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A new curriculum for black research in Oakland.



#### 6 2016 SACRAMENTO SEMINAR

A well known keynote speaker brought out a record number of attendees.



#### 8 OVERVIEW OF AFRICAN AMERICAN RESEARCH

A solid foundation yields the best research results.



#### 17 WEB NOTES

Buffalo Soldiers anniversary, a *Roots* conference, and drawings of slave children.

# the Baobab Tree

Journal of the African American Genealogical Society of Northern California, Inc. / Vol. 21 No. 2 / Spring 2016 / ISSN 1543-4125



Photo courtesy of Lavinia Schwarz

## Race, Religion, and Reading Records Right

Lavinia Schwarz  
Contributor

The first rule of genealogy is to talk to everyone—family elders first—to gather stories and records. But what if the elders are dead? And what if the cousins' stories don't match?

### The Challenge

When I was new to genealogy, I was at a family gathering swapping stories with a cousin about our

beloved grandfather, whom we discovered was a hero to both of us. We reminisced about his grizzled cheeks and sparkling laugh, and how he built us things: playhouses for the back yards, sandboxes and swings. Even the cabin in the Sierra where we gathered in the summers, he built when he was in his 70's. And he sure could make candy—peanut brittle, fudge, mint patties. I quipped that it

was good he lied about his age and ran away to join the army when he was 15, because if he'd stayed home and become a Catholic priest like the family wanted, we wouldn't be here. My cousin looked shocked. "Grandad wasn't Catholic," he retorted. "Yes, he was," I pushed back.

Driving home that night I decided to prove to my cousin that, yes indeed,

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*It's Your History*

Isn't it time you told **your**  
story?

The African-American Genealogical Society of Northern California (AAGSNC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated in its commitment to national and international black African-ancestry family history research. The society provides a unique approach to education, research skills, and support to anyone interested in genealogy.

### Objectives

- To promote interest in genealogy, biography, and related history of African Americans.
- To supplement and enrich the education of African Americans through the collection, preservation and maintenance of African American genealogical materials.
- To promote the accumulation and preservation of African American genealogical and related historical material and make such material available to all.
- To promote and maintain ethical standards in genealogical research and publications.

### Membership and Its Benefits

Any person interested in furthering the objectives of AAGSNC is eligible for membership upon submission and acceptance of a completed application form and payment of dues.

Membership categories are as follows:

- Regular Membership: Age 17 and Over
- Family Membership
- Youth Membership: Age 16 and Under
- Organization Membership: Association, Library, Society, Nonprofit Group
- Lifetime Regular Membership: Age 17 and Over
- Lifetime Family Membership

Meetings: AAGSNC holds monthly meetings that include guest speakers, workshops, seminars, and networking with other members. Meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month (except July and August) from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Oakland Public Library Dimond Branch, 3565 Fruitvale Avenue, Oakland, CA 94602.

Field Trips and Support: Members can attend regularly scheduled trips to the Oakland FamilySearch Library and receive assistance with their research projects. Participation in organized research trips to the Salt Lake City Family History Library and taking part in events with other genealogical and historical organizations are included in our program.

Members Only Section of Our Web Site: Compiled databases, *The Baobab Tree* archive, meeting presentations (PDF's, video, and podcasts), ancestral charts, and more.

To join, please visit <http://www.aagsnc.org/>.

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# The Branch

## Words from the Society President

# Inside

this issue

## You Probably Should Not Be Reading This



Photo courtesy of M. Howard Edwards

by **M. Howard Edwards**  
President, AAGSNC

links concerning reunions are on the AAGSNC Web site as referenced above. Do not plan to learn much about the family, you will be too busy! However, make plenty of notes to follow up on after the event is all over. The following year will really be rewarding.

### Research Trip

If you are planning a research trip to the old country (and it is seriously encouraged), common wisdom is to call ahead. First of all, be specific about what you plan to achieve on the trip. Make a real list of things you want to accomplish; check off the items as you finish them when you get there. It is really easy to be distracted by the wealth of new information that you will encounter. You will find when all is said and done that you have done little of what you thought you would do on this great trip. In advance, call the county clerk, archives, libraries, courthouses, genealogical and historical societies, even school district administrative offices, and any other repositories you plan to visit. Let them know when you plan to visit and what you plan to research. Not only will you save time when you arrive, they may redirect your efforts to make a more successful trip. Sometimes your correspondent may even do a little advanced checking in advance of your trip.

... especially if you plan to go back home this summer. You should be spending this valuable time preparing to make the trip to work on your family history a successful one.

### Interviews

As has been pointed out many times, you must interview the oldest folks in the family. Time is of the essence, and you do not want to find this out after it is too late. Make a list, and talk to the old folks on your next trip. If you are unsure how to effectively interview your relatives, visit <http://www.AAGSNC.org/>. Under the "Resources" tab, scroll down to "Help" and "Tutorials" to find a wealth of Web sites that can help, including interview tips and forms to follow to ease the task. Interviewing may unexpectedly be a little more difficult than you thought. After all, these are family members, right? Don't we get along? Don't we all try to help?

### Reunion

As the anointed family historian you might be recruited into convening or participate in the convening of a family reunion over the summer. This is a venture that is easy to do badly (and expensively) and difficult to do well. Here, again, studying a bit before you accept the challenge will make all the difference. An article and several

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## 2016 Calendar of Events

Meetings are held from 1:30–4:00 p.m. at the Oakland Public Library, Dimond Branch, 3565 Fruitvale Avenue, Oakland, unless otherwise noted.

**September 17, 2016**  
20th Anniversary Celebration

**October 15, 2016**  
Records Analysis

**November 19, 2016**  
USCT Military Research

**December 17, 2016**  
Annual Holiday Party / Black Elephant Sale

Meeting program topics are subject to change. For more information and updates on our events and meetings, visit <http://www.AAGSNC.org/>

## Solano County

### Discussion Group

## 2016 Calendar

The Solano County Discussion Group is a regional group of family history researchers that is part of the African American Genealogical Society of Northern California. Meetings are held from 1:00–3:00 p.m. at Solano Community College, Fairfield Campus, Building 400 1st Floor, unless otherwise noted.

**September 10, 2016**

**October 8, 2016**

**November 12, 2016**

The meetings have open discussion and on-site computer research. For more information, contact facilitator Corvin Tademay at [tadcor@aol.com](mailto:tadcor@aol.com).

