



America's Family Tree

Presenters

Sharon Leslie Morgan

Rachel Unkefer

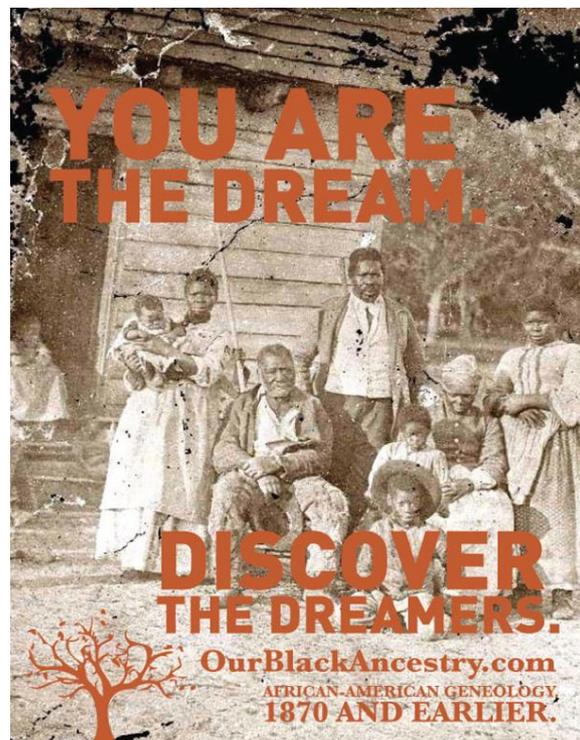
Objectives

- ▶ REVIEW America's historical trauma
- ▶ TEACH basics of family research
- ▶ PROMOTE racial healing



Genealogy = Family History

- ▶ EVERYONE is inherently interested in their ancestry
 - ▶ 2nd most popular hobby after gardening
 - ▶ 2nd most popular internet destination after pornography
- ▶ MOST want to know
 - ▶ Who am I?
 - ▶ Who am I related to?
 - ▶ What traits have I inherited?



INSPIRATION: My enslaved ancestors



- **LESLIE** Tom & Rhoda
- **GAVIN** Bettie, Owen, Catherine & Seborn
- **MORASS** Harriett
- **REEVES** Easter
- **NICHOLSON** Samuel, Count, Virgil & Lucy
- **WILLIAMS** Jem & Susie
- **OWEN** Mary
- **HUGHES** Alsey

COUNTLESS missing parents, children & siblings



American Legacy

Multicultural America



- ▶ EVERYONE has an immigrant ancestor
 - ▶ Some arrived on the Mayflower, some were kidnapped & transported unwillingly on slave ships, some came voluntarily through Ellis Island, some crossed the Rio Grande, some flew on airplanes...
- ▶ Native Americans are the ONLY people indigenous to America
 - ▶ Even they came from somewhere else (50 thousand years ago)

Historical Trauma

- ▶ Native American genocide
- ▶ African slavery

“the elephant in the room”



❖ Human rights violations to the Nth degree!

- ❖ Destruction of cultures
- ❖ Destruction of families
- ❖ Bigotry
- ❖ Racism
- ❖ Sexism
- ❖ Homophobia
- ❖ Xenophobia
- ❖ Oppression
- ❖ Persecution
- ❖ Discrimination
- ❖ Disenfranchisement
- ❖ Criminalization
- ❖ Medical experimentation
- ❖ Sterilization
- ❖ Lynching
- ❖ Violence

A Work in Progress

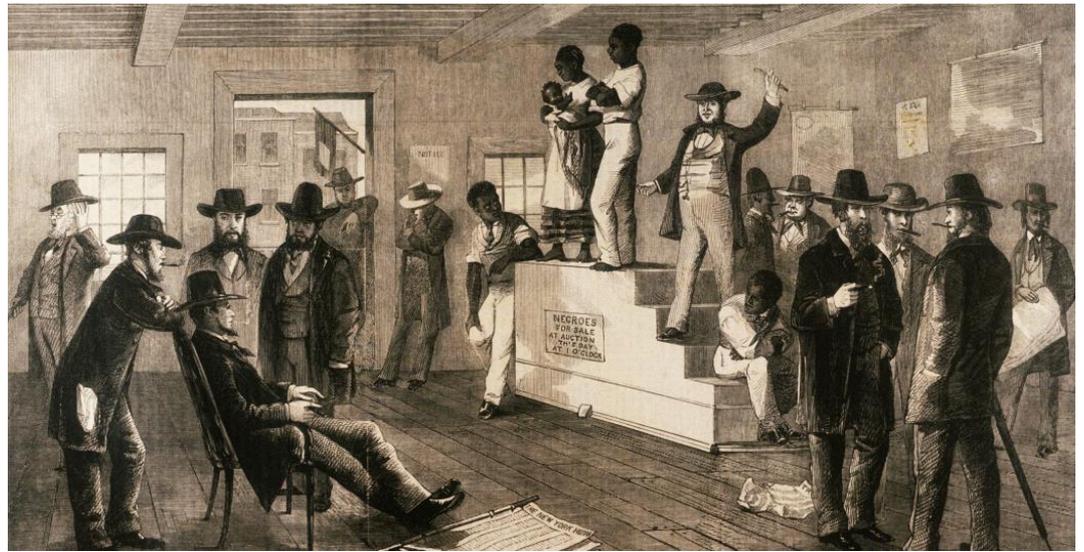


“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”



African Americans are exceptional

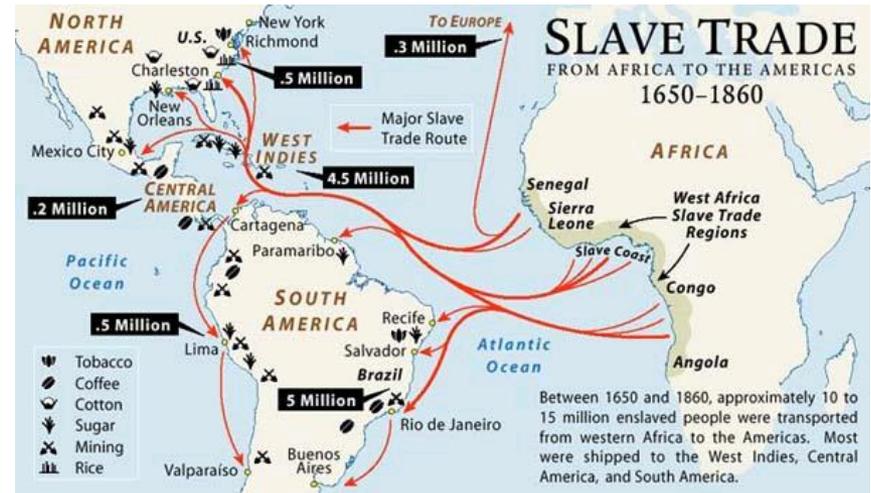
- The ONLY people in America doomed to generational slavery based on race via a system codified in law that endured for more than 245 years



