

AFRICAN-AMERICAN GENEALOGY: SELECTED SOURCES IN THE GROSVENOR ROOM



KEY

*	= Oversized book
Buffalo	= In Buffalo Collection in Grosvenor Room
Folio	= Very oversized book
GRO	= In Grosvenor Room
Media	= In Media Room
RBR	= In Rare Book Room, available by appointment
Ref.	= Reference book, cannot be borrowed
Stacks	= Closed stacks, see a librarian for retrieval
WNYGS	= In collection of Western NY Genealogical Society

Grosvenor Room
Buffalo and Erie County Public Library
1 Lafayette Square
Buffalo, NY 14203-1887
(716) 858-8900
www.buffalolib.org
Revised January 2020

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INTRODUCTION

This guide lists sources helpful to those researching African-American genealogy in the Grosvenor Room of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library.

Genealogical handbooks, guides, manuals, indexes to record compilations, atlases, maps, gazetteers, surname directories, newspapers, and church records serve numerous purposes and can prove to be invaluable resources to all researchers, regardless of their level of expertise.

Nearly everything listed here can be found in the Grosvenor Room (GRO). Material in the Grosvenor Room does not circulate and cannot be removed from the room. In a few cases, there are duplicate copies of these books that can be borrowed from the Central Non-fiction department or other library branches.

Books are listed in call number order. Shelf locations are always subject to change.

See Also: **Black History in Buffalo**, subject guide available in the Grosvenor Room.

To view this and other subject guides online, see:

<https://www.buffalolib.org/special-collections/guides-publications>

GENERAL HOW-TO GUIDES

GRO Ref. CS21 .R57 2003

Rose, James

Black Genesis

Detroit, MI: Genealogical Publishing, 2003

GRO Ref. *CS68 .U6 2000, pp. 237-256, Chapter 12, "Records of African Americans"

United States. National Archives and Records Administration

Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives, 3rd ed.

Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, 2000

GRO Ref. CS71 .B636 2006

United States. National Archives and Records Administration

Black Family Research: Records of Post-Civil War Federal Agencies at the National Archives

Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, 2006

GRO Ref. *E185 .U6 1984

National Archives Trust Fund Board

Black Studies: A Select Catalog of National Archives Microfilm Publications

Washington, DC: National Archives, 1984

GRO Ref *E185.86 .A444 1995

Byers, Paula K., ed.

African-American Genealogical Sourcebook

Detroit, MI: Gale Research, 1995

GRO Ref. E185.86 .B3725 2005

Barksdale-Hall, Roland C.

The African American Family's Guide to Tracing Our Roots: Healing, Understanding & Restoring Our Families

Phoenix, AZ: Amber Books, ©2005

GRO Ref. E185.93 .A3 T39 2008

Taylor, Frazine K.

Researching African American Genealogy in Alabama: A Resource Guide

Montgomery, AL: NewSouth Books, ©2008

GRO Ref. E185.96 .B94 2001

Burroughs, Tony

Black Roots: A Beginner's Guide to Tracing the African American Family Tree

New York: Fireside Book, ©2001

GRO E185.96 .G383 2007

Gates, Henry Louis

Finding Oprah's Roots: Finding Yours

New York, NY: Crown Publishers, 2007

GRO Ref. E185.96 .L33 1988

Lawson, Sandra M.

Generations Past: A Selected List of Sources for Afro-American Genealogical Research

Washington, DC: Library of Congress, 1988

GRO Ref. *E185.96 .M37 1995

Matthews, Harry

Research in African American Heritage Education: How to Trace Your Family History

Oneonta, NY: The Author, 1995

GRO Ref. *E185.96 .P385 1993

Peters, Joan W.

Local Sources for African-American Family Historians: Using Court Records and Census Returns

Broad Run, VA: Joan W. Peters, 1993

GENERAL HOW-TO GUIDES

GRO Ref. E185.96 .S6514 2003
Smith, Franklin Carter and Emily Anne Croom
Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your African-American Ancestors
Cincinnati, OH: Betterway, 2003

GRO Ref. *E185.96 .V38 1996
Vaughn, Emily
African American Genealogical Resources
[Buffalo, NY]: The Author, 1996

GRO Ref. E185.96 .W69 1999
Woodtor, Dee
Finding a Place Called Home: A Guide to African-American Genealogy and Historical Identity
New York: Random House, 1999

CENSUS RECORDS

GRO Ref. E185 .N6
Newman, Debra L.
List of Free Black Heads of Families in the First Census of the United States 1790
Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Service, 1973

GRO Ref. E185 .W8873
Woodson, Carter
Free Negro Owners of Slaves in the United States in 1830
Washington, DC: Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, 1924

GRO Ref. E185.86 .N56 E37
Woodson, Carter
Free Negro Heads of Families in the United States in 1830
Washington, DC: Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, 1925

