

# Study Guide

## **A Man of Firsts**

A Docudrama in One Act

by Joseph Robinette

Suggested by the book:

**JOHN STEWART ROCK  
TEACHER, HEALER, COUNSELOR**

by J. Harlan Buzby

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## Biographies

**Joseph Robinette**, playwright, *A Man of Firsts*, A Docudrama in One Act  
Joseph Robinette, holds a B.A. in Theatre from Carson-Newman College and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Southern Illinois University. Although he did not anticipate a teaching career, he has been an educator since graduating from Carson-Newman and has been a Professor of Speech and Theatre at Rowan University since 1971. Robinette has been a guest lecturer at several universities and taught playwriting at the Cape Cod Writers' Conference, the Ohio State Writers' Series and the Philadelphia Writer's Workshop. Robinette is a founding member of the national organization *Opera for Youth*, and a member of the *American Alliance for Theatre and Education*. He has authored forty-four published plays and musicals, including the stage versions of ***Charlotte's Web***, ***Stuart Little*** and ***The Trumpet of the Swan***.

**J. Harlan Buzby**, author, ***John Stewart Rock, Teacher, Healer, Counselor***  
J. Harlan Buzby has a background that is startlingly similar to John Stewart Rock. He is a native of Salem County, New Jersey, has a degree in dentistry and has taught at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Dental Medicine. Buzby, too, has a voracious appetite for knowledge. Beginning in 1987 as a volunteer in the library at the Salem County Historical Society, in Salem, he is currently the organization's Vice-President. Buzby first heard of John Stewart Rock on public radio, featured in a series called a "Black History Minute." Learning that John Stewart Rock was born in Salem County, Buzby was startled to realize that during his twelve years of schooling in Salem County, not one word was ever mentioned of this important figure in American history and the struggle for racial equality that led to the Civil War. ***John Stewart Rock, Teacher, Healer, Counselor*** draws upon both contemporary and historical resources, including numerous original documents in Salem. Buzby states that the book is "not a juicy novel nor an academic tome, but the 'nuts and bolts' of John Rock's life to give elementary and secondary students of Salem County and hopefully, New Jersey, a vision of a local person who succeeded in actually devoting his whole life to great cause."

### **John Stewart Rock (1826-1866)**

John Stewart Rock was born in 1826 in Elsinboro Township, in Salem County, NJ. His parents were determined to send their only son to school until he reached the age of eighteen. This was uncommon for a poor family at the time, regardless of a family's race. John Stewart Rock worked during the summers building houses; it is known that he worked on the construction of a house for the Keasbey's, a local Quaker family. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, many children left school at a young age and worked year round. Well aware that his education was a gift and a privilege, John Stewart Rock worked hard and excelled in his studies. After he completed school in 1844, he was hired to teach at the all-black public elementary school in Salem, which had been established by the Society of Friends (the Quakers). In addition to teaching, Rock began studying medicine with two local white doctors, Quinton Gibbon and Jacob Sterne Thompson Sharp. Although he wanted to continue studying medicine, he was ultimately barred from medical college because of his race. Rock then turned his attention to dentistry and studied with a local dentist, Dr. Samuel C. Harbert. After being certified as a dentist in 1849, Rock moved to Camden and opened a private practice in Philadelphia at the home of Henrietta Bowers. In 1851, he was awarded a Silver Medal for making artificial teeth and examples of his work were exhibited at the Franklin Institute. He was

also able to return to studying medicine. By 1852, he had married Philadelphia native Catherine Bowers and received a medical degree from the American Medical College, one of the first African Americans to do so. Later in life, when poor health prevented him from practicing medicine, he studied law with Robert Morris and became one of the nation's earliest African American lawyers.

