

Provine (Dorothy) Free Black Research Collection

An inventory of Dorothy Provine Free Black Research Collection at DC Public Library

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on September 08, 2020.

English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

DCPL Special Collections - MLK Library

901 G Street NW

Washington, DC

archives.dcpl@dc.gov

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical / Historical	3
Scope and Contents	4
Administrative Information	4
Controlled Access Headings	4
Collection Inventory	5
Series 1	5

Summary Information

Repository:	DCPL Special Collections - MLK Library
Creator:	Provine, Dorothy S.
Title:	Dorothy Provine Free Black Research Collection
ID:	139
Date [inclusive]:	1686-1997
Physical Description:	11 cubic feet; 11 boxes
Physical Description:	11 Boxes
Language of the Material:	English
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	Dorothy Provine served as an archivist in the Civil Archives Division of the National Archives in Washington, D.C., who researched and compiled information about free black life in Washington D.C. The collection contains photocopies of wills, marriage registers, freedom records, manumissions records, research files, writings by Provine, birth records, death records, records of social organizations, genealogy records, and records of black property owners.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

Dorothy Provine served as an archivist in the Civil Archives Division of the National Archives in Washington, D.C. Provine authored an article titled, "The Economic Position of the Free Blacks in Washington, D.C., 1800-1860." She continued her work with the release of District of Columbia Free Negroes Register, 1821-1861. In her work, Provine compiles the abstracts of entries in the free black registries in D.C. The records cover 1821-1861, which feature early nineteenth century to just prior to the Civil War. The collection includes the research Provine completed in order to finish her publications. The collection contains a close examination of the ways in which those of African descent were or became free. Some were enslaved and bought their freedom through an outsource process called "being hired out." Others were born free and never enslaved. Still others had been freed through the wills of their owners. In addition to research about free blacks, the collection offers a narrative regarding black

migration to, in and around Washington, D.C. from Maryland. Her work helps to shed light on black life outside of the confines of slavery, while remaining in the discussion of slavery and freedom.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents

The Dorothy Provine Free Black Research Collection contains photocopies of wills, marriage registers, freedom records, manumissions records, research files, writings by Provine, birth records, death records, records of social organizations, genealogy records, and records of black property owners. It should be noted that while the documents in this collection date from 1686 to 1997, nearly all records in this collection are photocopies of original documents, made predominantly in the 1990s.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

DCPL Special Collections - MLK Library

901 G Street NW
Washington, DC
archives.dcpl@dc.gov

Conditions Governing Use

Some material may be copyrighted or restricted. It is the patron's obligation to determine and satisfy copyright or other case restrictions when publishing or otherwise distributing materials found in the collections.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- African Americans
- Genealogy

- Registers of births, etc
- Organizational Records
- Real Property
- Marriage records
- Families
- Legal documents
- Slaves--Emancipation

Collection Inventory

Series 1		
Title/Description	Instances	
Dorothy Provine Petitions under the Act of Apr.16,1862 (1 of 2), 1862	Box 1	Folder 1
Dorothy Provine Petitions under the Act of Apr.16,1862 (2 of 2), 1862	Box 1	Folder 2
PG County Index, undated	Box 1	Folder 3
Arlington County Free Negro Register 1797-1841 Vol. 1, 1986	Box 1	Folder 4
Free Negro Register - 1842-1847 Vol. 2, 1986	Box 1	Folder 5
Free Negro Register - 1847-1861 Vol. 3 Part I, 1986	Box 1	Folder 6
Free Negro Register - 1847-1861 Vol. 3 Part II, 1986	Box 1	Folder 7
Registration of Free Negroes - 1806-1863 PG County Maryland, 1990	Box 1	Folder 8
DC Free Negro Registers - 1821-1861, undated	Box 2	Folder 1
1850 Ward 4 - I 279B, undated	Box 2	Folder 2
Free Blacks - MD Freedom Register - 1807 Law, 1989	Box 2	Folder 3
Misc, 1992	Box 2	Folder 4
Wards of Washington - 1846-1853, undated	Box 2	Folder 5
Wills - Misc, undated	Box 2	Folder 6
Population, 1991-1996	Box 2	Folder 7
Prostitution "Bawdy Houses" DC List, undated	Box 2	Folder 8
Prostitution "Bawdy Houses"[Coloured] DC List - 1864-1865, undated	Box 2	Folder 9
Ads for Runaways - Examples of 1814, undated	Box 2	Folder 10
Misc- articles and book reviews, 1991-1995	Box 2	Folder 11

