

GATHERING THE RED RECORD: LINKING RACIAL VIOLENCE ARCHIVES

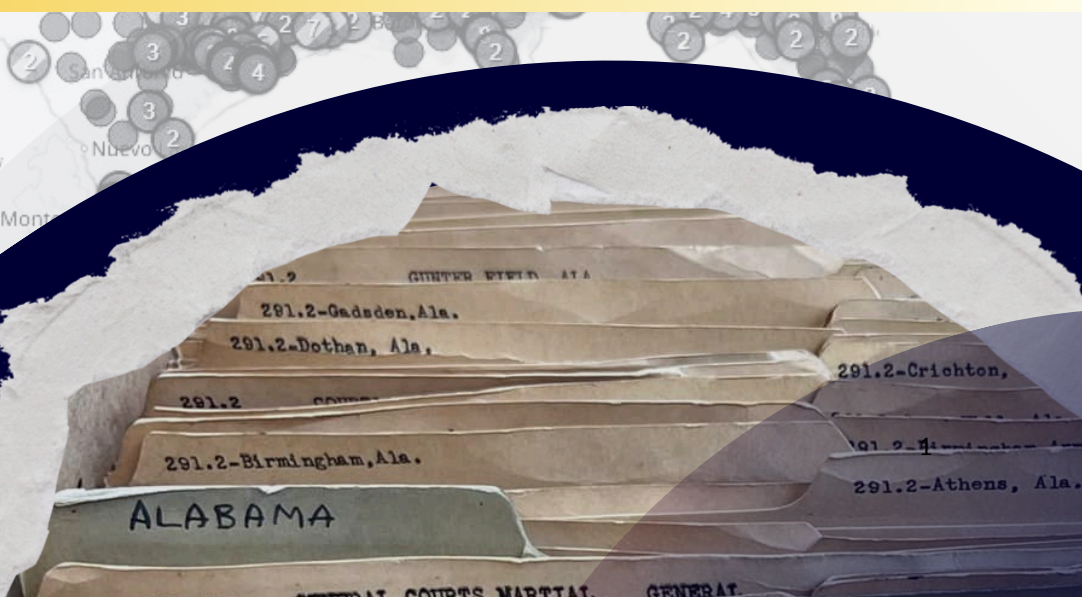
**July 24-25, 2025 | Snell Library
Northeastern University,
Boston, MA**

Presented by:



N Northeastern Law
Civil Rights and
Restorative Justice Project

N Northeastern University
Library



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☼ Program: Day 1, July 24

All in Room 160, Snell Library

8-9 Breakfast

9:15-9:45 Welcome

Margaret Burnham, Northeastern University
Dan Cohen, Northeastern University
James Hackney, Northeastern University
Patt Gunn, Underground Tours of Savannah

9:50-10:50 BNDA V2.0 Launch

Margaret Burnham, Northeastern University
Jay Driskell, Northeastern University
Melissa Nobles, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Geoff Ward, Washington University in St. Louis

10:55-11:10 BNDA V2.0 Showcase

Joy Zanghi, Northeastern University

11:20-12:20 Teaching With Racial Violence Archives

Moderator: Rose Zoltek-Jick, Northeastern University
Hank Klibanoff, Emory University
Sara Merlo, Northeastern University
Austin Zinkle, University of Kentucky

12:20-1 Lunch

1-2 Keynote: *Giving Voice to Silence: The Archiving of Memory*

Moderator: Margaret Burnham, Northeastern University
Patricia Williams, Northeastern University

2:15-2:45 Screening: *Honoring Hosea*

Lydia Beal, Northeastern University
Jimmie Carter, son of Hosea Carter

2:45-3:45 Our Data in the World

Moderator: Raymond Wilkes, Northeastern University
John Giggie, University of Alabama
Ada Goodly Lampkin, Southern University
Linda Mann, Columbia University

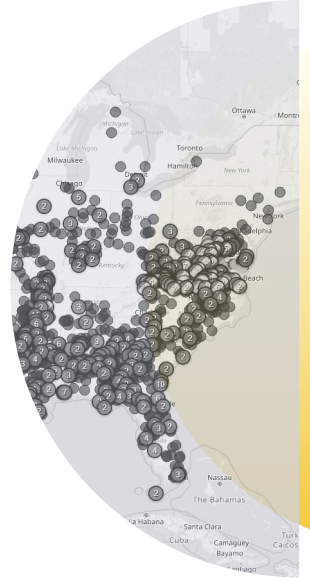
3:45-4:30 Interoperability Findings

Joel Lee, Northeastern University
Giordana Mecagni, Northeastern University
Gina Nortonsmith, Northeastern University

