

1116-D1-1078 **Satish C. Bhatnagar*** (bhatnaga@unlv.nevada.edu). *THE MAKING OF BENJAMIN BANNEKER.*

At the outset, this paper is by one minority on another minority. History encompasses chronological study of people, places, principles etc. As a corollary, the history of mathematics ought to cover any topic having mathematical touch. It is claimed that Benjamin Banneker (1731-1806) is the first ‘applied mathematician’ of Afro-American ethnicity. Under the hypothesis that the value of an historical event lies in its connection with the present, this paper briefly touches upon seven questions related with the life of Benjamin Banneker. Some are left open, some partially answered, and some stoutly laid out. In the realm of history of mathematics, there is no one right answer. It is this characteristic that sets it apart from the world of hardcore mathematics.

1. Pre-USA of Banneker’s times 2. Banneker’s education 3. Banneker’s wife and children 4. The development of Banneker’s life 5. Banneker’s mathematical legacy 6. Did Banneker meet Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)? 7. Banneker’s non-mathematical legacy (Received September 20, 2015)