John Quincy Adams and Joshua Johnson, undated	Box 2	Folder 12
Marriage Returns Vol. 1, 1974	Box 2	Folder 13
Prologue Journal of the National Archives Winter 1985, 1985	Box 2	Folder 14
Reuben Crandall (Trial of... 1836), 1980	Box 2	Folder 15
Woodlawn Sketches Calender, 1976-1977	Box 2	Folder 16
Surnames: to black, 1995	Box 2	Folder 17
Henrietta Semmes - slave ownership of - will peition for reimbursement, 1833	Box 2	Folder 18
Will of John Taylor, 1828	Box 2	Folder 19
Ads for Runaways - Slaves and Apprentices, 1802-1854	Box 2	Folder 20
Census -Database Setup (Draft), 1995-1996	Box 2	Folder 21
St. Patriick's in Washington 1794-1994, 1994	Box 2	Folder 22
Registrations - Employment of Janey's Servant, 1856	Box 2	Folder 23
Stephen B. Wall Case, 1910	Box 2	Folder 24
Laws - Deeds of Manumission, 1812-1848	Box 3	Folder 1
Outbridge Horsey, 1846	Box 3	Folder 2
Unusual Preparations, 1686-1857	Box 3	Folder 3
Duty and "Fast Living" Mary Johnson Sprow Domestic Worker, 1993	Box 3	Folder 4
MD. Free Blacks 17th century, 1976	Box 3	Folder 5
Loren Book Schweninger - " Prosperous Blacks in the South 1790-1880", undated	Box 3	Folder 6
Marriage Branch Records Inventory, undated	Box 3	Folder 7
Olmsted's Out (1852), 1953	Box 3	Folder 8
DC Blacks - Terr. Gov't Shepherd, 1871	Box 3	Folder 9
Occupations - 1860 from 8th Census, 1860	Box 3	Folder 10
1860- Nativities, 1860	Box 3	Folder 11
Population, 1860	Box 3	Folder 12
Tenn. Gov't (Blacks in), 1868	Box 3	Folder 13
Henry Robinson - "Some Aspects of the Free Negro Population of DC - 1800-1862, 1969	Box 3	Folder 14
1835 - Snow Riot, 1923	Box 3	Folder 15
Pearl Affair, 1844	Box 3	Folder 16
"Duty and Fast Living" The Diary of Mary Johnson Sprow, 1993	Box 3	Folder 17

The Local Aspect of Slavery in DC, 1900	Box 3	Folder 18
F St. Tavern Fire (1819), 1906	Box 3	Folder 19
Myers - Excerpts article by RCHS, 1943	Box 3	Folder 20
From Tilp... This was the Potomac, 1987	Box 3	Folder 21
Life on the Potomac River, undated	Box 3	Folder 22
Re Check, 1829	Box 3	Folder 23
Emancipation Day Apr. 16, 1896	Box 3	Folder 24
Kurtz "Emancipation" the District of Columbia Civil War History XXIV, 1978	Box 3	Folder 25
The Emancipation of the Slaves in the District of Columbia, 1913	Box 3	Folder 26
Compensated Emancipation in DC, 1862	Box 3	Folder 27
The Economic Position of the Free Negro in DC - 1800-1860, 1972	Box 3	Folder 28
VA Free Black Community - McClean [Cottonwood], 1860	Box 3	Folder 29
1860 Occupations of Free Blacks from Census of 1860, 1860	Box 3	Folder 30
Melvin Williams - "A Blueprint for Charge: The Black Community in Wash 1860-1870, 1971	Box 3	Folder 31
DC Medical Care- Reconstruction "Freedman's Hospihal Camp Barker", 1898	Box 3	Folder 32
L.R Items copies - Civil Rights; Racism Blacks, 1947	Box 3	Folder 33
Alexandria Blacks (Rosenthal Articles), undated	Box 3	Folder 34
Afro. Am. MD. Montgomery County Builders, 1992	Box 3	Folder 35
Afro. Am. - VA Alexandria (Eco), 1987	Box 3	Folder 36
Maryland History Bibliography 1993: A Selected List, 1994	Box 3	Folder 37
MD Montgomery County, 1995	Box 3	Folder 38
Special Issue: History in Maryland the Sesquicentinnial of the Maryland Historical Society, 1994	Box 3	Folder 39
1850 Resolutions, 1850	Box 3	Folder 40
Wormley Family, 1879-1956	Box 4	Folder 1
Alfred Jones, 1882	Box 4	Folder 2
Adoption in Washington [Article], 1994	Box 4	Folder 3
Orphan Asylums, undated	Box 4	Folder 4
Apprentices - General, undated	Box 4	Folder 5
Washington Asylum, 1850	Box 4	Folder 6

