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# GLEANINGS OF BLACK LIFE IN TAMPA 1513-1993

By **TONY PIZZO**

Ponce de Leon, on his discovery of Florida in 1513, reached the mouth of Tampa Bay. On board Ponce's flagship, the *Santa Maria de la Consolacion*, the registry shows that there were two free Blacks, both were named *Jorge* (George) and a slave named Juan de Leon. Black history in the Tampa Bay area began with the discovery of Florida in 1513.

*The Mangrove Coast*  
by Karl A. Bickel

*Juan Ponce de Leon*  
by Vincente Murga Sanz

In 1528, an expedition of Spanish explorers arrived at Tampa Bay under the command of Panfilo de Narvaez. The ill-fated group, 300 strong, marched inland into the Florida Jungle and were never heard from again with the exception of four intrepid survivors. Among them was Estevanico, a blackamoor of Asemmur, Morocco. For eight years the four wandered through hostile territory until they found refuge in Mexico.

Estevanico, the Black, later joined an expedition in search of the fabled Seven Cities of Cibola in the region which would later be known as New Mexico. He met his death in a shower of arrows from the hostile Zuni Indians. Estevanico is remembered as the first Black to trample through the Tampa region and helped raise the curtain on the New World.

*Spanish Explorers In the Southeastern  
United States*  
*The Narrative of Alvar Nunez Cabeza de  
Vaca*  
Barnes & Noble, Inc. NY, 1959

The first slave transaction took place at Fort Brooke in 1838. Maj. Donald Fraser sold a "Negro woman recently introduced into the territory" for \$300.

*Tampa Bay Monthly*  
April 1985

The first Indian Negro voluntarily surrendered at Fort Brooke in 1840, at the height of the Seminole Indian War.



"Aunt" Dorcas Bryant was one of Tampa Town's colorful characters in pioneer days. She enjoyed the esteem of the community. She lived on the south end of Dorcas Pond located east of the Union Station. Her son, Peter, became an attorney "of some ability."



**"Freed Slave Offers Defense Aid"**

**"White-whiskered and half-blind, 97-year-old Ben Smith, slave Negro who was emancipated when he was 21, offered himself at the Court House for civilian defense. As he gazed on the Civil War memorial in the courtyard, he expressed regret that his failing vision would keep him from helping defend a free America."**

*Tampa Times - May 30, 1941*

Hillsborough County's First Record Book -  
page 89

Gopher John was a young Black who lived with the Seminole Indians at Lake

Thonotosassa. One day in 1826, John went to Fort Brooke and stated he was a Seminole Negro and spoke the English and Seminole languages. He was permitted to hang around. In time it was discovered that he was an expert in catching gophers which were considered a delicacy by the soldiers- especially prepared as a stew. John was given the job to take care of the gopher crawl (kraal). From that day on he was known as "Gopher John."

*Letters From the Frontiers*  
by George A. McCall-Maj. Gen.  
University Press of Florida  
Gainesville, 1974

Louis Pacheco, an intelligent Black versed in the English and Seminole languages, well acquainted with the wilderness road to Ft. King, now the Ocala area, was rented out by his owner, Mrs. Antonio Pacheco, to Capt. J.I. Belton of Ft. Brooke for \$30 a month. Pacheco was assigned to go on the ill-fated expedition led by Maj. Francis L. Dade to reinforce the unit at Fort King. Near the Little Withlacooche River, on December 28, 1835, the Seminoles attacked and massacred Maj. Dade and his men. One hundred five (105) officers and men perished. There were three survivors. The massacre prompted the Second Seminole War which lasted seven years.

Pacheco was captured by the Seminoles and eventually was taken to the Indian nation in Arkansas.

There were detractors who accused Pacheco of betraying the Americans. Until his death at the age of 95, he vehemently denied the accusations of treachery. Serious historians have studied his relations of the massacre, and believe him to be innocent of the allegations against him.



**Paulina Pedrosa was one of the notable women heroines of the Cuban Revolution. The site of her home in Ybor City is now Marti Park. The Cuban government honored her memory with a bronze relief plaque of her likeness which graces the wall in the park.**

-Tony Pizzo Collection, U.S.F.

