

Black Inventors

Web site and posters supervised, researched, maintained, written or edited, and posted by Dr. Vincent Childress, North Carolina A&T State University.

Visit Technology Education at NCA&TSU at:

[:http://www.ncat.edu/~childres/](http://www.ncat.edu/~childres/).

Visit the Technology Education for Children Council to learn more about integrating technology education with the elementary school curriculum. The Council is located on the Web at: <http://www.ncat.edu/~childres/tecc/home.html>

Reference:

Chandler/White Publishing Company, Inc. (1986). A Salute to Black Inventors. Chicago: author. [A series of booklets on black inventors for elementary school.] (312) 280-9451

This project started as a partnership between Irving Park Elementary School and Technology Education at NCA&TSU. Visit the Web site at <http://www.ncat.edu/~childres/blackinventors.html>

Why Study Black Inventors

Technology and inventing things are really important to study. When you study things like inventing, you also learn how things work, about jobs you can do, and how people make money and about patents. A patent is a right an inventor gets that prevents people from making the invention without permission.

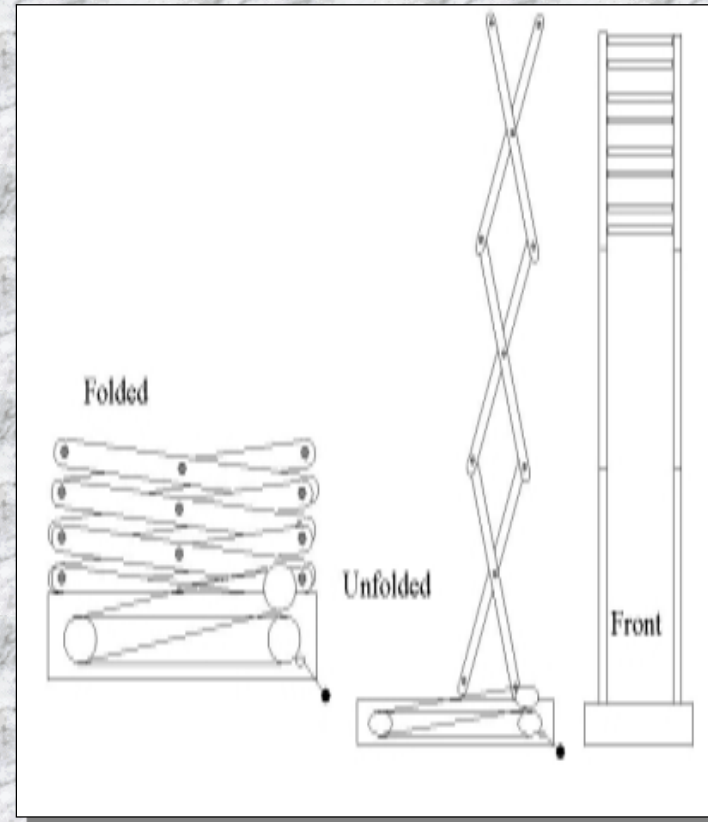
When we talk about inventing things, we mostly include stuff that white people invented. We hardly ever talk about neat things that black people have invented. If you wanted to be happy about what you want to be when you grow up, you would love to hear about what your mom or dad does at work. Wouldn't you agree? So, if you are an African American, you would be extra happy to learn more about what black inventors have done. No matter who you are, it is always good to learn about people who are different or who have done neat things that we have never heard about.

BLACK
INVENTORS

Joseph Winter's Fire Escape

He invented the Fire Escape in order to provide safety for the firemen. Not only did he want safety, but he also wanted them to be able to save the fire victims in time before they were hurt.

