# Getting Started in African American Family History Research

*Class 4: The 10 Million Names Project: How to Get Involved*

Danielle Rose, 10 Million Names Volunteer Coordinator

## THE BRUE FAMILY **LEARNING CENTER**

## American Ancestors®
*by* NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

# Meet today's presenter



## Danielle Rose
### 10 Million Names Volunteer Coordinator

# OVERVIEW

- **Presentation** (45 mins.)
  - DNA Platform Tools
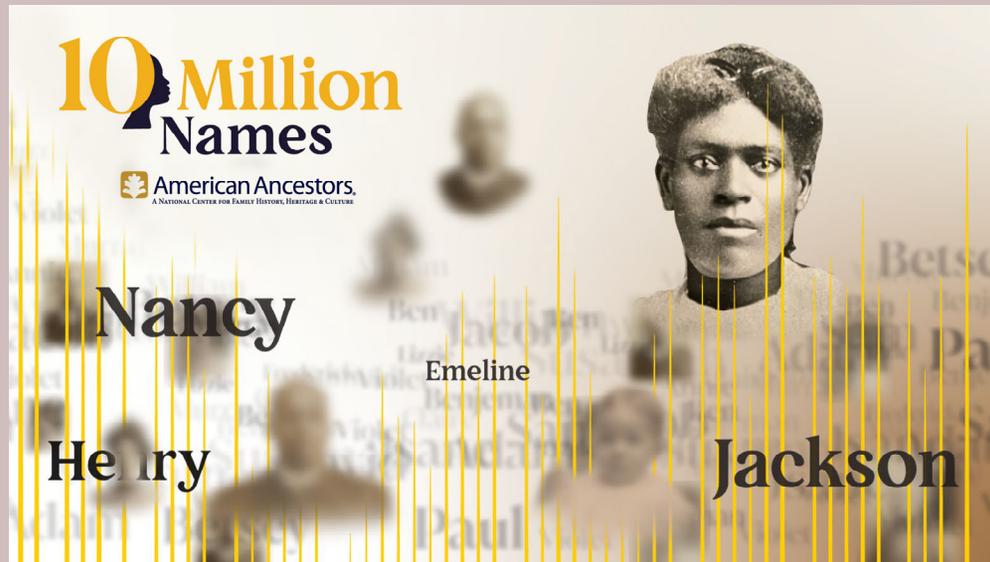  - Third Party Tools

- **Q&A** (15 mins.)

# 10 Million Names Mission



We seek to recover the **names** and restore information to families of the estimated 10 million men, women, and children of African descent who were enslaved in America before 1865 through a collaborative network of expert genealogists, cultural organizations, and community-based family historians.

