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Black writers in New England: a bibliography, with biographical notes, of books by and about Afro-American writers associated with New England in the collection of Afro-American literature, Suffolk University, Museum of Afro-American History, Boston African American National Historic Site

Edward Clark
Suffolk University

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BLACK WRITERS IN NEW ENGLAND

Edward Clark
BLACK WRITERS
IN NEW ENGLAND
African Meeting House, Smith Court, Boston, Mass., circa 1890, where Frederick Douglass, Charles Lenox Remond, and other black abolitionists lectured.

(Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities)
BLACK WRITERS IN NEW ENGLAND

A Bibliography, with Biographical Notes, of Books By and About Afro-American Writers Associated with New England in the Collection of Afro-American Literature

Suffolk University  Museum of Afro-American History
Boston African American National Historic Site

Edward Clark

National Park Service  Boston  1985
To Leah
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This bibliography is a culmination and a new beginning.

It is the culmination of fourteen years of work by Edward Clark creating, developing, and publicizing the Collection of Afro-American Literature.

Edward Clark is eminently fitted for this vital service. Clark wrote his doctoral dissertation on race in James Fenimore Cooper's novels. He joined the faculty of Suffolk University in 1961 and in 1969 taught his first course in black literature. It was in preparation for this course that Clark began ordering books in black American literature for the University Library.

In 1971, Clark approached J. Marcus Mitchell at the Museum of Afro-American History with an idea that developed into the Collection of Afro-American Literature, a joint project of Suffolk University and the Museum of Afro-American History. From the very beginning, Clark and I believed that the Collection, though national in scope, should give a special emphasis to Afro-American writers associated with New England. I had no doubt that this would mean a significant number of authors. Why not? Africans have been settled in New England from at least 1638 and possibly from before. In the slavery period Afro-Americans were writing. In the antebellum 19th century the major free black communities in the North were in Pennsylvania and New England. New England colleges have attracted black students since the first Afro-Americans attended Bowdoin in Maine, Amherst in Massachusetts, and Middlebury in Vermont—all in the 1820's. Yet, I was not prepared for the number of black writers Clark has identified as associated with this region. Clark brings a persistence and catholic approach to this work that has produced a bibliography that will point out new directions for scholars for years to come.

In composition, as in organization and content, this bibliography will not be found wanting. The brief biographical sketches should be the seeds for the germination of countless papers. Librarians and collectors have a checklist here that can be used in many ways. The list of authors with no holdings in the Collection is a challenge to Clark's successor. The publication itself of this bibliography will begin the process of compiling a supplement to it.

This work marks a new beginning for the Collection of Afro-American Literature. It is most appropriate that Clark completes this work as he prepares to take early retirement from his Suffolk professorship. He leaves a work that will transform the role of the Collection of Afro-American Literature into a major regional Afro-American collection of national importance. He has set a standard for Afro-American regional bibliographies and this work is "a call" that similar bibliographies be produced throughout the country.

Thank you, Edward Clark.

Byron Rushing
State House, Boston
May 10, 1985
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

My thanks are due a number of people who helped make the book possible. Byron Rushing, president of the Museum of Afro-American History, lent strong support in this as in other projects of the Collection of Afro-American Literature. His enthusiasm and unwavering commitment to black culture, over many years of our working together, have been an inspiration to me. The staff of the Mildred F. Sawyer Library, Suffolk University, and the director, Edmund G. Hamann, met my frequent requests with cheerful efficiency that much facilitated my work. Without the following pioneer scholars in black literary biography, this book could not have been done: Ann Allen Schockley and Sue P. Chandler, Living Black American Authors: A Biographical Dictionary (1973); Leaonead Pack Bailey, Broadside Authors and Artists: An Illustrated Biographical Directory (1974); Theressa Gunnels Bush, Carol Fairbanks Myers, and Esther Spring Arata, Black American Writers Past and Present: A Biographical and Bibliographical Directory (1975); James A. Page, Selected Black American Authors: An Illustrated Bio-Bibliography (1977); and Rayford W. Logan and Michael R. Winston, Dictionary of American Negro Biography (1982). Professors Allan D. Austin, Springfield College, Mass., author of African Muslims in Antebellum America: A Sourcebook (1984); Joe Weixlmann, Indiana State University, editor of Black American Literature Forum; and Russell C. Brignano, Pennsylvania State University, replied generously to my solicitation of aid. Dr. Brignano's Black Americans in Autobiography (1984), a model of scholarship, was a fruitful source for identifying and describing writers.

Across New England are kind people working in offices of schools, colleges, universities, and medical and theological schools who gave immediate care to phone inquiries about past and present students and faculty. Writers themselves were uniformly cooperative in receiving unexpected phone calls; their responses often led me to other writers. Marilyn Richardson, historical essayist, was especially helpful. Two members of the National Park Service—John J. Burchill, superintendent, Boston National Historical Park, and Dorothea L. Powell, site manager, Boston African American National Historic Site—arranged crucial financial support. The warm-hearted expertise of K. Powell Associates, Graphic Design, Boston, made production of the book a true pleasure.

I thank these good people, one and all.

Suffolk University
April 2, 1985

E.C.
INTRODUCTION

Collection of Afro-American Literature

Since 1971 Suffolk University and the Museum of Afro-American History have been developing jointly a Collection of Afro-American Literature. In 1981 the newly established Boston African American National Historic Site, under auspices of the National Park Service, joined in cooperation with the project. The Collection aims to include poetry, drama, fiction, and non-fiction prose of all important black American writers from the eighteenth century to the present. It contains related historical, literary-historical, critical, biographical, and bibliographical works by writers of all races, as well as periodicals. Always growing, the Collection has 3500 titles and 3800 volumes. It is housed in the University's Mildred F. Sawyer Library.

The Collection is unique in Massachusetts in its focus on literature. In Boston it furnishes a resource in a central city location where members of the University, Museum, and metropolitan academic communities can find Afro-American literature and ancillary works.

