

SOME ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE NEGRO  
THROUGH EDUCATION

*File*

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Educational Opportunity  
A Necessary Antecedent To Accomplishment

The accomplishments of a people may be measured in terms of their exposure to the main streams of culture. It is only through training and contact that groups achieve. When given opportunity, the Negro proves that he has within him the same potentialities for individual and group developments as have other races. When brought into contact with modern civilization, his needs and wants become the same as those with whom his lot is cast. Booker T. Washington said, in 1903, "The more thorough the Negro is trained by education the more numerous becomes his wants and he thereby becomes not only a greater consumer, but also a great producer." Continuing, he added, "If the progress that the Negro has made and is making in the country were not compared so much with the progress of the white man [who emerged from the primitive stage many more centuries before the African did] but rather with that of the African races from which he sprang a couple of centuries ago, the judgement pronounced would not be quite so severe. No one can make the latter comparison without being convinced that the Negro has in him high possibilities of usefulness and civilization...If we continue developing our black people they will bless this country not only in its trade but in all walks of the best citizenship."

The achievements that the Negro has made since 1903 would amaze even the farsighted Booker T. Washington were he able to look down the long, narrow and tortuous road over which his fellow



Negro citizens have travelled since ~~the~~<sup>that</sup> first group of Negro slaves ~~were~~<sup>had</sup> landed in Virginia. Down this road with which he himself was familiar have come numerous men and women of vision who, even from the beginning, looked ahead, saw what their tasks were and set about performing them.

Progressively, the Negro in America has moved forward with the general advancement of the American people. During slavery, his progress was slow due to the inherent nature of the slave system. With emancipation, his pace was quickened. Breaking of his bonds freed not only his body, but his mind -- his body to move freely from place to place; his mind to draw from <sup>the</sup> vast reservoir of the world's techniques and knowledge. For what this freedom meant to a race we may again quote the "Sage of Tuskegee": Says he, in Up From Slavery,

"Few people who were not right in the midst of the scenes can form any exact idea of the intense desire which the people of my race showed for an education... It was a whole race trying to go to school. Few were too young, and none were too old, to make the attempt to learn. As fast as any kind of teachers could be secured, not only were day-schools filled, but night-schools as well. The great ambition of the older people was to try to learn to read the Bible before they died. With this end in view, men and women who were fifty or seventy-five years old would often be found in the night-school. Sunday-schools were formed soon after freedom, but the principal book studied in the Sunday-school was the spelling-book. Day-school, night-school, Sunday-school, were always crowded, and often many had to be turned away for want of room."

#### The Acquisition Of Knowledge

An examination of some of the records of higher education among Negroes reveals phases of rapid educational advancement.



The College Bred Negro American, The Atlanta University Publication No. 15, issued in 1910, states that 3,856 Negroes had graduated from various colleges and universities between 1820 and 1909, an eighty-nine year period. The Crisis for August-September, 1949, discloses in that one year alone 7,944 were graduated with the bachelor's degree, 410 with the master's degree and 16 with the degree, Doctor of Philosophy. Not included in this number are other doctorates or graduates of professional schools --medical, veterinary medicine, theological, law. ~~is made~~ The significant observation<sup>is made</sup> that in 1912 it reported only 163 college graduates.

Some idea of the effectiveness of the Negro's education in the higher branched<sup>s</sup> of learning may be seen when we consider that back in 1912 no Negroes were listed as teaching in white universities and colleges. Today, there are over 133 and some are holding full professorships, as exemplified by Dr. William A. Hinton, Clinical Professor of Bacteriology and Immunology in the Harvard Medical School and Dr. Ira DeA Reid, Chairman of the Department of Sociology, Haverford College, Haverford, Pennsylvania. Some of these appointments are for definite periods; others are permanent. Instruction given by these teachers lies in varied fields --Music, English and Literature, Anthropology, Medicine, Psychology, Education, sociology, social work, Biology, Chemistry, Business Administration, Economics, Law, Religion, History, Home Economics, Art, and Drama.

During the sixty-year period, 1876-1936, the Doctor of Philosophy degree had been conferred on approximately 132 Negroes.



In the ten-year period, 1936-1946, more than 281 persons had received this degree. Not included in this number are those who received the degree, Doctor of Education, or the doctorate in other fields. The conferring of the doctorate degree upon Negroes is now becoming so usual that where formerly it was not too difficult to record them with some degree of accuracy, it is now becoming more and more difficult to do so.

In the sixty-two years, 1874-1936, approximately 153 Negroes were elected to Phi Beta Kappa. During the nine years, 1937-1946, forty persons were elected to this scholarship fraternity, a one-hundred per cent increase per year.

Too numerous for listing are the names of persons who win membership in national honor scholarship societies in various fields of human endeavor. The attainments of Jean Emily Fairfax, a young woman of Cleveland, Ohio, suffice to indicate their scholarship. In 1938, as a freshman at the University of Michigan, she was made a member of Alpha Lambda Delta, National Freshman Honor Society. In 1941, both Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Kappa Delta, the sociological scholarship society, elected her to membership.

