

FALL/WINTER 2024

# the legacy

FROM NATIONAL BLACK HOME EDUCATORS

**Black American  
Western Heroes**

**Farm Story**  
*A fight for water rights*

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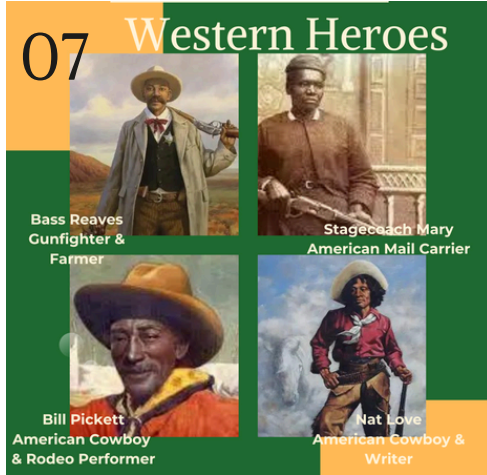
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Unleash the aroma of Autumn in your kitchen with this comforting soup straight from the kitchen of Joyce Burges

# letter from the editor

**NBHE CO-FOUNDER AND CEO  
JOYCE BURGES**

A photograph of a woman in a cowboy hat and boots standing in a field with horses behind a wooden fence. The scene is outdoors with trees in the background.

The history of African American cowboys and their role in shaping the western lifestyle is a significant yet often overlooked part of American history. After the Civil War, many freed Black men sought opportunities in the West, where they became skilled cowboys, ranchers, and wranglers. It's estimated that one in four cowboys in the Old West was African American, working cattle drives, taming horses, and contributing to the expansion of the American frontier.

These cowboys embraced a lifestyle grounded in hard work, integrity, and self-reliance. Guided by a strong sense of personal responsibility, they lived by a code of conduct that valued honesty, loyalty, and respect for others.

Despite the harsh conditions and discrimination they faced, African American cowboys upheld these values, which helped them navigate the challenges of the West. Their contribution to the Western economy, culture, and landscape was invaluable, and their resilience serves as a testament to the power of character and determination. The values they lived by — hard work, fairness, respect, and community — not only helped them survive but thrive in a tough and often hostile environment, guiding them toward a path of right living.

## nbhe team members



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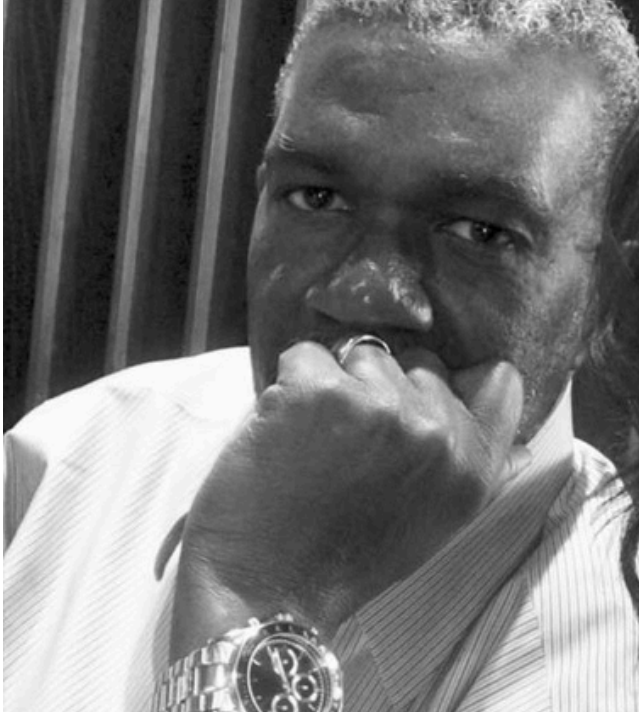
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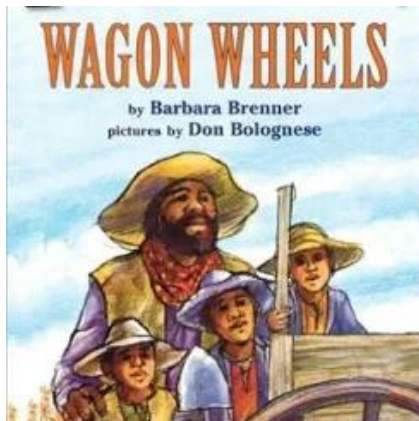