GRO Ref. E185.93 .N56 B34 2000
Bahn, Gilbert
Slaves and Nonwhite Free Persons in the 1790 Federal Census of New York
Baltimore, MD: Clearfield, 2000

GRO Ref. E185.93 .N56 E37
Eicholz, A., and James M. Rose
Free Black Heads of Households in the New York State Federal Census, 1790-1830
Detroit, MI: Gale Research, 1981

GRO Ref. *E185.96 .P385 1993
Peters, Joan W.
Local Sources for African-American Family Historians: Using Court Records and Census Returns
Broad Run, VA: Joan W. Peters, 1993

"Census of Slaves, 1755" in:
GRO *F122 .D64 v. 3, pp. 503-521
The Documentary History of the State of New-York
Albany, NY: Weed, Parsons & Co., 1850-51

GRO F232 .F2 D86 2003
Duncan, Patricia B.
1850 Fairfax County and Loudoun County Virginia Slave Schedule
N.P.: Heritage Books, 2003

CENSUS RECORDS

GRO F232 .L8 D843 2003
 Duncan, Patricia B.
1860 Loudoun County Virginia Slave Schedule
 Bowie, MD: Willow Bend Books, 2003

GRO F285 .C794 1999
 Cox, Jack F., comp.
The 1850 Census of Georgia Slave Owners
 Baltimore, MD: Clearfield Co., 1999

CHURCH RECORDS

Below are the records of churches associated with African-Americans in Buffalo.

Microfilm Number	Name and Address of Church	Dates, Notes
Merriweather Library , 1324 Jefferson Ave, Buffalo, NY	Bethel A.M.E. Church 1525 Michigan Ave. Buffalo, NY	Baptisms: 1948-1951 Marriages: 1948-1951 Deaths: 1948-1951
WNYGS See Christ Evangelical Lutheran C1	Concordia Evangelical Lutheran Church Northampton St., Buffalo, NY (member rolls are also included)	Baptisms: 1892-1949 Marriages: 1892-1949 Deaths: 1892-1949 First German, later African American
Merriweather Library , 1324 Jefferson Ave, Buffalo, NY	First Shiloh Baptist Church 15 Pine St. Buffalo, NY	Baptisms: 1914, 1954-1974 Funeral Rites: 1948-1985
WNYGS ML 1051	Gethsemane Lutheran 427 Goodyear Ave Buffalo, NY 14211	Baptisms: Nov 1892-1942. Adult: 1944-1987; Infant: 1943-May 1994 Marriages: Nov 1893-Sept 1923, Mar 1924-Aug 1942, Feb 1943-Oct 1990 Deaths: Dec 1892-Sept 1942, Mar 1943-Dec 1993 First German, later African American
352	Our Lady of Lourdes (1850-1993) 1107 Main St. Was St. Peter's French prior to 1900. African Americans were a significant minority group at this church.	Baptisms: 1850-1913 Marriages: 1850-1858; 1883-1923 Deaths: 1850-1858; 1883-1924
WNYGS	St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic (North) Buffalo, NY	Baptisms: 1884-1982 Marriages: Index 1868-1902; Records 1902-1981 Deaths: 1902-1982 First Irish, later African American

Merriweather Library , 1324 Jefferson Ave, Buffalo, NY	St. Luke A.M.E. Zion 314 E. Ferry St. Buffalo, NY	Baptisms: 1958-1976 Marriages: 1960-1972 Deaths Lists of Members: 1956-1990s
WNYGS	St. Mary Roman Catholic (St. Mary Redemptorist) 258 Pine St.	Most date from 1861-1917. Began a "colored" mission in the mid 20 th century.
406	St. Philip Episcopal 15 Fernhill Ave. Buffalo, NY	Various records, 1850-1966

DATABASES		AVAILABILITY
<p>These commercial databases are available for walk-in library users or at-home users with B&ECPL library cards. It is likely that each contains some genealogical information. To access B&ECPL databases from home, have your library card ready and go to the following address:</p>		
<p>http://dbaz.buffalolib.org/dbaz.php</p>		
Database Name	Description	Access
Ancestry Library Edition	A genealogical research product providing access to more than 1 billion names. Includes the U.S. Federal Census between the years 1790 and 1940, immigration, vital, military, court, church and ethnic records. Includes slave narratives, registers, manifests, census schedules, and other records.	Available for walk-in users at every public library in Erie County. No at-home use.
HeritageQuest Online	Contains U.S. federal census records from 1790-1940, family genealogies, local histories, plus records from the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company, 1865-1874.	For use at any library or from home with a valid Buffalo & Erie County Public Library card number.
Slavery in America and the World: History, Culture & Law	The Slavery in America Collection of HeinOnline, brings together all the known legal materials on slavery in the United States and the English-speaking world, including hundreds of pamphlets and books written about slavery from the collection of the B&ECPL.	Available at all library locations.

