

# Ideals Of Liberty For Which Attacks And Others Gave Lives Forgotten By Present Government in Treatment Of Negro Citizens

## Rogers Says Fault Is Negroes'; Dictates Own Treatment

By J. A. ROGERS  
 March 5 is an important anniversary. On that day, 164 years ago, America may be said to have made up her mind that she could no longer live with Britain. Her desire to be a separate nation was crystallised, and the first step towards independence was taken then.  
 And in that first step, it was a Negro who took the initiative. This fact is so clearly established that no reputable historian, however much he might wish to, has denied it. The accounts of eye-witnesses that it was a tall Negro who led the attack against King George's redcoats, who were threatening to wet their bayonets in the blood of the people of Boston are plain.  
 John Fiske, perhaps America's foremost historian, in his Crispus Attacks address, says, "Conspicuous among the throng was a very tall colored man, who was acting as leader." When the redcoats fired, Attacks was the first to fall—the first to die that America might be free. "It was the sacrifices of the lives of Crispus Attacks, Samuel Gray, James Caldwell, Samuel Maverick, and Patrick Carr, that brought about this preliminary victory of the American victory," says Fiske.  
 On a shaft erected on Boston Common, Crispus Attacks' name heads the list. It is noteworthy, that one of those who was to profit most by the courage of Attacks, denounced him at that time for resisting the British, namely a lawyer, John Adams, who became second president of the United States.  
 Who was Attacks? He was a sailor employed on Captain Folger's whaleship, which was then lying in Boston harbor. At the time of his death it was said that he was a native of Nassau, West Indies, and as Fiske says, "he was apparently embarked for North Carolina working his way perhaps towards his home." There was no talk then of American Negroes or West India Negroes. All were British Negroes mostly slaves.  
 Since the West Indies were settled first the slaves from that region were brought in numbers to the new United States and helped in its settlement. Arthur Schomburg, curator of the West 135th Street library, New York City, has collected abundant information on this.  
 Might Have Been Slave  
 Attacks, therefore, might have been a slave. It is supposed again, that he may have belonged to William Browne of Framingham, Mass., who had advertised for a Negro, named Crispus. The only fact clear about Attacks ancestry is that he was a mulatto and that he led the way for America. To quote again from Fiske, "From that time until independence was won, there was hardly a struggle in which brave men of his race and color did not nobly acquit themselves."  
 Another Negro who played a conspicuous part in bringing about

## Federal Artist



Samuel J. Brown, above, youthful Philadelphian, who is one of the few Negroes who have received commissions from the Federal Works of Art Project for a painting which is to become the property of the Federal government upon its completion.  
 Mr. Brown is a graduate of the Pennsylvania Museum of Art, having been a scholarship student, and holds a state teaching certificate authorizing him to teach art in elementary and high school grades in Pennsylvania. He is the winner of several prizes for his art work and a regular substitute teacher in the art department of the Camden, N. J., school system.  
 independence was Sam Fraunces. Fraunces came from the West Indies and ran a tavern in New York City that was a centre for the rebels. It was at his place that the Sons of Liberty met in 1774 to sally out to dump the tea into the river.  
 The revolutionary officers met there to discuss their plans, and it was here also that peace terms were arranged between Washington and the British. Here too Washington bade farewell to his officers. All through the long war Fraunces gave freely of his food and money to aid the cause of independence and later both Congress and the state of New York voted him large sums, in gratitude. Fraunces was called "Black Sam." Nevertheless a determined effort is being made to prove that he was white.  
 He Played His Part  
 Throughout the entire history of this nation the Negro has played a man's part. He came to what is now the United States nearly a century before the Pilgrim Fathers. A Negro, Estevanico, discovered Arizona and New Mexico 86 years before the ancestors of the Mayflower blue-bloods touched these shores.  
 Why then is the Negro still an

## Counsels New Negro To Benefit By Race's Past

alien in this land which is his very own? Were it a newly-arrived German, who had mowed down a thousand white Americans with machine-guns in the last war, instead of a Negro who had gone in to the lunch-room of Congress, would he have been refused service in this place run by the Federal government, No. It was only color. Why does the Federal government which Negroes helped to create, and for which a Negro was the first to shed his blood, lead in color discrimination? For mistake it not, the Federal government is the backbone of race prejudice. This lawlessness against the Negro begins in Congress, itself. In no other country in the world are aliens given superior rights over citizens, save this.  
 Britain Started Oppression  
 Why is all this so? Chiefly because of inherited conditions. Britain started the oppression of the Negro in this country. The colonist used the Negro to help free himself from England, and when that had been done he pushed the Negro back down again. The same in the Civil War. The Negro provided the balance of power that saved the Union—Lincoln, himself says so explicitly. But once more the Negro was pushed back into a slavery almost as bad.  
 Whose fault is all of this? In those days chiefly that of the whites. Today, chiefly that of the Negro. He who would be free must strike the first blow. Human beings usually get just the kind of treatment they will stand for. Who prevents our sending more Negroes to Congress, especially from the North? Who prevents our building up businesses to give employment to our youth? Who prevents our being more sympathetic towards our colored fellow-sufferers? It is this lack of practical sympathy which is the basis of our disunion, and which, in turn, is the principal cause why the newly-arrived white alien has every-day rights superior to ours. Most of us are trying to escape from ourselves. To where?  
 The disagreeable truth is that to win us, Negroes of the present generation one must either fool us, rob us, or tickle us. The day belongs to the noise-makers, and the empty-brained. Young Aframericans, profit by the horrible example we, older folk have set for you, if you ever hope to win your rights as human beings.