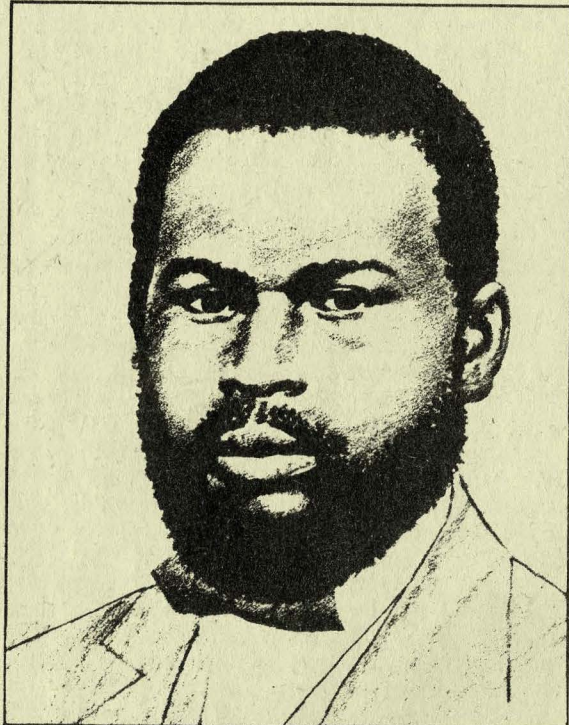


Feb. 11

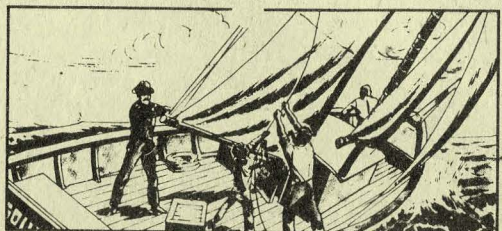
A SALUTE TO BLACK HISTORY WEEK

Feb. 15

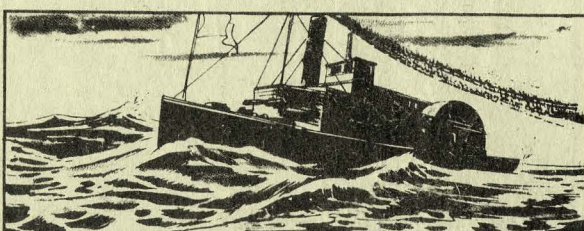


Robert Smalls
1839—1915

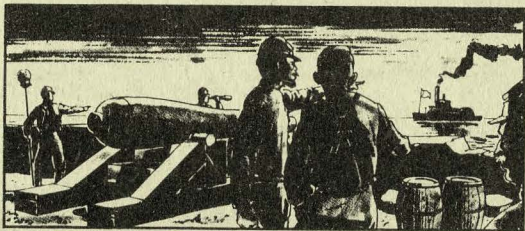
Captain of the *Planter* in the United States Navy during the Civil War. Later served five terms as Representative from South Carolina in the Congress of the United States.



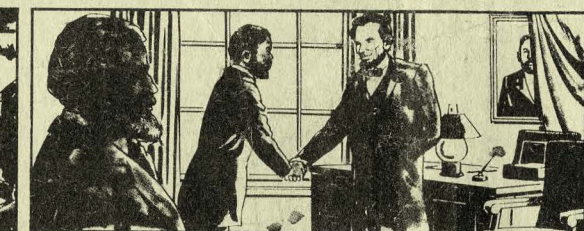
Robert was 12 years old when his master sent him to Charleston to be "hired out." When he was 14, he worked in a sail loft, often taking boats into the harbor to test their sails.



He worked on the Confederate government's paddle-wheel steamer, the *Planter*, at the start of the Civil War. Studying the inlets, fortifications and defenses along the Charleston coast, Smalls planned to steal the ship and sail to freedom.



On May 12, 1862, he was placed in charge of the *Planter* when its officers left for an overnight visit. Smalls and his crew sailed to Fort Sumter and turned over the *Planter* to Union Officers.



