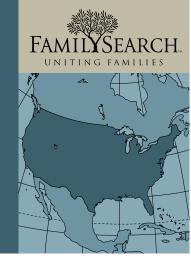
FINDING RECORDS OF YOUR ANCESTORS, PART A

AFRICAN AMERICAN

1870 to Present





If your African American ancestor died after 1870, follow the steps in this booklet to find the records of his or her family. These instructions will show you how to search nine kinds of records. It will tell you which record to search first, what to look for, and what tools to use. One piece of information will lead to another until you have identified most family members and filled out a family group record.

Search these records in the order given. As soon as you have found the information you need, move to the next step. You may not need to search all the records listed.

- Find your ancestor's full birth date and birthplace. Records to use:
 - a. Social Security Death Index
 - b. Death record (vital records)
 - c. Social Security application
 - d. Cemetery record
 - e. Obituary
 - f. Funeral home record
- Learn the names of your ancestor's parents. Records to use:
 - a. Death record (vital records)
 - b. Birth record (vital records)
 - c. Social Security application
 - d. Obituary
 - e. Funeral home record
- Find the names, birth years, and birth states of your ancestor's family members. Record to use:

Census

Find the full names and marriage information for your ancestor's parents. Record to use:

Marriage record (vital records)

Latter-day Saints: After step 4 you probably have enough information to submit these names for temple ordinances.



HOW TO BEGIN—PREPARATION

You should have already gathered as much information as possible from your home and family and filled out family group records and a pedigree chart. Another good starting place is FamilySearchTM or other computer files, where you can see if others have researched your family. See *How Do I Start My Family History?* (32916)

To begin:

A. Select an ancestor to search for. From your pedigree chart, choose an ancestor who died in the United States after 1870. You must know the ancestor's name, approximate date of death, and state and county (if possible) of death.

B. Start with a family group record. Write your ancestor's name in the children's section of a new family group record (see page 34). Read through the instructions in this booklet. Then follow the steps below to find your ancestor's family. Write any family information you find on family group records and a pedigree chart.

C. Write your searches on a search list. As you search, write what you found or did not find. (For an example of a search list, see page 7.)

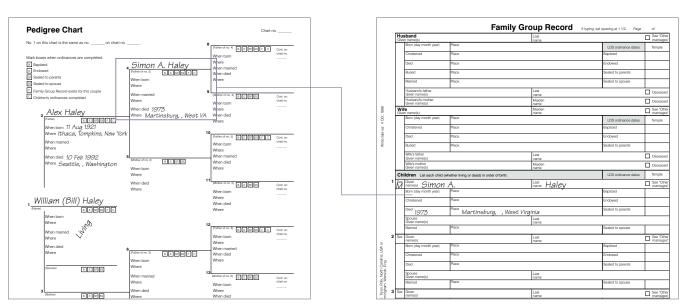
Tips

If you don't know your ancestor's death date:

- Start with a more recent generation. Records of recent ancestors usually lead to records of earlier generations.
- Find the records for the family in the example given. This will teach you basic research skills before you search for your own family. This is a good class activity.

On family group records and pedigree charts:

- Write dates in this order: day, month, year (11 Aug 1911).
- Write places in order from smallest to largest (town, county, state).



A. Bill's pedigree chart

B. Bill begins a family group record with Simon A. Haley listed as a child

THE RESEARCH PROCESS

The case study on these pages shows how the research process was used to find Bill Haley's family. After you have read this case study and the rest of the booklet, follow the same steps to search for your ancestor's family.

Bill Haley is looking for the family of his grandfather, Simon Haley. He has a family group record, a pedigree chart, and a blank search list. To find his ancestors, he follows the steps suggested on the cover of this booklet. He searches for records in a family history center; on the Internet; and at state, county, and other record offices. Family history center staff members can help Bill find records in the Family History Library Catalog and order microfilmed records to use in the center.

For each record he searches, Bill writes what he finds.

- A. On the family group record he writes:
 - Family information on the front.
 - Source information on the back (author and title of the record, call number, and so on).
- B. On the search list he writes:
 - The record searched, information found, and information not found (for example, "no birth date for Simon").
 - A document number he assigns for each photocopy he makes or receives.

Bill's ancestor:	Simon Haley	about 1973,	Martinsburg, West Virginia
	name	death date	death place
Your ancestor:			
	name ,	death date	death nlace

1

FIND YOUR ANCESTOR'S FULL BIRTH DATE AND BIRTHPLACE. Bill looks for Simon Haley in the following records:

- A. Social Security Death Index (see page 28)
- Bill finds the following birth information about Simon Haley:
 - Birth date: 8 Mar 1892
- Bill now has Simon's birth date, but no birthplace.
- Simon's record also contains his Social Security number. This will be useful if Bill decides to order Simon's Social Security application for steps 1C or 2C.

Name	Social Security number	Birth date	Death date	Place where death benefit was sent
	ual Record		FamilySear	ch™ U.S. Social Security Death Index 30 September 2000
	te:		8 Mar 1892 Aug 1973 431-24-8757 Arkansas	
ZII	esidence Localities ? Code: calities:		66104 Kansas City,	Wyandotte, Kansas

Simon Haley's record in the Social Security Death Index at www.familysearch.org

- B. Death record (vital records) in West Virginia (see page 31)
- Bill orders Simon's death record from the vital records office of West Virginia. The death record gives this information about Simon Haley's birth:
 - Birth date: March 8, 1892
 - State of birth: Tennessee
- Bill has found Simon's birth state, but no county or town
- Simon's death record also lists information that may help Bill complete steps 2 and 4:
 - Parent's names and birth states: Alex Haley,
 Alabama; Queen Davis, Alabama
 - Simon's full death date: August 19, 1973
 - Simon's death place: Martinsburg, Berkeley County, West Virginia
 - Cemetery location: Little Rock, Arkansas
- Funeral home and address: R. N. Horton Co. (in Washington, D.C.)
- Social Security number: 431-24-8757



Simon Haley's death certificate from the state vital records office

	Hu:	sband n name(s) Alexar	1der	Last Haley		See "Other marriages"
	Give	Born (day month year) Aug 1845	Place Alabama, USA	marrie 1 12112 y	LDS ordinance dates	Temple
		Christened	Place		Baptized	iompio
		Died	Place		Endowed	
		Buried	Place		Sealed to parents	
		Married 8 Oct 1881	Place , Hardin, Tennessee, USA		Sealed to spouse	
		Husband's father Given name(s)		Last name		Deceased
		Husband's mother Given name(s)		Maiden name		Deceased
98	Wi	fe n name(s) Queen		Maiden Davis		See "Other marriages"
Oct.		Born (day month year) 1858	Place		LDS ordinance dates	Temple
as: 4		Christened	, , , , , Alabama, USA =		Baptized	
Write date as:		Died	Place		Endowed	
Write		Buried	Place		Sealed to parents	
		Wife's father		Last		
		Given name(s)		name	Deceased	
		Wife's mother Given name(s)		Maiden name		Deceased
			ether living or dead) in order of birth.		LDS ordinance dates	Temple
	1 Sex	Given Annie		Last Haley		See "Other marriages"
		Born (day month year) Apr 1882	Place , , , , , Tennessee, USA	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Baptized	
		Christened	Place		Endowed	
		Died	Place		Sealed to parents	
		Spouse		Last	I	
		Given name(s) Married	Place	name	Sealed to spouse	
	2 Sex	Given Calanna		Last II alay		See "Other
70	М	name(s) CONWA	V Place	hame Haley	Baptized	See "Other marriages"
, USA		Born (day month year) Nov 1887	, , ,Tennessee, USA			
rolina 9.		Christened			Endowed	
₹¥ S¤		Died	Place		Sealed to parents	
as: Tryon, Polk, North Carolina, USA or Birmingham, Warwick, Eng.		Spouse Given name(s)		Last name		
am, V		Married	Place		Sealed to spouse	
Tryor	3 Sex	Given Simon	Alexander	Last name Haley		See "Other marriages"
e as: s, Birr		Born (day month year)	Place	· ·	Baptized	
ite place a		8 Mar 1892 Christened	Savannah, Hardin, Tennessee, U Place	<u> </u>	Endowed	
St. N		Died	Place		Sealed to parents	
		19 Aug 1973 Spouse	Martinsburg, Berkeley, West Vin	Last	i	
		Given name(s) Married	Place	name	Sealed to spouse	
	Colo		ptions. The option you select applies	Your name		
	to al	names on this form.		Tour Hartie		
		Option 1—Family File names to my family file	at the Temple.	Address		
		Option 2—Temple Fil	Send all names to any temple, all approved ordinances.	Address		
		Option 3—Ancestral	File Send all names to the			
		for ordinances. I am inc	al File for research purposes only, not cluding the required pedigree chart.	Phone	Date prepared	
				()		
				Published by The Church of	of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints 10/93 Pr	inted in USA 31827
ront o	f fan	ily group record				
			ther information on attached sheets as necessary.			

```
Sources of information Add further information on attached sheets as necessary.

1.A. Social Security Death Index
1.B. West Virginia State Department of Health, Simon Haley death certificate, cert. 011480
1.C. Social Security Administration, Simon Haley Social Security 55-5 Application
2. See 1B.
3. 1900 U.S. Census, Savannah, Twp., Hardin, Co., Tennessee, Dwelling 3, Family 3.
4. Hardin Co. Tennessee Clerk, Alex Haley & Queen Davis marriage cert., Vol. 3, p. 87.

Note: Please take every reasonable step to see that the information on this form is as accurate and complete as practical. This will help maintain the integrity of Church family history files and reduce duplication of temple ordinance work.
```

Back of family group record

- C. Social Security application (see pages 26–27)
- Bill uses Simon's information from the Social Security Death Index (step 1A) to order a copy of Simon's Social Security application. This application gives:
 - Full name: Simon Alexander Haley

- Birth date and place: 8 Mar 1892, Savannah, Hardin, Tenn.
- Place of residence: Pine Bluff, Arkansas
- Parents' names, including his mother's maiden name:
 Alexander Haley, Queen Davis
- Bill now has the town and county of Simon's birth.

	Full name Birth date Birthplace Address	
I NEADY BY DE CARL MENT INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (Revised June 1940) EACH ITEM SHOULD BETHLED IN. IF THE INFOR	REQUIRED UNDER THE FEDERAL INSURANCE CONTRIBUTIONS ACT READ INSTRUCTIONS ON BACK BEFORE FILLING IN FORM RMATICAL CALLED FOR IN ANY ITEM IS NOT KNOWN, WRITE "UNKNOWN"	431-24-6757
1. SIM ON THE THE PROPERTY OF	ALEXANOER MIDDLE NAME (IF YOU HAVE NO MIDDLE NAME, DRAW A LINE—) RRIED WOHAN—FOR MIDDLE NAME, GIVE LAST NAME BEFORE MARRIAGE; FOR LAST NAME, GIVE	HUSBAND'S LAST NAME (C)
4. HAVE YOU EVER BEFORE HAD A SOCIAL SECUR	RICHECK (I/) WHICH AND FANSWER IS "YES" ENTER RACE AND THE STATE OF TH	AND DATE OF CRIGINAL FILING APPREASONS FOR FILING AGAIN)
8. SEX: MALE FEMALE 9. COLO	BIRTH (MONTH) (DAY) (YEAR) (SUBJECT TO LATER VERIFICATION) PLACE OF B OR OR FACE: WHITE NEGRO OTHER 10. MARRIED SI (CHECK (J') WHICH) (SPECIFY) 12. BUSINESS ADDRESS OF PRESDO SAFLOYER	INGLE INDOWED DIVORCED DARATED (CHECK (F) WHICH) (STREET AND HUMBER) (CITY) (STATE)
13. Afest dead FATHER'S DIEL MANE, RE	EGARDLESS OF WHE THER LIVING OR THE TOTAL NAME ST	TYORE MARTIGE, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER LIVING OR DEAD
17. 6 - 5 4/ DATE SIGNED RETURN COMPLETED APPLI	18. APPLICATES WRITTEN SIGNATURE (FIRST NAME) (MIDDLE INITIAL) ICATION TO, CIR SECURE INFORMATION ON HOW TO FILL IN APPLICATION OF FILL OFFICE, THE ADDRESS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM LOCAL	TION FROM, NEAREST SOCIAL SECURITY POST OFFICE

Social Security application of Simon Haley

LEARN THE NAMES OF YOUR ANCESTOR'S PARENTS. Bill already found Simon's parents' names in Simon's death certificate (see 1B above). He goes to step 3.

FIND THE NAMES, BIRTH YEARS, AND BIRTH STATES OF YOUR ANCESTOR'S FAMILY MEMBERS. Bill now searches census records (see pages 16–21) for Simon's family members.

- Bill knows that Simon Haley was born in 1892 in Tennessee and that his father's name is Alexander. Bill chooses to search the first Tennessee census after Simon's birth—the 1900 census. Using the instructions on pages 16–21, he searches the census index and then the census.
- On the census microfilm he finds names, birth months, and birth years, ages, and birth states for Simon, his parents, three brothers, and a sister (see page 6):

Alec, Aug 1845, 54, Ala. Queen, 1858, 42, Ala. Frelan, Jan 1879, 21, Tenn. Abner, Sept 1880, 19, Tenn. Annie, Apr 1882, 18, Tenn. Conway, Nov 1887, 12, Tenn. Simon, Nov 1892, 8, Tenn.

