

Syracuse University

College of Arts & Sciences



Herbert G. Ruffin II

Associate
Professor,
History and
Chair

African American
Studies

[CV \(.pdf\)](#)

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Research and Teaching Interests

African American History; Africana Studies; California History; Digital History; Public History; Race and Ethnic Studies; Texas History; Urban History; U.S. Social History; U.S. West History

Selected Publications

Book:

Uninvited Neighbors: African Americans in the Silicon Valley, 1769-1990 (Oklahoma University Press)

Peer Reviewed Articles and Book Chapters:

“I Try To Do the Best Job I Can: Herbert Ruffin I and Life in Central Texas and the San Francisco Bay Area, 1946-2002” (Oral History), in *Lone Star Legacy: African American History in Texas* (Bi-Annual Journal) (Vol. 2, Num. 2, Fall 2013), 7-34.

“The Search for Significance in Interstitial Space: San Jose and its Great Black Migration, 1941-1968,” in *Black California Dreamin': The Crises of California's African-American Communities* (Santa Barbara: UC Santa Barbara Center for Black Studies Research, December 2012), 19-56.

“Sunnyhills: Race and Working Class Politics in Postwar Silicon Valley, 1945-1968,” *Journal of the West* [“Best of the Decade” issue] (Fall 2009), 113-123.

Accepted for Publication:

"The Forging of an African American Community on the Outskirts of Alamo City: African American Suburbanization in San Antonio, 1980-2000", in M. Scott Sosebee, and Paul Sandul (et.al) *Lone Star Suburbs: The Suburban Process in a Super-State* (College Station, TX: Texas A&M Press, forthcoming Fall 2014).

"From Orchards to Silicon Valley: African American Suburbanization in the U.S. West, the Black San Jose Model, 1945-2000," in Yuya Kiuchi's edited volume, *Race Still Matters* (forthcoming SUNY Press, 2014).

Under Review:

Article Manuscript, "'Do You Know the Way to San Jose?': San Jose and the Origins of the Black Athletic Revolt, 1956-1968" (Submitted to *The Western Journal of Black Studies*)

Other Publications: Report and Book Chapters:

"Memory and the Nation State: Day One Orientation and Welcome Report," in *People to People Ambassador Programs. Journal of Professional Proceedings* (Historical Studies Delegation to South Africa: Delegate Leader Elaine May, former OAH President, October 25-November 4, 2010)

"A. Phillip Randolph" in Matthew Whitaker, *Icons of Black America* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2011)

"Arthur Ashe" in Matthew Whitaker, *Icons of Black America* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2011)

"Nat Turner" in Matthew Whitaker, *Icons of Black America* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2011)

Encyclopedia Entries:

"Negro League Baseball," in Carl Rollyson (ed.), *The Twenties in America* (Pasadena, CA: Salem Press, 2012).

"The Black Nadir" in Leslie Alexander, and William Rucker (eds.), *Encyclopedia of African American History* (ABC-CLIO, 2010)

Entries for Blackpast.org, “African American History: Vignettes of Significant People and Places in African American History” (2005-2013): “Antoine, Caesar Carpenter”; “Ashe, Arthur (1943-1993)”; “Bertonneau, E. Arnold (1834-1912)”; “Bethune, Mary Jane McLeod (1875-1955)”; “Carlos, John (1945-present)”; “Davis Bend, Mississippi (1865-1887)”; “Davis, Ernie (1940-1963)”; “Dawson, William Levi - composer (1898-1990)”; “Dunbar, Paul Laurence (1872-1906)”; “Dunn, Oscar J. (ca. 1825-1871)”; “East Palo Alto, California (1925-present),” *Spotlighted entry via Invitation; “Edwards, Harry (1942-present)”; “Fortune, T. Thomas (1856-1928)”; “Granger, Lester Blackwell (1896-1976)”; “Gross, Ben (1921-present)”; “Jackson, Jesse Louis. Jr. (1965-present),” *Spotlighted entry via Invitation—showcased by the author during television interview about Blackpast.org in Chicago; “Metcalf, Ralph Harold (1910-1978)”; “Montgomery, Isaiah (1847-1924)”; “Mound Bayou (1887-present)”; “Nell, William C. (1816-1874)”; “Overton, Sarah Massey (1850-1914)”; “Owens, Jesse (1913-1980),” *Spotlighted entry via Invitation; “Sistema de Castas (1500s-1829)”; “Smith, Tommie (1944-present)”; “The California Fair Housing Act/The Rumford Act (1963-1968)”; “The Conventions of Colored Citizens of the State of California (1855-1865)”; “Washington, Kenny (1918-1971)”; “Weaver, Robert Clifton (1907-1997)”; and “Williams, Daniel Hale (1856-1931).”

