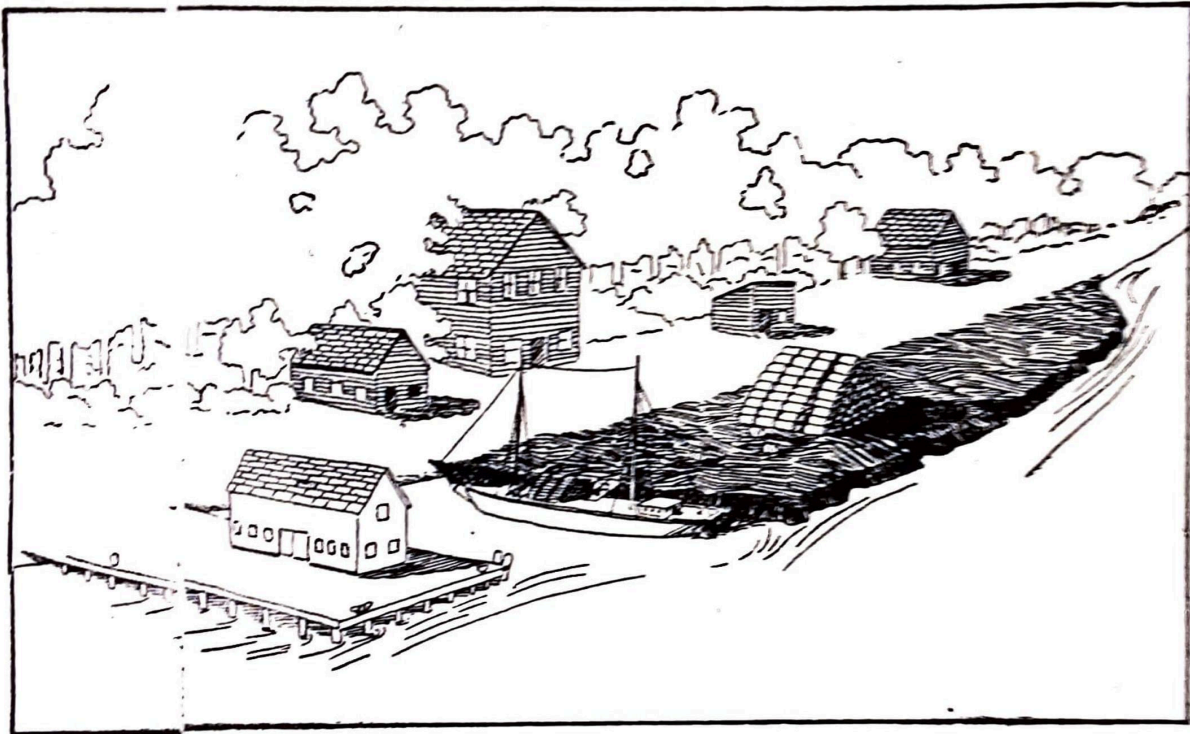

Black Rock Village, 1795-1853: History & Genealogy



THE BLACK ROCK AS IT LOOKED IN 1811.
This rock gave its name to the Black Rock of today.

Illustration from *General Subject Collection - Black Rock Harbor - Up to 1829*.
Originally published in the *Buffalo Morning Express*, November 19, 1911.

This guide focuses solely on sources that document Black Rock prior to annexation, 1795 to 1853. During these years, Black Rock was an incorporated village, then town, with its own government, separate from the City of Buffalo. We added links where available.

- *Bullet points indicate that the item is online only and there is no print version in our library*

Short link to this guide: <https://tinyurl.com/TBHM-BlackRock>

Table of Contents

Frequently Asked Questions About Black Rock.....	3
Black Rock Timeline.....	4
General Histories.....	6
Business, Industry & Transportation.....	7
Cemetery Records.....	9
Census Records.....	9
Church Histories.....	9
Church Records.....	11
City Directories.....	11
Government.....	11
Land & Property Records.....	12
Maps.....	13
Military: Fort Porter.....	15
Military: War of 1812.....	16
Newspapers.....	17
Pictures.....	17
Residents for Whom We Have Personal Papers.....	18
Tax Records.....	19
Vital Records.....	19
Voter Registrations.....	20
Additional Resources.....	20

Frequently Asked Questions About Black Rock

How did Black Rock get its name?

