

# Uncover Your Family's History

Family stories can be a motivating research tool for increasing family history interest. **Gladys Knight**, a prominent actress, song writer, singer, discusses. She made a startling point "We can't fully tell our story of family history until we fully know who we are and where we fully came from. We are the only culture in this country who doesn't have their own name." She goes on further presenting a case that the Lord will make it possible to meet this challenge. The Freedman's Bureau is but one source that she feels represents the future for obtaining more pertinent researched records. See the entire 3:13 minute interview at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O\\_DaSYuaNBE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O_DaSYuaNBE).

Success for Blacks represents a huge challenge for tracing their family roots is particularly challenging. Fortunately, technology of the 21st century is incredibly improving this situation. Henry Louis Gates, Jr, and Alex Haley with his famous "Roots" series are but two examples that impossible challenges can be simplified by first identifying the slave owner and traces of the countries of origin for their Black ancestors to Africa can lead to further original research and beyond through technology. The Church has compiled a tremendous amount of research resources at:

[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/African\\_American\\_Genealogy](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/African_American_Genealogy). A wealth of resources is readily available by individuals and exponentially more than you can hardly comprehend at an initial glance. For example, consider these few specialized links currently available at this web site. Each link below offers a myriad of research paths for further options because each link can take one to many individual journeys in pursuit of one's genealogy.

- |                                     |                                       |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • <a href="#">Bible Records</a>     | • <a href="#">Newspapers</a>          |
| • <a href="#">Business</a>          | • <a href="#">Obituaries</a>          |
| • <a href="#">Cemeteries</a>        | • <a href="#">Occupations</a>         |
| • <a href="#">Census</a>            | • <a href="#">Online Records</a>      |
| • <a href="#">Church Records</a>    | • <a href="#">Oral History</a>        |
| • <a href="#">Court Records</a>     | • <a href="#">Probate Records</a>     |
| • <a href="#">Freedman's Bank</a>   | • <a href="#">Slavery and Bondage</a> |
| • <a href="#">Freedmen's Bureau</a> | • <a href="#">Southern Claims</a>     |
| • <a href="#">Funeral Homes</a>     | • <a href="#">Commission</a>          |
| • <a href="#">Land and Property</a> | • <a href="#">Taxation</a>            |
| • <a href="#">Military Records</a>  | • <a href="#">Vital Records</a>       |

**The Family History** guides provides six excellent step-by-step levels of tutorials on researching African American resources at: <https://thefhguide.com/project-9-african-amer.html>.

Click on the links below for detailed information and photos on the historic eras of Black history in the United States while provides a good overview for future research. For more info, go to: <http://www.myblackhistory.net/Roots.htm>



## The beginning - The Revolutionary War

African-American history starts in the 17th century with indentured servitude in the American colonies

- 1619-1776
- [Roots](#) [Trans Atlantic Slave Trade](#) [Slavery in British North America](#) [The First Emancipation](#) [Revolutionary War](#)



## The Cotton South - The Civil War

As the cotton-based economy boomed so did slavery, since slaves were needed to man the large-scale and labor-intensive plantations.

- 1881-1865
- [The Cotton Kingdom](#) [Nat Turner's Rebellion](#) [The Dred Scott Decision](#) [Abolitionists](#) [The Civil War](#)



## Reconstruction Years

The end of Reconstruction was a staggered process, and the period of Republican control ended at different times in different states.

- 1866-1895
- [Reconstruction Era](#) [Jim Crow Laws](#)



## The Harlem Renaissance

The Harlem Renaissance was a literary and intellectual flowering that fostered a new black cultural identity that began in Harlem, New York.

- 1912-1940
- [The Harlem Renaissance](#) [The Great Migration](#) [African American Culture](#) [Rosewood Florida](#) [Universal Negro Improvement Association](#) [Urbanization](#)



## Civil Rights Movement

Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Malcolm X are some of the names that come to mind when we think of the Civil Rights Movement.

- 1955-1975
- [Rosa Parks](#) [Voting Rights For African Americans](#) [Black Nationalism](#) [The Nation of Islam](#)



## Black Lives Matter

In 2013 a new movement to promote justice for African Americans began. Black Lives Matter has swept the nation protesting violence and injustice.

2013-present

- [Black Lives Matter](#)