RECOMMENDED READING LIST FOR
SCHOLARS, STUDENTS, HISTORIANS AND KEEPERS OF THE GRAIL!

Do you want to write a Senior Thesis, Master's Thesis, a Capstone or White Paper, or a Doctoral Dissertation? How about writing an article for a blog or a newspaper? Or perhaps a book on the African American Life and History in Metropolitan Kansas City? Or do you just want to increase your knowledge about Black History in the Metropolitan area?

BLAKC HISTORY

GREATER KANSAS CITY
BLACK HISTORY STUDY GROUP

Your local ASALH branch, the Greater Kansas City Black History Study Group (GKCBHSG) has compiled a bibliography of historic publications from its membership base and beyond. This is an ongoing project and will add more books along the way. Note, many of the rare, hard-to-find books listed can be found at the **Kenneth Spencer Research Library** at the University of Kansas.

This was an opportunity to emphasize and embrace the rich, vibrant and often underappreciated history of both Kansas Cities. The final list, which can be expanded, exposes the hidden history within our own communities and to everyone outside of Metropolitan Kansas City. Read, learn and explore from this wonderful compilation of books.

The Greater Kansas City Black History Study Group is a branch of the **Association for the Study of African American Life and History** (ASALH), founded by Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson in 1915. The branch meets once a month, September through June, at a location to be named. July and August are vacation months.

We have partnered with the **Black Archives of Mid-America, William Jewell College, The Museum of Kansas City,** the **UMKC SPARK Flossie Pack Center of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion,** the **Black Ancestors Awareness Campaign (BAAC)** of Weston, MO**,** the **World War I Museum & Memorial,** the **Plaza Community Christian Church**, the **Kansas University Medical Center Office of Impact & Belonging,** the **Missouri Humanities,** and the **Clay County African American Legacy, Inc.,** & the **Garrison School Cultural Center** in Liberty, MO**,** for annual events.

We welcome new members, young and old. Come and learn more about Black Life, History and Culture.

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If a race has no history, if it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world, and it stands in danger of being exterminated. - Carter G. Woodson

1865 - Kansas City Early Negro History by Elvis "Sonny" Gibson.

Numerous articles and photographs of early Black history in Kansas City. Entertainers, politicians and businessmen who built the 18th and Vine (East of Troost) commercial district. An abundant of materials from private collections and public sources.

A City Divided: The Racial Landscape of Kansas City, 1990-1960 by Sherry Lamb Schirmer.

A City Divided traces the development of white Kansas Citians' perceptions of race and examines the ways in which those perceptions shaped both the physical landscape of the city and the way Kansas City was policed and governed. Because of rapid changes in land use and difficulties in suppressing crime and vice in Kansas City, the control of urban spaces became an acute concern, particularly for the white middle class, before race became a problematic issue in Kansas City.

A History of Black Education in Kansas City, Kansas 'Readin 'Riting 'Rithmetic by William W. Boone.

This publication is an historical account of Black education in KCK from the late 1800's to 1986. The publication also contains some "Profiles of Personalities" as seen through the eyes of the author. For several decades, Mr. Boone was a school administrator for District 500 in Kansas City, Kansas.

A Search For Equal Justice by African American Lawyers, A History of the National Bar Association by Elmer C. Jackson Jr. Esquire and Jacob U. Gordon.

The Elmer C. Jackson. Papers at Kansas University date from 1896 to 1999. Jackson was a life member of the National Bar Association and served as the organization's President from 1959 to 1961 and as its membership secretary from 1966-1975. He was also a member of numerous other legal organizations, including the Kansas City, Kansas Bar Association, the Wyandotte County Bar Association, and the American Bar Foundation. Jackson remained highly active with his alma mater, serving on the University of Kansas Alumni and Endowment Associations boards and creating a scholarship at the KU Law School. For his service to the University, he received a Distinguished Alumni Citation from the School of Law, a Distinguished Service Citation in 1979, and the 1991 Fred Ellsworth Medallion. Jackson was active in a number of other organizations, including the Urban League, Kansas City Kansas Chamber of Commerce, and Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity.

A Teacher's Cry: Expose the Truth About Education Today (2004) by Lewis Diuguid

The book is an examination of education from the inside. It is rooted in a four-year project in which I returned to high school and wrote about 100 columns published in The Kansas City Star from studying with the Class of 1999 at Washington High School in Kansas City, Kan. A teacher's cry for attention to what takes place in an urban school led to the project. This book would appeal to educators, teachers colleges, parents, businesses and community groups. The book is broken into teachable moments pulled from the columns. The manuscript insists that community involvement in the schools and in the classrooms is how education can best be improved. Journalists and schools of journalism also would benefit from the book because it teaches a different way of covering education. The book attacks the No Child Left Behind Act and underscores how public education must be the No. 1 concern in this election year. Platitudes are not enough.

A Time to Die: 40 Years of Remembering Those Who Are No More by Maye W. Clowers.

This book is a compilation of selected condolences that were written and delivered at memorial services at First Baptist Church, 5th and Nebraska Kansas City, KS, the oldest Baptist Church in Kansas City, KS, 1859, over a twenty-five year period. This book covered a 40-year period, 1945-1984.

