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## EBONY BOOK SHELF



In **I Wouldn't Take Nothin' For My Journey** (Johnson, \$14.95), Dr. Leonidas Berry, an internationally-known digestive disease specialist, traces six generations of a remarkable Black family. The central figure in the book is the Rev. Llewellyn L. Berry, a prototypical Black pioneer who began his career as a traveling minister of small churches in his native state of Virginia and later became secretary of Home and Foreign Missions of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Dr. Berry, the oldest of Rev. Berry's six children, begins his narrative with the story of Nace Jenifer, who was born in St. Mary's County, Md., in 1816, the year the AME Church was formally organized. Using plantation records and other primary sources, he follows what he calls "the Jenifer-Berry-Harris-Jordan family clan" through 164 years of turbulent and exciting history. In the process, he also deals with racism, murder, amalgamation

and Black church politics. According to Bishop Samuel S. Morris, who wrote the introduction, "This is the first historical work dealing with the African Methodist Episcopal Church from the perspective of a single AME family."

Although the Berry family is unique, Dr. Berry believes that it reflects the struggles of "tens of thousands of Black families [who] have climbed the same mountains" and "fought the same battles against racial prejudice, unequal opportunity and poverty." He believes, moreover, that "it is time to tell more stories of single related Black families who have developed and achieved on their own individual economic resources. There has been far too much of a continuous, 'mass'-analysis and 'statistical' treatment, more often deprecatory, of the 'total family' and special 'racial' categories of Black American families. In telling this story the author has relived his own rendezvous with destiny."

**To Disembark** (Third World, \$8.95) is the tenth book of poetry by Gwendolyn Brooks, the Pulitzer Prize-winning Poet Laureate of the state of Illinois. The volume, which continues Miss Brooks'