*Pioneer Florida*

by D. B. McKay - 1959

Sampson Forrester, "a colored centennarian" wrote the *Tampa Journal*, was a giant of a man. When a boy, Sampson was captured by the Seminoles near Lake Harney. He lived among the Indians until adulthood. When the Seminole War broke out in 1835, he offered his services to Fort Brooke. Throughout the war he served as guide, interpreter, and spy for the Americans. After the war Gen. Zachary Taylor freed him and obtained for him a five (5) acre grant for his meritorious services to the army. He developed a productive farm and became a slave owner. "Uncle Sampson" reported the



**Clara C. Frye, a devoted humanitarian, built the first hospital for blacks in Tampa in 1923. After running the hospital for many years, never pressing patients for payment, she died impoverished on April 8, 1936. The Tampa General Hospital pavilion is dedicated to the memory of Clara C. Frye**

*Journal*, died "November 29, 1888" at the age of 102. He was a "highly respected colored man." Sampson was a member of the A.M.E. Zion Church.

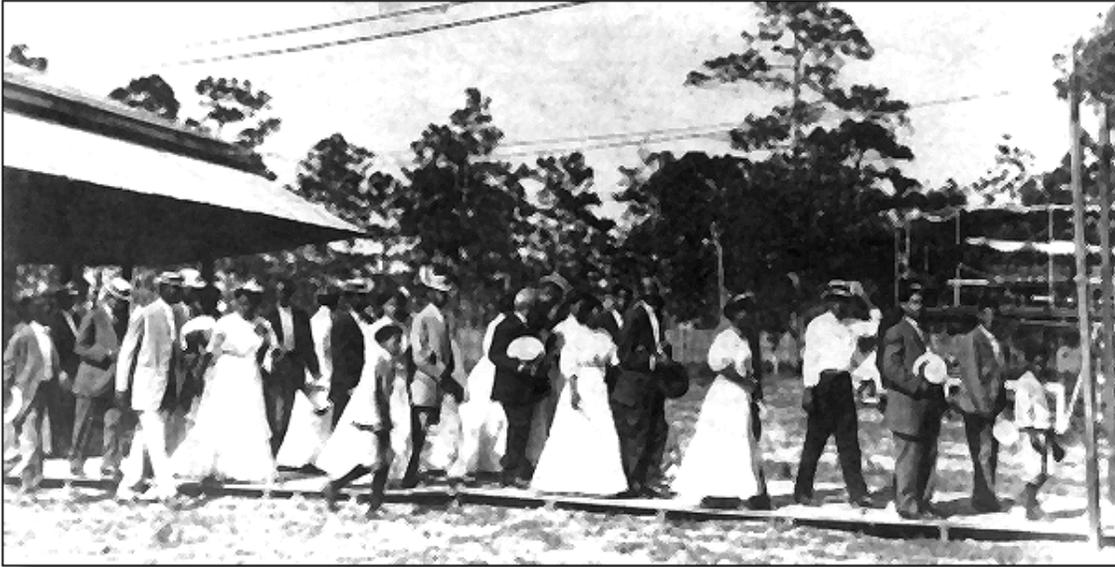
*Tampa Journal*

December 6, 1888

*Pioneer Florida*

by D. B. McKay - 1959

Soon after Madison Post was sworn in as Mayor of Tampa, in February 1858, an ordinance was passed requiring all free Negro men to pay a city tax of \$50 per year, and free women, \$25 per year. A local writer



**Black Tampans in their Sunday best on their way to an outing-circa 1900.**

-Tony Pizzo Collection, U.S.F.

reported that "this made it quite expensive for a Negro to be free."

Author's File

In 1868, the Tampa Black Community celebrated the May festival with a picnic lunch. A queen and maids were elected.

*The Florida Peninsular*  
May 16, 1868

A Black Democratic Club was organized in Tampa, August 14, 1896. Jacob Craig was elected president. The *Tampa Times* reported that it was "an echo of discontent among the best element of colored Republicans in Tampa."