John Stewart Rock was a teacher, a dentist, a doctor and a lawyer during his short life. These accomplishments are all the more remarkable because, at the same time, millions of African Americans were still enslaved in the South. His legacy, however, lays not so much in his professional skills but in his tenacity in fighting for racial equality in the United States before and after the Civil War. It was in Philadelphia that John Rock found an outlet for his passion for freedom and racial justice. He was particularly inspired by the commitment of activists, both white and black, to abolitionist principles. He began to publish articles in various Philadelphia newspapers urging not only the abolition of slavery in the South, but also the enfranchisement of African Americans in Northern states like New Jersey, where blacks did not receive the right to vote until 1875.

At the age of 27, John Stewart Rock and his wife moved from Philadelphia to Boston in 1853. It is believed that Rock thought he might advance his medical and dental career in the more liberal climate of this major Northern city. Equally important, he was probably attracted to Boston because of its importance as a center of the abolitionist movement. Rock and his wife settled in the Beacon Hill neighborhood of the city, where one of their neighbors was Lewis Hayden, an ex-slave and ardent abolitionist. Hayden ran a safe house for the ***Underground Railroad***, and it is reported that he gave shelter to over two-thirds of the fugitive slaves moving through Boston prior to the Civil War. In 1855, Rock became the Boston correspondent for the *North Star*, an anti-slavery newspaper that Frederick Douglass published in Rochester, New York. The same year, he returned to Philadelphia to speak at the National Convention of Colored Americans. When the Civil War began in 1861, and after Congress authorized the use of black soldiers in the Civil War, Rock joined the "Black Committee," a team of army recruiters. During the war, Rock and others on the Committee recruited 147,000 African American soldiers in areas of the South occupied by Union forces. After four years of war, in 1865, the Confederacy collapsed and Congress approved the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which ended slavery. On February 1, 1865, Senator Charles Sumner, the leader of the antislavery forces in Massachusetts, made a motion to allow Rock to be the first black attorney to be admitted to argue a case before the U.S. Supreme Court. At the time, this event made both national and international headlines.

On December 3, 1866, John Stewart Rock died at home at the age of 40 from tuberculosis. He is buried at Woodlawn Cemetery in Everett, Massachusetts. The simple inscription engraved on his tombstone reads: "John S. Rock, Oct. 13, 1825 (sic), died Dec. 3rd, 1866. The first colored lawyer admitted to the Bar of the United States Supreme Court at Washington; on motion made by Hon. Charles Sumner, Feb. 1st, 1865." Today, the original marker at Rock's gravesite is badly damaged and the inscription cannot be read in its entirety. Rock's mother, Maria Willet Rock, was also buried near her son, though there is no marker for her grave. In 2003, New Jersey's Salem County Historical Society began the *John S. Rock Monument Project* to solicit

donations to replace the damaged grave marker with a granite monument at the gravesites of John S. Rock and his mother in Massachusetts.

## **Timeline**

### **1783**

The Massachusetts Supreme Court declares slavery unconstitutional. As the Revolutionary War ends, some New Jersey free blacks and slaves leave with the British troops and settle in Nova Scotia.

### **1786**

New Jersey enacts legislation that bans the further importation of slaves, thereby ending the African slave trade to New Jersey (another provision of the law, however, makes manumissions easier).

### **1787**

The Free African Society is formed in Philadelphia.

### **1789**

U.S. Constitution takes effect; it states that no runaway slave becomes free by escaping from one State to another.

### **1790**

The Pennsylvania Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery petitions the U.S. Congress to end slavery.

### **1793**

The New Jersey Society for the Abolition of Slavery, the State's first antislavery organization, is established.

### **1800**

Free blacks in Philadelphia petition Congress to end slavery.

### **1807**

Free blacks and women lose the franchise granted in the State Constitution of 1776.

### **1808**

The importation of slaves into the United States becomes illegal as the trans-Atlantic slave trade to the United States is banned.

### **1820**

Under the provisions of the *Compromise of 1820*, Maine is admitted as a free state and Missouri as a slave state and slavery is excluded from the northern half of the Louisiana Purchase.

