

Resources on the History of Black Boston

with General Resources on Boston's Black Community

Last updated 10/31/2019

Adams, Catherine, and Elizabeth H. Pleck. *Love of Freedom: Black Women in Colonial and Revolutionary New England*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.

Barker Gordon S. *The Imperfect Revolution: Anthony Burns and the Landscape of Race in Antebellum America*. Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 2010.

After the Anthony Burns confrontations and protests, no fugitive slave would be captured in Boston again, but Barker explores the complex diversity of views of the times.

Bergeson-Lockwood, Millington W. *Race Over Party: Black Politics and Partisanship in Late Nineteenth Century Boston*. Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press, 2018.

Blatt, Martin H., Thomas J. Brown, and Donald Yacovone, editors. *Hope and Glory: Essays on the Legacy of the 54th Massachusetts Regiment*. Amherst, Mass.: University of Massachusetts Press, 2001. (With the support of the Massachusetts Historical Society).

Carretta, Vincent. *Phillis Wheatley: A Biography of a Genius in Bondage*. Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 2011.

Collison, Gary L. *Shadrach Minkins: From Fugitive Slave to Citizen*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1997.

Cooper, Valerie C. *Word, Like Fire: Maria Stewart, the Bible, and the Rights of African Americans*. Charlottesville, Vir.: University of Virginia Press, 2011.

Cooper describes the importance of the Bible and Christian faith in Maria Stewart's life, in her writing, and in the causes she championed (abolitionism).

Cromwell, Adelaide M. *The Other Brahmins: Boston's Black Upper Class 1750-1950*. Fayetteville, Ark.: University of Arkansas Press, 1995.

Daniels, John. *In Freedom's Birthplace: A Study of the Boston Negroes*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1914. (Reprinted: New York: Johnson Reprint Corp., 1968 and in 2010 by Nabu Press).

Bruce, Dickson D., Jr. *Archibald Grimke: Portrait of a Black Independent*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1993.

Grimke, a nephew of the Grimke sisters, was an influential lawyer, journalist, writer, and political leader in Boston and Washington, D.C. He was a Harvard Law School graduate and wrote biographies of William Lloyd Garrison, and Charles Sumner.

Farrow, Anne, Joel Lang, and Jenifer Frank. *Complicity: How the North Promoted, Prolonged, and Profited from Slavery*. New York: Ballantine Books, 2005.

Formisano, Ronald P. *Boston Against Busing: Race, Class, and Ethnicity in the 1960s and 1970s*. Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press, 1991.

Fox, Stephen R. *The Guardian of Boston : William Monroe Trotter*. New York: Atheneum, 1970.

Gamm, Gerald. *Urban Exodus: Why the Jews Left Boston and the Catholics Stayed*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2001.

A well-researched book on the dynamics of racial change in Roxbury, Dorchester and Mattapan. This analysis gives extensive support for a different interpretation of the transitions than Levine and Harmon's book.

Greenridge, Kerri. *Boston's Abolitionists*. Beverly, Mass.: Commonwealth Editions, 2006.

Greene, Lorenzo Johnston. *The Negro in Colonial New England, 1620- 1776*. Port Washington, N.Y.: Kennikat Press, 1942. Reprint: Eastford, Conn.: Martino Fine Books, 2016.

Grover, Kathryn, and Janine V. da Silva. *Historic Resource Study Boston African American National Historic Site*. Boston: African American National Historic Site, National Park Service, 2002. 264 pages.
<http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.174.1345&rep=rep1&type=pdf>

Hardesty, Jared Ross. *Unfreedom: Slavery and Dependence in Eighteenth-Century Boston*. New York: New York University Press, 2016.

Harris, George. "Boston Colored People." *Colored American* 14, no.1 (January 1908):28-31.

Hayden, Robert C. *African-Americans in Boston: More Than 350 Years*. Boston, Mass.: Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston, 1992.
[<https://bit.ly/31SrawB>]

Hopkins, Pauline. *Contending Forces: A Romance Illustrative of Negro Life North and South*. Introduction by Richard Yarborough. New York: Oxford University Press, 1988.

Hopkins, Pauline. *The Magazine Novels of Pauline Hopkins: (Including Hagar's Daughter, Winona, and Of One Blood.)* Introduction by Hazel V. Carby. New York: Oxford University Press, 1988.

See also the following secondary works and resources on Pauline Hopkins:

Brown, Lois. Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins: *Black Daughter of the Revolution*. *Gender and American Culture Series*. Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press, 2008. 704 pages.

Gruesser, John, editor. *The Unruly Voice: Rediscovering Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins*. Champaign, Ill.: University of Illinois, 1996.

