

Contents

Volume I: Beginnings Through the Harlem Renaissance

PREFACE xxiii

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS xxxi

INTRODUCTION: TALKING BOOKS xxxv

The Vernacular Tradition, Part I

INTRODUCTION 3

SPIRITUALS

10

- City Called Heaven • 12
- I Know Moon-Rise 13
- Ezekiel Saw de Wheel • 13
- I'm a-Rollin' • 14
- Go Down, Moses • 14
- Been in the Storm So Long • 15
- Swing Low, Sweet Chariot • 16
- Steal Away to Jesus • 16
- Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel? • 17
- God's a-Gonna Trouble the Water • 18
- Soon I Will Be Done • 18
- Come Sunday • 19

SECULAR RHYMES AND SONGS

20

- [We raise de wheat] 21
- Me and My Captain 21
- Promises of Freedom 22
- No More Auction Block • 23
- Jack and Dinah Want Freedom 23
- Run, Nigger, Run 24

[• indicates audio selection available on the StudySpace]

- Another Man Done Gone • 24
 You May Go But This Will Bring You Back • 25

BALLADS

25

- John Henry • 25
 Frankie and Johnny • 28
 Railroad Bill 29
 The Signifying Monkey • 30
 Stackolee • 32
 Sinking of the *Titanic* 33
 Shine and the *Titanic* 34

WORK SONGS

35

- Pick a Bale of Cotton • 35
 Go Down, Old Hannah • 36
 Can't You Line It? • 37

THE BLUES

38

- Good Morning, Blues • 40
 Hellhound on My Trail • 40
 C. C. Rider • 41
 Backwater Blues • 42
 Down-Hearted Blues • 43
 Prove It on Me Blues • 43
 Trouble in Mind • 44
 How Long Blues • 45
 Rock Me Mama • 46
 Yellow Dog Blues • 46
 St. Louis Blues • 47
 Beale Street Blues • 48
 The Hesitating Blues • 50
 Goin' to Chicago Blues • 51
 Fine and Mellow • 51
 Hoochie Coochie • 52
 Sunnyland • 53
 My Handy Man • 53

FOLKTALES

54

- All God's Chillen Had Wings 57
 Big Talk 58
 Deer Hunting Story 60
 How to Write a Letter 60
 "'Member Youse a Nigger" 61
 "Ah'll Beatcher Makin' Money" 61
 Why the Sister in Black Works Hardest 64
 "De Reason Niggers Is Working So Hard" 64
 The Ventriloquist 65

You Talk Too Much, Anyhow	66
A Flying Fool	66
Brer Rabbit Tricks Brer Fox Again	67
The Wonderful Tar-Baby Story	68
How Mr. Rabbit Was Too Sharp for Mr. Fox	69
The Awful Fate of Mr. Wolf	70
What the Rabbit Learned	72

The Literature of Slavery and Freedom 1746-1865

INTRODUCTION 75

JUPITER HAMMON (1711-1790/1806)	88
An Evening Thought	89
An Address to Miss Phillis Wheatley	91
VENTURE SMITH (1729?-1805)	94
A Narrative of the Life and Adventures of Venture, A Native of Africa: But Resident above Sixty Years in the United States of America	95
LUCY TERRY (ca. 1724-1821)	110
Bars Fight	111
OLAUDAH EQUIANO (ca. 1745-1797)	112
The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African, Written by Himself	114
Volume I	114
Chapter I	115
Chapter II	124
From Chapter III	134
From Chapter IV	136
PHILLIS WHEATLEY (1753?-1784)	137
From Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral	139
Preface	139
[Letter Sent by the Author's Master to the Publisher]	140
To the Publick	141
To Mæcenas	141
To the University of Cambridge, in New-England	143
On Being Brought from Africa to America	143
On the Death of the Rev. Mr. George Whitefield 1770	144
To the Right Honourable William, Earl of Dartmouth, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for North-America, Etc.	145
On Imagination	146

To S. M. a Young <i>African</i> Painter, on Seeing His Works	148
To Samson Occom	148
To His Excellency General Washington	149

S (EARLY 19TH CENTURY)	151
Theresa, A Haytien Tale	152

DAVID WALKER (1785–1830)	159
David Walker's Appeal in Four Articles; Together with a Preamble, to the Coloured Citizens of the World	161
Preamble	161
Article I. Our Wretchedness in Consequence of Slavery	164

GEORGE MOSES HORTON (1797?–1883?)	171
The Lover's Farewell	172
On Hearing of the Intention of a Gentleman to Purchase the Poet's Freedom	173
Division of an Estate	174
George Moses Horton, Myself	175

SOJOURNER TRUTH (ca. 1799–1883)	176
Ar'n't I a Woman?	178
From <i>The Anti-Slavery Bugle</i> , June 21, 1851	178
From <i>The Narrative of Sojourner Truth</i> , 1878	178

