

Kenyatta D. Berry

# BEGINNING YOUR AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGY JOURNEY

## 1. GENERAL GENEALOGY RESEARCH

- A. Berry, Kenyatta D. *The Family Tree Toolkit: A Comprehensive Guide to Uncovering Your Ancestry and Researching Genealogy*. New York: Skyhorse Publishing, 2018.
- B. Hendrickson, Nancy. *The Genealogist's U.S. History Pocket Reference: Quick Facts & Timeline of American History to Help Understand Your Ancestors*. Cincinnati, Ohio: Family Tree Books, 2013
- C. Scott, Kerry. *How to Use Evernote Genealogy: A Step-by-Step Guide to Organize Your Research and Boost Your Genealogy Productivity*. Cincinnati, Ohio: Family Tree Books, 2015
- D. Smith, Drew. *Organize Your Genealogy: Strategies and Solutions for Every Researcher*. Cincinnati, Ohio: Family Tree Books, 2016.

## 2. AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGY

### A. Articles

- i. Davis, Damani. "Slavery and Emancipation in the Nation's Capital: Using Federal Records to Explore the Lives of African American Ancestors." *Prologue*, Vol. 42, No. 1, Spring 2010.  
<https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2010/spring/dcslavery.html>
- ii. Frankel, Noralee. "From Slave Women to Free Women: The National Archives and Black Women's History in the Civil War Era." *Prologue*, Vol. 29, No. 2, Summer 1997.
- iii. Reidy, Joseph P. "Slave Emancipation Through the Prism of Archives Records." *Prologue*, Vol. 29, No. 2, Summer 1997.  
<https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1997/summer/slave-emancipation>

### B. Books

- i. Blockson, Charles. *Black Genealogy*. Revised edition. Maryland: Black Classic Press, 1991.

- ii. Burroughs, Tony. *Black Roots: A Beginners Guide to Tracing the African American Family Tree*. Original edition. New York: Touchstone, 2001.
- iii. Nelson-Garrett, LaBrenda. *A Guide to Researching African American Ancestors in Laurens County, South Carolina and Selected Finding Aids*. XLIBRIS, 2016.
- iv. Smith, Franklin Carter. *A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your African American Ancestors*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2009.
- v. Taylor, Frazine. *Researching African American Genealogy in Alabama: A Resource Guide*. Montgomery, Alabama: NewSouth Books (2008)
- vi. Woodtor, Dee Palmer. *Finding a Place Called Home: A Guide to African American Genealogy and Historical Identity*. New York: Random House, 1999.

### 3. RECONSTRUCTION

#### A. Articles

- i. Everly, Elaine C. "Freedmen's Bureau Records: An Overview." *Prologue*, Vol. 29, No. 2, Summer 1997.  
<https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1997/summer/freedmens-bureau-records.html>
- ii. Everly, Elaine C. "Marriage Registers of Freedmen." *Prologue*, Vol. 5, No. 3, Fall 1973. <https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1973/fall/freedmens-marriage-registers.html>
- iii. Washington, Reginald. "The Freedmen's Savings and Trust Company and African American Genealogical Research." *Prologue*, Vol. 29, No. 2, Summer 1997.  
<https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1997/summer/freedmans-savings-and-trust.html>

#### B. Books

- i. Bentley, George R. *A History of the Freedmen's Bureau*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania, 1955.
- ii. Dubois, W. E. B., *Black Reconstruction in American 1860-1880*. New York: The Free Press, 1992.
- iii. Fleming, Walter L. *The Freedmen's Savings Bank: A Chapter in the Economic History of the Negro Race*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1927
- iv. Foner, Eric. *A Short History of Reconstruction 1863-1877*. New York: Harper Perennial Modern Classics, 2014.
- v. Foner, Eric. *Forever Free: The Story of Emancipation & Reconstruction*. New York: First Vintage Books, 2006.
- vi. Foner, Eric. *Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution, 1863-1877*. New York: Harper Perennial Modern Classics, 2014.

- vii. Foner, Eric. *The Second Founding: How the Civil War and Reconstruction Remade the Constitution*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., 2019.
- viii. Franklin, John Hope. *Reconstruction After the Civil War*, Third Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013.
- ix. Oubre, Claude F. *Forty Acres and a Mule: The Freedmen's Bureau and Black Land Ownership*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1978.

