

*We
Had
A Dream
1776—1976*

Contributions
of
Black Americans

Author and Editor—Vernon C. Lawhorn

We Had a Dream 1776—1976 Contributions of Black Americans

The subjects of this painting are both male and female, encompassing virtually all aspects of the American Experience.

No. 1. It is a history in color of the Black experience in America. It's first figure is that of an African Mask: It's final figure is a Red, Black & Green flag, symbolic of the desire by blacks to understand and relate to their African Heritage.

NOTE: The African Mask is symbolic of the origin of American Blacks.

No. 2. Some of the individuals in the painting are anonymous but most are famous and of heroic stature.

No. 3. The subjects in the Dream challenged the status quo, and led movements and set up alternative Institutions in an effort to improve the cause of Freedom for all Black Americans.

No. 4. In this Bicentennial Year we do not subscribe to a theory of racial superiority anymore than we believe in Ethnic Purity. Any ethnic, racial, or cultural groups could create a Mural or painting depicting their own heroes or villains which would be no less legitimate than the one before you.

This painting reflects the resourcefulness of the human spirit, in its effort to shake the shackles and bondage of any type, regardless of the source of their position.

This painting also can be used for educational purposes (Visual Aid).

No. 1. It is not merely a painting but a guide post for understanding the Black Experience in America. From the epic figures of this painting, it is a simple process to follow events, movements, and Institutions which have affected all aspects of American Life.

No. 2. For the black student, this painting could be a source of pride and an enhancement of self-awareness through His or Her Scholarship.

No. 3. For the Non—Black Student this painting gives an opportunity to learn more about another culture, as provided through this Aid to view the Black Experience in America in a scholarly manner. Students of all ethnic, cultural, and racial persuasions are invited to compare and contrast their own histories against that of Blacks.

No. 4. Since the rhetoric of the 1960's has abated, the teacher can now deal with issues which were potentially explosive, in an impassionate manner. Both Student and staff are now sophisticated, and intellectually curious enough to incorporate all peoples and groups into an educational process in the classroom.

Additional methods can be used to further educate students about this mural.

No. 1. This material can be used to enhance biographical work of historic figures.

No. 2. The material will readily lend itself to standard testing procedures, such as True or False, Multiple Choice, Matching Fill-Ins and Essays.

No. 3. This Visual material will aid the student in his or her effort to compare and contrast current events with the past or historical occurrences.

No. 4. It could be useful in understanding the borrowing and synthesizing that occurs in the birth and development of movements. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. borrowed from Mahatma Gandhi; Ceasar Chavez, the Mexican American who now still marches and protests against a system that deprives his people their freedom and rights, from Dr. King.

In summation, the question is, who would benefit?

Multiculture is apparently the wave of the future. History has blithely ignored the Marcus Garvey's, given short shift to the Malcolm X's and generally dismissed those ethnic figures who vehemently opposed the status quo. We have matured enough to honestly appraise our past and look those individuals who still oppose us squarely in the eye.

In the field of literature, it is only realistic to acknowledge James Baldwin, Richard Wright and the myriad of other Blacks (as well as writers from other ethnic backgrounds) who have strongly censured America for her treatment of Black Americans.

The painter of this mural and researcher of the subjects shown is Vernon C. Lawhorn, a graduate of The University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, N.M., 1970, B.F.A. Supplementary material will follow this outline. The artist resides at 1038 Alabama St., Vallejo, California 94590.



We Had a Dream 1776—1976

Contributions of Black Americans

Background information—Teaching Guide

1. Africa and the 16th century ivory mask of The King of Benin

The first Europeans to reach the West Coast of Africa were officials and traders interested more in profit and loss than in native cultures. Move over, they observed Africa's indigenous peoples with a western eye, one that regards a difference in culture as an inferiority in culture. Nevertheless, an increasing body of material is becoming available for a study of Africa before the Portuguese, and today's historian is able to present a more balanced view of pre-colonial Africa than were his predecessors.

