



# Black Holyoke Pathfinder

*Within Various Collections*

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## ABSTRACT

The Black Holyoke Collection reflects the history of the Black community in this city. The collection is an assortment of books, articles, newspaper clippings, personal photos, and other historical documents found in archives from across the city and neighboring institutions. Though this collection is not hosted at single site, this finding aid serves to provide researchers with the necessary information to be able to locate information pertaining to the history of Black people in the city

of Holyoke. While the collection has only a small amount of personal papers, there is much that documents the city's Black community, their social lives as well as their work lives.

### Terms of Access and Use:

Because the collection spans multiple institutions terms of access will be specific to each institution.

RECOMMENDATION: Contact the archivist in advance.

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## HISTORICAL SKETCH

Long before Holyoke was founded, Black people played an integral part of the community. In 1680 the earliest listings of “negro slaves” are documented in the Springfield area, it was noted that about 5,000 enslaved Africans lived in Massachusetts at the time.<sup>1</sup> In the late 1700s both runaway enslaved Africans and some who were freed lived in what would later become Holyoke.

The land that is now Holyoke was once the third Parrish of Springfield. In 1773 property to the west of the Connecticut River became West Springfield. In 1850, after a group of investors from Boston bought up acres of property to establish a planned industrial city that would capture the water power from the river to power industrial mills, Holyoke was established as its own town. The community later incorporated as a city in 1873.

Though the Black community has not been clearly documented, they have lived, worked, learned and contributed to the Holyoke community for generations.

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## SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

This collection is not a physical collection, but a collective of archival collections held at the Wistariahurst Museum, the Holyoke Public Library History Room, and some documents and resources from the University of Massachusetts, Special Collections and University Archives. This finding aid is a pathfinder to assist researcher in finding the various elements of this collection

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<sup>1</sup> | *THE BLACK COMMUNITY IN HOLYOKE*. ELLA MERKEL DICARLO. AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE, ORAL HISTORY CENTER. 1978

## INFORMATION ON USE

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### Terms of Access and Use

Please contact the institution prior to visiting the archive.

Wistariahurst Museum, 238 Cabot St. Holyoke, MA 01040. (413) 322-5660.

Archivist: Penni Martorell, [martorellp@holyoke.org](mailto:martorellp@holyoke.org)

Holyoke Public Library, History Room, 250 Chestnut St. Holyoke, MA 01040 (413)420-8107

Archivist: Eileen Crosby, [historyroom@holyokelibrary.org](mailto:historyroom@holyokelibrary.org)

UMass Special Collections & University Archives, 154 Hicks Way Amherst, MA 01003

Head of Special Collections: Robert Cox, [scua@library.umass.edu](mailto:scua@library.umass.edu)

### Preferred Citation

Please refer to the archivist from the specific institution about their preferred citation.

### History of the Collection

With initial funding from Mass Humanities, Wistariahurst has embarked upon a community history project headed up by scholar Erika Slocumb titled *Black Holyoke: Uncovering the History of the Black Community in the Paper City*. The purpose of this project is to uncover the stories of the black community in Holyoke, from the time the area was settled in 18th Century to the present. We will work to uncover the problems, the joys, the pain, and the struggles Black people in Holyoke faced in their daily lives.

### Processing Information

Processed by various curators and archivists over decades. This pathfinder researched and coordinated by Erika Slocumb.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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### Languages:

English

## RELATED MATERIALS

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Related materials may also be found in the following collections housed within the Five-College area:

Other papers, years, collection repository

- *History of Holyoke, Massachusetts*. Anna U. Scanlon 1939
- *Holyoke, Massachusetts: A Case History of the Industrial Revolution in America*. Constance McLaughlin Green 1939
- *Black Families in Hampden County Massachusetts 1650-1865*. Joseph Carvalho III
- Holyoke Public Library History Room
- University of Massachusetts, Special Collections and University Archives
- Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MHC-MACRIS.net)

