

Resource List for African American Genealogy

Created by Laura Williams Carter and Elyse Hill for the event, Researching Black Families: Researching and Telling our Stories, co-sponsored by the Athens Chapter of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) and the Athens-Clarke County Library Heritage Room.

This is a selected list of materials that can provide information necessary to do effective and efficient research.

- ***Must put yourself in ancestor's place and time***
- ***Object is to find parents of each generation***
- ***Research the siblings***
- ***Use Geographic tools – atlases, maps, gazetteers, etc.***
- ***Assumptions are dangerous***
- ***Words do not always mean what we think they mean- learn the vocabulary and look things up.***

General history and context

Berlin, Ira. *Many Thousands Gone: the First Two Centuries of Slavery in North America*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2009.

Berlin, Ira. *Slaves Without Masters: the Free Negro in the Antebellum South*. New York: The New Press, [2007].

Berlin, Ira. *The Slaves' Economy : Independent Production by Slaves in the Americas*. London: Routledge, 2016.

All books by Ira Berlin can be informative, the three titles above are just examples.

DuBois, W.E.B. *Black Reconstruction in America, 1860-1880*. (lots of different editions)

African American Heritage - <https://www.archives.gov/research/african-americans>

Prologue Special Issue – African American History
<https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1997/summer>

WPA Slave Narratives <https://www.loc.gov/collections/slave-narratives-from-the-federal-writers-project-1936-to-1938/about-this-collection/>

Basic Genealogy

[African American Genealogy](#) from FamilySearch Research Wiki

[African American Research Guide](#) from American Ancestors

[Afrigeneas: African Ancestored Genealogy](#)

Burroughs, Tony. *Black Roots : A Beginner's Guide to Tracing the African American Family Tree*. New York: Fireside Books, 2001.

Greenwood, Val D. *A Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy*, 4th edition.
Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2017.

Jones, Thomas W. *Mastering Genealogical Proof*. Arlington, VA: National Genealogical Society, 2013.

Mills, Elizabeth Shown. *Evidence!: Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian*.
Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2007.

Rose, Christine. *Courthouse Indexes Illustrated*. San Jose, CA: CR Publications, 2006.

Rose, Christine. *Courthouse Research for Family Historians: Your Guide to Genealogical Treasures*. San Jose, CA: CR Publications, 2004.

Smith, Franklin Carter and Emily Ann Croom. *A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your African American Ancestors: How To Find and Record Your Unique Heritage*. Cincinnati, OH: Betterway Books, 2003.

Woodtor, Dee Parmer. *Finding a Place Called Home: A Guide to African-American Genealogy and Historical Identity*. Revised and expanded edition. New York: Random House, 1999.

Continuing Education Opportunities

[Ancestry Academy](#) – some of this content is free, other information is available only to people with subscriptions. Most of the content about using Ancestry or its products are free.

Geneawebinars <http://blog.geneawebinars.com/> - this blog has a calendar of webinars and programs – some free, some not. Can look ahead and mark your calendar with dates and times for events.

Legacy Family Tree Webinars <https://familytreewebinars.com/> - this site offers webinars free at time of presentation and for a limited time. People with a paid subscription have access to ALL the past webinars and handouts

Conferences

[Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society \(AAHGS\)](#) national conference

[National Genealogical Society](#) Conference and courses and books

[RootsTech](#) huge international conference. Online for 2021 and totally free. Register since it is coming up Feb 25-27, 2021

State society conferences,

Institutes

[Genealogical Institute on Federal Records](#) Gen-Fed

[Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh](#) (GRIP)

[Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research](#) (IGHR)

[Midwest African American Genealogical Institute](#) (MAAGI)

[Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy](#) (SLIG)

Newspapers

Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

Danky, James P. *African-American Newspapers and Periodicals: A National Bibliography and Union List*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1999.

Hanson, James L. "Research in Newspapers", *The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy*, revised edition. Loretto Dennis Szucs and Sandra Hargreaves Luebking, editors. Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 1997.

Henritze, Barbara K. *Bibliographic Checklist of African-American Newspapers*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1995.

Pinnick, Timothy N. *Finding and Using African American Newspapers*. Wyandotte, OK: Gregarth Publishing Co., 2008.

Software

Cyndis List Software and Computers then scroll to Articles, Comparisons & Reviews at <http://cyndislist.com/software/articles/>. There are a number of sites listed that can help you make your decision.

GenSoftReviews <http://www.gensoftreviews.com/>

Top Ten Reviews – Best Family Tree Software 2020 <https://www.toptenreviews.com/best-genealogy-software>

Special Topics

Paterson, David E. [*Georgia's Slave Population in Legal Records: An Introduction to Courthouse Resources*](#)

This is the kind of resource that should be looked for in the state your ancestors lived.

Paterson, David E. [*Records of Probate for a Typical Slave-holding Estate*](#), 2015. Afrigeneas, accessed 1 Feb 2021.

Paterson, David E. Chart showing Typical Actions in Probate of A Slaveholding Estate, blog Bernice Bennett and David E. Paterson. Genealogy Adventures Live, March 12, 2015. <https://genealogyadventures.net/2015/12/03/typical-actions-in-probate-of-a-slaveholding-estate-with-david-e-paterson-podcast/>, accessed 1 February 2021.

[Slaves Laws of Georgia, 1755-1860](#)

Walton-Raji, Angela Y. *Black Indian Genealogy Research: African-American Ancestors Among the Five Civilized Tribes*, Expanded edition. Berwyn Heights, MD: Heritage Books, Inc., 2018.

Story Gathering Tool

[StoryWorth](#) cost approx. \$100 a year. This tool allows you to send a question to a storyteller you select each week for a year. You can use their questions, or insert your own. At the end of the year, StoryWorth combines the stories into a book that is included in the price. Additional copies of the book can be ordered at an additional cost. This is a way that busy people can glean information from family members that they might never get around to otherwise.