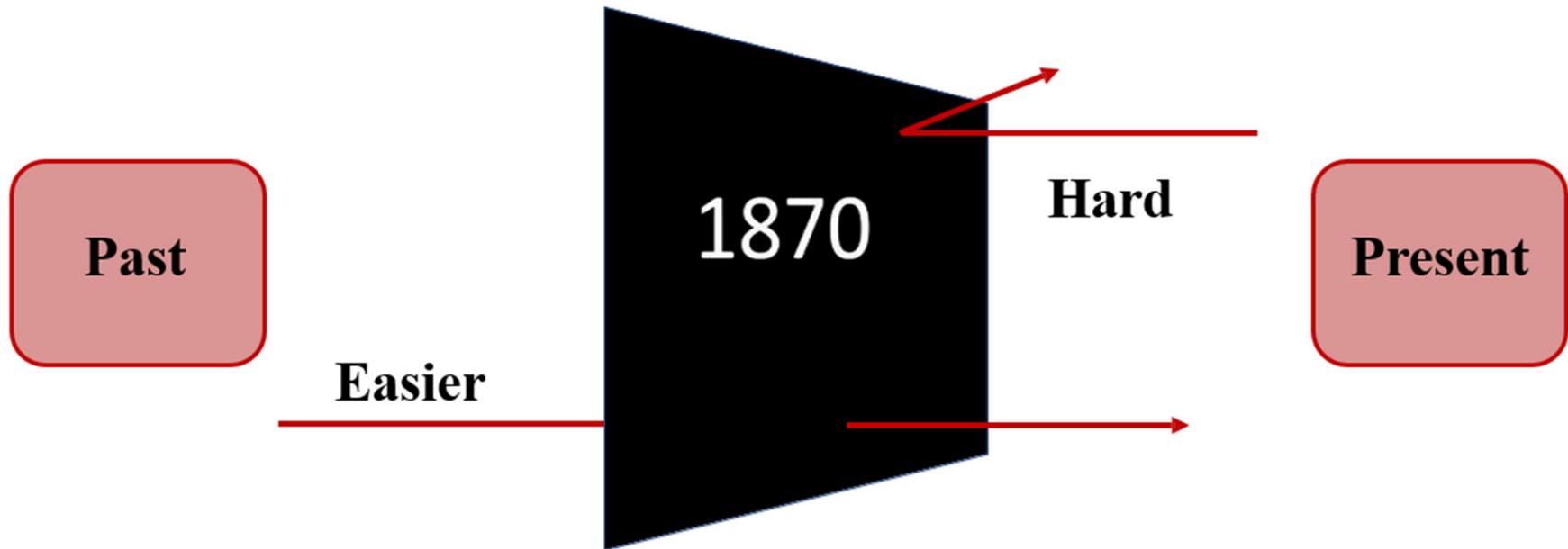# African American Family Research

- 44+ million Americans of African descent are more likely to encounter difficulty tracing their ancestry

- Legacy of slavery affects how we can conduct research

- Data was unrecorded or deliberately obscured, and is more challenging to discover

