

# Photographing Freetowns: African American Kentucky Through the Lens of Helen Balfour Morrison, 1935-1946

## How to Use Our Collection

The Newberry is an independent research library; readers do not check books out to take home, but consult materials here. We welcome into our reading rooms researchers who are at least 14 years old or in the ninth grade. Creating a free reader account and requesting collection items takes just a few minutes. Please visit <https://requests.newberry.org> to begin the registration process and to start exploring our collection; when you arrive at the Newberry for research, a free reader card will be issued to you in our third-floor reference center. For further information about our collection and public programs, please visit [www.newberry.org](http://www.newberry.org).

## Helen Balfour Morrison in the Newberry Collection

Helen Balfour Morrison Photographs of Kentucky African American Communities, 1935-1946. **Call #:** **Midwest MS Morrison-KY**. Finding Aid: <http://bit.ly/2kEZMNH>. Digital gallery: <http://bit.ly/2k3EZUF>.

Sources on Helen Balfour Morrison and her collaboration with Sybil Shearer: Helen Balfour Morrison Papers, 1906-2001. **Call #:** **Midwest MS Morrison**. Finding Aid: <http://bit.ly/2jgSdR6>.

Martin, John, with photographs by Helen Morrison. *Sybil Shearer: Folio 1*. **Call #:** **GV1785.S543 M37 1965**.

Shearer, Sybil. *Without Wings the Way is Steep: The Autobiography of Sybil Shearer*. **Call #:** **GV1785.S543 S543 2006**.

## Helen Balfour Morrison in Other Collections

*Chicago Artists: Photographs in Mrs. Helen Balfour Morrison Exhibition: Jan. 27-Mar. 5, 1944*. Available at the Art Institute: <http://ryerson.artic.edu/record=b283729~S5>.

Morrison-Shearer Collection, 1940-1997 [dance film collection at the Chicago Film Archives] [http://www.chicagofilmarchives.org/collections/index.php/Detail/Object/Show/object\\_id/61](http://www.chicagofilmarchives.org/collections/index.php/Detail/Object/Show/object_id/61)

Morrison-Shearer Foundation: <http://www.morrisonshearer.org/>

## Sources on African American Kentucky

Adams, Luther. "Headed for Louisville:" Rethinking Rural to Urban Migration in the South, 1930-1950," *Journal of Social History*, Volume 40, Number 2 (Winter 2006): 407-430. **Call #: A 5 .45.**

Lawrence, D. Cameron. "The Freetown File," *Kentucky Humanities* (October 2006, 2-8). **Available online in PDF:** <http://bit.ly/2k3LHtX>.

Lucas, Marion B. *A History of Blacks in Kentucky*, 2 volumes (Frankfort, KY: Kentucky Historical Society, 1992). **Call #: E185.93.K3 L83 1992.**

*Notable Kentucky African Americans Database. Online:* <http://nkaa.uky.edu/index.php>.

O'Malley, Nancy. "The Pursuit of Freedom: The Evolution of Kinkeadtown, an African American Post-Civil War Neighborhood in Lexington, Kentucky," *Winterthur Portfolio*, Volume 37, Number 4 (Winter 2002): 187-218. **Available online** by subscription: <http://bit.ly/2ke7OzT>.

Rhyne, J. Michael. "Conduct . . . Inexcusable and Unjustifiable": Bound Children, Battered Freedwomen, and the Limits of Emancipation in Kentucky's Bluegrass Region, *Journal of Social History*, Volume 42, Number 2 (Winter 2008): 319-340. **Call #: A 5 .45.**

Schneider, Krista L. "Negotiating the Image of the Inner Bluegrass," *Landscape Journal*, Volume 26, Number 1 (2007): 134-150. **Available online** by subscription: <http://bit.ly/2kFcr7h>.

Smith, Gerald L., Karen Cotton McDaniel, and John A. Hardin. *The Kentucky African American Encyclopedia* (Lexington, KY: University Press of Kentucky, 2015). **Call #: Ref E185.93.K3 K46 2015**

Smith, Peter C. *Negro Hamlets and Gentleman Farms: A Dichotomous Rural Settlement Pattern in Kentucky's Bluegrass Region* (PhD Dissertation in Geography, University of Kentucky, 1972).

Smith, Peter C. and Karl B. Raitz. "Negro Hamlets and Agricultural Estates in Kentucky's Inner Bluegrass," *Geographical Review*, Volume 64, Number 2 (April 1974): 217-234. **Call #: G 007 .333.**

Turley-Adams, Alicestyne. *Rosenwald Schools in Kentucky, 1917-1932* (Frankfort, KY: Kentucky Heritage Council and the Kentucky African American Heritage Commission, 1997). **Available online in PDF:** <http://bit.ly/2jpPPIU>.

For information about documentary photography by women during Balfour Morrison's era, see: [https://www.loc.gov/rr/print/coll/596\\_womphotoj.html#1930s](https://www.loc.gov/rr/print/coll/596_womphotoj.html#1930s). In addition, the Farm Security Administration website has gathered some 175,000 black-and-white film negatives forming an extensive pictorial record American life from 1935 to 1944: <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/fsa/>.

This Quick Guide was created for the exhibition *Photographing Freetowns: African American Kentucky Through the Lens of Helen Balfour Morrison, 1935-1946*, shown at the Newberry from January 20 to April 15, 2017.

**Support** the Newberry's mission to conserve and build our world-renowned collection and make it available to anyone who wishes to use it, free of charge: [www.newberry.org/give](http://www.newberry.org/give).