

NEGRO HISTORY WEEK

FEBRUARY 8-15

STUDIES IN NEGRO HISTORY (continued from last week) by ROBT. L. MOODY

The first Negroes to be brought to an English colony in America were brought to Virginia in 1619. Massachusetts was the second colony to import slaves but it was the first to legally recognize slavery. Later it also became foremost representative of sentiment against the system. Negro slavery existed for more than a century in the West Indies before the first Negro came to the North American continent.

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Like every other good citizen, the Nebraska Power Company is co-operating wholeheartedly by reducing to a minimum its use of any materials needed to win this war.

For more than 50 years our Company has aimed to provide all of its customers with ample, low-cost electric service at all times. It regrets that now extension of service may be greatly restricted, unless the desired electric service is necessary for defense or public health and safety. Even this construction must be built under special governmental priorities.

However, the Company does not expect these restrictions to affect your present efficient electric service. Our entire personnel is alert to its responsibility. We have ample power to supply all the needs of our customers, and enough more to fill the increased defense demands we can now foresee.

Meeting these conditions naturally means some sacrifice, but every one will agree that winning the war comes first. When this war is over, the Nebraska Power Company will be ready and quick to resume its program of bringing the complete benefits of low cost and reliable electric service to those desiring it in the territory it serves.

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Slaves were introduced to each colony mainly because of the impossibility of securing free labor. Economic factors determined the quantity and distribution of slaves in the colonies. Slave labor decreased in demand in the northern colonies because of the many kinds of industries. It was unprofitable to raise slaves. But the south was chiefly a farming region. Firm life, the mild climate and low cost of living made slavery profitable, therefore it increased and became essential to southern life.

Slaves were not only used as laborers but many became skilled workers such as blacksmiths, carpenters, painters and harness makers. Crispus Attucks was one of the first four to stand blood in behalf of American liberty during the Boston Massacre. Peter Salem distinguished himself at Bunker Hill by killing Major Petcain. Many Negroes received emancipation because of honorable and brave military service during the American Revolutionary War.

Although the majority were kept in slavery and ignorance, some Negroes became free and a few became educated. There was a desire for freedom and learning in every breast. Some masters were kind and taught their slaves to read, to write and to do many other things. But this desire for freedom caused fearful insurrection. Denmark Vesey in South Carolina and Nat Turner in Virginia are to be remembered as leaders of such uprisings. There were about 150 insurrections started by Negroes.

Equity between the Northern and Southern whites over slavery

was influenced by three things. One was the Fugitive Slave Law which made it lawful to punish severely anyone helping a slave to escape. "Another was the Dred Scott Decision which was made by the Supreme Court and said that a slave was only a piece of property and his master might take him anywhere in the United States that he liked. Dred Scott was a Negro slave whose master took him from a slave state into a free state. This slave claimed that he was free because he had been living in a free state, but the Supreme Court decided otherwise. 2. The book, Uncle Tom's Cabin which was written by Harriet Beecher Stowe told about the unhappy lives of slaves and their master's treatment of them.

Finally the Civil war began as the result of disputes over slavery and the secession of the Southern States from the Union. In order to force the South into submission and punish their withdrawal from the Union, President Abraham Lincoln threatened to free the slaves in the Confederate states (or those states out of the Union). They did not act as though they believed he meant what he said, but on January 1, 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation went into effect and all slaves in the seceded states were declared free.

Since the Emancipation Proclamation was simply an act of war to punish the rebels, it was possibly lawful to put the Negroes back into slavery after war was over and these states were restored to the Union. 1. So December 18, 1865, the thirteenth Amendment was put into the Constitution to guarantee freedom to Negroes for all times. The Fourteenth Amendment (July 28, 1868) made the Negro a citizen and the Fifteenth Amendment (March 30, 1870) gave the Negro the right of protection by voting rather than by military control.

After these three amendments were passed, the Negro continued to have trouble. Many southern states made laws against Negroes which kept most of them from voting. The problems which arose from emancipation were: 1. How will these former slaves be gainfully employed? 2. How shall they be educated? 3. How shall they be given fair participation in government?