- Bill analyzes the information and notices:
 - The oldest child, Frelan, had parents born in Tennessee, but Alec and Queen were born in Alabama.
 - Abner, the second child listed, is 19, and Annie, the third child listed, is 18, but Alec and Queen have been married only 17 years.
- On his search list, Bill makes a note to verify birth information for Frelan, Abner, and Annie and marriage information for Alex and Queen.
- Bill looks for the names of more family members in other censuses but does not find the names of any more children born to Alex and Queen.

NAME	RELATION.		PERSONAL DESCRIPTION.								NATIVITY.				
of each person whose place of abode on June 1, 1900, was in this family.				DAT	E OF	ě	arried, oreni.	narried.	many	hildren	Place of lifth of each person and parents of each person coumerated. If born in the Uni States, give the State or Territory; if of foreign birth, give the Country only.				
Enter surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any. INCLUDE every person living of June 1, 1999, Onit children born sizes June 1, 1998,	Relationship of each person to the head of the family.	Color or race,	Nex.	Month.	Year.	Age at last birthub	Age at last birthday. Whether single, marries widowed, or diverged		Mother of how children.	Number of these Reing.	Place of birth of this PERSON.	Place of birth of FATHER of this person.	Place of birth of Mother of this person.		
3		5	6			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		
Hale alec 7-1	14808	B	m	any	1845	5\$	m	17	N		ala	Ula	ala.		
- Sweet	wife	B	4	-0,	1858	42	n	17	7	4	ala	ulu	ala		
- Frelow	Sm	B	m	gor	879	21	5	i		. '	Jum	Jim	Irm		
- abres	5m	B	m	Sept	1880	19	5				Jum	ala	ala		
- amir	Doughter	13	4	apri	882	18	5				Firm	ala	ala		
- Convey	5~	B	m	no	887	12	5				Jum	ala	alu		
- Sinne	Sm	B	m	net	892	8	5				Jum	alu	·ala		
Sugas D. 4-1	Theat	0	m	June	870	29	n	4		Tì	ala	alu	ala		
Il Sulet 4	Win	B	4	1-1	878	22	n	4	2	2	ala	ala	ala		

1900 census enumeration of Alec (Alexander) Haley and family, FHL film 1241576. Simon is the youngest child listed in the household.

FIND THE FULL NAMES AND MARRIAGE INFORMATION FOR YOUR ANCESTOR'S PARENTS. Bill searches marriage records for Simon's parents' marriage information (see page 32.)

- Bill learned from the 1900 census that Simon's parents, Alex and Queen, lived in Hardin County, Tennessee, and that their oldest child was born in Tennessee. He finds the marriage record, which gives:
 - Names: Alex Haley and Queen Davis
 - Marriage date and place: 8 Oct 1881, Hardin County, Tennessee
- Bill learns from the marriage record that the "Number of years married" information on the 1900 census is wrong.

ivanic or groom	Italiic of bilac	marriage date
Hou, or either of Hou, Are hered		1
of our County, agreeably to the direct	ion of the Act of Assembly in	such case made and provided;
be null and void, and shall not be accepted the purpose aforesaid, more than thou	gh the same had never been p	orayed or granted, etc.
Given at the Clerk's Office of said		of Oct 188/.
Action and Alexander and Owner)	COUNTY COURT CLERK.

Marriage record of Alex Haley and Queen Davis, Simon's parents

Alex and Queen had been married 19 years, not 17, in 1900. Bill notes on his search list to verify the parents of Freelan and Abner.

Summary: Bill has found birth and family information for Simon in three kinds of records (Social Security Death Index, death record [vital records], and Social Security application). He has found family information in the 1900 census and marriage information in Simon's parents' marriage certificate. Using other censuses, he can assume that he has probably found most members of this family. To find more family information, he could search other records described in this guide.

REPEAT STEPS 1 THROUGH 4 TO FIND ANOTHER FAMILY.

With the information he has, Bill can start searching the Social Security Death Index for the death dates of Abner and Frelan. He can then continue using steps 1 through 4 to verify their relationship to Alexander and Queen. Then he can use the same steps to search for the parents, brothers, and sisters of Alexander and of Queen.

You can use the steps to find your ancestor's family.

Search List

Ancestor's Name: Simon Haley

Date of search	Location or call number	Description of source (author, title, year, pages)	Comments (purpose of search, results, years and names searched)	Doc. number
7 Mar	Internet	Social Security Death Index,	Simon born 8 Mar 1892. Applied for	1
2001		www.familysearch.org	SS# in Arkansas. SS# 431-24-8757	
7 Mar	Internet	Family History Library Catalog	Place Search for West Virginia death	Nil
2001		www.familysearch.org	records, 1973. None listed.	
7 Mar	Internet	www.vitalrec.com	Printed order form for West Virginia	~
2001			death records.	
9 Mar	~	West Virginia vital records office	Ordered Simon's death cert. (Received	4
2001			23 Mar.)	
9 Mar	Internet	www.findagrave.com	Little Rock Nat'l Cem. (501-324-6401)	2
2001			Simon b. 3/8/1892. May have more infol	
12 Mar	~	Little Rock National Cemetery,	P.K. Miller Funeral Home, Pine Bluff. Cem.	3
2001		501-324-6401	will mail copy of record. (Rec. 19 Mar)	
12 Mar	~	Directory Assistance, 1-411	Found phone number of a P.K. Miller	~
2001			Mortuary in Pine Bluff.	
13 Mar	~	P.K. Miller Mortuary,	Clerk said Simon's body handled there,	Nil
2001		870-535-1012	but records show no other information.	
23 Mar	~	Simon's death record	Record shows another funeral home!	~
2001		(Arrived today)	R. N. Horton Co. Fun. Home, Wash., D.C.	

Search list for Simon Haley's records

Tips

Use a search list to remember:

- Which records you have already searched.
- What names, name spellings, and information you searched for in the record.
- Where you filed copies of records you found. Give each photocopy of a record a document number. Record the number on your list. The search list then serves as a handy table of contents for your files.
- Clues and ideas of other places and records to search.

How to use a search list:

• Use one search list per family (that is, father, mother, and their children).

- Use a pen (pencil will smear and fade).
- Write enough source information so that you or others can find the record again if necessary.
- Write down each name and event you search for.
- Photocopy, number, and file the records you find.
 - 1. Photocopy each record.
 - 2. Write a document number on the record.
 - 3. Write the document number on the search list.
 - 4. File copies in order by document number.
 - 5. To find a record in your files, find the document number on your search list; then find the record.

Timelines

A simple handwritten timeline of dates, places, and events as you find them can help you know where to look for records.

Simor	ı A. Haley's Timeline
1881	Parents married in Hardin County, Tennessee (marriage record)
1900	Lived as a child in Savannah, Hardin County, Tennessee (census record)
1941	Social Security application from Pine Bluff, Arkansas
1973	Died in veterans' hospital in Martinsburg, West Virginia (death record)
1973	Funeral home in Washington, D.C. (death record)
1973	Burial in Little Rock National Cemetery (death record)

This timeline shows dates and places for records of Simon Haley's family

Tips

If you cannot find your African American ancestor in the records on the first try, do one or more of the following:

- Look in separate "colored" registers or in the back of "white" registers.
- Look in "white" registers, where African Americans with light skin may be listed.
- If your ancestor isn't in the index to a record, look in the record anyway. African Americans may not be listed in the index.
- If you cannot find a name, ignore the surname because some African Americans changed their surnames. Search again, focusing on given names, ages, and relationships.
 For example, Ben and Sarah Bishop are listed in the 1870 census as Ben and Sarah McDaniel and in the 1880 census as Ben and Sarah Hoody.
- Look for other places where your ancestor may have moved. Interview relatives and study maps to see where the family might have gone.
- Be diligent. You may have to search many kinds of records to find your ancestors.

Finding Places

Knowing where your ancestor lived, died, and was buried is key to finding records about his or her life and family. Records of Simon A. Haley and his family originated from the following places.



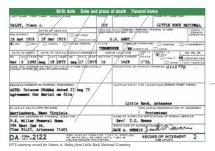
1881 Hardin County, Tennessee

County records office has the parents' marriage record.



1973 Arkansas

Social Security Death Index shows Simon's Social Security number was issued in Arkansas.



1973 Little Rock, Arkansas

Cemetery record is from the Little Rock National Cemetery, where Simon was buried.



1941 Pine Bluff, Arkansas

Simon Haley's Social Security application shows that Simon lived in Pine Bluff.



1900 Savannah, Hardin County, Tennessee

U.S. census record shows Simon's parents and family.



1973 Martinsburg, West Virginia

State death record shows that Simon died in the veterans' hospital.



Simon A. Haley, College Educator

Special tythe Compercial
MARTINSPURG, Wignia
Simon Alexander Haley formerly of Pine Bluff, died
Wednesday at the Veterans
Administration Hospital here.
He had been head of the
Agriculture Department at
Arkansas AM&N College, now
the University of Arkansas at
Pine Bluff for more than 15
years.
He was born in T.

years.

He was born in Tennessee in 1892, a son of the late Alex and Queen Haley. He gradulated from Lane College at Knox'ille and did further study at A and T College in Greensboro, North Carolina. He had served in World War I and was a former

commander-in-chief of the Stanfield Grady Post 401 of the American legion.
Suryivors include three sons, George Haley and Julius Haley, both of Washington and Alex Haley of Kansas (City; a daughter, Mrs. Lois Blackstone of Annapolis; 11 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren; Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at P. K. Willer Mortuary at Pine Bluff. Burial will be Monday in the National Cemeters at

and two great-grandchildren. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at P. K. Miller Mortuary at Pine Bluff. Burial will be Monday in the National Cemetery at Little Rock. / Pallbearers will be members of Sanfield Grady Post 401.

The family will be at the home of a foster son, Mr. and Mrs. Archie Nixon at 1102 East Harding Avenue, Pine Bluff.

Birth date and place Parents' names Cemetery

Obituary for Simon A. Haley in the Pine Bluff Commercial, 24 August 1973

1973 Pine Bluff, Arkansas

Obituary is in *Pine Bluff Commercial* newspaper.



1973 Washington, D.C.

R. N. Horton Funeral Home has a record for Simon.

Finding Places

To find your ancestor's U.S. records, you need to know where your ancestor was and who kept the records. For example, your grandparents' marriage record may have been kept by the town, county, or state government where they were married.

You may need to search four place levels to find the records you need:

1. National or federal records and indexes



United States

2. State records



Arkansas

3. County records



Jefferson County

4. Town records



Pine Bluff

You usually need to know the town to find cemetery, funeral home, or obituary or newspaper records.

To find a record in the Family History Library Catalog, use the Place Search (see "Using the Family History Library Catalog" on page 11). Type **United States** or the name of the state, county, or town. The following table shows, in order, which place level is likely to have each type of record.

To find this record type	Search for records of:
Cemetery records	The town, county, or state of the cemetery where your ancestor was buried. Some cemetery directories are available.
Census (federal) records	The state where your ancestor lived.
Funeral home records	The town, county, or state where the funeral was held. Some funeral home directories are available.
Obituaries (or newspapers)	The town or county where the person died or where the family had lived.
Social Security Death Index	www.familysearch.org. You can search with or without a state.
Social Security applications	The Freedom of Information Officer. It is helpful to give birth and death dates and places.
Vital records (birth, marriage, death)	The county, then the town, then the state where the birth, marriage, or death took place.

Tips for finding places

- Remember that some families moved often.
- If you don't know where your ancestor was at a specific time, see:
 - Your family records.
 - A national, every-name index such as the indexes to the 1880 or 1930 censuses or the Social Security Death Index.
- Later records that might help you find earlier records. For example, a census or death record may give a birthplace.

Tips for finding counties

• To find counties in the 1800s and 1900s (because county borders often changed), see:

1790–1920 Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790–1920, by William Thorndale and William

Dollarhide (FHL book 973 X2th)

Shows county borders during each census year.

1776–1994 AniMap County Boundary Historical Atlas (The

Gold Bug) (FHL CD-ROM 861)

Shows changes in county borders in 48 states

since 1776.

1872 The Monitor Post Office, Banking and Shippers'

Guide by Edwin W. Bullinger (FHL film 1002373,

item 1)

Lists the parent county of towns, villages, and

post offices in 1872.

The National Gazetteer: A Geographical Dictionary

of the United States, by Leo De Colange (FHL

book 973 E5c 1973; fiche 6046725)

Lists parent county of towns in 1884.

1991 Township Atlas of the United States, by Jay Andriot

(FHL book 973 E7an 1991)

Shows township and county borders in 1991.

- To find modern towns and their counties, see a road atlas.
- To find county records using a Place Search in the Family History Library Catalog, type the name, but not the word county. For example, for Hinds County, type:

Place Hinds
Part of Mississippi

Family History Library and family history centers

Most records in this guide are available at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, and through its family history centers around the world. To find a family history center near you, see www.familysearch.org. Most centers are in church buildings and have limited hours.

These instructions will guide you through resources at family history centers. If you need to find the same records at other archives, you can ask for specific help there. At a family history center, you can:

- Get instructions from the staff on how to use the Family History Library Catalog, a microfilm reader, and other basic research tools.
- Order microfilm or microfiche copies of most records by:
 - 1. Finding the film or fiche number in the Family History Library Catalog.
 - 2. Filling out a Microfilm and Microfiche Order Card
 - 3. Paying a small fee to cover postage.