5:30 Reception

☼ Program: Day 2, July 25

All in Room 160, Snell Library, except where noted



8-9 Breakfast

9:30-9:45 Welcome

Deborah A. Jackson, Northeastern University

Patt Gunn, Underground Tours of Savannah

Gina Nortonsmith, Northeastern University

9:45-10:15 Keynote: *The Road to Interoperability*

Monica Martinez, University of Texas

Melissa Nobles, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

10:30-12 Conversations

Group 1: Project Planning and Data Collection. Led by Jay Driskell, Northeastern University, and Isabella Garrison, University of Alabama | Room SL-255, 2nd floor, Snell Library

Group 2: Aligning the Technology. Led by Julia Flanders, Candace Hazlett, Joel Lee, and Caitlin Pollock, all Northeastern University | Room 077, Snell Library

Group 3: Funding, Resources and Integrity. Led by Nikki Brown, University of Kentucky, and David Cunningham, Washington University in St. Louis

Group 4: Federal and State Initiatives on Cold Case Records. Led by Keith Lampkin and Anwen Tormey, Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office, and Hank Klibanoff, Civil Rights Cold Case Records Review Board

12-1 Lunch

1-3 All Hands on Deck: Guided Conversations on a Potential National Project

Led by Giordana Mecagni, Julia Flanders, Northeastern University, and Monica Martinez, University of Texas

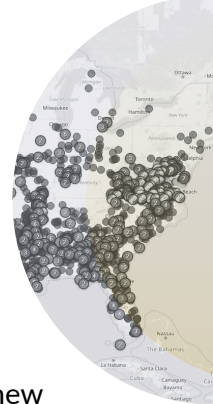
3 Next Steps and Closing Remarks

Gina Nortonsmith, Northeastern University

For a full
guide, scan
the QR code



☼ Sessions: Day 1, July 24



9:50-10:50

BNDA V2.0 Launch

The newest version of the Burnham-Nobles Digital Archive includes 275 new cases, 3,000 new items. This panel will discuss the new additions as well as what this means for the study of racially-motivated violence.

10:55-11:10

BNDA V2.0 Showcase

Joy Zanghi, Project Archivist for CRRJ, will describe the updates, changes, and additions to the Burnham-Nobles Digital Archive.

11:20-12:20

Teaching With Racial Violence Archives

The panel explores how we use materials about racial violence in the classroom. We examine approaches in various disciplines and educational settings, exploring the crossover lessons, topics, and the challenges with teaching difficult histories.

1-2

Keynote: *Giving Voice to Silence: The Archiving of Memory*

Our collections sit within a broader landscape of archival projects and practices that explore how historical experiences have shaped the current cultural and political worlds. How are memories of these events transmitted over time, and what roles do and should archives play in remembrance?

2:15-2:45

Screening *Honoring Hosea*

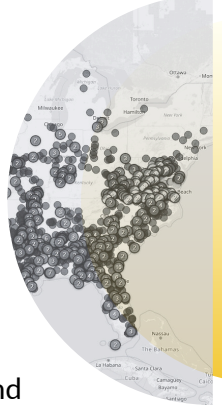
Honoring Hosea is a documentary chronicling the life, murder, and legacy of Hosea “Shant” Carter, a Black World War II veteran lynched in 1948 Marion County, Mississippi.

2:45-3:45

Our Data in the World

This panel explores how the history we unearth supports communities, descendent families, and decision makers as they grapple with the legacy of racial violence and engage in restorative justice.

☼ Sessions: Day 2, July 25



9:45-10:15

Keynote: *The Road to Interoperability*

The White Paper project suggests that there is support for a national database of racially-motivated crimes. In this panel, participants will imagine a future that starts with our data, and moves toward a complete record of well-researched cases that integrates national, state, and city/county data sources. Panelists will discuss how such a resource might affect the national conversation on race, shed light on the forgotten history of these victims and their families, and allow for deep research on patterns and dissimilarities.

10:30-12

Conversations

Group 1: Project Planning and Data Collection

- Finding cases
- Defining geographical and chronological scope
- How our disciplines influence research
- Audience and shaping research strategies
- Sustaining emotional commitment, managing trauma and avoiding burnout

Group 3: Funding, Resources and Integrity

- Planning funding timelines: 1yr, 3yr, 5yr
- Internal and external pressures for research and publications

Group 4: Federal and State Initiatives on Cold Case Records

- Funding
- Preserving completed/in process work

Group 2: Aligning the Technology

- How
 - Design
 - Software
 - Storage
 - Staffing
- Getting your project ready for portal exposure

1-3

All Hands on Deck: Guided Conversations on a Potential National Project

This will be an opportunity for all projects to discuss: feasibility, gaps, sharing and attribution, funding, governance and administration, and ways in which a national project could be used as tool for reparative justice.