# Grand Opening of the Africana Studies Community Research Center

*A new curriculum for black research in Oakland*

**Dera R. Williams**  
AAGSNC Recording Secretary

History was made on the evening of Wednesday, March 30, 2016 when the new Africana Studies Community Research Center at Merritt Community College in Oakland, California made its public debut to a standing-room-only crowd of supporters, leaders in education, local school districts, community activists, local government officials, and the creators and designers of the center. The Africana Center actually opened its doors in late August 2015 at the beginning of the fall semester. An open house was given in October to familiarize the Merritt and other Peralta campuses with the center.

The brain child of Dr. Siri Brown, chair of the Merritt College ethnic studies program, this project was brought to fruition after six years of planning, building, and collaboration with several entities. From the time Brown assumed her position as the chair of African-American studies after the retirement of the formidable Dr. Cecelia Arrington, who had been head of the department since the late '60's, it was her dream to build an institution to honor Merritt College as the first college in the nation to have a Black Studies program under the tutelage of the emerging Black Panther Party.

Brown had big shoes to step into. Arrington was fiercely protective of the program that she helped build. She enhanced the curriculum that was originally developed, partly by the founder and cochair of the Black Panther Party, Bobby Seale. Ethnic studies programs thrived throughout the 1970's and 1980's, but with the 1990's economy talk of budget cuts loomed in the background and institutions of higher learning all over the country were forced to cut

back and in some cases eliminate departments and programs. Gradually and systematically, into the late 1990's and the new millennium, ethnic studies programs unfortunately became disposable targets. At Merritt, ethnic studies in general and black/African-American studies in particular needed a person who would stand up to protect the history and integrity of these programs, which are still badly needed to meet students' needs, but also to protect the legacy of Merritt College's rich history of leadership and activism in the African-American Studies department.

Brown was up to the task, and when the opportunity arose with Measure A funds approved by voters in Alameda County, she proposed her plan to build a center partly modeled after the Liberty Hall Museum in Kingston, Jamaica, which is interactive and encourages engagement and critical thinking. At Liberty Hall Museum, not unlike the Museum of the African Diaspora (MOAD) in San Francisco, visitors walk through several rooms and interact with computerized modules. The Africana Center, though it is a small space with computers and iPads containing modules, still serves to inspire and engage students and visitors because of its powerful curriculum. The interactive curriculum includes four





modules: Classical African Civilization, The Maafa; Slavery and Colonialism of African People, Pan Africanism: WEB DuBois, Marcus Garvey, and Oakland's Black History and Current Issues: Migration, Education, Black Panther Party and more.

Six years in the making, it took a number of teams to bring it to fruition. Graphic designers, interior decorators, and artists contributed, and a number of community members from various organizations lent their voices as narrators and as storytellers that gave credibility and character to the curriculum modules. The Merritt African-American Studies Department (Afram) faculty and interns put in hundreds of unpaid hours to work and support the project. Afram Faculty coproducers in addition to Brown include Nehanda Imara, M.A.; Manu Ampim, M.A.; The Rev. Robert McKnight, M.A.; and Jason Seals, M.A. Hollywood filmmakers who were referred to Brown served as designers and producers and had a significant influence in turning the vision into reality. They had numerous brilliant ideas that added to the vision. The content production team included Jim L. Brecht, Alex Black, and Jed Riffe of Jed Riffe Films and Production, who gave video demonstrations of the background of the center.

Speakers included Dr. Brown, Peralta College Chancellor Jowel Laguerre,

Merritt President Dr. Norma Ambriz Galaviz, and Family Research Specialist Dera Williams. The libations ceremony was conducted by Baba Ochosi. A display created by the African American Genealogical Society of Northern California's outreach and education program chair illustrated black migration patterns from Southern states to the Bay Area. There also was a display of students' family research projects and books on genealogy.

Some notable guests were Bill Patterson, past president of Oakland NAACP; Dr. Wade Nobles, former Black Studies professor at San Francisco State University; Peralta Colleges board members; Minister Keith Muhammad; and former and current Black Panther Party members.

The Africana Center stands to play a leadership role in African and African-American studies curricula as its reach expands beyond the Bay Area and California.

Photo courtesy of Dera Williams



**Dera R. Williams** is a writer who has been published in several anthologies and journals and is co-author of *Mother's Wit: Stories of Mothers and Daughters*. She is the family historian and storyteller and has

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# 2016 Sacramento African American Seminar

*A well known keynote speaker brought out a record number of attendees*





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All photos are courtesy of Sharon Styles.

1 and 2. The chapel was packed for presentations

3. Keynote speaker Kenyatta Berry with seminar organizers

4. New AAGSNC member Linda Jack's display about the African American pioneers of Nevada County, California

5 and 6. The bustling cafeteria during the lunch break

7. Kenyatta Berry with other seminar presenters

8. Buffalo Soldiers 10th Cavalry display

# Overview of African American Research

*A solid foundation yields the best research results*

**Tony Burroughs**  
Contributor

This article is the first of a series available free online. To read the entire series, visit [https://www.ancestry.com/wiki/index.php?title=Overview\\_of\\_African\\_American\\_Research](https://www.ancestry.com/wiki/index.php?title=Overview_of_African_American_Research).

Contrary to popular belief, many records exist for researching African American genealogy. Some of these records are similar to those of European Americans, but African American sources diverge as American history meanders through prejudice, discrimination, and exclusionism. The 1896 U.S. Supreme court case *Plessy v. Ferguson* legalized the doctrine of “separate but equal.” As segregation flourished, two distinct societies evolved. Parallel organizations and institutions developed and multiplied in both communities. The records of the two populations may compare in type, location, and quantity, but they are catalogued separately. In addition to these records, African American research also yields several kinds of records that are unique.

This chapter examines many of the records available, dealing both with slave and nonslave related records. In cases where the records are the same as European American records, the text will attempt to show researchers how to use these sources to find African Americans most effectively. In other cases, where the records are unique or are similar but have developed separately, the text discusses them in detail. For example, county marriage records exist for both groups, but may be classified as “White” and “Colored” and filed separately. Print publications also illustrate the separation. *Who's Who in America* includes very few African Americans, while its counterpart, *Who's Who in Colored America*, is exclusively African American.<sup>1</sup>

A careful study of African American history provides researchers with a strong foundation for genealogical

research. The successful student of African American genealogy closely examines the history of segregation and the emergence of two different Americas, one white and one black. An understanding of the resulting cultural and societal differences is critical not only to locating records but also to evaluating their contents. Many of the conditions created by “separate but equal” are pointed out in the following discussion of sources.