### **1826**

John Stewart Rock is born in Elsinboro Township, Salem County, New Jersey.  
New Jersey passes legislation that authorizes the return to their owners of fugitive slaves from other States residing or apprehended in New Jersey.

**1830**

The American Society of Free Persons of Color is founded.

The **Underground Railroad** begins after the first appearance of trains in America in 1829.

**1831**

William Lloyd Garrison begins publishing the militant antislavery newspaper *The Liberator*.

The first annual convention of Free Persons of Color meets in Philadelphia.

Nat Turner, who led 70 slaves in a violent insurrection during which an estimated 55-65 whites were killed, is executed in Virginia.

**1833**

The American Anti-Slavery Society is founded in Philadelphia.

As England abolishes slavery throughout the British Empire, Canada becomes a safe haven for runaway slaves.

**1834**

The Philadelphia Anti-Slavery Society adopts its constitution.

**1835**

Prompted by rising abolitionist activity, defenders of slavery meet in Boston.

William Lloyd Garrison narrowly escapes a lynch mob in Boston.

**1838**

Frederick Douglass uses the **Underground Railroad** to flee Maryland. The abolitionist leader later becomes an operator of the **Underground Railroad** while living in Rochester, New York.

**1840**

The New Jersey State Anti-Slavery Society, the State's 2<sup>nd</sup> statewide abolition organization, is formed.

**1842**

Five thousand attend an abolition rally in Boston.

**1844**

John Stewart Rock graduates from school and becomes headmaster at the Colored School in Salem, New Jersey.

New Jersey's second *Constitution* is adopted. Among its provisions, it eliminates property ownership qualifications for voting, though it continues to restrict the right to vote to white males.

**1846**

New Jersey's second abolition law is enacted; it eliminates apprenticeships for all black children born after its passage and, although formally outlawing slavery, makes the

State's remaining slaves (all of them elderly persons) "apprentices for life," another form of slavery.

### **1847**

William Still, a New Jersey native, begins work in Philadelphia with the Pennsylvania Society for the Abolition of Slavery and becomes a key figure in the operation of the eastern corridor of the ***Underground Railroad***.

### **1849**

John Stewart Rock begins to practice Dentistry in Philadelphia and serves as a delegate at the first statewide black convention held in Trenton, New Jersey (August 21-22).

William Lloyd Garrison and John Stewart Rock attend the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society in Norristown, Pennsylvania.

Using the ***Underground Railroad***, Harriet Tubman escapes from slavery in Maryland's nearby eastern shore; her summers until 1852 are spent working in hotels in Cape May to earn money for her own ***Underground Railroad*** activities.

### **1850**

The *Fugitive Slave Act* passes as part of the *Compromise of 1850*; this law, giving the Federal government primary responsibility for capturing slaves fleeing to the North, causes some free blacks, fearing kidnapping, and fugitive slaves to flee to Canada and prompts some Northern States (New Jersey not included) to pass "Personal Liberty Laws" that sought to nullify the *Fugitive Slave Act*.

### **1852**

Charles Sumner delivers a speech against the *Fugitive Slave Law* in the U.S. Senate. John Stewart Rock marries Catherine Bowers in Philadelphia and receives a medical degree from the American Medical College.

### **1853**

John Stewart Rock and his wife Catherine move to Boston, Massachusetts.

### **1855**

John Stewart Rock becomes the Boston correspondent for the *North Star*, an anti-slavery newspaper that Frederick Douglass published in Rochester, New York.

John Stewart Rock attends the National Convention of Colored Americans, held in Philadelphia.

### **1856**

John Stewart Rock presents a lecture entitled "The Unity of the Human Race and the Recent Aggressions of the Slave Power" to the Massachusetts Legislature at the State Capitol.

John Stewart Rock's son, John Stewart Rock Jr., is born.