Families torn apart * Biological relationships lost * 10 generations affected

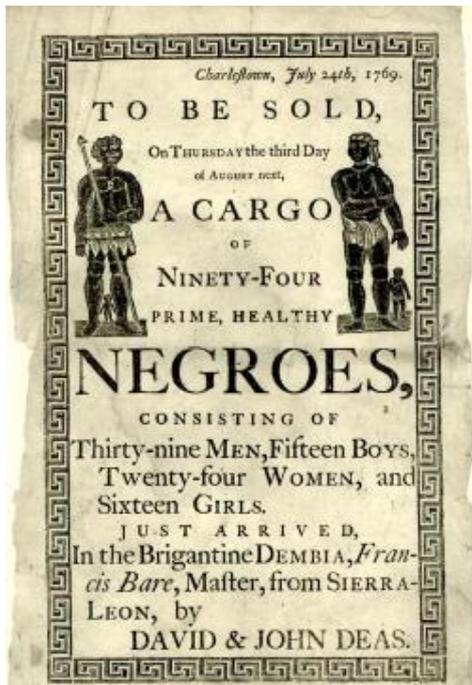
TransAtlantic Slave Trade

- 12+ million people stolen from Africa
- 4 centuries (16th-19th) of triangular trade that connected economies of 4 continents
- Every nation in Europe and every colony/state in America benefitted from the economic rewards of slavery



5% of survivors
enslaved in America =
500,000 people

Slavery in America

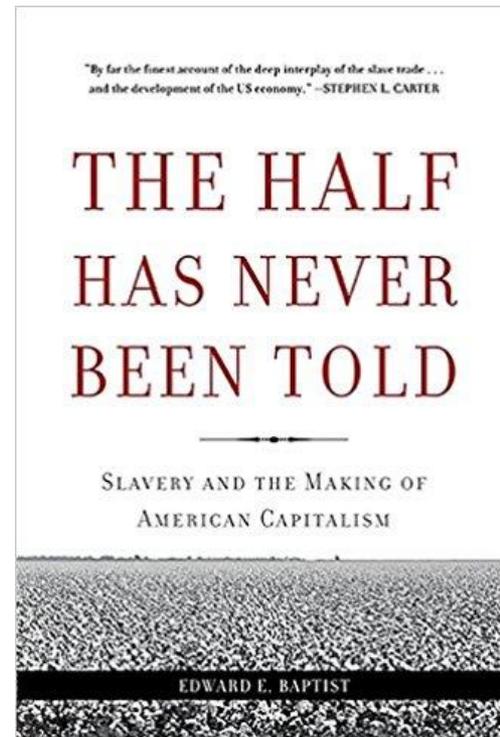


- 1619 -- Portuguese ship arrived in Jamestown Virginia with 20 Africans from Angola on board
- 1640 -- slavery made legal
- 1650 -- hereditary slavery based on race institutionalized
 - Yearly average of 74,000 slaves imported into American colonies
- 1808 -- international slave trading declared illegal
- 1830-1860 -- westward expansion fueled internal slave trade
 - 1.2 million black people displaced from Atlantic states to deep South
- 1865 -- 4 million people released from bondage after Civil War



Slavery & Capitalism

- ▶ “.... the expansion of slavery in the first eight decades after American independence drove the evolution and modernization of the United States. In the span of a single lifetime, the South grew from a narrow coastal strip of worn-out tobacco plantations to a continental cotton empire, and the United States grew into a modern, industrial, and capitalist economy.”

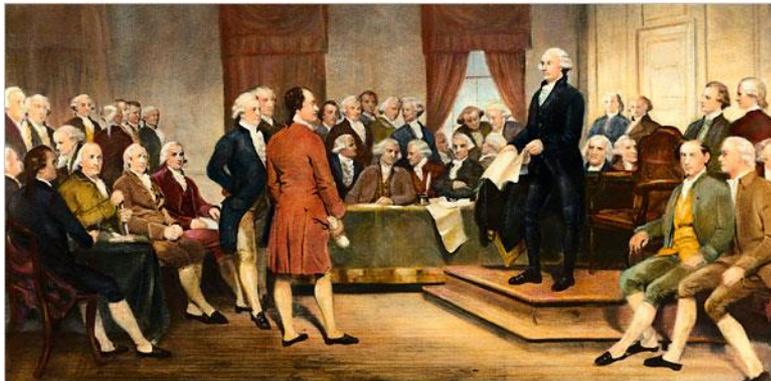


Who owned slaves?

- 1 in 70 people were slaveholders
 - Most slaveholders were Scots-Irish
 - Average slaveholding = 10 people
 - 80% of free adult males in South did not own slaves
 - Owners of 200+ slaves = less than 1% of total, but held 20-30% of all slaves
- In 1860, 394K people held 4M people in bondage



Founding Fathers



49% of 55 delegates to
Constitutional Convention
owned slaves

- 26 owned slaves
- 19 relied on slave labor for their livelihood
- 1 did not own slaves but owned a slave ship and invested in plantations using slaves (Robert Morris)
- Some emancipated their slaves (Richard Bassett & John Dickinson)
- Some opposed slavery and supported abolition (Jacob Broom & William Samuel Johnson)

Presidents

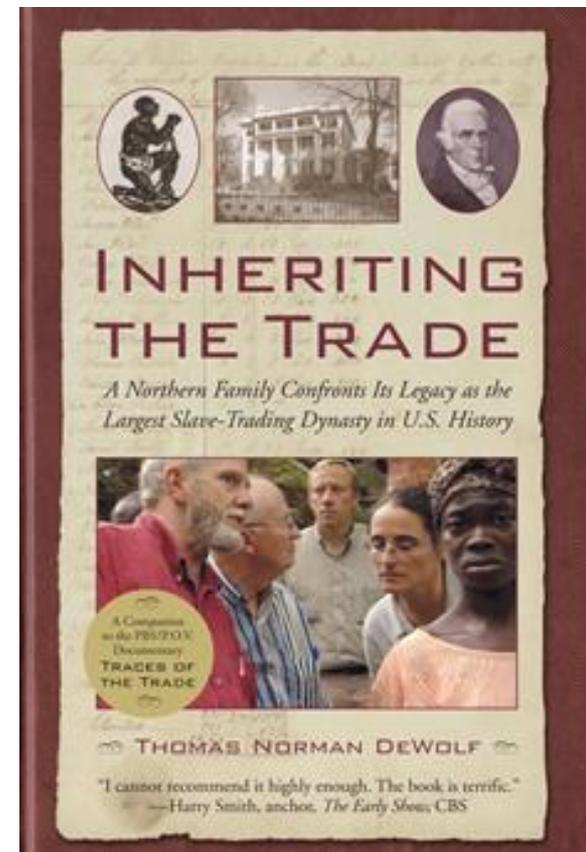


12 of first 18 American presidents owned slaves

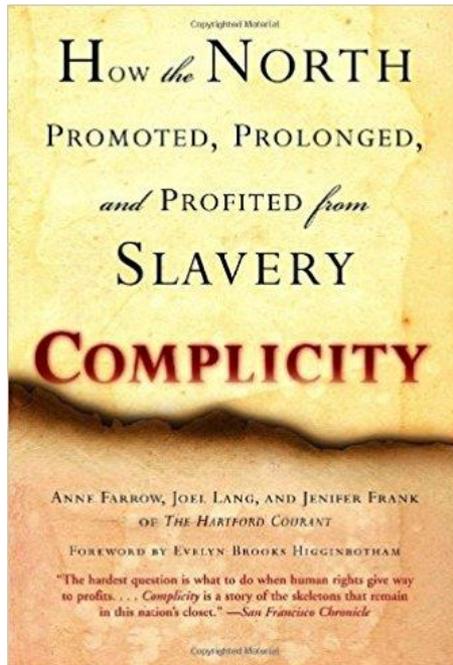
- George Washington (200)
- Thomas Jefferson (650)
- James Madison (108+)
- James Monroe (40+)
- Andrew Jackson (160)
- Martin Van Buren (6)
- William Henry Harrison (?)
- John Tyler (?)
- James K. Polk (15)
- Zachary Taylor (100+)
- Andrew Johnson (8+)
- Ulysses S. Grant (1+)