Topic 1: Feasibility

Topic 2: Gaps

Topic 3: Sharing/attribution

- MOUs
- Sharing data/forms

Topic 4: Funding

- What will it take
- National funding
- Local project funding

Topic 5: Administration

- Organization
- Hosting and maintenance
- Governing

Topic 6: National Project as Tool for Reparative Justice

Speakers

01 Lydia Beal

Lydia Beal is Research Associate at the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project. They lead the project's work with its descendant communities.

02 Nikki Brown

Nikki Brown is Associate Professor of American and African American history at the University of Kentucky, and the project lead for Documenting Racial Violence in Kentucky. She is the author *Private Politics and Public Voices: Black Women's Activism from World War I to the New Deal*.

03 Margaret Burnham

Margaret Burnham is University Distinguished Professor of Law at Northeastern University, and Director of both the Civil Rights & Restorative Justice Project and the Center for Equity, Race and Law. She is the author of *By Hands Now Known: Jim Crow's Legal Executioners*.

04 Dan Cohen

Dan Cohen is Vice Provost for Information Collaboration, Dean of the Libraries, and Professor of History at Northeastern University.

05 David Cunningham

David Cunningham is Professor and Chair of Sociology at Washington University in St. Louis, and project lead for the Racial Violence Archive. He is the author of *Klansville, U.S.A.: The Rise and Fall of the Civil Rights-Era Ku Klux Klan*.

06 Jay Driskell

Jay Driskell is Staff Historian for the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project. He is the author of *Schooling Jim Crow: The Fight for Atlanta's Booker T. Washington High School and the Roots of Black Protest Politics*.

07 Julia Flanders

Julia Flanders is Professor of the Practice and the Director of the Digital Scholarship Group at Northeastern University. She serves as Editor in Chief of *Digital Humanities Quarterly*.

08 Isabella Garrison

Isabella Garrison is a Ph.D. History student at the University of Alabama, and a project lead for Alabama Memory, an archival and memorialization initiative for lives lost to lynching in Alabama.

09 John Giggie

John Giggie is Associate Professor of History and the Director of the Summersell Center for the Study of the South, at the University of Alabama. He is the Director of Alabama Memory and author of *Bloody Tuesday: The Untold Story of the Struggle for Civil Rights in Tuscaloosa*.

10 Ada Goodly Lampkin

Ada Goodly Lampkin is Director of the Louis A. Berry Institute for Civil Rights and Justice at Southern University Law Center.

Speakers

11 Patt Gunn

Patt Gunn – or Sistah Patt – is an activist, master Gullah Geechee storyteller, and CEO of Underground Tours in Savannah. She guides visitors through the city, sharing its history of enslavement and the legacy of resilience, strength, and freedom.

12 James Hackney

James Hackney is Dean of Northeastern University School of Law.

13 Deborah A. Jackson

Deborah Jackson is Managing Director of the Center for Law, Equity and Race (CLEAR) at Northeastern University. She is a former mayor of Lithonia, GA.

14 Hank Klibanoff

Hank Klibanoff is Professor of the Practice in Emory's Creative Writing Program, and is co-chairperson of the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Review Board. He is the host of podcast *Buried Truths*. He is the author of *The Race Beat: The Press, the Civil Rights Struggle, and the Awakening of a Nation*.

15 Joel Lee

Joel Lee is Data Engineer in the Digital Scholarship Group at Northeastern University Library. He works on data pipelines, visualizations, and machine learning for various digital humanities projects supported by the library.

16 Keith Lampkin

Keith Lampkin is Chief of Operations and External Affairs in the Orleans Parish District Attorneys Office.

17 Linda J. Mann

Linda Mann is Research Scholar at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. She has served as Executive Director for the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project, and Vice President of Research for the Georgetown Memory Project.

18 Monica Martinez

Monica Martinez is Associate Professor of History at the University of Texas at Austin, and the project lead for Mapping Violence. She is the recipient of MacArthur Fellowship and co-founder of Refusing to Forget. She is the author of *The Injustice Never Leaves You: Anti-Mexican Violence in Texas*.

19 Giordana Mecagni

Giordana Mecagni is Head of Special Collections and University Archivist at Northeastern University Library. She has held various positions at Associated Grant Makers in Boston, the Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe/Harvard, and at Harvard Medical School's Center for the History of Medicine.

20 Sara Merlo

Sara Merlo served as Education Consultant for CRRJ in 2024 and 2025, developing curriculum for high school students in North Carolina based on cases and documents contained within the Burnham-Nobles Digital Archive. She is a descendant of a perpetrator whose crimes are detailed in the archive.

Speakers

21 Melissa Nobles

Melissa Nobles is Chancellor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Co-founder of the Burnham-Nobles Digital Archive. She is the author of *The Politics of Official Apologies*.

