

WOLVERHAMPTON

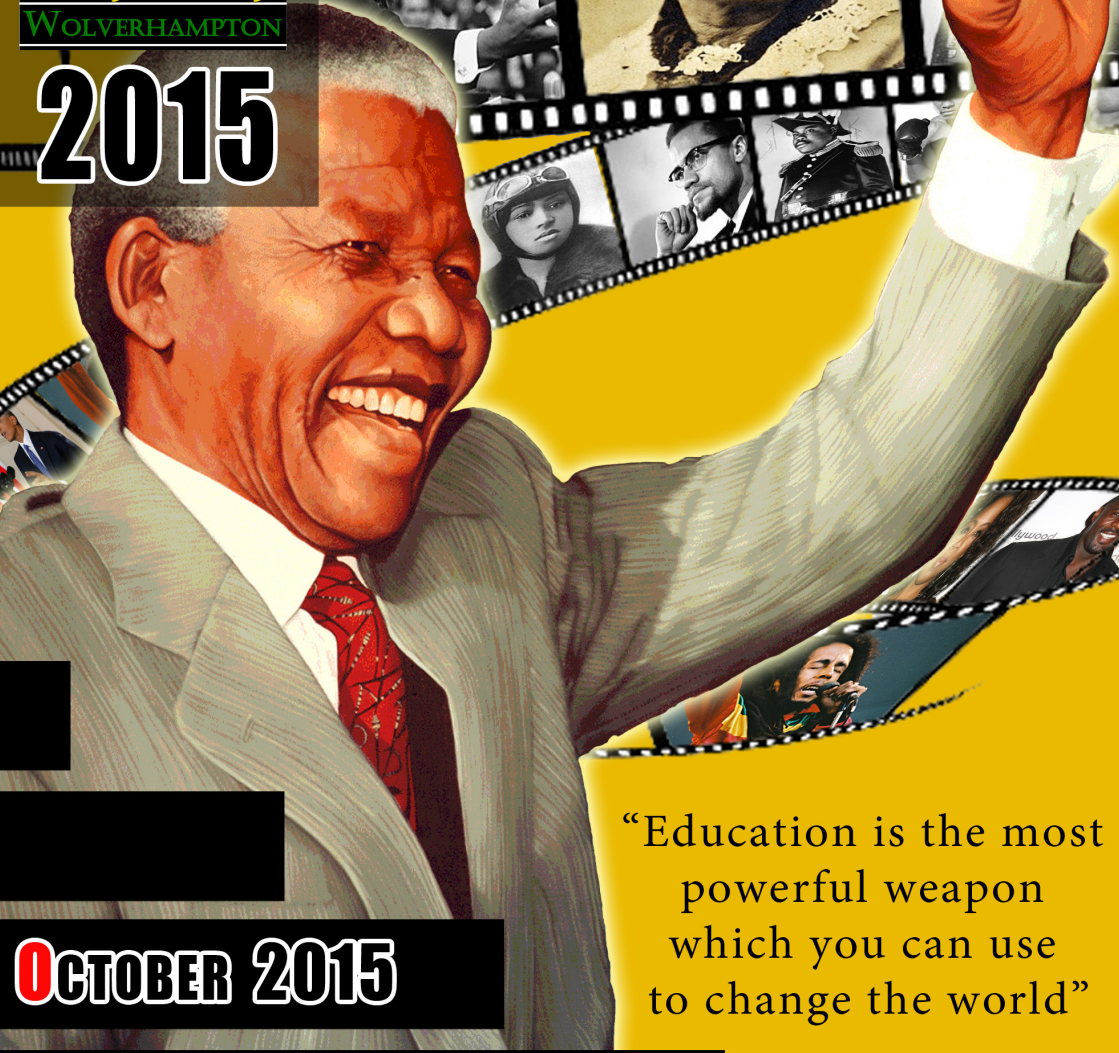


BLACK

History & Heritage

WOLVERHAMPTON

2015



“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”

OCTOBER 2015

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

A message from the past...

Harriet Tubman

"Every great dream begins with a dreamer.

Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world."

Wilma Rudolph

"Never underestimate the power of dreams and the influence of the human spirit.

We are all the same in this notion; The potential for greatness lives within each of us."

This year's Black History Month programme is sponsored by the University of Wolverhampton. We also acknowledge the support provided to the Black History Month Events Group this year, by the following organisations:





Forward by Professor Geoff Layer
Vice Chancellor of the
University of Wolverhampton



Welcome to the Black History Month programme for 2015, highlighting this year's new content on the Wolverhampton black history website at:

www.blackandheritage.com

The website brings together the wealth of local heritage and cultural materials on black history in a way that is accessible to the local communities we serve and people worldwide. It has been extremely well received since its launch last year.

As the University of Opportunity, we acknowledge that people access information and learn in different ways and hope that we succeed in whetting your appetite to learn more about black history, whether this is through the website, this programme or attending one of the many events scheduled for October.

I would like to say thank you on behalf of the coordinating partners to those who work extremely hard to develop and make available black history resources and events

My colleagues and I look forward to being a part of this year's activities and our continued involvement in keeping black history alive.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

15th Edition of the Black History Month Programme.