Fifty years ago it was difficult to find a European who did not view African cultures with the "Western Eye." A rare exception was Leo Frobenius, an ethnologist who brought to the study of Africa no pre-conceived notions of the inferiority of native cultures. Frobenius was a member of the German Inner African Exploration and published a two-volume work, *The Voice of Africa*. Frobenius began his study of West Coast cultures in 1891 after reading in a Berlin paper a purportedly learned article which stated that pre-colonial Africa had been a hopelessly backward region.

2. The introduction of Africans to America

Among the earliest immigrants were Blacks from the West Coast of Africa; twenty of whom landed at Jamestown in 1619, a year before the Mayflower reached Plymouth. These Blacks can in truth be numbered among the "Old Americans," those who first reached the English colonies.

Within two decades after Gonzalves had brought the first Blacks to Lisbon, the slave trade had become an important component of European commerce. And with the discovery of America toward the close of the century, the African slave trade became a truly major enterprise. Now the Europeans had a vast new continent in which this fresh supply of Black labor could be gainfully employed. The New World, with its great natural resources waiting to be tapped, was a boon to slavery, and the fostering mother of the slave trade.

In rare instances a slave ship crossed the Atlantic without such mishaps as the loss of a single slave or crew member. More typical, however, were that of a cargo of slaves suffering from malnutrition and dysentery after crossing the seas for many days with a disloyal crew.

3. Crispus Attucks and the Revolutionary War

With the rift widening between England and her mainland colonies, it was not surprising that a resort to arms should result. The war did not come without casting a shadow before it. Of the prewar incidents, the Boston Massacre (March 5, 1770) was one of the most dramatic, and hence was

of great propaganda value to the American patriots.

Two of His Majesty's regiments were stationed in Boston, sent to protect the unpopular customs officials. Goaded by taunts and jeers, the British soldiers, in a moment of panic, fired into the crowd. Eleven persons were hit, five of whom were to die, including Crispus Attucks, a Black.

The soldiers were acquitted for the incident because of its said provoking by Crispus Attucks. The fifth of March would be celebrated as the chief American holiday until superceded by the Fourth of July. It may be added that a Crispus Attucks Monument was erected on Boston Common in 1889, a step that the city took in response to petitions by Blacks to honor him.

4. The U.S. first national flag

On June 14, 1777 the Continental Congress adopted a design for the national flag. It resolved that "The flag of the United States shall be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white, with a union of thirteen stars of white on a blue field, representing a new constellation."

Although the 13 stars are usually pictured as being arranged in a circle, no rule had been made and there was thus no uniformity. Some three horizontal rows of 4, 5 and 4. In others the stars were arranged as if they had been placed on the arms of the combined crosses of St. George and St. Andrew.

5. Frederick Douglass (1817—1895)

A U.S. journalist, and one of the most distinguished of American Black orators, and anti-slavery leaders. He was born in Tuckahoe, Maryland on February 14, 1817, the son of a white man and a Black slave mother. In 1838 he escaped from slavery and settled in New Bedford, Mass. In 1841 at an abolitionist meeting in Nantucket he related his slave experiences, and for the next four years, despite many indignities, he lectured throughout the East for antislavery groups. In 1845 he published *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, which revealed his master's identity and endangered Douglass' liberty. The tall, handsome, and articulate Douglass took refuge in England, where friendly liberals purchased his freedom from his master. From 1847, after his return to the U.S., he published his own abolitionist newspaper, the North Star, in Rochester, N.Y., until 1863. It also supported women's rights, a cause that Douglass championed from his participation in the first women's rights convention (1848). Douglass became a political abolitionist supporting the Republican party. He used his lecture fees to aid fugitive slaves and headed the Rochester Station of the underground railroad. Despite his opposition to the Harpers Ferry raid (1859) Douglass fled to Canada because he had raised money for the ventures of his friend and confidant John Brown. During the Civil War he recruited Blacks for the Union Army, pushed for emancipatin and enfranchisement and then supported congressional reconstruction. He was appointed minister to Haiti (1889-1891). He died in Washington, D.C. on February 20, 1895.