22 Caitlin Pollock

Caitlin Pollock is Associate Director of the Digital Scholarship Group at Northeastern University Library.

23 Alex Stein

Alex Stein is Staff Attorney and Program Director for the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project. He teaches the Project's Clinic as well as courses on the legacy of police violence.

24 Anwen Tormey

Anwen Tormey is Emmett Till Project Manager in the Civil Rights Division of Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office.

25 Geoff Ward

Geoff Ward is Professor of African and African American Studies in the Department of Sociology and American Culture Studies Program at Washington University in St. Louis. He is director of the WashU & Slavery Project and project lead for the Racial Violence Archive. He is author of *The Black Child-Savers: Racial Democracy and Juvenile Justice*.

26 Raymond Wilkes III

Raymond Wilkes is Senior Staff Attorney at the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project. He was previously a fellow at The Harvard Slavery Remembrance Project.

27 Patricia Williams

Patricia Williams is Northeastern University Distinguished Professor of Law and Humanities, with a joint appointment from the School of Law and the College of Social Sciences and Humanities. Her latest book is *The Miracle of the Black Leg: Notes on Race, Human Bodies and the Spirit of the Law*.

28 Joy Zanghi

Joy Zanghi is Project Archivist for the Burnham-Nobles Digital Archive. She facilitates and manages the ongoing development of updates to the archive.

29 Austin Zinkle

Austin Zinkle is a postdoctoral scholar affiliated with the Commonwealth Institute for Black Studies and the J. David Rosenberg College of Law, co-leading the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice in Kentucky legal clinic, at the University of Kentucky.

30 Rose Zoltek-Jick

Rose Zoltek-Jick is Associate Director of the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project. She has taught at the School of Law for more than 40 years, specializing in criminal law and procedure, evidence, and law and psychiatry. Her academic writing has been in the area of trauma and the statute of limitations.

31 Gina Nortonsmith

Gina Nortonsmith is Archivist for African American History at Northeastern University Library's Archives & Special Collections. She is the former Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project Archivist.



⌘ About the Burnham-Nobles Digital Archive

CRRJ was launched in 2007 by Northeastern University Professor Margaret Burnham. That same year, CRRJ held a conference titled *Crimes of the Civil Rights Era*, an event that brought veterans of the 1960s-era civil rights movement together with scholars, lawyers, and journalists.

After this gathering, MIT Chancellor Melissa Nobles and Margaret Burnham began independently collecting material on cases of anti-Black homicide that were outside of the scope of the Emmett Till Act. As they searched newspapers for contemporary reports on these older cold cases, it became clear that there were hundreds of incidents that had never been investigated.

What started as a rather scattered effort to investigate these incidents and work with the affected families eventually became a well-defined project to collect data on racially motivated killings of Black people in the Jim Crow South, leading, ultimately, to the Burnham-Nobles Digital Archive.

Since 2009, these incidents have been investigated by law students, graduate students in journalism and public history, undergraduates, and other volunteers over the years. About four hundred students have worked on the project.

In 2022, the **Burnham-Nobles Digital Archive** was officially launched. It remains one of the most comprehensive digital records of racial homicides collected to date, and home to more than 1,000 case files.

It is an invaluable resource for examining the extensive scale of killings in the Jim Crow South, from 1930 to 1954, offering users the opportunity to learn how violence affected people's lives, defined legal rights and shaped politics during the Jim Crow era

Above photograph, taken at the BNDA launch in 2022. Left to right: Gina Nortonsmith, BNDA Project Archivist, MIT Chancellor Melissa Nobles, BNDA Co-founder, Professor Margaret Burnham, BNDA Co-founder, Professor Rose Zoltek-Jick, CRRJ Associate Director, and Dr. Deborah A. Jackson, Center for Law, Equity and Race Managing Director

The Burnham-Nobles Digital Archive

The Burnham-Nobles Archive is a digital resource dedicated to identifying, classifying, and providing factual information and documentation about anti-Black killings in the mid-century South.

Search Across the Archive

Search

Photo credit: Danny Lyon, taken September 15, 1963 in the aftermath of the bombing of 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama

BNDA v2.0 Fact Sheet



275

Number of new incidents



435

Number of new perpetrators



14

New states and major cities added



5,000

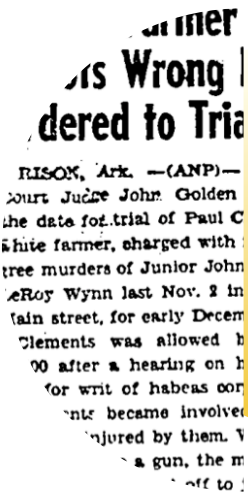
Number of new documents

- Maryland
- Washington DC
- Delaware
- Indiana
- Kentucky
- Missouri
- West Virginia
- Oklahoma

