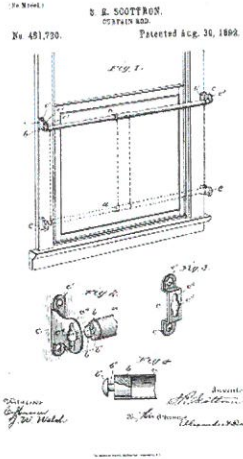


THE CURTAIN ROD PATENT NO. 481,720



SAMUEL SCOTTRON

Samuel Scottron (1843–1905) invented an adjustable mirror so that barbershop clients could examine their haircuts from every angle.

From the barbershop, Scottron branched out into inventions for the home. He invented the adjustable window cornice (A cornice is an attractive window overhang that's used to hide the curtain rod.), a curtain rod, a pole tip and a supporting bracket. Scottron was the first African American to be a member of the Brooklyn, New York Board of Education and was a co-founder of the Cuban Anti-Slavery Society. (U.S. Patent # 481,720)

“Contributions of Blacks in Modern Day Society”
Courtesy of the
Office of Career Services

IMPROVEMENT TO THE DINNER PAIL
PATENT NO. 356,852



JAMES ROBINSON

DINNER-PAIL.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 356,852, dated February 1, 1887.

Application led September 29, 1856. Serial No. 214,853. (No model.)

Be it known that I, John Robinson, a citizen of the United States, have invented anew and useful Improvement in Dinner-Fails, of which the following is a specification. My invention is an improvement in dinner pails for workmen; and it consists in the peculiar construction and combination of devices that will be more fully set forth hereinafter, and particularly pointed out in the claims.

"Contributions of Blacks in Modern Day Society"

**Courtesy of the
OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES**

IMPROVEMENT TO THE DUSTPAN

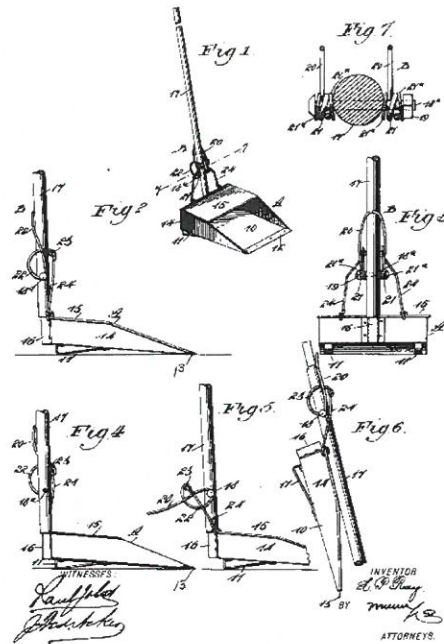
PATENT NO. 587,607

(No Model.)

L. P. RAY,
DUST PAN.

No. 587,607.

Patented Aug. 3, 1897.



LAWRENCE P. RAY

Be it known that I, LLOYD P. RAY, of Seattle, in the county of King and State of Washington, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Dust-Pans, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

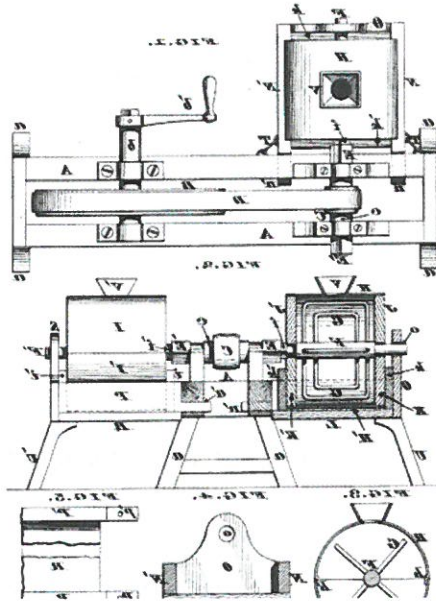
The object of my invention is to provide a dust-pan which will be so constructed as to lie close to the floor or surface from which the dust is to be taken up and wherein the receiving edge of the pan will be of a stronger material than the body portion.

Another object of the invention is to provide the pan with a removable and adjustable handle and a spring fastening device which will hold the handle at an angle to the pan when the pan is in use and which will permit the handle to be carried to a parallel position with the pan, and will serve, furthermore, as a means for suspending the pan and handle from a convenient support.

