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**10 Million Names Mission**



Nancy  
Henry  
Emeline  
Jackson

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.

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**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



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### 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

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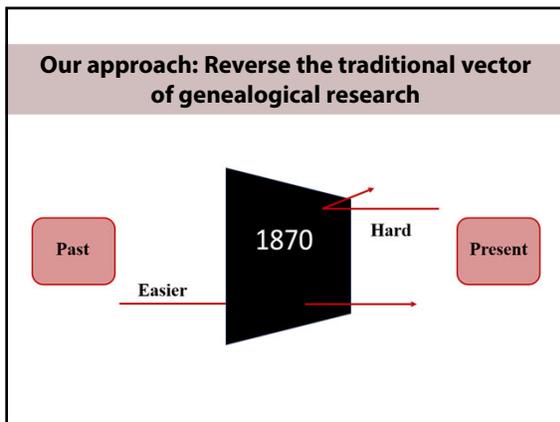
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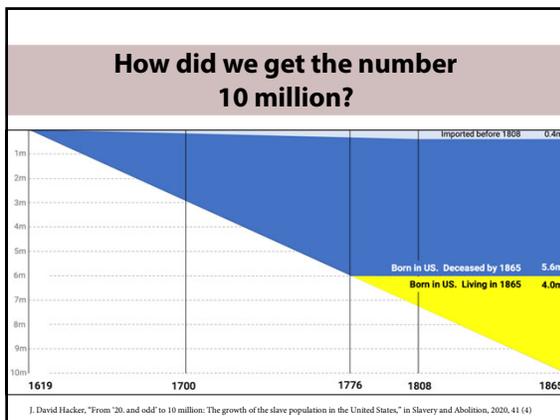
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**The Power of Names**

- 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



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**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

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**Who's Involved**

- Professional genealogists
- Historians
- Descendant communities
- Family historians
- Cultural institutions
- Institutions of higher education

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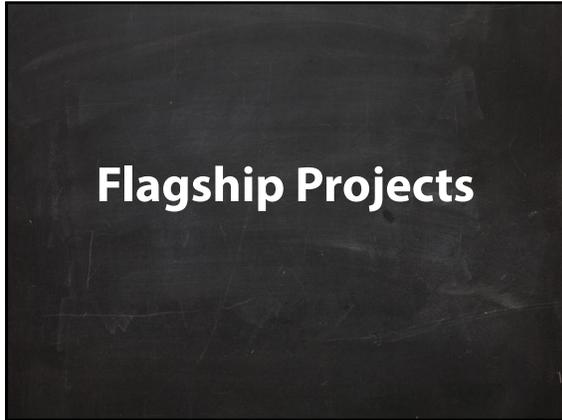
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**Flagship Projects**

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

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**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

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### 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”



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### 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)

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### 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.)

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### 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.)



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### 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

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AmericanAncestors

GU272 MEMORY PROJECT

GU272 HISTORY FINDING THE GU272 GU272 FAMILIES RESEARCH HELP ABOUT

### The GU272 Legacy

In 1838, Maryland's Jesuit priests sold hundreds of men, women, and children to Southern plantations to raise money for the construction of Georgetown University. Though they faced incredible hardship, most didn't perish. They married and raised children. Today, more than 8,000 of their descendants have been located through genealogical research. Use the site to search for an ancestor and to hear the stories of the descendants.

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**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

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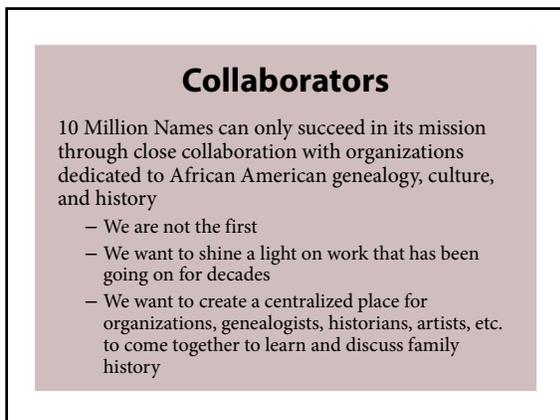
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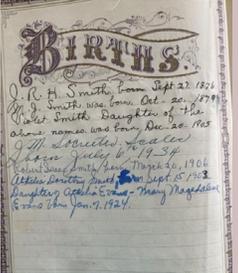
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## Submissions From the Public

