AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY RESEARCH GUIDE

This guide includes references to published and some primary source materials of interest for African American history research that are available in the Kiplinger Research Library. Titles may be listed under more than one subject heading. The library holds other manuscripts and archives, maps, newspaper clipping files, ephemera, prints, and photographs that may be of interest for researching Washington’s African American community. Please consult the library’s online catalog at [http://www.historydc.org/](http://www.historydc.org/). Additional questions may be directed to library staff at library@historydc.org.

For published materials, the library generally uses Library of Congress classification, with some exceptions. Call numbers consisting of a “P” followed by a number are in-house cataloging references to the library’s collection of pamphlets and booklets that are not currently cataloged using Library of Congress classification. Items identified as “reports” include student papers, essays, and lectures.

| I) Bibliographies, General History and Historiography | 2 |
| II) Autobiography, Biography, and Genealogy | 2 |
| III) African-American Experience and Race Relations | 5 |
| A) Pre-Civil War/Slavery | 5 |
| B) Civil War, Emancipation and Reconstruction | 7 |
| C) Post Reconstruction/20th Century Civil Rights | 9 |
| IV) African-American Culture and Community | 11 |
| A) Business/Economics | 11 |
| B) Charitable Organizations | 11 |
| C) Clubs/Professional Associations | 12 |
| D) Education | 12 |
| E) Housing/Neighborhoods | 14 |
| F) Military | 15 |
| G) Politics and Government | 16 |
| H) Religion | 16 |
| I) Social/Cultural Life | 18 |
| J) Women’s History | 19 |
| V) Historic Sites/Memorials | 20 |
| VI) Fiction / Poetry | 20 |
I) Bibliographies, General History and Historiography


Green, Constance McLaughlin. The secret city: a history of race relations in the Nation’s Capital (1967) F205 .N4G7


Historical Records Survey, D.C. Calendar of the writings of Frederick Douglass in the Frederick Douglass Memorial Home, Anacostia, D.C. (1940) Z6616 .D7 H57


II) Autobiography, Biography, and Genealogy


Allen, Will W. and Daniel Murray. Banneker, the Afro-American astronomer. (1921) QB36 .B22 A4


Bedini, Silvio A. The life of Benjamin Banneker. (1972) QB36 .B22 B4
Eliot, William G. The story of Archer Alexander, from slavery to freedom, March 30, 1863. (Reprint of 1885 edition)  P 1321
Keckley, Elizabeth. Behind the scenes, or thirty years a slave, and four years in the White House (Reprint of 1868 edition.)  E457.15 .K26

Litwack, Leon and Meier, August, eds. *Black leaders of the nineteenth century.* E185.96 .B535


Northup, Simon. *Twelve years a slave.* (Reprint of 1853 edition; includes account of Northrup’s kidnapping and sale into slavery in Washington City in 1841). E444 .N87

O’Connor, Ellen M. *Myrtilla Miner, a memoir.* (1885) LC2853 .W413


Parks, Lillian Rogers. Lillian Rogers Parks papers, 1939-1997. MS 575

Pickens, William. *Nannie Burroughs and the school of the three B’s.* (1921; re: Nannie Helen Burroughs and the National Training School for Women and Girls) LA255 .B3 P78 1921


Simmons, William J. *Men of mark: eminent, progressive and rising.* (1891) E185.96 .S5


Sluby, Paul E. *The collected papers of Solomon James Johnson.* (ca. 1973; Johnson was a barber to Abraham Lincoln and the first African-American clerk to work for the U.S. Treasury Department). P 2444
F193 .S5827 1984

Sluby, Paul E. Newspaper obituary clippings from the Baltimore Afro-American and the 


F193 .S584

Sluby, Paul E. Selected small cemeteries of Washington, D.C.  (1987; includes list of interments at 
Union Baptist Cemetery) )  F193 .S583 1987

Sluby, Paul E. and Stanton L. Wormley, comp. Blacks in the marriage records of the District of 


Woodson, Carter G. The Wormley family.  (1948)  P 2948

Wormley, Stanton L. et. al. Wormley-Wormley, ca. 1160-1991: the father-to-son lineage of 

III) African-American Experience and Race Relations
(arranged chronologically by time period)

A) Pre-Civil War/Slavery

American Anti-Slavery Society. “Slave market of America.” (1836; broadside)  B 0027


(1992)  E185 .F8

Brooke, Edmund. Memorial of Edmund Brooke, praying that a bill may pass to allow him to 
bring some of his servants from Virginia to his farm in the District of Columbia.  (1833)  
P 3300