Program Director + CEO  
Joyce Burges

# NBHE Book Club

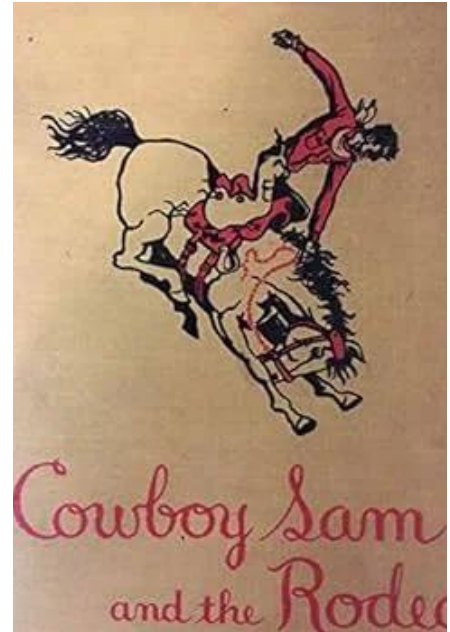
*Saddle up with these stories this Fall.*

**All titles are available at your local library or bookstore.**



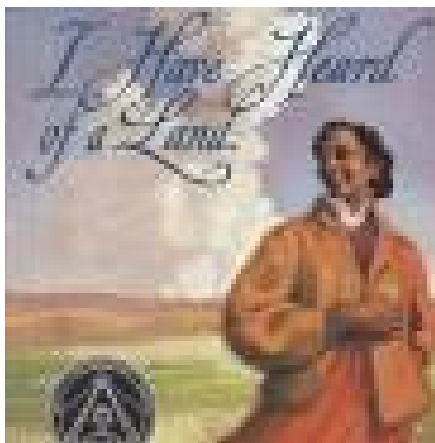
## **Wagon Wheels**

by, Barbara Brenner  
(ages 4 and Up)



## **Cowboy Sam and the Rodeo**

by, Edna Walker Chandler  
(ages 7 and Up)



## **I've Heard of a Land**

by, Joyce Carol Oates  
(Girls, ages 8 and Up)



## **A Rugged Beauty**

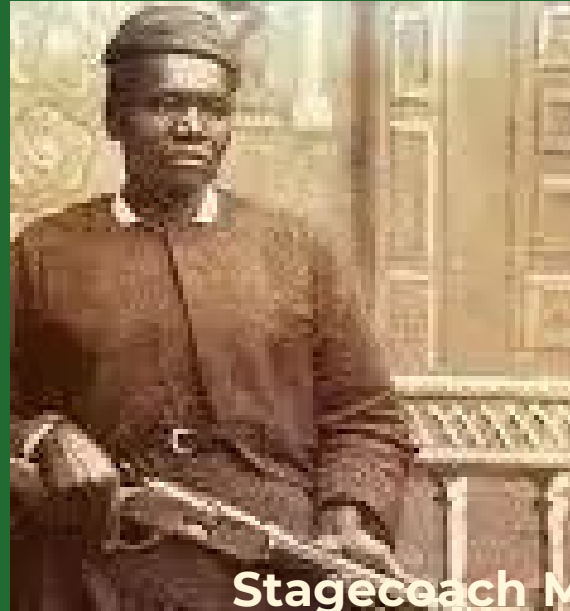
By, Lacy Williams  
(ages 18 and Up)

# Black American Western Heroes

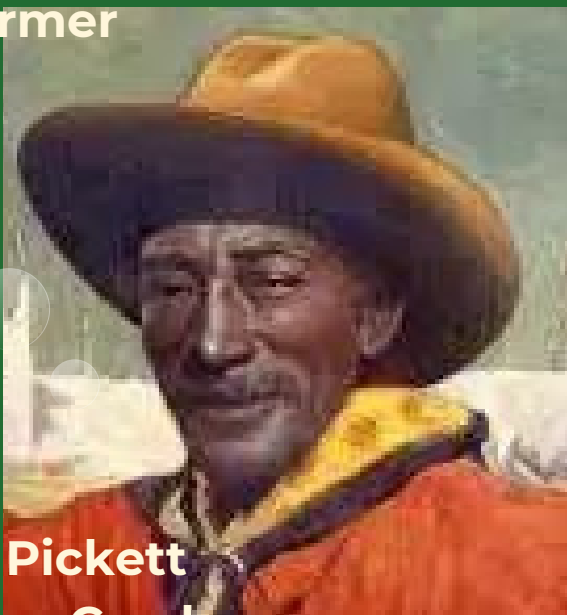
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**Bass Reeves**  
**Gunfighter &**  
**Farmer**



