



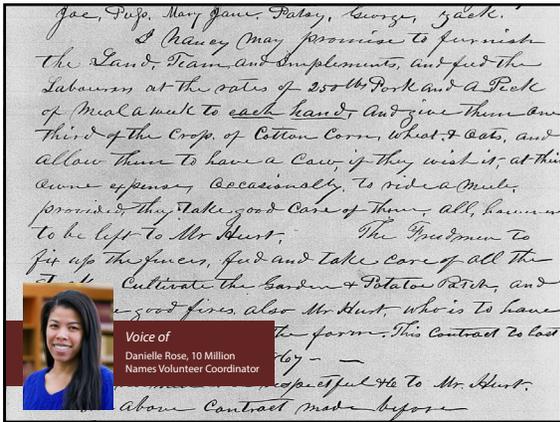
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Federal Census

- Purpose: To make an accurate count of the U.S. population for representative purposes
- Began in 1790 and taken every 10 years
- 1790-1950 available for research
 - Exception: 1890
 - Online sources: American Ancestors, FamilySearch, Ancestry
- 1850 census was the first to name all members in a household

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What can you find in a census?

• Name	• Occupation
• Age	• Veteran status
• Race	• Education level
• Place of birth	• Income level
• Parent's place of birth	• Value of real estate
• Relationships	• Immigration and naturalization status
• Marital status	

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Tip

Begin with the 1950 census and work backwards

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Keep in mind...

- Names may be spelled differently (initials, nicknames, etc.)
- Boundary changes
- Misremembering information
 - Age, place of birth, relationships may not be consistent
- Different surnames from 1870 to 1880

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Vital Records

- Birth, marriage, and death records
- Often provide the names of an individual's parents and/or spouse
- Can be found at the town/city, county, or state level, depending on location and time period
- Less available in southern states before the 20th century

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INDIANA STATE BUREAU OF HEALTH. Health Officer's Record Number.

Certificate and Record of Death.

County, Madison Township, Madison City, Madison Date of Death, 7 11 1900

Decedent's Full Name George William Reed

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH.

I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from Apr 2 to July 3, that I last saw him alive on July 3, that he died on July 3, about 6 o'clock A.M., and that to the best of my knowledge and belief the cause of death was as hereunder written.

Disease causing death? Bright's Disease Description 1 yr

Immediate cause of death? Renovascular Disease Description 2 days

Contributory causes or complications, if any? hypertension Duration 6 months

Full name of the person who signed this certificate W. H. Reed M.D. Address 1000 E. 10th St

RECORD OF DEATH.

Full Name of Decedent George William Reed Sex Male Color W

Residence 1000 E. 10th St Birthplace Madison, Indiana Marital Status W

Occupation? None Birthplace of Father Madison, Indiana

Place of Death? 1000 E. 10th St Name of Physician in full? W. H. Reed

Father's Birthplace? Madison, Indiana Mother's maiden name in full? Elizabeth Reed

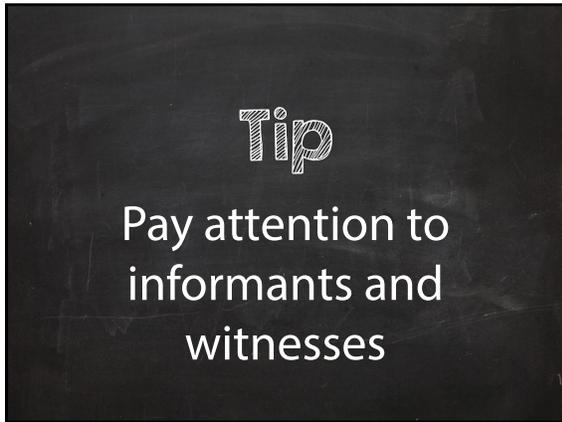
Mother's Birthplace? Madison, Indiana Date of Burial? July 11 1900