## Oral History and Family Records

African American genealogy begins like all other genealogy: with oral history and family records. Researchers should follow the methods, sources, and examples found in “The Foundations of Family History Research.” An example of one type of record that is unique to the African American community, however, is the funeral program.

Attendees at a traditional funeral receive a prayer card after signing the guest register. This is a 2” x 3” folded card normally detailing the birth and death dates of the deceased, the date and location of the visitation or funeral, a prayer, and, at times, the name and location of the cemetery.

Attendees at an African American funeral are given a funeral program that contains, in addition to information found on a prayer card, a photograph of the deceased and a full obituary. These programs started as folded sheets of white paper and have evolved into elaborate full-color brochures of various textures, with multiple pages and photographs.

It appears that these funeral programs began in the 1930's or '40's, possibly because most African Americans were denied the opportunity to publish obituaries in mainstream newspapers. Funeral programs can be found among family memorabilia, and some genealogists are now donating them to libraries. For more information, see

Belzora Cheatham's *Funeral Programs/Obituaries of 579 African Americans*.<sup>2</sup>

## Research Back to 1870

The year of 1870 is a critical date for researchers of African American genealogy. It represents the beginning of an extremely difficult research period: the pre-1870 world of enslaved African Americans. Successful research in this period depends on how thoroughly one has researched records created after 1870. The researcher must use every available post-1870 source to work methodically back in time from the present, to build a strong foundation of evidence before trying to conduct pre-1870 work. Merely using census records, as many novices do, is not enough.

## Endnotes

1. *Who's Who in Colored America: A Biographical Dictionary of Notable Living Men and Women*, volumes 1–7. New York: Who's Who in Colored America Corp. and various publishers, 1927–1950.
2. Belzora Cheatham, *Funeral Programs/Obituaries of 579 African Americans*. N.p.: Belzora Cheatham, 1998, Atlanta. Texas Public Library 920.02 CHE.

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Photo courtesy of Sharon Styles

**Tony Burroughs** is an internationally known genealogist, author, and lecturer. He is frequently interviewed in local, national, and international media for his genealogy expertise. Visit his Web site at <http://www.tonyburroughs.com/>.



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# Race, Religion, and Reading Records Right

continued from cover

our grandfather was raised Catholic and destined for the priesthood to please his father and grandmother. I was new to genealogy but knew after gathering family stories and documents from the elders that I should organize what I found, source it, and present my findings. I had already set a goal, to prove Granddad was raised Catholic.

I was born and raised in northern California and had never been to either Cincinnati, Ohio, where our grandfather was born, or to New Orleans, where his father had been born. Granddad was Andrew Bruce Cresap, a descendant of immigrant Thomas Cresap, a pioneer of western Maryland. There is a Cresap Society in Thomas Cresap's honor with historical books about him and descendants. The family is overwhelmingly Protestant. Granddad's parents were Cresap cousins, so the likelihood that any Catholicism had come into the family was probably from a marriage. Granddad's mother died in childbirth when he was young, and he and his siblings had been cared for by their "French grandmother." At the end of his life, he still said she had been the finest couturier (dress designer) in Cincinnati, as well as the most beautiful woman he ever set eyes on. I had not been a good history student but remembered vaguely that France was a Catholic country, so I set my sights on her as the Catholic influence.

## Beginning the Search

I wanted to prove that my great-great-grandmother, Martha Cresap née Bauduc, was Catholic. I gathered what information I had at home, which included Cresap Society books and DAR correspondence.

## A Lineage Book

*The History of the Cresaps*, Joseph Ord Cresap and Bernarr Cresap, McComb, Mississippi: Cresap Society, 1937; page 311

71. JAMES WILLIAM CRESAP, b 1814 – m 1840, **Martha Burdeau**, in New Orleans, La., – d 1847.

355. John Cresap, b 1841 – m Helen Dumont – d 1911 (s.p.)

356. Robert J. Cresap, b 1844–1923

## Extracts from an 1844 Douay Bible

The extracts are in my mother's handwriting. The Bible was originally owned by the above family and is now in a Cresap cousin's possession.

## Marriage

James W. Cresap & **Martha Bou'bon** at Ex Bar of St. Louis, Mississippi the 27th of April Anno Domoni 1840

## Births

Jas W. Cresap, at Cresap's Town, Maryland on the 11th day of May AD 1814

**Martha Bouduc**, wife of Jas W. Cresap, at New Orleans, Louisiana on the 10th day of July AD 1819

John Van Cresap son of Jas W. & Martha Cresap, at Lafayette, Louisiana on the 20th day of May AD 1841

Robert James Cresap son of Jas W. and Martha Cresap at New Orleans, Louisiana on the 20th August AD 1844

## Deaths

Jas. W. Cresap at Williamsport, Point Coupee Parish, Louisiana on the 26th day of July AD 1847

Martha Cresap, mother of Robert J. Cresap died Cincinnati, O. Saturday. July eighteenth eighteen hundred and ninety one. July 18th 1891 aged seventy-three years

## DAR Correspondence

The correspondence was in relation to my late mother's DAR application.

A letter from the DAR asking, "Can you learn more about Martha Bauduc?"

A request to the New Orleans courthouse with the reply, "No birth record found"

A note in my mother's hand: "Burdeau?"

There seemed to be confusion over Martha's true last name: Burdeau, Bou'bon, Bauduc?

It occurred to me that even though New Orleans birth records did not apparently go back as far as 1819, maybe they went back at least to 1844, when Granddad's father, Robert James Cresap, was born, so I wrote requesting that. Sure enough, I received a very muddy copy of his birth record from 1844, volume 9, page 142. Above and below what I have transcribed is text I can read little of.

Cresap, Robert James  
[four muddy lines]

Mr James William Cresap a native of the State of Maryland, a speculator residing on Constance Street opposite the Cotton- [—] in the Second Municipality, who in presence of the undersigned witness declares, that on the twentieth of August eighteen hundred and forty four (20th August 1844), at eleven o'clock P.M. in a house Situated in the Corner of Annunciation & Poydras Streets, in the aforesaid Municipality, was born a female [sic] child named Robert James Cresap, issue of the legitimate marriage of Informant with **Mrs. Martha Bauduc** a native of France.