There was a large triangular outcropping of black limestone or basalt projecting into the Niagara River, roughly at Niagara and Massachusetts Street. It was about 100 feet at the north end by 300 feet at the south end. By diverting the strong river currents, it created a natural harbor. This is where the Black Rock Ferry got its start. This stone formation was blasted away in the 1820s to make way for the Erie Canal. There are no known drawings of it from the period. Photography was not invented yet, so there are no photographs of it. We have only the one rendering shown on the first page, drawn in 1911 based on written descriptions.

What was the Mile Strip?

In 1798, the State of New York decided to survey and reserve for itself the mile of land bordering the Niagara River from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario. It released this land for sale in 1804. Black Rock developed within the footprint of the former Mile Strip. [This map depicts the Mile Strip and lists its first land buyers.](#)

What were Upper and Lower Black Rock?

Two hamlets (neighborhoods) sprung up in the former Mile Strip: Upper Black Rock and Lower Black Rock. *Upper* meant upstream (south) on the Niagara River and *Lower* meant downstream (north). The lower west side and Niagara St. south of Scajaquada Creek are what used to be Upper Black Rock. Riverside and Niagara St. north of Scajaquada Creek are what used to be Lower Black Rock.

Why was there a battle over the Erie Canal?

Once plans to build the Erie Canal were approved, the villages of Buffalo and Black Rock fought a bitter competition to win the terminus of the Canal, the point at which the Canal would connect with Lake Erie. Whichever place won would experience a tremendous expansion in population, commerce, wealth, and power. Judge Samuel Wilkeson represented Buffalo's interests and General Peter B. Porter represented Black Rock's interests. Wilkeson, by building a harbor with greater capacity than Black Rock's, won the vote of the Canal Commissioners.

	Black Rock Timeline
October 19, 1763	Battle between Seneca Indians and English soldiers at Black Rock
1789	Jasper Parrish and Horatio Jones given large land grants by the Senecas. It is unlikely that either man took up residence on their respective tracts.
1796 or earlier	Black Rock Ferry opens as a private service at the foot of Fort Street, where Fort Porter was later built. It provided safe passage across the swift currents of the Niagara River to Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada. Today this is the site of the Peace Bridge.
1798	The Mile Strip bordering the Niagara River from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario surveyed and reserved by the State of New York
1802-1803	Military Road cleared and built by New York State, within the Mile Strip.
1803	First vessel built at Black Rock, the sloop <i>Contractor</i>
1804	New York State releases the Mile Strip lands for sale
1804	First streets and building lots laid out
1805 or 1806	Major Frederick Miller assumes operation of the Black Rock Ferry
1807	Porter, Barton & Co. opens, transporting freight over the portage around Niagara Falls to Black Rock and into the Great Lakes
1811	Joseph Webb opens first brewery in Black Rock
1812	Black Rock Navy Yard established on Scajaquada Creek
July 11, 1813	First Battle of Black Rock during the War of 1812
December 30, 1813	Buffalo & Black Rock burned by the British during the War of 1812
August 3, 1814	Second Battle of Black Rock during the War of 1812
1818	Walk-in-the-Water built at Black Rock, the first steamboat on Lake Erie
1822	State of New York begins construction of the Bird Island pier
1823	Black Rock's first newspaper, <i>Black Rock Beacon</i> , begins publishing
1824	The Black Rock is blown up in order to make way for the Erie Canal
1824	Grace Episcopal Church founded
1824	Ferry service at the foot of Fort Street is discontinued to make way for the Erie Canal
June 5, 1825	General Marquis de Lafayette has breakfast in Black Rock
October 26, 1825	Erie Canal officially opens for business

