



Black Abolitionist Papers

The Black Abolitionist Papers is an extraordinary primary source collection that details the extensive work of African Americans to abolish slavery in the United States prior to the Civil War. Covering the period 1830–1865, the collection presents the international impact of African American activism against slavery, in the writings of the activists themselves.

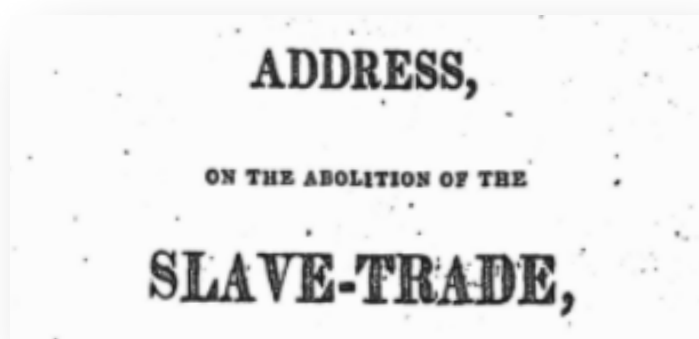
Black Abolitionist Papers represents a huge effort by a scholarly team, headed by C. Peter Ripley and George E. Carter, who recognized that African Americans were a pivotal and persuasive force in the 19th-century anti-slavery movement but that their work had been virtually ignored in scholarship prior to this collection. The team painstakingly identified African American activists through countless hours of research and scrutiny, bringing to light many names previously lost to history.

The mission of the Black Abolitionist Papers Project was to collect the writings of black Americans involved in the movement to end slavery in the United States between 1830 and 1865. The four-year search for letters, speeches, editorials, articles, sermons, and essays took the project staff to hundreds of antebellum newspapers and to thousands of manuscript collections in England, Scotland, Ireland, Canada, and the United States. The search netted some 15,000 documents written by nearly 300 black men and women, gathered from over 100 libraries and archives across the world.

The Black Abolitionist Papers was originally published as a microfilm set in 1981 and quickly established a significant shift in historical scholarship regarding Black leadership, activism, and community life during this period. The collection remains an unequalled, “pristine record of Black abolitionism.”

The digital version of the Black Abolitionist Papers reproduces, in full, the 17 reels of microfilmed content from the original collection. Unique, hand-written correspondence and documents comprise around 30% of this collection. Included in the collection are such types of primary documents as:

- Correspondence of major African American leaders
- Speeches, sermons, and lectures
- Articles, essays, editorials, and other major writings from more than 200 newspapers: African American, abolitionist, and reform newspapers
- Receipts, poems, and other miscellaneous documents



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Research Value

The primary source material in this collection will provide easily accessible and vital content for researchers, teachers, and students in many disciplines, including those that focus on such topics as:

- Individual and community activism
- Political power of minority groups
- International social movements
- Black political action
- Black colonization and emigration
- Northern/Southern separatism within the church
- Church support of Black educational institutions
- Black intellectual and social life
- Controversies within the Black abolitionist community
- Racial relations within the larger abolitionist movement

Geographic areas covered:

The materials in Black Abolitionist Papers are wide-ranging in geographic scope. The majority of the content, however, is concentrated on the United States, Canada, and the British Isles.

In May 2021, Black Abolitionist Papers moved from its legacy Chadwyck-Healey interface, to the powerful, newly enhanced ProQuest Platform. With its clean interface and responsive design, the ProQuest Platform delivers a modern research experience that guides users' discovery, access and management of rich, diverse content sources. In addition to an overall modern research experience, researchers will be able to use multi-faceted results filtering, browse lists of content and enhanced post-processing tasks, such as citing, saving and sharing materials into workflow tools.



My Dear Friend
 Amy Kirby Post

I received your kind and welcome ^{letter} and should have replied to it much earlier but various circumstances have prevented me and when I could have written I was in bed with a severe attack of Rheumatism so that I could not raise my hands to my head I am still suffering with it in my shoulders and we have had much sickness in the family this winter I mean my plea for want of time will find its way to your heart

My dear friend let me thank you for your kind and generous offer of the hospitality of your pleasant home which would afford me much pleasure to accept but as yet I cannot decide my friends Mr & Mrs Brackett is very anxious that I should go to their house and write they have very quickly and returned they mean here and spent a day and night with me and soon from

Handwritten: I, U. S. Kirk of Fort Douglas, having been appointed Captain in the United States, do solemnly swear BORNE ARMS against the United States on thereof; that I have volunteered ENCOURAGEMENT to persons engaged have neither sought, nor accepted ANY OFFICE without the authority, in hostility to the constitution within territory, power, or constitution within territory thereof. And I do further promise and ability, I will support the UNITED STATES against all on will bear true FAITH and ALLEGIANCE freely, without any condition; and that I will well and faithfully on which I am about to enter.

