Understanding and Researching the Great Migration 1915 -1970
The Movement of 6 to 7 million African Americans
RootsTech 2023
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This handout covers the one-hour introduction class and the six handout videos. It also includes footnotes to each presentation and an extensive bibliography.

One Hour Class at RootsTech 2023
Understanding and Researching the Records of the Great Migration 1915-1970
Overview and Methodology

Intro: The Great Migration between 1915 and 1970 when over 6 million African Americans moved from the Southern States to the North, is one of the most dramatic movements of people within United States that has ever occurred, and it is almost completely ignored by historians and is unknown to most genealogists.[2] My presentation focuses on the people and records from the 20th Century and the difficulty in connecting the individuals and families to the places they were living at the turn of the century. I will also focus on discovering your ancestral heritage and how to acquire the skills and tools you need to research the existing historical records. I realize that for many researchers, extending research about African Americans into the 1800s is where the real difficulty begins. But success in doing research in the 1800s is predicated on complete and thorough research in the 1900s. Of course, I can only cover a limited amount of information in this presentation, but what I say here will be augmented by a six-video series and an extensive handout. My handout contains all the links to support the content of this presentation and the six supplemental videos and, in addition, an extensive bibliography.[3] I will include some limited references to the historical resources before 1900.

Quoting Alex Haley, the author of Roots,

> In all of us there is a hunger, marrow-deep, to know our heritage – to know who we are and where we have come from. Without this enriching knowledge, there is a hollow

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[1] At the time the live presentation and six accompanying videos were being produced, I did not yet know if the live presentation would be recorded and made available to the public. At the time this handout was produced, I learned that the class would not be recorded. However, I decided to include the full noted from the class with the series. If you would like to contact me, I am available at the BYU Family History Library, https://fh.lib.byu.edu/

[2] National Archives. "The Great Migration (1910-1970)," May 20, 2021. https://www.archives.gov/research/african-americans/migrations/great-migration.

yearning. No matter what our attainments in life, there is still a vacuum, an emptiness, and the most disquieting loneliness.[4]

What would you do if you were limited by the color of your skin and by the laws of the state you live in, from buying food in certain stores, eating in certain restaurants, attending schools, worshiping in certain churches, and even walking through a town in a certain way. This is what the African American people of the South suffered and in some cases are still suffering in many cases. Would you decide to move to another part of the country where those restrictions were not imposed by law?

Mass movements of large numbers of people into new areas of the world has always created the most serious challenge to genealogical research. In moving from one geographical area to another, many migrants shed their old ways and adopt new ones. Sometimes historical records fail to completely reflect the realities of the changes because of cultural and record preservation issues. There are many reasons why finding the records becomes a difficult part of the research process.

Whenever we begin genealogical research about a migrant or an immigrant, discovering the place of origin of the migrant or immigrant often becomes the ultimate end-of-line or brick wall. Over the years, as I have helped people with their genealogical research, the most common obstacle to overcome has always been the origin of the migrant or immigrant.

In the United States, genealogists face several large population immigrations and migrations. Here are a few examples.

- The original European migration 1620
- The Trail of Tears 1831 – 1850
- The Irish Potato Famine 1845 – 1849
- World War I and World War II

As you can see from this short, selected list, these movements are caused by war and other catastrophes. As a result, the records of the people in these movements seldom move with the people, making genealogical and historical researchers rely on those records kept by governments and other entities located far from where the migrants or immigrants end up living, usually referred to as "the country of arrival." In addition, the migrating people are seldom given a warm welcome when they reach the new country or area within a country. They are viewed with distrust and as a threat to local employment and housing. Throughout our history in the United States, both immigrants and migrants have generally been treated poorly by the previous inhabitants.

One common occurrence that helps research into the migrants' or immigrants' lives is that they tend to settle in areas where there are people who are related or at least, speak the same language.

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[4] Alex Haley: The Man Who Traced America's Roots (ed. Reader's Digest Association, May 2007) - ISBN: 9780762108855

Focusing on this related cluster enables a researcher to have a larger base of information to use to work through the barriers of time and distance from the places of origin.

None of the numbers of people in the previously listed U.S. migrations begin to compare to the movement of over six million formerly enslaved people from the southern states to primarily cities in the north, south and northeastern part of the United States.

The term, Great Migration, is used by genealogists and historians for two different time periods the first is from Britain to America from 1620 to 1640 and the second refers to the migration from the southern states to the northern states which is said to have begun around 1915 and lasted until about 1970. Of course, there was some movement out of the South before 1915 and after 1970, but the mass movement occurred during those years. Understanding the African American Great Migration may help to explain difficult family history research issues that occur when an individual seems to appear suddenly in the north or disappear suddenly from the south.

To begin to understand the Great Migration, I must recommend the most influential history of the movement that has been written so far. The book is written as a narrative history and is called the *Warmth of other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson. This is an essential book for any understanding of the motives, the conditions, the suffering, and the anguish that accompanied this movement. Quoting from historian Neil McMillen as quoted in the book, "The story of the Great Migration is among the most dramatic and compelling in all chapters of American history. So far reaching are its effects even now, that we scarcely understand its meaning."[5]

Please be aware that in talking about these historical events or quoting from historical records the language and terminology may be offensive to some. This also applies to images from that time period. It is also important to be "culturally sensitive" when interviewing, investigating and reporting on research done. People who were forced to leave their homes are often reticent to talk about their suffering. Likewise, there are significant attempts by those who caused the suffering to ignore or erase this history. Keep this in mind when researching any migrant community.

In addition, part of the challenge of talking about these events arises from the question of terminology. Here is a quote from an article from the University of Alabama at Huntsville entitled, "Which is the correct terminology: Black, African American or People of Color?"[6]

> It depends. "Black" refers to dark-skinned people of African descent, no matter their nationality. "African American" refers to people who were born in the United States and have African ancestry. Many people use the terms interchangeably.

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[5] *"The Warmth of Other Suns."* In *Wikipedia*, May 25, 2021.
https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=The_Warmth_of_Other_Suns&oldid=1025079330.

[6] Anon. 2020. "Which Is the Correct Terminology: Black, African American or People of Color?" *The University of Alabama in Huntsville*. Retrieved August 12, 2022 (https://www.uah.edu/diversity/news/15567-which-is-the-correct-terminology-black-african-american-or-people-of-color).

Young Black activists in the United States started using "Black" in the 1960s when referring to descendants of slaves as a way to leave the term "Negro" and the Jim Crow era behind, says Keith Mayes, associate professor of African American and African Studies at the University of Minnesota. "African American" caught on in the US in the 1980s as a more "particular and historical" term than the generic "Black," Mayes says. "People of color" was originally meant to be a synonym of "Black," but its meaning has expanded to accommodate Latinos, Asians, Native Americans and other non-white groups, says Efren Perez, a professor of political science and psychology at the University of California Los Angeles. To say you are a person of color is more celebratory and positive than to say you are part of a "minority," he says. All three terms are acceptable. Which you prefer comes down to personal choice, the situation you're in and how invested you are in your racial identity, Perez says.

When considering the reasons why so many people would leave the South, words alone, cannot begin to convey the oppressive living conditions of the African Americans after the Civil War.

Although slavery had technically ended at the end of the Civil War, the oppression of the African American population continued unabated. Many of the formerly enslaved people became indentured servants or sharecropping tenant farmers living under the same or worse conditions as they had suffered under slavery.

 "The severe economic exploitation of the blacks in the South began during the Jim Crow era in about 1880.[7] The subsequent passage of extremely complicated segregation laws created a society of terror among the former enslaved people which included the threat of systematic violence and the complete imposition of political disenfranchisement."[8]

After a short period of hope, the South began to systematically impose oppressive laws that collectively became known as the Jim Crow laws based upon the name used by a minstrel performer named Thomas Dartmouth Rice about 1830. Quoting from Britannica.com,

He portrayed the Jim Crow character principally as a dim-witted buffoon, building on and heightening contemporary negative stereotypes of African Americans. "Jim Crow" came to be a derogatory term for Black people, and in the late 19th century it became the identifier for the laws that reinstated white supremacy in the American South after Reconstruction. The demeaning character symbolically rationalized segregation and the denial of equal opportunity.[9]

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[7] "Constitutional Rights Foundation." Accessed November 24, 2021. https://www.crf-usa.org/black-history-month/a-brief-history-of-jim-crow.

[8] "Constitutional Rights Foundation." Accessed November 24, 2021. https://www.crf-usa.org/black-history-month/a-brief-history-of-jim-crow .

[9] Anon. n.d. "Jim Crow Law | History, Facts, & Examples | Britannica." Retrieved August 12, 2022 (https://www.britannica.com/event/Jim-Crow-law).

These factors made unbearable living conditions for nearly all the formerly enslaved people. Unless you have studied this period of American history, you cannot imagine the degree of poverty and suffering that existed in the Black population of the Southern States. Unfortunately, many of the Black people in America are still suffering the same imposed and limiting conditions. An example of the pervasive terrorism that existed in the South, is the fact that between 1880 and 1950, an African American was lynched with the impunity of prosecution of the perpetrators, more than once a week for some perceived breach of the racial hierarchy. Jim Crow existed for almost 100 years, from the post-Civil War era until the beginning of the Civil Rights Laws in the 1960s.[10] These laws were meant to marginalize and oppress African Americans by denying them the right to vote, hold jobs, get an education or other opportunities. Those who attempted to defy Jim Crow laws often faced arrest, fines, jail sentences, violence, and death. Escape from the oppression of these laws was a major factor in the movement of the African American population.

This dramatic movement of the formerly enslaved people continues to have a tremendous social, cultural, and political impact on the entire population of the United States.

The effect of the movement of over 6 million people within the United States because of systematic discrimination should not and cannot be ignored by genealogists.

Despite an abundance of records in the 20th Century, there are some important issues that arise because genealogical research may involve people who are still living and have privacy rights or may involve documents that are not readily available due to other restrictions. The recent release of the 1950 census after 72 years is a good example.[11] With the information in the 1950 census, we can begin to document more of the movement from the South.

There was no organized mass movement. The Great Migration consisted of the decisions of individuals and families to leave the South and move to another area of the country that promised relief from the oppression and danger of living under Jim Crow laws and practices. It is only through looking at the lives of those who made their own decision to leave the South and spend their lives in another extremely different way and place that we can begin to understand the why and how of the Great Migration. My emphasis in this presentation and in the six videos that follow show how we begin learning about those individual lives.

These maps from *Atlas of the Historical Geography of the United States by Charles O. Paullin*, show the population changes from the time of slavery to 1880. You can see that slavery was confined, almost exclusively, to the southern states.[12]

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[10] Anon. n.d. "U.S. Senate: Civil Rights Act of 1964." Retrieved August 13, 2022 (https://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/civil_rights/background.htm).

[11] Anon. 2020. "1950 Census Records." *National Archives*. Retrieved August 13, 2022 (https://www.archives.gov/research/census/1950).

[12] Paullin, Charles Oscar. 1932. *Atlas of the Historical Geography of the United States by Charles O. Paullin, …* Baltimore: A. Hoen and Co.

This is a continuation of the maps for 1900 and 1930. These maps show the movement of the formerly enslaved people and their families into other parts of the country. You can see that there was a movement to areas with more industrialization and population. The Black population of the less developed parts of the country actually decreased. As this occurred, it contributed to the extreme polarization that exists today.

With the first substantial movement beginning just before World War I in 1915. These two maps show the percentage of black population, in the United States in 1900[13], on the left, and the percentage of black population in the states in 1990[14], on the right. You can see the dramatic decrease in the black population out of the southern states and the increase of the black population in the states in the north and west. You can also see that the almost complete absence of African Americans in some of the states reflects attitudes and prejudices of the present.