Establishment of the Collection is a cooperative step by neighboring institutions on Beacon Hill to deepen our understanding of black American culture and foster closer racial relations. The University is located near the Massachusetts State House. The Museum occupies the African Meeting House nearby. The African Meeting House, built in 1806, is the oldest standing black church building in the United States. The Boston African American National Historic Site consists of sixteen buildings and monuments on Beacon Hill, including the Meeting House, that are important in nineteenth century black Boston history.

A list of acquisitions to the Collection is published annually in March. Inquiries about the list and the Collection are welcome.

Afro-American Writers Associated with New England

A special interest of the Collection is Afro-American writers associated with New England—with Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut. The association is based on a writer meeting one or more of the following criteria:

• Born in New England
• Studied there
• Lived there
• Worked there.

These criteria are applied in the present volume.

In Section I, “Books By and About Afro-American Writers Associated with New England in the Collection of Afro-American Literature,” are listed writers that I have identified in the Collection having one or more of these associations. The entry for each writer contains the following information to the extent applicable and available:
1. Biographical note—Writer's name, years of birth and death, type of writer (poet, novelist, etc.), New England associations;

2. Books by the writer—Title and subtitle; co-author; editor; information about preface, foreword, introduction, notes, epilogue, illustrations, bibliography, discography; volume number; place of publication; publisher; year of publication; final page number; and for reprinted books, year of publication or copyright of edition reprinted;

3. Books about the writer—Author, co-author, editor, title and subtitle, and further information as listed above under “Books by the writer.”

There are sure to be writers that I have missed in the total Collection of 3500 titles. About 200 writers are listed here, with approximately 625 books by them. Another 125 books are listed by authors of all races that are about the writers with New England connections.

I have taken the term “book” to mean not only the usual idea of “book-length,” but also any publication of any length that has appeared, originally or in reprint, in individual, separate form; that is, not part of a larger assemblage such as a periodical or anthology. Thus Section I contains “book-length books” and sermons, addresses, lectures, speeches, tracts, treatises, brief narratives, chapbooks of poems, exhibition catalogs, walking-tour guides, and reprinted articles.

Exceptions to this definition of a “book,” for reasons of their importance, are these entries: (1) Paul Cuffe, Journal and Letters, made available from manuscripts in Sheldon H. Harris, Paul Cuffe: Black America and the African Return; (2) Pauline E. Hopkins, Hagar’s Daughter, Of One Blood, and Winona, novels that have appeared only serially in The Colored American Magazine; (3) Maria W. Stewart, An Address and A Lecture, reprinted conveniently from her Productions and the newspaper The Liberator, respectively, pieces that are by the first American woman to lecture in public on a political theme.

In Section II, “Afro-American Writers Associated with New England Not Represented with Books By or About Them in the Collection of Afro-American Literature,” are listed about 80 additional writers having New England associations under the same criteria as for writers in Section I. A biographical note, with information of the same kind as in the earlier section, is provided. Once more, there are sure to be writers that I have overlooked.

The Collection of Afro-American Literature aims to gather the complete works of all black American writers, past and present, with New England connections. Readers are invited, with thanks, to send names of writers not listed in this book, along with any biographical and/or publishing information they may wish to include. Communications may be addressed to: Director, Collection of Afro-American Literature, Mildred F. Sawyer Library, Suffolk University, 8 Ashburton Place, Beacon Hill, Boston, Massachusetts 02108.

E.C.
BLACK WRITERS
IN NEW ENGLAND
BOOKS BY AND ABOUT AFRO-AMERICAN WRITERS ASSOCIATED WITH NEW ENGLAND IN THE Collection of Afro-American Literature

Allen, Samuel (b. 1917), poet, critic, editor. J.D., Harvard Law School, 1941; Prof. of English and Afro-American Literature, Boston Univ., 1971-81, retired; reads poetry and lectures on black history to students as member of School Volunteers for Boston.


*Ivory Tusks and Other Poems by Paul Vesey* [pseud.]. Published by the Author, 1968. 32p.


Allen, William G., biographer, editor. Studied law in Boston in 1842 or before.


Asher, Jeremiah (b. 1812), memoirist. Born in North Brandford, Conn., attended district school to age twelve; farmhand; servant in white family, Hartford; pastor, Baptist church, Providence, R.I., 1841-49.


Barbour, Floyd B. (b. 1938), editor, playwright, short story writer. B.A., Bowdoin College, 1960; Assoc. Prof. of English and Director of Afro-American Studies, Simmons College, Boston.


Bibb, Henry (1815-1854), editor, author of slave narrative. Born a slave of slave mother in Kentucky; escaped, recaptured, and escaped several times, 1837-41; last owner an Indian; spent winter, 1846-47, in New England in antislavery work.

Billingsley, Andrew (b. 1926), sociological essayist. M.S., Boston Univ., 1956; Ph.D., Brandeis Univ., 1964.


Blassingame, John W. (b. 1940), historian, editor. M. Phil., 1968, Ph.D., 1971, Yale Univ.; Prof. of History and Chairman, Program of Afro-American Studies, Yale Univ.


About John W. Blassingame


Boles, Robert (b. 1943), novelist, short story writer. Has lived on Cape Cod and in Boston.


About Arna Bontemps


Braithwaite, William Stanley (1878-1962), poet, critic, anthologist, novelist. Born in Boston, lived much of his life in or near there; regular contributor of literary criticism to Boston Evening Transcript.


About William Stanley Braithwaite


About Edward W. Brooke


About Sterling A. Brown


Brown, William J. (b. 1814), autobiographer. Born in Providence, R.I., lived there as soapmaker, shoemaker, and minister of Meeting House Baptist Society.


Brown, William Wells (1814–1884), novelist, playwright, essayist, historian. An escaped slave from Missouri, lived in Boston and vicinity from 1847, except for years 1849–54 spent in Great Britain; agent for Massachusetts and American Anti-Slavery societies; after Civil War, a practicing physician and temperance lecturer.


