



THE CORNER BAR: A Gathering of Readers, Writers and Critical Thinkers

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BHCC Library Newsletter

Bunker Hill Community College Library and Learning Commons

Celebrating Black History Month, African Americans' Service in the Military of the United States

by Vivica Smith Pierre, JD, PhD

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Libraries everywhere are celebrating African American History Month. 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 and many others join in paying tribute to the generations of African Americans who struggled with adversity to achieve full citizenship in American society. Many libraries provide exhibits, physical books

and ebooks, videos, external websites, and also provide customized library instruction. Here at the Bunker Hill Community College, librarians directly tie in to this celebration by creating, designing, and delivering textual evidence, references and sources supporting teaching and learning.

The origins of African-American History Month began in 1926 when Harvard-trained historian Carter G. Woodson announced the second week of February to be "Negro

History Week. Like W.E. B. Du Bois, Dr. Carter G. Woodson believed that the contributions and achievements of Americans of African descent should be celebrated.

Source Films On Demand African-American Lives Beyond the Middle Passage

Americans with African ancestry have served in United States military units since the arrival of the first black slaves in 1619. No war has been fought by the United States in which

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Just Like Love...the Library is All Around Us

BY ELIZABETH FIELDS

[Get to Know Your Library](#)

Please send us your thoughts on future library programming, especially kinds of programs you would like to see and would attend if hosted by the BHCC library?

This is the time of year when people really, really don't want to leave the house. Face it, it's cold, the newness of the semester has worn off, and midterms are coming up. In addition, the recent bad weather has reminded us that when we can't leave the house, we still need to keep in touch, entertain ourselves, and,

sometimes, even get some homework done.

Not all library services are available from off-campus, but a number of them are. Using the [library catalog](#), you can search for books, movies, and other items. Electronic resources, such as eBooks and streaming

videos, can be accessed from home as long as you have your library barcode (found on the back of your OneCard or ID card) and library password. For print books and DVDs, you'll have to pick them up the next time you're on campus.

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which the African American soldiers did not participate. African Americans fought and served valiantly in the Revolutionary War,

the War of 1812, the Civil War, the Spanish American War, the World Wars, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, and the current War in Iraq.

Americans of African descent have played a significant role in every war: Revolutionary War (1775-1783); War of 1812 (1812-1815); Mexican War (1846-1848); Civil War (1861-1865); Indian Wars (1780s-1890s), Buffalo Soldiers; Spanish-American War (1898); World War I (1917-1918); World War II (1941-1945); Korean War; Vietnam War; War in Iraq; War in Afghanistan to Present Day.

"Americans of African descent have played a significant role in every war."

African Americans Achievements in the American Revolution

On the cold, snowy night of March 5, 1770, a mob of American colonists gathered at the Customs House in Boston. British Captain Thomas Preston, the commanding officer at the Customs House, ordered his men

to fix their bayonets and join the guard outside the building. The colonists responded by throwing snowballs and other objects at the British regulars, and private Hugh Montgomery was hit, leading him to discharge his rifle at the crowd. The other soldiers began firing a moment later, and when the smoke cleared, five colonists were dead or dying. We cannot confirm that Crispus Attucks was the first soldier to fall, but we know that Patrick Carr, Samuel Gray, Samuel maverick, James Caldwell, and Crispus Attucks were the first Americans casualties in the American Revolution.

Source: https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/African_American_Military_Records

The soldiers who fought alongside General Washington in the Continental Army — and also on the British side — came from all walks of life. The soldiers had different backgrounds and different skills. Some were born in the colonies, while others were immigrants. They were rich and poor, free men and slaves, and of different religions. Those involved in the war were not just the male sol-

diers; women and children also played a crucial role in the Revolutionary War.

On April 19, 1775, African Americans joined the militia and Minutemen who defended the stores of ammunition and supplies that had been gathered in the towns of Concord and Lexington, Massachusetts. General George Washington authorized the enlistment of volunteer African Americans on December 30, 1775. The Massachusetts 54th Regiment Volunteer Infantry Regiment was one of the first official black units in the U.S. armed forces.