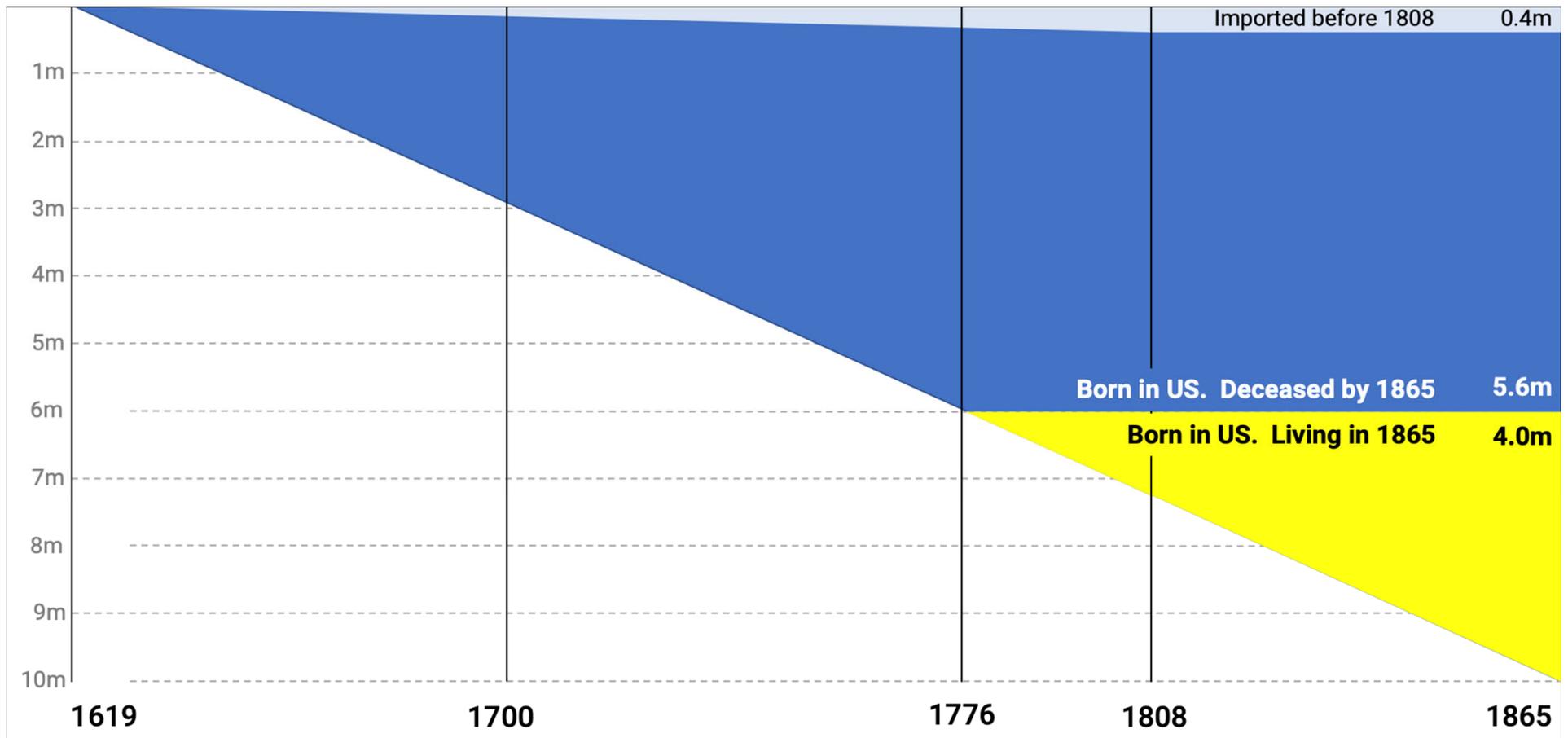# 1870 Brick Wall

- 1870 is known as a "Brick Wall" in genealogical research for people of African descent

- 1870 marks the first Federal census post-Emancipation
  - First to include the names of people who were previously enslaved
  - Only free people of color named in previous censuses

# Our approach: Reverse the traditional vector of genealogical research

Past

1870

Hard

Easier

Present

# How did we get the number 10 million?



J. David Hacker, "From '20. and odd' to 10 million: The growth of the slave population in the United States," in Slavery and Abolition, 2020, 41 (4)

# The Power of Names

- Slavery separated people from their names and family histories

- Names are a source of empowerment and identity

- 10 Million Names is that power x 10 Million

# Project Goals



- Establish a document-based research repository

- Amplify the voices of people who have been telling their family stories for centuries

- Connect people and resources

# Who's Involved

- Professional genealogists

- Historians

- Descendant communities

- Family historians

- Cultural institutions

- Institutions of higher education

# Flagship Projects

# Flagship Projects

1. Making America: Records of Enslaved Laborers Within and Beyond the Plantation

2. On the Battlefield: Records of Soldiers, Veterans, and Refugees

3. Journeys to Liberation: Records of Mariners, Migrants, and Freedom Seekers

4. Community Building: Records of Black Institutions

5. Remembering Slavery: Testimonials After Emancipation

# Making America



- Antebellum censuses (1850 and 1860 US federal censuses, 1867 Maryland slave statistics, other state and local censuses, etc.)

- Plantation records (presidential properties—Monticello, Mount Vernon, Montpelier, private estate papers, Bible records, etc.)

- College and university records (Georgetown University, The College of William & Mary, University of Virginia, etc.)

- Probate records and land deeds

# On the Battlefield

- Military records (muster rolls, pay rolls, drafts, enlistment records, etc.)

- Veteran records (pension records, bounty land warrants, veteran headstone inscription records, etc.)

- Documentation from the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands—more commonly known as "the Freedmen's Bureau"

# Journeys to Liberation



- Records of abolitionist groups, such as the American Colonization Society

- First-person accounts from the Underground Railroad

- Runaway advertisements in newspapers

- Crew lists, seamen's registers, and passenger lists

- Court records (federal, state, and local records)

# Community Building

- Church records (African Methodist Episcopal Church, National Baptist Convention, Church of God in Christ, Oblate Sisters of Providence, et al.)

- Records from schools for freed people (sponsored by private aid and benevolent societies), and records of the Freedmen's Bureau

- Historically Black Colleges and Universities (Howard University, Spelman College, Morehouse College, Lincoln University, et al.)

# Remembering Slavery

- Narratives collected by Fisk University, the Virginia Writers Project, and the Works Progress Administration (WPA)

- Oral histories collected by individual families and institutions

- Information wanted/lost friends newspaper advertisements (Black Republican [New Orleans], Charleston (SC) Courier, Colored Citizen [Cincinnati], Free Man's Press [Galveston, Texas], The Liberator [Boston], etc.)

# Research Process

- Goal 1: Locate the NAMES of 10 Million men, women, and children of African descent who were enslaved on American soil

- Goal 2: Trace the descendants of these enslaved individuals to the present

- Goal 3: Create family trees–when possible

# GU272 | MEMORY PROJECT

GU272 HISTORY ∨    FINDING THE GU272 ∨    GU272 FAMILIES ✕    RESEARCH HELP ∨    ABOUT ∨

## Sally's Family
### (Group 6)

Sally was born around 1788 and was enslaved at White Marsh Farm plantation.

## The Adams Family
### (Group 43)

Peter Adams was born in Maryland in 1807 and died after 1880 at least the age of 73 in Louisiana.

## The Barns Family
### (Group 34)

Nelly Barns was born in 1783 and was enslaved at the St. Inigoes plantation.