These attainments by Negroes will increase with the opening up to them of more adequate educational facilities where they may obtain a sound educational background in their early years in preparation for advanced study.

While achievements of the Negro in higher education with the opportunities that have been afforded him are phenomenal, no less remarkable has been the record of the acquisition of



The Negro in Our History, first published in 1922 and revised  
literacy by the general population. Of an estimated 4,441,830  
through nine editions; Monroe N. Work's The Bibliography of the  
Negroes at the end of the Civil War, less than five per cent  
Negro in Africa and America (1928), Charles S. Johnson's The  
could read and write; that is 4,219,739 were illiterate. In  
Negroes in American Civilization (1930), John Hope Franklin's  
1900, 55.5 per cent could read and write or 4,902,866 out of a  
From Slavery to Freedom: A History of American Negroes (1947),  
total of 8,833,994. The percentage had risen in 1910 to 65.5  
and E. Franklin Frazier, The Negro in the United States (1949).  
or 6,437,532 out of a total of 9,828,294.

In the group of general works should be noted the ten editions  
Today, something less than ten percent or approximately  
of the Negro Year Book published by Tuskegee Institute, which  
1,350,000 out of an estimated total Negro population of 15,000,  
survey Negro life in Africa and America for specific periods,  
000 do not have knowledge of the fundamental educational tools,  
with important contributions on Europe and the West Indies.  
reading and writing. This percentage too will be lowered when  
Less general but important are the works of W. E. B. Du Bois,  
the present trend of opening up more and better facilities in  
that gifted editor, historian, sociologist, especially The Souls  
public education from the lowest to the highest levels becomes  
of Black Folk (1903) and The Gift of Black Folk (1924).

effective. The day is not too far distant when illiteracy among  
Too numerous to mention are the specific works of other  
all Americans will be a thing of the past.

Negro scholars. But individuals and institutions found it  
important to begin to collect works by these writers to the  
Contributions To His Own History  
extent that there has developed in the United States outstanding  
center. Until about the early 1900's the history, progress, and  
achievements of the Negro were just so many bits of scattered  
information which few American scholars thought significant  
enough to collect and place within their proper frame of  
reference. With the attainment of education, the Negro  
himself began to study this neglected phase of American history.  
An over-all view of the Negro's history and accomplishments  
through all the years may be obtained from the general works  
of leading Negro educators, historians and sociologists.  
Notable among these should be mentioned Carter G. Woodson's



The Journal of Negro History and The Negro History Bulletin; The Arthur B. Spingarn Collection of New York City, privately owned by Mr. Spingarn; The Fisk University Collection, Nashville, Tennessee; The Hampton Institute Collection, Hampton, Virginia; The Henry P. Slaughter Collection, Atlanta University, Atlanta, Georgia; The Moorland Foundation Collection, Howard University, Washington, D. C.; The James Weldon Johnson Collection, Yale University, Hartford, Connecticut; The Schomburg Collection of the 135th Street branch of the New York Public Library, The Tuskegee Institute Collection of the Department of Records and Research and the Hollis Burke Frissell Library, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama.

Thus, if all the books, reports, pamphlets, brochures and other writings on all subjects could be counted and shelved from the issuance in 1773 of that first volume of poems by Phillis Wheatley, the slave girl, to the most recent scholarly publications by Negroes, their number would run up into the thousands and few if any fields would be neglected.

Adding richly to the storehouse of knowledge concerning Negroes is the Negro Press. In the Negro Year Book 1947 the statement is made, "One of the reasons for the scarcity of data on the contributions of Negroes to the early history of America is the fact that there were no Negro correspondents or reporters to write these stories." Negro editors, correspondents, columnists <sup>and</sup> ~~as~~ reporters of today are vigorously and vitally building up a vast storehouse of information for historians of the future.



Their sphere is not confined to domestic news alone. They move about easily in Europe, Africa, India, South America and the West Indies. Wherever there is a good news story, the Negro Press goes. Few college, private or public libraries with Negro patrons do not carry all or some of the leading Negro newspapers, among which should be mentioned The Pittsburgh (Pennsylvania) Courier, The Afro-American, Baltimore, The Amsterdam News, New York <sup>City</sup> and The Journal and Guide, Norfolk, Virginia.

Many subscribe to such publications as The Journal of Negro Education, edited by that scholar and educator, Dr. Charles H. Thompson, Dean of the Graduate School of Howard University, who has made it a journal of note in educational circles; Phylon, the Atlanta University Review of Race and Culture, The Crisis, organ of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Negro Digest, and Ebony, which features Negroes and is patterned somewhat after Life magazine.

