

Digital African Americana at the Library Company of Philadelphia



Krystal Appiah

Reference Librarian/Curator of African American History

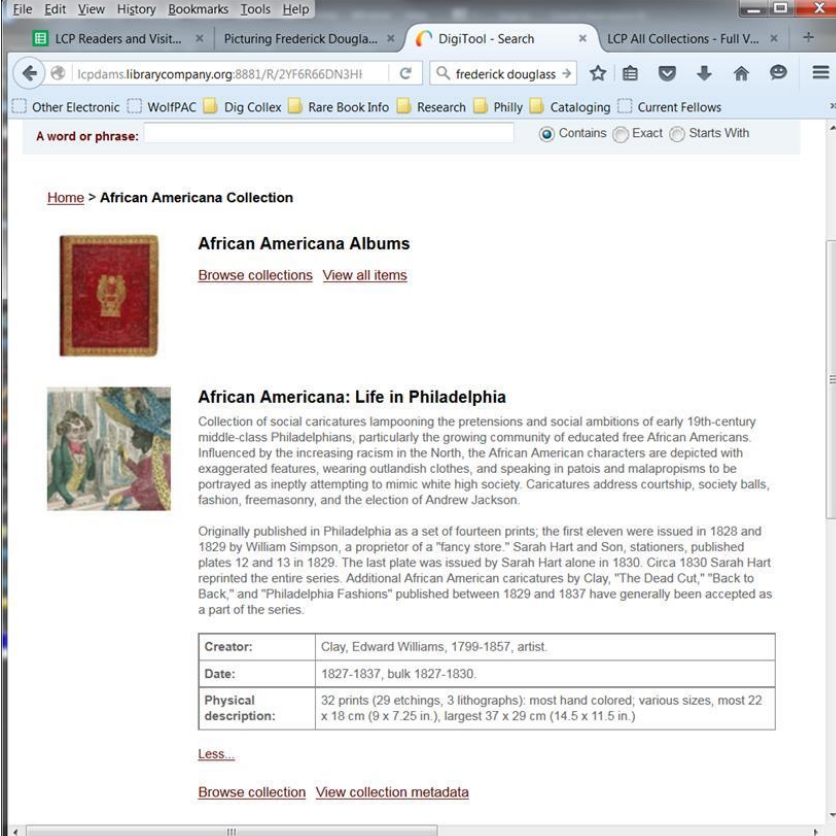
IMLS/LSTA Grant

- Funded 15-month digitization of LCP's African Americana graphics for **free, online** access
 - Digitized & uploaded almost 1,400 images
 - Edited & uploaded 742 associated records
 - Featured teasers on social media w hashtags



Collection-Level Description

- Sub-categories organized by format or provenance
- African Americana graphics collection incl. works by & about people of African descent
- Interface helps differentiate btw materials generated by African Americans and racist content such as “Life in Philadelphia” collection



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL lcpdams.librarycompany.org:8881/R/2YF6R66DN3HI. The page is titled "African Americana Collection" and features a search bar with the text "frederick douglass". Below the search bar, there are several navigation tabs: "Other Electronic", "WolfPAC", "Dig Collex", "Rare Book Info", "Research", "Philly", "Cataloging", and "Current Fellows". The main content area is titled "Home > African Americana Collection" and includes two sub-sections: "African Americana Albums" with a red album cover image and "African Americana: Life in Philadelphia" with a colorful illustration of people. The "Life in Philadelphia" section includes a detailed description of the collection, a metadata table, and links for "Browse collection" and "View collection metadata".

African Americana: Life in Philadelphia

Collection of social caricatures lampooning the pretensions and social ambitions of early 19th-century middle-class Philadelphians, particularly the growing community of educated free African Americans. Influenced by the increasing racism in the North, the African American characters are depicted with exaggerated features, wearing outlandish clothes, and speaking in patois and malapropisms to be portrayed as ineptly attempting to mimic white high society. Caricatures address courtship, society balls, fashion, freemasonry, and the election of Andrew Jackson.