Note: When the film arrives, you must use it in the

- Order photocopied pages of an indexed book, CD-ROM, microfilm, or microfiche that is not available at your local family history center by:
 - 1. Finding the call number in the Family History Library Catalog.
 - 2. Filling out a Request for Photocopies form (31768).

Note: You may request information about a single name or several names.

Using the Family History Library Catalog

To find any record available through the Family History Library system, look in the catalog for titles, descriptions, and call numbers. Use the Place Search or Keyword Search (see page 12) to find records described in this guide.

Find the catalog at www.familysearch.org. Click Library, and then click Family History Library Catalog to see the main menu. (The catalog is also available on CD-ROM.)

Place Search

Use the Place Search to find records of a town, county, state, or country.

For example, to find cemetery records for the town of Jackson, Mississippi:

1.	From the main men	nu, click Place S	Search. On the Place
	Search screen, you	will see:	
	Place		
	Part of (optional)		

- 2. In the Place field, type the town: **Jackson** In the Part of field, type the state: Mississippi Click **Search**. You will see a list of places.
- 3. Click the place you want. Places are listed from largest to smallest (state, county, town). For example, the listing for Mississippi, Jackson, is for Jackson County.

To select the town of Jackson, click Mississippi, Hinds, Jackson. A list of topics will appear.

- 4. Click the topic you want: Cemeteries. A list of titles will appear.
- 5. Click a title to learn more about it. Information about the title will appear.
- 6. Look for the following:

In the Notes section, see if the record use is restricted. (A restricted record cannot be sent to a family history center.)

For a book or CD-ROM, find the call number. (Books and CD-ROMs are not available through family history centers.)

For the microfilm or fiche number, click View Film Notes.

If the film or fiche number includes an item number, write it down. The item number tells you which item to search on the film.

7. On your search list, write the title and author. Also write the film or fiche number, CD-ROM number, or call number, which you will use to order the record or order photocopies.

Keyword Search

A Keyword Search is available on some versions of the catalog. If you know the exact name of a funeral home or cemetery, you can use a Keyword Search to see if the Family History Library has a copy of its records. For example, to find records of the Little Rock National Cemetery:

- 1. From the Family History Library Catalog main menu, click **Keyword Search**.
- 2. Type the name of the funeral home or cemetery: Little Rock National Cemetery.
 - Click Search. A list of titles will appear.
- 3. Click the title you want: Little Rock (Arkansas)
 National Cemetery burial roster. The Title Details screen will appear.
- 4. Look for the following:

In the Notes section, see if the record use is restricted. (A restricted item cannot be sent to a family history center.)

For a book or CD-ROM, find the call number. (Books and CD-ROMs are not available through family history centers.)

For the microfilm or fiche number, click **View Film Notes**.

If the film or fiche number includes an item number, write it down. The item number tells you which item to search on the film.

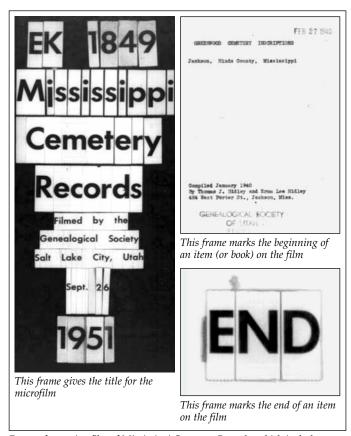
5. On your search list, write the title and author. Also write the film or fiche number, CD-ROM number, or call number, which you will use to order the record or order photocopies.

Using microfilm

At this time most records in the Family History Library system are on microfilm. Staff members can help you use a microfilm reader.

Tip

When you are searching a microfilm of several books, make sure you are in the right book. Three or four separate books may be on a single microfilm. If your book is item 3, it would be the third item or book on the microfilm. Look for title pages and ending pages to find where a record begins and ends.



Frames from microfilm of Mississippi Cemetery Records, which includes record books from various cemeteries (FHL film 14837)

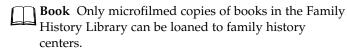
INTRODUCTION TO RECORDS

Records timeline

The chart below shows the time period covered by each of the records described in this booklet. It also gives page numbers where you can learn more about these records.

	1	870	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990 2000
Birth records	See "Vital Records," p. 29 and "Vital Records: Birth," p. 30.													present
Cemetery records	See pp. 14–15.													present
Census records (federal)	See pp. 16–21.													
Death records	See "Vital Records," p. 29 and "Vital Records: Death," p. 31.													present
Funeral home records	See pp. 22–23.													present
Marriage records	See "Vital Records," p. 29 and "Vital Records: Marriage," p. 32.													present
Obituary records	See pp. 24–25.													present
Social Security applications	See pp. 26–27.													present
Social Security Death Index	See p. 28.													present

Terms and symbols in this booklet





Internet Records and other information are available on the Internet.



CD-ROM Records on CD-ROM are available at the Family History Library. A few are also available at some family history centers or for purchase through Salt Lake Distribution Services (see "Where to Order or Download Publications," on page 33).



Microfilm or microfiche Records on microfilm or microfiche at the Family History Library can be ordered from Salt Lake Distribution Services (see "Where to Order or Download Publications" on page 33) and used at a family history center.

Finding Aids A finding aid is any resource that can help you find a record, an archive, or record keeper or help you find your ancestor in a record.

Indexes An index is a list of the records or names available in a larger record. An every-name index for a location (such as the 1880 or 1930 U.S. census index) can be one of the quickest, most useful tools for finding an ancestor.

CEMETERY RECORDS

1865-Present

Case Study

Bill wants to find Simon Haley's cemetery record. He knows Simon was buried as a veteran in a national cemetery in Little Rock, Arkansas.

- 1. Bill searches the Family History Library Catalog for cemetery records and orders the record at a family history center.
 - a. In the Family History Library Catalog, he clicks Place Search. In the Place field he types Little Rock. In the Part of field, he types Arkansas.
 - b. On the Results screen he clicks Arkansas, Pulaski, Little Rock.
 - c. On the Place Details screen he sees topics for Little Rock and clicks Cemeteries.
 - d.On the Topic Details screen he clicks Little Rock (Arkansas) National Cemetery burial roster.
 - e. On the Title Details screen he clicks View Film Notes to find the film or fiche number. He writes film number 6067446 on his search list.

(continued on next page)

Use cemetery records to:

- Find reliable death dates and other information.
- Find family members buried in the same cemetery.
- Find children who died young and were not listed in other records.

Content

Most African American cemetery records were created after 1865. They may contain:

- Birth date.
- Death date.
- Place of birth or
- death (rarely). · Age at death.
- · Relationships of family members.
- Occupational information (such as military service).
- Religion.
- Associations joined (such as a school fraternity, Freemasons, and so on).
- Parents' names (rarely).

Tips

- Try to find the original sexton's records, which usually have more information than published cemetery records or indexes.
- Ask for a map of burial plots, and see if any relatives are buried near your ancestor.
- Look at tombstone inscriptions for information not found in cemetery records.

Searching Cemetery Records

Before searching you must know:

- Your ancestor's name.
- A death date (exact if possible, but at least an approximate year).
- Place of death (town or county).
- Name of cemetery where buried.

Located at:

- Family History Library and family history
- Public libraries (often in one-of-a-kind transcripts of local cemetery records)
- The cemetery where your ancestor was buried

Family History Library Catalog:

There are four ways to search:

• Place Search (town):

[name of town] Place

Part of [name of state or county]

Topic to choose: Cemeteries

• Place Search (county):

[name of county] Place Part of [name of state]

Topic to choose: Cemeteries

• Place Search (state):

[name of state] Place

Part of

Topic to choose: Cemeteries

• Keyword Search (on some versions):

[name of cemetery]

Search steps:

- 1. To find cemetery records in your ancestor's area:
 - a. Look in the Family History Library Catalog.
- b. See "Cemetery Records: Finding Aids" on page 15.
- 2. Write the author, title, and call number of each source on your search list.
- 3. Order the record and search it.

				Nan	ne B	irth d	ate	Date	and pl	ace of	death	Funera	l home		
		Simon		E · MID	DLE NAI	NE			SGT	SERVI	CE NUMBE	ER	LITTLE 1		TIONAL
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AUTH	: T	Authority elecon nt for	US.	AAMA	dated	27/	lug	73		SHIPP			Arkansas	at treight s	tation)
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CEMETERY RECORDS: FINDING AIDS

To find cemetery records and locations, see:



www.findagrave.com

- Lists over 150,000 U.S. cemeteries
- Includes maps to cemeteries
- Links to record transcriptions of 60,000 cemeteries
- Is searchable by name of person



Simon A. Haley's burial listing at www.findagrave.com



www.cemeteryjunction.com

- Lists over 38,000 U.S. cemeteries
- Gives cemetery addresses
- Gives links to transcribed cemetery records

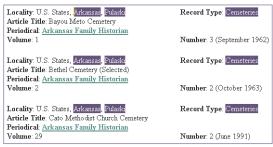
To find books and periodicals that have cemetery records, see:



Periodical Source Index (PERSI),

1999–present, at www.ancestry.com

- The most comprehensive index to article titles in U.S. genealogy and local history periodicals
- Fee charged; free at the Family History Library and family history centers with Internet access



Cemeteries from Pulaski County, Arkansas, from the Periodical Source Index (PERSI)

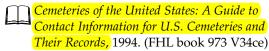
The Cemetery Record Compendium: Comprising a Directory of Cemetery Records and Where They May Be Located, by John D. Stemmons and E. Diane Stemmons, 1979. (FHL book 973 V34s; fiche 6126201)

- Lists cemetery records at the Family History Library as of 1979, including periodical articles, which are not listed in the Family History Library Catalog.
- Alphabetical by state, county, town, and cemetery name.

Index to United States Cemeteries, by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1988. (FHL films 1206468–94)

- Gives cemetery locations and call numbers of cemetery records at the Family History Library, including periodical articles, which are not listed in the Family History Library Catalog.
- Arranged by state, county, and cemetery name.

To find cemetery addresses or phone numbers only, see:



- Lists over 22,000 U.S. cemeteries (operating and inactive)
- Gives:
 - Location or mailing address
- Phone and fax numbers
- Clerks' contact information
- Years of operation
- Religious and other affiliations
- Alphabetical by state, county, and cemetery name

★ 517 ★ Little Rock National Cemetery

2523 Confederate Blvd. Little Rock, AR 72206 Phone: (501)324-6401 Fax: (501)324-7182 Don Mallick, Contact Alvin J. Sander, Director

Years of Operation: 1867-Present. Ownership/Governance: Under the jurisdiction of the National Cemetery System, Department of Veterans Affairs. Affiliations: National cemetery. Services: open 24 hours for visitaiton; office hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Cemetery Records: housed on-site; searches by appointment; and by office personnel only;

Cemetery listings from Cemeteries of the United States (FHL book 973 V34ce)

(continued from previous page)

- f. He orders this film. It will arrive at the family history center in 10 days.
- 2. Bill searches the record.
 - a. On the microfiche he finds Simon Haley's name. He writes down Simon's death date, cemetery section, and grave number. (See the illustration of the cemetery roster at the bottom of this column.)
 - b. Because no birth information is given, Bill looks at the beginning of the cemetery roster book to find the address and telephone number of the cemetery. He copies the information on his search list.
 - c. He calls the cemetery. He learns more information is available and requests a photocopy.
 - d. When the photocopy arrives—listing Simon's birth, death, and burial dates—Bill writes a document number on the copy.
- 3. Bill records the information he finds.
 - a. On the family group record he writes Simon's birth and death information and source information.
 - b. On his search list he records the results of his search and the document number he gave the cemetery record.

Name	Date of Death	Section	Grave No.
HALEY ANDREW (CIVIL WAR)	JAN 28 1916	6	6194
HALEY CECIL E	NOV 29 1993	20	320
HALEY JERRY E	DEC 4 1950	8	181
HALEY SIMON A	AUG 19 1973	16	1429
HALEY TEDDY A	SEP 15 1976	16	1264
HALIBURTON ARTHUR	NOV 3 1918	8	6270
HALL ALBERT	MAY 4 1972	5	7384C
HALL AUGUSTA	JUL 31 1993	20	219

Cemetery roster showing Simon Haley in the Little Rock (Arkansas) National Cemetery Burial Roster (FHL fiche 6067446)

CENSUS RECORDS

1870-1930

Case Study

Bill wants to learn about Simon's family in census records. He knows Simon's father's name is Alexander. He also knows that Simon was born in 1892 in Tennessee. He decides to search the 1900 U.S. census of Tennessee.

- 1. Bill searches an index, in this case the 1900 Soundex Index, for Alexander Haley (see "Census Indexes: Soundex" on pages 20–21).
 - a. He determines the Soundex code for *Haley*, which is H-400. He writes the code on his search list.
 - b. To find the Soundex film number, he looks in the Family History Library Catalog and clicks Place Search.
 - c. In the Place field he types **Tennessee**. Then he clicks **Search**.
 - d.On the Place Search Results screen, he clicks **Tennessee**.
 - e. On the Place Details screen he clicks **Tennessee Census 1900**.
 - f. He browses the titles and clicks Tennessee, 1900 federal census: soundex and population schedules.
 - g. On the Title Details screen he clicks **View Film Notes**. He sees that Soundex code H-400 is on film 1248612. He writes this number on his search list.
 - h. On the Soundex film he finds an Alec Haley with a son named Simon who was born in 1892.
 - i. He photocopies the Soundex entry.
 - j. On his search list he writes that the family is in Hardin County, enumeration district 33, sheet 1.
- 2. With the Soundex Index information, Bill now finds the census film for Hardin County, Tennessee.