I was new to genealogy, and I believed every word of this. After all, it was a legal document. I would learn it actually has three outright untruths in it, in addition to the mistake about the sex of the child. This birth record is for a white child, born of a legitimate marriage to a woman who was a native of France. First, Martha was born in New Orleans in 1822, when it was in the United States. Second, the laws of the time did not allow marriage between whites and people of color, free or not. Third, any child resulting from a mixed union took the status of the mother. Thus, a white mother's child was white, and the child of a mother of color was designated a

child of color. I didn't know any of that then, not the laws, and not the status of Martha.

At this point, what I knew or believed to be true was that our grandfather's grandfather moved from western Maryland to New Orleans, where he married a French woman, Martha Burdeau/Bou'bon/Bauduc. They had two children. He died. She moved north to Cincinnati. She worked as a couturier, never remarried, and died there in 1891.

### Visiting Local Repositories, Gathering Data, and Driving Blind

The San Francisco Bay area has a number of excellent genealogy libraries. I used three for my research: the Oakland Family History Center, Sutro Library, and the California Genealogical Society Library.

### Catholic Records

I returned repeatedly to the Family History Center because it had early New Orleans censuses and city directories on microfiche and microfilm, and an almost complete set of extractions of the early Archdiocese of New Orleans sacramental records (Catholic baptism, marriage, and burial records). If Martha had been Catholic, she surely would have been baptized.

I looked for a Martha, under all three possible last names, born July 10, 1819, and I found one! Volume 15, page 21 of the Archdiocese of New Orleans Sacramental Records, 1822–1823 had two Bauduc entries. Each lists a child, the parents, and the date(s) of the event(s).

### BAUDUC

- Julien (Joseph and Caroline [EPINESSE?], 22 mo., i. Jun. 11, 1822, d [o] (SLC, F13, 28)
- Marthe (Joseph Theodor and Pulcherie CASSAU), b. Jan. 22, 1822, bn. Jul. 10, 1819, s. Pierre BAUDUC and Jeanne DESBANC (SLC, B32, 107)

Code: SLC, B32, 107 [St Louis Cathedral] libro decimo septimo de

The first record is for the burial of a child of Joseph Bauduc and Caroline, whose last name was apparently hard to read (it turned out to be Epinette). The second is the baptism of a Marthe Bauduc, born July 10, 1819, the same date as in the Cresap family Bible. Her father was also a Joseph Bauduc, and her mother was Pulcherie Cassau. Martha's baptism was two and a half years after her birth. The codes under the two listings are different, so I looked them up in the book's introduction. SLC, St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans, is the same in each record. Book F13 is an ordinary diocesan record book, but B32 is special. It is a book that records people of color, known then as *gens de couleur*.

It is the volume for “libro decimo septimo de bautismos de sola gente de color . . . baptisms of slaves and free people of color from Aug. 2, 1820, to Feb. 2, 1823”, page 107.

Oh, the irony. Here I was trying to prove that some of our Cresaps were Catholic, while I was misled by my own assumption that all of our Cresaps were white. For that matter, if I had read New Orleans history of the time, I might have questioned the odds that two different Martha Bauducs could have been born on the same day in a city of roughly 27,000 people. But I had my own blind spots and a woeful lack of historical knowledge. Disappointed, I put the book back on the shelf and spent the next few years gathering data and driving into the fog of presumption.

### Genealogy Books

All three of the local libraries have self-published books of family histories. In Sutro I found one of interest, *Joseph Theodore Burdeau Descendants: With Allied Gwathmey, Moales and Walker Families* by Richard Bordeaux Walker, published in 1996. It is a delightful book about a paddlewheeler captain and inspector who plied the Mississippi from St. Louis to New Orleans. This Joseph Theodore Burdeau was close in age to Martha. I copied many things from the book. The author had no idea of the captain's origins—the family story was that three French brothers came to the Caribbean from France and spread out from there. The family did



know, however, the captain's birth date and place: July 29, 1817, New Orleans, which was two years before Martha was born.

### Keeping Track of Data

As I found information I entered it into a genealogy database with the source and where and when I found it. I also started a timeline to keep track of dates. My timeline (see page 12) started small and grew to nearly forty pages. It began

Cover image: A family gathering many years ago, with me standing at the left and the cousin I challenged sitting at the right front

1. Captain Joseph Theodore Burdeau, born New Orleans, July 29, 1817. Certified U.S. Inspector and steamboat captain on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers.
2. United States 1850 Federal Population Census, District 82, St. Louis County, Missouri, August 21, 1850, page 144, families 1024 and 1025, lines 28–36.
3. United States 1850 Federal Population Census, 10th Ward, Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio, September 24, 1850, page 151 (printed), lines 34–36.
4. Bauduc family tomb, which includes burial of Joseph Theodore Bauduc, who died in 1849.
5. Photograph of Lavinia Grace (Bruce) Cresap and her son Andrew Bruce Cresap (my grandfather), circa 1878.

All images courtesy of Lavinia Schwartz.

**Timeline: Bauduc, Burdeau, Cresap (highlights)**

- 1814 Cresap, James William, born May 11 Maryland
- 1819 Bauduc, Martha, born July 10, New Orleans, Louisiana (NOLA)
- 1822 Bauduc, Joseph T., merchant, 29 Tchopitoulas, NOLA
- 1824 Bauduc, Joseph T., merchant, negociant, 161 Tchapitoulas, NOLA
- 1830 Bauduc, Joseph T., U.S. census, NOLA  
Bauduc, J. T., confectioner, corner St. Louis & Treme, NOLA
- 1840 Cresap, J. W. and Martha Bauduc marry, Mississippi  
Bauduc, Joseph T., U.S. census, NOLA
- 1846 Bauduc, J. T., professor, Bayou Tonti & Rocheblave sts, NOLA  
Cresap & Co., grocers, 120 Tchoupitoulas, NOLA  
Cresap, J. V. & J. W., of the above firm, NOLA
- 1847 Cresap, James William, died, interred, NOLA
- 1850 Cresap, Martha, U.S. census, August 21, St. Louis, Missouri  
Crisop, Martha, U.S. census, September 24, Cincinnati, Ohio

with New Orleans city directories, census records, and the family Bible. There was only one Bauduc (Joseph T.) in New Orleans, so I included him.

