



# Central Library of Rochester & Monroe County

Monroe County Library System

## LOCAL HISTORY & GENEALOGY

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## Rochester's Riots and Race Relations Research Guide

### SCOPE

This guide is intended to assist in locating materials and information in the Rochester Public Library about the history of urban unrest in Rochester. Materials that are available for checkout from other divisions are also listed below. Ask at the reference desk if you have any questions about a particular item.

Note: Restrictions may apply to the use of some of these materials. Please ask the librarian if you have any questions.

### INTRODUCTION

Rochester, New York, is a city legendary for its tolerance and forward-thinking for the civil rights of all individuals. In the 1800s, leaders such as Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony championed the rights of African-Americans and women from the environs of our town, setting the stage for the twentieth century. But like most large urban enclaves, tensions erupted in the African-American community, culminating in the July 1964 riots that gripped the Rochester area. From this unrest grew organizations such as the Urban League of Rochester and FIGHT, which agitated for change in hiring practices, urban renewal, and other concerns, and set the agenda for other northeast cities as well.

The Local History Division, as well as other areas of the library, has a collection of contemporary resources, including newsletters of the time period, newspaper clippings and scrapbooks, and audio-visual materials that show the growth of the city and where it is headed. Below is a guide to some of these important items documenting the social upheaval and the community's attempts at healing.

### Key

L/H = Local History Division (these materials do not circulate)

RMC = Reynolds Media Center (these materials circulate and may be checked out)

## BOOKS

- L/H  
Rqr323.1747  
A425s  
Allen, Colwyn W. *The State of Black Rochester*. Rochester, N.Y.: Urban League of Rochester, Inc., 1978. Also available in Business Division.
- L/H  
Rr974.789  
B751e  
Botts, Hank. *Encounter Time: Metro-Act and the Sores of Discontent*. Rochester, N.Y.: Edward Press, c1981. Also available in History Division.
- L/H  
Rqr326  
P367r  
Episcopal Diocese of Rochester. *Report of the Bishop's Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester To Study the Work of FIGHT*. [Rochester, N.Y.: The Diocese, 1967].
- L/H-OS  
Rqr305.896  
H314s  
Harris, Flora. *The Story of the Rochester, N.Y. Branch, NAACP, 1919-1959*. [Rochester, N.Y.: The Author, 1959].
- L/H  
Rqr326  
M154r  
McKelvey, Blake. *The Rochester Riots: a Crisis in Civil Rights, Juvenile Delinquency, or "Cityatrics"?* [S.l.: s.n., 1964]. Also available as pdf file:  
[http://www.libraryweb.org/~digitized/books/Rochester\\_riots\\_crisis\\_in\\_civil\\_rights.pdf](http://www.libraryweb.org/~digitized/books/Rochester_riots_crisis_in_civil_rights.pdf)
- L/H  
Rr974.789  
M717af  
Molaire, Mike F. *African-American Who Was First, Greater Rochester Area*. Rochester, N.Y.: Norex Publications, c1999.
- L/H  
DESK  
Rqr974.789  
M717a  
1998  
Molaire, Mike F. *African-American Who's Who, Past & Present, Greater Rochester Area*. Rochester, N.Y.: Norex Publications, c1998.
- L/H  
Rqr326  
M753a  
Monroe County Human Relations Commission. *Areas Where Rioting Occurred: Rochester, New York, July 1964*. [Rochester, N.Y.]: Monroe County Human Relations Commission, 1965. Also available as pdf file:  
[http://www.libraryweb.org/~digitized/books/Areas\\_where\\_rioting\\_occurred\\_1964.pdf](http://www.libraryweb.org/~digitized/books/Areas_where_rioting_occurred_1964.pdf)
- L/H  
Rrq331.833  
P394s  
Pemberton, Prentiss L. *A Survey of Interracial Housing Attitudes in White Neighborhoods of Rochester and Suburbs*. [Rochester, N.Y.?: s.n.], 1961. Also available in Business Division.
- L/H  
Rqr352.35  
P462r  
Perry, David C. *The Rochester Police Advisory Board: A Community Response to Racial Unrest*. [Syracuse, N.Y.] : Maxwell Graduate School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, [1967].
- L/H  
Rrq338.7089  
B627b  
Rochester Business Opportunities, comp. *Black Business Directory: Greater Metropolitan Area, Rochester, New York*. Rochester, N.Y.: Rochester Business Opportunities, [1969?].

