

## ALBUM AN OLD STORY MADE NEW. NEGRO MAKERS OF HISTORY

### Album Description

... and an old booklet.

I discovered this 8-page booklet while looking for information on Ira Aldridge, America's first internationally acclaimed black actor. It is billed as **The very book for which Public Schools have long waited – THE PEOPLE"**

This album includes a few images from the booklet and a link to a booklet about Ira Aldridge a significant actor whose name is unfamiliar to most of us. **(Why is this?)**

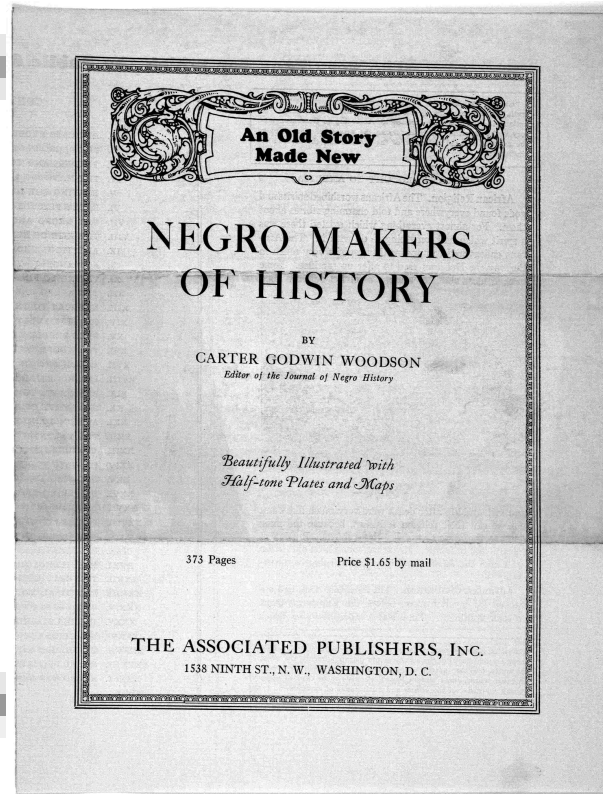
Social Studies/History

African Americans

6 - 8

9 - 12

**AN OLD STORY MADE NEW. NEGRO MAKERS OF HISTORY BY CARTER GODWIN WOODSON ... WASHINGTON D. C. THE ASSOCIATED PUBLISHERS, INC. [N. D.].**



**Teaching Notes:**

Included are “pictures of distinguished Negroes,” categories such as “Meritorious Negroes of Long Ago,” “Captains of Industry” “Negroes Successful in Site of Handicaps,” and “Negroes of Genius. While the terminology and approach are dated and uncomfortable, the booklet offers a glimpse of an earlier presentation of history. The publishers hoped to make money selling pictures.

**Reference Link:** <http://www.loc.gov/item/rbpe.21003300/>

Contributor Names: Woodson, Carter Godwin.

Created / Published: Washington.

Subject Headings: - United States--District of Columbia--Washington

Genre: Catalogs--District of Columbia--Washington

Notes: - Circular regarding the book.; Genre: Piece 1: Catalogs; Piece 2: Blank Forms.

- Page Order: Leaflet

- Available also through the Library of Congress web site in two forms: as facsimile page images and as full text in SGML.

- 2 duplicate copies

- Printed Ephemera Collection; Portfolio 210, Folder 33.

- Copy scanned: 2

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Digital Id: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.rbc/rbpe.21003300>



## WRITTEN FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF A CHILD

### Teaching Notes:

The author explains this is an adaption of another book, presented to help children learn.

There are study questions for discussion such as:

*What advantage has free labor over slave labor?*

*What do you know bout Uncle Tom's Cabin?*

*African Americans Social Studies/History Textbook (old) 6 - 8 9 - 12*

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## PICTURES FOR PURCHASE

### Teaching Notes:

*A list of pictures of famous Negroes that can be purchase as a group or individually (along with an order blank)*

*Note the addressee in the order form.*

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## PICTURES LOGICALLY GROUPED IN CATEGORIES

### Teaching Notes:

Pictures Logically grouped in categories

Ira Aldridge, distinguished in Europe as a Shakespearean Actor is in the Negros successful despite Handicaps” group.

## MR. IRA ALDRIDGE AS AARON



### Teaching Notes:

In 1821 a group of freed slaves formed African Grove, America's first professional black theater company. The actors wanted to act—and they wanted to show to show white theaters that Black Americans could speak The King's English, including Shakespeare. When New York City's leading theater put on *Richard III*, the African Company rented a hall next door for its own production of *Richard III*. The *white theater's owner orchestrated a disturbance over the rival productions so police would shut down the African Grove*. The city eventually shut the theater down

Ira Aldridge, the son of freed slaves, joined the African Grove Theater as a teenager at first working backstage. He moved to London in the 1820's to play Othello, Shylock and other roles typically played by white actors. He sometimes whitened his face, but left his hands black. He gained success, celebrity and wealth in Europe and was also popular in Eastern Europe and Russia. He was also an activist, speaking out against slavery. Aldridge died in Poland in 1867.

*Aldridge is the only actor of descent honored at the at the Shakespeare Theater in Stratford upon Avon, England. The Howard University's Theater Department's performance stage is in the Ira Aldridge Theater.*

English/Language Arts   Actors   African Americans   African Groive Theater   Ira Aldridge

**Reference Link:** <http://www.loc.gov/item/99471607/>

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Summary: Illustration shows full-length portrait of Ira Aldridge as Aaron in Shakespeare's "Titus Andronicus."

Contributor Names: Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616.

Created / Published: [London] : The London Printing and Publishing Company, [1852?]

