

Melvia Anderson Fields



Melvia Anderson Fields was born and reared in Bourbon County, Kentucky, which is near historic Cane Ridge. She is a writer, teacher, Women's Ministry leader, historian and inspiration. During her rich life, she has served as a Bible School teacher and youth director. She also has a passion for Disciples Women Ministry, serving in leadership in her local congregation, her region and within the Kentucky Christian Missionary Convention. She is the author of "Women On A Mission" which explores the lives and legacies of Disciples African American women. Her book chronicles the lives of Carnella Jamison Barnes, Sarah Lue Bostick, Rosa Brown Bracey, Janice Newborn, Odatta Redd and Sybel Thomas. Melvia Fields life and the lives of the women she highlights in "Women On A Mission" is the topic of the Disciples Women DVD Study resource, "Wisdom of Women - Volume 2" and is accompanied by a study guide and worship resources.

Ms. Fields co-authored In Other Words-Stories of African American Involvement in the Early years of the Stone-Campbell Movement in Kentucky with her daughter, the Rev. Sharon B. Fields.



Lorenzo J. Evans

Lorenzo Evans was the first African American staff of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the area of Christian Education. Rev. Evans was a co-founder of the Star Supporter Fund. Evans was Program Secretary for the Bulter Street YMCA in Atlanta when he joined the National Convention office in 1946 in Indianapolis as Director of Education. In 1960-61, Evans became one of the first group of merger staff becoming national director of field services on the staff of the Department of Christian Education in the United Christian Missionary Society (UCMS). Lorenzo J. Evans retired from the Division of Homeland Ministries (formerly the United Christian Missionary Society) now dba Disciples Home Missions, on June 30, 1974 after thirty years of meritorious service.

A Partial List of African American Inventors



Compiled by C. Butler and Charles Isbell

A.P. Ashbourne	Biscuit cutter	November 30, 1875
L.C. Bailey	Folding bed	July 18, 1899
A.J. Beard	Rotary Engine	July 5, 1892
A.J. Beard	Car-coupler	November 23, 1897
G.E. Becket	Letter Box	October 4, 1892
L. Bell	Locomotive smoke stack	May 23, 1871
M.E. Benjamin	Gong and signal chairs for hotels	July 17, 1888
M.W. Binga	Street sprinkling apparatus	July 22, 1879
A.B. Blackburn	Railway signal	January 10, 1888
Henry Blair	Corn planter	October 14, 1834
Henry Blair	Cotton planter	August 31, 1836
Sarah Boone	Ironing board	April 26, 1892
C.B. Brooks	Street-sweepers	March 17, 1896
O.E. Brown	Horseshoe	August 23, 1892
J.A. Burr	Lawn mower	May 9, 1899
J.W. Butts	Luggage carrier	October 10, 1899
W.C. Carter	Umbrella stand	August 4, 1885
T.S. Church	Carpet beating machine	July 29, 1884
G. Cook	Automatic fishing device	May 10, 1899
J. Cooper	Elevator device	April 2, 1895
P.W. Cornwall	Draft Regulator	February 7, 1893
A.L. Cralle	Ice-cream mold	February 2, 1897
W.R. Davis, Jr.	Library table	September 24, 1878
C.J. Dorticus	Machine for embossing photo	April 16, 1895
Clarence L. Elder	Occustat	1976
T. Elkins	Refrigerating apparatus	November 4, 1879
F. Flemings, Jr.	Guitar (variation)	March 3, 1886
G.F. Grant	Golf tee	December 12, 1899
J. Gregory	Motor	April 26, 1887
M. Headen	Foot power hammer	October 5, 1886
B.F. Jackson	Gas burner	April 4, 1899
Fredrick M. Jones	Automatic refrigeration system	
J.L. Love	pencil sharpener	1897
Latimer & Nichols	Electric lamp	September 13, 1881
T.J. Marshall	Fire extinguisher (variation)	May 26, 1872
Elijah McCoy	Lubricator for steam engines	July 2, 1872
Garrett A. Morgan	Gas mask	
Garrett A. Morgan	Traffic signal	1923
J.F. Pickering	an airship	1900
W.B. Purvis	fountain pen	1890
Norbert Rillieux	Sugar refining process	1846
H. Spears	Portable shield for infantry	December 27, 1870
Rufus Stokes	Air-purification device	1968
E.H. Sutton	Cotton cultivator	April 7, 1878
Granville T. Woods	Electromechanical brake	August 16, 1887
Granville T. Woods	Railway telegraphy	November 15, 1887
Granville T. Woods	Induction telegraph system	November 29, 1887
Granville T. Woods	Overhead conducting system for electric railway	May 29, 1888
Granville T. Woods	Electromotive railway system for long-haul trucks	June 26, 1888

2016

African American History Month



We should reach back and gather the best of what our past has to teach us so that we can achieve our full potential as we move forward. Whatever we have lost, forgotten, foregone, or been stripped of, can be reclaimed, revived, preserved, and perpetuated.

Beloved Community:

One of the most treasured items in my home is a piece of artwork from a journey to Ghana. It is a bird with its head turned backwards and represents Sankofa. It is also represented as a stylized heart shape. Sankofa is a word in the Twi language of Ghana that translates as "Go back and get it" (san - to return; ko - to go; fa - to fetch, to seek and take) It is often associated with the proverb, "Se wo were fi na wosankofa a yenkyi," which translates as: "It is not wrong to go back for that which you have forgotten." It is a timely symbol and reminder of the importance of knowing the past to understand our future.



"To go back to your roots is to take the first step FORWARD. For it is in the past we find the path that leads to the present. And from the present we move on to the future."