One tremendous incentive for all of immigrants moving north was the promise of increased wages or even that wages were paid at all. African Americans in the South were usually paid less than half the amount paid to white workers for the same work. Under the extreme oppression of the Jim Crow laws, many of the smaller farmers were sharecroppers and were charged for everything the landowners could imagine and often were not paid at all for a year's work. After the Jim Crow laws began to be enacted in all the southern states, some conditions were much worse than during slavery.[15]

For both genealogical and sociological reasons, the Great Migration can be divided into two eras: movement associated with World War I and following from 1910 to 1930 and then from 1940, with the advent of World War II until 1970 when the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 began impacting the existence and enforcement of the Jim Crow laws.[16] The demand for labor during both World Wars accelerated the exodus from the South to the North and West.[17]

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[13] User:Theshibboleth, Blank_US_Map svg: 2006. *A Map of the Black % of the U.S. Population by Each State/Territory in 1900. Black = 35.00+%, Brown = 20.00-34.99%, Red = 10.00-19.99%, Orange = 5.00-9.99%, Light Orange = 1.00-4.99%, Gray = 0.99% or Less, Magenta = No Data Available. No changes made.* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Migration_(African_American)

[14] User:Theshibboleth, Blank_US_Map svg: 2006. *A Map of the Black % of the U.S. Population by Each State/Territory in 1990. Black = 35.00+%, Brown = 20.00-34.99%, Red = 10.00-19.99%, Orange = 5.00-9.99%, Light Orange = 1.00-4.99%, Gray = 0.99% or Less, Magenta = No Data Available. No changes Made* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Migration_(African_American)

[15] "The Jim Crow South," n.d., 5. Accessed November 24, 2021. https://americanexperience.si.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/The-Jim-Crow-South.pdf.

[16] National Archives. "The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission," August 15, 2016. https://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/civil-rights-act.

[17] National Archives. "Labor during World War I," July 23, 2020. https://www.archives.gov/research/african-americans/wwi/labor.

The demand for labor during both World Wars accelerated the exodus from the South to the North and West.

This U.S. Census Bureau map shows a comparison of the impact of the Great Migration from 1910 to 1970.[18] Migrants during the first phase of the Great Migration traveled to New York, Pittsburgh, Detroit, and Chicago. Many of the migrants left under the threat of physical violence or death and the movement north established a series of safe houses just as was done during the days of the underground railroad.[19] During the period from 1940 to 1970 southern migrants primarily moved to Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland, Seattle, and Portland.[20] Unfortunately, the migrants received a similar response to their efforts to obtain housing and education as they had in the South.[21]

Genealogical research about the migrants following the same basic rule we use for immigrants: research begins with the most recent events in our ancestors' lives in the place of arrival not the place of departure. Immigrant research is one of the most challenging aspects of genealogical research and research about the families who left the South has some of the same challenges. As genealogical researchers, we must always remember to focus on locations as well as names and dates. Researchers often must track the families across the country through several jurisdictions.

The Great Migration research begins with this question: Exactly where did your ancestors come from before they moved north? Vague references to a state or county are helpful to start your research but it is important to discover the actual place your people lived down to the house to avoid making the same name/same person mistake.

The main goal of extending a valid pedigree is to discover records that identify each of the family members' parent/child relationship and then, moving backward in time, finding supporting records that connect your family at each stage of the migration and ultimately accurately determining where the family lived at the opening of the 20th Century and beyond. This search will become complicated as family members left the South at different times and went to different places in the North. In addition, the destruction of African American families by slavery adds its own challenges.

Extending any pedigree line can become extraordinarily difficult when the historical circumstances were such that records were not adequately kept. Because many of those people

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[18] The Website Services & Coordination Staff, US Census Bureau. n.d. "The Great Migration, 1910 to 1970." *U.S. Census*. Retrieved August 6, 2022 (https://www.census.gov/dataviz/visualizations/020/).

[19] National Archives. "The Great Migration (1910-1970)," May 20, 2021. https://www.archives.gov/research/african-americans/migrations/great-migration.

[20] National Archives. "The Great Migration (1910-1970)," May 20, 2021. https://www.archives.gov/research/african-americans/migrations/great-migration.

[21] Pew Research Center's Social & Demographic Trends Project. "Views on Race in America 2019," April 9, 2019. https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2019/04/09/race-in-america-2019/.

who left the South during the Great Migration left under duress, some of they had to change their names to avoid further persecution making discovery of their original identity difficult.

Here are some suggested record collections for starting. A first step would be to document the individual or family in each of the years of the United States Federal Census, working backward from 1950 to 1900. In those cases where a family or an individual left the South before 1900, census records are still helpful to about the 1860 census, and some people may be found in the 1850 census. Depending on the location, in many cases, further research is also possible. The scope of this presentation is to highlight the records from 1900 to about 1970.

The census schedules might give you an idea about where your ancestors were born depending on the knowledge of the person supplying the information. In almost all cases, only the state of origin will be identified and as I have found, that information is not always accurate. It helps if the locations identified in each census year agree. We are never quite through with the census records because we may come back to them to look for neighbors and relatives on multiple pages of each year's schedules.[22] This type of research is usually referred to as cluster research. The basis for cluster research with migrants assumes that in many cases, people ultimately ended up living near to relatives, friends, neighbors, and work associates.

It is important to focus on birthplaces and occupations. Both will help you differentiate your ancestor from others with the same name. Although unique names are possible, you will find that most names common and are popular across family lines. The occupations of the migrants are extremely important because, in some cases, occupational records may contain more specific information about the identity and origin of the individuals.

In this presentation, I will begin by using a family chosen from the 1950 U.S. Federal Census found on Ancestry.com.[23] Preparation of the slides for RootsTech 2023 had to be completed before some of the other genealogy websites had completely searchable copies of the 1950 census so my options were limited. But I was able to use other websites for research in the earlier census records. The families were chosen by location. This family is from Chicago. I have also prepared a transcription handout of this presentation with footnotes to all the sources and an extensive bibliography. There is also a video handout for this class consisting of six short individual videos. Each of these videos highlight a different family. I selected families primarily by the birth locations in the census and their stated occupations to illustrate the process and the difficulties of finding families that were not prominent or famous. This is a photo from Google Street View of the house where he lived. The house was also shared with another family.

One consideration about research in the 1950 U.S. Census is the issue of privacy. It is readily apparent since I show up in the 1950 U.S. Census that living people are going be listed. Although the U.S. National Archives has a webpage entitled "Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about

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[22] • FamilySearch Blog. "Learn How to Use U.S. Census Records," September 4, 2018. https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/learn-how-to-use-u-s-census-records.

[23] Anon. 1950. "Charles N Butler." P. 1950 (roll 29) in *1950 United States Federal Census [Records of the Bureau of the Census, 1790-2007]*. National Archives and Records Administration.

the 1950 Census"[24] the issue of privacy is not addressed. However, there is another article entitled, "Census Protections Evolve Continuously to Address Emerging Threats"[25] from the U.S. Census Bureau that addresses privacy issues. To the extent possible in this presentation and all of the other related videos, I try not to discuss anyone for whom I do not find a death record. The main way privacy is protected by the Census is the 72-year rule about publication. Also be aware that some people may not want to talk about their past or their bad memories. Also, be careful not to violate the cultural norms of the people you contact.[26]

Here is the family from Chicago that appears in the 1950 U.S. Federal Census. Charles N. Butler was born in Mississippi and works for the railroad as a porter. He 54 years old in 1950 and would have been born in about 1896 making him a good example of someone who moved out of the South during The Great Migration. He is living with his wife Gertrude, age41, and a cousin named Clara E. Smith who is 23. He is working as a railroad porter. The census record gives us a geographic starting point to look for records. Start your documentation with yourself and work back in time.

The U.S. Census form has a place where the enumerator had to add the Enumeration District. This gives a researcher the opportunity to find more information about the area where the people lived at the time of the census.

The Enumeration District Descriptions are on the U.S. National Archives website.[27] You can search the Archives website by using the Enumeration District number. You can view links to the actual maps using Stephen P. Morse's Viewing 1950 Enumeration District Maps in One Step[28] and then you can usually find the address on the census record itself and use Google Maps to find the house and see it on Google Street View.

The next step is to move back to the 1940 U.S. Census records. Using Ancestry.com to search, we find Charles N. Butler in a different location in Chicago and also showing the name of his son, Zeliner. The census record also shows that he also lived in the same place in 1935. At this

[24] Anon. 2021. "Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the 1950 Census." *National Archives*. Retrieved September 8, 2022 (https://www.archives.gov/research/census/1950/faqs).

[25] Bureau, US Census. n.d. "Census Protections Evolve Continuously to Address Emerging Threats." *Census.Gov*. Retrieved September 8, 2022 (https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2020/02/through-the-decades-how-the-census-bureau-protects-your-privacy.html).

[26] Spencer, Katrina. "LibGuides: African American Studies: Oral Histories, Interviews & Audio." Accessed November 24, 2021. https://guides.lib.virginia.edu/afam_hist/afamoralhistories.

[27] Department of Commerce. Bureau of the Census. Office of the Associate Director for Decennial Census. Geography Division. (1/1987 - 7/15/2011), and Department of the Interior. 12th Decennial Census Office. Director of the Census. 1899-7/1/1902 (Predecessor). 1880. *Enumeration District and Related Maps*.

[28] Anon. n.d. "Viewing 1950 Enumeration District Maps in One Step." Retrieved August 13, 2022 (https://stevemorse.org/census/arc1950edmaps.html).

point, the goal is to keep moving back in time without losing the family or getting confused with people with same names. Both his wife and his son are shown as being born in Tennessee.

Because Charles N. Porter was a porter for a railroad. Unfortunately, the railroad is not identified. We can use that information to begin searching for railroad records. From a Google search, I found the Driehaus Museum website had an article about Pullman Porters.[29]

I also found the Newberry Library in Chicago is an archive for some Pullman Employee Railroad records.[30] There is also an index of Pullman Employee Records in the Indiana University Northwest, Calumet Regional Archives.[31] Both of these archives have references to collections that are not online. It is always possible that the information may be available in the future or is already available from other sources, but this highlights the fact that despite the vast number of digital records online, it may still be necessary to travel around the country to gather information.

Another resource is the National A. Philip Randolph Pullman Porter Museum.[32] They have a searchable database of some of the Pullman employees. Unfortunately, Charles N. Porter was not found. As is the case with many museums and archives they may require registration and a fee to do research.

Additional Pullman record sources could be located in university special collections libraries, historical and genealogical societies, and archives.

For example, see the South Suburban Genealogical and Historical Society[33] with approximately 200,000 Pullman employees represented in this collection. This collection is not open to the public, but you can request a free records search. As we become involved in research, we will always find additional possible records sources that may have to be put into a future research category.

Even without the railroad records, we know quite a bit about Charles N. Butler from the 1940 and 1950 censuses. But neither of these sources tell us exactly where he was born or his parents' names.

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[29] Anon. n.d. "A Tale of Today: Up From the Ashes - Pullman Porters and the Great Migration | Driehaus Museum." Retrieved August 6, 2022 (https://driehausmuseum.org/blog/view/pullman-porters).

[30] Anon. n.d. "Pullman Employee Records | Newberry." Retrieved August 6, 2022 (https://www.newberry.org/pullman-employee-records).

[31] Latko, Martha. 2015. "Pullman Employee Records - F." https://scholarworks.iu.edu/dspace/handle/2022/20505 Retrived August 6, 2022

[32] Anon. n.d. "The A. Philip Randolph Pullman Porter Museum." Retrieved August 13, 2022 (https://aprpullmanportermuseum.org/).

[33] Anon. n.d. "Pullman Employee Records." *South Suburban Genealogical & Historical Society*. Retrieved August 13, 2022 (https://ssghs.org/tools-resources/pullman-employee-records/).

In the 1930 census,[34] we do find a Charles Butler married to Gertrude living in Chicago with his in-laws who have the surname of Smith. Is this our Charles Butler? We need to do some more research at this point. However, this census states that he was born in Louisiana. The information in census records always depends on the knowledge of the people who provided the information to the enumerator. But this record seems to be mostly consistent with what we have already discovered, especially with the 1950 census showing Charles and Gertrude living with a cousin named Clara E. Smith. The Smiths are shown to be born in Georgia and with one of Gertrude's brothers born in the Tennessee. Gertrude is 20 years old, born in Tennessee and was married when she was 19. This puts the marriage in about 1929. The Smiths are living on South Wabash Avenue. Charles is also shown as being employed as a shoe repairer. This is possible but there is contradictory information.