Slave Traders

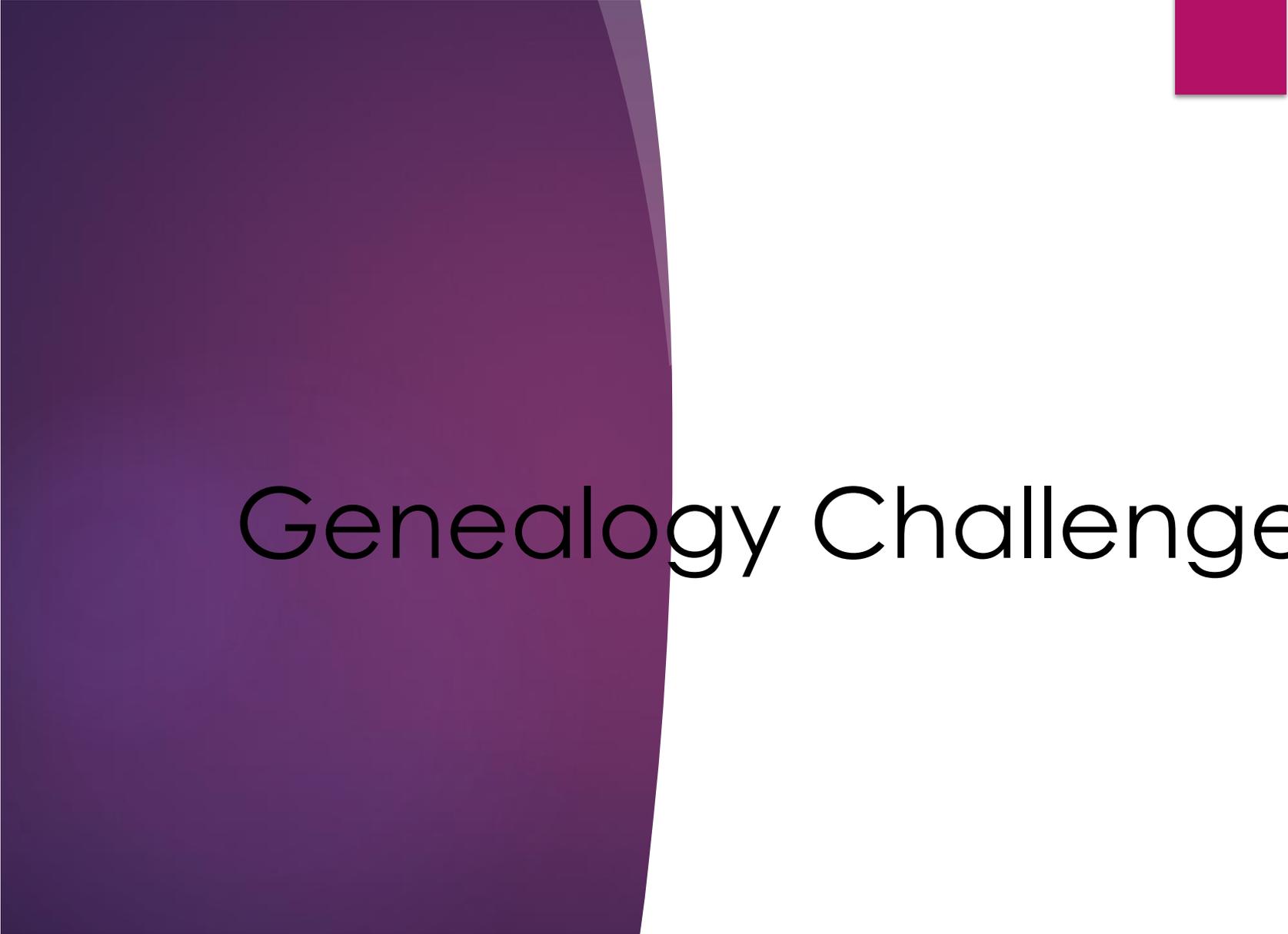
- ▶ DeWolf family = Most successful slave trading dynasty in American history
 - ▶ Transported 10,000+ Africans to the Americas
 - ▶ When patriarch James DeWolf died in 1837, he was the second-richest man in America



North v. South

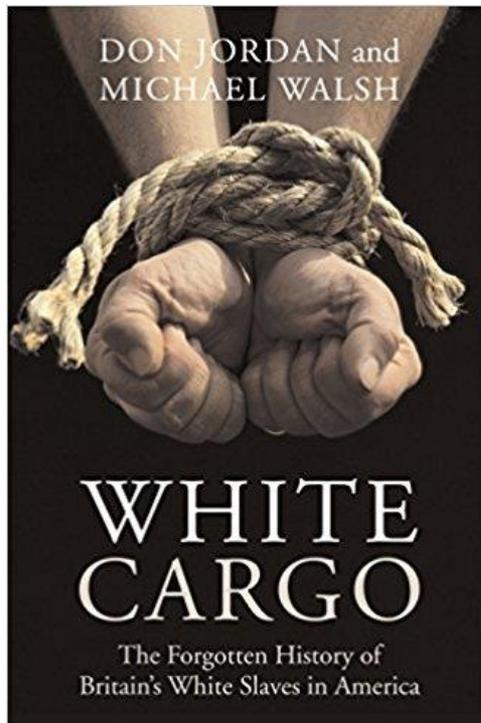


- ▶ New York & New England “boomed as the South’s business partners...”
- ▶ “The nation’s busiest fleet of slave ships sailed from Rhode Island”
- ▶ “Cotton Lords” in Massachusetts, Maine & New Hampshire dominated the international cotton market
- ▶ Connecticut companies “imported tons of elephant ivory... that destroyed the lives of 2 million African slaves”



Genealogy Challenge

European Americans



- ▶ 1607 – 1st English settlers arrive @ Jamestown, VA
 - ▶ 104 arrived; 38 survived winter
- ▶ 1617 – Indentured servants arrive
 - ▶ Numbers unknown
 - ▶ Many came from Caribbean islands
- ▶ 1620 – Mayflower pilgrims arrive @ Plymouth, MA
 - ▶ 102 passengers; 30 crew

