

African Heritage in Canada: A Subject Guide



By Rebecca Boulter
June 18th 2008

Purpose

The subject of African Heritage in Canada is always popular with students and other patrons, particularly during African Heritage Month in February. The Cape Breton Regional Library is an excellent resource for information on African Heritage in Canada, but the information on this topic is spread throughout various parts of the library. The purpose of this subject guide is to assist patrons in locating information on African Heritage in Canada from the variety of resources available.

Scope

This guide only includes materials that focus on Nova Scotia in particular or Canada in general. Please remember that materials on African Heritage in the United States of America are also available from the Cape Breton Regional Library.

This guide only includes materials published in the last twenty years in order to ensure currency. Materials published before 1987 are available, so please check with your local library branch.

Basic Search Tips

The following are some useful terms for subject searches on the topic of African Heritage in Canada. When using our [catalogue](#), either in the library or from home, simply select "subject" from the drop down menu and enter one of the following as your search term. If you cannot locate what you are looking for, please check with a staff member for further assistance. Do not forget that you can place holds or renew books [online](#).

- ◆ Black Canadian Women
- ◆ Black Canadians
- ◆ Black Canadians Nova Scotia
- ◆ Blacks Canada

- ◆ Blacks Nova Scotia
- ◆ Nova Scotia Race Relations
- ◆ Underground Railroad Canada

Reference Tools

Here are some books found in the reference section that may be helpful. The location is listed as AREF for books in the adult reference section and JREF for books in the children's reference section. These items cannot be borrowed from the library, but can be photocopied.

- ◆
- ◆ Carter, Velma. *The Black Canadians: their history and contributions*, **305.896 CAR**
- ◆ Holas, W. P. *Millennium minds: 100 Black Canadians*, **920 HOL**
- ◆ Nelson, Jennifer J. *Razing Africville: a geography of racism*, **971.622 NEL**
- ◆ Williams, Dawn. *Who's who in Black Canada: Black success and Black excellence in Canada: a contemporary directory*, **920 WIL**
- ◆ Williams, Dawn. *Who's who in Black Canada 2: Black success and Black excellence in Canada: a contemporary directory*, **920 WIL**

Children's Collection

Here are some books found in the children's section that may be helpful. The location is listed as JNF. These items can be borrowed from the library. Look for other books on the same topic to be shelved together according to the Dewey number.

- ◆ Cooper, John. *Season of rage: Hugh Burnett and the struggle for civil rights*, **323 .1196 COO**
- ◆ Cooper, John. *Rapid Ray: the story of Ray Lewis*, **796.42 COO**
- ◆ Grant, John N. *The Maroons in Nova Scotia*, **971.6 GRA**
- ◆ Green, Jen. *The Africans*, **971.00496 GRE**
- ◆ Hill, Lawrence. *Trials and triumphs: the story of African-Canadians*, **971.004036 HIL**
- ◆ Livesey, Robert. *Black heritage*, **971.00496 LIV**
- ◆ Prince, Bryan. *I came as a stranger: the Underground Railroad*, **971 .00496 PRI**
- ◆ Shadd, Adrienne L. *The underground railroad: next stop, Toronto!*, **971.354 SHA**
- ◆ Sadlier, Rosemary. *The kids book of Black Canadian history*, **305.896 SAD**

Adult Collection

Here are some books found in the adult section that may be helpful. The location is listed as ANF. These items can be borrowed from the library. Look for other books on the same topic to be shelved together according to the Dewey number.

