Annotated Bibliography for Black, African, and African American Studies in the USF Libraries Special Collections

Black and African American History in the State of Florida

A publication of the Black History Research Project of Tampa.


This collection of essays encourages a critical evaluation of the concept of “Florida” as a cultural and geographical entity and the influences and effects of the numerous African and African American influenced cultures.

Africans participated in all the Spanish explorations and settlements in Florida. They helped establish St. Augustine and the free Black community of Gracia Real de Santa Teresa de Mose. They fought in the many conflicts in Florida, including the three Seminole Wars and the Civil War. They helped develop communities like Jacksonville, Tampa, and Miami, despite oppression. These twelve essays examine the rich and substantial African American heritage of Florida, documenting their contribution to the state’s history.


Follows Cuban exiles from Jose Marti's revolution to the Jim Crow South in Tampa, Florida, as they shape an Afro-Cuban-American identity over a span of five generations. Building on Marti’s declaration that being Cuban was "more than white, more than black," this book views, from the vantage of a community unique in time and place, the joint effects of ethnicity and gender in shaping racial identities.


Vitally linked to the Caribbean and southern Europe as well as to the Confederacy, the Cigar City of Tampa, Florida, never fit comfortably into the biracial mold of the New South. In Southern Discomfort, the esteemed historian Nancy A. Hewitt explores the interactions among distinct groups of women - native-born white, African American, and Cuban and Italian immigrant women - that shaped women's activism in this vibrant, multiethnic city.

Jones, Maxine Deloris. *African Americans in Florida*. Sarasota, Fla.: Pineapple Press, 1993. Briefly describes the lives and contributions of more than fifty notable African-Americans in Florida, from 1528 to the present, in such fields as education, politics, journalism, sports, music, and religion.


Odom, Ersula Knox. *African Americans of Tampa*. Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2014. Tampa’s population exploded during the early 1900s, and the building boom universally required the skills and talents of African Americans, who provided services, labor, and entrepreneurship in a massive form. They played significant roles in everything from Tampa’s wilderness era to its boombtown years and were key players in the first and second Seminole Wars with their Seminole alliance, and have contributed in many ways since then. [Early Days-Building Tampa- Seeking Equality- Businesses-Individuals-Organizations-Churches-Schools]

An unabridged republication of the 1st edition publication by the Florida State University Press in 1965. Professor Richardson charts the period of Reconstruction (1865-1877) in the U.S. through an assessment of the social state of the emancipated Negro population.


This book covers the civil rights movement in Tallahassee, Florida during the 1950s and 1960s.

Prepared at the request of the Tampa Welfare League and the Tampa Young Man’s Christian Association, the purpose of the study was to assess the state of Tampa’s African American population in an effort to address social welfare needs. Commonly known as both the “Raper Report” and the “Mays Report.” Photographs (8” x 10”) of the images included in this report can be found in the Jack B. Moore Collection, USF Special Collections.


Discusses St. Petersburg’s historic AA neighborhoods.

Black and African American History in the United States

African American sculptors and women artists.


Addresses longstanding issues of sexual abuse, suicide, HIV/AIDS, racism, and homophobia in the African American, Latino, and Asian-American communities, and more specifically among young gay men of color. The ... book tells stories of real people growing up gay, seeking love, finding their own identity, and ultimately creating their own sense of personal and political empowerment [P.4 of Cover].


Describes the life of a man who was fighting for civil rights before Martin Luther King, Jr., began to preach from his pulpit in Montgomery, Alabama, the landmark Brown v. Board of Education decision, or Rosa Parks's famous bus ride. It tells the story of his efforts to educate people and details his untimely death that was a result of the many assassinations during this era.


A compilation of four volumes of the classic Jim Crow-era travel guide for African Americans covering all four decades during which the series was published from the 1930s to the 1960s.


An account of Florida’s African American history predating the colonial period, as created for the Florida A&M University Departments of History, Political Science/Public Administration, Geography, and African American Studies.


A narrative biography of Mary McLeod Bethune, covering her childhood, educational and political initiatives, the establishment of Bethune-Cookman College in 1931, and her death in 1955.

American Literature- Women and Minority Authors.


A history of the African-American struggle for freedom and equality, beginning with the capture of Africans in 1619, continuing through the American Revolution, the Civil War, and into contemporary times.

Newton, Bert C. *Uncle Tom’s Cadillac: Not with Simon Legree But the NAACP!* Jacksonville, FL: Guild Press, INC., 1956.

