

African American Research At The Forum Library

By Connie Lenzen, CG

African American family research begins like all genealogy. One starts with what is known and works backwards in time, contacting relatives, collecting family information, and oral history. Censuses are searched, but the census search usually stops at the 1870 census – the first census to list African Americans by name. Vital Records are obtained in order to gather information about the family prior to 1870.

Around this time, the search becomes complicated. Records for the family need to be located, the slave owner needs to be determined, and that family has to be researched also.

How-to book

An important step in any genealogical research project is to locate “how-to” guides. One book mentioned in most African American bibliographies is Dee Parmer Woodtor’s *Finding a Place Called Home: A Guide to African American Genealogy and Historical Identity*.

Another valuable “how-to” is Tony Burrough’s *Black Roots: A Beginner’s Guide to Tracing the African American Family Tree*. Both books are in the GFO library collection.

Online sources

Angela Walton-Raji, an African American genealogist, has uploaded a number of videos on YouTube. Web: <http://youtube.com/aywalton>. Each of the free videos focuses on a different facet of African American research.

AfriGeneas is an online site that is devoted to African American genealogy. Here you can find the databases, AfriGeneas mail list, the AfriGeneas message boards and daily and weekly genealogy chats. The site hosts an interactive guide for beginners. Web: <http://www.afrigeneas.com/>.

Microfilm at the GFO Library: Slave census schedules

Slaves were enumerated separately during the 1850 and 1860 censuses. Unfortunately, most schedules do not give personal names. Typically, individuals were numbered, and their age and sex was enumerated. This can still provide clues to relationships. While many slave census schedules are on Ancestry.com, a page-by-page reading of the slave owners and their slaves for a community can lead to unexpected clues.

1850 Georgia slave schedules: Newton, Oglethorpe, Paulding, Pike, Pulaski, Putnam, Rabun, Randolph, and Richmond.

1850 Kentucky slave schedules: Jessamine through Woodford Counties

1850 Mississippi slave schedules, Jones, Kemper, Lafayette, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Leeke, Lownds, Madison Counties.

1850 Mississippi slave schedules, Tishomingo, Tunica, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Wilkinson, Winston.

- 1850 Missouri slave schedules, Shelby County.
- 1850 North Carolina slave schedules, Amance to Camden counties..
- 1860 Arkansas Slave Schedules. Arkansas, Askley, Benton, Bradley, Calhoun, Carroll, Chicot, Clark, Columbia, Conway, Craighead, Crawford, Crittenden, Dallas, Desha, Drew, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Hemstead, Hot Spring, Independence, Izard, Jackson & Jefferson Counties.
- 1860 Delaware slave schedules, entire state.
- 1860 Kentucky slave schedules, Adair - Casey counties.
- 1860 Maryland census population schedules: Allegheny - Howard counties and slave schedule.

Books in the GFO Library

As shown by the partial list below, the GFO Library has a number of books that focus on the African American experience and research.

- Bardes, Eleanor Dooks. *Hamilton County, Ohio Burial Records: Volume 9, part 1, Union Baptist African American Cemetery*. Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 1997. 305.96/H218 Cem.
- Bardes, Eleanor Dooks. *Hamilton County, Ohio Burial Records: Volume 9, part 2, Union Baptist African American Cemetery*. Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 1997. 305.96/H218 Cem.
- Bennett, Lerone, Jr. *Before the Mayflower: A History of Black America*. New York; Penguin Books, 1984. 305.96/B471.
- Berlin, Ira. *Slaves Without Masters: The Free Negro in the Antebellum South*. New York: Pantheon books, 1974. 305.96/B515.
- Black Studies: A Select Catalog of National Archives Microfilm Publications*. Washington, DC: GSA, 1984. 305.96/N277.
- Blassingame, John W. *Slave Community: Plantation Life in the Antebellum South*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1972. 305.96/B644.
- Blockson, Charles. *Black Genealogy*. Prentice Hall, 1977. 305.96/B651.
- Brown, Richard D., ed. *Slavery in American Society*. Lexington, MA: D.C. Heath & Co., 1969. 973 A000.
- Burroughs, Tony. *Black Roots: A Beginner's Guide to Tracing the African American Family Tree*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2001. 305.96/B277.
- Carothers, Bettie Sterling. *Maryland Slave Owners and Superintendents, 1798: Volume 1*. Lutherville, MD: The Author, 1974.
- Carothers, Bettie Sterling. *Maryland Slave Owners and Superintendents, 1798: Volume 2*. Lutherville, MD: The Author, 1975. 975.2 A000/Land.
- Carvalho, Joseph, III. *Black Families in Hampden County, Massachusetts, 1650-1855*. Boston, MA: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1984. 974.4/H229/Ethnic.
- Chambers, Lucille Arcola. *America's Tenth Man: A Pictorial Review of 1/10 of a Nation Presenting the Negro Contribution to American Life Today*. New York: Twayne Publishing, In., 1947. 305.96/C444
- Clem, Dee. *Tracing African American Roots*. Las Vegas, NV: Gator Publishing, 1999. 305.96/C625.
- Dorson, Richard M. *American Negro Folktales*. Greenwich, CT: A Fawcett Premier Book, 1957. 305.96/D718.