DIRECTORIES
Stacks E185.93 .N55 R52 Richardson, Barbara J. Black Directory for the State of New Mexico [Albuquerque, NM] 1973
GRO E185.96 .W5 Mather, Frank Lincoln, ed. Who's Who of the Colored Race Chicago, IL: The Author, 1915

DIRECTORIES

GRO *E185.96 .W54 1927-1950
Who's Who in Colored America
[various publishers]

Buffalo F127 .N6 N4
Cannon, Essie W.
Negro Directory of the Niagara Frontier 1958-1959
Buffalo, NY: Niagara Negro Sales Service, 1958

Stacks F158.2 .W4 1968
Vaughan, Napoleon W.
Who's Who in Greater Philadelphia in the Negro Community
Philadelphia, PA: Urban Market Developers [1968]

Stacks F189 .B1 A15
Coleman, Robert W., ed.
The First Colored Business and Professional Directory of Baltimore, MD., with Washington, D.C. Annex
Baltimore, MD: The Author, 1913

LOCAL HISTORY FILE

This is a card index of newspaper and periodical articles about people, places, and things in the Buffalo area. In addition to looking up family surnames, try these headings:

Afro-Americans
Churches – Baptist – Michigan Street
Clubs. NAACP
Negroes
Niagara Movement
Slavery
Underground Railroad

MEDIA - DVDS

NOTES

E185.96 .A446 2006V [DVD]
African American Lives
[Alexandria, VA]: PBS Home Video, [2006]

A compelling combination of storytelling and science, this series uses genealogy, oral histories, family stories and DNA to trace roots of several accomplished African Americans down through American history and back to Africa. Hosted by Henry Louis Gates.

E185.96 .G383 2006V [DVD]
Finding Oprah's roots: finding your own
[Arlington, VA]: PBS Home Video [2007].

Learn about the past of the African American people and how more and more can be linked to ancestors in Africa, thanks to genealogical research and DNA-analysis developments.

MILITARY SOURCES

GRO Ref. E185.63 .W822 1994
Wilson, Joseph T.
The Black Phalanx: African American Soldiers in the War of Independence, the War of 1812, and the Civil War
New York: Da Capo Press, 1994 (reprint of 1888 edition)

MILITARY SOURCES

GRO Ref. E185.96 .S424 1997

Secret, Jeanette

Guide to Tracing Your American Civil War Ancestor

Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 1997

GRO E277 .B57 1996

Hodges, Graham Russell, ed.

The Black Loyalist Directory: African Americans in Exile after the American Revolution

New York: Garland Pub; New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1996

GRO *E269.N3 L578 1974

List of Black servicemen compiled from the War Department collection of Revolutionary War records

Washington: National Archives and Records Service, General Services Administration, 1974.

GRO Ref. E523.4 .S47 2001

Seraile, William

New York's Black Regiments During the Civil War

New York; London: Routledge, ©2001

GRO Ref. *U52 .O5 1995

Schubert, Frank N., comp.

On the Trail of the Buffalo Soldier

Wilmington, DE: Scholarly Resources, ©1995

GRO Ref. UB418 .A47 P45 2000

Penn, Lisha B.

Records of Military Agencies Relating to African Americans from the Post-World War I Period to the Korean War

Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, 2000

MISCELLANEOUS NAME LISTS

GRO Ref. E185.2 .L35 1995

Lawson, Jacqueline A.

Index of African Americans Identified in Selected Records of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands

Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, Inc., 1995

GRO Ref. *E185.96 .A46a Index

Walker, Barbara D.

Index to the *Journal of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society Quarterly*: Issues of 1980-1990

Bowie, MD Heritage Books, 1991

GRO E185.96 .H46 2000

Heinegg, Paul

Free African Americans of Maryland and Delaware: From the Colonial Period to 1810

[Baltimore, MD]: Clearfield, ©2000

GRO E185.96 .H482 2001, 2 vols.

Heinegg, Paul

Free African Americans of North Carolina, Virginia, and South Carolina from the Colonial Period to About 1820

Baltimore, MD: Clearfield, 2001

MISCELLANEOUS NAME LISTS

GRO F63 .D67 1998

Dorman, Franklin Abbott

Twenty Families of Color in Massachusetts: 1742-1998

Boston, MA: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1998

GRO *F127 .W55 E58 2002

Entzminger, Thomas A.

Genealogies of African-American Families in Southwestern New York State (1830-1955)

Aurora, CO: Thaaroon Publications, ©2002

GRO F129 .B89 N4126 2002 (at the Reference Desk, Guide #50)

The Buffalo Genealogical Society of the African Diaspora

Index and Introduction to the Microfilmed Buffalo African-American Funeral Program and Obituary Collection, Volume 1

Buffalo, NY: The Society, 2002

GRO F205 .N4 P76 1996, 2 vols.