Source: http://images.search.yahoo.com/search/images?adv_prop=image&fr=yfp-t-701&va=black+soldiers+troops+in+Indian+War

"one of the first official black units in the U.S. armed forces"

Massachusetts 54th Regiment

In March 1863, The *54th Massachusetts Regiment Volunteer Infantry Regiment* was authorized by the Governor of Massachusetts, John A. Andrew. Commanded by Colonel Robert Gould Shaw. "The soldiers were recruited by white abolitionists (including Shaw's parents)." The 54th Regiment was commissioned after the passage of the Emancipation Proclamation. "The 54th Massachusetts regiment, under Robert Gould Shaw, attacks Fort Wagner, South Carolina. Blacks prove they can fight as well as whites." - Source: *Films On Demand*

Buffalo Soldiers: An American Legacy

On July 28, 1866, Congress passed an act that authorized the army to raise six regiments of African-American soldiers. These six regiments became known as the Buffalo Soldiers, men who served with distinction on the Western frontier. They were named Buffalo Soldiers by the Indians possibly because of their color, courage or because their curly hair resembled that of a buffalo. Experts discuss the pride and professionalism among black soldiers who, for the first time...

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had paid work which they had chosen. *Source: Films On Demand*

African American Female Women Soldiers Troops

When Cathay Williams enlisted in the army, women were not allowed to serve as soldiers. She was born Cathy Williams, but became Pvt. William Cathay, an African-American woman who disguised herself as a man to become a Buffalo Soldier. Cathay Williams was the only known female "buffalo soldier" or black soldier in the US military after the Civil War. She served in the Thirty-Eighth United States Infantry Company A, as William Cathay, from November 1866 to October 1868. *Source: www.Army.Mil/AfricanAmericans*

The Tuskegee Airmen of World War II and the U.S. Air Force

In 1941, the Tuskegee Airmen were young men who enlisted to become America's first African

Americans allowed to train to fly and support combat planes in the Armed Forces and the Air Force of the United States of America. "It was a time when there were many people who thought that black men lacked intelligence, skill, courage and patriotism." "Despite obstacles of segregation and racism, the Tuskegee Airmen pilots and support crews compiled an impressive record of 15,000 sorties, including 150 enemy planes shot down and 250 destroyed on the ground." "Nevertheless, African Americans in the military often struggled to receive the respect they deserved after the war." The Tuskegee Airmen pilots came from throughout the country, including large numbers of men from Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New York, Washington, California, and Michigan. The Tuskegee Airmen squadron was based in Tuskegee, Ala., in 1941. The pilots thus became known as the Tuskegee Airmen and served with distinction at bases in the United States, Canada, Italy, Japan, Spain and North Africa the War. *Source: www.tuskegeeairmen.org*

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Information about reserves is also available online. Via [Syrup](#), you can search by instructor, course, or item title to see if we have materials for your class. If we do, students can come to the Lending Services Desk the next time they're on campus to borrow them. Most reserve items can be used for two hours in the library.

If you're stuck at home during a not-quite-official blizzard, many faculty members make items available electronically for students. Check your Moodle course or Syrup to see if your professor posted any articles, links, or chapters online. Instructors, if you're interested in e-reserve options, contact the library.

Articles in the databases are always available electronically, snowstorm or no snowstorm. Check out all the [library's databases](#), or visit the [Databases by Subject page](#) if you're not sure which one to use. As with the eBooks and online videos, you will need to sign in to access the articles.

If you forgot or don't have a library password, you may be able to [reset it](#). If we have an email address on file for you, you'll get a message with instructions. We probably have your Bunker Hill email, so check that one first—and if you prefer to use a personal email address, come by the Lending Services Desk the next

time you're on campus and update your account.

For those of you very responsibly getting a jump on your assignments, you may want to check out [LibGuides](#), a site with guides and instructions on doing library research. See if there's a guide for your class or project! If you're having trouble with your research, call or email a librarian at 617-228-3479 or bhcclibrary@bhcc.mass.edu.