Further research finds the Smith family with Gertrude 10 years old, in the 1920 U.S. Census still living in Chicago but on Champlain Avenue. Ivory and Anna Smith have four children and also have Salmon and George Wills, brothers-in-law and Villiane, a niece, living with them. George and Anna and their first son James are shown to be born in Georgia and the next three children, including Gertrude are born in Tennessee.

It is important to search back and forth in the census records to see if any other families with the same names show up. We now are looking for Butlers, Smiths, and Wills. The question at this point is how did Charles Butler and Gertrude meet and get married? Charles is three years older than Gertrude and would have been 13 years old in the 1920 Census. Although later census records show Charles Butler with a middle name, it would not be unusual for someone to begin using a middle name later in life when there are a lot of other people with the same name. There are apparently hundreds of men named Charles Butler in various census records, many of whom are born in Mississippi. Note that in the 1930 census he did not have a middle name.

City Directories are becoming more available online. City Directories can be used to trace the movements of families that moved often.[35] We find Charles Butler living in Springfield, Illinois in 1929 with a wife named Gertrude, but this may or may not be the Charles we are looking for. The question this raises is how did Gertrude meet Charles and why were they living in Springfield, Illinois? Did the move from Springfield to Chicago to live with Gertrude's parents?

Here are some additional questions at this point. Was Charles born in Mississippi or Louisiana? Is the cement finisher in Springfield, Ohio and the shoe repairer in Chicago the same as the Pullman Porter? What additional records would we look at to find the answers?

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[34] Anon. n.d. "United States Census, 1930; Https://Familysearch.Org/Ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9R4C-VY3?Cc=1810731&wc=QZF9-X21%3A648807601%2C648807602%2C651324901%2C1589284159." Retrieved August 13, 2022 (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9R4C-VY3?i=46&cc=1810731&personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AXSTW-1M7).

[35] FamilySearch Wiki. "United States Directories." Accessed November 24, 2021. ßhttps://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Directories.

The research became more complicated when I found a New Hampshire marriage record for Clifford Zelnier Butler and showing his parents as Charles Nesbett Butler in Chicago and employed as a Pullman Porter, born in Mississippi and married to Gertrude Payne. So is the Charles Butler married to Gertrude Smith the same person of do we have an entirely different family. Why would their son list his mother's maiden name as Payne?

There are also a WWII Draft Registration Card showing Gertrude's maiden name as Payne and a Social Security Application with that maiden name.

So, was Charles' wife Gertrude Smith or Gertrude Payne? This illustrates the difficulty of separating out people with the same names. Here, the issue is complicated because there are apparently two people named Charles Butler living in Chicago both of whom married women named Gertrude. Both of whom came from Mississippi and have similar birth dates.

The mystery about which one of them was the Pullman Porter and came from Mississippi is solved. This is a WWII Draft Registration Card[36] showing his name, and his address from the 1940 U.S. Census. He gives a contact name of Ella Butler in Brook Haven, Mississippi and a birth date of 18 September 1893, in Crystal Springs, Mississippi. The card also shows him working at Union Station in Chicago.

Here is another document showing both his birth date and death date on 4 April 1968. This is a U.S., Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1925-1970.[37] He was in the Army from July of 1918 until January of 1919.

The reason he had a cousin named Smith was because that was his mother's maiden name.

More research will answer even more questions. As we do more research, one way to immediately have a list of places to look, is to refer to the FamilySearch.org Research Wiki. The FamilySearch Research Wiki has specific pages dedicated to African American genealogy. There are African American pages for each state and many other resources.[38]

Here is another example of a page from the FamilySearch Research Wiki. This page has information and links about African American Funeral Home Records.[39]

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[36]

[37] Anon. n.d. "U.S., Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1925-1970 - Ancestry.Com." Retrieved August 16, 2022 (https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/2871649:2375?tid=&pid=&queryId=068ddc3035f923c8cc00d738b66638f8&_phsrc=oSs546&_phstart=successSource).

[38] FamilySearch Wiki. "African American Genealogy." Accessed November 24, 2021. https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/African_American_Genealogy.

[39] FamilySearch Wiki. "African American Funeral Home Records." Accessed November 24, 2021. https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/African_American_Funeral_Home_Records.

The African American Digital Bookshelf in the FamilySearch Research Wiki has dozens of helpful books listed by category and state many of these books are available for free online.[40]

Don't forget WorldCat.org, the online free catalog to thousands of catalogs. You can search by author, title, or subject and find the books in libraries near you. This is one of the most valuable research websites online.[41]

The Family History Guide[42] a free website, has a section on ethnic genealogy and has step-by-step instructions about where to begin and continue your research about African American genealogy.[43]

The National Archives provides additional tools and records for investigating not only the Great Migration but many other African American topics.[44]

Online searches for more information will lead you to websites such as this one about the Great Migrations Project at the University of Washington.[45]

Yet another great resource is the Great Migration section of the Digital Public Library of America or the Dp.la. All the resources can be found by searching on the internet. I couldn't possibly list them all in a short video.[46]

The next goal to find Charles Butler in the 1910 and 1900 U.S. Census records.

The handout for this presentation is a series of six videos taking the research back to 1900. There is also a digital handout with all the links and an extensive bibliography.

Each of the six supplementary videos will highlight a family in a different part of the country.

[40] FamilySearch Wiki. "African American Digital Bookshelf." Accessed November 24, 2021. https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/African_American_Digital_Bookshelf.

[41] "WorldCat.Org: The World's Largest Library Catalog." Accessed November 24, 2021. https://www.worldcat.org/.

[42] "The Family History Guide." Accessed November 24, 2021. https://thefhguide.com/.

[43] "Get Started: African American, Goal 1." Accessed November 24, 2021. https://thefhguide.com/project-9-african-amer.html.

[44] National Archives. "The Great Migration (1910-1970)," May 20, 2021. https://www.archives.gov/research/african-americans/migrations/great-migration.

[45] Anon. n.d. "America's Great Migrations." Retrieved August 6, 2022 (https://depts.washington.edu/moving1/).

[46] Digital Public Library of America. "The Great Migration." Accessed November 24, 2021. https://dp.la/primary-source-sets/the-great-migration.

69 Take some time to learn about the Great Migration even if you don't have African American ancestors, your family may have been impacted by the movement of so many people. Thanks for watching and be sure to learn as much as can about research and genealogy.

Notes and sources for each of the six supporting videos.

Part One - The Great Migration – Overview and Methodology for Beginning Research

The musical introduction to the videos is "Someday We'll All Be Free" from the Greatest Black Gospel Songs[47] on Archive.org.

This video is the first of a six-part series about the Great Migration of the African American population from the South from about 1915 to 1970. The videos are intended, in part, to act as a handout and supplement to the one-hour, in-person class presented at RootsTech 2023[48] subsequently, some of the same information provided in the one-hour class is included but amplified by these videos. There is also a printed handout available that contains the script of the in-person class and each of the six individual series videos with footnotes to each source and an extensive bibliography. The videos are presented in sequence and are best viewed in order.

Each of the videos highlights an individual or a family that was involved in leaving the South and moving to a city in the North, the West, or the Northeast. The cities are selected based on the numbers of migrants. Each individual or family was gleaned from the 1950 U.S. Census and then researched back in time to discover their origins with genealogically valuable records. The family chosen for this video lived in Chicago.

Quoting Alex Haley, the author of Roots,

> In all of us there is a hunger, marrow-deep, to know our heritage – to know who we are and where we have come from. Without this enriching knowledge, there is a hollow yearning. No matter what our attainments in life, there is still a vacuum, an emptiness, and the most disquieting loneliness.

The Great Migration between 1915 and 1970 when over 6 million African Americans moved from the Southern States to other parts of the country, is one of the most dramatic movements of people in the United States that has ever occurred, and it is almost completely ignored by historians and is unknown to most genealogists.[49]

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[47] *Greatest Black Gospel Songs*. n.d. *Someday We'll All Be Free*, Accessed September 30, 2022. http://archive.org/details/GreatestBlackGospelSongs.

[48] "Home • RootsTech 2022 • FamilySearch." n.d. Accessed September 29, 2022. https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/.

[49] National Archives. "The Great Migration (1910-1970)," May 20, 2021. https://www.archives.gov/research/african-americans/migrations/great-migration.

The term, Great Migration, is used by genealogists and historians for two different time periods the first is from Britain to America from 1620 to 1640 and the second refers to the migration from the southern states to the northern states which is said to have begun around 1915 and lasted until about 1970. Of course, there was some movement out of the South before 1915 and after 1970, but the mass movement occurred during those years. Understanding the African American Great Migration may help to explain difficult family history research issues that occur when an individual seems to suddenly appear in the north or other part of the country or disappear suddenly from the south.

If you have ancestors or relatives that seems to appear in a place in the North, West, or Northeast of the United States, but may have originally come from the southern part of the United States in the 1900s, it is likely they were part of the Great Migration.

Whenever we begin genealogical research about a migrant or an immigrant, discovering the place of origin of the migrant or immigrant often becomes the ultimate end-of-line or brick wall. Over the years, as I have helped people with their genealogical research, the most common obstacle to overcome has always been the origin of the migrant or immigrant.

Tracing your ancestors back in time to their origins in the southern states can be a challenge. My presentation focuses on the people and records from the 20th Century and the difficulty in connecting the individuals and families to the places they were living at the turn of the century. +

In moving from one geographical area to another, many migrants shed their old ways and adopt new ones. Sometimes historical records fail to completely reflect the realities of the changes because of   cultural and record preservation issues.

There was no organized mass movement. The Great Migration consisted of the decisions of individuals and families to leave the South and move to another area of the country that promised relief from the oppression and danger of living under Jim Crow laws and practices.[50] It is only through looking at the lives of those who made their own decision to leave the South and spend their lives in another extremely different way and place that we can begin to understand the why and how of the Great Migration.

The key to successful research into the lives of both migrants and immigrants is to start in the country or place of arrival. In the 1900s in the United States there are numerous records that may help in determining the place of origin. Granted, discovering the lives of African Americans is sometimes very challenging, especially as you try to trace them into the 1800s, but success in doing research in the 1800s is predicated on complete and thorough research in the 1900s.

To begin to understand the Great Migration, I must recommend the most influential history of the movement that has been written so far. The book is written as a narrative history and is called the *Warmth of other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson. This is an essential book for any understanding of the motives, the conditions, the suffering, and the anguish that accompanied this movement.

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[50] "Jim Crow Law | History, Facts, & Examples | Britannica." n.d. Accessed August 12, 2022.
https://www.britannica.com/event/Jim-Crow-law.

Quoting from historian Neil McMillen as quoted in the book, "The story of the Great Migration is among the most dramatic and compelling in all chapters of American history. So far reaching are its effects even now, that we scarcely understand its meaning."[51]

Please be aware that in talking about these historical events or quoting from historical records the language and terminology may be offensive to some. This also applies to images from that time period. It is also important to be "culturally sensitive" when interviewing, investigating and reporting on research done. People who were forced to leave their homes are often reticent to talk about their suffering. Likewise, there are significant attempts by those who caused the suffering to ignore or erase this history. Keep this in mind when researching any migrant community.

In addition, part of the challenge of talking about these events arises from the question of terminology. Here is a quote from an article from the University of Alabama at Huntsville entitled, "Which is the correct terminology: Black, African American or People of Color?"[52]

> It depends. "Black" refers to dark-skinned people of African descent, no matter their nationality. "African American" refers to people who were born in the United States and have African ancestry. Many people use the terms interchangeably.
>
> To say you are a person of color is more celebratory and positive than to say you are part of a "minority," he says. All three terms are acceptable. Which you prefer comes down to personal choice, the situation you're in and how invested you are in your racial history, Perez says.

Although slavery had technically ended at the end of the Civil War, the oppression of the African American population continued unabated. Many of the formerly enslaved people became indentured servants or sharecropping tenant farmers living under the same or worse conditions as they had suffered under slavery. : "The severe economic exploitation of the blacks in the South began during the Jim Crow era in about 1880.[53] The subsequent passage of extremely complicated segregation laws created a society of terror among the former enslaved people which included the threat of systematic violence and the complex imposition of political disenfranchisement."[54]

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[51] "*The Warmth of Other Suns*." In *Wikipedia*, May 25, 2021. https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=The_Warmth_of_Other_Suns&oldid=1025079330.

