



The potato chip was invented in 1853 by a Native American/African American chef at the Moon Lake Lodge resort in Saratoga Springs, New York, USA. French fries were popular at the restaurant and one day a diner complained that the fries were too thick. Although he made a thinner batch, the customer was still unsatisfied. He finally made fries that were too thin to eat with a fork, hoping to annoy the extremely fussy customer. The customer, surprisingly enough, was happy - and potato chips were invented!

**George Crum**



This Nigerian born doctor first entered the limelight in 1989 when he won the prestigious Gordon Bell Prize for his work with massively parallel computers. He programmed the Connection Machine to compute a world record 3.1 billion calculations per second using 65,536 processors to simulate oil reservoirs. With over 41 inventions submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, he is making big waves in the supercomputer industry, amazing achievements only surpassed by an even more amazing life.

**Dr. Phillip Emeagwali**



This African American medical doctor and surgeon who started the idea of a blood bank and a system for the long-term preservation of blood plasma (he found that plasma kept longer than whole blood). His ideas revolutionized the medical profession and have saved many, many lives.

**Dr. Charles Richard Drew**

*Submitted by Truvine Walker,  
M..Ed/CCC-SLP*



Along with his colleague Dennis Moeller, he developed the Industry Standard Architecture (ISA) systems bus, a component that allowed multiple peripheral devices such as modems and printers to be connected to a PC, thus making the PC a practical and affordable component of the home or small business office. He would own three of the original nine patents that all PCs are based upon. He followed up with PS/2 Models 70 or 80, and the Color Graphics Adapter (which allowed for color display on the PC).

**Mark Dean**



This African American doctor is credited with having performed open heart surgery on July 9, 1893 before such surgeries were established. In 1913, he was the only African American member of the American College of Surgeons.

**Dr. Daniel Hale Williams**



This African American doctor and his colleague, Gerhard Sessler, developed the mic (officially known as the Electroacoustic Transducer Electret Microphone) while with Bell Laboratories, and they received a patent for it in 1962. The acoustical technologies employed became widely used for many reasons including high performance, acoustical accuracy and reliability. It is also small, lightweight and cost effective.

**Dr. James E. West**

*Submitted by Truvine Walker,  
M..Ed/CCC-SLP*



This African American male invented a train-to-station communication system.

**Granville T. Woods**



This African American man invented an oil dripping cup for trains. Other inventors tried to copy McCoy's oil dripping cup; but, none of the other cups worked as well as his, so customers started asking for "the real McCoy." That's where the expression "the real McCoy" originated.

**Elijah McCoy**



This African American man invented an important part of the light bulb- the carbon filament. He worked in the laboratories of both Thomas Edison and Alexander Graham Bell.

**Lewis Latimer**

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This African American male invented the gas mask. Other inventors had experimented with, marketed, and even patented traffic signals, however, he was one of the first to apply for and acquire a U.S. patent for an inexpensive traffic He also invented a zig-zag stitching attachment for manually operated sewing machine. He also founded a company that made personal grooming products, such as hair dyeing ointments and the curved-tooth pressing comb.

**Garrett A. Morgan**



This African American female invented a hair growing lotion. She grew up poor; but, she became the first female African American millionaire.

**Madame C. J. Walker**



This African American man invented a shoe making machine that increased shoemaking speed by 900% thus making shoes affordable for everyone. In 1992, the U.S. made a postage stamp in honor of him.

**Jan Ernst Matzeliger**

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This African American man invented the world-famous water gun the Supersoaker.

**Lonnie G. Johnson**



This African American female doctor invented a method of eye surgery that has helped many blind people to see. She has been nominated for the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

**Dr. Patricia E. Bath**

*Submitted by Truvine Walker,  
M..Ed/CCC-SLP*



This African American man was born a slave, and didn't attend college until he was 30 years of age. He invented peanut butter and 400 plant products.

**George Washington Carver**



It took 41 years for a black NFL head coach to make it all the way to the Super Bowl. On January 21, 2007, not one, but two black coaches earned the right to coach in the nation's biggest sporting spectacle. One coach (Chicago Bears) did it Jan. 21, 2007 on a snowy afternoon in Chicago. Four hours later, his good pal and mentor, coach of the Indianapolis Colts joined him.

**Tony Dungy**

**Lovie Smith**

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