Negroes were forced to accept employment wherever they could find it and very often the wages and conditions were miserable. They were forced to live in poorly crowded sections of cities. They were helped by the Government and charitable agencies. Some even thought that being free meant idle because they had seen their masters idle and hence thought that gentlemen did not work.

But the Negro's part in the evils of Reconstruction is not as great as some believe. The American Missionary Association, American Baptist Home Mission Society, the Presbyterian Board of Missions and the Freedmen's Bureau did their best toward educating Negroes. Many of them eagerly accepted these opportunities. Two different ideas developed about the

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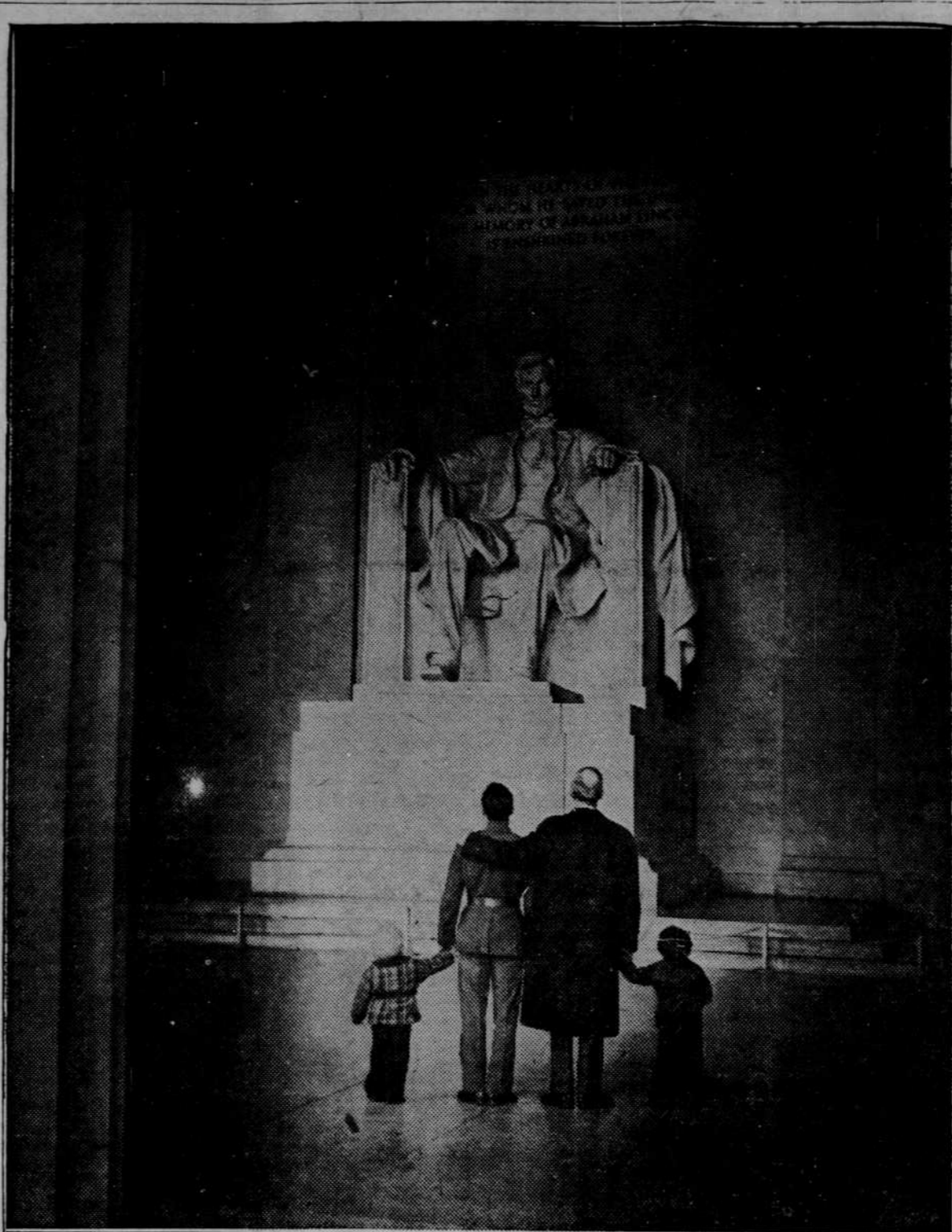
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Dangerous High Blood Pressure (Essential Hypertension) is usually marked by distressing symptoms such as dizziness, throbbing headaches, sleeplessness and nervousness. If disregarded, this may lead to Heart Trouble, Stroke, Paralysis, Hardening of the Arteries or Kidney Trouble. Diamonex, new discovery of a heart specialist, is designed to quickly aid in the relief of these symptoms.

