



# The Great Migration in the Newberry Collection

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## Archival Collections

**Jack Conroy Papers.** Works, correspondence and papers of American novelist, folklorist, and editor Jack Conroy's novel, the *Disinherited*, published in 1933, is considered a classic in proletarian literature and depicted in gritty detail the realities of the Great Depression. Conroy helped launch writers like Richard Wright, Erskine Caldwell, and Nelson Algren. In 1938 Conroy came to Chicago, on Algren's suggestions, to work on the Illinois Writer's Project. Along with recording folktales and industrial folklore, Conroy was assigned to the black history portion of the IWP, and collaborated with Arna Bontemps, producing the pioneering black studies works *They Seek A City* (1945) and *Anyplace But Here* (1965), both about African-American migration from the South to the North. Conroy and Bontemps also collaborated on several successful juvenile books based on folktales, including *The Fast Sooner Hound* (1942) and *Slappy Hooper, The Wonderful Sign Painter* (1946).

**Pullman Company Records.** The Pullman Company (originally Pullman's Palace Car Company) revolutionized rail travel and dramatically increased employment opportunities for African Americans who served as porters and

maids on its cars. The records at the Newberry include voluminous individual employee records and labor relations documents, as well as documentation on the town of Pullman (now a historic district on Chicago's south side). This is a rich source for African American family and local history. Online inventory: <http://www.newberry.org/sites/default/files/researchguide-attachments/PullmanGuide.pdf>

**Mark J. Satter Papers.** The papers of this Chicago-born lawyer and civil rights activist include rich materials on his life-long battle against the discriminatory real estate practices of redlining and contract selling. In 1944 Satter began to purchase properties in Chicago's West Side where he lived with his wife and growing family, to provide additional income. He became a landlord during the peak of the second wave of the Great Migration of African Americans from the rural South to the cities of the North and West. Chicago became a site of major demographic change and Satter rented properties to black residents based on his political ideals that black and white people should live in the same communities. Online inventory: [http://mms.newberry.org/xml/xml\\_files/Satter.xml](http://mms.newberry.org/xml/xml_files/Satter.xml)

## Books

Arnesen, Eric. *Black Protest and the Great Migration: A Brief History with Documents*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martins, 2003. **Call number E 185.6 A76 2003**

Gregory, James N. *The Southern Diaspora: How the Great Migration of Black and White Southerners Transformed America*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2005. **Call number HB 1971.A3 G74 2005**

Grossman, James R. *A Chance to Make Good: African Americans 1900-1929*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997. **Call number E185.6 G76 1997**

\_\_\_\_\_. *Land of Hope: Chicago, Black Southerners, and the Great Migration*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1989. **Call number F 548.9 N4 G76 1989**

Henri, Florette. *Black Migration: Movement North, 1900-1920*. Garden City, NY: Anchor Press, 1975. **Call Number 4A 19693**

United States Department of Labor, Division of Negro Economics. *Negro Migration in 1916: Reports by R.H. Leavell...* New York: Negro Universities Press, 1969. **Call number 4A 19844**

Wilkerson, Isabel. *The Warmth of Other Sons: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*. New York: Random House 2010. **Call number E 185.6 W 685 2010**

**To find many other related books in the Newberry collection, search for these subject headings:**

“African Americans—Illinois-Chicago-History—20<sup>th</sup> Century”

“African Americans-Migrations—History—20<sup>th</sup> Century”

“African Americans—Southern States—Migrations—History—20<sup>th</sup> Century”

“Migration, Internal—United States—History 20<sup>th</sup> Century”

“Rural-urban migration—United States—History—20<sup>th</sup> Century”

## Periodicals and Online Resources

**Chicago Defender.** One of the major African-American newspapers in the country, the *Defender* published articles of both national and local interest, including many on segregation, education, real estate, and other issues related to black life in

Chicago. The Newberry has online access (in the library only) to the historical database of the *Defender* from 1909-1975, and also has online access to the *Chicago Tribune* from 1849-1991.

This quick guide was created for a “Conversations at the Newberry” event, **A Second Emancipation? Isabel Wilkerson and James Grossman on the Great Migration**, Then and Now, held at the Newberry May 17, 2017.

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