

BLACK HISTORY IN BUFFALO: SELECTED SOURCES IN THE GROSVENOR ROOM



MICHIGAN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

511 Michigan Avenue

Built circa 1843

KEY

- * = Oversized book
- Folio = A really oversized book
- GRO = In Grosvenor Room
- NON-FICT = Shelved in the General Non-Fiction Collection
- STACKS = Shelved in Closed Stacks, ask staff to retrieve
- MEDIA = Shelved in Media Room
- Ref. = Reference book, cannot be borrowed

Grosvenor Room
Buffalo and Erie County Public Library
1 Lafayette Square
Buffalo, New York 14203-1887
(716) 858-8900
www.buffalolib.org
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INTRODUCTION

This guide includes resources helpful when researching African-American history in the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library. African-Americans have been a part of Buffalo history since the very beginning, when Joe Hodge, a trader who escaped from slavery, settled on the banks of the Cattaraugus Creek in the 1790s.

Nearly everything listed here can be found in the Grosvenor Room (GRO). Material in the Grosvenor Room does not circulate and cannot be removed from the room. In a few cases, there are duplicate copies of these books that can be borrowed from the General Non-Fiction Collection.

Books are listed in call number order. Shelf locations are always subject to change.

DATABASES	AVAILABILITY	
<p>These databases are available for in-library users or at-home users with B&ECPL library cards. To access B&ECPL databases from home, have your library card number ready and go to the following address: http://dbaz.buffalolib.org/dbaz.php</p>		
	<p>A genealogical research product providing access to more than 1 billion names. Includes city directories, 450 million census records from the U.S. Federal Census between the years 1790 and 1930, immigration, vital, military, court, church and ethnic records. Includes slave narratives and slave census schedules.</p>	<p>Available for walk-in users at every public library in Erie County. No at-home use.</p>
	<p>Contains U.S. federal census records from 1790-1930, family genealogies, local histories, tax lists, city directories, land and probate records, birth, marriage and death records, plus records from the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company, 1865-1874.</p>	<p>For use at any B&ECPL library or from home with a valid Buffalo & Erie County Public Library card number.</p>

DIRECTORIES
<p>The 1828 Buffalo City Directory, the first to be published, has a page in the back listing Coloured People. The next Buffalo directory to be published, 1832, also has a page in the back listing Coloured People. This practice was discontinued in subsequent directories. The 1828 Buffalo directory can be found reproduced in full at the end of the 1876 Buffalo City Directory.</p>
<p>Buffalo *E185.8 .J4 Jefferson Education Center Directory of Opportunities and Services Available to Black and Other Minority Group Residents of Buffalo Buffalo, NY: Jefferson Education Center, 1969</p>
<p>Buffalo E185.8 .J4, Suppl. Feb. 1970 Supplement to Directory of Opportunities and Services Available to Black and Other Minority Group Residents of Buffalo Buffalo, NY: Jefferson Education Center, 1969</p>
<p>Buffalo F127 .N6 N4 Cannon, Essie W. Negro Directory of the Niagara Frontier Buffalo, NY: Niagara Negro Sales Services, Inc., 1958</p>
<p>Buffalo *HD38.25 .U6 W69 1998 Office of Urban Initiatives Minority/Women Business Enterprise Service Provider and Supplier Directory Buffalo, NY: The Office, [1998]</p>
<p>Buffalo HD2346 .U52 C57 1987 City of Buffalo Minority Business Directory and Report [Buffalo, NY: Common Council, 1987?]</p>
<p>Buffalo HF5036 .N4 B6 Black Development Foundation, Buffalo 1971 Black Business Directory [Buffalo, NY: The author, 1971]</p>

LOCAL HISTORY FILE

This card index offers citations for newspaper and magazine articles about people, places, and things in Buffalo. Look up prominent individuals by their last names. Also try these headings.