	Black Rock Timeline
1825 or 1826	Ferry service moves north and resumes operation at the foot of Ferry Street
1827	Contract signed to build first brick church in Black Rock, known today as the Breckenridge Street Presbyterian Church
1827	Jubilee Water Works incorporated
1830	Porter Square and Market Square donated by Peter B. Porter
1834	Buffalo & Black Rock Railroad opens
1836	William Wells Brown and other Black residents of Buffalo protect an enslaved family from being kidnapped at the Black Rock Ferry
April 24, 1837	Black Rock incorporates as a village
December 29, 1837	Black Rock's first post office opens, Niagara St. near W. Ferry
February 14, 1839	Black Rock incorporates as a town
1839	Niagara Street is extended into Black Rock
1840	Steam-powered ferry service begins at Black Rock
1841	Construction begins on Fort Porter
March 1841	William A. Bird elected Town Supervisor
1842	Ship lock at Black Rock completed
1842	Village of Black Rock amends its incorporation
May 1847	Black Rock Female Seminary founded
1847	St. John's Evangelical Church (later St. John's United Church of Christ) founded
1849	St. Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Church founded
March 1853	Hon. Frederick P. Stevens elected Town Supervisor
April 13, 1853	State of New York passes new charter for Buffalo which annexes the town of Black Rock
January 1, 1854	Legislation annexing Black Rock takes effect and most of Black Rock becomes ward 11 in the city of Buffalo
	<i>Many thanks to Doreen DeBoth for providing several dates for this timeline.</i>

General Histories

F116 .B83 A38 v.27

Grande, Joseph

[Peter Porter and the Buffalo-Black Rock Rivalry](#)

Buffalo, NY: Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society, c1982

F122 .C35 1962

Campbell, Elizabeth Martha

A History of the Mile Strip

Buffalo, NY: M.S. Thesis--State University College at Buffalo, 1962

F127. E6 G6 1973

Goldman, Mark

[Buffalo's Black Rock](#)

Buffalo, NY: PhD dissertation--SUNY at Buffalo, 1973

Rare F129 .B8 C66 1836

Niagara City Association

[A Concise View of Black Rock: Including a Map and Schedule of Property, Belonging to the Niagara City Association : with a Description of and Boundaries of the Same, and Articles of Agreement, Forms and Regulations of the Niagara City Association and the Black Rock Land and Railroad Company.](#)

Black Rock, NY: [Niagara City Association], 1836

F129 .B86 B53 1975

Black Rock Chronicle

Buffalo, NY: Landmark Society of the Niagara Frontier, 1974

F129 .B8 B88 v.14, pp. 307-388

[Buffalo and Black Rock Harbor Papers and Related Documents of Early Date](#)

Buffalo, NY: Publications of the Buffalo Historical Society, 1910

Mss. A00-461

Mahoney, Daniel E.

The Early Days of Black Rock

The author, 1921

An assemblage of handwritten notes on scraps of paper of varying sizes. A [Scholar Pass](#) is necessary to use this collection.

Mss. B00-3

Bird, William A.

Paper in Relation to the Origin of the Name of Black Rock, 1863

A [Scholar Pass](#) is necessary to use this item

- Glasgow, Scott
[Lower Black Rock Historic District](#)
Buffalo, NY: Scott Glasgow, 2023

General Histories

- kta preservation specialists
[Upper Black Rock Historic District, City of Buffalo, Erie County, New York](#)
Buffalo, NY: kta preservation specialists, 2015
- Rohde, Derek M.
[The Black Rock Market Square: The Forgotten History of an Early Market](#)
Muncie, IN: Ball State University, 2009
- [Here is a comprehensive list of Black Rock & Riverside items in our library](#)
Includes post-1854 material not included in this guide.

Business, Industry & Transportation

F129 .B8 B88 v.1, pp. 91-112

Norton, Charles D.

[The Old Black Rock Ferry. Read Before the Society, December 14, 1863](#)

Buffalo, NY: Publications of the Buffalo Historical Society, 1879

F129 .B86 B5 2014

KTA Associates

[Black Rock Canal - Belt Line - Niagara Street Industrial Heritage Historic District, City of Buffalo, Erie County, New York](#)

Buffalo, NY: kta preservation specialists, 2014

Mss. A00-592

Black Rock Harbor Company Papers

Collection includes correspondence, invoices for goods and services, receipts, reports and bills, focusing on the Black Rock Harbor Company's efforts in the rivalry between Buffalo and Black Rock for the western terminus of the Erie Canal. Papers include later harbor work in the 1830s. A [Scholar Pass](#) is necessary to use this item.