Black History Month plays an important part in bringing people of all cultures together to move collectively towards our vision, by giving people in our community the opportunity to explore and learn more about Black history and culture, more importantly the roles and contributions Black people have made in shaping the history of this country, which is often overlooked.

Black History Month has inspired other cultures and communities in Britain and around the world to follow suit. Today in the USA there is also Filipino American History Month, Irish-American Heritage Month, Puerto Rican Heritage Month, National Tibetan American Heritage Month, Jewish American Heritage Month and South Asian History Month. In Britain we have Gypsy & Travelers History Month, LGBT History Month. Also Anglo Sikh Heritage Week takes place annually in the month of September.

We encourage and invite people living in and outside Wolverhampton to support these events and in doing so, help in creating a cohesive society, where racism is not accepted nor tolerated, where everyone is treated according to their needs and rights and where cultural diversity is celebrated. We appreciate the time and effort people from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors have put into organising events for Black History Month as well as producing this programme.

www.blackhistoryandheritage.com



University of Wolverhampton Students' Union

President
Yaz Aboubakar



We at the Students' Union are excited about Black History Month, an opportunity for us all to embrace the diverse society we live in, and a chance for us to celebrate the substantial role that Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups have played in shaping humanity.

This is the time to honour the legacy of heroes such as Maya Angelou, Nelson Mandela, Malcom X, Mahatma Gandhi, Rosa Parks and many more through entertainment and educational events across the institution and the community.

We will be running our own Black History Month Campaign for our students. On behalf of everyone at the Students' Union; we thank all those who have helped in organising the Black History Month activities and wish you all a successful and memorable Black History Month.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The Black History Month **Events Group**

The Black History Month Events Group brings together organisers of activities during Black History Month and those who promote Black History all year round. The aims of the Black History Month Events Group are to:

- Promote universal knowledge of Black African History, Culture and Heritage.
- Disseminate information on positive Black contributions to British Society and the wider world.
- Heighten the confidence and awareness of Black people to their cultural heritage.
- Promote cultural diversity across all communities in Wolverhampton.

The events in this programme are educational, entertaining and open to the general public unless specified. It is hoped that these events will promote initiatives to encourage racial harmony and respect of the diverse cultures and skills amongst people in the community in Wolverhampton.

Do please, support these events by encouraging your partner, friends and relatives to come along and join in these celebrations.



Friday 2nd October 2015

Time: 7.00pm – Late

Cost: Free

Disabled Access: Yes

Open to Public: Yes

Venue Address: Heritage Centre
Clifford St, Wolverhampton,
West Midlands WV6 0AA.

Black History Month Launch Event 2015

Friday 2nd October 2015

Wolverhampton Black History Month Launch Event

This year Black History Month will be launched at the Heritage Centre. The theme for BHM 2015 is 'Working Together to Preserve Our Heritage'.

Organisers of Black History Month activities will be on hand with stalls and displays. You can find out more about upcoming events by picking up a copy the Black History Month magazine.

David Bennett will introduce the Black Heritage Trail, talk about progress to date and make an appeal for contributors willing to help develop the Heritage Trail.

Kalila will entertain with participatory traditional African drumming.



Black History Month at Wolverhampton Libraries

Thursday 1st - Saturday 31st October 2015

Wolverhampton libraries mark **Black History Month** every year by promoting books on Black history and culture, as well novels written by Black authors.

Contact your local librarian about Black History Month book displays, and pop into your library to view the Black History Month books section.

For further information contact :-



Ashmore Park Library

E-mail: ashmorepark.library
@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Telephone: 01902 556296

Bilston Library

E-mail: bilston.library
@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Telephone: 01902 556253

Blakenhall Library

E-mail: blakenhall.library
@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Telephone: 01902 555460

Collingwood Library

E-mail: libraries
@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Telephone: 01902 552025

Long Knowle Library

E-mail: longknowle.library
@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Telephone: 01902 556290

Low Hill Library

E-mail: lowhill.library
@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Telephone: 01902 556293



Pendeford Library

E-mail: pendeford.library@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Telephone: 01902 556250

Penn Library

E-mail: Penn.library@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Telephone: 01902 556281

Springvale Library

E-mail: Springvale.library@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Telephone: 01902 556284

Tettenhall Library

E-mail: Tettenhall.library@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Telephone: 01902 556308

Warstones Library

E-mail: Warstones.library@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Telephone: 01902 556275

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Springvale Library

E-mail: Springvale.library

@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Telephone: 01902 556284

Tettenhall Library

E-mail: Tettenhall.library

@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Telephone: 01902 556308

Warstones Library

E-mail: Warstones.library

@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Telephone: 01902 556275

**Django a la Creole - Jazz
concert and pre-show talk**

Evan Christopher explains the prominence of the clarinet in New Orleans music and Django Reinhardt's connections to the 'Birthplace of Jazz.'

For further information contact:

Arena Theatre Box Office
(01902) 321 321

email us at arena@wlv.ac.uk
or book online at arena.wlv.ac.uk



Django a la Creole

Saturday 3rd October 2015

Time: 6:30pm

Pre-concert Talk

by Evan Christopher
and Don Vappie

In the 1920s and 1930s New Orleans clarinetists, such as Créole virtuosi Barney Bigard, Sidney Bechet and Albert Nicholas, exported their homegrown style all over the world.

