

african american history in florida

African American History in Florida: A Legacy of Resilience and Resistance

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Keywords: African American history in Florida, Black history Florida, Florida's Black history, African American contributions Florida, Jim Crow Florida, Reconstruction Florida, Civil Rights Movement Florida, Black culture Florida, African American heritage Florida, slavery Florida.

Summary: This article explores the multifaceted history of African Americans in Florida, examining the brutal realities of slavery, the complexities of Reconstruction, the enduring legacy of Jim Crow segregation, and the inspiring struggles for civil rights and equality. It highlights both the challenges faced by Black communities and the remarkable contributions they made to the state's social, cultural, and economic development. The article argues that a full understanding of Florida's history is impossible without acknowledging the central role played by its African American population.

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Editor: Dr. Michael Johnson, Associate Professor of Southern History at Florida State University, specializing in the social and political history of the American South. Dr. Johnson has edited several successful books on Southern history, ensuring historical accuracy and engaging presentation.

I. The Seeds of Struggle: Slavery and its Aftermath in Florida

The history of African Americans in Florida is inextricably linked to the brutal institution of slavery. Brought to the state primarily to cultivate cotton, sugar cane, and later citrus, enslaved Africans endured unspeakable

hardships. Their forced labor fueled Florida's economic growth, yet their contributions were systematically erased from official narratives. Understanding the scope of slavery in Florida – from the sheer numbers enslaved to the diverse cultural backgrounds they represented – is crucial to grasping the foundations of African American life in the state. The system of chattel slavery in Florida, often harsher than in other parts of the South, shaped the social landscape for generations to come, leaving a legacy of systemic inequalities. The stories of resistance, both overt and subtle, during this era – from escapes to the development of unique cultural traditions – must be recognized as integral parts of African American history in Florida.

II. Reconstruction and the Promise Unfulfilled: African American History in Florida

The period of Reconstruction following the Civil War offered a brief window of hope for Black Floridians. For the first time, they gained access to education, political participation, and land ownership. African Americans held office, established schools, and actively participated in rebuilding the state. However, this progress was short-lived. The rise of white supremacy and the implementation of Jim Crow laws systematically dismantled the gains made during Reconstruction. African American history in Florida during this era is marked by a constant struggle against disenfranchisement, violence, and systemic oppression. The story of Reconstruction in Florida is a crucial part of understanding the challenges faced by Black communities and the resilience they demonstrated in the face of adversity.

III. The Jim Crow Era and the Fight for Civil Rights: African American History in Florida

The Jim Crow era in Florida witnessed the institutionalization of racial segregation and discrimination. Black Floridians faced systematic oppression in every aspect of their lives – education, employment, housing, and the justice system. Despite these overwhelming obstacles, African Americans continued to fight for their rights. The establishment of Black churches, schools, and businesses served as centers of community and resistance. African American history in Florida during this period is a testament to the power of collective action and the unwavering determination to overcome injustice. The fight for civil rights in Florida, mirroring the national struggle, involved courageous individuals and organizations who challenged the status quo and laid the groundwork for future progress.

IV. The Civil Rights Movement and Beyond: African American History in Florida

The Civil Rights Movement had a profound impact on Florida. The state

witnessed significant protests, boycotts, and acts of civil disobedience. African American history in Florida during this era is characterized by both struggle and progress. While significant advances were made in desegregation and voting rights, the legacy of Jim Crow continued to affect Black communities. This era saw the emergence of powerful leaders and activists who played pivotal roles in shaping the state's civil rights landscape. The story of their work and its impact continues to resonate today. The ongoing struggle for equality continues to shape African American history in Florida, reflecting both the gains made and the challenges that persist.

V. Contemporary Challenges and Continued Contributions: African American History in Florida

Today, African Americans continue to make significant contributions to Florida's culture, economy, and society. Yet, persistent inequalities remain in areas such as education, housing, and criminal justice. Understanding the ongoing challenges faced by Black communities in Florida is essential to building a more equitable and just future. The story of African American history in Florida is not simply a story of the past; it is a living narrative that continues to unfold. Examining this history helps us better understand the present and work towards a more inclusive future for all.

Conclusion:

The study of African American history in Florida is not merely an academic pursuit; it is a critical examination of the state's identity and a journey towards a more complete understanding of its past and present. It is a story of resilience, resistance, and remarkable contributions in the face of systemic oppression. By acknowledging this history, we can better appreciate the challenges that persist and work toward a more equitable future for all Floridians. The legacy of African Americans in Florida is a testament to the enduring human spirit and the ongoing pursuit of justice and equality.

FAQs:

1. What role did the Underground Railroad play in Florida's African American history? While less prominent than in other states, Florida had clandestine routes assisting escaped slaves. These networks relied heavily on Black communities providing shelter and guidance.
1. How did African American culture influence Florida's overall culture? African American music, art, cuisine, and religious practices have significantly enriched Florida's cultural landscape, shaping its unique

character.

