

## Best Sources and Techniques for African American Research October 8, 2022

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*Presented by the Genealogy Center at the Allen County Public Library (ACPL) in Fort Wayne, Indiana and the African American Genealogical Society of Fort Wayne (AAGSFW)*

### **Freedmen's Bureau**

On March 3, 1865, Congress passed "An Act to establish a Bureau for the Relief of Freedmen and Refugees" to provide food, shelter, clothing, medical services, and land to displaced Southerners, including newly freed African Americans.

<https://www.archives.gov/research/african-americans/freedmens-bureau>

Another source: [www.freedmensbureau.com](http://www.freedmensbureau.com)

What can you find?

Freedmen Savings Account

Labor Contracts

Marriage Registrations

Rations Received

Registers of Letters

### **Court Records**

City, State and County court records are one of the most underutilized genealogical resources available.

What can you find?

Orphans

Probate

Register of Slaves

Tax Assessment (head tax for slaves)

### **"Researching African American Genealogy in Alabama: A Resource Guide" by Frazine Taylor**

Chapter 3 - Summary of Official Records

What can you find?

Convict Records

1867 Voter Registration

Church Records

### **Fold3 - Historical Military Records**

US Military Records/Registrations Collection 1775-1969

What can you find?

Service records, photos, documents, draft cards and more for the men and women who served.

*Note: Exclusively available on Fold3.*

### **Microfilm**

Millions of pages of permanently valuable Federal records

What can you find?

Records of Antebellum Southern Plantations

Records of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters

Peonage Files of the U.S. Department of Justice 1901-1945

*\*Many people shy away from microfilm due to the time required to review or they assume they won't find any information.*

### **African American Gateway**

One key resource for locating African American materials in the Genealogy Center

What can you find?

Location-specific African American resources: US States, US Regions, Other Countries, and Subjects

Also lists a variety of websites for each U.S. state.

[www.genealogycenter.info/africanamerican](http://www.genealogycenter.info/africanamerican)

### **Periodical Source Index (PERSI)**

A subject index to genealogical, historical and ethnic periodicals

What can you find?

References to articles about surnames you are researching

References to articles about geographic areas you are researching

References to articles about research techniques

[www.genealogycenter.info/persi](http://www.genealogycenter.info/persi)