Afro-Americans
Churches – Baptist – Michigan Street
NAACP
Negroes
Niagara Movement
Slavery
Underground Railroad

NEWSPAPERS & PERIODICALS

Film or Call Number	Title	Dates Available, Notes
F128.9 .N4 A36	<i>Afro-Americans in New York Life and History</i> Buffalo, NY: [Afro-American Historical Association of the Niagara Frontier]	1977 to present in hard copy. Selected articles are indexed in the <i>Local History File</i> .
Film Z129	<i>Buffalo Challenger</i>	Sept 12, 1963 - Dec 25, 1974 film, 1963-2009 Bound, Current issues: open shelf
Film Z162	<i>Buffalo Criterion</i>	1966-1968 on microfilm, 1964-current is boxed. Various years/issues 1954-1987 online at http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/
Film 214	<i>Empire Star</i>	January 1946 to December 1961 on microfilm
Folio E185.5 .F4	<i>Fine Print</i>	August 1973 to December 1978 in hard copy
No call number	<i>The Gazetteer and Guide: Monthly Colored Magazine</i>	A small number of issues from 1906 to 1948 on microfilm in the Grosvenor Room
Buffalo E185.5 .W57	<i>Wire Magazine</i>	1969

ORGANIZATIONS

NOTES

Afro-American Historical Association of the Niagara Frontier
P.O. Box 63
Buffalo, NY 14207
<http://www.aahanf.org/>

Publishes *Afro-Americans in New York Life and History* twice a year.

Buffalo Genealogical Society of the African Diaspora
PO Box 155
Buffalo, NY 14209
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nybgsad/>
BGSAD@verizon.net

Founded in 1997 and meets every second Saturday at the Merriweather Branch Library.

PROMINENT BLACK BUFFALONIANS FILE

- A biographical file about Buffalo-area African-Americans.
- Includes information on organizations.
- References to books, newspaper articles, and other periodical articles.
- Covers mainly the 1950s through the early 1990s, references were added until 2005.
- A photocopy booklet version is available. See a librarian.

SCRAPBOOKS

The Buffalo scrapbooks in GRO were compiled roughly from 1900 to 1960 and are comprised largely of local newspaper clippings and ephemera. All are indexed in the *Local History File*.

The *Local Biographies* series features obituaries and biographical profiles of prominent Buffalonians, including African-Americans. The following scrapbook is of special interest.

*F129 .B8 B69283 v.1 (no subsequent volumes)
Negroes in Buffalo: Clippings, 1930, 1936 & 1940
Buffalo, NY: 1940

SELECTED BOOKS

Most of the following books cannot be borrowed. In some cases, circulating copies can be found in the General Non-Fiction Collection.

Buffalo BR563 .N4 C475 1975
Childs, John Brown
Belief Accessibility Among Three Black Ministers in Buffalo, New York
Thesis--State University of New York at Buffalo, 1975

Buffalo BR563 .N4 C48
Childs, John Brown
The Political Black Minister: A Study in Afro-American Politics and Religion
Boston, MA: G.K. Hall & Co., 1980

Buffalo BX1407 .N4 B76 1997
Brown, Roderick
A Gathering at the River: 150 Years of Black Catholic History in the Diocese of Buffalo
[Buffalo, NY: s.n.], ©1997

Buffalo BX6480 .B83 H68 1997
Michigan Street Baptist Church, Buffalo, NY: Historic Structures Report
Buffalo, NY: Hamilton Houston Lownie Architects, 1997

Buffalo BX8481 .B873 F67
Fordham, Monroe
A History of Bethel A.M.E. Church, Buffalo, New York, 1831-1977
Buffalo, NY: Bethel History Society, 1978

Buffalo E185.8 .N68
Notess, Charles Boris
Access to Jobs and Journeys to Work from the Black Ghetto
[Buffalo, NY]: State University of New York at Buffalo, ©1971

SELECTED BOOKS

Buffalo E185.86 .S6325 2003

Library of Congress

A Small Nation of People: W.E.B. Du Bois and African American Portraits of Progress

New York: Amistad, ©2003

Buffalo E185.93 .N56 B56

Black Hall of Fame Honorees

[Buffalo, NY: Gamma Phi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, 1983?]

