

African American Research at the DAR Library

The past thirty years has seen an explosion of publishing in African American studies including works on African American genealogical research. The DAR Library has developed a strong, growing collection of basic and detailed printed sources on this subject. In the Library's General/African American section are research manuals and guidebooks, histories on slavery and abolition, the "Great Migration" of the early twentieth century, and general reference materials. These offer researchers a starting point with ideas for further investigation.

At the beginning of each state section in the library is a subsection for African American history and genealogy in that state. Within county holdings researchers will find an increasing number of new publications such as published registers of free blacks in Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia as well as local community histories. Abstracts of county cohabitation registers from immediately following the Civil War have become a popular source to publish. In addition African Americans appear in county histories and record abstracts throughout the library.

Histories and genealogies of specific African American families are located in the Family History section, a significant portion of the Library's book collection. In addition, researchers will want to examine family histories and genealogies of white families for the information they may reveal on slave owners, their records and their movements.

Since the colonial era, African Americans have made enormous contributions in America's wars. The DAR has had a project for many years to document minority service in the Revolution. The latest result of this project is the 2008 publication, *Forgotten Patriots: African American and American Indian Patriots in the Revolutionary War: A Guide to Service, Sources, and Studies*. This book is available through the DAR Store, and information for ordering is available on the DAR's website at www.dar.org.

Among the many additional works on African American research in the DAR Library are the following:

General Histories

The Black Family in Slavery and Freedom, 1750-1925 by Herbert G. Gutman.

The Black Presence in the Era of the American Revolution by Sidney and Emma Nogrady Kaplan.

Chronology of African-American History: Significant Events and People from 1619 to the Present by Alton Hornsby, Jr.

From Africa to America: African American History from the Colonial Era to the Early Republic, 1526-1790 by William D. Piersen.

Historical and Cultural Atlas of African Americans by Molefi K. Asante and Mark T. Mattson

Family Histories

Free Men in an Age of Servitude: Three Generations of a Black Family by Lee H. Warner.

The Kigh, Mann, Reagin and Sykes Families: A genealogy and Family History by Marion Mann.

The Nickins Family, Non-Slave African American Patriots by Karen E. Sutton.

We Were Always Free: the Maddens of Culpeper County, Virginia, a 200-Year Family History by T.O. Madden, Jr.

Military Records and Studies

The African American Soldier from Crispus Attucks to Colin Powell by Michael Lee Lanning.

The Black Civil War Soldiers of Illinois: the Story of the Twenty-ninth U.S. Colored Infantry by Edward A. Miller.

Black Soldiers, Black Sailors, Black Ink: Research Guide on African Americans in U.S. Military History by Thomas Truxtun Moebs.

On the Trail of the Buffalo Soldier: Biographies of African Americans in the U.S. Army, 1866-1917 by Frank N.

Schubert.

The Unwept: Black American Soldiers and the Spanish-American War by Edward V. Scott.

Research Aids

African American Genealogical Source Book edited by Paula K. Byers.

Black Indian Genealogy Research: African American Ancestors among the Five Civilized Tribes by Angela Y. Walton-Raji.

Black Roots: A Beginner's Guide to Tracing the African American Family Tree, by Tony Burroughs.

Liberia Genealogy Research by Roma Jones Stewart.

Local Sources for African-American Family Historians: Using County Court Records by Joan W. Peters.

Somebody Knows My Name: Marriages of Freed People County by County, by Barnetta McGhee White.

Virginia Slave Births Index, 1853-1865. 5 vols., edited by Leslie Anderson Morales.

State and Community Studies

African-American Cemeteries, Anderson County South Carolina by Bvenitta J. Williams.

The African American Heritage of Elgin, Illinois and the Greater Kane County area by Raleigh Sutton.

Africans in Georgia by Roma Jones Stewart.

The Black Pioneer in Michigan by Melvin E. Banner.

The Free Negro in Maryland, 1634-1860 by James M. Wright.

A Heritage Uncovered: the Black Experience in Upstate New York by Myra B. Young Armstead.

The Hidden and Forgotten: Contributions of Buckingham Blacks to American History, by Charles W. White.
Lt. Carl A. Bailey Cemetery, Cleveland, Florida and Other Early Black Burials, Charlotte County Florida
compiled by Austin B. & Jeannette P. Youmans.

Slavery and Emancipation

Enslaved Ancestors Abstracted from Deed Books, Granville County, North Carolina by Barnetta McGhee White.

From Calabar to Carter's Grove: The History of a Virginia Slave Community by Lorena S. Walsh.

O Freedom: Afro-American Emancipation celebrations by William H. Wiggins.

Slave Ancestral Research: It's Something Else by Mary L. Jackson Fears.

Slave Testimony: Two Centuries of Letters, Speeches, Interviews, and Autobiographies edited by John W. Blassingame.

Slavery and Freedom by James Oakes.

The WPA Oklahoma Slave Narratives by T. Lindsay Baker and Julie P. Baker.

ABOUT THE DAR LIBRARY

The DAR Library was founded in 1896 for the use of staff genealogists verifying applications for the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. Shortly after 1900 the Library was opened to the public.

Now one of the nation's premier genealogical research centers, the Library was recently ranked (1998) the third most important genealogical library in the country by the publisher Heritage Quest. As of 2008 the Library's book collection numbered some 185,000 volumes. The microform holdings of the Library's Seimes Technology Center includes 60,000 items. A growing collection of digitized materials has enhanced research in recent years.

The Library is one of several departments at DAR Headquarters in Washington D.C. that contain genealogical research material. Researchers wishing to become more familiar with the Library's holdings and the other offices should consult the 2004 publication *American Genealogical Research at the DAR, Washington, D.C.* by Eric G. Grundset and Steven B. Rhodes.

The Library is open to researchers from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays. Individuals who do not belong to the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Sons of the American Revolution, the Sons of the Revolution or the Children of the American Revolution pay a daily fee of \$6.00 to use the Library.

DAR Library

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Visit the DAR on the Web at:
<http://www.dar.org>

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