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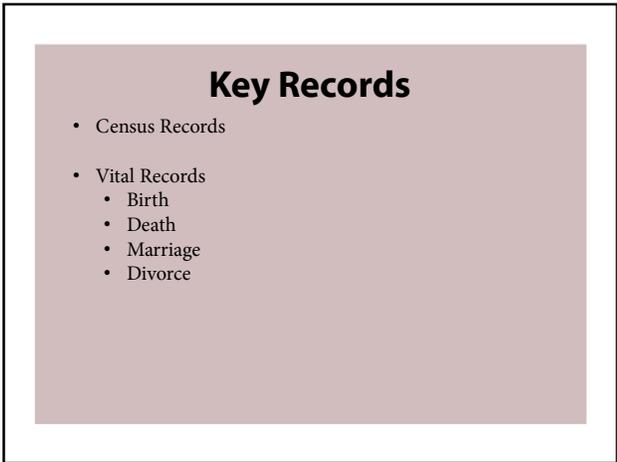
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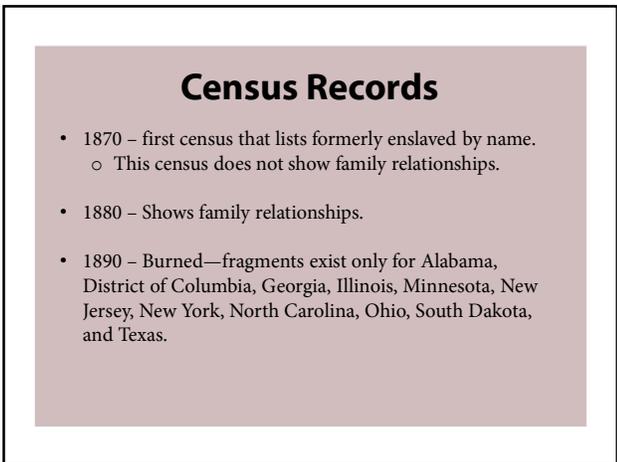
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## Census Records

- 1850/1860 - Slave schedules are important to look at if your ancestor was enslaved. Note: These are two separate censuses.

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34

## The Search Process

- Find someone born before the 1950s.
- Search for them in the 1950 census.
- Move backwards in time from your ancestor, to their parents, to their grandparents and so on.

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1950, 1930, 1910 Federal Census

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# Tip

If you cannot find your ancestor in a census, it's a good idea to look through or read every name listed in the census for that location.

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## Vital Records

- Document life events including births, deaths, marriages, and divorces.
- Like census records, they can help identify family connections.

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## Other Records That Connect Families

- Military Records such as WWI and WWII draft registration cards.
- Social security indexes and applications.

42

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"Abraham Jones, a free "mixt Blooded man," avows that "about forty years past he purchased a Certain Woman of Coller by the name of Lydia of one John Westerfield & paid honestly for her & hath Since had Six Children by said Woman." Jones expresses "very great uneasyness" concerning the possibility that "when your Petitioner dyed his Wife & Children would be Slave." He therefore prays that "your Honourable Body Will take my Case into your Consideration & give your Petitioner Such Relief as in your Wisdom shall seam meet." Twenty-nine subscribers attest that Jones "hath always behaved himself as a man of Choler ought to do & further supports the carrecter of an honest Industrious man & think his case to be [heard] and ought to be Redrest by passing a law of Liberation."

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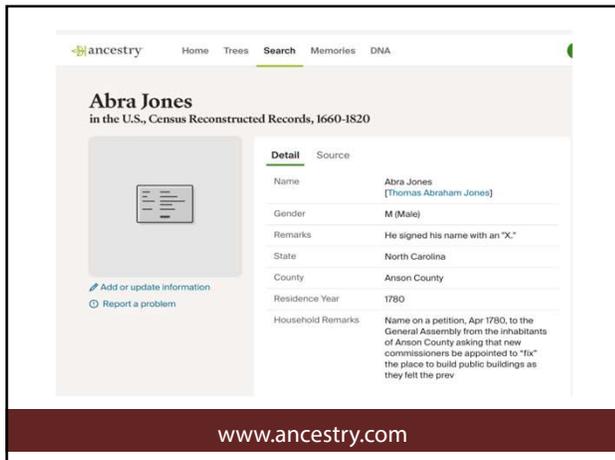
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The screenshot shows the Ancestry.com profile for Abra Jones. The profile title is "Abra Jones in the U.S., Census Reconstructed Records, 1660-1820". The profile includes a "Detail" section with the following information:

Detail	Source
Name	Abra Jones (Thomas Abraham Jones)
Gender	M (Male)
Remarks	He signed his name with an "X."
State	North Carolina
County	Anson County
Residence Year	1780
Household Remarks	Name on a petition, Apr 1780, to the General Assembly from the inhabitants of Anson County asking that new commissioners be appointed to "fix" the place to build public buildings as they felt the prev

At the bottom of the screenshot, the URL "www.ancestry.com" is visible.

49

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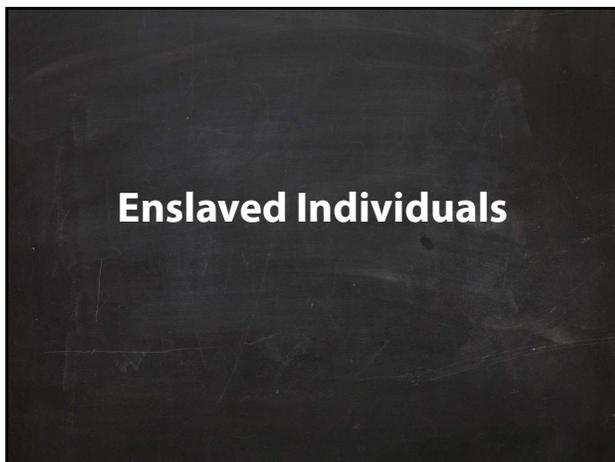
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### Locating Enslaved Individuals

- Locate your ancestor in the closest document to 1865.
- Try to find the 1867 Voter Registration.
- Look at their age, surname, how long they have been in the state and county and where born.
- Find the 1860 Slave Schedule for that county; find an enslaver with the same surname; do a search using the year your enslaved ancestor was born.
- If you find a potential match for gender and age, look for family(enslaver) probates, inventories, bills of sale that name your ancestor.