#### C. Online Resources

- i. Family Search.org
  1. *Labor Contracts Indenture and Apprentice Records (1865-1872)*
  2. *Records of Freedmen's Complaints (1865-1872)*
  3. *Records of the Superintendent of Education and of the Division of Education (1865-1872)*
  4. *Freedmen's Bureau Marriages*
  5. *Freedmen's Bureau Hospital and Medical Records*
  6. *Freedmen's Bank Records (1865-1874)*
  7. *Records of Persons and Articles Hired (1865-1872)*
  8. *Ration Records (1865-1872)*
  9. *Virginia and DC Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records (1863/1865-1872)*
  10. *Freedmen's Court Records (1865-1872)*
- ii. Ancestry.com
  1. *U.S., Freedmen's Bureau Records of Field Offices, 1863-1878*
  2. *U.S., Freedmen's Bureau Marriage Records, 1846-1867*
  3. *U.S., Freedman's Bank Records, 1865-1871*
- iii. Library of Virginia
  1. *Virginia Untold: The African American Narrative - <https://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/aan/>*
  2. *Chancery Court Records: <https://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/chancery/>*

## 4. ENSLAVED ANCESTRAL RESEARCH

### A. Articles

- i. Berry, Kenyatta D. "Slave Ancestral Research," Genealogy Roadshow (PBS) <https://www.pbs.org/genealogy-roadshow/genealogy-tips/slave-research/>

- ii. Smith, Franklin Carter and Croom, Emily Anne. "8 Steps for Tracing Slave Ancestors," *Family Tree Magazine*,  
<https://www.familytreemagazine.com/premium/find-slave-ancestors/>
- iii. State Library of North Carolina, "How to find Slave Records,"  
<https://www.pbs.org/genealogy-roadshow/genealogy-tips/slave-research/>

#### B. Books

- i. Berlin, Ira., Favreau, Marc and Miller, Steven F. *Remembering Slavery: African Americans Talk About Their Personal Experiences of Slavery and Emancipation*. New York: The New Press, 1996.
- ii. Crew, Spencer R., III Bunch, Lonnie G., and Price, Clement A., eds. *Memories of the Enslaved: Voices from the Slave Narratives*. Santa Barbara: Praeger, 2015.
- iii. Fears, Jackson Mary L. *Slave Ancestral Research: It's Something Else*. Maryland: Heritage Books, 2007.
- iv. Perdue Jr., Charles L., Barden, Thomas E., and Phillips, Robert K., eds. *Weevils in the Wheat: Interviews with Virginia Ex-Slaves*. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1999.
- v. Streets, David H. *Slave Genealogy: A Research Guide with Case Studies*. First Edition. Maryland: Heritage Books, 2008.
- vi. Williams, Heather Andrea. *Help me to find my people: The African American Search for Family Lost in Slavery*. Charlotte: University of North Carolina Press, 2012.

## 5. DNA

#### A. Some questions to consider before taking a DNA test:

- i. Why are you interested in taking a DNA test?
- ii. Will the DNA test help you break through a genealogy research problem?
- iii. Are you ready for the surprising results? An unexpected ½ sibling or an unknown parent?
- iv. Do you have the support of family and/or friends if you find out something surprising?

#### B. Books

- i. Bettinger, Blaine. *The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy*. Second Edition. Cincinnati: Family Tree Books, 2019
- ii. Bettinger, Blaine and Wayne, Parker Debbie. *Genetic Genealogy in Practice*. Arlington: National Genealogical Society, 2016.

- iii. Nelson, Alondra. *The Social Life of DNA: Race, Reparations and Reconciliation after the Genome*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2016.

C. Online Resource

- i. The International Society of Genetic Genealogy (ISOGG) - <https://isogg.org/>

## 6. SHARING YOUR STORY

A. Articles

- i. Historical context for Genealogy:  
<http://publiclibrariesonline.org/2014/06/historical-context-for-genealogy-research-what-your-ancestors-surroundings-say-about-them/>
- ii. Tracing Women by Understanding Historical Context (National Institute):  
[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Tracing\\_Women\\_by\\_Understanding\\_Historical\\_Context\\_\(National\\_Institute\)](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Tracing_Women_by_Understanding_Historical_Context_(National_Institute))
- iii. Adding Historical Context to Your Ancestor's Life:  
[https://news.legacyfamilytree.com/legacy\\_news/2016/04/adding-historical-context-to-your-ancestors-life.html](https://news.legacyfamilytree.com/legacy_news/2016/04/adding-historical-context-to-your-ancestors-life.html)

B. Books

- i. Baker, Jr., John F. *The Washingtons of Wessyngton Plantation: Stories of My Family's Journey to Freedom*. New York: Atria Books, 2009.
- ii. Ball, Edward. *Slaves in The Family*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1999
- iii. Gould IV, William B. *Diary of a Contraband: The Civil War Passage of a Black Sailor*. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 2002.
- iv. Madden, T. *We Were Always Free: The Maddens of Culpeper County, Virginia: A 200-Year Family History*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 1992.

C. Online Resource

- i. National Storytelling Network: <https://storynet.org/what-is-storytelling/>