A Modern Day Fire Truck



First Fire Escape

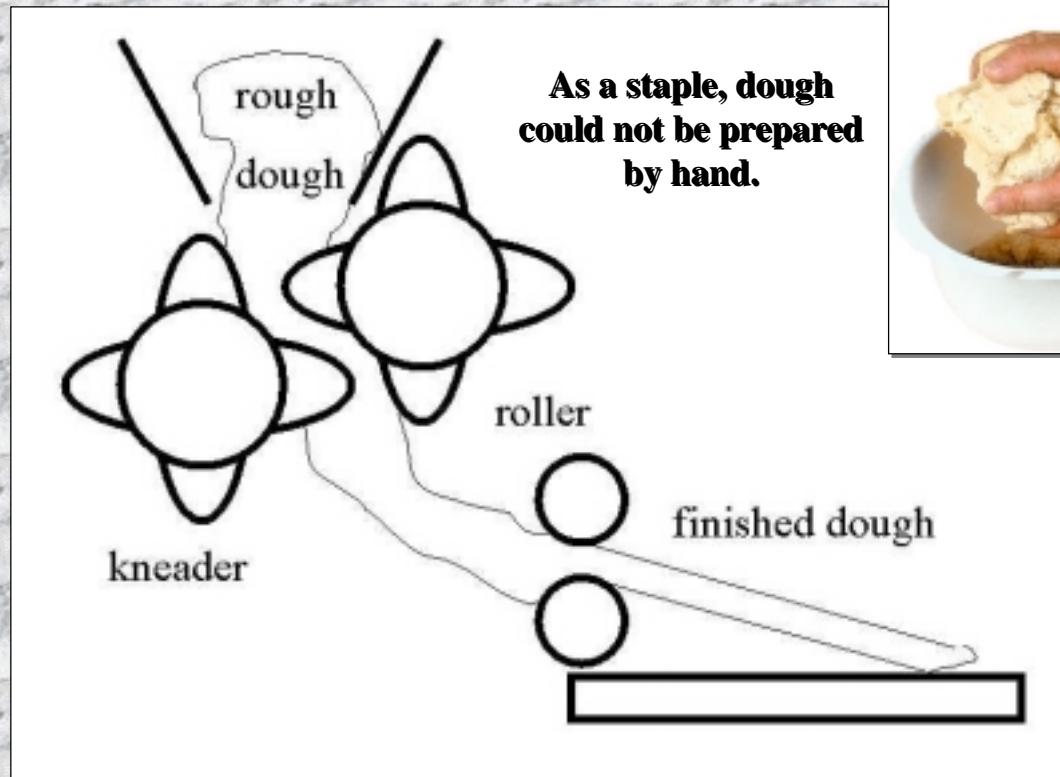
Researched by Courtney Bland, North Carolina A&T State University
Drawing by Vincent Childress.
Photo by Hemera Photo Objects [Clipart CD].
Reference: Chandler/White Publishing Company, Inc. (1986). A Salute to Black Inventors.
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This invention was invented in Chambersburg, PA. Being able to rescue people from upper stories allowed buildings to be built taller. City growth was maintained.

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Judy Reed

Kneading and rolling dough by hand in Washington, D.C. in the 1880's was not good enough. The dough machines of the time sometimes made dirty dough. Reed's machine let you make a lot of dough without the hard work and kept the dough clean and sanitary.



The basics of Reed's improved dough kneading and rolling machine.

Reed's dough kneading and rolling machine allowed a lot of people to get access to clean, good quality bread. Reed herself is important for being one of the first black women to receive a patent.

Researched by LaTya Alston, North Carolina A&T State University
Drawing by Dr. Vincent Childress.
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Philip Downing

Who?

Philip B. Downing was a black inventor.

What?

Philip Downing invented the protective public mailbox (Letter Box).

When?

