

AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIANS



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Origins of the African Nova Scotian Community

The African Nova Scotian community has a long and rich history. For several hundred years, people of African descent have lived in Nova Scotia. Black settlement in Nova Scotia goes as far back as 1605, when Mathieu Da Costa, believed to be the first person of African descent to arrive in Canada, traveled with the expedition that founded Port Royal.

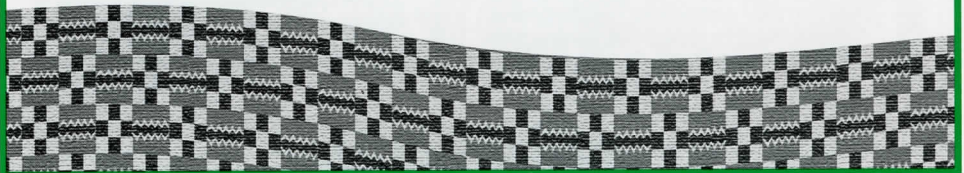
The years following the American War of Independence brought over 3000 Black Loyalists to Nova Scotia from the Thirteen Colonies. Disappointed with the poverty and discrimination they found in Nova Scotia, almost a third of these Black Loyalists departed for Sierra Leone in 1792. In 1796, over 500 exiled Jamaican rebels, known as the Maroons, were deported to Nova Scotia. Four years later, to avoid the cost of maintaining the Maroons, the British Government

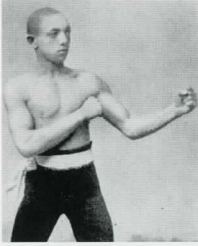
moved the Maroons to Sierra Leone. The next major wave of immigration occurred in the years following the War of 1812, when approximately 2000 Black refugees arrived in Nova Scotia. During the pre-World War I period of industrial growth, immigrants from the West Indies were recruited to work for the Dominion Coal Company, in Cape Breton.

Although people of African descent continue to immigrate to Nova Scotia, the majority of African Nova Scotians are descended from pre-1820 settlers. Nova Scotian poet, George Elliott Clarke, has coined the name "Africadian" to describe this long-standing community.

Scope of this Resource list:

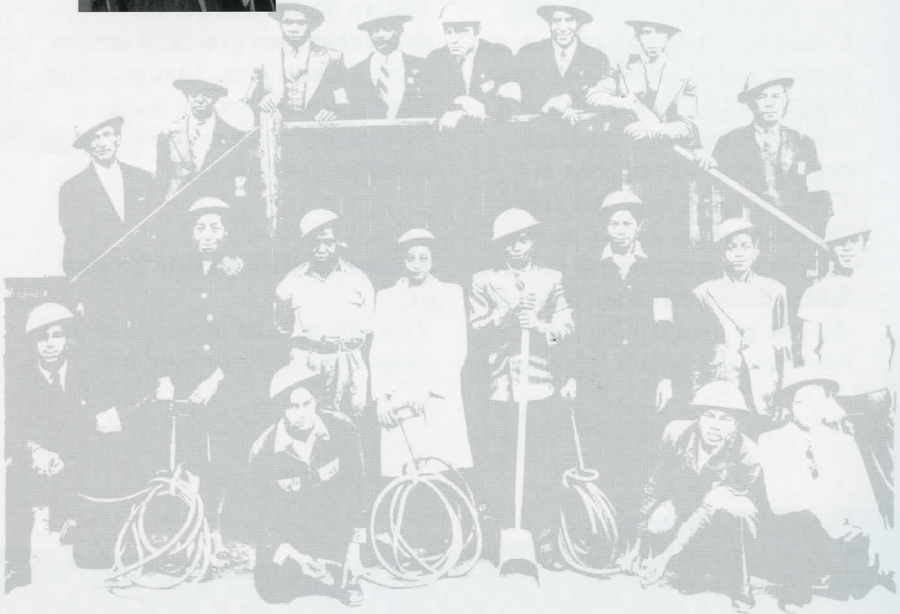
This list includes materials by and about African Nova Scotians.





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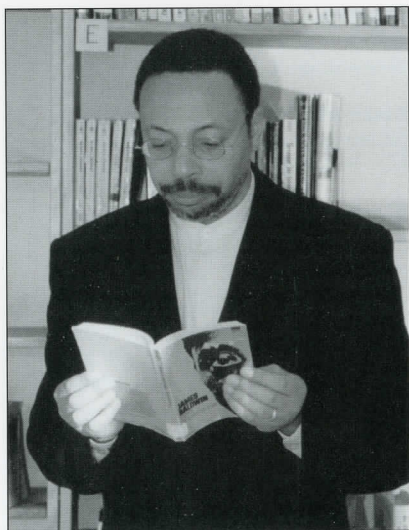
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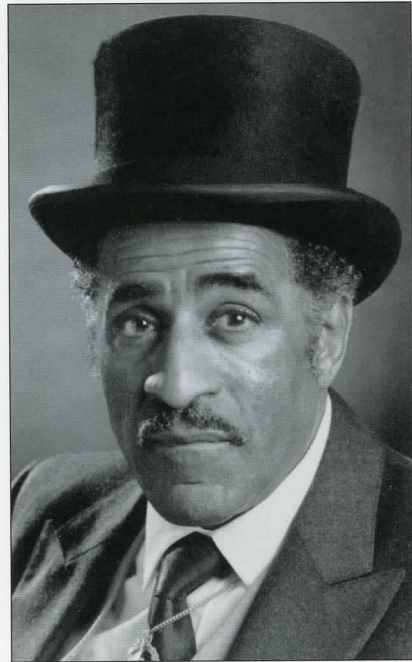
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James R. Johnston.

