

# New Protests Warned

CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND - Mass demonstrations will begin here after December 22 "unless there is a substantial change in the situation."

Mrs. Gloria Richardson, chairman of the Cambridge Nonviolent Action Committee (CNAC) called for renewed protests in the wake of complete inaction by the city administration and businessmen.

"The Biracial Committee has made no progress and will not meet again until January 21," Mrs. Richardson said. "The fed-



## Cleveland Branch NEWSLETTER NAACP

### Operation Shape-Up . . .

#### Kick-off Speaker Is Man Of Many Deeds

William H. Booth, featured speaker for the 55th Annual Membership Campaign which begins on September 25th, is a man of an unusual capacity for civic work. He has had honors and experience to prove it.



#### 55th Annual Membership Campaign Gets Underway

Plans were announced this week for the 55th Annual NAACP Membership Campaign in Greater Cleveland. The Official Campaign will run from Sunday, September 25th, to Sunday, October 9, 1965. Membership Committee Co-Chairmen are Mr. James Ingle and Mesdames Davis Sweet Lois Hays and Gwendolyn Poindexter. Campaign Director will be Mrs. Odessa Salvant, whose experience in previous campaigns is well known.



Dr. Aaron E. Henry  
State President NAACP



Hi-Jinks and Herd Work  
Report On 57th Annual Convention  
June, 1962

# 250 Gather For SNCC Conference

## Groups, Organizations Meet To Plot Future Of The Movement

ATLANTA, GA., May 4 - Over 250 persons from 22 states attended the third Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee in Atlanta April 27-29.

The interracial conference, called by SNCC to inform student sit-in leaders of new methods and techniques to use in fighting segregation, was

Highlight of the meeting was a discussion of "Legal Rights and Possibilities" by Attorney Len Holt of Norfolk, Virginia. Attorney Holt stressed the



# Researching the Civil Rights Movement: A Resource Guide

Compiled by Daniel Lewis, ProQuest Senior Product Manager, Historical Collections



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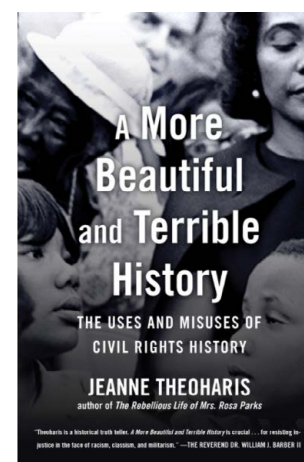
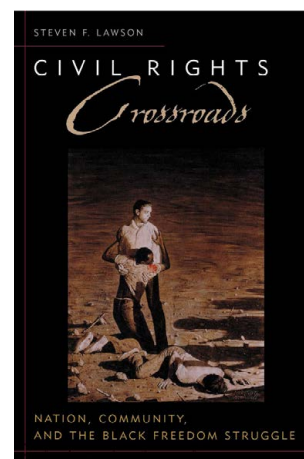
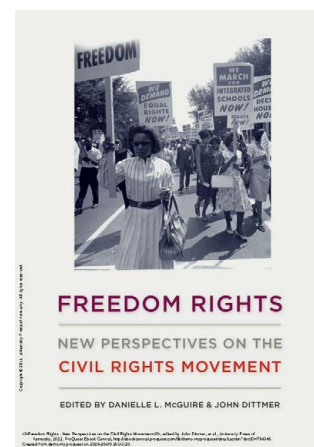
## Introduction

**The Civil Rights Movement** is one of the most inspiring and important social movements in American History. Classes on the Civil Rights Movement are taught at colleges and universities all over the world, and, every year, new master's theses, dissertations, and books are written on Civil Rights Movement topics.

ProQuest offers an amazing combination of different resources that can be used by students and researchers to complete common assignments or research projects on the post-World War II Civil Rights Movement. These databases include: ProQuest History Vault, highlighted by NAACP Papers and records of other civil rights organizations and leaders; ProQuest Historical Black Newspapers; ProQuest Ebook Central; and the Alexander Street databases, Women and Social Movements in the United States; Black Studies in Video; and Black Thought and Culture.

There are hundreds of topics that students and scholars can research using these ProQuest resources on the Civil Rights Movement. In this resource guide, we look at three overarching topics that could lead to dozens of different research papers. The format for each topic is to introduce books that a student might use for background information and to get an understanding of the historiography for the topic. Following the books, there are descriptions and suggestions of primary source content that can be found in ProQuest databases relevant to each topic.

Before considering the topics, it is worth noting that there are several important books available in ProQuest Ebook Central that can give students both a grounding in the key historiography of the Civil Rights Movement and other ideas for new research projects. The first book is Steven F. Lawson's *Civil Rights Crossroads: Nation, Community, and the Black Freedom Struggle*, University Press of Kentucky, 2003. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/demo-myproquest/detail.action?docID=1915403>. This book begins with Lawson's highly influential essay, "Freedom Then, Freedom Now: The Historiography of the Civil Rights Movement." This essay was originally published in the *American Historical Review* in 1991 and has shaped much civil rights historiography over the last 30 years. The book *Freedom Rights: New Perspectives on the Civil Rights Movement*, edited by John Dittmer and Danielle L. McGuire (University Press of Kentucky, 2011. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/demo-myproquest/detail.action?docID=794346>) includes 12 essays that offer cutting-edge interpretations of the Civil Rights Movement. One of those essays is by Steven F. Lawson on what he calls the "Long Origins of the Short Civil Rights Movement." Two other excellent introductory books covering recent themes in civil rights scholarship are *A More Beautiful and Terrible History: The Uses and Misuses of Civil Rights History* by Jeanne Theoharis (Beacon Press, 2018. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/demo-myproquest/detail.action?docID=6050736>) and *Rethinking the Black Freedom Movement* by Yohuru Williams (Taylor & Francis Group, 2015. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/demo-myproquest/detail.action?docID=4185748>)

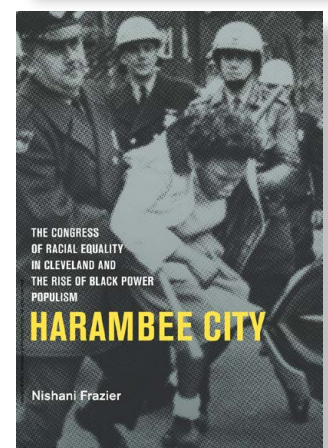
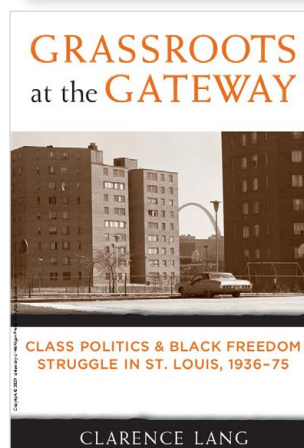
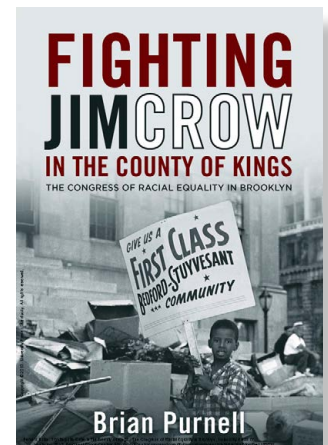
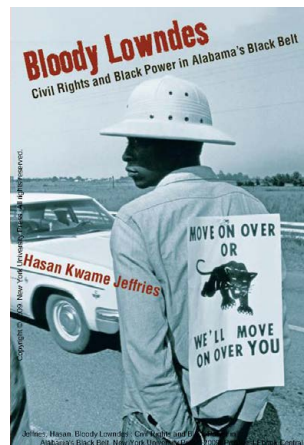