*Tampa Times*  
August 1896

George Edgecomb was the first black county solicitor in Hillsborough County. The George Edgecomb Bar Association presents the George Edgecomb Award during law

week each year to a Black citizen for meritorious service to the Black community of Tampa.

*Tampa Tribune*  
April 30, 1993

The Watchman's Club was the first club organized in Tampa for the purpose of watching over and protecting the welfare of the colored race. There were sixty charter members. The officers were: Thomas Knight, President; P. S. Hamlin, V.P.; S. R. Poinsett, Financial Secretary; W. D. Walker, Recording Secretary, and Lum Hawk, Treasurer.

*Tampa Times*  
April 30, 1894

Fortune Street, in downtown Tampa, is named for Fortune Taylor a Black pioneer, who owned a large tract of land on the east side of the river extending north from Fortune Street.



**Gen. Flor Crombet was the first Cuban revolutionary officer to visit the nascent Cuban colony in Ybor City in 1888. Gen Combet died in combat at the age of 45 for *Cuba Libre*.**

*-Tony Pizzo Collection, U.S.F*

*Tampa Tribune*  
October 29, 1950

The actor Stephen Fetchit's real name was Lincoln Theodore Perry. He started as a minstrel boy on the streets of Ybor City where his father worked in a cigar factory. Fetchet went on to become the first Black movie star.

*St. Petersburg Times*  
November 20, 1985

The Garrett Post Office, a part of Seffner, was named after Garrett Armwood a member of an illustrious black pioneer family of Hillsborough County. The name of

Garrett Post Office existed from 1906 to 1915.

*A Chronology of Florida Post Offices*  
By Alford G. Bradbury  
Florida Federation of Stamp Clubs-1962

Ann Lowe was one of America's leading dress designers. She designed the wedding dress for Jacqueline Bouvier when she married John E Kennedy. She ran a dress salon in Tampa from 1919 to 1928. She left to work for Saks Fifth Avenue. She designed dresses for the Rockefellers, DuPonts, Biddles, Posts and three generations of Auchinclosses. The *Saturday Evening Post* called her society's best secret" ... "the only Negro to become a leading dress designer." Five of her designs are in the Institute of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She died in 1981 at the age of 82.

*Tampa Tribune*  
February 28, 1981

Thomas E. Stringer became the first Black circuit Judge of Hillsborough County in 1988.

*Tampa Tribune*  
February 22, 1988

James T. Hargrett, Jr. became the first Black Hillsborough County legislator since the days of Reconstruction. He was named chairman of the Hillsborough Legislative Delegation.

*Tampa Tribune*  
January 4, 1987

Three Black citizens served on the Hillsborough County Grand Jury for the first time since Reconstruction Days.

*Tampa Times*  
April 3, 1951

Mr. Sinai A.M.E. Zion Church is the oldest Black church in Tampa, organized in 1863, the same year the Emancipation Proclamation became effective. The first church building was built in 1869 with donations from the membership. Today the church is located at 2909 Nebraska Avenue.

*Tampa Tribune*  
February 27, 1988

Noble Sissle, famous author-conductor died at his Tampa home December 17, 1975. He wrote many popular hits including, "I'm Just Wild About Harry," and "You Were Meant For Me." Sissle was the organizer and first president of the Negro Actors Guild.

*Tampa Times*  
December 18, 1975

Clara C. Frye, a devoted humanitarian, built the first hospital for blacks in Tampa in 1923. After running the hospital for many years, never pressing patients for payment, she died impoverished on April 8, 1936. The Tampa General Hospital pavilion is dedicated to the memory of Clara C. Frye.

"Tampa gets first Black mailman."

*Tampa Times*  
April 17, 1902 - April 17, 1922

At the outbreak of World War I a delegation of Black Tampanians met with Mayor D. B. McKay offering their services in the war effort.

