

A Timeline of People of Color in Connecticut

- 1700** Up until this year few slaves were recorded in Connecticut .
- 1774** By the time of the revolution Connecticut had the largest number of slaves in New England. One in four inventories included slaves. Prominent families in Norwich, Hartford, New Haven were said to have one or two. Slaves were owned by half of all ministers, lawyers and public officials and by one third of all doctors.
- 1784** Gradual Emancipation Act declares children of enslaved African Americans born after March 1, 1784 to be granted freedom at age 25 (modified in 1797 to age 21 for children born after August 1 of that year.)
- 1788** State legislation prohibits import and export of slaves for sale.
- 1839**
- 1841** Amistad trial. Africans from schooner held prisoner in Connecticut were declared free by the US Supreme Court. They returned to Africa.
- 1848** Slavery outlawed in Connecticut

U.S. Census Bureau Statistics for Connecticut

Year	Black			White
	Total	Free	Slave	
1790	5,572	2,808	2,764	237,946
1800	6,281	5,330	951	251,002
1810	6,763	6,453	310	261,942
1820	7,967	7,870	97	275,248
1830	8,072	8,047	25	297,675
1840	8,122	8,105	17	309,978
1850	7,693	7,693	0	370,792

A Columbia Family

The 1850 U.S. Census lists two black families living in Columbia. The first family listed consisted of Jedediah and Almira Buck and their children Elisa, Charles, and Alvin later to be joined by daughters Emma, Caroline, and Ada. Census data shows that this family owned real estate worth \$1,200.

De Ramm, Town Historian, had done an article for The Columbia Crossroads (08/2002) that details some of the life of Charles Buck. He lived on the current Route 87 near the Lebanon Border. During the Civil War he enlisted in the Union Army, serving in the Twenty-Ninth Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers, Infantry. He was said to own a fine team of oxen and was highly respected in town. Later in life, when unable to continue the hard work of farming, he moved to the Landmark Inn and rented a room. Charles died in 1918.

References: Mattatuck Historical Society, U.S. Census Bureau, De Ramm