[52] Anon. 2020. "Which Is the Correct Terminology: Black, African American or People of Color?" *The University of Alabama in Huntsville*. Retrieved August 12, 2022 (https://www.uah.edu/diversity/news/15567-which-is-the-correct-terminology-black-african-american-or-people-of-color).

[53] "Constitutional Rights Foundation." Accessed November 24, 2021. https://www.crf-usa.org/black-history-month/a-brief-history-of-jim-crow.

[54] "Constitutional Rights Foundation." Accessed November 24, 2021. https://www.crf-usa.org/black-history-month/a-brief-history-of-jim-crow .

These factors made unbearable living conditions for nearly all the formerly enslaved people. Unless you have studied this period of American history, you cannot imagine the degree of poverty and suffering that existed in the Black population of the Southern States. Unfortunately, many of the Black people in America are still suffering the same imposed and limiting conditions. An example of the pervasive terrorism that existed in the South, is the fact that between 1880 and 1950, an African American was lynched with the impunity of prosecution of the perpetrators, more than once a week for some perceived breach of the racial hierarchy. Jim Crow existed for almost 100 years, from the post-Civil War era until the beginning of the Civil Rights Laws in the 1960s.[55] These Jim Crow laws were meant to marginalize and oppress African Americans by denying them the right to vote, hold jobs, get an education or other opportunities. Those who attempted to defy Jim Crow laws often faced arrest, fines, jail sentences, violence, and death. Escape from the oppression of these laws was a major factor in the movement of the African American population.

Despite an abundance of records in the 20th Century, there are some important issues that arise because genealogical research may involve people who are still living and have privacy rights or may involve documents that are not readily available due to other restrictions. The recent release of the 1950 census after 72 years is a good example.[56] With the information in the 1950 census, we can begin to document more of the movement from the South.

In this first video in the six-video series that are essentially the handout for my one-hour presentation at RootsTech 2023. As I did in my live presentation, I will be researching a family chosen from the 1950 U.S. Federal Census found on Ancestry.com.[57] Preparation of the slides for RootsTech 2023 had to be completed before some of the other genealogy websites had completely searchable copies of the 1950 census so my options were limited. But I was able to use the other genealogical websites for research in the earlier census records. The screenshot images are taken from the websites where the information was organized and recorded.

Roscoe Brown was 28 years old and born in Alabama as found in the 1950 U.S. Census. He was living in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois with his wife Freddie age 26 who was born in Illinois, and his brother William G. Brown age 30 who was separated from his wife and was also born in Alabama. Roscoe was formerly employed as grinder and polisher at a tile manufacturing company but at the time of the census, he was unemployed. His wife, Freddie, worked as a condenser maker for a manufacturer. His brother, William, worked as an elevator operator in a

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[55] Anon. n.d. "U.S. Senate: Civil Rights Act of 1964." Retrieved August 13, 2022 (https://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/civil_rights/background.htm).

[56] Anon. 2020. "1950 Census Records." *National Archives*. Retrieved August 13, 2022 (https://www.archives.gov/research/census/1950).

[57] "Ancestry.Com - 1950 United States Federal Census for Roscoe Brown." n.d. Accessed September 22, 2022. https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/62308/images/43290879-Illinois-147043-0018?pId=217955612.

meat packing plant. They were living in a second-floor apartment located at 3634 Prairie Ave.[58] A search of the adjacent pages of the census records did not find any Browns living close by.

A search on Ancestry.com almost immediately found a WWII Draft Registration Card for Roscoe Brown showing his birthdate as 11 July 1921 in Coker, Alabama.[59] His next-of-kin was identified as his brother, William. At that time, they were living at 3327 Calumet Avenue, Chicago. His employer at the time of the registration was U. H. Chrystman located at 568 Washington, also in Chicago. Each record found gives us more information leading to additional records that might be available. Draft Registration Records are not commonly used by many genealogists, but they often solve the immediate questions of both a birthdate and a place of birth. Finding a birthplace is not usually this fast or easy.

Coker, Alabama is a small town in Tuscaloosa County. It's 2020 population was 904. The population appears to be declining from previous census records.[60] This a street view of the local African Methodist Episcopal Church in Coker.[61]

With the names of two or three family members, we can search for the family in previous census records. It is a good idea to trace all the members of each family in all the census records. The additional information will help in moving back in time into the 1800s.

I was able to find a Roscoe Brown in the 1940 U.S. Census[62] living with an aunt named Annie Sanders in Northport City, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. At this point, more research would need to be done to verify that this is the same person living in Chicago in the 1950 Census. Roscoe was working as a porter for a private family, essentially a servant.

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[58] 1950 United States Federal Census for William G Brown, https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/62308/images/43290879-Illinois-147043-0018?pId=217955614

[59] U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947 for Roscoe Brown, https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2238/images/44008_04_00032-01494?pId=39600617 , Retrieved 28 August 2022.

[60] Anon. 2022. "Coker, Alabama." *Wikipedia*. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coker,_Alabama

[61] Anon. n.d. "Google Maps, Coker, Alabama." *Google Maps*. Retrieved August 26, 2022 (https://www.google.com/maps/@33.2527496,-87.6983375,3a,31.7y,224.61h,88.18t/data=!3m7!1e1!3m5!1sBaWsmIyIf55_ArEdjR0VFw!2e0!6shttps:%2F%2Fstreetviewpixels-pa.googleapis.com%2Fv1%2Fthumbnail%3Fpanoid%3DBaWsmIyIf55_ArEdjR0VFw%26cb_client%3Dmaps_sv.tactile.gps%26w%3D203%26h%3D100%26yaw%3D357.26605%26pitch%3D0%26thumbfov%3D100!7i16384!8i8192).

[62] "Ancestry.Com - 1940 United States Federal Census for Roscoe Brown." n.d. Accessed September 29, 2022. https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2442/images/m-t0627-00084-00266?pId=63812058.

Further research in the 1930 U.S. Census found the entire family living in Taylorsville, Tuscaloosa, Alabama giving the names of the parents and additional siblings.[63] This takes us back to Roscoe and William's father, Andrew, who was born in about 1896. We still have several questions to resolve such as a marriage record and the maiden name of Roscoe's wife, Freddie. Andrew Brown's wife is named Laura born in Mississippi and we need to find her maiden name. But by using the U.S. Census records and other available records we now have a beginning of a window into the 1800s.

With the names of Roscoe and William Brown's parents, we can look back to the 1920 U.S. Census and beyond. Andrew and Laura Brown were born in Alabama and Mississippi. In 1930 Andrew was 34 years old and was 23 when they got married. Laura was 30 years old and got married when she was 19 years old. It is probable that they had additional children who had already left home by 1930. Andrew was also shown to be a farm laborer.

Additional research is needed to answer the questions about the maiden names of the women in the families and additional information about Andrew and his wife's origins including possible marriage records. As is the case with all such research the focus should be wider than searching for individuals by name. The main focus should be on the locations where the events occurred supported by the relevant contemporary records.

Andrew would have been only about twenty or so years old at the start of World War I so he should have a draft registration card that could identify his date and place of birth and perhaps the name of one of his parents. Every record discovered suggests additional records that could be used to find additional information about the family.

Learning about The Great Migration continues. There is really no end to the research that can be done and the discoveries that can be made. The next video, number two in the series, will continue with research about a family beginning in New York.

Part Two - The Great Migration -- Focus on the Records, Destinations and Causes

This video is the second of a six-part series about the Great Migration. The videos are intended, in part, to act as a handout and supplement to the one-hour, in-person class presented at RootsTech 2023 subsequently, some of the same information provided in the one-hour class is included but amplified by these videos. There is also a printed handout available that contains the script of the in-person class and each of the six individual series videos with footnotes to each source and an extensive bibliography. The videos are presented in sequence and are best viewed in order.

The Great Migration involved the movement of over six million formerly enslaved African Americans and their free-born children from the southern states to other parts of the United

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[63]"Ancestry.Com - 1930 United States Federal Census for Andrew Brown." n.d. Accessed September 29, 2022. https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/6224/images/4532411_00196?pId=118264716.

States between 1915 and 1970. Although slavery had technically ended at the end of the Civil War, the oppression of the African American population continued unabated. Many of the formerly enslaved people became indentured servants or sharecropping tenant farmers living under the same or worse conditions as they had suffered under slavery.

"The severe economic exploitation of the blacks in the South began during the Jim Crow era in about 1880.[64] The subsequent passage of extreme complicated segregation laws created a society of terror among the former enslaved people which included the threat of systematic violence and the complete imposition of political disenfranchisement."[65]

After a short period of hope, the South began to systematically impose oppressive laws that collectively became known as the Jim Crow laws based upon the name used by a minstrel performer named Thomas Dartmouth Rice about 1830. Quoting from Britannica.com,

> He [Thomas Dartmouth Rice] portrayed the Jim Crow character principally as a dim-witted buffoon, building on and heightening contemporary negative stereotypes of African Americans. "Jim Crow" came to be a derogatory term for Black people, and in the late 19th century it became the identifier for the laws that reinstated white supremacy in the South after Reconstruction. The demeaning character symbolically rationalized segregation and the denial of equal opportunity.[66]

Each of the six videos highlights an individual or a family that was involved in leaving the South and moving to a city in the North, the West, or the Northeast. The cities are selected based on the numbers of migrants. Each individual or family was gleaned from the 1950 U.S. Census and then researched back in time to discover their origins with genealogically valuable records. The family chosen for this video lived in New York City.

There was no organized mass movement. The Great Migration consisted of the decisions of individuals and families to leave the South and move to another area of the country that promised relief from the oppression and danger of living under Jim Crow laws and practices. It is only through looking at the lives of those who made their own decision to leave the South and spend their lives in another extremely different way and place that we can begin to understand the why and how of the Great Migration. For this reason, my emphasis in this presentation and in the videos that follow show how we begin learning about those individual lives.

Quoting from a Wikipedia article entitled "African Americans in New York City;"[67]

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[64] "Constitutional Rights Foundation." Accessed November 24, 2021. https://www.crf-usa.org/black-history-month/a-brief-history-of-jim-crow.

[65] "Constitutional Rights Foundation." Accessed November 24, 2021. https://www.crf-usa.org/black-history-month/a-brief-history-of-jim-crow .

[66] Anon. n.d. "Jim Crow Law | History, Facts, & Examples | Britannica." Retrieved August 12, 2022 (https://www.britannica.com/event/Jim-Crow-law).

[67] Anon. 2022. "African Americans in New York City," *Wikipedia*. Accessed 31 August 2022. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_Americans_in_New_York_City

African Americans constitute one of the longer-running ethnic presences in New York City, the largest urban African American population, and the world's largest Black population of any city outside Africa, by a significant margin. The majority of the African American population were sold from their villages in West and Central Africa and brought to the American South via the Atlantic slave trade.

The black community consists of immigrants and their descendants from Africa and the Caribbean as well as native-born African Americans. Many of the city's black residents live in Brooklyn, Queens, Harlem, and The Bronx. Several of the city's neighborhoods are historical birthplaces of urban black culture in America, among them the Brooklyn neighborhood of Bedford–Stuyvesant and Manhattan's Harlem and various sections of Eastern Queens and The Bronx. Bedford-Stuyvesant is considered to have the highest concentration of black residents in the United States.

Beginning in 1904, a real estate entrepreneur, Phillip A. Payton, Jr.,[68] established an Afro-American Realty Company[69] and began to actively sell real estate in the predominantly white city of Harlem. Quoting from an article about Harlem, New York from Encyclopedia.com:[70]

In 1890 there were approximately 25,000 African Americans in Manhattan. By 1910 that number had more than tripled to 90,000. In the following decade the black population increased to approximately 150,000 and more than doubled by 1930 to over 325,000. In Harlem itself the black population rose from approximately 50,000 in 1914 to about 80,000 in 1920 to about 200,000 by 1930.

Quoting from a Public Broadcasting System feature entitled "Newspapers, The Chicago Defender:"[71]

The Chicago Defender, which was founded by Robert S. Abbott on May 5, 1905, once heralded itself as "The World's Greatest Weekly." The newspaper was the nation's most influential black weekly newspaper by the advent of World War I, with more than two thirds of its readership base located outside of Chicago… The Chicago Defender was the

[68] "Philip A. Payton Jr." 2022. In *Wikipedia*. Retrieved October 3, 2022 (https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Philip_A._Payton_Jr.&oldid=1100867090).

