

## RESEARCH WEBSITES

**Digitized African American Digitized Newspapers in the Chronicling America Collection from the Library of Congress**

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/?state=&ethnicity=African+American&language>

**Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers' Project 1936-1938**

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/snhtml/>  
Contains more than 2,300 first-person accounts of slavery and 500 black-and-white photographs of former slaves. These narratives were collected in the 1930s as part of the Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration (WPA)

**Lowcountry Africana: African American Genealogy and History in SC, GA, and FL**

<http://www.lowcountryafricana.com/>  
This site is entirely dedicated to records that document the family and cultural heritage of African Americans in the historic rice-growing areas of South Carolina, Georgia and extreme northeastern Florida.

**The University of South Florida's Africana Heritage Project**

<http://africanaheritage.com/>  
Their mission is to rediscover precious records that document the names and lives of former slaves, freedpersons and their descendants, and share those records on this free Internet site.

## HOW-TO VIDEOS

**Finding Our Ancestors: Researching African American Genealogy**

<https://youtu.be/Eq4KaAILAXA>  
Frazine Taylor of the Alabama Department of Archives and History (retired) focuses on effective methods for researching African American genealogy in the South.

**The African Diaspora: Integrating Culture, Genomics and History**

<http://www.genome.gov/27555386>  
A series of videos by leading scholars that discuss many different topics of African American research.

**African American Newspapers in Genealogical Research**  
<https://youtu.be/g2VVEgdLKFQ>  
Family historian and lecturer Tim Pinnick explains how to find and effectively use African American newspapers in genealogical research.

## HOW TO BEGIN

- Begin with yourself and work backward, one generation at a time.
- Acquire as much information and detail from family members and household sources as possible.
- Use census records, vital records (births, marriages, and deaths), and cemetery sources to fill in any previously unknown information.
- Locate obituaries using known dates of death.
- Conduct a search through U.S. federal records. Military records, Freedmen's Bureau records, Freedman's Savings and Trust Company records, and the Records of the Commissioners of Claims (Southern Claims Commission) are rich sources for African American ancestors.
- Conduct research in city or county court records such as land records (deeds and mortgages), probate files, civil and criminal lawsuits, guardianship records, and tax files.
- Locate and search African American newspapers for the cities in which your ancestors lived.
- Consult reference guides to African American resources in other libraries, historical societies, and archives.
- Be sure always to record the source of any information

## WEST OAKS LIBRARY & GENEALOGY CENTER

1821 E. Silver Star Road, Ocoee, FL 34761  
407-835-7651; [genealogy@ocls.info](mailto:genealogy@ocls.info)

Monday to Thursday 10:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m.  
Friday and Saturday 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday 1:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.



[www.ocls.info](http://www.ocls.info)  
407.835.7323



[www.ocls.info/social](http://www.ocls.info/social)



## Resources For AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH





## HELPFUL BOOKS FOR THE BEGINNER

*African-American Genealogical Sourcebook* edited by Paula K. Byers RG 301.45 AFR

*African American Genealogy: A Bibliography and Guide to Sources* by Curt Witcher RG 016 AFR

*Bibliographic Checklist of African American Newspapers* by Barbara K. Henritze RG 016.07 Hen

*Black Genealogy* by Charles L. Blockson and Ron Fry RG 301.45 Blo

*Black Indians: A Hidden Heritage* by William Loren Katz 970.3 KAT

*Black Names in America: Origins and Usage* by Newbell Niles Puckett R 929.4 Puc

*Black Roots: A Beginner's Guide to Tracing the African American Family Tree* by Tony Burroughs RG 929.1 BUR

*A Comprehensive Name Index for the American Slave* by Howard E. Potts RG 973.7 AME

*Family Pride: The Complete Guide to Tracing African-American Genealogy* by Donna Beasley RG 929.1 BEA

*Finding a Place Called Home: A Guide to African-American Genealogy and Historical Identity* by Dee Parmer Woodtor RG 929.1 WOO

*From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans* by John Hope Franklin and Alfred A. Moss Jr. 973.04960 FRA

*A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your African-American Ancestors* by Franklin Carter Smith and Emily Anne Croom RG 929.1 SMI

*Generations Past: A Selected List of Sources for Afro-American Genealogical Research* by Sandra M. Lawson RG 301.45 LAW and RG 929.1 LAW

*Slave Genealogy: A Research Guide with Case Studies* by David H. Streets RG 301.45 Str

*A Student's Guide to African American Genealogy* by Anne Johnson 929.1 Joh

To see our additional holdings please visit our catalog at [iii.ocls.info](http://iii.ocls.info) and search by subject: Genealogy African Americans.

## MICROFILM/MICROFICHE

Registers of signatures of depositors in branches of Freedman's Savings & Trust Co. 1865-1874 (27 rolls)

Indexes to deposit ledgers in branches of the Freedman's Savings & Trust Co. 1865-1874 (5 rolls)

American Missionary Association Archives Microfilm. The AMA was an anti-slavery group associated with the Congregational Church who provided benevolent relief, education and religion to escaped slaves and contraband. (2 rolls)

Alabama Death Index 1908-1959 (6 rolls)

Alabama Marriage Index 1936-1969 (11 rolls)

Southern Claims Commission Consolidated Index of Claims (1 roll)

City Directories on Microfilm for a variety of cities in the late 1880s and early 1890s.

Baptist Church Records, Blakely Georgia 1837-1894.

## DATABASES (AVAILABLE AT OCLS.INFO)

### Ancestry Library Edition

Ancestry Library Edition, the largest online family history resource available, provides unprecedented access to family history via documents that record the lineage of individuals from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Europe, Australia, and more. Available for in library use only.

Examples of African American Records in Ancestry's Library Edition:

- Freedman's Bank Records
- U.S. Southern Claims Commission
- Negro Newspapers from the Library of Congress
- U.S. Freedmen's Bureau Records
- U.S. Colored Troop Military Service Records and Deaths During the Civil War
- Slave Emancipation Records
- Slave Owner Petitions
- Louisiana Slave Records
- U.S. Federal Census, Slave Schedules
- U.S. Interviews with Former Slaves

## Heritage Quest

Heritage Quest is a comprehensive treasury of American genealogical sources—rich in unique primary sources, local and family histories, convenient research guides, interactive census maps, and more. Available from home.

Sources rich in African-American history at Heritage Quest:

- Freedman's Bank Records
- Genealogy and local history books
- Periodical Source Index Archive

## Gale Genealogy Connect

Gale Genealogy Connect includes over 500 reference e-books on genealogy related topics including African American Research. It has intuitive searching options that help researchers find information easily. Type "African American" in the search box located near the top of the page. Available from home.

## BEYOND THE LIBRARY

### REFERENCE GUIDES AND COMPILATIONS

#### African American Heritage at the National Archives

<http://www.archives.gov/research/african-americans/>  
Provides an introduction to research and links to resources for researching African Americans in federal documents.

#### Family Search African American Genealogy Research Wiki

[https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/African\\_American\\_Genealogy](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/African_American_Genealogy)  
Provides a wide variety of information on research your African American ancestors and provides links to other documents, how-to guides, and websites.

#### The Black Experience: A Guide to African American Resources in the State Library and Archives of Florida

<https://www.floridamemory.com/Collections/blackexperience/>  
This resource guide presents an overview of the resources that are available for the study of African American history in the State Archives of Florida.

#### African American Page on Cyndi's List

<http://www.cyndislist.com/african-american>  
A categorized & cross-referenced index to African American genealogical resources on the Internet.