### **1857**

In its *Dred Scott* decision, the Supreme Court rules that African Americans are not

citizens and that the Compromise of 1820 is unconstitutional because Congress could not prevent slaves from being brought into a territory.

### **1858**

John Stewart Rock travels to France for medical treatment.

### **1859**

William Lloyd Garrison endorses the Republican Party as representing the "political anti-slavery feeling of the North."

John Brown conducts a raid on the Federal Arsenal in Harper's Ferry, Virginia, in an effort to encourage a widespread slave rebellion.

### **1860**

Eighteen slaves are recorded for New Jersey by the U.S. Census, making New Jersey the last Northern State in which slaves are identified.

### **1861**

John Stewart Rock begins to practice law in Boston.

On March 4<sup>th</sup>, Abraham Lincoln is inaugurated as the 16th President of the United States.

The Civil War begins with the Bombardment of Fort Sumter in South Carolina by Confederate troops. The ***Underground Railroad*** ceases operation as runaway slaves seek refuge with Union troops rather than fleeing to the free States of the North.

### **1863**

President Lincoln signs the Emancipation Proclamation, which frees slaves in the Confederate States but not those that remain in the Union.

### **1864**

Congress makes black soldiers' wages equal to white soldiers' wages in the Union army.

John Stewart Rock's wife, Catherine, dies of tuberculosis in Philadelphia at the age of thirty-one.

### **1865**

Charles Sumner, U.S. Senator from Massachusetts, passes a motion that makes John Stewart Rock the first African American attorney to be admitted to argue a case in the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Union Army captures the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia.

Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered his army at Appomattox Court House.

The Thirteenth Amendment is ratified, bringing slavery to an end on American soil.

Abraham Lincoln's 2<sup>nd</sup> Inauguration on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

Abraham Lincoln is assassinated on April 14<sup>th</sup> by Southern sympathizer John Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C.

### **1866**

John Stewart Rock dies of tuberculosis on December 3.

**1868**

The 14th Amendment, which extends U.S. citizenship to all persons born in the United States and guarantees due process and equal protection under the law, takes effect.

**1869**

The United States Congress passes the 15th Amendment, which declares that the right to vote shall not be restricted on the basis of race.

**1877**

John Stewart Rock, Jr., the only child of John Stewart Rock, dies at age 21 after a “lingering illness.”

## **List of Characters in *A Man of Firsts***

**John Brown (1800-1859)**

An American abolitionist who led the raid on the Federal Armory at Harpers Ferry, VA. He was captured by Federal forces commanded by Robert E. Lee and was hanged.

**William Lloyd Garrison (1805-1879)**

An editor of *The Liberator*, a weekly abolitionist newspaper. Along with John Stewart Rock, he spoke at the meeting of the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society Meeting in Norristown in 1849. Garrison spent his last fourteen years campaigning for women's suffrage, pacifism and temperance.

**Frederick Douglass (1818-1895)**

Called both “The Sage of Anacostia” and “The Lion of Anacostia,” Douglass was an American abolitionist, editor, orator, author, statesman and reformer. Among the most prominent African Americans in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Douglass is considered to be one of the country’s most influential writers and speakers.

**Samuel C. Harbert (1815-1888)**

A dentist practicing in Salem, New Jersey, who offered John Stewart Rock an apprenticeship. Harbert wrote “A Practical Treatise on the Operations of Dental Surgery and Mechanical Dentistry”, which became a standard dentistry textbook. His office at 81 Market Street in Salem, New Jersey, is currently part of the Salem County Historical Society.

**Lewis Hayden (1811-1889)**

An African American leader, ex-slave, abolitionist and member of the Boston Vigilance Committee, an organization that assisted fugitive slaves.

**Robert Morris (1823-1882)**

One of America’s first African American lawyers. It is believed that John Stewart Rock may have studied law with him in Boston after returning from France in 1859.

