

HISTORY

A SHIFTING LENS



"HISTORY IS **NOT MERELY SOMETHING TO BE READ.**
AND IT DOES NOT REFER MERELY, OR EVEN
PRINCIPALLY, TO THE PAST.

ON THE CONTRARY, THE GREAT FORCE OF HISTORY
COMES FROM THE FACT THAT
WE CARRY IT WITHIN US, ARE UNCONSCIOUSLY
CONTROLLED BY IT IN MANY WAYS,
AND

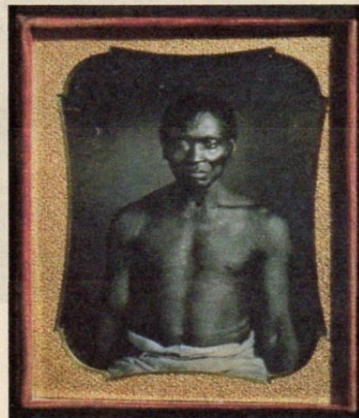
HISTORY IS LITERALLY PRESENT IN ALL THAT WE DO.

IT COULD SCARCELY BE OTHERWISE, SINCE IT IS TO
HISTORY THAT WE OWE **OUR FRAMES OF REFERENCE,**
OUR IDENTITIES, OUR ASPIRATIONS."

JAMES BALDWIN, *I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO*

AFRICAN AMERICANS IN SLAVERY

- **PHOTOGRAPHS: 1845-1863**



AFRICAN-BORN ENSLAVED MEN

named Renty and Faseena by their owner,
near Columbia, South Carolina, March 1850

Daguerreotypes by Joseph T. Zealy, commissioned
by Louis Agassiz for his ethnographic studies.

Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University.
Permission pending.





**LUCY, HOLDING
A WHITE CHILD**

ca. 1845

Lucy was born in 1811 on Thomas Jefferson's plantation in Virginia (Monticello) and was sold at public auction in 1827, a year after Jefferson's death, along with her parents Lilly and Barnaby. The child is unidentified.

Daguerreotype in collections of the Kentucky Gateway Museum Center, Maysville, Kentucky. Reproduced by permission. Digital image courtesy of the Library of Congress.



**AFRICAN AMERICAN
WOMAN HOLDING
A WHITE CHILD**

ca. 1855

Photograph: ruby ambrotype, sixth-plate, hand-colored. Courtesy of the Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division.



AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMAN HOLDING OSCAR MENARD

Louisiana, ca. 1850

Daguerreotype. Reproduced by permission of the Louisiana State Museum, New Orleans.



ISAAC JEFFERSON

(ca. 1775 – ca. 1850)

age 72, blacksmith, Blacksburg, Virginia, ca. 1847

Isaac Jefferson was born on Thomas Jefferson's plantation, Monticello, living there until 1822 when he was hired out to Jefferson's son-in-law to build a threshing machine.

Copyprint of daguerreotype. University of Virginia Library, Tracey W. McGregor Library of American History, Special Collections Department, Isaac Jefferson Collection. Reproduced by permission.



**ENSLAVED AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMAN
HOLDING WOOL CARDERS**

Virginia, ca. 1850s

Copyprint of daguerreotype. University of Virginia Library, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library,
Papers of the Minor Family. Reproduced by permission.



AFRICAN AMERICAN BOYS
 photograph labelled "Intelligent Contraband"
 [slaves in Union-occupied territory],
 Baton Rouge, Louisiana, ca. 1863

U.S. Army Military History Institute,
 Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.
 Reproduced by permission
 of the State Library of Louisiana.



AFRICAN AMERICAN BOY
 photograph labelled "600 miles through swamp
 and cane brake to fight for freedom"
 Baton Rouge, Louisiana, ca. 1863

Louisiana State University Library, Special Collections, John
 Langdon Ward Lantern Slides. Permission pending.



**FIVE GENERATIONS OF AN ENSLAVED
AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY**

plantation of James Joyner Smith
Beaufort, South Carolina, 1862

Photograph by Timothy H. O'Sullivan. Courtesy of the Library of Congress,
Prints & Photographs Division, Civil War Photograph Collection.



ENSLAVED AFRICAN AMERICANS

Union-occupied plantation of
Confederate general Thomas
Drayton, Hilton Head, South
Carolina, May 1862

Photograph by Henry P. Moore (detail below).
Courtesy of the Library of Congress,
Prints & Photographs Division,
Civil War Photograph Collection.





ENSLAVED AFRICAN AMERICANS

Union-occupied plantation of
Confederate general Thomas
Drayton, Hilton Head, South
Carolina, May 1862

Photograph by Henry P. Moore (detail below).
Courtesy of the Library of Congress,
Prints & Photographs Division,
Civil War Photograph Collection.