"Contributions of Blacks in Modern Day Society"

**Courtesy of the
OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES**

IMPROVEMENT OF THE EGG BEATER PATENT NO. 292,821



WILLIS JOHNSON

Patented an improved the mechanical egg beater (U.S. pat# 292,821) on February 5, 1884. In fact, what he had really invented was an early mixing machine that was not just an egg beater. Willis Johnson had designed his egg beater/mixer for eggs, batter, and other baker's ingredients. It was a double acting machine with two chambers. Batter could be beaten in one section and eggs could be beaten in another section or one section could be cleaned while the other section could continue beating.

"Contributions of Blacks in the Modern Day Society"

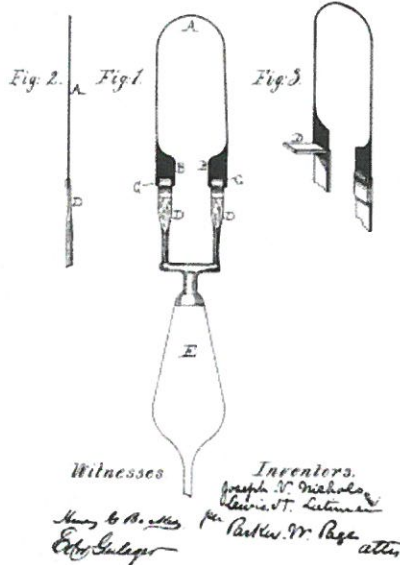
Courtesy Of the

OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES

IMPROVED: INCANDESCENT ELECTRIC LIGHT BULB WITH CARBON FILAMENT

PATENT NO. 247,097

J. V. NICHOLS & L. H. LATIMER.
ELECTRIC LAMP.
No. 247,097. Patented Sept. 13, 1881.



Patent # 247,097

LEWIS H. LATIMER

Lewis H. Latimer was born in Chelsea, Massachusetts in 1848. Along with Granville T. Woods, Latimer was one of the first major African American inventors. He first worked as an assistant to Alexander Graham Bell. Later, Latimer became a member of Thomas Edison's elite research team, "Edison's Pioneers." Here Latimer made his most important scientific contributions, by improving the light bulb invented by Edison.

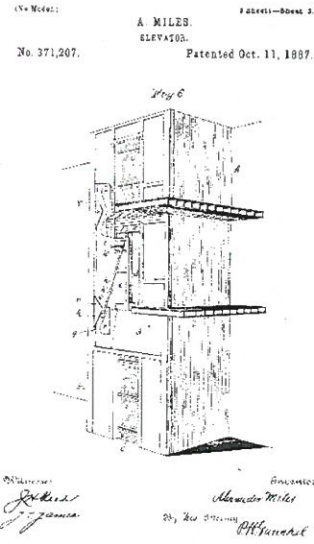
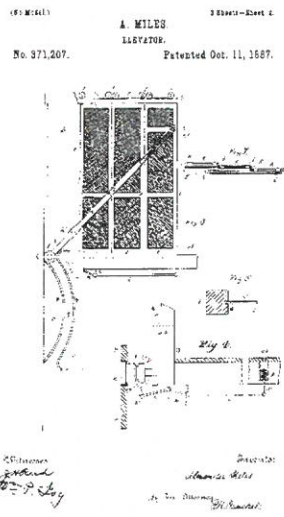
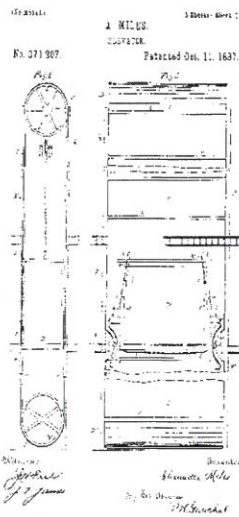
Edison's prototypical light bulb was lit by a glowing, electrified filament made of paper, which unfortunately burnt out rather quickly. Latimer created a light bulb with a filament made of the much more durable carbon. He sold the patent for the "Incandescent Electric Light Bulb with Carbon Filament" to the United States Electric Company in 1881, but did not rest on his laurels.

Latimer went on to patent a process for efficiently manufacturing the carbon filament (1882), and developed the now familiar threaded socket (though his was wooden) for his improved bulb. Moreover, Latimer wrote the first book on electric lighting, *Incandescent Electric Lighting* (1890), and supervised the installation of public electric lights throughout New York, Philadelphia, Montreal, and London.

"Contributions of Blacks in Modern Day Society"

**Courtesy of the
OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES**

IMPROVEMENT TO THE ELEVATOR PATENT NO. 371,207



ALEXANDER MILES

Before Alexander Miles' innovations to the elevator industry, riders were required to open and close the elevator and shaft doors manually. This obviously led to many accidents; as patrons would often forget to close shaft doors and people sometimes fell to serious injury or death.

In 1887, Miles filed a patent that would automate the elevator door process; the elevator doors would operate through a series of levers and rollers, while the shaft doors would open and close with a flexible belt attached to the elevator cage. The shaft doors would open and close automatically when the belt came in contact with drum devices fixed just above and below the doors, dramatically improving elevator safety.

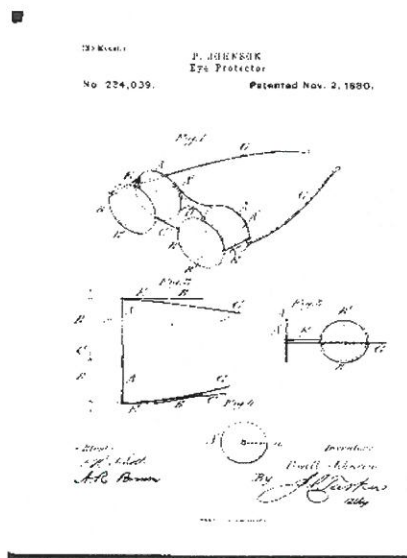
The legacy/foundation of his designs can be seen in elevators today. Miles was posthumously inducted into the National Inventor's Hall of Fame in 2007.

"Contributions of Blacks in Modern Day Society"

Courtesy of the

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IMPROVEMENT OF EYE-PROTECTION GLASSES PATENT # 234,039



POWELL JOHNSON

Most of what is known about Powell Johnson is found in his U.S. Patent application filed on November 2, 1880. Powell Johnson made certain useful improvements in eye-protection like, glare reduction, persons having weak sight and protecting the eyes of people, who were exposed to dangerous conditions. An excerpt of his original patent application can be found below:

Be it known that I, Powell Johnson, a citizen of Alabama, residing at Barton, in the county of Colbert and State of Alabama, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Eye-Protectors; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as, will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to letters or figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates to certain improvements in eye-protectors for use of furnace-men, puddlers, firemen, and others exposed to glare of strong light, as well as persons of weak sight, as will be hereinafter set forth.

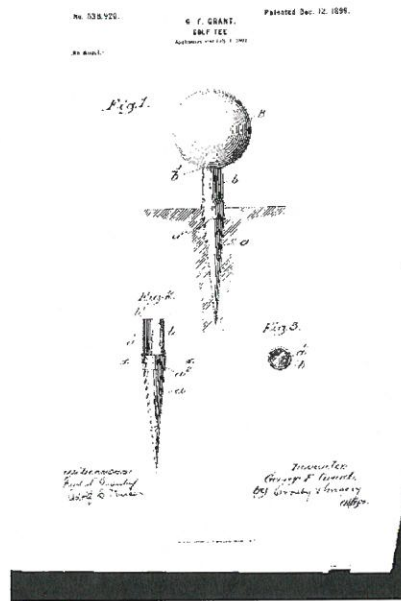
In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of my invention; Fig. 2, a plan; Fig. 3, a Vertical section on line at x of Fig. 2; Fig. 4, a modification of one of the pieces of cloth, showing a slit in the center.

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THE GOLF TEE PATENT NO. 638,920



DR. GEORGE GRANT

Hitting a golf ball became a lot easier after Dr. George Grant invented and patented the first golf tee in 1899. Before Grant's invention, golfers carried buckets of sand from hole to hole and built up sand mounds from which to hit the balls.

A devoted golfer, Grant was frustrated with the movement of the ball when he tried to hit it from the sand mound. This led him to carve a wooden peg that he could easily push into the ground. The top of the peg was slightly concave to accommodate the ball's curvature.

(U.S. #Patent No. 638,920)

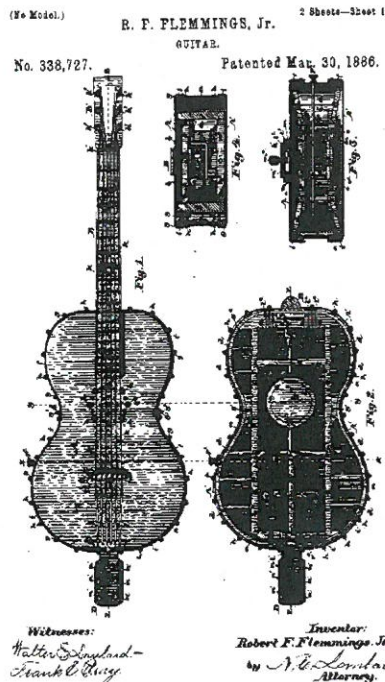
"Contributions of Blacks in Modern Day Society"

Courtesy Of the

OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES

GUITAR

PATENT NO. 888,727



Patent #338, 727

ROBERT F. FLEMMING JR.