About William Wells Brown


Browne, Martha Griffith (d. 1906), autobiographer. Born a slave in Kentucky of mulatto mother and white father; freed in owner’s will with legacy of $4000 and request to live in North; settled, probably in 1850’s, in “quiet puritanical little town in Massachusetts,” teaching “small school of African children.”


Butcher, Margaret Just (b. 1913), cultural historian. Ph.D., Boston Univ., 1947.


Capdeville, Annetta Elam (b. 1925), poet. Born in Boston, raised and educated in Roxbury section; has been singer, actress, church worker, and youth advisor.


Childress, Alice (b. 1920), playwright, novelist. Member, Radcliffe Institute, 1966–68.


Cole, Maria (b. 1926), biographer. Spent youth in Boston area, attended Boston Clerical College.


Cornish, Sam (b. 1935), poet, author of children’s books. Taught in community-based schools in Boston; teaches writing and black literature, Emerson College, Boston; owns Fiction, Literature and the Arts Bookstore, Brookline, Mass., with specialty in Third World literature.


Counter, S. Allen (b. 1944), essayist. Assoc. Prof. of Neuroscience, Harvard Medical School; Director, Harvard Foundation, Harvard Univ.


Craft, William (b. 1824?), author of slave narrative. Went as fugitive slave with wife Ellen (1826-1891?) in disguise as his master from Georgia to Boston in 1849; were remarried by Theodore Parker in “Free Boston”; lived there, addressing antislavery meetings in New England, until passage of Fugitive Slave Act in 1850; sought by slavehunters who were resisted by Bostonians; took refuge in England.

About William and Ellen Craft


About Allan Rohan Crite


Crummell, Alexander (1819–1898), essayist, speaker. Along with Henry Highland Garnet and two other black youths, enrolled in newly opened Noyes Academy, New Canaan, N.H., 1834; blacks forced to leave after few months when some 300 angry men with 90–100 oxen dragged the building into a swamp. Studied privately with Episcopal clergymen in Boston and Providence, R.I., 1839–43; tried unsuccessfully in 1844 to organize mission church among blacks in Providence.


Cuffe, Paul (1759–1817), essayist, journal keeper, letter writer. Born on Cuttyhunk Island, Mass., of Indian mother and black father, former slave; spent most of life, when not at sea, in Westport, Mass., where joined Society of Friends; petitioned legislature and Dartmouth selectmen for rights of “Negrès and mulattoes”; in 1815 transported thirty-eight blacks in his brig *Traveller* to Sierra Leone to colonize as solution to limitations of life in America.


*Journal.* In Harris, *Paul Cuffe: Black America and the African Return,* p. 77-158.

About Paul Cuffe


About Countee Cullen


About Angela Davis


Delany, Martin R. (1812-1885), editor, novelist, black nationalist essayist. Enrolled in medical school of Harvard College, November, 1850; fellow students protested his presence in their classes with petitions to medical faculty, which, headed by Oliver Wendell Holmes, allowed him to finish winter term but refused further study at Harvard.


*About Martin R. Delany*


Dodson, Owen (b. 1914), playwright, poet, novelist, short story writer. B.A., Bates College, 1936; M.F.A. in Drama, Yale Univ., 1939.


Douglass, Frederick (1817-1895), autobiographer, speaker, journalist. After escape from slavery in Maryland, lived in New Bedford, Mass., 1838-42, Lynn, 1842-45; became agent-lecturer for Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society following impromptu speech at abolitionist gathering in Nantucket, 1841; in Civil War was recruiting agent for two colored Mass. regiments.


About Frederick Douglass


Gregory, James Monroe. Frederick Douglass, the Orator: Containing an Account of His Life; His Eminent Public Services; His Brilliant Career as Orator; Selections from His Speeches and Writings. Intro. by W. S. Scarborough. Illus. 1893 ed. with 3 chaps. added after Douglass' death; Springfield, Mass.: Willey Co., 1897 309p.


Dreer, Herman (b. 1889), novelist. B.A., Bowdoin College, 1910.


About W. E. B. Du Bois


Easton, Hosea, essayist, sermon writer. Minister in Hartford, Conn.; in 1837 gave proceeds of published essays and sermon to "a colored society in Hartford, Conn., who have lost their meeting-house by fire."


Edmonds, Randolph (b. 1900), playwright. Studied with General Education Board Fellowship in Dept. of Drama, Yale Univ., 1934.


Elder, Lonne III (b. 1931), playwright. Attended School of Drama, Yale Univ.


Eldridge, Elleanor (1784-1845?), oral history memoirist. Born in Warwick, R.I., of African and Indian blood; worked many years in Warwick and Providence as domestic for white families.


Ellison, Ralph (b. 1914), novelist, short story writer, essayist. Was Visiting Fellow, Yale Univ.; taught at Bennington College.


About Ralph Ellison


Evans, David L. (b. 1939), essayist. Senior Admissions Officer, Undergraduate Admissions, Harvard Univ.


Fair, Ronald L. (b. 1932), novelist, poet. Taught at Wesleyan Univ., Conn.


Fields, Mamie Garvin (b. 1888), oral history memoirist. Chambermaid for wealthy white woman in Winthrop Beach, Mass., and Boston, near Common, 1913; sewer in "sewing factory," dressmaker, Boston, 1913-14; lived in Roxbury section.


Forbes, Calvin (b. 1945), poet. Taught at Emerson College, Boston, and Tufts Univ.


Franklin, John Hope (b. 1915), historian. M.A., 1936, Ph.D., 1941, Harvard Univ.


Garnet, Henry Highland (1815–1882), abolitionist preacher, essayist. Studied with Alexander Crummell and two other blacks at Noyes Academy, New Canaan, N.H., 1834–35, until irate farmers forced blacks to leave.


About Henry Highland Garnet


Graham, Shirley (see entry for Du Bois, Shirley Graham).