News of the daring escape was flashed around the country. Smalls was taken to Washington, D. C., to meet President Lincoln and to New York City for a wild welcome. He received a sum of money for capturing the *Planter*.



In 1863, he became pilot of the iron-lad ship, the *Krukowski*, which sank under enemy fire. Smalls jumped overboard and swam to safety.



Smalls worked with Union Officers and was again assigned to the *Planter* as pilot. Because of his skill and courage, he was soon made Captain.



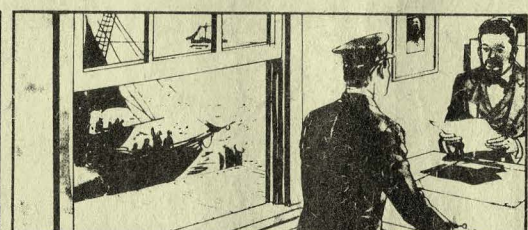
After the war, Smalls was active in many branches of government service, including almost a decade as Congressman of South Carolina.



In 1876, corrupt southern Democrats falsely charged Smalls of "violating the purity of the ballot box by unblushing fraud." He was convicted and sentenced to three years in jail. After serving a few days of the sentence, he was released and the case eventually dropped.



The southern Democrats organized for "the end of Smalls" during the 1886 election and the ballots were manipulated to defeat him. Smalls sought to prove he won, but Congress denied him a seat by a 142-127 vote.



Several years later, Smalls was appointed Collector of Customs for Beaufort, South Carolina. He served in this capacity until 1913 when a Republican Congress failed to confirm his appointment. He died in Beaufort in 1915.

COMPLIMENTS OF

HOWARD

S.

WRIGHT

CONSTRUCTION

COMPANY

Seattle, Washington



Richard Allen
1760—1831

Co-founder of the Free African Society, established Bethel Church, first African Methodist Episcopal Church, and became first Negro Bishop of any church in the United States.



Born a slave in Philadelphia on Feb. 14, 1760, and sold with his family to a Delaware farmer in 1767. Richard experienced a religious "conversion" at 17.



By 1780 he began preaching, converted his master, purchased his freedom, and was proficient as a wood-cutter, bricklayer, and wagon team driver.



At 26, he came to Philadelphia and with Absalom Jones, established the Free African Society, the first step for blacks toward organized social life.



Despite its separate nature, the Society helped blacks and whites alike. They nursed the sick during the yellow fever epidemic in 1793. During the War of 1812, they recruited 2,000 blacks to defend Philadelphia against the British.



Allen preached to mixed congregations, but it became apparent that he was not welcome in white churches. He and Jones were thrown out of St. George's Methodist Church and Allen was refused ordination by the Methodist Church.



This prompted Allen to establish Bethel Church, the first African Methodist Episcopal Church. Besides being a place of worship and assembly, it was a temporary home for former slaves, a Sunday School, and Adult Evening School.



Along with Prince Hall, Absalom Jones, and other black leaders, he set up the Second African Lodge in 1798 and a Grand Lodge in 1818. Concerned with social and economic problems of his people, he continued to preach and to pray.



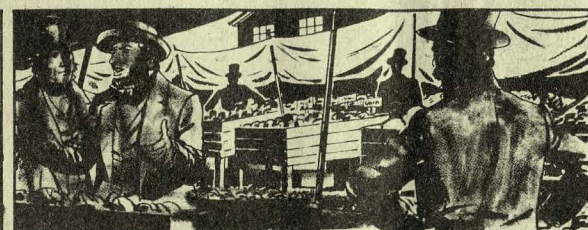
In 1816, he was finally ordained as a minister and later became the first Negro Bishop of any church in the United States.



