



African American Local History & Genealogy

An Annotated Bibliography of Select Resources Available at Muncie Public Library

Books

Local History

Federal Writers' Project. [*A Comprehensive Look at the people and History of Delaware County, Indiana.*](#) Compiled by Hurley Goodall. Muncie: Ball State University, 1999.

- Reference LHG 977.201 COMP v. 1-3

Compilation of community information written during the Works Progress Administration to be used as a guide locally and nationally but never published. This compilation documents life in Delaware County during the 1930s.

Federal Writers' Project. [*The Underground Railroad in the State of Indiana*](#) Compiled by Hurley Goodall. Muncie: Ball State University, 2000.

- Reference LHG 973.7115 UNDE

Compilation of community information written during the Works Progress Administration to be used as a guide locally and nationally. This compilation documents Underground Railroad and abolitionist activities within all Indiana counties.

Federal Writers' Project. [*Voices from the Past: The WPA Writers Project in Indiana During the Great Depression.*](#) Compiled by Hurley Goodall. Muncie: Ball State University, 2001.

- Reference LHG 977.265 GOOD v. 1-2

Compilation of community information written during the Works Progress Administration to be used as a guide locally and nationally but never published. This compilation documents the African American communities of Indiana during the 1930s.

Gibbs, Wilma L. (ed.). [*Indiana's African-American Heritage: Essays from Black History News & Notes.*](#) Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1993.

- Reference LHG 977.2 INDI

Collection of essays from *Black History News & Notes*, a publication by the Indiana Historical Society that aimed to generate interest in Black History within Indiana. It includes topics such as religion, women, education, communities, and more.

Goodall, Hurley and J. Paul Mitchell. [*African Americans in Muncie 1890-1960*](#). Muncie: Ball State University, 1976.

- Reference LHG 977.265 GOOD

Updated title to a historical account about the African American community in Muncie, which had not received much attention up to that point. It emphasizes the prominent role of African Americans in shaping Muncie and hoped to present a more complete picture of the community.

Goodall, Hurley. [*A Chronological Listing of Some Significant Dates and Events: A History of Muncie and Delaware County's African American Community*](#). Muncie, IN: Middletown Center, 1997.

- Reference LHG 305.896 GOOD

This is a pamphlet that is a timeline of important dates chronicling African American history in Muncie and Delaware County. It highlights important people and contributions to the community.

Goodall, Hurley. [*Delaware County Historical Alliance Community Interviews: Hurley Goodall*](#). By Delaware County Historical Alliance. Ball State University, 04/25/1995.

- Reference LHG 929.5 DELA

Part of an oral history series conducted by the Delaware County Historical Alliance (now the Delaware County Historical Society) that presents Delaware County local history from different perspectives and backgrounds. Taped at the Ball State University Teleplex.

Goodall, Hurley C. [*Inside the House: My Years in the Indiana Legislature 1978-1992*](#). Muncie: Ball State University, 1995.

- Reference LHG 328.772 GOOD

Memoir about Goodall's service in the Indiana Legislature from the beginning when he was a minority within a minority Democrat party in the House to later years when the Democrats were the majority party and he almost became Speaker of the House.

Goodall, Hurley, and Muncie Public Library. [*Those Who Made a Difference*](#). Muncie: Muncie Public Library, 2005.

- Reference LHG 323.1196 GOOD

This book is a list of mini-biographies documenting African Americans who have made a difference within the Muncie and Delaware County community. It was compiled with the help of Muncie Public Library staff at the Local History and Genealogy Center and includes select primary sources regarding each individual.

Hine, Darlene Clark, Patrick Kay Bidelman, Shirley M. Herd, and Donald West. [*The Black Women in the Middle West Project: A Comprehensive Resource Guide, Illinois and Indiana.*](#) Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Bureau, 1986.

- Reference LHG 305.48 BLAC

The Black Women in the Middle West Project sought to record, preserve, and document the histories of black women in the states of Illinois and Indiana. A couple of women from Muncie, Indiana donated to the project as well as Muncie Public Library, which sent files relating to the “Black Women: Achievement Against the Odds” panel held in 1985.

January, Alan F. and Justin E. Walsh. [*A Century of Achievement: Black Hoosiers in the Indiana General Assembly, 1881-1986.*](#) Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Bureau, 1986.

- Reference LHG 328.9772 JANU

Pamphlet that outlines the history of African Americans in Indiana politics and has biographical sketches of Black Hoosiers who had served in the Indiana General Assembly including Hurley Goodall, a local African American who had many firsts in Muncie.

Kelbaugh, Ross J. [*Introduction to African American Photographs, 1840-1950: Identification, Research, Care & Collecting.*](#) Gettysburg: Thomas Publications, 2005.

- Reference LHG 779.9973 KELB

Book that instructs on how to research, identify people and places, and care for vintage African American photographs.

Lassiter, Luke Eric, Hurley Goodall, Elizabeth Campbell, and Michelle Natasya Johnson. [*The Other Side of Middletown: Exploring Muncie's African American Community.*](#) Walnut Creek: AltaMira Press, 2004.