- Cities include:
 - Baltimore
 - Washington D.C
 - Wilmington
 - Delaware
 - St. Louis
 - Kansas City
 - Missouri

- 8,440 news articles catalogued
 - Featuring a new display title format to ease research
- 2,320 Advocacy Group resources catalogued
 - Files from NAACP, CRC, ASWPL
- 853 Federal Agency Records catalogued
 - Includes DOJ and FBI reports that have not been made publicly available before now

Featured cases from v2.0



01 Junior Johnson and Leroy Wynn

On November 2, 1946, Junior Johnson, 12, and Leroy Wynn, 16, were fatally shot on Main Street in Rison, Arkansas, by white farmer, Paul Clements. Following an altercation during the busy Saturday markets, Clements retrieved his gun and opened fire on a group of Black men, killing two and seriously wounding two others. He was arrested and brought before a grand jury, which declined to indict him, claiming they could find no witnesses to the shooting. A circuit court judge ordered Clements held under a \$7,500 bond for investigation by a new grand jury. Available records do not reveal whether Clements was ever tried for the shootings.



02 Wallace McKnight

On June 26, 1938, Wallace McKnight, a 33-year-old night watchman at a local restaurant, was returning home with a bag of groceries taken from his workplace in Washington, D.C. when he encountered patrol officer, John E. Sobolewski. Following questioning by the officer about the package, McKnight panicked and fled. Sobolewski drew his revolver, shouted a warning and shot McKnight in the back. McKnight continued to run and Sobolewski commandeered a passing car, finally catching up with McKnight and shooting him a second time. Sobolewski was suspended from duty and a coroner's inquest ordered he be held for grand jury action. He was indicted on manslaughter charges, but an all-white jury quickly acquitted Sobolewski, who swiftly returned to duty. McKnight's killing was followed by local protests in which the NAACP, the National Negro Congress, and the local Communist Party all participated. The victim's widow, Mollie McKnight, sued Sobolewski for \$10,000. The outcome of this suit remains unknown.



03 Raymond Gunn

On January 12, 1931, Raymond Gunn was lynched in Maryville, Missouri, after he was arrested for allegedly killing a 19-year-old schoolteacher. A mob first attempted to lynch Gunn in St. Joseph, but failed after the sheriff fought them off. He was then moved to a jail in Kansas City, before being sent back to Maryville on the morning of the lynching for arraignment. The Missouri National Guard had been mobilized upon Gunn's return and awaited orders from the sheriff to protect Gunn. The sheriff never gave the order, and as the lynching occurred the troops remained in the armory. The mob suspended Gunn to the rafters of a schoolhouse, doused it with gasoline and burned the entire building to the ground. No one was ever prosecuted for Gunn's lynching.

Woman's
Body Found
in Southwest Washin
 July 4, has been ordered
 by Capt. Ira E. Keck, detect
 of the Metropolitan police
 ment, and the investigati
 continue under Lt. Jerm
 herty, head of the homicide
 Although Mrs. Dixon's b
 badly mutilated, the deputy
 Dr. Richard Rosenberg, a
 death to natural causes ar
 at the disfigurements w
 rats. The homicide se
 and the case closed and
 ried. Reopening of
 the insistence of
 association for
 colored Peop

04 Gladys Green Dixon

On July 4, 1941, Gladys Green Dixon, 33, was killed in a vacant lot near her home in Washington D.C. While police officers determined that she died of natural causes, witnesses declare that her naked body was badly mutilated when found. Dixon's family contacted the DC branch of the NAACP, who hired counsel to prosecute the case. Dixon had allegedly been seen with a group of white soldiers just prior to her death, and the Black press speculated the local police failed to investigate her death in order to protect the soldiers from prosecution. Dixon's official cause of death is listed as heart disease.



05 Cleo Wright

In the early morning of January 25, 1942, in Sikeston, Scott County, Missouri, Cleo Wright was held by patrolman Hess Perrigan on suspicion of murdering a local woman. Perrigan alleged Wright attacked him in the backseat of his patrol vehicle, leading Perrigan to shoot him three times. Instead of the hospital, Wright was taken to jail, where a mob soon formed. By 11:30 a.m. the mob forced its way into the jail and Wright was lynched. His body was dragged through the streets behind a car, before being set alight. By 11:45, he was dead. Afterwards, the Highway Patrol and the American Legion were sent to the Black section of Sikeston to quell any unrest. The crime was considered by both federal and state grand juries, and although numerous members of the lynch mob could be identified, no indictments were returned.