The Afro-American Community in Kansas City, Kansas by Susan D. Greenbaum.

Typescript for Greenbaum's 1980 study of early African American history in Kansas City, Kansas. The first recorded resident of African descent in the area that is now known as Kansas City, Kansas was a woman named Dorcas, who was brought here by William Walker Jr. in 1847 to the Wyandot settlement at the mouth of the Kaw (Kansas River). Following emancipation, ex-slaves came to Wyandotte County to settle. At the end of the Civil War many African American veterans returned to this area. In 1879 an Exodus of African Americans from the South to the Kansas City, Kansas area began. Over a year and a half period nearly 40,000 persons made the journey into Kansas. Some travelled through Kansas City on their way to other areas of the state and others settled in Kansas City, Kansas.

Aging For All Seasons-Why Look Old? "Life Begins at 80" by Maye Clowers.

The purpose of this book is to give insight and information and to introduce its readers to a group of special senior citizens whose ages range from 80 to 111. Some people included in this book are H.W. Sewing, Rev. I.H. Henderson Sr., Orrin M. Murray, Rev. James Newman, Laura Walsh.

An Extraordinary Man: Homer B. Roberts, the First African-American Car Dealer by B.S. Rusty Restuccia with Sonny Gibson and Geri Sanders.

A graduate of Kansas State Agricultural College and veteran of World War I Roberts was the first Black man to attain the rank of lieutenant in the United States Army Signal Corps. He began his auto business by placing ads in the local paper advertising used cars. By the end of 1919, Roberts had negotiated over 60 car sales exclusively for African American buyers. He hired two salesmen to work his lot, offered auto insurance and payment terms to customers, and later founded Roberts Motors, the first African American owned car dealership in the United States.

Band Pageantry: A Guide to the Marching Band by William P. Foster

Band Pageantry is an elaborate and spectacular performance, executed by a marching band, and designed for the entertainment of the public pre-game, half-time and post-game periods of football games. This book attempts to establish a guide through which the educational and cultural values in band pageantry may be realized. The reader possesses a working familiarity with the organization of the marching band, together with the knowledge of participation skills. Dr. Foster is a 1937 graduate of Sumner High School, and a 1941 graduate of Kansas University is considered America's Bandmaster.

Baseball's First Colored World Series: The 1924 Meeting of the Hilldale Giants & the Kansas City Monarchs by Larry Lester.

This heavily illustrated volume provides a comprehensive account of the first championship series played between teams from two all-Black professional leagues. It provides commentary, records, and full statistics for each club's regular season performance, along with biographical profiles of the players. It was arguably the most dramatic Series ever played, as each team reeled off three wins in a row, four games were decided by a single run, and five were won in the final inning.

Bird Lives! The High Life & Hard Times of Charlie "Yardbird" Parker by Ross Russell.

This work on Charlie Bird Parker offers a picture of not only of the saxophonist-composer as an artist and as a human being, but also of zeitgeist and the musical/social setting that produced him. It shows his complex personality; his great appetites; the extent of his influence; and his work.

Bird's Diary: The Life of Charlie Parker, 1945-55 by Ken Vail.

A scrap book of Bird's adult life, complete with articles, photos, and discography of his live and studio dates. This book is a treasure trove of information, and a must have for any Charlie Parker devotees.

Black Baseball in Kansas City by Larry Lester.

Some say that Kansas City has the best black baseball, blues, and "Q" in the nation. It has been called the heart of America, a cultural melting pot, and the breadbasket of the Midwest. It was also home to the famous Kansas City Monarchs. Black baseball began in Kansas City with the Maroons in 1890 and the original Royals. However, it wasn't until 1921, when the Black Kansas City Monarchs triumphed over the white Kansas City Blues, that Black players started receiving national attention. The Monarchs produced several championship teams and major league players and became black baseball's longest running and most stable franchise. With more than 180 photographs.

Born A Slave: Rediscovering Arthur Jackson's African American Heritage by David W. Jackson.

Arthur Jackson, a slave born in 1856 in Kanawha County, Virginia, was nine years old when he and his family were emancipated in Franklin County, Missouri. He took the surname of his master, Richard Ludlow Jackson Sr., within whose household he was born and lived intermittently until adulthood. Eventually Arthur met Ida May Anderson, a white woman, and they raised a family together. Their six children passed for white and Arthur's African American heritage became a family secret and was eventually forgotten. During the following century, five generations of Arthur and Ida's descendants lived as white Americans. Thirty years of genealogical research by one of their great-great-grandsons, the author, revealed the secret that Arthur was born a slave, that he and Ida were a biracial couple, and that their children were of mixed racial heritage. Author Jackson is a member of M.A.G.I.C., the Midwest Afro-American Genealogy Interest Coalition.

Breaking Through: John B. McLendon, Basketball Legend & Civil Rights Pioneer
by Milton S. Katz.