- ◆ Alexander, Ken. *Towards freedom: the African-Canadian experience*, **305.896 ALE**
- ◆ Ashe, Robert. *Halifax champion: black power in gloves*, **796.83 ASH**
- ◆ Black, Ayanna. *Fiery spirits & Voices: Canadian writers of African descent*, **819.3008 FIE**
- ◆ Black History Month Association. *Black history month resource guide*, **305.896 BLA**
- ◆ Brand, Dionne. *A map to the door of no return: notes to belonging*, **819.854 BRA**
- ◆ Clarke, George Elliott. *Fire on the water: an anthology of Black Nova Scotian writing*, **819.08 FIR**
- ◆ Cooper, Afua. *The hanging of Angelique: the untold story of Canadian slavery and the burning of old Montréal*, **971 .428 COO**
- ◆ Cosentino, Frank. *Afros, aboriginals and amateur sport in pre World War One Canada*, **796.08 COS**
- ◆ Evans, Doris. *Telling the truth: reflections: segregated schools in Nova Scotia*, **371.97 EVA**
- ◆ Foster, Cecil. *A place called heaven: the meaning of being Black in Canada*, **305.896 FOS**
- ◆ Foyn, Sean Flynn. *Africville: not for sale* [AUDIOBOOK], **971.622 AFR**
- ◆ Grant, John N. *The immigration and settlement of the black refugees of the War of 1812 in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick*, **971.6 GRA**
- ◆ Head, Wilson A. *Discrimination against blacks in Nova Scotia: the criminal justice system*, **345.716 HEA**
- ◆ Hill, Daniel G. *The freedom-seekers: Blacks in early Canada*, **971.02 HIL**
- ◆ Johnston, Justin. *James Robinson Johnston: the life, death and legacy of Nova Scotia's first black lawyer*. **921 JOH**
- ◆ MacNeil, Paul. *Heritage enhancement of adult literacy. 1998-1999*, **920 MACN**
- ◆ Mensah, Joseph. *Black Canadians: history, experiences, social conditions*, **971.00496 MEN**
- ◆ Nelson, Jennifer J. *Razing Africville: a geography of racism*, **971.622 NEL**
- ◆ Niven, Laird. *Was this the home of Stephen Blucke?: the excavation of AkDi-23, Birchtown, Shelburne County*, **971.602 NIV**
- ◆ Pachai, Bridglal. *The Nova Scotia Black experience through the centuries*, **305.896 PAC**
- ◆ Pachai, Bridglal. *Accidental opportunities: a journey through many doors: an autobiography*, **921 PAC**
- ◆ Pachai, Bridglal. *Historic Black Nova Scotia*, **971 .6 PAC**
- ◆ Pachai, Bridglal. *Beneath the clouds of the promised land: the survival of Nova Scotia's Blacks, volume 2: 1800-1989*, **305.896 PAC**
- ◆ Pachai, Bridglal. *Beneath the clouds of the promised land: the survival of Nova Scotia's Blacks, volume 1: 1600-1800*, **305.896 PAC**
- ◆ Powell, Stephen. *Archaeological surveys in two Black communities, 1998: surveying the Tracadie area and testing two sites in Birchtown*, **971.602 POW**
- ◆ Prince, Althea. *Being Black: essays*, **305.896 PRI**

- ◆ Robertson, Carmelita. *Black loyalists of Nova Scotia: tracing the history of Tracadie loyalists, 1776-1787*, **971.602 ROB**
- ◆ Ruck, Calvin W. *The black battalion, 1916-1920: Canada's best kept military secret*, **940.412 RUC**
- ◆ Ruck, Joyce. *Three Nova Scotian Black churches: a collection of historical essays*, **286.716 RUC**
- ◆ Ruggles, Clifton. *Outsider blues: a voice from the shadows*, **305.896 RUG**
- ◆ Saunders, Charles R. *Black and Bluenose: the contemporary history of a community*, **971.6 SAU**
- ◆ Saunders, Charles R. *Share & care: the story of the Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children*, **971.622 SAU**
- ◆ Saunders, Charles R. *Sweat and soul*, **796.83 SAU**
- ◆ Smardz Frost, Karolyn. *I've got a home in glory land: a lost tale of the Underground Railroad*, **973.7115 SMA**
- ◆ Talbot, Carol. *Growing up black in Canada*, **921 TAL**
- ◆ Thomas, Verna. *Invisible shadows: a Black woman's life in Nova Scotia*, **921 THO**
- ◆ Thomson, Colin A. *Blacks in deep snow: black pioneers in Canada*, **301.45 THO**
- ◆ Walcott, Rinaldo. *Black like who?: writing Black Canada*, **305.896 WAL**
- ◆ Walker, James W. St. G. *A history of blacks in Canada: a study guide for teachers and students*, **325.26 WAL**
- ◆ Walker, James W. St. G. *The Black Loyalists: the search for a promised land in Nova Scotia and Sierra Leone, 1783-1870*, **305.8960716 WAL**
- ◆ Whitehead, Ruth Holmes. *The Shelburne Black loyalists: a short biography of all Blacks emigrating to Shelburne County, Nova Scotia after the American revolution 1783*, **971.602 SHE**
- ◆ Weeks, Joan. *One God, one aim, one destiny: African Nova Scotians in Cape Breton*, **971 .6900496 WEE**
- ◆ Whitfield, Harvey Amani. *From American slaves to Nova Scotian subjects: the case of the Black refugees, 1813-1840*, **971.6 WHI**
- ◆ Winks, Robin W. *The Blacks in Canada: a history*, **325.2 WIN**

Government Documents

Here are some books found in the government documents section that may be helpful. The location is listed as GOVF, GOVP, or GOVM. The collection is separated according to the level of government that has published the item: federal, provincial, or municipal. The vast majority of these items can be borrowed from the library.