Wallinger, Hanna. *Pauline E. Hopkins: A Literary Biography*. Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 2005.

Knight, Alisha R.. *Pauline Hopkins and the American Dream: An African American Writer's (Re)Visionary Gospel of Success*. Knoxville, Tenn.: University of Tennessee Press, 2012.

Digital copies of Pauline Hopkin's *New Era Magazine* – available online at:
<http://www.paulinehopkinsociety.org/new-era-magazine/>

Digital copies of *The Colored American Magazine* – available online at:
<http://coloredamerican.org/>

The Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins Society- <http://www.paulinehopkinsociety.org/>

Horton, James Oliver, and Lois E. Horton. *Black Bostonians: Family Life and Community Struggle in the Antebellum North*, rev. ed. New York: Holmes & Meier Publishers, 2000.

Horton, James Oliver, and Lois E. Horton. *In Hope of Liberty: Culture, Community and Protest Among Northern Free Blacks, 1700-1860*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997.

Although not specifically on Boston, this book does cover people, events, and organizations related to Boston.

Jacobs, Donald M. "Black Boston: African American Life and Culture in Urban America, 1750-1860." *The William and Mary Quarterly* 52, no.3 (July 1995): 557+.

Jacobs, Donald M. "A History of the Boston Negro from the Revolution to the Civil War." Ph.D. dissertation, Boston University, 1968. Available through Proquest.

Jacobs, Donald M. *While the Cabots Talked to God: Racial Conflict in Antebellum Boston: The Black Struggle, 1825-1861*. American University Studies Series IX: History. New York: P. Lang, 1996.

Jacobs, Donald M., editor. *Courage and Conscience: Black and White Abolitionists in Boston*. Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 1993.

Jacobs, Harriet. *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl Written by Herself*. Boston: For the Author, 1861. Second Norton Critical Edition edited by Frances Smith Foster and Richard Yarborough. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2018. See also: Yellin, Jean Fagin. *Harriet Jacobs: A Life*. New York: Basic Civitas Books, 2004.

The detailed research in this excellent biography paints a full picture of life in Boston's Black community in the 1840s and 1860s when Harriet lived in Boston and Cambridge. She was an author, speaker, and social reformer. Her book "was the most widely read woman's slave narrative of all time" (cover).

Johnson, Violet Showers. *The Other Black Bostonians: West Indians in Boston 1900-1950*. Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2006.

Kantrowitz, Stephen. *More Than Freedom: Fighting for Black Citizenship in a White Republic, 1829-1889*. New York: The Penguin Press, 2012.

Describes how Black and White activists in greater Boston campaigned for not only emancipation, but also full citizenship for African Americans.

Kendrick, Stephen, and Paul Kendrick. *Sarah's Long Walk: The Free Blacks of Boston and How their Struggle for Equality Changed America*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2004.

King, Mel. *Chain of Change: Struggles for Black Community Development*. Boston: South End Press, 1981.

Lehr, Dick. *The Birth of a Movement: How Birth of a Nation Ignited the Battle for Civil Rights*. New York: Public Affairs, Perseus Books, 2014. (This is the title of the paperback edition: The hardback edition was titled, *The Birth of a Nation: How a Legendary Filmmaker and a Crusading Editor Reignited America's Civil War*).

This book focuses on William Monroe Trotter's efforts to protest the movie in Boston.

Levesque, George E. *Black Boston: African American Life and Culture in Urban America, 1750-1860*. New York: Garland, 1994. Reprint, New York: Routledge, Taylor and Francis, 2018.

Levine, Hillel, and Lawrence Harmon. *Death and Life of an American Jewish Community*. New York: Free Press, 1992.

While this book focuses mostly on Boston's Jewish community, the community changes also involved Boston's black community and housing issues.

Levy, Leonard W., and Douglas L Jones, eds. *Jim Crow in Boston: The Origin of the Separate but Equal Doctrine*. New York: DeCapo Press, 1974.

Maltz, Earl M. *Fugitive Slave on Trial: The Anthony Burns Case and Abolitionist Outrage*. Landmark Law Cases and American Society. Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 2010.

Melish, Joanne Pope. *Disowning Slavery: Gradual Emancipation and "Race" in New England, 1780-1860*. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 1998.

Masur, Louis P. *The Soiling of Old Glory: The Story of a Photograph that Shocked America*. New York: Bloomsbury Press, 2008.

Miller, Melvin B., editor. *Boston's Banner Years: 1965–2015: A Saga of Black Success*. Bloomington, Ind.: Archway Publishing, 2018.

