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4. Impact of Maine on the Family

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Impact of Maine on the Family

WE EXIST

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



Mr. Edgar Anderson



"I moved to Portland on my honeymoon with my second wife; and she's white. We moved to Portland in 1985, and we have two kids: Ashley, who just turned 14, and she's going to be going to Deering, I guess... And I have a son, Jordan, who's ten, who's going to Lincoln. My daughter and Ashley Brownlee played basketball together this past weekend and they won a tournament down in Massachusetts. So all the basketball coaches and softball coaches are after her because she's probably gonna start as a freshman on the basketball team at Deering."

"I came to Maine in 1985 and, as I said before, I believe, my wife and I came here on our honeymoon. And we came here, basically, to get away from the city, away from the hustle and bustle and thought that the pace of the city of Portland was slow enough that we could have a good quality of life. And that has, in fact, been the case. We've been able to come here and raise our family, and have decent jobs, and enjoy what Maine has to offer, not only from the standpoint of the ocean and other things, but also the people."

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

Keywords: impact of Maine on the family, Black Families, Maine

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

Ms. Beverly Bowens



"As I mentioned, I don't feel that it was any different than any other family in Maine. I think I am very Maine oriented. I am very loyal to Maine. When I went to New York and anyone said anything about Maine, I was very much on the defensive. So, all I can say is that I am a Maine person and that will never change. When I went to New York., it was okay. I'm not a cosmopolitan person, although I loved New York. But you feel that this is a part of your home. Your upbringing. Maine people, I feel, are very diligent in their work. And that was the effort that we were all brought up with."

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: impact of Maine of the family, Black Families, Maine

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

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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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