HURT people HURT people

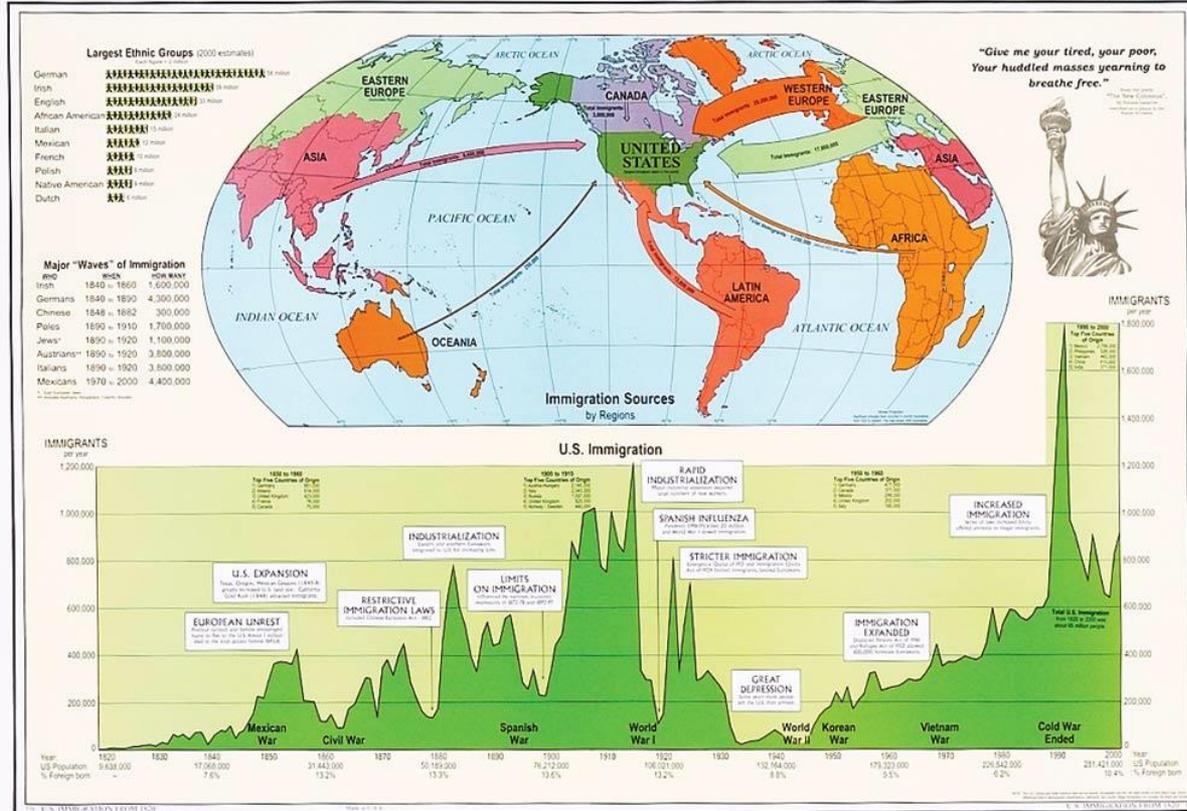
African Americans

- ▶ 500K imported from Africa
- ▶ 1.2 million displaced by internal slave trade
- ▶ 4M emancipated after Civil War
 - ▶ 90% of ancestors enslaved
 - ▶ 250K “free people of color”
 - ▶ 40 million descendants living today
- ▶ Most can only trace back to 1870



Everybody else

U.S. IMMIGRATION FROM 1820



79 million people immigrated to America from 1820-2013

Golden Door



Solomon Northup





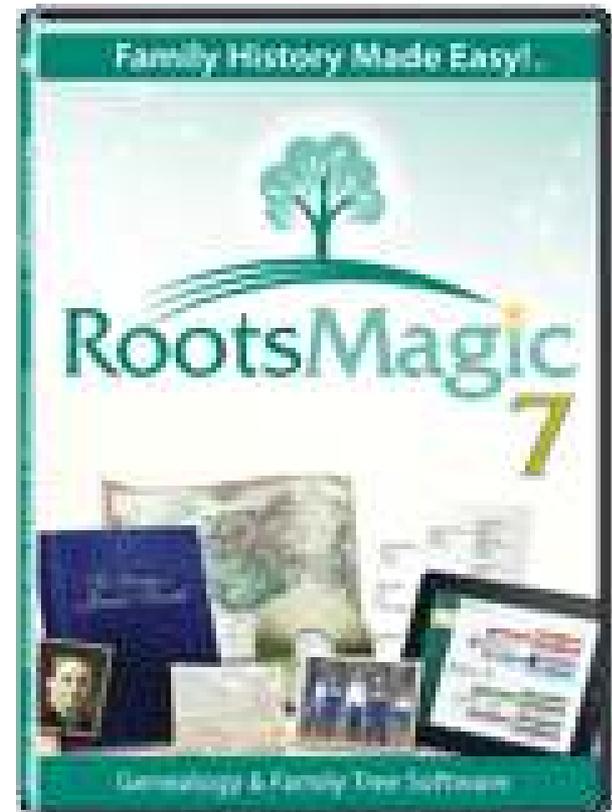
Basic Research

Rules for Success

- ▶ WORK from known to unknown
- ▶ FOLLOW every possible lead
- ▶ CONNECT name, date AND location
- ▶ DO NOT take shortcuts
- ▶ DO NOT blindly accept online references
- ▶ DOCUMENT all sources
- ▶ DO NOT lose faith (ancestors will guide you)

Software

- ▶ Build your family tree & keep track of information and documents



Start with YOU



Sharon Antonia LESLIE
(1951- still living)

- ▶ Beginning from ONE, the search grows exponentially...
 - ▶ Numbers double in each generation = 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64...
 - ▶ After 10 generations, there should be 1,024 grandparents

For African Americans, most prior generations are lost

Oral History



- Family stories are *essential*
- They *always* contain a grain of truth
 - Collect stories from parents and grandparents
 - Interview oldest relatives before they pass away

Research Sources

ONLINE

*Zillions of records
to research, download & print
without leaving home*

- **SUBSCRIPTION**
 - Ancestry
 - Fold3
 - OurBlackAncestry
- **FREE**
 - FamilySearch
 - Cyndi's List
 - Google

OFFLINE

- State archives
- County courthouses
- Libraries
- Historical societies
- Cemeteries

Eventually, you **MUST** do
old fashioned paper
research!

Birth Records

- BMD records usually kept at county level
- Many people born before 1912 did not have birth certificates because they were born at home
- Virginia records begin @ 1853

I, Dorothy S. Harshbarger, State Registrar of Health Statistics, certify this is a true and exact copy of the original certificate filed in the Center for Health Statistics, State of Alabama, Department of Public Health, Montgomery, Alabama, and have caused the official seal of the Center for Health Statistics to be affixed.

APRIL 28, 1993 Dorothy S. Harshbarger
Dorothy S. Harshbarger, State Registrar

CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH Form No. 1 578

1. Full name of child Erinther Lesley
(Do not fail to get this)

2. Date of birth: Month Apr 15; day 15; 1955; Hour: 10 A. M. 10 P. M.

3. Place of birth, county Montgomery; beat 4

4. City or town Montgomery; ward 4; street and No. 416 Ripley

5. White or colored? Colored. Male or female? Male. Live-birth or still-birth?

*6. Single, twin or triplet? Single. Presentation: head, breech or cross?

