

# Black Pseudo-History

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As part of multiculturalism's never-ending efforts to glorify blacks, sources such as the ***Black Inventions Museum*** claim to chronicle the genius of African-American inventors. It is claimed that the world would find itself without the helicopter, peanut butter, light bulbs, automobiles or the phonograph, were it not for black inventors. Unfortunately, all of these claims are pure fraud!

**Automobile:** For example, there's delicious irony in the claim that a race unable to invent the wheel was somehow able to invent the first automobile. In 1885, a white man named Karl Benz invented the first automobile that combined an internal combustion engine with an integrated chassis: Despite this, many promoters of multiculturalism credit a black man named C.R. Patterson with having done so.

**Helicopter:** Another ludicrous claim is that another black man -- Paul E. Williams -- invented the helicopter. The first functional helicopter was actually invented by Igor Sikorsky in 1936, which he called the VS-300. Six years later he had his invention in mass production. While Paul Williams WAS awarded Patent # 3,065,933 in 1962 for his Lockheed Model 186 (VH-51) -- which incorporated design modifications on Sikorski's original model -- this occurred 24 years after Sikorski's VS-300 prototype.

**Peanut Butter:** Another well-known example involves George Washington Carver and the claim that he invented peanut butter in 1903. Yet, according to Barry Mackintosh—a historian with the National Park Service that manages the G. W. Carver National Monument—most of Carver's peanut creations were either not original, or else they were impractical or of questionable effectiveness. (Barry Mackintosh. *George Washington Carver: The Making of a Myth.*)

None of the products created in Carver's laboratory were ever widely adopted. On the other hand, peanuts – which are native to the New World tropics -- had been made into a paste by the Aztecs for hundreds of years before G.W. Carver's research began in 1903. In fact, the first modern patent for peanut butter (US Patent #306727,) was issued in 1884 to Marcellus Gilmore Edson, a white man from Montreal, Canada.

Below is a sampling of other technological advances alleged to be invented by blacks, which are juxtaposed with a brief description of their true inventors. Its purpose is not to ridicule blacks but to correct the historical record:

**Dirigible:** A black man named J.F. Pickering is often credited with inventing the airship, or “dirigible” in 1900. In fact, a French engineer named Henri Giffard successfully flew a powered airship in 1852, half a century earlier. Hundreds of inventors received patents for early airship designs and modifications, but there is no evidence that Pickering's ever got off the ground.

**Lightbulb:** A black man named Lewis Latimer is alleged to have invented the incandescent lightbulb. Yet, the first practical lightbulb – one that didn't burn-out quickly -- was invented by Thomas Edison and patented in 1880. Lewis Latimer was actually a very talented researcher who had earlier worked for a competitor of Edison named Hiram Maxim, and did not begin working for Edison until 1884, four years after Edison's patent was granted.

Neither Latimer, Edison or Maxim were actually the true inventors of the incandescent lightbulb: English chemist and physicist Joseph Swan experimented with a carbon filament in 1860 and by 1878 had developed the first incandescent lightbulb, which was then patented in Britain.

**Refrigeration:** A black man named John Standard is often credited with inventing refrigeration. In fact, a white man named Oliver Evans first

designed the method of refrigeration based on a “vapor-compression” cycle in 1805. The first functional model incorporating Evans’ design was built by another white man, Jacob Perkins, in 1834.

In fact, John Standard’s design did not incorporate the vapor-compression” system that has been adopted today, but was merely an old-fashioned “ice box” system used as a low-tech method of cooling air, which was useful but hardly a revolutionary technology.

The first modern system for controlling both temperature and humidity of indoor air was built by Dr. Willis Carrier, who received the first of many patents in 1906 for his “*Apparatus for Treating Air.*” In 1911 he published the scientific basis for modern air conditioning design, and four years later founded the ***Carrier Engineering Corporation***, which is still in existence today with a slightly different name.

**While there have been many successful black inventors, those who promote “black pseudo-history” are engaged in disseminating fraudulent and misleading information. What their efforts actually reveal is that there are far too many who are willing to sacrifice the accuracy of the historical record on the altar of multiculturalism.**

It is fairly simple to understand how this situation evolved, one in which blacks are wrongly credited with technological advances that were actually created by whites.

The “curator” of the ***Black Inventions Museum*** in Hammond, Louisiana is a man named Brother Umar Bey. “*Bey*” is a common surname among Black Muslims in the U.S., many of whom converted to Islam while serving a stretch in their state’s penitentiary.

Few readers need to be reminded that Islam – especially as it’s practiced by blacks in the U.S. – incorporates a liturgy that falls somewhere between fantasy and psychotic delusion. For example, the *Nation of*

*Islam* teaches that a black scientist created the first white man in a test tube, a claim that provides a great deal of insight into the exhibits found in the ***Black Inventions Museum!***