COPPER-COLORED CHRONICALS

APRIL 2026 EDITION

"Where Our Voices Shape Our Future."

THE 14TH AMENDMENT LIE

How States Erased Indigenous Identity, Rewrote Our Family History, and Built the Racial Caste System

This month's issue exposes one of the most consequential truths in American history — a truth buried under 200 years of state legislation, census manipulation, and federal silence. The story is simple:

> **Our ancestors were Indigenous.**
> **The states erased them.**
> **The 14th Amendment did not protect them.**
> **And the racial categories that replaced them were political weapons — not biological identities.**

This edition breaks down the full timeline, the legal mechanisms, the state actors, and the constitutional failures that shaped our family's history.

SECTION I — THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE UNITED STATES

A geographic grounding before the legal deep dive.

- **Northeast Corner:** Fort Kent, Maine
- **Southeast Corner:** Key West, Florida
- **Southwest Corner:** Imperial Beach, California
- **Northwest Corner:** Cape Flattery, Washington

A reminder: the United States is a federal union — and federal power is the only reason citizenship exists today.

SECTION II — ANDREW JACKSON & THE STATE CITIZENSHIP TRAP (1829–1830)

Jackson's First and Second Annual Messages to Congress
The legal blueprint for erasing Indigenous sovereignty.
Jackson publicly named the states that demanded the destruction of tribal governments:

- **Georgia**
- **Alabama**
- **Mississippi**
- **Tennessee**
- **North Carolina**
- **South Carolina**
- **Florida (territory)**

These states:

- abolished tribal governments
- criminalized tribal councils
- nullified Indigenous law
- seized land
- forced Native people into **state racial categories**

This is the origin of the state citizenship trap — a trap designed to erase Indigenous nations without granting rights.

SECTION III — HOW STATES DESTROYED TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

Georgia

- Abolished Cherokee government
- Criminalized council meetings
- Seized land and gold fields
- Forced racial classification

Alabama

- Invalidated Creek laws
- Banned tribal courts
- Imposed racial codes

Mississippi

- Dissolved Choctaw & Chickasaw sovereignty
- Required racial registration

Carolinas & Virginia

- Declared “no Indians exist”
- Forced all Native people into “free colored,” “mulatto,” “negro”

This is why our ancestors appear under racial labels — not because they were African, but because the state erased “Indian” as a legal category.

SECTION IV — THE 14TH AMENDMENT (1868): WHAT IT DID AND DID NOT DO

What Section 1 Says:

> ***"All persons born or naturalized in the United States… are citizens."***

What States Argued

Indians were:

- members of sovereign nations
- not "subject to U.S. jurisdiction"
- not part of the political community

Therefore, states refused to apply the 14th Amendment to Indigenous people.

Result for Eastern Tribes

- no protection
- no citizenship
- no recognition
- forced racial reclassification
- absorbed into Jim Crow caste law

Citizenship did not reach Indigenous people until 1924.

SECTION V — REMOVAL VS. RECLASSIFICATION

Removed Tribes (Oklahoma)

- kept sovereignty
- kept tribal rolls
- kept federal recognition

Non-Removed Eastern Tribes (Our Ancestors)

- lost sovereignty
- lost legal identity
- were reclassified as "colored"
- were denied citizenship
- were absorbed into state racial systems

Two different outcomes. Two different legal realities.

SECTION VI — DAWES ROLLS & RACIAL SORTING

The federal government racially sorted Indigenous people:

- Dark-skinned Indians → Freedmen Roll
- Light-skinned Indians → By Blood Roll

Eastern tribes had already been erased.
Western tribes were now being sorted.

Same logic. Different mechanisms.

SECTION VII — HOW THIS SHAPED OUR FAMILY'S HISTORY

Our ancestors were:

- Indigenous
- living in tribal communities
- maintaining kinship systems

But the state forced them into:

- Colored
- Mulatto
- Negro
- Free Person of Color

This is **paper genocide**, not biology.

They were:

- not counted as Indian
- not citizens
- not protected by the 14th Amendment
- not allowed to vote
- not allowed to hold office
- not recognized until 1924

SECTION VIII — THE TWO GROUPS HISTORY MIXES TOGETHER

Group A — Reclassified Eastern Indians (Our Ancestors)

- no citizenship
- no vote
- no office
- racial caste status

Group B — Black Americans of Reconstruction (1868–1877)

- gained citizenship
- gained voting rights
- held office
- protected by federal troops

Two groups. One racial label. Completely different legal histories.

SECTION IX — THE RECORDS PROVE THE TRUTH

The U.S. government **never** used "African" as a legal category in:

- census
- war records
- pension files
- Freedmen's Bureau
- legislative rolls

They used:

- Colored
- Negro
- Mulatto

Because the system was about caste, not origin.

SECTION X — SOUTH CAROLINA: THE CASE STUDY

South Carolina:

- erased tribal identity before 1830
- forced Native families into "free colored"
- banned the word "Indian" from legal documents

The "Colored Senators" of 1872–73 were the children of Indigenous families already living in the Carolinas during Jackson's era.

SECTION XI — THE INDIAN CITIZENSHIP ACT OF 1924

This was the **first time** the U.S. granted automatic citizenship to:

- reservation Indians
- Indian Territory residents
- tribal people under federal guardianship

Before 1924, tribal citizens were **not** U.S. citizens.
Not in 1789.
Not in 1830.
Not in 1868.
Not in 1870.
Not in 1900.
Not in 1910.
Only in 1924.

==========

EDITORIAL — "THE REAL QUESTION"

If states erased Indigenous identity, if the 14th Amendment did not protect our people, if racial categories were political tools, then the question becomes:

Who gets to define our identity today? The answer: **We do!**

- Through truth.
- Through documentation.
- Through reclamation.
- Through Copper-Colored Chronicals.