1. What were some key figures in the Florida Civil Rights Movement? A. Philip Randolph, Harry T. Moore, and many local activists played crucial roles in the struggle for equality.
1. How did the Great Migration affect the African American population of Florida? The Great Migration impacted Florida, with both out-migration and in-migration, altering demographics and creating new challenges and opportunities.
1. What is the current state of racial equality in Florida? Despite progress, significant racial disparities persist in areas like income, healthcare, and incarceration.
1. How can I learn more about specific African American communities in Florida? Local historical societies, archives, and museums offer rich resources for in-depth study of particular communities.
1. What are some important historical sites related to African American history in Florida? The Harry T. Moore Memorial, several historically Black colleges and universities, and various museums and archives.
1. What is the significance of the contributions of African Americans to Florida's agriculture? African Americans were crucial to the development of Florida's agricultural industry, despite facing exploitation and injustice.
1. How are African American histories preserved and taught in Florida today? Efforts are ongoing to improve the representation of African American history in schools and public spaces, with ongoing challenges.

Related Articles:

1. "The Untold Story of the Black Seminoles of Florida": Explores the unique history of the Black Seminoles, their resistance to slavery, and their role in shaping Florida's cultural landscape.
1. "African American Education in Jim Crow Florida": Details the struggles and triumphs of Black Floridians in obtaining and maintaining access to education despite segregation.
1. "The Legacy of Harry T. Moore: A Civil Rights Martyr": Focuses on the life and assassination of Harry T. Moore, a prominent civil rights activist in Florida.
1. "Black Churches and Community Building in Post-Reconstruction Florida": Analyzes the important role of Black churches as centers of community and resistance during Jim Crow.
1. "The Impact of the Great Migration on Jacksonville's Black Community": Examines the influx of Black migrants to Jacksonville and its consequences.
1. "African American Women and the Suffrage Movement in Florida": Explores the contributions of Black women to the fight for voting rights in Florida.
1. "The Role of Black Veterans in Post-War Florida": Investigates the experiences and challenges faced by African American veterans returning to a segregated South.
1. "Artistic Expressions of the African American Experience in Florida": Showcases the artistic contributions of Black Floridians, including

music, literature, and visual arts.

1. "Contemporary Issues Facing African American Communities in Miami": Discusses the ongoing challenges and successes of African American communities in a major Florida city.

african american history in florida: The African American Heritage of Florida David Colburn, Jane Landers, 2018-02-26 The books in the Florida and the Caribbean Open Books Series demonstrate the University Press of Florida's long history of publishing Latin American and Caribbean studies titles that connect in and through Florida, highlighting the connections between the Sunshine State and its neighboring islands. Books in this series show how early explorers found and settled Florida and the Caribbean. They tell the tales of early pioneers, both foreign and domestic. They examine topics critical to the area such as travel, migration, economic opportunity, and tourism. They look at the growth of Florida and the Caribbean and the attendant pressures on the environment, culture, urban development, and the movement of peoples, both forced and voluntary. The Florida and the Caribbean Open Books Series gathers the rich data available in these architectural, archaeological, cultural, and historical works, as well as the travelogues and naturalists' sketches of the area in prior to the twentieth century, making it accessible for scholars and the general public alike. The Florida and the Caribbean Open Books Series is made possible through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, under the Humanities Open Books program.

african american history in florida: Native Americans in Florida Kevin M. McCarthy, 1999 Traces the history and culture of various Native American tribes in Florida, addressing such topics as mounds and other archeological remains, languages, reservations, wars, and European encroachment.

african american history in florida: Black Miami in the Twentieth Century Marvin Dunn, 1997-11-19 The first book devoted to the history of African Americans in south Florida and their pivotal role in the growth and development of Miami, *Black Miami in the Twentieth Century* traces their triumphs, drudgery, horrors, and courage during the first 100 years of the city's history. Firsthand accounts and over 130 photographs, many of them never published before, bring to life the proud heritage of Miami's black community. Beginning with the legendary presence of black pirates on Biscayne Bay, Marvin Dunn sketches the streams of migration by which blacks came to account for nearly half the city's voters at the turn of the century. From the birth of a new neighborhood known as Colored Town, Dunn traces the blossoming of black businesses, churches, civic groups, and fraternal societies that made up the black community. He recounts the heyday of Little Broadway along Second Avenue, with photos and individual recollections that capture the richness and vitality of black Miami's golden age between the wars. A substantial portion of the book is devoted to the Miami civil rights movement, and Dunn traces the evolution of Colored Town to Overtown and the subsequent growth of Liberty City. He profiles voting rights, housing and school desegregation, and civil disturbances like the McDuffie and Lozano incidents, and analyzes the issues and leadership that molded an increasingly diverse community through decades of strife and violence. In concluding chapters, he assesses the current position of the community--its socioeconomic status, education issues, residential patterns, and business development--and considers the effect of recent waves of immigration from Latin America and the Caribbean. Dunn combines exhaustive research in regional media and archives with personal interviews of pioneer

citizens and longtime residents in a work that documents as never before the life of one of the most important black communities in the United States.

african american history in florida: African American Sites in Florida Kevin M McCarthy, 2019-07-24 African Americans have risen from the slave plantations of nineteenth-century Florida to become the heads of corporations and members of Congress in the twenty-first century. They have played an important role in making Florida the successful state it is today. This book takes you on a tour, through the 67 counties, of the sites that commemorate the role of African Americans in Florida's history. If we can learn more about our past, both the good and the not-so-good, we can make better decisions in the future. Behind the hundreds of sites in this book are the courageous African Americans like Brevard County's Malissa Moore, who hosted many Saturday night dinners to raise money to build a church, and Miami-Dade's Gedar Walker, who built the first-rate Lyric Theater for black performers. And of course also featured are the more famous black Floridians like Zora Neale Hurston, Jackie Robinson, Mary McCleod Bethune, and Ray Charles.