“[The Great Migration from Alabama](#),” in The State of Alabama, *Encyclopedia of Alabama* (Auburn University Press, 2008, 2013)

“[Willie Mays](#),” in The State of Alabama, *Encyclopedia of Alabama* (Auburn University Press, 2007)

Book Reviews:

(Forthcoming 2014) Andre Johnson (eds.), *Urban God Talk: Constructing a Hip Hop Spirituality* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2013), for *Journal of Race and Policy*.

Charles M. Robinson III, *The Fall of a Black Army Officer: Racism and the Myth of Henry O. Flipper* (Norman, OK: Oklahoma University Press, 2008) for the *New Mexico Historical Review* (Summer 2012), 373-374.

Rev. France A. Davis, and Nayra Atiya, *France Davis* (Salt Lake City: The University of Utah Press, 2007) for the *Journal of the American West* (Fall 2007), 88-88.

Johnnella E. Butler, *Color-Lines to Borderlands: The Matrix of American Ethnic Studies* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2001) for the *Journal of the West* (Fall 2004)

Jack M. Balkin, et. al., *What Brown v. Board of Education Should Have Said* (New York: New York University Press, 2001) for the *Journal of the West* (Spring 2003)

Selected Webpages and Multimedia:

[African American Studies Webpage](#), Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, Fall 2010-present. Projects: Developer, Webmaster, and Researcher.

[African Initiative Webpage](#), Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, Fall 2008-Present. Projects: Developer, Webmaster, and Researcher.

Herb Ruffin II and The Program in African American (National Museum of American History), *A Quest for Freedom: The Black Experience in the American West* (Washington DC: Smithsonian Institution, 2001-2002, retired), Projects: Webpage and brochures

Africans on the North American Frontier, 1528-1864, (Claremont, CA: RUFF Multimedia, 1999-2001, retired).

Contributor: Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, *Creativity and Resistance: Maroon Cultures in the Americas* (Washington DC: Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, 1999).

Selected Professional Service (Since 2008):

Committee of Committees Member, Organization of American Historians, Spring 2014-Spring 2016.

Advisory Board Member, *Blackpast.Org*, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, Fall 2008-Present (URL: <http://www.blackpast.org/?q=advisory-board/advisory-board-member>).

U.S. Historian Delegate, People to People Citizen Ambassador Program, South Africa, October 25-November 4, 2010.

Within Syracuse University

Faculty Council Member, College of Arts and Sciences, Syracuse University, New York, 2013-2015

Organizer, Department of African American Studies Majors and Minors Field Trips. 2014: The Underground Railroad in Buffalo, Niagara Falls, and St. Catharines (Ontario, Canada); 2013: William Seward House and Harriet Tubman Home, Auburn, New York; 2012: Rochester's Underground Railroad Riverwalk Tour and Chautauqua; 2011: Community Folk Art Center (CFAC) and Harriet Tubman Home, Syracuse and Auburn, New York; 2010: Community Folk Art Center (CFAC) and Harriet Tubman Home, Syracuse and Auburn, New York.

Committee Member, Undergraduate Studies Committee, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, Fall 2008-Present.

Committee Member, African Initiative, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, Fall 2008-Present.