

An Overview of Seneca Village

Seneca Village was a community that existed in New York in the early and mid-1800s. This community had churches and schools. The people who lived there worked in many different jobs, had gardens and small farms, and many owned the land on which they lived. African Americans and Irish Americans lived together in this community even as, in the rest of the city, there was segregation. Seneca Village developed and grew in New York during the time before the Civil War when enslavement still existed in our country.

But in 1856, this community was destroyed in order to create Central Park. The people who lived there had to leave their homes, landowners were forced to sell their land at low prices, and much of this history has been lost. Anthropologists and historians have worked for many years to recover the history of Seneca Village but much of it remains unknown.

References

Rosenzweig, R. & Blackmar, E. (1992). *The park and the people: A history of Central Park*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

Seneca Village Website: <http://projects.ilt.columbia.edu/seneca/start.html>