african american history in florida: Black Society in Spanish Florida Jane Landers, 1999 The first extensive study of the African American community under colonial Spanish rule, *Black Society in Spanish Florida* provides a vital counterweight to the better-known dynamics of the Anglo slave South. Jane Landers draws on a wealth of untapped primary sources, opening a new vista on the black experience in America and enriching our understanding of the powerful links between race relations and cultural custom. Blacks under Spanish rule in Florida lived not in cotton rows or tobacco patches but in a more complex and international world that linked the Caribbean, Africa, Europe, and a powerful and diverse Indian hinterland. Here the Spanish Crown afforded sanctuary to runaway slaves, making the territory a prime destination for blacks fleeing Anglo plantations, while Castilian law (grounded in Roman law) provided many avenues out of slavery, which it deemed an unnatural condition. European-African unions were common and accepted in Florida, with families of African descent developing important community connections through marriage, concubinage, and godparent choices. Assisted by the corporate nature of Spanish society, Spain's medieval tradition of integration and assimilation

african american history in florida: Florida's Historic African American Homes Jada Wright-Greene, 2021 The state of Florida has a rich history of African Americans who have contributed to the advancement and growth of today. From slaves to millionaires, African Americans from all walks of life resided in cabins, homes, and stately mansions. The lives of millionaires, educators, businessmen, community leaders, and innovators in Florida's history are explored in each residence. Mary McLeod Bethune, A.L. Lewis, and D.A. Dorsey are a few of the prominent African Americans who not only resided in the state of Florida but also created opportunities for other blacks to further their lives in education and ownership of property and to have a better quality of life. One of the most humanistic traits found in history is the home of someone who has added something of value to society. Today, some of these residences serve as house museums, community art galleries, cultural institutions, and monuments that interpret and share the legacy of their owners.

african american history in florida: Florida's Black Public Officials, 1867-1924 Canter Brown (Jr.), 1998 A ground-breaking study revealing the magnitude and impact of African American leadership in Florida during the post-Civil War era. This work also includes an extensive biographical directory of more than 600 officeholders, an appendix of officials by political subdivision, and more.

african american history in florida: A History of Florida Marvin Dunn, 2016-05-24 I know Florida. I was born in Florida during the reign of Jim Crow and have lived to see black astronauts blasted into the heavens from Cape Canaveral. For three quarters of a century I have lived mostly in Florida. I have seen her flowers and her warts. This book is about both. People of African descent have been in Florida from the arrival of Ponce de Leon in 1513, yet our presence in the state is virtually hidden. A casual glance at most Florida history books depict African Americans primarily as laborers who are shown as backdrops to white history. The history of blacks in Florida has been

deliberately distorted, omitted and marginalized. We have been denied our heroes and heroines. Our stories have mainly been left untold. This book lifts the veil from some of these stories and places African Americans in the very marrow of Florida history.

african american history in florida: An American Beach for African Americans Marsha Dean Phelts, 2010-05-25 In the only complete history of Florida's American Beach to date, Marsha Dean Phelts draws together personal interviews, photos, newspaper articles, memoirs, maps, and official documents to reconstruct the character and traditions of Amelia Island's 200-acre African American community. In its heyday, when other beaches grudgingly provided only limited access, black vacationers traveled as many as 1,000 miles down the east coast of the United States and hundreds of miles along the Gulf coast to a beachfront that welcomed their business. Beginning in 1781 with the Samuel Harrison homestead on the southern end of Amelia Island, Phelts traces the birth of the community to General Sherman's Special Field Order No. 15, in which the Union granted many former Confederate coastal holdings, including Harrison's property, to former slaves. She then follows the lineage of the first African American families known to have settled in the area to descendants remaining there today, including those of Zephaniah Kingsley and his wife, Anna Jai. Moving through the Jim Crow era, Phelts describes the development of American Beach's predecessors in the early 1900s. Finally, she provides the fullest account to date of the life and contributions of Abraham Lincoln Lewis, the wealthy African American businessman who in 1935, as president of the Afro-American Life Insurance Company, initiated the purchase and development of the tract of seashore known as American Beach. From Lewis's arrival on the scene, Phelts follows the community's sustained development and growth, highlighting landmarks like the Ocean-Vu-Inn and the Blue Palace and concluding with a stirring plea for the preservation of American Beach, which is currently threatened by encroaching development. In a narrative full of firsthand accounts and old-timer stories, Phelts, who has vacationed at American Beach since she was four and now lives there, frequently adopts the style of an oral historian to paint what is ultimately a personal and intimate portrait of a community rich in heritage and culture.

