



I Don't Even Know My Name

African-American Genealogy

Nancy Richey



“Don’t Forget the Bridge that Carried you Over”

- **First Steps**

- ✓ Start Listening
- ✓ Start Collecting
- ✓ Start Recording



Going Back

- **Oral History**

- **Interview the living about the dead**



- You are looking for names, dates, places, relationships
- Document your immediate family and then collateral relatives

Three Major Kinds of Records to Search

- **RECENT RECORDS**
- **TRANSITION RECORDS
(FROM SLAVERY TO FREEDOM)**
- **SLAVE RECORDS**



The Problem

SMOOPER BIO

1870 census, listed as William Helm (black) born abt 1862 living in the white household of Josiah Wade along with a brother Columbus Helm, born abt 1861

1880 census, listed as William A. Moore (black) living in the white household of Obediah Moore, listed as a servant, born abt 1862

1900 census, listed as Smooger Wade living in the Obediah Moore household as a servant, born abt 1862

1910 census listed as Alvis Wade living in the household of John M. Hines and Nancy "Nannie" Moore Hines (dau. of Obediah Moore) as a servant, born abt 1862

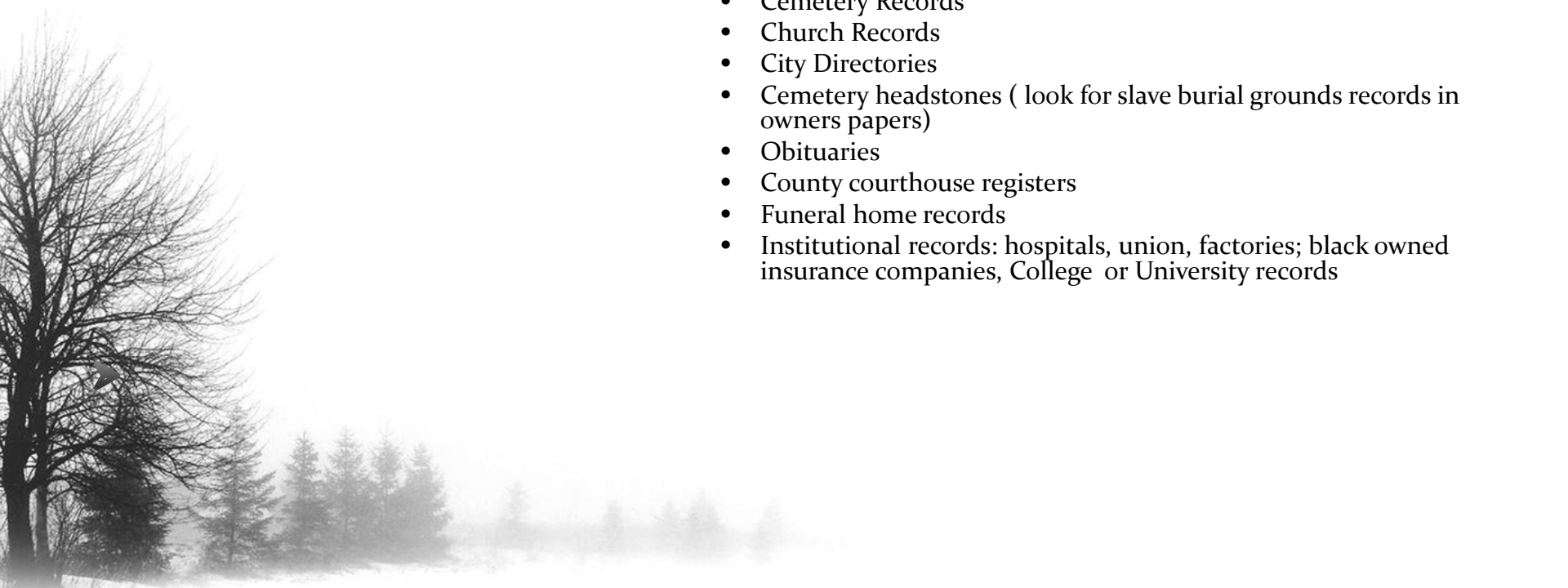
1920 census listed in John M. Hines (widowed) household as Smooger Moore, born abt 1862

1930 census, listed as Smooger Hampton living in the Effie Hampton (daughter of John M and Nancy "Nannie" Moore Hines, granddaughter of Obediah) household listed as a servant. listed as born abt. 1866

death certificate listed as born in 1860



Where to Look?

