



Atlanta's Washerwomen Bibliography

This listing provides primary reference, historic timelines and perspectives of the 1881 Atlanta Washerwomen's strike and specifically includes the early career of civil rights icon Dorothy Bolden Thompson, Oseola Mccarty and Amanda Berry Smith. Other honorable mentions such as Matilda Crawford, Sallie Bell, Carrie Jones, Dora Jones, Orphelia Turner and Sarah Collier are lightly mentioned in resources compiled. Also, by offering a secure location for meetings, discussions, and organizing, churches like Wheat Street Baptist Church contributed to the Atlanta Washerwomen's Strike of 1881 and may have some records pertaining to participants and events.

Archival materials included may provide historical sites or physical spaces dedicated to the memory of the washerwomen— or areas the women lobbied organized or popularly utilized.

Resources include call numbers, for patrons to easily inquire and obtain resources. Auburn Avenue Research Library maintains non-circulating policies of its collection; however, patrons are able to utilize materials in-house. Suggested search terms and keywords are provided to further guide patron's research amongst Auburn Avenue Research Library and the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library catalog and digital libraries. The below Boolean Operators (AND, OR, also NOT) are simple words used to maximize search results.

Created by: Forrest Evans, Librarian II
Updated by: Priscilla Dickerson, Librarian Senior
Auburn Avenue Research Library
priscilla.dickerson@fultoncountyga.gov

Audio/Visual Collection:

[The maids a documentary](#)

Author: Jackson, Muriel

Pub Date: 1985

Call #: VHS 331.48164 MAIDS

Books:

Before Harlem: An Anthology of African American Literature from the Long Nineteenth Century

Author: Mance, Ajuan Maria

Pub Date: 2016

Auburn Avenue Research Library: 810.8 BEFORE

African American Servitude and Historical Imaginings: Retrospective Fiction and Representation

Author: Jordan, Margaret I.

Pub Date: 2004

Auburn Avenue Research Library: 813.54 JORDAN

Hope And Danger in The New South City: Working-class Women and Urban Development in Atlanta, 1890-1940.

Author: Hickey, Georgina,

Pub Date: 2003

Auburn Avenue Research Library: 305 HICKEY

Amanda Berry Smith: From Washerwoman to Evangelist

Author: Israel, Adrienne M.

Pub Date: 1998

Auburn Avenue Research Library: B SMITH

To 'joy My Freedom: Southern Black Women's Lives and Labors After the Civil War

Author: Hunter, Tera W.

Pub Date: 1997

Auburn Avenue Research Library: 331.4 HUNTER

Though Justice Sleeps: African Americans, 1880-1900

Author: Bair, Barbara

Pub Date: 1997

Auburn Avenue Research Library: 973.0496 BAIR

Unsung Heroes; The Black Boy of Atlanta; Negroes in Domestic Service in the United States

Author: Haynes, Elizabeth Ross

Pub Date: 1997

Auburn Avenue Research Library: 920.00929 HAYNES

Across The Boundaries of Race and Class: An Exploration of Work and Family Among Black Female Domestic Servants

Author: Dill, Bonnie Thornton

Pub Date: 1994

Auburn Avenue Research Library: 331.48164 DILL

An Autobiography: The Story of The Lord's Dealings with Mrs. Amanda Smith, The Colored Evangelist

Author: Smith, Amanda

Pub Date: 1988

Auburn Avenue Research Library: B SMITH

(This source may provide historical and physical sites of Smith, a notable Washerwoman)

Organized Labor and the Black Worker, 1619-1981

Author: Foner, Philip Sheldon

Pub Date: 1982

Auburn Avenue Research Library: 331.88 FONER

Americans And Their Servants: Domestic Service in The United States From 1800 To 1920

Author: Sutherland, Daniel E.

Pub Date: 1981

Auburn Avenue Research Library: WR 331.4 SUTHERLAND

Seven Days A Week: Women and Domestic Service In Industrializing America

Author: Katzman, David M. **Pub Date:** 1978 Auburn Avenue Research Library: WR 331.761

KATZMAN

Dorothy Lee Bolden Thompson Collection, 1968-1996

Author: National Domestic Workers Union (U.S.)

Pub Date: 1968

Auburn Avenue Archives Division: 96-005

(This source may provide historical and physical sites of Smith, a notable Washerwoman)

An Autobiography: The Story of The Lord's Dealings with Mrs. Amanda Smith, The Colored Evangelist; Containing An Account Of Her Life Work Of Faith, And Her Travels In America, England, Ireland, Scotland, India, And Africa, As An Independent Missionary

Author: Smith, Amanda

Pub Date: 1893

Auburn Avenue Archives Division: B SMITH

(This source may provide historical and physical sites of Smith, a notable Washerwoman)

Electronic Materials and Mixed Medias (*sorted by relevance*):

[Atlanta Washerwomen's Strike](#)

Author: Reader's Companion to U.S. Women's History

Pub. Year: 1998

[GALILEO ACCESS](#)

[Overlooked No More: Dorothy Bolden, Who Started a Movement for Domestic Workers](#)

Author: The New York Times

Pub. Year: 2019

[GALILEO ACCESS](#)

[Dorothy Bolden, civil rights activist and visionary labor leader](#)

Author: New York Amsterdam News.

Pub. Year: 2019

[GALILEO ACCESS](#)

[Courage to Dissent : Atlanta and the Long History of the Civil Rights Movement](#)

Author: Brown-Nagin, Tomiko

Pub. Year: 2011

[GALILEO ACCESS](#)

[Washerwomen finally get their page in book of working-class Black history](#)

Author: Philadelphia Tribune

Pub. Year: 1996

[PROQUEST ACCESS](#)

Suggested AFPLS and AARL Databases:

[African-American Studies Center \(Oxford\)](#)

Provides students, teachers, and scholars with an authoritative and comprehensive source on the lives and events which have shaped African American and African history and culture.