6. Harriet Tubman (1820—1913)

A U.S. Black abolitionist who was an active leader of escaping slaves. She was born a slave in Bucktown, Dorchester County, Maryland about 1820. In 1849 she escaped to the North, and thereafter devoted herself to leading other slaves to freedom through the Underground Railroad. She made 19 successful trips into slave territory. Being one of the underground's most active "conductor," she became widely known as "the Moses of her people" or simply as "Moses." Despite huge rewards offered for her capture, she helped more than 300 slaves reach freedom.

During the Civil War, Harriet Tubman served as a nurse, laundress, and spy with the Union forces along the coast of South Carolina in Beaufort, Port Royal. She died in Auburn on March 10, 1913 where in 1914 the city placed a bronze tablet in her memory.

7. The American Civil War (1861—1865)

The attitude of Blacks that the war was a struggle for humanity was not widely held in the North during the first year of the conflict. Gradually, however, this point of view gained ground, as clergymen, abolitionists, and other reformers kept insisting that the freeing of the slaves be made a paramount war aim. As the war dragged on into the middle of its second year and the death toll rose sharply, there was a growing sentiment in the North to free the slaves of the enemy. With enlistments dwindling and manpower needs becoming more acute, the slaves of the enemy represented a source of strength both as military laborers and as soldiers. Union Army commanders urged Lincoln to strike at slavery. Their stand was supported by influential Republicans and could strike a popular chord in England and on the European Continent. On June 22, 1862 Lincoln made up his mind to proclaim the emancipation of those states in rebellion on January 1, 1863.

Over 20,000 Blacks enlisted in the Union Army the year the Emancipation Proclamation was signed, and more than 200,000 fought in the Union Army and Navy.

8. Booker Taliaferro Washington (1856—1915)

A Black American reformer and educator, born April 5, 1856, in Franklin County, Virginia, the son of a white man and Mulatto slave. After the Civil War, he went to Malden, West Virginia where he worked at a salt furnace and studied at night school. In 1872, he entered Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute, Virginia. He graduated in 1875, taught at Malden for two years, and studied at Wayland Seminary in Washington, D.C. In 1881, Washington was chosen to start a Black normal school which, in time, became Tuskegee Intitute, Alabama, of which he became president. Washington also organized, in 1900, the National Black Business League at Boston. As a speaker and writer in behalf of the Blacks, as well as an organizer and educator, Booker T. Washington became famous. He wrote *Up From Slavery* (1901), *Story of a Black* (1909), and *The Man Farthest Down* (1912). Washington died in Tuskegee, Alabama

on November 14, 1915. On July 27, 1957, by an act of Congress, his birthplace became a national monument.

9. William Edward Dubois (1868—1963)

A Black American Pioneer in the struggle for civil rights for Blacks. Born in Great Barrington, Mass., on February 23, 1868, he attended Fisk and Harvard Universities and the University of Berlin. Dubois, after finishing his Doctoral dissertation at Harvard, and returning from Germany, taught at Wilberforce University in Ohio and Atlanta University. At first DuBois agreed with Booker T. Washington that economic opportunity for the Blacks was more important than Civil Rights, but after 1901 he argued sharply that Washington's compromises blocked Black progress. His own Niagara Movement having failed, DuBois helped establish the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1909, then joined it as editor of the monthly *Crisis* and director of research. Through forceful editorials and nationwide lecture tours, DuBois rallied American Blacks to demand full equality. In 1919 he gathered delegates for a Pan-African Congress in Paris.

Because of differences DuBois broke with the NAACP in 1934 and returned to Atlanta University. Retiring in 1944, he returned to the NAACP for four years, reviving his Pan-African Congress in 1945.

He was chairman of the Peace Information Center in 1950 and winner of the Soviet Union's Lenin Peace Prize in 1959. DuBois joined the Communist Party in 1961 at the age of 93 and moved to Ghana where he became a citizen. He died in Accra, Ghana, August 27, 1963.

