**RESOURCES**

Books

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Smolenyak, Megan, and Ann Turner. *Trace Your Roots with DNA: Using Genetic Tests to Explore Your Family Tree*. Emmaus, Pa.: Rodale, 2004. Print.

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Thackery, David T. *Finding Your African American Ancestors: A Beginner's Guide*. Orem, UT: Ancestry, 2000. Print.

Walton-Raji, Angela Y. *Black Indian Genealogy Research*. Bowie, MD: Heritage, 1993. Print.

Williams, Krystal. *How to Plan Your African-American Family Reunion*. New York: Citadel, 1999. Print.

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Woodtor, Dee Parmer. *Finding a Place Called Home: A Guide to African-American Genealogy and Historical Identity*. New York: Random House, 1999. Print.

Online Sites and Resources

**Afrigeneas (website address: www.afrigeneas.com) – The granddaddy of the African American genealogy websites. Provides searchable databases as well as online help and support from others who are conducting African-American Family Research.**

**Ancestry** (website address: www.ancestry.com) – Largest for-profit genealogy company in the world. Large database of records. Requires a subscription to access most records.

**Christine’s Genealogy Website (website address: www.ccharity.com) – Provides information on the latest happenings in African American genealogy. Has links to news stories as well as contributions from researchers.**

**Cyndi’s List** (website address: www.cyndislist.com) – A free site that is a good starting point when conducting online research. Provides a multitude of links to other sites.

**Death Indexes** (website address: www.deathindexes.com) – Directory of links to websites with online indexes, listed by state and county. Included are death records, death certificate indexes, death notices and registers, obituaries, wills and probate records, and cemetery burials. Also, included is information about searching the Social Security Death Index online.

**Digital NC** (website address: www.digitalnc.org) – Yearbooks, Newspapers, etc. – specific to North Carolina (No fee)

**Facebook** (website address: www.facebook.com) – Many groups / communities to assist and provide feedback with your research. Examples of Facebook groups / communities are African-American Genealogy Forum, Our Black Legacy, Our Black Ancestry, Genealogy Just Ask, DNA Tested African Descendants and The African Descendant’s Genetic Genealogy.

**Family Search (website: www.familysearch.org) – Operated by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons) who has been copying records for years. Largely free site. Has a partnership with Ancestry for some records. Also has many tutorials and other invaluable information. Be sure to check out the Wikis.**

**Find A Grave** (website address: www.findagrave.com) – Provides a great way to research cemeteries from afar. Can submit request for photo of the tombstone. Another Ancestry company.

**Fold 3** (website address: www.fold3.com) – Owned by Ancestry. Formerly known as Footnote, the site is a good resource for military records. Contains some non-military records from its Footnote.com days but you must dig to find them.

**Free African Americans of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Maryland, and Delaware** (website address: www.freeafricanamericans.com) – Free Site that contains two books that you can read online. The books contain approximately 2,500 pages of family histories.

**HeritageQuest Online (website address: cmlibrary.org) – A comprehensive treasury of American genealogical resources. Free access through most public libraries. Provides access to the census and Freedman’s Bank records.**

**To Access:**

1. **Go to www.cmlibrary.org**
2. **Click on Menu then Resources at the top left of the page**
3. **Scroll down the alphabetical list until you come to “HeritageQuest.” Click on Access Now.**
4. **Enter your 14 Digit CMLibrary 14 Digit Library Card Number. Hit Enter on Keyboard or click on Login.**
5. **Click on one of the census years. A screen will come up that allows one to input the name of an ancestor or a living relative along with other pertinent information such as birth year, location, parents’ names, etc. that may asset in searching.**

**Low Country Africana** (website address: www.lowcountryafricana.com) – A free website sponsored by the Magnolia Plantation Foundation in Charleston, SC. The website and the organization are dedicated to African American genealogy and history in South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, home to the rich Gullah-Geechee cultural heritage.

**Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness** (website address: www.raogk.org) – RAOGK is a global volunteer organization. Volunteers take time to do everything from looking up courthouse records to taking pictures of tombstones. All the volunteers ask for is reimbursement of their expenses (never their time) and a thank you.

Social Security Freedom of Information (FOIA) Request (website address: secure.ssa.gov/apps9/eFOIA-FEWeb/internet/main.jsp) – Online request for copy of deceased person’s SS-5 Application. Cost is $24 for photocopy and $22 for Computer Extract. Note – all information may not be available on a computer extract.

