

Kerima Lewis

I have taught history at local Boston colleges since 2012. My interest in the legal history of African Americans began after law school in 1986. My research focus expanded to the study of crimes committed by enslaved persons in colonial New England when I entered a doctoral history program at the University of CA, Berkeley in 2007.

While I was introduced to mostly historical works on southern slavery in graduate school, it was Lorenzo Greene's *The Negro in Colonial New England*, published in 1942, which provided the most complete documentation of slavery in New England. His work remains the foundational work on this aspect of American slavery. It is thoroughly researched and documents all aspects of the "peculiar institution" in New England from the slave trade, population, labor, slave laws, crimes, family, and religion. He explains the domestic slave system as well as information on runaways and those accused of theft, poison, and arson. Dr. Greene takes note of the Native American fight against oppression which often ended in deadly raids.

Born in Ansonia, Connecticut in 1899, Dr. Greene graduated from Howard University and Columbia University where he obtained a PH.D. A protégé of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the Father of Black History, Dr. Greene taught history at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri from 1933 to 1972. He never received recognition for his historical scholarship on New England slavery even after his death in 1988. With permission from his son, I have named an Institute for the Study of New England Slavery after Dr. Greene. It is my hope that the Lorenzo J. Green Institute will continue to tell the story of New England slavery with the accuracy told by Dr. Greene. The Institute will offer historical exhibitions, scholarly conferences, virtual programs, and low-cost history classes for the community.