## Community Studies

One of the most exciting areas of civil rights research in recent years has been community studies. Historians have written about local movements throughout the United States, from New York City, to North Carolina, to Mississippi, to St. Louis, to Seattle. Many of these newer local histories of civil rights protests have focused on lesser-known locations like Hyde County, North Carolina, and on movements outside the South in northern and western states, revealing that civil rights activism was national in scope.

The following is a sampling of notable community studies available in ProQuest Ebook Central:

- Biondi, Martha. *To Stand and Fight: The Struggle for Civil Rights in Postwar New York City*, Harvard University Press, 2006. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/demo-myproquest/detail.action?docID=3300418>
- Cecelski, David S. *Along Freedom Road: Hyde County, North Carolina, and the Fate of Black Schools in the South*, University of North Carolina Press, 1994. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/demo-myproquest/detail.action?docID=880080>
- Frazier, Nishani. *Harambee City: The Congress of Racial Equality in Cleveland and the Rise of Black Power Populism*, University of Arkansas Press, 2017. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/demo-myproquest/detail.action?docID=4806486>
- Hamlin, Françoise N. *Crossroads at Clarksdale: The Black Freedom Struggle in the Mississippi Delta after World War II*, University of North Carolina Press, 2012. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/demo-myproquest/detail.action?docID=878301>
- Jeffries, Hasan. *Bloody Lowndes: Civil Rights and Black Power in Alabama's Black Belt*, New York University Press, 2009. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/demo-myproquest/detail.action?docID=2081600>
- Lang, Clarence. *Grassroots at the Gateway: Class Politics and Black Freedom Struggle in St. Louis, 1936-75*, University of Michigan Press, 2009. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/demo-myproquest/detail.action?docID=3414797>
- Payne, Charles M. *I've Got the Light of Freedom: The Organizing Tradition and the Mississippi Freedom Struggle, with a New Preface*, University of California Press, 2007. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/demo-myproquest/detail.action?docID=860286>
- Purnell, Brian. *Fighting Jim Crow in the County of Kings: The Congress of Racial Equality in Brooklyn*, University Press of Kentucky, 2013. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/demo-myproquest/detail.action?docID=1180035>
- Sugrue, Thomas J. *Sweet Land of Liberty: The Forgotten Struggle for Civil Rights in the North*, Random House Publishing Group, 2008. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/demo-myproquest/detail.action?docID=6105018>
- Taylor, Quintard. *The Forging of a Black Community: Seattle's Central District from 1870 Through the Civil Rights Era*, University of Washington Press, 1994. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/demo-myproquest/detail.action?docID=4305909>
- Theoharis, Jeanne, and Komozi Woodard, eds. *Groundwork: Local Black Freedom Movements in America*, New York University Press, 2005. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/demo-myproquest/detail.action?docID=865936>
- Thornton, J. Mills. *Dividing Lines: Municipal Politics and the Struggle for Civil Rights in Montgomery, Birmingham, and Selma*, University of Alabama Press, 2002. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/demo-myproquest/detail.action?docID=438228>



As this list indicates, local studies have been a vibrant area of scholarship in recent years, but the primary sources in ProQuest databases reveal that there are still many local stories waiting to be told.

### ProQuest Historical Black Newspapers

One great starting point for tracing civil rights efforts in local communities is ProQuest Historical Black Newspapers. ProQuest Historical Black Newspapers consists of ten newspapers from around the United States, each of which provides coverage of civil rights protest in their state. The newspapers, with years of coverage, are: Atlanta Daily World (1931-2003); Baltimore Afro-American (1893-1988); Chicago Defender (1910-1975); Cleveland Call & Post (1934-1991); Los Angeles Sentinel (1934-2005); Michigan Chronicle (1936-2010); New York Amsterdam News (1922-1993); Norfolk Journal & Guide (1916-2003); Philadelphia Tribune (1912-2001); and Pittsburgh Courier (1911-2002).

### ProQuest History Vault

Another essential source for community studies is ProQuest History Vault. Within ProQuest History Vault, the major sources for local studies are the NAACP Papers, Congress of Racial Equality Papers, Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee Papers, and Centers of the Southern Struggle FBI Files.

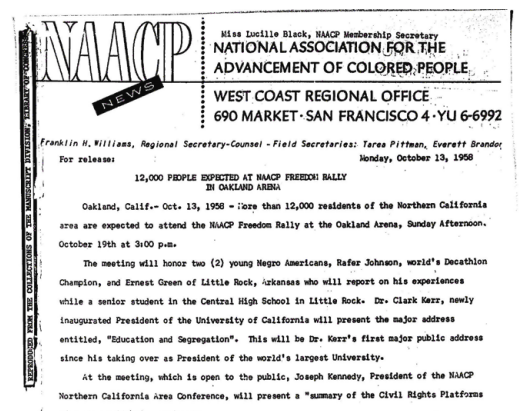
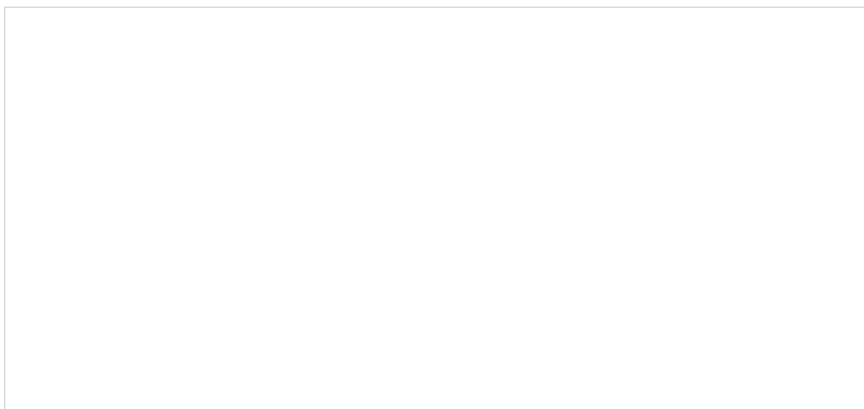
The NAACP Papers are a particularly notable source, with the NAACP Branch Files containing detailed documentation spanning from 1913-1972 on branches in 34 states and 181 branch offices. An important feature of the NAACP branch files is the extent to which they reveal that civil rights protest in the 20th century was not confined to the South. The NAACP had major branches in Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, Louisville, New Orleans, New York City, Oakland, and Philadelphia. In Cincinnati, Ohio, for example, in the 1960s, the Cincinnati NAACP branch picketed Cincinnati Woolworth and Kress stores to support the sit-in movement in the South and because there were no African American employees in 13 Kress and Woolworth stores in the Cincinnati area. In 1961, the branch expanded its protests to the Coca-Cola Company because, as of May 1961, Coca-Cola employed