E185.93 .D6 B69


Bryan, W.B. “A Fire in an Old-time F Street Tavern and What It Revealed,” Records of the 
Columbia Historical Society 9 (1906; details the use of tavern as a slave prison): 198- 
215. F191 .C72

Callcott, Margaret Law, ed. Mistress of Riversdale: the plantation letters of Rosalie Stier 


Clephane, Walter C. “The Local Aspect of Slavery in the District of Columbia.” Records of the 
Columbia Historical Society 3 (1900): 224-256.  F191 .C72


District of Columbia. The slavery code of the District of Columbia … (1862)  P 1404


District of Columbia. Citizens. Memorial of a number of the citizens of the District of Columbia, adverse to any legislation on the part of Congress, on the subject of slavery in said District. (1839)  P 0677

Douglass, Frederick. Narrative of the life of Frederick Douglass, an American slave, written by himself. (Reprint of 1845 edition.) E449 .D7 46

Eliot, William G. The story of Archer Alexander, from slavery to freedom, March 30, 1863. (Reprint of 1885 edition)  P 1321

Gales, Joseph. “A proclamation concerning Negroes, Mulattoes, and slaves.” (1827; broadside announcing imposition by D.C. government of curfew and laws restricting assembly) B 0022


Keckley, Elizabeth. Behind the scenes, or thirty years a slave, and four years in the White House (Reprint of 1868 edition) E457.15 .K26


Northup, Simon. *Twelve years a slave.* (Reprint of 1853 edition; includes account of Northrup’s kidnapping and sale into slavery in Washington City in 1841). E444 .N87

O’Connell, Daniel. *Liberty or slavery?* (1843) E449 .019

Paynter, John H. *Fugitives of the Pearl.* (1930) PZ3 .P2938


African American History Resources.doc, rev. 6/07


Taverns, Alexander. *Alexander Taverns papers, 1842-1852.* (1852; documents related to Taverns’ pursuit of freedom for his sister Jane, including her freedom pass). MS 244


Wilson, Henry. *History of the rise and fall of the slave power in America.* (1875-1877) E441 .W55

Young, George W. *“100 reward.”* (1858; handbill re: Sophia Gordon, an escaped slave) B 0023

B) Civil War, Emancipation and Reconstruction

Alvord, J[ohn]. W[ratson]. *Letters from the South relating to the condition of the freedmen.* (1870) E185.2 A47


Chase, Salmon P. *Authentic speeches of S. P. Chase, Secretary of the Treasury, during his visit to Ohio, with his speeches at Indianapolis, and at the mass meeting in Baltimore.* (1863) E459 .C485

Chase, Salmon P. *Letter from Hon. S. P. Chase, Secretary of the Treasury, to the Loyal National League.* (1863) E458.3.C48


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Eliot, William G.  The story of Archer Alexander, from slavery to freedom, March 30, 1863.  (Reprint of 1885 edition.)  P 1321


Reidy, Joseph P.  Coming from the shadow of the Past: The transition from slavery to freedom at Freedmen’s Village, 1863-1900.  (1987) P 3627


United States Treasury Department.  Emancipation in the District of Columbia.  (1864; report of the commissioners related to emancipated slaves in D.C.; includes names of claimants and slaves).  P 1403

C) Post Reconstruction/20th Century Civil Rights


Cherkasky, Mara. Slices of the pie: Black and White Dupont Circle from the 1920s to the 1950s. (1985)  P 3179


Goldfield, David R. Black, White, and Southern: race relations and Southern culture, 1940 to the present. (1990)  E185.61 .G584


Hayes, George E.C.  *George E. C. Hayes Papers, 1922-1956.* Civil Rights Lawyer involved in *Bolling vs. Sharpe* case, part of the landmark *Brown vs. Board of Ed. Cases.*  MS 506


Inter-racial Committee of the District of Columbia.  . Keep ’em alive, they’re useful: a few peeks and pecks at health conditions for Negroes in the Capital of the nation. (ca. 1940)  P 1349

Inter-racial Committee of the District of Columbia.  No Negro need apply; a brief glance at the employment situation in the District of Columbia as related to Colored citizens. (ca. 1940)  P 0358


Silberman, Charles E.  The city and the Negro, reprinted through the courtesy of the editors of *Fortune.*  (1962)  F205 .N4 S32


United States. President's Committee on Civil Rights.  *To secure these rights: report of the President’s Committee on Civil Rights.*  (1947)  P 1561


IV) **African-American Culture and Community** 
(arranged alphabetically by subject)

**A) Business/Economics**

Butcher, James W. *James W. Butcher Papers, 1910-1949*. MS 507 (Craftsman; entrepreneur; “Butcher-Built Dollhouses”).