- Newspaper clippings
 - Insurance policies
 - WW I and II discharge papers
 - School records
 - Club and organizational records
 - Scrapbooks
 - Employment records pre-1900
 - Black newspapers pre-1900
 - Family Records and documents
 - Cemetery Records
 - Church Records
 - City Directories
 - Cemetery headstones (look for slave burial grounds records in owners papers)
 - Obituaries
 - County courthouse registers
 - Funeral home records
 - Institutional records: hospitals, union, factories; black owned insurance companies, College or University records
- 

Where to Look: A Myriad of Places



"Uncle" Jack Taylor
Born about 1830 in
Elrod family. When 14
he was purchased by
Allen Taylor, g-grandfather
of Lassie Taylor Moore
of Richlandville area.

Jack Taylor married
Mason Thacker, a
slave girl from the
Thacker family. (S33)

Information Lavelle
Vaughn, daughter of



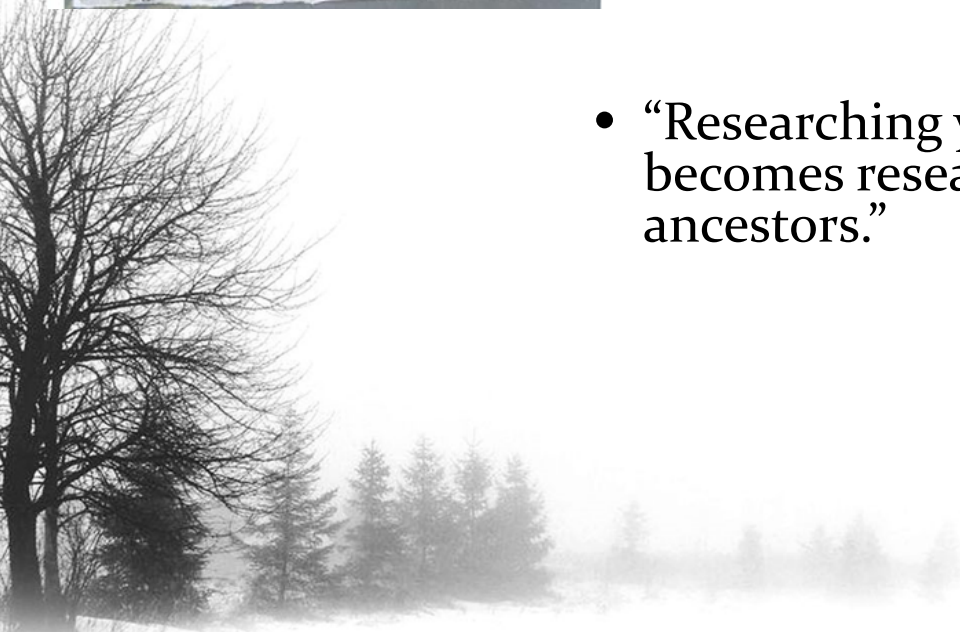
1870



- 1870 census is the transition from slavery to freedom

The 1870 census is the first U.S. federal census to list formerly enslaved African Americans by name (in previous censuses they were included only as tally marks on a page).

- “Researching your ancestors during slavery becomes researching the owners of your ancestors.”