(continued on next page)

Use census records to:

- Learn the names of family members during a census year.
- Learn an ancestor's town or county of residence. This leads to other records, such as vital records of a town or county.
- Find a state of birth for an ancestor and his or her parents.

Content

	1870	1880	1900	1910	1920	1930
Names of all household members	Х	X	Х	Х	х	X
Age	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х
Birth month and year			Х			
Birthplace (state)	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х
Birthplace of parents (state)		Х	Х	Х	Х	Х
Marital status (single, married, widowed, or divorced)		х	х	х	х	х
Number of children born to mother and number still living			х	х		
Occupation	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х
Relationship to head of household		Х	х	Х	х	х
Residence (town and county)	х	х	х	х	х	х

Tips

- When using the 1870 census, look for the second filming, which is usually easier to read. In the Family History Library Catalog, the Film Notes that describe each census film will say (1st) or (2nd) in the description.
- The 1890 census was destroyed.
- Search for your family in every available census to find additional children, inlaws, grandparents, and other members of a changing household.
- When you find your family, photocopy the whole census page or ask your family history center for a form to copy census information.
- U.S. census records are opened to the public 70 years after they are taken.

Searching Census Records

Before searching you must know:

- The name of the head of household (usually the father). If the father is not listed, search for the mother. (For the 1880 and 1930 censuses, you can search for any name—father, mother, or child.)
- The state where the family lived. Most indexes cover only one state.

Located at:

- Family History Library and family history centers
- National Archives (see www.archives.gov for addresses of regional branches)
- State archives
- University libraries and some large public libraries

Family History Library Catalog:

Place Search:

Place [name of state]
Part of

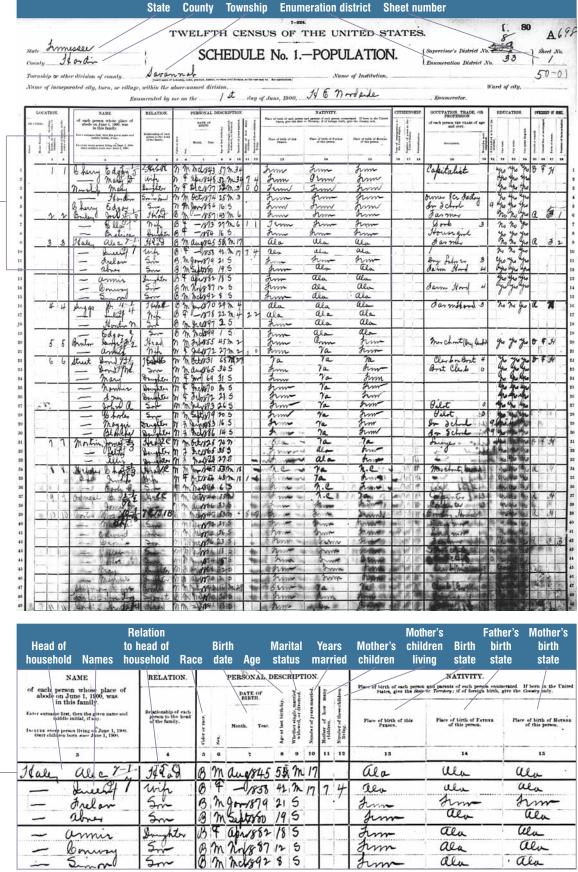
Topic to choose: Census - [Year]

Search steps:

- 1. Search a census index.
 - a. See "Census Records: Indexes" on pages 18–19, and find the census year you want.
 - b. In the index, find the name and write down the county and page number or enumeration district (E.D.) and sheet number.
- 2. With the index information, search the census film at a family history center.
 - a. In the Family History Library Catalog find the film number for the county and page or enumeration district you need.
 - b. Order the film.
 - c. On the film, find the county and page number or enumeration district and sheet number. Many census pages have two page or sheet numbers. For the 1870 census, use the stamped number; for later censuses, use the handwritten number.

CENSUS RECORDS

1870-1930



1900 census record for Alec Haley family in Savannah, Hardin County, Tennessee. Simon is the youngest child in this household. (FHL film 1241576)

(continued from previous page)

- a. In the Family History
 Library Catalog he returns
 to the catalog entry where
 he found the Soundex film
 number (see steps 1b–1g
 above).
- b. On the Film Notes screen, he scrolls past the Soundex entries to the Population Schedule entries. He finds Hardin County on film 1241576. He writes this number on his search list.
- 3. Bill searches the Hardin County, Tennessee, census for the Alec Haley family.
 - a. He finds Hardin County, then enumeration district 33, then sheet 1.
 - b. He finds the Alec Haley family and notes that Alec and Queen, the parents, were both born in Alabama.
 - c. He sees that the oldest child (Frelan) had parents who were born in Tennessee.
 - d.On his search list he makes a note to search earlier and later censuses to find Frelan's relationship to this family.
 - e. He photocopies the census page and writes a document number on it.
- 4. Bill records the information he finds.
 - a. On the family group record he writes the family information and source information.
- b. On his search list he records the results of his search and the document number.

CENSUS RECORDS: INDEXES

1870-1930

Use census indexes to:

- Quickly learn where your ancestor can be found in a census.
- Quickly find almost any ancestor and where he or she lived (if there is an every-name, national index, such as the 1880 and 1930 U.S. Census Indexes).

Content

Content varies according to the index you are using.

- Most indexes contain minimal information, such as a county or enumeration district, a town or ward, and a page number where your ancestor can be found in the census (see the 1900 Soundex index sample on page 20).
- Some indexes contain expanded information about heads of households.
- A few every-name indexes contain extensive information about all household members and their neighbors (see the 1880 census index sample on page 19).

Tips

- Some census indexes do not include African Americans. If you cannot find your ancestor in an index, search the census line by line for your family.
- At family history centers and libraries, ask a staff member if a census index book, CD-ROM, or Web site is available for a city, county, or state you are searching.
- To find the most current census indexes, see www.census-online.com.

Searching Census Indexes

Before searching you should know:

- The name of your ancestor or the name of the head of household (for head-of-household indexes).
- The state where your ancestor lived at the time of the census (helpful, but not essential for national indexes).
- The Soundex code (for Soundex indexes) for your ancestor's surname (see "Census Indexes: Soundex" on pages 20-21).

Census indexes are located:

- At the Family History Library and family history centers.
- On the Internet.
- At the National Archives (see www.archives.gov for addresses of regional branches).
- · At state archives.
- At university libraries and some large public libraries.

To find census indexes in the Family History Library Catalog, use the Place Search (for indexes in books, CD-ROMs, microfilm or microfiche):

Place [name of state] Part of

Topic to choose: Census - [Year] - Indexes

1870 census indexes



• African Americans in the 1870 U.S. Federal Census, Heritage Quest, 2001 (FHL CD-ROM 388)

Use this index to find:

- African American heads of households.
- Males over 50.
- Females over 70.
- Household members with a different surname than the head of household.
- A family's town, county, and state of residence.

- Family History Library and some family history
- Some university or public libraries



AIS Microfiche Indexes of U.S. Census and Other Records, by Ronald Vern Jackson

Use this index to find:

• Heads of household from Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Dakota Territory, Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Washington, and Wyoming.

Located at:

• Family History Library and many family history centers (ask for help to find where the fiche are kept)



www.genealogy.com

Use this index to find:

- Heads of households for all states.
- Links to 1870 census images.

Fee charged.

1880 census indexes



1880 United States Census Index at www.familysearch.org

This is the best index to the 1880 census. Use this index to:

- Find almost anyone listed in the 1880 census. Lists all members of the household.
- Locate ancestors when you do not know their state of residence. This index covers the entire United States; most indexes cover one state only.



1880 United States Census and National Index

The CD-ROM version of the 1880 census index listed above.

To order:

- Call the Church distribution center at 801-240-2800.
- Visit www.familysearch.org. Click Order/Download



≥ 1880 U.S. Census Soundex Index (see "Census Indexes: Soundex" on pages 20-21)

This is a head-of-household index limited to those households that had children born between 1869 and 1880.

Census Records: Indexes

1870-1930

Household:

Name	Relation	Marital Status	Gender	Race	Age	Birthplace	Occupation	Father's Birthplac	eMother's Birthplace
Silas WOODRUFF	Self	M	Male	В	62	SC	Farming		
Rena WOODRUFF	Wife	M	Female	MU	35	AL	Keeping H.		
Andrew WOODRUFF	Son	S	Male	В	13	AL	At School	SC	AL
Alexander WOODRUFF	Son	S	Male	В	9	TN	At School	SC	AL
James WOODRUFF	Son	S	Male	В	8	TN	At School	SC	AL
Cornelia WOODRUFF	Dau	S	Female	В	5	TN		SC	AL
John W. WOODRUFF	Son	S	Male	В	1	TN		SC	AL
Richard WILLIAMS	Other	S	Male	В	24	TN	Farm Hand		

Source Information:

Savannah, Hardin, Tennessee Census Place

Family History Library Film 1255260 NA Film Number T9-1260 Page Number 34D

1880 United States Census Index at www.familysearch.org, Silas Woodruff household record. (There is no 1880 household record for Alex Haley and Queen Davis because they married in 1881.)

1900 census indexes



1900 Soundex Indexes (see "Census Indexes: Soundex" on pages 20–21)

Use the 1900 Soundex indexes to find:

• Heads of households in all states (search by state).

Located at:

- Family History Library and some family history centers
- National archives and its branches
- Large libraries



www.genealogy.com

Use this index to find:

- Heads of households for all states.
- Links to 1900 census images.

Fee charged.

1910 census indexes



1910 Soundex Indexes (see "Census Indexes: Soundex" on pages 20–21)

Use the 1910 Soundex indexes to find:

• Heads of households in some states.

Located at:

- Family History Library and some family history centers
- National archives and its branches
- Large libraries



www.genealogy.com

Use this index to find:

- Heads of households for all states.
- Links to 1910 census images.

Fee charged.



Various 1910 book indexes

At the Family History Library, use book indexes to find:

• Heads of households. See the Family History Library Catalog for the available state indexes. At other libraries and family history centers, ask for book indexes for specific states.



1910 census indexes for New York on CD-ROM

Available at the Family History Library only.

Use these indexes to find:

- Heads of households in upstate New York. (FHL CD-ROM 842)
- Heads of households for New York City. (FHL CD-ROM 841)

1920 census indexes



1920 Soundex Indexes (see "Census Indexes: Soundex" on pages 20–21)

Use the 1920 Soundex indexes to find:

• Heads of households in all states (search by state).

Located at:

- Family History Library and family history centers
- National archives and its branches
- Large libraries



www.ancestry.com

Use this site to find:

- Heads of households for all states.
- Links to 1920 census images.

Fee charged; free at the Family History Library and family history centers with Internet access.

1930 census index



www.ancestry.com

Use this site to find:

- Any name in the 1930 census.
- Links to 1930 census images.

Fee charged; free at the Family History Library and family history centers with Internet access.

CENSUS INDEXES: SOUNDEX

Use Soundex Indexes to:

Learn where your ancestor can be found in a census. Soundex Indexes list surnames by Soundex code. This code groups surnames by sound, not exact spelling. For example, the surnames *Stewart*, *Stuart*, and *Steward* have the same code and appear together in the index.

Searching Soundex Indexes

Before using Soundex you must know:

- Your ancestor's name.
- The census year and state you want to search.
- The Soundex code for your ancestor's surname (see the chart on page 21).

Located at:

- Family History Library and family history centers
- · Large libraries

Search steps:

- 1. Determine the Soundex code for your ancestor's surname (see "Converting a surname to a Soundex code" on page 21).
- 2. In the Family History Library Catalog, find the number for the correct Soundex film (see "Finding the right Soundex film" on this page).
- On the film, find your ancestor's Soundex code, then search for the given name (given names are alphabetical within the code group).
- 4. Copy all the information you find (you may need every detail for your census search).

Tips for the 1910 Soundex Index

- Some major cities and counties have their own indexes. For example:
 - -In Alabama: Birmingham, Mobile, and Montgomery
 - -In Georgia: Atlanta, Augusta, Macon, and Savannah
 - -In Louisiana: New Orleans and Shreveport
 - -In Pennsylvania: Philadelphia County
- To find film numbers for city indexes in the Family History Library Catalog, you must search under the name of the state, not the city:
 - 1. Use the Place Search:

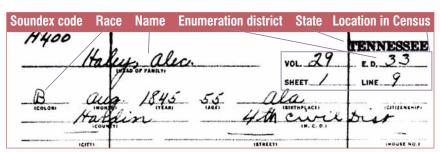
Place [name of state]
Part of

- 2. On the Place Search Results screen, click the state.
- 3. From the list, click on [state] Census 1910.
- 4. On the Topic Details screen, click the title.
- 5. On the Title Details screen, click View Film Notes.
- 6. On the Film Notes screen, look for city indexes after the Soundex film numbers for the rest of the state.

