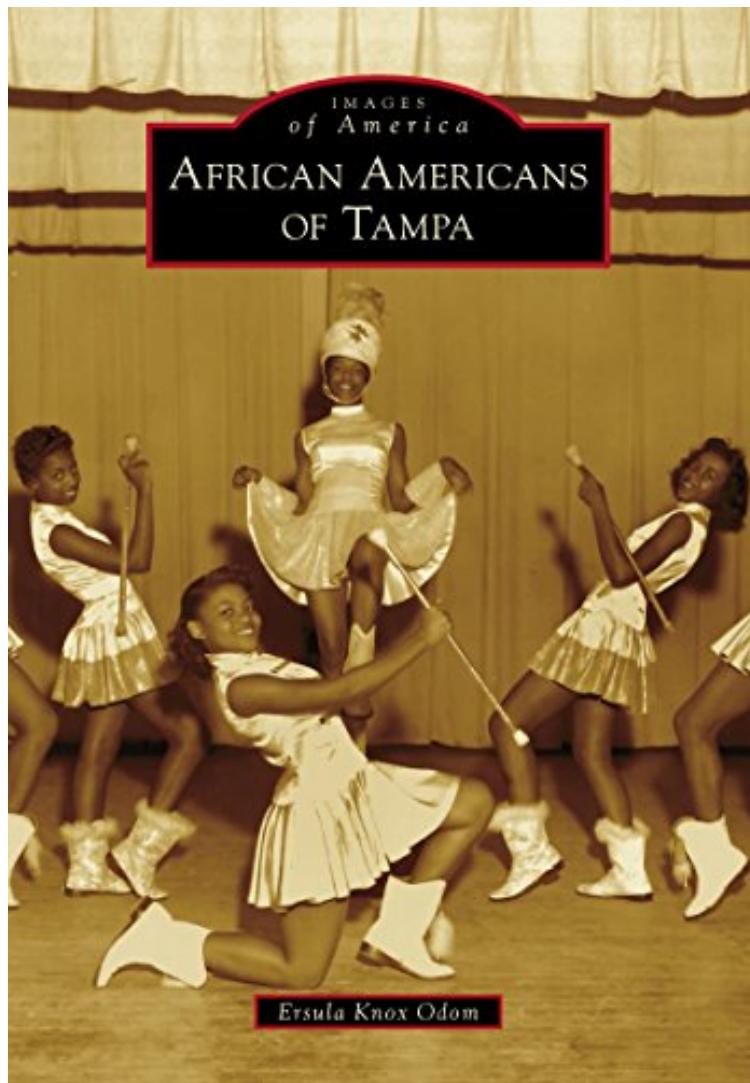


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## African Americans of Tampa (Images of America)

*Ersula Knox Odom*

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**Ersula Knox Odom : African Americans of Tampa (Images of America)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised African Americans of Tampa (Images of America):

Tampa has a fascinating past that has been wonderfully documented with one exception: African Americans. This culturally rich community is virtually invisible in the eyes of history. Tampas population exploded during the early 1900s, and the building boom universally required the skills and talents of African Americans, who provided services, labor, and entrepreneurship in a massive form. They played significant roles in everything from Tampas wilderness era to its boomtown years and were key players in the first and second Seminole Wars with their Seminole alliance.

African American soldiers captured Fort Brooke during the Civil War and fought in the Spanish-American War. Residents have endured Jim Crow, desegregation, and racial unrest yet thrived as entrepreneurs. Black Cubans, as part of the greater African American community, enabled Tampas world-renowned cigar industry. The photographs found in this volume clearly illustrate Tampas social and productive African American community.

**About the Author**  
Ersula Knox Odom is a legacy writer for *Sula Too*. Odom portrays Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune in a production dedicated to her legacy. In addition, she is a longtime member of the Tampa Bay Black Heritage Festival planning committee, a member of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, the Smart Family historian, the host of KEPX Radio's *Princess Memories*, an Eckerd College graduate, and the author of *At Sula's Feet*.