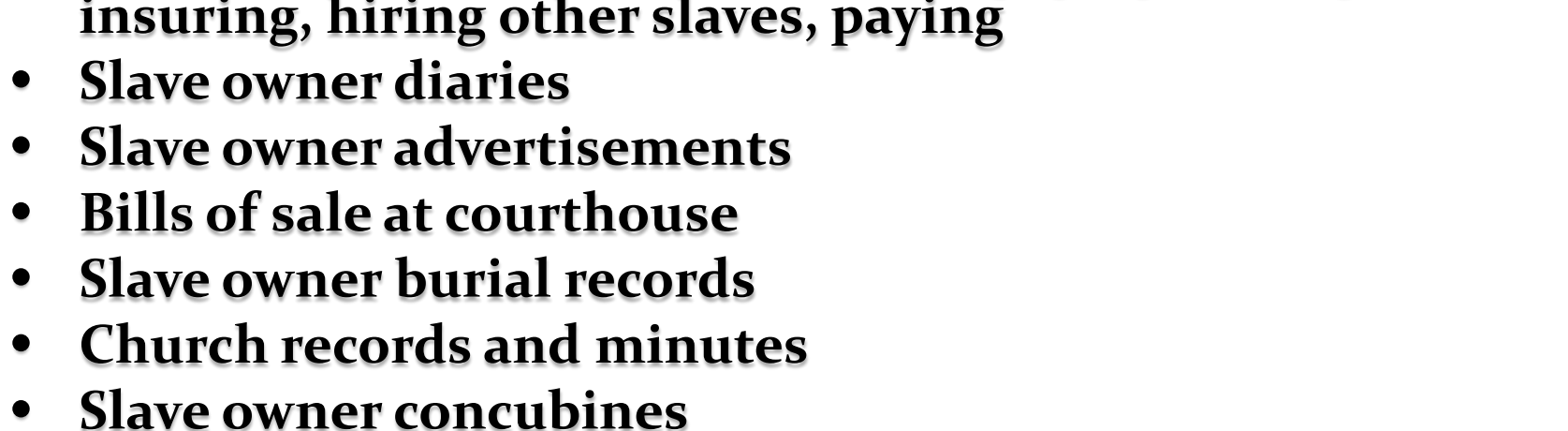


Slavery's Clues-Where to Look?

- **Don't trust the index**
- **Look at adjacent counties and state**
- **Examine tax rolls**
- **Use other censuses**
- **Black children indentured to whites**
- **Name adoption of whites**
- **1850 and 1860 mortality schedules listed slaves**
- **School censuses**
- **1890 schedule of surviving soldiers of the Civil War**



More Places

- **Division of property, with inventories and named slaves**
 - **Slave owner and overseer records, account and day books, showing issuance of clothing, medical treatment, birth registers, death, accounting lists of slaves, daily work records**
 - **Slave owner financial records, mortgaging, selling, insuring, hiring other slaves, paying**
 - **Slave owner diaries**
 - **Slave owner advertisements**
 - **Bills of sale at courthouse**
 - **Slave owner burial records**
 - **Church records and minutes**
 - **Slave owner concubines**
- 

Kentucky Military History Museum



To all whom it may Concern:



Know ye, That William H. Graham
 Private of Captain L. C. Sherman's
 Company, (G.) 28th Regiment of United States Colored
VOLUNTEERS, who was enrolled on the seventeenth day of August
 one thousand eight hundred and sixty years to serve three years or
 during the war, is **Discharged** from the service of the United States
 this fourth day of November, 1865, at Corpus
Christi because reason of services being no longer required
 (No objection to his being re-enlisted, is known to exist.)

Said William H. Graham was born in Franklin
 in the State of Kentucky, is twenty years of age,
five feet six inches high, Dark complexion Dark eyes,
Dark hair, and by occupation, when enrolled, a Farmer
 Served at Corpus Christi, this fourth day of
November 1863

This certificate will be annulled should there be anything in the conduct or general condition of the soldier rendering him unfit for the Army.

(A. O. O., No. 10.)