A graduate student from Sumner High School, and the Sumner Division (Colored) of Kansas City, Kansas, Junior College. Blacks will not allowed to attend KCK Junior College until 1951. As a graduate of Kansas University, John B. McLendon was the last living protégé of basketball's inventor, Dr. James Naismith, and one of the "top ten basketball coaches of the century" in Billy Packer's opinion. McLendon's amazing records in college and pro basketball earned him a spot in the Basketball Hall of Fame (the first Black coach to be inducted), and his coaching philosophy has had a huge influence on basketball coaches. McLendon became the first African American coach in professional basketball when in coached the Cleveland Pipers in 1961 of the ABL. Breaking Through is also a powerful and inspirational story about segregation and a champion's struggle for equality in 1940s and 50s America.

Case for Pardon: The Pete O'Neal Story by Steve Penn.

Felix Lindsey Pete O'Neal rose up to lead the Kansas City Chapter of the Black Panther Party from 1969 until his arrest by federal authorities in 1970. Following a controversial gun trial in 1970, O'Neal and his wife Charlotte fled the country. The couple would surface in Tanzania, a country in East Africa without an extradition treaty with the United States.

This is where the story might end. But this is where the second act of their amazing lives began. In 1991, O'Neal founded the United African Alliance Community Center, a nonprofit center that operates as a day school, where Tanzanians can learn everything from English to computer skills. Penn is a former award-winning columnist for the *Kansas City Star*, where he worked for 31 years.

Changing the Tune : The Kansas City Women's Jazz Festival, 1978-1985 by Carolyn Glenn Brewer.

With the support of jazz luminaries Marian McPartland and Leonard Feather, inaugural performances by Betty Carter, Mary Lou Williams, an unprecedented All-Star band of women, Toshiko Akiyoshi's band, plus dozens of Kansas City musicians and volunteers, a casual conversation between two friends evolved into the annual Kansas City Women's Jazz Festival (WJF).

The Closed Chapter, An African American Educator's Memoir by Dr. Betty Hopkins Mason.

Betty Hopkins Mason taught school at Sumner High School and was also a secretary at Douglass State Bank.

Discovering the Real America: Toward a More Perfect Union (2007) by Lewis Diuguid

Discovering the Real America examines the often overlooked history of white privilege, racism and discrimination in the United States. The text explains how the media have played a big part in maintaining the status quo. The book offers solutions to overcoming the obstacles of bigotry so that people can finally discover that the richness in the real America is in the long-overlooked diversity of this nation's multiethnic, multiracial, multicultural, multinational, multitalented people.

Educational Crisis by Arieta Mobiley.

This book contains a history of education, some of the thinking in education, the philosophies, administration and personnel functions, advances in education, some of the problems facing education and recommendations and ideas for change. (Published on 1985)

The Epoch of Negro Baptist and The Foreign Mission Board National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc. by Edward A. Freeman

Rev. E.A. Freeman was the Pastor of First Baptist Church, 5th and Nebraska Avenue, Kansas City, KS. Rev. Freeman states "My task in this dissertation is, first to trace the history of Negro Baptist and the achievement of the Foreign Mission Board of the National Baptist Convention of America, Incorporated, second to depict its work and accomplishments from the beginning of the organization to the present time, thirdly, to show methods of administration, the source of support and to call to attention to the outstanding personalities who have existed upon it such powerful influences. Published 1953.

The Evolution of Africans in North America: The Three Phases of Permanent Perpetual Slavery by Archie J. Williams.

The Kansas City resident uses history from a quasi-clinical perspective. Although this book is not intended as a purely scientifically qualified approach it nevertheless uses elements by observing patterns of events shaping socio-environmental conditions impacting on a targeted group. Breaking the evolutional changes into "phases" should help to structure a view of the symptoms presented at this point in time. This analysis using the three phrases of perpetual slavery will bring some understanding of the present day functioning of the identified group, African Americans, and will assist with predicting what path for treatment would most impact the greatest healing.

Food Lovers' Guide to Kansas City: Best Local Specialties, Markets, Recipes, Restaurants, and Events by Sylvie Hogg Murphy.

The ultimate guide to Kansas City's food scene provides the inside scoop on the best places to find, enjoy, and celebrate local culinary offerings. Written for residents and visitors alike to find producers and purveyors of

tasty local specialties, as well as a rich array of other, indispensable food-related information including: food festivals and culinary events; specialty food shops; farmers' markets and farm stands; trendy restaurants and time-tested iconic landmarks; and recipes using local ingredients and traditions.

Forty Cords of Wood by Dr. J. Edward Perry.

A graduate of Bishop College and Meharry Medical College Perry arrived in Kansas City, MO, and opened the Perry Sanitarium. He saw the need for a much larger and more effective institution. He was also the motivating force in the establishment of Wheatley-Providence Hospital. There he developed an institution known as Municipal Hospital No. 2 which he devoted 31 years as a member and Chief of surgical service in teaching interns and nurses. This book has pictures and history of physicians around the country and information about the formation of Paseo YMCA. It is one of the finest books about Kansas City history. Perry was also one of the driving forces in the establishment of the Paseo YMCA.

