

A World Without US

As we stop to celebrate Black History Month we must reflect on the significant contributions African-Americans have made throughout history.

To begin, the word “stop” brings to mind **Garrett Morgan**, a black man who invented the first **traffic signal**. He also invented the **gas mask** that saved many lives during the war, and protects firemen and other emergency workers today.

When saving lives is mentioned, we look to **Dr. Daniel Hale Williams**, an African-American who performed the **first open heart surgery** in 1893. Other well known life savers are **Dr. Charles Drew**, a native of Washington, D.C., who was a pioneer in **blood plasma preservation**, **Dr. Levi Watkins**, a world famous cardiac surgeon who was the first African-American to be admitted to and graduate from Vanderbilt’s School of Medicine, the first black chief resident in cardiac surgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital, and **the first to perform the implantation of the automatic implantable defibrillator**, and **Dr. Benjamin Carson**, the **former Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital**, who is internationally renowned. Dr. Carson successfully separated seven-month-old German conjoined twins, who were joined at the head.

It was an African-American, **Alexander Miles**, who invented the **elevator**. Another African-American, **Richard Spikes**, invented the **automatic gearshift**; and another, **Edmond Berger**, who invented the **spark plug**.

Our contributions come in all shapes and sizes. **W.H. Richardson**, an African-American, invented the **baby buggy**, while **J. Standard** invented the **refrigerator**. **J.W. Winters**

invented the **fire escape ladder**, and the **lawn mower** was invented by **L.A. Burr**, an African-American.

Most of us know that **Benjamin Banneker** was the creator of an **almanac**,



Garrett Morgan

but did you know **J.L. Love** invented the **pencil sharpener**? If you prefer a **fountain pen** to a pencil, **Walter B. Purvis**, a black man, invented it. From a pure entertainment perspective, can anyone really say they would have enjoyed watching professional sports without **Jackie Robinson**, **Jim Brown**, **Bill Russell**, **Michael Jordan**, **Magic Johnson**, **Tiger Woods**, **Althea Gibson**, or **Arthur Ashe**? How about **LeBron James**, **Muhammad Ali**, **Kobe Bryant**, **Jerry Rice**, **Emmitt Smith**, **Lisa Leslie**, and **Venus and Serena Williams**?



Can you imagine a world without the music of **Marvin Gaye, Nat King Cole, Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughn, or Sam Cooke?** How about groups like the **Temptations, Diana Ross and the Supremes, Smokey Robinson and the Miracles,** or the incomparable **Michael Jackson** and his group, the **Jackson 5.** Today we have history making musicians who will forever be known by one name. We have **Beyonce, Kem, Maxwell, Jay-z, Usher,** and we had **Prince.** What would the political landscape in the United States be without the likes of **Jesse Jackson, Condoleezza Rice, Colin Powell, David Dinkins, Shirley Chisholm, Barbara Jordan, Michael Steele,** or the first African-American President of the United States, **Barack Obama,** and his wife Michelle?

Looking at our family and the historical impact descendants of **Sarah and George A. Brown, Sr.** have had, I thought it might be both fun and informational to share a little of our family history. I'm hoping that this will whet the appetite of many and encourage you to share more information that can be memorialized and shared in subsequent versions of this document.

To begin, **Harold "Cookie" Brown,** the fifth child of Sarah and George, traveled the country for a while teaching. To help fill in the blanks Jeffrey Brown, one of his sons, provided additional information that he knew and was inspired to do a little more research and discover things about his father that he never knew.

Jeffrey searched "The Madison" and found that the popularity of the dance in Baltimore gave it a bit of a start. For some reason he followed the



George A. Brown, Jr. Tuskegee Airmen

On July 19, 1941, the AAF began a program in Alabama to train Black Americans as military pilots. By the end of WWII 992 men had graduated from pilot training. During that same period approximately 150 lost their lives while training or on combat flights. Our own George A. Brown, Jr. became a Tuskegee Airmen under Col. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. (class of 1945). George, pictured above with Lena Horne, graduated at the top of his class, and got to escort her to the graduation dance. George never had to fly in combat but remained an instructor throughout his tour during WWII.