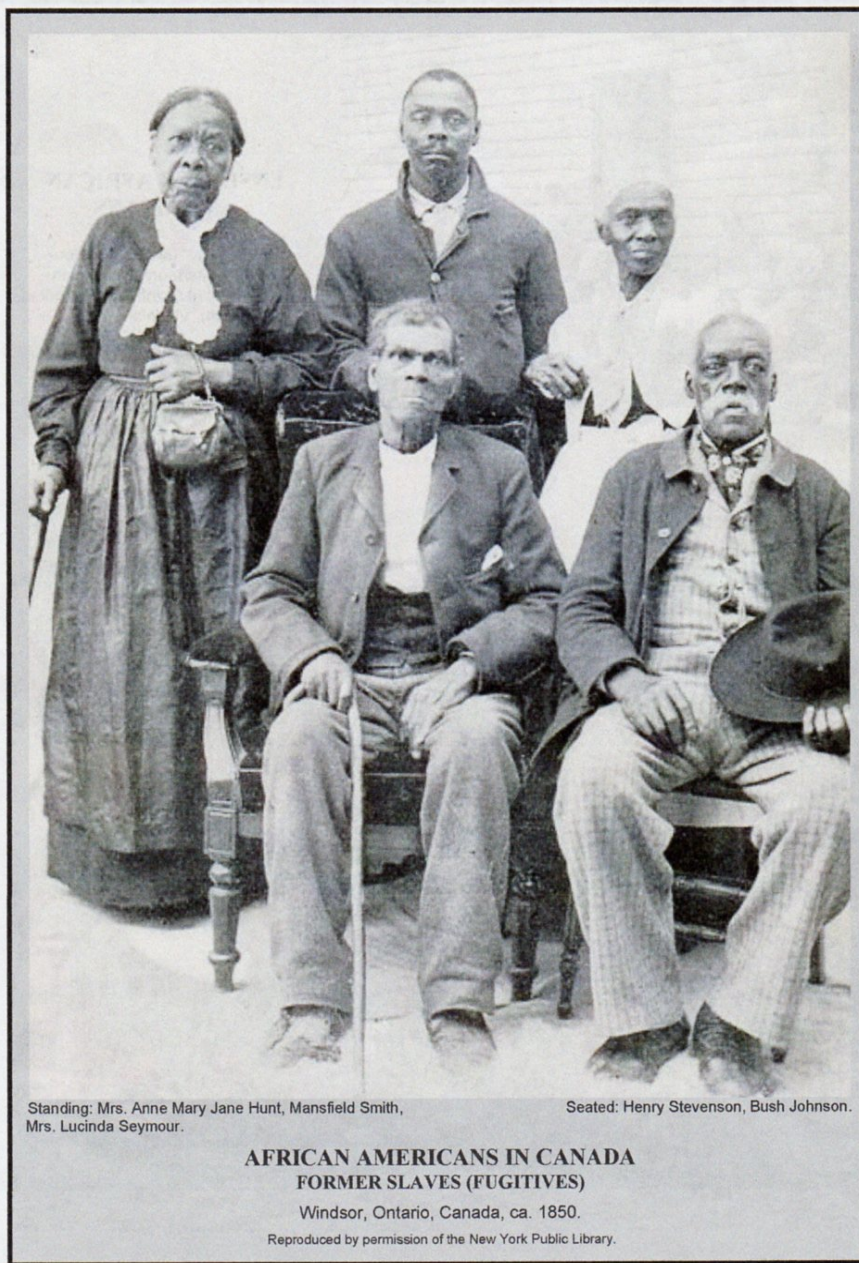


ENSLAVED AFRICAN AMERICANS

"contraband" (slaves in Union-occupied territory) with Union encampment at Cumberland Landing (Foller's farm), Virginia, 14 May 1862

Photograph by James F. Gibson (detail below).
Courtesy of the Library of Congress,
Prints & Photographs Division,
Civil War Glass Negative Collection.





Standing: Mrs. Anne Mary Jane Hunt, Mansfield Smith,
Mrs. Lucinda Seymour.

Seated: Henry Stevenson, Bush Johnson.

**AFRICAN AMERICANS IN CANADA
FORMER SLAVES (FUGITIVES)**

Windsor, Ontario, Canada, ca. 1850.

Reproduced by permission of the New York Public Library.

SIR HENRY CLINTON, CHIEF OF BRITISH FORCES



PASSPORT OF CATO RAMSEY

NEW-YORK, *21 April* 1783.