Piersen, William Dillon. *Black Yankees: The Development of an Afro-American Subculture in Eighteenth-Century New England*. Amherst, Mass.: University of Massachusetts Press, 1988.

While this work covers all of southern New England, much of the material is relevant to Boston and its black community. Piersen's book gives one perspective on the extent of African cultural survival in New England.

Pleck, Elizabeth Hafkin. *Black Migration and Poverty: Boston 1865-1900*. New York: Academic Press, 1979.

Quintal, George, Jr. *Patriots of Color: African Americans and Native Americans at Battle Road and Bunker Hill*. Boston: Division of Cultural Resources, Boston National Historical Park, 2004.

Richardson, Marilyn. *Maria W. Stewart: America's First Black Woman Political Writer*. Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1987.

Maria Stewart was a writer, outspoken speaker, and abolitionist. Her book, *Religion and the Pure Principles of Morality*, was published in 1832. Her spiritual meditations and some of her speeches were also published.

Roses, Lorraine Elena. "Boston Black History: After Abolition: The New Century." Wellesley College. 2006. Accessed 25 June 2019.

http://academics.wellesley.edu/AmerStudies/BostonBlackHistory/history/intro_beyond.html

Roses, Lorraine Elena. *Black Bostonians and the Politics of Culture, 1920-1940*. Amherst, Mass.: University of Massachusetts Press, 2017.

Schneider, Mark R. "The Colored American and Alexander's Boston's Pro-Civil Rights Bookerites." *Journal of Negro History* 80 (1995): 157-169.

Sewall, Samuel. "The Selling of Joseph: A Memorial." Boston: Bartholomew Green, and John Allen, 24 June 1700.

<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1026&context=etas>

https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/The_Selling_of_Joseph

The first anti-slavery tract. This was written by Judge Samuel Sewall with biblical refutations of common arguments in favor of slavery.

Sichel, Kim. *Black Boston: Documentary Photography and the African American Experience*. Boston University Art Gallery. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1994.

Sokol, Jason. *All Eyes are Upon Us: Race and Politics from Boston to Brooklyn*. New York: Basic Books, 2014. Reprint, Amherst, Mass.: University of Massachusetts Press, 2017.

Spotlight Team, Boston Globe. "Boston. Racism. Image. Reality." December 2017.

<https://apps.bostonglobe.com/spotlight/boston-racism-image-reality>

"Spotlight Journalists Illuminate Boston's Unique Racial Disparities." PBS Newshour, 26 December 2017.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iBAHxErk1eo>

Strangis, Joel. *Lewis Hayden and the War Against Slavery*. New Haven, Conn.: Shoestring Press, 1999.

Von Frank, Albert J. *The Trials of Anthony Burns: Freedom and Slavery in Emerson's Boston*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1998.

Walker, David. *Walker's Appeal in Four Articles Together with a Preamble to the Coloured Citizens of the World*. Boston: David Walker, 1829. (3rd edition 1830).

The *Appeal* is freely available in various places online. A facsimile of the 3rd edition can be accessed at Google books - Bedford, Mass.: Applewood Books reprint. There is an edition edited with a new introduction and annotations by Peter Hinks, published by Pennsylvania State University Press, 2000.

See also: Hinks, Peter P. *To Awaken My Afflicted Brethren: David Walker and the Problem of Antebellum Slave Resistance*. University Park, Penn.: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1997. Also, Aptheker, Herbert. *One Continual Cry: David Walker's Appeal to the Coloured Citizens of the World (1829-1830): Its Setting and Its Meaning*. New York: Humanities Press, 1965. Also useful is the David Walker Memorial website with information on "Black Boston" of the time.
<http://www.davidwalkermemorial.org/home>

Warren, Wendy. *New England Bound: Slavery and Colonization in Early America*. New York: Liveright Publishing, W. W. Norton and Company, 2016.

Wesley, Dorothy Porter, and Constance Porter Uzelac, eds. *William Cooper Nell: Nineteenth-Century African-American Abolitionist, Historian, Integrationist: Selected Writings from 1832-1874*. Baltimore: Black Classic Press, 2002.

William Cooper Nell was one of the most influential African American leaders in Boston in the 19th century. Some of his letters and books are available online at the Internet Archive, including: *The Colored Patriots of the American Revolution*. Boston: Robert F. Wallcut, 1855 and *Services of Colored Americans in the Wars of 1776 and 1812*. New York: Prentiss and Sawyer, 1851.

Wheatley, Phillis. *Complete Writings*. Edited and introduced by Vincent Carretta. New York: Penguin Books, 2001. Wheatley's *Poems on Various Subjects: Religious and Moral* was originally published in London in 1773. (She was a Bostonian.)