7. Legitimate or illegitimate? Duration of labor?

8. Full name of mother Julia Lesley; age 24; color colored

9. Birthplace of mother Montgomery; occupation Wash

10. Full maiden name of mother; No. of child of mother

11. No. of children of mother now living; No. of marriage of

12. Full name of father Robert Lesley; age 34; color colored

13. Birthplace of father Montgomery; occupation Laundry

14. No. of child of father; No. of children of father now living; No. of marriage of father

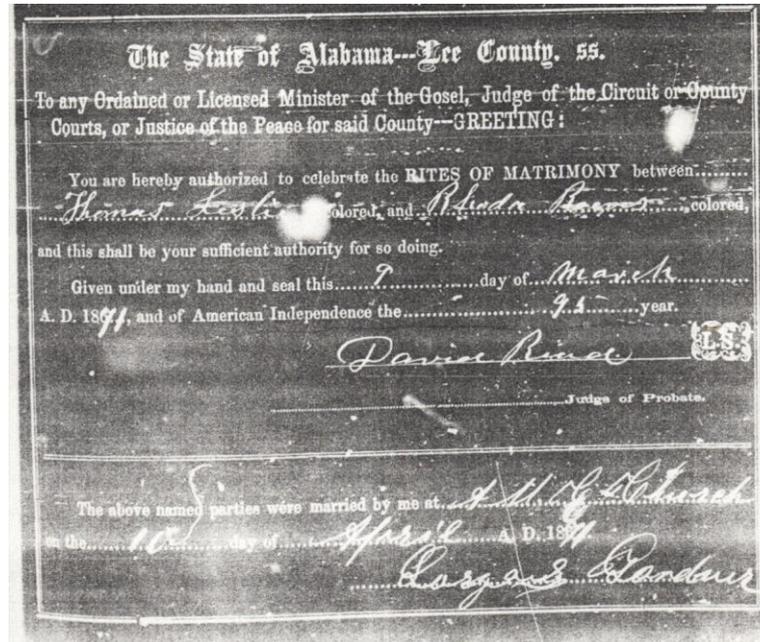
15. Remarks:

Reporter Florence Rutledge
Date of Report May 18 1955 Post Office Montgomery

Notes—If version was performed, if instruments were used, if placenta previa existed, if post-partum hemorrhage, clampsia, or extensive laceration occurred, or if resuscitation of child was necessary, explain under "Remarks."

*If more than one, make out certificate for each child, and state in the certificates the order in which the children were born; that is, which one was born first, which second, etc.

Marriage Records



Tom & Rhoda LESLIE married 1871 @ Opelika AL

Death Records

I, Dorothy S. Harshbarger, State Registrar of Health Statistics, certify this is a true and exact copy of the original certificate filed in the Center for Health Statistics, State of Alabama, Department of Public Health, Montgomery, Alabama, and have caused the official seal of the Center for Health Statistics to be affixed.

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For County Use
 STATE OF ALABAMA—BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
 STATE BOARD OF HEALTH 6101015

For State Use
 CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
 STATE OF ALABAMA—BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
 STATE BOARD OF HEALTH 6101015

1. PLACE OF DEATH
 County Montgomery City or Town Montgomery Beat No. 21
 R.P.D. No. 21 Mathews alley

1a. PLACE OF RESIDENCE: State Ala. Length of residence 57 years, 10 months, 13 days
 City or Town Montgomery Beat 21 R.P.D. No. 21
 City or Town Montgomery Beat 21 R.P.D. No. 21
 R.P.D. No. 21 Mathews alley Street

2. FULL NAME
 R.P.D. No. 240
Tom Kealer

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

1. SEX Male 2. COLOR OR RACE White 3. SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED Married
 4. DATE OF BIRTH (month, day, and year) 86 5. AGE (at death) 47 6. HEIGHT (inches) 57 7. WEIGHT (pounds) 140
 8. TRADE, OCCUPATION, OR BUSINESS Police 9. INDUSTRY OR BUSINESS IN WHICH DECEASED WAS EMPLOYED Montgomery Fire Co.
 10. DATE DECEASED (month and year) 1954 11. DATE DECEASED WAS REPORTED 1954
 12. BIRTHPLACE (city or town, State or country) Ala.
 13. NAME Tom Kealer
 14. BIRTHPLACE (city or town, State or country) Ala.
 15. MAIDEN NAME Harriette Morris
 16. BIRTHPLACE (city or town, State or country) Ala.
 17. EMPLOYMENT (Address) Police
 18. BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL (Address) Calhoun
 19. SIGNATURE OF DECEASED Tom Kealer
 20. SIGNATURE OF WITNESS Tom Kealer
 21. DATE OF DEATH 1954
 22. DATE OF DEATH (month, day, and year) 1954
 23. CAUSE OF DEATH Arteriosclerotic Heart Disease
 24. MANNER OF DEATH Natural
 25. PLACE OF DEATH At home
 26. PLACE OF RESIDENCE Montgomery, Ala.
 27. PLACE OF BIRTH Montgomery, Ala.
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 100. PLACE OF DEATH Montgomery, Ala.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
 COUNTY OF CHICAGO

DAVID D. ORR, County Clerk of the County of Cook, do hereby certify that this is a true and exact copy of the original certificate filed in the Center for Health Statistics, State of Illinois, Department of Public Health, Chicago, Illinois, and have caused the official seal of the Center for Health Statistics to be affixed.

APRIL 28, 1993
 David D. Orr, County Clerk

ORIGINAL 268

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH STATE No. 80897

STATE OF ILLINOIS 08-878 3104

1. PLACE OF DEATH
 a. COUNTY Cook b. CITY OR TOWN Chicago c. DISTRICT 11-7-34
 2. CITY OF RESIDENCE (month, day, and year) Chicago 3. CITY OF RESIDENCE (month, day, and year) Chicago
 4. FULL NAME OF DECEASED Rhoda Leslie 5. SEX Female 6. RACE White
 7. AGE (at death) 56 8. HEIGHT (inches) 56 9. WEIGHT (pounds) 110
 10. TRADE, OCCUPATION, OR BUSINESS Housewife 11. INDUSTRY OR BUSINESS IN WHICH DECEASED WAS EMPLOYED AT home
 12. DATE OF BIRTH (month, day, and year) 1898 13. DATE DECEASED (month and year) 1954
 14. DATE DECEASED WAS REPORTED 1954 15. BIRTHPLACE (city or town, State or country) USA
 16. NAME Rhoda Leslie
 17. BIRTHPLACE (city or town, State or country) USA
 18. MAIDEN NAME Leslie
 19. BIRTHPLACE (city or town, State or country) USA
 20. EMPLOYMENT (Address) AT home
 21. BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL (Address) AT home
 22. SIGNATURE OF DECEASED Rhoda Leslie
 23. SIGNATURE OF WITNESS Rhoda Leslie
 24. DATE OF DEATH 1954
 25. DATE OF DEATH (month, day, and year) 1954
 26. CAUSE OF DEATH Arteriosclerotic Heart Disease
 27. MANNER OF DEATH Natural
 28. PLACE OF DEATH AT home
 29. PLACE OF RESIDENCE Chicago, Ill.
 30. PLACE OF BIRTH USA
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Tom LESLIE - 1939 @ Montgomery AL

Rhoda LESLIE - 1954 @ Chicago IL

Land Records

- Federal land conveyance records
 - 3+ million Federal land title records issued between 1820-1908
 - Military Land Warrants to individuals as reward for military service

<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/>

648
 To all to whom It Shall come, Greeting, We do hereby Give and Grant to Charles Owen a tract of Land containing 80 Acres lying in the Precinct of Chowan in the Co. of Currituck, North Carolina, beginning at a mark as pine on the Long Branch, the S. 1/2 E. to Woodward's mark, then S. 67 E. 80 poles to a line of Dennis Macdonald, thence with the said line N. 30 E. 2 1/2 poles to the first Station. To Have & To Hold We this 31st day of March 1717 Witness Our Charles Owen, Sheriff, Seal: Foster, A. Owen, J. Smith