10. Mary McLeod Bethune (1875—1955)

A Black American Educator born at Mayesville, South Carolina, on July 10, 1875. Her parents had been slaves before the American Civil War. She graduated from Scotia Seminary at Concord North Carolina in 1893 and then from the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago in 1895. After teaching in southern schools, in 1904, she opened an institute for girls at Daytona Beach, Florida, which was merged in 1923 with Cookman Institute for Men, Jacksonville, Florida, to form Bethune-Cookman College at Daytona Beach. She served as president of the college until her retirement in 1942 and again from 1946 to 1947 was active in Black American affairs. She was director of the Division of Black Affairs of the National Youth Administration, 1936-44 and during World War II she assisted the secretary of war in selecting officer candidates for the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. She was a special adviser to President Franklin D. Roosevelt on the problems of minority groups in the U.S. She was also an observer for the U.S. Dept. of State at the United Nations Conference on International Organization in San Francisco, California, 1945. She died at Daytona Beach on May 18, 1955.

We Had A Dream



This is the Key to the visual and written material.

11. George Washington Carver (1860—1943)

A Black American Chemurgist and Educator in scientific agriculture. He is known also for his scientific research on the peanut, from which he derived 300 different products. Carver was born in the year 1860, in Diamon, Md. His mother, Mary, was a slave owned by Moses Carver.

Carver was educated at Simpson College, Indianola, Iowa and Iowa State Agricultural College, where he earned a master's degree in science in 1896. In 1896, Carver was asked by Booker T. Washington to join the staff of Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, where he immediately started an agricultural experiment station. Over a three-decade period, recognition was given this botanist and chermurgist. He pioneered in the study of non-comestible products of the farm. He received many honors, including election as a fellow of the Royal Society, London, in 1916, and the Springarn Medal in 1923.

Perhaps Dr. Carver's most significant contribution was the development of greater respect and cooperation between the races, based upon admiration of and affection for him as a person.

In commemoration, Congress passed a law in 1944 designating January 5 of each year as George Washington Carver Day. In 1953, Congress authorized the establishment of the George Washington Carver National Monument. This was the first U.S. federal monument dedicated to a Black. Carver died January 5, 1943, in Tuskegee, Alabama.

12. Marcus Moziah Garvey (1887—1940)

A Black nationalist leader and organizer of the most important nationalistic social movement among Blacks.

Garvey was born on August 17, 1887 in St. Ann's Bay, Jamaica, the fifth of eleven children. After living briefly in London, where his contacts with African Blacks stimulated his interest in the motherland, Garvey returned to Jamaica in 1914 and established the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA). His initial purpose was to develop an industrial and agricultural school modeled after Booker T. Washington's Tuskegee Institute. In 1916 he transferred his headquarters to Harlem in New York City, where the UNIA flourished. While there he began publishing a militant weekly newspaper, the Black World. In 1919 he launched the Black Star Line, a steamship company in link Black communities in the U.S. and the Caribbean.

In 1921 Garvey announced the Empire of Africa and appointed himself provisional president. His movement declined rapidly when he and other UNIA members were indicted for mail fraud in 1922 in connection with the sale of stock for the Black Star Line. Garvey died in London on June 10, 1940. Garvey's significance lay in his philosophy of race pride and separatism, which in the 1920s' gave millions of Blacks a badly needed spiritual uplift and which remained a potent legacy for "Black Power" advocates in later years.

13. World War I (1916—1918)

As late as World War I, Blacks were barred altogether from the Marines, and were permitted to serve in the Navy only in the most menial capacities. In the Army, however, they served in nearly every branch, although, as usual, in segregated units.

At the beginning of the War there were approximately 20,000 Blacks out of a total of 750,000 men in the Regular Army and the National Guard. Although Blacks thronged the recruiting stations in great numbers, in April of 1917, few were accepted by Uncle Sam. A month later, however, the Selective Service Act was passed enabling (in theory at least) all able-bodied Americans between the ages of twenty-one and thirty-one to enlist. Blacks were particularly anxious to participate in the war as officers. However, separate officer training camps were formed for Black soldiers. Black Americans fought heroically in Europe and gained the respect of European personnel. One of the most sensational feats of the war was performed by Privates Henry Johnson and Needham Roberts, both members of the 369th Infantry, a Black regiment.