This led to data but no answers I could understand, so I gathered information about Martha Bauduc Cresap in Cincinnati city directories (see page 13) and census records. She was indeed a widowed dressmaker with two sons.

I continued my timeline right up to Martha Cresap's death in Cincinnati in 1891. Our grandfather's family did live with her at 182 Barr. Grandad turned 13 just before she died in the summer of 1891.

I had a bit of luck with Martha's 1850 census. She was counted twice—in August in St. Louis and a month later in Cincinnati. In St. Louis she was living apparently next door to another young Louisiana-born widow and her four sons. I had no idea who Louise J. Nadaud, the neighbor, was but I noted her. Louise was not with Martha in Cincinnati.

Reviewing what I knew, believed to be true, or was nagging at me: Our grandfather's grandfather, James William Cresap, moved from western Maryland to New Orleans, where he married a French woman, Martha Bauduc/Burdeau (I stopped tracking Bou'bon because it appeared only once). They had two children. He died. She moved north to Cincinnati. On her way to Cincinnati she stopped in St. Louis and lived near someone named Louise J. Nadaud. She worked as a couturier, never remarried, and died in Cincinnati in 1891. Her name might have been Burdeau, the same as a paddlewheeler captain, Joseph Theodore Burdeau, who lived in St. Louis, was from New Orleans, and was two years older than she was. No Burdeaus were in the early New Orleans directories and only one Bauduc: Joseph Theodore Bauduc.

(144)

**SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in** *District 32* **in the County of** *St. Louis* **2**  
**of** *Missouri* **enumerated by me, on the** *21<sup>st</sup>* **day of** *August* **1850.** *Brooklyn Burdeau* **Ass't Ma**

Dwellings, streets, or order of visitation.	Dwellings, streets, or order of visitation.	The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family.	DESCRIPTION.			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of such Male Person over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate owned.	PLACE OF BIRTH. Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year. Attested by the Minister of the Gospel, or some other authorized person.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, idiotic, pauper, or convict.		
			Age.	Sex.	Color.							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	1017/1017	Charles Smith	48	M	W			St. Louis				
28	1023/1023	Louise J. Nadaud	34	F				La.				
29		James W. "	16	M				La.				
30		Levie J. "	9	M				La.				
31		James J. "	7	M				La.				
32		Charles J. "	5	M				La.				
33	1024/1024	Martha Cresap	39	F				La.				
34		John G. "	9	M				La.				
35		James R. "	6	M				La.				
36		Bridget Lawler	18	F				Ireland				

**SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in** *The 10<sup>th</sup> Ward of Cincinnati* **in the County of** *Hamilton* **State** **3**  
**of** *Ohio* **enumerated by me, on the** *24<sup>th</sup>* **day of** *September* **1850.** *J. T. Howe* **Ass't Marshal.**

Dwellings, streets, or order of visitation.	Dwellings, streets, or order of visitation.	The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family.	DESCRIPTION.			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of such Male Person over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate owned.	PLACE OF BIRTH. Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year. Attested by the Minister of the Gospel, or some other authorized person.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, idiotic, pauper, or convict.		
			Age.	Sex.	Color.							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1		Elizabeth Caskey	57	F				Ohio				
34	2302	Margaret Crisp	45	F				Louisiana				
35		John	10	M				"				
36		Robert	6	M				"				

**Getting a Clue, or Not**

I was stuck but didn't stop searching. I found the burials of Joseph Theodore Bauduc and family while looking for a lost child named Martha. She wasn't there.

## Cincinnati, Ohio, City Directories

- 1851/2 Cresap, Mrs. Martha, s.s. George h Cutter and Linn  
 1853 Cresap, Mrs. Martha, 85 Barr  
 1859 Cresap, Mrs. Martha, dressmkr, 90 Barr  
 1860 Cresap, Mrs. Martha, dressmkr, 221 Longworth  
 1861 Cresap, M., 287 Longworth  
 1862 Cresap, Margaret, 52 Barr  
 1863 Cresap, Martha, dressmkr, h. 62 Barr  
 1865 Cresap, Martha, widow, h 63 Barr  
 1866 Cresap, Martha, widow, bds. 62 Barr  
 Cresap, Robt. J. clk s.w.c. 5th & Walnut, h 62 Barr  
 1867 Cresap, Martha, widow, h. 62 Barr  
 Cresap, Robert J., Coal and Wood Yard, s.w.c. Findlay and Linn, h 62 Barr  
 1869 Cresap, R. J. & Co., (RJC & J. H. McClung) Dealers in New and Second Hand Furniture, 275 & 276 Central Av  
 1891 Cresap, Martha, wid. Jas. W. H., 182 Barr  
 Cresap, Robert J., real estate, auctioneer and note broker, 13 W. 4th, residence, 182 Barr

Robert Cresap's listings were at this address until 1923.



5

I found some lovely photos of our grandfather and his parents, but no Catholic Martha.

I got headaches going through the New Orleans archdiocesan records again and again, trying different spellings and different years. Some angels even tried to blast through to me. I was sitting, as usual, at a table at the Oakland Family History Center, this time on a Wednesday night when the African American Genealogy Workshop was meeting. Two ladies at my table were excitedly sharing finds when one turned to the other and said, "You know, some white people can't even imagine having black ancestors." I lost all interest in my brick wall and just listened to them for a while, then went home for the night.

*To be continued . . .*

4



**St. Louis Cemetery #3**  
*off of Esplanade Street*

-- **Bauduc Family Tomb:**  
*St. Phil.'s Alley, Left, Tomb #5*

**Jh. Thre. Bauduc** *natif des Cayes St. Louis, Ile St. Domingue*  
*decede le 25 Dec. 1849 a l'age de 69 ans et 5 mois.*

Photo courtesy of Lavinia Schwarz



A third-generation Californian, **Lavinia "Vinnie" Schwarz** has researched her family history since 1999. She has a BA in English literature from UC Berkeley and an MA in education from Tufts University. A few years spent as a paralegal has been a great help in her genealogical research. She has done most of her research on ancestors who lived in California, Ohio, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, Louisiana, England, France, and Haiti.

# The Leaf

Updates from the Board of Directors,  
Officers, Society Committees, and Blog

## AAGSNC Executive Committee Meeting Notes

March, April, and May 2016

March 19, 2016

Present: President Howard Edwards, Jackie Chauhan, Upperton Hurts, Annette Madden, Jackie Stewart, Alvis Ward, Dera Williams

The February minutes were approved with corrections.