Finding the right Soundex film

After you have your ancestor's Soundex Code, find the Soundex film.

- 1. In the Family History Library Catalog, click **Place Search** and type the state where your ancestor lived.
- 2. On the Place Search Results screen, click the state.
- 3. From the list, click the census year you want: [state] Census [year].
- 4. On the Topic Details screen, click the title you want.
- 5. On the Title Details screen, click **View Film Notes**. Scroll to your ancestor's Soundex code (on the left side of the screen) and write down the microfilm number (on the right side of the screen).



1900 Soundex Index entry for Alec Haley, Simon's father (FHL film 1248612)

CENSUS INDEXES: SOUNDEX

Converting a surname to a Soundex code

Converter on the Internet



www.bradandkathy.com

The quickest way to convert a surname to a Soundex code is to use the automatic converter on this site. Click Genealogy, and then click Yet Another Soundex Converter.

Steps to do it yourself

Instructions	Examples	Your ancestor's surname
1. Write the family surname in the far right column of this chart, but omit the letters <i>H</i> and <i>W</i> if they are not the first letter.	ASHCROFT = ASCROFT CARWRIGHT = CARRIGT	
2. Write the first letter of the surname in the first blank.	$ASCROFT = \underline{A} - \underline{\hspace{0.2cm}} $ $CARRIGT = \underline{C} - \underline{\hspace{0.2cm}} \underline{\hspace{0.2cm}}$	
3. Cross out the remaining vowels (<i>A</i> , <i>E</i> , <i>I</i> , <i>O</i> , <i>U</i> , or <i>Y</i>).	ASCRØFT = A-SCRFT CARRIGT = C-RRGT	
4. If there are any double letters, cross out one of them.	CRRGT = C-RGT	
5. If there are any consonants side by side with the same code number (see the Soundex Code Key below), cross out all but one of those consonants.	ASCRFT = A-SRFT	
6. Using the Soundex Code Key below, assign a Soundex code to the first three of the remaining letters. Soundex codes have one letter and three numbers.	ASRFT = A-261 CRGT = C-623	
7. Stop coding after you have three numbers. If a name does not have enough numbers, add zeros to make three digits. For example, the Soundex code for <i>Haley</i> is H400.		Your ancestor's Soundex code

Soundex Code Key				
Letter in surname	Code			
B, P, F, V	1			
C, S, K, G, J, Q, X, Z	2			
D, T	3			
L	4			
M, N	5			
R	6			

FUNERAL HOME RECORDS

About 1880-Present

Case Study

Bill wants to find the funeral home record of Simon Haley, whose funeral was in August 1973 at the Horton funeral home in Washington, D.C.

- 1. Bill requests the record.
 - a. Bill searches

 www.switchboard.com

 and finds the phone number of Horton's Funeral
 Service. He writes the
 number on his search list.
 - b. He telephones the funeral home and asks the clerk to look for Simon's record.
 - c. Bill asks the clerk to send him a copy of the record. He writes a document number on it.
- 2. Bill reads the record and writes any new information:
 - a. On the family group record he writes family information and source information.
- b.On his search list he records the results of his search and the document number he gave the funeral record.

Use funeral home records to:

- Find an accurate death date and place.
- Find the names of your ancestor's parents (especially helpful for married women).
- Learn where your ancestor is buried.

Content

Few pre-1880 funeral home records are available. Records vary widely, but they may contain:

- Full name and age at death.
- Death date and place (town, county, state).
- Birth date and place (town, county, state).
- Names of parents, including mother's maiden name.
- Birthplaces of parents (town, county, state).
- Sex, race, occupation, or Social Security number.
- Home address.
- Marital status (single, widowed, married, divorced).
- Cause of death (if the death was caused by accident, murder, or rare disease, there may be a newspaper report).
- Name of person who provided information for the record (funeral records are more reliable when the person is a close relative of the deceased).
- Name of person who paid the mortician's bill (usually a relative or friend).
- Name and religion of clergyman who performed the funeral (leads to church records).
- Cemetery name and place (city, county, state) and burial plot number (this can help you find gravestone and cemetery records).

Tic

If the funeral home won't send you a record that lists living relatives, ask the clerk to photocopy the record and cross out the names of living relatives before sending you a copy.

Searching Funeral Home Records

Before searching you must know:

- The full name of the individual at death (for women this includes the married surname).
- The date of death or burial.
- The town of death or burial.

Located at:

- Family History Library and family history centers
- Large public libraries
- Funeral homes

In the Family History Library Catalog, try these three searches:

• Place Search (town):

Place [name of town]

Part of [name of county or state]

Topic to choose: Funeral homes

• Place Search (county):

Place [name of county]
Part of [name of state]

Topic to choose: Funeral homes

• Keyword Search

[name of funeral home]

Search steps:

- 1. See "Finding Aids" on page 23 to find the name of the funeral home.
- 2. Telephone the funeral home to request a search.

FUNERAL HOME RECORDS

About 1880–Present

Full name Occupatio	n Death date Birth date	
432 RECORD C	OF FUNERAL	
Total No. Yearly No. Name of Deceased Mod Divorced	Date of Entry Cluff 3/	19/35 1967 - 19/35 av Bace Ou
Charge to Styrus Charge to Styrus Charge to	Complete Funeral (except outlays)\$	1680 00
Order given by John Johnson	Casket	
How secured f f vill If Veteran, Name of War f	Embalming Body Barber, \$	
Occupation Address (Social Security Number)	Suit or Dress. (State Kind and Color) Slippers, Hose, \$	
Date of Death (1967) (Spay) (Yro Hour) Date of Birth (1967) (Spay) (Yro Hour)	Folding Chairs, \$ Tarpaulin, \$ Candelabrum, \$ Candles, \$ Door Spray, \$ Gloves, \$	
Name of Father (Dy) (Mos.) (Days) His Birthplace	Funeral Car, \$ Ambulance, \$	
Maiden Name of Mother Julen -	Autos to R. R. Station @ \$ Getting Remains from Taking Remains to Charlest	
Date of Funeral Date of Funera	Trip to Coroner's Inquest	
Services at 1900 Clergyman Level (Address)	Peliver Flowers to Removal Charges From West Cle. Procuring Burial Permit	10500
Religion of the Deceased MACSICELLA Birthplace LACOULAL	(State Number and District) Certif. Copies of Death Certificates No (State Physician's or Coroner's) Pall Bearer Service, \$ Use of Chapel, \$	
Resided in the State Cor U.S. or City or Kounty (Cars) (Souths)	Gross Total for Sales Tax \$ Outlay for Lot Cremation	
Cause of Death	Flowers, \$Palms, \$Matting, \$ Rental of Tent, \$of Temporary Vault, \$	
Death place Birthplace	Mother's name Father's name	

Funeral home record for Simon A. Haley, Horton's Funeral Service, Washington, D.C., August 21, 1973

FINDING AIDS

To learn the names, addresses, and phone numbers of funeral homes near your ancestor's place of death, see:

American Blue Book of Funeral Directors, National Funeral Directors Association, biennial. (FHL book 973 U24a)

• Arranged by state, then city, then funeral home

Yellow Book of Funeral Directors, National Directory of Morticians. (FHL book 973 U24y)

• Arranged by state, then city, then funeral home

逾

www.switchboard.com

- Arranged by state, then county or town
- Funeral directors are listed according to their distance from your ancestor's place of death

OBITUARY RECORDS

About 1900-Present

Case Study

Bill wants to find Simon Haley's obituary. He knows that Simon's funeral was in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, in August 1973.

- 1. Bill checks the library in Pine Bluff for obituary records.
 - a. To find libraries in
 Pine Bluff, he looks at
 www.switchboard.com
 and writes the phone
 number of Pine Bluff
 Library on his search list.
 - b. He telephones the library and asks how to get a copy of an obituary. He learns that the librarian will search the records for him (for a fee). The librarian sends him a copy of the obituary.
 - c. When the obituary comes in the mail, Bill writes a document number on it.
- 2. Bill writes down the information he has found in the obituary.
 - a. On the family group record he writes new family information and records the source, including the newspaper date, volume, and page.
 - b. On his search list he records the results of his search and the document number he gave the obituary.

Use obituaries to:

- Find information about your ancestor, such as birth, marriage, death, and burial.
- Learn the names of family members, such as parents, spouse(s), children, brothers, and sisters.

Content

A few obituaries were published in the 1800s, but the practice became common only after 1900. Obituaries range from one-line death notices to biographies of several paragraphs. They may give:

- Full name (including maiden name for women).
- Death date and place.
- Burial date and place.
- · Parents' names.
- Occupation.
- Membership in religious or charity groups.
- Biographical information.
- Places of residence.
- Names and places of residence of surviving children and grandchildren.

Tips

- Some people had more than one obituary. If you find a short death notice, look for a longer obituary in a later newspaper.
- Small-town newspapers often print more detailed obituaries than larger newspapers do.
- Newspapers sometimes report the gathering of relatives during an illness or after a death. If you don't find an obituary for your ancestor on his or her death date, search the newspaper for two weeks before and two weeks after.
- Look for newspapers at the newspaper office or a library in your ancestor's town. The Family History Library and family history centers have indexes to obituaries and newspaper collections, but few actual records.

Searching Obituary Records

Before searching you must know:

- Your ancestor's name at death (including a woman's married surname).
- Your ancestor's approximate death date.
- The town or county where your ancestor lived or died or where the funeral occurred.

Located at:

- Public libraries or newspaper offices (see "Obituary Records: Finding Aids" on page 25)
- Family History Library and family history centers (primarily indexes)

Family History Library Catalog

• Place Search:

Place [town or county]
Part of [state]

Topics to choose: **Obituaries** or **Newspapers**

Search steps:

- 1. Find newspaper obituaries from a library in the town of your ancestor's funeral.
 - a. Find a library at www.switchboard.com and write down the telephone number.
 - b. Call the librarian, and ask if he or she will search obituaries and send you a copy or lend obituary records to your local library.
 - c. Ask which records are likely to have your ancestor's obituary.
 - d. Ask what information you need to request the copy or an interlibrary loan.

Death date

Full name

Children

Simon A. Haley, College Educator

Special to the Commercial MARTINSBURG, Virginia Simon Alexander Haley formerly of Pine Bluff, died Wednesday at the Veterans Administration Hospital here. He had been head of the Agriculture Department at Arkansas AM&N College, now the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff for more than 15 years.

He was born in Tennessee in 1892, a son of the late Alex and Queen Haley. He graduated from Lane College at Knoxville and did further study at A and T College in Greensboro, North Carolina. He had served in World War I and was a former

commander-in-chief of the Stanfield Grady Post 401 of the American legion. Survivors include three sons.

George Haley and Julius Haley, both of Washington and Alex Haley of Kansas City; a daughter, Mrs. Lois Blackstone of Annapolis; 11 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at P. K.

2 p.m. Saturday at P. K. Miller Mortuary at Pine Bluff. Burial will be Monday in the National Cemetery at Little Rock. Pallbearers will be members of Sanfield Grady Post 401.

The family will be at the home of a foster son, Mr. and Mrs. Archie Nixon at 1102 East Harding Avenue, Pine Bluff.

Birth date and place Parents' names Cemetery

OBITUARY RECORDS: FINDING AIDS

About 1900-Present

The easiest way to find an obituary is to telephone the library in the town of your ancestor's death or funeral. Ask the librarian if he or she will search the records for you or, if not, loan the records to your local library.

To find telephone numbers of libraries in your ancestor's area, see:



(o)

www.switchboard.com

- Arranged by state, then county or town
- Libraries are listed according to their distance from a given address, such as an ancestor's place of death

To find newspapers and obituary indexes in your ancestor's area, see:



Obituaries: A Guide to Sources, 2nd ed., by Betty M. Jarboe. (FHL book 973 V43j 1989)

- Lists over 3,500 sources of obituary indexes and abstracts
- Arranged by state, then author or title
- An appendix describes obituary indexes at major libraries in 18 states

Newspapers in Microform: United States, 1948–1983, Library of Congress, 1984. (FHL book 011.35 N479s; film 1145942)

- Arranged by state, then town
- Lists newspaper title, years of operation, parent and spin-off papers, and places where microforms are available

Gale Directory of Publications and Broadcast Media, annual, 4 vols., Gale Research. (FHL book 970 B34a)

- Arranged by state, then town
- Lists addresses and telephone numbers of current newspapers and publishers

Tip

Most newspaper publishers will not search their files for you, but some will photocopy an article if you can provide a specific date and event.

PINE BLUFF†, pop. 56,576.

SEC AR. Jefferson Co. 45 mi. SE of Little Rock, on Arkansas River. University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. Pine Bluff Convention Center. Manufactures lumber, agricultural machinery, wood products, cotton pickers, electric transformers, pillow cases, bed sheets, furniture, paper bags, & cartons, chemicals, aluminum & steel casting, archery equipment, newsprint, jumbo barges, towboats. Cotton market and livestock; cotton oil mills; cotton compresses and warehouses; stockyards. Pine, gum, oak timber. Agriculture. Cattle, hogs, cotton, rice; soybeans.

