

GERMANTOWN CRIER



Courtesy of the Library of Congress

In the move to the North it was the exceptional migrant who left the South by car. Most traveled by bus, train or foot. No matter which form of transportation was used, they rarely left on the spur of the moment. For most migrants the move 'from field to factory' required time, planning and money.

*The exhibition
"Field to Factory: Afro-American Migration 1915-1940"
examines all aspects of the historical period
and demographic phenomenon known as the Great Migration,
from the catalysts that pushed migrants north
to the lasting impact on American cities today.*

FIELD TO FACTORY
 Afro-American Migration
 1915-1940

GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 SEPTEMBER 18 through DECEMBER 4, 1988

Lack of educational opportunity in the South forced some parents to take their children's education into their own hands, sharing what knowledge they had. According to Philadelphian Hughsey Childs, who lived in North Carolina as a boy, the state didn't give you but three months to go to school — well, you could barely learn the alphabet in three months." (interview with Charles Hardy, 1984)



Courtesy of the Library of Congress

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Educational resources of all types were available in the North. Many of the advertisers in the NAACP publication *The Crisis* were institutions offering vocational training and liberal arts education.

LINCOLN UNIVERSITY

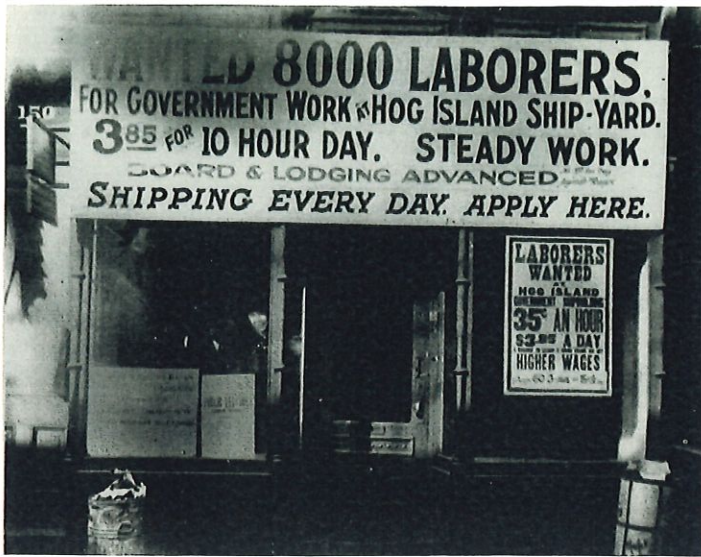
Investment in education is the safest form of investment. No economic collapse can take away knowledge or cultured ability.

Lincoln University at Lincoln University, Pennsylvania, offers such education to those who will undertake their studies with earnestness and diligence.

Why not investigate the opportunities and the revised costs? During the autumn and the spring semesters the institution offers general cultural, pre-professional, and theological training. The Summer Session (open on equal terms to men and women), offers undergraduate and advanced work in ideal surroundings.

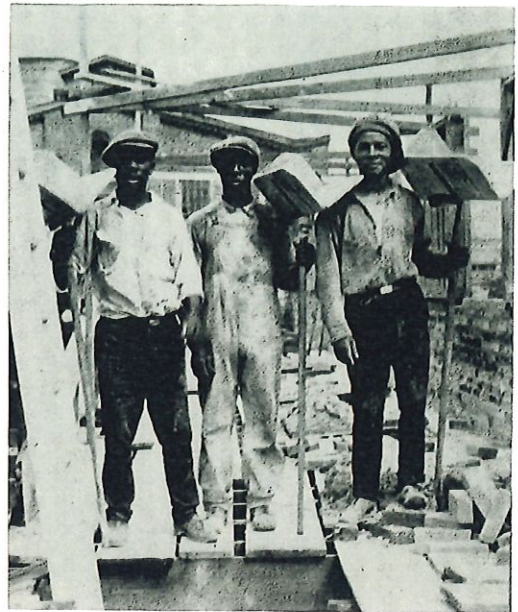
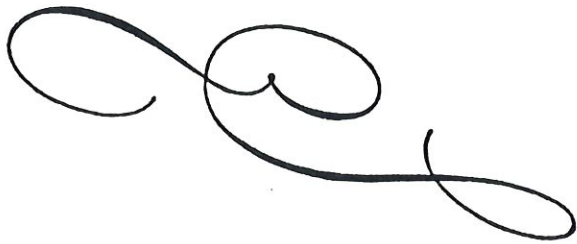
For detailed information address:

