Niagara, The Birth of the Modern Civil Rights Movement
Introductory Overview and Resources

Charles D’Aniello
Associate Librarian
Arts and Sciences Libraries
State University of New York at Buffalo

Part One: Introductory Overview

(Note: Hyperlinks are to some of the resources freely available on the World Wide Web; however, please review the many resources that follow this essay. The “overview” is intended as an introduction and is based on the secondary sources “cited” throughout the guide and in the essay itself.)

The Niagara Movement (overview sources, 1, 2, 3, 4 select 2005 Summer/Fall) – the immediate “informal” predecessor of the NAACP – had a Buffalo connection. The organizational meeting that preceded its first gathering was held in July 1905 in the Buffalo home of William H. and Mary Burnett Talbert (1865-1923). Today a building on the University at Buffalo North Campus is named in Mary Talbert’s honor, Talbert Hall. Its driving force was sociologist and activist W.E.B. Du Bois (1868-1963). Du Bois was the first African American to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard University (history, 1895). His dissertation on the suppression of the African slave trade to the United States, 1638-1870, was published in 1896 as the first volume in the Harvard Historical Studies Series. He earned a M.A. in history from Harvard in 1891 and a B.A. cum laude in 1890 and he attended Fisk University, 1885-1888, and Friedrich-Wilhelm III Universität (then the University of Berlin, but renamed the Humboldt University after World War II) from 1892-1894, where he studied mostly history and economics. Although he could not meet the residency requirement necessary for earning a degree, he completed a doctoral dissertation on the history of agriculture in the American south. In 1905 he was a professor at all-black Atlanta University. He rejected the “accomodationist” philosophy of Booker T. Washington (1856-1915). In his famous 1903 collection of essays The Souls of Black Folk he included an essay entitled “Of Mr. Booker T. Washington and Others.” In it he attacked Washington’s Atlanta compromise speech and those who followed Washington’s lead.

In failing thus to state plainly and unequivocally the legitimate demands of their people, even at the cost of opposing an honored leader, the thinking classes of American Negroes would shirk a heavy responsibility, -- a responsibility to themselves, a responsibility to the struggling masses, a responsibility to the darker races of men whose future depends so largely on this American experiment, but especially a responsibility to this nation, -- this common Fatherland. It is wrong to encourage a man or a people in evil-doing; it is wrong to aid and abet a national crime simply because it is unpopular not
to do so. The growing spirit of kindliness and reconciliation between the North and South after the frightful difference of a generation ago ought to be a source of deep congratulation to all, and especially to those whose mistreatment caused the war; but if that reconciliation is to be marked by the industrial slavery and civic death of those same black men, with permanent legislation into a position of inferiority, then those black men, if they are really men, are called upon by every consideration of patriotism and loyalty to oppose such a course by all civilized methods, even though such opposition involves disagreement with Mr. Booker T. Washington. We have no right to sit silently by while the inevitable seeds are sown for a harvest of disaster to our children, black and white.

Du Bois realized that in the eyes of white America, Washington, founder of Tuskegee Institute, was the leader of black America. He was not, however, the undisputed leader of black Americans in the eyes of African Americans. Washington’s status among whites was assured by his famous 1895 speech in Atlanta in which he accepted segregation for the time being, urged blacks to stay clear of politics, and focus on hard work, vocational education, and self-help and by his autobiography Up from Slavery (1901). While Washington’s temporary diplomatic acceptance of second class citizenship led Du Bois to found the Niagara Movement, Washington was actually secretly active in furthering black rights and protecting black lives. He was not a segregationist, nor did he believe segregation and inequality would last forever. His activism became known to more than a few only after his death. In fact, Washington and Du Bois struggled in the same fight, but in different ways, coming from profoundly different personal backgrounds. Nonetheless, supporters and associates of Washington — known as the “Tuskegee Machine” — under his urging and direction, were powerful opponents and impediments to the Niagara Movement. The thoughts of each man reside in the 1907 volume The Negro in the South, His Economic Progress in Relation to His Moral and Religious Development being the William Levi Bull Lectures for the Year 1907 (Philadelphia: G. W. Jacobs & Co.).