Wistariahurst: Holyoke Collection	Date	Box:Folder
<b>City of Holyoke Annual Reports</b>		
Annual Reports .....	1851, 1852, 1853 .....	1:1
Annual Reports .....	1854, 1855 .....	1:2
Annual Reports .....	1856, 1857-1858, 1858-1859 .....	1:3
Annual Reports .....	1860, 1861, 1863 .....	1:4
Annual Reports .....	1864, 1865, 1866 .....	1:5
Annual Reports .....	1867, 1868, 1869 .....	1:6
Annual Reports .....	1870, 1871 .....	1:7
Annual Reports .....	1872, 1873 .....	1:8
Misc. Annual Reports.....	1874.....	1:9
Misc. Annual Budget Reports.....	1969 – 1978.....	235:1
<b>Public School Department</b>		
Ledger/Record I .....	1842-1851 .....	2:7
Annual Report of the School Committee.....	1848, 1883-1884 .....	2:7
School Committee Report.....	1867 .....	1:9
School Committee Report.....	1883-1884 .....	2:9
School Committee Report.....	1893-1894 .....	2:8
School Report .....	1897 .....	2:9
School Department Report.....	1899 .....	2:10
School Department Report.....	1900 .....	2:11
School Department Report.....	1901 .....	2:12
School Department Report.....	1903 .....	2:13
School Department Report.....	1904 .....	2:14
School Department Report.....	1905 .....	2:15
School Department Report.....	1906 .....	2:16
School Department Report.....	1907 .....	2:17
School Department Report.....	1908 .....	2:18
School Department Report.....	1909 .....	2:19
School Department Report.....	1910 .....	2:20
School Department Report.....	1911 .....	2:21
School Directory .....	1903 .....	2:13
Annual Report Public Schools.....	1912 .....	3:1
Annual Report Public Schools.....	1913 .....	3:2
Annual Report Public Schools incl. Lawrence Sch. Report .....	1914 .....	3:3
Annual Report on Vocational Education .....	1915 .....	3:4
Annual Report of the Public Schools .....	1917 .....	3:5
Annual Report of the Public Schools, vol. 56.....	1919 .....	3:6
Annual Report of the Public Schools, vol. 57.....	1920 .....	3:7
Annual Report of the Public Schools, vol. 58.....	1921 .....	3:8
Annual Report of the Public Schools, vol. 59.....	1922 .....	3:9
Annual Report of the Public Schools, vol. 60.....	1923 .....	3:10
Annual Report of the Public Schools, vol. 61 .....	1925 .....	3:12
Annual Report of the Public Schools .....	1924 .....	3:11
Annual Report of the Public Schools .....	1926 .....	3:13
Annual Report of the Public Schools .....	1927 .....	3:14
Annual Report of the Public Schools .....	1928 .....	3:15

<b>Wistariahurst: Holyoke Collection</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box:Folder</b>
<b>Public School Department, continued</b>		
Annual Report of the Public Schools .....	1929 .....	3:16
Annual Report of the Public Schools .....	1930 .....	3:17
Annual Report of the Public Schools .....	1931 .....	4:1
Annual Report of the Public Schools .....	1932 .....	4:2
Annual Report of the Public Schools .....	1933 .....	4:3
Annual Report of the Public Schools .....	1934 .....	4:4
Annual Report of the Public Schools .....	1935 .....	4:5
Annual Report of the Public Schools .....	1936 .....	4:6
Annual Report of the Public Schools .....	1937 .....	4:7
School Department Report.....	1938 .....	2:21
Annual Report of the Public Schools .....	1938 .....	4:8
Annual Report of the Public Schools .....	1962 .....	4:17
Annual Report of the Public Schools .....	1964 .....	4:18
Annual Report of the School Department .....	1939 .....	4:9
Annual Report of the School Department .....	1940 .....	4:10
Annual Report of the School Department .....	1941 .....	4:11
Annual Report of the School Department .....	1942 .....	4:12
Annual Report of the School Department .....	1943 .....	4:13
Annual Report of the School Department .....	1944 .....	4:14
Annual Report of the School Department .....	1945 .....	4:15
Annual Report of the School Department .....	1947 .....	4:16
Annual Report of the Public Schools .....	1964 .....	2:21
Annual Report of the Public Schools .....	1967 .....	4:19
Metcalf School.....	1919, 1932, 2012 .....	226
Children listed by school district and term .....	1861-1867 .....	5:2
H.B. Lawrence Junior High School Yearbook.....		9:16

