

Osborn Dorsey

“Invented the Door Stop in 1878”

“Osborn Dorsey was an African-American man who invented the doorknob and doorstop in December of 1878. He successfully obtained a patent for his work in the same year. Because of the time in which he lived and the fact that he was African-American, very little is known about his life. Historians still wonder if the man was born free or if he was a freed slave.

Historians do not know where Dorsey lived or what other inventions he created, if any. Historians do not even know what Dorsey did for a living. Most of the information about Dorsey and his inventions comes from his patent application.

Before Dorsey’s invention people closed and secured doors in a variety of ways. Many people used some type of latch to keep doors closed, whereas others used leather straps as handles. Even after the doorknob was invented it took years for people to embrace them fully and begin installing them on the doors in their homes.

Other important African-American inventors include Alexander Miles, who invented the elevator a few years before Dorsey invented the doorknob. In 1923, Garrett Morgan invented the traffic light. In 1960, inventor extraordinaire Fredrick M. Jones invented the thermostat control.”

Source: Reference

Information Link:

<https://www.reference.com/history/o-dorsey-c2356d21b129dfc1>

Patent Link: <https://patents.google.com/patent/US210764A/en>