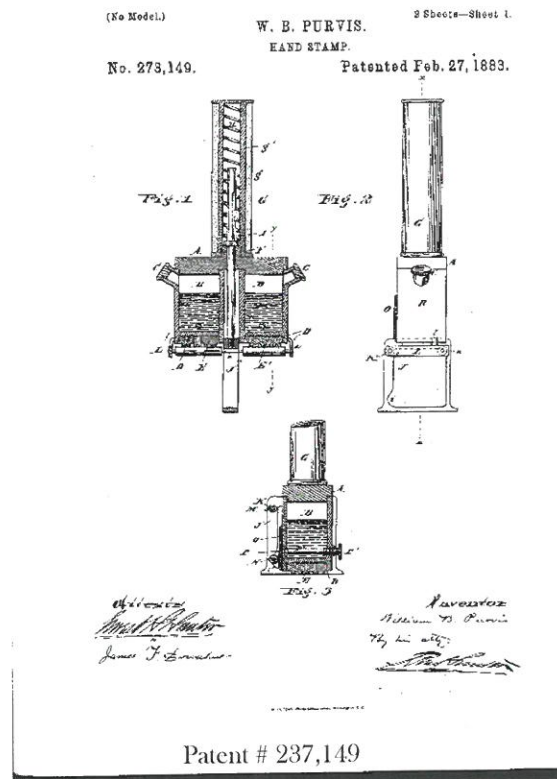
While a year of death is unknown, he was born in 1857 in Mississippi. Robert Flemming Jr. has little to no biographical information in history books. Though information on the life of Robert Flemming Jr. is virtually nonexistent, he is widely regarded as the father of the guitar. He filed a patent for the popular instrument at the United States Patent office on March 3, 1886.

It was granted on March 30, 1886. The patent includes pictures of the invented instrument, bearing a strong resemblance to the acoustic guitar of today. Also included in the patent are instructions on how to use the new device. While there is great debate as to the exact origins of guitar music, Flemming Jr. is the person who filed the patent and takes credit for the invention of the beloved instrument.

"Contributions of Blacks in Modern Day Society"

Courtesy of the
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HAND STAMP PATENT NO. 237,149



WILLIAM B. PURVIS

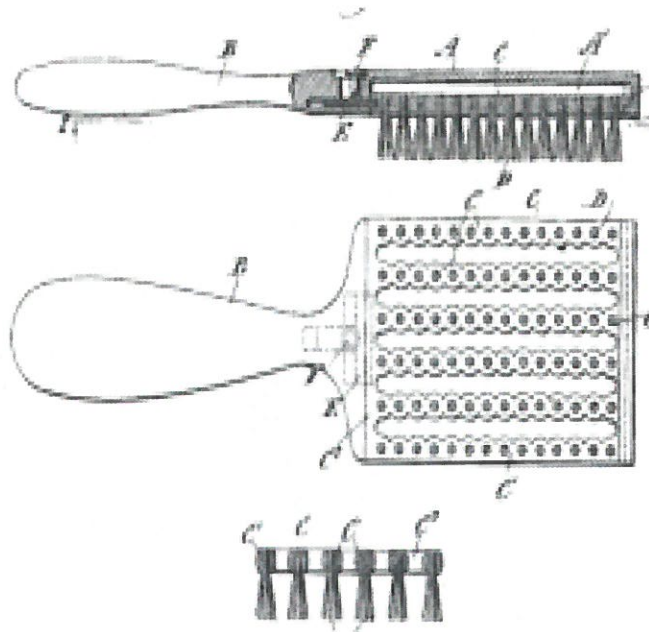
William B. Purvis a native to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania was known for simple but revolutionary inventions. Most of his work revolved around day to day functionality. For example, he was known for inventing the hand stamp. The image above might suggest this invention was intricate and practical in nature.

As for the inventor himself, not much can be retrieved by public records other than information that was needed for him to patent his work. Along with this hand stamp, he invented the fountain pen, a bag fastener, electric railway switch, and many more. Purvis has been a vital contributor to the African American community and has been celebrated by many for his inventions.