Creator:	Clay, Edward Williams, 1799-1857, artist.
Date:	1827-1837, bulk 1827-1830.
Physical description:	32 prints (29 etchings, 3 lithographs); most hand colored; various sizes, most 22 x 18 cm (9 x 7.25 in.), largest 37 x 29 cm (14.5 x 11.5 in.)

[Less...](#)

[Browse collection](#) [View collection metadata](#)

African Americana: Life in Philadelphia

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Item-Level Description


Search | **Results** | Previous Searches | My e-Album 🌐 🔒 📄 ?
Guest


[Collections](#) > [African Americana Collection](#) > [African Americana Albums](#) > [Portrait Album of Well Known 19th-Century African American Men of Philadelphia](#)

Refine Search Current search: 'W-Collections= wel01' in 'Admin Unit LCP01' Collection [Sorted by: Title/Creator]

Brief view **Table view** **Full view** Sort by: Title ▾

Record 1 of 1 1



Digital object(s)  Portrait album of well known 19th-centur... - Complex Object ()

Title Portrait album of well known 19th-century African American men of Philadelphia [graphic].

Date 1865-1885

Physical description 1 album (18 photographic prints): albumen on carte de visite mount, albumen, tintype, albumen on cabinet card, gelatin silver, 22 x 17 cm (8.5 x 6.5 in)

Description Photograph album containing identified portraits of twenty-one prominent Philadelphia African American men. Sitters include veteran Harmon Richardson in his Civil War military uniform; educator and activist Octavius Catto; Edwin Chew; janitor Guy M. Burton with musician Ed[ward] H. Johnson and Terry V. Hall; musician Joseph G. Anderson; waiter Taylor Aldridge, Johnson al-Jube; Parker T. Smith; Jeremiah V. Hall; George Hall; waiter William I. Lancaster; barber James Keith; Henry Tobias; Cheslea Bass, barber in partnership with James Keith, with Andrew F. Stevens; Edwin Lewis; Jas. H. Williams ae.[sic] Rush; Thomas Proctor; and restaurateur Ja[me]s Page. Musicians Edward Johnson and Joseph G. Anderson were members of Francis Johnson's band in the 1830s and 40s.

Notes Cardboard binding with torn spine label inscribed: Portraits of Well Know[n].

Mostly unidentified photographers with identified Philadelphia photographers John L. Gihon, and Parlor Gallery.

Part of digital collections catalog through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services as administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education through the Office of the Commonwealth Libraries, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Tom Corbett, Governor, 2013-2014.

Subject Waiters -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia.

African American laborers -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia.

Afro-Americana.

Click the thumbnail to view a larger copy of this image, and to see any other images that may be attached to this record. 📄 ✉️ 🗑️

Mets Viewer - Mozilla Firefox

lcpdams.librarycompany.org:1801/view/action/nmets.do?DOCCHOICE=127616.xml&dvs=1453313158029-656&locale=en_US&search_terms=&adjacency=&VIEWER_URL=/view/action/nmet

ExLibris DigiTool - Resource Discovery Close Help Print Save Send


Current View: Portrait album of we... Show MetaData for: Portrait album of well known 19th-century African ...

>> Portrait album of well known 19th-century African American men of Philadelphia > Taylor Aldridge, p. 6

Portrait album of well known...
Cover
Harmon Richardson, p. 1
Octavius Catto, p. 2
Edwin Chew, p. 3
Guy M. Burton, Ed[ward] H. Johnson, and...
Joseph G. Anderson, p. 5
Taylor Aldridge, p. 6
Johnson al-Jube, p. 7
Parker T. Smith, p. 8
Jeremiah V. Hall, p. 9
George Hall, p. 10
William I. Lancaster, p. 11
James Keith, p. 12
Henry Tobias, p. 13
Cheslea Bass and Andrew F. Stevens, p. 14
Edwin Lewis, p. 15
Jas. H. Williams ae.[sic] Rush, p. 16
Thomas Proctor, p. 17
Jaime[s] Page, p. 18
Portrait album of well known...

