

# Historic photos tell story of Syracuse's black community

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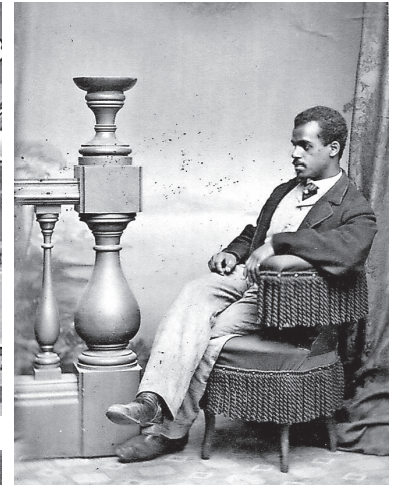
African-Americans' contributions to Syracuse date back many years. Many lived here, worked here, prayed here, played here and died here. Photographs from collections at the Onondaga Historical Association and Coulter Library at Onondaga Community College capture the African-American community in Syracuse.

The photographs include everyday occurrences. The local barber shop that everybody visited. The club sports, the bowling teams. The social events of the year. The older married couple on the porch. This type of work is known as vernacular photography, the creation of images that take everyday life and common things as subjects.

Are these photographs special? To the photographer and those pictured, they probably did have special meaning. When photography wasn't as ubiquitous as it now, having a camera was a big deal. These are snapshots of people's lives — sometimes fuzzy and grainy, much like our memories.



Grant Malone stands in his Syracuse barber shop. From the Barbara Davis collection, via Onondaga Historical Association



Gerrit Loguen, son of the Rev. Jermal Loguen, a former slave, abolitionist and leader of the Underground Railroad, poses for this 1860s photo. Courtesy of Onondaga Historical Association



In 1963, the Syracuse chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) protests the demolition of the city's 15th Ward, which would have meant relocating its residents. Courtesy of Onondaga Historical Association



The Williams brothers — Charles, Thomas and George — opened the Williams Bros. grocery store at Washington and Irving streets in 1913. The store remained in operation until 1944. Courtesy of Onondaga Historical Association



George Hayden outside a grocery store at 808 McBride St., date unknown. File photo