Black Churches in DC, 1864	Box 4	Folder 7
Economic Position and Free Blacks DC - 1800-1860 Tour of Negro History LVIII (Jan. 1973), 1973	Box 4	Folder 8
Prostitution, 1877	Box 4	Folder 9
Free Blacks - 1821 Residency Law, 1821	Box 4	Folder 10
Birth Misc Info Re examples, 1906	Box 4	Folder 11
William Cranch, 1855	Box 4	Folder 12
Messages - Mixed, 1899	Box 4	Folder 13
Deaths Unusual, 1879	Box 4	Folder 14
Jail Slave Register, undated	Box 4	Folder 15
Wills - Misc. Provisions Re. Slaves "Servants", undated	Box 4	Folder 16
Licenses - List of in Newspaper, 1849-1850	Box 4	Folder 17
Justices of the Peace, undated	Box 4	Folder 18
The U.S Sanitary Comm. In Wash 1960-1962, 1963	Box 4	Folder 19
Washington During the Reconstruction - 1865-1878, undated	Box 4	Folder 20
Choral Society (Afri-Am.) - DC, 1903	Box 4	Folder 21
Proctor Washington's Past and Present Court System D.C. 1801-1928, undated	Box 4	Folder 22
Naturalization Records - DC Records, undated	Box 4	Folder 23
Index to Marriages/Deaths National Intelligencer, 1812-1844	Box 4	Folder 24
Last Will and Testaments, 1924	Box 4	Folder 25
African Americans DC/ Washington from Banneker to Douglass 1791-1870, undated	Box 5	Folder 1
African Americans Wilson Quarterly Articles of 1989, 1989	Box 5	Folder 2
Last Will and Testament and Census, 1860-1873	Box 5	Folder 3
Marriage Returns Vol. 85, 1895	Box 5	Folder 4
OS to Check, 1996	Box 5	Folder 5
Outbridge Horsey, 1812	Box 5	Folder 6
Alexandria County-VA- Apprenticeships - 1808-1812, 1994	Box 5	Folder 7
Free Blacks - Alexandria VA, undated	Box 5	Folder 8
Alexandria Population, 1982	Box 5	Folder 9
Work Record, 1843	Box 5	Folder 10
Journal of Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society Fall, 1990	Box 5	Folder 11

Marriages - Unusual, 1899	Box 5	Folder 12
Misc., undated	Box 5	Folder 13
Marriages/Births/Deaths, 1884-1895	Box 5	Folder 14
Petitions, undated	Box 6	Folder 1
Deaths to be Filed, 1897	Box 6	Folder 2
Mary N. Adison, 1898	Box 6	Folder 3
Barker Murray, 1848	Box 6	Folder 4
Becket/Beckett, 1879-1880	Box 6	Folder 5
Blackstone (Gen.), 1771	Box 6	Folder 6
John Brent, 1885	Box 6	Folder 7
John S. Brent (Son of John Brent), 1885	Box 6	Folder 8
Brogden, 1850	Box 6	Folder 9
Sarah E. Jenkins Robert Bushrod, 1918	Box 6	Folder 10
John Cephas, 1888	Box 6	Folder 11
Francis Cole, 1859	Box 6	Folder 12
Coles, 1850	Box 6	Folder 13
John F. Cook, undated	Box 6	Folder 14
John Francis Cook Jr., 1860	Box 6	Folder 15
John H. Cook - 1878, 1879-1910	Box 6	Folder 16
Costin, 1880	Box 6	Folder 17
Goerge Cover, 1860	Box 6	Folder 18
,Alexander Crummel, undated	Box 6	Folder 19
Elsey Curtis - Blacks Who Claimed Slaves - 1862 Case 587, 1862	Box 6	Folder 20
DC Shields - Matilda 1 Dec. 1897, 1897	Box 6	Folder 21
WM Dodson, 1863-1869	Box 6	Folder 22
Douglas/Douglass, 1907-1908	Box 6	Folder 23
Thomas M. Downer, 1840	Box 6	Folder 24
Docket to Sarah Minor, 1874	Box 6	Folder 25
Mrs. Mary Fernwick, 1835	Box 6	Folder 26
Henry Fleet, 1807	Box 6	Folder 27
William Freeman, 1880	Box 6	Folder 28
Jacob Grant, 1848	Box 6	Folder 29