only two African Americans in the Cincinnati area, both as janitors. The Cincinnati branch, under the slogan, "It's No Joke, We're Not Buying Coke," demonstrated at Coca-Cola's factory in Cincinnati and at grocery stores selling Coca-Cola. From 1956 to 1965, the Chicago NAACP branch conducted a lengthy and determined campaign to eliminate segregation and discriminatory practices in the Chicago schools. In the early 1960s, the Oakland, California, branch waged a multi-faceted campaign against discrimination in employment, housing, and education. The campaign included the use of direct-action protests and the formation of a civil rights coalition group called the Coordinating Committee for Civil Rights. As these examples indicate, students could decide to study one individual branch. Other possibilities would be to study multiple branches in a single state or to compare different branches or different regions.

Students can also use the NAACP Papers in conjunction with other records in History Vault to conduct a community study. The Congress of Racial Equality Papers in History Vault, like the NAACP Papers, contains documentation on offices located throughout the United States, including in California, Illinois, Maryland, New York State, New York City, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Washington State.

The records of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) focus on Southern states with the largest files covering Lowndes County, Alabama; Selma, Alabama; and Mississippi. The Mississippi files are concentrated on the 1964 Mississippi Summer Project but also document coordination with Northern areas. While less voluminous than the files on Alabama and Mississippi, the SNCC Papers also contain documentation on SNCC projects in Georgia, Maryland, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

For local studies, the final collection worth mentioning is Centers of the Southern Struggle: FBI Files on Selma, Memphis, Montgomery, Albany, and St. Augustine. These FBI Files contain detailed day-to-day information, especially on Albany, St. Augustine, and Selma, and can be used effectively in conjunction with the NAACP Papers and SNCC Papers in History Vault as well as with ProQuest Historical Newspapers.



## Women in the Civil Rights Movement

In addition to local studies, recent civil rights scholarship has also highlighted the major contributions by women to the Civil Rights Movement. The books listed below are available in ProQuest Ebook Central. These books introduce major themes regarding women in the civil rights movement and students should also be sure to check the footnotes of these books for other writings.

- Collier-Thomas, Betty. *Sisters In the Struggle: African-American Women In the Civil Rights and Black Power Movements*, edited by V.P. Franklin, New York University Press, 2001. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://search.proquest.com/legacydocview/EBC/2081716?accountid=131239>
- Robnett, Belinda. *How Long? How Long?: African American Women in the Struggle for Civil Rights*, Oxford University Press, 1997. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://search.proquest.com/legacydocview/EBC/241458?accountid=131239>
- Theoharis, Jeanne, et al., eds. *Want to Start a Revolution?: Radical Women in the Black Freedom Struggle*, edited by Jeanne Theoharis, et al., New York University Press, 2009. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/demo-myproquest/detail.action?docID=865487>

For primary sources on women in the civil rights movement, Alexander Street's Women and Social Movements in the United States, ProQuest Historical Black Newspapers, and ProQuest History Vault provide a wide range of material.



## Women and Social Movements in the United States

Women and Social Movements in the United States consists of document projects that present and interpret primary source documents. Each document project poses an interpretive question or series of questions and provides a collection of documents that address the question. Document projects on women in the civil rights movement include:

- *How Did the March on Washington Movement's Critique of American Democracy in the 1940s Awaken African American Women to the Problem of Jane Crow?* by Cynthia Taylor.
- *How Did African American Women Shape the Civil Rights Movement and What Challenges Did They Face?* by Gail Murrury.
- *How and Why Did Women in SNCC Author a Pathbreaking Feminist Manifesto, 1964-1965?* by Kathryn Kish Sklar and Elaine DeLott Baker.

As with the community studies, the NAACP Papers again are a major source for documenting the contributions of women to the Civil Rights Movement. Women held leadership roles at the national, regional, state, and local levels of the NAACP.

### Ruby Hurley

One of the NAACP's most outstanding leaders was Ruby Hurley. Hurley held leadership positions from 1943-1978, serving as NAACP Youth Secretary from 1943 until 1951 and as Regional Secretary for the NAACP Southeast Regional Office from 1952 to 1978. Hurley's files as youth secretary in the NAACP Papers document her leadership and troubleshooting abilities. The large amounts of incoming material in Hurley's files report on local-level activities, such as interracial work, membership recruitment, and political, fraternal, and cultural events in many local communities. In 1951, Ruby Hurley took over the leadership role for NAACP activities in the Southeast. As regional director from 1952-1978, Hurley traveled extensively to the branches in her region as she oversaw and assisted with local initiatives such as membership campaigns, voter registration drives, and desegregation campaigns. In May 1963, for example, Hurley was in Clarksdale, Mississippi, to assist the community in a campaign to desegregate the public facilities in Clarksdale. In March 1963, Hurley traveled 3,945 miles to the branches in her region as she assisted in activities like the campaign in Clarksdale. Ruby Hurley's career as head of the Southeast Regional Office is very well-documented in the NAACP Papers: Board of Directors, Annual Conferences, Major Speeches, and National Staff Files and NAACP Papers: Branch Department, Branch Files, and Youth Department Files in History Vault. Researchers interested in Ruby Hurley will also find a wide variety of coverage of Hurley's life in ProQuest Historical Newspapers™.



Mrs. Ruby Hurley  
Regional Director



LUCILLE BLACK  
Membership Secretary



Daisy E. Lampkin  
Field Secretary

N. W. Griff  
Field Secretary



TAREA H. PITTMAN  
West Coast  
Regional Secretary



Irvana Ming  
Assistant Field Secretary



Noma Jensen  
Assistant Field Secretary



Miss Josephine Fulton, President  
Women's Auxiliary, Chicago Branch N.A.A.C.P.

The role of women in the great struggle of history and literature has been neglected, undervalued, and not mentioned, ignored and often forgotten. From the world peace of Geneva to the final chapter of the world's greatest book, the contribution of women has made itself. Acknowledgment is due their influence upon the course of civilization in the darkest moments in the history of our race. The women of the United States, the women of the Civil War days have been honored in House of Representatives, for the sake of the country. With the founding of the National Association of Colored Women, the women of the world have been united and the world has been given a new direction. The women of the world have given a new direction to the world.

The challenge of today are full of hardship, pain and frustration. Our dedicated women take in every one of these children, with as glory as honor when they are the children of the American people.