It was reasonable that protesters come to Buffalo. Called the “Queen City of the Lakes,” in 1905 Buffalo was the eighth largest city in America, a transportation hub, and was associated with the struggle to escape slavery. Western New York was a major conduit on the Underground Railroad. Du Bois was no stranger to Buffalo. He was the primary contributor to The Negro Exhibit at the 1901 Pan American Exposition in Buffalo. The exhibit was originally organized for the 1900 Paris Exposition.

In July of 1905, African-American scholars, intellectuals, writers and activists – what Du Bois called the “talented tenth” -- met in Fort Erie, Ontario to formally establish the Niagara Movement and to issue its "Declaration of Principles," a plan for the aggressive promotion of manhood suffrage and equal economic and educational opportunities; an end to segregation, and the establishment of full civil rights. Fifty-Nine African-American men signed a call circulated secretly in June “for organized determination and aggressive action on the part of men who believe in Negro freedom and growth.” Twenty-nine men attended the July meeting. The initial plan to meet in Buffalo was not followed, although whether because of fear of racial discrimination or because of the housing pressure of a huge convention of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks occurring at the same time, or simply because a more restful setting was desired, (or some combination of these factors), is not clear. A meeting of sorts took place at the Talbert home (now demolished but once located beside the Michigan Street Baptist Church and near the home of the Rev. Jesse Edward Nash), probably before crossing the river. The group met at the beautiful Erie Beach Hotel in Fort Erie, Ontario (July 11-14, 1905). It condemned the rising tide of violence (perhaps as many as 100 lynchings of black men in a typical year), legal segregation (the Supreme Court approved the formula of “separate but equal” facilities in the 1896 case Plessy vs. Ferguson), and voter disenfranchisement.

For his part, Booker T. Washington opposed the Niagarites, their ideas and their tactics, and sent a spy to report on the meetings in Buffalo. Clifford Plummer, an African American attorney from Boston,
couldn't find them in Buffalo, and concluded that the meeting was not held. He did, however, visit the local offices of the Associated Press and presumably the result was an almost complete blackout of news of the Niagarites in the white press. On 12 July Plummer visited the AP office and the next day he wrote to Washington that he would “try to stop their declaration from appearing.” On 16 July he wrote to Washington again, this time shocked and confused that news of the meeting was published in a Boston newspaper:

. . . there really was no conference in Buffalo where delegates were in attendance. The names of the delegates might have been communicated to a certain gentleman and then carried to Buffalo; but the gentlemen themselves were not there. I was located near 521 Michigan Avenue from Wednesday morning until Friday and I can state positively that none of the men mentioned in the report were present except Du Bois. Notwithstanding that the conference amounted to nothing, the local editors informed me that some colored man did bring in a report such as appeared in the Boston papers; but no reporter was assigned to the seat of the conference.

The Buffalo Enquirer (or click here) of 12 and 13 July 1905 did cover the meeting.

The Niagara Movement lasted only a few years, and never had more than about 200 active members. By 1906 there were 170 members. Led by Du Bois, the movement held annual conferences in Buffalo and Harper’s Ferry, West Virginia (1906) and elsewhere, and monthly published the Horizon: A Journal of the Color Line. By sensitizing Americans to black discontent over worsening racial conditions in the nation, the Niagara Movement paved the way for the creation of the interracial National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1910. A race riot in Springfield, Illinois, in 1908, the year before the centennial of Lincoln’s birth in 1809, was the impetus for whites who had connections to the Niagara Movement, people like Mary White Ovington (1865-1951), a reporter, settlement worker and socialist, whom Du Bois had in 1908 invited to be the group’s first white member, to organize for protest. Du Bois was an advocate of women’s rights. The Movement’s co-founder, William Monroe Trotter, opposed including women in the movement. Full membership was granted to women at the 1906 Harper’s Ferry meeting. The Niagarites were a prime component of the group which organized itself as the NAACP. Their informal merger supplied the most aggressive and radical component of the organization. Du Bois became the only black member of the founding board of directors of the NAACP, and its director of research and publicity. He edited The Crisis from 1910 until 1934. Famous founding members included social worker Jane Addams (1860-1935), philosopher John Dewey (1859-1952), and editor Oswald Villard (1872-1949), who was the grandson of abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison (1805-1879).


