

Sources for Black and Asian History at Warwickshire County Record Office

Parish Registers: The earliest records of black people in Warwickshire include the burial in Oxhill of Myrtilla 'a Negro girl', 6 Jan 1705, (DR 24/1); the baptism in Oxhill of Will Archus 'a black', 29 Dec 1700, (DR 24/1); and the baptism in Idlicote of Margaret Lucy, 'a black belonging to the Lady Underhill', 1 Jan 1689, (DR 209/2).

Newspapers: These are often the richest source of stories about black and Asian residents of (and visitors to) Warwickshire. They fill the gap between records from the time of slavery and 20th century records. We have found over 150 newspaper articles relating to black or Asian people in Warwickshire.

Records relating to slavery: The County Record Office holds a lot of collections from landed families, where many records relating to enslavement can be found. These include financial records of plantations, personal accounts of the sale of enslaved Africans / people of African descent, and pamphlets and letters relating to the abolition of enslavement.

Photographs: – We hold some photographs of black and Asian people, including a WWII evacuee child arriving at Long Itchington (PH876) and two Nuneaton cinema projectionists, Raj Kamal and Omar Ahmedmia (PH0882/6/4992-4993 and PH882/7/5547). Some of the earliest photographs of black people in Warwickshire can be found in the books of 'Known Thieves' (CR 2770/488).

Useful Publications:

- *History Detectives: Black people in the West Midlands 1650 – 1918*, Barbara Willis-Brown and David Callaghan ed. (C.325.Wil (P))
- *A Day in the Life: A Black Heritage Trail of the West Midlands*, David Callaghan and Barbara Willis-Brown ed. (C.325.Cal (P))
- *Black People in Warwickshire's past 1600-1914*, Jim Layton (C.301.451.LAY (P))