- ◆ Black Learners Advisory Committee. *BLAC report on education: redressing inequity-- empowering Black learners*, **371.97 BLA**
- ◆ Nova Scotia Advisory Group on Race Relations. *Report of the Nova Scotia Advisory Group on Race Relations*, **305.8960716 NOV**

- ◆ Task Force on Government Services to the Nova Scotian Black Community. *Task Force on Government Services to the Nova Scotian Black Community*, **353.534 NOV**
- ◆ Wien, Fred. *Final report on consultations with the African Nova Scotian community*, **323.11716 FIN**

Vertical File

Here are some items found in the vertical files that may be helpful. The location is listed as NSVF or VF. The collection is divided into Nova Scotia specific items in the Nova Scotia Vertical File and generic items in the regular Vertical File. Items from the Nova Scotia Vertical File cannot be borrowed from the library. Many items from the generic Vertical File can be borrowed from the library.

- ◆ Blacks (Nova Scotia Vertical File)
- ◆ Biography – A-Z (Nova Scotia Vertical File)

Nova Scotia Collection

Here are some items found in the Nova Scotia Collection that may be helpful. The location is listed as NSC. These items cannot be borrowed from the library, but many can be photocopied. We sometimes have two copies of a book, with one located in the Nova Scotia Collection and one located in the regular Adult Collection. The copy in the adult collection can be borrowed from the library.

- ◆ Ashe, Robert. *Halifax champion: black power in gloves*, **796.83 ASH**
- ◆ Black History Month Association. *Black history month resource guide*, **305.896 BLA**
- ◆ Clairmont, Donald H. *The Spirit of Africville*, **971.622 SPI**
- ◆ Clarke, George Elliott. *Fire on the water: an anthology of Black Nova Scotian writing*, **819.08 FIR**
- ◆ Evans, Doris. *Telling the truth: reflections: segregated schools in Nova Scotia*, **371.97 EVA**
- ◆ Halifax Public Libraries. *African Nova Scotians: resources from Halifax Public Libraries*, **971.6 AFR**
- ◆ Head, Wilson A. *Discrimination against blacks in Nova Scotia: the criminal justice system*, **345.716 HEA**
- ◆ Grant, John N. *The Maroons in Nova Scotia*, **971.6 GRA**
- ◆ Grant, John N. *The immigration and settlement of the black refugees of the War of 1812 in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick*, **971.6 GRA**
- ◆ Johnston, Justin. *James Robinson Johnston: the life, death and legacy of Nova Scotia's first black lawyer*. **921 JOH**
- ◆ MacNeil, Paul. *Heritage enhancement of adult literacy. 1998-1999*, **920 MACN**
- ◆ Niven, Laird. *Was this the home of Stephen Blucke?: the excavation of AkDi-23, Birchtown, Shelburne County*, **971.602 NIV**

- ◆ Pachai, Bridglal. *The Nova Scotia Black experience through the centuries*, **305.896 PAC**
- ◆ Pachai, Bridglal. *Accidental opportunities: a journey through many doors: an autobiography*, **921 PAC**
- ◆ Pachai, Bridglal. *Historic Black Nova Scotia*, **971.6 PAC**
- ◆ Pachai, Bridglal. *Education in Nova Scotia: the African Nova Scotian experience*, **371.829 PAC**
- ◆ Pachai, Bridglal. *Beneath the clouds of the promised land: the survival of Nova Scotia's Blacks, volume 1: 1600-1800*, **305.896 PAC**
- ◆ Powell, Stephen. *Archaeological surveys in two Black communities, 1998 : surveying the Tracadie area and testing two sites in Birchtown*, **971.602 POW**
- ◆ Robertson, Carmelita. *Black loyalists of Nova Scotia: tracing the history of Tracadie loyalists, 1776-1787*, **971.602 ROB**
- ◆ Ruck, Calvin W. *The black battalion: No. 2 Construction 1916-1920*, **940.412 RUC**
- ◆ Ruck, Joyce. *Three Nova Scotian Black churches: a collection of historical essays*, **286.716 RUC**
- ◆ Ruggles, Clifton. *Outsider blues: a voice from the shadows*, **305.896 RUG**
- ◆ Saunders, Charles R. *Black and Bluenose: the contemporary history of a community*, **971.6 SAU**
- ◆ Sealey, Donna Byard. *Colored Zion: the history of Zion Baptist Church & the Black community of Truro, Nova Scotia*, **286.171612 SEA**
- ◆ Strong, Darlene. *Sand Hill: Cumberland County's historical Black community*, **971.611 STR**
- ◆ Walker, James W. St. G. *The Black Loyalists: the search for a promised land in Nova Scotia and Sierra Leone, 1783-1870*, **305.8960716 WAL**
- ◆ Weeks, Joan. *One God, one aim, one destiny: African Nova Scotians in Cape Breton*, **971.6900496 WEE**
- ◆ Whitehead, Ruth Holmes. *The Shelburne Black loyalists: a short biography of all Blacks emigrating to Shelburne County, Nova Scotia after the American revolution 1783*, **971.602 SHE**
- ◆ Whitfield, Harvey Amani. *From American slaves to Nova Scotian subjects: the case of the Black refugees, 1813-1840*, **971.6 WHI**

