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3. Children's Experiences

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Children's Experiences

WE EXIST

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



Ms. Odessa Barret



"...When I came here, there weren't very many Blacks, so there was no real sense of community. There was no place where you can go and see yourself en masse. So my kids, being from the South, had already had their sense of identity so it was really hard for them because they either had to teach people who they were or struggle to maintain their own identity."

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: children's experiences, Black Families, Maine

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

Reverend Albert and Clemmie Jackson



"Harrison loves it...He don't want to live in no place but in Maine...And, ah, my son Randy was born here and, ah, he --he's been exposed to Maine I guess ever since -- he's born here. Ah, he doesn't know any other place that, ah, -- or actually he hasn't moved but he has, ah, been here. He went to high school here, went to college. And, ah, he's, ah -- he's raising two children, him and his wife. And he -- he seems to be very satisfied -- very stable. So, you know."

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: children's experiences, Black Families, Maine

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

Mrs. Emma Jackson



"Well, I suppose we had a sense of who we were and a sense of self -- self worth anyway... So it -- they were able to live here. They enjoyed it. It wasn't really -- they didn't have a struggle to live here... And they kind of knew who they were and had a sense of who they were so they were able to make their own way... And we came here with family. I came here with family. Years ago that's the way a lot of people came to Maine."

Mrs. Emma Jackson (age 62; born 1941 in Atlanta Georgia; lived in Maine for 46 years; has three children)

Keywords: children's experiences, Black Families, Maine

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

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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



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