One of the struggles of the past has been great victory. Our victory of the future will be the same. It will be the same as the victory of the past, and when there is justice for women today of all ages, race, color and condition of life.

JOSEPHINE FULTON  
President  
Women's Auxiliary, Chicago Branch  
N.A.A.C.P.



Seated, Miss Ethel M. Hilliard, president; Standing, left to right: Miss Josephine McDaniel, treasurer; Mrs. Beatrice Hughes Steele, Corresponding secretary; Mrs. Mattie C. Bray, First Vice President, Mrs. Laura C. Webster, Recording Secretary.

## National, Regional, State, and Local NAACP Leaders

While Ruby Hurley's outstanding career in the NAACP is documented in significant detail in the NAACP Papers, the NAACP Papers and ProQuest Historical Newspapers also document the contributions of many other women, on the national, regional, state, and local levels. Other national NAACP leaders include Ella Baker, Julia Baxter, Mary McLeod Bethune, Lucille Black, Mildred Bond, Bobbie Branche, Gertrude Gorman, Noma Jensen, Daisy Lampkin, Irvana Ming, Beverly J. Pearson, Catherine E. Ricketts, June Shagaloff, and Margaret Bush Wilson.

NAACP regional, state, and local leaders include:

Christia V. Adair (Texas); Daisy Bates (Arkansas); Ruth M. Batson (Boston and New England Region); Virna Canson (Sacramento and West Coast Region); Vivienne R. Chisholm (Washington, D.C.); Doretha A. Combre (Louisiana); Serena E. Davis (Midwest Region); Osceola A. Dawson (Kentucky); Myrlie Evers (Mississippi); Fannie Fullerwood (Saint Augustine, Florida); Josephine Fulton (Chicago); Deborah L. Gilbreath (Minnesota); Lillie M. Jackson (Baltimore, Maryland); Kathryn Magnolia Johnson (North Carolina); Juanita Jackson Mitchell (Baltimore branch, Maryland State Conference and National Youth Director); L. Pearl Mitchell (Cleveland, Ohio); Rosa Parks (Montgomery, Alabama); Helen L. Phelps (Kentucky); Vera Mae Pigea (Mississippi); Tarea Hall Pittman (West Coast Region); also California Association of Colored Women's Clubs); Modjeska M. Simkins (South Carolina); Althea T. L. Simmons (California and West Coast Region); June T. Tennille (Washington, D.C.); and Lulu B. White (Texas).



WELCOME NATIONAL OFFICERS

MISS MILDRED BOND

Miss Mildred Bond, Assistant for the NA Membership Campaign, in coordinates the life program among all branches. Before working capacity Miss Bond Secretary wherein of various NAACP Branch and Fund Raising school integration projects, branch community projects. Her activities has been in areas such as, Houston, Texas, Missouri, Colorado, Missouri.

### BEVERLY J. PEARSON TRAINING ASSISTANT, NAACP

Beverly J. Pearson was appointed Assistant to the Director for Training Programs of the NAACP in January, 1960. Prior to that appointment, she was an assistant in the Education Department of the NAACP from 1955-1960.

She received her Bachelor of Education degree cum laude from National College of Education, Evanston, Illinois and an M.A. degree in Human Relations from New York University in 1956. She was elected to WHO's Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities. Her special field of interest during her graduate studies was race relations and social psychology.

She attended the 1963 Race Relations Institute at Fisk University and a workshop in Leadership Training and Group Dynamics. While an undergraduate, she was instrumental in developing a national program for elementary school children in the Evanston community and forming an alliance between the school and community for guidance, books and professional staff.

As a volunteer she worked with the NCCU Intercolllegiate Council on Human Relations; was instrumental in developing dormitory room assignments at National College.

A teacher of Birmingham, Alabama, Miss Pearson's previous employment included elementary school teaching in the Chicago Public Schools and serving as Negro History teacher and consultant for the Brownville Community Council (OEO) in New York City.

She is a member of Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society.



## Ella Baker

One of the NAACP national leaders previously listed is Ella Baker. Baker, one of the legendary figures of the Civil Rights Movement, is the subject of excellent biographies by J. Todd Moye and Barbara Ransby (J. Todd Moye, *Ella Baker: Community Organizer of the Civil Rights Movement*, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2013. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/demo-myproquest/detail.action?docID=1400979>. Barbara Ransby, *Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement: A Radical Democratic Vision*, The University of North Carolina Press, 2003. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/demo-myproquest/detail.action?docID=413398>)

Ella Baker began her career with the NAACP in 1938 and served as Director of Branches of the NAACP from 1943-1946. Under Baker's leadership, the number of members and the number of branches of the NAACP grew substantially. This growth helped turn the NAACP into a mass membership organization, setting the stage for nationwide civil rights activity after World War II and the triumphs of the 1950s and 1960s. In 1946, Baker resigned from her national position with the NAACP, but she remained active in the New York NAACP branch, becoming president of the New York branch in 1952. In 1957, Baker returned to national civil rights work when she joined the newly formed Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). Three years later, when the sit-in movement took off across the South, Baker played an important advisory role to the young students who formed the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). Baker especially encouraged the leaders of SNCC to embrace group leadership and to emphasize the development of leaders among local populations. One of the best examples of Baker's stress on cultivating local leaders was Mississippi Freedom Summer. Baker's work with the NAACP, SCLC, and SNCC is documented in the records of these three organizations in History Vault. Looking outside of History Vault, a search on "Ella Baker" in ProQuest Historical Newspapers™ for the years between 1910-1989 retrieves over 1,000 results, with results coming

from the New York Times, Baltimore Afro-American, and Chicago Defender. Alexander Street's Black Studies in Video also contains a SNCC Legacy video on Baker called Ella Baker's Roots: "Give People Light And They Will Find A Way" (produced by Natalie Bullock Brown, Ascension Productions; performed by Bernice Johnson Reagon, 1942-, in SNCC Legacy Video 18, San Francisco, CA: California Newsreel, 2011).

### Mary McLeod Bethune

When Ella Baker became a national leader at the NAACP in 1943, Mary McLeod Bethune had already working been on behalf of African Americans for almost 50 years. Beginning her career as a teacher in the late 1890s, Mary McLeod Bethune founded her first school in 1904. While working continuously as an educator, Bethune also became involved in civil rights causes, becoming president of the Florida affiliate of the National Association of Colored Women (NACW) in 1917. In 1920, Bethune also took charge of the Southeastern Federation of Colored Women's Clubs and she became the president of the NACW from 1924-1928. The Mary McLeod Bethune Papers in History Vault cover Bethune's major preoccupations as an educator, leader of women, federal administrator, and civil rights activist. With materials dating primarily from 1914-1955, the Bethune Papers document the era of black life and race relations from the death of Booker T. Washington to the emergence of Martin Luther King Jr.