Have you finished all your homework or planning? If so, check out Overdrive for a wide selection of fiction eBooks and audiobooks. Most of the books on [Overdrive](#) are fiction. These books can be downloaded to your computer or a device like a Kindle or Nook for two weeks.

We can't put all the library's resources online, but we encourage you to use the ones that are online. As for study space and real live librarians, well, that will have to wait for the next time you're on campus.

-Elizabeth Fields, MLIS



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Colin Powell in the U.S. Army

"I am a soldier". Colin Luther Powell was a professional soldier for 35 years holding a variety of command and staff positions. Gen. Powell rose through the ranks of the military to become a 5-Star general and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. "...One of the happiest experiences of [his] life; discovering something he loved and could do well, he felt he had found himself."

Colin Luther Powell KCB, MSC was born on April 5, 1937 in Harlem, a neighborhood in the New York City borough of Manhattan in 1937 to Jamaican immigrant parents. He was raised by parents who told him he could do anything. He did not feel limited by his color, and in the military, he found a perfect environment for development.

Source: Films on Demand –America Beyond the Color Line: Ebony Towers

Colin Powell attended Morris High School, a former public school in The Bronx, New York City, from which he graduated in 1954. He earned a bachelor's degree in geology from City College of New York, attaining only a C average, according to his 2006 graduation address at Marymount University. He earned an MBA from The George Washington University, after his second tour in Vietnam in 1971.

Source

http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry?colin_Powell

Book: My American Journey

But why and what motivated them to fight? Could it be that they fought for Belongingness and Love and for Freedom, Independence, Equal Opportunity? Could it be they fought, yes for themselves, and also fought for other humans throughout the world? Could it be that if we examine black history before and beyond the Civil Rights era and the constant focus on Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks and wars fought in southern cities, states and parishes, could it be that what we will find is not just African Americans achieving battles in the past few decades, but African Americans who have fought a good fight and in doing so they served the United States of America. Though people of African descent have been

in the U.S. for nearly four hundred years and serving in U.S. military (volunteer, enlisted, recruited) we need to recall that humans have certainly been on earth for about two hundred thousand years possibly longer:

"Humans have spread across the entire planet, colonizing every corner. But humans have really been on the planet for a fraction of the lifetime of the Earth. Archeologists estimate that modern humans have been on the Earth for about 200,000 years."

Why did they fight? Every person is motivated by needs (Maslow in McLeod 2012). Maslow noted the hierarchy of needs in his five-stage model which includes: biological and physiological needs (air, food, drink, shelter, warmth, sleep, etc.). Safety needs, for example, protection from elements, security, order, law, limits, stability, and more. Belongingness and Love needs (work group, team membership, family, affection, relationships with others, etc.). Esteem needs (self-esteem, achievement, mastery, freedom, independence, status, etc.) And the fifth in the model is self-actualization needs, described by Maslow as realizing personal potential, self-fulfillment, seeking personal growth and peak experiences. "It is im-

portant to note that Maslow's (1954) theory has been elaborated upon by other researchers. Changes to the original five-stage model include Cognitive needs (knowledge, meaning, etc.), Aesthetic needs (appreciation and search for beauty, balance, harmony, etc.), and Transcendence needs (helping others to achieve self-actualization).

Thus, I celebrate African American History during February and throughout the entire year (wish we all did). And we can do this through sharing our family history and records, reading, research and writing on this topic. I am a voracious reader.

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"Examine black history before and beyond the Civil Rights era."

"I am the daughter of African Americans who served in the United States Military."

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I am a Black American Woman. I am the daughter of African Americans who served in the United States Military.

My father was born in 1928 in Slidell, Louisiana. Like many other stories, my father enlisted in the U.S. Army. As a soldier, he served in the Korean War (1950-1953) and served two tours of duty during the Vietnam War (1968-1973).

My mother was born in 1933 in Atlanta, Georgia. She enlisted in the U.S. Army and served her entire professional career as a U.S. military nurse.