### Committee Reports

**Treasurer:** Howard Edwards for Gerry DeBerry

The ending balance of the budget in February was \$8,590.

Budget reports were approved as submitted.

Our 2015 taxes have been done.

**Membership:** Upperton Hurts

The \$5.00 penalty for late membership dues has been eliminated.

The question "How did you hear about us?" will be added to revised membership forms.

**Programs:** Annette Madden

The program has yet to be determined for June.

**Website:** Upperton Hurts

Jackie asked if the member generation charts had been moved. Upperton will check but as far as he knows they are still there.

**Publicity:** Jackie Stewart

Publicity is getting out and we are getting new visitors and members. Jackie has presented at the West Oakland Senior Citizen Center and other forums.

**Journal:** Howard Edwards for Janice M. Sellers

The print copy of the Winter 2016 issue of *Baobab* is now available.

**Historian:** Jackie Chauhan

The *Sacramento Observer* covered the Sacramento African American seminar.

**Outreach and Education:** Alvis Ward

67 people signed up for DNA tests at a discount from BHFDP program for \$149; must be done in bulk. AAGSNC will pay up front and then the participants will reimburse us. We will accept checks and money orders. An e-mail blast will go out regarding the plan.

### 20th Anniversary

It was suggested we discount our merchandise for the anniversary. It was also discussed there be a 10% discount on both membership and merchandise from September 2016 through December 2016.

### Freedmen's Bureau Indexing

The indexing is at 61%. It was suggested that AAGSNC participate by having indexing dates a couple of evenings at the Family History Center.

There was no report from the President.

## Announcements

The Africana Studies Community Research Center grand opening is Wednesday, March 30, 5:30–7:30 p.m. at Merritt College in Building L, Room 127.

Submitted by Recording Secretary Dera Williams.

April 16, 2016

Present: President Howard Edwards, Gerry DeBerry, Diana Ross, Janice M. Sellers, Jackie Stewart

### Committee Reports

**Treasurer:** Gerry DeBerry

Budget report was distributed to the committee.

**Programs:** Jackie Stewart

Michael Willis will be the presenter for the June meeting, speaking on DNA. Should we attempt to reschedule Dimond librarian Rebekah Eppley?

**Membership:** Upperton Hurts (reported by phone)

Current membership is 135. Twenty members have not renewed from last year.

**Website:** Gerry DeBerry

The 20th Anniversary event will be changed on the site from June to September. The "Historical Highlights" will be moved from Members Only location to public view.

**Publicity:** Jackie Stewart

Publicity and calendars for meetings continue to be distributed.

**Journal:** Janice M. Sellers

The Winter issue of *The Baobab Tree* has been sent to all parties. Tony Burroughs gave permission to reprint an article in the next journal.

### **Outreach and Education**

**Ancestry Day:** Janice, Gerry, and Diana will staff an AAGSNC table at the June 18 Ancestry Day event.

**Freedman's Bureau indexing:** The transcription work is 70% complete. We will ask for more volunteers.

### **Other Business:**

More DNA sessions have been suggested. Discussion showed that we have had three this year: Black Family History Day, March society meeting, June society meeting. That should be enough.

Submitted by Publicity Committee Chair Jackie Stewart in absence of Recording Secretary Dera Williams.

### **May 21, 2016**

Present: President Howard Edwards, Upperton Hurts, Annette Madden, Diana Ross, Jackie Stewart, Janice M. Sellers, Alvis Ward

Absent: Jackie Chauhan, Gerry DeBerry, Carol Miller, Dera Williams

April minutes: Howard read the April minutes from the Executive Committee meeting. They were approved.

### **Committee Reports**

**Treasurer:** Howard Edwards for Gerry DeBerry

Howard read the Treasurer's report. The society has \$8,065 on hand. If anyone wishes to know more details, contact Howard directly.

Howard read the current status of the committee budget balances.

**Programs:** Annette Madden

Michael Willis will be the June speaker, refuting that autosomal DNA is of no use in genealogical research. The Dimond Library librarian might be rescheduled for October or November.

**Publicity:** Jackie Stewart

The committee is still publicizing Society events.

Alvis requested more copies of the calendar for the June 18 Ancestry Day in South San Francisco. He also said that the van he had been borrowing to transport the large table display would not be available; Janice said she would be able to carry the display to South San Francisco.

**Journal:** Janice M. Sellers

The next issue of *The Baobab Tree* should be published soon. Also, extra copies of recent issues seem to be missing. Howard said the extra copies might be in storage.

**Outreach and Education:** Alvis Ward

**Freedmen's Bureau indexing:** The events at the Family History Center had some people come, but not at the scheduled times. No AAGSNC general members came. As of May 19, 82% of the records had been transcribed.

**Ancestry Day, June 18:** Alvis will be going. Felicia volunteered to come and help. Patrice Anderson and Rhonda Edwards have previously volunteered; Janice will contact them to see if they are still able to come. Gerry and Diana will not be able to come after all.

Howard pointed out that the O&E Committee was already way over its budget. All expenses from now through the end of the year must be approved before spending additional money.

Alvis said he wants to make donations to the Society for O&E.

There were no reports from the Vice President, Membership Committee, Website Committee, or Historian.

**20th Anniversary:** Janice M. Sellers

Janice has created a budget to have a low-key party in the Dimond Library for about \$450–\$500, which leaves enough to also have a dinner later that evening to honor the Society's founders. The founders will be invited to attend the general party and asked if they would like to talk about their experiences with establishing the Society. This plan was approved.

### **Other Business**

Alvis has had to cancel the DNA deal he promoted earlier in the year. People who have already paid will get refunds.

Submitted by Journal Committee Chairman Janice M. Sellers in absence of Recording Secretary Dera Williams.



### AAGSNC Merchandise Price List

You can proudly show everyone you are a member of the African American Genealogical Society of Northern California and help support the society at the same time.



Coffee Mug, Beige with Green Logo	\$7.50
Tote Bag, Beige with Burgundy or Black Strap	\$20.00
Tote Bag, Vintage, White with Blue Strap	\$20.00
T-Shirt, Black, S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL	\$25.00
Magnifying Glass, Plastic, 2 ½"	\$1.00
Page Magnifier, Fresnel, 2 3/8" x 7 5/8"	\$2.00

All prices valid as of March 1, 2016.