**William Cooper Nell (1816-1874)**

An abolitionist who was the original publisher of the *North Star*. A graduate of Boston's segregated Smith School, Nell studied, but never practiced law. During the early 1840s, he worked for the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society and *The Liberator*.

**Dred Scott (1795-1858)**

A slave who sued unsuccessfully for his freedom in 1857. His case was based on the fact that he and his wife Harriet had lived, while slaves, in states and territories where slavery was illegal. The court ruled against Scott, stating that slaves were property.

**Senator Charles Sumner (1811-1874)**

A leading politician from Massachusetts. He was the leader of the anti-slavery forces in Massachusetts and as a member of the "Radical Republicans" faction in the U.S. Senate during the Civil War.

**Chief Justice Roger Taney (1777-1864)**

The fifth Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States from 1836 until his death in 1864. Taney wrote the decision for the Court in the *Dred Scott case* that declared any restrictions imposed by Congress on the spread of slavery into the territories to be unconstitutional.

**Nathaniel "Nat" Turner (1800-1831)**

A slave of mixed race who led a failed slave rebellion in Southampton County, Virginia. In February 1831, Turner received what he believed to be a sign from God (a solar eclipse) telling him that it was time for him and his companions to prepare for the revolt. On August 21, they began their attempt to overthrow the institution of slavery. In 48 hours, they killed between 55 and 65 whites in Southampton County. On August 23, Turner's black liberation army was met and overpowered by State and Federal military forces. Over 100 blacks were slain in the encounter and dozens more immediately executed. Turner, the "Black Spartacus," escaped and was not caught until October 30. On November 5, he was tried and convicted. Six days later he was executed for trying to free his people from slavery.

## Suggested Discussion/Research Questions and Activities for Students

1. John Stewart Rock states in the play that he feels "very lucky compared to a lot of colored people" and that it is up to people like him, who have been "blessed" to help those who need it. Do you believe that John Stewart Rock would have accomplished what he did and become such a strong advocate for blacks in America if he did not have the educational opportunities that he did? How exactly does an education help one to be an advocate for something? According to the play, what did John Stewart Rock know how to do well and on what occasions did that knowledge play an important role? What issues today do you feel strongly about? What more do you need to know in order to become an active and strong advocate for that issue or cause?

2. As a child, his father told John Stewart Rock that when one encounters injustice, it is how one reacts to these injustices that matters. After reading the play, list the injustices that John Stewart Rock encountered during his lifetime. Do you think that Rock reacted to those injustices in the way his father would have wanted?
3. Why did John Stewart Rock feel it was necessary to speak publicly as well as write about the injustices suffered by his race? How did his skills as an orator help to further his cause?
4. What influence could a speech, a pamphlet, or a newspaper have on those who were for or against slavery? Why might pro-slavery proponents consider reading or writing “dangerous”?
5. What were some of the methods used by abolitionists? Can you research and document incidents and activities that took place within your own community? Are you within a mile? - two miles? - less? of abolitionist or ***Underground Railroad*** sites?
6. What role did women play in the abolitionist movement? What were some of their accomplishments?
7. African Americans and women did not have the right to vote during John Stewart Rock’s lifetime – **discuss** why Americans today take the right to vote for granted but often do not vote – and the results. **Discuss** the upcoming Fall 2006 elections.
8. **Find out more** about Frederick Douglass and his abolitionist newspaper *The Liberator*. **Become a journalist and compose a short article** that could have been published in this paper. Think about the steps a journalist needs to take in writing an article for a paper like *The Liberator*.
9. **Write a short story or a poem** based on an injustice **you** have experienced during your lifetime and how you reacted to it.
10. **Find out more** about the abolitionist movement and the ***Underground Railroad*** in Salem County. Visit and document (**draw, photograph, or write about**) Salem ***Underground Railroad*** locations. Who else was important in the abolitionist movement in Salem, Gloucester and Cumberland Counties?
11. Try to imagine that you are a runaway slave, fleeing from Maryland to Salem or Cumberland County and then continuing north on the way to Canada. Or, imagine that you are an anti-slavery sympathizer who is helping slaves fleeing to the north. **Write a diary entry** – what are your fears, your hopes, and your experiences that day? What obstacles did you face today? What triumphs?