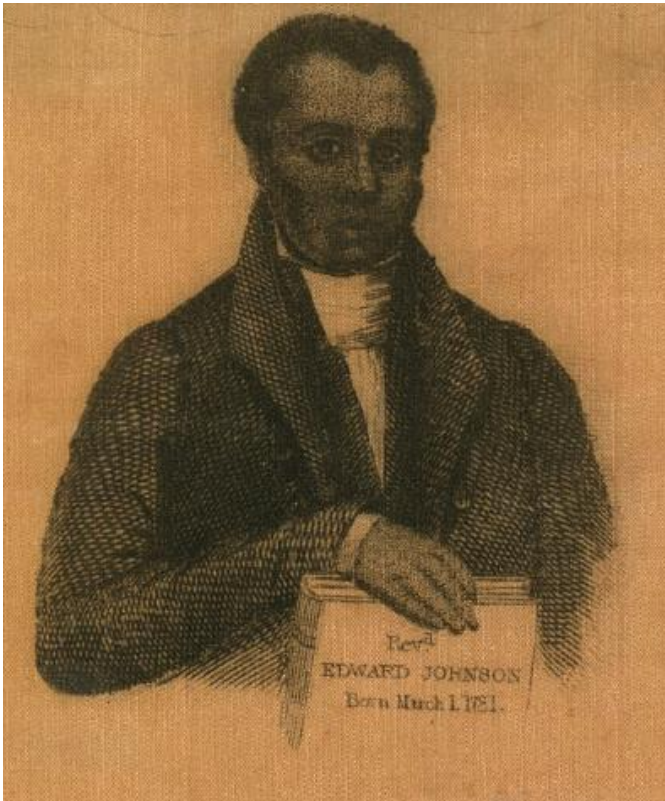
Metadata options:

Portrait album of well known 19th-century African American men of Philadelphia



TAYLOR GALLERY. 525 South Ninth St., Phila.

Benefits to Researchers



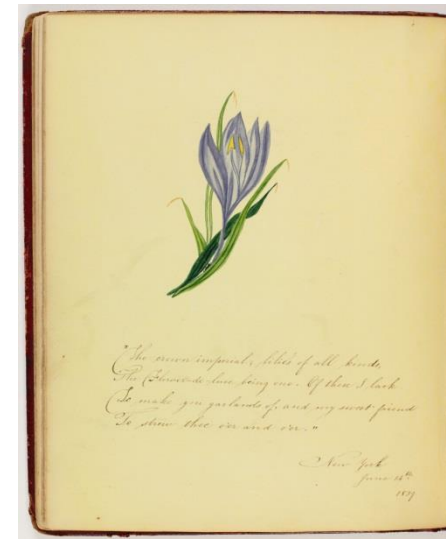
- Provides access to remote readers
- Helps readers save time/plan ahead for in-person research
- In first six weeks of project completion, digital catalog views increased by 30%
- Updated photography/ image use agreement w fewer restrictions

Rochester Institute of Technology

The fight was fought
Out of slavery we rose
Into segregation we sunk
Free, or so we thought
Freedom, is what we were promised

Oppression is what we got
Hatred still running deep in the minds
Of the oppressors
So we fought the fight again
Civil rights movement

Abolitionists, activists, the common man
Coming together to fight
For the equality
That we deserved
Fight for the love of the color of our skin



For the beauty deep within
For every person who owned the term
Black
For every person who embraced the browns and blacks
The lights and the in between

You would think the fight would be over Mary Ann
Oh no, we are still fighting
The mindset of the past runs deep
Producing color stratification of the present
Differences drummed up between our own

*Original student poem in
response to researching the
Mary Ann Dickerson Friendship Album*

Challenges

- No permanent url
- Users who aren't tech savvy don't know how to save images
- Artificial separation from "Fels" collection of 300 digitized book illustrations in online catalog WolfPAC



The Future New CMS?

- Enable metadata harvesting and sharing
- Permanent url
- Unify digital collections across formats/catalogs