

Concord Free Public Library

Main Library

129 Main Street Concord, MA

For more information, contact the Reference Department 978.318.3347

Website www.concordlibrary.org

HOURS

Monday—Thursday

9am—9pm

Friday

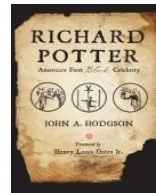
9am—6pm

Saturday

9am—5pm

Sunday

September to June 1pm—5pm
July and August CLOSED

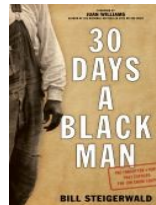


RICHARD POTTER: AMERICA'S FIRST BLACK CELEBRITY

By John A. Hodgson

BIOG 739.8029 Porter / Hodgson

Apart from a handful of tales surrounding his life, Richard Potter is almost unknown today. Two hundred years ago, however, he was the most popular entertainer in America, the first showman, in fact, to win truly nationwide fame. Working as a magician and ventriloquist, he personified what a popular performer was and made an invaluable contribution to establishing popular entertainment as a major part of American life. His story is all the more remarkable in that Richard Potter was also a black man. This was an era when few African Americans became highly successful, much less famous.

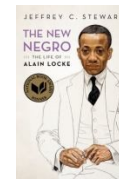


30 DAYS A BLACK MAN: THE FORGOTTEN STORY THAT EXPOSED THE JIM CROW SOUTH

By Bill Steigerwald

305.800973 / Steigerwald (2017)

In 1948, most white people in the North had no idea how unjust and unequal daily life was for 10 million African Americans living in the Jim Crow South. Then, Ray Sprigle, a famous white journalist from Pittsburgh, went undercover and alongside black civil rights pioneer, John Wesley Dobbs, lived as a black man in the South for thirty days. For 30 days and 3,000 miles, Sprigle and Dobbs traveled among dirt-poor sharecroppers, principals of ramshackle black schools, and families of lynching victims. His impassioned newspaper series shocked millions and sparked the first nationally aired television-and-radio debate about ending America's shameful system of apartheid.



THE NEW NEGRO: THE LIFE OF ALAIN LOCKE

By Jeffrey C. Stewart

BIOG 191 / Locke/ Stewart

Jeffrey Stewart's biography of Alain Locke, the father of the Harlem Renaissance, is based on primary sources of his life and on interviews with those who knew him personally. Locke was the first African American Rhodes Scholar and earned a PhD in philosophy at Harvard University, along with a long career as a professor at Howard University. He became most closely associated with the flowering of Black culture in Jazz Age America and his promotion of the literary and artistic work of African Americans. Shifting the discussion of race from politics and economics to the arts, he helped establish the idea that Black urban communities could be crucibles of creativity.



WE MATTER: ATHLETES AND ACTIVISM

By Elan Thomas

796.08996 / Thomas (2018)

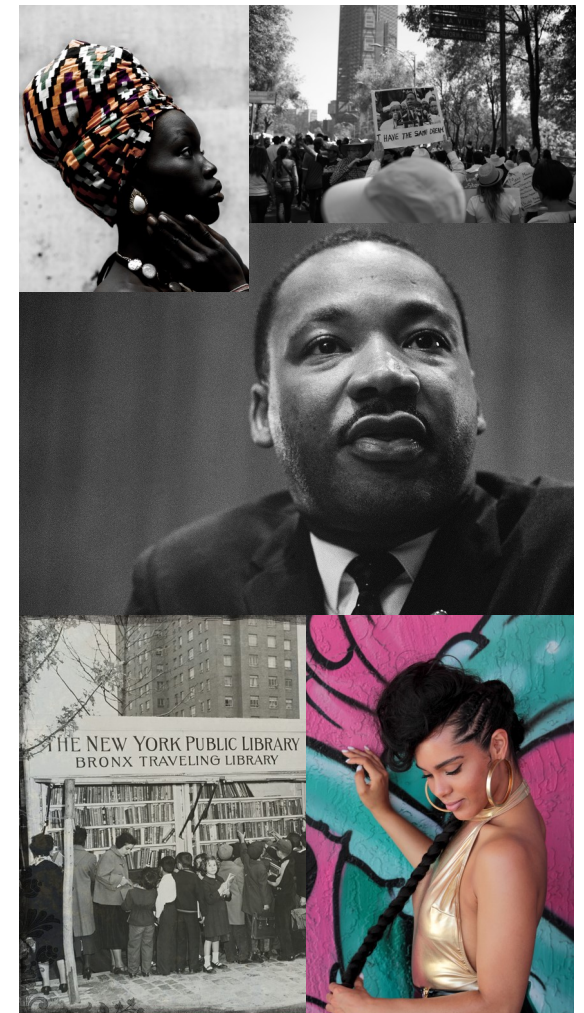
Thomas strives to show the influence professional athletes can have when they join the conversation on race, politics, and civil rights. Thomas conducted 50 interviews, which included well-known black athletes, as well as journalists, television personalities, and family members of unarmed black men who were shot and killed. The honest conversations, published in transcript form, serve as a primer on recent police violence cases, a history lesson on the first athletes who stood up for racial injustice, an examination of the experience of being young and black in the United States.



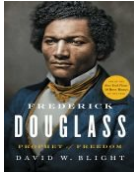
Concord Free Public Library

Black History Month

Books by and about African American people



#WhereIdeasDevelop



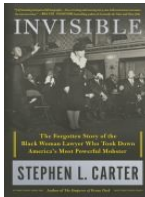
FREDERICK DOUGLASS: PROPHET OF FREEDOM

By David W. Blight

BIOG 973.7092 / Douglas/Blight (2018)

Frederick Douglass was the most important African American of the nineteenth century.