L/H Rochester (N.Y.). City Manager. *Riots of July, 1964*. Rochester, N.Y.: Office of the  
Rqr326 City Manager, 1965. Also available as pdf file:  
R676c [http://www.libraryweb.org/~digitized/books/Riots\\_of\\_July\\_1964.pdf](http://www.libraryweb.org/~digitized/books/Riots_of_July_1964.pdf)

L/H-OS Rochester (N.Y.) City School District. *Human Rights Activists: Role Models in the*  
Rqr920.073 *Rochester Community*. [Rochester, N.Y.: City School District, 1972?].  
R676c

L/H Sanders, Joe L., ed. *Rochester Black History 1795-1990*. Rochester, N.Y. (218  
Rqr974.789 Atkinson St.): Sanders Publishing, [1990].  
R6763r

L/H Sell, Ralph R. *Race and Underclass in a Middle-sized Metropolitan Area: Rochester,*  
Rrq305.569 *New York in the 1980s*. Rochester, N.Y.: Center for Governmental Research, Inc.,  
S467r 1991.

L/H Sethi, S. Prakash. *Business Corporations and the Black Man; An Analysis of*  
Rr658.3 *Social Conflict: The Kodak-FIGHT Controversy*. Scranton, Pa., Chandler Pub. Co.  
S495b [1970]. Also available in Business Division.

#### AUDIO-VISUAL

RMC *July '64*. Directed by Carvin Eison. Produced by Chris Christopher. [San Francisco,  
323.1196 CA]: California Newsreel, [2006?]. DVD.  
DVD 2987

RMC *Shaping Our Future*. Rochester, NY: Bureau of Communications, City of Rochester,  
330.9747 c2003. DVD.  
DVD 2562

#### MICROFILM

L/H Watts, Nancy, comp. *The Rochester Riots of 1964: A Scrapbook*. [Rochester, N.Y.:  
Rr305.896 Rochester Public Library, Local History Div., 2004].  
W352r

#### CLIPPING FILES

RVF1 African Americans — Riots 1964

RVF1 African-Americans (includes General; Black Muslims; FIGHT; Industrial Area Foundation; Martin Luther King Memorial; NAACP; Urban League of Rochester)

RVF1 Race Relations

#### SCRAPBOOKS

Rqr305.896 Watts, Nancy, comp. *The Rochester Riots of 1964: A Scrapbook*. [Rochester, N.Y.:  
W352r Rochester Public Library, Local History Div., 2004]. Also available as pdf file:  
[http://www.libraryweb.org/~digitized/scrapbooks/Rochester\\_riots\\_1964\\_vol.1.pdf](http://www.libraryweb.org/~digitized/scrapbooks/Rochester_riots_1964_vol.1.pdf)

On CD-ROM: RMC-ST CD-ROM 974.789

## PAMPHLET FILES

- RVF2 African-Americans – General (2 folders)  
RVF2 F.I.G.H.T. Organization  
RVF2 Marcus Garvey Memorial Black Solidarity Committee (includes P.A.C.E.)  
RVF2 Clubs & Associations – National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

## PERIODICALS

- L/H-IS *About...Time* (1970-current)  
L/H-IS *American Negro* (1961)  
L/H-IS *Communicade* (1972-1986)  
LH-IS *The Fighter* (1966)  
LH-IS *Friends of F.I.G.H.T.* (1967-1968). Rochester, N.Y.: Friends of Fight.  
L/H-IS/DIV *Minority Reporter* (2007-curent)  
L/H-OS  
Rrq323.1  
M753rc  
L/H-IS *News n' Views* (1973-1996)  
L/H-OS  
Rqr326  
U72r  
*Urban League of Rochester, N.Y. Annual Report - Urban League of Rochester* (1967-2008).

**Note:** *Rochester History* is available both in the Local History Division's public area and online at <http://www3.libraryweb.org/lh.aspx?id=950>.

*Rochester History* (vol. 27, no. 4, 1965). "Housing and Urban Renewal; The Rochester Experience."  
Also available online: [https://www.libraryweb.org/~rochhist/v27\\_1965/v27i4.pdf](https://www.libraryweb.org/~rochhist/v27_1965/v27i4.pdf)

*Rochester History* (vol. 29, no. 2, 1967). "Rochester's Near Northeast."  
Also available online: [https://www.libraryweb.org/~rochhist/v29\\_1967/v29i2.pdf](https://www.libraryweb.org/~rochhist/v29_1967/v29i2.pdf)

## PHOTOGRAPHS

- RPF2 Riots – 1964

## SUBJECT HEADINGS

Subject headings to try when searching:  
African Americans – New York (State) – Rochester  
African Americans – New York (State) – Rochester – Economic conditions  
African Americans – New York (State) – Rochester – History  
African Americans – New York (State) – Rochester – Social conditions  
African Americans – New York (State) – Rochester – Race relations – 20<sup>th</sup> century  
African Americans – New York (State) – Rochester – Statistics  
Rochester (N.Y.) Race relations.