TRACING YOUR AFRICAN AMERICAN ROOTS

Wake County Genealogical Society
PO Box 17713
Raleigh, NC 27619-7713
www.wakecogen.org

Wake County Local Repositories & Research Facilities

North Carolina State Archives 614 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-4614 Phone: (919) 807-7310 Fax: (919) 733-1354 www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/archives/ Email: archives@ncmail.net	**NC Gov't and Heritage Library – Genealogical Services** 109 E. Jones Street Raleigh, NC 27699 Phone: (919) 807-7460 Request a library card to access digital resources remotely. statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/patrons/genealogists.html
Olivia Raney Local History Library 4016 Carya Drive Raleigh, NC 27610 Phone: (919) 250-1229 Request a library card to access digital resources remotely. See bibliography below. www.wakegov.com/libraries/research/specialcollections/orlspecialcollections.htm Email: Olivia.Raney@wakegov.com	**Family History Center** (part of the Family History Library, Salt Lake City, UT) 5060 Six Forks Road Raleigh, NC 27609 Phone: (919) 783-7752 https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/index.php?title=Raleigh_North_Carolina_FamilySearch_Center&section=1 Email: NC-Raleigh@familyhistorymail.org
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Wilson Library Special Collections 200 South Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27515 Phone: (919) 962-3765 Email: wilsonlibrary@unc.edu https://library.unc.edu/wilson/	**John Hope Franklin Research Center @ Duke** 411 Chapel Drive Durham, NC 27708 Phone: (919) 660-5934 Email: franklin-collection@duke.edu https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/franklin

Additional research facilities within North Carolina can be found here:
https://northcarolinagenealogy.org/archives

Databases Available at Wake County Public Libraries

Link to access these resources: https://guides.wakegov.com/c.php?g=601451&p=7507267

- **Ancestry Library Edition**: A genealogy resource with more than 5 billion names in more than 23,000 searchable databases and titles, which include military, court, land, probate, vital and church records, directories, passenger lists and more. This resource is only available in libraries.
- **Heritage Quest Online:** Resource for genealogical and historical research including census data, family records, and local histories. Requires a library card. Available in libraries and remotely.
- **Historic North Carolina Digital Newspaper Collection:** Over 3.5 million pages of digital content from over 1000 NC newspapers. Requires a library card. Available in libraries and remotely.
- **Sanborn Maps Geo Edition:** Detailed street maps of NC towns and cities in the 19th and 20th centuries. Requires a library card. Available in libraries and remotely.

Special Collections at Wake County Public Libraries

- **Mollie Huston Lee Collection (1907-1982)** Vertical files and books housed primarily at Richard B Harrison Community Library. First African American librarian in Wake County and founder of Richard B Harrison Community Library. The collection chronicles the African American experience both locally and nationally. Other materials are housed at Shaw University's James Cheek Library. https://www.wake.gov/mollie-huston-lee-collection
- **Elizabeth Reid Murray Collection (1925-2024)** A local historian strong in Wake County architecture, business, people, and towns. 612 boxes arranged alphabetically. Some sections are available digitally. https://www.wake.gov/departments-government/libraries/research-learn/research-learn-special-collections/special-collections-wake-county-public-libraries
- **Lewis P Watson Collection (1905-1996)** Horticultural specialist and photographer. Strong in Wake County people, organizations, and businesses. 63 boxes arranged alphabetically. Some sections available digitally. https://www.wake.gov/departments-government/libraries/research-learn/research-learn-special-collections/special-collections-wake-county-public-libraries
- Other collections available at Wake County libraries include the Edythe Medlin Tippet Collection, Beth G Crabtree Collection, and Elizabeth Norris Collection.