Provine, Dorothy S.

District of Columbia Free Negro Registers, 1821-1861

Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, Inc., 1996

GRO F232 .R7 B69 1992

Boyd-Rush, Dorothy A.

Register of Free Blacks, Rockingham County Virginia, 1807-1859

Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 1992

GRO F234 .P8 B7 2002

Breckenridge-Haywood, Mae and Walters, Dinah, comps.

Inscriptions in Triumph: Tombstone Inscriptions from the African-American Cemeteries of Mt. Calvary, Mt. Olive, Fisher's Hill and Potter's Field Portsmouth, Virginia

[Bloomington, IN:] the Authors, 2002

GRO F262 .C44 B97 2002

Byrd, William L.

North Carolina Slaves and Free Persons of Color: Chowan County, Volume One

Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 2002

GRO *F268 .V38 1996

Vaughn, Emily E.

Index of Black Church's [i.e. churches] & Cemeteries in Clarendon County, S.C., Headstone Inscriptions

Buffalo, NY: Research Services & Publishing, ©1996

GRO *F268 .V383 1996

Vaughn, Emily E.

Index of Black Church's [i.e. churches] & Cemeteries in Sumter County, S.C., Headstone Inscriptions

Buffalo, NY: Research Services & Publishing, ©1996

GRO F277 .G6 M23 1991 v.1

McCuen, Anne K.

Abstracts of Some Greenville County, South Carolina, Records Concerning Black People Free and Slave, 1791 – 1865

Spartanburg, SC: The Reprint Company, 1991

GRO Ref. F277 .3 G37 2016

Garrett-Nelson, LaBrenda

A Guide to Researching African American Ancestors in Laurens County, South Carolina and Select Finding Aids

[Bloomington, Ind.]: Xlibris, 2016

Includes transcribed records for Laurens County, SC

MISCELLANEOUS NAME LISTS

GRO F294 .A9 W3 1998

Walker, Alice O.

Registers of Signatures of Depositors in the Augusta, Georgia, Branch of the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company, Volume I, November 1870 – June 1872

Augusta, GA: Augusta-Richmond County Public Library, 1998

NAMES AND SURNAMES

The following title helps establish what a name means and how it originated.

GRO Ref. E185.89 .N3 P82

Puckett, Newbell Niles

Black Names in America: Origins and Usage

Boston, MA: G.K. Hall, 1975

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS

Call Number/ Location	Title	Dates We Have/ Notes
Stacks E185.5 .J33	Jacobs, Donald M. Antebellum Black Newspapers Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, ©1976	Indices to <i>New York Freedom's Journal</i> (1827-1829), <i>The Rights of All</i> (1829), <i>The Weekly Advocate</i> (1837), and <i>The Colored American</i> (1837-1841)
Stacks A13 .A54	Antislavery Newspapers and Periodicals	Pre-Civil War
Film Z129, later bound	Buffalo Challenger	September 1963 to present
Film Z162	Buffalo Criterion 1952-1989 online at: http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/	8/64-7/80 boxed; 3/94-present in hard copy
Film Z14 & boxed	Empire Star	January 1946-December 1961
Stacks E185.96 .A46a	Journal of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society	2003 to present Plus index for years 1980-1990
Stacks E185 .J86 v.1-68	Journal of Negro History	1916-1983
*E185.5 .N38 v.1-46	Negro History Bulletin	1937-1983
Stacks E185.5 .N41 v.1-45	Negro Year Book	1916-1951
Film 246	New York Age	Jan 5, 1905 - Feb 26, 1960 A New York City newspaper.
GRO *E185.5 .A22	AAHGS News: The Bi-Monthly Newsletter of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc.	2002-2005
GRO serial F128.9 .N4 A36	Afro-Americans in New York Life and History	1977 to present

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS		
Call Number/ Location	Title	Dates We Have/ Notes
Gro Ref. *PN4882.5 .H4 1995	Henritze, Barbara K. Bibliographic Checklist of African American Newspapers Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1995	This directory will help you find other existing African-American newspapers.

ORGANIZATIONS	NOTES
Afro-American Historical Association of the Niagara Frontier P.O. Box 63 Buffalo, NY 14207 http://www.aahanf.org/	Publishes <i>Afro-Americans in New York Life and History</i> twice a year.
Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society P.O. Box 73086 Washington, DC 20056 http://www.aahgs.org/	Primary goals are to promote scholarly research, provide resources for historical and genealogical studies, create a network of persons with similar interests, and assist members in documenting their histories.
Association for the Study of African-American Life and History 1407 14th St., NW Washington, DC 20005 http://www.asalh.org/	Established in 1915 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, ASALH's mission is to create and disseminate knowledge about Black History.
Buffalo Genealogical Society of the African Diaspora P.O. Box 2534 Buffalo, NY 14240-2534 http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nybgsad/	Founded in 1997 and meets every second Saturday at the Merriweather Library. Funeral program & Obituary collection held at Merriweather and Buffalo State College.