*Tampa Times*  
May, 5, 1917



**Stepin Fetchit, shown as he arrived in Tampa in 1948. His real name was Lincoln Perry. When he was a boy he shined shoes in Ybor City where his father worked as a cigarmaker. It was as a little mintrel boy on Seventh Avenue, his first stage, from where he went on to become the first black Hollywood star.**

*-Tony Pizzo Collection, U.S.F.*

Joseph A. Walker was the first Black to be elected to the Tampa City Council - 1887.

*Tampa Tribune*  
Leland Hawes' Mail Bag  
May 9, 1993

Butterfly McQueen - "Prissy" of the epic film "Gone With the Wind" is a native Tampan.

*Author's File*

St. James Episcopal Church had its first priest, the Rev. Mathew McDuffie on the first Sunday of August, 1892.

*The Bishops Journal*  
St. James Episcopal Church

Tampa's Dwight Gooden, is one of the great pitchers in major league history. In 1985, he won the National League Cy Young Award, and was chosen as the Associated Press Male Athlete of the Year, which includes all players from different sports in every event.

*Tampa Tribune*  
January 19, 1986

Gary Sheffield, Hillsborough High School, was voted the best high school baseball player in the country. Sheffield, Dwight Gooden's nephew, was selected by the Milwaukee Brewers in the first round as a third baseman.

*Tampa Tribune*  
June 13, 1986

In the late 1890's, the Black people of Tampa organized the Old Settlers Club. The president was Wm. J. Walker, the grandson of "Aunt" Dorcas Walker. This Club of pioneer Blacks had forty-nine members. Their objective was to have social gatherings and to preserve their history and heritage.

*Pioneer Florida*  
By D. B. McKay

*An unknown, unsung Black Hero of Tampa*

On June 14, 1888, The Tampa Tribune reported "Last Thursday night the south bound passenger train struck a cow about halfway between Kissimmee and Plant City and threw the cow up against the headlight breaking it off. A Negro brakeman was bound to the frame and held the light until the train reached Tampa."

Sarah Kilbert, a former slave belonging to the Seawood family died May 14, 1893, in

Tampa. It was believed she was 97 years old. An immense procession followed the remains from the Beulah Baptist Church to the cemetery.

*Tampa Times*  
May 15, 1893

"Aunt" Dorcas Bryant lived on the south end of Dorcas Pond located in the area which would later become Ybor City. The pond was located on today's 7th Avenue and 12th St. She was highly regarded, and very popular with white families. The strong willed woman died at the age of 82.

*Tampa Times*  
January 1, 1894  
*Pioneer Florida*  
By D. B. McKay

William Ashley, the first city clerk of Tampa, in the early days of Tampa, died in 1873 and was buried at Oaklawn cemetery. Shortly after his death his Black servant died. She was buried in the same grave with her master. Ashley's executor, John Jackson erected a tombstone in 1878 "to commemorate their fidelity to each other." The inscription reads: "Here lies Wm. Ashley and Nancy Ashley, Master and servant. Faithful to each other in that relation in life, in death they are not seperated [sic]. Stranger consider and be wiser. In the grave all human distinction of race or caste mingle together in one common dust."

*Tampa- The Treasure City*  
By Dr. Gary Mormino and Tony Pizzo -  
1983

Dr. Fred Smith was the first Black physician to operate at St. Joseph's Hospital, the University Community Hospital, and other facilities.

*Tampa Tribune*  
January 2, 1989

Z. D. Green, Tampa's first Black attorney was admitted to the bar upon presenting proper credentials from the State of South Carolina.

*Tampa Tribune*  
May 9, 1909

The Jim Crow Law went into effect in Tampa July 1, 1905. The Black populace was incensed and boycotted the streetcars.

*Tobacco Leaf*  
July 16, 1905

The Rev. A. W. Puller, pastor of the Bethel Baptist Church, on August 5, 1924, became the first Black to address the Tampa Rotary Club. "The pastor entered the room to the tune of Old Black Joe, unheralded and unintroduced." His message was, "What a Negro can be and do if he wants to." He called upon the Rotary Club for assistance in bettering school conditions. The program was considered one of the best and enjoyable of the year.