## The Blacklock Family
### (Group 47)

Joseph Blacklock was born around 1798 and was enslaved in Maryland.

## https://gu272.americanancestors.org/all-families

## Descendants of Butler, Ignatius (Group 46)

### First Generation

**1. IGNATIUS[1] BUTLER** was born ABT 1817 in St. Inigoes, St. Mary's County, Maryland, United States;[1] died 1888 in St. Inigoes, St. Mary's County, Maryland, United States;[2] Code GMP-199.

IGNATIUS[1] married **ELIZA ANN [--?--]** ABT 1847 in Maryland, United States. She was born ABT 1821 in Maryland, United States;[3] died BEF FEB 1884.[4]

They had the following children:

|   |      |                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|   | i.   | HENRIETTA BUTLER; b. 1848.[5]                                                                                                                                                |
|   | ii.  | JOHN BUTLER; b. ABT 1850.[6]                                                                                                                                                 |
| 2.| iii. | ROBERT[2] BUTLER; b. ABT 1851;[7] d. 28 OCT 1924 in Ridge, St. Mary's County, Maryland, United States;[8] m. Mary Green 30 NOV 1875.[9]                                      |
|   | iv.  | ELLEN BUTLER; b. ABT 1854.[10]                                                                                                                                               |

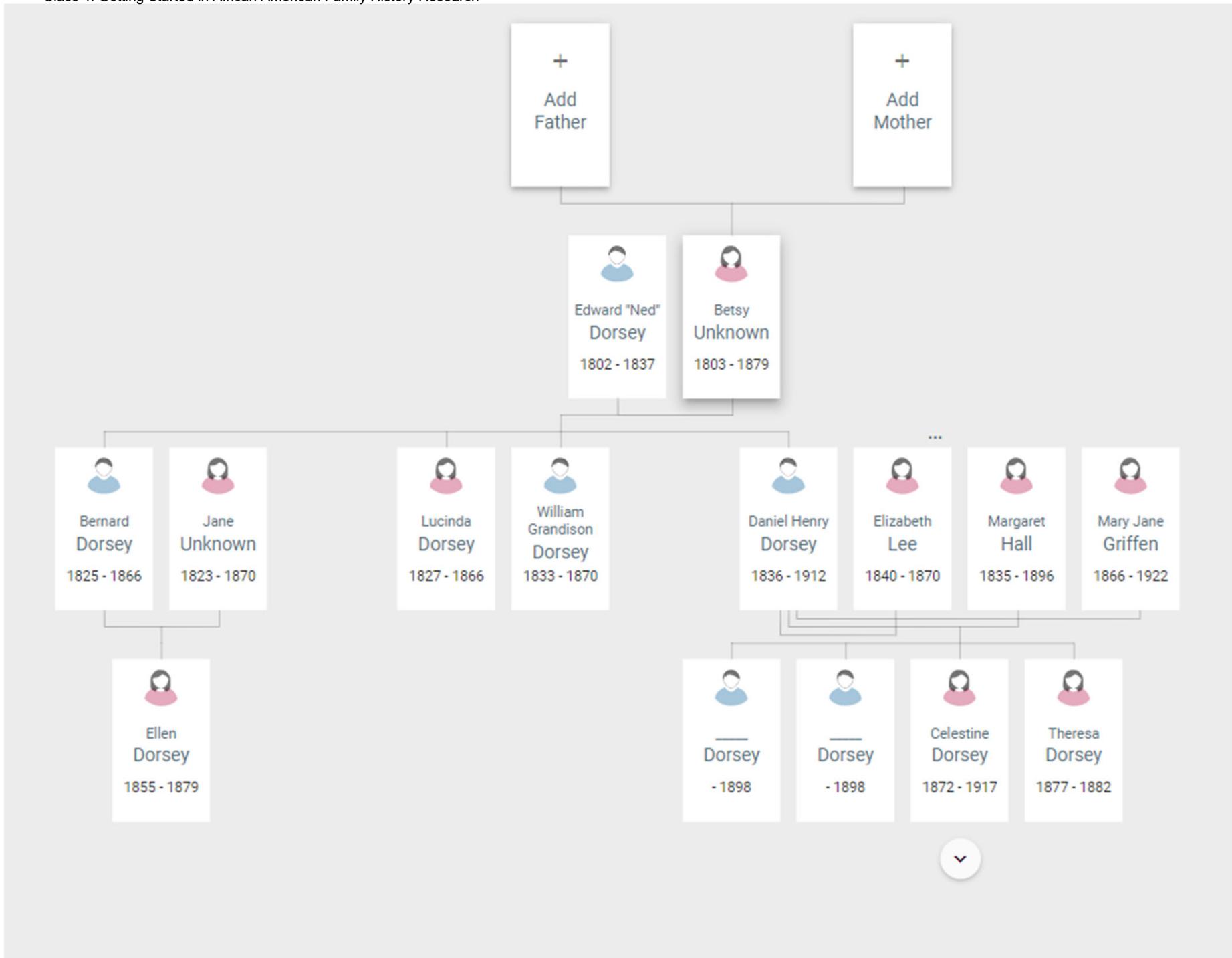1. "Census of slaves to be sold in 1838", Maryland Province Archive (MPA).