1367 Pine Bluff Commercial

Donrey Media Group

300 Beech St. Phone: (501)534-3400
Pine Bluff, AR 71601 Fax: (501)543-1455

Publisher E-mail: cdexpress@telepath.com

General newspaper. Founded: 1881. Freq: Mon.-Sun. (morn.). Print Method: Letterpress. Cols/Page: 6. Col. Depth: 293 agate lines. Key Personnel: Jane Ramus, Editor; Donald W. Reynolds, Publisher; Nancy Donaldson, Advertising Mgr. Subscription Rates: \$78 individuals. Remarks: Accepts advertising.

Ad Rates: GLR: \$.49 Circ: Mon.-Sat. ★18,300 BW: \$1,542.24 Sun. ★19,217

4C: \$1,842.24 SAU: \$12.24

White Hall Journal - See White Hall

₱ 1368 KCAT-AM - 1340

PO Box 8808 Phone: (501)534-5001

Pine Bluff, AR 71611-8808

Format: Urban Contemporary; Religious. Networks: American Urban Radio. Owner: J.B. Scanlon, at above address. Founded: 1963. Operating Hours: Continuous; 10% network, 90% local. Key Personnel: J.B. Scanlon, Contact. Wattage: 1000. Ad Rates: \$12-16 for 30 seconds; \$15-20 for 60 seconds.

Newspapers in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, as listed in the Gale Directory of Publications and Broadcast Media (FHL book 970 B34a, 1987)

SOCIAL SECURITY APPLICATIONS

1936-Present

Case Study

Bill wants to find the Social Security application of Simon Haley, who died 19 August 1973.

- 1. Bill searches the Social Security Death Index using the directions on page 28.
- 2. Bill requests a microprint of Simon's SS-5 card.
 - a. He photocopies the request form on page 27.
 - b. He fills in the blanks in the form with the information he knows.
 - c. He mails the form, fee, and Simon's proof of death to the Freedom of Information Officer.
- 3. Bill receives Simon's application and writes a document number on it.
- 4. Bill reads the application and writes down the new information he finds in it.
 - a. On the family group record he writes family information and source information.
- b. On his search list he records the results of his search and the document number he gave the Social Security application.

Use Social Security applications to:

- Find your ancestor's birth date and place (city, county, state).
- Learn your ancestor's parents' names, including the mother's maiden name.
- Trace where your ancestor lived.
- Find information on people who do not appear in any other type of record listed in this guide.

Content

The SS-5 (Social Security application) may list your ancestor's:

- Full name at time of application.
- Full name at birth.
- Full birth date.
- Birthplace (city, county, state).
- Mailing address at time of application.
- Employer's name and mailing address.
- Father's full name (whether living or dead).
- Mother's full maiden name (whether living or dead).

Tips

- Search the Social Security Death Index first. See page 28.
- Social Security applications list some U.S. residents who did not have citizenship.

Searching Obituary Records

Before searching you must know:

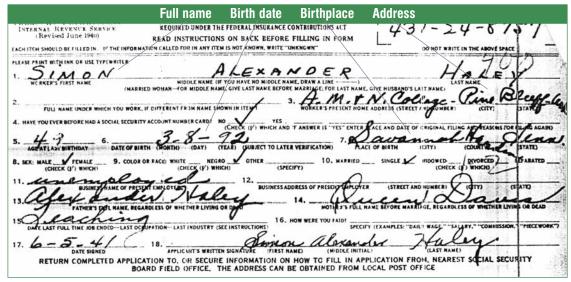
- Your ancestor's name.
- Other identifying information. (See the request form on page 27. Give as much information as you know.)

Located at:

 Office of the Freedom of Information Officer in the OEA FOIA Workgroup in Baltimore, Maryland

Search steps:

- 1. Search for your ancestor in the Social Security Death Index, using the instructions on page 28.
- 2. Request a copy of your ancestor's Social Security application.
 - a. Photocopy the request form on page 27.
 - b. Read the form to see what fees and information are required.
 - c. Fill in as much information on the form as you can.
 - d.Mail the request form, the fee, and your ancestor's proof of death (if available) to the address at the top of the form.



Social Security application (SS-5) of Simon Alexander Haley in 1941

SOCIAL SECURITY APPLICATIONS: REQUEST FORM

1936-Present

Use this form to request Social Security information. See page 26. Provide as much information as you can.

ear sir or madam: is is a Freedom of Information Act request for the following deceased individual: The of deceased The date The date The date The date of of death (see enclosures)	for a microcopy of the SS-5 Social Security Application Social Security number Birthplace Death place
the following deceased individual: ne of deceased th date ath date ner's name	Social Security number Birthplace
h date hth date her's name	Birthplace
nth date	
ner's name	Death place
of of death (see analogues)	Mother's name
of death (see enclosures)	
own places of residence	
ncerely,	
ne of sender	Date
dress	
one number	

SOCIAL SECURITY DEATH INDEX (SSDI)

1962-Present

Case Study

Bill wants to learn more about Simon Haley, who died in 1973.

- 1. Bill searches the Social Security Death Index.
 - a. He goes to
 www.familysearch.org
 and clicks the **Search** tab.
 - b. He clicks **US Social Security Death Index**(left side of screen).
 - c. He types Simon's name and death year and clicks Search.

Use Social Security Death Index to:

- Find birth and death information for 63 million U.S. residents who have died since 1936. Most records are for deaths after 1962.
- Find clues leading to the Social Security application, which lists full birth dates and parents' names.

Content

This index may list your ancestor's:

- Name at the time of application.
- Full birth date.
- Social Security number.
- State of residence when the Social Security number was issued.
- Death month and year.
- Place (city, county, and state) where the last benefit was sent. This may or may not be the place of death.

Tips

- Search using only a surname and a given name. Middle names are not listed.
- To find a woman, search first for her married surname
- Try different name spellings or nicknames (Elisabeth, Elizabeth, Liz, or Liza).
- If your first search fails, search again without a place of death or without a death year.

Searching the Social Security Death Index

Before searching you must know:

- Your ancestor's name.
- An approximate death year (1936 or later).

Located at:

- www.familysearch.org
- Family History Library and family history centers

Search steps:

- 1. Go to www.familysearch.org and click the **Search** tab.
- 2. On the Search for Ancestors screen, click **US Social Security Death Index**.
- 3. Type your ancestor's name.
- 4. Under Event, select **Death**.
- 5. Provide the information you know (name, state of residence at death, year of death, or Social Security number).
- 6. Click Search.
- 7. On the results screen, click your ancestor's name to see a full record.

Results screen

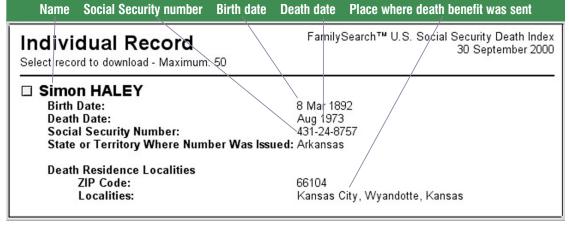
Search screen

d.On the results screen he

see the full entry.

clicks Simon HALEY to

- e. He prints a copy of the record for his files and writes a document number on it.
- Bill records the results of his search on his search list and on his family group record.



Simon Haley's record in the Social Security Death Index at www.familysearch.org

VITAL RECORDS

Pre-1870-Present

Use vital records of births, deaths, and marriages to:

 Learn about an ancestor's birth, death, or marriage in a given town, county, or state. For specific information about birth, death, and marriage records, see pages 30–32.

Tips

- Search first for your ancestor's death record, then marriage record, then birth record. Later records are more common, more easily found, and contain more information.
- Because most vital records were kept by the county, search county records first. Then search for town and state records if they exist. For records in New England, search town records first.
- If there are two forms of a record (such as marriage bonds and marriage certificates), search both. Some forms have more information than others.
- When ordering vital records, ask for a photocopy of the original record. This will usually have more information than a certified copy.
- Write down the names of any witnesses or informants on the record. These are usually relatives or friends.

Searching Vital Records

Before searching you must know:

- Your ancestor's name at the time of birth, marriage, or death.
- The state (and possibly the city or county) where the event occurred.
- · Approximate year of the event.

Located at:

- Family History Library and family history centers
- Town, county, or state archives (see www.vitalrec.com for addresses, phone numbers, and fees)

In the Family History Library Catalog, try these two searches.

• Place Search:

Place	[name of state]
Part of	

Topics to choose: Vital records or Vital records - Indexes

• Place Search:

Place	[name of county or town]
Part of	[name of state]

Topics to choose: Vital records or Vital records - Indexes

To search vital records on microfilm:

- 1. Check for an index (in the catalog or the record).
- Find your ancestor's name in the index if there is one (try various spellings).
- 3. Write information about your ancestor's record:
 - a. Book (volume) number or year of birth, marriage, or death.
 - b. Certificate or page number.
- 4. Find the record book and then the certificate or page.

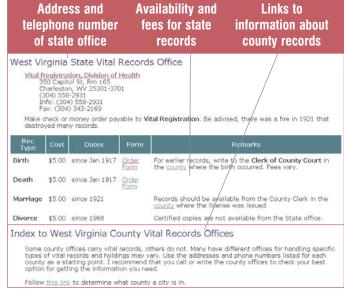
FINDING AIDS

To find vital records offices, see:



www.vitalrec.com Search for:

- Phone numbers and addresses of state and county archives that keep vital records.
- Places where you can find birth, death, and marriage records for a given year (town, county, or state).
- Fees charged by record offices.



Information about the West Virginia State Vital Records Office as shown on www.vitalrec.com

VITAL RECORDS: BIRTH

Pre-1870-Present

Use birth records to learn your ancestor's:

- Full birth date and place.
- Parents' names.

Content

Birth records may contain:

- Full name of the infant.
- Birth date and place (town, county, and state).
- Parents' names (including mother's maiden name).
- Home address.

Tips

- Birth records may not be as available as death records.
- To learn how to search birth records, see "Searching Vital Records" on page 29.
- See the case studies for death records (page 31) and marriage records (page 32). You can find birth records in a similar manner.

	Di	rth Certifica	iic	
-		Name of Child		
_	Sex of Child	Color	 Date of Birth	
	Sex of Cliffa	C0101	Date of Birth	
_				
		Place of Birth		
-	County of Birth		Birth Attendant	
_		Mother's Maiden Name		
_				
	Mother's Age		Mother's Place of Birth	
_		Father's Name		
-	Father's Age		Father's Place of Birth	
	Ç			
-	Date of Registration		File Number	
_		Date Issued		

This blank record shows what information may have been recorded on birth records in 1891

VITAL RECORDS: DEATH

Pre-1870-Present

Use death records to learn your ancestor's:

- Full death date and place.
- Birth date and place.
- Parents' full names.
- Spouse's full name.

Content:

Death records may contain:

- Full name at death.
- Death date.
- Death place (town, county, state).
- Home address.
- Age at death.
- Birth date.
- Birthplace (town, county, and state).

- Occupation.
- Marital status (single, married, widowed, or divorced).
- Parents' names (including mother's maiden name).
- Parents' birthplace (rarely included).
- Name of funeral home or cemetery.
- Name of the informant and relationship between the informant and the deceased.

Tips

- Look for a death record before a birth or marriage record. It is more likely to be available.
- To learn how to search death records, see "Searching Vital Records" on page 29.

Full name Death place Birth date Death date 020 WEST VIRGINIA STATE DEFARTMENT OF HEALTH-DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS CERTIFICATE OF DEATH DATE OF DEAL MANUEL AND INC. Serial No.___ PERMANENT INK 2. Male August 19, 1973 See handbook for HALEY SIMON (years) Under 1 year Under 1 DATE OF BIRTH IM Sb. INSIDE CITY LIMITS (Specify No March 8, 1892 DECEASED Negro HOSPITAL OR OTHER INSTITUTION CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION OF Veterans Administrative Center Martinsburg ived. If iccurred in ution, give lence before CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY MARRIED, NEVER MARRIED, WIDOWED, DIVORCED (specify) STATE OF BIRTH (if no U.S.A., name country) Tennessee U. S.A. 11. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY USUAL OCCUPATION SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER ork done during 1 Professor 431-24-87-57 Teaching INSIDE CITY LIMITS (specify yes or no) 134. 14e. 13617 Northgate Dr. Yes 14b Montgewery Silver Spring Md. MOTHER-MAIDEN NAME BIRTHPLACE (state 15b. Alabama PARENTE "Alabama Queen Davis INFORMANC SIGNATURE 18. V. A. Hospital Records Alex Haley 16b. (Yes, no, or unknown) (If yes, give wer or dates of service) (If yes, give war or dates of service) (15. Yes (15. World War I 15. V. A. ₩. A. Center Martinsburg, WV Approximate interval CAUSE OF DEATH Lenter only on 19. Pert I. DEATH WAS CAUSED | 3 | IMMEDIATE CAUSE (a) Possible pulmonary embolism | General syteriosclerosis with arteriosclerotic | Due to (b) | Deart disease | Sill | Due to (c) | Pulmonary embolism | Sill | Due to (c) | Pulmonary embolism | Sill | Due to (c) | Pulmonary embolism | Sill Many years Many years SIGNIFICA Mitral insufficiency; Diabetes mellitus. ACCIDENT, SUICIDE HOMICIDE, DATE OF INJURY (month, day, year) LOCATION August 19, 1973 August 1993 August 1993 August 1993 August 1993 March 2, V. A. Center 8/21/73 Mertinsburg, 24b. FUNERAL HOME-NAME AND ADDRESS BURIAL 25.R. N. Horton Co. HURTON 25c. 8/22/73 Social Security number **Funeral home** Parents' names **Cemetery location**

Death certificate for Simon Haley from the West Virginia State Vital Records Office

Case Study

Bill wants to find Simon Haley's death record. He knows Simon died in West Virginia in 1973.