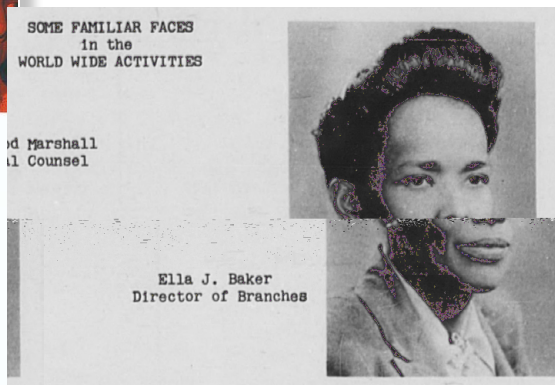
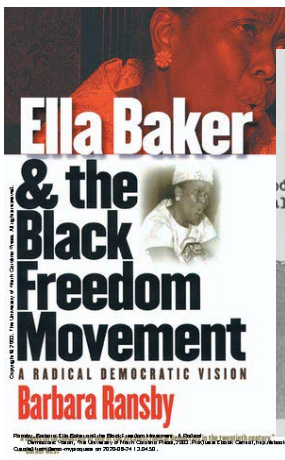
### National Association of Colored Women's Clubs Records

A major collection in History Vault that is connected to the career of Mary McLeod Bethune is the records of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs (NACWC). The NACWC is the umbrella state and local organization of the National Association of Colored Women, founded in 1896, the oldest African American women's organization in the United States. The NACWC collection in History Vault features documents on the state and local affiliates of the NACWC, publications of the organization's national office, and minutes from the NACWC's national conventions from

1895-1992. The collection includes some materials on the NACWC's early leaders like Mary Talbert, Jennie Moton, Hallie Quinn Brown, and Mary McLeod Bethune, but it is not until the administration of Ella P. Stewart (1948-1952) that the president's office files contain more complete documentation. During the 1950s and 1960s, under the leadership of Rosa Slade Gragg (1958-1964) and Mamie B. Reese (1964-1968), the NACWC mobilized its considerable fundraising network on behalf of the civil rights movement. For example, in the case of the school integration crisis at Little Rock Central High School, the club movement raised scholarship money for African American students adversely affected by policies of the Little Rock Board of Education. The NACWC also cooperated with the NAACP, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and the Congress of Racial Equality in coalition efforts during the 1960s. The NACWC was a member of the Leadership Council on Civil Rights--the influential umbrella organization of civil rights leaders. At the grassroots level, NACWC local affiliates raised funds and provided the footwork for voter registration projects. To prepare the next generation of leaders, the NACWC also collaborated with Howard University on the summer Leadership Training Institute, bringing nationwide members of the National Association of Colored Girls to Howard.

On the topic of Women in the Civil Rights Movement, the final collection to mention is the records of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), also in ProQuest History Vault. The SNCC collection contains coverage of women such as Fannie Lou Hamer, Diane Nash, Mary Sue Gellatly, Lois Rogers, Cynthia Washington, Gwen Robinson, and Ruby Doris Robinson.

From the books in Ebook Central to ProQuest Historical Newspapers, ProQuest History Vault, and Alexander Street's Women and Social Movements and Black Studies in Video databases, a wide range of amazing documentation awaits the student interested in investigating the work of the many women who made essential contributions to the Civil Rights Movement.



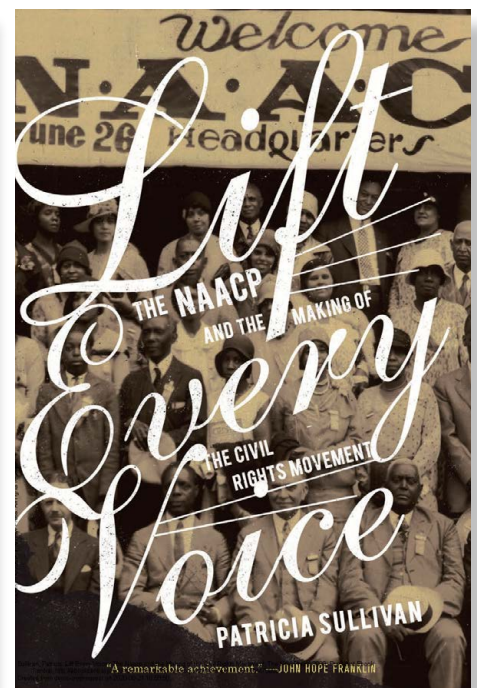
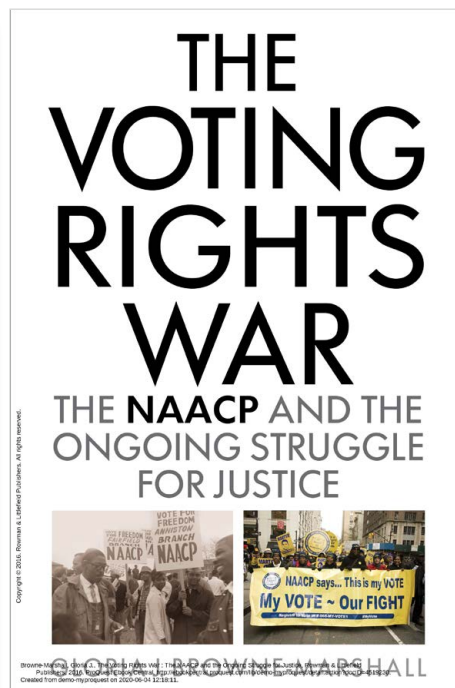
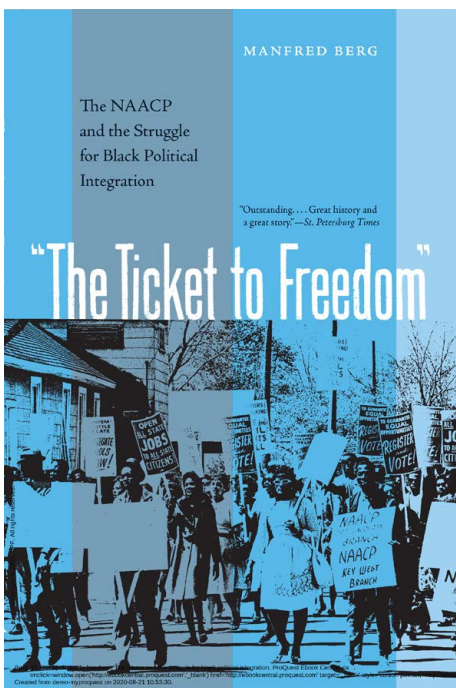
# NAACP Policy Positions via Annual Convention Speeches and Resolutions

In recent years, new scholarship has recognized the importance of the NAACP to the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s. Much of this scholarship has focused on specific NAACP campaigns, local branches, and the top leaders of the NAACP but there have also been several new organizational histories of the NAACP. Of the organizational histories, one notable work is Patricia Sullivan's *Lift Every Voice: The NAACP and the Making of the Civil Rights Movement* (The New Press, 2009. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/demo-myproquest/detail.action?docID=478883>) In addition to Sullivan's long-awaited book, in 2005, Gilbert Jonas, a long-time fundraiser for the NAACP, published *Freedom's Sword: The NAACP and the Struggle Against Racism in America, 1909-1969* (Taylor & Francis Group, 2004. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/demo-myproquest/detail.action?docID=241879>). An edited collection that addresses important issues in the 100-year history of the NAACP from its founding in 1909 until 2009 is *Long Is the Way and Hard: One Hundred Years of the NAACP*, edited by Kevern Verney and Lee Sartain (University of Arkansas Press, 2009. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/demo-myproquest/detail.action?docID=2007595>).

