

Online Resources for Black American Genealogy

Some Helpful Genealogy Sites and Databases

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GFO Open House, 31 March 2022

- African American Genealogy Collection at Ancestry.com <http://www.ancestry.com/african-american> (requires payment, or free to use at LDS History Centers and Libraries) includes:
 - U.S. Federal Census Indexes and Images 1790–1940; includes...
 - Slave Schedules for 1850 and 1860 (slave schedules generally name slave holders; slaves usually listed only by age, sex, and black/mulatto but not named)
 - Every name census indices 1790–1940 (formerly enslaved were first enumerated by name beginning in 1870)
 - 1890 Civil War Widows and Veterans Schedule
 - U.S. Freedmen's Bureau Records, 1865–1878
 - Freedman's Bank Records, 1865–1874 (bank depositor records of freed slaves from Alabama, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Missouri, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina)
 - African American Newspapers, 1829–1947
 - U.S., Interviews with Former Slaves, 1936–1938
 - U.S. Colored Troops Records, 1861–1865
 - Savannah, Georgia, Coastwise Slave Manifests, 1811–1860
 - New Orleans, Louisiana, Slave Manifests, 1807–1860
 - Louisiana Slave Records, 1719–1820
 - Adams County, Mississippi, Slave Certificates, 1858–1861
 - Mississippi, Wilkinson County Newspaper Slave Ads, 1823–1849
 - Slave Emancipation Records, 1851–1863 and Slave Owner Petitions, 1862–1863, Washington, D.C.
 - And more . . .
- Freedmen's Bureau Project <http://www.discoverfreedmen.org>
Digitized collection of all Freedmen's Bureau records; about half have a searchable index
- Freedman's Bank (Freedman's Savings and Trust Company) Records, 1865–1874
Name index and images of all surviving registers for people who opened accounts
<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1417695>
- Southern Claims Commission (1871–1880)
https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Southern_Claims_Commission
Testimony from formerly enslaved individuals can be found in claimants' files, linking them to their former slave holders
- Digital Library on American Slavery
<http://library.uncg.edu/slavery/>
Database of personal information about slaves, slaveholders, and free people of color

<http://library.uncg.edu/slavery/petitions/index.aspx>

Race and Slavery Petitions Project -- a searchable database with information about slaves, slaveholders, and free people of color from petitions filed between 1775 and 1867 in the 15 slaveholding states and the District of Columbia

- Index to Civil War Slave Compensation Claims in Compiled Military Service Records of U.S. Colored Troops (Union Soldiers) <http://www.slcl.org/content/civil-war-slave-compensation-claims-compiled-military-service-records-us-colored-troops>
Most records are for Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, and Missouri or neighboring states

- Slaves and the Courts, 1740–1860 (Library of Congress)
<https://www.loc.gov/collections/slaves-and-the-courts-from-1740-to-1860>
Includes online page images and transcriptions

- Slavery Era Insurance Registry
https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Slavery_Era_Insurance_Registry
Example: From insurance companies doing business in California with records from various locations <http://www.insurance.ca.gov/0100-consumers/0300-public-programs/0200-slavery-era-insur/>

- Transatlantic Slave Trade Database <http://www.slavevoyages.org/>
Maps, timelines, and animations

- Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936–1938
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/snhtml/snhome.html>
Contains more than 2,300 first-person accounts of slavery with 500 photographs of former slaves

- Free African Americans of Delaware, Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, and South Carolina
<http://www.freeafricanamericans.com/>
18th Century to early 19th Century

Alabama

- Lauderdale County African American Genealogy Indexes <http://www.jdoqocy.com/click-584978-10471554?url=http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~allauder/afr-amer.htm>
- Lee County, Alabama Colored Marriage Database 1867–1875
<http://www.cvlga.org/genealogy/db>

District of Columbia

- The Georgetown Slavery Archive "...a repository of materials relating to the Maryland Jesuits, Georgetown University, and slavery."
<http://slaveryarchive.georgetown.edu/>

Georgia

- Harris County, Georgia Colored Marriages Database
http://www.muscogeegenealogy.com/?page_id=22

