

9-1-2018

## Selected Historical Bibliography on African American Women's Activism (Focusing on 1880 to 1920)

Susan D. Carle

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycommons.law.hofstra.edu/hlr>



Part of the [Law Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Carle, Susan D. (2018) "Selected Historical Bibliography on African American Women's Activism (Focusing on 1880 to 1920)," *Hofstra Law Review*: Vol. 47 : Iss. 1 , Article 12.

Available at: <https://scholarlycommons.law.hofstra.edu/hlr/vol47/iss1/12>

This document is brought to you for free and open access by Scholarly Commons at Hofstra Law. It has been accepted for inclusion in Hofstra Law Review by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons at Hofstra Law. For more information, please contact [lawlas@hofstra.edu](mailto:lawlas@hofstra.edu).

## SELECTED HISTORICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY ON AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN'S ACTIVISM (FOCUSING ON 1880 TO 1920)

*Susan D. Carle\**

At the colloquium, some of the activist/scholars in the room complained about the apparent lack of literature on activism by U.S. women of color in early historical periods. As a participant pointed out, this apparent gap can lead to a lack of inspiration and role models for contemporary lawyer/activists. But this perceived gap in the historical literature on activism by women of color is apparent, not real. There is in fact a rich and growing body of historical literature on the activism of women of color in the U.S.; the problem is that this literature, like the work of these women as historical subjects themselves, has had to survive in the face of a process of subordination and partial erasure. As promised at the colloquium, I offer this selected and partial bibliography to counter the impression among contemporary women activists of color that there is scant historical literature on those who came before. I have limited my bibliography to the historical period of my own research leading to a book on African American women and men's activism on racial justice around the turn of the twentieth century, as referenced below. Note that before 1950, very few African American women held law degrees, for reasons involving the intersection of two powerful axes of discrimination, gender and race. Thus, many women activists were doing work at the intersection of activism and law reform that was similar to that done by male lawyers, but was not legal work per se. This is a topic I explore at some length in my book. For law students and other scholars interested in pursuing their own research in these areas, the sources below provide an excellent starting point.

---

\* Professor of Law and Vice Dean, American University, Washington College of Law.

**CAROL ANDERSON, EYES OFF THE PRIZE: THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE AFRICAN AMERICAN STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, 1944-1955 (2003).**

**MARY FRANCES BERRY, MY FACE IS BLACK IS TRUE: CALLIE HOUSE AND THE STRUGGLE FOR EX-SLAVE REPARATIONS (Vintage Books 2005).**

**David S. Bogen, *Precursors of Rosa Parks: Maryland Transportation Cases Between the Civil War and the Beginning of World War I*, 63 MD. L. REV. 721 (2004).**

**TOMIKO BROWN-NAGIN, COURAGE TO DISSENT: ATLANTA AND THE LONG HISTORY OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT (2011).**

**SUSAN D. CARLE, DEFINING THE STRUGGLE: NATIONAL ORGANIZING FOR RACIAL JUSTICE, 1880-1915 (2013).**

**FLORIS LORETTA BARNETT CASH, AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN AND SOCIAL ACTION: THE CLUBWOMEN AND VOLUNTEERISM FROM JIM CROW TO THE NEW DEAL, 1896-1936 (2001).**

**MARY CHURCH TERRELL, A COLORED WOMAN IN A WHITE WORLD (1992).**

**BETTYE COLLIER-THOMAS, JESUS, JOBS, AND JUSTICE: AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN AND RELIGION (2010).**

**THE VOICE OF ANNA JULIA COOPER, INCLUDING A VOICE FROM THE SOUTH AND OTHER IMPORTANT ESSAYS, PAPERS, AND LETTERS (Charles Lemert & Esme Bhan eds. 1998).**

**BRITTNEY C. COOPER, BEYOND RESPECTABILITY: THE INTELLECTUAL THOUGHT OF RACE WOMEN (2017).**

**THE MEMPHIS DIARY OF IDA B. WELLS: AN INTIMATE PORTRAIT OF THE ACTIVIST AS A YOUNG WOMAN (Miriam Decosta-Willis ed., Beacon Press 1995).**

**KATE DOSSETT, BRIDGING RACE DIVIDES: BLACK NATIONALISM, FEMINISM, AND INTEGRATION IN THE UNITED STATES, 1896-1935 (2009).**

**EFFORTS FOR SOCIAL BETTERMENT AMONG NEGRO AMERICANS (W.E. Burghardt Du Bois ed., 1910).**

**KEVIN K. GAINES, UPLIFTING THE RACE: BLACK LEADERSHIP, POLITICS, AND CULTURE IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY (1996).**

**PAULA J. GIDDINGS, IDA, A SWORD AMONG LIONS: IDA B. WELLS AND THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST LYNCHING (2008).**

**PAULA J. GIDDINGS, WHEN AND WHERE I ENTER: THE IMPACT OF BLACK WOMEN ON RACE AND SEX IN AMERICA (1984).**

**GLENDA ELIZABETH GILMORE, GENDER AND JIM CROW: WOMEN AND THE POLITICS OF WHITE SUPREMACY IN NORTH CAROLINA, 1896-1920 (1996).**

**WOMEN, THE STATE, AND WELFARE (Linda Gordon ed., 1990).**

**WANDA A. HENDRICKS, GENDER, RACE, AND POLITICS IN THE MIDWEST: BLACK CLUB WOMEN IN ILLINOIS (1998).**

**EVELYN BROOKS HIGGINBOTHAM, RIGHTEOUS DISCONTENT: THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT IN THE BLACK BAPTIST CHURCH, 1880-1920 (Harv. Univ. Press 1994).**