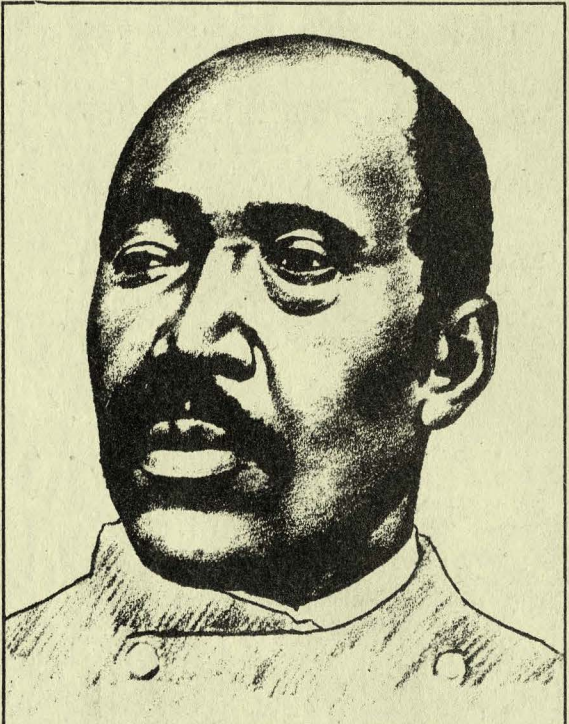
Through his efforts the First General Conference of the African Methodist Church was held in Philadelphia in 1820. He established missionary work in the South, Haiti, and Africa.



In 1831, at the First Annual Convention for People of Color, he opposed plans for immigration of American blacks to Africa.



He was active in the "Free Produce Society" which bought from merchants who refused to sell slave labor produce. This economic boycott set the pattern for those of the 19th and 20th Centuries. Richard Allen died March 25, 1831.

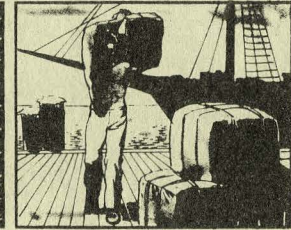


Martin R. Delany
1812—1885

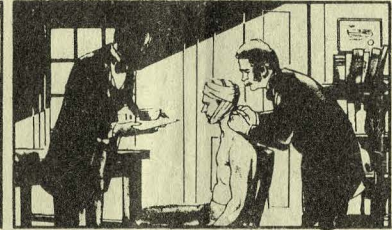
Doctor of Medicine, editor, abolitionist speaker, scientist and explorer, ardent fighter for the rights of freedmen, first Negro Field Officer in United States history.



Martin, of pure African stock, was born free in Charles Town, Virginia, on May 6, 1812. He could not go to school but he stood under schoolroom windows and recited lessons he heard.



By 1831 Delany settled in Pittsburgh where he loaded barges at the docks by day, and studied at night.



He wanted to become a doctor. A white physician accepted him as a student and assistant. Delany learned to sew wounds, set bones and perform some surgery.



In 1843 he published *The Mystery*. It was the only black-owned and edited paper in the country at that time.



By 1850 Delany was accepted in Harvard's Medical School. Due to student protest, he was not allowed to return for the necessary second term. He went back to Pittsburgh without a diploma and set up office as a doctor.



In 1852 he published his first book, *The Condition, Elevation, Emigration and Destiny of the Colored People of the United States*.



In 1858, at John Brown's request, he convened a convention to ratify a constitution for Brown's guerrilla "republic." Delany was more interested in leading an expedition to explore the Niger Valley. He sailed alone for Africa and reached Monrovia on July 12, 1859.



He joined Robert Campbell in Abbeokuta. A tribal war kept them from reaching the Niger. Delany went on to London and lectured all over England and Scotland. He returned to his family for Christmas 1860.



The next two years were spent lecturing and writing about Africa. After the Emancipation Proclamation was issued in 1863, Delany recruited men to serve in black regiments.



He met with President Lincoln in February 1865 and presented a plan to send black troops led by black officers into the South.



He was commissioned the first black major in the U. S. Army and sent to Charleston, S. C. After the war, he was assigned to the new Freedman's Bureau and in 1868, honorably discharged.



Remaining in Charleston, he was active in politics, wrote, served twice as a trial judge and continued to fight for rights of freedmen. He died on January 24, 1885.