simply Black people. In the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, Black people became referred to with hyphenation by the U. S. Government. We were labled, African-Americans. As an American, this writer finds this U. S. Government labeling as insulting. My skin is NOT colored, nor was it painted, I am not a hyphenated person, and I am not an African.**

**This writer, is a native born American of the great State of Texas, and is proud to be a descendant of Mother Africa and to possess within me, such laudable heritage.**

**May God bless all my ancestors; my home state of Texas, and mostly the United States of America which the blood of all my ancestors helped to build.**

## Chapter Two

### Colonial British North American

The first British chartered company to successfully establish a settlement in North America in 1607 consisted of 104 men. The crew, wealthy English investors of the trading company and their servants. Their survival strategy was to live off the land and the with the help of the natives until a settlement was established. They brought not one skilled worker or enslaved person with them!

### Colonialism

Workers and slaves were immigrated or brought by succeeding 17<sup>th</sup> and 18th century British settlers.

The New England Colonies (also called the religious belief colonies) were Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, New Hampshire, Maryland.

Middle Colonies were Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, and Delaware.

The Southern Colonies were Virginia, the Province of Carolina, the Province of Georgia.

In British North American colonies, one was either of the Royal or Freeman privileged classes, or the Indentured (bonded) or slave class.

According to Wikipedia, during the American colonial period, a freeman was a “person” who was not a slave. Being a freeman carried with it the right to vote.

There were ways that, Indentured and Enslaved English were able to attain the Freeman class status. In the Colony of Massachusetts, a man had to be a member of the Church to be a freeman. In the town of Plymouth a man had to be elected to this privilege by the General Court.

## Chapter Three

### Colonial British of mixed Race and Former African Freemen: [2]

The New England and Middle colonies were the first to gradually outlaw slavery.

#### Africans you may not know:

**Phillis Wheatley** was the first known enslaved African author of a published book of poetry in the New World. Phillis was unable to publish any works after her emancipation. She died in poverty and obscurity at the age of 31.

**Born:** 1753 West Africa

**Died:** December 5, 1784 (Emancipated)  
Boston, Massachusetts

#### Americans of African Decesent you may know:

**William Wells Brown** was born enslaved in Montgomery County, Kentucky in 1815. His mother was of Native American and African ancestry, she was “held” by a slave owner. His father was a white planter.

William escaped slavery in 1834 and settled in Boston, Massahusetts. His novel “Clotel” (1853) was considered the first novel written by an African in Colonial British North America. The book was first published in England, then the British Colonies.

You may know that a public school was named for him in Lexington, Kentucky. You may not know that he was among the first writers inducted to the Kentucky Writers Hall of Fame, established in 2013.

**Born:** Enslaved near Lexington, Kentucky

**Died:** November 6, 1884  
Chelsea, Massachusetts

#### Americans of African Decesent you may not know:

**John Marrant** was born free June 15, 1755 in New York City, New York. John became the first American of African decesent to be a preacher and missionary



**in North America. He wrote a memoir about his life, published in 1785 in London, also a sermon published in 1789, and a journal in 1790.**

**Enslaved African writers you may not know:**

**George Moses Horton was the author of the first book of literature published in the British North Carolina Colony. He was born enslaved in Northampton County, North Carolina in 1798. George Horton died in 1867.**

**Mr. Horton intended to earn enough to purchase his freedom, however, slaves were considered property, not entitled to earn money. Therefore, he was not allowed to purchase his freedom.**

## Chapter Four

### **Black Lives that Mattered:**

**William Edward Burghardt Du Bois (W.E.B. Du Bois) was an American sociologist, socialist, historian, civil rights activist, Pan-Africanist, author, writer and editor.**

**He was the first American of African descent to earn a doctorate. He became a professor of history, sociology and economics at Atlanta University.**

**Racism was the main target of Du Bois's polemics, and he strongly protested against lynching, Jim Crow laws, and discrimination in education and employment.**

