



Sankofa Archives

Did You Know? Tidbits # 4

January 1, 1804 Haitian Independence Day

Did you know that:

The Arc de Triomphe in Paris was built to honor France's military heroes, one of which was Haitian-born Alexandre Dumas, the highest-ranking black general and confidante of Napoleon ["Black Europe," p.14].



And that Henri Christophe, the general and statesman from Haiti, was never a slave? This was a myth based on the undocumented statements of Karl Ritter, an Austrian historian. Christophe was born to free parents in Grenada [*The Crisis*]. To read more, click here:



Not only did Haitians fight for their freedom, but they also helped others fight for theirs. Haitians assisted in the following movements for independence: [Allen, p.47]

In 1778, eight hundred Haitian volunteers [The Chasseurs-Volontaires de Saint-Domingue] came to America to aid Americans in their fight against the British. They fought valiantly at the Siege of Savannah [Allen, p.47]. A monument to the bravery and contribution of these men who fought for America's independence can be found in Franklin Square, Savannah, Georgia.

They also helped “. . . Don Pedro Girard in Mexico, Simon Bolivar in Venezuela, and Jose Marti in Cuba as well as similar struggles in what is now the Dominican Republic, in Jamaica, and even in Greece. Bolivar came to Haiti in 1815 after failing to obtain

European help in his struggle against Spain. Haitian President Petion supplied money and foodstuffs. Said Bolivar: **“Should I not let it be known to later generations that Alexandre Petion is the true liberator of my country?”** [Allen, p.47] To read more of this article, [click here](#). Also to see a video [click here](#).

References

“Black Europe,” *Ebony Magazine*, March 1972, Vol. XXVII, No.5, pgs.14-15

https://books.google.com/books?id=Q7RD_gG4UAC&lpg=PA15&dq=Black%20Madonna&pg=PA14#v=onepage&q=Black%20Madonna&f=false

The Crisis, Aug.-Sept. 1951, Vol. 58, No.7, p.468.

<https://books.google.com/books?id=9FcEAAAAMBAJ&lpg=PA468&dq=haitian%20history&pg=PA468#v=onepage&q=haitian%20history&f=false>

Allen, Alexander J. “U.S. Owes Haitians Gratitude, Not Abuse,” *The Crisis*, Oct. 1982, Vol. 89, No.8 (345-396), p.47.

<https://books.google.com/books?id=gSoEAAAAMBAJ&lpg=RA1-PA47&dq=haitian%20history&pg=RA1-PA47#v=onepage&q=haitian%20history&f=false>

To know more about the Haitian monument in Savannah, see the links below:

Haitian monument unveiled in Savannah, GA [YouTube Video]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ozu9iWmniLE>

Go South Savannah

<http://gosouthsavannah.com/historic-district-and-city/monuments/haitian-monument.html>

Books mention in the Video *Haiti Helped Latino Countries Gain Independence and End Slavery*

Ducoudray Holstein, H. L. V. 1830. *Memoirs of Simon Bolivar, President Liberator of the Republic of Colombia, and of His Principal Generals: Secret History of the Revolution, and the Events Which Preceded It, From 1807 to the Present Time: With An Introduction, Containing An Account of the Statistics, and the Present Situation of Said Republic, Education, Character, Manners and Customs of the Inhabitants*. Boston: S.G. Goodrich & Co. [Click here to read.](#)

Dupuy, Charles. 2006. *Le coin de l'histoire*. [Brossard, Québec]: Éditions La Périchole.

Léger, Jacques Nicolas. 1907. *Haiti, Her History and Her Detractors*. New York: The Neale Pub. Co. [Click here to read.](#)

Lynch, John. 2006. *Simón Bolívar a Life*. New Haven: Yale University Press. [Click here to read.](#)