PROMINENT BLACK BUFFALONIANS FILE
This card file was compiled in the 1980s and lists individuals, churches, newspapers, and clubs. It can be used in the Grosvenor Room.

SELECTED WEBSITES	NOTES
http://www.afrigeneas.com/ Afrigeneas Be sure to check this link for an interactive tutorial on African American genealogy: http://www.afrigeneas.com/guide/	Includes diaries, bills of sale, plantation records, wills of slave owners, and many more records.
http://www.upress.virginia.edu/plunkett/mfp.html Afro-American Sources in Virginia: A Guide to Manuscripts	Michael Plunkett, Editor.
http://www.ibiblio.org/laslave/ Afro Louisiana History and Genealogy 1719-1820	Includes data on African Americans from documents in Louisiana, as well as archives in France, Spain and Texas.

SELECTED WEBSITES	NOTES
http://www.americanancestors.org/education/learning-resources/read/african-american-research American Ancestors African American Genealogy Guide	Summary of helpful documents to search: Voter registration, Census, Freedman's Bureau, manumission, church records, etc.
http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/snhtml/ Born in Slavery	Slave narratives from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936-1938.
http://www.cyndislist.com/african-american Cyndi's List: African-American Resources	If it has genealogical relevance and it's online, you'll find it at Cyndi's List.
http://library.uncg.edu/slavery Digital Library on American Slavery	A database of the petitions to southern legislatures and country courts filed between 1775 and 1867 U.S. slaveholding states and the District of Columbia. Detailed personal information about slaves, slaveholders, and free people of color can be found.
http://docsouth.unc.edu/neh Documenting the American South	A collection of online North American slave narratives.
https://www.slavesocieties.org/ Ecclesiastical and Secular Sources for Slave Societies	Images of records pertaining to slaves in Brazil, Cuba, and Colombia.
http://www.familysearch.org/ Family Search	Free access to the enormous LDS (Mormon) databases. Collections of particular interest: Freedmen's Bureau Marriages, 1815-1869; Freedman's Bank Records, 1865-1874, and probate and court records from formerly slaveholding states.
http://freedmensbureau.com/ Freedmen's Bureau Online	Records relating to labor, marriage, murders, and other events in the lives of former slaves.
http://www.discoverfreedmen.org/ Freedmen's Bureau Project	A free index and access to Freedmen's Bureau Records. Sample documents include marriage records, Civil War pension documents, labor contracts, land contracts, hospital records, and others.
http://www2.vcdh.virginia.edu/gos/ The Geography of Slavery in Virginia	Runaway slave and indentured servants advertisements.
http://www.inmotionaame.org/home.cfm In Motion – The African American Experience	African American migration maps, the life of runaways, texts online, resources for teachers.
http://www.lowcountryafricana.com/ LowCountry Africana	Focuses on family and culture of African Americans in the historic rice-growing areas of South Carolina, Georgia and extreme northeastern Florida.
http://mappingthefreedmensbureau.com/ Mapping the Freedmen's Bureau	This site helps locate Freedmen's Bureau field offices and links to online Freeman's Bureau records.
http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/ New York Heritage – Buffalo Criterion	A full-text searchable database of the <i>Buffalo Criterion</i> from 1952-1989.
https://nyslavery.commons.gc.cuny.edu/ New York Slavery Records Index	A searchable compilation of records that identify individual enslaved persons and their owners. Records date from 1525-Civil War.
http://www.afrigenas.com/library/runaway_ads/balt-intro.html Runaway Slave Ads, Maryland	Baltimore County, Maryland 1842-1863.
http://sankofagen.pbworks.com/w/page/14230533/FrontPage Sankofa-gen Wiki	A collection of genealogical and historical data pertaining to U.S.A. antebellum plantations, farms, factories, manors, etc. that used African slave labor.

SELECTED WEBSITES	NOTES
https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Slavery_Era_Insurance_Registry Slave Era Insurance Registry	Some states required insurance companies to determine if they had records related to slavery.
http://www.slavevoyages.org/ Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database	Includes records of about 35,000 slaving expeditions from 1514 - 1866. They provide information about vessels, enslaved peoples, slave traders and owners, and trading routes.
https://www.virginiahistory.org/collections/unknown-no-longer-database-virginia-slave-names Unknown No Longer	A database of the names of enslaved Virginians that appear in unpublished documents in the Virginia Historical Society's collections.
http://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/ Virginia Memory Project	Includes African-American co-habitation registers, 1866.