[69] Holland, Evangeline. 2011. "Black Business in the Gilded Age: Afro-American Realty Company." *Edwardian Promenade* (blog). February 25, 2011. https://www.edwardianpromenade.com/business/black-business-in-the-gilded-age-afro-american-realty-company/.

[70] Anon. n.d. "Harlem, New York | Encyclopedia.Com." Retrieved August 31, 2022 (https://www.encyclopedia.com/history/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/harlem-new-york).

[71] Anon. n.d. "The Chicago Defender." Retrieved September 3, 2022 (https://www.pbs.org/blackpress/news_bios/defender.html).

first black newspaper to have a circulation over 100,000, the first to have a health column, and the first to have a full page of comic strips.

During World War I The Chicago Defender waged its most aggressive (and successful) campaign to support "The Great Migration" movement. This movement resulted in over one and a half million southern blacks migrating to the North between 1915-1925.

The 1950 U.S. Census from Amazon.com[72] shows Walter Gates born in about 1919 in Mississippi. He is working pressing clothes at a cleaning plant. Unlike previous census records, the 1950 Census does not show the birthplaces of his parents. His wife's name is Edith who was born in Alabama, and he has a ten-year-old child named Juanita who was born in New York.

Starting research with the 1950 U.S. Census immediately opens up a wealth of other possible records. In the case of Walter Gates, Amazon record hints immediately supplied a World War II Draft Registration Card dated 16 October 1940[73] showing his birthdate and birthplace on 20 August 1918 in Gulfport, Mississippi. He was working at the time for Like-New Cleaning in New York City. The goal here is to open a window into the 19th Century with people born before 1900. The Draft Registration Card gives us a way to identify Walter in the 1940 U.S. Census. It also gives us a way to estimate his marriage date and provides the name of his brother, William Gates who was also living in New York.

There have always been business records but the challenge to genealogists is that they are seldom identified as genealogical records. Governments from the earliest times have issued permits and licenses to allow businesses to operate. Employment records may or may not have been preserved but when other types of records seem to fail, employment can be a substantial help in differentiating between individuals with the same or very similar names.[74]

An additional record, a Social Security Death Index record[75], records his death date as May of 1987. At this point, we still need to identify his parents and his wife's maiden name. However,

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[72] Anon. 1950. "Walter Gates." P. 1950 (roll 29) in *1950 United States Federal Census [Records of the Bureau of the Census, 1790-2007]*. National Archives and Records Administration, Accessed 2 September 2022, https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/282669028:62308?ssrc=pt&tid=184832088&pid=402411966044 .

[73] Anon. n.d. "Ancestry.Com - U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947." Retrieved September 2, 2022 (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2238/images/44027_01_00071-00046?pId=193185215).

[74] Anon. 2022. "United States Business Records." *FamilySearch Wiki*. Retrieved September 3, 2022 (https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United_States_Business_Records).

[75]"U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014 - Ancestry.Com for Walter Gates." n.d. Accessed October 3, 2022. https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=3693&h=21615835&ssrc=pt&tid=184832088&pid=402411966044&usePUB=true&_gl=1*mxwowv*_ga*MTY1MjE5NTk2OC4xNjYyNjQzNDg0*_ga_4QT8FMEX30*MTY2NDgwNTQ3MS4zNC4xLjE2NjQ4MDU1MTMuMC4wLjA.

with his Social Security Number I found his Social Security Application Form[76] with his parents' names including his mother's maiden name.

One underlying challenge is always people with the same names. It is important to focus on the places and work down through results before making a snap judgment and adding the wrong person. The number of results from any search for a person with a common name can be intimidating. A name search on one of the major genealogical family tree websites will show you fairly quickly the frequency of any name. You may be surprised at first to see how common some names are.

As research continued, I found a 1910 U.S. Census for Albert Gates[77] listing his wife and children in Gulfport, Mississippi giving his estimated birthdate of 1868. He is employed as a laborer in a warehouse. You can see that we now have a window back into the 1800s.

You don't always find records in chronological order. This is the case with finding the 1930 U.S. Census for Jane Gates and her family living at 83-84 Railroad Street in Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi. Apparently, sometime between 1912 and 1930, her husband had died or was not with the family at the time of the census. Jane and her two oldest children were all shown as employed. That location has apparently been replaced by what appears to now be an abandoned business building identified as the Aquatic Research Center. The location is also a few blocks away from the shore of the Gulf of Mexico.

As I kept looking for additional records, I found the 1920 U.S. Census[78] showing Jane Gates as the head of the household. The 1920 U.S. Census shows Jane as a widow. Each time another record is found, additional records are suggested by Ancestry.com as record hints. This is what happens in many cases with individuals who lived in the 20th Century. There also appear to be a smattering of some Ancestry family trees that include Walter Gates. This gives a relative or descendant the opportunity to try and contact family members for additional information.

When I explain the research process, there may be some who would conclude that finding someone like this example is easy. I can say that the huge online database programs facilitate research but just because I was able to find all this information is not a good indication of what someone else might encounter. Only one of the three other family trees including Walter Gates had any sources listed for him. One of the trees lists his wife's name as Jessie Mae Gates and another lists his wife as Edith Iola Evans. There are no family members listed in the third family

[76] Anon. n.d. "U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007 - Ancestry.Com." Retrieved September 3, 2022 (https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/24144110:60901?ssrc=pt&tid=184832088&pid=402411966044).

[77] Anon. n.d. "Ancestry.Com - 1910 United States Federal Census." Retrieved September 2, 2022 (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7884/images/31111_4330324-00131?pId=13703793).

[78] Anon. 1920. "Walter Gates." P. 26B (roll T625_876) in *1920 United States Federal Census [Gulfport, Harrison, Mississippi]*. National Archives and Records Administration. Retrieved September 3, 2022 https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/78061119:6061

tree entry. The 1950 U.S. Census, that I have already mentioned, lists his wife as Edith. These examples point out that following the record trail is not always straight forward.

At his point, there are several unanswered questions such as clarifying whether or not Walter Gates' father, Albert, had more than one wife. However, as noted, Jane Gates, Walter's mother is listed as a widow in the 1920 U.S. Census.[79] Walter is listed as being 2 years old so his father Albert must have left or died between 1917 and 1920. Albert's birth year was listed in the 1910 U.S. Census as 1868 making him, at least, 49 years old. It is very unlikely, at this point, that Albert had more than one wife despite Ancestry's family trees to the contrary.

We need to remember to analyze and record all the information from all the record sources that we find. Walter's mother's maiden name was found to be Jane Suds. It is important to examine all the record hints for all the family members and do additional research from other sources. A FindAGrave.com entry[80] shows that she was born about 1880 and died in Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi in 1961. She is apparently buried in the Old Mississippi City Cemetery.

Mississippi City, Mississippi is an unincorporated community in Harrison County that is now part of Gulfport.[81] As the original county seat for Harrison County, Mississippi City was one of the most important towns on the Mississippi Gulf Coast in the latter half of the 19th century.[82] It is important to understand the history of the places where the events in the lives of the people you are researching occurred.

Searching for a death record of Albert Gates, Walter's father, immediately showed people with the same name in the same area of the country. The trail extends to Alabama right after the end of the Civil War. It is important to continue to research in the 1900s because any additional information, such as a marriage record for Albert and Jane Suds, might provide clues to further identifying Albert Gates.

Learning about The Great Migration continues. There is really no end to the research that can be done and the discoveries that can be made. There are always more records. The next video, number three in the series, will continue with research about a family beginning in Detroit, Michigan.

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[79] Anon. 1920. "Walter Gates 1920 US Census." P. 26B (roll T625_876) in *1920 United States Federal Census [Gulfport, Harrison, Mississippi]*. National Archives and Records Administration.

[80] Anon. n.d. "Jane Gates (1880-1961) - Find a Grave Memorial." Retrieved September 5, 2022 (https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/27728920/jane-gates).

[81] Anon. 2022. "Mississippi City, Mississippi." *Wikipedia*. Retrieved September 5, 2022 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mississippi_City,_Mississippi

[82] Anon. n.d. "Mississippi City, Mississippi - Wikiwand." Retrieved September 5, 2022 (https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Mississippi_City,_Mississippi).

Part Three – The Great Migration - Tracing Your Ancestors Back in Time with Additional Sources and Records

This video is the third of a six-part series about the Great Migration. The videos are intended, in part, to act as a handout and supplement to the one-hour, in-person class presented at RootsTech 2023 subsequently, some of the same information provided in the one-hour class is included but amplified by these videos. There is also a printed handout available that contains an outline script of the in-person class and the script of each of the six individual series videos with footnotes to each source and an extensive bibliography. The videos are presented in a particular sequence and are best viewed in order.

It seems surprising that the movement of over six million people from the southern states to those in the northeast, north, and west would go mostly unnoticed by historians and genealogists but because the people involved were so oppressed in the South and then marginalized and discriminated in their new homes, this part of our history here in the United States has been largely ignored until quite recently. History is not written by most of the people who participate in it.

Despite the brief time right after the Civil War when the working and living conditions of the former enslaved people improved, "The severe economic exploitation of the blacks in the South began during the Jim Crow era in about 1880.[83] The subsequent passage of extremely complicated segregation laws created a society of terror among the former enslaved people which included the threat of systematic violence and the complete imposition of political disenfranchisement."[84]

It is a common experience that historical and genealogical research becomes more difficult as you go back in time. This is particularly true about African American research during the existence of slavery and for many years following the Civil War. The enslaved people were considered to be property and the records that do exist are usually those that deal with personal property such as notices of sale, business records, probate records and other documents that mention the personal as opposed to real property of the slave owners.

After the Civil War and the Emancipation Proclamation, the establishment of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, in existence from 1865 to 1872, generated a wide range of records about the African American experience during slavery and freedom. Subsequently, the Freedmen's Bureau records are a valuable source for black family historians. The primary collection of these records is located in the National Archives in Record Group 105,

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[83] "Constitutional Rights Foundation." Accessed November 24, 2021. https://www.crf-usa.org/black-history-month/a-brief-history-of-jim-crow.

[84] "Constitutional Rights Foundation." Accessed November 24, 2021. https://www.crf-usa.org/black-history-month/a-brief-history-of-jim-crow .

Records of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1861-1880. National Archives Catalog NAID 434.[85]

Quoting from a FamilySearch Research Wiki article about the African American Freedmen's Bureau Records:

> The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (often called the Freedmen's Bureau) was created by Congress on March 3, 1865, at the end of the American Civil War to aid the newly freed enslaved people (freedmen). It was created to supervise relief efforts, including education (4,300 schools were established), health care (100 hospitals were established), food and clothing, refugee camps, legalization of marriages, employment, labor contracts, and securing back pay, bounty payments, and pensions for soldiers and sailors. The Bureau also helped reunite families. The Bureau operations were terminated in 1872[85] above.

Most of the Freedmen records have now been digitized and are available in online collections such as those listed in the National Archives article, "Links to Freedmen's Bureau Resources."[86]

The FamilySearch Research Wiki also has an extensive list[87] of the types of records copied from the Glossary located in the National Archives Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Field Offices of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands. 3 volumes. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Service, 1973 compiled by Elaine Everly and Willna Pacheli.[88]

To begin research before 1900, it is absolutely essential that as much research as is possible be done about whole families beginning with the present and working backward in time. Fortunately, one of the most valuable record sources for beginning your research, the 1950 U.S. Census record, has now been digitized, indexed and is being made available in a variety of online genealogical database websites. Because this presentation was being written in 2022, I have relied heavily on the digitized and indexed copy of the 1950 U.S. Census on Ancestry.com.[89]

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[85] Anon. 2022. "African American Freedmen's Bureau Records." *FamilySearch Wiki*. Retrieved September 6, 2022 (https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/African_American_Freedmen%27s_Bureau_Records).

[86] Anon. 2016. "Links to Freedmen's Bureau Resources." *National Archives*. Retrieved September 6, 2022 (https://www.archives.gov/research/african-americans/freedmens-bureau/resources.html).