MARIA W. STEWART (1803–1879)	181
Religion and the Pure Principles of Morality, the Sure Foundation on Which We Must Build	182
Introduction	182
Lecture Delivered at the Franklin Hall, Boston, September 21, 1832	183

SOLOMON NORTHUP (1807–?)	186
From <i>Twelve Years a Slave</i>	190

MARTIN R. DELANY (1812–1885)	198
The Condition, Elevation, Emigration and Destiny of the Colored People of the United States	201
Chapter I. Condition of Many Classes in Europe Considered	201
Chapter II. Comparative Condition of the Colored People of the United States	202
Chapter V. Means of Elevation	209
Chapter XXIII. Things as They Are	213
Chapter XXIV. A Glance at Ourselves—Conclusion	216

HARRIET JACOBS (ca. 1813–1897)	221
Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl	224
Preface	224

I. Childhood	224
II. The New Master and Mistress	227
V. The Trials of Girlhood	230
X. A Perilous Passage in the Slave Girl's Life	233
XII. Fear of Insurrection	236
XIV. Another Link to Life	239
XVII. The Flight	241
XXI. The Loophole of Retreat	243
XXIX. Preparations for Escape	246
XXXIX. The Confession	251
XL. The Fugitive Slave Law	253
XLI. Free at Last	256
 WILLIAM WELLS BROWN (1814?–1884)	 261
Narrative of William W. Brown, a Fugitive Slave	263
Chapter V	263
<i>From</i> Chapter VI	264
Clotel; or, The President's Daughter	270
Chapter I. The Negro Sale	270
Chapter II. Going to the South	275
Chapter IV. The Quadroon's Home	279
Chapter XV. To-Day a Mistress, To-Morrow a Slave	281
Chapter XIX. Escape of Clotel	283
 HENRY HIGHLAND GARNET (1815–1882)	 290
An Address to the Slaves of the United States of America	291
 VICTOR SÉJOUR (1817–1874)	 296
The Mulatto	298
 ELIZABETH HOBBS KECKLEY (ca. 1818–1907)	 309
Behind the Scenes; or, Thirty Years a Slave and Four Years in the White House	310
Chapter I. Where I Was Born	310
Chapter II. Girlhood and Its Sorrows	314
Chapter III. How I Gained My Freedom	317
Chapter IV. In the Family of Senator Jefferson Davis	323
 FREDERICK DOUGLASS (1818–1895)	 326
Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave, Written by Himself	330
My Bondage and My Freedom	393
Chapter XXIII. Introduced to the Abolitionists	393
Chapter XXIV. Twenty-One Months in Great Britain	396
<i>From</i> What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?: An Address Delivered in Rochester, New York, on 5 July 1852	402

