



#13 Portrait of the Thomas A. Dillon and Margaret Dillon Family

Thomas A. Dillon was born in Richmond, Virginia, in 1873 and worked as a coachman. His wife, Margaret, was born in Newton, Massachusetts, in 1870, and worked as a domestic servant. Their children, Thomas, Margaret, and Mary, were all born in Massachusetts. The family posed for Bullard in the parlor of their home at 4 Dewey Street in Worcester's Beaver Brook neighborhood. The poster on the wall commemorates President Theodore Roosevelt's visit to the Worcester Agricultural Fair in 1902. Approximately 25,000 people attended Roosevelt's speech at the fair in which he complimented Worcester for its prosperity. By inviting African American leader Booker T. Washington to dine with him at the White House in 1901—the first President to ever make such an invitation—Roosevelt earned the respect of many of the nation's black citizens.



#15 Portrait of Thomas Doughton, Jr., Working on the Railroad

Thomas Doughton, Jr., was twenty-two years old when Bullard took this photograph of him around 1916, at work for the Boston and Albany Railroad in Worcester's railyard, one of the few industries in the city that regularly employed African American men. His mother was a migrant from Petersburg, Virginia. He worked as a car repairer for the railroad and played baseball for the Miles Standish baseball team, made up of young men from Worcester's community of color.



#17 Portrait of Reuben Griffin, Standing Against a Tree

Reuben Griffin was born around 1869 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. His mother was from Kentucky and his father was from Maine. In May 1898, a few weeks after the U.S. declared war on Spain, Griffin volunteered for Company L, the “colored” company of the Sixth Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. The company battled the Spanish alongside white troops in Puerto Rico. He mustered out of the military in 1899. Soon after that he moved to Worcester, where he worked as a “stationary fireman” and at a steam laundry. In 1904, he married Annetta A. Bell, a native of Mississippi. He then worked as a janitor at Boys Trade School and was active in many community organizations. He was a member of the AME Zion Church and the King David Masonic Lodge, and veterans’ clubs. He also acted in local plays. Griffin worked for many years as a janitor at Boys Trade School in Worcester, where he was fondly known as “Grif.”



#24 Portrait of the James J. and Jennie Bradley Johnson Family

James J. Johnson, of Nipmuc, Narragansett and African American descent, was born in Worcester in 1849, the son of a barber. In Worcester, the Native American and African American communities lived in many of the same neighborhoods and often intermarried. In 1885 he married Jennie Bradley, a migrant from Charleston, South Carolina, born in 1865. They had two daughters, Rose Mabel and Jennie, pictured here, and resided in Beaver Brook. James worked as a coachman and Jennie worked as a laundress. The family belonged to the Bethel AME Zion Church. James belonged to several community organizations, including the Masons and the Heirs of the Narragansett Indians.



#33 Portrait of Susie Idella and Harry Clinton Morris

Susie and Harry Morris were the children of Sandy Morris, an African American barber from New Orleans, and Susie Arkless, of Narragansett Indian descent. Their great-great-grandfather, Sampson Hazard, fought in the Revolutionary War. Susie was around 13 when Bullard took this photograph and Harry was 10. Susie married a Virginia-born barber in 1913 and raised a family in Worcester. Harry served in World War I, worked as a porter in New York City for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and returned to Worcester where he raised a family with his wife, Elise, and worked for the water company.



#34 Portrait of David T. Oswell with His Viola

Born in Boston in 1834, David T. Oswell was the son of a Georgia-born barber who participated in antislavery activities. He moved to Canada in the 1850s and married Adeline Watson from Portland, Maine. Oswell migrated to Worcester in 1877 where he worked as a barber and was a well-known musician and music teacher. His accomplishments earned him the title “Professor.” According to his obituary, Oswell “taught the violin in nearly every family of prominence in this city [Worcester] amongst the white people.” He also composed musical scores. He and his wife, Adeline, and several of their daughters regularly performed in concerts and community events. In addition, Oswell led a popular orchestra that performed at local dances and social events. The Oswells lived in Beaver Brook.



#36 Portrait of Rose Perkins and Her Brothers Edward and Abraham

Rose, Edward, and Abraham Perkins were all born into slavery on a plantation in Camden, South Carolina, the children of King Perkins, who fathered 23 children. After losing their farm during an economic depression, Edward and his wife Celia migrated to Worcester in 1879 where they settled in the Beaver Brook neighborhood and lived near each other. Sister Rose and Abraham, as well as many other family members soon joined Edward and Celia and the family aided in the relocation of many more family members and neighbors from Camden. Rose worked as a laundress and housekeeper and Edward worked as a truckman and Abraham as a laborer.



#48 Portrait of Raymond Schuyler and His Children, Ethel, Stephen, Beatrice, and Dorothea

Raymond Schuyler was born in 1864 and moved from Troy, New York, to Worcester in 1887 to work in the Worcester Wire Works. He later worked for the Boston and Maine Railroad as a janitor, clerk, and gate tender. An active member of the community and leader in several organizations, Schuyler belonged to two fraternal organizations, the Knights of Pythias and the Masons, which emphasized mutual support and community building. He was also a member of the NAACP, a civil rights organization, and All Saints Episcopal Church. He married Rose M. Bates, a native of Vergennes, Vermont, in 1893 and they parented ten children. They lived in the John Street neighborhood.