

Beginning Genealogy: African-American

A companion bibliography for article*:
 “Starting your African American research”
 by Char McCargo Bah,

NGS Magazine, Oct-Dec 2007, pp 20-22

(Titles are at Monroe branch unless otherwise noted)

REMEMBER: Start with yourself and go backwards!

Local? CHECK OUR SURNAME FILES!! ASK!!

INTERVIEW YOUR RELATIVES!!

Try: www.familysearch.org (free!)

Black Roots: A Beginners Guide to Tracing the African American Family Tree by Tony Burroughs 929.1 BURR

The Hairstons: An American family in black and white
 by Henry Weincek 929.2 WEIN

Finding a place called home: a guide to African American Genealogy and Historical Identity
 by Dee Parmer Woodtor 929.1 WOOD

Note: titles can change and no longer be available

Other book suggestions

Secrets to African-American roots: a guide for researching American records by Colette Thomas Smith 929.1072 SMIT

Black Genesis: a resource book for African-American Genealogy by James M. Rose 929.1 ROSE

Slaves in the Family by Edward Ball 920 BALL
Title available at Union West

How to Trace Your African-American Roots
 By Barbara Thompson Howell 929.1 HOWE

*A copy of this article is available in the Dickerson Genealogy & Local History Room at Union County Public Library, Monroe, NC

Background photo of the Laney School, a Rosenwald School in Union Co., NC
 by Mary Funderburk, 2007

-created in 2009 (revised 2/2018 -lwg)

**Doing Local (Union County, NC) research?****Check: “Union County, North Carolina, Marriages”**

You’ll find marriages from 1843 – 1960 in this set of books. Pay attention to the words “co-habitation” within the 1866 marriages. These are former slaves. In 1866, former slaves could legalize their marriages if they would present themselves to a local justice of the peace or the clerk of court. Thus, marriages before 1866 are noted – rejoice in this! *Later marriages may have parents’ names of the bride/groom – check all of the books.*

Check: “1870 Union County Census North Carolina” (book)

Your goal is to find your ancestor in the 1870 census. *This is the first census where all people were enumerated – thus, it is the first census that former slaves were recorded by name.*

☞ The above books are on a cart at Monroe near the gen. staff desk ☞

Some Web Sites & other

Genealogical Deed Abstracts – Union County...Deed Book 1
 By Barbara Moore (on cart; includes a first name slave index)

An interactive guide on beginning by Dee Parmer Woodtor:
<http://www.afrigenas.com/guide/>

National Archives (African-American Research):

<http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1997/summer/index.html>
 (focuses on use of federal records on African-American historical research as well as historical reference – read articles on-line)

Rosenwald Schools (history of org., plans of schools, lists)

<http://www.historysouth.org/rosenwaldhome/>

Digital Library on American Slavery:

<http://library.uncg.edu/slavery/> (Runaway slave ads; Transatlantic slave database; NC slave deeds; nationwide insurance registries...)

Also try Paul Heinegg’s: <http://www.freeafricanamericans.com/>

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<http://www.unioncountync.gov/departments/library>