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY
 Lincoln University at Lincoln University, Pennsylvania



Courtesy of the Smithsonian Institution

World War I created new economic opportunities for black workers. As the war effort siphoned off laborers to the battlefields of Europe, labor recruiters turned to Southern blacks to bolster the work force. The Hog Island Shipyard near Philadelphia paid good wages and employed thousands.



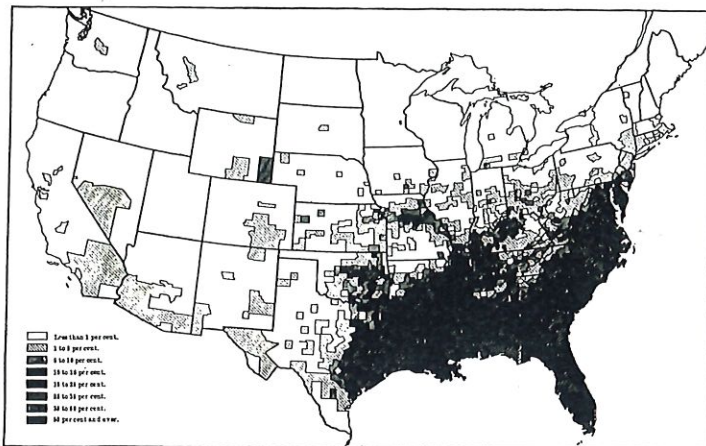
Courtesy of the Octavia Hill Association, Urban Archives Center, Temple University

The arrival of as many as 800 migrants per week put a severe strain on Philadelphia housing. Many job opportunities were created in the building trades. These hod carriers worked on a 1924 project in Kensington. This building and many others were funded by the Octavia Hill Association, a Philadelphia organization founded in 1896. The stockholders invested \$25 per share in housing rehabilitation and construction projects aimed at providing safe clean homes for Philadelphia migrants.



Courtesy of the Afro-American Historical and Cultural Museum

Ship riggers and laborers in the Hull Division at the Philadelphia Navy Yard gathered for this end-of-the-war photo in 1919.



Courtesy of the Library of Congress

New migrants swelled the ranks of northern congregations. Many new churches were founded while established institutions such as Philadelphia's Tindley Chapel set up programs to help migrants get settled in their new community. The importance of the church in this migration has been well documented. In the words of historian Allen Ballard, "You can lay out a map of the United States in 1880, shade it for the various Black religious sects, then shade Black churches in urban areas in 1930. Lines drawn between similar colors would give an accurate representation of the sources of the Great Migration." (Ballard, *One More Day's Journey*, p. 12.)

A map utilizing 1910 Federal census figures illustrates the pre-migration distribution of the Afro-American population in the United States. By the 1930 census, two-thirds of all the Afro-Americans in Philadelphia had been born in the South, with perhaps the greatest number coming from South Carolina.



Afro-American worshippers gather outside their small Pittsburgh church. This unimposing structure may also have offered a place to share frustrations and served as a gathering spot for political and labor activities.

Courtesy of the G. Dwayid Olmstead Collection, Smithsonian Institution



Courtesy of the Afro-American Historical and Cultural Museum (Gift of Joan Tyree)

A pilgrimage to St. Michael's Shrine (in Torresdale) on Sept. 1, 1925 encompassed six parishes including both the Brooklyn and Philadelphia congregations of St. Peter Claver, and the Germantown congregation of St. Catherine of Siena.