313, Promptly
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
 CERTIFICATE No 6119 } To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:
WHEREAS John O. Gavin of Nevada County, Mississippi
 has deposited in the **GENERAL LAND OFFICE** of the United States, a Certificate of the REGISTER OF THE LAND OFFICE of Nevada County, Mississippi whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said John O. Gavin according to the provisions of the Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An Act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," for the North West quarter of Section twenty-nine in Township Sixteen North of Range nineteen East in the District of Lands Subject to Sale at Nevada, Mississippi containing one hundred and forty acres and forty poles of an acre
 according to the official plat of the survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the SURVEYOR GENERAL, which said tract has been purchased by the said John O. Gavin
NOW KNOW YE That the United States of America, in consideration of the Premises, and in conformity with the several acts of Congress, in such case made and provided, HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED, and by these presents DO GIVE AND GRANT, unto the said John O. Gavin and to his heirs, the said tract above described, TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances of whatsoever nature, thereto belonging, unto the said John O. Gavin and to his heirs and assigns forever.
In Testimony Whereof, I, Martin Van Buren PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these Letters to be made PATENT, and the SEAL of the GENERAL LAND OFFICE to be hereunto affixed.
 GIVE UP under my hand at the CITY OF WASHINGTON, the first day of February in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty one and of the INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES the Sixty Fifth
BY THE PRESIDENT, Martin Van Buren
 By M. Van Buren Secy.
 W. M. Macdonald Receiver of the General Land Office.

Tax Records

466

(No. 23.)

ALPHABETICAL LIST of Persons in Division No. 16 of Collection District No. 2 of the State of Mississippi

liable to a tax under the Excise laws of the United States, and the amount thereof, as assessed by W. J. Cillard, Assistant Assessor, and by Mrs. J. M. White, Assessor, returned to the Collector of said District, for the month of December, 1906.

Amounts stated by particular to fill all the blanks in this form, as far as practicable, and to number all articles and occupations upon which taxes are assessed to correspond with the entry in the Abstract.

No. on List	NAME	LOCATION AND POST OFFICE ADDRESS	ARTICLE OR OCCUPATION	No. of SHEDDING	QUANTITY COLLECTED	RATE PER TON	AMOUNT OF THE TAXES ON COLLECTIBLE GOODS	TOTAL	PAID UP	ADDED AS DEFICIENCY	No. on List
1	Sant J. C.	Waco	Cotton	32	5410	3	162 30				1
2	Carvin A.	Brooksville	Cotton	32	3294	3	98 82	260 00			2
3	Carvin A.	Waco	Cotton	32	4610	3	138 30				3
4	Carvin C.	Brooksville	Cotton	32	3258	3	97 74	219 98			4
5	Carvin C. W.	Brooksville	Cotton	32	1740	3	52 20	55 20			5
6	Carvin C. W.	Brooksville	Cotton	32	3298	3	98 94	104 78			6
7	Carvin C. W.	Waco	Cotton	32	1832	3	54 96				7
8	Crack & Manning	Shuqualak	Cotton	32	2006	3	60 18				8
9	Criffin H. J.	Brooksville	Cotton	32	6074	3	182 22	174 18			9
10	Crish A. W.	Waco	Cotton	32	6751	3	202 53				10
11	Criss & Boggs	"	Cotton	32	1180	3	35 40	34 94			11
12	Criss J. M.	"	Cotton	32	1057	3	31 71				12
13	Criss J. M.	Shuqualak	Cotton	32	1154	3	34 62				13
14	Claf C. P.	"	Cotton	32	1465	3	43 95				14
15	Claf C. P.	Brooksville	Cotton	32	5444	3	16 32	155 07			15
16	Claf C. P.	Brooksville	Cotton	32	2375	3	71 25	65 50			16
17	Criss & Hoffman	"	Cotton	32	2247	3	67 41				17
18	Criss & Hoffman	"	Cotton	32	1234	3	37 02	100 87			18
19	Hinton G. H.	Waco	Cotton	32	3215	3	96 45				19
20	Hinton G. H.	"	Cotton	32	763	3	22 89	121 53			20
21	Hinton G. H.	"	Cotton	32	1054	3	31 62				21
22	Hinton G. H.	"	Cotton	32	1797	3	53 91	555 72			22
23	Holtman J. A.	Brooksville	Cotton	32	454	3	13 62				23
24	Holtman J. A.	Waco	Cotton	32	2015	3	60 45	98 46			24
25	Hoyne M. J.	Shuqualak	Cotton	32	1675	3	50 25				25
26	Hoyne M. J.	"	Cotton	32	1777	3	53 31	57 80			26
27	Hoyne M. J.	Waco	Cotton	32	3435	3	103 05	109 10			27
28	"	"	Cotton	32	161	3	48 33				28
29	"	"	Cotton	32	2145	3	64 35				29
30	"	"	Cotton	32	1407	3	42 21	110 01			30
31	"	"	Cotton	32	2175	3	65 25				31
32	"	"	Cotton	32	2709	3	81 27	207 16			32
33	Hudson A. P.	Shuqualak	Cotton	32	1925	3	57 75				33
34	Hunter H. B.	Waco	Cotton	32	5179	3	155 37				34
35	Hunter H. B.	Brooksville	Cotton	32	2103	3	63 09	153 09			35
36	Hoyne M. J.	"	Cotton	32	2736	3	82 08				36
37	Holtman J. A.	"	Cotton	32	2203	3	66 09				37
38	Hoyne M. J.	"	Cotton	32	3257	3	97 71				38
39	Hendricks C. P.	"	Cotton	32	2707	3	81 21	177 27	5543 31	5132 21	39
40	Hendricks C. P.	Waco	Cotton	32	516	3	15 48				40

Amount Collected \$ 15102 31

Court Records

hereby appoint.....Special Deputy Sheriff of Noxubee County,
 ssippi, to execute and return this writ.
 Witness my hand and seal, this the.....day of.....189.....
Sheriff. [L. S.]

I have executed this writ personally on each of the following within named witnesses, viz:.....
J. R. Pendleton, Mingo Sanders
 by delivering to each of them a true copy of this writ.....*per. to by handing to*
copy the copy of the writ of Paul from Sam Sanders
 this the.....day of.....189.....
W. D. Thomas.....Sheriff.
 By *A. M. Williams*.....Deputy Sheriff.

No. *1923*
The Estate
 of *1* SUBPOENA,
R. L. Gavin

Issued *Oct 23, 1907*
 Returnable *Oct 28 1907*

To be served on.....
Jno. B. Pendleton
R. L. Gavin
Sam. Gavin
Mingo Sanders
James M. Overhead

Rec'd day of.....189.....
Sheriff.

