



# 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 The collection is an assortment of books, articles, newspaper clippings, personal photos, and other historical documents found in archives from across the city and neighboring institutions.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

## 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: Aaron Rubenstein, [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 and ongoing.

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)

<b>Wistariahurst: Holyoke Collection</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Box:Folder</b>
<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

<b>Wistariahurst: Holyoke Collection</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Box:Folder</b>
<b>Public School Department</b>		
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
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
<b>Ely Family</b>		
Ely Family of Baptist Village		87:16
Ely and Day Families	1835-1981	42:18
<b>Miscellaneous</b>		
<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

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**Wistariahurst: Holyoke Collection** **Dates** **Box:Folder**

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**Wistariahurst: Local History Book Shelf**

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

**Wistariahurst: Prints and Paintings** **Date** **Range/Object#**

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Monarch Club Plaque	1936	2:4 upper/2016.022
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**Wistariahurst: Carlos Vega Collection** **Date** **Box:Folder**

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**Community Newsletters**

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Black Citizens Newsletter	1985	23:14
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**Newspaper Clippings**

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"NAACP chief blasts minority residents for disinterest"	10/16/1981	70
"Tenants may join together"	6/16/1982	70

Holyoke History Room: Local File; Population: African American	Dates	Author
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**Holyoke Council to Aid Prince Edward County**

Letters- DiCarlo Papers	Ella DiCarlo	1962-1978
Newspaper Article: Hosting Students from VA	Ellie Spiegel	1959
Newspaper Article: Prince Edward County Closed		1959
Prince Edward County closed is public school to avoid a U.S. court ordered integration		
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**

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

**Holyoke Black Inhabitants**

<i>The Black Community in Holyoke: 1770s to 1970s</i> 3 copies; 72 pages	Ella DiCarlo	1974
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**Holyoke: Association for the Improvement of Minorities (AIM)**

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"**

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**

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** **Author**  
**Dates**

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**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	Ella DiCarlo	
Newspaper Clippings about Robert Little		Various

UMass SCUA: Holyoke- Olgal Ramos, et al. v. Ernest Proulx, et al	Box:Folder	Date
A-95 Review of CDBG Administrative Record	1975-1981	1: 1
(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	
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



UMass SCUA: Holyoke- Olgal Ramos, et al. v. Ernest Proulx, et al	Box:Folder	Date
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
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