



MICHELLE DUSTER, Great-Granddaughter of

IDA B. WELLS 1862-1931

Journalist, teacher, anti-lynching crusader, women's rights activist, civil rights pioneer and one of the founders of the NAACP.

Great-granddaughter Michelle Duster, 44, of Chicago. A writer who has worked in marketing and communications, she recently authored her first book, *Ida in Her Own Words: The Timely Writings of Ida B. Wells from 1893*. Duster also is vice president of the Ida B. Wells Memorial Foundation, which was founded to preserve Wells' legacy and promote integrity in journalism (idabwells.org).

I feel very strongly that a lot of women's historical voices have not been heard. I felt a sense of urgency to resurrect her voice. I want to ensure that she won't be marginalized in history and that she is remembered alongside men like Frederick Douglass and Booker T. Washington, T. Thomas Fortune and W.E.B. Du Bois.

Descended from Greatness

BLACK HISTORY GIANTS

LIVE ON THROUGH FAMILY BY JOY T. BENNETT

"It's in the blood" is a familiar expression in most African-American households. Sometimes it's a compliment and sometimes it's meant to lay blame. For six descendants of prominent African-American historical giants, it is both a compliment and a challenge. It was not a mantle they requested. It's not a Paris Hilton existence that comes with great wealth—all of these descendants have day jobs. Sometimes the mantle encourages and inspires; other times, it chafes.

While most people have seen or heard about the children of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X, few are immediately familiar with the families of Black history greats like Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, Ida B. Wells, Dr. Charles Drew and Madam C.J. Walker. These descendants are living Black history. Through their personal family histories and the collective history of a people, they represent not only "the hope and the dream of the slave," to quote poet Maya Angelou, but also the "audacity of hope" that elected Barack Obama the 44th president of the United States, making him the first Black commander in chief.