14. Louis Daniel Armstrong (1900—1971)

A Black American jazz trumpeter, born in New Orleans, Louisiana on July 4, 1900. Being also a singer and ensemble leader, Louis became a major force in shaping jazz during the 1920's. An improviser who set new standards of melodic development and rhythmic flexibility, "Satchmo," as he was popularly known, was an exceptionally important jazz solo virtuoso on the trumpet. Before him, the collective identity of the ensemble had always been primary in jazz music, but Armstrong more than anybody else, helped the soloist become pre-eminent. Under "King Oliver's" influence, he went on to become the leading figure in jazz for an entire generation. He led large bands and small emsembles and recorded regularly. Beginning in 1932 with a triumphant appearance in England, he traveled frequently throughout the world as the foremost "goodwill ambassador" of American jazz music abroad. He died in New York City on July 6, 1971.

15. Edward Kennedy Ellington ("Duke") (1899—1974)

A Black American jazz composer, orchestra leader, and pianist, who created the single most durable body of original jazz compositions and shaped the most distinctive and resourceful large jazz orchestra.

Ellington was born in Washington, D.C. on April 29, 1899. At the age of six he began studying the piano and by 1918 was a successful band leader in Washington. He was unsuccessful, however, in his first efforts to move his base of operation to New York City. In 1923, he formed an orchestra there and gradually established himself.

His music, most of which he arranged cooperatively with his principal instrumentalists, represents a sophistication of Black jazz, with a rich variety in harmony, tone color, and emotional mood achieved at the expense of some of the swing and direct simplicity of hot jazz. Ellington

wrote diversely evocative popular songs and many of them—including “Solitude,” “Sophisticated Lady” and “Mood Indigo”—became standard favorites in the repertoires of dance orchestras.

He died in New York City, May 24, 1974.

16. Billie Holiday (1915—1959)

A Black American jazz singer, known as “Lady Day,” who gained international fame for her earthy blues style. She was born Eleanora Fagan in Baltimore, Maryland, on April 17, 1915 and in 1928 moved with her mother to New York City. Inspired by recordings of the jazz singers Louis Armstrong and Bessie Smith, she began to sing professionally in a Harlem night club at the age of 15.

Billie became well known through recordings with the pianist Teddy Wilson in 1935 and thereafter attracted wide attention as a singing star with bands, including those of Count Basie and Artie Shaw, and in New York City cabarets. Although her career declined after her arrest for narcotics violation in 1947, Miss Holiday made a partial comeback. Her autobiography, *Lady Sings the Blues*, appeared in 1956. She died in New York City on July 17, 1959.

17. Joe Louis (1914—)

A Black American boxer who held the heavyweight championship of the world longer (1937-1949) than any other champion in the division. He was born on May 13, 1914, at Lexington Alabama, but began his boxing career in Detroit Mich. He turned professional on July 4, 1934, and won 22 straight fights. On June 22, 1937 he became heavyweight champion of the world, which he held for 12 consecutive years. He retired in 1949 but returned to the ring in 1950, only to lose to the new champion, Ezzard Charles. He ended his boxing career with a defeat to Rocky Marciano on October 26, 1951. His career grossed him more than \$4,225,000 and gave him only 3 defeats out of 71 professional boxing matches.

He was elected to the Boxing Hall of Fame in 1954.

18. Jackie Robinson (1919—1972)

An American Baseball player who in 1947 became the first Black to play on a big league baseball team.

Robinson was born in Cairo, Georgia, on January 31, 1919. He was the son of Georgia sharecroppers who moved to California when he was an infant. He won an athletic scholarship to U.C.L.A., where he excelled in football, baseball, basketball, and track. In World War II he was a morale officer in the Army, assigned to limited service because of ankle injuries sustained in college sports.