---

Part Two: Resources

Niagara Movement Declaration of Principles, July 1905

. . . we believe that this class of American citizens should protest emphatically and continually against the curtailment of their political rights. Fort Erie, Ontario. For the full text go to
W.E.B. DuBois’ Address to the Nation, 16 August 1906

. . . . We will not be satisfied to take one jot or title less than our full manhood rights. We claim for ourselves every single right that belongs to a freeborn American, political, civil and social; and until we get these rights we will never cease to protest and assail the ears of America. The battle we wage is not for ourselves alone but for all true Americans. It is a fight for ideals, lest this, our common fatherland, false to its founding, become in truth the land of the thief and the home of the slave—a byword and a hissing among the nations for its sounding pretensions and pitiful accomplishment. – Delivered at the Second Annual Meeting of the Niagara Movement, Harper’s Ferry, West Virginia. For the full text go to http://www.wfu.edu/~zulick/341/niagara.html or http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=496

Keywords for Searching for Information in Catalogs and Indexes

Subject headings under which to look in the catalog and elsewhere include:
African Americans--Civil rights
African Americans--Race identity
African Americans--Segregation
Washington, Booker T., 1856-1915

A Guide to the Guide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Guides to the Literature of African-American History</th>
<th>Selected Newspaper Indexes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General and Specific Topical Encyclopedias</td>
<td>Selected Web Sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biographical Information</td>
<td>Selected Texts that Specifically Consider Some Aspect of the Niagara Movement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dates, Events, and Numbers</td>
<td>An Online Course and Lecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selected Periodical Indexes</td>
<td>Commentary via Audio-Visual Material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005 National Black History Theme</td>
<td>Western New York Programming</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Guides to the Literature of African-American History
Look here for general advice on what are considered to be among the most important books and articles on a topic.

This is a compilation of topical essays which cover important historiographical topics. The dimensions of each topic are explored through commentary on the topic, which is constructed through analysis of the interpretations of historians who have contributed to its discussion. In addition, bibliographies conclude each essay and make this source an outstanding “reader’s guide.” Among the thirty-one essays are: “Origins and Institutionalization of American Slavery” (Jason R. Young), “Spirituality and Socialization in the Slave Community (Jason R. Young), and “Jim Crowed – Emancipation Betrayed: African Americans Confront the Veil” (Charles W. McKinney, Jr. and Rhonda Jones).


This is a unique and indispensable source to which many distinguished scholars have contributed. Section I "Historical Research Aids and Materials" contains bibliographic essays on reference works, internet resources, manuscript collections, primary sources on microfilm, newspapers and periodicals, government documents, oral history, art, music, photography, and film and television. The largest portion of the work is comprised of finely "indexed" bibliographies of books and articles organized by time period.


See the entries for W. E. B. Du Bois, pp. 205-206 and Booker T. Washington, pp. 735-736. Topical groupings enable one to identify entries on African American history. Search the Thematic List under the heading “1877-1917 Gilded Age and Progressive Era.”


Annotated citations for books and articles in English and other languages are organized in topical groupings. As with all published bibliographies, users must update the lists.

General and Specific Topical Encyclopedias

Look here for a diversity of articles that may be pertinent to studying the Movement. Specific topics are, of course, covered in even the most general sources.

Reference Universe

http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/e-resources/refuniverse.html

This resource is available to University faculty, staff, and students and to onsite users. This is a unique database to which there is no print counterpart. There are many topical dictionaries and encyclopedias and they often contain useful articles that can go unnoticed by all but the most exhaustive and creative searcher. This database enables one to search article titles and/or back-of-the-book indexes for over 5,000 of these sources. Use this as a complementary tool to the sources that follow.