[African-American Newspapers: The 19th Century](#)

This collection of African American newspapers contains a wealth of information about cultural life and history during the 1800s and is rich with first-hand reports of the major events and issues of the day, including the Mexican War, Presidential and Congressional addresses, Congressional abstracts, business and commodity markets, the humanities, world travel and religion.

- [Freedom`s Journal](#) New York, New York March 16, 1827 - March 28, 1829
- [The Colored American](#) (Weekly Advocate) New York January 7, 1837 - December 25, 1841
- [The North Star](#) Rochester, New York December 3, 1847 - April 17, 1851
- [The National Era](#) Washington, D.C. January 7, 1847 - March 22, 1860
- [Frederick Douglass Papers](#) 1851-1863
- [Douglass Monthly](#) January 1859 - August 1863
- [Provincial Freeman](#) 1854-1857
- [The Christian Recorder](#) 1861 - 1902
- [The Liberator](#) January 1, 1831 - January 1, 1866

[GALILEO](#)

Georgia Libraries Learning Online) a network of educational databases for all ages.

[ProQuest Historical Black Newspapers](#)

All '[Historical Black Newspapers](#)' (search across all newspapers at one time)

- [Atlanta Daily World \(1931-2003\)](#) The Atlanta Daily World had the first black White House correspondent and was the first black daily in the nation in the 20th century.
- [The Baltimore Afro-American](#) (1893-1988) was the most widely circulated black newspaper on the Atlantic coast. It was the first black newspaper to have correspondents reporting on World War II, foreign correspondents, and female sports correspondents.
- [Chicago Defender \(1910-1975\)](#) A leading African-American newspaper, with more than two-thirds of its readership outside Chicago.
- [Cleveland Call and Post \(1934-1991\)](#) was founded by Garrett Morgan, inventor of the gas mask and traffic light. Contributors included noted journalists Charles H. Loeb and John Fuster. The newspaper is well known for its support of the Scottsboro trial defendants with letters, clothing, stamps, and donations to the defense fund.
- [Los Angeles Sentinel \(1934-2005\)](#) is the oldest and largest black newspaper in the western United States and the largest African-American owned newspaper in the U.S.
- [New York Amsterdam News \(1922-1993\)](#) This leading Black newspaper of the 20th century reached its peak in the 1940s. The Amsterdam News was a strong advocate for the desegregation of the U.S. military during World War II, and also covered the historically important Harlem Renaissance.
- [The Norfolk Journal and Guide \(1921-2003\)](#) was the only black newspaper to provide on-the-scene, day-to-day coverage of the Scottsboro trial, and was one of the best researched and well written black newspapers of its time.

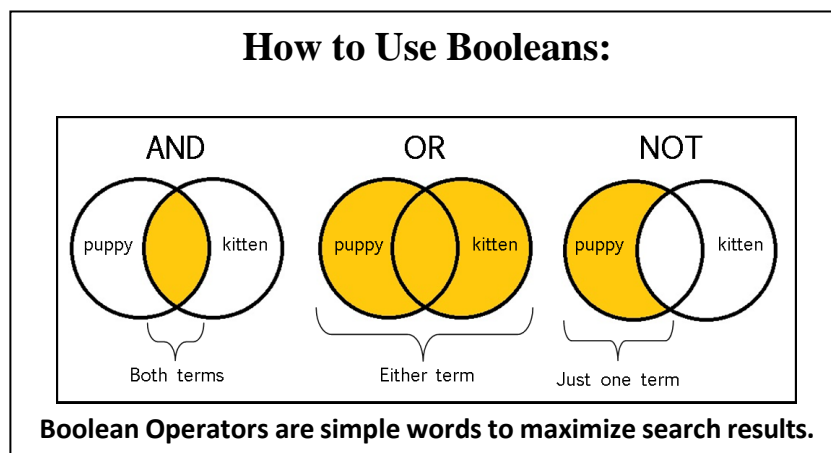
- [The Philadelphia Tribune \(1912-2001\)](#) the oldest continuously published black newspaper, is dedicated to the needs and concerns of the fourth largest black community in the U.S. During the 1930s the paper supported the growth of the United Way, rallied against the riots in Chester, PA, and continuously fought against segregation.
- [Pittsburgh Courier \(1911-2002\)](#) was one of the most nationally circulated Black newspapers, the Courier reached its peak in the 1930s. A conservative voice in the African-American community, the Courier challenged the misrepresentation of African-Americans in the national media and advocated social reforms to advance the cause of civil rights.

Journals and Periodicals:

For access to specific journals, magazines and periodicals, please contact the assigned subject librarian. Contact is provided, see [Historical Summary of bibliography](#).

Suggested Search Terms and Keywords:

- African American AND Labor Unions AND 1881 AND washerwomen strike
- Labor movement AND United States AND History.
- Washerwomen strike AND 1881 AND Georgia AND Fulton County
- Dorothy Bolden AND domestic workers AND advocacy
- Women household employees AND black women AND Atlanta AND washerwomen
- Domestic OR labor unions AND washerwomen AND Atlanta AND African American
- Domestic Workers Union (US) AND Atlanta AND Dorothy Lee Bolden Thompson
- Dorothy Lee Bolden Thompson AND 1881 strike AND Atlanta



Auburn Avenue Research Library
on African American Culture and History
A Special Library of the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System
101 Auburn Avenue, NE • Atlanta, Georgia 30303-2503
404-613-4001 • <http://www.afpls.org/>