Goin' to Kansas City: Musicians in the Midwest by Nathan W. Pearson Jr.

The great bands of the Kansas City era drew on many styles to create a distinctive music that was among the finest expressions of swing and laid groundwork for modern jazz. Interviews and narrative combine in this intimate view of the development of an American music center from the mid-1920s through the late 1930s.

The Green Book by Victor H. Green with Elmer Jackson of Kansas City.

In the segregated US of the mid-twentieth century, African American travelers could have a hard time finding towns where they were legally allowed to stay at night and hotels, restaurants, and service stations willing to serve them. In 1936, Victor Hugo Green published the first annual volume of The Negro Motorist Green-Book, later renamed The Negro Travelers' Green Book. Each editions bring you all the listings, articles, and advertisements aimed at the Black travelers trying to find their way across a country where they were so rarely welcome.

Henry Warren Sewing: Founder of the Douglass State Bank by Henry Warren Sewing.

The remarkable story of a Black boy born in the depths of poverty, who rose to establish the first bank owned and operated by Black people in the Midwest. An illustrated autobiography published in 1971.

History of Central Association of Colored Women by Mrs. Joe Brown (Copyright 1940).

Mrs. Brown became associated with this organization in 1902 and became affiliated with the Women's Club Movement in Iowa and began to make a study of the achievements of the "members of my race" especially those of our women, concerning whom very little had been published prior to this time. This organization was affiliated with the National Association of Colored Women. Women from both Kansas and Missouri were affiliated with this group. There is a picture of the "Big Sisters" home in Kansas City, Mo. in the book

Home Away from Home: The Story of an international Student's Journey from African to America by Chiluba J. Musonda

In this personal but fascinating memoir, Chiluba Musonda chronicles his life coming to America to pursue a college education at the University of Missouri—Kansas City. Imagine being delayed because there wasn't enough fuel at the Zambian airport to make the flight, so the plane had to land in the next country to fully fuel. Imagine coming from a tropical country and arriving just in time for a snowstorm—something read about but never experienced, especially in a t-shirt. These are typical stories scattered throughout this book. Chiluba also explains how he mastered the American scholarship and grant systems.

How to Wear Colors With Emphasis on Dark Skins

by Charleszine Wood Spears (Copyrighted in 1937, 1946, 1959, 1965).

The author states "This small volume is the result of many years of study and experimentation with proper color combinations for dark skins. It is better that the material presented will simplify the selection of colors which will harmonize with the complexion and personality."

Ms. Spears lived in Kansas City, Kansas, from Livingstone College in Salisbury, N.C., where she head of the Home Economics Department at. Her husband, Mack C. Spears was a teacher at Sumner High School. They had four sons that all excelled in their respective careers. Their Oldest son, Mack Jr. (Malik Yaqub) has been called the Charlie Parker of Spain, where he resided. The youngest Dr. Arthur Spears is an honors graduate of KU and is an Anthropologist. All of their sons were graduates of Sumner High School. After Mr. Spears's death, she married Rutherford Edwards.

I Was Right on Time: My Journey from the Negro Leagues to the Majors

by Buck O'Neil and David Conrads.

From Babe Ruth to Bo Jackson, from Cool Papa Bell to Lou Brock, Buck O'Neil has seen it all. As a first baseman and then manager of the legendary Kansas City Monarchs, O'Neil witnessed the heyday of the Negro leagues and their ultimate demise. In I Was Right on Time, he charmingly recalls his days as a ballplayer and as an African American in a racially divided country. Whether he's telling of his barnstorming days with the likes of Satchel Paige and Josh Gibson or the day in 1962 when he became the first African American coach in the major leagues, O'Neil takes us on a trip not only through baseball's past but through America's as well.

It All Begins With Self by Delano Lewis.

Delano Lewis, a native Kansan, was a family man, a pioneer, a trailblazer, a public servant, a businessman, and a diplomat. His message is clear that with a strong family foundation, solid education and training, hard work, perseverance, committed mentors and supporters, you, too, can be successful. It starts with self. Ambassador Lewis delivers a concise message in It All Begins with Self, proving once again that you don't have to be lengthy to be effective.

Ambassador Delano Lewis was a 1956 graduate of Sumner High School. It is often stated in articles that are written about him, that he was a resident of Arkansas City, KS. He was born there but his family moved to KCK when he was two years old. He attended Douglass Elementary School, Northeast Junior and Sumner High School.

Jackson County Pioneers by Pearl Wilcox

An 1804 entry in the journal of General William Clark concerning Fort Point (later Fort Osage) introduces the reader to a parade of people and events which shaped the present Jackson County. Little known stories of famous-and infamous-characters of the Civil War period as well as the pioneers who settled the towns, promoted industry, and courted culture make this an entertaining, highly readable book. This volume of local history provides bits and pieces of the ancestors now hidden for the most part in library files and old newspapers. The treasure of hidden historical sites are revealed.

Jazz Style in Kansas City and the Southwest by Ross Russell.