SHERIFF'S COST.
 Entering and returning.....\$ 50
 Service on.....Witnesses.....2.50
 Sps. Docket, Page.....30

Personal Papers

1846 R. S. Yarrow
 To Daughter & Connor

Jan 12 To 1 shirt	75
" " " 1 P. Pants	150
" " " 1 " Gloves	10
" " " 1 " for shoes	20
" " " 1 keravat	10
	<hr/> 260
Sub on above for 3/4 year 20%	95
	<hr/> 355

Cleptonville Miss
 April 16. 1901
 Recd of C. C. delev-
 Fifteen + 2% Dollars
 for Dr. Ast. Gavins apt
 full with daughter
 Connor -
 E. C. daughter - Connor
 D. B. Connor - 1000

1846
 C. C. delev

1872 69

1871 Wash^g Acc^t for the year 1872

Jan 15	Recd of 2000000	78	
Feb 15	Recd of 2000000	274	
Mar 15	Recd of 2000000	85	
Apr 15	Recd of 2000000	225	
May 15	Recd of 2000000	535	
Jun 15	Recd of 2000000	1825	
Jul 15	Recd of 2000000	375	
Aug 15	Recd of 2000000	175	
Sep 15	Recd of 2000000	450	11050
Oct 15	Recd of 2000000	205	
Nov 15	Recd of 2000000	868	
Dec 15	Recd of 2000000		10728
			<hr/> 11012

Bill of Sale
 of negro, negro

THIS may Certify that David Bryson Sign
 Over the within named Moses Jackson to
 George M. Carty as his Personal Property to
 have and hold the same till he arrives to the
 age of twenty Eight Given under my hand
 at Soughticoke March the 31. 1806

David Bryson

For the consideration of the sum of two hundred
 fifty Dollars money of account of the United
 States I Joseph & Rebecca wife of the said
 town of Lamingburgh in the County of Westchester
 all my right & title to the Negro Boy named in the
 within Bill of sale according to the conditions there
 in specified & stated Lamingburgh Sept 20th 1804

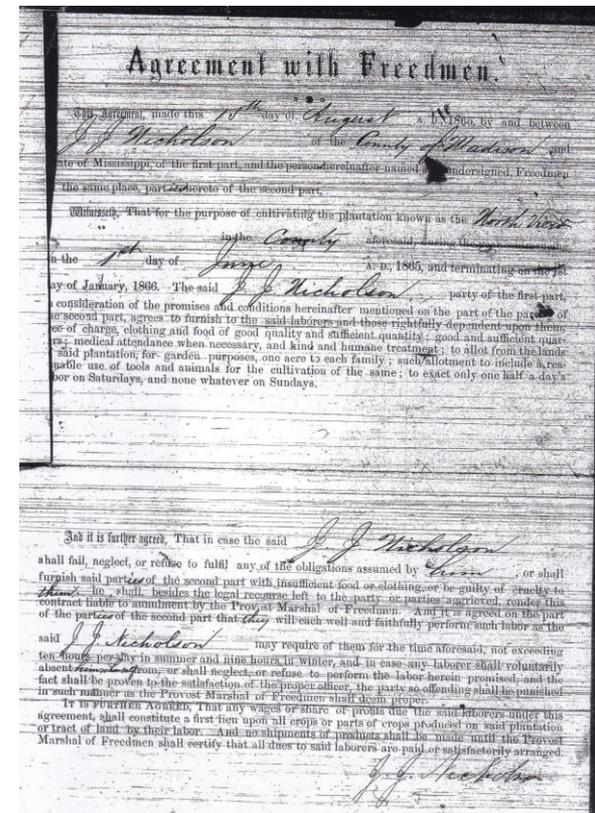
1804
 Witness
 J. S. Shinn

George M. Carty

Freedmens Bureau

- ▶ Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands established in War Department by Congressional act in March 1865
- ▶ Supervised relief & educational activities relating to refugees & freedmen, including legitimizing marriages, issuing rations, clothing and medicine

www.freedmensbureau.com



Military Records



Form 1
REGISTRATION CARD

1 Name in full *Robert Leslie*

2 Home address *1411 Colwell's Hillside St*

3 Date of birth *May 3rd 1893*

4 Are you (1) a natural born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (Describe your declared your location "country" only?) *Native born*

5 Where born *Montgomery Alabama*

6 What is your profession, occupation, or other avocation? *Latm 30*

7 What is your present rank, position, or duty? *C. S. Hussey*

8 Where employed? *2nd A.C.*

9 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 18, or some one under 18, wholly dependent on you for support? (Name of each?) *Wife 3 Children*

10 Name of each? *Married, Negro*

11 What military service, if any, has been rendered? *2nd Regt. Col.*

12 Do you deem yourself physically fit for military service? *Yes only subject of duty*

172 I declare that the above is true, correct, and true. They are true.

Robert Leslie

37-1-22, A
REGISTRAR'S REPORT

1 Full name of registrant *5-9-1893* Rank *Private* or rate *1st Lt* *Medicine*

2 Color of eyes *Blue* Color of hair *Black* *W. H.*

3 Has person had any leg, hand, foot or back scars or is he otherwise disabled? *W. H.*

I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

J. M. Hooper

President *7*

City or County *Pgh*

State *Pa.* *6-5-17*

Newspapers

30 Dollars Reward.
RANAWAY from the Subscriber, on Saturday night last, a NEGRO Man, named JACK—He is about 24 years of age, about 5 feet 4 inches high, pock marked, has lost part of the fore finger of his right hand—He speaks English and Low-Dutch. Had on when he went away, a drab cloth coat, dark mixed coloured overalls, velvet jacket, black hat and striped woollen shirt. The above reward will be paid if said Negro is taken above 30 miles from Albany, or 15 dollars if taken within that distance, to any person who shall return him to his master. 75079
NICHOLAS FRAYS,
Living at the Bowght, 6 miles north of Albany.
February 20, 1798.

- Community news
- Obituaries
- Runaway slave ads

Chronicling America

Digitized images from historic newspapers

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/about/>

COMMITTS SUICIDE.
DES MOINES, Feb. 19.—After dividing a dollar among his 16 children, Owen Gavin, colored, 51, committed suicide today by blowing off his head with a shotgun. Receipt of a notice from the overseer of the poor to leave the county less he become a charge upon the county is given as the cause of his act.

Other Records



- ▶ Funeral programs
- ▶ Cemetery cards
- ▶ Family Bibles
- ▶ Church records
- ▶ Insurance records
- ▶ Social Security files
- ▶ Associations & clubs

SEARCH EVERY POSSIBILITY!

Photographs



Photography not commonly available until 1850s
For poor people, photography was a luxury





DNA Testing

Questions to ask



- ▶ What are my expectations of DNA testing?
- ▶ Which test will best serve my goals?
- ▶ Which testing company should I use?
- ▶ Who is the best candidate for testing?
- ▶ Am I emotionally prepared for what might be revealed?