2. FindAGrave.com, Ignatius Butler, died 1888, Saint Ignatius Church Cemetery, Saint Inigoes, St. Mary's County, Maryland, mem. #19458833.

3. List of Negro slaves submitted by John H. Langley, 19 April 1864; St. Mary's County, Board of County Commissioners, Assessment Papers, Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland.

4. Agnes Kane Callum, Black Marriages of St. Mary's County, Maryland: 1800–1900; Baltimore, MD: 1991, 18, Ignatius, 66, col, m. Linda Washington, 45, col, Feb. 14, 1884 [Courthouse & St. Ignat. Rcds.].

5. St. Mary's County, MD. Marriage Record 1865–1960, Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland, 221 (original), 99 (transcription). List of Negro slaves submitted by John H. Langley, 19 April 1864; St. Mary's County, Board of County Commissioners, Assessment Papers, Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland.

6. List of Negro slaves submitted by John H. Langley, 19 April 1864; St. Mary's County, Board of County Commissioners, Assessment Papers, Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland.

# Resources

# 10 Million Names Resources

Materials created for the 10 Million Names Project will be easily accessible to the public—FREE!

– Educational materials

– Searchable databases

– Family trees

**Finding Your African American Ancestors**

Reflections and advice from Kenyatta D. Berry, Host of PBS's Genealogy Roadshow

FIND OUT MORE →

**African American Genealogy Research Guide**

Locate essential resources for researching your ancestors

READ MORE →

**Selected African American Historical and Cultural Institutions**

**Family History Resources Compiled by FamilySearch**

## https://10millionnames.org/research-help

# Getting Started

The 1870 United States Federal Census is the first census that recorded formerly enslaved individuals by name. If you are working backward through census records, you may hit this census and not know how to go further back in time. The 1860 and 1850 Federal Census had a separate slave schedule that recorded the enslaver's name and a description by age, sex, and color of the individuals they enslaved.

Identifying an enslaver is key to locating records for an enslaved person prior to emancipation. Pay attention to the location of your ancestor in 1870, since it is likely they did not move far after emancipation, as well as the last names that they and their neighbors or associates used since one of them may have adopted it from a former enslaver.

Research local slave laws or laws concerning free people of color. Understanding laws can lead you to further record sets. Research local slave laws or laws concerning free people of color. For example, if you discover that all free people of color needed to pay a fee or register with the local authorities, you know to look for those registers. Many universities or scholarly organizations have put together timelines of slavery laws, and a simple internet search such as "Virginia Slave Laws" can help you locate information.

## Resources for Slave Laws

**Slavery in the North** includes articles about the evolution of slavery laws and laws pertaining to free people of color in northern states–namely Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont. It also includes information about laws relating to people of color in Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin. Each article includes a source list to help you locate even more information.

**Maryland**

- *Guide to the History of Slavery in Maryland*

- *Slavery and Freedom in Maryland* (scroll down for a timeline)

- *Black Slaves in Maryland* includes a discussion of laws pertaining to free people of color.

**Virginia**

- *Virginia Slave Laws*

- *Slave Laws in Colonial Virginia: A Timeline*

https://10millionnames.org/research-help

**American Ancestors.**
*by New England Historic Genealogical Society*

*A National Center for Family History, Heritage & Culture*

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10millionnames

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**SORT BY** ⌄
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**DATABASE** ⌄
- ○ all databases
- ● only databases with images
- ○ only my favorite databases
- ○ only free databases

**LOCATION** ⌄

United States (15)
Canada (1)
Sierra Leone (1)
United Kingdom (1)

**DATE** ⌄

Pre 1700 (2)
1700 - 1750 (0)
1750 - 1800 (2)
1800 - 1850 (4)