# Resources

## Books

**Africans in America.** 1998. 494 pages. ISBN: 0-15-100339-4.  
Harcourt Brace & Company, 15 East 26th Street, New York, New York 10010.  
(This is the companion book to the *Africans in America* television series.)

**Africans in America: Teacher's Guide** 1998. 32 pages.  
This booklet, issued by the WGBH Educational Foundation, is promoted as a resource for teachers who want to build lessons based on the *Africans in America* television series. This Teacher's Guide is also available through the **State of New Jersey** website (Department of State, The Amistad Commission). The guide covers the larger span of slavery in the Western Hemisphere from the 15<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The guide examines slavery from single-subject and interdisciplinary vantage points and suggests a wide range of related activities.

Berson, Robin Kadison. **Marching to a Different Drummer: Unrecognized Heroes of American History.** Greenwood Press: Westport, CT, 1994.

Buzby, J. Harlan. **John Stewart Rock, Teacher, Healer, Counselor.** Salem, NJ: Salem County Historical Society, 2002.

Cain, William E., ed. **William Lloyd Garrison and the Fight Against Slavery: Selections from The Liberator.** New York: Bedford Books, 1995.

Douglass, Frederick. **Life and Times of Frederick Douglass.** New York: Macmillan, 1962.

Foner, Philip S. and George E. Walker (Eds.). **Proceedings of the Black State Conventions, 1840-1865.** Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1978.

Gates, Jr., Henry Louis, and Nellie McKay (Eds.). **The Norton Anthology of African American Literature.** New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1997. A literary anthology that includes the works of many historical figures.

Greene, Larry A. and Lenworth Gunther. **The New Jersey African-American History Curriculum Guide Grades 9-12.** Trenton: New Jersey Historical Commission, 1997.

Ham, Debra (Ed.). **The African-American Mosaic: A Library of Congress Resource Guide for the Study of Black History and Culture.** Washington, DC: Library of Congress, 1993. A survey of the Library of Congress holdings in the history and culture of black Americans.

Harbert, Samuel C. **A Practical Treatise on the Operations of Dental Surgery and Mechanical Dentistry.** Philadelphia, Barrett & Jones, 1847.

Horton, James Oliver, and Lois E. Horton. **In Hope of Liberty: Culture, Community and Protest Among Northern Free Blacks, 1700-1860**. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997. A detailed study of race, class, culture, politics, and identity.

Jacobs, Harriet. **Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl: Written by Herself**. Edited by Jean Fagan Yellin. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1987.

Jacobs, Donald M., ed. **Courage and Conscience: Black and White Abolitionists in Boston**. Urbana: Indiana University Press, 1993.

Katz, William Loren. **The Westward Movement and Abolitionism, 1815-1850**. Austin: Raintree Steck-Vaughn, 1993.

Kemble, Frances Anne (Fanny). **Journal of a Residence on a Georgian Plantation in 1838-1839**. Edited by John A. Scott. New York: Knopf, 1961.

Lester, Julius. **From Slave Ship to Freedom Road**. Illustrated by Rod Brown. New York: Dial, 1998.

Logan, Rayford W. and Michael R. Winston. **Dictionary of American Negro Biography**. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1982.

Ripley, C. Peter, ed. **Witness for Freedom: African American Voices on Race, Freedom and Emancipation**. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1993.

Sterling, Dorothy, ed. **Turning the World Upside Down: The Anti-Slavery Convention of American Women**. New York: Feminist Press, 1987.

Sterling, Dorothy. **We Are Your Sisters: Black Women in the Nineteenth Century**. New York: Norton, 1997.