Shirley Ann (Diggs) Richardson

Born on November 5, 1932, she was educated in the Baltimore Catholic School System, and later graduated with honors from Bennett College. Shirley married her high school sweetheart, Charles "Sonny" Richardson. The couple had 3 children, Donna, Carla, and Charles III. Shirley has been recognized as a hometown history maker. She entered the Baltimore City Police Academy and was the third "colored" female police officer. To some she was known as Annie Oakley.

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“ColumbusMusicHistory.com” link. Of interest was the section titled “The Music” where he saw that Al Brown released “The Madison” on April 4, 1960.

The article said that Al Brown’s release on 4/4/60 took off, quickly skyrocketing up the charts to eventually peak at #23 on Billboard and #5 on the Cashbox R&B charts.

In “The Artist” section it says, “Al Brown was a local Baltimore musician who had formed a jazz group known as the Tunetoppers in the late 50’s. The Madison dance was already alive and thriving when Al Brown became aware of it and saw an opportunity to record

a song to fit the dance. The recording on the Amy label immediately took off and was a national hit.

So taking the next step, Jeffrey Googled “Al Brown and the Tunetoppers” and found the following:

“Al Brown’s Tunetoppers was a band led by Al Brown, born May 22, 1934, who had success in 1960 with a dance tune “The Madison” on Amy Records. The dance calls were by **Cookie Brown**. Although successful in record sales, it had to fight off a competing version by Ray Bryant on Columbia Records who titled his “Madison Time” with calls by Eddie Morrison. Dickey Doo & the Don’ts also released a version of “The Madison” on a United Artists album. Gerry Granahan who had a hit with “Chemise Please” in 1958 fronted Dickey Doo.”

Jeffrey said “Imagine seeing the dance calls were by Cookie Brown. I’m still grinning like an idiot.” He found several websites that referenced his father’s involvement. He even found one website, Discogs, that had a place designated for a photo of his father



John Gaines Gloster, Sr.

John (Jack) Gloster, Sr. was known throughout the Baltimore-Washington area for his contributions in the fields of finance and entrepreneurial development. He was a graduate of Amherst College, A.B. 1948; Columbia University, M.A. 1949; and Harvard School of Business, M.B.A., 1955.

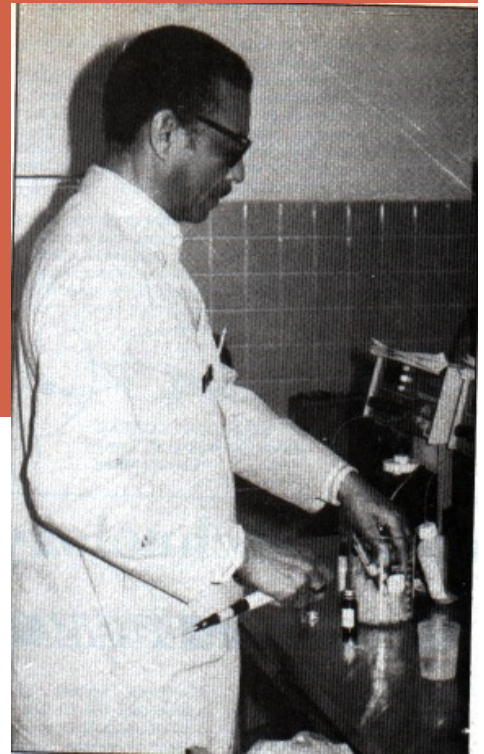
After a stint in the army he moved to Atlanta where he managed a branch of the Citizens Trust Bank. He then became Assistant to the President of Morgan State College. In 1962 he entered the foreign service and in 1964 was posted with his family in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia until 1966. After leaving the State Department he served as Deputy Director of the Model Cities Program (HUD). From there he went to the National Urban Coalition where he was Director for Economic Development.