What DNA testing can & cannot do

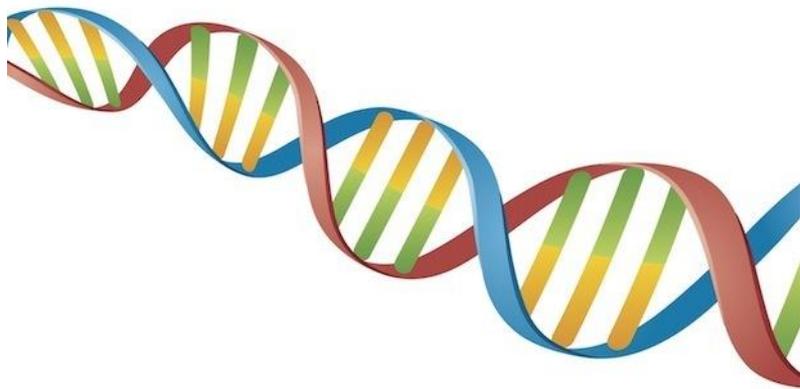
CAN

- ▶ Confirm & supplement paper research
- ▶ Confirm genetic relationships
- ▶ Give hints about families / surnames to investigate
- ▶ Reunite lost relatives

CAN'T

- ▶ Substitute for traditional research
- ▶ Fill in family tree
- ▶ Prove lack of relationship
- ▶ Give accurate % of ethnicities
- ▶ Solve all mysteries

Types of Tests



1. **Y-DNA**
= father-to-son
2. **mtDNA**
= mother-to-daughter
3. **Autosomal DNA**
= both sides

Y-DNA Test

- Males whose surname is unknown/changed
- Males searching ethnicity of surname
- Males who want to confirm common male ancestor
- Males who can serve as proxies on Y-chromosome inheritance line
- Male adoptees

mtDNA Test

- Males or females searching ethnicity of maternal line
- Males or females who want to confirm common female ancestor
- Males or females who can serve as proxies on mitochondrial inheritance
- Male or female adoptees

atDNA (autosomal) Test

- Male & female testers
- Shows inheritance from all ancestral lines
- DNA from each line halved in each generation due to recombination
 - Inheritance/recombination is random
- Estimated to reliably match relatives with a common ancestor up to 5 generations back
- Ethnicity estimates based on reference populations

Who to test?

- You should test:
 - Oldest living generation for as many lines as possible
 - Person(s) with the Y-DNA or mtDNA that will solve your puzzle
 - Cousins who represent different lines
- Don't bother testing:
 - Children whose parents have both tested
 - Multiple Y-DNA or mtDNA descendants on the same line

Major Testing Companies



- Autosomal
- Health oriented
- Chromosome browser
- \$99



- Autosomal
- Genealogy oriented
- No chromosome browser
- \$79



- Y-DNA, MtDNA & atDNA
- Genealogy oriented
- Smaller autosomal matching database
- Chromosome browser
- Samples stored for future tests
- Projects
- \$59+

Sharon's DNA



Makua
East Africa



Mandinka
West Africa



Scotsmen
Scotland

Epigenetics

- ▶ Our experiences and those of our forbears are never gone, even if they have been forgotten
- ▶ Traumatic experiences leave molecular scars that adhere to DNA
 - ▶ Africans who survived slavery
 - ▶ Jews who endured the Holocaust
 - ▶ Chinese whose grandparents experienced the Cultural Revolution





Making Connections

Surnames

- ▶ Surnames evolved as the number of people on the planet increased
 - ▶ Slaves did not have public surnames before 1870
 - ▶ Related family members often took different names after Emancipation
 - ▶ Many people changed names between 1870-1880
- Only 15% of African Americans took the name of their last slave owner
 - Others chose names of
 - A previous owner
 - The first owner
 - Someone they admired
 - A skill they possessed
 - An aspiration
 - Some simply made up a name they liked

One thing for sure....
African Americans did not leave Africa with European names – first or last!

Find Slaveholder

“Nettie Rule”

- Do line-by-line read of 1870 census
- Look for people with surname you are interested in
- From that name, go 10 up and 10 back
- If you find a white person with that surname, they are the likely last slaveholder

- ◉ Search white family to prove connection
 - Wills
 - Deeds
 - Court cases
 - Insurance records
 - Personal papers
 - Freedmen records

The Great Migration

- From 1916-1930, 7M+ African Americans migrated out of the South to cities in the North, Midwest and West



- ❖ *A second migration occurred from 1940-1970 when another 1.6 million people changed location from South to North*

Find Descendants

Slaves

- Begin @ ancestral home
- Search 1870 census
- Search children names on censuses (thru 1940)
- Find recent documents (death certificates)

>>> Both >>>

- Prowl social networks
- Post on message boards
- Use city directories & Intellius

Slaveholders

- Begin @ ancestral home
- Search surname in that location
- Find slave schedules, wills & deeds



* VA * AZ * IL * FL * MO * MI * MN *

What Next?



- ▶ DIGITIZE family records
- ▶ SHARE family history with others
- ▶ CONTRIBUTE information to OBA & other sites

Empower our future by honoring our past

Restorative Justice



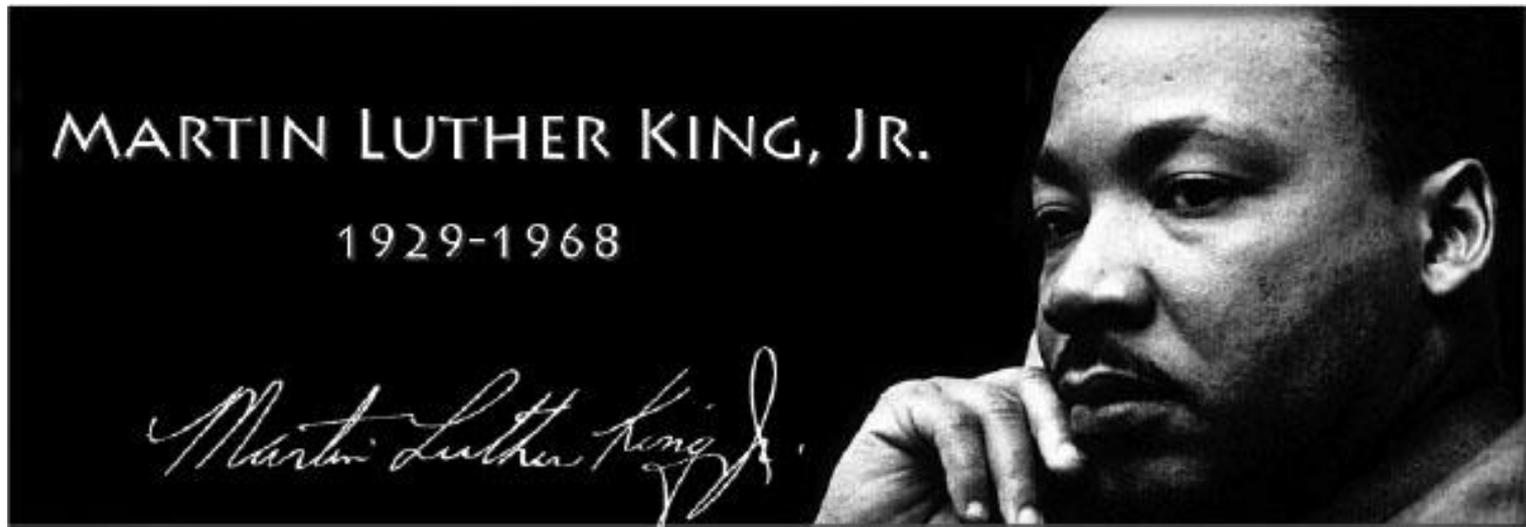
- ▶ GENEALOGY = a tool for healing
- ▶ RESTORATIVE JUSTICE = coming to terms with “done wrong” to “done right”

“The past is our definition. We may strive, with good reason to escape it, or to escape what is bad in it, but we will escape it only by adding something better to it.”

~ Wendell Berry



Closing Thought



"I have a dream that one day ... the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit together at the table of brotherhood."

~ Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Questions?

