Wilmington N.C. in Color: Part 2

HISTORY IN ACTION

SUPERHEROES!

Illustrated by Haji Pajamas

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“We must never allow dollars to become more important than men.” Bishop Herbert Bell Shaw

Herbert Bell Shaw was born and went to school in Wilmington, and then attended a preparatory school, Fisk University, and Howard University. His father, John H. Shaw, was the founder of John H. Shaw And Sons Funeral Homes, one of the oldest African American businesses in North Carolina. Herbert and his brother William H. Shaw ran the funeral home after their father died. Herbert Bell Shaw was ordained as a minister in 1928. He was the minister served at Price Memorial AME Zion Church in Wilmington in the 1930s, and by the end of the 1930s he was the presiding elder of the Wilmington district AME Zion churches. He became a Bishop in the AME Zion church in 1952. He traveled the world as a part of his religious calling, and helped extend the reach of the AME Zion church to other regions of the world. Bishop Shaw was also the Grand Master of the North Carolina Prince Hall Masons.
Herbert Bell Shaw

“IMMORTALITY”
“I’ve missed more than 9000 shots in my career. I’ve lost almost 300 games. 26 times, I’ve been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I’ve failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed.” Michael Jordan

“My goal is to be a pro athlete. My other goal is just to make it in college.” Michael Jordan

Today, he is known as a superstar who transformed the game of basketball. He’s a six-foot-six shooting guard who many believe is the greatest athlete of all time. But at one time, Michael Jeffrey Jordan was just a little kid who loved baseball. Michael played his first organized basketball in 1975, years after started playing baseball. The Jordan family moved to Wilmington when Michael started 1st grade. Michael’s dad worked for the General Electric plant, and his mother worked at a bank. Michael was one of five children, and his family valued education, so he worked hard in school. In school, he was a multi-sport athlete. He played high school basketball, football and ran track. Michael became a breakout star at UNC Chapel Hill in his first year when he scored a buzzer beater in the 1982 NCAA championship. Jordan went on to be a part of the 1984 Olympic team, and the 1992 Olympics “Dream Team.” He won six championships with the Chicago Bulls in the NBA. While MJ did miss a lot of shots, he also made them: he averaged 30.1 points, 6.2 rebounds, over 5 assists a game in the NBA.
“Papa sat me down and told me...Show respect for everyone, rich and poor, black and white, young and old, but don’t be afraid to stand up for yourself.” Hubert Eaton.

North Carolina-born, Dr. Hubert A. Eaton began practicing medicine in New Hanover County in 1943. Eaton met and married Dr. Foster Burnett’s daughter, Celeste, while he was Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte. The couple lived in Ann Arbor while Eaton attended The University of Michigan Medical School. In 1943, the couple moved to Wilmington, and Dr. Eaton went into practice with Dr. Burnett. Dr. Eaton championed Civil Rights in the 1950s and 1960s, and worked with other community members to desegregate the schools, the local municipal golf course, the University of North Carolina, Wilmington, the YMCA and the hospital system. Eaton was also an excellent tennis player, and he acted as a surrogate parent to tennis ace Althea Gibson, who lived with the family on Orange Street in the late 1940s. An elementary school is named in his honor.
Hubert Eaton

“PRECOGNITION”
Dr. Foster Burnett
(1894-1945)

“...one of Wilmington’s most prominent native sons...” T. C. Jervay, editor of the Wilmington Journal

Wilmington-born Foster F. Burnett grew up to become a physician and surgeon who served the community for nearly thirty years. The son of a carpenter, Burnett worked hard to gain an education, attending school in Wilmington, going to North Carolina A&T, and graduating in 1917 with a medical degree from the prestigious Howard University’s Medical School. He first practiced medicine in Wilmington in 1917. After America entered the World War I, Dr. Burnett volunteered to serve and became a Lieutenant in the Army Medical Corps. The Army was segregated, and Burnett went to the nation’s first officer’s training camp for African Americans in Des Moines, Iowa. He was honorably discharged, and by the fall of 1918, he was back in the city, helping fight the city’s flu epidemic. He took charge of a makeshift hospital at 10th and Castle streets. Burnett, along with other African American physicians in the city, joined together to create a hospital where they could treat their patients. They founded Community Hospital, which opened on North 7th Street in 1921. The hospital expanded and moved to South 11th Street in 1939 and it served African American patients until 1967. Dr. Burnett died in 1945, and thousands attended his funeral at St. Stephen AME Church. He is buried in Wilmington’s National Cemetery.
As Union troops crossed the Cape Fear River into Wilmington, a throng of local blacks followed in their wake and showered them with gifts of bread, water, and tobacco... They rushed to the long columns of black troops, where some of them were lucky enough to discover long-lost sons, brothers, or children. The soldiers soon became the toast of Wilmington.” David Cecelski, The Fire of Freedom: Abraham Galloway and the Slaves’ Civil War

On February 20, 1865, five regiments of the United States Colored Troops from North Carolina and Ohio marched into battle against the Confederates, braving open fire and certain death. These 1600 African-American soldiers fought for 32 hours near what is now the site of the Cameron Art Museum. They were fighting to preserve the United States of America, but they were also fighting for something greater: their personal freedom and the freedom of their families and friends.

