

**Research Guide to
African-American Genealogical Resources
Available at the
St. Mary's County Historical Society (SMCHS)**

[Revised 01/03/12]

Although African-American genealogy can be difficult to trace, it is no longer considered impossible. Most blacks came to America during the period of legal slavery, a time when documentation of blacks as individuals was often lacking. However, even then there were some free blacks, and by 1863, one-seventh of all blacks in the United States were free. This means that there are many blacks now living in the United States who have free black ancestry. Almost every black family can be traced back until at least 1825.

The St. Mary's County Historical Society, Leonardtown, Maryland, holds early vital records, census records, military records and other items of interest to those researching African-Americans who lived in St. Mary's County. To best utilize these resources, one needs basic genealogical research skills, a broad understanding of black American history, and an awareness of the County's slave system.

The following records are available at the St. Mary's County Historical Society. The Society's Research Center and Library uses the Dewey Decimal Classification System to classify its collections.

Background Materials

Africans in America: American's journey through slavery. Charles Johnson and Patricia Smith. New York: Harcourt Brace, 1998. 494p. [301.451 JOH]

The American Negro: what he was, what he is, and what he may become; a critical and practical discussion. William Hannibal Thomas. London: Macmillan, 1901. 440p. [301.451 THO]

Black courage 1775-1783; documentation of black participation in the American Revolution. Robert Ewell Greene. Washington, DC: National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution, 1984. 141p. [973.3 GRE]

Black genesis: a resource book for African-American genealogy. James M. Rose and Alice Eichholz. 2nd ed. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2003. 422p. [016.973 ROS]

Black history: a guide to civilian records in the National Archives. Debra L. Newman. Wash., DC: National Archives Trust Fund Board, 1984. 379p. [016.973 NEW]

Black studies; select catalog of National Archives and Records Service. Wash., DC: 1973. 71p. [016.301451 NAT]

But now when I look back; remembering St. Mary's County through Farm Security Administration Photographs. Andrea Hammer. Westminster, MD: Opera House Printing, 1988. 96p. [305.4 HAM]

Cash for blood; the Baltimore to New Orleans Domestic Slave Trade. Ralph Clayton. Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2002. 680p. [305.451 CLA]

The conquerors of the New World and their bondsmen; being a narrative of the principal events which led to Negro slavery in the West Indies and America. London: William Pickering, 1848. 2 vols. [326 ANO]

Escape on the Pearl; the heroic bid for freedom on the Underground Railroad. Mary Kay Ricks. New York: William Morrow, 2007. 432p. []

The ethnic experience in Maryland: a bibliography of resources. Jean Scarpaci. Towson, MD: Maryland Bicentennial Commission, 1976-1977. 33p. [016.9752 SCA]

The final report and recommendations of the Maryland Commission on Negro History and Culture. Baltimore, MD: General Assembly of Maryland, April 1971. 110p. [301.451 FIN]

Flower of the forest: black genealogical journal. Volumes 1-2, nos. 1-16) (1983-1989). Baltimore, MD: Agnes Kane Callum [929.1 CAC]

Free African Americans of Maryland 1832. Jerry M. Hynson. Westminster, MD: Willow Bend Books, 2000. 161p. [305.451 HYN]

A Guide to the History of Slavery in Maryland. Annapolis and College Park, MD: Maryland State Archives and University of Maryland, 2007. 39p.

History of the American Negro; Washington, D.C. Edition. Volume VI. Atlanta: A.B. Caldwell Publishing Co., 1922. 301p. [920 CAL]

In relentless pursuit of an education: African American stories from a century of segregation 1865-1967. Lexington Park, MD: Unified Committee on African American Contributions, 2007. 116p. [305.451 AFR]

Maryland Freedom Papers Volume 1: Anne Arundel County. Jerry M. Hynson. Westminster, MD: Willow Bend Books, 2000. 134p. [305.451 HYN]

The mighty revolution: Negro emancipation in Maryland. Charles Lewis Wagandt. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1964. 299 p. [326.9752 WAG]

The Negro in Maryland; a study of the institution of slavery. Jeffrey R. Brackett. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University, 1889. 268p. [301.451 BRA]

The Negro in Maryland: a short history. Vera F. Rollo. Lanham, MD: Maryland Historical Press, 1972. 70p. [301.451 ROL]

Notes on the progress of the colored people of Maryland since the war. Jeffrey R. Brackett. Freeport, NY: Books for Libraries Press, 1971. 96p. NOTE: A supplement to The Negro in Maryland; a study of the institution of slavery. [301.451 BRA]

The Pearl; a failed slave escape on the Potomac. Chapel Hill, NC & London: University of North Carolina Press, 2005. 307p. []

Resistance to slavery in Maryland; strategies for freedom. Cheryl Janifer Laroche. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, 2007. 148p. [326.9752LAR]

Robert Cole's world; agriculture and society in Early Maryland. Lois Green Carr et al. Chapel Hill, NC & London: University of North Carolina Press, 1991. 362p. [306.0975 CAR]

"Skilled blacks in antebellum St. Mary's County, Maryland." Bayly E. Marks. IN: Journal of Southern History, vol. LIII, no. 4, November 1987 [VF-African American History]

A slice of Black Americana: with 1992 supplement of African American. Tucson, AZ: G. I. Smith, 1992. 81p. [016.973 SMI]

They had a dream. Vols. I-III. George Reasons and Sam Patrick. Los Angeles: Los Angeles Times Syndicate, 1969-1971. various pg. [920 REA]

Tobacco and slaves: the development of Southern cultures in the Chesapeake, 1680-1800. Allan Kulikoff. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1986. 449p. [306.0975 KUL]

BIRTH RECORDS

Birth Index of St. Mary's, Charles, and Calvert Counties Maryland. Anne Asciski Baker. Leonardtown, MD: St. Mary's County Historical Society, 1997. various pg. [353.59 BAK]

CEMETERY RECORDS

Burials from Tombstones, Grave Markers and Church Registers of St. Mary's. Janet Tice. various pg. [929.3 TIC]

CENSUS RECORDS (FEDERAL)

The [] census of St. Mary's County Maryland; 1790 through 1930, except 1830 and 1880. various pg. [C-7 MD SM...]