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Portia White.

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Bucky Adams

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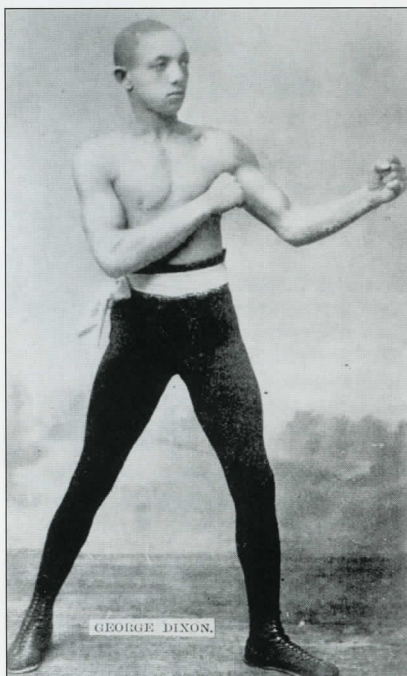
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Finding Out More

In the Catalogue

Use keywords like **black** or **blacks**, plus **Nova Scotia** and any additional words such as **biography**, or **business**, or **history**, etc. in either a title or subject heading keyword search.



George Dixon.

NSARM Photo Collection: NS: Portraits: Dixon, George

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In the Reference Department

Periodical Indexes & Databases

Use a periodical or newspaper index to locate other articles about individuals, communities, or notable events:

Canadian Business and Current Affairs- CBCA (1993-present). Indexes Canadian magazines and select newspapers, with an emphasis on business or current events.

Canadian Business Index (1978-1990). Indexes Canadian business magazines.

Canadian Index. (1993-1999). Indexes Canadian magazines and newspapers.

Canadian News Index (1978-1992). Indexes Canadian newspapers.

Canadian Periodical Index. (1920-2002). Indexes Canadian magazines.

Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature. (1919-present). Indexes American and some Canadian magazines.

Infotrac Online. Provides access to the General Magazine Index (1980-present), primarily American in content, and CPI-Q (1988-present), the online version of the Canadian Periodical Index. Available via <http://www.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca>

ProQuest. 1985-present. Online access to Canadian newspapers. Available via <http://www.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca>

Many local, regional and monthly periodicals are *not* indexed by the above periodical sources. The **Reference Department of the Spring Garden Road Memorial Public Library** has produced an in-house index of its books, magazines and vertical files, to aid staff in locating information about notable African Nova Scotians, significant events, businesses or communities. **For inquires, please call 490-5710.**

Vertical Files

Some Halifax Public Libraries branches have vertical files about African Nova Scotians, their communities and culture. These files contain newspaper articles, tour guides, brochures, maps, photocopies of primary sources and other interesting items. For example:

Blacks-Biographies (North)
Blacks-Black United Front (North)
Blacks-National Anthem (North)
Blacks-Nova Scotia-Hammonds Plains (North)
Blacks in Nova Scotia-Churches (Spring Garden)
Halifax, N.S.-Redevelopment-Africville (Spring Garden)
Preston (Alderney Gate)
Race Relations-Nova Scotia-Cole Harbour (Spring Garden)

In the Community

There are many significant community groups representing the concerns and interests of African Nova Scotians, such as the **North Branch Library Women's Group, Black Educators Association of Nova Scotia** and the **Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia.** To see a complete listing of community groups, use the Halifax Public Libraries online **Clubs & Organizations Database** at www.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca/clubsnorgs.html