Sullivan, Charles, ed. **Children of Promise: African American Literature and Art for Young People**. New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 1991. This anthology includes literature and art of the African American experience.

Wright, Giles R. **Afro-Americans in New Jersey: A Short History**. New Jersey Historical Commission: Trenton, 1989. (Full text available at [http://www.njstatelib.org/NJ\\_Information/Digital\\_Collections/Digidox9.php](http://www.njstatelib.org/NJ_Information/Digital_Collections/Digidox9.php))

## Websites

*A Guide to the Underground Railroad in New Jersey* (copy enclosed)  
[www.state.nj.us/state/history/underground\\_rr.pdf](http://www.state.nj.us/state/history/underground_rr.pdf)

The African-American Mosaic  
<http://www.lcweb.loc.gov/exhibits/african/intro.html>

A comprehensive site that highlights the extensive African American collections held by the Library of Congress.

#### African American Perspectives

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/aap/aaphome.html>

Audio clips, samples of text, and historical facts relating to pamphlets written by African American authors between 1818-1907.

#### *African American Lives* at PBS

[www.pbs.org/wnet/aalives/](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/aalives/)

#### Africans in America

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/>

The companion site to the series, offering hundreds of primary source documents, scholarly essays, and stories from the series.

#### *Africans in America: Teachers Guide 1998*

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/tguide/index.html>

#### *African American Timeline 1860-1869*

<http://www.americansall.com/PDFs/03-database/102.4.pdf#search=%22%22john%20s%20rock%22%22>

#### American Memory

<http://rs6.loc.gov/amhome.html>

An array of historical collections and primary source and archival history related to American culture and history, from the Library of Congress.

#### American Slave Narratives

<http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/wpa/wpahome.html>

Narratives of former slaves (documented from 1936-1938) of the 19th century.

#### Archiving Early America

<http://www.earlyamerica.com/>

Access material from 18th century America, including original newspapers, maps, and writings, as well as *Early American Review*, a historical journal.

#### *Brief Historical Timeline, African-American 'Firsts' and Other Accomplishments*

[http://www.tangledwire.com/www/tangledwire/Twire/Afam/Backhistory/BH\\_Timeline.htm](http://www.tangledwire.com/www/tangledwire/Twire/Afam/Backhistory/BH_Timeline.htm)

#### Chickenbones: An Online Journal

[www.nathanieltturner.com](http://www.nathanieltturner.com)

#### *Excerpts from Slave Narratives*

<http://vi.uh.edu/pages/mintz/primary.htm>

Compiled by the University of Houston, this contains over 40 slave narratives from the 17th-20th century.

Historical Text Archive

<http://www.msstate.edu/Archives/History/>

A list of links from which you can access electronic texts, maps, photos, and documents.

*Interesting Salem City, New Jersey Facts*

<http://www.salemco.org/fedstatelocal/salemcity/salemfacts.html>

*A List of Significant African American Firsts*

<http://www.africanamericans.com/FirstsMore.htm>

The National Park Service, Boston African American National Historic Site

<http://www.nps.gov/archive/boaf/johnsrock.htm>

National Park Service

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/aahistory/>

This National Park Services site offers an interactive study guide and a tour of historic places.

The New Jersey African American History Curriculum Guide: Grades 9 to 12

[http://www.njstatelib.org/NJ\\_Information/Digital\\_Collections/AAHCG/](http://www.njstatelib.org/NJ_Information/Digital_Collections/AAHCG/)

Salem County Historical Society

<http://salemcountyhistoricalsociety.com/index.htm>

Schomburg Center for Research on Black Culture

<http://www.nypl.org/research/sc/sc.html>

Access primary sources, manuscripts, photographs, music, and other documents about African American history and culture

The United States Constitution

<http://www.usconstitution.net/>

This site offers The Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and a way to navigate through the U.S. Constitution.