SLAVERY SOURCES – BOOKS
GRO E185.86 .G77 1976c Gutman, Herbert G. The Black Family in Slavery and Freedom, 1750-1925 New York, NY: Vintage Books, 1976
GRO Ref. E185.93 .N56 B34 2000 Bahn, Gilbert Slaves and Nonwhite Free Persons in the 1790 Federal Census of New York Baltimore, MD: Clearfield, 2000
GRO Ref. *E185.96 .F43 1995 Fears, Mary L. Jackson Slave Ancestral Research: It's Something Else Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 1995
GRO Ref. *E185.96 .S817 1986 Streets, David H. Slave Genealogy: A Research Guide with Case Studies Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 1986
Stacks E441 .A58, 17 vols. Rawick, George P., ed. The American Slave: A Composite Autobiography Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Co., 1972- Online: http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/snhtml/snhome.html <i>Slave narratives from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936-1938.</i>
Stacks E441 .B68 1979 Blassingame, John W. The Slave Community: Plantation Life in the Antebellum South New York: Oxford University Press, 1979
Stacks E441 .C35, 5 vols. Catterall, Helen Tunnicliff Judicial Cases Concerning American Slavery and the Negro Washington, D.C. : Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1926-1937 Volume 1 online: http://ufdc.ufl.edu/UF00023686/00001 Covers: Cases from various US courts as well as England and Jamaica. Include excerpts from documents such as wills, deeds, and manumissions; and covers court cases dealing with runaways, kidnappings, crimes, executions, and other topics. The index includes both the names of cases (plaintiff listed first) and the names of the people involved in those cases (last name listed first), but it is not an every name index.

SLAVERY SOURCES – BOOKS

Stacks E441 .D68, 4 vols.

Donnan, Elizabeth

Documents Illustrative of the History of the Slave Trade to America

Washington, D.C., Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1930-35

Online (links to all four volumes): <http://www.inmotionaame.org/texts/>

GRO *E444 .P68 1997

Potts, Howard E.

A Comprehensive Name Index for *The American Slave*

Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1997

GRO E445 .D6 H96 1999

Hynson, Jerry M.

District of Columbia Runaway and Fugitive Slave Cases, 1848-1863

Westminster, MD: Willow Bend Books, 1999

Stacks E445 .L8 M4

Menn, Joseph Karl

The Large Slaveholders of Louisiana—1860

New Orleans, LA: Pelican Publishing Company [1964]

GRO E445 .N56 P74 1994

Hodges, Graham Russell, ed.

"Pretends to be Free:" Runaway Slave Advertisements from Colonial and Revolutionary New York and New Jersey

New York, NY: Garland Pub., 1994

GRO E445 .V8 A38 1997

Meaders, Daniel

Advertisements for Runaway Slaves in Virginia, 1801-1820

New York, NY: Garland Pub., 1997

GRO E445 .V8 V57 2007 Vol. 1-5

Morales, Leslie Anderson

Virginia slave births index, 1853-1865

Westminster, Md. : Heritage Books, 2007

GRO E446 .W73 1983, 4 vols.

Windley, Lathan A.

Runaway Slave Advertisements: A Documentary History from the 1730s to 1790

Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1983

"Census of Slaves, 1755" in

GRO *F122 .D64 v. 3, pp. 503-521

The Documentary History of the State of New-York

Albany, NY: Weed, Parsons & Co., 1850-51

GRO F127 .L8 R8, v. 1, Chapter X, pp. 119-133

Ross, Peter

A History of Long Island, From its Earliest Settlement to the Present Time

New York; Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1902

GRO F189 .B19 H96 2004

Hynson, Jerry M.

Absconders, Runaways and Other Fugitives in the Baltimore City and County [Maryland] Jail, 1831-1864

Westminster, MD: Willow Bend Books, 2004

SLAVERY SOURCES – BOOKS

GRO Ref F213 .C66 2009

Cooper, Jean L.

Index to Records of Ante-Bellum Southern Plantations: Locations, Plantations, Surnames and Collections, second edition

Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Co., Inc., 2009

Next step: After using this book, see the website below for online guides to the plantation records. The guides will help you find the particular items of interest. You may be able to borrow these materials from the Library through interlibrary loan. This site also gives Family History Library microfilm numbers. The Family History Library loans these materials for a fee to local Family History Centers.

https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/African_American_Slavery_and_Bondage#Online_Resources

HSS F213 .F73

Stephenson, Wendell Holmes

Isaac Franklin, Slave Trader and Planter of the Old South, with Plantation Records

Gloucester, MA: P. Smith, 1968 [©1938]

GRO F277 .B3 F73 2006

Frazier, Eugene, Sr.

James Island: Stories from Slave Descendents

Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2006

GRO F277 .L3 M67 2002

Motes, Margaret Peckham

Blacks Found in the Deeds of Laurens & Newberry Counties, SC: 1785 to 1827

Baltimore, MD: Clearfield Co., 2002

GRO F315 .J77

Jones, George Noble

Florida Plantation Records from the Papers of George Noble Jones

St. Louis, MO: Missouri Historical Society, 1927

Parish Registers – Slave births, baptisms, and deaths were often recorded in church parish registers. Search the catalog for: **Registers of births, etc...** to find records for the state you're interested in.