- In the Family History Library Catalog, Bill searches for an index to West Virginia death records.
 - a. He does a Place Search for West Virginia.
 - b. From a list of topics he selects Vital records Indexes. The catalog lists no state death records, so he must order the death record from the West Virginia state vital records office.
- 2. Bill orders the death record from the state vital records office
 - a. On the Internet, he goes to www.vitalrec.com to find the office address.
 - b. On his search list, he writes the address and phone number of the West Virginia vital records office.
 - c. He phones the office and places a credit card order for Simon's death record.
- Bill receives the death record and writes a document number on it. He writes down the new information.
 - a. On the family group record he writes new family information and source information.
 - b. On his search list he records the results of his search and the document number he gave the death record.

VITAL RECORDS: MARRIAGE

1870-Present

Case Study

Bill wants to find the marriage record of Alexander Haley and Queen Davis, Simon's parents. He knows from the 1900 U.S. Census (see pages 16–17) that they lived in Hardin County, Tennessee. Because he isn't sure which child listed in the census is Alex and Queen's first child, Bill uses the "Number of years married" information on the census to estimate that they were married no later than 1883.

- 1. Bill looks for marriage records of Hardin County, Tennessee, for the 1880s in the Family History Library Catalog.
 - a. He does a Place Search for Hardin, Tennessee.
 - b. He clicks Vital records.
 - c. On the list of titles, he clicks Marriage records, 1863–1914.
 - d.On the Title Details screen in the Notes section, he reads that most volumes are individually indexed. This tells him that an index of grooms will appear in the beginning of each book of records.
 - e. He clicks **View Film Notes** and sees that marriages from 1874–1884 are on FHL film 981000.
- 2. Bill orders FHL film 981000, and then searches the record.
 - a. On the film he searches the index for Alex Haley. The index says Alex's marriage record is in Vol. 3, p. 87.
 - b. He finds the marriage record of Alex Haley and Queen Davis. It lists 8 Oct 1881 as the marriage date, which tells him that the census record was incorrect.
 - c. Bill photocopies the record for his files and writes a document number on the photocopy.
- 3. Bill records the marriage information.
 - a. On the family group record he writes the marriage date and place and the source.
 - b. On the search list he records the results of his search and the document number he gave the marriage record.

Use marriage records to learn your ancestors':

- Full marriage date and place.
- Full names of bride, groom, and parents, including maiden names.
- Possible county of residence at the time of the marriage.

Content

Marriage records may contain:

- Names of bride and groom (including bride's maiden name).
- Birth date and place (town, county, and state) of bride and groom.
- County of residence of bride and groom.

- Marriage date and place (town, county, and state).
- Whether bride or groom was previously married, widowed, or divorced.
- Parents' names, including mothers' maiden names (very rarely).

Tips

- Look for a marriage record near the time when and place where the first child was born.
- To learn how to search marriage records, see "Searching Vital Records" on page 29.

N	ame of groom	Name of bride	Marriage dat	В
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of our County, agreeably	1			1.
PROVIDED ALWAYS, that the				
be null and void, and sha	ll not be accoun	ted any License	or authority to	you, or either of you, for
the purpose aforesaid, mor				
Given at the Clerk's Of	ice of said Cou	enty, thisE	day of	O A 188/.
			AR 121	1. 11
March Santo Asset		1	STILL	COUNTY COURT CLERK.

Hardin County, Tennessee, marriage record of Alex Haley and Queen Davis, Simon's parents

ADDITIONAL HELPS

African American Naming Customs

 Some African Americans may have changed their surnames (see "Tips" on page 8).

What's Next

- United States Research Outline (30972)
- FamilySearch research outlines for the states where your ancestors lived. Research outlines are available through family history centers and at www.familysearch.org (click Order/Download Products).

More about African American Research

- Black Roots: A Beginner's Guide to Tracing the African American Family Tree, by Tony Burroughs, 2001 (FHL book 973 D27bt 2001)
- Finding a Place Called Home: An African-American Guide to Genealogy and Historical Identity, by Dee Parmer Woodtor, 1999. (FHL book 973 F2wd)

Archives and Libraries

Family History Centers www.familysearch.org

800-346-6044 inside the United States and Canada 801-240-1000 outside the United States and Canada

Family History Library 35 N. West Temple Street, Rm. 344 Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3400 801-240-2331

National Archives 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, D.C. 20408 202-501-5415 Fax: 301-837-0459

National Archives—Regional Branches www.archives.gov/facilities/index.html

Tips for Latter-day Saints

To decide when to submit a family for temple ordinances, consider the following:

- You may submit a family with minimal, approximate, or incomplete information.
- If you submit a family with minimal information (perhaps only approximate birth or death dates for the parents), you can do all the sealings for that family. When information is only approximate, duplication of ordinances is more likely.
- If you continue to research until you find exact birth dates for the parents (follow step 1 on page 3), this information will:
 - Give a more accurate temple record so that others can find a common ancestor.
 - Make duplication less likely.
 - Make it easier to find information for earlier generations.

Where to Order or Download Publications:

- Internet: www.familysearch.org or www.ldscatalog.com
- Salt Lake Distribution Services: 801-240-3800 (Salt Lake City area) Toll free 800-537-5971

All Family History Library publications are described in *Family History Materials List* (34083).

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		Option 2—Temple File and assign proxies for a	e Send all names to any temple, all approved ordinances.				
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death

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fhd-copyright@ldschurch.org Fax: 801-240-2494

Genealogy.com African-American Research

The majority of African Americans descend from slaves trafficked to the New World in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Most lived within 300 miles of the Atlantic coast between the Congo and Gambia rivers in East Africa. Since the Second World War, large numbers have emigrated to the U.S. from the Caribbean, where their ancestors were enslaved by the British, Dutch, and French.

Because most African tribal history is oral, rather than written, tracing African roots is difficult, but not impossible. Alex Haley, the author of *Roots*, traced his ancestors to the African continent. By examining slave sale records and advertisements, many may trace their family history from Africa to their ancestor's arrival in America.

Contacts and Sources

Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 73086 Washington, D.C. 20056

Publications: *Journal*, *AAHGS News* Web site: http://www.aahgs.org/

African American Genealogy Group

P.O. Box 1798 Philadelphia, PA 19105-1798

Telephone: (215) 572-6063 Web site: http://www.aagg.org/

The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

515 Malcolm X Blvd. New York, NY 10037-1801 Telephone: (212) 491-2200

Web Sites

The World Wide Web offers many African-American history, culture, and genealogy sites. Here are a select few to start. In Helpful Web Sites, you can find links to useful resources about:

- Organizations
- Geographical resources

Christine's Genealogy Website

Christine's is a good general African-American research Web site. It offers a wide variety of information, from selected lists of African-Americans in U.S. census

records to freedmen's bureau records, slave entries in wills, and links to museums, libraries, and historical societies that have African-American collections.

The Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System (CWSS)

Use this Web site to find out in which unit a particular soldier of African descent served. You simply type in the soldier's name, and the database shows you the matching records. For more common names, the searches can take some time, and of course if there are multiple individuals with the same name, you still must determine which individual is actually your ancestor, but it is a good starting place. It also includes histories of 180 United States Colored Troops units/regiments.

Colonial Williamsburg

The Colonial Williamsburg site gives general information about Colonial life and includes a selection of articles about African-Americans.

American Slave Narratives: An Online Anthology

As described on this site: "...Each narrative taken alone offers a fragmentary, microcosmic representation of slave life. Read together, they offer a sweeping composite view of slavery in North America, allowing us to explore some of the most compelling themes of nineteenth-century slavery, including labor, resistance and flight, family life, relations with masters, and religious belief."

The African-American Mosaic A Library of Congress Resource Guide for the Study of

Black History and Culture

The Library of Congress has a large collection of materials relating to African-American life in the United States. This Web site gives an overview of what they offer.

Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

The collection of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture includes materials about Blacks living all over the world, including the United States. In particular, they are strong in the history of Harlem and Blacks in New York and the Northeast.

Books and CDs

Below is a sampling of early colonial newspapers that published slave advertisements. From them you may be able to find information about your own ancestors.

- Boston Independent Advertiser
- Connecticut Gazette
- The Georgia Gazette or Independent Register
- *The Guardian of Freedom* (Frankfort, Kentucky)

- Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser
- Missouri Republican
- Mobile Gazette
- The New England Journal
- The New Jersey Journal
- New Orleans Advertiser and Prices Current
- New York Gazette
- New York Weekly Journal
- New York Weekly Post Boy
- The Norfolk Intelligencer
- North Carolina Gazette
- The Pennsylvania Chronicle and Universal Advertiser
- Virginia Gazette

Books such as those listed below may be able to help you locate the newspapers that you are seeking.

- *The Afro-American Press and Its Editors*, by Penn I. Garland Reviews African-American magazines and newspapers published between 1827 and 1891.
- *Bibliographic Checklist of African-American Newspapers*, by Barbara K. Henritze A list of approximately 5,500 African American newspapers that have been identified in all major bibliographic sources, including newspaper directories, union lists, finding aids, African American bibliographies, yearbooks, and more. It is searchable by geographic region, time period, and title.
- Sesquicentennial 1827-1977: Black press handbook, 1977
- *Encyclopedic Directory of Ethnic Newspapers and Periodicals*, by Lubomyr R. Wynar

In addition to slave advertisements, plantation books may be excellent sources. Also, since slaves were considered property, you may find records of them in deed books and the probate records of their owners. You may also want to look into *Slave Genealogy: A Research Guide with Case Studies* by David H. Streets.

Post-1864 Research

For individuals who lived after 1864, you can generally use the same procedures as for any other group: look for census records, vital records, and family sources. Many, but not all, former slaves took the surname of their owners upon emancipation. Some tried different names before settling on one. Also, don't forget to check Civil War indexes, as many former slaves served in the military. Genealogy.com's CD 165 provides an index of African-Americans who were enumerated in the 1870 U.S. Census (the first Census in which African-Americans were included as citizens).

It is also possible that your ancestors were prominent in the affairs of the African-American community in the United States. As a result, we strongly recommend that you

consider searching back issues of the appropriate African-American newspapers (and, of course, general newspapers for the time period after African-Americans began to receive appropriate coverage). The four books listed above may help you locate a newspaper that was published in the area where your ancestor lived.

Innumerable books have been written on the African American experience in the United States. Of particular genealogical value is the printed catalog *Afro-Americana*, 1553-1906, published by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, which includes many valuable historical resources. Other helpful books include *Black Genealogy* by Charles L. Blockson and Ron Fry and *Ethnic Genealogy: A Research Guide*, edited by Jessie Carney Smith. These books have information about both pre- and post-1864 research.

Ancestry.com - African American Research, Part 1 and Part 2 A series of articles by Roseann Reinemuth Hogan, Ph.D.

Roseann Reinemuth Hogan holds a Ph.D. in sociology. She has been researching her family since 1978. Her special interests include oral histories and social history.

African American Research, Part 1 Ancestry Magazine 3/1/1996 - **Archive** March/April 1996

Searching for African American families involves two distinct research approaches. These approaches correspond to the distinct change in the legal status of African Americans in the United States before and after the Civil War. Genealogical techniques used to track slave families before the war are necessarily quite different than those used for white or free African Americans; however, research conducted on African Americans after the war usually involves the same types of records as those used for whites.

Nevertheless, there are still special sources and factors to consider. The golden rule in genealogy is: never assume, always research and document. This rule is particularly relevant to research on African American families. Don't assume that all African Americans were slaves. Don't assume that all indices, including those for census and other records, include African Americans. Don't assume from an entry that he or she is white or African American. Don't assume that a person noted as white in a record is necessarily so. American Indians, African Americans, and people of mixed heritage, such as mulattoes and Melungeons, did not always want to be identified as such. Finally, don't assume that laws concerning African Americans were adhered to in all cases. For example, even a legal prohibition against slaves marrying or holding property did not always prevent those proceedings from happening. In Kentucky, where slaves were prohibited from marrying, records from as early as 1793 document the marriages of enslaved African Americans in the central and northern areas of the state.

Legal Status and Naming Conventions

The legal status of slaves makes research particularly difficult. Slaves were legally prohibited from acting on their own behalf, from marrying, from buying property, and from making other contracts. Even if the person of color was free, he or she probably had to struggle to be treated as a free person rather than a slave. As a result, research on African Americans requires knowledge of the slave system, local practices and customs, and the history of African Americans in the United States.

As did many of our immigrant ancestors, free blacks, as well as slaves, typically lost their African names when they came to the United States. However, slaves did not always take surnames at the same time they gave up their African names. They sometimes changed surnames when they changed owners, were reluctant to tell whites the family name they identified with, and arbitrarily chose new surnames after their emancipation. These facts do not mean, however, that given names and surnames are irrelevant for African American families.