**Ely Family**

Ely Family of Baptist Village .....		87:16
Ely and Day Families.....	1835-1981 .....	42:18

**Miscellaneous**

<b>Black Community in Holyoke</b> by Ella M. DiCarlo.....	1770s-1970 .....	8:2
Miscellaneous news clippings (blue and red stripped album) .....	9/4/1975 .....	133
Springfield Republican.....		100
Old War Songs .....		94:9

**Wistariahurst: Local History Book Shelf**

	<b>Date</b>
Holyoke High School Yearbook "The Annual" .....	1939, 1951, 1954, 1961
Holyoke City Directories. Price & Lee Company .....	1882-1979
The Struggle for Freedom: The History of African Americans in Western Massachusetts	

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<b>Wistariahurst: Prints and Paintings</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Range/Object#</b>
Monarch Club Article of Incorporation .....	1936 ....	2:4 upper/2016.022

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<b>Wistariahurst: Carlos Vega Collection</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box:Folder</b>
Community Newsletters		
Black Citizens Newsletter .....	1985 .....	23:14

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Newspaper Clippings		
“NAACP chief blasts minority residents for disinterest” .....	10/16/1981 .....	Box 70
“Tenants may join together” .....	6/16/1982 .....	Box 70

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**Holyoke History Room: Local File; Population: African American** **Date**

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**Holyoke Council to Aid Prince Edward County**

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- Letters- DiCarlo Papers..... 1962-1978
- Newspaper Article:
  - Hosting Students from VA* Ellie Spiegel ..... 1959
- Newspaper Article:
  - Prince Edward County Closed is public school to avoid a U.S. court ordered integration* ..... 1959
- Holyoke Transcript:
  - Negro Students Need Funds to Continue Schooling Here, No jobs, Schools in South* ..... Unknown
  - AF of L denied membership to Negroes or to organize separate union*

**African American History in Holyoke**

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- Ella DiCarlo Research—Bushman Fuller
- Notes and dates about Fuller family
- Holyoke Daily Transcript ..... 10/29/1864
- NoHo Lafayette Welched (colored) to Minerva Gould (white) to be married?
- “Books”- Registry of Deeds

**Holyoke Black Inhabitants**

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- The Black Community in Holyoke: 1770s to 1970s*, Ella Merkel DiCarlo ..... 1974
- 3 copies; 72 pages

**Holyoke: Association for the Improvement of Minorities (AIM)**

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- AIM Newsletters ..... Various
- AIM Certificate of Corporation
- Names of all members
- Notes on Agnes Evans and George Jennings life; Steve Wilkins
- Newspaper article on Prince George County (Copies) ..... Various

**“Jennings”**

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- Photos of George Jennings
- Newspaper Clippings ..... Various
- Copy of a photo of MLK day at Dean School..... Unknown
- Copy of a photo of Robert G. Little ..... Unknown
- Information Sheets: George Jennings
- Information Sheet: Robert G. Little
- Photo of Reunion Jennings Family
- Notes: 1920s NAACP Local

**Slavery/Abolition**

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- Union News: “Slavery’s Scourge Arrives Early” Wayne E. Phaneuf ..... 1/27/1999
- Union News: “Scholar Discovers Letter for Slaves among old Papers” Pat Cahill ..... 2/3/1999
- Union News: “This Railroad’s Cargo was Freedom” Wayne E. Phaneuf ..... 2/3/1999
- Union News: “Skeptics Silenced by Heroic Charge” Wayne E. Phaneuf..... 2/24/1999

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**Holyoke History Room: Local File; Population: African American** **Date**  
**Great Council of Churches**

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“Holyoke’s Negro Families,” 17 Pages ..... 1962

**Holyoke Black Inhabitants: Bushman Fuller MaryAnn Jarvis**

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Article: *Black Families Prominent in Holyoke* Ella DiCarlo ..... 11/19/1974

Article: *Blacks Among Those Drawn by Industrial Revolution* Ella DiCarlo ..... 11/20/1974

Daily News Tonight: *Slaves Lived Here Too* Karen Thomas ..... 10/22/1981

Newspaper Clippings ..... Various

**“Little”**

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DiCarlo notes on Robert Little