# Web Notes

Events, resources, and stories found while wandering the Web

Janice M. Sellers

Editor, *The Baobab Tree*

Note: All URLs are valid as of the date of publication.

Buffalo Soldiers 150th anniversary, free event at Presidio, San Francisco, **August 6, 2016**

<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/buffalo-soldiers-150th-anniversary-the-california-story-tickets-25040320272>

“Roots at 40: Reflections & Remembrances” call for papers, deadline **November 1, 2016**

<http://digitalcommons.goodwin.edu/roots/>

Why slaves’ graves matter

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/03/opinion/sunday/why-slaves-graves-matter.html>

“Little Known Black Librarian Facts” blog with historical notes

<http://littleknownblacklibrarianfacts.blogspot.com/>

Black history as seen through DNA

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/05/28/science/african-american-dna.html>

A black academic sociologist looks at DNA testing

<http://www.magazine.columbia.edu/features/winter-2015-16/double-edged-helix>

New online platform for searching African-American archives across the country

<http://www.startribune.com/african-american-history-is-the-focus-of-online-search-tool-at-the-university-of-minnesota/384617221/>

3D modeling of the Atlantic slave trade

<http://www.engineering.com/BIM/ArticleID/12012/Using-3D-Modeling-to-Map-the-Atlantic-Slave-Trade.aspx>

Abolitionist art and the American slave trade (Podcast)

<http://www.blogtalkradio.com/bernicebennett/2016/05/13/slaves-waiting-for-sale-with-maurie-d-mcinnis>

Living history actress at George Washington’s Mount Vernon has comedy Web series based on her work experiences

<http://www.askaslave.com/>

Online database of runaway slave advertisements

<http://www.news.cornell.edu/stories/2016/03/runaway-slave-ads-portray-grim-period-us-history>

Database to be made from information in Underground Railroad journal

<http://www.phillyvoice.com/online-database-of-philadelphia-abolitionists-diary-to-ease-underground-railroad-research/>

Review of book about slavery in Cuba and only Spanish-language slave autobiography

<https://repeatingislands.com/2016/03/12/gerard-aching-on-slavery-and-literature-in-cuba/>

Author of only slave autobiography written in native language

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omar\\_ibn\\_Said](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omar_ibn_Said)

Suicide among slaves (PDF)

<http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/maai/emancipation/text2/suicide.pdf>

Elizabeth Keckley, black businesswoman and dressmaker to Mary Todd Lincoln

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/blog/elizabeth-keckley-businesswoman-and-philanthropist>

1846 *Anti-Slavery Alphabet* pamphlet

<http://www.upworthy.com/this-1846-pamphlet-wants-your-kids-to-explain-to-you-why-slavery-is-wrong>

National database of U.S. slave burial sites

<http://hyperallergic.com/288551/a-new-database-will-document-the-burial-sites-of-us-slaves/>

Mapping slavery between 1790 and 1870

<http://www.radicalcartography.net/index.html?slavery>

Black fraternal and benevolent organizations (Podcast)

<http://www.blogtalkradio.com/bernicebennett/2016/03/11/fraternalism-and-african-american-genealogy-with-james-morgan-iii>

Eradication of original KKK

[http://www.slate.com/articles/news\\_and\\_politics/history/2016/03/how\\_a\\_detachment\\_of\\_u\\_s\\_army\\_soldiers\\_smoked\\_out\\_the\\_original\\_ku\\_klux\\_klan.html](http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/history/2016/03/how_a_detachment_of_u_s_army_soldiers_smoked_out_the_original_ku_klux_klan.html)

Database of “Lost Friends” ads seeking to find relatives separated by slavery

<http://www.hnoc.org/database/lost-friends/index.html>

Hypothesis that tipping originated in racism

<http://qz.com/609293/how-american-tipping-grew-out-of-racism/>

Author of recent book on black lithographer says he was successful because he passed for white

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grafton\\_Tyler\\_Brown](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grafton_Tyler_Brown)  
<http://www.milibrary.org/events/grafon-tyler-brown-african-american-lithographer-feb-12-2016>

<http://www.amazon.com/San-Francisco-Lithographer-American-Photography/dp/0806144106/>

Oldest Buffalo Soldier lived to be 111 years old

<http://web.archive.org/web/20071031092917/http://www4.army.mil/news/article.php?story=7913>

Library of Congress collection of oral narratives from black women

<http://blogs.loc.gov/folklife/2016/04/african-american-womens-stories/>

When the Red Cross refused blood donations from blacks

<http://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/in-the-early-1940s-the-red-cross-banned-black-blood-donors>

The woman in John Biggers’ drawings

[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/roadshow/fts/batonrouge\\_201306A44.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/roadshow/fts/batonrouge_201306A44.html)

## Baobab Writer's Guidelines

Interested in submitting your work to *The Baobab Tree*? You don't have to be a professional writer! Just tell your story the best you can and be willing to work with the editors to polish it for publication.

Here are some helpful hints when preparing your submissions:

- Type all submissions. Times New Roman font, 12 point is best.
- Write one to three pages. We always need some one-page stories; more than three pages is too long.
- We will edit. All submissions are subject to review by our journal committee and editors, and may be edited for clarity and to fit the space available.
- Send your bio along with your story; include your contact e-mail and phone number(s). Bio should be in narrative form if possible, not a resume; we will still edit as needed.
- Send your portrait. E-mail a JPG photo of yourself along with your story or article. A good clear head-and-shoulders shot of you is best, in front of a solid color background that contrasts with your hair and skin tone. If you only have a shot of yourself with other people, we may be able to crop it (*i.e.*, cut out the other folks).
- Photos, documents, and other graphics are always welcome, in JPG format. Make sure pictures are at least 300 dpi (dots per inch), sharp, and clear and have enough contrast to show up well in black and white. All photos and documents must have credits and captions submitted in a separate document.
- Respect the deadlines you're given for submissions and corrections. If your material is late, it might have to be held for the next issue or drastically altered to fit the space.

E-mail us at [journal@aagsnc.org](mailto:journal@aagsnc.org).