Grandy, Moses (b. 1786?), author of slave narrative. Born a slave in North Carolina; bought freedom through work in fields and on canal boats; lived in Boston and, in 1843, Portland, Maine; laborer and sailor, bought freedom of wife, son, and grandchild.


Greene, Lorenzo Johnston (b. 1899), historian. Born in Ansonia, Conn.


Gresson, Aaron (b. 1947), social theorist, essayist. Ph.D., Boston College, 1985; Asst. Prof. of Behavioral Studies, Boston Univ., 1977-78; Staff Psychologist, Dr. Solomon Carter Fuller Mental Health Center, 1978-79; Visiting Lecturer in Human Development, Colby College, Maine, 1979-80; Asst. Prof. of Afro-American Studies, Brandeis Univ., 1979-83; Director, Geriatric Services, Dorchester Counseling Center, Boston, 1984--; Adjunct Prof. of Afro-American Studies, Brown Univ., 1985--.


Grimes, William (b. 1784), author of slave narrative. Born a slave in Virginia of slave mother and white father; escaped to New York as stowaway with help of sailors on Boston brig *Casket*; settled in New Haven, Conn., as barber and seller of lottery tickets; bought freedom when threatened by former master with return to slavery in Georgia.


Hall, Prince (17357-1807), speaker, author of petitions. A slave in Boston, manumitted in 1770; leatherdresser; founder of black Masonry in America, Master of African Lodge, Boston; active with petitions to legislature for rights of blacks.


About Prince Hall

Hammon, Briton, autobiographer. Slave servant in Marshfield, Mass., left with master’s permission on sea voyage from Plymouth in 1747; in England in 1760 accidentally met master, possibly General John Winslow (1703-1774), on ship on which both were returning to Massachusetts.


Hare, Maude Cuney (1874-1936), poet, playwright, music historian. Studied at New England Conservatory of Music; lived in Boston area, 1906-36; established Musical Art Studio, Boston, and founded “Little Theatre” movement among blacks; appeared in piano recitals in New England.


Harper, Michael S. (b. 1938), poet, editor. Israel L. Kapstein Prof. of English, Brown Univ.


Haynes, Lemuel (1753–1833), sermon and letter writer. Born in West Hartford, Conn., of black father and white mother, neither of whom he knew; father said to be of pure African blood; mother of respectable New England family, abandoned him in infancy; at five months, bound out in Middle Granville, Mass., as indentured servant until twenty-one; in 1774 became Minute Man; Congregational minister in Mass., Conn., and Vt.; first black man in America to minister to white congregation.


Heard, William H. (1850-1937), autobiographer. Born a slave in Georgia; Bishop, African Methodist Episcopal Church, First District, Middle Atlantic and New England States, 1920-37.


Henry, George (b. 1819), autobiographer, historian. Escaped from slavery in Virginia, settled in Providence, R.I.; shipped on coastal schooners, led fight for equal rights in public schools.


Henson, Josiah (1789-1883), author of slave narrative. Escaped from slavery in Maryland; model for Uncle Tom in Uncle Tom’s Cabin; visited Harriet Beecher Stowe in her home in Andover, Mass., 1849, and in 1850 at home of her brother Edward Beecher in Boston.


About Josiah Henson


Jackson, Rebecca (1795-1871), religious autobiographer. Visited Providence, R.I., 1835; spoke in churches in New Haven, Middletown, and Hartford, Conn., Springfield and South Wilbraham, Mass., 1840.


Jacobs, Harriet Brent (Brent, Linda [pseud.]) (1815-1897), author of slave narrative. Born a slave in North Carolina; escaped by ship to North at twenty-seven; spent two years in Boston before 1850 to avoid capture in New York; took refuge twice in New England after passage of Fugitive Slave Act, 1850.


Jamal, Hakim Abdullah (b. 1931), memoirist. Born and spent early years in Boston.


Johnson, James Weldon (1871-1938), poet, novelist, autobiographer, editor. In 1926 bought an old farm near Great Barrington, Mass., birthplace of W. E. B. Du Bois, restored barn into cottage for summer home; died on way with his wife from a visit in Point Pleasant, Maine, to Great Barrington when a train struck their car at an unguarded railroad crossing in a blinding rainstorm near Wiscasset, Maine.


About James Weldon Johnson


Jones, Edward Smyth (b. 1881), poet. Attended Harvard Univ.


Jones, Joshua Henry, Jr. (b. 1876), novelist, poet. Attended Brown Univ. and Yale Univ.; served on editorial staffs of newspapers in Providence, R.I., Worcester, Mass., and Boston; secretary to Mayor James Michael Curley, Boston, who appointed him editor of City Record; his novel By Sanction of Law "Dedicated to my father and the man I revere and most deeply respect next to him, the Honorable James M. Curley, Mayor of Boston."


Jones, Lois Mailou (b. 1905), artist essayist, oral history memoirist. Born and raised in Boston; Diploma, High School of Practical Arts, 1923, School of Museum of Fine Arts, 1927; has spent many summers in Oak Bluffs, Martha’s Vineyard.


About Lois Mailou Jones


Jones, Thomas H. (b. 18067), author of slave narrative. Born a slave in North Carolina; bought wife’s freedom, escaped on ship as stowaway with $8 payment to steward, lived with his family in Boston until Fugitive Slave Act, 1850, forced refuge in England.

Experience and Personal Narrative of Uncle Tom Jones: Who Was for Forty Years a Slave. Illus. New York: George C. Holbrook, Publisher and Bookseller, 128 Nassau Street, 1854. 28p. Xerox facsimile.


Kgositsile, Keorapetse William (b. 1938), poet. Attended Univ. of New Hampshire.


**King, Martin Luther, Jr.** (1929–1968), civil rights preacher, essayist. Theological student in Boston, 1951–54; Ph.D., Boston Univ., 1955.