Place of Burial? Madison, Indiana Signature of Undertaker? W. H. Reed

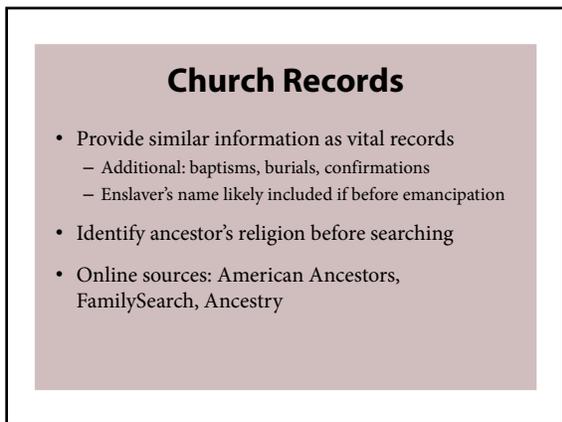
Reported by W. H. Reed Address of Undertaker? 1000 E. 10th St

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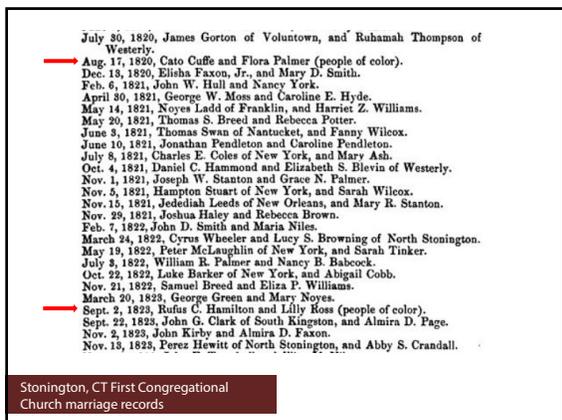
George William Reed death certificate



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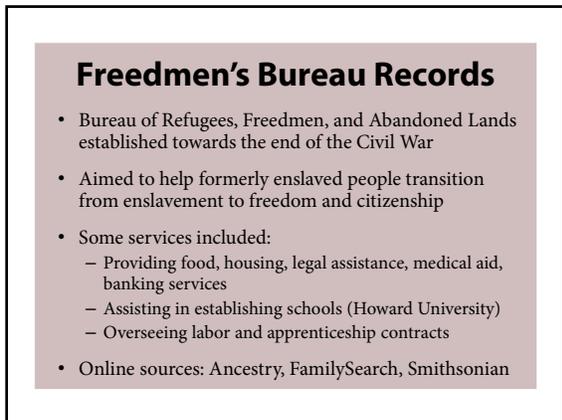
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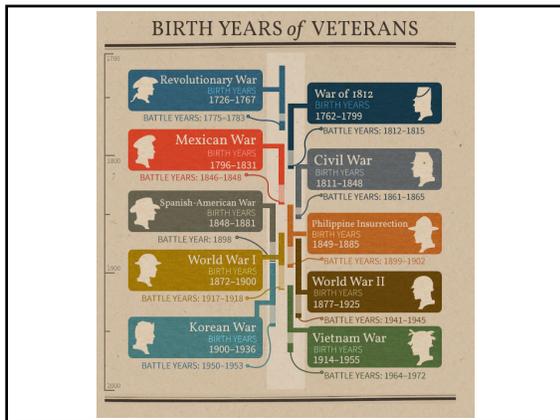


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Military Records

- African Americans participated in military conflicts since the colonial era
- Helps identify individuals who served or were eligible for service
 - Pension records
 - Military rolls
 - Enlistment papers
 - Draft cards/records
 - Manuscripts (diaries or letters home)
- Fold3.com holds military records

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Luther Glenn WWII draft card

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Probate Pre-Emancipation

- Enslaved people considered property and often named in probate
 - Bequeathed in wills
 - Listed as inventory
 - Emancipated by their enslaver
 - Sold to another enslaver
- Will need to know the name of your ancestor's enslaver