#### Education and Individual Achievement

Remarkable as have been the achievements of the Negro as a race, the attainments of individuals who gained distinction mainly through their own efforts and determination provide inspiration for all Americans. Prominent in the period before the Civil War should be included Benjamin Banneker (1731-1806), astronomer, born free in Baltimore, Maryland; Phillis Wheatley (about 1753-1784),



1754), poet, born in Senegal, French West Africa and sold as a slave in Boston, Massachusetts; John Chavis (about 1763-1838), early schoolmaster, freeborn near Oxford, North Carolina, Daniel A. Payne (1811-1893), bishop and idealist, also born free in Charleston, South Carolina; Martin R. Delaney (1812-1885), physician and political leader, the son of free Negroes, Charles Town, Virginia, who attended the Harvard medical school; Frederick A. Douglass (1817-1895), orator-abolitionist, born a slave at Tuckahoe, Maryland; Blanche K. Bruce (1841-1898), United States Senator, born in slavery at Farmville, Virginia and Robert B. Elliott (1842-1884), congressman and champion of civil rights, of Jamaican birth, who was educated in London and later settled in Charleston, South Carolina.

These are but a few representatives of that early group of leaders, many of whom practically educated themselves. Not to be overlooked is a much larger number of persons who exerted tremendous influence in spite of their lack of formal instruction.

Of the period following the Civil War must be noted persons not now living as well as others still in the midst of their life's work. Pre-eminent among these is Booker T. Washington (1856-1915), born a slave on a plantation near Hale's Ford, Virginia <sup>and</sup> educated at Hampton Institute and Wayland Seminary, Washington, D. C. Well known is the founder of Tuskegee Institute, apostle of industrial education and recognized leader of the Negro people in the United States from 1895 to 1915. He wielded an influence unequalled by any other leader. Others who must be mentioned are: Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872-1906), poet,



born at Dayton, Ohio and educated in the public schools of that city. He became famous when only twenty-four years of age. His works were unique in the literature and life of his time and of great inspiration to other youth both in and out of educational institutions. Charles Young (1864-1922), a colonel in the United States Army, was born at Mayslick, Kentucky and educated at West Point Military Academy. He was a hero and soldier of high courage placing duty far above personal ambition.

Contemporary with the group above is Monroe N. Work (1866-1945), editor and bibliographer, born in Iredell County, North Carolina and educated at the University of Chicago, who pioneered in a field practically untouched. His role it was to open up new fields of research for the exploration of younger scholars. Noted educator and leader in the field of race relations, Robert Russa Moten (1867-1940), of Amelia County, Virginia, friend and confidant of Booker T. Washington, he too was educated at Hampton Institute, and carried on to greater heights the work begun by his predecessor at Tuskegee Institute.

William Edward Burghardt DuBois (1868— ), editor, historian, sociologist, was born at Great Barrington, Massachusetts. His undergraduate training was received at Fisk University. His graduate work at Harvard University and the University of Berlin. Benjamin Brawley <sup>in his *Negro Builders and Heroes* (1937)</sup> says of him: "He gave to his people a sense of pride. The race had had scholars before, but not one of such distinction and influence. To younger men he became an inspiration and a challenge."



Born in 1875 in New Canton, Virginia, Carter G. Woodson was educated at Berea College, Kentucky, the University of Chicago, La Sorbonne, Paris, and Harvard University. He has done more than any single individual to collect, preserve and publish historical records pertaining to the Negro, by interesting people generally in the Negro's background and in stimulating and training others to do scholarly work.

The phenomenal career of George Washington Carver (about 1864-1943) is almost too well known even to mention, but no account of the Negro's achievements would be complete without including him and his contributions. This agricultural chemist and humanitarian was born a slave near Diamond, Missouri. He received his education at Simpson College, Indianola, Iowa and at Iowa State College, Ames. His scientific and practical work with the peanut, sweet potato, Alabama clays and other southern products ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> of the highest quality and won recognition the world over. In addition, he has left in the Carver Foundation a great heritage. Headed by well-trained and gifted young scientists, this institution is making important contributions in the field of industry.

Generally less well known, but eminent in the field of Embryology, was Ernest Everett Just (1883-1941). He attended the Industrial School of Orangeburg, South Carolina, Kimball Academy, New Hampshire, Dartmouth College and the University of Chicago. He spent twenty summers at the Marine Laboratories, Woods Hole, Massachusetts and in the various laboratories of



Europe. His main contributions were in the field of Cellular Physiology.

No leader combined education and business to the same extent as did Richard Robert Wright, Sr., (1855-1947). Born of slave parentage at Dalton, Georgia and educated at Atlanta University, he taught school in his native State, becoming President of the State College at Savannah. In his sixty-sixth year he went to Philadelphia, founded the Citizens and Southern Bank and Trust Company and made it a first-class banking institution. He was actively its President until his ninety-second birthday.

Henry O. Tanner (1859-1937), born at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania is noted for his paintings of scriptural subjects. He represents the best America has produced in the art of painting. Although he spent most of his time in Paris, and the French Government purchased numbers of his works for its collection of modern arts in the Luxembourg Gallery, comprehensive exhibits of his paintings have been made in the leading art galleries of the United States.

