

Women in the "Promised Land"

Essays in African Canadian History



Subjects

History
Canadian Studies
Gender and History
Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies

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"Women in the "Promised Land" places African Canadian women's lived experiences, identities, and histories at the centre of Canada's past. This collection of original research edited by leading scholars in the field encourages readers to interrogate the idea of Canada as a "Promised Land" by examining the rich and varied history of African Canadian women. Spanning slavery in the early 1830's through to activism of the late twentieth century, this interdisciplinary collection draws on existing research from cultural studies, literary studies, communications, and visual culture to reframe familiar figures in African Canadian women's history, such as feminist Mary Ann Shadd and civil rights activist Viola Desmond, in the wider African diaspora. This invaluable text sheds light on questions of the past, present, and future in the field, and is best suited for undergraduate courses in women's studies, African studies, sociology, and history. □Features:

- contains interdisciplinary, accessible, and original work that examines African Canadian women's history through a visual culture lens
- includes chapter abstracts, questions for discussion, and a bibliographic appendix
- encourages readers to make connections between African Canadian women's history and emerging scholarship on race, indigeneity, and queer histories

Author Information

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Wanda Thomas Bernard is a professor emeritus of social work at Dalhousie University and a Canadian Senator.

Reviews

"We have all been waiting for quite some time for this dynamic collection of new essays in African Canadian women's history. Broaching topics such as slavery and visual culture, temperance, labour, and civic leadership, this book makes a key contribution to African Canadian history. It will surely attract a robust general audience."

—Barrington Walker, Department of History, Queen's University

"Guided by the adage 'the half has never been told,' the editors and contributors have combed the field of Black women's history and have presented to us a collection that is rich and textured... The research for this collection is remarkable, the analyses coherent, and the individual stories fundamental. Women in the 'Promised Land' is a welcome addition to the study of Black women's history. The editors must be commended for having the vision to make this outstanding work come to light."

—Afua Cooper, James R. Johnston Chair in Black Canadian Studies, cross-appointed to the departments of History, Sociology and Social Anthropology, Gender and Women's Studies, and Canadian Studies, Dalhousie University

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