"Contributions of Blacks in Modern Day Society"

**Courtesy of the
OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES**

THE HAIR BRUSH
PATENT NO. 614,335



LYDA D. NEWMAN

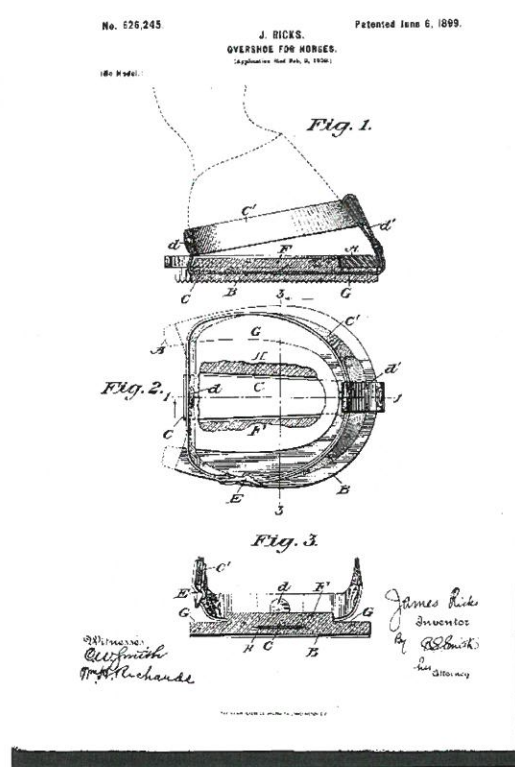
Little is known about the life of Lyda D. Newman. According to official census records, she was born in Ohio around 1885. By the late 1890s, she was a New York City resident.

In 1898, Newman applied for a United States patent for a new style of hairbrush. She received the patent on November 15, 1898. Her hairbrush design included several features for efficiency and hygiene. It had evenly spaced rows of bristles, with open slots to guide debris away from the hair into a recessed compartment, and a back that could be opened at the touch of a button for cleaning out the compartment. (U.S. Patent No. 614335)

“Contributions of Black in Modern Day Society”

**Courtesy of the
Office of Career Services**

IMPROVED: HORSESHOE PATENT NO. 626,245



Patent # 626, 245

JAMES RICKS

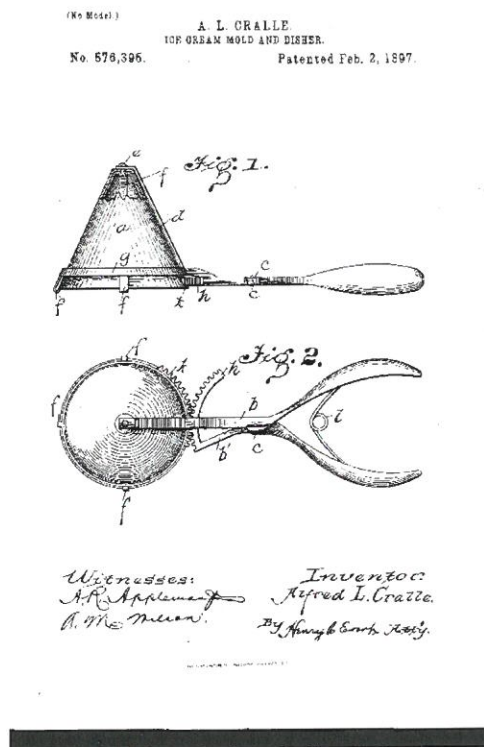
In 1899, a black American inventor James Ricks was issued a patent for an “Overshoe for Horses”. The invention was a rubber horseshoe “to prevent a horse from slipping in sleety weather and secure noiseless travel when preferred, and is applied over the horseshoe in common use.”

It was formed from rubber and canvas so as to cover the entire bottom of the foot, and was fastened to the hoof by means of a strap. The rough outer surface provided traction, but also prevented snow or ice packing against any part of the foot and pressing the shoe out of place.

“Contributions of Blacks in Modern Day Society”

**Courtesy of the
OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES**

ICE CREAM SCOOP PATENT NO. 576,395



Patent # 576, 395

ALFRED L. CRALLE

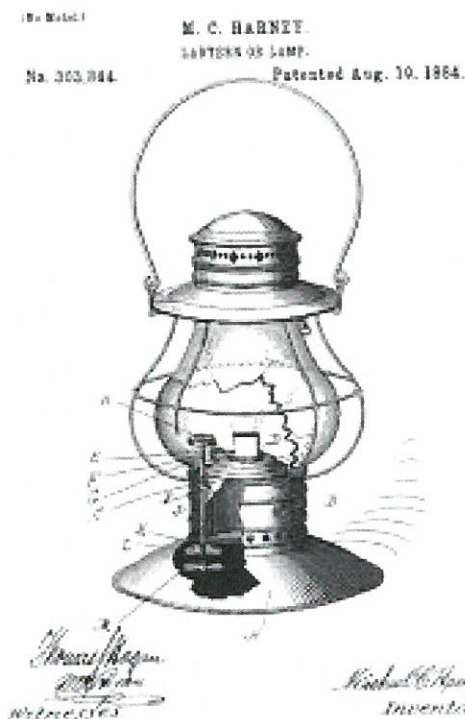
Alfred L. Cralle an African-American from Virginia, who was an inventor and businessman in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He is best remembered for inventing the ice cream scoop in 1897. Cralle was born in Kenbridge, Lunenburg County, Virginia in 1866 just after the end of the American Civil War (1861-1865). He attended local schools and worked with his father in the carpentry trade as a young man, becoming interested in mechanics. It was while working in Pittsburgh as a porter that Cralle noticed that ice cream, which had become a popular confection, was difficult to dispense. It tended to stick to spoons and ladles, usually requiring use of two hands and at least two implements to serve. To overcome this, he invented a mechanical device now known as the ice cream scoop and applied for a patent.