C. H. Hussey
 2nd Regt 25th Ala
 Commanding the Regt.

L. C. Sherman
 Capt Co G, 28th U.S.C. Troops

W. B.

Born in Slavery



Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936-1938

Project 1985-1
FOLKLORE
Spartanburg Dist.4
July 15, 1937

390140

Edited by: 134
Elmer Turnage

STORIES FROM EX-SLAVES

"I was born in Newberry County, South Carolina, in the
Near Indian Creek above Jalapa. My mammy and pa was Charlie
and Frances Gilliam. We belonged to Marse Pettus and Harriet
Gilliam who had a big plantation. I married George Glasgow
in the yard of Reid place, by a nigger preacher. My husband
died about 15 years ago.

"I was a young child when de war stopped, and don't re-
member so much about slavery times. Marse Pettus and Miss Har-
riet was good to us. I never got a whipping, except Misses
whipped me once wid just one lick. Dey give us a small patch of
'bout half acre fer us to raise cotton or anything we wanted
to on it. De master had a big garden and give his slaves plenty
vegetables. We had plenty to eat all de time. My pa, Charlie,
was de foreman of a crowd of slaves, and dere was a white over-
seer, too.

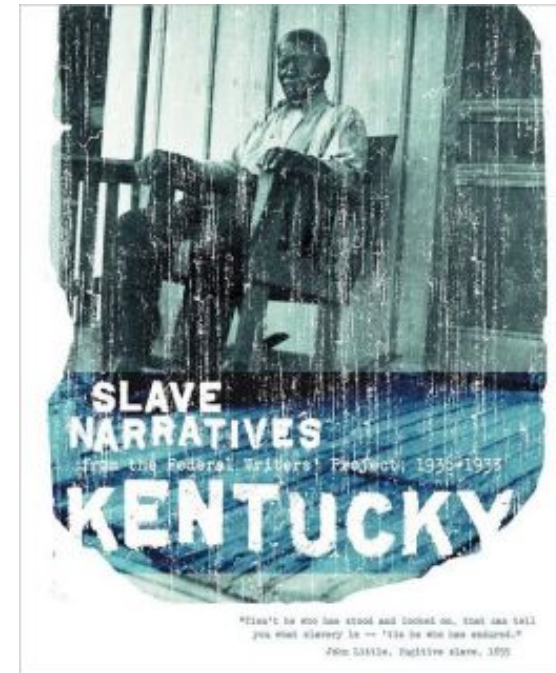
"Master Gilliam had a boy dey called 'Bud'. He still
lives in Arkansas. Dey all moved to state of Arkansas sometime
atter de war. My master was a good man, a church man, and he
was steward in Tranquil Methodist Church. Around de place at
home he was always singing and in good humor. I 'member one
song he sung dat was like dis:

"Lord, Lord, Heaven --Sweet Heaven,

Lord, Lord, Heaven --Sweet Heaven,

How long will it be?

(repeated three times)