In 1945, while playing with the Kansas City Monarchs, he was persuaded by the by president of the Brooklyn Dodgers to pioneer in breaking the color line in organized baseball. He joined the Dodgers minor team (Montreal Royals) in 1946 and in 1947 joined the Brooklyn Dodgers. He was voted Rookie of the Year and played with the Dodgers 'till his retire-

ment in 1957. In 1962 he was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame. he achieved prominence as a leader in business, politics, and civil rights. On October 24, 1972 he died in Stamford, Connecticut.

19. Jesse Owens (1913—)

One of the U.S.'s greatest track and field athletes, born in Danville, Alabama on September 12, 1913. Being a phenomenal athlete in his early youth, Jesse carried this tradition up through college.

Owens, a Black was a striking figure at the 11th Olympic Games held in Berlin, the capital of Germany of Adolf Hitler, who claimed supremacy for the “Aryan Race.” Jesse Owens became the first athlete to win three events since Finland's Paavo Nurmi did it in 1924.

Jesse returned, after the 1936 Olympics ended, a hero and in later years in a poll of sports writers Owens was named the world's “top track performer since 1900.” In 1952 Owens was named secretary of the Illinois Athletic Commission. He remains active in youth athletic programs.

20. World War II (1941—1945)

Approximately 500,000 Blacks served overseas in World War II. Although discrimination in the service still kept pace with civilian life, by the end of the war Black men were serving in every branch of the military in integrated units.

The training of Black military officers during the war was a delicate issue, as it had been in the past. Although Black leaders anticipated a battle to secure equal and integrated training as officers, there was no prolonged struggle. By the middle of 1942 Blacks were graduating from officer candidate school at the rate of approximately 200 per month, receiving commissions in every branch of the service by the end of the war—even in the Navy and Marines. About 600 Black pilots received their wings during World War II.

21. Martin Luther King (1929—1968)

A Black American clergyman and civil rights leader who spear-headed the idea of nonviolent resistance to racial segregation and discrimination. Born Michael Luther King, Jr., on January 15, 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia, the son of a Baptist Minister, he graduated from Morehouse College in 1948 and Crozer Theological Seminary in 1951. He received a Ph.D. degree from Boston University in 1955 and became pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist church in Montgomery, Alabama. In December 1955 he became the leader of a nonviolent Black Boycott of the Montgomery bus line. His approach to this campaign and later ones came from the spirit of passive resistance in the Bible and the teachings of Jesus and the techniques of Gandhi. He formed the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and was responsible for leading many demonstrations was 1963, when in August he led more than 200,000 people to march on Washington, D.C. In 1964 he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. On April 4, 1968,

while in Memphis Tennessee, to support striking garbage workers, and in the midst of preparations for a massive poor peoples march on Washington, D.C., King was assassinated. The most prominent Black leader, King was a gifted orator, and his work extended into small communities as well as big cities. His memory will live forever.

22. Malcolm X (1926—1965)

A Black American nationalist who was perhaps the most remarkable figures as yet produced by the resurgence of Black nationalism. He was born in Omaha, Nebraska in May of 1926. His name was Malcolm Little before he assumed the name Malcolm X and El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz, his third incarnation of his Muslim faith.

He became a Muslim minister in 1954 under Elijah Muhammad, but in March 1964 broke with Muhammad and set up in rival group, Muslim Mosque, Inc. He preached complete separation of the Black with their going to the Africa homeland. He was murdered by gunmen as he was addressing a meeting of the OAAU at the Audubon Ballroom in New York, on February 21, 1965. Malcolm's death was an awesome psychological set back to the nationalists and civil rights radicals.

The Established Black leadership lamented his death, but qualified their lamentations by asserting that he "preached by the sword, now he has died by the sword." The militants and the nationalists, on the other hand, felt guilty. They felt that they had not done enough to support Malcolm while he was alive. He had helped bring modernity and a new respectability to Black nationalism among the younger militants of his day. Even before he died the integrity of his life and his obvious identification with the masses among whom he had hustled and been reborn had deeply impressed the angry young men.

23. Black Power Movements

The Black Panthers was one of the most noted groups to participate in the Black Power movement. They were formed in Oakland, California in October 1966 by Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale. The Black Panther ideology was based on freedom, power, through a political nationalistic movement which changed in three short years from a largely Black nationalist organization to a Black revolutionary organization with white appendages.

