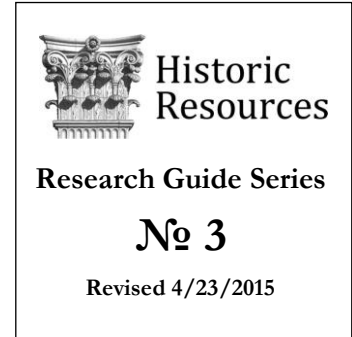


# History of African-Americans in Portland & Oregon

## A Selected Bibliography

This bibliography lists sources for the history of African-Americans in the city of Portland and the state of Oregon, and less comprehensively, the Pacific Northwest and Far West. A list of Portland and West Coast African-American newspapers and periodicals and a brief list of selected general Portland and Oregon historical studies follow the main bibliography.

This document will be updated from time-to-time; corrections and additions may be sent to: Nicholas T. Starin, Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, 1900 SW 4th Ave., Suite 7100, Portland, OR, 97201; [nicholas.starin@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:nicholas.starin@portlandoregon.gov)



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*Skanner*. 1975 – present.

*Urban League View*. 1991 – present.

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African-American periodicals from other West Coast cities occasionally reported on events in Portland and Oregon, as did those with national readerships published in other locations, such as the *Colored American*, printed in New York.

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**Abner Francis' store, corner of Front and Stark, ca. 1858**

Abner Hunt Francis, a friend of famed abolitionist Frederick Douglass, arrived in Portland in 1851 with his wife Sydnia (or Lynda) and his brother O. B. Francis and were among the early city's very few African-Americans. Within days of opening their trading business, Abner's brother was arrested for violating the territorial exclusion law of 1849, which made it illegal for "any negro or mulatto to come in or reside within the limits" of Oregon. In September 1851, Judge O. C. Pratt ordered the Francis family to leave the territory. The expulsion order was not enforced however, after a petition signed by 211 Portland residents protesting their expulsion and urging repeal of the law convinced the legislature not to enforce it. Abner Francis remained in Portland for a decade, operating a profitable trading business and amassing a fortune estimated at \$36,000 when he left for Vancouver Island in 1860.