Life and Times of Frederick Douglass 413

Second Part *from* Chapter XV. Weighed in the Balance 413

Third Part Chapter I. Later Life 419

JAMES M. WHITFIELD (1822–1871) 422

America 423

Self-Reliance 427

WILLIAM CRAFT (1824–1900) AND
ELLEN CRAFT (1826–1891) 429

From Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom 431

FRANCES E. W. HARPER (ca. 1825–1911) 445

Ethiopia 448

Eliza Harris 449

The Slave Mother 450

Vashti 451

Bury Me in a Free Land 453

Aunt Chloe's Politics 454

Learning to Read 455

A Double Standard 456

Songs for the People 457

An Appeal to My Country Women 458

The Two Offers 460

Our Greatest Want 466

Fancy Etchings 468

[Enthusiasm and Lofty Aspirations] 468

Woman's Political Future 470

HARRIET E. WILSON (1825–1900) 472

Our Nig; or, Sketches from the Life of a Free Black, in a

Two-Story White House, North 474

Preface 474

Chapter I. Mag Smith, My Mother 474

Chapter II. My Father's Death 477

Chapter III. A New Home for Me 480

From Chapter VIII. Visitor and Departure 485

Chapter X. Perplexities.—Another Death 487

Chapter XII. The Winding Up of the Matter 490

HANNAH CRAFTS (HANNAH BOND) (1826–?) 492

The Bondswoman's Narrative 494

From Chapter 1 [In Childhood] 494

From Chapter 12 [A New Mistress] 495

From Chapter 13 [The Beautifying Powder] 498

From Chapter 21 [In Freedom] 502

Literature of the Reconstruction to the New Negro Renaissance, 1865–1919

INTRODUCTION 505

- NICHOLAS SAID** (ca. 1833–1882) 520
 A Native of Bornoo 522
- CHARLOTTE FORTEN GRIMKÉ** (1837–1914) 534
 A Parting Hymn 535
 Journals 536
 From Journal One 536
 From Journal Three 541
- BOOKER T. WASHINGTON** (1856–1915) 548
 Up from Slavery 550
 Chapter I. A Slave among Slaves 550
 Chapter II. Boyhood Days 557
 Chapter III. The Struggle for an Education 564
 Chapter XIV. The Atlanta Exposition Address 572
- CHARLES W. CHESNUTT** (1858–1932) 580
 The Goophered Grapevine 582
 The Passing of Grandison 591
 The Wife of His Youth 602
 Dave's Neckliss 610
- ANNA JULIA COOPER** (1858?–1964) 618
 *Womanhood a Vital Element in the Regeneration and
 Progress of a Race* 619
- PAULINE E. HOPKINS** (1859–1930) 633
 Talma Gordon 635
 Bro'r Abr'm Jimson's Wedding 645
 Famous Men of the Negro Race 656
 Booker T. Washington 656
 Famous Women of the Negro Race 662
 V. Literary Workers (Concluded) 662
 *Letter from Cordelia A. Condict and Pauline Hopkins's
 Reply (March 1903)* 667
- IDA B. WELLS-BARNETT** (1862–1931) 669
 A Red Record 670
 Chapter I. The Case Stated 670
 Chapter X. The Remedy 676

W. E. B. Du Bois (1868–1963)	679
A Litany of Atlanta 684	
The Song of the Smoke 686	
The Souls of Black Folk 687	
The Forethought 687	
I. Of Our Spiritual Strivings 688	
III. Of Mr. Booker T. Washington and Others 694	
IV. Of the Meaning of Progress 703	
V. Of the Wings of Atalanta 709	
VI. Of the Training of Black Men 715	
X. Of the Faith of the Fathers 725	
XI. Of the Passing of the First-Born 733	
XII. Of Alexander Crummell 737	
XIII. Of the Coming of John 742	
XIV. The Sorrow Songs 752	
The After-Thought 760	
The Damnation of Women 760	
Criteria of Negro Art 771	
JAMES D. CORROTHERS (1869–1917)	778
Me 'n' Dunbar 779	
Paul Laurence Dunbar 780	
JAMES WELDON JOHNSON (1871–1938)	780
Sence You Went Away 783	
Lift Every Voice and Sing 783	
O Black and Unknown Bards 784	
Fifty Years 785	
Brothers 788	
The Creation 790	
My City 792	
The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man 792	
The Book of American Negro Poetry Preface 871	
PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR (1872–1906)	894
Ode to Ethiopia 896	
Worn Out 897	
A Negro Love Song 898	
The Colored Soldiers 898	
An Ante-Bellum Sermon 900	
Ere Sleep Comes Down to Soothe the Weary Eyes 902	
Not They Who Soar 904	
When Malindy Sings 904	
We Wear the Mask 906	
Little Brown Baby 906	
Her Thought and His 907	

A Cabin Tale	907
Sympathy	910
Dinah Kneading Dough	910
The Haunted Oak	911
Douglass	913
Philosophy	913
Black Samson of Brandywine	914
The Poet	915
The Fourth of July and Race Outrages	915
ALICE MOORE DUNBAR NELSON (1875–1935)	917
Violets	918
I Sit and Sew	918
April Is on the Way	919
Violets	920
WILLIAM STANLEY BRAITHWAITE (1878–1962)	922
The Watchers	922
The House of Falling Leaves	923
Sic Vita	924
FENTON JOHNSON (1888–1958)	925
Tired	925
The Scarlet Woman	926
<hr/>	
HARLEM RENAISSANCE, 1919–1940	
INTRODUCTION	929
ARTHUR A. SCHOMBURG (1874–1938)	944
The Negro Digs Up His Past	945
ANGELINA WELD GRIMKÉ (1880–1958)	950
A Winter Twilight	951
The Black Finger	951
When the Green Lies over the Earth	951
Tenebris	952
ANNE SPENCER (1882–1975)	953
Before the Feast of Shushan	954
The Wife-Woman	955
HUBERT HARRISON (1883–1927)	956
The East St. Louis Horror	958
Two Negro Radicalisms	959