Associated with this group are: Harry T. Burleigh (1866-1949), baritone, composer and arranger of more than 400 spirituals and other songs; James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938), born in Jacksonville, Florida, he received his undergraduate training at Atlanta University and did graduate work at Columbia University. Seldom is one endowed with so many talents. Writer of prose and poetry, he was a musician of note, collaborating with his brother, J. Rosamond Johnson. He was United States Consul, 1906-12, Secretary, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 1916-30, and taught creative writing at Fisk University. Previously he had been admitted to the bar in Jacksonville. He will always be remembered for the novel,



The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man (1927<sup>27</sup>), The Book of American Negro Poetry (1927), God's Trombones (1927), as well as other volumes; Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune (1875- ), founder of Bethune-Cookman College, the National Council of Negro Women, former Government official and leader of 800,000 women; Benjamin O. Davis, Sr., (1877- ), born in Washington, D. C., retired brigadier-general of the United States Army. His education was obtained in the public schools of Washington and at Howard University. General Davis' record is phenomenal in that he rose through the ranks to occupy the highest position in the United States Army obtained by a Negro. He served in the War of 1898, World War I and World War II. In addition, his son, Colonel Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., has become the ranking officer among Negroes in the Army Air Force. During World War II, for courage and combat ability, he won the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit and the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters; Richard R. Wright, Jr., (1878- ), Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, who has had a distinguished career <sup>as a minister</sup> ~~in the ministry~~, as an educator and as a religious administrator; R. Nathaniel Dett, (1882-1943), pianist, lecturer, arranger, composer, whose Listen to the Lambs, Barcarolle and Juba Dance are integral parts of American music; and Channing H. Tobias (1882- ) born in Augusta, Georgia, Bachelor of Arts, Paine College, Bachelor of Divinity, Drew University. He has devoted his life to Christian service through his connection with the Young Men's Christian Association. In 1945, he was made Director of the Phelps Stokes Fund, which, since 1911, has worked in the field of Negro education and race relations in this country and in Africa.



~~relations in this country and in Africa.~~

A valuable index to the Negro's progress is the fact that today in almost any line of work appear so many that have achieved distinction it is almost impossible to list all of the most outstanding; and exclusions leave one open to serious criticism. However, an examination of the biographical dictionaries of notable men and women discloses the names of Negroes listed in general as well as specific fields. Among them are Who's Who, World Biography, Who's Who in America, as well as in American Men of Science, Who is Who in Music, Leaders in Education, Who's Who Among North American Authors, Dictionary of American Scholars, Who's Who in Labor, Who's Who in Government, Current Biography and other indexes to accomplishments. All are eminently carrying on their share of the world's work.

Using Who's Who in America for 1944-45 for illustrative purposes, we find sketches of ninety-one Negroes, specially prominent in creditable lines of effort -- civil, military, naval, religious, educational. The pages of American Men of Science disclose a total of seventy-seven scientists who are making contributions to the advancement of pure science and the 1948 edition of World Biography carries the names of eighty-five persons.

Even before World War II, there were 125 chemists employed in industry, which increased to about 250 during that period. This does not include the twelve Negro scientists whose names were released by the war department as participants in the development of the atomic bomb.



Some Forerunners of the Future

Of the current group of persons of distinction most of whom were born around the turn of the twentieth century and later, many are of national as well as of international renown. Besides the background and inspiration provided by their predecessors, educational opportunities had improved somewhat when they began their careers, through there is hardly one among them who, like their forebears, did not make almost incredible<sup>le</sup> sacrifices to obtain an education. For the most part, their undergraduate work was secured in private Negro colleges in the South. It is significant to note that their specialized training was acquired in the leading institutions of the North and in the North many remained to carry on their life's work.

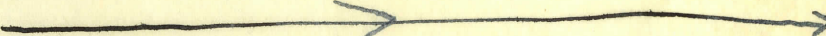
The data that follows<sup>f</sup> should be taken only as an indication of the possibilities for achievement<sup>g</sup> of Negroes or<sup>of</sup> any group when given the proper environmental conditions and incentive. The Negro, perhaps more than any other American, know<sup>s</sup> that his stake in democracy depends on the quality and quantity of all of his contributions. The persons mentioned below are but some among current leaders richly adding to our heritage.

In art,<sup>(there)</sup> is Richmond Barthe (1901- ), sculptor and painter, born in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. He studied at the Chicago Art Institute, and later in New York on a Rosenwald Grant. His works range from p<sup>or</sup>trait busts to murals. In 1937-38, he was commissioned to make mural auditorium decorations and friezes for the Harlem River Houses<sup>g</sup>, and in 1946 the bust of Booker T. Washington for the Hall of Fame. He was the first Negro to be



given a commission to make a public monument commemorating the services or deeds of a white American, that of Arthur Brisbane, newspaper editor and columnist. In 1947, chosen as one of the fifteen sculptors from all over the country to improve art in Catholic churches and to set up and create new designs, his special commission was to do the "Christ" designs. Some of his works have been acquired and are on exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

In the commercial art field is E. Simas Campbell (1906- ), illustrator. He was born in St. Louis, Missouri and educated at the Art Institute of Chicago. He illustrates for the leading magazines including the New Yorker and Esquire and for King Features Syndicate. He also does advertising illustrations for such products as Barbasol shaving cream and Hart Schaffner and Marx quality clothing. Pulitzer prize winner on the St. Louis Post Dispatch in 1938, he is equally skilled whether working with pen and ink or with water color.