Mss. A00-593

Jubilee Water Works Company Records

1826

The Jubilee Water Works Company, one of the first water systems in Black Rock and Buffalo, was organized in 1826 and incorporated in 1827. At the time of incorporation, it was designed to supply water to Buffalo and Black Rock by means of conduits or aqueducts from a spring located at present day Delaware and Auburn Avenues. The original board included Peter B. Porter as president, Daniel Frazer, S. C. Brewster and

Business, Industry & Transportation

Peter B. Porter as directors, Absalom Bull as secretary and treasurer and Daniel Frazer as superintendent. A [Scholar Pass](#) is necessary to use this item.

Mss. A00-616

Buffalo and Niagara Falls Railroad Company Collection

1835

The Buffalo and Black Rock Railroad Company was organized in 1833 and opened in 1834. It operated from Buffalo to Black Rock. In 1834 the Buffalo and Niagara Falls Railroad Company was incorporated to take over the Buffalo and Black Rock Company. It extended the lines to Niagara Falls and into Tonawanda. In 1853 the Buffalo and Niagara Falls Railroad Company was leased by New York Central Railroad and was merged in 1855. A [Scholar Pass](#) is necessary to use this item.

Mss. A00-622

Buffalo and Black Rock Railroad Company shares

1833-1853

44 items. A [Scholar Pass](#) is necessary to use this item.

Oversize A64-167

Port of Buffalo (N.Y.). Collector

Registrations of Ships Built at Buffalo and Black Rock, 1822-1850

27 photostats from the U.S. National Archives. A [Scholar Pass](#) is necessary to use this item.

Mss. B00-3

Williams, Richard

Black Rock Harbor, Pier, Water Power and Flouring Mills

A 92 page essay from 1865. A [Scholar Pass](#) is necessary to use this item.

Mss. C00-01, Box 7, Folder 2

Erie County Clerk's Office

Ferries - Black Rock, 1821-1851

A folder of petitions to operate the Black Rock Ferry A [Scholar Pass](#) is necessary to use this item.

Mss. W-65

Clinton, Thomas, d. 1835

Accounts with George McKnight & Co., 1828 Mar. 20-1829 Jun 18

A ledger of provisions purchased by Thomas Clinton of Black Rock from George McKnight & Co. of Buffalo, 1828-1829. A [Scholar Pass](#) is necessary to use this item.

Cemetery Records

- [Forest Lawn Cemetery](#)
Opened in 1850. Many remains from older, discontinued cemeteries in Buffalo and Black Rock were reinterred here.
- [German Methodist Cemetery](#), also called Methodist Episcopal Cemetery
Hertel Avenue & Military Road
Burials up to 1920

Microfilm M2010-247

[St. Francis Xavier Roman Catholic](#)

Niagara Street at Riverside Park

Burials 1850-1982

Census Records

We have federal census records on microfilm for all of Erie County for the years 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, and 1850 and after. After Black Rock was annexed by the city of Buffalo, all of the village north of Porter Avenue became Ward 11. Ward boundaries continued to change as the city grew.

Ref. F129 .B8 Z56 1993

Zintz, June P.

[Index to the 1850 census of Black Rock, Erie County, New York](#)

Buffalo, NY: Western New York Genealogical Society, 1993

Church Histories

These works are narratives about a congregation's history. For baptisms, marriages, and deaths, continue to our Church Records section.

BX4603 .B9 S18 1949

St. Francis Xavier Church

100th Anniversary, 1849-1949

Buffalo, NY: Holling Press, 1949

Church Histories

BX5980 .B83 G73 1924

Grace Episcopal Church

The First Centenary of Grace Episcopal Church, 1824-1924

Buffalo, NY: Grace Episcopal Church, 1924

BX8249 .B53 B34 1905

Bagley, Thomas

History of Methodism in Buffalo and Black Rock

Buffalo, NY: Thomas Bagley, 1905

BX9211 .B83 C44 1931

Elliott, Robert J.

Celebration of the One Hundredth Anniversary of West Avenue Presbyterian Church of Buffalo, New York: October 11-13, 1931

[Buffalo?]: [publisher not identified], 1931

This congregation was originally known as the Union Meeting House; then the Breckenridge Street Presbyterian Church. It also briefly went by the name Church of the Puritans.

F129 .B55 G4

Address delivered at the laying of the corner stone of the German Evangelical Church

Buffalo, NY : Seaver's Steam Presses, 1852

Was on Amherst Street.

Mss. A00-684

Worthington, Ruth

Early Reminiscences of the Plymouth Methodist Episcopal Church, 1899

A [Scholar Pass](#) is necessary to use this item.

Mss. A00-686

Contract for building first brick church in Village of Black Rock, 1827

Contract to build a House for "Publik Worship" between Jos. Norton, Harry Daw with Gleason Fillmore and James Haggart and Jesse Peck. Believed to be the Breckenridge Street Presbyterian Church, originally known as The Union Meeting House. A [Scholar Pass](#) is necessary to use this item.

Mss. A68-47

Johnson, Frank B.

Baptist Work at Black Rock, 1839 to 1932

Read at the fiftieth anniversary celebration of the Dearborn Street Baptist Church, also known as the Black Rock Baptist Church. A [Scholar Pass](#) is necessary to use this item.

Church Records

Microfilm M2010-012

[First United Methodist](#)

332 Baynes St.

Baptisms, marriages & deaths from 1853-1919.

Also called Black Rock Methodist Episcopal Church

Microfilm M2010-054

[Grace Episcopal](#)

Niagara & Penfield St.

Baptisms 1825-1924; Marriages 1829-1924; Deaths 1825-1923.

This congregation survives today as St. John's-Grace Episcopal Church on Colonial Circle

Ref. F 129 .B8 Z45 2004

Zintz, June

Marriages from Buffalo church records, 1825-1900

An index published in book form. Includes weddings from Grace Episcopal starting in 1829

Microfilm M2010-043 thru M2010-048

St. Francis Xavier Roman Catholic

149-157 East Street

Baptisms 1850-1982; Marriages 1852-1917; deaths 1855-1922.

City Directories

No city directories were ever published for the village of Black Rock. Directory coverage began in 1855, after Black Rock was absorbed into the City of Buffalo.

We have Buffalo city directories from 1828-2001. [Many are online here.](#)

Government

We have only a few items that document various government activities in Black Rock. Most surviving government records from the village of Black Rock are in the custody of the Buffalo City Clerk's office.

Government

- [St. Albans Lists](#)
These are names of those who entered Black Rock from Canada, scanned from microfilm courtesy of the U.S. National Archives. Date range is around 1895-1956. These are the earliest surviving border-crossing records.
- [Village of Black Rock incorporation, amended 1842](#)

F129 .B8 I42 1896

Index to Records of Streets, Public Grounds, Waterways, Railroads, Gas Companies, Water Works, Etc., of the City of Buffalo, from 1814 to 1896

Buffalo, NY: Bureau of Engineering, 1896

Streets are listed in A-Z order, with the history of every bureaucratic action taken by the city starting when the street was first laid out. Includes streets in Black Rock.

JS663 .C48 1853b

[Revised charter of the City of Buffalo](#)

Buffalo, NY : Geo. Reese & Co., 1853

This is the legislation that annexed Black Rock.

Mss. A69-65

United States Custom House (Buffalo Creek, N.Y.). Collector

Import books, 1843-1851

Registers of imports through Port of Black Rock, District of Buffalo Creek. Information includes name of importer, articles imported and where from, amount of invoice, and duties. A [Scholar Pass](#) is necessary to use this item.

Mss. A93-22

Buffalo and Black Rock post office records

Includes a statement of the gross receipts of the post offices at Black Rock and North Buffalo, 1817-1864. A [Scholar Pass](#) is necessary to use this item.

Land & Property Records

Deeds, mortgages, and other property transaction records are in the [Erie County Clerk's Office](#). We do not have copies here. The following items are the closest we have.

F127 .E6 D43 1981

Witmer, Tobias

Deed Tables ... in the County of Erie, N.Y., As Sold by the Holland Land Company, the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company, and the State of New York...

Land & Property Records

Knightstown, IN: The Bookmark, 1981

[Pages 14-21 in this volume list buyers of land in Black Rock during the years 1812-1853.](#) Then as now, buyers could choose to live on their property; rent out their property and live elsewhere; or simply hold it to resell when it increased in value. We cannot guarantee that every person listed here took up residence in Black Rock.

TK1425 .N6 A7 v.1

Adams, Edward Dean

[Niagara Power: History of the Niagara Falls Power Company](#)

Niagara Falls, NY: Niagara Falls Power Company, 1927

Pages 59-60 are a map of the Mile Strip divided into lots, with names of buyers. [That excerpt is online here.](#)

Mss. A00-252

New York (State).

Memorandums of Sales and Record of Division of Parrish Tract Land Among Proprietors

1825

A [Scholar Pass](#) is necessary to use this item.

Mss. A00-313

Niagara City Association

Real Estate Partition Records, 1836-1850

Agreement of the Niagara City Association subscribers to auction the common real estate, shares of the Jubilee Waterworks Company, shares of the Black Rock Land and Railroad Company, and water leases of the Association, 1839; schedules, valuations, and sales accounts of the partitioned lots, 1839; deed, William F. P. Taylor to Amos Callender, for twenty shares of Niagara City Association stock, 27 July 1836; two mortgages, Amos Callender to the Buffalo Savings Bank, for lots in Black Rock, 1849, 1850; a note to "Colonel" from Charles D. Norton, 30 July, 1866, asking for a written memorandum of the arrangement by which Peter B. Porter acquired title to lot 109 in Black Rock; and a small pencil plan of lots in Block 1, between Main and Plain Streets. A [Scholar Pass](#) is necessary to use this item.

Maps

- [Proposed plan of Village at Black Rock, 1804](#)
- [Map of the Mile Strip and land buyers in 1805](#)
- [Village of Black Rock Prior to the War of 1812](#)
- [Black Rock and Vicinity, 1813](#)
- [Map of the Village of Black Rock, 1816](#)

Maps

- [Map of the Village of Black Rock, ca. 1820](#)
- [Maps of the Holland Land Company's Lands in the late Town of Black Rock](#)

Mss. A00-713

Porter, Peter B., and William Best

Black Rock Landmark Book, 1819

Plans for a number of village lots, laid off and surveyed for Peter B. Porter, June 1, 1819 by William Best. Also includes parcels in Niagara and Monroe Counties, with some pencil renderings at the back of unidentified mill buildings. A [Scholar Pass](#) is necessary to use this item.

Map .B55 1807-01

Map of the Village of Black Rock, 1807

Map .B855 1810-01

Map of the Village of Back Rock, 1810

Map .B55 1827-0

Map of Part of the South Village of Black Rock, 1827

Map .N53 1829-01

Map of a part of the Niagara River and plan of the proposed harbour at Black Rock, 1829

Map .B55 1830-01

Map of the Parish Mile Square, 1830

Map .B55 1836-01

[Map of the village of Black Rock as surveyed and drawn by Henry Lovejoy for the Black Rock Land & Railroad Co., May 1836](#)

Map .B84 1847-01

Map of a part of the Niagara River and plan of the proposed harbour at Black Rock, 1847

Map .N53 1863-01

Sloan, James

Map of a section of the Niagara River as it was before the War of 1812, 1863

Military: Fort Porter

When construction began in 1841, Fort Porter was situated in Black Rock. The fort was decommissioned and demolished in 1926 to make way for the Peace Bridge. The bulk of Fort Porter's records are in the U.S. National Archives. We have only the following items, most of which date from after annexation:

Double Oversize F129 .B8 P715

Fort Porter Reporter, 1919

A newspaper published at the fort; 1919 appears to be the only year that this newspaper was issued.

F129 .B8 P715 1919

Souvenir issued for this event under the auspices of Fort Porter B. B. T. for the benefit of the Athletic Fund Friday Evening, September 12, 1919 Elmwood Music Hall

[Buffalo, N.Y.] : Good-Speed Printing Co., 1919

F129 .B862 F6 1889

Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting an estimate from the Secretary of War of an appropriation for the purchase of lots in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, N.Y., for burial purposes of Fort Porter

[Washington] : [Government Printing Office], 1889

F129 .P67 K45 1971

Kelchlin, Karen

The Phasic Unfoldment of Fort Porter, Up to 1867

Buffalo, NY: The author, 1971

A term paper

Mss. A00-445

Swain, Sara Sabrina, 1860-1953

Niagara Frontier Historical File, 1915-1940

File includes letters, copies of documents, and a newspaper article written by Swain, regarding the Castle at Old Fort Niagara, where the local chapter of the United States Daughters of 1812 placed a tablet in 1916. A [Scholar Pass](#) is necessary to use this item.