Thomas Garrison, 1814	Box 6	Folder 30
Charles Grandison, 1846-1847	Box 6	Folder 31
Abigail and Nellie Gray (Freed will - 1836), undated	Box 6	Folder 32
Hiram Gray, 1847	Box 6	Folder 33
Francis/ Elizabeth Green - Slaves Living as Free and Counted in census, 1850	Box 6	Folder 34
James Edward Green, 1898	Box 6	Folder 35
John Green, 1879	Box 6	Folder 36
Lucy Hanson, 1831	Box 6	Folder 37
Goerge Thomas Hanson, 1908	Box 6	Folder 38
Theodosia Herbert, 1864	Box 6	Folder 39
Alfred Lee, 1850-1864	Box 6	Folder 40
Rosie (Rosa) F. Lee, 1900	Box 6	Folder 41
Daniel Lewis, 1898	Box 6	Folder 42
Johnarthur Lightfoot, 1997	Box 6	Folder 43
George Liverpool, 1880	Box 6	Folder 44
Benj. M/Ann Eliza McCoy, 1884	Box 6	Folder 45
Sibby Lavinua McCoy (Daughter of Benj. M McCoy), 1912	Box 7	Folder 1
McCoy, 1839-1892	Box 7	Folder 2
Middleton, 1979-1880	Box 7	Folder 3
Daniel Murray, 1899	Box 7	Folder 4
Elsey/Jesse/John Norman, 1801-1811	Box 7	Folder 5
John Ogleton, 1880	Box 7	Folder 6
Painter/Paynter, 1879-1898	Box 7	Folder 7
Penny, 1860	Box 7	Folder 8
William and Virginia J. Pierre, 1898	Box 7	Folder 9
Albert Ridgeley, 1997	Box 7	Folder 10
Lucy Ross, 1898	Box 7	Folder 11
James A. Savoy, 1879	Box 7	Folder 12
George Seaton House, undated	Box 7	Folder 13
Sarah Catherine Smith/Wife of Willis James Smith, 1884	Box 7	Folder 14
Jerry Snow, 1811	Box 7	Folder 15
Minty Snowden, 1879		

	Box 7	Folder 16
Maria Wellington Stewart, 1880	Box 7	Folder 17
James Sumby, 1850	Box 7	Folder 18
Tuxon, 1848	Box 7	Folder 19
Christopher Waters, 1893	Box 7	Folder 20
Harriet and Gassaway Waters, 1846	Box 7	Folder 21
Wayman, 1850	Box 7	Folder 22
George M. Winter, 1879	Box 7	Folder 23
George Wise, 1817	Box 7	Folder 24
Woodard, 1879	Box 7	Folder 25
Woodland, 1850	Box 7	Folder 26
John Woodward, 1900	Box 7	Folder 27
Wormley, 1879	Box 7	Folder 28
James Wright, 1850	Box 7	Folder 29
Allen Josephine Personal Data, undated	Box 7	Folder 30
Ambush Edward Personal Data, undated	Box 7	Folder 31
Bailey Carrol Personal Data, undated	Box 7	Folder 32
Bealle Enoch Personal Data, undated	Box 7	Folder 33
Bean Scipio Personal Data, undated	Box 7	Folder 34
Beckett William Personal Data, undated	Box 7	Folder 35
Bell Martha E Personal Data, undated	Box 7	Folder 36
Bell Mary Personal Data, undated	Box 7	Folder 37
Bias Noah Personal Data, undated	Box 7	Folder 38
Bolden George Personal Data, undated	Box 7	Folder 39
Bowen George Personal Data, undated	Box 7	Folder 40
Bowie Mary Personal Data, undated	Box 7	Folder 41
Briscoe Palmer Personal Data, undated	Box 8	Folder 1
Brown Charles Free Black Papers, undated	Box 8	Folder 2
Brown William Personal Data, undated	Box 8	Folder 3
Bruce Aaron Personal Data, undated	Box 8	Folder 4
Bryan John A. Personal Data, undated	Box 8	Folder 5
Burrell John Free Black Papers, undated	Box 8	Folder 6