The first colored professional, clerical, skilled, and business directory of Baltimore city, with Washington, D.C. and Annapolis index. F192.5 .B 1918-1919


Freedman’s Savings and Trust Company. The charter and by-laws of the Freedman’s Savings and Trust Company: a national savings bank, incorporated by Congress, March 1865. (1872) P 0065


Inter-racial Committee of the District of Columbia. No Negro need apply; a brief glance at the employment situation in the District of Columbia as related to Colored citizens. (ca. 1940) P 0358


Simm’s blue book and national Negro business and professional directory. (1923) E185.82 .S592 1977


**B) Charitable Organizations**


Crispus Attucks Relief Association. Directory of officers, members and examining physicians of the Crispus Attucks Relief Association and annual report of the board of directors. (1904) P 0044

Freedman’s Relief Association. *Annual report*. (1864) P 0623

National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women & Children. *Annual report... for year ending January 1...* (1864-1893; selected issues) P 0039

St. Monica's League. *St. Anna's Home for aged colored women.* (ca. 1925) P 0622


Westwood, Howard C. “The Freedmen’s Bureau.” (ca. 1975) Reports

C) Clubs/Professional Associations


D) Education

American Friends Service Committee. *Integration of Washington schools.* (1954) P 1467


Cooke, Paul Phillips. *Mary Church Terrell: a tribute.* (1978) [Presented at the dedication of the Mary Church Terrell Elementary School.] P 0508


District of Columbia. Board of Trustees of Public Schools. *Report of the Board of Trustees of Public Schools of the District of Columbia to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia.* (1856-1899; includes reports on and images of Black schools) **L134 .B13** [see also L134 .B14]

District of Columbia. Board of Commissioners. History of schools for the colored population of the District of Columbia. (1871) **P 1007**


Dyson, Walter. *The founding of Howard University.* (1921) **LC2851 .H825**


Freedmen’s Hospital School of Nursing. *The Freedmen's Hospital School of Nursing, 1894-1973.* (1973) **P 1665**


Hansen, Carl F. *Danger in Washington: The story of my twenty years in the public schools in the nation’s capital* (1968) **LB2819 .H24 D2**


Howard University. *Annual report* (1867-1868) **Z733 .W31 A3**

Howard University School of Medicine. Howard University Medical Department, Washington, D.C.: a historical biographical and statistical souvenir. (1900) **R747.H723 A5 1900**


Hutchinson, Louise Daniel. *Anna J. Cooper: A voice from the South.* (1991; biography of teacher at Preparatory School for Colored Youth and Frelinghuysen University president) **F205 .N4 C664**

Inter-racial Committee of the District of Columbia. The color line in our public schools; a study of the distribution of school funds and school opportunities between Negroes and Whites in the District of Columbia. (ca. 1940) **P 1228**


M Street High School. *The high school journal.* (1906) **P 1434**

Miner Normal School. *Report of the Joint Committee of Management.* (1885) **P 1517**

Miner Teachers College Class on 1937. A Tradition of quality education: Miner-DCTC reunion gala, the 50th anniversary of the class of 1937 of Miner Teachers College. (1987) **P 1671**
Montgomery, Winfield S. “Historical sketch of education for the colored race in the District of Columbia, 1807-1905” (1907) LA255 .M76


O’Connor, Ellen M. Myrtilla Miner, a memoir. (1885) LC2853.W413

Pickens, William. Nannie Burroughs and the school of the three B's. (1921; re: Nannie Helen Burroughs and the National Training School for Women and Girls) LA255 .B3 P78 1921


Welch, Carolyn E. Carolyn E. Welch papers. (collection in process; Welch was a teacher at Browne Junior High School, ca. 1940s-1960s) MS 537

E) Housing/Neighborhoods

(SEE ALSO Neighborhood Research Guide URL?)