african american history in florida: An African American and Latinx History of the United States Paul Ortiz, 2018-01-30 An intersectional history of the shared struggle for African American and Latinx civil rights Spanning more than two hundred years, *An African American and Latinx History of the United States* is a revolutionary, politically charged narrative history, arguing that the "Global South" was crucial to the development of America as we know it. Scholar and activist Paul Ortiz challenges the notion of westward progress as exalted by widely taught formulations like "manifest destiny" and "Jacksonian democracy," and shows how placing African American, Latinx, and Indigenous voices unapologetically front and center transforms US history into one of the working class organizing against imperialism. Drawing on rich narratives and primary source documents, Ortiz links racial segregation in the Southwest and the rise and violent fall of a powerful tradition of Mexican labor organizing in the twentieth century, to May 1, 2006, known as International Workers' Day, when migrant laborers—Chicana/os, Afrocubanos, and immigrants from every continent on earth—united in resistance on the first "Day Without Immigrants." As African American civil rights activists fought Jim Crow laws and Mexican labor organizers warred against the suffocating grip of capitalism, Black and Spanish-language newspapers, abolitionists, and Latin American revolutionaries coalesced around movements built between people from the United States and people from Central America and the Caribbean. In stark contrast to the resurgence of "America First" rhetoric, Black and Latinx intellectuals and organizers today have historically urged the United States to build bridges of solidarity with the nations of the Americas. Incisive and timely, this bottom-up history, told from the interconnected vantage points of Latinx and African Americans, reveals the radically different ways that people of the diaspora have addressed issues still plaguing the United States today, and it offers a way forward in the continued struggle for universal civil rights. 2018 Winner of the PEN Oakland/Josephine Miles Literary Award

african american history in florida: Africa in Florida Amanda Carlson, Robin Poynor, 2014 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.

african american history in florida: The Black Seminoles Kenneth W. Porter, 2013-05-21 This story of a remarkable people, the Black Seminoles, and their charismatic leader, Chief John Horse, chronicles their heroic struggle for freedom. Beginning with the early 1800s, small groups of fugitive slaves living in Florida joined the Seminole Indians (an association that thrived for decades on reciprocal respect and affection). Kenneth Porter traces their fortunes and exploits as they moved across the country and attempted to live first beyond the law, then as loyal servants of it. He examines the Black Seminole role in the bloody Second Seminole War, when John Horse and his men distinguished themselves as fierce warriors, and their forced removal to the Oklahoma Indian Territory in the 1840s, where John's leadership ability emerged. The account includes the Black Seminole exodus in the 1850s to Mexico, their service as border troops for the Mexican government, and their return to Texas in the 1870s, where many of the men scouted for the U.S. Army. Members of their combat-tested unit, never numbering more than 50 men at a time, were awarded four of the sixteen Medals of Honor received by the several thousand Indian scouts in the West. Porter's interviews with John Horse's descendants and acquaintances in the 1940s and 1950s provide eyewitness accounts. When Alcione Amos and Thomas Senter took up the project in the 1980s, they incorporated new information that had since come to light about John Horse and his people. A powerful and stirring story, *The Black Seminoles* will appeal especially to readers interested in black history, Indian history, Florida history, and U.S. military history.

african american history in florida: St. Petersburg Florida Sandra W. Rooks, 2003 St. Petersburg's African-American community enjoys a rich history that is evidenced within these pages of treasured images and detailed captions. Captured are the people, places, and events that have shaped this community from its earliest days to the present. Highlighted are the city's first black settlers John Donaldson and Anna Germain, former slaves, employees of Louis Bell Jr., and true pioneers. Acknowledged is the impact that the blacks who migrated here in the late 1800s had on the city's development. Shared are fond memories of black neighborhoods like Methodist and Pepper Towns that no longer exist, but can never be forgotten. Remembered is the community's fight for racial equality-using both peaceful and militant means.

african american history in florida: African-American Life in Jacksonville Herman Mason, 1997 *African-American Life in Jacksonville* is a work that will delight the lifelong resident and the first time visitor, the serious scholar and the casual observer. It is a lovingly composed look at a proud people and their heritage. Included are glimpses at such famous civic, social, and business figures as James Weldon Johnson, principal at Stanton Public School and composer of the great anthem *Lift Evry Voice and Sing*; James Charles Edd Craddock, owner of the palatial Two Spot nightclub; Eartha M. M. White, who operated the Clara White Mission; and Abraham L. Lewis, founder of Afro-American Life Insurance Company.

african american history in florida: Slavery and Freedom in the Shenandoah Valley during the Civil War Era Jonathan A. Noyalas, 2022-11-01 The African American experience in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley from the antebellum period through Reconstruction This book examines the complexities of life for African Americans in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley from the antebellum period through Reconstruction. Although the Valley was a site of fierce conflicts during the Civil War and its military activity has been extensively studied, scholars have largely ignored the Black experience in the region until now. Correcting previous assumptions that slavery was not important to the Valley, and that enslaved people were treated better there than in other parts of the South, Jonathan Noyalas demonstrates the strong hold of slavery in the region. He explains that during the war, enslaved and free African Americans navigated a borderland that changed hands frequently—where it was possible to be in Union territory one day, Confederate territory the next, and no-man's land another. He shows that the region's enslaved population resisted slavery and supported the Union war effort by serving as scouts, spies, and laborers, or by fleeing to enlist in regiments of the United States Colored Troops. Noyalas draws on untapped primary resources,

including thousands of records from the Freedmen's Bureau and contemporary newspapers, to continue the story and reveal the challenges African Americans faced from former Confederates after the war. He traces their actions, which were shaped uniquely by the volatility of the struggle in this region, to ensure that the war's emancipationist legacy would survive. A volume in the series *Southern Dissent*, edited by Stanley Harrold and Randall M. Miller

african american history in florida: *A People's History of Florida, 1513-1876* Adam Wasserman, 2010 Howard Zinn, author of *A People's History of the United States*, predicted that the bottom class perspective of history would eventually gain ground, enveloping the old way of narrating history as told by the powerful. Since then, numerous historical events have been redefined through the outlook of common people that were involved from the bottom-up, forever altering how we understand history. No more romantic diatribes glittered in patriotic myths. No more traditional heroes, standardized viewpoints, unquestionable facts, or generalized falsehoods. Just plain raw truth that is not afraid to stampede powerful governments with the herd of popular outrage. *A People's History of Florida* follows the *People's History* tradition, documenting the active involvement of African-Americans, indigenous people, women, and poor whites in shaping the Sunshine State's history.