History Resource Center: U.S.

http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/e-resources/hrc.html

Use of this resource is restricted to University faculty, staff, and students and to onsite users. It is also available through the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library. While this resource will lead to full-text
periodical articles (from a modest list of journals), primary sources, and maps and multimedia, it is highlighted here for its ability to provide authoritative overview articles from a useful list of sources. Some of the important sources in this guide are not included among these; nonetheless, this can be a great place to begin research. Especially interesting is the set History in Dispute, which offers conflicting interpretations of a historical event or topic. Students are asked: “Who [Du Bois or Washington] was more effective in achieving rights for African Americans at the turn of the century?” Among the dictionaries and encyclopedias included are: Dictionary of American History (1976, 1996), Great American Court Cases (1999), Encyclopedia of American Social History (1993), Gale Encyclopedia of U.S. Economic History (1999), and Encyclopedia of African-American Culture and History (1996). Some of these and others are not the most recent editions available.


The first edition was published in 1940 and it was originally designed as a complement to the Dictionary of American Biography. Today it is the leading encyclopedia on American history. Deeper attention is given in the new edition to the role of African Americans and women than in earlier editions. And there is now more attention paid to social history. There are 841 new entries in the 2003 edition and 448 revised articles. Entries are well-written, conclude with references, are often illustrated, and often have a list of "see also" references to other relevant entries. The 9th volume is comprised of maps and a collection of primary source documents. And the final volume includes a learning guide and an index.


The online version of this resource is available to University faculty, staff, and students and onsite visitors. It offers the perspectives of history, law, and politics. Its well-written essays conclude with brief bibliographies. This is an excellent source in which to search for information on important Supreme Court cases. Appendices contain documents, a chronology, glossary, and a case index.


An excellent source of background information. The importance of the 19th century is expressed well by historian Paul Finkeman’s observation in the century’s entry: “The twentieth century has been called
“the American Century,” but the nineteenth century was ‘America’s century’ – a century of growth, expansion, immense change, and political development. It was the century that made the modern United States.” See the entries for “Race and Racial Thinking” and “Slavery.” This work is illustrated and entries conclude with suggested readings.


Information is given on the significance of each site, along with visitors’ information. There are entries for both Du Bois and Washington.

**Selected African-American Studies and Civil Rights Encyclopedias**


This is the most important scholarly encyclopedia for “students” of African American history.


Entries conclude with briefly annotated bibliographies. Use the index to find information on Washington and Du Bois. See especially: Accommodationism, *The Souls of Black Folk*, and National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.


The Niagara Movement entry is incomplete. Nonetheless, this is a good source for quickly acquiring a sense of the positions of those in both agreement with and opposition to Du Bois. Entries treat people, places, and events and the work concludes with a largely topically arranged bibliography.


This source is comprised of short, but very useful entries on expected subjects: Du Bois, Washington, the Niagara Movement, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Entries conclude with a list of suggested readings.

Comprised of brief but valuable entries. David Garrow writes: “No one can peruse this volume without thinking again and again about the otherwise obscure and/or often unremembered individuals, protests, and court cases that merit a greater presence in secondary sources and textbook surveys . . . “

**Biographical Information**

Look here for biographical essays. These generally conclude with lists of references. Among the differences you may notice across the sources are differences in interpretation.


This is the most current comprehensive source for biographies of famous Americans. Nonetheless, it can be used with the older **Dictionary of American Biography** and, as appropriate by period, with the British **Dictionary of National Biography**. It offers portraits of more than 17,400 men and women -- from all eras and walks of life -- whose lives have shaped the nation. Searching full text -- something only possible with the electronic edition -- retrieves 446 entries for “abolition;” for “slave ,” 1,128 entries.


This source was praised by distinguished Columbia University historian Eric Foner as “one of those publishing events which changes the way we look at a field.” There is only one mention of the Niagara Movement. See the entry for “Class” in volume 1, p. 286: “Unlike Washington, Du Bois did not believe that black people should have to earn the rights that were granted to whites by birth, and thought black people had to organize and fight for their rights and not wait for whites to grant them.” Here will also be found an entry for Mary Morris Burnett Talbert. Entries end with bibliographies.