"Contributions of Blacks in Modern Day Society"

**Courtesy of the
OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES**

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE LANTERN

PATENT NO. 303,844



MICHAEL C. HARVEY

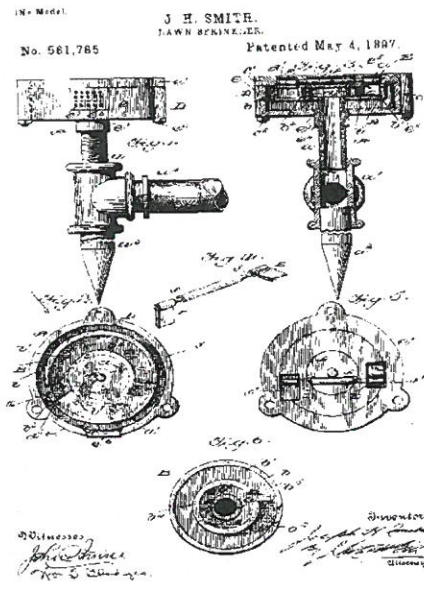
Michael C. Harvey (also known as M.C. Harney or M.C. Harvey) was an African American inventor. In 1884 he improved a type of lantern. The original lantern is now on display at the Black History Museum. He received patent No. 303,844 on August 19, 1884 in St. Louis, Missouri for the invention of an improvement in wick-raisers. The St. Louis, Missouri resident created a wick raising device to improve the efficiency of the lantern.

"Contributions of Blacks in Modern Day Society"

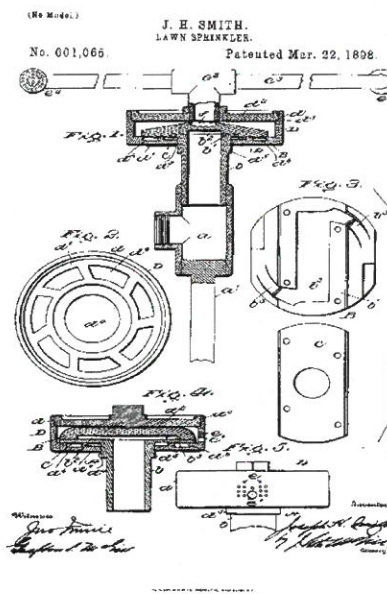
**Courtesy of the
OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES**

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE LAWN SPRINKLER

PATENT NO. 581,785



PATENT NO. 601,065



JOSEPH H. SMITH

Be it known that I, JOSEPH H. SMITH, of Washington in the District of Columbia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Lawn-Sprinklers; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention contemplates certain new and useful improvements in lawn-sprinklers.

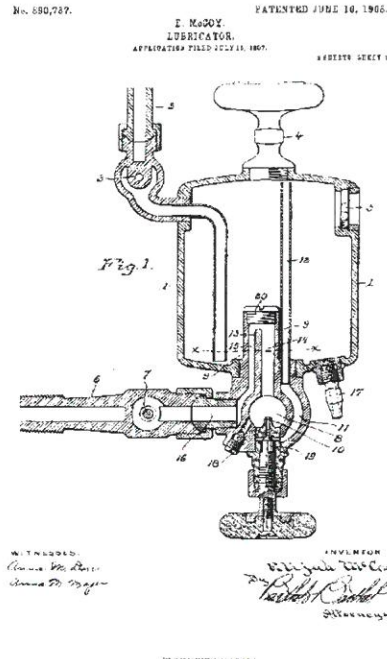
The object of the invention is to provide a device of this character which will comprise advantages in point of simplicity, inexpensiveness, and durability.

The invention will be hereinafter fully set forth, and particularly pointed out in the claims.