african american history in florida: *Beyond Integration* J. Michael Butler, 2016-04-12 In 1975, Florida's Escambia County and the city of Pensacola experienced a pernicious chain of events. A sheriff's deputy killed a young black man at point-blank range. Months of protests against police brutality followed, culminating in the arrest and conviction of the Reverend H. K. Matthews, the leading civil rights organizer in the county. Viewing the events of Escambia County within the context of the broader civil rights movement, J. Michael Butler demonstrates that while activism of the previous decade destroyed most visible and dramatic signs of racial segregation, institutionalized forms of cultural racism still persisted. In Florida, white leaders insisted that because blacks obtained legislative victories in the 1960s, African Americans could no longer claim that racism existed, even while public schools displayed Confederate imagery and allegations of police brutality against black citizens multiplied. Offering a new perspective on the literature of the black freedom struggle, *Beyond Integration* reveals how with each legal step taken toward racial equality, notions of black inferiority became more entrenched, reminding us just how deeply racism remained--and still remains--in our society.

african american history in florida: *African-Americans in Florida* Kevin McCarthy, 1993-01-01 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.

african american history in florida: *Emancipation Betrayed* Paul Ortiz, 2005 Paul Ortiz's lyrical and closely argued study introduces us to unknown generations of freedom fighters for whom organizing democratically became in every sense a way of life. Ortiz changes the very ways we think of Southern history as he shows in marvelous detail how Black Floridians came together to defend themselves in the face of terror, to bury their dead, to challenge Jim Crow, to vote, and to dream.—David R. Roediger, author of *Colored White: Transcending the Racial Past* “*Emancipation Betrayed* is a remarkable piece of work, a tightly argued, meticulously researched examination of the first statewide movement by African Americans for civil rights, a movement which since has been effectively erased from our collective memory. The book poses a profound challenge to our understanding of the limits and possibilities of African American resistance in the early twentieth century. This analysis of how a politically and economically marginalized community nurtures the capacity for struggle speaks as much to our time as to 1919.”—Charles Payne, author of *I've Got the Light of Freedom*

african american history in florida: *Clearwater, Florida* Sandra W. Rooks, Randolph Lightfoot, 2002 African American history in Clearwater dates back to the early 1500s when the first blacks arrived as part of Panfilo de Narvaez's exploration party. Since that time, the community has grown and made indelible marks on this city as well as Florida state history. Rare images coupled

with informative text highlight the people, places, events, and accomplishments at the very heart of this community for residents, visitors, and future generations to enjoy.

african american history in florida: Black Well-Being Andrea Stone, 2022-05-03 Canadian Association for American Studies Robert K. Martin Book Prize Analyzing slave narratives, emigration polemics, a murder trial, and black-authored fiction, Andrea Stone highlights the central role physical and mental health and well-being played in antebellum black literary constructions of selfhood. At a time when political and medical theorists emphasized black well-being in their arguments for or against slavery, African American men and women developed their own theories about what it means to be healthy and well in contexts of injury, illness, sexual abuse, disease, and disability. Such portrayals of the healthy black self in early black print culture created a nineteenth-century politics of well-being that spanned continents. Even in conditions of painful labor, severely limited resources, and physical and mental brutality, these writers counter stereotypes and circumstances by representing and claiming the totality of bodily existence. Publication of the paperback edition made possible by a Sustaining the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

african american history in florida: *Crossing Division Street* Benjamin D. Brotemarkle, 2005 This book includes an overview of the people, institutions, and events that shaped the establishment, growth and history of the African-American community in Orlando. We examine the creation of the neighborhood's educational centers, places of worship, and businesses, and the irony of how desegregation inadvertently led to the decline of the community. Significant instances of racial unrest in Orlando that are often overlooked are detailed in this manuscript

african american history in florida: **Newtown Alive** Rosalyn Howard Ph D, 2017-03-15 This book chronicles the history of Sarasota, Florida's African American community - Newtown - that celebrated its 100-year anniversary in 2014. It answers questions about many aspects of community life: why the earliest African Americans who came to Sarasota, then a tiny fishing village, first settled in areas near downtown called -Black Bottom- and -over town;- their transition from there to Newtown; how they developed Newtown from swampland into a self-contained community to ensure their own survival during the Jim Crow era; the ways they earned a living, what self-help organizations they formed; their religious and educational traditions; residents' military service, the strong emphasis placed on education; how they succeeded in gaining political representation after filing a federal lawsuit; and much more. Newtown residents fought for civil rights, endured and triumphed over Jim Crow segregation, suffered KKK intimidation and violence, and currently are resisting the stealthy gentrification of their community. Whether you are new to the area, a frequent visitor, an educator, historian or a longtime resident trying to connect the dots in your family tree, you will find these stories of courage, dignity and determination enlightening and empowering!

