

2011

# Henrietta Lacks and the Miraculous HeLa Cells

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## Recommended Citation

Giboney, Debriana, "Henrietta Lacks and the Miraculous HeLa Cells" (2011). *Natural Sciences Poster Sessions*. 21.  
<https://spark.parkland.edu/nsps/21>

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# Facts About Henrietta

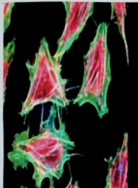
- Henrietta was born August 1, 1920
- Henrietta married her cousin Day
- Henrietta had a sixth or seventh grade education
- Henrietta had her first born at the 14
- Henrietta always painted her fingernails and toenails deep red
- Henrietta's was diagnosed with Epidermoid Carcinoma of the cervix, Stage I
- Henrietta's daughter Elsie died at the age 15, shortly after her death
- Henrietta had walnut eyes, straight white teeth and, full lips
- Henrietta's last wish before she died was to make sure her children were well taken care of
- Henrietta died at 12:15a.m. on October 4, 1951

# HENRIETTA LACKS And The Miraculous HeLa Cells

Her Name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa



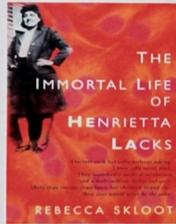
A photo of Henrietta Lacks  
www.rebeccaskloot.com



A photo of Henrietta Lacks cells, also known as HeLa  
www.henriettalacksfoundation.org



Henrietta and her husband David Lacks, 1945  
Scanned from the book



## Here's Your Chance To Donate!!

- If you would like to donate, you can make a donation to the Henrietta Lacks Foundation using a credit card or online bank transfer by clicking the "Donate" button on the website.
- You can also send your donation as a check or money order to: The Henrietta Lacks Foundation  
P.O. Box 6598  
Kennewick, WA 99136-9998 USA
- If you would like to give money to Henrietta's immediate family, you will have to click the "Donate" button using PayPal.

To make a donation go to  
www.henriettalacksfoundation.org

## THE BOOK

"The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks tells a riveting story of the collision between ethics, race, and medicine; of scientific discovery and faith healing; and of a daughter consumed with questions about the mother she never knew." "It's a story inextricably connected to the dark history of experimentation on African Americans, the birth of biotechies, and the legal battles over whether we control the stuff we're made of."

## Photos Of The Lacks Family



The Lacks Family  
www.rebeccaskloot.com  
Scanned from the book



Deborah and her mother Rebecca Skloot, 2009  
www.rebeccaskloot.com



Deborah Lacks and her son Chaz Lacks, Henrietta's Nephew  
www.rebeccaskloot.com

## Timeline

## The Book Pop Culture

| John Hopkins Hospital is Founded   | 1889 | First computer patented  |
|--|------|--|
| Henrietta was born August 1, 1920 in Rowan   | 1920 | On January 16, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority is founded at Howard University  |
| Henrietta dies of an unusually aggressive strain of cervical cancer  | 1951 | On June 23, 1951, CBS broadcast on the very first commercial color TV program  |
| Scientist use HeLa cells to help develop the polio vaccine   | 1952 | May 1, Mr. Potato Head was made  |
| HeLa cells become the first cells ever cloned  | 1953 | June 8 Corrina Scott King and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gets married  |
| Chamber medicine begins to conduct experiments without patient consent to see whether or not injections of HeLa cells could cause cancer   | 1954 | May 17, Supreme court in Brown v. Board of education declares a segregation in all public schools in the U.S.                      |
| The Lacks Family Joins for the first time that Henrietta's cells are still alive   | 1973 | Grammy of the year goes to "Killing Me Softly With His Song," Seals, Green and Charles Ivy, songwriters                            |
| The Lacks family Joins for the first time that Henrietta's cells have been commercialized  | 1975 | Digital Camera was invented by Steven Sasson   |
| Portions of Henrietta's medical records are published without her family's knowledge or consent  | 1985 | USA for Africa, "We Are the World" was recorded of the year (Single)   |
| The RAND Corporation publishes a report with a "conservative estimate" that more than 307 million times more people from more than 175 million people are stored in the United States. The majority of the samples were taken without consent. | 1999 | January 13, after sixteen and six NBA championships, professional basketball star Michael Jordan retires from the game as a player |

## Henrietta Lacks

Henrietta was born August 1, 1920 to Mr. Johnny and Mrs. Loretta Pleasant. "She was a poor black tobacco farmer whose cells were taken without her knowledge in 1951." Henrietta had five children (Lawrence, Elsie, David Jr., Joe and Deborah) She noticed a lump inside her stomach, but had no idea what it could be. She also bleeds even though it wasn't her time of the month. She went down to her local doctor and he just figured it was a sore from syphilis, but the lump tested negative for syphilis. Her local doctor suggested he go to John Hopkins gynecology clinic. Jones had notice the second time around a fully fledged tumor. Few days later Jones get her biopsy results and Henrietta was diagnosed with "Epidermoid carcinoma of the cervix, Stage I." They set her up for radiation treatments. Weeks later Henrietta was charred black from her breast to pelvis. Henrietta went in for surgery, and Dr. Gey ordered them to take samples of her cells without permission. Henrietta grew sicker as the day went by and October 4, 1951 she passed away. "Her Cells ended up becoming one of the most important tools in medicine, vital for developing the polio vaccine, cloning, gene mapping, and more."

## HeLa Cells

There seemed to be nothing special about Henrietta's life, until her cells were taken. Cells were removed from her body without her family's permission. Doctors succeeded in growing her tumor cells in the laboratory. "HeLa cells" which scientist named after Henrietta Lacks has become a medical workhorse, benefiting hundreds of millions of patients thanks to their role in the development of all the discoveries that were made using the HeLa cells." HeLa cells have been alive for 60 years, and they have helped

many people.



The Home House in Clover, Virginia where Henrietta was raised, a four room brick cabin  
www.rebeccaskloot.com

## The Lacks Family

Twenty years had passed before Henrietta's children found out their mother's cells were still alive and had been used to create an entire branch of medical science. They Lacks' family lived in poverty. Many of the Lacks' family suffered many years from their sickness, because they had no money, and health insurance. They were also afraid to go to the hospital because of what happen to their mother. Doctors at Hopkins and other hospitals often abducted black people at night for research. This was the second reason why they never went to the hospital. Scientists investigating HeLa began using Henrietta's husband and children in research without informed consent. "The Lacks family never saw any of the profits, many of her family members struggled with health issues due to going years without health insurance."

## How HeLa Cells Were Used

- Henrietta's cells were part of research into the genes that cause cancer and those that suppress it."
- HeLa Cells helped develop drugs for treating:
  - Herpes
  - Leukemia
  - Influenza
  - Hemophilia
  - Parkinson's Disease
  - Polio
- HeLa has been used to study these researches:
  - Lactose Digestion
  - Mosquito Mating
  - Human Longevity
  - Appendicitis
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases