

Commission on Human Rights

Kentucky Black Heritage history book, a longtime resource treasure that has been out of print, is now available online for free download

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The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights is pleased to announce that its out-of-print history reference book, ***Kentucky's Black Heritage***, can now be downloaded in its entirety from the commission website.

Find it at kchr.ky.gov. Look to the sidebar on the left of the homepage and click on the link, "Reports and Publications." Scroll down the linked page through the section called, "Some General Publications," until you see the ***Kentucky's Black Heritage*** link. Click on the link and click on the "save" icon that will allow you to download and save to your computer.

The commission published the book in 1971. It was compiled by a committee and support staff organized for the purpose of creating it. It was offered as a textbook supplement for Kentucky junior high school history courses. Little other organized information about Kentucky African American history and African American Kentuckians was available. Only five years before, in 1966, the Kentucky Civil Rights Act had been passed. The book's typing was undertaken before the wide use of computers and storage on computer files.

Since the publication has been out of print, the commission has had to share with many people requesting the book every year that the commission was simply out of the book and the sought after resource was no longer available.

Now, however, one of the last remaining printed copies of the book has been scanned and converted to a printable downloadable file and placed on the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights website at kchr.ky.gov. The book is free and available to the public.

Kentucky's Black Heritage is about "the role of the black people in the history of Kentucky from pioneer days to..." the time of its publishing, 1971.

It is a valuable and revealing historical resource of the life of black people in Kentucky and of the contributions African Americans made throughout Kentucky's past. Filled with photographs

and profiles of many African American individuals living in many eras, the book reflects times of sadness, abuse, shocking oppression, progress, determination, success, and triumph of people determined to call Kentucky their own and themselves Kentuckians, even during times when they were considered no more than property without individual rights.

The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights believes that educators, researchers, historians, students, and readers-at-large will be glad to have access once again to this Kentucky treasure, ***Kentucky's Black Heritage***.

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The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights is the state authority that enforces the Kentucky Civil Rights Act and the U.S. Civil Rights Act for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The Kentucky Civil Rights Act protects people from discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, and disability in the areas of housing, employment, public accommodations and financial transactions. It further protects people in the area of employment from discrimination based on age (40 years old and over) and based on tobacco-smoking status. The law further protects in the area of housing families with children under the age of 18 years old and women who are pregnant. It is against the law to retaliate against any person who makes a discrimination complaint to the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights. Commission rulings on discrimination complaints have the authority of a court of law.

For help with discrimination, contact the commission at 1.800.292.5566. The TDD number is 502.595.4084.