From the twenties through the forties, Kansas City was the jazz city. Lester Young, Count Basie, Ben Webster, Charlie Christian, Mary Lou Williams, and Charlie Parker are just a few of the jazz luminaries discussed in Jazz Style in Kansas City and the Southwest, the essential account of the evolution of the Kansas City style from its ragtime roots to the birth of bebop.

Kansas City . . . And All That's Jazz by Leonard Brown and the Kansas City Jazz Museum.

The Kansas City Jazz Museum (now the American Jazz Museum) traces the evolution of jazz music in America, from the early 1920s to the present day, focusing on the contributions of such Kansas City-based musicians as Count Basie, Charlie Parker, Lester Young, and other jazz greats.

The Kansas City Barbeque Society Cookbook by Ardie A. Davis, Chef Paul Kirk, Carolyn Wells.

In the words of the Kansas City Barbeque Society, barbeque is not just for breakfast anymore. This striking, full color, 25th anniversary tribute to the world's largest and most respected barbeque organization features more than 200 recipes from members of the Kansas City Barbeque Society, whose appeal and following is worldwide.

Kansas City Jazz: From Ragtime to Bebop - A History by Frank Driggs and Chuck Haddix.

There were four major galaxies in the early jazz universe, and three of them--New Orleans, Chicago, and New York--have been well documented in print. But there has never been a serious history of the fourth, Kansas City, until now. In this colorful history, Frank Driggs and Chuck Haddix capture the golden age of Kansas City jazz and bring us a colorful portrait of old Kaycee itself, back then a neon riot of bars and taxi dance halls, all ruled over by Boss Tom Pendergast, who had transformed a dusty Cowtown into the Paris of the Plains.

Kansas City Lightning: The Rise and Times of Charlie Parker by Stanley Crouch.

Drawing on interviews with peers, collaborators, and family members, Kansas City Lightning recreates Parker's Depression-era childhood; his early days navigating the Kansas City nightlife, inspired by lions like Lester Young and Count Basie; and on to New York, where he began to transcend the music, he had mastered.

The Kansas City Monarchs: Champions of Black Baseball by Janet Bruce.

Charter members of the Negro National League, a stepping stone for Jackie Robinson, a home base for Satchel Paige, and training ground for more than 20 Blacks sent to the major leagues, the Kansas City Monarchs survived the entire thirty-five-year span of Black baseball (from 1920 to mid-1950) and were widely regarded as the dominant Black professional team, "the New York Yankees of the Negro leagues." Rich in anecdote and illustrated with more than ninety photographs of Monarchs players and scenes, this book is both a tribute to and a celebration of the top all-Black team of all time.

Kansas City Women of Independent Minds by Jane Fifield Flynn.

A very difficult book to find. It has more than 90 profiles on women (including many African Americans) that helped shape Kansas City history. No more than two written pages and a photo of each woman . . . concise and to the point.

Kansas City: Black America Series by Dr. Delia C. Gillis.

Men and women like Tom Bass, Emily Fisher, Sam Shepherd, and Hiram Young built the region in slavery and in freedom. Musicians such as Julie Lee, Bennie Moten, Joe Turner, and Count Basie turned Kansas City into a jazz Mecca in the 1920s and '30s. The professional class made their voice heard with the establishment of the Kansas City Monarchs baseball team, the Kansas City Call newspaper, and election of the city's first Black mayor, Emanuel Cleaver. With over 200 vintage images, Kansas City recreates this beautiful mosaic of African American community.

Kansas City: Mecca of the New Negro by Elvis "Sonny" Gibson.

Lifelong resident of Kansas City Missouri, Mr. Sonny Gibson, authors this self-published book about the history of the Jazz Era of Kansas city. A chronicle of art expressions, newspapers, posters, print advertisements, commentaries, social announcements, and Jazz billings that offer first-hand accounts of by-gone events of the period beginning in the early 1900's. You will find a variety of chronicled articles and pictorials, as a fruitful field of study of the early Negro of Kansas City, Missouri!

Last Call by Steve Penn.

"Last Call" chronicles the lives of roughly 20 area musicians ranging from the late bassist Milt Abel to the late saxophonist Horace Washington. Other musicians in the book include the late Bennie Moten, Oliver Todd and Claude "Fiddler" Williams. The book also features historical photographs of each musician. The foreword is written by Congressman Emanuel Cleaver and includes a message from the American Jazz Museum. Penn is a graduate of Sumner High School and Benedictine College. He is the co-founder of the Coda Jazz Fund, a fund that helps to pay the funeral and burial expenses of needy Kansas City jazz musicians. Since 2002, the Coda Jazz Fund has paid for over 30 funerals and burials of area jazz musicians.

The Life and Music of Charlie Parker by Chuck Haddix.

While other books about Parker have focused primarily on his music and recordings, this portrait reveals the troubled man behind the music, illustrating how his addictions and struggles with mental health affected his life and career. He was alternatively generous and miserly; a loving husband and father at home but an incorrigible philanderer on the road; and a chronic addict who lectured younger musicians about the dangers of drugs. Above all he was a musician, who overcame humiliation, disappointment, and a life-threatening car wreck to take wing as Bird, a brilliant improviser and composer. Haddix is the host of KCUR 89.3's long-running Fish Fry.