Buffalo *E185.93 .N56 C6 1987

Heck, James

Contributions of Blacks in WNY at the Turn of the Century

Buffalo, NY: Department of School Integration, 1987

Buffalo E185.93 .N56 S8 1984

Grantham, R.J. and Gordon, Myra E.

Successful Journeys: Outstanding Afro-Americans of WNY

Buffalo, NY: Tefco Services, Inc., 1984

Buffalo E185.97 .S7 A26

Sostre, Martin

Letters from Prison: A Compilation of Martin Sostre's Correspondence from Erie County Jail, Buffalo, New York; and Green Haven Prison, Stormville, New York

Buffalo, NY: Philosophical Society, 1969

Buffalo E185.97 .S7 M2

McCubbin, Bob

Martin Sostre in Court

Buffalo, NY: Martin Sostre Defense Committee, 1969

Buffalo E445 .J6 H4 1990

Heintzman, Nelson Terry

"Not a Scintilla of Abolition in Buffalo:" The Rise of a Liberty Man as Revealed in the Journals of George Washington Jonson

Thesis (M.S.)--State University of New York at Buffalo, 1990

Buffalo F127 .E6 W25 1978a

Watkins, Ralph Richard

Black Buffalo 1920-1927

Thesis (Ph.D.)--State University of New York at Buffalo, 1978

Buffalo *F129 .B8 B23

Barresi, Charles M.

Residential Invasion and Succession: A Case Study

Thesis M. A.--University of Buffalo, 1959

Buffalo F129 .B8 B2935 1970

Besag, Frank and Cook, Philip

Anatomy of a Riot: Buffalo, 1967

Buffalo, NY: University Press at Buffalo, 1970

Buffalo F129 .B8 C2

Cantillon, Joseph F. ed.

Aggregate or Community: A Study of the Negro Wards on the East Side of Buffalo

[Buffalo, NY: Canisius College], 1965

Buffalo F129 .B8 L7

Locke, Henry

Blacks in Buffalo

Buffalo, NY: Courier Express, 1973

SELECTED BOOKS

Buffalo *F129 .B8 U85 1969

Black Summer 1969

Buffalo, NY: US Now, 1969

Buffalo F127 .E6 W35

Williams, Lillian Serece

The Development of a Black Community, Buffalo, NY, 1900-1940

Ann Arbor, MI: Xerox University Microfilms, ©1979

Buffalo F129 .B853 A227 2002, 3 vols.

Brooks-Bertram, Peggy

Uncrowned Queens: African American Women Community Builders of Western New York

Buffalo, NY: Uncrowned Queens Pub., ©2002

Buffalo F129 .B853 N64 1986

Noles, Eva

Buffalo's Blacks: Talking Proud

Buffalo, NY: E.M. Noles, 1986

Buffalo F129 .B857 K73 2000

Kraus, Neil

Race, Neighborhoods, and Community Power: Buffalo Politics, 1934-1997

Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, ©2000

Buffalo F129 .B89 N4 1990, 2 vols.

Taylor, Henry Louis

African-Americans and the Rise of Buffalo's Post-Industrial City, 1940 to the Present

Buffalo, NY: Buffalo Urban League, 1990

Buffalo F129 .B89 N413 2002

Index and Introduction to the Microfilmed Nash Papers, Rev. Dr. J. Edward, 1868-1957: Pastor, Michigan Avenue Baptist Church (1892-1953) Buffalo, New York

[Buffalo, NY]: Monroe Fordham Regional History Center, Buffalo State College, 2002

Buffalo F129 .B89 N415 1997

70th Anniversary: Buffalo Urban League

[Buffalo, NY: Buffalo Urban League, 1997]