SLAVERY SOURCES – ARTICLES

GRO CS1 .N567 v. 108, no.4, pp. 221-225

New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, October 1977

Eicholz, Alice

"New York State Manumissions, A-B"

GRO CS1 .N567 v. 108, no.4, pp. 221-225

New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, January 1978

Eicholz, Alice

"New York State Manumissions, C-D"

GRO CS1 .N567 v. 109, no.2, pp. 71-74

New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, April 1978

Eicholz, Alice

"New York State Manumissions, E-I"

GRO CS1 .N567 v. 109, no.3, pp. 145-149

New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, July 1978

Eicholz, Alice

"New York State Manumissions, J-N"

SLAVERY SOURCES – ARTICLES

GRO CS1 .N567 v. 109, no.4, pp. 229-233
New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, October 1978
Eicholz, Alice
"New York State Manumissions, O-S"

GRO CS1 .N567 v. 110, no.1, pp. 39-42
New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, January 1979
Eicholz, Alice
"New York State Manumissions, T-Z"

GRO CS1 .N567 v. 110, no.4, pp. 196-197
New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, October 1979
Eichholz, Alice
"Slave Births in Castleton, Richmond County, New York"

GRO CS1 .N567 v. 111, no.1, p. 13-17
New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, January 1980
Eicholz, Alice & James Rose
"Slave Births in New York County"

GRO CS1 .N567 v. 123, no. 3, pp. 145-147
New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, July 1992
Harris, William A.
"Slave Manumissions, Pelham, 1812-1823"

Stacks E185 .J86 v. 26, no. 1, pp. 78-107
Journal of Negro History, January 1941
Yoshpe, Harry B.
"Record of Slave Manumissions in New York During the Colonial and Early National Periods"

Stacks E185 .J86 v. 26, no. 4, pp. 499-522
Journal of Negro History, October 1941
Yoshpe, Harry B.
"Record of Slave Manumissions in Albany, 1800-1828"

GRO F127 .D8 D65 v. 28, no. 2, pp. 47-49
Dutchess, Winter 2000
Fitchell, Bernice
"Town of Amenia, Slave Manumissions" (1794-1811)

TIPS ON RESEARCHING ENSLAVED ANCESTORS

- 1. Interview ancestors.** Collect and organize family stories. Start to create a rough family tree with dates & places
- 2. Obtain vital records.** Start with the most recent relatives; seek out death, marriage, and birth records.
- 3. Research in census records** beginning with the most recent available. Look through 3-4 pages before and after your ancestors, and note families with the same last name as well as those living nearby. They could be relatives.
- 4. When researching in the 1870 census, pay careful attention to white families in the area** who have similar given names and/or surnames to your ancestors. However, most slaves did not take a slaveholder's surname.
- 5. Check Freedman's Bank Records.** If you find your ancestor, you may discover the slaveholder's name, the plantation, locations of birth, residences, and family member names.
- 6. Research any white families of interest in the 1860 and 1850 slave schedules.** Note any slaveholders with slaves who match your ancestor's age, sex, and color.

TIPS ON RESEARCHING ENSLAVED ANCESTORS

7. Sometimes the enslaved were listed in family groupings on slave schedules.
8. Look for family papers, estate papers, plantation records, and wills pertaining to any slaveholders of interest. You may find details about your ancestor.
9. Family papers and plantation records are usually found in state or university libraries.
10. Note any plantation overseers. They could be relatives.
11. Probate papers will itemize estate holdings, including the enslaved. The enslaved may be named or described.
12. Use local histories and family histories to research slaveholders, plantations, and African-American history.
13. Research the history of slave trade in the area your ancestors were enslaved. Find out the states/locations where slaves were purchased.
14. Sometimes the enslaved took their surnames from the first or previous slaveholder.
15. Slaveholders advertised personal details about runaway slaves in newspapers.
16. When family members wanted to reunite after the Civil War, they placed newspaper advertisements.
17. Use timelines to document your ancestors and the important events in their lives. It will help to interpret information.

VERTICAL FILE

The Grosvenor Room collects articles, pamphlets, and clippings about African-American local history. Ask for these folders:

Clubs -- Colored Musicians
Ethnic Groups – African American
Juneteenth Festival
Michigan Street Baptist Church
Negro Convention, 1843
Niagara Movement
Pan American Exposition – Negro Exhibit
Talbert, Mary

THE ONLINE CATALOG OF THE BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

https://bepl.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/default

Search the online catalog to find books, magazines, CDs, videos, maps, and manuscripts owned by the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library. It includes the Grosvenor Room, all departments in the Central Library, and every town and branch library. Access it at the internet address above.