- Reference LHG 305.896 OTHE

Middletown, a pseudonym for Muncie, Indiana and considered to be the most average city in the U.S., was a sociological study conducted by the Lynds in the mid-1920s, but they neglected to include the African American population in the city. This book remedies that omission.

Madison, James H. [*A Lynching in the Heartland: Race and Memory in America.*](#) New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2001.

- Reference LHG 305.896 MADI

In this book, Madison uses the case of the Marion lynching in 1930 to disprove the perception that lynchings only occurred in the South. It also includes chapters on the aftermath and memories of it within Marion.

Marrow III, Taylor A. [Reconciling the Past: A Brief History of Race Relations in Muncie 1827-2004](#). Muncie: TEAMwork for Quality Living, 2004.

- Reference LHG 305.896073 MAR

The book walks through the history of race relations in Muncie between blacks and whites and hopes to bring about a reconciliation through education of some of the issues faced due to the tensions experienced by the two in the past.

Moten-Foster, Bea. [200 Years of Black Cookery](#). Muncie: Muncie Book Company, 1976.

- Goddard Collection TWO

Cookbook written by a prominent local African American woman who was the first black radio announcer at the United Nations and published a local newspaper called *The Muncie Times*. It chronicles the food heritage of African Americans and includes recipes from Africa.

Muncie Human Rights Commission. [Chronological History of the Southside High School Racial Situation for the Indiana State Civil Rights Commission and Indiana Advisory Committee, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights](#). Indiana State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, April 1968.

- Reference LHG 379.26 CHRO

Report of a meeting that occurred on March 16, 1968 between a Joint Subcommittee of the Indiana State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and the Indiana Civil Rights Commission. The purpose of the meeting was to collect information about racial tensions and student friction at Southside High School in the hopes that it would help ease racial tensions at the school.

[An Oral History of African Americans in Grant County](#). Compiled by Barbara J. Stevenson. Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2000.

- Reference LHG 977.269 ORAL

This publication documents an oral history project conducted by the Grant County Black History Council through a grant from the Indiana Historical Society/Indiana Humanities. Those interviewed were African Americans, many born in the early 1900s, who wanted to tell their story of life in Grant County during the mid-1800s to 1900s.

Taylor Jr., Robert M. and Connie A. McBirney (ed.). [Peopling Indiana: The Ethnic Experience](#). Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1996.

- Reference LHG 305.8 PEOP

The book documents the different histories of the ethnic groups that comprise Indiana and why they might have immigrated to the state. It includes a chapter on African Americans.

Thornbrough, Emma Lou. [Indiana Blacks in the Twentieth Century](#). Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2000.

- Reference LHG 977.2 THOR

Thornbrough documents the growth of the African American population in Indiana in terms of numbers and power. Topics include African American participation in both of the World Wars, civil rights, daily life, organizations and their leaders, education, and more.

Thornbrough, Emma Lou (ed.). [This Far by Faith: Black Hoosier Heritage](#). Indianapolis: Indiana Committee for the Humanities, 1982.

- Reference LHG 977.2 THIS

This booklet was written as a supplement to the photographic exhibit also titled “This Far By Faith: Black Hoosier Heritage” surveying black history in Indiana, which Muncie Public Library developed in conjunction with the Indiana Committee for the Humanities and the Indiana Historical Society.

Williams, David Leander. [African Americans in Indianapolis: The Story of a People Determined to be Free](#). Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press, 2022.

- Reference LHG 323.1196 WILL

Williams examines the historical events African Americans experienced in Indianapolis between 1820 and 1970 and the community’s determination to overcome adversity. This book explores the many events and influential individuals and organizations that had yet to be recorded in history books, textbooks, and literature.

Williams, Gregory Howard. [Life on the Color Line: The True Story of a White Boy Who Discovered He Was Black](#). New York: Dutton Books, 1995.

- Reference LHG 305.896 WILL

Williams recounts his move to Muncie, Indiana where he learned that his father who had been passing as an Italian-American was actually half black. In the book, he talks about his experiences within both the white and black communities in Muncie.

Genealogy

Burroughs, Tony, [Black Roots: A Beginner’s Guide to Tracing the African American Family Tree](#). New York: Simon & Schuster, Inc., 2001.

- Reference LHG 929.1089 BURR

Step by step guide for beginners on getting started with genealogical research related to African American heritage. It includes chapters on primary sources, how and where to research, and conducting oral histories with sample questions.

Fears, Mary L. Jackson. [*Slave Ancestral Research: It's Something Else*](#). Westminster: Heritage Books, 1995.

- Reference LHG 929.2 FEAR

Although not a how-to guide on genealogical research, this book documents one woman's search into her African American heritage including hints and tips on what research techniques worked for her.

Heinegg, Paul. [*Free African Americans of North Carolina, Virginia, and South Carolina from the Colonial Period to About 1820*](#). Baltimore: Clearfield, 2005.

- Reference LHG 929.308 HEIN v. 1 & 2

Heinegg reconstructs the genealogies of free African Americans from the colonial period to 1820 in the states of North Carolina, Virginia, and South Carolina. Includes sources and index.