National Archives African American Resources

- African American resources documenting the Black experience with online resources, programs, and social media. https://www.archives.gov/research/african-americans
- **Black Family Research - National Archives**
  This digital library offers a searchable database of detailed personal information about slaves, slaveholders, and free people of color. Designed as a tool for scholars, historians, teachers, students, genealogists, and interested citizens, the site provides access to information gathered and analyzed over an eighteen-year period from petitions to southern legislatures and country courts filed between 1775 and 1867 in the fifteen slaveholding states in the United States and the District of Columbia. www.archives.gov/publications/ref-info-papers/rip108.pdf

FamilySearch African American Resources

- **Freedman's Bureau Field Office Records, 1863-1872, North Carolina**
  This bureau helped former slaves legalize their marriages, obtain employment, obtain transportation, and much more. www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2143119
- **African American Genealogy Wiki**
  https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/African_American_Genealogy

Other African American Resources

- **Digital Library on American Slavery:** This digital library offers a searchable database of detailed personal information about slaves, slaveholders, and free people of color. http://dlas.uncg.edu/
- **DigitalNC:** A project of the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center, a statewide digitization and digital publishing program that works with cultural heritage organizations of all sizes across North Carolina to digitize and publish historic materials online. Housed in the North Carolina Collection at UNC's Wilson Special Collections Library. www.digitalnc.org/
- **North American Slaves Narratives:** Collection of books and articles that document the individual and collective story of Black people struggling for freedom and human rights in the 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries. https://docsouth.unc.edu/neh/
- **Amistad Research Center:** open access to original materials that reference the social and cultural importance of America's ethnic and racial history, the African Diaspora, human relations, and civil rights. https://www.amistadresearchcenter.org/
- African American Genealogy Resources Guide curated by the North Carolina Genealogical Society: https://www.ncgenealogy.org/researchguides/african-american-guide-1/
- Wake County research links offered by the Wake County Genealogical Society: https://www.wakecogen.org/links.php?sid=2
- Cyndi's List of African American Resources on the Internet https://www.cyndislist.com/african-american/
- Wake County Enslaved Persons Project https://www.wake.gov/departments-government/register-deeds/wake-county-enslaved-persons-project

Olivia Raney Local History Library

Offers an extensive collection of materials and services to assist visitors conducting research into local history and genealogy. Below is a select list of books in their collection of interest to African American researchers:

- *North Carolina Slave Narratives: the lives of Moses Roper, Lunsford Lane, Moses Grandy & Thomas H. Jones*. Andrews, William L
- *Black Genealogy,* Blockson, Charles L.
- *Black roots: a beginner's guide to tracing the African American family*, Burroughs, Tony
- *In full force and virtue: North Carolina Emancipation Records*, Byrd, William L.
- *The Afro American Historical & Genealogical Society & NC AAHGS Chapters Present: NC AAHGS Regional Conference 2021*, Campbell, Desi (NEW – may not yet be in ORL collection)
- *The Carolinian,* [Newspaper on microfilm] and digitized DigitalNC.org, Raleigh, N.C.: 1940

- *A History of African Americans in North Carolina, Division of Archives and History*, Crow, Jeffrey J
- *Locating Free African American Ancestors: A beginner's guide*, Day, Aaron L.
- *Slave Ancestral Research: it's something else*, Fears, Mary L. Jackson
- *The Free Negro in North Carolina*, Franklin, John Hope
- *Crisis of identity: the Negro community in Raleigh, North Carolina*, Gay, Dorothy Ann
- *Free African Americans of North Carolina including the family*, Heinegg, Paul
- *The Heritage of Blacks in North Carolina*, Henry-Simmons, Linda
- *Before Freedom: 48 oral histories of former North Carolina and South Carolina slaves*, Hurmence, Belinda
- *A Student's Guide to African American Genealogy*, Johnson, Anne E .
- *Black Indian slave narratives*, Minges, Patrick N.
- *Local Sources for African American Family Historians: using county court records and census returns*, Peters, Joan W
- *Somerset Homecoming: recovering a lost heritage*, Redford, Dorothy Spruill
- *Finding Your African American Ancestors: a beginner's guide*, Thackery, David T.
- *Black Indian Genealogy Research*, Walton-Raji, Angela Y.
- *Somebody Knows My Name: marriages of freed people*, White, Barnetta McGhee
- *African American genealogy: a bibliography and guide to sources*, Witcher, Curt Bryan

Manumission

- *Break Every Yoke: The North Carolina Manumission Society, 1816-1834* with a chapter by Thomas D, Hamm, Kirkman, Roger N
- *The Quackers and the North Carolina Manumission Society*, Sherrill, P. M
- Records of Slaves and Free Persons of Color Pasquotank County (NC), Clerk of Superior Court 1733-1892

This list was curated by Saundra Russ Cropps, 2023

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