**Du Bois was a prolific author. His 1935 magnum opus, *Black Reconstruction in America*, challenged the prevailing orthodoxy that blacks were responsible for the failures of the Reconstruction Era.**

**Born: February 23, 1868 in Great Barrington, Massachusetts**

**Died: August 27, 1963 (age 95) in Accra, Ghana**

**Paul Laurence Dunbar was a poet, novelist, and playwright. He published his first poems at the age of 16 in a Dayton Ohio newspaper.**

**Much of Dunbar's more popular work in his lifetime was written in the "Negro dialect" associated with the antebellum South.**

**He wrote the lyrics for the musical comedy *In Dahomey* (1903), the first all-Black American musical produced on Broadway in New York.**

**James Mercer Langston Hughes was a social activist, poet, novelist, playwright, and columnist.**

**Hughes is best known as a leader of the Harlem Renaissance. He famously wrote about the period that "the Negro was in vogue" which was later paraphrased as "when Harlem was in vogue".**

**Born: February 1, 1901 in Joplin, Missouri**

**Died: May 22, 1967**

**E. Frederic Morrow was the first American of African descent to hold an executive position at the White House. He served President Dwight Eisenhower as Administrative Officer for Special Projects.**

**Michael King Jr. (aka Martin Luther King Jr.) was an American Christian minister and activist who became the most visible spokesperson and leader in the American civil rights movement from 1955 until his assassination in 1968.**

**King is best known for advancing civil rights through nonviolence and civil disobedience.**

**On October 14, 1964, King won the Nobel Peace Prize. He was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom and Congressional Gold Medal. The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D. C. Was dedicated in 2011.**

**Born: January 15, 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia**

**Father: Martin Luther King Sr.**

**Assassinated: April 4, 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee**

## Chapter Six

### Black Lives That Mattered

Throughout American history, creative Americans of African descent have been victims of oppression, discrimination and persecution. A 2014 study by economist Lisa D. Cook linked violence towards Black Americans and lack of legal protection over the period 1870-1940 to lower innovation.

In spite of the above mentioned oppressions, many Black Americans succeeded in important humanitarian contributions.

Black Americans inventors and scientists have invented a multitude of items or made discoveries ranging from practical everyday devices to applications and scientific discoveries in diverse fields, such as physics, biology, math, and the medical space science. [3]

Among the earliest to become well known was George Washington Carver, whose reputation was based on his research into and promotion of alternative crops to cotton, which aided in nutrition for farm families. The most popular of his 44 practical bulletins for farmers contained 105 food recipes using peanuts.

Another was Percy Lavon Julian, a research chemist and a pioneer in the chemical synthesis of medicinal drugs from plants. He was the first to synthesize the natural product physostigmine, and a pioneer in the industrial large-scale chemical synthesis of the human hormones, steroids, progesterone, and testosterone, from plant sterols.

During the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, many enslaved Africans, did not allow their social class position to hinder them from inventing. Some invented although enslaved, some were able to purchase their freedom, and others were freemen. Regardless of their social status, they made significant contributions which enhanced the way of life in the land in which they lived.

Born in 1791, Thomas L. Jennings was the first to be granted a patent for a dry cleaning process called dry scouring.

Born in 1807, Henry Blair was the second inventor to be issued a patent for his seed planter and cotton planter.

Born in 1838, Alexander Miles invented electric elevator doors that automatically opened and closed.

Born 1844, Elijah McCoy invented a version of the automatic lubricator for steam engines.

Born 1849, Andrew Beard, a blacksmith and railroad worker invented the car device #594 and 059 dated November 23, 1897; rotary engine patent #478,271 dated July 5, 1892.

Born 1856, Granville Woods invented the synchronous multiplex railway telegraph.

Born in 1731, Benjamin Banneker, an Almanac author assisted in the survey of the original boundaries of the District of Columbia.

Born in 1856, Daniel Williams, a surgeon, became the first black person to have successfully performed pericardium surgery to repair a wound.