Buffalo F129 .B89 N42 1969

Hanaka, Linda

The Negro During the Depression in Buffalo

[Buffalo, 1969]

Buffalo F129 .B89 N48 1999

Williams, Lillian Serece

Strangers in the Land of Paradise: The Creation of an African American Community, Buffalo, New York, 1900-1940

Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, ©1999

Buffalo *F130 .N3 P3

Powell, Elwin

News from the Aceldama: Black and White Relations in Buffalo as Revealed by the Journal of George Washington Jonson

Buffalo, NY: The author?, 1976

Buffalo HC108 .B8 A6

Andreasen, Alan R.

Inner City Business: A Case Study of Buffalo, New York

New York: Praeger Publishers [1971]

SELECTED BOOKS

Buffalo HD6305 .C7 B9

Buffalo Council of Social Agencies

An Investigation of Negro Employment in Buffalo

[Buffalo, NY: 1941]

Buffalo HD7288.72 .U52 B84 1998

Baer, Susan Elizabeth

Gentrification and the Role of Community Organizations in Preventing African American Displacement

Thesis (Ph. D.)--University of Maryland, College Park, Md., 1998

Buffalo HQ1439.B8 T56 2007

Thomas, Millicent

Move Mountain: The Lived Experiences of African American, Middle Class, Female, Single Parents

Bloomington, IN: Authorhouse, ©2007

Buffalo HT221 .C2c

Carpenter, Niles

Nationality, Color, and Economic Opportunity in the City of Buffalo

Westport, CT: Negro Universities Press [1970]

Buffalo *HV875 .C6

Community Welfare Council of Buffalo and Erie County

Negro Adoptions Project Report

[Buffalo, 1966]

Buffalo HV6248 .S6138 C6

Copeland, Vincent

The Crime of Martin Sostre

New York, McGraw-Hill [1970]

Buffalo LC214.23 .B67 T396 1998

Taylor, Steven J. L.

Desegregation in Boston and Buffalo: The Influence of Local Leaders

Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, ©1998

Buffalo LC220 .L4

Lederman, Alfred

A Case Analysis of the Intersystem Interaction Between an Urban Board of Education and Selected Leaders of the Black Community

Thesis--State University of New York at Buffalo, 1970

Buffalo LC2771 .M67 1998

Mosey, Gerard Joseph

Testing, Tracking, and Curriculum: The Isolation of Black Students in the Buffalo Public Schools from 1917-1956

Thesis (Ph. D.)--State University of New York at Buffalo, 1998

Buffalo T485 .A2 N35 2001

Loos, William H.

The Forgotten "Negro Exhibit:" African American Involvement in Buffalo's Pan-American Exposition, 1901

Buffalo, NY: Buffalo & Erie County Public Library and the Library Foundation of Buffalo & Erie County, [2001?]

SELECTED WEBSITES

<http://www.math.buffalo.edu/~sww/0history/hwny.html>

African American History of Western New York

<http://www.buffaloah.com/h/af/index.html>

History of African-Americans in Buffalo, NY

<http://uncrownedcommunitybuilders.com/>

Uncrowned Community Builders of Western New York [Uncrowned Queens, Kings]

SLAVERY COLLECTION IN THE RARE BOOK ROOM

There are over 600 items in the Slavery Collection* in the Rare Book Room, dating from 1651 to 1945. It is strong in the areas of the abolition of the slave trade in Great Britain; slavery in Jamaica and the West Indies; the American Colonization Society; the Christian Church; debates on slavery; anti-slavery societies; slave narratives; almanacs; speeches. A few titles are available as reprints and may be borrowed. A few items relate to Western New York.

*Items in the collection can be identified by searching the Catalog at www.buffalolib.org. Limit your search to Rare Book Room only (use the drop-down selection) and type in the phrase *RBR Slavery*. You should see items listed with call numbers that begin with RBR SLAVERY.