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To Negro Samuel 57 Infirm	100 00
To Negro Abm 115 Infirm	200 00
To Negro Anne 36 years	100 00
To Negro Gubwin 17 years	200 00
To Negro Sam 7 years	125 00
To Negro Hannah 5 years	100 00
To Negro William 3 years	100 50
To Negro Molly 5 weeks old	25 00
To Negro Hannah 52 years old	50 00
To Negro James 16 years old	300 00
To Negro Isaac 14 years old	200 00
To Negro Aaron 12 years old	250 00
To Negro George 6 years old	150 00
To Negro Harry 4 years old	75 00

Probate inventory of Benjamin Talbot, Baltimore Co., MD (FHL #101746024)

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Land and Property Records

- Use land and property records to:
 - Determine where your ancestor lived
 - Identify relationships
- Grantor (seller) vs. grantee (buyer)
- Maintained at the local level (town or county)
- FamilySearch is a great resource for all states

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Enslaved People in Deeds

- Any transaction involving enslaved people could be recorded as a deed in property records
- Need to know enslaver's name
- Types of deeds:
 - Bills of sale
 - Enslaved people being hired out
 - Deeds of gift
 - Transactions related to probate
 - Manumissions (granted freedom)

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Quilla Baker to James S. Baker

I Quilla Baker of the county of Adams and State of Mississippi have this day bargained and sold unto James S. Baker of the above named county and State in and for the consideration of eight thousand and no more more dollars each paid in hand for the within named Negroes and their heirs only namely Ardena negro woman aged about forty six years, S. Henry negro woman aged about twenty five years, Lee a Negro man aged about thirty four years, Abe or Abam a Negro man aged about thirty six years, Sarah a Negro woman aged about nineteen years, infant Samia a Negro boy aged about fourteen years, Emily a Negro boy aged about eleven years, Mahala a Negro girl aged about eight years, John a Negro girl aged about six years, S. Lenta a Negro boy aged about four years, Henrietta a Negro girl aged about two years, Captive a Negro woman aged about forty years, S. Bob a Negro man aged about twenty years, S. Charlotte a Negro woman aged about seventeen years and infant S. Jim a Negro boy aged about sixteen years, Ned a Negro boy aged about fourteen years, Ben a Negro boy about thirteen years and Betty a Negro girl aged about four years, also seven well broken and mules, six yoke of work oxen and yoke eighty five head of cattle more or less, three barrels, six pair of double and single trees two pair of bows

Baker to Baker deed, Adams County, Mississippi (FHL #007902599)

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Manumissions

- Legal documents that granted emancipation
- Can be found in:
 - Probate
 - Land or property records
 - Court files
 - Personal papers/collections
- If not online, check:
 - State and county archives
 - Colleges and universities
 - Local libraries
 - Historical societies