This was a monumental undertaking, and subject to considerable debate and sustained attention by the historical community and others, during its creation. While some of its interpretations are dated - and it has been criticized for inadequate coverage of women and minorities -- many of its essays remain masterpieces and may be profitably consulted in conjunction with newer sources. Many of the topically focused sets listed here were published to compensate for its perceived gaps in inclusion or depth of coverage.


This index provides access to the corresponding microfiche collection, which is comprised of collated entries for the individuals covered. That is, the sources covered have been disassembled to allow all the
entries on an individual to be grouped together. Many of the sets indexed are old and rare and are not widely available.


Long held to be an indispensable resource in this area and the topic’s first truly scholarly work. Many of the people included were influential in the segregated black community, but not in the greater society and, therefore, were excluded from broader biographical sets. Eight hundred entries were authored by 280 contributors.


This index was prepared to accompany the microfiche collection: **Black Biographical Dictionaries, 1790-1950**, which is held in the Lockwood Library reference room under the same call number. This collection is comprised of microfiche copies of many sources - some old and rare - that are often overlooked or inaccessible to researchers.


All historical periods are covered in more than 600 entries. Columbia University historian Eric Foner praised this book as changing the way the field will be studied.


**Dates, Events, and Numbers**

Look here for the march of events and to answer the question: What was happening when this was happening? And look here to answer the question: How many or how much . . .?


What was 1905 America like? This is really a delight and very useful – and, while black America receives no explicit coverage, there is an entry for Du Bois and a quote from the Niagara Movement’s Declaration of Principles.


Well illustrated and excellent for general contextual coverage, but the Niagara Movement is not mentioned.

The bulk of the well-illustrated text is presented in topically grouped essays which introduce primary source material. While the Niagara Movement receives only the slightest coverage, contextual material is excellent. See especially pages 406-419.


While not at all focused on the African American experience, this collection does provide an easily understood, heavily illustrated, and vivid “image” of economic life across the periods and groups it covers. Sections are comprised of vignettes which present economic profiles for typical laborers at specific times, for example, an Irish store clerk from Massachusetts (1902) and a Russian steel worker from Pennsylvania (1910). Family budgets and finances are given in detail.


This outstanding resource offers a quantitative image of the African American experience across time. In addition to demographic data, numbers pertaining to economic activity and lynchings are given. Data is drawn from a variety of sources, including United States government publications, and from the Tuskegee Institute’s *The Negro Year Book*. Complement this resource with the University of Virginia’s Historical Census Browser [http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/collections/stats/histcensus/](http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/collections/stats/histcensus/), view the official Statistical Abstract of the United States for the years the Niagara Movement existed at [http://www.census.gov/prod/www/abs/statab1901-1950.htm](http://www.census.gov/prod/www/abs/statab1901-1950.htm) and consult Historical Statistics of the United States Colonial Times to 1970, Lockwood Reverence Collection HA202.A385 and on CD-ROM. A new print and online version of the latter will be issued in early 2006.

**Selected Periodical Indexes**

Look here for articles appearing in the most scholarly of sources, to pertinent material in the popular press. Read the annotations provided to be an informative and efficient periodical article searcher.

**America: History and Life**

[http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/e-resources/am_history_life.html](http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/e-resources/am_history_life.html)

This resource is available to University faculty, staff, and students and onsite visitors. It indexes the literature about the history of the United States and Canada and provides citations and abstracts for the contents of over 2,000 scholarly journals, and dissertations. It also lists book and media reviews from over 100 key historical journals and includes full text articles from the electronic resources The History Cooperative, Project Muse, and JSTOR. Coverage begins with 1954. For researching African American history, it is a vital complement to the International Index to Black Periodicals.

**International Index to Black Periodicals**

[http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/e-resources/iibp.html](http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/e-resources/iibp.html)

This database (1900 – 2005) offers multidisciplinary coverage for art, cultural criticism, economics, education, health, history, law, philosophy, political science, religion, sociology and other disciplines.
Niagara, The Birth of the Modern Civil Rights Movement

important to Black Studies. It is vital that African American topics also be searched in *America: History and Life*.