Five Men Held
In Letcher Jail
In Killing of 2
 Sheriff Calls Shooting
 At Carnival Wanton
 Whitesburg, Ky., May 28 (P)—
 Sheriff Gilbert Polly said tonight
 that he was holding five men in
 the Letcher County jail in con-
 nection with the fatal shooting of
 two Negro youths at a carnival at
 Whitesburg last night.
 The victims were identified as
 General Grant Bullard, 17, and
 Willie Mayfield, 18, both em-
 ployees of Playland Shows,
 a traveling carnival company.
 Sheriff Lists Suspects.
 Polly said the suspects were
 Dock Bentley, Ervin Collier
 Junior Bentley, Jessie Ben-
 ted and John Marcum, all of Letch-
 er County. He reported that the fi-
 ve men were drinking and that the
 shooting was provoked for the shot
 were fired, 1
 by the sa
 by

06 Grant Bullard and William Mayfield

Grant Bullard, 17, and another teenage boy, William Mayfield were carnival workers from Miami, passing through Neon, Kentucky in 1945 with the Playlands Carnival when they were shot and killed by four white men. The men asked Bullard and Mayfield to dance for them, and when the teenagers refused, they were killed. Both the NAACP and the Kentucky chapter of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare were involved in the subsequent investigation and petitioned for a trial. After two postponements, a trial became impossible since the witnesses had moved on with the carnival and were scattered across the country. Some evidence suggested that the Police Judge for Neon, Zack Bentley Sr., was the father of one of the perpetrators and potentially related to the rest of the gang.

☼ The White Paper

The White Paper project puts in conversation researchers and archivists who document historical racial violence in pursuit of a plan to interoperate collections and realize economies of scale. The roadmap will describe how a national digital project might emerge, including how data dictionaries might be aligned, and it explores questions of governance, standardization, cost-sharing, security and hosting.

The BNDA has shared protocols, methods and its data dictionaries. We will continue to build relationships among archivists, scholars and community collectors, with a view towards some form of shared practice.

Projects included:

- Alabama Memory
- Documenting Racial Violence in Kentucky
- Lynchings in the North
- Mapping Violence
- National Lynching Data
- The Lynching Violence Website
- Racial Terror: Lynching in Virginia
- Racial Violence Archive
- Other contributing or reviewed projects: The Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission; The Archive for Racial and Cultural Healing (ARCH); Hidden Legacies; Documenting Chinese Lynching and Violence in the American West; The Equal Justice Initiative; University of Kentucky, J. David Rosenberg College of Law; The Legacy Coalition.

Racial Violence Archive

"THE WAY TO RIGHT WRONGS IS TO TURN THE LIGHT OF TRUTH UPON THEM." - IDA B. WELLS



ALABAMA MEMORY

Alabama Memory

01 Scope

- Date range: 1865 -1986
- Location bound: Alabama
- Definition of violence: Racial terror lynchings were conducted for the purpose, be it stated or implied, of strengthening and extending white supremacy outside of any legal process. This violence was meant to subdue, intimidate, and control Black Americans
- Characteristics of Victims: African American victims in the state of Alabama, with special efforts taken to uncover the stories of female victims
- Characteristics of Perpetrators: White perpetrators
- Number of cases: Over 800 terror lynchings have been identified, with 84 appearing on the website

02 Data Dictionary

Yes, there is a glossary describing each of the types of primary sources used as well as a list of metadata terms

03 Tracking Tools and Technology

Transcriptions of newspaper articles, which permits the Alabama Memory project to get around any copyright/usage restrictions

04 Type of Evidence Collected

- Records published by EJI, Monroe Work Today Project, and CSDE Database
- Community and descendant testimony
- Oral histories
- Newspapers
- Congressional records
- State and county legal records

05 Fields for Victim Information

- Name
- Alternative names
- Race
- Sex
- Birth date
- Death date
- Counties of birth and death
- Accused crime or social transgression
- Method of lynching
- Name of spouse or partner

06 Completion Status

The project is being actively updated and expanded



DOCUMENTING RACIAL VIOLENCE IN KENTUCKY

Documenting Racial Violence in Kentucky

01 Scope

- Date range: 1880 -1955
- Location bound: Kentucky
- Definition of violence: The public killing of an individual who has not received any due process“ as aligned with the NAACP’s most recent definition
- Characteristics of Victims: Black and White men and women, although predominantly Black men
- Characteristics of Perpetrators: White mobs
- Number of cases: 353 cases from their table of all cases which includes, “Probable, Possible, and Possibly,” cases

02 Data Dictionary

No explicit data dictionary listed, but elements are discernible from the CSV download

03 Tracking Tools and Technology

Viewing all cases is done through a table. Data can be exported as a CSV. Clicking on a case with a biography brings the user to a page documenting more detailed information on the victim and incident