One of the most noted figures in the movement was Stokely Carmichael, the popularizer of the slogan Black Power, and chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). He later broke with the Panthers, because of his views on separatism, to try to establish a Black "Colony" within the United States.

Other noted Black nationalist in the Black power movements are Eldridge Cleaver, Rap Brown, Charles Hamilton and Angela Davis.

24. Shirley Chisholm (1924—)

The first Black woman ever to win a seat in the U.S. Congress. Born in Brooklyn on November 30, 1924, Shirley Anita St. Hill lived with her

maternal grandmother on a farm in Barbados from the age 3 to 11.

Returning to her parents in Brooklyn, she went to Brooklyn College and graduated cum laude. After earning an M.A. in education from Columbia University, she began teaching and later became director of a day nursery. She entered politics in 1964, winning election to the New York State Assembly. In 1949 she married Conrad Chisholm, a New York City government official who helped her campaign.

Although she vociferously championed the poor and attacked discrimination and the Vietnam war, she rejected the labels of socialist, racist, feminist, and pacifist. In 1971 she entered the race for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination despite criticism that her candidacy would fragment the already troubled reform bloc within the party. She had no illusions about her chances, but did accomplish her aim of forcing the party to take seriously a representative a two groups—women and blacks.

25. Vietnam War (1965—1973)

The Vietnam War was the first war fought by the U.S. without "Jim Crow" battalions, although some of the airborne units were 50-percent Black. Statistics show that more than half-million Blacks served in the military during the Vietnam struggle. More than 7,000 were killed.

At no time in the history of U.S. warfare has the Black American distinguished himself more as a valorous and intrepid fighter than he did in the Vietnam war. Twenty Black soldiers received the U.S. armed forces highest award—the Medal of Honor—for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in combat in Vietnam, risking, and in most cases losing their lives above and beyond the call of duty.

26. The U.S. Flag of Today

It originated, from the first flag adopted by U.S. as a national flag in 1777. The practice of adding a star to the flag for every newly created state has continued, from 1818 to the present day and has resulted in the flag in use today.

The admission of Hawaii to the Union in 1960 gave U.S. the last of the fifty stars which on July 4, 1960 became the official National Flag of the United States. Thus, in a little less than two hundred years, the Stars and Stripes has increased its constellation from thirteen to fifty bright and shining stars.

27. The Black Nationalist Flag

The flag was first introduced by Marcus Garvey during the time of his nationalistic movement. The flag consists of three bands of color; red, black and green, represented horizontally.

The concept of the colors, is that red symbolizes the blood, shed for America, black symbolizes the Black people who have shed blood, and green is for the land of America for which it was shed.

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We Had A Dream

"We Had A Dream" is a visual expression of American history. It was created to raise the level of consciousness of individuals who have only had an opportunity to look at American history through traditional text form. As the author and artist, I have attempted to bring together this composition and expression by using a selected group of notable American personalities who have made great contributions that have proven significant in the building of the American Dream for our great nation.

This artistic work depicts a chronological progression to tell a story of America's history from the beginning to the present time.

The expression "We Had A Dream" is available material to be used by all cultures who are interested in expressing their knowledge about America.

This material was never intended only to characterize one segment of our great society, as is shown in the art form: but is a significant guide identifying people of past and current events.

It gives a brief sequence on the personalities shown to make aware their significance to America.

"We Had A Dream" can also be used to help discover different perspectives in teaching the absolute in American history.

It opens up avenues of scientific, athletic, artistic, diplomatic, political and many other achievements through the creative thinking of teachers and educators.

It can be further used to reach far beyond the realm of just American history. It brings into focus the origin of Black Culture from the Mother Land of Africa.

This art can be used as a curriculum in teaching of forgotten American history: for it tells about many accomplishments of Great Americans.

An attempt has been made to get the maximum use from this material. With the awareness of all whom might choose to learn, more about the true dream of American democracy and American culture can be realized.

Author and Artist,
Vernon C. Lawhorn