Bicknell, Grace Vawter. The inhabited alleys of Washington, D.C. (1912) F204.A5B47


Kober, George M. The history and development of the housing movement in the city of Washington. (2 editions, 1907, 1927) P 1014, P 1017
Overbeck, Ruth Ann and Melissa McLoud. "In a workmanlike manner”: the building of residential Washington, 1790-1900. [Catalog of exhibit at the Charles Sumner School Museum and Archives, 1987.] P 0528
Sternberg, George M. Report of Committee on Building of Model Houses. (1908) P 1016
Thursz, Daniel. Where are they now: a study of the impact of relocation on former residents of southwest Washington who were served in an HWC demonstration project. (1973) HD7304.W3 T4
Weller, Charles Frederick. Neglected neighbors; stories of life in the alleys, tenements and shanties of the national capital. (1909) HD7304.W3 W5

F) Military
Anonymous. “The Civil War and Black troops.” (photocopy of undated article from unidentified publication.) P 0246
G) Politics and Government


Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. The face of black America: looking to the 21st century. (1992) P 1792


Keeley, Robert V. D.C. governance: it’s always been a matter of race and money. (1995) P 1496


H) Religion

All Soul’s Church. 150th Anniversary year, 1971-1972: a church of its time. (1972) P 0199


First Baptist Church, Deanwood. From whence we came: a pictorial journal in celebration of 95 years of service. (1997) P 1106


Canaan Baptist Church. Mortgage burning services, Canaan Baptist Church. (1978) P 2990

Cromwell, John W. The first Negro churches in the District of Columbia. (1922) P3312


Dumbarton United Methodist Church. Dumbarton United Methodist Church Collection, 1801-1998 MS 613


Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer. 100th anniversary, Evangelical Lutheran Church of our Redeemer, 1885-1985. (1985) P 0689


Metropolitan Baptist Church. History and year book, 1864-1934. (1934) P 1149


Moorland, Jesse E. The demand and the supply of increased efficiency in the Negro ministry. (published by The American Negro Academy in Washington, 1909) E185.82 .M82


Nineteenth Street Baptist Church. The history of the Helping Hand Club of the Nineteenth Street Baptist Church. (1948) BX6480 .W3 N564 1948


Plymouth Congregational Church, U.C.C. The Plymouth prompter. (selected issues of newsletter, 1964-1990) P 1398


Second Baptist Church. One hundredth anniversary of the Second Baptist Church and the 17th anniversary of the pastor, Rev. Smalls Bartley. (1988) P 0645


Shiloh Baptist Church. 127th anniversary of the Shiloh Baptist Church of Washington. (1990) P 0647

Shiloh Baptist Church. Opening our doors for worship, offering our lives in faith. (1998) P 1951
I) Social/Cultural Life (including the arts, recreation, and sports)


Howard Theatre: yesterday, today and tomorrow. (1975) P 2296


Smithsonian Anacostia Museum and Center for African American History and Culture. D.C. en pointe: three schools. (Booklet to accompany 1998 exhibit.) P 2191


J) Women’s History


City Cousins Club. 50th anniversary history, June 7, 1945-June 7, 1995. P 1394


Keckley, Elizabeth. Behind the scenes, or thirty years a slave, and four years in the White House. (Reprint of 1868 edition.) E457.15 .K26


O’Connor, Ellen M. Myrtilla Miner, a memoir. (1885) LC2853 .W413


Parks, Lillian Rogers. Lillian Rogers Parks Papers, 1939-1997. MS 575


St. Monica’s League. St. Anna’s Home for aged colored women. (ca. 1925) P 0622


Welch, Carolyn E. *Carolyn E. Welch Papers*. [Collection in process; Welch was a teacher at Browne Junior High School, 1940s-1960s.] **MS 537**


V) **Historic Sites/Memorials**


Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, Inc. *National historic landmark: Carter G. Woodson House*. (1977) **P 0565**


District of Columbia Board of Education. Application by the Board of Education of the District of Columbia to the Joint Committee on Landmarks of the National Capital to designate Sumner School building as a Landmark. (1978) **P 0161**


Mathews, Fleming W., III. *Prelude for Afro-American archeology: excavations at Cedar Hill*. (Howard University, 1976) **P 3166**


Powell, Ron and Bill Cunningham. *Black guide to Washington*. (1975) **P 2031**


VI) **Fiction / Poetry**


Dunbar, Paul Laurence. Poems of cabin and field ... (1899) **PS1556 .P6 1899**


Reports

Paynter, John H. *Fugitives of the Pearl.* (1930) **PZ3 .P2938**


Williams, Edward Christoper. *When Washington was in vogue: a love story (a lost novel of the Harlem Renaissance)* ... (2003) **PS3545 .I555 2003**