Videos and DVDs

Here are some videos and DVDs found in the audiovisual section that may be helpful. The location is listed as ADVD, AVID, JDVD, or JVID depending on if the item is an adult or a children's video and if it is in VHS or DVD format. These items can be borrowed from the library. Look for other videos on the same topic to be shelved together according to the Dewey number.

- ◆ Cobban, William. *Freedom's Land: Canada and the underground railroad*, **973.7115 FRE**

- ◆ Hamilton, Sylvia. *Black Mother, Black daughter*, **305.8960716 Bla**
- ◆ Hamilton, Sylvia. *Nova Scotia, against the tides*, **917.6 NOV**
- ◆ Jacobs, Selwyn. *The road taken*, **331.119 ROA**
- ◆ Mackenzie, Shelagh. *Remember Africville*, **307.76 REM**
- ◆ National Film Board of Canada. *Journey to justice*, **305.896071 JOU**
- ◆ National Film Board of Canada. *Fields of endless day*, **971 FIE**
- ◆ National Film Board of Canada. *Loyalties*, **305.896 LOY**
- ◆ *Captain of souls, Reverend William White*, **921 WHI**
- ◆ *Rose Fortune: rhythm stick to freedom*, **921 FOR**

Databases

Here are some databases available through the [website](#) of the Cape Breton Regional Library. The databases are found in the Search for Information section of the website, and many of the articles are available in full-text format. Access to databases is free with library membership. Please remember that subject search terms for the databases will differ from the library catalog search terms listed above, but the subject terms Blacks, History, and Canada are common in most of the databases. For more assistance in database searching, please contact your local library branch.

- ◆ Gale Databases (including: CPI.Q, General Reference Center Gold, and Gale Virtual Reference Library) -available by selecting *Magazines from Home or Magazines from library*, in the *Search for Information* section.
- ◆ World Book Encyclopedia -available by selecting *World Book Encyclopedia* in the *Search for Information* section.

Websites

Here are some websites that you may find useful (the library is not responsible for the content of external websites).

- ◆ Black History – Veterans Affairs Canada
http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers/sub.cfm?source=feature/black_history
- ◆ Black History Canada
<http://blackhistorycanada.ca/>
- ◆ Black History Month – Canadian Forces Personnel Newsletter
http://www.forces.gc.ca/hr/cfpn/engraph/2_06/2_06_dhrd_bhm_e.asp
- ◆ Black Settlement in Nova Scotia
<http://museum.gov.ns.ca/arch/blkdata.htm>
- ◆ Blacks in Canada: A Long History
www.statecan.ca/english/studies/11-008/feature/11-008-XIE20030046802.pdf
- ◆ Library and Archives Canada, Black History Month
<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/black-history/002002-1000-e.html>

- ◆ Multiculturalism – Black History Month
http://www.pch.gc.ca/progs/multi/black-noir/index_e.cfm
- ◆ Parks Canada- Black History Portal
http://www.pc.gc.ca/culture/mhn-bhm/index_E.asp
- ◆ Remembering Black Loyalists
<http://museum.gov.ns.ca/BlackLoyalists/>
- ◆ St. FX African Heritage Page
<http://people.stfx.ca/acallist/afriheri2.htm>
- ◆ The Life and Times of Daniel G. Hill
http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/english/exhibits/dan_hill/black_history.htm
- ◆ Under a Northern Star
<http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/northern-star/index-e.html>
- ◆ Welcome to African Canada Online
<http://www.yorku.ca/aconline/index.html>