Among their ranks, were three Medal of Honor recipients of the 5th USCT: Powhatan Beaty, Milton M. Holland, and Robert Pinn. Beaty and Holland both escaped slavery and joined the USCT in 1863. To these men this was a fight for freedom they could not risk losing. Beaty, who escaped slavery from Richmond, VA, received America’s highest military decoration, for taking command of his company at the Battle of Chaffin’s Farm, after all officers had been killed or wounded. Following the war, Beaty returned home to Ohio to become an orator and an actor. Holland, the son of a white slaveholder and an enslaved African-American woman, also received the Medal of Honor for taking command of his company at the Battle of Chaffin’s Farm. Holland later became a lawyer and the president of the Capital Savings Bank. During his tenure as a soldier he wrote, “Friends at home be cheerful...there is a brighter day coming for the colored man....I will close my letter in the language of the immortal Henry—“Give me liberty, or give me death!” Pinn, a freedman from Ohio, also went on to become a lawyer after the war.

Because of these brave soldiers, Wilmington, the Confederacy’s last major seaport, fell, and the United States won control of Wilmington’s port facilities, the city’s railroads, and the Cape Fear River, helping secure their position and weaken the Confederacy.
Super Questions

Please answer the following questions from this coloring book:

1. Which one of these athletes was cut from the team during their Freshman year of High School?
2. What High School Did This Original Globe Trotter attend?
3. Who brought Althea Gibson to Wilmington to play tennis?
4. Which one of these athletes was “the best...of all time” according to Wilt Chamberlain?
5. Which Wilmington Superhero was the first African American to be enrolled in Massachusetts Institute of Technology?
6. In July of 1934 what did Dr. Foster Burnett build?
7. What year did Dr. Burnett Foster and others build a Community Hospital for blacks and what two places were they located in?
8. What year was Rev. Herbert Bell Shaw born?
9. Where was Althea Gibson born? Where did she live as a child? What year did she move to Wilmington, NC?
10. When was Meadowlark Lemon Born? When did he pass away? Where was he born and raised? Where high school did he graduate from and what year?

These answers can be found in Wilmington N.C. in Color: Part 1:

1. Who was the Bellamy Mansion built for?
2. When was St. Stephen African Methodist Episcopal Church built and where is it located?
3. Who was the architect of the Thalian Hall?
4. Who was Williston Industrial High School built for in 1915?
5. Who was James Sampson?
6. When was Chestnut Street Presbyterian Church built?
7. What was the Wilmington Daily Journal and when was it built?
Glossary Of Empowerment

**Context**: The set of circumstances or facts that surround a particular event, situation, etc. The words in this glossary were chosen to help you understand the context of the glory stories you are about to read.

**Legacy**: Something that is handed down from generation to generation. The legacy passed down from our Wilmington Superheroes is the positive impact they made on our city and society through their **perseverance** and **courageous vision**.

**Perseverance**: Steady movement toward a goal, in spite of difficulties, obstacles, or adversity.

**Courageous Vision**: Courageous means brave, and to have “vision” means to be able to see beyond what exists now to what could exist in the future. Wilmington Superheroes followed their **courageous vision**, overcoming **adversity**, to have a positive impact for future generations.

**Adversity**: Unfavorable fortune or fate; a condition marked by misfortune, calamity, or distress. Wilmington Superheroes bravely overcame **adversity** from people and social structures like racist policies, Jim Crow laws, and the **legacy** of slavery to bring their visions to life.

**Glory Story**: The stories in this book are tales of the achievements of extraordinary people of color. To give them “glory” means to celebrate them and their extraordinary accomplishments.

**Individuality**: The particular qualities that set one person apart from others; the thing or things that makes you who you are. The Superheroes in this book had the **individuality** and strength of character to keep working toward their goals even when their choices were unpopular or misunderstood by other people.

**Jim Crow Era**: Roughly from 1877-1965, state and local laws designed to keep African Americans segregated from whites were in effect and enforced, often with brutal violence. Jim Crow laws existed mostly in the southern United States, but segregation and racist policies were a national problem. Today, segregation and unequal treatment based on race are illegal, but the legacy of the Jim Crow era remains a deep-seated problem in American society.

**Black Excellence**: The quality shown by a person of color who perseveres through adversity and systemic racism to achieve great things. During the Jim Crow era, before and after, racist laws and false narratives taught our society that African Americans were inferior to whites. Because these lies were passed down from one generation to the next, many whites believed them. The African American Superheroes in this book, and millions of others, had to prove through their actions that Blacks could excel in every area just as whites could. The continued evidence of extraordinary achievement by African Americans, both in the past and in the present, is what we mean by **Black Excellence**.

**Foundation**: The basis or groundwork of anything; the act of founding, setting up, establishing. The superheroes in this book helped to lay the **foundation** for a more equal society by accomplishing their goals despite racist policies and laws designed to keep segregation in place.
Draw Your Own Superhero!

Who would you pick as your own super hero? Why? What is their superpower? When you are finished please share your drawing with your real-life superhero if possible to show your appreciation.