African American History Resources:

Alfred M. Heston Collection

About Our Collection

African Americans are Atlantic City's largest racial group. Many great African American performers and entertainers, sports professionals, and business professionals spent time in Atlantic City. Information about African Americans in Atlantic City is found in the Atlantic City Free Public Library's Alfred M. Heston Collection. Resources in the Heston Collection are available for public use during research hours or by appointment. Contact the Heston Room for further information (609) 345-2269 ext. 3062.

Online Research Library

Oxford African American Studies Center. (Available on the library website from home computers with your library card or at the library: www.acfpl.org) Biographical information, maps, primary source documents, timelines, tables and more on thousands of African Americans and related topics.

Online Local News Index. (http://ils.acfpl.org:83). Searchable index to local news articles published from 1984 to the present.

Published Resources


Foster, Herbert James. The Urban Experience of Blacks in Atlantic City. New Jersey, 1850-1915. Ph.D. diss., Rutgers University,
1981. (Heston 305.896 Fos) Study of the essential role African Americans played in the development of Atlantic City as a successful resort.


Hammond, Cynthia, comp. Atlantic City African-American History Trail, (Black History Month). Atlantic City, New Jersey: City of Atlantic City, 2001-present. (Heston 305.874986 Atl) The annual African American History Trail is designed to bring awareness to African Americans in Atlantic City. The pamphlet is a guide to significant African American establishments and people, both past and present, in Atlantic City.


Periodicals in the Heston Room

Local History Biography Files
Biography files are collections of information (newspaper clippings, pamphlets, hand-outs, etc.) that pertain to a particular person. Below is a selection of biography file names relating to African Americans in Atlantic City.

Allen-Showell, Asa
Brown, Harold Roger
Cash, Rosalind
Donaway, Cordelia
Farris, Vera King
Harris, Edgar
Jacobs, Judge Herbert S.
Lawrence, Jacob
Manning, Max
Newson, C.J.
Shahbaz, Saleem
Trusty, Sid
Washington, Sara Spencer
Byard, Carole
Bryant, Horace J.
Cole, Rev. Isaac S.
Columbo, Chris
Forsythe, Albert
Hollingsworth, Pierre
Jordan, Virgie
Lockett, Amaza Morris
Mathis, Sharon Yvonne Bell
Robinson, Eugene
Tally, Jere Elaine
Usry, James
Webster, Jean
Bradley, Ernest James
Callaway Brothers
Columbo, Chris
Dorrington, Dorothy
Gilliam-Mosier, Redenia
Jauper, John
Langford, Lorenzo
Lloyd, “Popp”
Morris, Dr. S. LeRoy
Rutherford, Maudie
Thompson, Mary Louise
Walker, William Jr.

Local History Subject Files
Subject files are collections of information (newspaper clippings, pamphlets, hand-outs, etc.) that pertain to a particular subject or topic. Below is a selection of subject files relating to African Americans in Atlantic City.

Annual Black Art Exhibits
Black Community Organization/Events
Links, Inc.
N.A.A.C.P.
101 Women Plus
United Negro College Fund
Vision 2000 Community Development Corporation
Black History in Atlantic City
Black Baseball
Black Biographies
Black Businesses
Chicken Bone Beach
Churches, African-American
Freedom Train
Kentucky Avenue Renaissance
Sand Sculptures
Nightclubs
500 Club
Bassin Street
Club Harlem
Little Belmont
Paradise Club
Wonder Gardens
Parks/Memorials/Monuments
Civil Rights Garden
War Monuments—All Wars Memorial Building

Negro League baseball great Pop Lloyd