The 15-year-old girl who refused to give up her seat nine months before Rosa Parks  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Claudette\\_Colvin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Claudette_Colvin)

*Washington Post* launches crowdsourced "Historically Black" on Tumblr  
<http://www.poynter.org/2016/the-washington-post-is-launching-a-crowdsourced-black-history-project-on-tumblr/418512/>

AAGSNC member Michael Willis interviewed his grandfather, the first black man to integrate the Oakland Fire Department  
<https://storycorps.me/interviews/interview-with-milton-e-williams-the-first-african-american-to-integrate-the-oakland-fire-department-in-the-1950s/>

History of the Black Panther Party in San Francisco (video)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aS9ip138MBo>

Census poverty data for Alameda County, California and relationship to race-based loan restrictions, unemployment, and life expectancy  
<http://ac-hcsa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=c7eac040d44e47939d94bbad80ab630e>

Slaves owned and sold by Georgetown University  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/17/us/georgetown-university-search-for-slave-descendants.html>  
<http://earlywashingtondc.org/>  
<http://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/unltoday/article/project-uncovers-early-dc-slave-family-histories/>  
<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/05/20/us/-descendants-of-slaves-sold-to-aid-georgetown.html>

AAGSNC member Patricia Bayonne-Johnson featured in *Washington Post* article about the Georgetown slaves  
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/inspired-life/wp/2016/06/17/georgetown-priests-sold-her-ancestors-into-slavery-heres-how-she-cracked-the-mystery/>

The Georgetown Memory Project (Podcast)

<http://www.blogtalkradio.com/bernicebennett/2016/05/20/the-georgetown-memory-project-with-judy-riffel-and-patricia-bayonne-johnson>

Jefferson County, Florida freedmen's contracts  
<https://www.floridamemory.com/collections/freedmen/>

Brooklyn, Illinois, first black town incorporated in United States  
<http://www.histarch.illinois.edu/Brooklyn/>

Drawings of 12 freed slave children in 1864 Baton Rouge shown on *Antiques Roadshow* segment  
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/roadshow/season/20/cleveland-oh/appraisals/1864-civil-war-education-teachers-archive--201504A08>

Two black centenarians in Baltimore written about in mainstream newspaper  
<http://sweeteatartlemonsandmemories.blogspot.com/2016/03/sunday-cemetery-annie-sullivan.html>

Black musical traditions from Mississippi Delta country, recorded 1941–1942, now online  
<http://blogs.loc.gov/folklife/2016/06/american-folklife-center-reissues-four-historic-lps/>

The "Mississippi Burning" case has been officially closed, 52 years later  
<http://www.forensicmag.com/article/2016/06/mississippi-burning-case-closed-52-years-later>

The true story of "Indian" pop star Korla Pandit  
<http://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/how-a-black-man-from-missouri-passed-as-an-indian-pop-star>

Books about black history in northern Nevada  
<http://ourstoryinc.com/book-store/>

Slavery in early New York State  
<http://www.nypl.org/blog/2016/04/12/slavery-early-nyc>

New York Public Library Podcast of Ta-Nehisi Coates and Khalil Gibran Muhammad  
<http://www.nypl.org/blog/2015/10/20/podcast-ta-nehisi-coates>

Slave deeds of Buncombe County, North Carolina are online  
[http://www.buncombecounty.org/governing/depts/registerdeeds/genealogy\\_slavedeeds.aspx](http://www.buncombecounty.org/governing/depts/registerdeeds/genealogy_slavedeeds.aspx)

Historic black cemetery of South Asheville, North Carolina  
<http://www.southashevillescemetery.net/history/>

Newly discovered eyewitness account of 1921 destruction of Tulsa's "Black Wall Street"  
<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/long-lost-manuscript-contains-searing-eyewitness-account-tulsa-race-massacre-1921-180959251/>

Panel discussion about history of Oklahoma's all-black towns (video)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mL2ihPUjuj0>

Brown University's slave history  
[http://www.brown.edu/Research/Slavery\\_Justice/](http://www.brown.edu/Research/Slavery_Justice/)

Archives reveal history and culture behind black mourning practices in South Carolina  
<http://coladaily.com/2016/02/15/103827/>

Tennessee Supreme Court online index for case files from 1809–c. 1950, including slavery and ownership disputes  
<http://www.legalgenealogist.com/2016/04/14/oh-yes-tennessee-goodies/>

A new look at America's first serial killer, who murdered black women in Austin, Texas  
<http://www.mprnews.org/story/2016/06/20/books-midnight-assassin>

University of Virginia's slave history  
<http://slavery.virginia.edu/>

Letters on auction site that mention slaves from Danville, Virginia  
<http://www.worthpoint.com/worthopedia/1835-letter-danville-king-william-virginia-wagon>  
<http://www.worthpoint.com/worthopedia/1836-letter-from-levi-holbrook-danville-virginia>

<http://www.worthpoint.com/worthopedia/1850-danville-virginia-letter-negro-flu-epidemic>

Saint Luke Penny Savings Bank opened in 1903 in Richmond, Virginia  
[http://www.aaregistry.org/historic\\_events/view/saint-luke-penny-savings-bank-opens](http://www.aaregistry.org/historic_events/view/saint-luke-penny-savings-bank-opens)

Nzinga Mbandi, queen of the Mbundu kingdom, fought Portuguese slavers for decades  
<http://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/portuguese-slave-traders-were-no-match-for-angolan-queen-nzinga-mbandi>

Four Cubans, descendants of a slave, visit ancestral homeland in Africa  
<http://www.havanatimes.org/?p=93326>

Black Madonna of Notre Dame de Lorette, France  
<http://roadstothe greatwar-ww1.blogspot.com/2016/04/the-black-madonna-of-notre-dame-de.html>

The most powerful African in Indian history  
<http://www.theguardian.com/books/2016/feb/19/india-history-retold-forgotten-individuals>

Likely only black member of the Irish Republican Army  
<http://www.irishcentral.com/news/Only-Black-IRA-member-tells-amazing-story-Hollywood.html>

Liberian online history site  
<http://viewpoints.iu.edu/policy-briefings/2016/03/23/liberian-president-helps-launch-archival-website-developed-with-help-from-iu/>

A Nigerian comics start-up creating African superheroes  
<http://qz.com/585349/a-nigerian-comics-startup-is-finally-creating-african-superheroes/>

Appeal for letters and photos of Caribbean and West African RAF pilots  
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Thanks to Dera Williams for posting several of these links.

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- Miscellaneous topics of interest in researching black ancestors
- Resources and methods of research in Africa
- Mystery photos

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- Church records (baptisms, burials, marriages, etc.)
- Court records
- Manumission and freedom certificates
- Missionary and benevolent society records
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- Tax lists naming free blacks or slaves
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