Online Resources for Black American Genealogy
Some Helpful Genealogy Sites and Databases
Janice M. Sellers • janicemsj@gmail.com • Ancestral Discoveries, ancestraldiscoveries.com

GFO Open House, 18 March 2023

• African American Genealogy Collection at Ancestry.com http://www.ancestry.com/c/african-american (requires payment, or free to use at LDS FamilySearch 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/en/wiki/Southern_Claiims_Commission
Testimony from formerly enslaved individuals can be found in claimants' files, linking them to their former slaveholders

• Digital Library on American Slavery
http://dlas.uncg.edu/
Database of personal information about enslaved, 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 enslaved, slaveholders, and free people of color from petitions filed between 1775 and 1867 in the 15 Southern 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)
https://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/en/wiki/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 https://www.slavevoyages.org/
Maps, timelines, and animations

• Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936–1938
https://www.loc.gov/collections/slave-narratives-from-the-federal-writers-project-1936-to-1938/
Contains more than 2,300 first-person accounts of slavery with 500 photographs of former enslaved

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

Alabama
• Lauderdale County African American genealogy resources
https://sites.rootsweb.com/~allauder/afr-amer.htm
• Lee County, Alabama 1870 Colored Marriages
http://genealogytrails.com/ala/lee/marriages_1870colmarr.html

District of Columbia
• Georgetown Slavery Archive, "a repository of materials relating to the Maryland Jesuits, Georgetown University, and slavery."
https://slaveryarchive.georgetown.edu/

Georgia
• Columbus, Linwood and Porterdale Colored Cemeteries Interment Records, 1866–2000
https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3491475
• Port of Savannah Slave Manifests, 1790–1860 (downloadable PDF)
https://web.archive.org/web/20160410114051/http://cisupa.proquest.com/ksc_assets/catalog/100
539.pdf

Illinois
• Illinois Database of Servitude and Emancipation Records (1722–1863)
https://www.ilsos.gov/departments/archives/databases/servant.html

Kentucky
• Fayette County: Lexington Colored Marriage Indexes, 1866–1882 and 1958–1968 from the
University of Kentucky Libraries https://tinyurl.com/6mn3jjdd
• Livingston County Colored School Censuses, 1898–1913
https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3491880

Louisiana
• Afro-Louisiana History and Genealogy Database 1719–1820 (100,000 records)
http://www.ibiblio.org/laslave/
• Archdiocese of New Orleans: Slave and Free People of Color Baptismal Records
https://nolacatholic.org/church-records or http://www.archdiocese-no.org/church-records
• 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/
Includes census slave schedules, runaway ads and more

Mississippi
• Adams County colored marriage records 1866–1926, marriage index 1866–1942
https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/249634
• Lauderdale County Black Marriages Index, 1865–1938
http://www.lauderdalecountymsarchives.org/black-marriage-records-index-1865-1938.html
• Mississippi State Archives: Freedmen's Bureau Record Index, Freedman's Bureau Record
Index, African-American Confederate Pension Applications, African-American Newspaper
Clippings 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/learn/historyculture/african-american-life-in-saint-louis-1804-through-1865.htm
• African Americans in St. Louis indices, various sources from the St. Louis County Library
http://www.slcl.org/category/finding-guide-topics/african-american-genealogy
• Missouri Slave Data http://www.usgennet.org/usa/mo/topic/afro-amer/slaveinfo.html

North Carolina
• North Carolina Runaway Slave Notices, 1750–1865 https://dlas.uncg.edu/notices
• Plantations of North Carolina
https://freepages.rootsweb.com/~brownandmeares/genealogy/nc_plantations.htm

Northeastern United States (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont)
• Northeast Slavery Records Index https://nesri.commons.gc.cuny.edu

Pennsylvania
• Philadelphia African American Census 1847 https://ds-pages.swarthmore.edu/paac/

South Carolina
• Beaufort, S.C. Slave Manifests (Outbound) and Charleston, S.C. Slave Manifests (Inbound) from the Atlanta National Archives branch https://www.archives.gov/atlanta/finding-aids/slave-manifests
• South Carolina Estate Inventories and Bills of Sale 1732–1872 from Fold3 and Lowcountry Africana https://www.fold3.com/publication/south-carolina-estate-inventories-and-bills-of-sale-1732-1872/

Texas
• Texas Slavery Project http://www.texasslaveryproject.org/ (includes some online records)

Virginia
• Unknown No Longer & Virginia Untold
 https://virginiahistory.org/research/collections/unknown-no-longer-virginia-untold
• Virginia Cohabitation Registers of Colored Persons (under African American Resources)
https://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/
• Alexandria, Virginia
> • African-American Voter Registration in Alexandria, Virginia 1902–1954 (PDF)
> https://static.libnet.info/images/pdfs/alexandria/Special%20Collections/African-American%20Voter%20Registration.pdf
> • Friends of Freedmen's Cemetery https://www.freedmenscemetery.org/ indices and records relating to Alexandria's Black 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