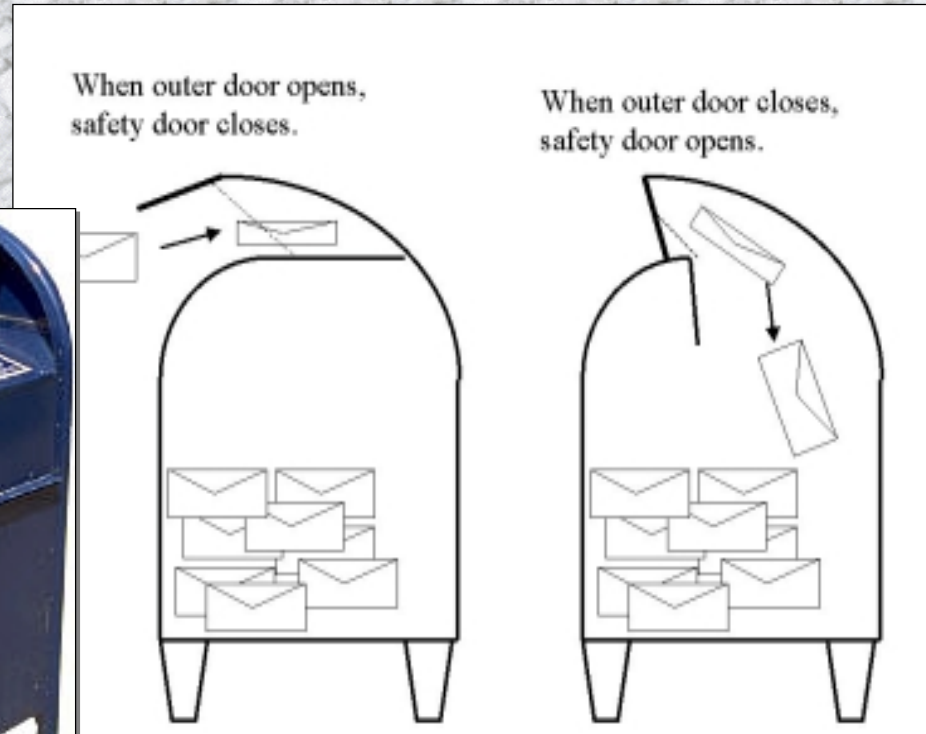
Philip Downing invented this new public mailbox in 1891.

Where?

He was in Boston, Massachusetts.

Why?

Downing designed the mailbox to protect the mail, and to make the mailman's



Downing's Public Letter Box

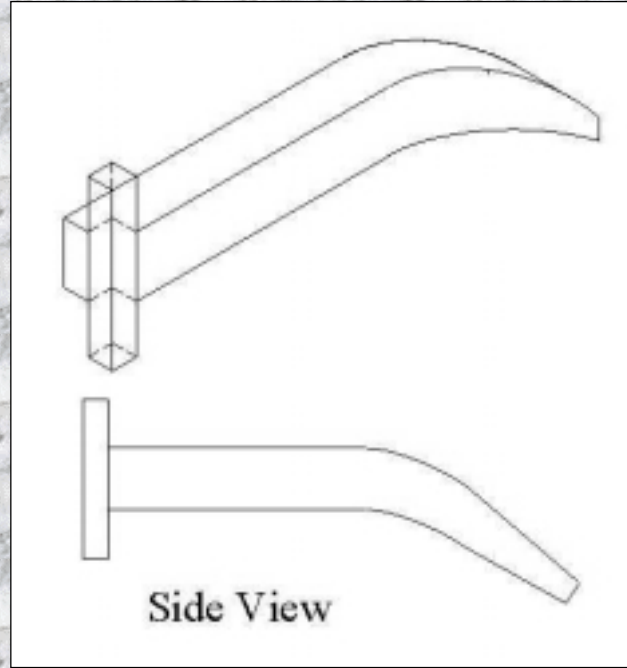
job easier. Old mailboxes of that time were not good at preventing people from stealing letters out of them. They were not good at protecting the letters from rain water blowing in.

Researched by Herman Bright, North Carolina A&T State University.
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Sarah Boone

Sarah Boone was one of the first African American women to ever receive a patent for an invention. A patent is a right that means no one else can make your invention without your permission. She invented a device that helped to neatly iron clothing. Sarah Boone's ironing board was an improvement over the old ironing boards that were invented before hers was made.



Boone's Special Ironing Board



Ironing boards have varied over time.

It was difficult to iron a fancy dress. Boone's ironing board made it easier to do a good job of ironing fancy clothes. Women could continue to buy fashions that made them appear dignified.