Bigard's 1939 collaboration with the great Gypsy guitarist, Django Reinhardt is one such fascinating tale...

Jazz clarinettist - Evan Christopher

Time: 8pm Concert

Evan Christopher - 'one of the world's finest' (*Financial Times*)

and his flawless quartet pay tribute to the real roots of jazz, with an exhilarating melding of Django Reinhardt's Hot Club guitar,

the Crescent City's famed Afro-Cuban 'tinge', the elegance of Duke Ellington and the visceral energy of Louis Armstrong.

With tour guest Don Vappie, a brilliant New Orleans banjoist and vocalist, adding extra bona fides with his warm vocal renderings of authentic Creole jazz songs, this 'earthy and passionate'.

(*Downbeat Magazine*) music is 'timeless stuff' (*Sunday Times*).

Arena Theatre

Arena Theatre Box Office
(01902) 321 321

email us at arena@wlv.ac.uk
book online at arena.wlv.ac.uk

Name & Address of Organiser:

Arena Theatre, Wulfruna Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1SE
Email: arena@wlv.ac.uk

Talk 6.30pm Start - **Free**,
but advanced booking
essential

Concert 8pm Start - **£15** full
price and **£13** for
concessions

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UNIVERSITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
KNOWLEDGE • INNOVATION • ENTERPRISE

Black History Month 2015

The Equality and Diversity Unit and Arena Theatre present two talks from leading thinkers on caste, followed by a Q&A discussion.

Crimes of passion. Our passion, your crimes.

Reclaiming history: chronicling the contribution and sacrifice of Tamil Dalits to the class struggle



Dr Meena Kandasamy is a poet, writer, activist and translator, with a PhD in sociolinguistics. She will discuss the forgotten and deliberately silenced history of Dalits' participation in the many class struggles of post-independent period Tamil Nadu, addressing how workers were systematically alienated by the politics of caste. She will also read from her poetry collections, *Touch* (2006) and *Ms Militancy* (2010), and talk about her novel, *The Gypsy Goddess* (2014).

Can the history of caste prejudice be written?



Dr Meena Dhanda, Reader in Philosophy and Cultural Politics at the University, will consider the obstacles in speaking about caste prejudice in Britain including how it might be tracked and opposed. Her talk will reflect on her independent research and experience of leading on the UK Equality and Human Rights Commission project on 'Caste in Britain' (2013-14).

Wednesday
7 October
2015

1.15pm-6pm

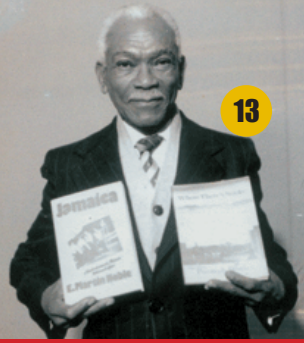
Arena Theatre, Wulfruna Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1SE

FREE event. Booking essential. Book online at: wlv.ticketsolve.com



If you have any specific access needs such as BSL interpreting or information in alternative formats, contact Arena Theatre Box Office on (01902) 321 321 by Wednesday 30 September.

LIGHT HOUSE



“A Charmed Life”

Certificate 

Saturday 10th October 2015

TIME: 4:00 pm

Lighthouse Media Centre
The Chubb Buildings, Fryer Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1HT.

A Charmed Life is about the life and times of Eddie Martin Noble, the Jamaican airman whose life had a major impact on Andrea Levy's classic, 'Small Island'. Born in Jamaica in 1917 he volunteered at the age of 25 to serve in World War Two.

Featuring archive film footage and images of the Caribbean in the 20/30s and interviews with Eddie Noble, A Charmed Life examines issues around colonisation of the Caribbean, racism in the RAF during the War, the colour bar and racial inequality in post-war Britain.

The film was also the catalyst for Windrush Day Campaign which Patrick Vernon the film producer started in 2009 with a national petition campaign in 2013.

Directors: Ros Gihan Williams & Patrick Vernon

Running time: 64min /2008 / UK

Telephone: 01902 716 055, Email: info@light-house.co.uk

A message from the past...

Maya Angelou

“ For Africa to me... is more than a glamorous fact.

It is a historical truth.

No man can know where he is going unless he knows exactly where he has been and exactly how he arrived at his present place. ”

Barbara Jordan

“Do not call for black power or green power. Call for brain power.”

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

“ The time is always right to do what is right.”



From Windrush to Grime:

The Rise of the Black Community in Wolverhampton

Patrick Vernon is a Wolverhampton born writer, cultural historian, political activist and founder of 100 Great Black Britons

Saturday 10th October 2015

Time: 2.00pm – 3.00pm

Cost: Free

Admission by pre-booking only

Venue Address:

Wolverhampton Art Gallery,
Lichfield Street,
Wolverhampton WV1 1DU.

Telephone: 01902 552055



From Windrush to Grime:

The Rise of the Black Community in Wolverhampton

Saturday 10th October 2015

Since the 1940s the people who came from the Caribbean as part of 'the Windrush generation' have made a vital impact on the economic, cultural and political life of Wolverhampton, Bilston and the surrounding area.

Patrick will give an overview of the legacy of the Caribbean, and in particular Jamaican community in the city, important milestones in its development, and its lasting contribution to the character of the area.