In business, two widely separated fields of successful achievement may be cited. In engineering, there is Archie A. Alexander, (1889- ), born in the State of Iowa, who received his formal training at the University of Iowa and at the University of London. When entering the University of Iowa, he was told that a Negro could not succeed as an engineer. After fourteen years, his Alma Mater called him back to construct a \$1,000,000 heating plant and to give lectures to students in the Engineering College. His Company, known as Alexander and Repass, is reported to have completed 300 building projects valued at nearly \$20,000,000 in the past 



thirty-four years. Among their construction projects are the Tuskegee (Alabama) Army Air Field, the Tidal Basin Bridge in Washington, D. C. and the \$3,500,000 District of Columbia speedway.

In 1944, two young women joined their resources to form the Rose Meta House of Beauty. Rose Morgan was an experienced beauty shop operator. Olivia Clarke, a native of Virginia, had studied biology and physical education at Virginia State College and had obtained a Master's degree from New York University. Having worked out their idea of combining body care with a specially blended line of cosmetics, they began operating in a run-down old mansion with a cash capital of \$10,000. In 1947, they grossed \$180,000 and netted \$45,000. By 1948, having further exper<sup>imented</sup>~~imented~~ with cosmetics suitable for the skins of colored people, the Rose Meta products were being distributed in forty-two cities in the United States, in Liberia, Jamaica, Cuba and other foreign countries. Recently incorporated as Rose Meta Products, Inc., their market is unlimited.

The field of education has produced leaders of great ability but none giving more service than the <sup>two</sup>~~two~~ that follow.

Charles S. Johnson (1893-) <sup>1900</sup> was born at Bristol, Tennessee. Dr. Johnson received the Bachelor of Arts degree from Virginia Union University, Richmond, Virginia and the degree, Bachelor of Philosophy at the University of Chicago. He is versatile in many fields. Distinguished editor, educator, sociologist, he has given unstintingly <sup>1900</sup> of his talents to education, to the Negro,



to the nation and to international relations. Besides his voluminous publications in the field of sociology, he has built up at Fisk University one of the outstanding Social Science Departments in the country, making it a center for the study of race problems and race relations. Besides, in 1946, he was elected President of Fisk University, the first Negro to head that institution and is building it into an outstanding cultural center.

Frederick D. Patterson (1901- ), born in Washington, D. C., Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, Master of Science, Doctor of Philosophy, he received his training at Iowa State College and Cornell University. After a successful teaching career at Virginia State College and at Tuskegee Institute, where he became Director of the School of Agriculture, Dr. Patterson was elevated to the presidency of Tuskegee Institute in 1935. During the intervening years, he has, in his own right become an important figure in American education and in the field of race relations. Among his numerous services, none stands out more prominently than his role in organizing, in 1943, the United Negro College Fund, an annual fund-raising project to aid private colleges, being the first time that any group of colleges had banded themselves together for this purpose. In 1948, the combined efforts of 32 colleges raised \$1,067,000 to be divided proportionately among them.

Most notable are the persons currently in national and international news who represent government and diplomacy.

Ralph Johnson Bunche (1904- ), political scientist, was



born in Detroit, Michigan. The University of California conferred on him the bachelor's degree, Harvard University the degrees, Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy. He has pursued post-~~graduate~~<sup>doctoral</sup> work in anthropology and colonial policy in Europe, South and East Africa, Malaya and the Netherlands Indies. He has taught in both Negro and white colleges<sup>s</sup> and was head of the Department of Political Science, Howard University before beginning work in 1941 with the Department of State in the Office of Strategic Services. Eminent statesman and diplomat, he is known the world over for his work with the Caribbean Commission and especially for his role in successfully mediating the problems of Jews and Arabs in ~~the~~<sup>the</sup> Palestine (1949). Author of A World View of Race (1936) and other publications, he is presently Director, Trusteeship Division, United Nations. Typical of the personality of Dr. Bunche<sup>s</sup> is the fact ~~that~~<sup>that</sup> he turned down the post as an ~~Assistant~~<sup>Assistant</sup> Secretary of State<sup>s</sup> to continue his work on the international level.

William Henry Hastie (1904- ), jurist, was born in Knoxville, Tennessee. Bachelor of Arts, Amherst College, Bachelor of Laws and Doctor of Juridical Science, Harvard University. ~~He~~<sup>He</sup> has been Dean of the Howard University Law School, Assistant Solicitor, United States Department of Interior, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War and has set many records by being the first Negro to become Judge of the District Court of the Virgin Islands, the first Negro to become Governor of the Virgin Islands and the first to be appointed Judge of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals.



