



African American Research at the DAR Library:

Quick Start Guide

The DAR Library's collection contains resources pertaining to several different under-represented groups. The staff is actively working to expand the Library's holdings pertaining to members of marginalized populations, with a particular focus on histories of the colonial and early federal eras. The Library welcomes suggestions of new resources to add to further strengthen the collection to better serve all visitors.

For individuals pursuing research on African American ancestors, the most relevant books can be found in the African American section (AFRO-AMER). Some individual states have published books related to African American populations within the state's African American section as well. A partial list of the most frequently requested books and resources is below. As always, it is best to start with a search of the Library catalog, which is accessible from any computer terminal and on the internet at www.dar.org/library.

Reference Sources and How-To:

- *African American Genealogy: a Bibliography and Guide to Sources* by Curt Bryan Witcher (AFRO-AMER REFERENCE WIT) (<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/records/item/105693-redirect>)
- *African American Resources* by Meaghan E.H. Siekman (GEN RESEARCH PORTABLE SERIES)
- *The Best of Reclaiming Kin: Helpful Tips on Researching Your Roots* by Robyn N. Smith (AFRO-AMER REFERENCE SMI)
- *Finding Your African American Ancestors: a Beginner's Guide* by David T. Thackery (AFRO-AMER REFERENCE THA)

General background:

- *The Harvard Guide to African-American History* edited by Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham (AFRO-AMER HISTORY HAR)
- *The Black Family in Slavery and Freedom, 1750-1925* by Herbert G. Gutman (AFRO-AMER FAMILIES GUT)
- *The Black Presence in the Era of the American Revolution* by Sidney and Emma Nograd Kaplan (GEN HISTORY 1775-1783 AFRICAN A KAP)
- *Chronology of African-American History: From 1492 to the Present* by Alton Hornsby, Jr. (AFRO-AMER HISTORY HOR)

- *From Africa to America: African American History from the Colonial Era to the Early Republic, 1526-1790* by William D. Piersen (AFRO-AMER HISTORY PRE1864 PIE)
- *Historical and Cultural Atlas of African Americans* by Molefi K. Asante and Mark T. Mattson (AFRO-AMER HISTORY ASA)

Revolutionary War:

- *Black Revolutionaries: African American Revolutionary War Pensioners in the Early Republic 1780-1850* by Ashley K. Schmidt (thesis) <https://digitallibrary.tulane.edu/islandora/object/tulane%3A79045/datastream/PDF/view>
- *Death or Liberty: African Americans and Revolutionary America* by Douglas R. Egerton (GEN HISTORY 1775-1783 AFRICAN-A EGE)
- *African Americans and American Indians in the Revolutionary War* by Jack Darrell Crowder (GEN HISTORY 1775-1783)
- *Give me Liberty: Black Valor in the Revolutionary War* by Thomas Fleming (GEN HISTORY 1775-1783 AFRICAN.A FLE)
- “List of black servicemen compiled from the War Department collection of Revolutionary War records” compiled by Debra L. Newman (GEN ARCHV LIB NARA AFRICAN A NEW) (<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/000039225>)
- *African-American Patriots in the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution* by Bobby G. Moss and Michael Scoggins (GEN HISTORY 1775-1783 AFRICAN-A MOS)
- *Black Courage, 1775-1783: Documentation of Black Participation in the American Revolution* by Robert Ewell Greene (GEN HISTORY 1775-1783 AFRICAN A GRE)
- *Black Patriots and Loyalists: Fighting for Emancipation in the War for Independence* by Alan Gilbert (GEN HISTORY 1775-1783 AFRICAN-A GIL)
- *The Black Phalanx: African American Soldiers in the War of Independence, the War of 1812, and the Civil War* by Joseph T. Wilson (AFRO-AMER MILITARY WIL) (<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/31339/31339-h/31339-h.htm>)
- *Fighting for Liberty in an Unequal Society: African American Military Service in the American Revolution and the Path towards Citizenship* by Jason G. Storey (GEN HISTORY 1775-1783 AFRICAN-A STO) (thesis) (<https://commons.emich.edu/theses/871/>)
- *Blacks in the American Revolution* by Philip S. Foner (GEN HISTORY 1775-1783 AFRICAN-A FON)
- *Standing in their Own Light: African American Patriots in the American Revolution* by Judith L. Van Buskirk (GEN HISTORY 1775-1783 AFRICAN-A VAN)

- *Water from the Rock: Black Resistance in a Revolutionary Age* by Sylvia R. Frey (GEN HISTORY 1775-1783 AFRICAN A FRE)

Geographically:

- *Somebody Knows My Name: Marriages of Freed People County by County* by Barnetta McGhee White (N.C. AFRO-AMER WHI)
- *Virginia Slave Births Index, 1853-1865*. 5 vols. edited by Leslie Anderson Morales (VA AFRO-AMER VIR) (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3326815>)
- *The African American Heritage of Elgin, Illinois and the Greater Kane County area* by Raleigh Sutton (ILL COUNTIES KANE ELGIN SUT)
- *Africans in Georgia, 1870* by Roma Jones Stewart (GA AFRO-AMER STE)
- *The Black Pioneer in Michigan* by Melvin E. Banner (MICH AFRO-AMER BAN)
- *Slave Testimony: Two Centuries of Letters, Speeches, Interviews, and Autobiographies* edited by John W. Blassingame
- *Slavery and Freedom* by James Oakes (AFRO-AMER HISTORY PRE-1864 SLAVERY SLA)
- “Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936 to 1938.” <https://www.loc.gov/collections/slave-narratives-from-the-federal-writers-project-1936-to-1938/about-this-collection/>

Many books devoted to individual families. The Library’s family collection is organized alphabetically by surname.

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