**About Martin Luther King, Jr.**


King, Mel (b. 1928), social historian. Born and has lived most of life in Boston; Diploma, Boston Technical High School; M.Ed., State Teachers College, Boston; social worker and community activist; State Representative, 1973-81; Director, Community Fellows Program, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.


Lacy, Leslie Alexander (b. 1937), biographer, autobiographer. Attended Tufts Univ. for two years.


Lane, Lunsford (b. 1803), author of slave narrative. Born a slave in North Carolina; paid owner for manumission, 1835; solicited $1080 at houses, businesses, and churches in Boston, 1842, to buy family's freedom; settled in Boston, travelled in New England as antislavery lecturer until about 1856, when left for Oberlin, Ohio.


About Lunsford Lane


Lester, Julius (b. 1939), essayist, memoirist, short story writer, editor. Has lived on Martha's Vineyard and in Cambridge, Mass.; teaches in Afro-American Studies and Judaic Studies, Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst.


Little, Malcolm (see entry for Malcolm X).

Locke, Alain LeRoy (1886-1954), cultural essayist, historian, editor. B.A., 1907, Ph.D., 1918, Harvard Univ.


About Alain LeRoy Locke


About Malcolm X


Marrant, John (1755–1791), autobiographer, preacher. Missionary to Indians; joined African Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, Boston, 1789; became Chaplain at request of Prince Hall, Grand Master; delivered sermon to lodge on Festival of St. John the Baptist, 1789, probably in Faneuil Hall; returned to London, 1790.


Mars, James (b. 1790), autobiographer. Born the slave of a minister in North Canaan, Conn.; sold at eight to a farmer in Norfolk, Conn., until twenty-five; then lived in Hartford and in Pittsfield, Mass.


Martin, Tony (b. 1942), historian, biographer. Prof. of Black Studies, Wellesley College.


Mason, Isaac (b. 1822), author of slave narrative. Escaped with wife from slavery in Maryland through Underground Railroad to Boston, settled in Worcester, Mass.


*Song in the Night.* Amherst, Mass.: Pearl Press, 1974. 30p. Distributed by the Author, 94 Pondview Drive, Amherst, MA 01002.

McClellan, George Marion (1860-1934), poet, short story writer. B.D., Hartford, Conn., Theological Seminary, 1886.


McKay, Claude (1890-1948), poet, novelist, short story writer, autobiographer, social essayist. Early in career, worked short time as kitchen worker in New England hotels.


About Claude McKay


Menkiti, Ifeanyi (b. 1940), poet. Ph.D., Harvard Univ., 1974; Assoc. Prof. of Philosophy, Wellesley College.


Murray, Pauli (b. 1910), poet, memoirist. J.S.D., Yale Law School, 1965; was Prof. of American Studies, Brandeis Univ.


Nell, William Cooper (1816-1874), historian, journalist. Born and lived most of life in Boston; long active abolitionist with William Lloyd Garrison in publication of *The Liberator*; in 1850 helped form Committee of Vigilance to undermine Fugitive Slave Act; active in Underground Railroad; led effort to end segregated schools in Boston with Massachusetts legislative act of 1855.


Newton, Alexander Herritage (b. 1837), autobiographer, preacher, essayist. Did abolitionist work in Connecticut, served with Conn. regiment in Civil War, was African Methodist Episcopal minister in New England.


Offley, G. W. (b. 1808), author of slave narrative. Born a slave in Maryland; bought by his father, a free black; freed at twenty-one, settled in Hartford, Conn., 1835; became Methodist Episcopal minister.


Ovington, Mary White (1865-1951), essayist, playwright, biographer, memoirist, writer of fiction for young people. Spent childhood summers in Chesterfield, Mass.; attended Radcliffe College, 1891-93; had summer home in Great Barrington; died in Newton.


Patterson, Lindsay (b. 1937), editor, critic. Has had three fellowships at MacDowell Colony, Peterborough, N.H.


Patterson, Orlando (b. 1940), social historian, novelist. Prof. of Sociology, Harvard Univ.


Pennington, James W.C. (1809-1870), historian, author of slave narrative. Fugitive slave from Maryland; studied theology in New Haven, Conn.; first pastorate at Colored Congregational Church, Talcott St., Hartford, 1841.


Peterson, Lewis (b. 1922), playwright. Born and raised in Hartford, Conn.; attended School of Drama, Yale Univ.


Petry, Ann (b. 1911), novelist, short story writer, writer of books for young people. Born and has lived most of life in Old Saybrook, Conn.; graduate, Connecticut College of Pharmacy, 1931; registered pharmacist, Old Saybrook and Old Lyme, 1931-38.


Ann Petry

Pharr, Robert Deane (b. 1916), novelist. Raised in New Haven, Conn.;
graduate, New Haven High School.


Pickens, William (1881–1954), essayist, biographer, autobiographer. B.A.,
Yale Univ., 1904.

_American Aesop: Negro and Other Humor_. 1926 ed.; rpt. New York:

_The New Negro: His Political, Civil, and Mental Status; and Related

_The Vengeance of the Gods; and Three Other Stories of Real American
Color Line Life_. Intro. by Bishop John Hurst. 1922 ed.; rpt. Freeport,
Pitcher, Oliver (b. 1924), playwright, poet. Born in Massachusetts.


Poindexter, Hildrus Augustus (b. 1901), autobiographer. Attended Dartmouth College Medical School; M.D., Harvard Medical School, 1929.


_About Adam Clayton Powell, Jr._


Quarles, Benjamin (b. 1904), historian. Born in Boston, educated in public schools there.


Richardson, Marilyn (b. 1942), historical essayist. Graduate, Bancroft Country Day School, Worcester, Mass., 1960; book designer, Boston; Lecturer in Humanities, Boston Univ., 1966-70; educational consultant, 1970-73; Instructor in Humanities, Univ. of Massachusetts, Boston, 1973-80; Asst. Prof. of Exposition and Rhetoric, Writing Program, Dept. of Humanities, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1980--.