Name & Address of Organiser:

**Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Lichfield Street,
Wolverhampton WV1 1DU.**

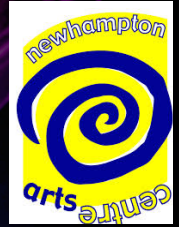
Admission by pre-booking only.

To reserve a place please call

**Wolverhampton Art Gallery Reception on 01902
552055 and leave your name and contact details
(Opening hours 10am-5pm, Monday-Saturday.)**

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www.newhamptonarts.co.uk



Following an incredible sold out National tour and back by popular demand; 'Holy & Horny' is touring the UK for one LAST time before touring internationally.

Book now to see the last ever UK performance of this extra-ordinary play

Over 15's only. No latecomers. No re-admittance

THE HOLY & HORNY FAREWELL TOUR

Saturday 14th November 2015

Time: 7:30pm

Newhampton Arts Centre, Dunkley Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN

www.ticketsource.co.uk/newhamptonartscentre

Described as "Hilarious, powerful and deeply moving, "Holy & Horny" is a celebratory, inspirational, and superbly acted one-woman show that delves into aspects of black history and celebrates spirituality and sensuality.

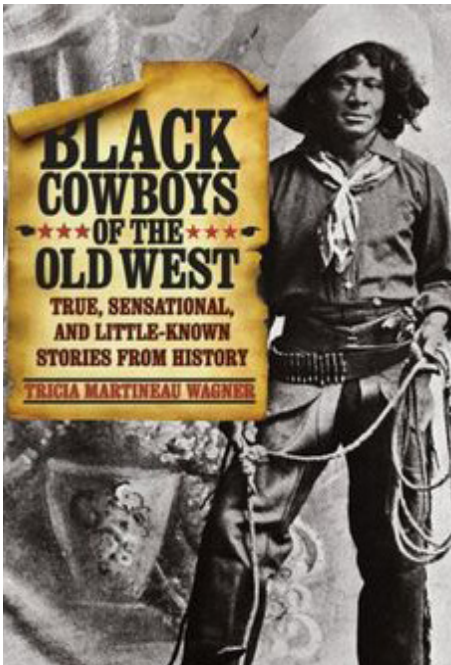
This thought provoking play is a compelling story of love, longing and the ultimate betrayal. In the production, Actress and Author Tonya Joy Bolton explores one woman's struggle to remain holy despite being as horny as hell!

For Further Information Contact:
Christine McGowan or Clare Crowley
Telephone: 01902 572090

Cost
£12.50
Concession
£10.50

Tonya Joy Bolton c/o ICU Transformational Arts Limited, 157
Cherry Orchard Road, Birmingham, B20 2JY

There is a conspicuous absence of the black cowboy recorded in the history.



The role these men played in the settling of the Old West deserves scholarly attention.

Tricia Martineau Wagner



Black History Month

Memory Café for African Caribbean Elders

The Alzheimer's Society holds monthly Dementia Cafes for people living with dementia.

Thursday 29th October 2015

Time: 10.00am – 12.00pm

Open to Public: Yes

Disabled Access: Yes

Cost: Free

Venue Address:

East Park Church,
Brooklands Parade
Wolverhampton, WV1 2ND

Memory Café for African Caribbean Elders

Thursday 29th October 2015

Are you living with dementia or care for someone living with dementia?

The Alzheimer's Society holds monthly Dementia Cafes for people living with dementia. October will provide an opportunity for you to attend the African Caribbean Memory Lane Cafe. You can reminisce about past memories.

Members will access resources provided by the Black Local History & Cultural Archives Project, and other organizations.

The Café is a place you can spend time chatting with friends and family in a relaxed social setting.

Staff and volunteers will be available to give you support, provide you with information and offer you refreshments.

Name & Address of Organiser:

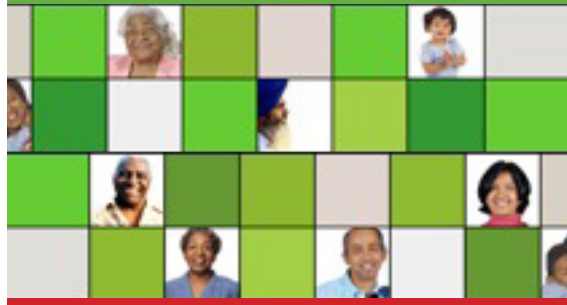
Alzheimer's Society, Black Country Office, Castlemill,
Burnt Tree, Dudley, West Midlands, DY4 7UF.

For Further Information Contact:

Gurvinder Dupia, Telephone: 0121-521-3028
e-mail: Gurvinder.Dhupia@alzheimers.org.uk

**Discussion
to include:**

- The relevance of testimonies to Wolverhampton now in the context of Black History Month.
- Proposals to update records with testimonies of the next generations and recent settlers.
- Ways to ensure records of the experiences of younger people are included.
- Issues arising from moving to Wolverhampton such as integration into the community in Wolverhampton, institutional responses including the justice system.
- Dimensions of history, recognising differences in perspective.



Legacy of Empire

Speakers to include contributors to the original BE-ME archive and others invited to update it, including their descendants and recent settlers in Wolverhampton.

