

## **Introduction to African American Genealogy Handout**

compiled by Tammy Ozier © February 2021; updated Feb 2022

### **Before you get started, points to consider:**

- Always consider name variations – spelling doesn't matter
- Don't assume your ancestors were enslaved
- Before trying to find enslaved ancestors, complete family research from present back to 1870
- The former enslaved did not always take their slaveholder's surnames
- All records are not online
- Take a "time out" to deal with harsh facts

### **Key Steps to African American Genealogy:**

- Document what you know; start with yourself; work backwards
- Identify gaps in your known information
- Develop a research plan to answer the research question
- Conduct research and gather documents
- Analyze the record obtained and extract pertinent info to answer question
- Surmise the answer to research question and summarize your findings

### **Organization Setup:**

- Choose Paper-form or Digital system
- Organize documents by –
  - Surname or Family Group
  - Location
  - Document Type

### **Genealogy Tools:**

- Pedigree Chart
- Family Group Sheet
- Genealogy Software
  - Legacy Family Tree (<https://legacyfamilytree.com/>)
  - Roots Magic Essentials ([RootsMagic - Software to Unite Families](#))
  - FamilyTree Maker <https://www.mackiev.com/ftm/>
- Personal Databases
- Notebook
- Note-taking apps
  - OneNote
  - EverNote
- Recording devices

### **Getting started in African American Genealogy Selected References:**

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### Online resources:

<http://www.afrigeneas.com/>  
<https://www.afrigeneas.com/guide/>  
[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/African\\_American\\_Genealogy](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/African_American_Genealogy) (Need account, Free)  
<https://www.ancestry.com> (Need an account, some collections are free; others need subscription\$)  
[https://www.ancestrycdn.com/mars/landing/africanamerican/africanamerican\\_guide\\_2015.pdf](https://www.ancestrycdn.com/mars/landing/africanamerican/africanamerican_guide_2015.pdf)  
<https://cfh.iaamuseum.org/>  
<https://www.cyndislist.com/african-american>  
[https://www.georgiaarchives.org/research/african\\_american\\_resources](https://www.georgiaarchives.org/research/african_american_resources)  
<https://www.archives.gov/research/african-americans/freedmens-bureau>  
[Mapping The Freedmen's Bureau | An Interactive Research Guide](#)  
<https://www.genealogycenter.info/africanamerican/>  
<https://beyondkin.org/>  
<https://lowcountryafricana.com/>  
<https://enslaved.org/>  
<https://library.uncg.edu/slavery/>  
<https://www.archives.gov/research/african-americans#toc-online-resources>  
[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/African\\_American\\_For\\_Further\\_ReadingAfrican\\_American\\_History](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/African_American_For_Further_ReadingAfrican_American_History) | National Archives  
<http://www.bplonline.org/resources/genealogy/bibliographies/AfricanAmerican.aspx>  
<https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/african-american-history-genealogy/>

### Forms/Charts:

- [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Genealogy\\_Research\\_Forms](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Genealogy_Research_Forms)
- <https://www.mymcpl.org/genealogy/resources/family-history-forms>
- <https://www.thoughtco.com/filling-out-genealogical-forms-1421955>
- <https://www.cyndislist.com/charts/research/>
- <http://misbach.org/free-pdf-charts.html>
- <https://reclaimingkin.com/product-category/genealogy-forms/>

### Interview questions for Genealogy:

<https://www.thoughtco.com/fifty-questions-for-family-history-interviews-1420705>  
<https://familyhistorydaily.com/free-genealogy-resources/family-history-interview-questions/>  
<https://artoffamilyhistory.com/researching/genealogy-interview-yourself/>

### Newspapers:

#### Military:

<https://www.archives.gov/research/alic/reference/military/blacks-in-military.html>  
<https://go.fold3.com/blackhistory>

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### **Books**

Collier, Melvin J. 150 Years Later: Broken Ties Mended. Alexandria, VA: Write Here Publishing, 2011.

Collier, Melvin J. Mississippi to Africa: A Journey of Discovery 2nd edition. Alexandria, VA: Write Here Publishing, 2011.

Smith, Robyn The Best of Reclaiming Kin: Helpful Tips On Researching Your Roots.

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

Berry, Kenyatta D., The Family Tree Toolkit. New York: Skyhorse Publishing 2018

### **Blogs**

<https://reclaimingkin.com/>

<http://african-nativeamerican.blogspot.com/>

[Into The Light](#)

### **Videos/Podcasts/Webinars**

<https://www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-fair>

<https://www.whoisnickasmith.com/blackprogen/>

[www.FamilyTreeWebinars.com](http://www.FamilyTreeWebinars.com)

<https://www.blogtalkradio.com/bernicebennett>

<http://www.genealogyquickstart.com/about.html>

<https://genealogyadventures.net/>

### **Societies**

[Afro American Historical and Genealogical Society](#)

[AAHGS Metro Atlanta Chapter](#)

[SONS & DAUGHTERS OF THE UNITED STATES MIDDLE PASSAGE](#)

[Society of the First African Families of English America](#)

[African American Genealogical Society of Northern California \(AAGSNC\)](#)