Born 1867, Charles Henry Turner, a Zoologist was the first person to prove that insects can hear and can distinguish pitch; that cockroaches can learn by trial and error, and that honeybees can see color.

Each of the above named inventors or doctors were born prior to the signing of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U. S. Constitution.

Garrett Morgan, invented an early version of a gas mask called a smoke hood, and created the 1<sup>st</sup> traffic light that included a third "warning" position - which is standard today.

Among his many talents, Charles W. Chappelle was an aviation pioneer who invented and designed a long-distance flight airplane. The aircraft was displayed at the 1911 First Industrial Air Show In New York City.

Born in 1884, St. Elmo Brady a Chemist, published three scholarly abstracts in Science; collaborated on a paper published in the Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry.

Born in 1887, Augustus Marion Edward Chandler, a Chemist was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Black American to obtain a PhD in chemistry in America.

Louis T. Wright, a Surgeon led a team that first used Aureomycin as a treatment on humans.

Alice Augusta Ball, a Chemist extracted chaulmoogra oil for the treatment of Hansen's disease (leprosy).

David Costhwait, Jr., a research engineer, working with heating, ventilation, and air conditioning; received some 40 US patents relating to HVAC systems.

Alice H. Parker invented the furnace for central heating.

Dr. Charles Drew, a medical researcher developed the most important techniques for blood storage which has proven one of the most important break through in medical science.

In October 1937, Dr. William Warrick Cardozo published "Immunologic Studies in Sickle Cell Anemia" in the Archives of Internal Medicine – many of the findings are still valid today.

Dr. Harold Amos became the first Black American department chair at Harvard Medical School.

The discoveries of Dr. Henry McBay, a Chemist, allowed chemists around the world to create inexpensive peroxide compounds.

The list is vast and serves to prove that Black lives have mattered to America and the world. Black Americans continue to contribute, some famous, some well known, and some will never be known to the general public.

## Chapter Seven

### The Famous, The Well Known, The Unknown

Born in 1910, Dorothy Vaughan, a mathematician, worked for NACA and NASA at Langley Research Center under the harsh, civil rights denial conditions, and within the segregationist and Jim Crow era of the United States.

Born in 1918, Katherine Johnson, a physicist and mathematician, made contributions to NASA with the early application of digital electronic computers.

Mary Jackson a mathematician and aerospace engineer was NASA's first Black female engineer.

Arthur B. C. Walker, an Astronomer developed normal incidence multilayer XUV telescopes to photograph the solar corona.

John W. Jackson, Jr., an Inventor, electrical engineer, co-invented imaging x-ray spectrometer at NASA.

Mark Dean, a Computer scientist led the team that developed the ISA bus, and led the design team responsible for creating the first one-gigahertz computer processor chip.

Powtawche Walerino, an Engineer worked for JPL and NASA at Langley Research Center.

Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson, who I'm sure everyone knows, is an American astrophysicist, planetary scientist, author, and science communicator.

## **Conclusion**

**The topic of slavery has, for centuries overshadowed the bi-racial nature of the United States of America.**

**It is beyone time that the divisive class, privilaged, hyphenated, “ism” social practices of this country accepts the Constitution of the United States is the “only” guide by which this country should live.**

**We are and will always be:**

**“We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the ommon defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our posterity”.**

**As Americans, our civic duty is clear:**

- 1. Work towards forming a more “Perfect Union” – United We Stand!**
- 2. Establish Justice – Equal and “fair” Justice” for all!**
- 3. Insure Domestic Tranquility – That which harms one of us, harms all of us – Divided we Fall!**
- 4. Provide for the Common Defense – Together we stand strong!**
- 5. Promote the General Welfare – What happens to one American, happens to All Americans.**
- 6. Secure the Blessings of Liberty – Remember that Freedom is not Free!**

**In July 4, 1776 a new peoples was brought upon this land – The Amerians!**