Tuesday 14th October 2015

Time: 6.00pm

Cost: Free

Disabled Access: Yes

Open to Public: Yes

Venue Address:

Light House Media Centre,
The Chubb Building,
Fryer Street, Wolverhampton,
WV1 1HT.



Black and Ethnic Minority Experience

Wolverhampton Communities: Legacy of Empire

Tuesday 14th October 2015

At the end of the Millennium the Black and Ethnic Minority Experience (BE-ME) recorded the experiences and views of over hundred African-Caribbean and South West Asian people who had settled in Wolverhampton in the 1950s, 60s and 70s.

These in-depth interviews, available of video and audio, chart their journeys to Britain, first impressions of Wolverhampton and the struggles to establish a decent life in an often hostile environment.

Name & Address of Organiser:
BE-ME, c/o

Light House Media Centre,
The Chubb Building, Fryer Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1HT.

For Further Information Contact:

John (Secretary, Be-Me)

Telephone Number: 07748 942963

Black Cowboy

The history of the Black cowboy began long before the establishment of large ranches with cattle grazing in the late nineteenth century. The Gambia and some other African countries were known to be lands of large cattle herds with the natives possessing innate skills in controlling and managing the movement of the animals. They were not called cowboys at that time, but merely herders.

Throughout the slave trade, ranchers and farmers (slave owners) with large herds of cattle in the lower south were attracted to these particular groups that had been captured from those African countries.



Once purchased prior to the Civil War, the slaves began to hunt and work cattle in the tall grass, pine barrens, and marshes of South Carolina and other sections of the Lower South in gangs on what was then called cattle plantations.

A few were mounted, but most were on foot and used dogs, bullwhips, and salt to manage cattle. The pine barrens extended westward through Georgia and northern Florida, the Gulf of Mexico, Southern Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and into the grazing lands of Southeast Texas.

As more and more cattle farmers moved westward with their herds and slaves, more and more slaves escaped into the northern states of Mexico, between the Sierra Madres where the principal occupation was cattle and sheep raising.

The ex-slaves swapped skills with the Vaqueros. They taught the Vaqueros the skills of controlling cattle, and the vaqueros taught the ex-slaves the skills of horseback riding and roping. From this group came some of the best cowboys to work the ranches in Texas, and to ride the cattle trail northward.

Another centre of Black cowboys prior to the movements westward to Texas was in the Savannahs of Southern Florida. This group was made up mostly of black runaways from the plantations in Georgia and South Carolina into the Seminole Indian Nation. They became herdsman on foot and horseback. Many in this group went to Oklahoma with the Seminoles, and subsequently with their leader, John Horse and the Seminole Chief Wild Cat, to Mexico where their skills were used in herding cattle as well as fighting with the Mexican army.

Probably the largest contingent of Black cowboys just prior to and immediately after the Civil War could be found in the wide coastal prairie of coarse grass, groves of trees, wooded creeks, and bayous along the Gulf below Houston, Texas from the Guadalupe River eastward to Louisiana.

After Emancipation and the Civil War, thousands of Blacks went to work on the ranches throughout south and west Texas, and subsequently rode the cattle trails northward. To name a few and one of the most famous was Bose Ikard. Born a slave in Mississippi in 1847, Bose was brought to Texas when he was five years old by the Ikard family.

Growing up on the frontier, he learned to ride, rope and fight. These skills made him a valuable cowhand later. He rode with such cattlemen as Charles Goodnight, Oliver Loving, John Chisum and John Slaughter as they went north from Texas with thousands of cattle over deserts, through Apache, Sioux and Comanche Indian territory and army posts into the Wyoming ranges.



Another Black cowboy who rode the Goodnight-Loving Trail was Jim Fowler. He was assigned the worst job, of shooting calves in the morning that had dropped during the night. (NB: Supposedly the story for the movie "Red River," an American Classic was based on the Goodnight-Loving Trail. However, not one Black cowboy was portrayed.)

Jim Perry was an all-around cowboy, cook and fiddler who worked on the XIT ranch. He once remarked: "If it weren't for my damned old black face I'd have been boss of one of these divisions long ago." Newt Clendenen was another well-known cowboy that worked on the XIT ranch.

'One Horse Charley' was yet another noted black cowboy who rode with the Shoshone Indians.

Ben Hodges rode north in a cattle drive from Texas and stopped off at Dodge City, Kansas. A card cheat, fast-talking confidence man, and cattle thief, Ben was one of the few men who survived the wild and dangerous Dodge City.

He died in 1929 and was buried in the Maple Grove Cemetery among many old-time cattlemen and cowboys. "We buried Ben there for a good reason," one of his friends and pallbearers remarked. "We wanted him where they could keep an eye on him."

There were many others, famous and not so famous, such as Nat Love, Jesse Stahl, Bill Pickett, Isom Dart, and thousand of others who rode away into the sunset following the heyday of the cattle trails.