african american history in florida: NASA and the Long Civil Rights Movement Brian C. Odom, Stephen P. Waring, 2022-04-12 American Astronautical Society Eugene M. Emme Astronautical Literature Award As NASA prepared for the launch of Apollo 11 in July 1969, many African American leaders protested the billions of dollars used to fund "space joyrides" rather than help tackle poverty, inequality, and discrimination at home. This volume examines such tensions as well as the ways in which NASA's goal of space exploration aligned with the cause of racial equality. It provides new insights into the complex relationship between the space program and the civil rights movement in the Jim Crow South and abroad. Essays explore how thousands of jobs created during the space race offered new opportunities for minorities in places like Huntsville, Alabama, while at the same time segregation at NASA's satellite tracking station in South Africa led to that facility's closure. Other topics include black skepticism toward NASA's framing of space exploration as "for the benefit of all mankind," NASA's track record in hiring women and minorities, and the efforts of black activists to increase minority access to education that would lead to greater participation in the space program. The volume also addresses how to best find and preserve archival evidence of African American contributions that are missing from narratives of space exploration. NASA and the Long Civil Rights Movement offers important lessons from history as

today's activists grapple with the distance between social movements like Black Lives Matter and scientific ambitions such as NASA's mission to Mars. Contributors: P.J. Blount | Jonathan Coopersmith | Matthew L. Downs | Eric Fenrich | Cathleen Lewis | Cyrus Mody | David S. Molina | Brian C. Odom | Brenda Plummer | Christina K. Roberts | Keith Snedegar | Stephen P. Waring | Margaret A. Weitekamp Publication of the paperback edition made possible by a Sustaining the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

african american history in florida: The Beast in Florida Marvin Dunn, 2013 A symbolic embodiment of racial violence and hatred, "The Beast" openly prowled the nation between the Civil War and the civil rights movement. The reasons it appeared varied, with psychological, political, and economic dynamics all playing a part, but the outcome was always brutal--if not deadly. From the bombing of Harriette and Harry T. Moore's home on Christmas Day to Willie James Howard's murder, from the Rosewood massacre to the Newberry Six lynchings, Marvin Dunn offers an encyclopedic catalogue of The Beast's rampages in Florida. Instead of simply taking snapshots of incidents, Dunn provides context for a century's worth of racial violence by examining communities over time. Crucial insights from interviews with descendants of both perpetrators and victims shape this study of Florida's grim racial history. Rather than pointing fingers and placing blame, The Beast in Florida allows voices and facts to speak for themselves, facilitating a conversation on the ways in which racial violence changed both black and white lives forever. With this comprehensive and balanced look at racially motivated events, Dunn reveals the Sunshine State's too-often forgotten—or intentionally hidden—past. The result is a panorama of compelling human stories: its emergent dialogue challenges conceptions of what created and maintained The Beast.

african american history in florida: The Maroons of Prospect Bluff and Their Quest for Freedom in the Atlantic World Nathaniel Millett, 2013-08-27 Nathaniel Millett examines how the Prospect Bluff maroons constructed their freedom, shedding light on the extent to which they could fight physically and intellectually to claim their rights. Millett considers the legacy of the Haitian Revolution, the growing influence of abolitionism, and the period's changing interpretations of race, freedom, and citizenship among whites, blacks, and Native Americans.

african american history in florida: U.S. History P. Scott Corbett, Volker Janssen, John M. Lund, Todd Pfannestiel, Sylvie Waskiewicz, Paul Vickery, 2024-09-10 U.S. History is designed to meet the scope and sequence requirements of most introductory courses. The text provides a balanced approach to U.S. history, considering the people, events, and ideas that have shaped the United States from both the top down (politics, economics, diplomacy) and bottom up (eyewitness accounts, lived experience). U.S. History covers key forces that form the American experience, with particular attention to issues of race, class, and gender.

african american history in florida: Race in the American South David Brown, 2007-07-12 The issue of race has indelibly shaped the history of the United States. Nowhere has the drama of race relations been more powerfully staged than in the American South. This book charts the turbulent course of southern race relations from the colonial origins of the plantation system to the maturation of slavery in the nineteenth century, through the rise of a new racial order during the Civil War and Reconstruction, to the civil rights revolution of the twentieth century. While the history of race in the southern states has been shaped by a basic struggle between black and white, the authors show how other forces such as class and gender have complicated the colour line. They distinguish clearly between ideas about race, mostly written and disseminated by intellectuals and politicians, and their reception by ordinary southerners, both black and white. As a result, readers are presented with a broad, over-arching view of race in the American South throughout its chequered history. Key Features: *racial issues are the key area of interest for those who study the American South *race is the driving engine of Southern history *unique in its focus on race *broad coverage - origins of the plantation system to the situation in the South today

african american history in florida: Democracy Abroad, Lynching at Home Tameka B. Hobbs, 2016 In this book, Tameka Hobbs investigates the history of racial violence and lynchings in

Florida, focusing especially on a string of brutal lynchings that occurred during the 1940s. She argues that these lynchings created difficult diplomatic moments during both World War II and the Cold War period and that they forced the U.S. government to become more active in prosecuting racial violence.--Publisher description.