THIS is to certify to whomsoever it may concern, that the Bearer hereof

Cato Ramsey

a Negro, resorted to the British Lines, in consequence of the Proclamations of Sir William Howe, and Sir Henry Clinton, late Commanders in Chief in America; and that the said Negro has hereby his Excellency Sir Guy Carleton's Permission to go to Nova-Scotia, or wherever else *he* may think proper.

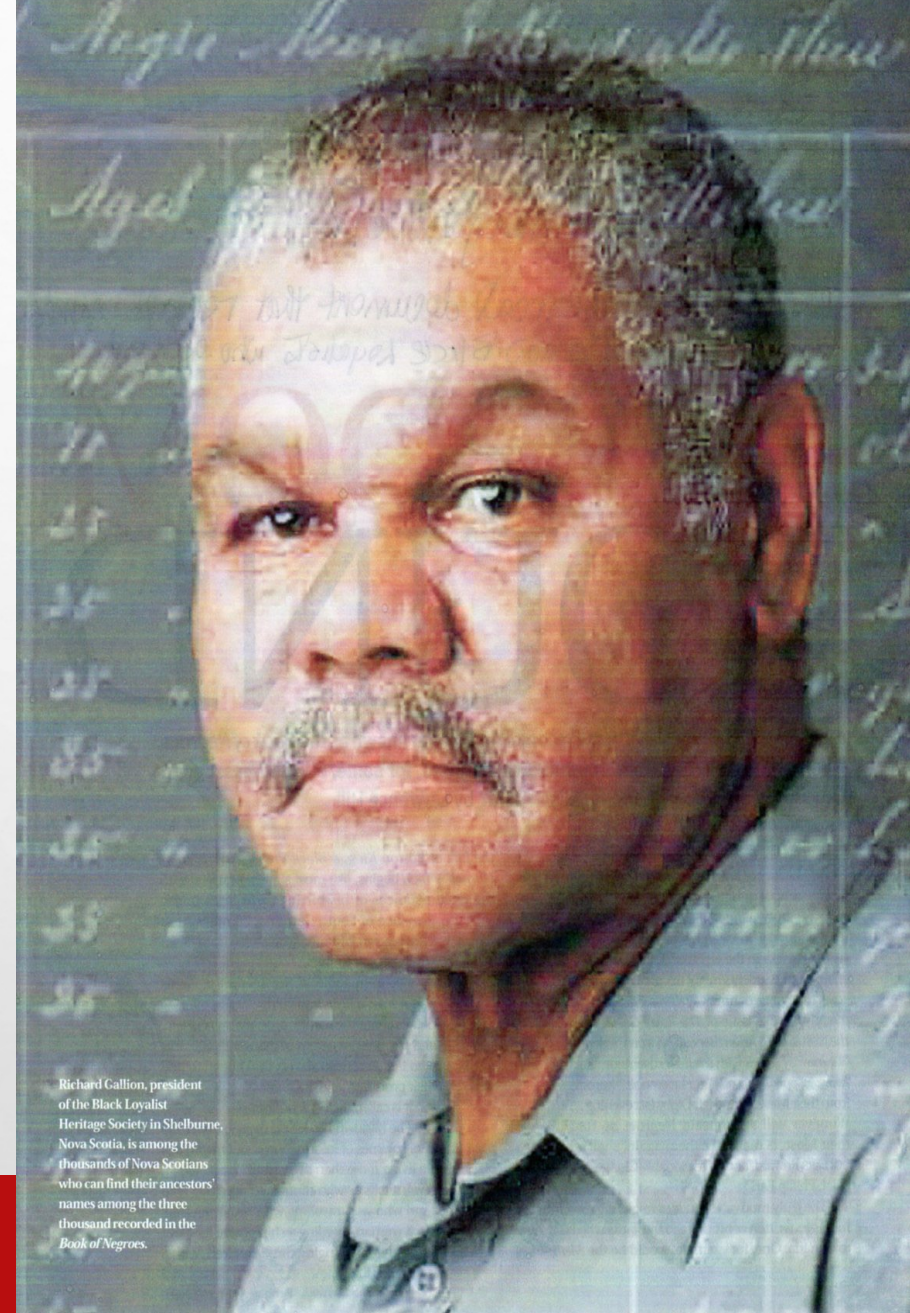
By Order of Brigadier General Birch,

BOOK OF NEGROES

Negroes Names and their common names	Whose Bonds	Negro's Names	Age	Description	Classments		Names of the Persons in whose Possession they now are	Places of Residence
					Name	Place of Residence		
Capt. Soper Capt. Parnock the Capt. Sweeney Wm. Russell the	P. Schuchman	Jack Hyde	50	Almost past his labour			John Ketchum	Formerly Slave to Sir
		Dick	43	Head Fellow			Capt. Parnock	" " to Sir
		Wm. Soper	38	" " Fellow			Capt. P. Sweeney	" " to Sir
		Thos. Brinkman	35	Very short & stout Man			James Parnock	" " to Sir
		Peter Brown	32	Slightly fellow			James Sweeney	" " to Sir
		John Ketchum	30	Head short fellow			John Ketchum	" " to Sir
		George Black	28	Head fellow			" "	" " to Sir
		Billy Black	25	Ordinary Wench			" "	" " to Sir
		Wm. Black	20	Young boy			" "	" " to Sir
		Sam	18	Head Fellow			James Sweeney	" " to Sir
		John Sweeney	15	" "			" "	" " to Sir
		Abigail his Wife	15	Head Wench, small child			" "	Scots her time out
		Bill Parnock	12	Head fellow			Gen. Sweeney	Formerly Slave to Sir
		Pompey Chase	10	" "			James Parnock	Property of James
		John Vere	8	" "			Capt. Sweeney, Sweeney	Free born at Scotland
Capt. Sweeney & Elizabeth Wm. Russell the	Port Rowing	John Vere	20	Head equal Wench, small child			Gen. Sweeney	Formerly Slave to Sir
		Peter Sweeney	15	Head Fellow			Capt. Sweeney	Scots her time out
		Elizabeth Sweeney	12	Ordinary Wench			" "	Formerly Slave to Sir
		Thos. Sweeney	10	" " Fellow			John Ketchum	" " to Sir
		John Ketchum	8	Head equal Wench the			" "	Scots her time out