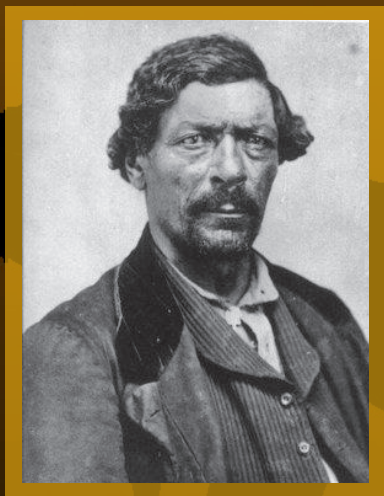
Most were known only by their first names or nicknames. Some drifted onto the ranches and worked throughout the western frontier. Of the estimated 35,000 cowboys that worked the ranches and rode the trails, between five to nine thousand or more were said to have been Black. They participated in almost all of the drives northward, and were assigned to every job except that of trail boss. One historian noted that there had been a few cattle drives where the entire crews were black except for the trail boss.

During the latter years of the twentieth century Blas Payne was considered to be the finest cowboy ever to ride a horse in the Big Bend country of Southwest Texas.

Blas was the grandson of Trumpeter Isaac Payne, a Seminole-Negro Indian Scout, who was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honour. He worked on the Combs Ranch east of Alpine, Texas and, along with other cowboys became noted and respected for their horsemanship and livestock skills.

Fred Fay, whom I had the pleasure of meeting, resides in Brackettville, Texas.

He died recently having been a cowboy, bronco-rider, sheep and goat herder. Former caretaker of the Seminole Indian Cemetery, he was born in Mexico of African, Mexican, and Seminole ancestry, and came to west Texas at a very young age. His father, Andrew Fay, was also a cowboy who worked on various ranches in south-west Texas for many years.



James Pierson Beckwourth

Also known as - **Jim Beckwourth**, **James P. Beckwith** was born in Fredericksburg, Virginia in 1798 to Sir Jennings Beckwith, a descendant of Irish and English nobility, and an African-American mulatto woman about whom little is known.

Beckwourth's father did not want his son to suffer the indignities and socially imposed restrictions of slavery, and so he went to court and had him officially manumitted. (Legally freed/released from bondage)

Like his father, Jim enjoyed nature, Native Americans, and adventure, and it was not long before he set out to explore the vast expanses of what would eventually keep the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans apart.

In 1824 he was living in Missouri when he joined General William Ashley's expedition to explore the Rocky Mountains. Although his activities remain largely unknown during this time Beckwourth became known as a prominent Indian fighter and guide often hired by settlers to guide wagon trains through the Sierra Nevada.

He later became a horse trader supplying migrants and others, and then later conducted a horse thief operation against the Spanish with fellow Mountain Men "Old" Bill Williams and Thomas "Pegleg" Smith.

The company's largest raid took place in 1840 when Beckwourth, in cooperation with Native Americans led by Ute Chief Walkara, over Cajon Pass successfully raiding nearly all the ranches from San Gabriel to San Bernardino of over 1,200 horses.

Despite several battles with Spanish posses, including a gunfight against a posse of 75 men led by Governor Jose Antonio Carrillo, at Resting Springs the gang managed to escape

Beckwourth eventually began ranching, mostly with stolen horses, until he was chased out by vigilantes in 1855. Travelling to the Colorado Territory he became a scout for the Union Army and later lived in Denver as a storekeeper. In 1864 Beckwourth returned to the mountains acting as a guide for John M. Chivington during the Sand Creek Massacre.

Later in his life, Jim recounted his astonishing life to Thomas D. Boner, who set the book *The Life and Adventures of James P. Beckwourth, Mountaineer, Scout, and Pioneer, and Chief of the Crow Nation of Indians* to type. As notable as are the adventures, Jim's linguistic and stylistic prowess also impresses as being beyond the normal scope of reportage.

The lessons of the book have currency, and much can be learned that might help us understand the role of alcohol in the US Government, how occupations effect the occupied, our historical relationship to diseases, wildlife, and the environment... among other things, including massacres and war.

Beckwourth's death came at age 69, while guiding a military column to a Crow Tribe in Montana. Complaining of severe headaches and suffering nosebleeds (most probably a severe case of hypertension), Beckwourth returned to the Crow village where he died on October 29th, 1867. The founder of the "Rocky Mountain News", William Byers, used the news of the death of Beckwourth to publish a circulation-boosting, baseless yarn stating that the Crow had poisoned Beckwourth, a falsehood that is repeated to this day.



Place still bear his name

Beckwourth Pass, named in honour of James Beckwourth, is located in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The California State Route 70 pass crosses the Sierras at an elevation of 5,221 making it one of the lowest crossings of the Sierra Nevada in California. It is also the route that the Union Pacific Railroad

NAT LOVE (also called "DEADWOOD DICK")



Nat Love was born in Davidson County, Tennessee in 1854. After the American Civil War (1861-1865), Love moved to Dodge City, Kansas.

The Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 granted him his right to freedom before going westward at age 15. The first job that appealed to Nat Love was herding cattle as a cowboy. Love's first test was given to him by Bronco Jim who had Love to ride Good Eye, a horse known for bucking and throwing a man off the saddle.

Love stayed on Good Eye and was hired, at \$30 a month, as a cowboy. Nat Love was often seen with his saddle, cowboy chaps, and rifle in many Old West pictures.

Love worked the cattle drives for 20 years. While in Deadwood, South Dakota, on July 4, 1876, Nat Love entered a rodeo competition. He won the roping, shooting, and wild horse-back competitions. It was said that his 12 minute and 30 second mount on the fast mustang horse earned him the name of "Deadwood Dick."

