

NARA BLACK HISTORY BASIC TRAINING

Feb 9 – The Book of Negroes

The [Book of Negroes](#) or the *Inspection Roll of Negroes* is the documentation of Black Loyalists who were evacuated from the United States following the American Revolution in 1783. The Book of Negroes gives a glimpse into the life experiences of enslaved, indentured and freed African Americans who signed up to fight on the side of Britain. The ledgers recorded country of birth, names and ages of immediate family, and physical description. Compiled by both British and American representatives, the Book of Negroes was functionally used as an IOU for compensation to American slave owners for their loss of “property.” Approximately 3,500 Black Loyalists were relocated to New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island in Canada.



Records:

- ✓ [Inspection Roll of Negroes Book No. 2](#), NAID 5890797
- ✓ [The Treaty of Paris](#), NAID 299805

Reading:

- ✓ [Record of the Week: The Book of Negroes](#), Rediscovering Black History
- ✓ Someone Knows My Name [The Book of Negroes] (WW Norton & Company), 2007
- ✓ The Black Loyalists: The Search for a Promised Land in Nova Scotia and Sierra Leone, 1783-1872 (University of Toronto), 2017