The Life of A Black Salesman-From Selling Newspapers to Serving as A Chairman of a Board by Robert P. Lyons.

An autobiography that is an adventure in capitalism with a special distinction. Lyons's struggle was made more difficult because he was Black . Born in Kansas City, MO, Lyons was an honors graduate from the all-Black Lincoln High School in 1931. He attended University of Kansas and placed on the Deans honor roll in 1932.

Lucile H. Bluford and the Kansas City Call: Activist Voice for Social Justice by Clint C. Wilson II and Sheila Dean Brooks.

This book traces the beginnings of Bluford activism as a young reporter seeking admission to the graduate program in journalism at the University of Missouri and how her admissions rejection became the catalyst for her seven-decade career as a champion of racial and gender equality.

The Mafia and the Machine: The Story of the Kansas City Mob by Frank Hayde.

The story of the American Mafia is not complete without a chapter on Kansas City. The City of Fountains has appeared in The Godfather, Casino, and The Sopranos, but many Midwesterners are not aware that Kansas City has affected the fortunes of the entire underworld. In The Mafia and the Machine, author Frank Hayde ties in every major name in organized crime-Luciano, Bugsy, Lansky-as well as the city's corrupt police force.

Mamie Who? The Life and Times of a Colored Woman by Mamie Currie Hughes.

Mamie Currie Hughes' Jacksonville, Florida, birth certificate carried the label "colored." After all, she was born in the late 1920s. Despite spending a lifetime advocating for Civil Rights, women's empowerment and ethnic equality, this octogenarian dismisses any attempt to assume a "politically correct" label like African American. She is adamant about a lot of things, especially equality and justice, and is revered as a model for social activism in her adopted city of Kansas City, where she came as a bride with her attorney husband. A member of the Bruce Watkins Culture & Heritage Center's Hall of Fame has a bridge is named in her honor, along highway 71.

The Man Behind the Baton by William P. Foster

The Man Behind the Baton provides an in-depth look at the life and times of the Maestro, the Law and the Legend. Dr. William Patrick Foster, a 1937 graduate of Sumner High School and a 1941 graduate of Kansas University is considered America's Bandmaster. Foster overcame adversity, a man who worked exceptionally hard, a man who created a legacy. Dr. Foster's ties to Florida A&M University (FAMU) and the world he lived in are forever present because his commitment to excellence in making the world-renowned FAMU Marching "100" Band a sound to remember.

Missouri's Black Heritage by Gary R. Kremer and Antonio F. Holland.

Originally written in 1980 by the late Lorenzo J. Greene, Gary R. Kremer, and Antonio F. Holland, Missouri's Black Heritage remains the only book-length account of the rich and inspiring history of the state's African American population. It has now been revised and updated by Kremer and Holland, incorporating the latest scholarship into its pages. This edition describes in detail the struggles faced by many courageous African Americans in their efforts to achieve full civil and political rights against the greatest of odds.

The Monarchs of 1920-1938 Featuring Wilber "Bullet" Rogan by Phil S. Dixon.

A history of the earlier years of Kansas City's Negro League baseball team with an emphasis on Rogan who, author Dixon contends, is "The Greatest Ballplayer" in Cooperstown. Rogan was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in 1998.

More Than A Doctor: The Extraordinary Life of Samuel Ulysses Rogers by Rosalyn Rodgers Moore.

More Than a Doctor shares the inspirational story of the Rodgers Family and explores the value essential to leadership: care, courage and perseverance – as exhibited through their lifetime examples of dedication. Dr. Samuel Rodgers – an outstanding example – made it clear from the beginning that he cared about people who needed care regardless of their ability to pay. He cared enough and was driven to do what was necessary to make medical care affordable and accessible for many in underserved communities.

My Grandfather's Words—A Century Later by Dorothy R. McField.

This collection is a biographical statement expressed in poetry from the heart of a Black man, making his mark at the end of the 19th Century. It reveals how cyclic so much of life really is.

My Wonderful Year by Zatella R. Turner

Turner is a 1927 of Sumner High School and a 1931 graduate of Kansas University, Phi Beta Kappa. (Copyright in 1939). Experience in traveling in Europe after graduating from KU. She became one of the best

authorities on Shakespeare in the U.S.A. The auditorium at Virginia Union University, where she taught for a number of years, is named in her honor. She was able to travel abroad because she was a recipient of the fourth Alpha Kappa Alpha Foreign Fellowship.

Of Men And of Arms-Chronological Travel Record Of Bishop John A. Gregg: With Messages of Cheer and Good Will To Negro Soldiers On All War Fronts During WWII by Special Appointment of President Franklin D. Roosevelt by Bishop R.R. Wright Jr.