		Wm. Russell	5	" " Fellow			Gen. Sweeney	Formerly Slave to Sir
		John Sweeney	4	" " Fellow			" "	" " to Sir
		Wm. Russell	3	" " Fellow			" "	" " to Sir
		John Sweeney	2	" " Fellow			" "	" " to Sir
		Wm. Russell	1	" " Fellow			" "	" " to Sir
		John Sweeney	1	" " Fellow			" "	" " to Sir
		Wm. Russell	1	" " Fellow			" "	" " to Sir
		John Sweeney	1	" " Fellow			" "	" " to Sir
		Wm. Russell	1	" " Fellow			" "	" " to Sir
		John Sweeney	1	" " Fellow			" "	" " to Sir
Capt. Sweeney & Elizabeth Wm. Russell the	Port Rowing	John Sweeney	1	" " Fellow			" "	" " to Sir
		Wm. Russell	1	" " Fellow			" "	" " to Sir
		John Sweeney	1	" " Fellow			" "	" " to Sir
		Wm. Russell	1	" " Fellow			" "	" " to Sir
		John Sweeney	1	" " Fellow			" "	" " to Sir
		Wm. Russell	1	" " Fellow			" "	" " to Sir
		John Sweeney	1	" " Fellow			" "	" " to Sir
		Wm. Russell	1	" " Fellow			" "	" " to Sir
		John Sweeney	1	" " Fellow			" "	" " to Sir
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		John Sweeney	1	" " Fellow			" "	" " to Sir
		Wm. Russell	1	" " Fellow			" "	" " to Sir
		John Sweeney	1	" " Fellow			" "	" " to Sir
		Wm. Russell	1	" " Fellow			" "	" " to Sir
		John Sweeney	1	" " Fellow			" "	" " to Sir
		Wm. Russell	1	" " Fellow			" "	" " to Sir
		John Sweeney	1	" " Fellow			" "	" " to Sir
		Wm. Russell	1	" " Fellow			" "	" " to Sir
		John Sweeney	1	" " Fellow			" "	" " to Sir

A detailed Ledger 3000 names

RICHARD GALLION, PRESIDENT OF THE BLACK LOYALIST HERITAGE SOCIETY IN SHELBURNE, NOVA SCOTIA



Richard Gallion, president of the Black Loyalist Heritage Society in Shelburne, Nova Scotia, is among the thousands of Nova Scotians who can find their ancestors' names among the three thousand recorded in the *Book of Negroes*.

LENOX AVENUE MURAL BY LANSTON HUGHES

WHAT HAPPENS TO A DREAM DEFERRED?

DOES IT DRY UP LIKE A RAISIN IN THE SUN?

OR FESTER LIKE A SORE-AND THEN RUN?

DOES IT STINK LIKE ROTTEN MEAT?

OR CRUST OVER AND SUGAR OVER –LIKE SYRUPY SWEET?

MAYBE IT JUST SAGS LIKE A HEAVY LOAD.

~~OR DOES IT EXPLODE?~~