african american history in florida: *The Public Health Nurses of Jim Crow Florida* Christine Ardalan, 2021-11-02 Florida Historical Society Harry T. and Harriette V. Moore Award Highlighting the long unacknowledged role of a group of pioneering professional women, *The Public Health Nurses of Jim Crow Florida* tells the story of healthcare workers who battled racism in a state where white supremacy formed the bedrock of society. They aimed to serve those people out of reach of modern medical care. In the era of Jim Crow discrimination, their marginalization in medical facilities—along with the overall medical neglect to address their health—meant that many African Americans in rural communities rarely saw doctors. Christine Ardalan shows how Florida's public health nurses took up the charge, traveling into the Florida scrub to deliver health improvement information to the homes of Black and white residents, many of whom were illiterate. Drawing on a rich body of public health and nursing records, Ardalan draws attention to the innovative ways nurses bridged the gap between these communities and government policies that addressed threats of infection and high rates of infant and maternal mortality. From the progressive era to the civil rights movement, Florida's public health nurses worked to overcome the constraints of segregation. Their story is echoed by the experiences of today's community health nurses, who are keenly aware that maintaining healthy lives for all Americans requires tackling the nation's deep-rooted cultural challenges.

african american history in florida: *The African American Heritage of Florida* David R. Colburn, Jane Landers, 1995 Despite the oppressions of slavery and segregation, black Floridians struggled to establish their own communities, combat racism and economic deprivation, and negotiate the terms of their labor. Against overwhelming odds, they helped develop communities like Jacksonville, Tampa, and Miami, and they served as the critical labor force for the state's citrus, agricultural, and timber industries.

african american history in florida: *Fort Mose* Kathleen A. Deagan, Darcie A. MacMahon, 1995 In 1738, when more than 100 African fugitives had arrived, the Spanish established the fort and town of Gracia Real de Santa Teresa de Mose, the first legally sanctioned free black community in what is now the United States. This book tells the story of Fort Mose and the people who lived there. It challenges the notion of the American black experience as simply that of slavery, offering instead a rich and balanced view of the African-American experience in the Spanish colonies from the arrival of Columbus to the American Revolution.

african american history in florida: *Slavery by Another Name* Douglas A. Blackmon, 2012-10-04 A Pulitzer Prize-winning history of the mistreatment of black Americans. In this 'precise and eloquent work' - as described in its Pulitzer Prize citation - Douglas A. Blackmon brings to light one of the most shameful chapters in American history - an 'Age of Neoslavery' that thrived in the aftermath of the Civil War through the dawn of World War II. Using a vast record of original documents and personal narratives, Blackmon unearths the lost stories of slaves and their descendants who journeyed into freedom after the Emancipation Proclamation and then back into the shadow of involuntary servitude thereafter. By turns moving, sobering and shocking, this unprecedented account reveals these stories, the companies that profited the most from neoslavery, and the insidious legacy of racism that reverberates today.

african american history in florida: *St. Petersburg's Historic African American Neighborhoods* Jon Wilson, Rosalie Peck, 2008 Pepper Town, Methodist Town, the Gas Plant district and the 22nd Street South community--these once segregated neighborhoods were built by African Americans in the face of injustice. The resilient people who lived in these neighbourhoods established strong businesses, raised churches, created vibrant entertainment spots and forged bonds among family and friends for mutual well-being. After integration, the neighbourhoods eventually gave way to decay and urban renewal, and tales of unquenchable spirit in the face of

adversity began to fade. In this companion volume to St. Petersburg's Historic 22nd Street South, Rosalie Peck and Jon Wilson share stories of people who built these thriving communities, and offer a rich narrative of hardships overcome, leaders who emerged and the perseverance of pioneers who kept the faith that a better day would arrive.

african american history in florida: African Americans in Florida Maxine D. Jones, 2014-10-01 Brief essays profile over 50 African Americans during four centuries of Florida history. Traces the role African Americans played in the discovery, exploration, and settlements of Florida, through the Civil War to the Civil Rights movement. For classroom use: one free teacher's manual with the purchase of three books.

african american history in florida: Teachers' Manual for African Americans in Florida Maxine D Jones, Kevin M McCarthy, 2015-10-17 This teachers' manual is meant to accompany the text entitled African Americans in Florida. The manual includes, for each chapter, (1) the key terms that are bold-faced in the text and defined in the glossary, (2) research questions for possible further work, (3) discussion topics for the classroom, and (4) a project geared to the particular chapter. The text is based on the recommendations put forth by the Study Commission on African American History in Florida, which was established by the Florida Legislature in 1990. The book integrates suggestions made by this and other educational commissions, by, for example, placing an emphasis on the role that history and geography have played in the story of African Americans of Florida. Teachers might want to use the text as a supplemental resource, not only in Black History Month, but throughout the school year.

african american history in florida: The Battle of Negro Fort Matthew J. Clavin, 2019-09-10 The dramatic story of the United States' destruction of a free and independent community of fugitive slaves in Spanish Florida In the aftermath of the War of 1812, Major General Andrew Jackson ordered a joint United States army-navy expedition into Spanish Florida to destroy a free and independent community of fugitive slaves. The result was the Battle of Negro Fort, a brutal conflict among hundreds of American troops, Indian warriors, and black rebels that culminated in the death or re-enslavement of nearly all of the fort's inhabitants. By eliminating this refuge for fugitive slaves, the United States government closed an escape valve that African Americans had utilized for generations. At the same time, it intensified the subjugation of southern Native Americans, including the Creeks, Choctaws, and Seminoles. Still, the battle was significant for another reason as well. During its existence, Negro Fort was a powerful symbol of black freedom that subverted the racist foundations of an expanding American slave society. Its destruction reinforced the nation's growing commitment to slavery, while illuminating the extent to which ambivalence over the institution had disappeared since the nation's founding. Indeed, four decades after declaring that all men were created equal, the United States destroyed a fugitive slave community in a foreign territory for the first and only time in its history, which accelerated America's transformation into a white republic. The Battle of Negro Fort places the violent expansion of slavery where it belongs, at the center of the history of the early American republic.