John Andrew Gregg was born 18 February 1877 at Eureka, Kansas to Alexander and Eliza Frances (Allen) Gregg. He served in the Army's 23rd Kansas Volunteers during the Spanish-American War, rising to the position of second lieutenant. After receiving his A.B. from the University of Kansas in 1902, Gregg taught in Oskaloosa, Kansas and in 1903 was ordained a minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. From 1903-1906, Gregg served as a missionary in Cape Town, South Africa, after which he returned to the United States where he ministered in Leavenworth, Kansas and in St. Joseph, Missouri. He was president of Edward Waters College, Jacksonville, Florida, from 1913-1920 and was president of Wilberforce University, Wilberforce, Ohio, from 1920-1924. In 1924, Gregg was elected a Bishop of the AME church and was assigned to the 17th Episcopal District in South Africa. Over the next several decades, he also served in the 5th and 4th Episcopal Districts. In 1926, Gregg was elected the first African American president of Howard University but declined the position.

Open City: True Story of the KC Crime Family 1900-1950 by William N. Ouseley.

Open City is the true historical account of the birth and growth of the Kansas City organized "Crime Family" during the first 50 years of the 20th Century resulting in a reputation as a city dominated by political corruption and a powerful crime syndicate.

Our Fathers Making Black Men (2017) by Lewis W. Diuguid.

Many people don't understand why Black lives must matter and why the racial divide seems to be taking the country back 50 years. Like the mythical Sankofa bird, the answer to what's missing now lies in what existed before. *Our Fathers: Making Black Men* focuses on one block of St. Louis in the mid-20th century, where African American businessmen living the American Dream also created a sense of community for boys in that neighborhood. Lincoln I. Diuguid, a PhD graduate of Cornell University in chemistry, anchored the block with Du-Good Chemical Laboratories & Manufacturers. *Our Fathers* should be required reading for people who want to reverse the despair, improve public education, blow up the school-to-prison pipeline and end hopelessness in America's cities.

The Quest for Citizenship: African American and Native American Education in Kansas, 1880-1835 by Kim Cary Warren.

In this book, Warren examines the formation of African American and Native American citizenship, belonging, and identity in the United States by comparing educational experiences in Kansas between 1880 and 1935. Warren focuses her study on Kansas, thought by many to be the quintessential free state, not only because it was home to sizable populations of Indian groups and former slaves, but also because of its unique history of conflict over freedom during the antebellum period.

Race and Meaning: The African American Experience in Missouri by Gary R. Kremer

No one has written more about the African American experience in Missouri over the past four decades than Gary Kremer. Here are 14 of his best articles on the subject. By placing the articles in chronological order of historical events rather than by publication date, Kremer combines them into one detailed account that

addresses issues such as the transition from slavery to freedom for African Americans in Missouri, all-Black rural communities and the lives of African Americans seeking new opportunities in Missouri's cities like Kansas City.

Race, Real Estate, and Uneven Development: The Kansas City Experience, 1900-2000 by Kevin Fox Gotham.

Using the Kansas City metropolitan area as a case study, Gotham provides both quantitative and qualitative documentation of the role of the real estate industry and the Federal Housing Administration, demonstrating how these institutions have promulgated racial residential segregation and uneven development. Gotham challenges contemporary explanations while providing fresh insights into the racialization of metropolitan space, the interlocking dimensions of class and race in metropolitan development, and the importance of analyzing housing as a system of social stratification.

Racism in Kansas City: A Short History by G. S. Griffin with foreword by Alvin Brooks.

Threaded throughout Racism in Kansas City are stories of those who fought ardently against racist policies...and won. *Racism in Kansas City*, in the end, offers readers a hopeful message: with awareness comes understanding, then a willingness to push for positive social change.

Ruby by Cynthia Bond.

A *New York Times* bestseller and Oprah Book Club 2.0 selection, the epic, unforgettable story of a man determined to protect the woman he loves from the town desperate to destroy her. This beautiful and devastating debut heralds the arrival of a major new voice in fiction. Utterly transfixing, with unforgettable characters, riveting suspense, and breathtaking, luminous prose, Ruby offers an unflinching portrait of man's dark acts and the promise of the redemptive power of love.

Searching for Sarah Rector: The Richest Black Girl in America by Tonya Bolden

Sarah Rector was once famously hailed as "the richest Black girl in America." Set against the backdrop of American history, her tale encompasses the creation of Indian Territory, the making of Oklahoma, and the establishment of Black towns and oil-rich boomtowns.

Rector was already a millionaire by the time she had turned 18. She owned stocks and bonds, a boarding house, a bakery and restaurant in Muskogee, Oklahoma, as well as 2,000 acres of prime river bottomland. She left Muskogee with her entire family and moved to Kansas City, Missouri. She purchased a house on 12th Street and Euclid, that is still there (boarded) and known today as the Rector Mansion.

Soaring on the Wings of a Dream: The Struggles & Adventures of the "First Black Astronaut" Candidate by Eddie Dwight.

This riveting memoir chronicles Dwight's early life in an impoverished family scratching out an existence in Depression-era Kansas City, Kansas, to his reach for the stars as a contender for NASA's fledgling space program.