Research has shown that slave owners seldom named newborn slave children. Similarities in naming practices among African Americans in the United States and those in western Africa indicate that it is more likely that the slaves chose the names of their children. The given name of a child, therefore, showed important connections between African American families. There appears to have been a significant tendency toward the maternal line when the mother was alone, but when both parents were present, children were named after the maternal and paternal lines in nearly equal numbers.¹

In summary, the assumption that African Americans used the same surnames as their owners is not always true. William Still's book on the Underground Railroad shows that, of the first 210 successful runaways, 84 percent had different surnames than the owners they had fled; this is equally true for men and women.²

While runaways may not have been typical of the general population of African Americans, records from as early as 1720 indicate that slaves often had surnames different than their owners' names. Certainly, post-Civil War records document that exslaves had surnames different than the names of their most recent owners; it is possible many ex-slaves chose new names and identifications when they were emancipated.³

Getting Started

As always in genealogy, research begins with you and works backward. Oral histories can be particularly important in determining clues to the family's origins. Naturally, these stories require documentation rather than simple acceptance as being accurate. Some communities have oral history projects that may help you learn more about local history. Church histories are often very helpful in documenting the movements of families in and out of the community.

Pre-Civil War Records

Slave Sales and Importation Declarations

Affidavits were required of new residents of some states if they transported slaves into the state. In Kentucky, slave owners were required to declare that the slaves were for their own use and were not for sale. The records often list not only the number, but the name, gender, and age of the slaves, and sometimes the last residence of the owner. Bills of slave sales and slave trade records, including shipping lists, also exist in some states.

White Family and Plantation Records

Pre-Civil War research for African Americans necessarily relies heavily on records of associated white families. Analysis of the records, diaries, wills, Bibles, and cemeteries of white families often yields information on the African Americans who lived and worked with them. Estate records may mention a slave being left to a son or daughter, or the emancipation of a slave. Even if a will does not mention slaves, it is wise to check all probate records of these white families to see whether slaves are listed in the estate inventory, or in the settlement or sale records of the estate.

Some family cemeteries have an African American section; many of those buried there are noted as African American, although they are less likely to have a monument than the white family members. Family bibles sometimes include notations about African American servants or slaves associated with the family.

Many plantations maintained records on virtually every aspect of their operations. While many of these records were destroyed during and after the Civil War, some have survived. The Library of Congress has some plantation records, family accounts, and diaries of the Old South.⁴ However, the most numerous and richest sources are found at the local level.

Slave Census Schedules

Slave schedules collected by the Census Bureau are available for 1840, 1850, and 1860. In the 1840 schedules, slaves are listed along with the Revolutionary War veterans on page two of the schedule. In 1850 and 1860, slaves were enumerated separately by the name of the owner. While the census enumerates slaves only by age and gender, there may be scattered cases where enumerations list not only the numbers in each category, as required, but also the names of the slaves.

Census Records for Free African Americans

Beginning in 1790, free African American household heads were listed in the federal census. Before 1850, slaves who were hired out were enumerated in the census with their owners, even if they worked and lived elsewhere. The first enumeration of all African Americans by individual family member's name was the 1870 census. Although census takers attempted to enumerate individual African American family members, the 1880 census was more complete than the 1870 census. One note of caution: while the census included African American families, the companies which produced commercial indices of the censuses did not always include them.

Census Mortality Schedules

Mortality schedules list deaths for the twelve months prior to the census and thus provide a death register for the state for that year. These registers typically under-report deaths by

about 13 percent; slave deaths were probably more under-reported than white deaths. However, these records are still an important source for African Americans because deaths are recorded by name along with whether the person was a slave or free. These records are available for the 1850 to 1880 census years.

Emancipation Records

Before the Civil War, some states specifically awarded jurisdiction over African Americans (free or enslaved), and over the emancipation of slaves. Slaveholders could free slaves by two means: through a document entered into the court record or through a will. When a slave was emancipated by will, a court recorded the emancipation and issued a decree of freedom to the former slave. The former owner or his executor sometimes had to post a bond to insure that the former slave did not become a public charge.

Marriage sometimes followed soon after an emancipation, particularly when an African American man or woman "bought" another adult. Free African Americans often married slaves, but to do so, they first had to obtain their enslaved partner's freedom. Mothers sometimes bought their offspring and then set them free. The following is an example of an emancipation document.

"I do hereby emancipate and set free from further servitude my daughter, Delphia, whom I purchased from Judge James Simpson. Given under my hand this 26th day of October 1850." –Jemima (her mark) Clark

Emancipation records may be found in various sources, including deed books, special manumission record books, wills, and order books.

The trick to finding these records often lies in untangling the county clerk's filing method. Slave emancipation, as well as other transactions for African Americans, may be filed under the given name of the former slave, the surname of the owner, or the first name of the person who may have purchased the slave, such as a mother or spouse. Again, slaves sometimes changed their names when they changed owners.

In addition, emancipations are sometimes grouped on a single page of a deed index. They may be at the end of a deed book index on a separate page. Sometimes, no surname is reported and the records are filed by the person's first name rather than last name. There are documented examples of emancipations being listed under "S" for slave, "C" for colored, and "E" for emancipations. A good imagination is needed to find these records. If no sales or emancipations are found in a particular county, it might be necessary to scan the entire index to discover the method employed by the clerk.

The next part of this article will discuss post-Civil War records and provide a suggested reading list on social history for African Americans.

African American Research, Part 2

While the Emancipation Proclamation became effective 1 January 1863, it was not until 18 December 1865, that the thirteenth amendment officially ended slavery in the United States.

Civil War Migrations and Aftermath

Slavery and racism continued, however, resulting in further denial of the rights of African Americans. For example, after the Civil War, Kentucky refused to ratify the Thirteenth Amendment, to nullify the slave code, to provide for destitute freedmen, or to protect African Americans against white supremacists such as the Regulators.

Mass migrations of African Americans from rural areas of the country were a result of two major trends. First, families often needed to escape harassment, threats, and continued violence in unsympathetic communities. Second, the lack of employment in the declining agricultural-based economy and the hope of jobs in the growing industrial sector resulted in large numbers of African Americans leaving their homes to seek opportunities elsewhere. As a result, African American families during this time were mobile and often without assets to buy property or leave wills and other records. In other words, difficult—but not impossible—to track.

Apprenticeship Bonds for Freedmen

These records, which may have been created before or after the Civil War, were indentures of apprenticeship by which African American children were bound to masters until they reached a specified age. The child and master, date, trade to which apprenticed, terms of indenture, and signatures of parties are shown on the bond.

Employment Agreements

Owners who had many slaves sometimes hired them out. For example, in Kentucky, the first day of January was the traditional day for hiring slaves. Large crowds of slaveholders, prospective employers, and bystanders congregated at the county seat to make such arrangements. The slave could sometimes veto the deal, but this was usually not part of the agreement.

These contracts were typically for a year at a time, although some contracts were for a specific task. This practice seems to have been particularly common when the original owner died and was an especially attractive option for large rural slaveowners. Slaves were sent into towns to work in the ropewalks, mills, and factories. These African Americans worked and lived on their own. For example,

until Kentucky law prohibited it, African Americans could and did negotiate their own contracts and paid their master on a monthly basis.

Employment agreements can be found in the county order books under the name of the slaveowner. The orders usually give the mane, age, amount of wages, type of work, and the length of service.

Post-Civil War Records

A number of post-Civil War court records were maintained separately for African Americans and whites. Records which are sometimes maintained separately include marriage records, tax records, and vital statistics. Separate school census lists kept for African American schools may also exist. The practice of separating the records persisted only briefly in some areas. In other cases, records may have been maintained separately until as late as the 1960s. The separation of these records is often useful to African American searches. If a record is not found where anticipated, however, both African American and white families should explore the documents in both categories.

Marriage Indexes and Records

Beginning in 1866, African Americans were allowed to register existing marriages; often a fee was required for such registration. Sometimes these records are called *Declarations of Freedmen, Declarations of Marriages*, or *Negro Cohabitation Certificates*. Many existing marriages may not have been recorded because of the fee involved. Marriages were also reported to the Freedmen's Bureau. In some areas, beginning after the Civil War and continuing until well into the 1960s, marriage records for African Americans and whites were maintained in separate volumes.

Vital Statistics

Separate lists sometimes exist for African American births and deaths. Some researchers have noted that compliance with vital statistics registration laws may actually have been greater among African Americans than among whites. These records will often list the owner's name and the mother's name if a slave, although records of free African Americans may include the names of both parents.

Deeds and Other Records

Some clerks unfailingly indicated the race of a person in each transaction, whether it involved the sale of a piece of property or a marriage. Other clerks did not. Some clerks maintained African American records in separate volumes for a time and then changed their practices. Some counties even placed African American transactions at the back of the book or in a separate section of the record book. Therefore, if a record cannot be found, it is wise to scan the entire document to ensure that African American records are not tucked away in a segregated compartment. It is often the case that only certain local courts were empowered to make decisions on cases which involved free African Americans. These same courts were usually also responsible for cases related to slaves.

Military Records

African Americans have served in all U.S. wars. More than five thousand African

Americans fought in the Continental Army in the Revolutionary War; another thousand fought for the British and were known as King of England Soldiers. Many of these eventually escaped to Nova Scotia. When the British left after the war, fourteen hundred former slaves went to London, Halifiax or the West Indies with them. *The Book of Negroes*, available in the National Archives, includes the names of these British sympathizers (Blockson 1977:50-51).

African Americans were also active in the War of 1812, but by 1842, army regulations excluded them. During the Spanish American War, African Americans served in the Ninth and Tenth U.S. Cavalry. More than 350,000 African Americans fought in World War I; and almost a million fought in World War II (Blockson 1977:52-4).

The Archives has produced a special publication, *List of Black Servicemen*Compiled from the War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records.

The list includes all soldiers known or presumed to African American. The names are listed alphabetically and include a reference to the complete source where more information can be found. It is available from the Publications Sales Branch of the National Archives in Washington, D.C. 20408. The Negro in the Military Service of the United States 1639-1886 is available on microfilm in the National Archives. The Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers who Served with United States Colored Troops is a microfilm publication available at the National Archives which gives the name of the soldier, his rank, and unit.

School Records

Some states maintained a separate school system, including a high school system for African Americans. In Kentucky, for example, one African American high school drew students from across the state. The Lincoln Institute was a residential school and so its records will include families from throughout the state even though it was located in central Kentucky.

Freedman's Bureau Records

The Freedman's Bureau was established just before the end of the Civil War to assist newly emancipated slaves to adjust to their freedom. The Bureau was the government's first attempt at a large-scale welfare program.

The Bureau aided in certifying slave marriages, assisted with labor contracts, issued rations and clothing to new freedmen's camps, and provided transportation to refugees and freedmen returning to their homes or relocating to another part of the country. It also helped African American soldiers and sailors file and collect claims for bounties and paid pensions. Unfortunately, the Bureau only operated for a short time. By 1869, it had nearly stopped functioning and was totally discontinued by 1872.

Records in the Freedman's Bureau can be categorized into two major groups; the Washington Office and the state office. Records in both groups consist of letters,

school reports, administrative reports, and a variety of orders. Individual level information is available, but difficult to locate (Blockson 1977:100). While not oriented specifically to genealogy, there are some records of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands which include valuable information for African American genealogy: marriage certificates of freed slaves, registers, and other records containing information about slave families.

Freedman Hospitals, Aid, Refugee Camps, and Veteran Aid offices were set up by the Bureau in the states in which they were active. The Bureau helped African American soldiers to receive bounties through the Bureau during 1868. Many more were eligible than received aid and bounties, but it was difficult to locate claimants since a large number of freedmen were constantly on the move. Sharp lawyers and bounty brokers sometimes swindled the freedmen out of their claims.

Refugee camps were established and as a result, some counties in the state will have a larger number of records for former slave families. Find out where these camps are located in areas of interest to your family.

Records for the Freedmen's Savings and Trust Company, for the period after the Civil War until the mid-1870s have been microfilmed and are available through the National Archives (group M816 and M817). These records show depositors' names and sometimes other personal information.

African American schools after the Civil War were coordinated by the Freedmen's Bureau. These schools for African American children were separately financed by taxes on property owned by African American. School attendance was compulsory for all, but the average daily attendance in Kentucky was still only about fifty-five percent for white students and about thirty-one percent for African American students. Many, if not most, records for the Freedman's Bureau schools consist of statistical school reports. Individual names of pupils are not usually listed. The names of the schools and the numbers of pupils studying various courses by school neighborhood is, however, given.

The manuscript records of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands are in custody of the National Archives in Washington, D. C. Many of them have been microfilmed are available at the each of the thirteen regional National Archives. These core holdings are listed in the table above.

Secondary Sources

Church and cemetery records are an important source of information on African American families as the African American church has served as a focal point of African American family life. Where the records survive, they can provide valuable information about African American ancestors. Many of the larger cities have exclusively African American churches and cemeteries. Even early pioneer church records include in their minutes lists of their African American members. Finally, the deeds for African American cemeteries can be found in county deed

books in the same manner as those for whites.

Newspapers are an often overlooked source of material for African American families. There are newspapers exclusively for an African American readers. And mainstream papers often have society columns which cover activities of churches, voluntary associations and clubs as well as philanthropic groups. Many local libraries have indexed vital events such as births, marriages, and deaths. But check to ensure that the news items and columns covering African American activities are included in the index.