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### Locating Enslaved Individuals

- You will need to follow your ancestor through the family that enslaved them using documents where they name their enslaved.
- This could be probates/wills, inventories, manumission, petitions etc., or any document that state used to record enslaved individuals.
- If you do not find a likely candidate with the same surname, you should look at all the enslavers, regardless of surname who have an enslaved individual that fit the age and gender of the person you are looking for.

52

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### Locating Enslaved Individuals

This process can be different for every family. If you already know the name of the person who enslaved your ancestor, you could go directly to locating the family papers, probates/wills etc., to see if you can find their names and the names of other ancestors.

53

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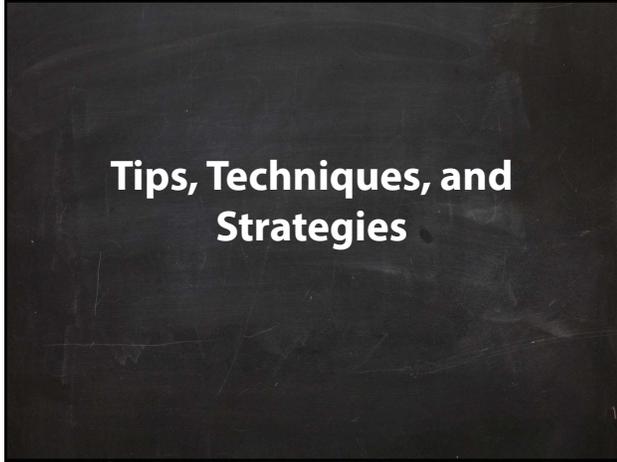
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### Research the Location

- Identify when your state/county was established.
- Learn when birth, marriage, and death records first began to be recorded.

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### African American Resources

African American Resources for Texas

United States → African American Genealogy → Texas → African American Resources

African American Online Genealogy Records

**Contents** [hide]

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Online Resources
- 3 Research Strategy
- 4 History
- 5 Resources
  - 5.1 Biographies
  - 5.2 Cemeteries
  - 5.3 Census Records
  - 5.4 Church Records
  - 5.5 Emancipation Records
  - 5.6 Funeral Homes
  - 5.7 Genealogies
  - 5.8 Land and Property
  - 5.9 Plantation
  - 5.10 Law and Legislation
  - 5.11 Obituaries
  - 5.12 Oral Histories
  - 5.13 Other Records

**Introduction** [edit | edit source]

A list of resources for African American research of ancestors who lived in Texas.

**Online Resources** [edit | edit source]

- **1865-1874 Freedman's Bank Records, 1865-1874** at FamilySearch
- African American Digital Bookshelf - a growing list of digital books on FamilySearch and other websites.
- **Discover Freedmen** - this site searches all of the Freedmen's Bureau record collections on FamilySearch altogether (and redirects there)
- **The Handbook of Texas** Search for information on slaves, slave owners, plantations, local history, churches, historical events, etc.
- **Texas Slavery Project**
- **The Texas Freedom Colony Project** - an educational and social justice initiative to research and locate the colonies of freedmen in Texas following emancipation.

**Research Strategy** [edit | edit source]

familysearch.org/en/wiki/African\_American\_Resources\_for\_Texas

59

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### Create a Timeline

#### African American Migrations

- **1890 -1900 - Oklahoma** -This state held more than 50 African American colonies and at one time was proposed by promoters to be an all-black state.
- **1870 -1880 - Colorado** - Was also a place of migration during the California gold rush. At one point in time, they had more than 20 African American colonies.
- **1870 -1880 - Kansas** - An estimated 30,000 people moved from the southern states to settle in Kansas. This movement was known as the Great Exodus and the migrants were called Exodusters. They created 26 known colonies in Kansas.
- **1850 -1860 - California** - An estimated 4,000 African Americans settled in California following the gold rush.

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### Create a Timeline

- 1820-1865: Enslaver’s family, bills of sale, probates
  - Free people of color should be documented.
- 1850-1900: African American Migrations
- 1865-1872: Freedmen’s Bureau Records
- 1867-1869 and 1892: Voter Registrations
- 1870s - Prison System Starts – TX
- 1872- present day - City Directories
- 1875 - Census, Austin, TX

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61

## Cluster and FAN Research & General Challenges

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62

### Cluster and FAN Research

- Cluster research centers on idea that family members lived next to or around other family and extended family.
- If you can not find the person you are looking for, try cluster research using the FANS.
- FAN stands for Friends, Family, Associates, and Neighbors.

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63

### Family

- Family members with the same surname.
- Consider others:
  - Maiden name of spouse
  - In-laws
  - Cousins (1<sup>st</sup> and others)
  - Grandparents
  - Great-Grandparents
  - Step-Parents/Siblings.

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64

### Associates

- Associated Persons
  - Politics
  - Occupation
  - Education
  - Religion.
- Associated Places
  - Place of Birth
  - Death Details.

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65

### Neighbors

- Persons who share the same address
  - Tenement
  - Abutters.
- Persons from the same town or county.
- Persons in Neighboring Cemetery Plots OR Church or church Pews.

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