

African-American ENTREPRENEURS (PART 4)

Ashley W. Smith

In 1850, Ashley W. Smith was born in Smithfield, North Carolina. Smith was born enslaved. Yet, he overcame his position in society and became a local leader and a man of considerable wealth. When enslaved, he worked as a farmer and laborer. Once freed, Smith saved enough money to purchase a town lot and start a small farm. Ten years later, Smith owned three town lots. Years later, he built a building that served as offices for various African American businesses. He provided an example of what a black property owner could achieve in a small town in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

1. What did Ashley W. Smith buy once he had enough money?
2. What was Ashley W. Smith's greatest accomplishment?
3. What can you learn from Smith's business career?



Charlotte Hawkins Brown

In 1883, Charlotte Hawkins Brown was born in Henderson, North Carolina when it was difficult for African Americans to get a good education. However, Charlotte was determined to get an education and attended a school for African American girls. She later became a teacher. To make sure that other African American children had the same opportunities that she did, Charlotte founded Palmer Memorial Institute. It helped many African American children get a good education. Charlotte worked at the school for many years. Even though she passed away in 1961, her legacy lives on.

1. **What job did Charlotte Hawkins Brown do after finishing school?**
2. **What school did Charlotte Hawkins Brown create?**
3. **What do you think is the most important achievement in her life?**