**Beverly W. Jones, *Mary Church Terrell and the National Association of Colored Women, 1896 to 1901*, 67 J. NEGRO HIST. 20 (1982).**

**JACQUELINE JONES, LABOR OF LOVE, LABOR OF SORROW: BLACK WOMEN, WORK, AND THE FAMILY FROM SLAVERY TO THE PRESENT (Basic Books 2010) (1985).**

**BLAIR L. M. KELLEY, RIGHT TO RIDE: STREETCAR BOYCOTTS AND AFRICAN AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP IN THE ERA OF *PLESSY V. FERGUSON* (Waldo E. Martin Jr. & Patricia Sullivan eds., Univ. N.C. Press 2010).**

**ANNE MEIS KNUPFER & LEONARD SILK, TOWARD A TENDERER HUMANITY AND A NOBLER WOMANHOOD: AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUBS IN TURN-OF-THE-CENTURY CHICAGO (Anne M. Knupfer & Leonard Silk, eds., N.Y.U. Press 1996).**

**Steve Kramer, *Uplifting Our "Downtrodden Sisterhood" Victoria Earle Matthews and New York City's White Rose Mission, 1897-1907*, 91 J. AFR. AM. HIST. 243 (2006).**

**Victoria Earle Matthews & Situated Sisterhood, "To Embalm Her Memory in Song and Story", in "WE ARE COMING": THE PERSUASIVE DISCOURSE OF NINETEENTH-CENTURY BLACK WOMEN (Shirley Wilson Logan ed., 1999).**

**KENNETH W. MACK, REPRESENTING THE RACE: THE CREATION OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS LAWYER (2012).**

**Kenneth Walter Mack, *A Social History of Everyday Practice: Sadie T.M. Alexander and the Incorporation of Black Women into the American Legal Profession, 1925-1960*, 87 CORNELL L. REV. 1405 (2002).**

**SERENA MAYERI, REASONING FROM RACE: FEMINISM, LAW, AND THE CIVIL RIGHTS REVOLUTION (2011).**

**ELIZABETH MCHENRY, FORGOTTEN READERS: RECOVERING THE LOST HISTORY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERARY SOCIETIES (2002).**

**LINDA O. MCMURRY, TO KEEP THE WATERS TROUBLED: THE LIFE OF IDA B. WELLS (1998).**

**GWENDOLYN MINK, THE WAGES OF MOTHERHOOD: INEQUALITY IN THE WELFARE STATE, 1917-1942 (1995).**

**ROBYN MUNCY, CREATING A FEMALE DOMINION IN AMERICAN REFORM, 1890-1935 (1991).**

**CYNTHIA NEVERDON-MORTON, AFRO-AMERICAN WOMEN OF THE SOUTH AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE RACE, 1895-1925 (1989).**

**Connie Park Rice, *Pioneer Women: The "Ladies" of the Niagara Movement*, THE NIAGRA MOVEMENT PROTEST REBORN: ASALH BLACK HISTORY THEME MAGAZINE, 2005, at 37.**

**Dorothy E. Roberts, *Black Club Women and Child Welfare: Lessons for Modern Reform*, 32 FLA. ST. U. L. REV. 957 (2005).**

**ROSALIND ROSENBERG, JANE CROW: THE LIFE OF PAULI MURRAY (2017).**

**JACQUELINE ANNE ROUSE, LUGENIA BURNS HOPE: BLACK SOUTHERN REFORMER (Univ. Ga. Press 1989).**

**IDA B. WELLS, SOUTHERN HORRORS AND OTHER WRITINGS: THE ANTI-LYNCHING CAMPAIGN OF IDA B. WELLS, 1892-1900 (Jacqueline Jones Royster ed., Bedford/St. Martins 1997) (1996).**

**DOROTHY C. SALEM, TO BETTER OUR WORLD: BLACK WOMEN IN ORGANIZED REFORM, 1890-1920 (Carlson 1990).**

**NOTABLE BLACK AMERICAN WOMEN: BOOK 2 (Jessie Carney Smith ed., Gale Research 1996).**

**REBELS IN LAW: VOICES IN HISTORY OF BLACK WOMEN LAWYERS (J. Clay Smith, Jr. ed., 1998).**

**ROSALYN TERBERG-PENN, AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN IN THE STRUGGLE FOR THE VOTE, 1850-1920 (1998).**

**REBECCA TUURI, STRATEGIC SISTERHOOD: THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN IN THE BLACK FREEDOM STRUGGLE (2018).**

**Cheryl Waites, *Victoria Earle Matthews: Residence and Reform*, in AFRICAN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP: AN EMPOWERMENT TRADITION IN SOCIAL WELFARE HISTORY (Iris B. Carlton-LaNey ed., 2001).**

**Barbara Y. Welke, *When All the Women Were White, and All the Blacks Were Men: Gender, Class, Race, and the Road to Plessy, 1885-1914*, 13 L. & HIST. REV. 261 (1995).**

**IDA B. WELLS, CRUSADE FOR JUSTICE: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF IDA B. WELLS (Alfreda M. Duster ed. 1970).**

***Mob Rule in New Orleans, in* IDA B. WELLS, *ON LYNCHINGS: SOUTHERN HORRORS, A RED RECORD, MOB RULE IN NEW ORLEANS (Ayer 1969).***

**DEBORAH GRAY WHITE, TOO HEAVY A LOAD: BLACK WOMEN IN DEFENSE OF THEMSELVES, 1894-1994 (1999).**