"Contributions of Blacks in Modern Day Society"

**Courtesy of the
OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES**

LUBRICATING CUP PATENT NO. 890,787



ELIJAH McCOY

Elijah McCoy was born in Colchester, Ontario, Canada on May 2, 1844. His parents were George and Emillia McCoy, former slaves from Kentucky who escaped through the Underground Railroad. At an early age, Elijah showed a mechanical interest, often taking items apart and putting them back together again. Recognizing his keen abilities, George and Emillia saved enough money to send Elijah to Edinburgh, Scotland, where he could study mechanical engineering.

After finishing his studies as a “master mechanic and engineer” he returned to the United States which had just seen the end of the Civil War – and the emergence of the “Emancipation Proclamation.” In 1872 he developed a “lubricating cup” that could automatically drip oil when and where needed. He received a patent for the device later that year. The “lubricating cup” met with enormous success and orders for it came in from railroad companies all over the country.

“Contributions of Blacks in Modern Day Society”

**Courtesy of the
OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES**

PRODUCTS MADE FROM PEANUTS



GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER

Many people have been credited with the title of peanut-butter-inventor; among them is George Washington Carver. However, he did not invent peanut butter; instead he promoted more than 300 uses for peanuts, among other crops such as soy beans and sweet potatoes. In 1920, Carver delivered a speech before the Peanut Growers Association, attesting to the wide potential of peanuts. A list of some of George Washington Carver's inventions can be found below:

| | | |
|--|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Antiseptic soaps | Chicken food specialized to | Linoleum |
| Face bleach and tanning lotions | increase egg production in hens | Lubricating oil |
| Shaving cream | Goiter treatments | Nitroglycerin |
| Shampoo | Axle grease | Colored paper |
| Dyes | Charcoal from peanut shells | Printer's ink |
| Paints | Diesel/Gasoline fuel | Plastics from soybeans |
| Wood stains | Lamp oil | Synthetic Rubber |
| Laundry soap | Insecticide | |
| Milk substitute from soybeans and peanuts | Emulsion for Bronchitis | |
| | Laxatives | |

"Contributions of Blacks in Modern Day Society"

**Courtesy of the
Office of Career Services**

PENCIL SHARPENER

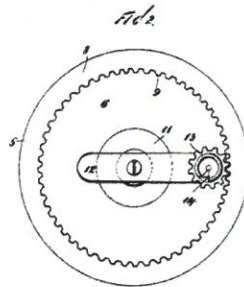
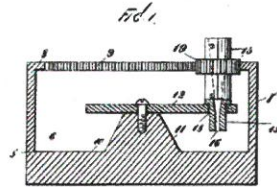
PATENT NO. 594,114

(No Model.)

J. L. LOVE.
PENCIL SHARPENER.

No. 594,114.

Patented Nov. 23, 1897.



WITNESSES:
John F. ...
W. ...

INVENTOR
John Lee Love
ATTORNEYS
Edgar ...

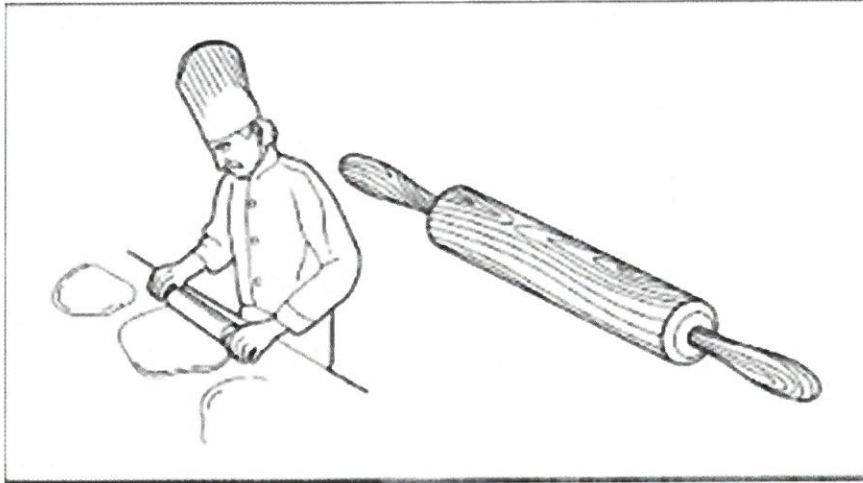
JOHN LEE LOVE

Little is known about the life of John Lee Love, the inventor of the portable pencil sharpener. Love worked as a carpenter in the community of Fall River, Massachusetts. He applied for a patent for a portable pencil sharpener in 1897. John Lee Love's invention was a very simple and portable pencil sharpener. The same kind of pencil sharpener that many artists use or that can be found in an office or school room. In John Lee Love's invention the pencil is put into the opening of the sharpener and rotated by hand. It was designed so that the shavings would stay inside the sharpener. It is interesting to note that while the [patent drawing](#) depicts the Love Sharpener as being quite plain. John Lee Love wrote that it could also be designed in a very ornate fashion and that his pencil sharpener could also be used as a desk ornament or paperweight.