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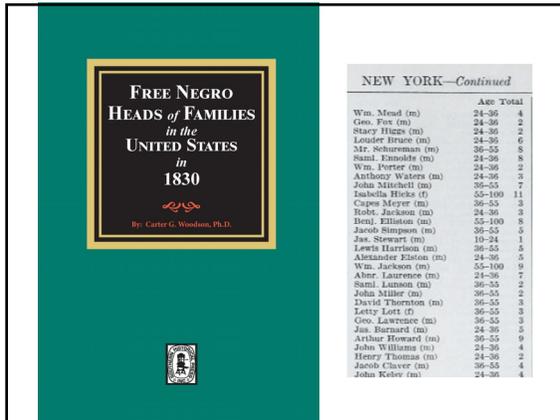
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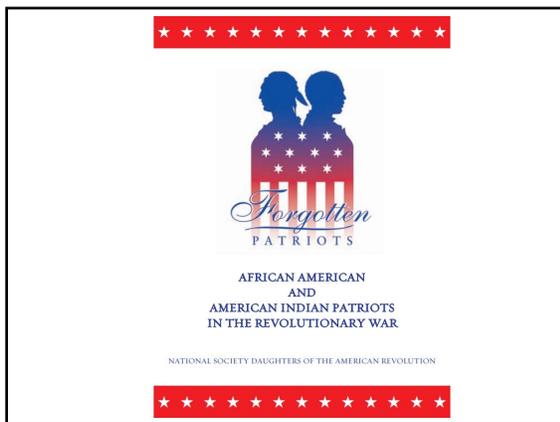
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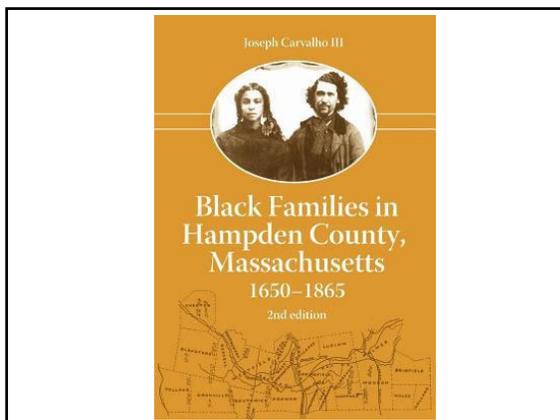
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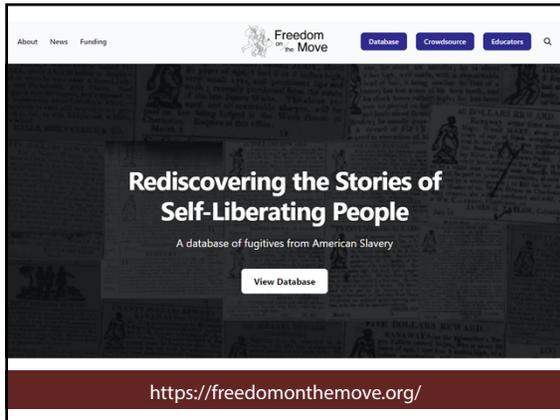
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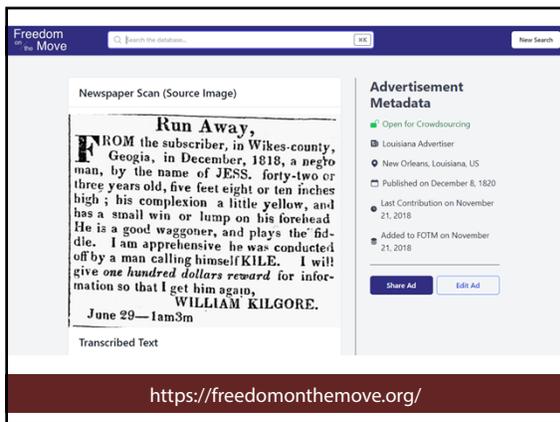
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Local Histories

- Popular during the 19th century
- Rarely cited—be sure to locate other records to confirm!
- Often include biographies or family sketches of prominent figures
- Ancestor may not be specifically named, but can still provide insight into what records to consult
- Ex: *History of the Early Settlement of Bridgewater, in Plymouth County, Massachusetts, including an extensive Family Register* by Mitchell Nahum

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Digital Books

- <https://archive.org/>
- <https://www.hathitrust.org/>
- <https://books.familysearch.org>
- <https://books.google.com/>
- <https://openlibrary.org/>
- <http://library.si.edu/digital-library>

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Personal Narratives

- First-person accounts can provide powerful details of an individual's lived experience
 - Written works (memoirs, autobiographies)
 - Oral histories
 - Personal letters and diaries
- Can be found at colleges and universities, local historical societies, libraries, archives, and your own home!

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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Library of Congress - Digital Collections - Born in Slavery Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936 to 1938 - About this Collection

COLLECTION
Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936 to 1938

About this Collection Collection Items Articles and Essays

Featured Content

Memorandum, Director Henry G. Anderson to State Directors of the ...

Memorandum, Director Henry G. Anderson to State Directors of the ...