To request to view specific items from the Slavery Collection by appointment, call 716-858-8900.

VERTICAL FILE

The Vertical Files are folders of loose articles, pamphlets, and clippings. Here are just some of the many relevant subject headings for Black history in Buffalo:

Clubs -- Colored Musicians

Ethnic Groups – African American

Juneteenth Festival

Michigan Street Baptist Church

Negro Convention, 1843

Niagara Movement

Pan American Exposition – Negro Exhibit

Talbert, Mary

VIDEOS	NOTES
Ask for these videos in the Central Library Media Room. They may be borrowed.	
MEDIA E185.93 .N56 C436 2004V [DVD] Newberg, Rich A Change of Course: Taking Destiny in Their Own [Buffalo, NY]: LIN Television Corp., ©2004	Shows how African American churches in Buffalo have addressed the economic, social, and health needs of the community. This is the fourth in a series of documentaries about Black history in Western New York during the 21st century. Thousands attended when the Freedom Schooner <i>Amistad</i> sailed into the Buffalo Harbor. View the cramped quarters where Africans liberated themselves by cutting their chains and killing their oppressors. Their bravery changed the course of the ship and history.
MEDIA E185.93.N56 P76 2005V [DVD] Newberg, Rich The promise of 100 years: the pride of a people [Buffalo, NY]: LIN Television Corp., ©2005	The organized struggle for civil rights in America began in Buffalo, New York in 1905. Hoping to create a great "current of protest," W.E.B. DuBois and fellow activists met at the home of Mary Talbert and voiced their demands for equality by establishing the Niagara Movement. It led to the creation of the N.A.A.C.P. A century later, African Americans in Buffalo's inner city are still struggling with poverty, crime, and unemployment. Many students fall far behind in school because of poor reading skills. See how these challenges are now being addressed, and how African culture is being preserved and promoted through the arts.
MEDIA E445 .N56 T34 2001V [DVD] Tales of the Underground Railroad on the Erie Canal [Buffalo, NY?]: Gribbins Films, ©2004	Local experts discuss the history of fugitive slaves and the Underground Railroad along the Erie Canal.
MEDIA Room F129.B89 N475 2006V [DVD] Newberg, Rich The vision and the victory Buffalo [N.Y.] : LIN Television Corp., c2006	The election of Byron Brown as Buffalo's first African American mayor came 100 years after the nation's modern civil rights movement was born on the Niagara Frontier. The Niagara Movement, which began in 1905, was the forerunner of the NAACP. This report celebrates Brown's historic election and shows how Buffalo's historic role in the struggle for civil rights has received national recognition, including perspectives from former Secretary of State Colin Powell, N.A.A.C.P. Chairman Julian Bond, and Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton.
Frank E. Merriweather Library VID 3793 [VHS] Newberg, Rich Buffalo Soul Buffalo, NY: LIN Television, ©2003	Aging African American musicians reflect on Buffalo's glory days as a great jazz city, highlighting the jam sessions at the Colored Musicians Club. Includes a tribute to the late Al Tinney, one of the founding fathers of modern jazz. The challenges faced by African Americans drawn to Buffalo for job opportunities are examined by Buffalonian Eva Noles, known for breaking the color barrier in the nursing profession.

THE ONLINE CATALOG OF THE B&ECPL

Search the online catalog to find the books, magazines, CDs, videos, maps, and manuscripts owned by the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library. It includes the Grosvenor Room, all departments in the Central Library, and every town and branch library.