"Contributions of Blacks in Modern Day Society"

**Courtesy of the
OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES**

ROLLING PIN PATENT NO. 305,474



J. W. REED

J. W. Reed was an African-American who invented the rolling pin with handles connected to a center rod; this is similar to the tool we know today, and it prevents cooks from putting their hands on the rolling surface while shaping pastry. Reed invented new versions of the dough kneader and dough roller; his contributions are notable, not only because he eased the cook's tasks, but also because Reed was one of many African-Americans who developed and patented improvements to household items.

The modern wooden rolling pin is much different than the earlier styles. Not only does it now have handles, but due to the invention of J.W. Reed in the late 1800's, the handles now roll independently of the actual cylinder. Previously, the handles were just a part of the cylinder and you could not hold the handles and roll the pin. Being one unit, if you held the handles too tightly, the pin would just scrape across the top of your dough. J.W. Reed must have experienced similar issues causing him to create and patent a rod that would allow the cylinder to spin independently of the handles.

"Contributions of Blacks in Modern Day Society"

**Courtesy of the
OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES**

EARLY SPARK PLUG



EDMOND BERGER

Some historians have reported that Edmond Berger invented an early spark plug on February 2, 1839. However, Edmond Berger did not patent his invention. Spark plugs are used in internal combustion engines and in 1839 these engines were in the early days of experimentation. Therefore, Edmond Berger's spark plug if it did exist would have had to have been very experimental in nature as well or perhaps the date was a mistake.

"Contributions of Blacks in Modern Day Society"

**Courtesy of the
OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES**

STETHOSCOPE PATENT # 234,039

U.S. Patent Jul. 22, 1986 Des. 284,790



FIG. 1



FIG. 3



FIG. 2

JEROME MOORE

A stethoscope head is combined with a watch having a sweeping second hand. A watch support member 30 extends from the stethoscope housing 20. The watch 32 rests upon the watch support member 30. A watch housing 38 encases the watch 32 and is secured to the watch support member 30. The watch support member 30 may be made of sound-absorbing material. Sound-absorbing material may be interposed between the stethoscope housing 20 and watch support member 30. The watch support member 30 and watch housing 38 may have cooperating threads so that the watch housing 38 may be screwed onto the watch support member 38. The sweeping second hand 34 of the watch may be easily viewed while the stethoscope is used.

"Contributions of Blacks in Modern Day Society"

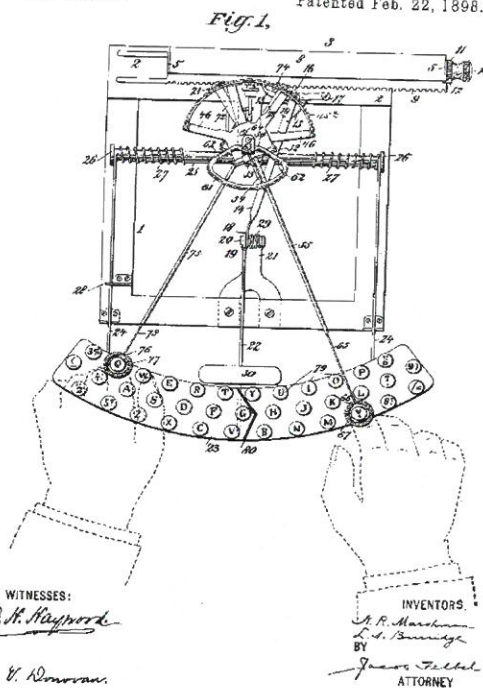
Courtesy of the

OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE TYPEWRITER

PATENT NO. 599,397

(No Model.) 7 Sheets—Sheet 1
N. R. MARSHMAN & L. S. BURRIDGE.
TYPE WRITING MACHINE.
No. 599,397. Patented Feb. 22, 1898.



NEWMAN R. MARSHMAN AND LEE S. BURRIDGE

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 599,397, dated February 22, 1898. Application filed May 6, 1896. Serial No. 590,417. (No model.) Patented in England June 27, 1896, No. 14,288.

Be it known that we, NEWMAN R. MARSHMAN and LEE S. BURRIDGE, citizens of the United States, and residents of New York city, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Type-Writing Machines, of which the following is a specification. The improvements made the subject-matter of this application have been patented in Great Britain by Letters Patent N O. 14,288, dated June 27, 1896.

"Contributions of Blacks in Modern Day Society"

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