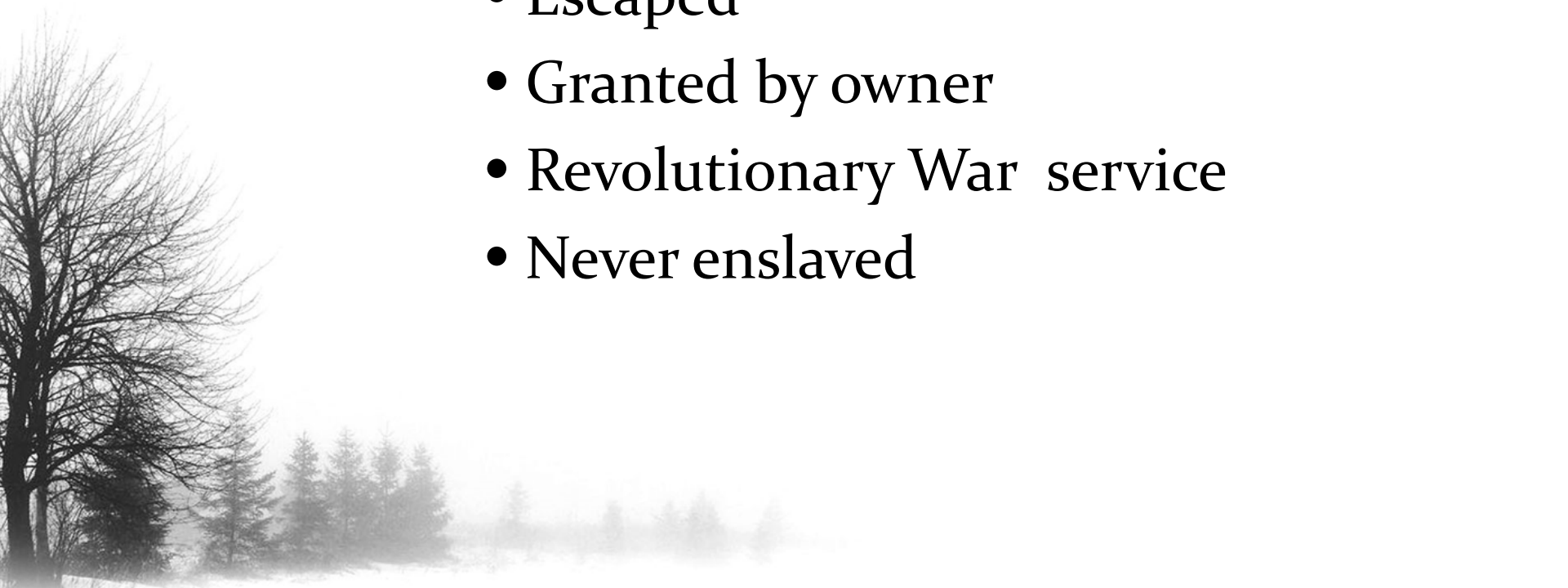


Slave or Free?





Free?

- Free because of meritorious service
 - Bought their own freedom
 - Escaped
 - Granted by owner
 - Revolutionary War service
 - Never enslaved
- 



And More!

- **American Missionary Association Records**
- **Anniversary Programs**
- **Apprentice Indenture Records**
- **Bills of sale**
- **Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates**
- **Cemetery Records**
- **Census**
- **Church Records**
- **City Directories**
- **Cohabitation Records**
- **Court records**
- **Deeds**
- **Divorce Records**
- **Employment Records**
- **Estate inventories**
- **Family Bibles**
- **Freedman Savings and Trust**
- **Freedman's Bureau**
- **Freedmen's Schools**
- **Funeral Programs**
- **Homestead Records**
- **Institutional records: hospitals, etc.**
- **Insurance Papers**
- **Labor contracts**
- **Memorabilia**
- **Military Records**
- **Newspapers**
- **Obituaries**
- **Old Letters**
- **Photographs**
- **Plaques, Awards**
- **Poll tax, (Head tax, or Capitation)**
- **Probate Records**
- **Register of Violence against Freedmen**
- **School and College Yearbooks**
- **School Certificates**
- **School records**
- **Scrapbooks**
- **Sharecropper agreements**
- **Slave schedules for 1850-1860**
- **Social Security records**
- **Tax lists**
- **Voter records**
- **Wills**

Cohabitation Records

Register of Colored Persons of

NAME OF HUSBAND,	AGE,	PLACE OF BIRTH,	RESIDENCE,	OCCUPATION,	LAST OWNER,
Robt Lacey	66	P. Edward	P. Edward	Laborer	Dr J Lacey
Emmanuel Lee	46	"	"	"	Sam Carter
Wesley Hill	32	"	"	"	Sam Free
Geo Beald	44	"	"	"	Thomas Beald
Andrew Smith	36	W. Maryland	"	"	Wm H. Smith
Wm Jeter	24	"	"	"	Wm J. Perkins
Spencer Watson	60	P. Edward	P. "	"	Spencer Watson