May 15, 1942 - President Franklin Roosevelt signs the bill authorizing the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps. The WAAC enlisted women to fill many noncombatant roles for the US Army during World War II. Initially a separate organization, in 1943, the WAAC was converted to the Women's Army Corps and made an official part of the US Army. The women of the WAAC/WAC were first non-nurses permitted to serve in the military and were sent to all theaters of the war.

General Dwight Eisenhower best summed up the WAC's value when he stated, "During the time I have had WACs under my command they have met every test and task assigned to them . . . their contributions in efficiency, skill, spirit and determination are immeasurable."

<http://militaryhistory.about.com/b/2007/05/15/womens-auxiliary-army-corps-formed.htm>

Here is the tie, why did they fight? I believe it is like Colin Powell stated "one of the happiest experiences of his life; discovering something he loved and could do well, and this is where he had found himself."

Looking back at the five-stage model in Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, I believe black soldiers (troops) in the military fought to meet a variety of needs. Among these are needs to "help them to meet their biological and physiological needs, safety needs, belongingness and love needs, and esteem needs." Thus, it seems appropriate that in celebrating

Black History Month envisioned by historian Carter G. Woodson that we acknowledge and honor not just the recent famous role models, but be inclusive including the not so famous Role Models by Black People in America including

"Celebrate African American History during February and throughout the year."

African American men and women, soldiers and troops, who all have served the United States of America.

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Publication Policy

The Corner Bar encourages all members of the BHCC community especially enrolled students to submit comments, feedback, suggestions, and thoughts for publication. However, we reserve the right to edit, shorten or rewrite any portion of a writing, for the sake of objectivity, responsibility, and good taste. At all times, we will strive to maintain the meaning and intent of any submission.

Newsletter Editor: Enzo Silon Surin, MFA

EBOOKS IN THE BHCC LIBRARY & LEARNING COMMONS—PART 2

by Andy McCarthy

The Library & Learning Commons recently was awarded \$37,600 in action plan money during the Long Range Planning meeting held in January, entitled “Take the Money and Run”. Most of this money is earmarked for the purchase of additional eBooks for our collection. The rest of the money is for the purchase eBook reader devices. These devices will be bought as a trial/test to gauge patron interest. If there is overwhelming interest, we will then expand this program in the future.

As a refresher, an eBook is an electronic book. Most eBooks in existence today started their lives as a physical book, and a vendor has taken a camera shot or picture of each page of the book and placed it on a platform for the consumer to be able to access and read. The BHCC Library’s eBook collection consists of scholarly works, reference books, general nonfiction and popular fiction.

Ebooks are becoming an increasingly important component of the BHCC Library & Learning Commons’ book collection. The trend in all libraries today is toward an uptick in the purchase of more eBooks. As more Kindles, Nooks and iPads are purchased by the general populace, the demand for more eBooks increases. Libraries need to keep up with demand, and the BHCC Library is keeping up by actively pursuing the purchase of more eBooks. The action plan is the latest library money to be devoted to the purchase of eBooks.

“Ebooks are becoming an increasingly important component of the BHCC Library.”

Accessibility is a key benefit of eBooks. An unlimited amount of people can access one eBook from ebrary at any one time (ebrary is our primary eBook database at the BHCC Library). Physical books are usable and accessible at the library only, and they can be taken only from the library; one must come to the library to get the book. Accessing an eBook is much easier. As long as you have access to the BHCC Library’s website, you can access the eBook from anywhere at any time. Having eBooks available supports not only traditional students but distance learners as well.

An issue about eBooks here at the BHCC Library is that many students do not know about them or how to access them. Today’s students must be educated about eBooks as another resource for completing assignments. Most eBooks contain current information because most of them have been recently published. Many of our physical books have more historical content having been published longer ago. Depending on the type of content you are looking for should dictate which type of book you should use.