Photograph - retace for the sale of Miss A. King's woman, age 18...

Photograph, belt rack, a contraption used by an Alabama ...

Photograph, William Colbert, age 76, formerly a slave in ...

About this Collection

Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936-1938 contains more than 2,000 first-person accounts of slavery and 500 black-and-white photographs of former slaves. These narratives were collected in the 1930s as part of the Federal Writers' Project (FWP) of the Works Progress Administration, later renamed Work Projects Administration (WPA). At the conclusion of the Slave Narrative project, a set of bound transcripts was assembled and microfilmed in 1941 at the seven-volume Slave

<https://www.loc.gov/collections/slave-narratives-from-the-federal-writers-project-1936-to-1938/about-this-collection/>

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Online Repositories

- General genealogy websites (“Big 3”)
 - Ancestry.com (\$)
 - FamilySearch.org (free)
 - AmericanAncestors.org (\$, free guest option)
- Location-specific websites
 - Archives of a specific state, county, or city
 - Ex: Louisiana Digital Library
- Record-specific websites
 - Fold3.com (military records)

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Index Only vs. Image

Harriet Delia Smith
in the Massachusetts, U.S., Town Birth Records, 1620-1850

Detail	Source
Name	Harriet Delia Smith
Birth Date	Oct 14, 1840
Birth Place	Rockport
Father's First Name	Johnathan
Mother's First Name	Mary T.
Gender	Female
Source	Vital Records of Rockport

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Tip

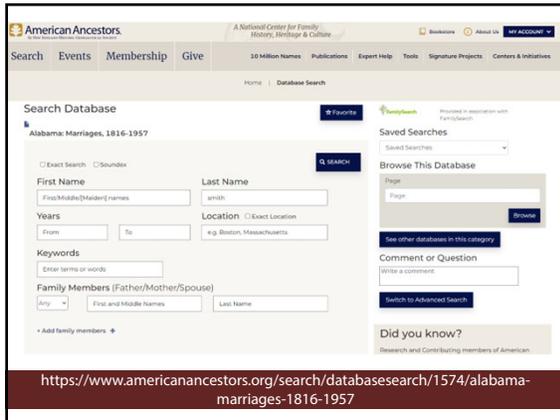
Always locate the original record

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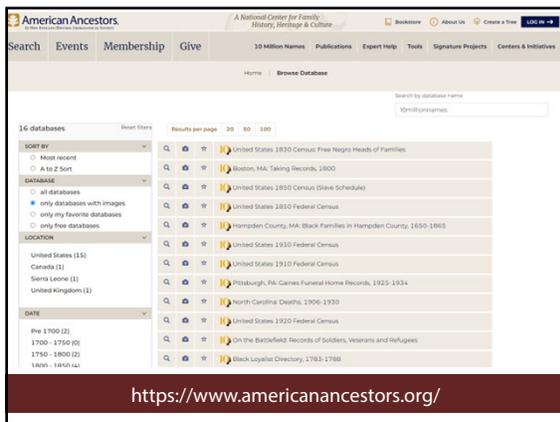
Wildcards

- Symbols used to replace or represent one or more characters
 - ? = 1 character
 - * = 1 or more character
- Example: You can use the following variations to search for "Rose"
 - Ros?
 - R*e