Some of My Best Friends are Black by Tanner Colby

Frank, funny, and incisive, *Some of My Best Friends Are Black* delivers a profoundly honest portrait of race in Kansas City, Birmingham, and two other cities. Tanner Colby unveils the astonishing prevalence of racially restrictive housing covenants that shaped Kansas City, while also examining the shortcomings of court-ordered busing, affirmative action, and other well-intentioned programs. Blending reportage, history, and social commentary, Colby explores why the civil rights movement yielded so little true integration in the places where social change was most needed—schools, neighborhoods, workplaces, and churches. With charm and humor,

he highlights both the progress made in bridging the racial divide and the entrenched barriers that remain, famously dubbing Troost Avenue the “Berlin Wall of Kansas City.” This eye-opening account exposes the devastating impact of racial and ethnic exclusions in the housing market, orchestrated by realtor Bob Woods and developers J.C. Nichols and John A. Kroh Sr., leading to the creation of Kansas City’s so-called "Murder Factory."

The Story of Gumby by Rosalind Gumby Bauchman.

The book offers a historical account of the Gumby ancestors to the year 1680. Probing through historical records, wills, book chapters, early census reports and other documents; the author links her family among the 500 slaves freed by slave-owner Robert Carter III in 1792 Virginia. The manumission released her Gumby family from slavery seventy-one years prior to Abraham Lincoln's freeing of slaves in 1863. Bauchman was a member of M.A.G.I.C., the Midwest Afro-American Genealogy Interest Coalition and the greater Kansas City Black History Study Group.

The Sumner Story: Capturing Our History Preserving Our Legacy: 1905-1978 by Wilma Bonner, Sandra Freelain, Dwight Henderson, Johnnieque Love, Eugene Williams.

For the first three quarters of the twentieth century, in the heart of our nation, there thrived a safe haven which nurtured great aspirations of thousands of African American youths and their families. “The Sumner Story” highlights the history of a segregated high school which became recognized for the stellar academic performance of its students. Highly qualified faculty who believed in the students’ ability to achieve prepared them for a world of competition, hard knocks, compromises and closed doors. The story also denotes and illuminates outstanding career successes of alumni.

Take up the Black Man's Burden: Kansas City's African American Communities, 1865-1939 by Charles E. Coulter.

Unlike many cities farther north, Kansas City, Missouri—along with its sister city in Kansas—had a significant African American population by the mid-nineteenth century and also served as a way station for those migrating north or west. *Take Up the Black Man’s Burden* focuses on the people and institutions that shaped the city’s Black communities from the end of the Civil War until the outbreak of World War II, blending rich historical research with first-person accounts that allow participants in this historical drama to tell their own stories of struggle and accomplishment.

Thin Blue Smoke: A Novel About Music, Food, and Love by Doug Worgul.

This fictional novel is an epic American redemption tale about love and loss, hope and despair, God and whiskey, barbecue and the blues. LaVerne Williams is a ruined ex-big league Kansas City Monarch ballplayer, an ex-felon with an attitude problem, and the owner of a barbecue joint he must run. The joint owner in this book is perhaps Ollie Gates and details how he operates Gates BBQ.

To Heaven Through Hell, an Autobiography of the First Black District Court Judge of Kansas by Cordell D. Meeks.

In 1940 he opened a small law firm out of his own home in Kansas City and continued to practice law for many years. Along with that he was Assistant County Attorney, County Commissioner for nineteen years, Chairman of the county's Board for five years. He was elected to Board of Directors of the National Association of Counties in 1969 and 1970. . He was the Vice President and Director of Douglas State Bank, was twice elected as delegate to the Democratic National Convention, and was Trustee of AME Church. He was also the director

of the Regional Health and Welfare Council, and he helped organize low-income housing in Kansas City called Gateway Plaza Homes and Gateway Plaza Homes East. In November 1972 he was elected the first Black District Court Judge in Kansas and served two successive four-year terms. Meeks published his autobiography in 1986 five years after his retirement in 1980.

Tom Bass: Black Horseman by Bill Downey.

Founder of the American Royal and creator of the famous Bass bit for horses. Born a slave, Tom Bass rose to the summit of what had always been a white man's profession, the training of the America's greatest Saddlebred horses. The Tom Bass Arena, a $1.3 million equine warm-up facility at the complex in Kansas City's West Bottoms is named in his honor.

Up From The Bottoms by LeeRoy Pitts Sr.

Up From the Bottoms refers to the West Bottoms area of KCK where Pitts was raised. He wrote the book for his grandchildren, so they would know their family history, but the book serves as an inspiration to all who read it. His teaching philosophy is, “Our battle is to get our youth to believe in their possibilities and in the worth of trying.”

Your Kansas City and Mine by William Young and Nathan Young Jr.
Privately published in 1950.

This is a cornucopia of Kansas City narrations ranging from features on banks, newspapers, Bishops, colored schools, NAACP, Urban League, Wheatley-Provident Hospital, the Elk's Lodge, lawyers, dentists and doctors, baseball, masons, churches, social organizations, with lots of rare photographs. I must for any library and a required tool to research Kansas City history.

Several books on local genealogy with emphasis on researching the roots of African Americans can be found the **Midwest Afro-American Genealogical Interest Coalition (M.A.G.I.C.'s)** website.

http://www.magickc.org/store/c1/Featured_Products.html

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