Subject Headings: - Aldridge, Ira Frederick,---1867--Performances

- Theatrical productions--England--1830-1860

Notes: - Caption: "He dies upon my scimeter's sharp point, / That touches this my first-born son and heir!" Act 4, sc. 2.

- From a daguerreotype by Paine of Islington.

- Exhibited: Portraits of a People: Picturing African Americans in the Nineteenth Century, Addison Gallery of American Art, Andover, Massachusetts, and other venues, 2006.

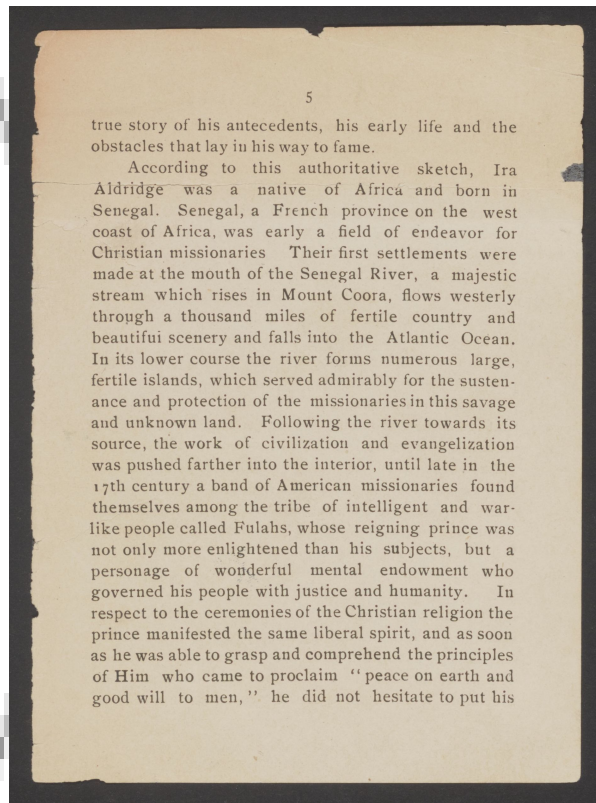
Repository: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C., 20540 USA

Digital Id: ppmsca 08977 //hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/ppmsca.08977

cph 3a40210 //hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/cph.3a40210



## A GLANCE AT THE LIFE OF IRA FREDERICK ALDRIDGE,



### Teaching Notes:

22-page booklet about the life of Ira Aldridge

<https://www.loc.gov/item/17011681/> (PDF)

Found in African American Perspectives: Materials Selected from the Rare Book Collection.

Ira Aldridge discussion, The Arts and Primary Sources Group

English/Language Arts    Actors    African Americans    9 - 12    Ira Aldridge

**Reference Link:** <http://www.loc.gov/item/17011681/>

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Contributor Names: Peyton, Fountain.

Daniel Murray Pamphlet Collection (Library of Congress)

Created / Published: [Washinton, Printed by R.L. Pendleton], c1917.

Subject Headings: - Aldridge, Ira Frederick,---1867

- Actors, Black--Great Britain--Biography

- African American actors--Biography

Notes: - LC copy imperfect: all before p. 5 wanting.

- choice, form AACR2. LC had both copyright copies, but no longer.

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## Teaching Notes:



Mary Alice Anderson Quite a find!

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### **Teaching Notes:**

Thought you might like to know that the theater at Howard University is named for Ira Aldridge  
<https://theatrearts.howard.edu/ira-aldrige-theater>.

### Teaching Notes:

Interesting booklet.

I think the answer to your question, that could be a good discussion topic for high school students, is summed up well by this image from the Library. This remarkably talented woman was a graduate of Denver's East High. She was a phenomenal chanteuse, fronting Professor George Morrison's band, also playing piano. She went on to a career in Hollywood, working on dozens of films, and becoming the first Black female Oscar winner for her role as "Mammie" in *Gone with the Wind*. All of this, yet, when the Oscars were held she was not going to be permitted into the whites-only Coconut Grove Nightclub. Selznick called in favors. Then she could not sit at the GWTW table with her co-stars. Instead she was seated at a small side table with her date and her agent.

The industry -- be it stage or film, simply could not bring itself to equally honor the contributions of Black performers until very recently...and that is debatable too (remember *Oscars So White*?)

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### Teaching Notes:

Thanks for the comment. You are right, achieving Blacks (and others) people were not given due recognition, It was a big deal when Sidney Portier won an Oscar in the 60's.

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### Teaching Notes:

Contemporary tidbit: A version of the Hattie McDaniel story is presented in Ryan Murphy's 2020 *Hollywood* mini-series.

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### Teaching Notes:

Really? I need to watch more TV!

George Morrison's son walked into my museum in Golden, Colorado and wanted to donate Morrison's piano (the one Ms. McDaniel is photographed sitting at in the LOC image) and some photos. I promptly accepted and then did an oral history with him. There is an OLD bar in Golden called the Rock Rest, it was owned by an Irish immigrant in the 1920s who didn't care what people's skin color was as long as their cash was green. Morrison and McDaniel played there regularly. On the mesa above the Rock Rest was a private club, known as a KKK hangout, where big band leader Paul Whiteman used to play. That club burned to the ground. The Rock Rest is still swinging!



### Teaching Notes:

Great teaching note on the page on Mr. Ira Aldridge - I've pasted it in for other casual readers like me!

### Teaching Notes:

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### Teaching Notes:

Fascinating and what a gift!

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### Teaching Notes:



Alison Noyes thank you for resharing this information about Ira Aldridge. He was quite a success story I wouldn't have known about him if it weren't for the upcoming production of The African Company Presents Richard III at the Great River Shakespeare Festival this summer. [Http://grsf.org](http://grsf.org)