

FAMILYTREEGIRL

Getting Started with Genealogy and African American Research Resources



Dr. Shelley Viola Murphy

Dr. Shelley Viola Murphy is familytreegirl

Experienced educator, author, and lauded
professional genealogist and researcher.

Dr. Shelley Viola Murphy is the
Descendant Project Researcher
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where she spearheads the study
of the enslaved laborers who
laid the university's foundational
stones.



An avid genealogist for over 30 years, Dr. Murphy, aka “familytreegirl,” conducts genealogy workshops at local, state and national conferences. Murphy is known for her inspiring & interactive “SO WHAT” with genealogical research, along with interesting problem-solving methodology lectures such as the use of Timelines.

Getting Started with Genealogy and African American Research

Discover your ancestors and delve into your family history with this beginner's guide to genealogy and African American research and resources. Take the first step in your genealogy journey today and unlock the fascinating stories of your ancestors. Embrace the past, treasure the present, and leave a legacy for the future.

Happy researching!

— *familytreegirl*

Why Genealogy Matters:

- Preserve your family history and traditions
- Understand your family's origins and experiences
- Strengthen your sense of identity and belonging
- Pass on your legacy to future generations

Basic Principles of Genealogy Research

1. **Start with yourself:** Document your life and immediate family members
2. **Work backwards:** Research parents, grandparents, and beyond
3. **Verify information:** Use multiple sources to confirm facts
4. **Record keeping:** Document your findings accurately



Key Resources for African American Genealogy Research

1. Census records
2. Birth, marriage, and death records (BMD)
3. Freedmen's Bureau records
4. Church records
5. Military records
6. Wills and probate records
7. Land and property records
8. Newspapers and periodicals
9. Online resources

Tips for Success in African American Research

- Be patient and persistent: Researching African American genealogy can be challenging due to limited records and documentation
- Attend workshops, webinars, and conferences focused on African American genealogy
- Collaborate with other researchers and share findings and resources
- Join online forums, social media groups, and genealogical societies dedicated to African American research
- Utilize local resources, such as historical societies, libraries, and archives, to access additional information

Online Resources

1. Ancestry (www.ancestry.com) and FamilySearch (www.familysearch.org)
2. AfriGeneas (www.afrigeneas.com)
3. Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Land (<https://mappingthefreedmensbureau.com>)
4. Lowcountry Africana (www.lowcountryafricana.com)
5. National Archives (www.archives.gov)
6. African American Genealogical Records at the National Archives (<https://www.archives.gov/research/african-americans/genealogy>)
7. Freedmen's Bureau Records (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1414908>)
8. Library of Congress: African American Resources (https://www.loc.gov/rr/genealogy/bib_guid/aframer/aframer.html)
9. Digital Library on American Slavery (<https://library.uncg.edu/slavery/>)
10. Freedman's Bank Records FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1417695>)
11. The African American Heritage Site (<https://www.americanancestors.org/African-American>)

Online Resources

12. The Freedmen's Bureau Online (<http://freedmensbureau.com/>)
13. The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database (<https://www.slavevoyages.org/>)
14. Civil War Soldiers and Sailors Database (<https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm>)
15. National Museum of African American History and Culture - Genealogy Resources (<https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/initiatives/family-history-center>)
16. Fold3: African American Collection (<https://www.fold3.com/>)
17. Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers (<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>)
18. African American Cemeteries Online (<https://blackcemeterynetwork.org>)
19. 10 million names (<https://10millionnames.org>)
20. Black Pearls of Genealogy: (<https://thebpog.org>)
21. Midwest African American Genealogy Institute: (<https://www.maaggiinstitute.org>)
22. International African American Museum's Center for Family History: (<https://iaamuseum.org/center-for-family-history/>)

Connect with Me

Thank you for downloading my guide on Getting Started with Genealogy and African American Research. I hope you find it helpful on your journey to uncover your family's history.

To stay updated with more tips, resources, and upcoming events, be sure to follow me:

- Visit my Website: familytreegirl.com
- Follow me on Twitter: twitter.com/tfamilytreegirl
- Follow me on Instagram: instagram.com/familytreegirl

Stay curious and keep exploring your heritage!

Warm regards,
Dr. Shelley Viola Murphy