Books on specific NAACP campaigns or departments of the NAACP include:

- Anderson, Carol. *Bourgeois Radicals: The NAACP and the Struggle for Colonial Liberation, 1941-1960*.

- Berg, Manfred. *Ticket to Freedom: The NAACP and the Struggle for Black Political Integration*, University Press of Florida, 2005. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/demo-myproquest/detail.action?docID=726900>
- Browne-Marshall, Gloria J. *The Voting Rights War: The NAACP and the Ongoing Struggle for Justice*, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2016. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/demo-myproquest/detail.action?docID=4519230>
- Bynum, Thomas. *NAACP Youth and the Fight for Black Freedom, 1936-1965*, University of Tennessee Press, 2013. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/demo-myproquest/detail.action?docID=1311404>
- Greenberg, Cheryl Lynn, and Cheryl Lynn Lynn Greenberg. *Troubling the Waters: Black-Jewish Relations in the American Century*, Princeton University Press, 2006. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/demo-myproquest/detail.action?docID=457809>
- Hine, Darlene Clark. *Black Victory: The Rise and Fall of the White Primary in Texas*, University of Missouri Press, 2003. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/demo-myproquest/detail.action?docID=3570771>
- Tushnet, Mark V. *The NAACP's Legal Strategy Against Segregated Education, 1925-1950*, University of North Carolina Press, 2005. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/demo-myproquest/detail.action?docID=793370>
- Zangrando, Robert L. *The NAACP Crusade Against Lynching, 1909-1950*, Temple University Press, 1980.





Books on NAACP leaders are:

- Janken, Kenneth, *Walter White: Mr. NAACP*, University of North Carolina Press, 2006.
- Lewis, David Levering. *W.E.B. Du Bois: A Biography 1868-1963*, Holt Paperbacks, 2009.
- Lewis, Ronald L. and Robert L. Zangrando. *Walter F. White: The NAACP's Ambassador for Racial Justice*, West Virginia University Press, 2019.
- Ryan, Yvonne. *Roy Wilkins: The Quiet Revolutionary and the NAACP*, University Press of Kentucky, 2013. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/demo-myproquest/detail.action?docID=1520828>
- Watson, Denton L. *Lion in the Lobby: Clarence Mitchell, Jr.'s Struggle for the Passage of Civil Rights Laws*, UPA, 2014. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/demo-myproquest/detail.action?docID=4307833>

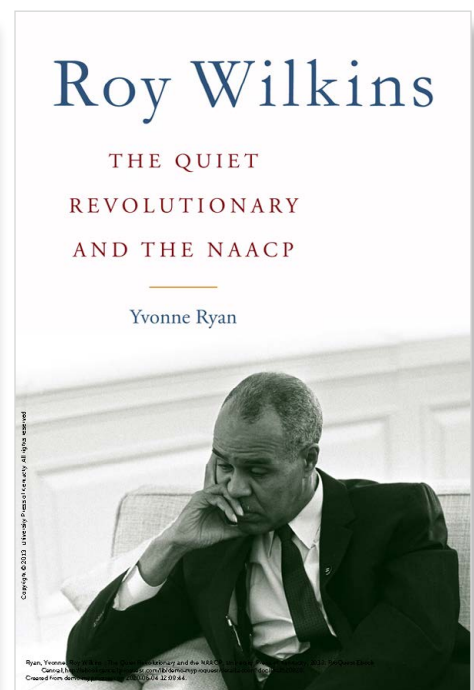
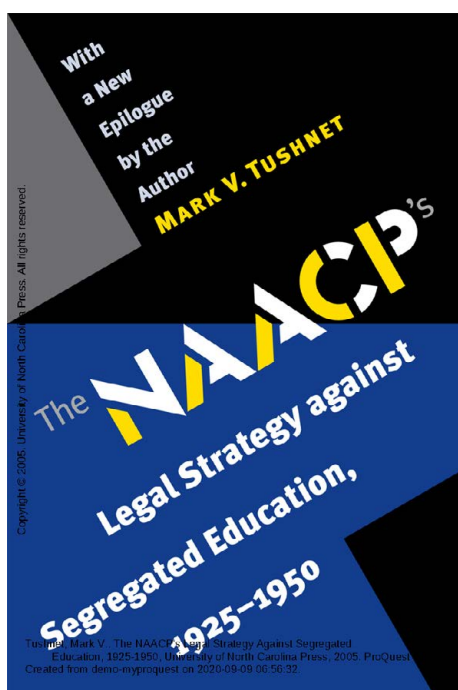
One interesting way for students to trace the history of the NAACP would be to focus on the NAACP annual conventions. To date, according to my research, the only book that focuses specifically on the NAACP conventions is *In Search of Democracy: The NAACP Writings of James Weldon Johnson, Walter White, and Roy Wilkins*, edited by Sondra Kathryn Wilson, but this book is more narrowly focused on these three leaders of the NAACP and does not consider the conventions as a whole.

NAACP annual conventions served a number of important functions. First, the NAACP used the annual convention to set the policy and legislative agenda of the association for the year. This function was carried out primarily through

the passing of resolutions. This makes the resolutions an important source for understanding NAACP policy. Speeches by major NAACP leaders and other prominent figures played a role in setting NAACP policy. The speeches also proved to be a very good way to attract publicity for the association, and attracting publicity was a second major purpose of the conventions. Special events, such as testimonial banquets, protests, or commemorative gatherings were sometimes scheduled during conventions and helped attract additional publicity for the NAACP.

Another important function of the convention was to afford regular personal contact between the national office and the NAACP branches. Several sessions of every convention were devoted to "workshops" in which national officers instructed delegates in such things as fundraising, local branch administration, and initiating civil rights litigation at the local level. The printing of the conference program was another good way for the national NAACP to interact with the local community. The NAACP often placed pictures of its national leaders and descriptions of NAACP activity in the conference program. NAACP Papers collection in ProQuest History Vault includes coverage of NAACP conventions between 1910 and 1970.

The speeches and the resolutions passed at the annual conferences provide an excellent lens to study the major concerns of the NAACP on a yearly basis. Speeches were given by NAACP officials, allies of the NAACP like labor union leaders, high-ranking government officials, and others. Speakers at the conventions typically addressed the most pressing issues facing the NAACP and the country. The resolutions passed at each annual conference set the NAACP policy for the coming year. Looking at the speeches and resolutions, students could study topics such as



the language used in speeches, compare and contrast speeches or resolutions over time, or trace the evolution of resolutions on a single issue.