Most of the knowledge of the life of Nat Love was obtained from his public record when he published his autobiography in 1907 entitled, *The Life and Adventures of Nat Love, Better Known in the Cattle Country as "Deadwood Dick."*

When Nat Love retired as a cowboy in 1890, he worked as Pullman porter on the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. Nat Love died in 1921.

Mary Fields

Ex-slave **Mary Fields** felt at home in Montana, whether working in a convent or managing the mail route

Mary Fields was a black 'gun-toting' female in the American Wild West. She was six feet tall; heavy; tough; short-tempered; two-fisted; powerful; and packed a pair of six-shooters and an eight or ten-gauge shotgun.

A legend in her own time, she was also known as Stage-Coach Mary

Mary Fields was born as a slave in Tennessee during the administration of Andrew Jackson. A feisty sort with whom she shared driving ambition, audacity, and a penchant for physical altercation on a regular basis.



She smoked rather bad homemade cigars.

Well after the Civil War loosened things up, as a free woman in 1884, having made her way to Cascade County (west central Montana) in search of improved sustenance and adventure, she took a job with the Ursuline nuns at their mission in the city of Cascade -- such as it was. (Cascade that is, not the job, although it was not much to speak of either.)

Called St. Peter Mission, the nuns' simple frontier facility was relatively well funded, if remote, and the nuns did a thriving business converting heathen savages, and other disgusting customers, to the true path of salvation -- although not salvation from the white men.

Anyway, Mary was hired to do 'heavy work' and to haul freight and supplies to keep the nuns' operation functional and well fed. She chopped wood, did stone work and rough carpentry, dug certain necessary holes, and when reserves were low she did one of her customary supply runs to the train stop, or even to Great Falls, or the city of Helena when special needs arose.

In 1914 she died of liver failure. Neighbours buried her in the Hillside Cemetery in Cascade, marking the spot with a simple wooden cross which may still exist today. In spite of her drinking, and cigar smoking, and occasional fisticuffs, townsfolk were hard pressed to believe that this mellow old woman of 80 was the hard shooting and short-tempered female character of earlier years they had heard so much about. But they were wrong, she was. She continued in this capacity until she reached well into her sixties.

Randolph Turpin

Born in Leamington on 7th June 1928 Randolph Turpin became one of Britain's greatest boxers.

He honed his skills as an amateur boxer and won the ABA welterweight champion in 1945 before turning professional the following year. After securing the British middleweight title in 1950 Turpin took the European middleweight title in 1951. Randolph then focused his attention on the world crown.

On July 10, 1951 Randolph Turpin beat Sugar Ray Robinson to win the World Middleweight Boxing title. In doing so he became the first Black British boxer to win a world boxing title. Turpin's reign was short lived. Robinson beat Turpin to regain the title in October 1951.

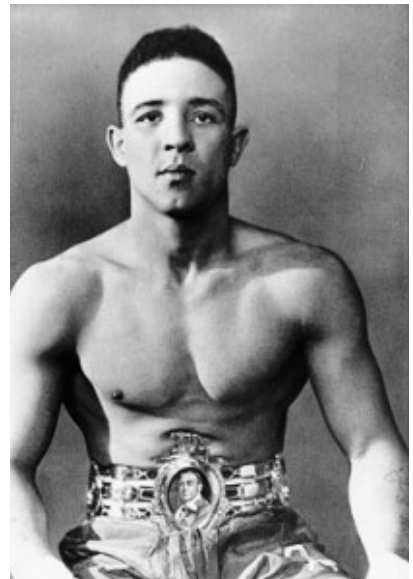
Randolph Turpin also achieved success in winning the British Light Heavyweight champion in 1952, 1955 and 1956.

Turpin died tragically at the age of 37 when he committed suicide in 1966.

Although Randolph was not the most scientific fighter of his time his skills and punching power enabled him to take the World Middleweight Crown from Sugar Ray Robinson.

**“History with out
Black History is Not
Complete History”**

Prime Minister David Cameron in
October 2013



Some Achievements of Black People and Significant Events in Britain during 2014

On July 15, **Yvonne Mosquito**, the deputy Police and Crime Commissioner was appointed as temporary Police and Crime Commissioner following the sudden death of Bob Jones. Yvonne is the first Black Police and Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands.

July 14 was celebrated across the region as **Black Country Day**.



Yvonne Mosquito



Grace Ononiwu OBE

Grace Ononiwu OBE became the first female chief crown prosecutor for the West Midlands. Grace became a qualified solicitor in 1991. That year she began a career in the Crown Prosecution Service. Grace who is a member of the National People Strategy Board, is not new to the crown prosecutor role, a post she also excelled in for the East of England.

De-reece Williams took two medals at the World Association of Kickboxing Organisations world champions in Italy. The 16 year old won a team gold medal for Britain and an individual silver.

Matthew Hudson-Smith was rewarded for his achievements on the track. He was named British Athletics Young Athlete of the Year.

Lewis Hamilton was awarded the BBC Sports Personality of the Year.

A £3 million fundraising campaign was launched to raise the cash needed to produce a film about the life of footballer **Laurie Cunningham**.