**Stagecoach Mary**  
**American Mail Carrier**



**Bill Pickett**  
**American Cowboy**  
**& Rodeo Performer**



**Nat Love**  
**American Cowboy &**  
**Writer**



When I was a little girl growing up on a farm, life seemed simple, yet it was woven with moments that have stayed with me forever. My grandparents, who raised crops and cattle, were the center of my world. The farm was vast, and the days felt long, filled with the smell of freshly tilled soil and the sound of cattle lowing in the fields. But one memory stands out above the rest—a moment when that peaceful life was shattered by a fight for water rights. Our farm bordered my grandfather's cousin's land, and for as long as I could remember, there had always been an unspoken agreement about how things worked. That is, until the day it all changed. It started with the water hole. This water hole was one of the largest around, sitting right on the line between the two properties, a lifeline during dry spells. One hot summer, tempers flared, and a disagreement over water rights broke out. My grandfather, his sons, and his cousin's family stood face to face at the edge of that water hole. The tension was thick in the air. From where I stood, hiding behind the porch, it seemed like the whole world had paused, caught in the heat of the moment. My grandfather, usually a quiet and steady man, stood tall and unflinching. Across from him was his cousin, equally firm in his stance. It wasn't just a battle over water—it was a battle over pride, family ties, and survival. Their voices were loud, carried on the wind, but it was the silence between the words that spoke the loudest. For what felt like an eternity, they stared each other down, their sons standing behind them, ready to follow their lead. But in the end, it wasn't fists or fury that won the day. Cooler heads prevailed, and somehow, they came to an agreement, though I never knew the details. What I did know was that the standoff ended, and life on the farm went on. But that moment changed how I saw the world. It was the first time I realized that even in the midst of family, conflict could bubble up, fueled by necessity and survival. It was also the first time I saw the strength of my grandfather, not just in his work but in his ability to stand his ground, yet still find a way to move forward.



# nbhe kitchen

## ***Autumn/Winter Soup***

### Ingredients:

- 2 tbsp olive oil
- Salt, pepper, parsley, and red pepper flakes (to taste)
- 6 boneless chicken thighs (cut)
- 1 cup all-purpose flour • 1 lb sausage (baked on low heat)
- 1 lb shrimp (boiled on low heat)
- 1-2 cups water (depending on desired consistency)
  - 1 cup celery (chopped)
  - 1 cup onions (chopped)
  - 1 cup okra (chopped)



### Instructions:

1. Prepare the oil: Heat olive oil in a large pot over medium heat. Season the oil with salt, pepper, parsley, and red pepper flakes.
2. Cook the chicken thighs: Lay the cut boneless chicken thighs on top of the seasoned oil. Cook until done, then move the chicken to one side of the pot.
3. Make the roux: On the other side of the same pot, add 1 cup of flour. Cover the pot and let it cook over medium heat until the flour turns brown.
4. Prepare sausage and shrimp: While the roux is browning, bake your sausage on low heat and boil the shrimp in a separate saucepan on low heat.
5. Adjust consistency: Once the flour is browned, slowly add water to the pot, adjusting the amount to achieve your desired thickness.
6. Add vegetables: Stir in the chopped celery, onions, and okra. Let the ingredients cook together until well combined.
7. Finishing the dish: Add the browned sausage and partially cooked shrimp to the pot. Simmer until everything is fully combined and cooked through.

Serve and Enjoy!!!

# nbhe neighbors



## College Prep Genius

College Prep Genius teaches college-bound students strategies, tips and tricks that will help them to raise test prep scores and earn scholarship money.

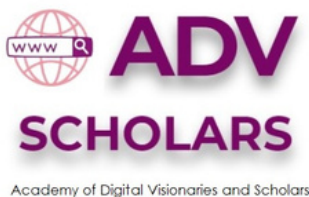
[collegeprepgenius.com](http://collegeprepgenius.com)



## Grand Canyon University

Grand Canyon University is a private Christian university located in Phoenix, Arizona, dedicated to helping students change their lives for the better through education.

[gcu.edu](http://gcu.edu)



## ADVScholars

ADVScholars' goal is to help bridge the Digital Learning Divide by creating communities of Technology Champions equipped with global, future-facing competencies and skill sets.

[advscholars.org](http://advscholars.org)



## Papa Lemon Books

Papa Lemon books imagine a multicultural and compassionate view of mental health issues for children.

[papalemonedu.com](http://papalemonedu.com)



## VELA Education Fund

VELA Education Fund supports everyday entrepreneurs who are boldly reimagining education.

[velaedfund.org](http://velaedfund.org)



## Warp and Weft History

Warp and Weft History offers interactive online virtual college-prep classes in history, government, and provide coaching for the National History Day competition.

[warpandwefthistory.com](http://warpandwefthistory.com)



## Homeschool Legal Defense Association

With over 100,000 member families, Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) is the nation's largest, most trusted homeschool advocacy organization.

[hslda.org](http://hslda.org)



## AfriClassical

AfriClassical was launched in 2000 as a nonprofit educational venture promoting awareness of African Heritage in Classical Music.

[africlassical.com](http://africlassical.com)  
[africlassical.blogspot.com](http://africlassical.blogspot.com)

# NBHE Hall of Fame

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