**Results per page**   20   50   100

🔍 📷 ☆ 10 United States 1830 Census: Free Negro Heads of Families

🔍 📷 ☆ 10 Boston, MA: Taking Records, 1800

🔍 📷 ☆ 10 United States 1850 Census (Slave Schedule)

🔍 📷 ☆ 10 United States 1850 Federal Census

🔍 📷 ☆ 10 Hampden County, MA: Black Families in Hampden County, 1650-1865

🔍 📷 ☆ 10 United States 1930 Federal Census

🔍 📷 ☆ 10 United States 1910 Federal Census

🔍 📷 ☆ 10 Pittsburgh, PA: Gaines Funeral Home Records, 1925-1934

🔍 📷 ☆ 10 North Carolina: Deaths, 1906-1930

🔍 📷 ☆ 10 United States 1920 Federal Census

🔍 📷 ☆ 10 On the Battlefield: Records of Soldiers, Veterans and Refugees

🔍 📷 ☆ 10 Black Loyalist Directory, 1783-1788

## https://www.americanancestors.org/

American Ancestors.
*by New England Historic Genealogical Society*

*A National Center for Family History, Heritage & Culture*

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## Search Database

☆ Favorite

📷  On the Battlefield: Records of Soldiers, Veterans and Refugees

☐ Exact Search  ☐ Soundex

**Q SEARCH**

**First Name**

First/Middle/[Maiden] names

**Last Name**

Last Name

**Years**

From            To

**Volume**

-All-

**Page**

**Race**

**Place of Birth**

**Residence**

**Soldier Pension Application Number**

**Soldier Pension Certificate Number**

**Soldiers Pension State Filed**

### Saved Searches

Saved Searches  ∨

### Browse This Database

Volume

-All-                 ∨

Page

Page

Browse

See other databases in this category

### Comment or Question

Write a comment

Switch to Advanced Search

### Did you know?

Research and Contributing members of American Ancestors have access to multiple partner databases, which feature content from academic journals, periodicals, newspapers and other authoritative sources.

https://www.americanancestors.org/search/databasesearch/2822/on-the-battlefield-records-of-soldiers-veterans-and-refugees

| Name | William H. CARNEY |
| --- | --- |
| | - |
| Location | |
| Original Text | Awarded Medal of Honor |
| Race | Black |
| Occupation | Seaman |
| Place of Birth | Norfolk, Virginia |
| Residence | New Bedford, MA |
| Enlistment Date | 17 Feb 1863 |
| Company | C |
| Separation Date | 30 June 1865 |
| Separation Reason | Discharged for Disability |
| Physical Description | Black eyes Black hair, 5 ft. 9 and a half in. |
| Rank | Sergeant |
| Soldier Pension Application Number | 56619 |
| Soldier Pension Certificate Number | 359414 |
| Soldier Pension Date Filed | 15 Dec 1864 |
| Soldiers Pension State Filed | Massachusetts |
| Dependent Name | Susanna Carney [widow] |
| Dependent State of Residence | Massachusetts |

10 Million Names    American Ancestors (A New England Historic Genealogical Society)

No Image – Index only database

Why can't I see an image?

This database is an index only database, so no images are available.

This research was compiled by Jonathan Hill, NEHGS Researcher, using *Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served with the United States Colored Troops* (available through the National Archives), and *Massachusetts Soldiers, Sailors and Marines in the Civil War*, Volumes 1-9.

At present, the information is presented as index-only, but in the future we plan to release in-depth research for individual soldiers and their descendants.

This database is presented as part of *10 Million Names*.

View

## Sgt. William Carney profile

# Sign up for database news!
# dbnews.americanancestors.org/

# Ways to Get Involved

# Collaborators

10 Million Names can only succeed in its mission through close collaboration with organizations dedicated to African American genealogy, culture, and history

- We are not the first
- We want to shine a light on work that has been going on for decades
- We want to create a centralized place for organizations, genealogists, historians, artists, etc. to come together to learn and discuss family history

# Current Collaborators

- ABC News

- Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society

- Family Search

- General Society of Colonial Wars

- Sons and Daughters of the United States Middle Passage

- New Bedford Whaling Museum

- Georgetown University

- Mother Emanuel AME Church

- Fordham University Press

- Maine Department of Education

- Martha's Vineyard Museum

- New Bedford Historical Society

- Tufts University Center for the Study of Race and Democracy

- The DuBois Forum

- The Georgetown Memory Project

- The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

- The Community Foundation for the Virgin Islands

- University of Maine

- The White House Historical Association

**National Society** | Constitution Hall | Museum | Library | Archives | Giving

Text Size: + − A

# 10 Million Names Project

DAR is proud to be one of the founding collaborating institutions supporting the 10 Million Names project, which aims to recover the names of up to 10 million people enslaved in America between the 1500s and 1865. The project is being led by American Ancestors, a national center for family history, which will centralize genealogical and historical information about enslaved people of African descent and their families on a free website with a publicly accessible database.