Registers of Signatures of Depositors

35
Record for Henny Kobbs
Date and No. of Application, Oct. 3rd 1867
Name of Master, Lives in Kynteville on Miami Lt
Name of ~~Master~~ James & Mary South Part of Kentucky
on widow Kobbs' plantation
Plantation,
Height and Complexion, 4 ft. Black
Father or Mother? Married? wife name Harriet Kobbs
Name of Children: James C. Kobbs 2 1/2 years old, Martha Kobbs
married and lives with father, her husband's name
Charles W. Brown
Regiment and Company, Common
Place of Birth, Madison Co. 8 miles South East of Kentville
Residence, Kynteville Ala.
Occupation, Shoemaker
REMARKS, Further lives with me in Kynteville
and Mother lives in Miss. about 12 miles from my
Place home. Has a brother Clayburn Kobbs who
lives about 3 miles from town on his own plantation - he
has a brother James in Miss. Has two sisters one lives in Ala. (Katie)
and the other 3 miles from my white step-sister
Signature, Henny Kobbs
mark



Don't Forget:

Special Collections Libraries and Archives

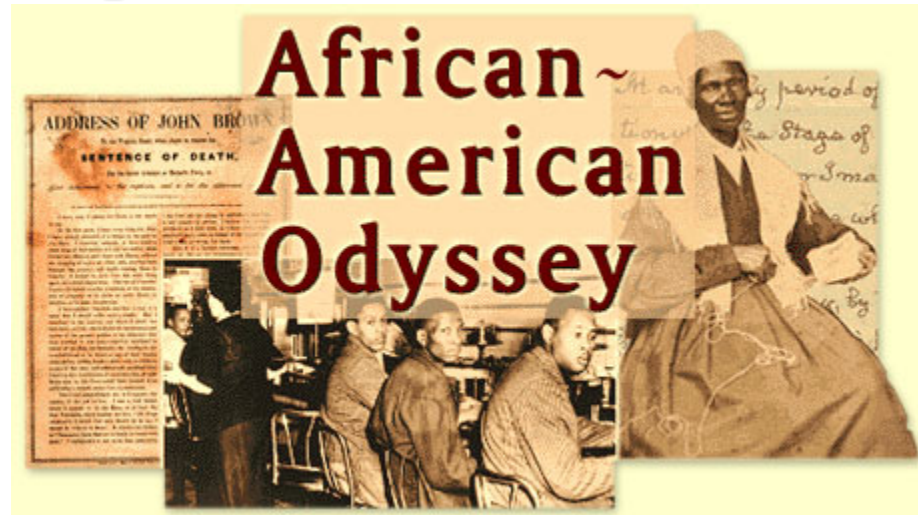
For example:

Avery Research Center at the College of Charleston

“The Avery Research Center was established to collect, preserve, and make public the unique historical and cultural heritage of African Americans in Charleston and the South Carolina Low country. Avery's archival collections, museum exhibitions, and public programming reflect these diverse populations as well as the wider African Diaspora.”

Online Sources:

- **Freedmen's Bureau Records**
(<http://freedmensbureau.com/>)



African American Research at the Library of Congress

- <http://www.archives.gov/research/african-americans/>

Locally Produced Materials

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BARREN'S BLACK ROOTS

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African American Heritage of Simpson County, Kentucky



African American Heritage Committee
The Kentucky Heritage Council



Ancestry.Com and Heritage Quest

- **Southern Claims Commission**
- **U. S. Colored Troops Records**
- **Freedmen's Bureau Records**
- **Freedmen's Bank Records**
- **African – American Books Online**
- **1865-1878 Charleston, SC Black Deaths**
- **Freedmen's Bureau Records of Field Offices**
- **Illinois Servitude and Emancipation Records**



Remember:

- **Review an expanded range of sources.**
 - **Know that genealogy is a process**
 - **When researching slave genealogy, secondary sources are invaluable**
 - **Remember researching slave genealogy is similar to putting together a puzzle without having all of the pieces - use these resources to help gather as many pieces as possible and you may solve your puzzle.**
- 