Labor has <sup>s</sup> no more outstanding <sup>figures</sup> ~~figures~~ from the point of view of service than these two labor union officials.

A. Philip Randolph (1889- ) is a native of Crescent City, Florida. He received his formal education at Cookman Institute, Jacksonville. In the vanguard of the labor movement, ~~among Negroes~~ he is noted for organizing the Sleeping Car Porters under the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and of securing recognition for them. His mobilization of mass opinion resulted in the banning of racial discrimination in defense industries and government work during world War II.

Willard S. Townsend (1895- ), labor <sup>Union</sup> official, the first Negro member of the Executive Committee of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, took a pre-medical course at the University of Toronto and studied chemistry at the Royal College of Science in Toronto. Having worked as a dining car waiter in Canada and in the United States, his activities in the field of labor ~~arose~~ <sup>arose</sup> from his desire to better the working conditions of redcaps and to ~~gain~~ <sup>gain</sup> their non-slaved status. Under his leadership the redcaps have progressed from a state of no fixed salary to \$2.40 a day ~~and~~ in 1940 and to \$7.28 a day in 1947. In addition, they have gained substantial increase in retirement and insurance benefits.

Law is well represented by Jane M. Bolin (1908- ). A native of Poughkeepsie, New York, graduate of Wellesley College and of the Yale Law School, <sup>she</sup> is the only Negro woman judge in the United States -- <sup>a</sup> justice in the Court of Domestic Relations, New York City. Having been appointed in 1939 at the age of 31, she has



entered her eleventh year in that position, being reappointed in 1949 to serve a second full ten-year term in the \$14,000 a year post.

Thurgood Marshall (1908- ), born in Baltimore, Maryland, received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Lincoln University (Pennsylvania) and the degree, Bachelor of Laws, from Howard University. Great constitutional lawyer, he is known for his service before the Supreme Court of the United States and before inferior courts in breaking down disfranchisement and other discriminations, especially in education. Up to January, 1949, he had participated in most of the forty-three State and Federal actions filed by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in teachers salaries cases. In Maryland alone Negro teachers salaries have increased annually more than \$750,000.

In no phase of culture has the Negro made more contributions than to the field of literature. Langston Hughes (1902- ), writer of poetry, prose and drama was born at Joplin, Missouri, attended Columbia University and Lincoln University (Pennsylvania). He began writing at an early age. His versatility has won him many honors. Having shipped as a seaman to Europe and Africa, he has lived in Mexico, Paris, and Italy and has traveled in Russia, Spain, and the West Indies. He is as equally at home abroad as in the United States. His writings deal mainly with various phases of the American race problem; one means of expression being, "Sad and weary blues."

Frank G. Yerby (1916- ), novelist, is a native of Augusta, Georgia, attending Haines Institute and Paine College there. He received the Master of Arts degree from Fisk University and studied at the University of Chicago. After some experience in teaching, he held jobs in



several industrial plants often working twelve hours a day during World War II, while writing his first novel, The Foxes of Harrow (1946). Reputed to be under a six-year contract to write a novel a year, Yerby has also written The Vixens (1947), Golden Hawk (1948), Pride's Castle (1949). His books are among the best sellers.

The medical world is rich in persons who have made exceptional contributions. Louis T. Wright (1891-), a native of La Grange, Georgia is an alumnus of Clark University, Atlanta, Georgia and of the Harvard Medical School. He has practiced surgery since 1919, after service in World War I. Besides his regular medical practice, he is Police Surgeon, New York City and a permanent staff member of the Harlem Hospital. He has contributed to medical science through his original intradermatol method of vaccination against smallpox and by reporting in medical journals the results of other original investigations. Recently, he in association with other staff members of the Harlem Hospital asserted priority in the development of aureomycin, a new wonder drug, which is claimed to be more effective in germ and virus-destroying than either penicillin or streptomycin.

Charles Richard Drew (1905- ), of Washington, D. C., Phi Beta Kappa, Amherst <sup>College</sup>, Doctor of Medicine, McGill University, Montreal, Canada, Doctor in Medical Science, Columbia University, is known for his discovery of a method of preserving blood plasma so it could be successfully shipped to distant places for transfusion. Untold are the numbers who owe their life to the work of this scientist. His researches have won him many honors in the medical and scientific world.

Standing at the top among well trained and eminent musicians is Marian Anderson, world famous contralto, born in Philadelphia. She received her training through private study in Philadelphia and New York, in the Chicago College of Music and also abroad. No musician has come from more humble beginnings nor has one reached more lofty heights



through sheer ability. Acclaimed <sup>everywhere</sup> ~~the world over~~, she is equally at home on the radio as on the concert stage. Through the Marian Anderson Award and in other ways she is assisting promising musicians, white and colored, in their musical careers.