Mss. A64-154

Fort Porter papers, 1852 Apr. 5-1922 Jan. 26.

Has 7 items: Oyer and Terminer, the People vs. Tim McDonough, indictment for libel, 5 Apr. 1852; post return of 23rd Infantry Regiment and report of contracts awarded for construction of Fort Porter Hospital building, 13 Mar. 1889; dying declaration of victim, autopsy report and testimony of witnesses in shooting of Sgt. Edgar L. Schuler by Sgt. Thomas Marriott, 12- 18 Oct. 1894; autopsy report of William H. Wells, a deserter shot at Fort Porter, 26 Jan. 1922. A [Scholar Pass](#) is necessary to use this item.

Mss. A68-188

Officer of the Guard passes to Camp Morgan and Camp Porter, 1861 Aug. 25 and Oct. 8.

Issued by D.D. Bidwell and Phineas Staunton. A [Scholar Pass](#) is necessary to use this item.

Military: Fort Porter

Mss. A2019-43

M.R. Patrick letter: Albany, to Gov. E.D. Morgan, Albany, 1861 Oct. 21

Letter plus typescript, details the conditions of Capt. Wiedrich's Company near Fort Porter, and purchases made by Gen. Scroggs during his visit to Buffalo. A [Scholar Pass](#) is necessary to use this item.

Mss. B64-5, 3 boxes

United States. Army. New York Infantry Regiment, 100th (1862-1865). Veterans Association.

Records, 1894-1953 (bulk 1911-1951)

The 100th New York Regiment broke camp at Fort Porter in 1862 to join the Army of the Potomac in the Civil War. It originally numbered approximately 1,000 men. The regiment reunited annually, often together with Peter A. Porter's 8th N.Y. Heavy Artillery regiment.

Mss. C65-2, 7 boxes

Larke, Margaret, b. 1839

Papers

Diaries kept by Al Larke while serving with the 2nd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War, and with the 10th Regiment U.S. Infantry from 1873-1881 and diaries kept by his wife Margaret L. Hatchard Larke, before her marriage, while living with her husband at various army posts throughout the United States, including Fort Porter, where her husband died. A [Scholar Pass](#) is necessary to use this item.

Military: War of 1812

Several battles were fought in Black Rock during the War of 1812. Service records of individual soldiers are in the [U.S National Archives](#) and the [New York State Archives](#).

E302.6 .P78 S73 1999

Stagg, J.C.A.

[Between Black Rock and a hard place: Peter B. Porter's plan for an American invasion of Canada in 1812](#)

Originally published in *Journal of the Early Republic*, volume 19, number 3, Autumn 1999

Ref. E354 .B54 2011

Bilow, Jack

A War of 1812 Death Register

Plattsburgh, NY: The author, 2011

Pages 163-168 list soldiers who fought at Black Rock and were killed, wounded, or taken as prisoners of war

E 354 .B84 B75 2010

Brown, Christopher N.

The War of 1812: People, places & events in Buffalo, Black Rock and Erie County, a field guide
2010

Military: War of 1812

HN49 .C6 B59 2008

Black Rock-Riverside Good Neighbors Planning Alliance

[Historic Black Rock: War of 1812 bicentennial community plan](#)

[Buffalo, NY: The Alliance, 2008]

Mss. A00-420

James Sloan reminiscences, 1842-1865

Includes an account of Gen. Bishop's attack on Black Rock during the summer of 1813. A [Scholar Pass](#) is necessary to use this collection.

- [Here is a comprehensive list of War of 1812 items in our library](#)

Newspapers

All of these are online at Newspapers.com, plus we have them on microfilm. When you are in our building, you can search Newspapers.com for free. Laptops & tablets are welcome!