In 2023, DAR donated $350,000 to support the project and licensed information from the DAR Patriots of Color database to be searchable within the 10 Million Names project. The DAR Patriots of Color database is a digital extension of the long-term DAR Forgotten Patriots Project to research and identify Revolutionary War Patriots of color. The DAR data will be included in one of the 10 Million Names Pilot Projects: "On the Battlefield – Records of Soldiers, Veterans, and Refugees"

The collaboration with American Ancestors is part of the DAR's ongoing E Pluribus Unum Educational Initiative to increase awareness of often underrepresented Revolutionary War Patriots and support new scholarship, educational programming, and research tools. Future efforts of the 10 Million Names project will include further research on names from the Patriots of Color database to discover descendants and additional details about the individuals.

The public is invited to explore the free, public website at 10MillionNames.org, where a small but growing number

## E Pluribus Unum Educational Initiative



DAR's ongoing effort to increase awareness of often underrepresented Revolutionary War Patriots. We are committed to better telling the stories of these Patriots, who have all too often been left out of the pages of history. Learn more...

## Research Your Family

## https://www.dar.org/national-society/

**DAR**
Daughters of the American Revolution
GENEALOGY RESEARCH

Library Catalog | Record Copy | DAR.org | GIVE

Ancestor   Member   Descendants   GRC   **Rev War**   Bibles   Resources

## Patriots of Color
Search list of patriots.

Q New Search | ℹ Overview

**Search Results** 65 - Records Found (1 to 25)

Click on a patriot's name to view a their full record.

**Massachusetts**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Surname:** | **GAD** |
| **Notes on Individual:** | Described in resource as "reported a Negro." |
| **Residence:** | No residence given. |

**Massachusetts**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Surname:** | **GAGE** |
| **First Name:** | PRINCE |
| **Residence:** | Martha's Vineyard |

**Massachusetts**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Surname:** | **GAINS** |
| **First Name:** | POMP B./B. POMP |
| **Residence:** | No residence given. |

**Massachusetts**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Surname:** | **GARDNER** |
| **First Name:** | ADAM |
| **Residence:** | Brookline |
| **Service:** | Squire Garder's "Adam." |

**Massachusetts**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Surname:** | **GARDNER** |
| **First Name:** | JACK, see SLADE, JACK/JOHN |
| **Residence:** | No residence given. |

**Rev War Records**

Rev War User Guide

Patriots of Color

Patriot Records Index

Rev War Pension Index

Forgotten Patriots Research Guide
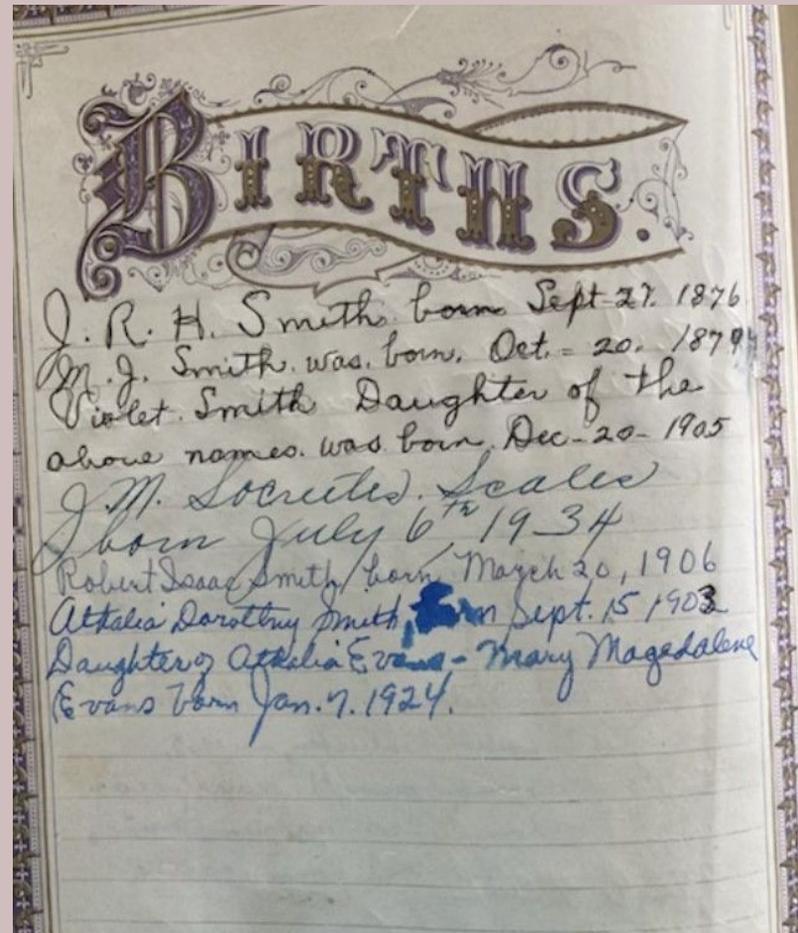
**Become a Member!**