- Drimmer, Melvin, ed. *Black History: a Reappraisal*. New York: Anchor books, 1969. 305.96/D779.
- Drotning, Phillip T. *An American Traveler's Guide to Black History*. New York: Doubleday & Co., 1968. 305.96/D787.
- Fears, Mary L. Jackson. *Slave Ancestral Research: It's Something Else*. Bowie MD: Heritage Books, 1995. Catalog number: 305.96/F280.
- Franklin, John Hope. *From Slavery to Freedom (A History of Negro Americans)*, 3rd ed. New York: Vintage Books, 1969. 305.96/F832.
- Franklin, Joseph. *All Through the Night: The History of Spokane Black Americans, 1860-1940*. Fairfield, WA: Ye Galleon Press, 1989. 979.7/S762/Ethnic.
- Gutman, Herbert G. *Black Family in Slavery and Freedom 1750-1925*. New York: Pantheon Books, 1976. 305.96/G984.
- Haley, Alex. *Roots, The Saga of an American Family*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday & Co., Inc., 1976. 305.96/H168.
- Handlin, Oscar. *Uprooted: The Great Migrations That Made American People*. Little, Brown & Co, 1951. 305.96/H236.
- Henritze, Barbara K. *Bibliographic Checklist of African American Newspapers*. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1995. 305.96/H518
- Hodges, Graham Russell. *Black Loyalist Directory: African Americans in Exile After the American Revolution*. New York: Garland Publishing Co., 1996. 305.96/H688.
- Hopkins, Margaret Lail. *Index to the Tithables of Loudoun County, Virginia and to Slaveholders and Slaves 1758 – 1786*. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1991. Library Catalog number: 975.5/L8862/Court.
- Howell, Barbara Thompson. *How to Trace Your African American Roots*. 305.96/H859.
- Hurmence, Belinda. *My Folks Don't Want Me to Talk About Slavery*. Winston-Salem, North Carolina: John Blair, 1991.
- Katz, William Loren. *Black Indians: A Hidden Heritage*. New York: Athenaeum Books, 1986. 970.1/K19.
- Katz, William Loren. *Black People Who Made the Old West*. Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 1997. 305.96/A000/History.
- Katz, William Loren. *The Black West*. Third Ed. Seattle, WA: Open Hand Publishing, 1987. 305.96/K19.
- Lawson, Sandra M. *Generations Past: A Selected List of Sources for Afro-American Genealogical Research*. Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 1988. 305.96/L425.
- Leckie, William H. *The Buffalo Soldiers: A Narrative of the Negro Cavalry in the West*. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1987. 305.96/L461
- Litwack, Leon F. *Been in the Storm So Long; The Aftermath of Slavery*. 305.96/L782
- McLagan, Elizabeth. *Peculiar Paradise: a History of Blacks in Oregon, 1788-1940*. Portland, OR: Georgian Press, 1980. 979.5/A000/Ethnic-AfAm.
- McPherson, James M. *The Negro's Civil War*. New York: Vintage Books. 305.96/M172.
- Mead, Jeffrey B. *Chains Unbound: Slave Emancipations In The Town Of Greenwich, Connecticut*. Baltimore, MD: Gateway Press, 1995. 974.6/F19/G816.
- Meier, August. *From Plantation to Ghetto: An Interpretive History of American Negroes*. New York: Hill & Want, 1966. 305.96/M511.
- Newman, Debra L. *List of Free Black Heads of Families in the First Census of the United States, 1790*. Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, 1974. 305.96/N552.

- Olmsted, Frederick Law. *Slave States*. New York: Capricorn Books, 1959. 305.96/O51.
- Oregon Directory of Organizations of Color*. Portland, OR: McKenzie River Gathering, 1995. 979.5/A000/Ethnic-AfAm.
- Resh, Richard, ed. *Black America: Confrontation & Accommodation in the Twentieth Century*. Lexington, MA: D.C. Heath & Co., 1969. 305.96/R433.
- Schatz, Walter. *Directory of Afro-American Resources*. New York: R. R. Bowker, 1970. 305.96/S312.
- Sweig, Donald, ed. *Registrations of Free Negroes: Commencing Sept. Court 1822, Book No. 2 & Register of Free Blacks 1935 Book No. 3 being the full text of the two extant volumes, 1822-1861, of registrations of free blacks now in the county Courthouse, Fairfax, Virginia*. Fairfax, VA: Fairfax County Historical Commission, 1977. 975.5/F167.
- Tannenbaum, Frank. *Slave and Citizen: The Negro in the Americas*. New York: Vintage Books, 1946. 305.96/T166.
- Taylor, Quintard. *African American Experience: A History of Black Americans from 1619 to 1890*. Eugene, OR: University of Oregon, 1996. 305.96/T245.
- Teacher's Manual for Kentucky's Black Heritage, The Role Of The Black People In The History*. Frankfort, KY: Commonwealth of Kentucky, 1971. 976.9/A000/Ethnic.
- Thackery, David T. *Bibliography of African American Family History at the Newberry Library*. Chicago, IL: The Newberry Library, 1993. 305.96/T363.
- Turpin, Joan. *Register of Black, Mulatto, and Poor Persons in Four Ohio Counties, 1791-1861*. Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 1985. 977.1/A000/Court.
- Weinstein, Allen & Frank O. *American Negro Slavery*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1968. 305.96/W424.
- Whitney, Harold Coleman. *Ancestors and Descendants of Theodore Roosevelt Whitney (1902-1979): Profile of an African American Family*. Baltimore, MD: Gateway Press, 1993. 929.2/Whi-21.
- Wilham, Kathleen. *1850 Shelby County, Missouri Census with Slave and Mortality Schedules*. Shelbyville, MO: Wilham & Corbin, 1985. 977.8/S544.
- Woodtor, Dee Parmer. *Finding a Place Called Home: A Guide to African American Genealogy and Historical Identity*. New York: Random House, 1999. 305.96/W898.
- Wright, Louis B. *Culture on the Moving Frontier*. New York: Harper & Row, 1955. 305.96/W951.

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