

Niagara Movement:

Selected Sources in the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library



Top row, left to right: H. A. Thompson, New York; Alonzo F. Herndon, Georgia; unidentified; unidentified.
 Second row, left to right: Fred McGhee, Minnesota; unidentified boy; J. Max Barber, Illinois; W.E.B. Du Bois, Atlanta;
 Robert Bonner, Massachusetts.
 Bottom Row: left to right: Henry L. Baily, Washington, D.C.; Clement G. Morgan, Massachusetts; W.H.H. Hart,
 Washington, D.C.; and B.S. Smith, Kansas.

Key

*	= Oversized book
Buffalo	= Buffalo Collection
GRO	= Grosvenor Collection
MEDIA	= Media Room
Non-Fiction	= General Collection at the Central Library
Ref.	= Reference book
Stacks	= Closed Stacks, ask librarian for retrieval

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 Buffalo and Erie County Public Library
 1 Lafayette Square
 Buffalo, NY 14203-1887
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www.buffalolib.org
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Introduction

W.E.B. Du Bois and William Monroe Trotter convened the first meeting of the Niagara Movement on July 11-14, 1905, in Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada. Thirty African-American intellectuals and activists who opposed Booker T. Washington's "accommodationist" program attended the meeting. In a time when "Jim Crow" laws prevailed in the South, Washington believed that education, hard work and peaceful acceptance of black segregation and disfranchisement could elevate African-American rights and privileges to those of whites.

Du Bois rejected this passive approach. To further his cause, Du Bois elected to organize those who would stand strong and speak out against any form of race discrimination. By 1911, the Niagara Movement was in decline and Du Bois urged members to commit their energies to the newly created NAACP.

A Buffalo connection: Just prior to the official meeting in Fort Erie, an organizing gathering was held at the home of Mary and William Talbert on Michigan Avenue in Buffalo. Du Bois had written to William in June of 1905 seeking assistance arranging a quiet place for the meeting.

Few primary sources on the Niagara Movement are available as the media did little reporting. Published documents were usually in pamphlet form and were seldom archived.

A great source for original documents is online through the Special Collections and University Archives, University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries

Digital Collection:

W. E. B. Du Bois Papers, 1803-1999 (*bulk* 1877-1963)

<http://credo.library.umass.edu/view/collection/mums312>

The research material in this guide is held in the Grosvenor Room or the Non-Fiction collection at the Central Library. Material in the Grosvenor Room cannot be borrowed and cannot be removed from the room. Books from the General Non-Fiction collection can be borrowed.

Books

GRO Buffalo E185.97 .D73 B3 1972

Bambacus, John Nicholas

W.E.B. Du Bois and the Niagara Movement [thesis]

Morgantown, WV: West Virginia University, 1972

Non-Fiction E185.97.D73 A3 2007

Du Bois, W.E.B.

The autobiography of W.E.B. Du Bois :A soliloquy on viewing my life from the last decade of its first century

Oxford; New York : Oxford University Press, c2007.

Stacks Non-Circulating E185.97 .W274 1999, v.8 (see index)

Washington, Booker T.

The Booker T. Washington Papers

Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, ©1979-1989

Stacks E185.98 .O95 W44 1998

Wedin, Carolyn

Inheritors of the Spirit: Mary White Ovington and the Founding of the NAACP

New York: Wiley, ©1998

Articles & Essays

"*The Platform of the Niagara Movement*," "*The Platform of The Outlook*," and "*The Negro Problem: Booker Washington's Platform*," in:

Non-Fiction Ref. *E169.1 .A471977 2004, 1900-1909, pp. 472-475

Rose, Cynthia, ed.

American Decades Primary Sources

Detroit, MI: Gale, ©2004

"*The Niagara Movement*," by Elliott Rudwick, in:

Stacks Non-Circulating E185 .J86 v. 42, no. 3, pp. 177-200

Journal of Negro History, July 1957

"*Booker T. Washington and the 1905 Niagara Movement Conference*," by Christopher E. Forth, in:

Stacks Non-Circulating E185 .J86 v. 72, no. 3/4, pp. 45-56

Journal of Negro History, Summer/Autumn 1987

"*The Niagara Movement: Buffalo's Turning Point in Black History*," by Mary-Louise Clark, in:

GRO Buffalo *E185.93 .N56 C6 1987, pp. 72-97

Heck, James III, ed.

Contributions of Blacks in Western New York at the Turn of the Century

Buffalo, NY: Buffalo Public Schools, 1987

"*Afterword: From Pan-Am Protests to the Niagara Movement: The Buffalo Connection*," by Barbara A. Seals Nevergold, in:

GRO Buffalo F129 .B853 A227 2002 v. 3, pp. 164-181

Brooks-Bertram, Peggy

Uncrowned Queens: African American Women Community Builders

Buffalo, NY: Uncrowned Queens Institute, ©2005

Local History File

This is a card index of newspaper and periodical articles about people, places, and things in the Buffalo area. Many additional articles are found under these headings:

- Niagara Movement
- Talbert, Mary

Newspapers and Periodicals

The following journals were written and published by African-Americans during and immediately after the founding of the Niagara Movement. All either discuss it or are good sources for understanding events and opinions during the period.

Call Number/ Location	Title	Dates We Have
Stacks Non-Circulating E185.5 .C6	The Colored American Magazine. See also index below.	Vols. 1-17, no. 5; May 1900-Nov. 1909
Stacks Non-Circulating E185.5 .C6 R67	Analytical Guide and Indexes to the <i>Colored American</i> magazine	2 vols., 1900-1919
Stacks Non-Circulating *E185.5 .C92	The Crisis	Nov. 1910-1940, 1954-1997
Stacks Non-Circulating E185.5 .V88	Voice of the Negro. See also index below.	Vols. 1-4, 1904-1907
Stacks Non-Circulating E185.5 .V6 R67	Analytical Guide and Indexes to the <i>Voice of the Negro</i>	1904-1907

Vertical Files

Articles, pamphlets, and other brief publications are collected in these files.

- Niagara Movement
- Talbert, Mary B.

Video

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

Now available in our Digital Collections:
<http://digital.buffalolib.org/document/1838>

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.

Further Resources at BECPL

<http://www.buffalolib.org> → **Library Catalog**

Search the online catalog to find books, magazines, CDs, videos, maps, and other materials owned by the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library. It includes all departments in the Central Library and every BECPL branch.

To find additional items in our collection beyond those listed in this guide, try these **Subject** searches in the catalog:

- Du bois w e b william edward burghardt 1868-1963
- National association for the advancement of colored people
- Trotter william monroe 1872-1934

William A. Miles Center for Afro-American History and Research at the Frank E. Merriweather Library

Frank E. Merriweather Library
1324 Jefferson Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14208
(716) 883-4418

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

The Merriweather Library (formerly the 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 flat 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.

The *Schomburg Clipping File* 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. An important source for research into all aspects of black activities and accomplishments, the file brings together a huge diversity of material organized by subject and totaling almost a million pages not duplicated elsewhere.

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 *Schomburg Clipping File* is a valuable and unusual research tool for the study of the African American experience.

Websites

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

African American History of Western New York

<http://www.buffaloah.com/h/niag.html>

Evitts, William

The Niagara Movement

Where else can I research the Niagara Movement?

W. E. B. Du Bois Papers, 1803-1999 (*bulk* 1877-1963)

Special Collections and University Archives, University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries

Digital Collection: <http://credo.library.umass.edu/view/collection/mums312>