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THE VOICE OF LINCOLN DOWN THE AGES—"I always feel inclined, when I happen to say anything to soldiers, to impress upon them the importance of success in this contest. It is not merely for today, but for all time to come, that we should perpetuate for our children's children that great and free government which we have enjoyed all our lives. Still, let us not be over sanguine of a speedy, final triumph. Let us be quite sober. Let us diligently apply the means, never doubting that a just God, in His own good time, will give us the rightful result."

LINCOLN'S VOICE DOWN THE AGES

kind of education that was best for the Negro. Booker T. Washington believed that education should be that of training the hands as the most important. He founded Tuskegee Institute upon this principle of vocational education. W. E. B. DuBois and other leaders believed that academic education was better.

During the Era of Emancipation Negroes held local, state and national offices but there was never a majority of Negroes in all branches of government. Only twenty-three Negroes served in Congress from 1868 to 1895. Mississippi sent two senators—Hiram Revels who completed an unexpired term and B. K. Bruce, who served for six years. Some of those who served in the House of Representatives were: John H. Langston of Virginia, Joseph H. Rainey of South Carolina, George H. White of North Carolina, James T. Rapier of Alabama and others from Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia and Florida.

As military control over the Southern states was lifted and the Southerners regained control of state government, efforts were made to disfranchise (to take away the right to vote) the Negro. Great care was taken to avoid immediate conflict with the Fifteenth Amendment so each step was subtly taken. Mississippi (1890) led off by amending its constitution so that each person who voted must have his poll tax paid up to date and also demanded that he should be able to read, understand an give reasonable interpretation of any part of the Constitution.

In 1898 Louisiana invented the so-called "Grandfather Clause." This took away the right to vote from any person who had not voted before the Civil War.

In spite of much trial and segregation, Negroes have proved to be efficient in every field in which

President Lincoln, affectionately dubbed "Father Abraham" by the rank and file of his soldiers, always spoke to them in a spirit

of comradeship when he visited their camps. His speeches ago seem like messages to the indomitable men of our Army and the people of America today.

On a sultry August day, 1864, addressing the 166th Ohio Regiment, he declared: "I always feel inclined, when I happen to say anything to soldiers, to impress upon them the importance of success in this contest. It is not merely for today but for all time to come that we should perpetuate for our children's children that great and free government which we have enjoyed all our lives. Still, let us not be over sanguine of a speedy, final triumph. Let us be quite sober. Let us diligently apply the means, never doubting that a just God, in His Own good time, will give us the rightful result."

They have been given an opportunity for development. The following group will prove this fact:
Artists—Henry O. Tanner, E. M. Bannister, William Scott, Laura Waring, and Aaron Douglas.
Architects—Paul R. Williams, Albert I. Cassell, and Hilyard R. Robinson.
Stage—Bert Williams, Ira Aldridge, Richard B. Harrison, Charles Gilpin and Paul Robeson, Ethel Waters.
Science—Doctors: Charles H. Turner, Ernest E. Just, George W. Carver, Julian H. Lewis and W. A. Hinton.

Inventors—Benjamin Bauneker made first American clock. Jan E. Matzeliger invented a lasting machine for sewing on the sole of the shoe to the upper part. Granville T. Woods invented many electrical appliances. Elijah J. McCoy invented the lubricating machine. Many other inventions by Negroes have been bought by such firms as the Ford Motor Company.

Sports—Joe Louis Barrow, John Henry Lewis, Ralph Metcalf, Jesse Owens.