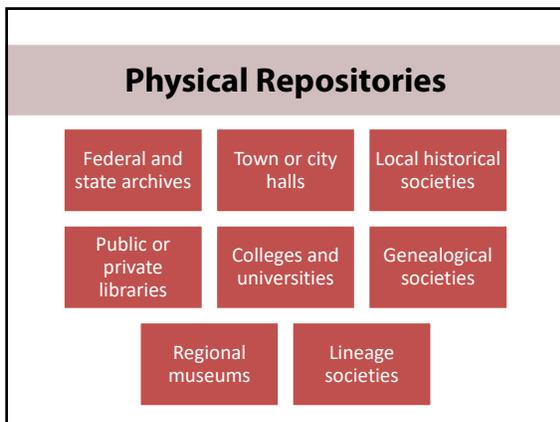
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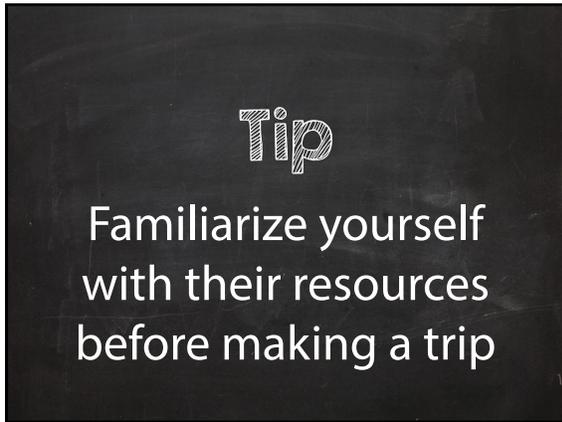
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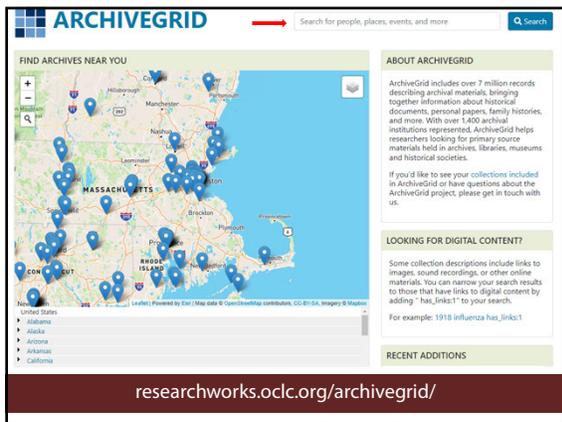
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Research Guides

- Tools created to help you identify various resources relating to a particular subject
 - Also called subject guides and libguides
 - May contain recommendations for books, articles, collections, databases, web resources
- Many repositories have created research guides related to African American history and genealogy
- Can help you get acquainted with the repository's resources

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The screenshot shows the Pratt Library website's research guide for African American Genealogy. The page title is "African American Genealogy" and it includes a sub-header "Why Is African American Genealogy Different?". Under "Recommended Resources", there is a section for "Internet" with several bullet points: "National Archives and Records Administration", "Maryland State Archives", "Library of Congress Local History and Genealogy Reference Services", and "Digital Maryland". A URL is provided at the bottom: <https://www.prattlibrary.org/research/guides/african-american-genealogy>

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The screenshot shows the AmericanAncestors.org website's research guide for African American Genealogy. The page features a header with navigation links like "Search", "Events", "Membership", and "Give". Below the header is a large image of African American men in military uniforms with the title "African American Genealogy". The main content area includes an "Introduction" section and a sidebar with "Historical Context", "Getting Started", "Research Guides", "Records for African American Genealogy Research", and "Other Resources". A URL is provided at the bottom: <https://www.americanancestors.org/tools/african-american-genealogy>

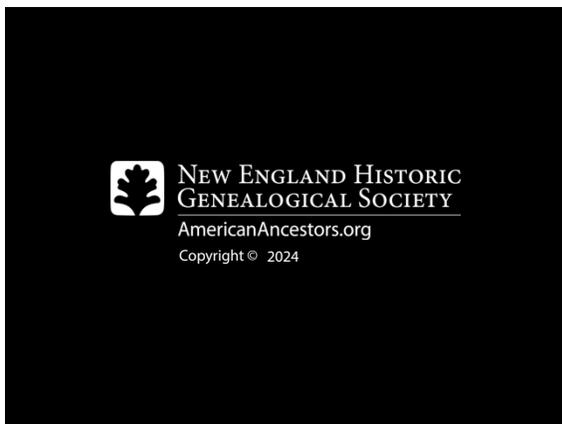
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