**BHM 2024 “HISTORY” BLACK INVENTORS**

**Who invented the ice cream scoop?**

**Alfred L. Cralle** (1866-1920)

Alfred L. Cralle was an African American businessman and inventor best known for inventing the ice cream scoop in 1897. Cralle was born on September 4, 1866, in Kenbridge, Lunenburg County, Virginia, just after the end of the American Civil War. He attended local schools and worked for his father in the carpentry trade as a young man. During that period, he also became interested in mechanics. (read more):

<https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/cralle-alfred-l-1866-1920/#:~:text=CC%20BY%202.0)->

**Elijah McCoy (1843-1929 Canadian-American inventor and engineer**

**Born in Colchester, Ontario, Elijah McCoy’s parents were former slaves who had escaped to Canada using the underground railroad. McCoy was educated in black schools in the Colchester Township, due to the 1850 Common Schools Act which segregated the Upper Canada schools in 1850. At age 15, Elijah McCoy was sent to Scotland for an apprenticeship and study, and was certified as a mechanical engineer.**

**McCoy moved to Michigan, where he worked as a fireman and oiler at the Michigan Central Railroad. His training as an engineer helped him identify and solve the problems of engine lubrication and overheating. In 1872, he invented an automatic lubricator for locomotive steam engines and obtained his first patent. (read more):**

<https://ingeniumcanada.org/channel/articles/honouring-black-canadians-in-science-and-technology>

**Who invented the first Automatic Elevator Doors? The Refrigerator? The Traffic Signal? The folding Ironing Board? The World’s First Human-Programmable Computer? And more…**

**(read more):**

<https://iplawusa.com/10-innovative-inventions-by-african-american-inventors-that-changed-the-world/>