04 Type of Evidence Collected

- Newspapers
- Census records
- Birth certificates
- Death certificates

05 Fields for Victim Information

- Name
- Sex
- Race
- Alternative names
- Location
- Composition of Group
- Student Archivist Names

06 Completion Status

It appears that the project is still being updated, as they self-describe the project as a growing digital archive



⌘ Lynchings in the North

01 Scope

- Date range: 1877-1950. Current victim range is 1892-1931
- Location bound: Northern and mid-Atlantic states, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Ohio, Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota
- Definition of violence: Lynchings by white mobs
- Characteristics of Victims: Black men and women
- Characteristics of Perpetrators: White mobs
- Number of cases: 9 publicly available on the website

02 Data Dictionary

None provided on the website

03 Tracking Tools and Technology

To view incidents, there is a link for “Victims” that displays all the victims in a List/Record view. There is a similar “Archive” tab which will display all the archival materials, mostly newspaper clippings. Archival materials for each specific case are available at the bottom of each individual victim’s page. There is also a map displaying the victims geographically.

04 Type of Evidence Collected

- Newspapers
- Court records
- Death records

05 Fields for Victim Information

- Name
- Alternative names
- Age
- Sex
- Race
- Occupation sector
- Death date
- Place of death: city, town and/or county
- Obituary title and body
- State (spatial coverage)

06 Completion Status

It appears the project went public in 2024. The project is current and being updated



Mapping Violence

01 Scope

- Date range: 1900 - 1930
- Location bound: Texas
- Definition of violence: Racialized violence, including incidents which did not result in death
- Characteristics of Victims: Black, Mexican, Indigenous, Anglos and/or Asian. American citizens and foreign nationals
- Characteristics of Perpetrators: Law enforcement, U.S. soldiers, mobs, vigilantes, and everyday people
- Number of cases: 275 referenced on website, with others remaining to be investigated

02 Data Dictionary

None provided on the website

03 Tracking Tools and Technology

The website provides a prototype map representing locations of documented sites of racial violence in Texas. A selection of sample cases with narratives are available on the website.

04 Type of Evidence Collected

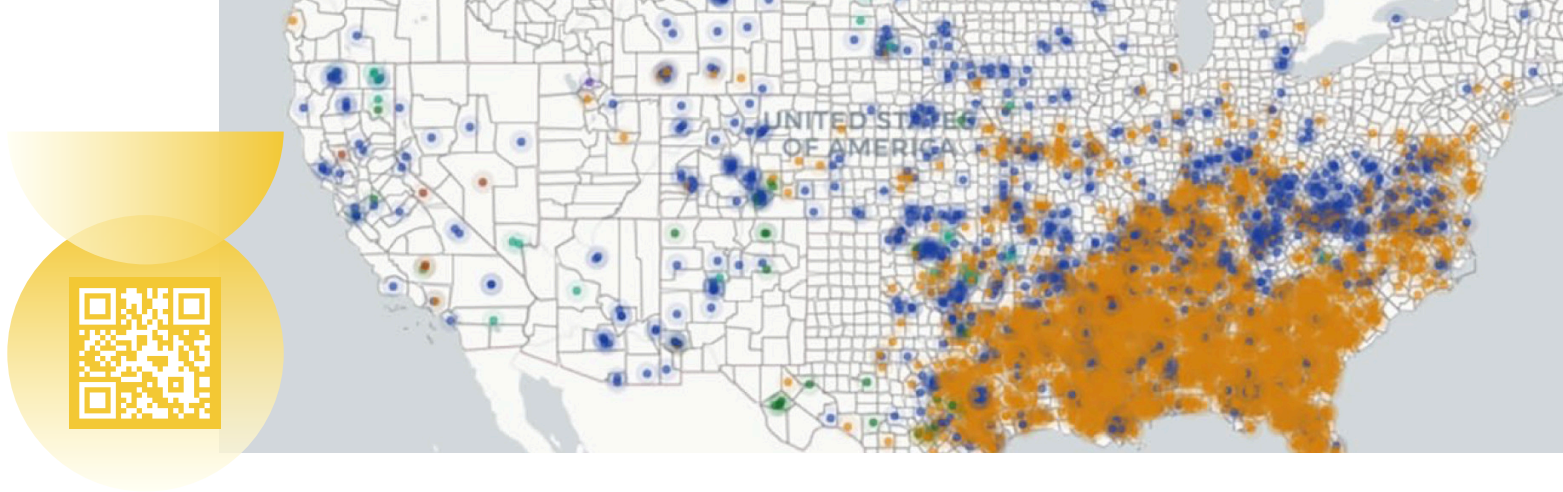
- Newspapers
- Court records
- Military records
- Federal and state records
- Advocacy group records
- Immigration records