James Butler Jr Personal Data, undated	Box 8	Folder 7
John Butler Personal Data, undated	Box 8	Folder 8
William Butler Personal Data, undated	Box 8	Folder 9
William H. Campbell, undated	Box 8	Folder 10
Dick Moses Personal Data, undated	Box 8	Folder 11
Douglas Henry Personal Data, undated	Box 8	Folder 12
Douglas Henry Personal Data, undated	Box 8	Folder 13
Douglas William Personal Data, undated	Box 8	Folder 14
William H. Edenburg, undated	Box 8	Folder 15
Basil Fletcher Personal Data, undated	Box 8	Folder 16
Jesse Fletcher Personal Data, undated	Box 8	Folder 17
John Freeman Personal Data, undated	Box 8	Folder 18
Walter Freeman Personal Data, undated	Box 8	Folder 19
Hester Gant Personal Data, undated	Box 8	Folder 20
Thomas A. Gant - Personal Data, undated	Box 8	Folder 21
Dobson James Personal Data, undated	Box 8	Folder 22
George Garrison - Personal Data, undated	Box 8	Folder 23
Hannibal Graham - Personal Data, undated	Box 8	Folder 24
Thomas Gray - Personal Data, undated	Box 8	Folder 25
Clarrisa Thomas - Personal Data, undated	Box 8	Folder 26
Lucy Hamilton - Personal Data, undated	Box 8	Folder 27
Roderick Hampton - Personal Data, undated	Box 8	Folder 28
Roderick Hampton - HRS Personal Data, undated	Box 8	Folder 29
Luke Hanson - Personal Data, undated	Box 8	Folder 30
Harley Smith - Personal Data, undated	Box 8	Folder 31
Henry Hatton - Personal Data, undated	Box 8	Folder 32
Anna Henderson - Personal Data, undated	Box 8	Folder 33
Ellen Henson - Personal Data, undated	Box 8	Folder 34
Rachel Herbert -Personal Data, undated	Box 8	Folder 35
William Herbert - Personal Data, undated	Box 8	Folder 36
Caroline Hill - Personal Data, undated	Box 8	Folder 37
Walter Humphrey - Personal Data, undated	Box 8	Folder 38

David Jackson - Personal Data, undated	Box 8	Folder 39
Thomas Jenifer - Personal Data, undated	Box 8	Folder 40
Andrew Jenkins - Personal Data, undated	Box 8	Folder 41
John Chloe Ann Personal Data, undated	Box 8	Folder 42
Misc- Notes A - XYZ, undated	Box 9	Folder 1
Population, undated	Box 9	Folder 2
Laws, undated	Box 9	Folder 3
Population of Free Blacks, undated	Box 9	Folder 4
Rachel Johnson - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 1
Thomas Johnson - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 2
Samuel Key - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 3
Catherine Lancaster - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 4
Catherine Lee - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 5
William Lee - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 6
Primus Lemon - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 7
John Levy - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 8
James Lodge - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 9
Thomas H. Lucas - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 10
George McCoy - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 11
John McGinnis - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 12
Catherine Martin - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 13
Eliza Miles - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 14
Levi Mitchell - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 15
Lindsay Muse - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 16
Richard H. Nugent - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 17
Basil Patterson - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 18
Saamel Ramsay - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 19
Joseph Richards - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 20
Daniel Ross - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 21
Harriet Saunders - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 22
Christy Sawyer - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 23
Leonardas Scott - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 24

Dennis Smallwood - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 25
William Smith - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 26
Charles Stewart - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 27
Robert Stevenson - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 28
Harriet Halbert - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 29
Ann Thomas - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 30
Richard Tompkins - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 31
Stewart Truxton - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 32
Robert Vodery - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 33
Joseph Warren - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 34
Phillip Wells - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 35
Mary Winchester - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 36
Arnold Somerville - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 37
Edward Woodland - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 38
Elizabeth A. Travers - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 39
Polly Twine - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 40
Charles Wilson - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 41
Mary Wormley - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 42
J. Rodney Young - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 43
Edward C. Younger - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 44
Salley Younger - Personal Data, undated	Box 10	Folder 45
City of Washington Map, undated	Box 11	Folder 1

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)