Researched by Alicia Lindsay, North Carolina A&T State University
Drawing by Alicia Lindsay.
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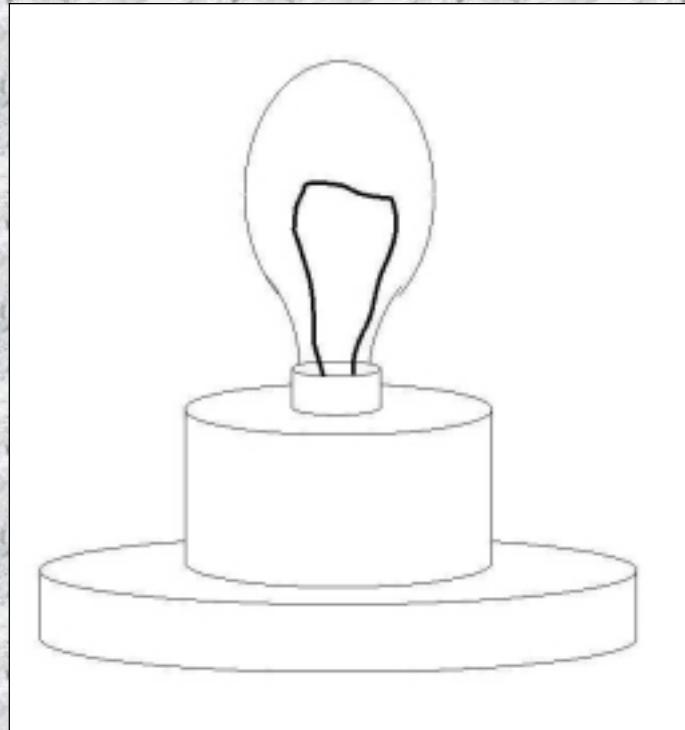
BLACK WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Joseph Nichols and Lewis Latimer

They improved Edison's light bulb or electric lamp, by making a better filament.

They worked on their new bulb in New York City, a place where electrical lighting was becoming popular and important.

Drawing of Latimer's and Nichol's improved light bulb filament.



Light bulb now.

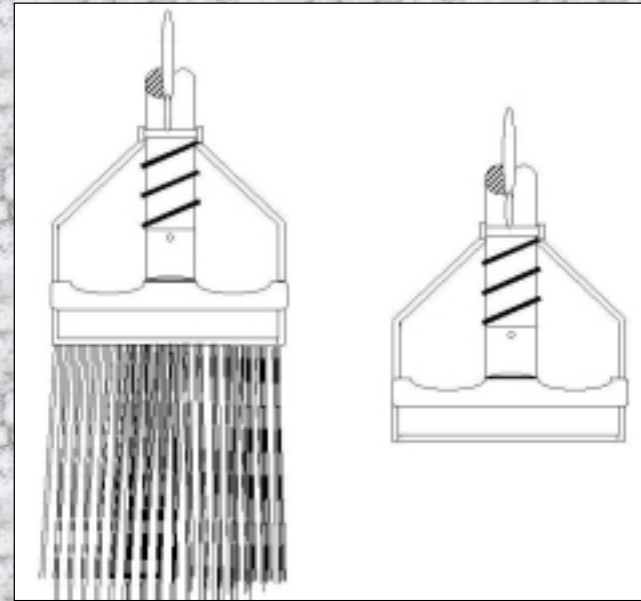
With Latimer's and Nichols' longer-lasting lamp, people could afford electrical lighting.

BLACK
MAGAZINE
FOR
STORIES

Thomas Stewart

Thomas Stewart invented the mop in 1893, because it was very hard for people to continuously get on their hands and knees to wash their floors. By inventing the mop, he also allowed people to live healthier lives.

A Modern Day Mop and Bucket



First Mop

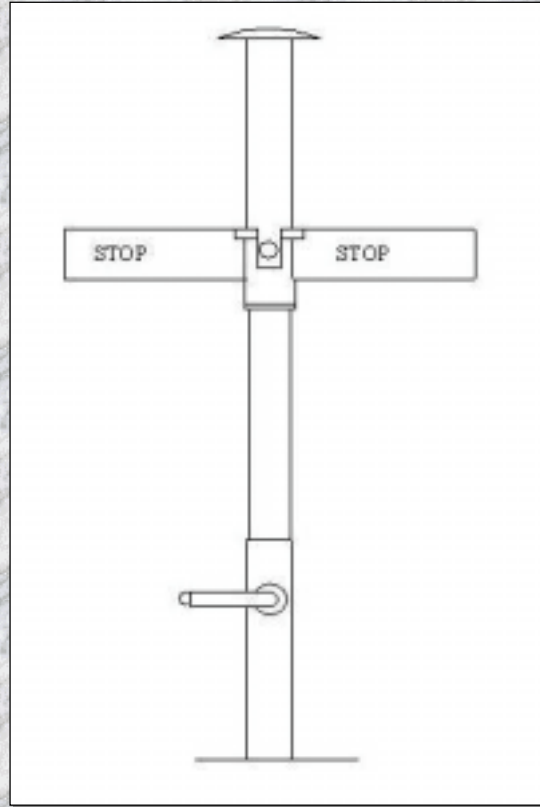
Researched by Christina Donovan, North Carolina A&T State University.
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Stewart's mop was special because the head could be replaced by unclamping the old mop head and clamping on a new one.