*Tampa Daily Times*  
August 5, 1924

The first Blacks served on the Hillsborough County Commission during the Period of Reconstruction. The following were members of the commission during 1871: Mills Hollyman, Cyrus Charles, Bob Johnson and John Thomas.

*Florida Peninsular*  
February 15, 1871 - Editorial Page

E. L. Bing was the first Black to serve on the Hillsborough County Commission in the twentieth century. He was *appointed* by

Gov. Bob Graham in 1983. Rubin Padgett was the first Black *elected* to the commission. Sylvia Kimbell, the present member, is the first Black woman to be elected to the county commission. Bing was a celebrated educator, and a citizen of great merit. Bing Elementary School honors his memory.

*Tampa Tribune*  
November 28, 1987 - July 9, 1990

"The *Washington Post* published an interesting article about Willie Moore, a one-armed Black citizen of Tampa who was visiting the capital to attend McKinley's inauguration."

*Tampa Times*  
January 25, 1898

Dobyville, the small Black community in Hyde Park was named after James C. Doby, the ice peddler of Hyde Park. He was very popular with the white children who used to hitch rides on his wagon while he serviced his route.

Author's File

Levin Armwood was the first Black deputy sheriff in Hillsborough County.

Blanche Armwood, an extraordinary woman, was the first executive secretary of the Tampa Urban League and first supervisor of "Negro schools" in 1922. Armwood High School is named in her honor.

*Tampa Tribune*  
February 21, 1992  
Author's File

Henry Brumick was Tampa's first shoemaker. The "fine old Negro" had a

large, family and gave all of his children an education. Two of them served as school teachers for many years.

*Pioneer Florida*  
By D. B. McKay

On June 6, 1888, Gen. Flor Crombet, a hero of the Ten Years War in Cuba (1868-1878) visited Ybor City. He, was the first Cuban military figure who came to inflame the hearts of the Cubans to continue the struggle for a *Cuba Libre*. The workers honored him with a concert at the Liceo Cubano where a few years later José Martí would incite his people, to rebel against the Spanish oppressors. The following day the Afro-Cuban patriot was feted at a picnic at Sulphur Springs by the Armonia Club. Gen. Crombet entertained his compatriots with his superb horsemanship and military tactics. The cigar workers honored him further by forming a patriotic club and named it Flor Crombet. The affair was celebrated with a grand parade through the sandy streets of Ybor City, and a big feast was held in the Monne Cigar Factory. Crombet died in battle during the Cuban Revolution of 1895.

*José Martí - Evangelio*  
Doctrinal En Las Emigraciones' Institute  
Cívico Militar Habana, Cuba, 1943  
Author's File

Pauline Pedroso, an Afro-Cuban, is one of the heroines of the Cuban Revolution of 1895. An ardent supporter of José Martí, she safeguarded him in her home in Ybor City after an attempt was made to poison him. The site of her home is today the site of Martí Park. In 1902, Cuba became a republic. The Cuban community celebrated in a grand way. Funds were raised and Paulina was sent to lay an immense wreath of *Forget Me Nots* on the tomb of the

martyred José Martí. Paulina returned to Cuba where she died in her nineties, nearly blind. She requested she be buried with a picture of José Martí over her heart, and the Cuban flag in her coffin.

*Vedas Ejemplars*  
By Manuel Garcia Ramirez  
Habana, Cuba, 1928

The first cigar-maker in Tampa history was a Cuban slave. She was brought to the village of Tampa in 1837 by Odet Philippe, the first settler of safety Harbor. She made cigars in the Oyster saloon on Whiting St. and the river.

*Tampa Town*  
By Tony Pizzo, 1968

The state Black baseball championship game was played in Tampa May 16, 1894, between the Tampa Baseball Nine, composed of Afro-Cuban players from Ybor City, and the Oak Hall Club, an Afro-American team from Gainesville. Four hundred fans came by train from Gainesville to cheer for their team. The "Tampa Colored Band" added to the festivities. The Tampa team won 10 to 9.

*Tampa Times*  
May 16, 1894 (5-16-1918)

An unknown story is that out of the Black cigar-makers some broke away from being cigar rollers to become cigar manufacturers.