Robeson, Eslanda (1896-1965), essayist, biographer. Attended Kennedy School of Missions, Hartford, Conn., Seminary Foundation, 1943-44; candidate, Ph.D. degree.


Rollin, Frances Anne (Rollin, Frank A. [pseud.]), biographer. Born free in South Carolina; lived in Boston, fall, 1867—July, 1868, while writing biography of Martin R. Delany; boarded with a family on Blossom St., near black community.


Rollins, Bryant (b. 1937), novelist, poet, biographer. Grew up in Roxbury section of Boston; B.A., Northeastern Univ., 1960; was reporter, Boston Globe, and editor, Bay State Banner.


Roper, Moses (b. 1816?), author of slave narrative. Born a slave in North Carolina; escaped by ship from Savannah, Georgia, 1834; stayed in N.H., Sudbury and Ludlow, Vt., Brookline, Mass., and Boston, 1834-35; attended "coloured church" on Belknap St. (now Joy St.). Boston; left when slavehunter inquired of him at shop of employment; went to England.


Sanchez, Sonia (b. 1934), poet, short story writer, playwright, editor. Assoc. Prof. of Literature and Creative Writing, Amherst College, 1973–75.


About George S. Schuyler


Seale, Bobby (b. 1936), social activist historian, autobiographer. In prison and on trial on murder-kidnapping charges in New Haven, Conn., 1971; charges dismissed after hung jury.


About Bobby Seale


Sellers, Cleveland (b. 1944), social activist memoirist. Studied for Master's degree in education at Harvard Graduate School of Education, 1969-70.


Simmons, Judy Dothard (b. 1944), poet. Born in Westerly, R.I.

Smith, Barbara (b. 1946), editor, essayist. B.A., Mt. Holyoke College, 1969; doctoral student, Univ. of Connecticut; taught English at Emerson College, Boston.


Smith, James Lindsay (d. 1883?), autobiographer. Escaped from slavery in Virginia to Springfield, Mass., 1838; educated in Wilbraham, Mass.; travelled a year in Mass. and Conn. speaking at antislavery meetings; settled in Norwich, Conn.; boot and shoe maker and Methodist minister.


Smith, Venture (1729?-1805), author of slave narrative. Born in Guinea, son of tribal chief; at eight brought with master, ship's steward, on slave ship to Rhode Island; slave servant at Fishers Island, Stonington Point, and Hartford, Conn.; bought freedom for self and family; settled on farm in Haddam Neck, owned fishing and coastal cargo vessels; buried in cemetery of First Congregational Church, East Haddam.


Stevens, Walter J. (b. 1877), autobiographer. Born in Boston of black father and white mother, grew up in West End, attended Charles Street A.M.E. Church; Steward at Signet Club, Harvard Univ.; tutored by Profs. Hugo Munsterberg and G. L. Kittredge; personal secretary to Edward A. Filene, president of department store; left Boston in World War One.


Stewart, Maria W. (1803-1879), lecturer. Born in Hartford, Conn.; orphan at five, bound out as servant in clergyman's family until fifteen, attended Sabbath Schools until twenty, married in 1826, widowed in 1829; her lecture in Boston in 1832 the first public lecture by an American woman on a political theme.


Religion and the Pure Principles of Morality, the Sure Foundation on Which We Must Build. Pamphlet, Boston, October, 1831; rpt. in Dorothy Porter, Early Negro Writing 1760-1837 (Boston: Beacon Press, 1971), p. 460-471.


Stroyer, Jacob (b. 1849), author of slave narrative. Born a slave in South Carolina; freed in 1865 upon news of Emancipation Proclamation; went to Worcester, Mass., 1869, where studied in evening schools and academy and became minister, African Methodist Episcopal church; settled as pastor in Salem.


Taylor, Clyde R. (b. 1931), editor, critic. Born in Boston; Assoc. Prof. of English, Tufts Univ., 1982-—.


Taylor, Susie King (1848-19--?), memoirist. Born a slave in Georgia; laundress, cook, and nurse with colored regiment, Union army, 1862-65; domestic in white family, Rye Beach, N.H., 1873; settled in Boston, 1874; domestic, 1874-79; helped organize in 1886 and was officer in Corps 67, Women's Relief Corps, G.A.R., in existence until at least 1902.


Terrell, Mary Church (1863-1954), essayist, autobiographer. Born free in Tennessee; lectured in Boston, probably often, from about 1930-60.

Susie King Taylor

(Reproduced from Reminiscences of My Life in Camp, 1902)
About Mary Church Terrell


Thelwell, Michael (b. 1938), novelist, essayist. Prof. of Afro-American Studies, Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst.


Thomas, Ted, Jr. (b. 1947), poet. Grew up in Boston; Diploma, Dorchester High School; B.A., 1974, M.A., 1985, Northeastern Univ.; Director of Youth Services, City Mission Society; Consultant in Language Arts, Boston Public Schools.


Thompson, John (b. 1812), author of slave narrative. Escaped slave from Maryland; sailed as steward on whaling ship **Milwood** from New Bedford, Mass., on two-year voyage to Africa and Indian Ocean; was in Worcester, 1856.


Thurman, Howard (1899-1981), essayist, autobiographer. Dean, Marsh Chapel, 1953-64; Prof. of Spiritual Disciplines and Resources, 1953-65; University Minister-at-Large, 1964-65, Boston Univ.


About Howard Thurman


Toomer, Jean (1894–1967), novelist, short story writer, poet, playwright, essayist. Attended Massachusetts College of Agriculture, Amherst, briefly in fall, 1915; lived in fraternity house; temporary captain of college football team.


About Jean Toomer


Trotter, James M. (1842-1892), music historian. Second Lieutenant, 55th Massachusetts Regiment, a black unit, in Civil War; settled in Boston in 1865 when mustered out there and rewarded for war service with appointment to post office; resigned in 1882 as protest when white man promoted over him.


*About William Monroe Trotter*


Walcott, Derek (b. 1930), poet, playwright, essayist. Teaches poetry and playwriting, Boston Univ.