BLACK
MOP
INVENTOR
STORIES

Garrett Morgan

Garrett Morgan was the son of a slave. Garrett Morgan saw a traffic accident in the city of Cleveland, Ohio. The wreck gave him the idea for the traffic signal. In the 1920s, the stoplight was really needed by people who lived in cities. There were so many people driving wagons, horses, and even cars. If wrecks could not be stopped, then people could not drive more and more cars. Cities would not grow.



Morgan's Traffic Signal



Morgan's Traffic Signal was a predecessor of the the modern stoplight.

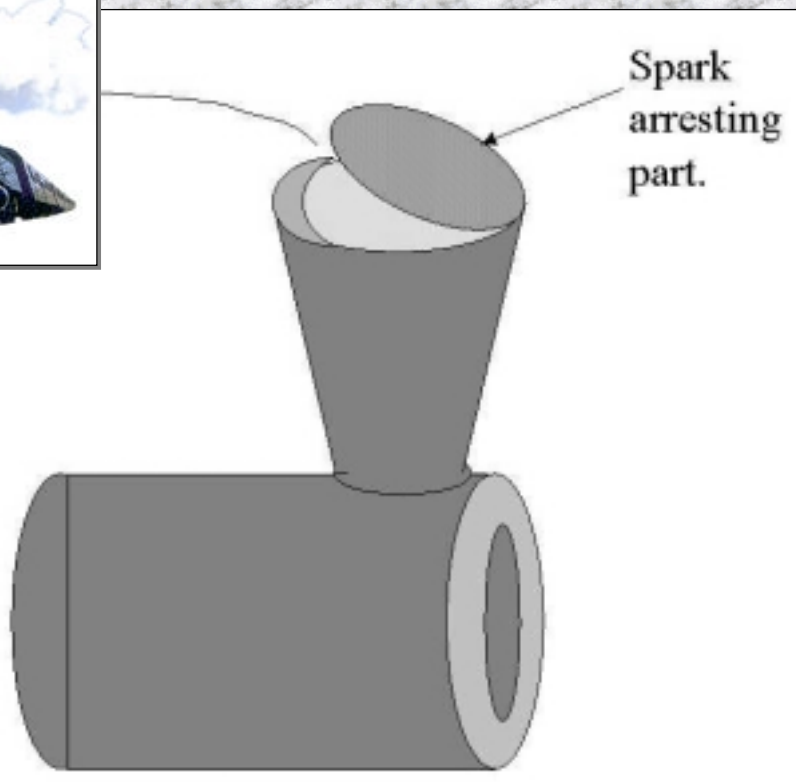
Garrett Morgan invented the traffic signal in 1923. It was important because everyone wanted to own a car back in those days because cars were also a new invention.

Researched by Davin Parker, North Carolina A&T State University
Drawing by Davin Parker.
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BLACK
MOMENTS
IN
HISTORY

Landow Bell

Settling the west was very important to the country because we wanted to earn money and build new homes there. Trains were very important for getting settlers and cargo to and from the western settlements. As locomotives crossed the plains, hot sparks and ash would fly out of the smokestacks and start huge fires. Bell's smokestack prevented hot ash and sparks from flying out.



The Bell smokestack had a spark arrest device.

If we caught the grasslands on fire every time that a train would take new settlers and cargo to the west, then we would have had a lot of trouble getting the west settled.

Researched by Donte Perry, North Carolina A&T State University
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