Andrew Williams was a good example. In the 1915 special publication of the *Tampa Times* he ran an ad showing a photograph of his factory located at 1111 Scott Street. The advertisement proclaimed, "Established 1906. Largest cigar factory know to be owned and controlled by a negro. We ship

our delightful Havana Cigars to nearly every, state in the Union and Nationalities."

*Tampa Times*  
January 28, 1915

Several Afro-Portoricans also became cigar manufacturers. Catalino Cascllas established a small factory (*Chinchal*) in 1910, at 1604 23rd St., and his brother Pedro also ran his own *Chinchal*.

*Afro-Cubans in Ybor City*  
By Susan D. Greenbaum, U.S.F.

La Union Martí-Maceo was organized in 1904, by Afro-Cubans of Ybor City. They erected an impressive two story brick Clubhouse on 6th Ave., and 11th St. The club also had an adjacent walled-in patio where many social functions were held. Its members received medical and hospital services. The Club house had a cantina where dominoes Mid card games helped while away their time. In the early days classes were held for teaching the English language. The Afro-Cubans have played a vital role in the life of Ybor City.

*Afro-Cubans /Ybor City*  
By Susan Greenbaum

Black Cubans, cigar-makers, established a school in Ybor City, August 2, 1892. Marcello Cartillo was supervisor.

Author's File

Cloe Cabrera, a native of Cuba, reared in Ybor City, was the first runner-up in the Miss U.S.A. Pageant in Albuquerque, N.M. in 1987. The beautiful and talented Miss Cabrera is now a *Tampa Tribune* reporter.

*Tampa Tribune*  
February 20, 1987

The spirit of the Old West was made evident one Saturday night when two young Black girls put on a dramatic equestrian exhibition. "Carry Bell and Little Adams, dressed as cowboys, thought they might have a high old time, wild west style, whooping and galloping through the sandy streets of Ybor City. Officer Short put a stop to the fun. The festive young ladies were socked with a hefty fine of \$25-00 for their horse play."

*Tampa Tribune*  
December 18, 1891

In 1897, Wen Galvez, a Cuban peddler of Ybor City wrote "the police patrol (wagon) is called the Black maria because the first person to ride it was a poor Negro woman who carried the name of the Virgin Mary while on this earth, and is now in the heavens."

The term Black Maria for the police patrol was in common use in Tampa through the 1930's.

*Impressions De Un Viaje a Tampa*  
By Wen Galvez  
Cuba Printing Co., Ybor City, 1897

Robert Meacham had been one of Florida's outstanding Black Reconstruction leaders. He served as a Florida presidential elector in the 1868 election of Ulysses S. Grant as president. In his last years he ran a shoe shop in West Tampa. He died in Tampa, February 27, 1902.

History-Heritage, *Tampa Tribune*  
Leland Hawes, August 5, 1990

Christine Meacham was Tampa's first Black woman school principal. In 1914 she was principal of Harlem Academy. When she

died in 1927, every Black school in Tampa closed during the funeral.

*Tampa Tribune*

Leland Hawes, February 2, 25, 1990

Clara C. Frye, a devoted humanitarian, built the first hospital for Blacks in Tampa in 1923. She devoted her entire life to the health care of her people. The Pavilion at Tampa General honors her memory.

*Tampa General Hospital Program*

February 24, 1991

The largest Emancipation Day parade was hailed to be "the largest held in Tampa until then."

*Tampa Tribune*

January 2, 1906

St. Peter Claver Catholic School, with an all Black student body, opened February 2, 1894, in the old Methodist church building on LaFayette St. (Kennedy Blvd.) The sisters of the Holy Names Jesus and Mary were in charge.

Author's File

The Rev. Abe Brown became the first Black to receive the coveted Civitan award as the Outstanding Citizen of Tampa for 1990.

Civitan Program, 1990

Henry Clay, one of the Black farmers of the earl 1890's owned a farm in the Sweetwater Creek area. He was a picturesque figure who drove an oxen at a brisk trot when he came into Tampa Town. He enjoyed giving white children rides in his two wheel cart.