Black History Month Quiz

Websites

African Canadian Employment Clinic
<http://www.acechfx.com>

African Heritage Month
<http://www.dal.ca/~acswww/dalbh.html>

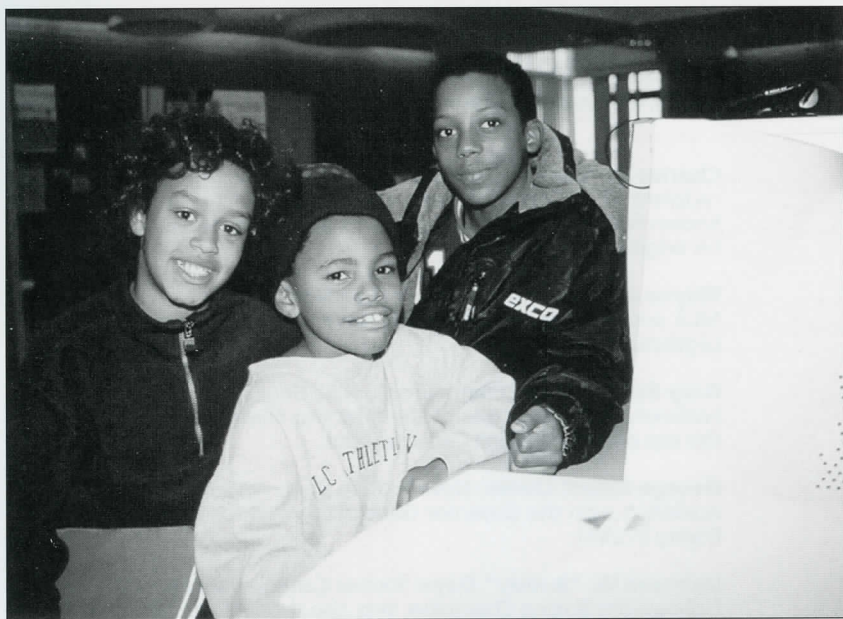
Afro-Nova Scotian Communities
<http://www.dal.ca/~acswww/afnscom.html>

Black Artists Network of Nova Scotia
<http://www.banns.ca>

Black Business Initiative
<http://www.bbi.ca>

Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia
<http://www.bccns.com>

Black Culture Interactive
<http://is.dal.ca/~bcichair>



Black Educators Association
<http://bea.eastlink.ca>

Black History Month Association
<http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Heritage/BHMA>

Black Hockey Roots of Nova Scotia
<http://www.birthplaceofhockey.com/hockeyists/african-n-s-teams/segr-inte.gr.htm>

Black Loyalist Heritage Society
<http://www.blackloyalist.com>

Black Organizations and Websites in Nova Scotia Dalhousie University Libraries
<http://www.library.dal.ca/subjects/NSBlack.htm>

Black Settlement in Nova Scotia
<http://museum.gov.ns.ca/arch/blkdata.htm>

Captain of Souls: Rev. William White
<http://www.whitepinepictures.com/seeds/iii/32/>

James Robinson Johnston Chair in Black Canadian Studies
<http://www.dal.ca/~jrjchair/jrj>

Many Rivers to Cross: The African-Canadian Experience
<http://citd.scar.utoronto.ca/ggp/Exhibits/ManyRivers/index.htm>

Portia White Home Page
<http://www.ac.wvu.edu/~jay/pages/pwhite.html>

Remembering Black Loyalists, Black Communities in Nova Scotia
<http://museum.gov.ns.ca/BlackLoyalists/>

Sam E. Langford: The Boston Terror
<http://www.infotechnology.org/blair/sam1.html>

StFX African Heritage Page
<http://www.stfx.ca/people/acallist/afriheri2.htm>

Slavery in Nova Scotia
<http://collections.ic.gc.ca/blackloyalists/story/prejudice/slaves.htm>

Photographs/Biographical Notes

Charles R. "Bucky" Adams: Nova Scotian jazz musician, recipient of a number of music and broadcasting awards, is known for his versatility in various music genres as well as his original compositions.

Wayne Adams: was the first African Nova Scotian MLA and Cabinet Minister of the Nova Scotia Provincial Legislature.

Gary Beals: born in Cherry Brook, N.S., Gary Beals won national attention as one of the final two contenders for the top prize in the first Canadian Idol.

George Elliott Clarke: Nova Scotian poet, writer and academic, won the Governor General's Award for English Poetry in 2001

Delmore W. "Buddy" Daye: former Canadian Junior Lightweight Boxing Champion, was also the first African Nova Scotian Sergeant-at-Arms for the Nova Scotia Provincial Legislature.

George Dixon: born in Halifax, Dixon was the first boxer of African descent to win a world title and the first professional boxer to hold three world titles (paperweight, bantamweight and featherweight divisions) at different times.

William Hall, VC: was the first Canadian sailor and the first African Canadian to be awarded the prestigious Victoria Cross.

Dr. Ruth Johnson: community activist, was awarded the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Mount Saint Vincent University for her tireless work on behalf of her community.

James R. Johnston: was the first African Nova Scotian to graduate with a degree in law (1898).

Portia White: Nova Scotia born classical singer, achieved international success performing in over 100 concerts, notably a command performance for Queen Elizabeth II.

Historical photographs were provided courtesy of the Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management (NSARM).

Photograph of Delmore W. "Buddy" Daye provided courtesy of Communications Nova Scotia.

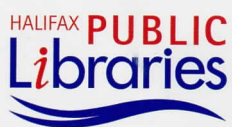
Acknowledgement

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Canadian Heritage (Multiculturalism Program)



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www.canadianheritage.gc.ca/multi/



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