About Derek Walcott


Walker, Alice (b. 1944), novelist, short story writer, poet, essayist. Fellow, Radcliffe Institute, 1971–73; taught at Univ. of Massachusetts, Boston, and Wellesley College, 1972.


Walker, David (1785–1830), militant abolitionist essayist and speaker. Born in North Carolina of free mother and slave father, took mother's status in accordance with law; settled in Boston; in 1827 became dealer in old clothes on Brattle Street; after publication of his *Appeal* in 1829, reward offered in Georgia of $1000 for Walker dead and $10,000 alive; died mysteriously in 1830, possibly poisoned.

About David Walker


Washington, Mary Helen (b. 1941), editor, critic. Assoc. Prof. of English, Univ. of Massachusetts, Boston.


About Ida B. Wells


West, Dorothy (b. 1910), novelist, short story writer, editor, columnist. Born and raised in Boston, educated at Girls Latin School and Boston Univ.; lives in Oak Bluffs, Martha's Vineyard, writes weekly column in *Vineyard Gazette.*


Wheatley, Phillis (17537-1784), poet. Taken to Boston on ship from Africa, probably in "parcel of likely Negroes" in 1761; slave servant in household of John Wheatley, Boston merchant; baptized in Old South Meeting House, 1771; manumitted by October, 1773; married John Peters, free black, 1778; had three children; at death reduced to poverty as domestic in black boarding house in run-down section of Boston.


About Phillis Wheatley


Williams, George Washington (1849-1891), historian. Member, First Baptist Church, Watertown, Mass., in period 1870-74; graduate, Newton, Mass., Theological Institution, 1874; pastor, Twelfth Baptist Church, Boston, 1874-75; attorney, Boston, 1883-84; spent summers in Plymouth, Mass.; lived in Worcester, 1888-90.


About George Washington Williams


Willie, Charles V. (b. 1927), essayist, editor. Prof. of Education and Urban Studies, Harvard Univ., 1974--.

Wilson, Harriet E. (b. 1827 or 1828?), novelist. Probably born in N.H., perhaps Milford; servant in family, impairing her health; lived with white family in Milford, 1850; worked as straw hat maker in central Mass.; married in Milford, 1851; destitute and alone, placed son, born in 1852, in white foster family; probably lived in Boston when published her novel there in 1859; son died in 1860.


Wright, Nathan, Jr. (b. 1923), essayist. B.D., Episcopal Theological School, Cambridge, Mass., 1950; S.T.M., Harvard Univ., 1951; Ed.M., State Teachers College, Boston, 1962; Ed.D., Harvard Univ., 1964; was Rector, St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Church, Protestant Chaplain, Long Island Hospital, Boston.


AFRO-AMERICAN WRITERS ASSOCIATED WITH NEW ENGLAND NOT REPRESENTED WITH BOOKS BY OR ABOUT THEM IN THE Collection of Afro-American Literature

Addison, Lloyd (b. 1931), editor, poet. Born in Boston.

Alexson, Sam (b. 1852), autobiographer. Ex-slave from South Carolina, Confederate officer in Civil War; moved in 1876 to "Spring Lake, New England," probably Windsor, Vt., where worked as laborer.

Anderson, Marian (b. 1902), autobiographer. Lives in Danbury, Conn.

Bass, George (b. 1938), playwright, poet. John Golden Fellow, School of Drama, Yale Univ., 1966-68; Assoc. Prof. of Theater Arts and Afro-American Studies, Brown Univ.


Braddan, William S. (b. 1872), autobiographer, memoirist. Pastor, Salem Baptist Church, New Bedford, Mass., 1892; studied for ministry at Newton Theological Institution, 1893-95.

Brown, Azariah, autobiographer. Camp meeting minister in Connecticut and Massachusetts, late 19th century.

Brown, Rose Butler (b. 1897), autobiographer. Youth in Boston and Newport, R.I.; educated at Rhode Island Normal School, Univ. of Rhode Island, and Harvard Univ.

Bullock, Samuel Howard, memoirist. Minister of Baptist church in Roxbury section of Boston, 1939-48.


Burton, Annie L. (b. 1858), memoirist. After slavery in Alabama, had jobs and business ventures in Newport, R.I., and Boston.

Chester, Henry L. (b. 1896), memoirist. Worked in Newport, R.I.


Cox, Joseph Mason Andrew (b. 1923), poet, novelist, playwright. Born in Boston.

Christian, Malcolm Henry (b. 1904), autobiographer. Worked in Massachusetts before settling in Chicago in 1927.

Cromwell, Adelaide M. (Gulliver) (b. 1919), social historian. B.A., Smith College, 1940; Ph.D., Radcliffe College, 1952; Instructor in Sociology, Smith College, 1944-46; Prof. of Sociology and Director of Afro-American Studies, Boston Univ.

Cuneo, Waring (b. 1906), poet. Attended New England Conservatory of Music


Dixon, George (b. 1870), essayist, memoirist. Spent early years in Boston.

Drafts, Gene (b. 1946), poet, journalist. Born in Boston, attended Massachusetts Bay Community College, Boston.

Fields, Alonzo (b. 1900), memoirist. Studied at New England Conservatory of Music; was butler for president of Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Geary, Bruce (b. 1944), poet, playwright. Born in Roxbury section of Boston; has been serving life sentence, Norfolk, Mass., state prison.

Goncalves, Joe (b. 1937), poet, editor of black poetry journal. Born in Boston.


Harris, Charles Jacob (b. 1885), memoirist. Piano accompanist to Roland Hayes, concert singer, in Boston and on tours in New England, 1911-17.

Harrison, Samuel (1818-1900), autobiographer. Minister in Pittsfield and Springfield, Mass.; Hartford, Conn.; Newport, R.I.; Portland, Maine.