THIS MONTH'S CULTURAL FOOD DISH

SHARED BY

- **Chief Alease Jones, Vice President Waya Nation "aka" THE VEGAN QUEEN!**



VEGAN CHICKEN SALAD

INGREDIENTS

Main

- 1 (10 oz) package Abbot's Plant-Rich Chopped Chicken
- 1 (12 oz) jar marinated artichokes
- 2 small celery stalks
- ½ carrot
- ½ medium bell pepper
- 2–3 fresh green onions or ½ small red onion
- 5–6 tablespoons Bestfoods Plant-Based Mayo Salad Dressing
- ⅓ cup olive oil

Seasonings

- 1 to 1½ teaspoons onion powder
- 1 to 1½ teaspoons paprika
- 1 to 1½ teaspoons vegetable bouillon seasoning
- ½ teaspoon white or black pepper (optional)
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic

PREPARATION

1. Prep the Vegetables

- Chop the celery into small or medium pieces; set aside.
- Cut the soft pieces of the marinated artichokes into chunks; set aside.
- Chop ½ carrot into small pieces; set aside.
- Chop the green onions (or red onion) into small or medium pieces.
- Chop ½ bell pepper into small or medium pieces.

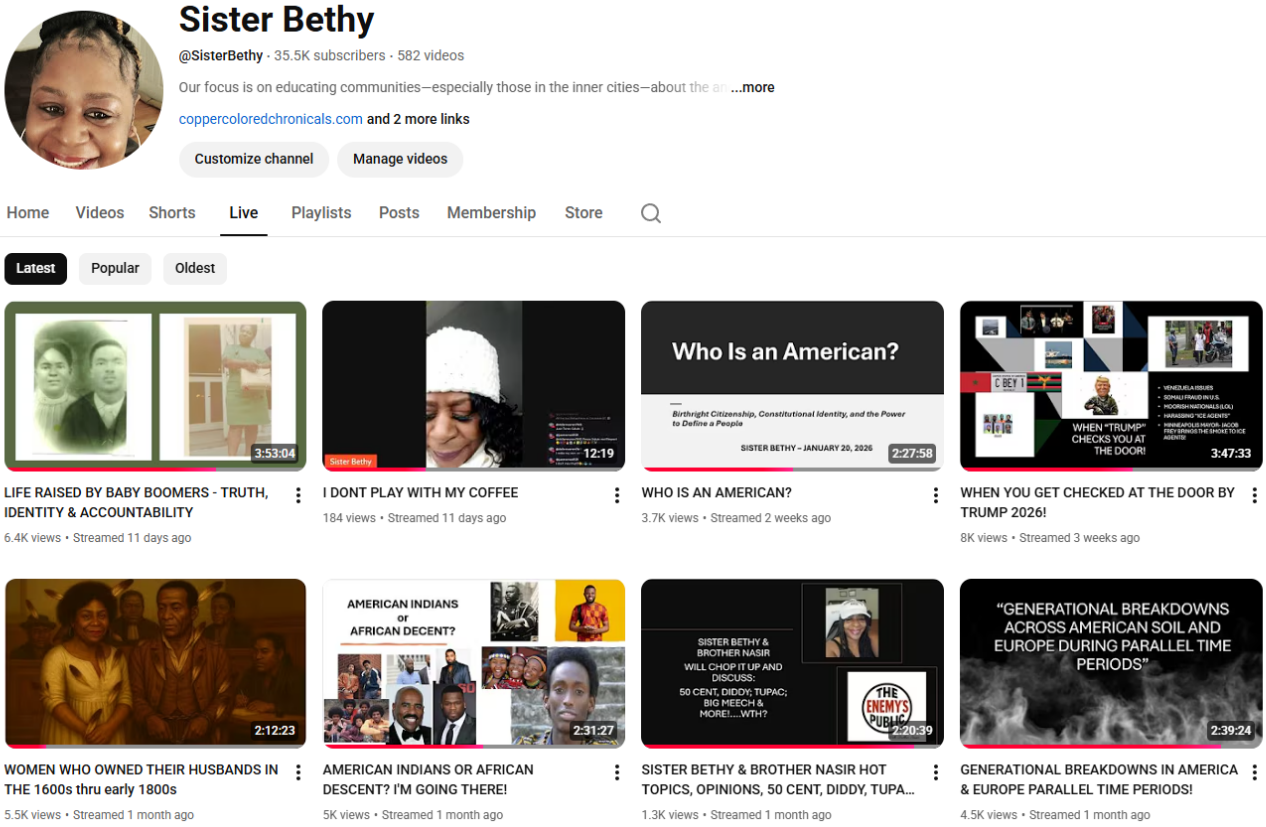
2. Sauté the Aromatics and Plant-Based Chicken

- Heat ⅓ cup olive oil in a medium skillet.
- Add the onions, bell peppers, and minced garlic.
- Season with onion powder, paprika, vegetable bouillon, and optional pepper.
- Sauté until the vegetables soften.
- Add the Abbot's Plant-Rich Chopped Chicken and cook for 5–8 minutes.
- Remove from heat and allow the mixture to cool completely.

3. Combine the Salad

- In a mixing bowl, combine:
- sautéed plant-based chicken mixture
- chopped celery
- chopped carrots
- marinated artichokes
- plant-based mayo
- Mix until evenly coated and well combined.





- **SUBSCRIBE TO OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL:** https://www.youtube.com/@SisterBethy
- **REGISTER TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF OUR MONTHLY NEWSPAPER:** www.coppercoloredchronicals.com