Newspaper Clippings about Robert Little ..... Various

<b>UMass SCUA: Holyoke-Olga Ramos, et al. v. Ernest Proulx, et al.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box:Folder</b>
A-95 Review of CDBG.....	1975-1981 .....	1: 1
Administrative Record (grant applications; Maisonet, Wilfredo; MLRI) .	1979-1981 .....	1: 2
Audits and Budgets (HUD, CDBG).....	1972-1981 .....	1: 3
Compliance Office.....	1976-1982.....	1: 4
Correspondence: Glaser, Lenore .....	ca.1984.....	2: 1
Correspondence: Holyoke Housing Partnership .....	1990 Dec.....	2: 2
Fair Housing.....	1975-1983.....	1: 5
Fair Housing Plan issues (HAP) .....	1978-1981 .....	1: 6
Five to Six Person Family Issue.....	1980.....	2: 3
Grant documents (HUD) .....	1983-1985.....	1: 7
Grantee Performance Reports (HUD, CDBG).....	1978-1988.....	1: 8
Holyoke Gas and Electric .....	1981-1982.....	1: 9
Holyoke – miscellany .....	1968-1981.....	1: 10
Holyoke Strategy .....	1987.....	2: 4
Holyoke tables and graphs .....	ca.1980 .....	2: 5
HUD Discovery Materials: Community Development Plan .....	1975-1977.....	1: 11
HUD Discovery Materials: Complaints and responses.....	1978-1982.....	1: 12
HUD Discovery Materials: Information on case (clippings, press release)	1979-1982.....	1: 13
HUD Discovery Materials: Investigative reports.....	1978, 1983.....	2: 6
HUD Discovery Materials: Property documents .....	1978 .....	2: 7
HUD Materials: Applications, plans, proposals.....	1978-1980.....	2: 8
HUD Materials: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application.....	1980.....	2: 9
HUD Materials: CDBG audits, financial reviews .....	1976-1982.....	1: 14
HUD Materials: Complaints, objections, responses .....	1978-1981 .....	2: 10-11
HUD Materials: Complaints – YMCA.....	1979-1980.....	2: 12
HUD Materials: Monitoring visits (CDBG, relocation programs).....	1977-1982.....	2: 13
HUD Materials: Reviews (eligibility, grantee performance).....	1976-1983.....	2: 14
HUD Materials: Reviews (in-house).....	1978-1980.....	2: 15
HUD's Sanchez Investigation Materials .....	1985-1986.....	1: 15
I-391 Downtown Connector.....	1980-1986.....	1: 16-18
I-391 Master File .....	1973-1978, 1993.....	2: 16
Identifying Goals/Meeting Them (housing, CDBG).....	1978-1981 .....	1: 19
List of case related items .....	n.d.....	2: 17
Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination.....	1975-1982.....	1: 20
Massachusetts State Advisory Committee (MSAC) Housing Discrimination Study on Holyoke.....	1966.....	2: 18
Modernization Program, Chapter 200-1 .....	1972-1981 .....	2: 19
Money: Arson, code enforcement, demolition.....	1981 .....	2: 20
Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP), Rental Neighborhood Improvement Program (RNIP) .....	1982.....	2: 21
Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP), Rental Neighborhood Improvement Program (RNIP), Interim Assistance Program (IAP) .....	1985, 1989.....	2: 22
Newspaper clippings.....	1967-1987.....	1: 21-36
Nueva Esperanza, Inc. – flier .....	1984.....	2: 23
PILRAP class memo - summary of Ramos v. Proulx.....	1985.....	2: 24
Ramos et al. v. Proulx et al. - drafts, comments, transcripts.....	1982.....	2: 25



<b>UMass SCUA: Holyoke-Olgal Ramos, et al. v. Ernest Proulx, et al.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box:Folder</b>
Relocation and Demolition .....	1976-1983 .....	1: 37
Relocation case: Figueroa complaint, J. Peck Emergency Order .....	1982 .....	1: 38
Relocation Policy .....	1982 .....	1: 39
Statistics (Holyoke) .....	1975-1981 .....	1: 40
Toepfert Apartments.....	1988 .....	1: 41
USA v.Town of Cicero, Henry J. Klosak, and the Cicero Housing Authority .....	1983, Jan .....	2: 26