**Periodical Contents Index (PCI)**  
[http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/e-resources/pci.html](http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/e-resources/pci.html)

PCI indexes over 3,000 academic and popular periodicals published from as early as 1770 to the present in the humanities and social sciences. Searching retrieves citations to over 9.5 million articles published in English, German, Italian, French, Spanish and other Western languages. It is also an excellent source for book review citations.

**Nineteenth Century Masterfile**  
[http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/e-resources/poolses.html](http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/e-resources/poolses.html)

Builds upon the *Index to Periodical Literature*, 1802-1906 (generally referred to simply as "Poole's") to include every relevant index produced in the 19th and early 20th century into a single, comprehensive index focusing particularly on cultural and intellectual life. Book and serial records are also included.

**JStor**  
[http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/e-resources/jstor.html](http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/e-resources/jstor.html)

Presents the full text, in facsimile form, of the complete back files of important scholarly journals, generally from the first volume through issues published prior to the most recent three years. Major history and African American studies journals are included. The effectiveness of JStor searching is improved by proximity searching. This search technique and more is explained at [http://www.jstor.org/help/search.html](http://www.jstor.org/help/search.html).

**Selected Newspaper Indexes**  
For a list of Buffalo newspapers published when the Niagara Movement was active -- along with the location of useable files -- visit the Web site of the New York State Newspaper Project (for Erie County), [http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/nysnp/215.htm](http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/nysnp/215.htm).

**The New York Times**  
[http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/e-resources/nytimes.html](http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/e-resources/nytimes.html)  
*New York Times: Historical Index* (indexes articles published in the NYT from 1851 to 1922).  
*New York Times Article Archive: 1851-1995* (Search more than 15 million articles from the *The New York Times*, individual articles can be purchased, but the UB Libraries have a complete run of the NYT on microfilm. There is also a print index. Microfilm is located at Capen Multimedia Center MicFilm AN256.N52.

**Buffalo News (previous title Buffalo Evening News)**  
Capen Multimedia Center MicFilm AN256.B84 (1881-1925, 1958-present).

**Selected Web Sites**  
Look here, to save time, for the best sources on the Web.

**History Matters**  
A project of the Center for History and New Media of George Mason University and always the first place to look for American history Web sites. Over 800 Sites have been critically selected and annotated. See also the selection of primary source material, which along with the Web sites, is intended to complement the U.S. history survey course.

African History of Western New York
http://www.math.buffalo.edu/~sww/0history/hwny.html

This valuable site offers an incomplete effort to create an annotated chronology of African American history in the region from 1770-1999.

American Lynching
http://www.americanlynching.com/

“This documentary explores racist events and attitudes indigenous to the Northern and Southern states that either condoned or condemned lynching as a practice. It clearly depicts those events that directly contributed to establishing lynching as an intimidating tool. An evolving national dialogue ultimately causing lynching to be discredited is portrayed.” A powerful collection of texts and images cover the general topic, along with material on specific events.

Lynchings In America: A History Not Known by Many
B. David Schwartz Memorial Library
Long Island University

This site offers several compelling photographs and a link to the images from the online version of Without Sanctuary: Lynching Photography in America by James Allen, Hilton Als, Leon F. Litwack, with a forward by Congressman John Lewis (Santa Fe, New Mexico: Twin Palms Publishers, 2000). UGL/SEL Book Collection HV457.W58

The Buffalonian
http://www.buffalonian.com/

“The site is an ever-growing on-line local history archive, that gives the public easy access to our area’s rich and exciting past. Powell, a local author and Buffalonian.com's founder, said he wanted the site to create a greater awareness of our past and promote heritage tourism.” See Dr. William Evitts’ brief but valuable piece on the Movement at http://lucky.phpwebhosting.com/%7Eah/h/niag.html.