**Surname Finder** (website address: [www.surnamefinder.com](http://www.surnamefinder.com)) – Provides easy access to free and commercial resources for 1,731,359 surnames. On each surname specific “finder” page, you can search a variety of online databases all pre-programmed with your surname.

**The Freedmen’s Bureau Online (website address: www.freedmensbureau.com) – Provides information and information to various Freedmen Bureau records. Note – The Freedmen’s Bureau Bank records can be found online at Family Search.**

**The Statue of Liberty – Ellis Island Foundation** (website address: [www.libertyellisfoundation.org](http://www.libertyellisfoundation.org)) – data base of immigrants who arrived through Ellis Island.

**The USGENWeb Project (website address: usgenweb.org) – links to free sites for each state**

**Traditional Nicknames in Old Documents** (website address: [www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Traditional\_Nicknames\_in\_Old\_Documents\_-\_A\_Wiki\_List](http://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Traditional_Nicknames_in_Old_Documents_-_A_Wiki_List)) - Alphabetical List of historic personal nicknames and what they represent.

Genealogical Organizations

**Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society** **(AAHGS)**– A national organization with local Chapters. Supports and sponsors activities all over the country, either on a national basis, or through local chapters. There is a fee to become a member

Contact Information – National

www.aahgs.com

P. O. Box 73067

Washington, DC 20056-3067

info@AAHGS.org

202-234-5350

North Carolina Chapters

Contact Information – Charlotte AAGIG – Charlotte, NC

The Charlotte chapter was formed from the African-American Genealogy Interest Group (AAIG). Meets the third Saturday of odd months at the Beatties Ford Road Library and other locations from 9 – 11.

President – Renee Jones

<https://www.facebook.com/AAHGSCHARLOTTE/>

Contact Information – Piedmont Triad Chapter – Greensboro, NC

President – Lamar DeLoatch

P. O. Box 36254

Greensboro, NC 27416

Website: <http://ncaahgs.org/>

Email address: [NCAAHGS@aol.com](mailto:NCAAHGS@aol.com)

Contact Information – Sand Hills Chapter – , NC

President – Desi Campbell

Website: <https://africanamericanexperience.org/aahgs-sandhills-chapter>

Email address: [aahgssandhills@gmail.com](mailto:aahgssandhills@gmail.com)

Contact Information – Triangle – Raleigh, NC

President – Wanda Cox-Bailey

P. O. Box 14243

Raleigh, NC 27620

Email address: [info@aahgs-triangle.org](mailto:info@aahgs-triangle.org)

**Comprehensive Genealogical Services** – a non-profit African American organization based in Charlotte, NC that is geared toward educating and training. The organizations focus is in three main areas: Family Reunion Training, Genealogical Education, and Preserving African American Cemeteries.

Contact Information

www.cgsweb.org

P. O. Box 26242

Charlotte, NC 28221

704-892-7611

**Mid-West African American Genealogy Institute (MAAGI)** – the only African American focused event offering a total of 48 classes over 3 days with evening lectures and guided personal instruction. Attendees select a track in which they immerse themselves in a core curriculum. Classes are conducted by nationally recognized instructors.

The institute is currently held at the Allen County Public Library (ACPL) in Fort Wayne, IN. ACPL is the largest genealogical library outside of Salt Lake City, UT.

Contact Information

[www.maagiinstitute.org/](http://www.maagiinstitute.org/)

## email address: [maagiinstitute@gmail.com](mailto:maagiinstitute@gmail.com)

## Note: The 2021 Institute will be held virtually

**North Carolina Genealogical Society** – Conducts seminars, classes, etc. throughout the year. Specific to North Carolina research. There is a fee to become a member.

Contact Information

www.ncgenealogy.org

P. O. Box 30815

Raleigh, NC 27622-0815

**National Genealogical Society** – A National Organization that provides information and training. There is a fee to become a member.

Contact Information

www.ngsgenealogy.org

3108 Columbia Pike

Suite 300

Arlington, VA 22204-4370

703-525-0050 or 800-473-0060

**Olde Meck (Mecklenburg Genealogical Society)** – Local organization that was founded in 1981 to unite folks who share the love of family history and to assist them in their genealogical research and to preserve records of interest to family historians.

