

5 BLACK INVENTORS AND THEIR INNOVATIONS



JAMES FORTEN

James Forten was an entrepreneur and abolitionist known for his impact on the sail-making industry. He developed a sail-handling device and became a leader in the fight for freedom and equality.

ELIZABETH KECKLEY

Elizabeth Keckley was a seamstress and dressmaker who revolutionized fashion in Washington, D.C. After gaining her freedom, she became First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln's dressmaker and created a lasting impact on the fashion industry.



JAN MATZELIGER

Jan Matzeliger invented the lasting machine, which automated shoe production, revolutionizing the industry and making shoes more affordable. His work transformed manufacturing.

MADAME C.J. WALKER

Madame C.J. Walker was a pioneering beauty mogul and one of the first African American self-made millionaires. She created a successful hair care line for Black women, empowering others and supporting civil rights.



LEWIS H. LATIMER

Lewis H. Latimer was an inventor and draftsman who contributed to the development of the telephone and light bulb. His work on carbon filaments helped improve lighting technology and advance modern electrical innovations.