An escaped slave, he became the greatest orator of his day and one of the leading abolitionists and writers of the era. In this biography, David Blight has drawn on new information held in a private collection that few other historians have consulted, as well as recently discovered issues of Douglass's newspapers. Blight tells the fascinating story of Douglass's two marriages and his complex extended family. Douglass was not only an astonishing man of words, but a thinker steeped in Biblical story and theology.



INVISIBLE: THE FORGOTTEN STORY OF THE BLACK WOMAN LAWYER WHO TOOK DOWN AMERICA'S MOST POWERFUL MOBSTER

By Stephen L. Carter

BIOG 813.6/ Carter (2018)

Eunice Hunton Carter, Stephen Carter's

grandmother, was raised in a world of stultifying expectations about race and gender. Yet by the 1940s, her professional and political successes had made her one of the most famous black women in America. She was black and a woman and a prosecutor, a graduate of Smith College and the granddaughter of slaves. When special prosecutor Thomas E. Dewey selected twenty lawyers to help him clean up the city's underworld, she was the only member of his team who was not a white male. Without the strategy she devised, Lucky Luciano, the most powerful Mafia boss in history, would never have been convicted.

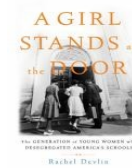


THE BONE AND SINEW OF THE LAND: AMERICA'S FORGOTTEN BLACK PIONEERS AND THE STRUGGLE FOR EQUALITY

By Anna-Lisa Cox

973.0496 Cox (2018)

When black settlers Keziah and Charles Grier started clearing their frontier land in 1818, they couldn't know that they were part of the nation's earliest struggle for equality. They were just looking to build a better life. Within a few years, the Griers would become early Underground Railroad conductors, joining with fellow pioneers and other allies, to confront the growing tyranny of bondage and injustice. *The Bone and Sinew of the Land* tells the Griers' story and the stories of many others like them during the first Great Migration. In building hundreds of settlements on the frontier, these black pioneers were making a stand for equality and freedom.



A GIRL STANDS AT THE DOOR: THE GENERATION OF YOUNG WOMEN WHO DESEGREGATED AMERICA'S SCHOOLS

By Rachel Devlin

379.263 / Devin (2018)

The struggle to desegregate America's schools was a grassroots movement and young women were its vanguard. In the late 1940s, parents began to file desegregation lawsuits with their daughters, forcing Thurgood Marshall and other civil rights lawyers to take up the issue and bring it to the Supreme Court. After the Brown v. Board of Education ruling, girls far outnumbered boys in volunteering to desegregate formerly all-white schools. Historian Rachel Devlin tells the remarkable stories of these desegregation pioneers and explains why black girls were seen, and saw themselves, as responsible for the difficult work of reaching across the color line in public schools.

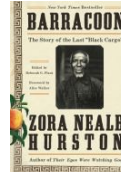


WELL READ BLACK GIRL: FINDING OUR OWN STORIES, DISCOVERING OUR SELVES

By Glory Edim

810.99287 / Anthology (2018)

An inspiring collection of essays by black women writers. Remember that moment when you first encountered a character who seemed to be written just for you? That feeling of belonging remains with readers the rest of their lives, but not everyone regularly sees themselves in the pages of a book. In this anthology, Glory Edim has created a space in which black women's writing and knowledge and life experiences are lifted up, to be shared with all readers who value the power of a story to help us understand the world and ourselves.

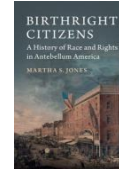


BARRACOON: THE STORY OF THE LAST "BLACK CARGO"

By Zora Neale Hurston

306.362 / Hurston

In 1927, Zora Neale Hurston went to Plateau, Alabama, just outside Mobile, to interview eighty-six-year-old Cudjo Lewis. She tells the true story of one of the last-known survivors of the Atlantic slave trade; abducted from Africa on the last "Black Cargo" ship to arrive in the United States. Of the millions of men, women, and children transported from Africa to America as slaves, Cudjo was then the only person alive to tell the story of this integral part of the nation's history. Hurston was there to record Cudjo's firsthand account of the raid that led to his capture and bondage fifty years after the Atlantic slave trade was outlawed in the United States.

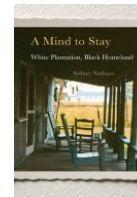


BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENS: A HISTORY OF RACE AND RIGHTS IN ANTIBELLUM AMERICAN

By Martha S. Jones

323.1196 / Jones (2018)

Before the Civil War, colonization schemes and black laws threatened to deport former slaves born in the United States. *Birthright Citizens* recovers the story of how African American activists remade national belonging through battles in legislatures, conventions, and courthouses. In the face of formidable opposition, former slaves studied law, secured allies, and conducted themselves like citizens, establishing their status through local, everyday claims, arguing that birth guaranteed their rights.



A MIND TO STAY: WHITE PLANTATION, BLACK HOMELAND

By Sydney Nathans

307.362097/Nathans (2017)

Sydney Nathans tells the rare story of people who moved from being enslaved to becoming owners of the very land they had worked in bondage. The story began in 1844, with North Carolina planter Paul Cameron. In the 1870s, he sold the plantation to emancipated black families who worked there. Nathans recounts why the planter's former laborers purchased the site of their enslavement, kept its name as Cameron Place, and defended their homeland against challengers from the Jim Crow era to the present day.



BECOMING

By Michele Obama

BIOG 973.932082/ Obama M. (2018)

In her memoir, Michelle Obama chronicles the experiences that have shaped her from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing the demands of motherhood and work and then to her time spent at the world's most famous address. With unerring honesty and lively wit, she describes her triumphs and disappointments, both public and private, telling her full story as she has lived it in her own words and on her own terms.