William Grant Still (1895- ), composer, is a native of Woodville, Mississippi. His training was received at Wilberforce University, Ohio, Oberlin Conservatory of Music and the New England Conservatory. He composed the theme song for the New York World's Fair, has conducted his own compositions as a guest conductor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra and is acclaimed for his songs, choral compositions, pieces for small orchestras, radio music, operas and symphonies.

Representative of the Negro in politics are the two members of the Congress of the United States. William L. Dawson (1886- ), congressman from Chicago, Illinois, Chairman of the House Expenditures Committee and Vice-Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, was born in Albany, Georgia. His education consists of a bachelor's degree from Fisk University and the study of law at Kent College of Law and Northwestern University School of Law. He is the first Negro congressman to become Chairman of a congressional committee and the first Negro to become Vice-Chairman of the Democratic National Committee. Not only does he work well with his committee members, but he is well liked by them.

Adam Clayton Powell (1908- ), minister, congressman, author, was born in New Haven, Connecticut. Colgate University conferred the bachelor's degree upon him and Columbia University the degree, Master of Arts. Pastor of Abyssinia Baptist Church, New York, <sup>City</sup> with a membership of over 10,000 persons, he leads one of the best organized Protestant groups in the United States. With his keen political sense, he is a rival to be reckoned with.



No force in Negro life is more potent than the Negro Press. Associated with it are many men rendering untiring and unselfish service. ~~These include~~ Claude A. Barnett (1889- )<sup>19</sup> founder and Director of the Associated Negro Press, a news-gathering agency. He comes from Sanford, Florida and was educated at Tuskegee Institute. Since 1919, his service has supplied news to papers in every State of the Union. The Associated Negro Press maintains correspondents in the "key" cities of the United States and in many smaller communities. From its headquarters, news is evaluated, edited and distributed by all means of communication. In 1948<sup>7</sup>, Mr. Barnett made a trip to Africa in the interest of his agency with a view of extending its coverage.

In 1947, P. Bernard Young, Sr., who had served for thirty-seven years as President of The Guide Publishing Company, Inc., and as Editor of the Journal and Guide, Norfolk, Virginia announced to his Board of Directors that he desired to relinquish the presidency of the company in order to lighten his duties. Immediately his sons, Thomas W. Young and P. Bernard Young, Jr., both of whom hold degrees in journalism and law from Ohio State University, one in 1929, the other in 1932, and have been connected with the newspaper all of their lives, were made President and General Manager and Secretary-Treasurer and Editor-in-Chief, respectively.

Thomas W. Young is President of the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association and as a War correspondent during World War II covered North Africa, Sicily, England and Scotland. His brother, Chairman of the Washington News Bureau Committee of the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association, toured British West Africa during World War II and covered "Operations Crossroads," the atomic bomb tests at Bikini Atoll. Both have covered numerous other important assignments.



The two persons that follow are cited because of their strategic positions as religious leaders--one a trainer of young ministers; the other, a master of the skills important for a successful ministerial career.

Mordecai Wyatt Johnson (1890- ), minister, university president, is a native of Paris, Tennessee and received the bachelor's degree from both Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia and the University of Chicago. The Rochester Theological Seminary conferred the degree, Bachelor of Divinity and Harvard University, Bachelor of Theology. As President of Howard University, the leading university for Negroes in America, his work as an administrator and educator is well known, but in addition, he is unequalled in the pulpit for his oratory, "his logic, the magic of his voice and personality and for his uncanny power to sway men's thinking." He has no peer as an orator.

Now President of Gammon Theological Seminary, <sup>Atlanta, Georgia</sup> Harry V. Richardson (1901- ), was born in Jacksonville, Florida. Western Reserve University conferred the Bachelor of Arts degree. His undergraduate theological training was obtained at the Harvard Divinity School and Drew University conferred the Doctor of Philosophy degree. Chaplain at Tuskegee Institute, 1932-1945, he won nation-wide distinction as a preacher and as a worker among rural ministers, organizing in-service classes for rural ministers and a State-wide Interracial Ministers Alliance. He was Director of the program of rural church development jointly sponsored by the Phelps-Stokes Fund and the Home Missions Council of North America, 1945-1948, and continues to give it general supervision. A thoughtful writer, his Dark Glory (1947), a study of the rural church, is in its second printing.

In the sciences are Percy L. Julian and Lloyd A. Hall. Percy L. Julian (1899- ), chemist, is from Montgomery, Alabama. →



He graduated from DePauw University, Phi Beta Kappa, received his Masters degree from Harvard and his doctorate from the University of Vienna. Important has been his work on corydalis and on the structure of physocigmine. After teaching in white and Negro universities, he became a director of research and manager of the Fine Chemicals Department in the Soya Product Division of the Glidden Company, Chicago, preparing products <sup>of the soy bean</sup> for commercial purposes. Very recently, he announced a hormone compound extract from soy beans which is reported to do the work of cortisone, the new wonder drug.