Motes, Margaret Peckham. [*Free Blacks and Mulattos in South Carolina 1850 Census*](#). Baltimore, Clearfield, 2000.

- Reference LHG 929.3757 MOTE

Index of African Americans from the South Carolina 1850 Census arranged alphabetically. Includes explanation on entry format and abbreviations.

Robbins, Coy D. [*African American Soldiers from Indiana with the Union Army in the Civil War, 1863-1865*](#). Bloomington: Indiana African American Historical and Genealogical Society, 1989.

- Reference LHG 973.74 ROBB

Index of African American soldiers from Indiana who served in the Union Army during the Civil War. Information includes name, county of origin, military unit, and enrollment period with a brief history at the beginning of the compilation.

Robbins, Coy D. [*Source Book: African American Genealogy in Indiana*](#). Bloomington: Indiana African American Historical and Genealogical Society, 1989.

- Reference LHG 929.1 ROBB

Although dated, this source book does include a list of primary sources that are Indiana-specific as well as a list of libraries within the state for conducting genealogy research. The article on Native Americans and African Americans as they related to each other could also be useful.

Rose, James M., and Alice Eichholz. [*Black Genesis: A Resource Book for African American Genealogy*](#) by Alice Eichholz Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2003.

- Reference LHG 929.1 ROSE

Updated handbook on researching African-American genealogy that provides an overview of the subject and the types of sources available. Part 2 is a bibliography of resources organized first by state and then by type of source. Each state includes a timeline of important dates.

Smith, Franklin Carter, and Emily Anne Croom. [*A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your African-American Ancestors: How to Find and Record Your Unique Heritage*](#). Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2008.

- Reference LHG 929.1089 SMIT

Genealogy guide for getting started with African American research and what sources are available to learn about one's heritage. It includes case studies as well as appendices of state/national archives and forms.

Spears, Jean E., and Dorothy Paul (transcriber). [*Admission Record, Indianapolis Asylum for Friendless Colored Children, 1871-1900*](#). Indianapolis: Family History and Genealogy Section, Indiana Historical Society, 1994.

- Reference LHG 977.2 SPEA

Transcription of a primary source regarding African American children who were abandoned by their parents and placed in the Indianapolis Asylum.

Streets, David H. [*Slave Genealogy: A Research Guide with Case Studies*](#). Westminster: Heritage Books, 2008.

- Reference LHG 929.1 STRE

A handbook that discusses how to research your genealogy if your ancestors were slaves. It emphasizes non-plantation slaves with three case studies from Kentucky.

Witcher, Curt Bryan. [*African American Genealogy: A Bibliography and Guide to Sources*](#). Fort Wayne: Round Tower Books, 2000.

- Reference LHG 929.1 WITC

Bibliography of general and state-specific sources related to researching African American genealogy.

Note: This is just a sample of what we have relating to African Americans in our Local History and Genealogy collection. You can find more by visiting our catalog at www.munciepubliclibrary.org.

Special Collections

African-American history display. Special collections, Carnegie Library, Muncie Public Library, Muncie, IN.

- Past exhibit panels and labels that depict African-American history in Delaware County.

Frank Baker family collection. Special collections, Carnegie Library, Muncie Public Library, Muncie, IN.

- This is a collection that documents the Baker family who moved to Muncie in the early 20th century. Frank P. Baker Sr. was a pastor in the Muncie A.M.E. Church while his son Frank Jr. was one of the first African American mail carriers. Both men, but particularly Frank Jr., were involved in establishing the black branch of the YMCA.

Grassroots African-American periodical collection. Special collections, Carnegie Library, Muncie Public Library, Muncie, IN.

- African-American publication written in the 1960s that is indicative of the civil rights climate in the city. Its purpose was to educate people on current events and issues as it related to the black community while spurring them into action.

James Nettles Sr. and Jr. family collection. Special collections, Carnegie Library, Muncie Public Library, Muncie, IN.

- James Nettles Sr. moved to Muncie and both he and his father worked at Ball Corporation in the 1940s. James Nettles Jr. was born and went to school in Muncie, graduating from Muncie Central in 1960. He went on to play professional football with the Philadelphia Eagles and Los Angeles Rams.

Local African-American collection. Special collections, Carnegie Library, Muncie Public Library, Muncie, IN.

- Various booklets and photographs that relate to African-American history in Delaware County

Walk of Fame research collection. Special collections, Carnegie Library, Muncie Public Library, Muncie, IN.

- The Walk of Fame is a quarter-mile walking path in Heekin Park that highlights people and organizations that broke down barriers in Muncie, Indiana. The collection consists of the research used in building the Walk of Fame.

Whitely Community Council newsletter collection. Special collections, Carnegie Library, Muncie Public Library, Muncie, IN.

- Collection of newsletters that range from 2011 to 2020 that document news in Whitely neighborhood located on the Eastside of Muncie. Whitely is a historically African American sector of the city although other ethnicities do live in the neighborhood.

Note: Our special collection of African American photographs, documents, and artifacts continues to grow. They are currently being processed and cataloged but are available to researchers upon request.