We are pleased to share resources and inspiration for African American History Month, but by no means does this mean, that using these resources is limited to only one month of the year. The history of African Americans is weaved into the tapestry of America. African American History has impacted history of our church, community and world. We give special attention to the lives of African American Disciples who have committed their life and ministry to be a blessing to the entire Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). I encourage you to explore the resources for worship, study and education. Visit the websites listed that are full of resources and discovery.

Blessed to be a blessing to you,



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Emmett J. Dickson



Emmett Dickson was the only Executive Secretary of the National Christian Missionary Convention (NCMC) for approximately 50 years. Dickson personally recruited and transported many future leaders to Jarvis Christian College. In 1960-61, Dickson became one of the first group of merger staff becoming national director of church relations on the staff of the Division of Church Life and Work in the United Christian Missionary Society (UCMS) later to be known as the Department of Homeland Ministries. Rev. Dickson preached the dedication sermon of the opening of the Piedmont Tri-State's Christian View Camp and Conference Grounds on June 30, 1974.



Odatta Redd

Odatta Redd has served on the General Board and General Nominating Committee. She was vice-president of the International Christian Womens' Fellowship (ICWF) from 1986 to 1990. Redd has served in several capacities of the Regional Church in Virginia, as well as on the Virginia CWF Cabinet.

Thomas Buchanan Frost



Professor T. B. Frost was the first teacher at Jarvis Christian College. Frost arrived on the raw forty acre site in 1911. He repaired two cabins left by a lumber camp and brought his family to join him. Frost soon had forty of the 465 acre land parcel cleared and under cultivation. Between 1913 and 1914, Frost served as the school principal. He then served as the Superintendent of industries until 1922.

African American Disciples Resources

ASALH (Association for the Study of African American Life and History) -- Established on September 9, 1915 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, ASALH are the Founders of Black History Month and carry forth the work of the founder, the Father of Black History. ASALH's mission is to create and disseminate knowledge about Black History, to be, in short, the nexus between the Ivory Tower and the global public. We labor in the service of Blacks and all humanity. When Carter G. Woodson established Negro History week in 1926, he realized the importance of providing a theme to focus the attention of the public. The intention has never been to dictate or limit the exploration of the Black experience, but to bring to the public's attention important developments that merit emphasis. The 2016 Theme is *Hallowed Grounds: Sites of African American Memories*. The ASALH site has information on resources for teachers and oral history projects. Go to www.asalh.org

Wisdom of Women Volume 2 -- Shares the life of Melvia Anderson Fields. She was born and reared in Bourbon County, Kentucky, which is near historic Cane Ridge. She is an African American author, leader, historian and inspiration. She is the author of "Women on a Mission" -- a book about African American women who were integral parts of the history of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). This just scratches the surface of this remarkable woman. It consists of 60 to 90 minutes of conversation and wisdom, edited into short six to ten-minute segments. A study guide with questions for reflection and conversation after each segment accompanies each DVD. The cost is \$29.95. For information on the DVD Study Series and the book, "Women On A Mission", go to www.discipleshomemissions.org/wisdom-of-women

Black Disciples Who Made A Difference Series -- This is a series of publications that highlights the life and achievements of African American Disciples who have made an impact in the life of the Christian Church Disciples of Christ. These materials are available for free download at www.discipleshomemissions.org/african-american-resources

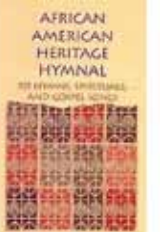


The Cost of Unity: African American Agency and Education and the Christian Church 1865-1914 (Voices of the African Diaspora) -- Macon, GA: Lawrence Burnley Mercer University Press, 2008. This book examines the agency of African-Americans in the founding of educational institutions for blacks associated with the Christian Church. The philosophical discourse within the Christian Church concerning the purpose, type, and control of these schools is examined

as well as the prevailing racial assumptions and attitudes that informed each of these areas. For more info -- go to www.mupress.org/productdetails.cfm

African American Heritage Hymnal: 575 Hymns, Spirituals, and Gospel Songs by Rev. Dr. Delores Carpenter

-- Eight years of inspired work by a committee of more than 30 musicians and pastors, all leaders in African American worship and gospel music, have resulted in this compendium representing the common repertoire of African American churches across the United States. For the first time in an African American hymnal, traditional hymns and songs are notated to reflect performance practices found in the oral tradition of the black church in America. At a time when such traditions are falling victim to modern technology, this book strives to preserve this rich heritage for future generations. Presented are litanies for "Fifty-Two Sundays of Worshipful Celebration" outlining an African American church year, including such special days as Martin Luther King Sunday, Elders' Day, Mother's Day, and Men's Day. Also included are 52 responsive scripture readings from the Old and New Testaments and an extensive index that includes scriptural and thematic cross-references.



The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join in paying tribute to the generations of African Americans who struggled with adversity to achieve full citizenship in American society. Go to this site for information on exhibits, audio/video resources and educational options. Go to www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov/index.html

For Loves Sake is a book by The Rev. John Foulkes. Published by the National Convocation and available for sale through GWD Ministries at norman.reed@att.net.

Lift Every Voice and Sing -- sometimes referred to as "Black National Anthem" is a song written as a poem by James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938) in 1899 and set to music by his brother John Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954) in 1900.

I Have A Dream -- This poetic and provocative short film has been created to inspire communities to ask the question: how far have we come on the journey to social justice and what must be done to achieve the dream King so eloquently articulated in 1963? www.saltproject.org/christian-video-resources-for-small-groups/i-have-a-dream