

*Biographies: motive, aim and list*

*Remembering unique Eritrean individuals in  
contemporary history.*

***A wake up call***

Many countries in the world honor their heroes and commemorate them eternally by erecting statues, naming streets, parks, schools, universities and all sorts of institutions in their names. Eritrea has failed to remember its heroes in all spheres of life and fields, including statesmanship, military, scholarships, arts, literature, religion, music and sports. It would be too long to list all the great Eritrean personalities from antiquity to the present. Even the heroes of the last 50 years who have not been recognized and honored are very many.

I believe many will agree with me that Eritrea has many amazing individuals in history who have done something unique to their country in the field of politics, culture, education, sport etc, which we need to remember them for what they have done. It is disheartening though not to see biography books of Eritreans in the library shelves. Lately I have decided to open a section in my website that will be dedicated to the biography of individual Eritreans from all walks of life in history.

To start with I have randomly established a list of possible candidates. These are some I remember the public positively talk about by the word of mouth. Otherwise some of them I am not even sure exactly what they did but they were popular. I therefore ask you all to put additional names to the list and return it to me. The list has to accommodate only individuals who have passed away. In

other words, we will concentrate only on post mortem biographies. I will update the list when I hear from you. But even after receiving your contributions It is possible there could be some names missing. But we do not have to worry about that since the list will remain open all the time for additional names.

If you are positive about this idea and you have the time I would challenge you all to write biographical articles or find individuals who can be interested to write a biography on any in the list. If you come across anyone who has access to information, but not ready to write, you can ask him/her to supply the information to me in any format (paper, diskette, gramophone dish, cassette, videos, photographs etc) so that I can send it to the one who is interested to write.

The size of the file is not important at all. What is important is remembering them and trying to document their history before it disappears all together. The size will be determined only by the amount of information available on these individuals. Of course the individuals in the list must have done something positive for the cause of our country or to the well being of our people and our culture. Eritreans with special talents who made significant positive contributions to other countries are also a source of pride to Eritrea and are included in the list.

This is only the beginning. At this stage all we will be doing is identifying names and encourage our compatriots to write biographical articles. If one has sufficient information it would be a challenge to write a biography book. It does not have to be a fat book. Even a 20 page book should be good enough. So let us all work together to encourage our compatriots to write about their heroes and heroines. Obviously locating close relatives of the individuals in the list could be helpful as they can supply at least personal data and pictures.

Other thoughts that I have and would like to share it with you is that by organizing a fund raising we may be able to motivate capable individual students, teachers and others in Eritrea to take the writing task against a reasonable amount of payment. I would be happy to receive your comments on the practicality of this idea.

Suggested names in alphabetical order. Titles follow names :-

Abraha Medhin, Bashai	Oral poetry
Abraham Deboch	Politics/military
Abraham Tewolde	Politics/military
Abubeker Ahmed and Mohamed Nuri	Politics / military
Agostino Tedla, Aba	Politics/language
Alemayehu Kahsay	Arts, theater & comedy
Aman Andom, General *	Politics / military
Andom Tesfazion (Brigader General)	Military
Asier Gebremedhin	Educator
Ateweberhan Segid	Singer, arts
Azien Yassin	Politics
Bahrenegassi Habtesulus	Politics / military strategy
Bahta Hagos, Degiat *	Politics
Berhane Teclu, Aba	Politics
Berhe Ghebrekidan, Azmatch	Politics
Beyene Kahsay, Grazmach	Politics
Beyene Zahlay, Degazmatch	Politics (designed Eritrean flag in 1947)
De Pertis Nicola	Religion/humanity
Debessay Chirum, Blatta	Oral poetry
Elias Amare	Politics / journalism
Emnetu Temelso	Oral poetry
Fiseha Ghandi	Politics
Gebresellassie Habtu, pastor	Religion
Ghebremedhin Asihiel, Colonel	Politics
Haile Asgede, Bashai	Oral poetry
Hamid Idris Awate*	Politics/military
Haregot Abay, Degiat	City administration/politics
Hassen Ali, Dejazmatch	Politics
Ibrahim Affa	Politics/military
Ibrahim Al-Mukhtar Ahmed Omer, Sheik	Politics and religion
Ibrahim Sultan Ali	Politics
Idris Adum, Kjekkk	Politics
Idris Gelawdios	Politics
Idris Wed Amir	Poet and singer
Kahsay Bahlibi (wedi Libi)	Politics/sports
Kahsay Malu, Blatta	Politics
Kahsu Melkie, Azmatch	Politics
Karl Winqvist (Dr.)	Religion/Literature/Public health

Kebire Abdelqader	Politics
Kidane Kiflu	Politics
Lorenzo Taezaz, Dr.	Politics / diplomacy
Martha Mebrahtu, Dr.	Politics/revolution
Mehari Andemeskel, Degazmatch	Legislator, customary law
Mezgebu Hailu	Oral poetry
Mirach Gudum, Degiat	Politics
Mogos Asgedom	Politics/military
Mohamed Omer Akito	Politics
Mohammed Berhan Qadi (Blatta)	Religion/Politics
Mohammed Said Naud	Politics
Negash Bayraw (Sagla)*	Oral poetry
Nystrom Karl	Religion/humanity
Ogba Michael, Bahri negassi	Politics / military
Omer Qadi	Politics
Osman Saleh Sabe*	Politics
Qadi Mussa Adem	Politics
Rahma Saleh	Female freedom fighter
Reesom Haile Dr.	Literature / poem
Seare Kahsay, Inspector	Educator / politics
Sebhatu Yohannes, Dejazmatch	Politics
Seid Osman Hayot	Politics
Seyum Measho, Grazmatch	Politics
Suleman Ahmed, Haji	Politics
Techlemichael Woldemichael, Sheka	Politics
Tedla Bairu, Dejazmatch	Politics
Teklehaymanot Bokru	Politics / finance
Temelso Qelete, Bashai	Oral poetry
Tesfa Leul, Azmatch	Politics / military
Tesfay Zemichael	Politics
Tesfazghi Kifle, Calsolayo	Politics and religion
Tesfazion Deres, Blatta	Oral poetry
Tessema Asmerom, Raessi	Politics
Teweldemedhin Gebremedhin, pastor*	Religion/languages
Tewoldebrhan Woldeselassie, Aba	Politics/literature
Tibereh Tesfahuney*	Arts/musician/nationalist
Tiquabo Abay, Aba	Oral poetry
Woldeab Woldemariam*	Politics/language/labor movement
Woldegiorgis Gebrekidan, Degiat	Politics
Woldemicael Solomun, Raessi *	Politics

Yemane Ghebremichael (baria)	Arts/musician/nationalist
Yishak Teweldemedhin*	Educator
Yishak Yoseph	Educator/historian
Yohannes Zemichael	Sport
Zeggay Eyassu	Politics/law
Zeineb, Mamma	Politics/poem
Zemicael Ogbamicael	Labour movement
Zerai Deres	Politics / military
Zereabruk Mengesha, Kejazmatch	Politics / military

\*A biography book already exist.

### Suggested names of Institutions

Mahber Theater Asmara	Arts/music/politics
Mahber 7	Politics
Adulis football club	Sport / politics
EriAme sisters	Arts

Cheers,  
Emnetu Tesfay