The film titled Black Flash will delve into his life and his relationship with Brendon Batson and Cyrille Regis. **Laurie Cunningham** was the first Black man to play competitively for West Bromwich Albion Football Club and the first British player to represent Real Madrid..

On November 2nd **Lewis Hamilton** reached a milestone by becoming Britain’s most successful Formula One driver after winning the US Grand Prix. Hamilton became a two-time Formula One world champion after winning the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

Lewis Hamilton



Sandwell student **Jardell Miller**, aged 15, was elected as the youth police and crime commissioner for the West Midlands.



Jardell Miller



Alexandra Burke

The theatre production of 'The Bodyguard' with Alexandra Burke in the lead role broke the ticket sales record for the Birmingham Hippodrome.

Some Achievements of Black Wolverunians in Wolverhampton and Elsewhere during 2014

Wolverhampton City Council played host to the 2014 Digis Digital Media Awards held at the Grand Theatre. The awards honours school children who are talented in digital production. Five year old **Katleho Mefata** from the Giffard RC Primary School was a team winner of the Best Digital Artwork award.

Gabriella Riggon-Allen the most successful Black model from Wolverhampton and Willenhall, was featured in a ten page spread in the prestigious Grazia magazine.

Gabriella was introduced to modeling when spotted at the Clothes Show aged 15. She has modeled for numerous companies both in Britain and the U.S.A. Gabriella is originally from Willenhall, but moved to Fallings Park from where she attended St. Thomas More Catholic School. Gabriella is a mother of one and now lives in New York.

Gabriella Riggon-Allen



Amelia Harvey won the English Womens' Karate title for the second year in a row. Amelia attends university but still trains at Bushbury's Ikon Martial Arts Centre.

The 2014 Youth Parliament elections took place in April. South Wolverhampton and Bilston Academy student **Arnold Majeche** was elected to the Youth Parliament. Arnold is from Low Hill.

18 year old **Sasha Lyttle** beat all in a beauty pageant to be crowned Miss Diversity.

Twins **Jerome** and **Jarrell Spence** made history by becoming fathers on the same day. Their partners gave birth to boys within hours of each other. The 21 year old brothers live in Fordhouses.

University of Wolverhampton student **Nekoda Davis** won a Judo gold medal in the women under-57kgs contest, at the Commonwealth Games held in Glasgow. Twenty one year old Nekoda trains at the British judo Centre of Excellence in Walsall.

Laura Serrant professor of community and Public Health Nursing at the University of Wolverhampton was named in a list of most inspirational women. The list now in its second year is published by the Health Service Journal.

For the first time in its history the Wolverhampton Express & Star dedicated two full pages to BHM. **Kimberley Crayton-Brown** wrote an article about Black pilots during World War 2. The paper also made reference to the BHM programme and BHM events.



Professor Laura Serrant



Matthew Hudson-Smith

In August **Matthew Hudson-Smith** won gold in the 4x400 metres relay event at the Commonwealth Games. The Wolverhampton born athlete trains for Birmingham's Birchfield Harriers.

Later that month he won silver in the 400 metres and gold in 4x400 metres relay at the European Athletics Championships in Zurich.

Denise Lewis the former Heptathlon Olympics Gold medallist, and current BBC sports comentator, was awarded an honorary degree by the University of Wolverhampton. The degree was presented at an awards ceremony held at the Grand Theatre on September 8. Denise who grew up in Pendeford was honoured for her achievements to sport and her charity work. Commenting on her award Denise said:

“It is a privilege to be back in my city and to be recognized in this way is fantastic. I can’t really put into words but it is a proud moment. I travel all around the world but this is home and to be honoured once again is a great feeling”.

[Express and Star, 9th September 2014]



Denise Lewis

Curtis Harvey secured a gold medal at the Wadokai European Karate Championships held in Reading. The 18 year old’s win earned him a place on the England national team.

The Belong Nottingham charity secured a £69,000 Heritage Lottery Fund grant to explore the life of **George Africanus**. The grant will be used to develop a teaching programme for schools. George Africanus was a slave to businessman Benjamin Molineux. He later became a free man and moved to Nottingham. George went on to become a very successful businessman in his own right. To find out more about this project visit the website: <http://www.georgeafricanus.com>

Black History Month

Planning an event for Black History Month 2016?

To find out how you can get your event listed for free contact:

David Bennett
The Black Local History & Cultural Archives Project,
24 Cosgrove Walk, Pendeford,
Wolverhampton, WV8 1YD.

Mobile: 07806461828
Email: blacklocalhistory@live.co.uk

The Black History Month Events Group meets once a month between January and August. If you are interested in attending meetings of the Group contact David Bennett.

Want to Promote Your Services?

Place an advert in the Black History Month programme or the [blackhistoryandheritage](http://blackhistoryandheritage.com) website. Contact David Bennett on:


Mobile: 07806461828
Email: blacklocalhistory@live.co.uk for more details.
Website: www.blackhistoryandheritage.com



We endorse the recycling of our programme and would encourage you to pass it on to others to read when you have finished with it.

We welcome any comments, compliments or criticisms you may have about this publication or Black History Month in Wolverhampton. All enquiries will be dealt with promptly and where necessary, in confidence.

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