To find additional items in our collection beyond those listed in this guide, try these Subject searches.

THE ONLINE CATALOG OF THE BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

AFRICAN AMERICAN SOLDIERS
 AFRICAN AMERICANS GENEALOGY
 AFRICAN AMERICANS NEW YORK STATE
 GENEALOGY
 AFRO AMERICANS GENEALOGY
 BLACKS GENEALOGY
 EMANCIPATION
 FAMILIES BLACK GENEALOGY
 FREE AFRICAN AMERICANS
 FREEDMEN
 FUGITIVE SLAVES
 NEGRO SOLDIERS

PLANTATION LIFE
 REGISTERS SLAVES UNITED STATES
 SLAVE TRADE
 SLAVE TRADERS
 SLAVEHOLDERS
 SLAVERY IN THE U.S.
 SLAVERY UNITED STATES
 SLAVES EMANCIPATION
 SLAVES NEW YORK STATE
 SLAVES UNITED STATES REGISTERS
 UNDERGROUND RAILROAD
 UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES AFRICAN AMERICANS

WILLIAM A. MILES CENTER FOR AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORY AND RESEARCH AT FRANK E. MERRIWEATHER LIBRARY

1324 Jefferson Avenue
 Buffalo, NY 14208
 (716) 883-4418

<https://www.buffalolib.org/locations-hours/frank-e-merriweather-jr-branch>

The Buffalo Genealogical Society of the African Diaspora meets here every second Saturday.

The Merriweather Library (formerly the North Jefferson Library) branch of B&ECPL houses the William A. Miles Center for Afro-American History and Research collection, the largest resource center in Western New York for African American history. This unique and outstanding collection was established in 1965 by now-retired B&ECPL Assistant Deputy Director William A. Miles. In 1975, the Afro-American Historical Association of the Niagara Frontier began to incorporate microfilms of primary source material on the history of African Americans in the Western New York area.

In addition to the numerous books, microfilm, and flat pictures, the collection has several specialized databases and has now acquired a new resource that makes Black Studies research more convenient and robust. The microfiche **Schomburg Clipping File** contains more than 9,000 records that preserve and document important accomplishments in the African American experience. This resource mirrors the black experience, not only in North America, but worldwide. Essentially a periodical and newspaper clipping file, this unique collection also includes typescripts, broadsides, pamphlets, programs, book reviews, menus and various other short publications dealing with black history and culture. The collection is international in scope including countries in Africa and others not normally associated with black culture such as Italy, Russia and Japan. Easy to use and suitable both for ready reference queries or in-depth research.

The **Buffalo African-American Funeral Program and Obituary Collection (1957-2002, bulk 1990-1999)** contains more than 3,000 programs on microfilm. The original collection was assembled by the Buffalo Genealogical Society of the African Diaspora. The obituaries are from the *Buffalo Challenger* (1998 and Jan - April 1999), the *Buffalo Criterion* (1998 and Jan - April 1999), and the *Buffalo News* (1998 and 1999). The obituaries are filmed in chronological order for each newspaper. The Grosvenor Room has a copy of the index to the collection:

Buffalo F129.B89 N4126 2002 -- *Index and Introduction to the Microfilmed Buffalo African-American Funeral Program and Obituary Collection*, Volume 1. Buffalo, NY: The Society, 2002. Lists the name, birth year and death year. Only one entry is a death in the 1920s, most are from the 1980s-1990s. Also includes a list of records microfilmed by the Society and available for research at the North Jefferson Branch.

WHERE ELSE CAN I RESEARCH AFRICAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE?	NOTES
<p>Buffalo History Museum's Research Library 1 Museum Court Buffalo, NY 14216-3199 (716) 873-9644 x 306 http://buffalohistory.org/Learn/Research-Library.aspx</p>	<p>Has the Rev. Jesse Edward Nash papers; some letters from Booker T. Washington; and more.</p>
<p>Monroe Fordham Regional History Center Buffalo State College E. H. Butler Library, Room 214 1300 Elmwood Ave. Buffalo, NY 14222 Buffalo, New York 14222-1096 (716) 878-4790 http://www.monroefordham.org/</p>	<p>Microfilmed records of local churches, labor unions, and other organizations, with a focus on African-American history in the Buffalo area.</p>
<p>University at Buffalo University Archives 420 Capen Hall Buffalo, NY 14260-1674 (716) 645-2916 lib-archives@buffalo.edu https://library.buffalo.edu/archives/</p>	<p>Owns New York Manumission Society records, ca. 1785-1849 (MS 83); Citizens' Council on Human Relations records, 1955-1992; Lydia T. Wright, (1922-) papers, 1883-1968, 1960-1968; Jonson, George Washington, (1801-1880) : Diaries, 1848, 1857; and more.</p>