Contact Information

President – Jeffrey Houser

www.oldemeck.org

P. O. Box 32453

Charlotte, NC 28232-2453

**Local Organizations** – Check county and state you are researching for genealogical organizations specific to the county / state.

Libraries and other Resources

**Charlotte Mecklenburg Library – Main:** Location: 310 North Tryon Street, Charlotte, NC  28202; phone: 704-416-0100 – The Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room has many resources for conducting genealogical research. The staff at the library is more than willing to help or direct you in the right direction. In addition, genealogy classes are often taught at various branches of the library.

The Charlotte Mecklenburg library also conducts genealogy workshops at the various branches.

**Family History Centers:** – Volunteer Staff on hand to assist.

Locations Charlotte North Carolina Central

2500 Rocky River Road

Charlotte, NC 28213-5178

704-509-6407

**Tuesday:**10:00 am - 1:00 pm

**Wednesday:** 7:00 pm - 8:00pm

**Thursday:** 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

**3rd Saturday:** 10:00am-1:00pm

Charlotte North Carolina South

5815 Carmel Road

Charlotte, NC 28226-8105

704-541-1451

**Tuesday and Thursday:**10:00 am - 2:00 pm

**1st, 2nd and 3rd Saturday:** 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Gastonia North Carolina

2710 Redbud Drive

Gastonia, NC 28056-8440

704-865-7772

**Tuesday:** 9:00 am – 11:00 am

**Wednesday and Thursday:** 9:00 am – 11:00 am and 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

**Olde Meck Family Research Center** – Volunteer Staff on hand to assist

Location 3500 Shamrock Drive

Charlotte, NC 28215

704-568-1774 Ext. 109

**Tuesday and Thursday:** 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

**State Archives of North Carolina** – Location: 109 E. Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27699-4614; phone: 919-807-7310; email address: archives@ncdcr.gov - Many older North Carolina county records have been transferred to the State Archives. If you, need to research more than one county, the State Archives are one stop shopping.

**The National Archives at Atlanta** – Location: 5780 Jonesboro Road, Morrow, GA 30260; Phone: 770-968-2100; Email address: atlanta.archives@nara.gov - This is a regional branch of the National Archives. The branch serves Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. The branch has both a microfilm research room and a, archival research room. Contains over 180,000 cubic feet of archival holdings dating from 1716 – 1980s.

DNA Companies and Resources

Companies and Tests Offered

**African Ancestry DNA** (website: [www.africanancestry.com](http://www.africanancestry.com)) – identifies country and ethnic group in modern day Africa.

**AncestryDNA** (website: [www.ancestry.com/dna](http://www.ancestry.com/dna)) – autosomal DNA only

**Family Tree DNA** (website: [www.familytreedna.com](http://www.familytreedna.com)) – yDNA, mtDNA, xDNA, and autosomal DNA

**MyHeritage DNA** (website: [www.myheritage.com](http://www.myheritage.com)) – autosomal DNA only

**23andMe** (website: [www.23andme.com](http://www.23andme.com)) – autosomal DNA

Resources

**GEDMatch** (website: [www.gedmatch.com](http://www.gedmatch.com)) - Online site that allows you to compare autosomal DNA results with others regardless of which company they tested with. Basic services are free. (Does not work with African Ancestry)

**The Genetic Genealogist** (website: [www.thegeneticgenealogist.com](http://www.thegeneticgenealogist.com)) – Examines the intersection of traditional genealogical techniques and modern genetic research. Explores the latest news and developments in the field of personal genomics.

**The African Descendants Genetic Genealogy** (website: [www.facebook.com/groups/813600285420179](http://www.facebook.com/groups/813600285420179)) – Facebook group managed by Shannon Christmas, an experienced genealogist specializing in genetic, colonial American, and African-American genealogy in Virginia and the Carolinas.

Basic DNA terms for Genealogical Testing

**Autosomal DNA** – also known as admixture testing. Gives you matches to cousins and admixture percentages. Can be used to confirm relationships with a high deal of accuracy for parent / child relationships and all relationships up to the second cousin level.

**yDNA** – only males can take this test. Traces the direct paternal line (father’s father’s , etc. line). Provides a list of matches who share common direct paternal ancestry within 25 generations.

**mtDNA** – Traces the direct maternal line (mother’s, mother’s, etc. line). Can be taken by males and females). Provides a list of matches who share common direct maternal ancestry within 52 generations.