[87] Anon. 2022. "Freedmen's Bureau Record Types." *FamilySearch Wiki*. Retrieved September 7, 2022 (https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Freedmen%27s_Bureau_Record_Types).

[88] Anon. n.d. "FamilySearch Catalog: Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Field Offices of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands : Record Group 105 — FamilySearch.Org." Retrieved September 7, 2022 (https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/702586?availability=Family%20History%20Library).

[89] Anon. n.d. "1950 United States Federal Census | Ancestry®." Retrieved September 6, 2022 (https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/62308/?_gl=1*1h7hjsb*_ga*MzE4MzYyMjQ2LjE2NTk4MDUxOTU.*_ga_4QT8FMEX30*MTY2MjQ3MTI2NS41Ni4xLjE2NjI0NzEyNjUuMC4wLjA.).

The availability of jobs and housing for the former enslaved people and their freed children resulted in their migration to many places across the United States. However, the majority of the migration was centered primarily on the major population centers. Unfortunately, the economic and social condition of the migrants at first was not much better in the cities of arrival than it had been in South, but by moving to areas where the Jim Crow laws were not in force, the African Americans gained opportunities not formerly open to them. Ultimately, most benefitted from their movement.

Further, it is important to realize that to a great extent, these former enslaved people are still suffering from many of the unfair and oppressive legal, statutory, cultural, and social oppression they experienced as slaves.

This video focuses on a family that moved from Georgia to , Michigan. My research showed a Plumens Powers who was born about 1907 in Georgia and was working as a drill press operator in an auto manufacturing plant. His wife, Willie M., was born in about 1906 and was not shown as being employed.[90] They lived in an apartment at 7910 Russell Street.

The huge impact of the Great Migration is most dramatically illustrated by the change in the population of Detroit. At the time of World War I, about 1% of the population was African American. As of 2017 estimates indicate that, 79.1 % of the population or about 532,425 African Americans were living in Detroit. Quoting from a Wikipedia article entitled, "History of African Americans in Detroit:"[91]

> Nearby suburbs also had higher Black populations, reflecting the history of settlement of African Americans here during the Great Migration of the early 20th century, when people were attracted to Detroit's industrial jobs: Southfield had a Black population of 42,259, and Pontiac 31,416. In 2002 the Michigan city with the highest percentage of Black residents was Highland Park, where 93% of the population is Black. In the 2010 census, African Americans made up 22.8% of the total city and metropolitan area population in Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties.

Here is an outside view of what this area where the Powers family lived, looks like today from Google Maps. There is a freeway and most of the buildings are either commercial or industrial.[92] In many cases, freeway construction either eliminated or substantially changed traditional neighborhoods.

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[90] Anon. 1950. "Plumens Powers 1950 US Census." P. 1950 (roll 29) in *1950 United States Federal Census [Records of the Bureau of the Census, 1790-2007]*. National Archives and Records Administration. Retrieved 6 September 2022, https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/173740858:62308?ml_rpos=13&hovR=1

[91] Anon. 2022. "History of African Americans in Detroit." *Wikipedia*. Retrieved 9 September 2022, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_African_Americans_in_Detroit

[92] Anon. n.d. "Google Maps Russell Street Detroit." *Google Maps*. Retrieved September 6, 2022 (https://www.google.com/maps/@42.3780542,-83.0619371,3a,90y,22.76h,89.36t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1srD1jlY3zyLFyQ39UOIc7oA!2e0!7i16384!8i8192).

These maps show the movement of the black population out of the Southern States into population centers around the United States. You can see from these two maps that the greatest increase in population was centered on the larger cities of the country.[93]

My first response to Plumens first name was suspecting that it was spelled wrongly. It turns out that almost every entry I found spelled both his given name and his surname differently. I found the 1940 U.S. Census with his name as "Plumer Powells."[94] His wife's name is recorded as Willie Mae and the family is shown with a daughter 15, a son 13, and a daughter 12.

By starting a family tree in Ancestry.com for this research objective, I automatically start getting record hints. Of course, I need to evaluate the record hints, but they are helpful especially for people in the 20th Century who have so many possible records. The first new record at this point in the research comes from the U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007.[95] This record adds his wife's maiden name and the name of a deceased daughter.

One consideration about research in the 1950 U.S. Census is the issue of privacy. It is readily apparent since I show up in the 1950 U.S. Census that living people are going be listed. Although the U.S. National Archives has a webpage entitled "Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the 1950 Census"[96] the issue of privacy is not addressed. However, there is another article entitled, "Census Protections Evolve Continuously to Address Emerging Threats"[97] from the U.S. Census Bureau that addresses privacy issues. To the extent possible in this presentation and all the other related videos, I try not to discuss anyone for whom I do not find a death record. The main way privacy is protected by the Census is the 72-year rule about publication.

As I add information to my research specific Ancestry.com family tree, I find a hint to the 1930 U.S. Census[98] that contain information that adds confidence to the names already discovered. What is evident is that Plumer's given name continues to evolve although the spelling of his

[93] The Website Services & Coordination Staff, US Census Bureau. n.d. "The Great Migration, 1910 to 1970." *U.S. Census*. Retrieved August 6, 2022 (https://www.census.gov/dataviz/visualizations/020/).

[94] Anon. 1940. "1940 U.S. Census Plumer Powells." P. 17A (roll m-t0627-00673) in *1940 United States Federal Census [Royston, Franklin, Georgia]*. National Archives and Records Administration.

[95] Anon. n.d. "U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007 - Ancestry.Com." Retrieved September 8, 2022 (https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/641566147:60901?tid=184921655&pid=172417486241&hid=1008435953177).

[96] Anon. 2021. "Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the 1950 Census." *National Archives*. Retrieved September 8, 2022 (https://www.archives.gov/research/census/1950/faqs).

[97] Bureau, US Census. n.d. "Census Protections Evolve Continuously to Address Emerging Threats." *Census.Gov*. Retrieved September 8, 2022 (https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2020/02/through-the-decades-how-the-census-bureau-protects-your-privacy.html).

[98] Anon. n.d. "Ancestry.Com - 1930 United States Federal Census Pumer R Powers." Retrieved September 8, 2022 (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/6224/images/4531985_00108?pId=22543570).

surname is more consistent with "Powers." At the same time, I now see a hint for the 1940 U.S. Census.[99]

With the census records from 1920 to 1950 and a U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007 file, I see the following list of alternate names for Plumer Powers:

- Plumber B Powers (Social Security)
- Plumer Powers (1920 U.S. Census)
- Plumer R Powers (1930 U.S. Census)
- Plumer Powells (1940 U.S. Census)
- Plumens Powers (1950 U.S. Census)

A marriage record for Plumer's daughter in Lucas County, Ohio,[100] just south of Detroit, lists her father's name as Truner Powers. However, records consistently have Plumer's wife's name as Willie or Willie M. and this marriage record and the Social Security record gives her maiden name as Maxwell.

Plumer appears in the 1920 U.S. Census living with his father William Powers and his mother Jannie Powers outside of Royston, Franklin, Georgia and is the oldest of five children. It is generally accepted genealogical practice to record a person's name as it appears on the earliest discovered record. So, I will refer to him as Plumer until I find an earlier record.

The 1920 U.S. Census shows the family's address as 324 Ridge Road, probably in Royston City, Georgia. There is a notation that the location of the house is outside of the corporate limits of the town in Manleys District. The road mentioned does not appear on Google Maps.

Plumer's father, William, in the 1920 U.S. Census is 46 years old and a farmer. This may explain why the road on the census record is not on Google Maps. Royston was probably the closest town. Using his age, he was possibly born in 1874 and William's parents were most likely enslaved people.

William Powers and his wife Jannie had three children born before 1910 Plumer, Clydie, and James, so this family pattern could help to identify him in the 1910 U.S. Census. But I found William at 59 years of age, next in the 1930 U.S. Census[101] living in Roy, Hart County, Georgia on Royston Road. Roy is another place that does not show up on Google Maps. He was still farming and was renting his home. By the way, the county line between Franklin and Hart counties runs right through Royston, Georgia. This is a good reason for looking at maps. When a

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[99] Anon. n.d. "Ancestry.Com - 1940 United States Federal Census for Plumer Powells." Retrieved September 8, 2022 (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2442/images/M-T0627-00673-00603?pId=56234240).

[100] Anon. n.d. "Ancestry.Com - Ohio, U.S., County Marriage Records, 1774-1993." Retrieved September 8, 2022 (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/61378/images/TH-1-18870-36126-16?pId=1352649479).

[101] Anon. n.d. "Ancestry.Com - 1930 United States Federal Census William Powers." Retrieved September 12, 2022 (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/6224/images/4531985_00148?pId=22541397).

county, state, or national boundary cuts through a town, there can be significant confusion about the location of events in an ancestor's life.

Although there are discrepancies in William's age, it appears that he may have been living with his wife's family in 1910 but the children listed on this census record do not match the ones that should be there in 1920. In any event, the research should focus on the last location of the family in the 1920 U.S. Census living on a farm outside of Royston, Georgia.

Here, because of William's common name, the research becomes more complicated. Focusing on the children and places they were born; it is evident that the record hints are becoming less useful. It is time to focus on the places rather than the names.

There is considerable work that needs to be done. It is always tempting to keep moving back in time but before we are certain that we have the right person, it is a better idea to do extensive research on each individual including each child in each family. This will either make us revise everything we have done so far or confirm that we are following the right ancestral line.

The goal of these examples was to illustrate the records used to find an ancestor who lived before 1900 and was probably living in the area where further research needed to be done.

Learning about The Great Migration continues. There is really no end to the research that can be done and the discoveries that can be made. There are always more records. The next video, number three in the series, will continue with research about a family beginning in Washington, D.C.

Part Four –The Great Migration - Changes to Individuals and Families and the Impact on the General Population

The Great Migration of over 6 million people leaving southern states for destinations in other parts of the Unites States had a major impact on the demographics of the entire country. The movement culminated with the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Provisions of this civil rights act forbade discrimination based on sex, as well as race in hiring, promoting, and firing.[102]

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 is the nation's benchmark civil rights legislation, and it continues to resonate in America. Passage of the Act ended the application of "Jim Crow" laws, which had been upheld by the Supreme Court in the 1896 case *Plessy v. Ferguson*, in which the Court held that racial segregation purported to be "separate but equal" was constitutional. The Civil Rights Act was eventually expanded by Congress to strengthen enforcement of these fundamental civil rights.[103]

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[102] Anon. n.d. "Legal Highlight: The Civil Rights Act of 1964 | U.S. Department of Labor." Retrieved September 13, 2022 (https://www.dol.gov/agencies/oasam/civil-rights-center/statutes/civil-rights-act-of-1964).

[103] "Civil Rights Act (1964)." 2021. National Archives. October 5, 2021. https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/civil-rights-act.

According to the U.S. Census survey, in 1900, the average salary in the United States for most men was $449.80 or $8,973 in year 2000 dollars. For an African American male, the average annual salary was $150 or $2,992 in year 2000 dollars or about one third that of a white laborer for the same work.[104] Despite advances in civil rights, the average median weekly earnings for white workers 16 years and over in the United States in 2022 is $1,068, while the average for black or African American workers 16 years and older is $885.[105]

One of the areas that was most affected by the migration was the nation's capital, Washington, D.C. Quoting from the African American Heritage Trail, Washington, DC by Marva McQuiter, Ph.D.[106]

> African Americans have been a significant part of Washington, DC's civic life and identity since the city was first declared the new national capital in 1791. African Americans were 25 percent of the population in 1800, and the majority of them were enslaved. By 1830, however, most were free people.
>
> By 1900 Washington had the largest percentage of African Americans of any city in the nation. Many came because of opportunities for federal jobs. Others were attracted to the myriad educational institutions. Howard University, founded in 1867, was a magnet for professors and students and would become the "capstone of Negro education" by 1930.

Washington, D.C. became a destination for many African Americans during the Great Migration and the Great Migration is among the stories told at the National Museum of African American History and Culture on the Mall in Washington, D.C. Quoting from a National Public Radio article entitled, "When Blacks Fled the South, D.C. Became Home for Many from North Carolina."[107]

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[104] Anon. n.d. "Pan American Exposition 1901 Buffalo." Retrieved September 13, 2022 (https://panam1901.org/visiting/salaries.htm).

