



Black Legacy Our Past, Present and Future.



Stop the Presses!

PAST

Mary Ann Shadd

Born: October 9, 1823

Contribution: Business

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Mary Ann Shadd was born the oldest of 13 children. Her father was a key figure in the Underground Railroad. Being committed to the education of people of color, Shadd moved to Wilmington, Delaware at the age of 16 to organize a school. She taught in schools for Black children in New York, Pennsylvania and Delaware before joining the emigrationist movement and moving to Toronto, Canada with her brother, Isaac, in 1851. While in Canada, Shadd founded the paper Provincial Freeman. In so doing, **Shad became the first Black woman publisher and editor of a newspaper in North America.** She used the paper to address and discuss all aspects of Black life. With the motto "Self reliance is the fine road to independence", Shadd exposed all aspects of segregation and discrimination. Although Shadd would later abandon her views on emigration, in 1855 she would be the first woman to address the Negro National Convention, speaking in favor of Canadian immigration. Shadd would eventually obtain a law degree and included gender equality in her endless fight. She testified before Congress on women's suffrage and abolitionist Frederick Douglas would later speak highly of her...calling her "a woman for our time."



Invented the Supersoaker!

PRESENT

Lonnie G. Johnson

Born: October 6, 1949

Contribution: Inventor

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Johnson holds a B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering, an M.S. degree in Nuclear Engineering, and an honorary Ph.D. in Science from Tuskegee University. He's worked in many capacities including: Acting Chief of the Space Nuclear Power Safety Section, Senior Systems Engineer at the NASA, Advanced Space Systems Requirements Officer at Strategic Air Command and as Chief of the Data Management Branch at Edwards Air Force Base. He was awarded the Air Force Achievement Medal and the Air Force Commendation Medal on two different occasions. In 1989, Johnson formed his own engineering firm and licensed his most famous invention, the Super Soaker® water gun, to Larami Corporation. Two years later, **the Super Soaker® generated over \$200 million in retail sales, and became the number one selling toy in America.** To date, sales have totaled close to one billion dollars. Currently, Lonnie Johnson holds over 80 patents, with over 20 more pending, and is the author of several publications on spacecraft power systems. Johnson is president and founder of Johnson Research and Development Co., Inc., a technology development company, and its spin off companies, Excellatron Solid State, LLC; Johnson Electro-Mechanical Systems, LLC; and Johnson Real Estate Investments, LLC.

What Will You Contribute To The Legacy?