Educators—Booker T. Washington, W. E. B. DuBois, Kelly Miller, Mardecar Johnson and Robert R. Moton.
Literature—Phyllis Wheatley, James Weldon Johnson, Paul Lawrence Dunbar, Countee Cullen, Langston Hughes and W. E. B. Du Bois.
Historians—Benjamin Brawley, Charles S. Johnson and Carter G. Woodson.
Musicians—Marian Anderson, Paul Robeson, Harry T. Burleigh, J. Rosamond Johnson, Dorothy Maynor, Roland Hayes and Nathaniel Dett.
Written by Robert L. Moody.

ed in the following quotation from Carl Sandberg's biography, THE WAR YEARS:
"Pointing to the death penalty as a requisite of military organization, he (President Lincoln) inquired: 'Must I shoot a simple-minded soldier who deserts, while I must not touch a hair of a wily agitator who induces him to desert? This is none the less injurious when effected by getting a father, or brother or friend into a public meeting, and there working upon his feelings till he is persuaded to write the soldier boy that he is fighting in a bad cause, for a wicked administration of a contemptible government, too weak to arrest and punish him if he shall desert. I think that, in such a case, to silence the agitator and save the boy is not only constitutional, but withal a great mercy.'"

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WAITERS' COLUMN

(BY H. W. SMITH)

The employees of the Union Pacific RR. paid a very fine tribute to Mr. Othello Roundtree at his funeral on Monday afternoon as he was one of the highly respected and outstanding citizens of Omaha. Mr. Joe Thomas read the resolutions in a very diplomatic way.

The Paxton boys are catching step with the new war time and the Race horse headwater is always doing his bit to help Defense and the crew of waiters are ready at all times to put their shoulders to the wheel and help as they are all very loyal citizens.

The boys at the White Horse Inn are all in the running and are giving quick modern service and also they take time out to pay respect to a fellow brother when he passes on, as we noticed Mr. Louis

THE MISSOURI LYNCH MOB

by Myrtle M. Goodlow
I see the gathering crowd
Boisterous and loud
As they go their way,
To take another's life away—
The law they do not respect
For those who have sworn to protect
Their duties now gladly neglect
For they too are on the job
And leading members of the mob,

The fiends dance with glee
As the victim pleads for mercy
In his dying agony
And as they pour the gasoline
They shout with joy and scream
That the job is quite well done
As they slash the dying victims tongue.
And drag his body o'er the streets—
Writhing in agony from head to feet.

Through all the years to come
They shall remember their evil job—
Well done.
For a guilty conscience will never let—
One member of the mob to 'e'er forget—
For they shall always hear his dying scream
And see his tortured body as they dream
And when their life on earth is done
And their judgement hour shall come
They shall answer to God,
For the life of the victim they robbed!

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White at Mr. Roundtree's funeral which was very thoughtful.

The Omaha Club boys are all on the job and we truly hope there will be no more illness to develop in the crew, but we all take the count of 10 and go down some times.

We talked with the musician's head and he informed us that Capt. Burns has been on the sick list for some time and we hope for him a speedy recovery, as he is one of the good spokes in the wheel with a very fine crew.

Mr. John Evans of the Romo Hotel is on the job and can hold his own at all times as he is a quick thinker and a fast stepper at all times.

The Omaha Guide needs subscribers and you want the latest news. Now a fair exchange is what makes business and we should have more names on the books and if we will fill up the pages, they will need more books.

The Waiters Union is carrying on in a very fine way and we hope for them good results from their efforts. Are you a union waiter?

The Brotherhood Club of Clair Chapel Methodist Church will sponsor a program on Sunday afternoon Feb. 15, at 3:30 pm. and we hope to have a large attendance, as we have used our very best efforts to produce something that the public would like to hear.

The funeral of Mr. Foster Nelson of 2601 Wirt Street, was held at St. Johns AME church on Saturday afternoon Feb. 7th at 2 p. m. and was largely attended by friends of both races. Mr. Nelson was one of Omaha's outstanding citizens for many years and we extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family and relation.

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