To find additional Black History sources in our collection beyond those listed in this guide, try these SUBJECT searches in the catalog: www.buffalolib.org

AFRICAN AMERICAN BUSINESS ENTERPRISES NEW YORK STATE BUFFALO
AFRICAN AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS NEW YORK STATE BUFFALO
AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN NEW YORK STATE BUFFALO
AFRICAN AMERICANS NEW YORK STATE BUFFALO
BLACKS NEW YORK STATE BUFFALO
BUFFALO N Y AFRICAN AMERICANS
BUFFALO N Y ETHNIC RELATIONS
BUFFALO N Y RACE RELATIONS
MINORITIES NEW YORK STATE BUFFALO

FRANK E. MERRIWEATHER LIBRARY: THE WILLIAM A. MILES CENTER FOR AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORY & RESEARCH

1324 Jefferson Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14208
(716) 883-4418

<https://www.buffalolib.org/locations-and-hours> (look for *Frank E. Merriweather*)

The Buffalo Genealogical Society of the African Diaspora meets here every second Saturday.

The Merriweather Library (formerly North Jefferson Library), a branch of B&ECPL, houses the *Center for Afro-American History and Research* collection, the largest resource center in Western New York for African American history. This unique and outstanding collection was established in 1965 by now-retired B&ECPL Assistant Deputy Director William A. Miles, and in 1975, the Afro-American Historical Association of the Niagara Frontier began to incorporate microfilms of primary source material on the history of African Americans in the Western New York area.

In addition to the numerous books, microfilm, and pictures, the collection has several specialized databases and has now acquired a new resource that makes Black Studies research more convenient and robust. The microfiche **Schomburg Clipping File** contains more than 9,000 records that preserve and document important accomplishments in the African American experience. This resource mirrors the black experience, not only in North America, but worldwide. Essentially a periodical and newspaper clipping file, this unique collection also includes typescripts, broadsides, pamphlets, programs, book reviews, menus and various other short publications dealing with black history and culture. The collection is international in scope including countries in Africa and others not normally associated with black culture such as Italy, Russia and Japan. Easy to use and suitable both for ready reference queries or in-depth research.

The **Buffalo African-American Funeral Program and Obituary Collection (1957-2002, bulk 1990-1999)** contains more than 3,000 programs on microfilm. The collection was assembled by the Buffalo Genealogical Society of the African Diaspora. The obituaries are from the *Buffalo Challenger* (1998 and Jan - April 1999), the *Buffalo Criterion* (1998 and Jan - April 1999), and the *Buffalo News* (1998 and 1999). The obituaries are filmed in chronological order for each newspaper. The Grosvenor Room has a copy of the index to the collection:

Buffalo F129.B89 N4126 2002 -- *Index and Introduction to the Microfilmed Buffalo African-American Funeral Program and Obituary Collection*, Volume 1. Buffalo, NY: The Society, 2002. Lists the name, birth year and death year. Only one entry is a death in the 1920s, most are from the 1980s-1990s. Also includes a list of records microfilmed by the Society and available for research at the North Jefferson Branch.

WHERE ELSE CAN I RESEARCH AFRICAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE?	NOTES
<p>Buffalo History Museum’s Research Library 1 Museum Court Buffalo, NY 14216-3199 library@buffalohistory.org 716.873.9644 x 306 https://buffalohistory.org/library-collections/</p>	<p>Has the Rev. Jesse Edward Nash papers; some letters from Booker T. Washington; and more.</p>
<p>Buffalo State College Monroe Fordham Regional History Center History and Social Studies Education Department C 205 Classroom Building 1300 Elmwood Avenue Buffalo, New York 14222-1096 (716) 878-5412 historysse@buffalostate.edu http://www.monroefordham.org/</p>	<p>Microfilmed records of local churches, labor unions, and other organizations, with a focus on African-American history in the Buffalo area</p>
<p>University at Buffalo University Archives 420 Capen Hall Buffalo, NY 14260-1674 (716) 645-2916 lib-archives@buffalo.edu https://library.buffalo.edu/archives/</p>	<p>Owns New York Manumission Society records, ca. 1785-1849 (MS 83); Citizens' Council on Human Relations records, 1955-1992; Lydia T. Wright, (1922-) papers, 1883-1968, 1960-1968; Jonson, George Washington, (1801-1880) : Diaries, 1848, 1857; and more.</p>