You do not need a mobile device to read an eBook, and you do not have to worry about buying a portable device to read eBooks in the library’s collection. The main way to read an eBook using ebrary, the BHCC Library’s primary eBook vendor, is on the computer screen. You have access to the entire book on the

screen and can jump to other parts of the book easily.

To get at an ebrary eBook and to start reading it, find a PC, open up the library’s website (<http://www.noblenet.org/bhcc>), go to Databases, click on ebrary and start reading. Ebrary is great for this reason.

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We have had eBooks in the BHCC Library for many years. We have collections that date back to the turn of the century, and we have more current eBooks that we have through ebrary. A few years ago, we subscribed to the Community College Collection from ebrary which we renew each year. The benefit of this

collection is that ebrary keeps it current and up to date. They remove books no longer used or available and add new titles to the list for people to access and use. In addition the future bodes well for buying eBooks in the same manner that we buy a physical book. We will purchase eBooks in perpetuity which is just like purchasing a physical book that is bought and put on our shelves and is ours until we no longer want it. This is a different model from the Community College Collection.

The BHCC Library has many eBooks of this type in its collection at this time, and we hope to bolster their numbers and make them more relevant and prevalent in our collection.

The money from the won action plan will start this initiative.

-Andy McCarthy, MLIS



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As I celebrate Black History Month I remain concerned. Education is the number one civil rights issue of our time. Every one of us should be concerned about high drop out rates, low completion and graduation rates and help students earn high-value degrees or certificates in key fields such as the stem areas. There is a continuing need to educate Black students including people of color from Caribbean and Latin America who are citizens in the United States, and we need to continue to fight for the education of students of African American descent especially to help them complete education and achieve degrees leading to jobs and professions in the engineering, science, technology, math, medical, law and policy areas.

What better way to celebrate Black History Month than by taking a moment to acknowledge the contributions of American patriots (soldiers, troops) of African American descent through the years, who have served in the military of the United States?

-Vivica Smith Pierre, JD, PhD

Bunker Hill Community College Library and Learning Commons

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STATS—January 2013

GATE COUNT: 30,161 (RAW); 24,129 (ADJUSTED)

NEW ACQUISITIONS ADDED TO CATALOG: 226

PUBLIC SERVICES/REFERENCE QUESTIONS: 230

LIBRARY INSTRUCTION:

WORKSHOPS: 12

STUDENTS : 235

WEBSITE: Total Page Views (Impressions) 14,420

Most Popular Pages:

<http://www.noblenet.org/bhcc/>

<http://www.noblenet.org/bhcc/databases.htm>

BOOK, FILM, MOVIE, CONCERT REVIEWS

By Stefanie Maclin

I am somewhat obsessed with fairy-tale retellings. A few personal favorite retellings of fairy-tales are Robin McKinley's *Beauty* and *Rose Daughter*, both retellings of Beauty and the Beast. Jim C. Hines wrote a quartet of books re-imagining Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty and Snow White as action heroines, which in spite of its prospective cheesiness factor are surprisingly refreshing. Malindo Lo's *Ash* is a phenomenal retelling of Cinderella, one which casts the love story between two women.

A lot of fairy tale retellings are going back to the story's roots, the seedier, darker undertones the Grimm Brothers chose to leave out. Original fairy tales are much like our ghost stories, used to scare children into learning their lessons. Currently, I am reading Alice in Wonderland as it might have been set in Victorian England. Here, Wonderland is a world of imagination, a place where inventors, if they only pass through a magic portal called the Heart's Crystal, their invention will be invented in a parallel world, perhaps ours. Alyss has only recently returned to Wonderland, and as she navigates her 'queendom', so too does she navigate growing up, love, betrayal, and loss. This is a three-part series, and having just started the second

book, *Seeing Redd*, the kingdom is unsure if their greatest enemy has returned from the dead. The first book, which chronicles Alyss' rise to power, is called *The Looking Glass Wars*. The third book in the series is *ArchEnemy*.

What are some of your favorite fairy tales? Whether it's a book or film, what particular retelling do you like? Email me at sрмаclin@bhcc.mass.edu with your comments.