DAR members are women who come from diverse backgrounds and hold a variety of interests. Their common bond is their lineal

https://services.dar.org/Public/DAR_Research/search_poc/

# Submissions From the Public

- Bible Records

- Family Papers

- Genealogical Notes

- Family Trees (GEDCOM)

- Oral Histories

- Family Reunion Packets

**10 Million Names Help Center** / **Share Your Family History Documents**

## Share Your Family History Documents

10 Million Names is building a free, public-facing, searchable online collection of family history documents—and we need your help!

Please choose a category below to share information about your family, whether they were enslaved or persons who enslaved others.

We are seeking research notes, memories, photos, traditions, and genealogical materials. By contributing to the project, you will help to restore the names of the estimated 10 million men, women, and children of African descent who were enslaved in pre- and post-colonial America (specifically, the territory that would become the United States) between the 1500s and 1865. You will help build a legacy of information that future generations can learn from and use to teach others the important truths about African American genealogy and history.

**Please note, this project is in the initial, startup stages. We are working hard to make interactive features available to you.

**What can we help you with?**

⊞ I'd like to complete a family history questionnaire

👥 I'd like to upload my family tree (GEDCOM)

📄 I'd like to upload family notes or a genealogy

🎧 I'd like to share an oral history

💼 I'd like to provide original family materials

🗔 I'd like to submit family records from a religious text (such as a Bible record)

https://nehgsweb.atlassian.net/servicedesk/customer/portal/5

If you already have a transcribed oral history, please upload it as an attachment below.

If you have a cassette tape or compact disk with an oral history, and cannot have it converted, please contact 10mnfamilyhistory@nehgs.org

If you would like to tape a new oral history, please see this guide for best practices. *Please keep recordings to under 10 minutes in length.

Raise this request on behalf of *

> Danielle Rose (danielle.rose@nehgs.org)

This submission includes *

- [ ] Information about enslaved individuals.
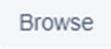- [ ] Information about enslavers.
- [ ] I am unsure.
- [ ] Neither.

Oral History Title *

Description

> Normal text  |  B  *I*  ···  |  A  |  ☰ ☰  |  🔗 @ ☺ ⊞ <> ⓘ 99 + ⌄

Attachment

Drag and drop files, paste screenshots, or browse

Browse

https://nehgsweb.atlassian.net/servicedesk/customer/portal/5

# Volunteer Projects

**Beginner
(Transcribing/Indexing)**

New Bedford People of
Color

**Intermediate
(Researching)**

Missouri Deeds

North Carolina Deeds

Missouri U.S. Colored Troops

# Contact us!



Email at
[10MN@nehgs.org](mailto:10MN@nehgs.org)



Brief description of previous genealogical research experience



Volunteer project preference

# 10 Million Names is looking for…

- Data and documents about enslaved people

- Partnerships with genealogical, historical, and community-based organizations

- Family stories and family trees

- Investors to support the project

- Volunteers!

# Final Takeaways

- 10 Million Names will ultimately produce the largest, most comprehensive genealogical database of enslaved people of African descent in America

- Original genealogical research down to the present

- Overseen by expert genealogists and historians in partnership with Black-led genealogical societies and individual families

- Leverage latest technology and resources so that data from smaller archives and libraries can be digitized into one database

# QUESTIONS?

## Hire Research Services
*research@nehgs.org*

## Chat with a Genealogist
*AmericanAncestors.org/chat*

# THANK YOU!

## AmericanAncestors.org/Education

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