Illinois

- Illinois Database of Servitude and Emancipation Records (1722–1863)
<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases/servant.html>

Kentucky

- Fayette County: Lexington Colored Marriage Indexes, 1866–1882 and 1958–1968 from the University of Kentucky Libraries
https://exploreuk.uky.edu/?f%5Bsource_s%5D%5B%5D=Indices+to+Colored+Marriage+Registers%2C+Fayette+County

Louisiana

- Afro-Louisiana History and Genealogy Database 1718–1820 <http://www.ibiblio.org/laslave/> (100,000 records)
- Archdiocese of New Orleans: Slave and Free People of Color Baptismal Records in the Archives <https://nolacatholic.org/church-records> or <http://www.archdiocese-no.org/archives/sfpc.php>
- Orleans Parish Court: Index to Slave Emancipation Petitions 1814–1843
<http://nutrias.org/~nopl/inv/vcp/emancip.htm>

Lowcountry (Florida, Georgia, South Carolina)

- Lowcountry Africana <http://lowcountryafricana.net/>
“[D]edicated 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 . . .”

Maryland

- Legacy of Slavery in Maryland <http://slavery.msa.maryland.gov/> or <http://www.mdslavery.net/>
Includes census slave schedules, runaway ads and more

Mississippi

- Mississippi Freedmen's Bureau Record Index <http://zed.mdah.state.ms.us/>

Missouri

- African-American Life in St. Louis, 1804–1865 from the Records of St. Louis' Courts
<http://www.nps.gov/jeff/historyculture/african-american-life-in-saint-louis-1804-through-1865.htm>
- African Americans in St. Louis indexes various sources from the St. Louis County Library
<http://www.slcl.org/genealogy-and-local-history/indexes-by-topic/2369>
- Missouri Slave Data <http://www.usgennet.org/usa/mo/topic/afro-amer/slaveinfo.html>

New York

- New York Slavery Records Index <https://nyslavery.commons.gc.cuny.edu>

North Carolina

- North Carolina Runaway Slave Advertisements, 1751–1840
<http://libcdm1.uncg.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/RAS>

- Plantations of North Carolina

http://freepages.rootsweb.com/~brownandmeares/genealogy/nc_plantations.htm

Pennsylvania

- Philadelphia African American Census 1847

<http://www.swarthmore.edu/library/friends/paac1847/main.html>

South Carolina

- Beaufort, S.C. Slave Manifests (Outbound) and Charleston, S.C. Slave Manifests (Inbound) from the Atlanta National Archives branch <http://www.archives.gov/southeast/finding-aids/slave-manifests/>

• South Carolina Estate Inventories and Bills of Sale 1732–1872 from Fold3 and Lowcountry Africana http://www.fold3.com/title_700/south_carolina_estate_inventories_and_bills/ or <https://www.fold3.com/title/700/south-carolina-estate-inventories-and-bills-of-sale-1732-1872>

Texas

- Texas Slavery Project <http://www.texaslaveryproject.org/> (includes some online records)

Virginia

- Unknown No Longer: A Database of Virginia Slave Names

<http://unknownnolonger.vahistorical.org/>

- Virginia Cohabitation Registers of Colored Persons also has Virginia Chancery Records Index http://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/collections_by_topic

• Virginia Runaways: Runaway Slave Advertisements from 18th-Century Virginia Newspapers <http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/subjects/runaways/> or <http://www2.vcdh.virginia.edu/gos/>

- Virginia, African-American Funeral Programs, 1920–2009 at FamilySearch from the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond

<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1880968>

- Alexandria, Virginia

- African-American Voter Registration in Alexandria, Virginia 1902–1954

http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us/client/home/?rm=ONLINE+INDEXES0%7C%7C%7C1%7C%7C%7C0%7C%7C%7Ctrue&te=ROOM_CONTENT

- Alexandria: Friends of Freedmen's Cemetery <http://www.freedmenscemetery.org/> has indices and records relating to Alexandria's African American community in the 18th and 19th centuries; includes a PDF file of Freedmen Cemetery burials

- Alexandria, Virginia African-American Resources <https://alexlibraryva.org/lhsc-aa>