## NAACP Annual Convention Speeches

On the topic of NAACP convention speeches, the following examples give a good indication of the richness of the speeches. In 1919, on the tenth anniversary of the NAACP, W. E. B. Du Bois, a founding member of the NAACP and the editor of *The Crisis*, spoke about the importance of voting rights. Du Bois felt the right to vote would have an impact on education, another important concern of the NAACP. Du Bois told the 1919 convention participants: "The world wants the ballot because it wants certain things and we American Negroes are determined to have the ballot particularly for one great thing, and that is for the education of our children." [ProQuest History Vault, NAACP Papers, Accession ID# 001412-008-0447]

In 1942, the NAACP met in Los Angeles, California. The featured speakers were Roy Wilkins, Malcolm S. MacLean, E. Frederic Morrow, Walter White, Norman Houston, Daisy Lampkin, Lal Singh, George A. Beavers Jr., and Culbert L. Olson. A major theme of the 1942 speeches was the world war as well as the defense effort in the United States. Malcolm S. MacLean, for example, spoke about the Fair Employment Practices Committee, while E. Frederic Morrow and NAACP Executive Secretary Walter White talked about fighting for democracy both at home and overseas. In his closing remarks, White spoke of the NAACP's determination "to make this a better world ... for all human beings." [ProQuest History Vault, NAACP Papers, Folder 001412-011-0132]

When the NAACP gathered for its national convention in 1964, the NAACP and all civil rights advocates were on the cusp of a major victory—the passage of civil rights legislation that would prohibit discrimination in public accommodations and public facilities, in employment, and in public education. Not surprisingly, most of the 1964 convention speeches focused on the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which President Lyndon B. Johnson would sign into law on July 2, 1964. Among the speakers at the

1964 convention was R. Sargent Shriver, then Special Assistant to President Lyndon B. Johnson. In his remarks, Shriver said: "Let us Never forget that the NAACP was in this fight for civil rights for 50 years, not 50 weeks or 83 days. For your long-enduring dedicated leadership all America owes you a debt of gratitude. You represent the power of the people -- the power of the people to bring laws into existence and get them enforced by the ancient and honorable methods of "Public Petition," demonstrations, and marches. For 50 years, in times and places of danger as well as indifference, you spoke up for, you stood up for, you sat down for, you marched for, you picketed and protested and petitioned and sued to obtain the basic rights of all Americans. You have done this in every forum and in every state. This civil rights bill is your latest victory, but it will not be your last." [ProQuest History Vault, NAACP Papers, Folder: 001417-007-0343]. Minnesota Senator Hubert Humphrey also praised the NAACP's work for the Civil Rights Act of 1964: "You have performed a mighty task for democracy. ... you of the NAACP went into battle first -- 55 years ago, to be exact -- and you have been in the forefront of the struggle ever since." [ProQuest History Vault, NAACP Papers, Folder: 001417-007-0343]

Following the urban riots of 1967 and the widespread rioting that occurred after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. on April 4, 1968, the 1968 NAACP convention in Atlantic City focused on the theme of extending NAACP programs to urban ghettos and developing political and economic power in these areas. At the opening session of the convention, NAACP board chairman Stephen Gill Spottswood used his keynote address to reaffirm the NAACP's traditional commitments and to argue that the NAACP continued to be relevant to the hopes and aspirations of the majority of African Americans. Spottswood declared: "we remind America that for 59 years the NAACP has been striving to remove the strangling inequalities of the ghetto which have stimulated the riots. ... In its fundamental sense ... the phrase 'black power' encompasses what has been the Association's economic program for fifty years." He continued: "We are for the strengthening of the ghetto but not for the development of the ghetto-state...We speak for the vast, though little publicized, majority of Negro Americans... Inclusion is their goal, not exclusion." Other speakers at the 1968 convention offered their perspectives on the "urban crisis." Vivian Henderson, president of Clark College in Atlanta, Georgia, centered her remarks on the importance of employment, arguing that employment was the best way to positively impact the lives of the residents of America's central cities. Julian Bond, a former Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee leader and, in 1968, a member of the Georgia House of Representatives, stressed the need for unity among African Americans and the importance of political power. These examples from the speeches at

EXCERPTS FROM REMARKS BY SARGENT SHRIVER,  
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AT THE  
55TH NAACP ANNUAL CONVENTION  
STATLER-HILTON HOTEL -- WASHINGTON, D. C.  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 1964

Let us Never forget that the NAACP was in this fight for civil rights for 50 years, not 50 weeks or 83 days!

For your long-enduring dedicated leadership all America owes you a debt of gratitude.

You represent the power of the people -- the power of the people to bring laws into existence and get them enforced by the ancient and honorable methods of "Public Petition," demonstrations, and marches.

For 50 years, in times and places of danger as well as indifference, you spoke up for, you stood up for, "you sat down for, you marched for, you picketed and protested and petitioned and sued to obtain the basic rights of all Americans. You have done this in every forum and in every state. This civil rights bill is your latest victory, but it will not be your last.

You must now go on -- we must go on together -- to give full reality to the great promises contained in the long line of laws designed to advance all the people of America -- from the bill of rights itself through the Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments, -- through the abolition of the poll tax and the civil rights acts of this last decade.

the NAACP conventions give just a taste of the riches that await researchers in the NAACP Papers.

### NAACP Annual Conventions Resolutions

Like the speeches, the resolutions passed at NAACP annual conventions also offer many research opportunities.

In 1914, for example, as the NAACP celebrated its fifth anniversary, it passed resolutions on the press and education. The resolution on the press was particularly sharply worded: "In those parts of the country where the white press is in a conspiracy of silence regarding the wrongs suffered by the colored people, the Negro press has been the only agency to voice complaint and appeal for redress of grievances. The Association wishes the Negro press an increase in prosperity and influence for the future."

Twenty years later, the NAACP celebrated its 25th anniversary amidst the economic crisis of the Great Depression. The resolutions passed at the 1934 annual convention reflected these difficult economic conditions and also included resolutions on mob violence, the National Recovery Administration, the federal farm program, household employees and domestic workers, segregation, the Scottsboro cases, voting rights, and support for "oppressed peoples" around the world.

Thirteen years later, in 1947, the NAACP passed a key resolution on school desegregation that led eventually to the association's landmark victory in the *Brown v. Board of Education* case. In one of the 1947 resolutions, the NAACP declared its opposition to "dual school systems" and its intention to pursue the desegregation of schools.

At the 1968 convention, the NAACP passed resolutions on a wide variety of important issues. These included the Poor People's Campaign, implementation of the 1968 civil rights

law, the Kerner Commission report on riots, draft laws, consumer protection, public welfare and poverty programs, school desegregation and school busing, the Vietnam War, discrimination in housing, and participation in the 1968 Olympics. The examples presented here are just a few of the resolutions passed at NAACP conventions and reflect the evolution of the NAACP as an organization between 1910 and 1970.