*Pioneer Florida*

By D. B. McKay, 1959

The First Baptist Church was organized in 1859. The house of worship was located at the corner of Twiggs and Tampa streets. The small frame building seated eighty members. Colored persons were enrolled, to wit: "Toney a manservant, and Harriet, a woman servant, both belonging to Capt. James McKay; Grace, a free woman, s/Samuel, a manservant, and Amy, his wife, belonging to John Darling; Millissy, a woman servant, belonging to Jesse Carter; Delia, a woman servant belonging to William H. Meredith." With the seven black members the original membership of the church was 23. As the Negro membership began to grow a separate service was held for them each Sunday.

In 1865, after the Civil War, the black members decided to establish their own church which is know today as Beulah Baptist Institutional Church.

*The Baptist Church*

By William E. Sherrill, 1984

Rev. Leon Lowry, Pastor of the Beulah Baptist Institutional Church, for years has been a dedicated community leader. He has served on many committees, commissions and boards dealing with religion, education and race relations. Rev. Lowry was the first black elected to the Hillsborough County School Board. He was honored by the Hillsborough County Bar Association with the prestigious Liberty Bell Award. The Leon Lowry Elementary School stands as a symbol for his many years of outstanding community service.

*Tampa Tribune*

September 7, 1974

At the outbreak of World War II, Ben Smith, a white-whiskered 97 year old former slave, stood before the Confederate Memorial in

front of the courthouse and offered his services for civilian defense to help defend a free America.

*Tampa Times*  
May 30, 1941

Julian "Cannonball" Adderly, a Tampa native became famous as America's jazz artist. After graduating from Florida A & M College he enlisted in the army, and led the 36th Army Dance Band. Later he studied at the Naval School of Music in Washington, D.C. Adderly was called the prophet of jazz. He became a very successful recording artist. *Downbeat Magazine* named him new alto star of the year 1959. He died in 1974.

*Tampa Tribune*  
August 1974

The 1850 census of Hillsborough County showed a population of 2,377. The Black population was 671.

Robert (Bob) Morrison, Jr., the energetic and bright young man became the first Black Chief Administrator to the Mayor of Tampa. With Mayor Bob Martinez they solved many public problems.

*Florida Business*  
May 11, 1986

The first branch library for Blacks was opened in 1923. The library was located at 1310 Marion St., the home of Rev. Andrew J. Ferrell, Jr. It was named the Harlem Library after the Harlem Academy, the oldest colored school in Tampa.

*Tampa Daily Times*  
May 23, 1923

first city playground for Black children was established on Buffalo Ave. and 22nd Street, June 8, 1944.

*Tampa Tribune*  
June 18, 1944

Howard Bishop was the first Black policeman in Tampa.

*Tampa Tribune*  
June 12, 1895  
*Tampa Times*  
March 12, 1917

Bennie Holder a beat cop of the Tampa Police Department worked his way to the rank of major. On June 25, 1993, he was named by Mayor Sandy Freedman as the first Black police chief in the history of Tampa.

*Tampa Tribune*  
June 26, 1993

Central Avenue was to Black Tampanans what Seventh Avenue was to the Latin cigar-makers of Ybor City. The main business avenue of the Black community extended from Cass St. to Kay St. Streetcars travelled the length of the thoroughfare connecting with all sections of the city. Central Avenue was a good example of the variety of businesses found in larger commercial districts. For example, drugstores, barbershops, restaurants, dance halls, cafes, clubhouses, butcher shops, grocery stores, clothing stores, two theatres - the Central Theatre and the Maceo theatre, and the one block long, two story, brick hotel carrying the name Mugge. The avenue was patrolled by two white patrolmen on foot.

In 1927, my father had an interest in the Liberty Cafeteria located on Central and

Cass Streets. I was 15 years old then and helped out at the cash register. Franklin St., 7th Ave. and Central Ave. were the three great gathering places of the old Tampa of yore. I remember them well -- Tony Pizzo.