Hayden, Lewis (1815-1889), Masonic essayist. Born a slave of Presbyterian minister in Kentucky; escaped in 1844 with wife and son through Underground Railroad; settled in Boston, 1849-50; prominent member, Committee of Vigilance to resist Fugitive Slave Act of 1850; his house on Beacon Hill chief Boston "station" of Underground Railroad; recruiting agent for Massachusetts colored regiments in Civil War; had clothing store, was messenger in office of Mass. Secretary of State; elected to legislature, 1873; for years Grand Master, Prince Hall Lodge of black Masons, Boston.


James, Thomas (1804-1891), autobiographer. Born a slave in New York State, escaped to Canada in 1821; was minister for time in Massachusetts.

Jeter, Henry Norval (1851-1938), memoirist. After slavery in Virginia, was pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church, Newport, R.I., 1875-1900.

Johnson, Helene (b. 1907), poet. Born in Boston, educated in public schools and at Boston Univ.


Jordan, Barbara (b. 1936), memoirist. LL.B., Boston Univ. Law School, 1959.
Latimer, Lewis Howard (1848-1928), poet. Born in Chelsea, Mass.; educated in public schools until fifteen, when enlisted in Union Navy; learned mechanical drawing in office of Crosby and Gould, Boston.


Margeson, George Reginald (b. 1877), poet. Came to United States from native St. Kitts, British West Indies, 1877; was sanitary engineer, Cambridge, Mass.


Mix, Mrs. Edward (1832-1884), memoirist. Lived in Connecticut.

Parker, Allen (b. 18377), author of slave narrative. After escape from slavery in North Carolina, was laborer in New Haven, Conn., and Worcester, Mass.

Plato, Ann, essayist, poet. Lived in Hartford, Conn., where member of Colored Congregational Church, 1841, when James W. C. Pennington the pastor.

Poussaint, Alvin F. (b. 1934), essayist. Asst. Prof. of Psychiatry, Tufts Univ. Medical School, 1967-69; Assoc. Prof. of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School, 1969--.

Prince, Nancy Gardner (b. 1799), autobiographer. Born in Newburyport, Mass., of African and Indian blood; worked as domestic in Salem and other towns from thirteen to marriage at twenty-five.

Randolph, Peter (18257–1897), autobiographer. Born a slave in Virginia; went with wife and children, along with sixty-three other manumitted slaves, to Boston in 1847; party met at Long Wharf by prominent abolitionists, including William Lloyd Garrison and Wendell Phillips; active in antislavery meetings; worked as laborer, servant, newspaper businessman; studied law, was justice of peace; Baptist minister in Connecticut and Massachusetts; after Civil War, pastor, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Boston, for many years.

Ransom, Reverdy Cassius (1861–1959), memoirist, editor, essayist. Minister, Charles Street A.M.E. Church, Boston, 1905–1907.


Richardson, Ben Albert (b. 1914), biographer. S.T.B., Harvard Univ., 1939.


Robinson, Lewis Green (b. 1929), autobiographer. Had various jobs in Boston; attended Calvin Coolidge College, Boston.


Rushin, Kate (b. 1951), poet. Fellow, Massachusetts Artists Foundation, 1978; community-based poetry workshop leader, Cambridge; Artist-in-Residence, Boston and area public schools, 1980—.

Russwurm, John B. (1799-1851), antislavery journalist, editor. Born a slave in Jamaica of slave mother and white American father; moved with father to Portland, Maine, then part of Massachusetts, 1812; attended Hebron Academy, 1819-24; B.A., Bowdoin College, 1826; taught in school for black children on lower floor of African Meeting House, Smith Court, Boston.

Sampson, John Patterson (b. 1837), playwright, speaker. Graduate, Comer's College, Boston, 1856; Presiding Elder, New England Conference, African Methodist Episcopal Church, nine years; pastor, Pittsfield, Mass., 1910-11, North Adams, 1911-12.


Smith, David (b. 1784), autobiographer. Former slave in Maryland, was African Methodist Episcopal minister in Massachusetts.


Steptoe, John Lewis (b. 1950), writer-illustrator of children's books. Lived and worked in Peterborough, N.H.

Still, James T., essayist. Physician in Boston, late 19th century.

Stingley, Darryl F. (b. 1951), memoirist. Was professional football player with New England Patriots, 1973-78, until injured and paralyzed; Executive Director, Player Personnel, New England Patriots.


Thomas, Will (b. 1905), fiction writer. Resident of Vermont village after 1946.

Washington, Vivian Edwards (b. 1914), autobiographer. Spent childhood and adolescence in Claremont, N.H.

Weaver, Robert C. (b. 1907), economist essayist. B.S., 1929, M.A., 1931, Ph.D., 1934, Harvard Univ.


Williams, James H. (1864–1927), autobiographer. Left Fall River, Mass., home at twelve to become sailor.

Worthy, William (b. 1921), journalist. Born in Boston; B.A., Bates College, 1942; was Prof. of Journalism and Afro-American Studies, Boston Univ.

Edward Clark is Professor of English at Suffolk University.
Black Writers in New England

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About Howard Thurman


Toomer, Jean (1894-1967), novelist, short story writer, poet, playwright, essayist. Attended Massachusetts College of Agriculture, Amherst, briefly in fall, 1915; lived in fraternity house; temporary captain of college football team.


About Jean Toomer


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*About William Monroe Trotter*


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About Derek Walcott


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About David Walker


Washington, Mary Helen (b. 1941), editor, critic. Assoc. Prof. of English, Univ. of Massachusetts, Boston.


Wells, Ida B. (1862–1931), journalist, autobiographer. Born a slave in Mississippi; lectured against lynching, Tremont Temple and Ladies' Physiological Institute, Boston, and throughout New England, 1892-93.

About Ida B. Wells


West, Dorothy (b. 1910), novelist, short story writer, editor, columnist. Born and raised in Boston, educated at Girls Latin School and Boston Univ.; lives in Oak Bluffs, Martha's Vineyard, writes weekly column in *Vineyard Gazette*.
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