At home, [residents of New York State can access it though the New York Public Library.](#)

The links below open up lists of libraries where you can find these newspapers on microfilm.

[Black Rock Advocate](#), 1836-1837

[Black Rock Beacon](#), 1823-1824

[Black Rock Gazette](#), 1824-1827

[Buffalo and Black Rock Gazette](#), 1827-1828

[Buffalo & Black Rock Gazette and Western Advertiser](#), 1828

Pictures

Photography was not invented until 1839. Buffalo's first photographer opened up shop in 1840. Photography was a slow and cumbersome indoor portrait medium for its first decade or so. In Buffalo, the oldest known outdoor photograph dates from around 1850.

While we have some prints & drawings of Black Rock from the village era, the bulk of surviving Black Rock photographs in our collection date from about 1870 to 1980.

We have about 30,000 loose house & building photographs from Buffalo & Erie County. [Some are online in our Picture Store.](#)

Buffalo and Black Rock house pictures are in A-Z order by name of street. Buildings other than houses are sorted by type (church, school, factory, hotel, etc.)

[Drop us a line](#) and we'll check and see if we have a picture of your house, church, school, etc.

We also have these picture books:

F129 .B86 B54 2018

A Pictorial History of Black Rock, Buffalo, New York

Buffalo, NY: Grant Amherst Business Association, 2018

Ref. F129 .B8 B88 v.16 1993

[Picture Book of Earlier Buffalo](#)

Buffalo, NY: Buffalo Historical Society, 1912; reprinted in 1993

See pp. 250-308 for a chapter called Early Black Rock Facts

Residents for Whom We Have Personal Papers

Mss. A00-33

William A. Bird (1797-1878)

A [Scholar Pass](#) is necessary to use this collection.

Mss. A00-464

Van Schaack, Henry Cruger

Reminiscences of a Four Years Residence on the Niagara Frontier, 1823 to 1827

Van Schaack writes of life in Black Rock; his legal work for Samuel Denniston, inventor, and James Higbee, builder, of a perpetual motion machine, and Denniston's interactions with Mordecai Noah on Grand Island;

Residents for Whom We Have Personal Papers

the hanging of the Thayer brothers for the murder of John Love; and the visit to Buffalo of General Lafayette. Written in 1882. A [Scholar Pass](#) is necessary to use this item.

Mss. B2017-01

[Absalom Bull](#) (1797-1866)

A [Scholar Pass](#) is necessary to use this collection.

Mss. C2014-01

[Augustus Porter](#) (1769-1849)

A [Scholar Pass](#) is necessary to use this collection.

Microfilm M69-3

[Peter B. Porter](#) (1773-1844)

Tax Records

A [Scholar Pass](#) is necessary to use these collections.

Mss. A00-675

Assessment of highway tax for road in Black Rock situated on Buffalo Creek Reservation
1 item.

Mss. A00-676

Assessment rolls for Buffalo and Black Rock, 1818, 1819, and 1852

Oversize Mss. A69-56

Black Rock, N.Y., Assessment Rolls 1848 and 1852

Vital Records

New York State did not pass a vital records law until 1880, so there are no surviving government-issued birth certificates, marriage licenses, or death certificates from the village of Black Rock. Instead, researchers should consult surviving church records for baptisms, marriages, and deaths.

Vital Records

Official birth, marriage, and death certificates for the city of Buffalo, including post-annexation Black Rock, are in the [Buffalo City Clerk's office](#). We do not have copies here.

[Here are additional sources of vital records.](#)

Voter Registrations

A [Scholar Pass](#) is necessary to use this collection.

Mss. W-47

Poll Lists and Registers of Voters, 1838-1889

Vol. 1 includes Black Rock, 1838.

Additional Resources

The Black Rock Historical Society, founded in 2011, has a collection that is strong in post-annexation material.

Black Rock Historical Society

436 Amherst St.

Buffalo, NY 14207

<https://blackrockhistoricalsociety.com>

The Buffalo and Erie County Public Library has a guide to Black Rock material in its collection:

- [Black Rock/Riverside: Selected Sources in the Grosvenor Room at the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library](#)

[Return to The Buffalo History Museum](#)