Uncrowned Queens
http://wings.buffalo.edu/uncrownedqueens/

“The Uncrowned Queens Institute for Research and Education on Women, Inc. conducts research on the issues affecting women of color. The research is used to develop educational programs that will enhance the quality of life for women and their communities; to promote the collection and dissemination of the individual histories of women, women's organizations and women's collective history; and to teach and educate women on the use of technology to preserve and disseminate their histories.” See illustrated essays on Mary Talbert and a letter by W.E.B. Du Bois to his daughter describing his Impression of the mighty Niagara. Du Bois’ choice of location for the first meeting is considered in Niagara Movement – A Mystery Solved!
**Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia**
Ferris State University
http://www.ferris.edu/jimcrow/

The actual museum is located on the campus of Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Michigan. “Jim Crow was the name of the racial caste system which operated primarily, but not exclusively in southern and border states, between 1877 and the mid-1960s. Jim Crow was more than a series of rigid anti-Black laws. It was a way of life.” Short authoritative illustrated essays, concluding with bibliographies, consider the topics: “What Was Jim Crow,” the Jezebel stereotype, the mammy, coon, and golliwog caricatures, and “The Tragic Mulatto” and “New Racist Forms.”

**The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow**
http://www.pbs.org/wnet/jimcrow/stories_events_niagara.html

The Web site is designed to complement the PBS series of the same name. “The key moments of the Jim Crow era impacted all of the United States. Certain events, such as anti-black riots, affected African Americans more drastically than other people; other developments, such as wars involving the American military, were universal. But universal events did not result in universal experiences.” The Web site is comprised of chronologically ordered articles. One is devoted to the Niagara Movement.

**National Public Radio Niagara Movement Turns 100**

“The Niagara Movement . . . turns 100 years old this year. The pioneering civil rights organization eventually transformed into the NAACP. Eileen Buckley of member station WBFO in Buffalo, N.Y., reports.” Her report is available as an audio file.

**Niagara Movement at Harper’s Ferry Centennial Celebration**
http://www.nps.gov/hafe/niagara/

“In August of 2006, Harper’s Ferry National Historical Park along with the Jefferson County Chapter of the NAACP and the Harper’s Ferry Historical Association will host the centennial celebration of the Niagara Movement. This commemoration, held on the same campus that hosted the Niagarites one hundred years ago, will encompass three separate components—public commemorative events, an academic symposium and the development of the Niagara Movement Educator’s Guide.”

**Remembering Jim Crow**
http://americanradioworks.publicradio.org/features/remembering/

“For much of the 20th Century, African Americans in the South were barred from the voting booth, sent to the back of the bus, and walled off from many of the rights they deserved as American citizens. Until well into the 1960s, segregation was legal. The system was called Jim Crow.”

**The Booker T. Washington Era**
http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aaohtml/exhibit/aopart6.html
The exhibition The African American Odyssey: A Quest for Full Citizenship, [of which this section is a part] showcases the incomparable African American collections of the Library of Congress. Displaying more than 240 items, including books, government documents, manuscripts, maps, musical scores, plays, films, and recordings, this is the largest black history exhibit ever held at the Library, and the first exhibition of any kind . . ." The Niagara Movement is briefly mentioned and it is noted that Dr. Du Bois initially congratulated Booker T. Washington on his Atlanta Compromise speech.

Du Bois: The Activist Life
http://www.library.umass.edu/spcoll/exhibits/dubois/index.htm

The bulk of W.E.B. Du Bois’ papers are held by the University of Massachusetts. This beautifully executed online exhibit is based on this collection.

Making the Atlanta Compromise: Booker T. Washington Is Invited to Speak
http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/86
Booker T. Washington Delivers the 1895 Atlanta Compromise Speech
http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/39
"Equal and Exact Justice to Both Races": Booker T. Washington on the Reaction to his Atlanta Speech
http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/87
W.E.B Du Bois Critiques Booker T. Washington
http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/40

W. E. B. Du Bois and Booker T. Washington

W. E. B. Du Bois


For a comprehensive (but because of editing projects incomplete) bibliography of work by Du Bois, see Herbert Aptheker’s *Annotated Bibliography of the Published Writings of W.E.B. Du Bois* (Millwood, N.Y.: Kraus Thompson Organization, 1973). Lockwood Book Collection Z8244.9.A65. Although dated, for work on Du Bois, visit: The *W.E.B. Du Bois Virtual University*, http://members.tripod.com/%7EDuBois/bsia.html. Especially pertinent to the Niagara Movement are:


**Booker T. Washington**


**Selected Texts that Specifically Consider Some Aspect of the Niagara Movement**


Drinkard-Hawkshawe, Dorothy. "**Prelude to the Niagara Movement and the NAACP."** *Crisis* 84, no. 2 (1977): 53-57.