The [] census of Charles County Maryland; 1790 through 1930, except 1830 and 1880. various pg. [C-7 MD CH...]

Mortality schedules: 1850-1880.

Population schedules of the seventh census of the United States: Slave Schedule, 1850. Wash., DC: National Archives and Records Administration, 1960. [Microfilm: MF-C-015]

Population schedules of the eighth census of the United States: Slave Schedule, 1860. Wash., DC: National Archives and Records Administration, 1960. [Microfilm: MF-C-018]

History of St. Mary's County Election & Census Districts, 1790-1930. Michael P. Knott. Leonardtown, MD: St. Mary's County Historical Society, 2007. various pg. [001.4 KNO]

CHURCH RECORDS

St. Joseph's Church (Morganza, MD) Colored pew rent collected by Charles I. Russell, Years 1870-1871. [consult Research Center Director]

DEATH RECORDS

Death index of St. Mary's, Charles, and Calvert Counties, Maryland 1898 through 1927.
Barbara Bassford Higgs. Leonardtown, MD: St. Mary's County Historical Society.
[929.3 HIG]

Death notices from the St. Mary's Beacon 1900-1930. various pg.
[929.37523 HAM and 929.37241 NEL]

FAMILY HISTORIES

The Black Dents of Charles and St. Mary's County and Baltimore City (1790-1992).
Saundra Rounette Oliver Brown. Chicago, IL: 1993. 411p. [929.2 BRO]

Free African Americans of Maryland and Delaware from the Colonial Period to 1810.
Paul Heinegg. Baltimore, MD: Clearfield Company, 2000. 392p.
[305.451 HEI]

Holly Mason Tree: six generations. Mary Gladys Hanson McIntyre et al.
[VF – Family Files]

Kane-Butler genealogy: history of a black family. Baltimore, MD: Agnes Kane Callum,
1979. [929.2 CAL]

My book of precious memories. Helen Rebecca Mason Curtis. 1983. 78p.
[305.451 CUR]

Some memoirs of the life of Job, the son of Solomon the high priest of Boonda in Africa.
Thomas Bluett. London: Richard Ford, 1734. 63p. [921 BLU]

FINANCIAL RECORDS

Freedman's Savings and Trust Company: depositor signature cards entries for Washington, D.C. 1865-1868. David Neimeyer. Westminster, MD: Willow Bend Books, 2000. 203p. [305.451 NEI]

MARRIAGE RECORDS

Black marriages of St. Mary's County, Maryland 1800-1900. Agnes Kane Callum.
Baltimore, MD: Mullac Publishers, 1997. 258p. [929.375241 CAL]

St. Mary's County marriage records (1865-1949). Richard N. Nelson, Jr. California, MD.
Five volumes. [929.375241 NEL]

MILITARY RECORDS

Colored volunteers of Maryland Civil War; 7th Regiment United States Colored Troops 1863-1866. Baltimore, MD: Agnes Kane Callum. various pg. [973.7 CAL]

St. Mary's County Civil War records. various pg. [929.3 BEI]

“‘Colored’ troops proudly defended Union.” Paul C. Leibe. IN: *The Enterprise*, Wednesday, February 27, 2002, p. B-18. [VF – African-American History]

OBITUARY RECORDS

Index to the Enterprise obituaries 1970-2004. Richard T. Nelson, Jr.
[]

NOTE: Obituary records gleaned from the St. Mary's County newspapers and other newspapers can be found in several places in the Research Center.

SLAVERY STATISTICS

Federal Direct Tax of 1798. Wanda A. Schuhart. Leonardtown, MD: St. Mary's County Historical Society, 1998. [343.036 SCH]

Maryland slave owners and superintendents. 1798 volume II. Bettie Stirling Carothers. Lutherville, MD, Carothers Publishing, 1975. [929.3 CAR]

The price of freedom. T. Stephen Whitman. (Slavery and Manumissions in Baltimore and Early National Maryland) University Press of Kentucky. 1997. 238p. [975.2 WHI]

St. Mary's County Certificates of Freedom, 1806-1851. [on CD]

Slave statistics of St. Mary's County Maryland 1864. Agnes Kane Callum. Baltimore, MD: 1993. [929.3 CAL]

NEWSPAPERS

St. Mary's Beacon. 1852-1960 [microfilm]

The Enterprise / St. Mary's Enterprise. 1883-1989 [microfilm]

St. Mary's Journal. 1958-1960 [microfilm]

NOTE: Many issues are missing but there is an inventory of issues for each newspaper.

Index to the microfilm collection of the St. Mary's Beacon, 1880 through 1885. David Roberts et al. Lexington Park, MD: 1994.

RESEARCH CENTER SUBJECT FILES

Materials relating to history, government, geography, culture and customs of St. Mary's County. 16 file drawers.

RESEARCH CENTER SURNAME CASE FILES

Records relating to specific families. 16 file drawers.

For further information on African-American genealogy resources available at the St. Mary's County Historical Society, contact the Society at 301-475-2467 or by email at smchs@md.metrocast.net.

The Society's website is at www.stmaryshistory.org.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE SOCIETY DOES NOT LOAN ITS MATERIALS.

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