



Historical Society of Pennsylvania

Resources for African-American History

Some Key Primary Sources:

- Allen, Richard, and Absalom Jones. *The Life, Experience, and Gospel Labours of the Rt. Rev. Richard Allen: Containing a Narrative of the Yellow Fever in the Year of Our Lord, 1793 : With an Address to the People of Colour in the United States*. Philadelphia: Martin & Boden, Printers, 1833.
 - This book, written by Reverend Richard Allen, illustrated the African American contribution as well as opposition the black community faced as volunteers during the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793. The book also includes a letter and response from the Mayor of Philadelphia, Matthew Clarkson, commending the volunteer efforts of the African American community. Lastly, in the last chapters, Allen critiques slavery in a compelling address to all slave holders.
- Davis, Emilie. *Emilie Davis Diaries 1863-1865*.
 - Emilie Davis was a young African American woman who lived in Philadelphia during the Civil War. Three diaries, 1863-1865, contain memories of her day-to-day life with mention of some wartime events, including the fall of Vicksburg and draft riots in New York City during 1863.
- McDaniel, Thelma. *Thelma McDaniel Collection 1935-1989*.
 - Thelma McDaniel was a collector of the radical literature of the civil rights, black power, and communist movements in the United States and African solidarity movements abroad. As a resident of Philadelphia, she collected a variety of documents from mostly local organizations, including flyers; pamphlets; and newspapers expressing the sentiments, attitudes, philosophies, strategies, and tactics of these various movements and participating groups and organizations.
- Pennsylvania Abolition Society. *Pennsylvania Abolition Society Papers 1748-1979*.
 - The Pennsylvania Abolition Society Papers documents the society meetings and correspondences as well as provides census records for the African American Community. The group's primary mission at the beginning was to render aid to free people of color who had been wrongfully enslaved. From there, the society became more involved in abolition and equal rights. The society still exists today and this primary source offers a rich history on the African American contribution.

- Still, William. *[Journal C of the Underground Railroad in Philadelphia Kept By William Still : Containing Notices of Arrivals of Fugitive Slaves in Philadelphia With Descriptions of Their Flight, 1852-1857]*. [Philadelphia, Pa.].
 - This manuscript written by William Still, known as the "father of the underground railroad", provides insight into the experiences of the families who passed through Philadelphia and the people who helped them escape.

For a full list of all our collections relating to the African American Community in Philadelphia, please visit: <http://hsp.org/collections/catalogs-research-tools/subject-guides/african-american-collections>

Primary Digital Library Sources:

- *The Black Conscription* – <http://hsp.org/education/primary-sources/the-black-conscription>
 - A political cartoon from 1862 that reads, "When Black Meets Black, Then Comes the End of War and Slavery."
- *Come and Join us Brothers* – <http://hsp.org/education/primary-sources/come-and-join-us-brothers>
 - This is an illustration of African American soldiers during the Civil War.
- *Emancipation Proclamation Lithograph* – <http://hsp.org/education/primary-sources/emancipation-proclamation-lithograph>
 - This image appeared as an illustration in the January 24, 1863 issue of *Harper's Weekly*. It celebrated President Abraham Lincoln's decree emancipating slaves during the Civil War.
- *Employment Circular*- <http://hsp.org/education/primary-sources/employment-circular>
 - This document is an employment circular from the Pennsylvania Abolition Society's Committee on Employment.
- **William Still Digital History Project:** The Historical Society of Pennsylvania completed work on a new digital history project about the Underground Railroad. The project uses the manuscript journal and published book of William Still, known as the "Father of the Underground Railroad." Still's journal describes the appearance, manner, and circumstances of the runaway slaves who reached Philadelphia. The prototype is currently available at <http://still.hsp.org/still>. Please use these credentials to access the prototype: username- *hspguest*, password- *preview*.

- **For a Full list of all Civil Rights Digitized Sources please visit:**
 - <http://hsp.org/civil-rights-resources>

Unit Plans:

- **African Immigration** – High school: This Unit looks at African immigration to Philadelphia and it consists of five lessons plans. The first three lessons are an introductory lesson as well as a lesson on the diversity lottery and the refugee experience. The last two lessons focus on individual families and the African community. <http://hsp.org/education/unit-plans/african-immigration>
- **The Abolition Society and the Free Black Community** – Middle School and High School: Pennsylvania Abolition Society (PAS) worked with and for that community, providing education and employment assistance in the years following abolition in Pennsylvania and before the Civil War. The PAS also took an important role in documenting this community through censuses and home visits throughout the antebellum period. Although originally aimed at assessing the needs of this community, today these documents also offer a wonderful window into various structures of the community itself. <http://hsp.org/education/unit-plans/the-pennsylvania-abolition-society-and-the-free-black-community>
- **From Fugitive Slaves to Free Americans** – High School: This unit incorporates three documents tracing the advancement of men and women from the status of fugitive slaves to black soldiers fighting for the Union Army in the American Civil War. Examining an excerpt from the *journal of William Still*, students will read firsthand accounts of slaves who managed to successfully escape slavery via the Underground Railroad. President Lincoln's *Emancipation Proclamation* clarifies the geographical regions where slavery was to be abolished and to be permitted in 1863. These documents combined give a vivid picture of the transition black Americans in the United States underwent during the American Civil War. <http://hsp.org/education/unit-plans/from-fugitive-slaves-to-free-americans>
- **Civil Rights in Pennsylvania** – High School: This Unit Plan illustrates how Philadelphia became the perfect place for several Black Power conferences and home of the short-lived, though active, Black Panther Party. This unit leads students through these phases in the fight for civil rights in Pennsylvania using primary sources which includes the *Henry Patterson Papers* as well as multiple flyers for different events around

Philadelphia. <http://hsp.org/education/unit-plans/civil-rights-in-pennsylvania/from-boycott-to-black-power>

- **Baseball and Race in Post-bellum Pennsylvania** – High School: This Unit shows how baseball provided a platform on which African Americans could fight for equal rights by attempting to break down barriers through sports. In the lesson students will learn how the talent, intelligence, diligence, and drive both on and off the field, of men like Octavius Catto and the players in Pythian's Base Ball Club, worked to build strong ties as well as local and national support systems for the black community of Philadelphia. <http://hsp.org/education/unit-plans/baseball-and-race-in-post-bellum-pennsylvania>

For a Full list of Unit Plans please visit: <http://hsp.org/education/unit-plans>

Historical Society Publications:

- *Pennsylvania Legacies Vol. 10 No. 2: Pennsylvania, African Americans, and Civil Rights.*
 - This issue of *Legacies* provides multiple publications on the Civil Rights movement here in Pennsylvania. It focuses on the issues of discrimination in education, housing, employment, and public accommodation through four case studies from the 1930's-1970's. These case studies provide an insight into the contradictory history of the Civil Rights movement in Pennsylvania.
- *Pennsylvania Legacies Vol. 5 No. 2: The Pennsylvania Abolition Society.*
 - This issue provides insight into the main themes the papers of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society and reading the publications prior to any primary research will help make sense of the plethora of information. The group's primary mission at the beginning was to render aid to free people of color who had been wrongfully enslaved. From there, the society became more involved in abolition and equal rights.
- *Pennsylvania Legacies Vol. 4 No. 2: Treasures of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.*
 - This issue of *Legacies* highlights some of the most treasured items at the Historical Society such as portraits of William and Hannah Penn, drafts of the constitution, and a signed copy of the emancipation proclamation.