- Bible Records
- Family Papers
- Genealogical Notes
- Family Trees (GEDCOM)
- Oral Histories
- Family Reunion Packets



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<https://10millionnames.org/>

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

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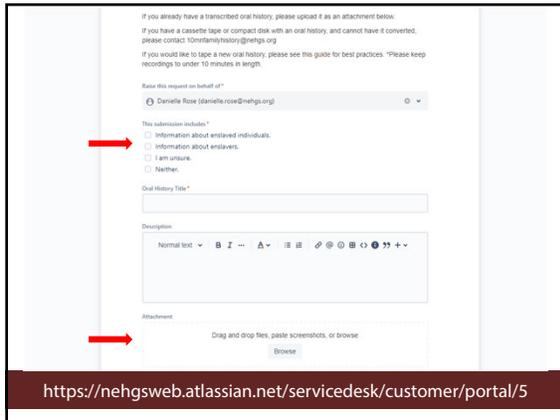
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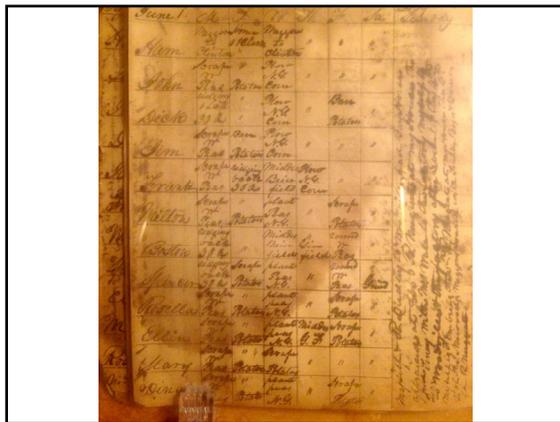
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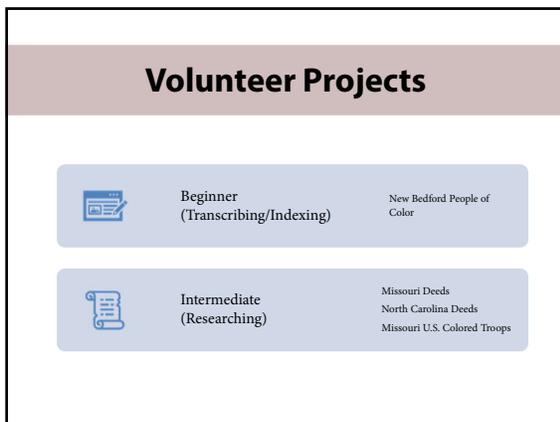
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**Contact us!**



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



Brief description of  
previous genealogical  
research experience



Volunteer project  
preference

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**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!

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**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

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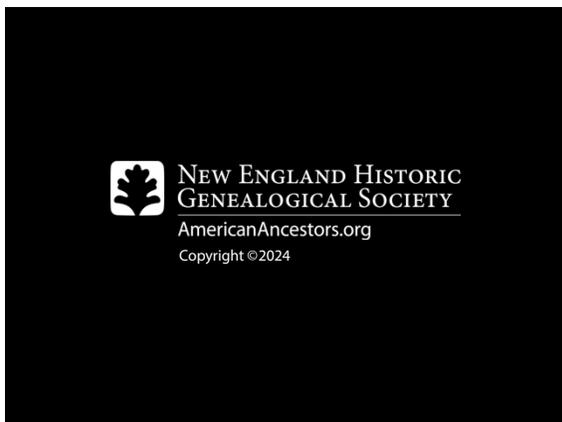
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