african american history in florida: Go Sound the Trumpet! David H. Jackson (Jr.), Canter Brown (Jr.), 2005

african american history in florida: After Slavery Bruce Baker, Brian Kelly, 2014 Focuses on labor and politics to help develop broader interpretive trends in the post-emancipation US South.

african american history in florida: The Negro Motorist Green Book Victor H. Green, The Negro Motorist Green Book was a groundbreaking guide that provided African American travelers with crucial information on safe places to stay, eat, and visit during the era of segregation in the United States. This essential resource, originally published from 1936 to 1966, offered a lifeline to black motorists navigating a deeply divided nation, helping them avoid the dangers and indignities of racism on the road. More than just a travel guide, The Negro Motorist Green Book stands as a powerful symbol of resilience and resistance in the face of oppression, offering a poignant glimpse into the challenges and triumphs of the African American experience in the 20th century.

Additional Resources

Florida's State Academic Standards – Social Studies, 2023

5 African American History Strand SS.5.AA.1 Resiliency, contributions and influence of African Americans on the United States beginning in the colonial era through westward expansion.

The Black Experience 2002 - Florida Memory

It is an update of the material presented in the 1988 publication The Black Experience: A Guide to Afro-American Resources in the Florida State Archives. This revised guide includes recent ...

African American History Instructional Standards Guide

To continue to advocate for the infusion of African American History into the prescribed subjects in the curriculum K-12 in Florida's Public Schools.

SAHS African American History Resources - St Augustine ...

SAHS African American History Resources NOTE: This list is not exhaustive and materials are ONLY FOR USE INSIDE THE RESEARCH LIBRARY.

African Americans in South Florida: A Home and a Haven for ...

To set the context for the story of South Florida's nineteenth-century African American political leadership, perhaps a brief historical and demographic overview might prove helpful.

MONTH HISTORY BLACK - Florida International University

African Americans came to Miami seeking work. Among them was D.A Dorsey in 1896, one of Florida's First Black Millionaires. Dorsey helped build worker housing in Overtown, owned the ...

African Americans in Florida, 1870-1920: A Historiographical ...

Harmon: Pioneer African American Attorney in Reconstruction- Era Florida," (2006), examined the lives of other Reconstruction leaders who served in the Florida House of Representatives.

"Slavery in Florida" 1840's-1850's - Florida Historical Society

In that regard, Florida was no exception to the South's systematic exploitation of individuals of African descent in its quest for economic advancement. In fact, African slaves were of ...

The State Archives of Florida

The intent of this guide is to present an overview of the resources that are available for the study of Black history in the State Archives of Florida. It replaces the 1988 publication and 2002 ...

Commissioner of Education's African American History Task ...

- Provide district and school leaders with information regarding the Commissioner of Education's African American History Task Force (AAHTF) and implementation of the new African ...

Constructing African American Histories In Central Florida

African Americans gain enough political and economic power and resources to challenge and contest white Southern history, erecting their own monuments, museums and associations to ...

Florida's State Academic Standards – Social Studies,

Identify African Americans who demonstrated civic service (i.e., Secretary of State Colin Powell, Civil Air Patrol [CAP] Lt. Willa Beatrice Brown, Carter G. Woodson, Senator Hiram Revels).

JACOB OLIVA SENIOR CHANCELLOR - Florida Department of ...

House Bill 7, signed by Governor DeSantis on April 22, 2022, and effective July 1, 2022, amends section 1003.42(2)(h), Florida Statutes, revising and expanding requirements for required ...

FLORIDA'S STATE ACADEMIC STANDARDS SOCIAL STUDIES ...

- The history of African Americans, including the history of African peoples before the political conflicts that led to the development of slavery, the passage to America, the enslavement ...

for FLORIDA MUSEUM OF BLACK HISTORY

The city of Sanford's prominent African American presence and leadership is inlaid in our history, with majority black historic communities as a testament to our pride in this diversity: Historic ...

Commissioner of Education's African American History Task ...

The Commissioner's African American History Task Force offers supports for educators and districts through their Exemplary Districts program and by providing resources, lesson plans, ...

Governor Ron DeSantis' and First Lady Casey DeSantis' Black ...

Feb 3, 2025 · There are many examples throughout our state's history of African Americans and their contributions to Florida's success. Using your own words, write about an African American ...

THE FLORIDA MUSEUM OF BLACK HISTORY Proposal

St. Johns County and the Northeast Florida region are steeped in the African American experience from the West African influence of the Gullah Geechee people to the contemporary ...

Commissioner AAHTE Recommendations Report - Florida ...

School Board Approval of the African American History Initiative. - Evidence that the school board has developed a plan for the implementation of the Florida African and African American ...

Florida's State Academic Standards – Social Studies, ...

5 African American History Strand SS.5.AA.1 Resiliency, contributions and influence of African Americans on the United States beginning in the ...

The Black Experience2002 - Florida Memory

It is an update of the material presented in the 1988 publication The Black Experience: A Guide to Afro-American Resources in the Florida ...

Florida Black heritage trail

In 1990, the Florida Legislature created the Study Commission on African American History in Florida ...

African American History Instructional Standards Gui...

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SAHS African American History Resources - St Aug...

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African American History In Florida

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