Fordham, Monroe. **Fordham Papers Post Retirement, Buffalo State College Regional History Collection; Buffalo Afro-American Collection.** Buffalo, N.Y.: Monroe Fordham Regional History Center, Buffalo State College, 2003.


Link, Eugene P. "**The Civil Rights Activities of Three Great Negro Physicians (1840-1940).**" *Journal of Negro History* 52, no. 3 (1967): 169-84.


An Online Course and Lecture
For a complete list of courses and seminars offered by the TeachingAmericanHistory.org project of the Ashland Center for Public Affairs, Ashland University, Ashland, Ohio go to http://teachingamericanhistory.org/seminars/ and http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/audio.asp.

Race and Rights in American History

This Web site archives readings (many available on online) and audio files of this six day seminar for teachers. Over the course of the seminar “the diverse viewpoints of leading black intellectuals and activists on human equality, slavery, self-government, the rule of law, emancipation, colonization, and citizenship” were considered. Specific documents, issues, and controversies discussed included “the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, reconstruction, black codes, Jim Crow laws, and segregation.” The ideas of Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. Du Bois are discussed.

Civil Rights in America
Instructor: Ken Masugi, The Claremont Institute

An abstract of the lectures (two sessions), a bibliography of readings (some online), and audio files of two lectures are available. Masugi asks: “Is Tocqueville’s pessimism consistent with the Founding documents, Lincoln, and the three black authors we encounter here Douglass, Washington, and DuBois?”

Commentary via Audio-Visual Material

Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. Du Bois
C-Span: American Writers: A Journey through History
http://www.americanwriters.org/writers/washington.asp#washington

This nearly 3 hour program is viewable on the Web. Prominent historians and others – Kenneth Hamilton, Benjamin Payton, Marshall M. M. Abuwi, David Levering Lewis, David Graham Du Bois, and Linda Seidman -- offer commentary in this program which defines the greatness of each man as well as the different views each held on achieving equality for African Americans. In addition to this commentary, audio clips of both Du Bois and Washington are given. Complementary instructional material is found at http://www.americanwriters.org/classroom/videolesson/vlp18_washdubois.asp

W.E.B. Du Bois: A Biography in Four Voices. Production of Scribe Video Center; produced and directed by Louis Massiah; the Corporation of Public Broadcasting. San Francisco: California

Four prominent African-American writers – Wesley Brown, Thulani Davis, Toni Cade Bambara, and Amiri Baraka -- each narrate a period in Du Bois’ life and describe his impact on their work.

2005 National Black History Theme

The Niagara Movement: Black Protest Reborn
Association for the Study of African American Life and History
http://www.asalh.org/bhmproducts.html

The ASALH has produced a CD-ROM, poster, and thematic magazine with materials on the Niagara Movement. The focus is instructional. The CD-ROM draws on articles “that explore the Niagara Movement and race relations at the turn of the 20th century” and includes images, documents, and a curriculum guide.

Western New York Programming

The Niagara Movement Centennial Distinguished Lecture Series
http://www.buffalostate.edu/niagaramovement/index.xml

Here will be found a schedule of lectures, biographies of the speakers, an overview of the Movement, links to some resources for learning more about the topic, and links to podcasts of the lectures.

19 December 2005

END OF DOCUMENT
This document is on web e-loan to the Department of African American Studies, State University of New York at Buffalo, as it commemorates the 100th anniversary of the birth of the Niagara Movement.
Document processed for web publication by Y. Lulat