The author gives a personal interpretation of solutions to the issues of the migration of African Americans from the South, the National Negro Resettlement Administration, and the state of education after Reconstruction.


A historical account of Negroes in America from 1619 to 1945. Research for this book relies in part on research conducted for the New York City, Georgia and Virginia Writers’ Project of the W.P.A.


The author discusses the origins of racial discontent during the Jim Crow era and makes recommendations for resolving these issues from a somewhat subjective perspective.


A history of jazz, from its roots in blues, ragtime, and swing to its various contemporary manifestations, discussing the major performers and the music’s reflection of the experiences of African Americans.


Offers an interdisciplinary study of black women’s historic activism, representation in literature and popular media, self-constructed images, and current psychosocial challenges.
Caribbean and West Indian Resources

Clarkson, T. *Thoughts on the Necessity of Improving the Condition of the Slaves in the British Colonies, with a View to Their Ultimate Emancipation; and on the Practicability, the Safety, and the Advantages of the Latter Measure*. London: Richard Taylor, 1823.

Originally published in The Inquirer, this treatise argues for the ameliorated treatment of slaves within the British colonies and the propulsion of an emancipation act. The dissemination of this publication was influential in swaying public opinion towards the support of the Order of Council, 1823, which called for reformed conditions within the colonies.


The second edition of an historical survey and account of the West Indies under British rule, from the perspective of a plantation owner prior to the abolition of the slave trade. Considered by many to be a standard in the study of British Caribbean literature. Includes intaglio illustrations and maps.

*Great Southern Railway, a Trunk Line, between the North and the Tropics, to Within Ninety Miles of Havana, Connecting at the Nearest Possible Point with the West Indies, Central and South America*. New York: W.P. Hickok, 1878.

The majority of this text concerns the development of the Great Southern Railway lines through Florida to complete the freight connection from the U.S. to Central and South America, and the West Indies. The information provided in this volume illustrates shipping routes, ports of call, and statements pertaining to products and the quantities transported. Geographic statistics and descriptive reports provide details of the agriculture industry of those countries connected via the Great Southern Railway. Included is a map fold out that illustrates the shipping and railway routes.

Jefferys, Thomas. *A Description of the Spanish Islands and Settlements on the Coast of the West Indies, Compiled from Authentic Memoirs, Revised by Gentlemen who have resided Many Years in the Spanish Settlements; and Illustrated with Thirty-Two Maps and Plans, Chiefly from Original Drawings Taken from the Spaniards in the Last War*. London: T. Jefferys, 1762.

This valuable record was composed towards the end of the Seven Years’ War, at a time when Britain had control of many of the French and Spanish colonies in the Caribbean. The text describes the history, agriculture, and geography of their new acquisitions. As a prolific imperial cartographer, Jefferys used French and Spanish sources to draw maps of the Americas and West Indies. Includes 32 fold out, copper plate engravings of maps and plans.
This publication is the second volume of an anti-slavery address to the British Parliament and general population.

*A Winter in the West Indies and Florida; Containing General Observations Upon Modes of Traveling, Manners and Customs, Climates and Productions, with a Particular Description of St. Croix, Trinidad de Cuba, Havana, Key West, and St. Augustine, as Places of Resort for Northern Invalids*. New York: Wiley and Putnam, 1839.
A description of southern Florida, colonial St. Croix and Cuba with particular emphasis on the climate and other geographic details.

African History Resources

Sub-Saharan African Art indexes.

English translation of Neger-Eros: Ethnologische Studien über das Sexualleben bei Negern, 1928. Sold only by subscription to physicians and students of anthropology, this work documents a two-year ethnological study of societies within equatorial Africa.

Written by English abolitionist Thomas Clarkson soon after the Abolition Bill of 1807, these two volumes recount the anti-slavery movement in Britain during the 18th century.

Frith, Francis. *Upper Egypt and Ethiopia*. London: W. Mackenzie, [1862]. A collection of original albumen prints taken during one of Frith’s three trips to this region, 1856 to 1860. Collectively, the images exemplify photographic expertise in extraordinary environmental conditions as they were processed on location in the desert. Summaries about the architecture and locality preface each of the photographs.

A western perspective of African history by the author of Peter Parley’s Tales. Includes wood engravings.

A selection of color facsimiles of antiquarian maps related to the European discovery of the African continent.


Stanley, Henry M. *Through the Dark Continent*. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1874. Stanley provides a narration of his expedition through Africa and remarks on the changes that have occurred since the opening of this continent to the European market. Two volumes. Includes ten maps and 150 wood engravings.


Compiled March 2021