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## 1. Family Demography

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# Family Demography

# WE EXIST

EVIDENCE OF MAINE'S BLACK FAMILIES  
from 1800 to the 20th Century



## Mr. Edgar Anderson



"I've been married twice. In my first marriage, I married my high school sweetheart... No. I married the woman I dated from high school. So, we have, well, we have a son who's just turned 32 two weeks ago. He also has a wife. I have three grandchildren... He has three kids. He has a son, Lamont, who is eight. And he just had twin girls, Marisa and Mariah, who are gonna be one on June 30th of this year."

Mr. Edgar Anderson (Male; age 51; born 1950 in Chicago suburb called Harvey)

Keywords: family demography, Black Families, Maine

Full Length Interview: [Home is Where I Make It: Anderson, Edgar](#)

## Ms. Beverly Bowens



"...I have one brother who's older than I am...My own family. I was married to a surgeon who died shortly after I was married; three years after I was married. I have one child, Alison. And I have a granddaughter and I have a brand new grandson-relatively new grandson."

Ms. Beverly Bowens (born in Maine; age 67; left at 21 years old for about 35 to 40 years and then returned to Maine)

Keywords: family demography, Black Families, Maine

Full Length Interview: [Home is Where I Make It: Bowens, Beverly](#)

## Ms. Odessa Barret



"My own family? I have two adult children and two grandchildren...No. I have been married...A few times...I have two. I have a daughter and a son...They're right here in Maine, Portland, as a matter of fact."

Ms. Odessa Barret (age 53; born 1948 in Port Arthur, Texas; born in a middle-class, blue collar family; moved to Maine in October 1979)

Keywords: family demography, Black Families, Maine

Full Length Interview: [Home is Where I Make It: Barret, Odessa](#)

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## Reverend Albert and Clemmie Jackson



"Neville Knowles who, ah – ah I met him. Ah, I was a teenager at the time and we lived next door. And, ah, him and his family was hardworking."

Reverend Albert Jackson (born in Slabfork, Virginia; age 61; lived in Maine for 43 years) and Mrs. Clemmie Jackson (born March 1948 in Marengo County, Alabama; age 55; lived in Maine for 3.5 years)

Keywords: childhood experiences, Black Families, Maine

**Full Length Interview:** [Home is Where I Make It: Jackson, Rev. Albert and Clemmie Jackson](#)

## Ms. Wahidah Muhammad



"I have one son. He is, um -- he'll be 40 this year. And I'm a grandmother of one 13-year-old son."

Ms. Wahidah Muhammad (born 1948 in Chicago, Illinois; lived in Maine since December 1991; lived in Lewiston since 1997)

Keywords: family demography, Black Families, Maine

**Full Length Interview:** [Home is Where I Make It: Muhammad, Wahidah](#)

## Mr. Rupert Richardson



"Yes, I'm married. My wife is Canadian. In fact, my oldest brother, he married a Canadian. So in this particular case, brothers married sisters. So his children and my children, they can't get any closer as far as being blood relatives."

Mr. Rupert Richardson (born in Portland, Maine; living in Maine for 71 years)

Keywords: family demography, Black Families, Maine

**Selected Audio:** [Series 1: Family - Recordings](#)

**Full Length Interview:** [Home is Where I Make It: Richardson, Rupert](#)

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## Mr. Richard Tarrence



"Loretta. Loretta-my ex wife; I'm now divorced. But we did move back here and raised my son. Eventually had a daughter in '83."

Mr. Richard Tarrence (age 57; born 1945 in Cleveland, Ohio; moved to Maine in October 1975)

Keywords: family demography, Black Families, Maine

**Selected Audio:** [Series 1: Family - Recordings](#)

**Full Length Interview:** [Home is Where I Make It: Tarrence, Richard](#)

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**Dr. Lance Gibbs** is the curator of this exhibit and served as the research lead for the project, providing historical background from news and scholarly references, and authoring the short contextual catalogue essay entries which complement the photos, written, and audio galleries. Dr. Gibbs is a lecturer in Race and Ethnic Studies and is currently the director of the Race and Ethnic Studies program at the University of Southern Maine. Dr. Gibbs is also the Talbot Fellow for the Gerald E. Talbot and African American Collections. Dr. Gibbs' research interests focus broadly on the family, in particular in father involvement/fathering/fatherhood, among immigrant fathers from the African Diaspora. For more information, contact Lance Gibbs, at [lance.gibbs@maine.edu](mailto:lance.gibbs@maine.edu)



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