Lloyd A. Hall (1894- ), was born in Elgin, Illinois, received both the degree, Pharmaceutical Chemist and ~~the~~ Bachelor of Science from Northwestern University. After experiences as chemist with many commercial companies, he became Chief Chemist and Research Director of Griffith's Laboratories, Chicago, in 1929. Up to 1946, he had already received seventy-five patents in the United States and Great Britain on his discoveries. Outstanding in the leading scientific associations, he served as consultant in the subsistence development and research laboratories of the Quartermasters Corps, United States Army.

*The representatives of Sport have received international renown.*  
Jack Roosevelt Robinson, better known as Jackie Robinson,

(1919- ) is originally from <sup>190</sup>Carle, Georgia. He attended Pasadena Junior College and the University of California at Los Angeles, becoming the first Negro of present times to be signed up by one of the major baseball leagues and the first to play in the World's Series. Together with the fact that he is America's current baseball hero, he distinguished himself before the



House Un-American Activities Committee in 1949 by his forthright statement on the loyalty and patriotism of American Negroes.

Alice Coachman (1922- ), athlete, is from Albany, Georgia and received her Bachelor of Science degree from Albany State College. ~~Her~~ Her training in physical education was obtained at Tuskegee Institute. Only member of the United States women's Olympic squad to win a gold medal in the field events, she established a new Olympic record in the high jump. In national track and field events for women, she has won twenty-five gold medals, holding the 50 and 100-meter races title for two years, by defeating Stella Walsh, famous champion from Poland.

The social sciences have a large group of young historians economists, psychologists, sociologists. E. Franklin Frazier (1894- ), sociologist-educator was born in Baltimore, Maryland. Howard University conferred upon him the Bachelor of Arts degree, Clark University (Worcester, Mass.) <sup>Mass.</sup> the degree, Master of Arts and the University of Chicago the doctorate. Noted for his researches on the Negro family, he commands the highest respect of those in his field. ~~for his scholarship.~~ Author of many publications, his book, The Negro Family in the United States, won the Anisfield Award for the best publication in the field of race relations in 1939.

Rayford W. Logan (1897- ), historian-author-educator was born in Washington, D. C. His undergraduate training was received at Williams College. <sup>The degree,</sup> Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy, were conferred by Harvard University. Phi Beta Kappa, he is an authority on Latin-American problems. Presently head



of the Department of History, Howard University, he has written numerous books and articles and is editor of What the Negro Wants (1944).

No more outstanding service has been rendered to their own people or to America than that of these two workers for social welfare.

Walter F. White (1893- ), Executive Secretary, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, author, was born in Atlanta, Georgia. His education was obtained at Atlanta University. He has dedicated his life to obtaining full citizenship privileges for his fellow Negro citizens. His writings have dealt with subjects relating to the race problem in America, the latter of which is his autobiography, A Man Called White (1948).

Lester B. Granger (1896- ), social service administrator, is from Newport News, Virginia. His training was received at Dartmouth College, New York University and the New York School of Social Work. Following a career in education, he became affiliated in 1934 with the National Urban League of which he is now Secretary. His job has been the job of integrating Negroes into America's economic life. During World War II, he rendered exceptionally outstanding service to the Navy because of his recommendations on interracial policies.

The theatrical world owes much to the abilities of two well educated artists. Katherine Dunham, <sup>(1912 - dancer)</sup> born in Joliet, Illinois was educated as an anthropologist at the University of Chicago. Through fellowships from the Rosenwald Fund, she studied the diffusion of African dances as they appear in Jamaica, Martinique, Cuba,



Trinidad and Haiti. Her Master of Arts thesis was an account of her Caribbean study. Having been interested in the dance since the age of eight, in 1939 she decided to devote all of her time to a dancing career. She writes her own choreography, does her own staging, presents her own shows and trains dancing groups for other plays. Her successes on Broadway have brought featured roles in moving pictures and not unusual are invitations to lecture and to give demonstrations at universities throughout the country. She is a recognized artist and an authority on the dances of Africans.

Paul Robeson (1898- ), actor, concert singer, was born in Princeton, New Jersey. Phi Beta Kappa, his bachelor's degree was obtained at Rutgers College and the degree, Bachelor of Laws, at Columbia. He has won eminence in sport, in music, on the stage and on the screen. His most recent theatrical success was in Othello. He is respected for his abilities along many lines, especially as an artist.

#### A Statement of Conclusion

This brief account does not include the Negro's achievements through the origin, growth and development of his religious, educational, health, business and other social institutions. It simply highlights some of the towering figures that have appeared in the race's progress. More and more, America is recognizing the richness of the contributions of all of her people. An idea of the use made of their educational opportunities by young Negroes is the impression created and goodwill spread abroad recently by a group of students of the drama from Howard University, Washington, D. C. Invited to give performances in Norway by the Norwegian Government, of Ibsen's The Wild Duck and of other plays, they received warmhearted praise for their work and were applauded everywhere as valid representatives of American cul-



ture and education. The time is not too far <sup>distant</sup> when ~~the~~ achievements by Negroes will be completely accepted as American achievements, not as something exceptional. When that time arrives, then full opportunity for all will have been attained.

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