JESSIE REDMON FAUSET (ca. 1884–1961)	962
Plum Bun: A Novel without a Moral	963
Home	963
Chapter I [Black Philadelphia]	963
ALAIN LOCKE (1886–1954)	967
<i>From</i> Apropos of Africa	968
The New Negro	973
GEORGIA DOUGLAS JOHNSON (1886–1966)	982
The Heart of a Woman	983
I Want to Die While You Love Me	983
MARCUS GARVEY (1887–1940)	984
Africa for the Africans	986
The Future as I See It	989
RENÉ MARAN (1887–1960)	992
Batouala	995
Preface	995
<i>From</i> Chapter I	999
CLAUDE MCKAY (1889–1948)	1000
The Harlem Dancer	1004
Harlem Shadows	1004
If We Must Die	1005
To the White Fiends	1005
Africa	1006
America	1006
The White House	1006
Outcast	1007
Home to Harlem	1007
Chapter XVII. He Also Loved	1007
Banjo	1012
Chapter VI. Meeting-up	1012
<i>From</i> Chapter XVI. The “Blue Cinema”	1024
ZORA NEALE HURSTON (1891–1960)	1029
Sweat	1032
How It Feels to Be Colored Me	1040
The Gilded Six-Bits	1043
Characteristics of Negro Expression	1050
Mules and Men	1062
[Negro Folklore]	1062
Their Eyes Were Watching God	1070
Chapter 1 [The Return]	1070
Chapter 2 [Pear Tree]	1074

NELLA LARSEN (1893–1964)	1079
<i>Passing</i> 1080	
JEAN TOOMER (1894–1967)	1141
<i>Cane</i> 1143	
GEORGE SAMUEL SCHUYLER (1895–1977)	1218
<i>The Negro-Art Hokum</i> 1219	
<i>Black No More</i> 1222	
Chapter 1 1222	
Chapter 2 1230	
RUDOLPH FISHER (1897–1934)	1237
<i>The City of Refuge</i> 1238	
ERIC WALROND (1898–1966)	1249
<i>The Wharf Rats</i> 1251	
PAUL ROBESON (1898–1976)	1260
<i>I Want to Be African</i> 1262	
MARITA BONNER (1899–1971)	1265
<i>On Being Young—a Woman—and Colored</i> 1266	
STERLING A. BROWN (1901–1989)	1269
<i>Odyssey of Big Boy</i> 1271	
<i>When de Saints Go Ma'ching Home</i> 1272	
<i>Long Gone</i> 1276	
<i>Southern Road</i> 1277	
<i>Strong Men</i> 1278	
<i>Memphis Blues</i> 1280	
<i>Slim Greer</i> 1281	
<i>Slim in Atlanta</i> 1283	
<i>Ma Rainey</i> 1284	
<i>Cabaret</i> 1286	
<i>Break of Day</i> 1288	
<i>Sam Smiley</i> 1289	
GWENDOLYN B. BENNETT (1902–1981)	1290
<i>Heritage</i> 1292	
<i>To a Dark Girl</i> 1292	
WALLACE THURMAN (1902–1934)	1293
<i>Infants of the Spring</i> 1294	
Chapter XXI [<i>Harlem Salon</i>] 1294	

LANGSTON HUGHES (1902–1967)	1302
The Negro Speaks of Rivers 1304	
Mother to Son 1305	
Danse Africaine 1305	
Jazzonia 1306	
Dream Variations 1306	
The Weary Blues 1307	
I, Too 1308	
Jazz Band in a Parisian Cabaret 1308	
Johannesburg Mines 1309	
Homesick Blues 1309	
Mulatto 1309	
Red Silk Stockings 1311	
Song for a Dark Girl 1311	
Gal's Cry for a Dying Lover 1311	
Dear Lovely Death 1312	
Afro-American Fragment 1312	
Negro Servant 1313	
Christ in Alabama 1313	
Cubes 1314	
Ballad of the Landlord 1315	
Madam and the Rent Man 1316	
Trumpet Player 1317	
Song for Billie Holiday 1318	
Dream Boogie 1318	
Harlem 1319	
Motto 1319	
Theme for English B 1319	
The Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain 1320	
The Big Sea 1324	
When the Negro Was in Vogue 1324	
Harlem Literati 1330	
Downtown 1334	
Bop 1337	
NICOLÁS GUILLÉN (1902–1989)	1339
Little Ode 1341	
My Last Name 1342	
COUNTEE CULLEN (1903–1946)	1345
Yet Do I Marvel 1347	
Tableau 1348	
Incident 1348	
Saturday's Child 1349	
The Shroud of Color 1349	
Heritage 1354	
To John Keats, Poet, at Spring Time 1356	
From the Dark Tower 1358	

RICHARD BRUCE NUGENT (1906–1987)	1358
Smoke, Lilies and Jade 1360	
HELENE JOHNSON (1907–1995)	1370
Poem 1371	
Sonnet to a Negro in Harlem 1371	
Invocation 1372	
TIMELINE 1373	
SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHIES 1383	
GENERAL READINGS 1383	
THE VERNACULAR TRADITION 1391	
LITERATURE OF SLAVERY AND FREEDOM 1392	
LITERATURE OF THE RECONSTRUCTION TO THE	
NEW NEGRO RENAISSANCE 1397	
HARLEM RENAISSANCE 1400	
PERMISSIONS ACKNOWLEDGMENTS 1409	
INDEX 1413	