05 Fields for Victim Information

- Name
- Alternative name(s)
- Race
- Age
- Gender
- Nationality
- Ethnicity
- Marital status
- Occupation

06 Completion Status

Project website appears to have been last updated in 2021, and is currently being prepared for relaunch



🌐 National Lynching Data

01 Scope

- Date range: 1883 - 1941
- Location bound: Continental United States
- Definition of violence: Lynching of any person
- Characteristics of Victims: Victims of lynching, inclusive of all demographics
- Characteristics of Perpetrators: Perpetrators of all demographic types
- Number of cases: 1328 in the published data set

02 Data Dictionary

The National Lynching Data Codebook is available for download as a CSV file

03 Tracking Tools and Technology

The resource consists of an interactive map of the 48 contiguous states, with state and county boundaries depicted. The map shows each incident as a dot, using a heat map format.

04 Type of evidence collected

Evidence is referenced in the codebook as “source,” the original location of the information on the incident, and “confirming document.” None of the evidence cited is offered for download. “Source” could be a news article, advocacy group report, or another research project or book of information on lynching incidents. “Confirming document” is a newspaper article.

05 Fields for Victim Information

- Name
- Gender
- Race
- Place of death
- Date of death

06 Completion Status

The data was first published on Open Science Framework (OSF) repository in 2019 and was last updated in 2022. The project builds on the work of Tolnay & Beck’s inventory, supplementing to cover all 48 contiguous states.



⌘ Racial Terror: Lynching in Virginia

01 Scope

- Date range: 1866-1932
- Location bound: Virginia
- Definition of violence: Lynchings, lethal mob violence
- Characteristics of Victims: Black and white men and women
- Characteristics of Perpetrators: White mobs
- Number of cases: 117 confirmed lynchings

02 Data Dictionary

No explicit data dictionary provided

03 Tracking Tools and Technology

Airtable embed system. Each record has a link out to the full page exploring the incident on the website. This is where one can read a summary, explore the evidence, and also comment publicly on the incident.

04 Type of Evidence Collected

- Newspapers
- Death certificate
- Coroner's Inquisition
- Commonwealth Cause

05 Fields for Victim Information

- Name
- Sex
- Race
- Age
- Job

06 Completion Status

As of February 2025, there was an update to the dataset and map due to additional research

Racial Violence Archive

"THE WAY TO RIGHT WRONGS IS TO TURN THE LIGHT OF TRUTH UPON THEM." - IDA B. WELLS

PROJECT MAPS



❖ Racial Violence Archive (RVA)

01 Scope

- Date range: Currently 1824 and 2013, the vast majority spanning the periods 1880 to 1920, and the 1960s. RVA online maps display a portion of these incidents from select states in the period 1870-1970.
- Location bound: Former Confederate states
- Definition of violence: Racially motivated lethal and non-lethal violence and terroristic threats targeting African Americans
- Characteristics of Victims: African Americans
- Characteristics of Perpetrators: Perpetrator information, including race, affiliations and professions, where indicated in source materials
- Number of cases: Approximately 5,600

02 Data Dictionary

None provided on the website

03 Tracking Tools and Technology

Interactive heat map, with boundaries of state and county. Counties are shaded by the number of incidents, with darker colors indicating more incidents. There are currently two additional maps displayed, including a StoryMap.

04 Type of Evidence Collected

- Published in extant sources on historical racial violence
- Archival and newspaper research

05 Fields for Victim Information

- Name
- Race
- Age
- Other victim description (e.g. nicknames, affiliations)

06 Completion Status

The main map was last updated in November 2019. The ancillary maps were updated in November 2023. Further database development was paused in 2020 pending efforts to organize a nationwide network of related research and advocacy efforts.



Acknowledgements

We thank the CRRJ Team:

Lydia Beal
 Jay Driskell
 Deborah Jackson
 Catherine McGloin
 Alex Stein
 Jennifer True
 Raymond Wilkes
 Rose Zoltek-Jick

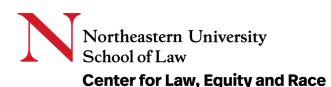
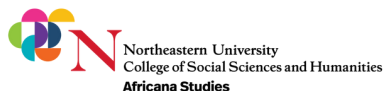
The Northeastern Library Team:

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Dan Cohen | Candace Hazlett |
| Gina Nortonsmith | Caitlin Pollock |
| Giordana Mecagni | Kim Kennedy |
| Joy Zanghi | Joel Lee |
| Drew Facklam | Sarah Sweeney |
| Julia Flanders | |

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GATHERING THE RED RECORD: LINKING RACIAL VIOLENCE ARCHIVES

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01 Email

crrj@northeastern.edu

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03 Mail

Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project
Northeastern University School of Law
Dockser Hall #140
360 Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA 02115

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