[105] Anon. n.d. "Table 3. Median Usual Weekly Earnings of Full-Time Wage and Salary Workers by Age, Race, Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity, and Sex, Second Quarter 2022 Averages, Not Seasonally Adjusted - 2022 Q02 Results." Retrieved September 14, 2022 (https://www.bls.gov/news.release/wkyeng.t03.htm).

[106] McQuirter, Marya. 2003. *African American Heritage Trail, Washington, DC*. Washington, DC: Office of Planning, Historic Preservation Office : Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development : DC Department of Transportation : National Park Service, Retrieved October 11, 2022. https://www.culturaltourismdc.org/portal/a-brief-history-of-african-americans-in-washington-dc#:~:text=African%20Americans%20have%20been%20a,however%2C%20most%20were%20free%20people.

[107] Anon. n.d. "When Blacks Fled The South, D.C. Became Home For Many From North Carolina." *WAMU*. Retrieved September 14, 2022 (https://wamu.org/story/16/09/23/when_blacks_fled_the_south_dc_became_home_for_many_from_north_carolina/).

"The greatest migration came right around World War II. The 1940s and 1950s is when you get the largest percentage of African Americans coming to the city, and in 1957 is when is when African Americans were a majority in this city and became the first black majority big city in the country," says Marya McQuirter, a historian who helped create the [African American Heritage Trail](#),[108] which winds through a number of D.C. neighborhoods and tells the history of important black residents and institutions.

It is important when doing research about The Great Migration to cast a wide net for sources and repositories. One of these repositories is The National Museum of African American History and Culture which has an impressive collection of memorabilia and artifacts. When I visited the museum, I was impressed by the depth and detail of the exhibits. One interesting collection is The Great Migration Home Movie Project.[109] Quoting from the website.

In addition to the Great Migration, the National Museum of African American History & Culture has collected and preserved a number of African American home movies; from both known and unknown families. While major motion picture film and television historically lacked diverse representation, black history was instinctively being preserved by everyday home movies. Today, these personal narratives serve as an invaluable tool for understanding and re-framing black moving image history and provide a much-needed visualization of African American history and culture.

One common occurrence that helps research into the migrants' or immigrants' lives is that they tend to settle in areas where there are people who are related or at least, speak the same language. Focusing on this related cluster enables a researcher to have a larger base of information to use to work through the barriers of time and distance from the places of origin.

One interesting book about the migration to Washington, D.C. is by Margot Lee Shetterly and Winifred Conkling called "Hidden Figures, The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race."[110] Although the book is primarily about the four women, there is a lot of explanation about the establishment of the African American migrant communities particularly southwest of Washington, D.C.

Whenever we begin genealogical research about a migrant or an immigrant, discovering the place of origin of the migrant or immigrant often becomes the ultimate end-of-line or brick wall. Over the years, as I have helped people with their genealogical research, the most common obstacle to overcome has always been the origin of the migrant or immigrant.

There is no firm beginning date for The Great Migration. Movement of African Americans from the South began in colonial times. Before and during the American Civil War, a loosely

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[108] Anon. n.d. "African American Heritage Trail - Www.Culturaltourism.Org." Retrieved September 14, 2022 (http://www.culturaltourismdc.org/portal/african-american-heritage-trail).

[109] Anon. n.d. "The Great Migration Home Movie Project." *National Museum of African American History and Culture*. Retrieved September 14, 2022 (https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/initiatives/great-migration-home-movie-project).

[110] Shetterly, Margot Lee, and Winifred Conkling. 2018. *Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race*. First edition. New York, NY: Harper, an imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers.

organized effort called the Underground Railroad also called the Abolitionist Underground helped enslaved people to escape to the Northern free states.[111] When slavery was abolished, there were a few short years when the condition of the former enslaved people improved, but with the passage of systematically oppressive laws called "Jim Crow" laws. These laws and the efforts to enforce them made unbearable living conditions for nearly all the formerly enslaved people. Unless you have studied this period of American history, you cannot imagine the degree of poverty and suffering that existed in the Black population of the Southern States.

The first substantial movement of African Americans from the South began just before World War I, beginning in about 1917. The huge influx of men into the armed forces created a work shortage that enabled many African Americans to move from their farms into industrial jobs. The second great surge occurred for the same reason as World War II was starting in about 1940. This dramatic movement of the formerly enslaved people continues to have a tremendous social, cultural, and political impact on the entire population of the United States. The effect of the movement of over 6 million people within the United States because of systematic discrimination should not and cannot be ignored by genealogists.

One relatively recent addition to the record sources available to help with Great Migration research is the 1950 U.S. Census. This census contains people who came north before and during World War II. This valuable resource was released in April 2022 and many of the major genealogy programs presently have searchable copies of the records.

Each of the videos in this six-part series illustrates an example of researching a family with formerly enslaved ancestors working backwards in time starting with an entry in the 1950 U.S. Census. This segment starts with a family from Washington, D.C.

According to the 1950 U.S. Census record from Ancestry.com,[112] Sam Buckner was born in about 1920 in South Carolina. He is married to Rose who was born in South Carolina in 1908. He is employed as an "Electric Type Helper" in the U.S. Government Printing Office. The job description refers to the process of electrotyping in printing. Electrotyping was used to make copper reproductions of engraved metal plates or wooden carvings, which were used to print artwork. The electrotypes could be incorporated along with movable type to compose the forms for printing.[113]

It is important to begin this process by opening a family tree on Ancestry.com or one of the other large online genealogy websites, so you can begin to have the benefit of their record matches and hints. Remember to closely examine all record hints to make sure they apply to the people you are researching. Above all, look for consistency in the dates and places. Also, note the occupations because this will help in dealing with people with the same names.

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[111] Magazine, Smithsonian, and Meilan Solly. n.d. "The True History Behind Amazon Prime's 'Underground Railroad.'" *Smithsonian Magazine*. Retrieved September 15, 2022 (https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/true-history-behind-amazon-primes-underground-railroad-180977717/).

[112] Anon. n.d. "Ancestry.Com - 1950 United States Federal Census for Sam Buckner." Retrieved September 16, 2022 (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/62308/images/43290879-District_of_Columbia-017850-0011?pId=15200399).

[113] Anon. 1950. *1950 Census of Population: Alphabetical Index of Occupations and Industries ..* Washington: Govt. Print. Off. Retrieved 15 September 2022, https://www2.census.gov/prod2/decennial/documents/08834926.pdf

According to the 1950 U.S. Census, the Buckners were living at 1122 5ᵗʰ Street N.E. in Washington, D.C. Here is a screenshot of that location as it looks today from Google Maps' Streetview.[114]

When you begin a family tree on any one of the online genealogy websites, the record hints may not help immediately. You may have to do some basic research to get enough information for the websites to begin their own searching.

City Directories are a useful help for adding additional information to what is recorded in the U.S. Census records. In this case, Sam and Rose Buckner appear in the 1954 Washington, District of Columbia, City Directory [115] living at the same address. This entry also agrees with and supports that he was working for the Government Printing Office as a platemaker operator.

A search of the 1950 U.S. Census for Buckners living in Washington, D.C. does not immediately show any possible relatives nearby, but they might be living near Sam Buckner's wife's family at this point, we do not know her maiden name. Migrants usually settled near relatives and friends from the place of departure but those young people who left the South during The Great Migration often acted as individuals and communities formed only over time.

If I were doing this research for one of my own ancestors, I could contact my own family for some or much of the information I needed to get started. But I do find that it is not uncommon for people to have drifted away from their family and that information about their grandparents in not known to them.

With the addition of this one record, Ancestry began finding record hints. Sometimes, it is a good idea to add in information that is found even when you do not yet know if the information is accurate. You can always back out and delete any information that turns out to be unreliable. All genealogical research is a work in progress and subject to change with the discovery of additional records and information.

Another record from the U.S. Public Records Index, 1950-1993, Volume 1,[116] has a name and a birthdate of 19 October 1919 for Sam Buckner. He was still living in 1985. In some cases, Ancestry will add the new information to your family tree but check to make sure all the information you find gets entered properly. Don't be surprised if birthdates and names start to change as recorded on newly discovered records. Also, at this point is it evident that there are a lot of people named Sam Buckner.

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[114] Anon. n.d. "Google Maps Washington, D.C. for Sam Buckner." *Google Maps*. Retrieved September 16, 2022 (https://www.google.com/maps/@38.9043339,-76.9995108,3a,88.6y,245.39h,85.71t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1sn4-agi-6tIKs-rpVS2PZcg!2e0!7i16384!8i8192).

[115] Anon. n.d. "U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995 - Ancestry.Com for Sam Buckner." Retrieved September 16, 2022 (https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/1160410944:2469?tid=185095028&pid=242412240038&queryId=94c46405e68ec25304b7201943629ec0&_phsrc=oSs1125&_phstart=successSource).

[116] Anon. n.d. "U.S., Public Records Index, 1950-1993, Volume 1 - Ancestry.Com for Sam Bruckner." Retrieved September 16, 2022 (https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/37951398:1788?ssrc=pt&tid=185095028&pid=242412240038).

Although telephone directories have almost completely disappeared, for the years that they existed, they are an additional resource. Sam Buckner was found in U.S., Phone and Address Directories, 1993-2002[117] at the same address.

A WWII Draft Card[118] for Sam Buckner dated 16 October 1940 showed his birthplace and father's name as Marion Buckner. He was born in Sumter, Sumter, South Carolina. This record has a birthdate of 12 September 1916. The card indicates that he was working on his father's farm. Although there is a discrepancy in the birth dates, it is possible that the previous Public Records Index was referring to a different person. This date is also inconsistent with the calculated date in the 1950 U.S. Census, but it does narrow the difference between Sam and his wife's calculated birthdate.

Marion Buckner, the person who appears to be his father, has a number of possible records including a 1920 U.S. Census record.[119] This record shows that his wife in 1920 was named Anna Sanders. He apparently had a second wife named Evola or Erola Buchanon as shown in 1930[120] and 1940 U.S. Census Records.[121] There is also an 1880 U.S. Census record[122] for Marion giving his parents' names as Henry Buckner born in 1851 and Patience born about 1855. An 1870 U.S. Census record shows that Patience's maiden name was Spann. We are now back to people who were born into slavery.

At this point, the connection between the Sam Buckner in the 1950 Census and the Sam Buckner who appears in the records referring to a Sam Buckner in South Carolina is tenuous. More research may confirm the conclusions made so far or I may not have connected to the correct family. I am missing a marriage record for Sam and Rose Buckner, and I am also missing a maiden name for Rose. Sam Buckner apparently dies in Sumter County, South Carolina according to the U.S., Newspapers.com Obituary Index, 1800s-current[123]

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[117] Anon. n.d. "U.S., Phone and Address Directories, 1993-2002 - Ancestry.Com for Sam Buckner." Retrieved September 16, 2022 (https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/234505032:7339?tid=185095028&pid=242412240038&queryId=a36d95d9fd607c2be41c204e5efe95f7&_phsrc=oSs1137&_phstart=successSource).

[118] Anon. n.d. "Ancestry.Com - U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947 for Sam Buckner." Retrieved September 16, 2022 (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2238/images/44037_06_00004-03876?pId=212105144).

[119] Anon. 1920. "1920 US Census for Marion Buchner." P. 3B (roll T625_1713) in *1920 United States Federal Census [Statesburg, Sumter, South Carolina]*. National Archives and Records Administration. Retrieved October 11, 2022, https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/6061/images/4391960_00013?pId=52910242

[120] Anon. n.d. "Ancestry.Com - 1930 United States Federal Census for Marion Buchanon." Retrieved September 16, 2022 (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/6224/images/4547343_00138?pId=96993126).

[121] Anon. n.d. "Ancestry.Com - 1940 United States Federal Census for Marion Buckner." Retrieved September 16, 2022 (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2442/images/m-t0627-03841-00663?pId=137227671).

[122] Anon. n.d. "Ancestry.Com - 1880 United States Federal Census for Marion Buckner." Retrieved September 16, 2022 (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/6742/images/4244530-00568?pId=13040347).