## Attend... NAACP MEETINGS

- Hear Champions of Freedom Speak
- Hear Great Choirs Sing
- See Special Convention Features!!

★ ★ ★

The public is cordially invited to attend the MASS MEETINGS of the 48th Annual Convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as follows:

Date	Time	Place
Tuesday, June 25	• 8:00 p.m.	• Ford Auditorium
Wednesday, June 26	• 8:00 p.m.	• Ford Auditorium
Friday, June 28	• 8:00 p.m.	• Ford Auditorium
Sunday, June 30	• 2:15 p.m.	• Olympia Stadium

Bring your relatives and Friends!

★ ★ ★

### NAACP NATIONAL CONVENTION

### Resolutions Adopted by the Fifty-Fifth Annual Convention of the NAACP at Washington, D. C., June 22-27, 1964

#### PREAMBLE

IN the spirit of reaffirmed and renewed dedication to the cause we serve, we, the delegates to the 55th Annual Convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, pause only briefly to savor the triumph represented by passage of the Civil Rights Bill of 1964. We know well the significance of that triumph, but we also know the price that has been paid for it and we recognize that it imposes greater obligations than ever before if its written language is to become living reality.

Last year our delegates vowed that there would be no tranquility and no relaxation in our land until the demand for full freedom had been satisfied. The events of the twelve succeeding months have amply sustained that prophecy

resourcefulness, of intelligent militancy which characterized NAACP operations in the year just ending gives us deep satisfaction at the same time that it challenges us to be better in the year ahead. Our leadership of this movement is a sacred trust, and we cannot do less. This is our commitment and our pledge.

#### CIVIL RIGHTS AND POLITICAL ACTION

##### 1. Civil Rights

The year 1964 will always be a high point in the NAACP's long battle for national civil rights legislation.

The thirteenth annual report records the valiant effort to get an anti-lynching bill passed in the Sixty-Seventh Congress (1921-23). The measure was defeated by a Senate filibuster. Our

## NAACP 45th ANNUAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

Dallas, Texas

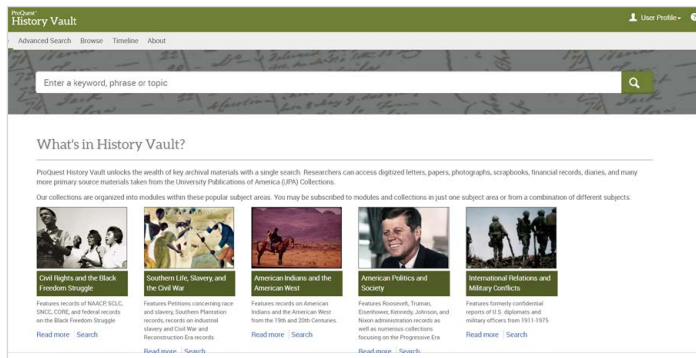
June 29 - July 4, 1954

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

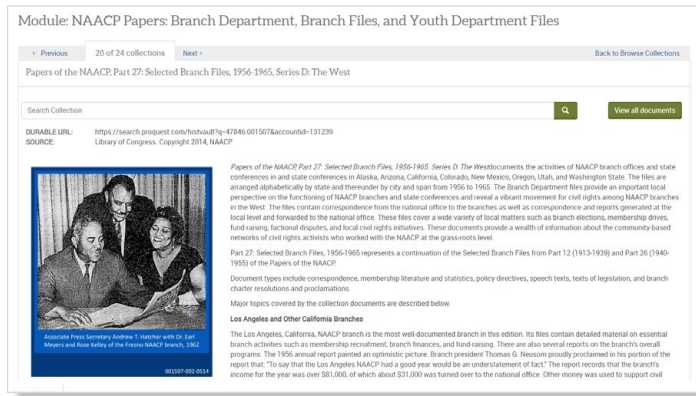
20 West 40th Street, New York 18, New York

# Conclusion

Each of the three topics described in this resource guide can lead to hundreds of research papers. Students can use ProQuest History Vault, ProQuest Historical Newspapers, and Alexander Street databases to write about different local civil rights movements or the crucial leadership of women. NAACP convention speeches and resolutions can also become the basis for multiple different projects. The topics described in this resource guide, though, are just a small sampling of the many research topics on the Civil Rights Movement that students can investigate using ProQuest databases. Other topics students might consider include: a comparison of the 1941 March on Washington and the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom; the campaign for voting rights; the campaign



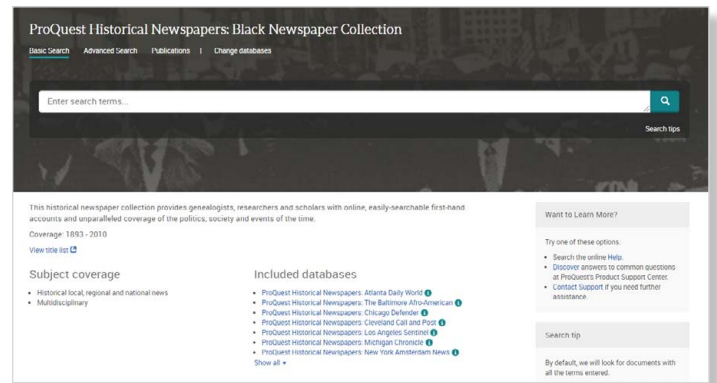
Portion of the ProQuest History Vault homepage.



Collection description within ProQuest History Vault for NAACP Papers Branch Department Files.

Cover page images come from ProQuest History Vault NAACP Papers, Congress of Racial Equality Papers, and Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee Papers.

for anti-lynching legislation; women in the Black Power movement; NAACP legal cases (there are documents from over 600 legal cases in the NAACP Papers); the NAACP Branch Department under the leadership of Gloster B. Current; campaigns against discrimination in public accommodations, transportation, the armed forces, and the criminal justice system; the White House Conference on Civil Rights; the relationship between African Americans and organized labor; an organizational history of the American Committee on Africa; the NAACP's interest in international affairs, and many others. In addition to these suggestions, students might get other ideas via the books available in ProQuest Ebook Central or by looking at the ProQuest Blog or ProQuest Libguides.



Homepage for ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Black Newspaper Collection.

## Databases covered:

**Alexander Street: Women and Social Movements in the United States** <https://alexanderstreet.com/products/women-and-social-movements-united-states-1600-2000>

**ProQuest Ebook Central** <https://about.proquest.com/products-services/ebooks/ebooks-main.html>

**ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Black Newspaper Collection** <https://about.proquest.com/products-services/histnews-bn.html>

**ProQuest History Vault Black Freedom Struggle Collections and NAACP Papers** <https://about.proquest.com/products-services/historyvault.html>

# Learn more about ProQuest Black Studies Collections



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