Signature: U. S. Kirk

Witness: Indep. Colored as described before me, at Fort Douglas this 27 day of February 1865.

For the Colored American.

IMPORTANT MEETING.

A Call to Colored Young Men.

It being understood that Mr. P. A. Bell, Proprietor of the "Colored American," is about to make a political tour through the River Counties of the State, with a view to excite an INTEREST among our brethren of the towns and villages of the Hudson border, in regard to their political rights—it seems vastly important and opportune for the colored young men of this city, to seize the opportunity of opening, through Mr. Bell, a correspondence with the colored young men, throughout the Northern and Western parts of the State, with a view to a simultaneous effort on the part of the colored young men of the State, to DELUGE the Legislative Hall, at the next sitting of the Legislature, with PETITIONS, praying the Legislature to grant the colored citizens, in common with other citizens of the State, that RIGHT, which by the revised constitution of 1821, was taken away from a large portion of the

the 27 day of February 1865

Signature: W. O. Gould May 14th

Text: Act Com. Secretary

[A. G. O. No. 12]

Related Databases

American Periodicals

American Periodicals Series includes digitized images of the pages of American magazines and journals published from colonial days to the dawn of the 20th century. The first 60 years of the 19th century became the golden age of American periodicals, with general interest magazines, children's publications, and more than 20 journals for women. Many of the publications reflect on the growing debate over slavery, including the serialization of Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* in *National Era* that preceded the novel. Also available are hard-to-find materials, such as Edgar Allan Poe's contributions to the *Southern Literary Messenger*, as well as the first appearances of Nathaniel Hawthorne's stories in *New England Magazine*, and Margaret Fuller's contributions to the *Dial*.

118 periodicals published during the Civil War (1861–1865) and Reconstruction (1865–1877) eras reflect the nation in turmoil and growth, and titles from the 1880s through 1900 capture the settling of the West and the emergence of modern America.

ProQuest Civil War Era

ProQuest Civil War Era allows researchers to follow the development of issues leading to the Civil War as recorded in the newspapers of the South, North, Mississippi Valley, and Border States. ProQuest Civil War Era also includes two important pamphlet collections. *Slavery and Anti-Slavery Pamphlets* from the Libraries of Salmon P. Chase & John P. Hale includes 166 pamphlets, speeches, reports, legal opinions, and convention proceedings covering slavery and anti-slavery movements, and the conditions of African Americans after the Civil War. *Civil War Pamphlets 1861–1865* includes 1,758 pamphlets illustrating the “war of words” during the conflict. These pamphlets provide a broad ranging view of the issues and attitudes that led to the war and its impact on American society. Included in the collection are biographies, campaign literature, government documents, journals, presidential addresses, sermons, and speeches.

ProQuest History Vault

Confederate Military Manuscripts and Records of Union Generals and the Union Army

The collections in this module are being published digitally for the first time to deliver unique coverage of the Confederate Army and the Union Army. The Confederate Army records consist of Confederate Military Manuscripts sourced by ProQuest from the holdings of Virginia Historical Society; the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, Louisiana State University; the Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin; and the University of Virginia. The collections in the Confederate Military Manuscripts cover the perspective of an army commander or an administrative department down to the level of the private soldier, covering all aspects of their military service and experience, while also offering glimpses of life on the home front. Several previously unpublished collections of records of the Union Army are also integral to this module. Highlights include papers of spies, scouts, guides and detectives, including a series on Allan Pinkerton; records on military discipline from courts-martial, courts of inquiry and investigations by military commissions; and records of the U.S. Colored Troops.

Slavery and the Law

Slavery and the Law features petitions on race, slavery, and free blacks that were submitted to state legislatures and county courthouses between 1775 and 1867. These petitions were collected by Loren Schweningen over a four year period from hundreds of courthouses and historical societies in 10 states and the District of Columbia. The petitions document the realities of slavery at the most immediate local level and with amazing candor. *Slavery and the Law* also includes the important *State Slavery Statutes* collection, a comprehensive record of the laws governing American slavery from 1789–1865.

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