In 1970 he was appointed as the first President of the Opportunity Funding Corporation, which had a mandate of helping hundreds of minority companies get off of the ground. He also served as a financial consultant to numerous minority businesses, and was co-owner, co-founder and executive producer of *America’s Black Forum*, a syndicated television program with Julian Bond.

He served on numerous boards and committees. Among them are D.O.T. Minority Business Research Center, Board of Directors of Provident Hospital, the National Urban Coalition, and authored numerous articles.

Jackson Gusveller Glaze June 10, 1929 – September 2, 2001

Born in Farmville, Virginia to the late Lottie Glaze Stokes and Jackson Gusweller Glaze. He was the youngest of 4 children. In August of 1951 he married Hilah Brown. This union was blessed with 5 children, Jackie, Renee, Mark, Lisa and Marty. Jack, as he was affectionately known, was a U.S. Federal Government Medical Technologist for 33 years. He was also an entrepreneur, opening Precision Clinical Laboratory, the first African-American owned clinical laboratory in Maryland, in 1965. After retirement he gave unselfishly of his time volunteering at St. Cecilia's Catholic Church.



(<http://www.discogs.com/artist/Cookie+Brown>) . Jeffrey said that he needs to scan and submit a picture. Go for it Jeffrey! We owe it to our legacy to provide the much-needed photograph.

Inspired by Jeffrey's excitement about his father's history-making activities, the next person I would like to share with you is my father, **Jackson Gusveller Glaze**. Jack, as his friends and family affectionately knew him, was a man with many noteworthy accomplishments. If you conduct a Google search with "Jackson Gusweller Glaze" (I know his middle name was Gusveller, but his father's middle name was Gusweller, so there was some confusion) it will produce an article entitled "*He Keeps Your Doctor From Guessing*" that was written by the late George Collins for the July 28, 1962 edition of the Afro American newspaper.

This insightful article mentioned that he was five years old when his biological father passed away but went on to be named valedictorian of both his junior high and high school graduating classes. After graduating from Lincoln University with a Biology degree in 1950, Jack was one month away from being admitted to Meharry Medical College when he was inducted in the U.S. Army.

In 1960, at the age of 31, Jack opened Precision Clinical Laboratory. It was the first Clinical Laboratory owned and operated by an African-American in Maryland. During the early years of the laboratory he had two apprentices many of you may be familiar with, **Golden "Sputs" Roche** and **Earl "Plump" Brown**, two of his brother-in-laws. For more information Google the article.

Next I'll turn to the Richardson Family. **Clarice Brown**, the oldest child of **Sarah and George A. Brown, Sr.**, married **Charles Richardson**, better known as **Chuck Richards** in the entertainment world. He became the host of a live musical show, Open House (1959) that aired on WJZ-TV on Saturday afternoons. "Putting a Negro announcer on television was unheard of in those days," observed The Sun in a 1965 article.

Richards later hosted, and was producer of, Tomorrow's Stars, a weekly TV show that featured Ethel Ennis, the legendary Baltimore Jazz singer, and showcased local talent and touring recording artists. It was the first regularly sponsored Black show on Baltimore television.



Pictured are George A. Brown, Sr., Charles "Chuck Richards" Richardson, Sarah Brown, and Clarice Richardson.

There are undoubtedly other history-makers in our family that should be celebrated. I believe there were only two African-American airport chiefs in the 1970s, with both being Brown Legacy family members, **Golden "Sputs" Roche** and **Harold "PoPo" Richardson**. Both were in Alaska. Unfortunately, I haven't been able to confirm whether or not they were firsts, but I think their accomplishment is worth mentioning.

For those who have contributed information for ***The Brown Legacy***, I appreciate your involvement. If you haven't had an opportunity to share and would like to make a contribution to enhance this information (that I would like to share on an annual basis), please send your information and photos to me.

Please share this information with your children.