[123] Anon. n.d. "Sam Buckner - U.S., Newspapers.Com Obituary Index, 1800s-Current, The Sumter Daily Item; Publication Date: 9 Feb 1968; Publication Place: Sumter, South Carolina, USA." Retrieved September 16, 2022 (https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/185095028/person/242412240038/facts).

Learning about The Great Migration continues. There is really no end to the research that can be done and the discoveries that can be made. There are always more records. The next video, number three in the series, will continue with research about a family beginning in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Part Five - The Great Migration - Impact on Population and Culture in the United States

The Great Migration between 1915 and 1970, when over 6 million African Americans moved from the Southern States to the North, is one of the most dramatic movements of people within United States that has ever occurred.[124] Understanding the African American Great Migration may help to explain difficult family history research issues that occur when an individual seems to appear suddenly in the north or disappear suddenly from the south. The social, economic, and cultural effects of the movement of over 6 million people within the United States because of systematic discrimination should not and cannot be ignored by historians and genealogists.

This is part five of a series of six videos designed as a supplement to a one-hour class at RootsTech 2023. There is also a text handout to the live presentation and the six videos that contains links to all the resources cited and an extensive bibliography. The presentation and this video series focuses on records from the 1900s realizing however, that the most difficult research about enslaved people begins in the 1800s. But success in doing research in the 1800s is predicated on complete and thorough research in the 1900s.

I often hear people claim that they have searched everywhere for their ancestors. This statement cannot possibly be true. There are so many types of records scattered across the world that no one person can possibly have searched or even learned about all the records available.

Very often genealogical research starts with discovering information about our own parents and immediate family members. Today's population of the United States was born entirely in 20th and 21st Centuries; both of which have an abundance of available records documenting almost every aspect of a person's life. However, the abundance of records poses its own challenges. Even with the vast resources on the ubiquitous internet, we must recognize that many valuable records are still only available from specific repositories with specific restrictions concerning their availability.

For African Americans, research back into the 1800s increases in difficulty because of the lack of records identifying individuals. However, there are more records available today than in the past.

One major example is the U.S. National Archives.[125] The main repository for records pertaining to the functions of the government of the United States. However, only an extremely small

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[124] National Archives. "The Great Migration (1910-1970)," May 20, 2021.
https://www.archives.gov/research/african-americans/migrations/great-migration.

[125] Anon. n.d. "National Archives |." Retrieved September 17, 2022 (https://www.archives.gov/).

percentage of those records are available in digital format and even fewer are freely available online outside of paywall websites. In addition to the main U.S. National Archives in Washington, D.C., there are 48 additional branch archives scattered across the country.[126] These records, in some cases, may be the most valuable for discovering individuals and families who were involved in The Great Migration but are very difficult to access.

Fortunately, one major set of records, those from the U.S. Census are entirely digitized and available online from the major online genealogy websites. One little known set of those records include slave schedules. A summary of those records and links to the schedules can be found in the FamilySearch Research Wiki article, "United States Census Slave Schedules."[127]

Land and property records are also valuable for discovering information about individuals and, in many cases, family relationships. In the United States, land and property records are kept at the individual county level. Access to these records vary from county to county across the country and there are 3,243 counties and county equivalents in the United States.[128] The records are usually kept in the county's recorder office and yes, you do have to search county by county and sometimes record by record while physically in the county office. However, always search online to see if the records are available digitally.[129]

Probate records are those records created by a local court upon a person's death.[130] Slaves were personal property and ownership was transferred to the owner's heirs when the owner died. Although many probate records have been digitized and are available online, huge collections of these records are still waiting to be digitized. It is also important to note that very few of these records have been indexed even if they are available digitally online. Again, probate records are court records and researchers need to identify the probate court for each county being researched.

Tax records are valuable with land and property records for identifying individuals and tracking their movements. Tax records are kept at every level of government in the United States from school districts to the federal government. At each level, a researcher must discover if the records were created, when they were kept, and where they may be located. Some may be

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[126] Anon. n.d. "Visit Us National Archives Branch Locations." *National Archives*. Retrieved September 17, 2022 (https://www.archives.gov/locations).

[127] Anon. 2022. "United States Census Slave Schedules." *FamilySearch Wiki*. Retrieved September 17, 2022 (https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United_States_Census_Slave_Schedules).

[128] Anon. 2022. "List of United States Counties and County Equivalents." *Wikipedia*. Retrieved September 17, 2022 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_United_States_counties_and_county_equivalents

[129] "United States Land and Property." 2019. FamilySearch Wiki. July 26, 2019. https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United_States_Land_and_Property.

[130] Anon. 2022. "United States Probate Records." *FamilySearch Wiki*. Retrieved September 17, 2022 (https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United_States_Probate_Records).

available online, but access is always an issue. See the FamilySearch Research Wiki article, "United States Taxation."[131]

Don't be discouraged by the number and kinds of records available. There is always hope that additional research will find an elusive ancestor.

In my live presentation and each of the six videos, I have selected a family from the 1950 U.S. Census and shown how existing records can be used to trace the family back to the 1800s and slavery. The research is illustrative of the records that can be used to find historical and genealogical connections, but the limitations of time do not allow my research to be complete or exhaustive. There are always more records to search, and additional research may mandate changes or corrections. The starting place for the presentation and the videos is a different city where The Great Migration had its most significant impact. This video focuses on a family from Oakland, California.[132]

This U.S. Census Bureau map shows a comparison of the impact of the Great Migration from 1910 to 1970.[133] Migrants during the first phase of the Great Migration traveled to New York, Pittsburgh, Detroit, and Chicago. Many of the migrants left under the threat of physical violence or death and the movement north established a series of safe houses just as was done during the days of the underground railroad.[134] During the period from 1940 to 1970 southern migrants primarily moved to Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland, Seattle, and Portland.[135] Unfortunately, the migrants usually received a similar response to their efforts to obtain employment, housing, and education as they had in the South.[136]

Here is a quote about the impact of The Great Migration on the city of Oakland, California from a documentary series called, "A Changing Oakland, Black Oakland's Story."[137]

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[131] "United States Taxation." 2020. FamilySearch Wiki. October 30, 2020. https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United_States_Taxation.

[132] The main research for this and other families was done on Ancestry.com due to the availability, at the time, of an index to the 1950 U.S. Census.

[133] The Website Services & Coordination Staff, US Census Bureau. n.d. "The Great Migration, 1910 to 1970." *U.S. Census*. Retrieved August 6, 2022 (https://www.census.gov/dataviz/visualizations/020/).

[134] National Archives. "The Great Migration (1910-1970)," May 20, 2021. https://www.archives.gov/research/african-americans/migrations/great-migration.

[135] National Archives. "The Great Migration (1910-1970)," May 20, 2021. https://www.archives.gov/research/african-americans/migrations/great-migration.

[136] Pew Research Center's Social & Demographic Trends Project. "Views on Race in America 2019," April 9, 2019. https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2019/04/09/race-in-america-2019/.

[137] Anon. n.d. "Black Oakland's Story." *A Changing Oakland - Documentary Series*. Retrieved September 16, 2022 (https://oaklandhereno_w.com/blackoakland).

"The largest influx of African Americans into Oakland came during the Second Great Migration. Between 1940 and 1970, an estimated 5 million blacks fled the constraints of the Jim Crow South to seek better opportunities in the Northeast, Midwest, and Western states. Tens of thousands of these migrants came to Oakland, drawn by the promise of plentiful jobs in a city at the center of the region's rapidly expanding wartime economy, bolstered by an infusion of federal defense sector spending for shipbuilding and the construction of the Oakland Army base and Naval Supply Center. A wartime labor shortage, coupled with a directive by Franklin Roosevelt ordering federal contractors to integrate their workforces, prompted blacks to flood into the city to take jobs on the railroads, shipyards, ports, docks, and military supply centers that were an integral part of the war effort."

"The availability of plentiful and relatively lucrative jobs engendered a new Bay Area black middle class, many of whom settled in West Oakland, where most of the maritime jobs were centered and where several housing projects had been constructed. The spike in new African American residents with disposable income led to the development of West Oakland's historic Seventh Street corridor,[138] a centerpiece of black commerce and culture in the 1940s that included a bustling commercial district lined with black-owned businesses and a vibrant nightlife scene that drew nationally known musicians such as B.B. King and Sarah Vaughan and helped foster the city's legendary jazz scene and the birth of West Coast blues."

If employment records are available, they may be kept in almost any place with local records from genealogical societies to university special collection libraries. Finding these records may be a major challenge but if found, the records may contain valuable information about the individual worker, his life, and family connections. Searching online is helpful for a start but it is often necessary to search the holdings and catalogs of societies, libraries, and archives. One place to start is with the ArchiveGrid website available from OCLC.org.[139]

An article from a newsletter called the Golden Stats Warrior entitled "The Great Migration of African Americans to the Bay Area"[140] observes that the largest percentage of African American migrants to the Bay Area came from Louisiana and from 1910 to 1940 the black population only increased from about 4,000 to about 22.000. But during the second wave of The Great Migration from 1940 to 1970 the black population increase by more than 300,000.

[138] "The Rise and Fall of Seventh Street in Oakland - FoundSF." n.d. Accessed October 18, 2022. https://www.foundsf.org/index.php?title=The_Rise_and_Fall_of_Seventh_Street_in_Oakland.

[139] Anon. n.d. "ArchiveGrid." Retrieved September 17, 2022 (https://researchworks.oclc.org/archivegrid/).

[140] Kopf, Dan. 2020. "The Great Migration of African Americans to the Bay Area." *The Golden Stats Warrior*. Retrieved September 16, 2022 (https://goldenstatswarrior.substack.com/p/the-great-migration-of-african-americans).

From the 1950 U.S. Census,[141] Henry Turner was born in Louisiana in about 1920. He was living in Oakland, Alameda, California with his wife Doris who was born in Arkansas in about 1926 and with a daughter 1 year old. He was employed as a stevedore in the naval supply yard. His address as shown is presently under the Nemetz Freeway in Oakland.

Here is a screenshot of an existing neighborhood near the Nemetz Freeway.[142]

He appears in the U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007[143] with a birthdate of 2 October 1919 in Bonita, Morehouse, Louisiana, and a death date of 20 January 1992. His father is identified as Ison Turner and his mother is identified as George A Jones (this is most likely wrong).

His birth and death dates are supported by a record from the California, U.S. Death Index, 1940-1997.[144]

His birth and death dates are also supported by the U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014[145]

However, an entry from U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947[146] shows his birth date as 2 October 1920. It is not unusual to have people report different dates for their birth. At the time of the Draft Registration, he was working for Louisville Cooperage in Bonita, Louisiana.

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[141] Anon. n.d. "Ancestry.Com - 1950 United States Federal Census for Henry Turner." Retrieved September 17, 2022 (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/62308/images/43290879-California-022014-0015?backlabel=ReturnSearchResults&queryId=d32ffb7eb003c7a8fb02e56b25800de2&pId=257028418).

[142] Anon. n.d. "Google Maps near Where Henry Turner Lived in Oakland, California." *Google Maps*. Retrieved September 17, 2022 (https://www.google.com/maps/@37.8042664,-122.2996152,3a,75y,58.54h,90t/data=!3m7!1e1!3m5!1s3GXUS3gWRmu_arbqAvP9mg!2e0!6shttps:%2F%2Fstreetviewpixels-pa.googleapis.com%2Fv1%2Fthumbnail%3Fpanoid%3D3GXUS3gWRmu_arbqAvP9mg%26cb_client%3Dmaps_sv.tactile.gps%26w%3D203%26h%3D100%26yaw%3D52.24783%26pitch%3D0%26thumbfov%3D100!7i16384!8i8192).

[143] "U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007 - Ancestry.Com for Henry Turner." n.d. Accessed September 17, 2022. https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/45350459:60901?ssrc=pt&tid=185117309&pid=352426833830.

[144] "California, U.S., Death Index, 1940-1997 - Ancestry.Com for Henry Turner." n.d. Accessed September 17, 2022. https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/16393725:5180.

[145] "U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014 - Ancestry.Com for Henry Turner." n.d. Accessed September 17, 2022. https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=3693&h=63542798&tid=185117309&pid=352426833830&hid=1012447609290&_gl=1*nrr5fa*_ga*MTY1MjE5NTk2OC4xNjYyNjQzNDg0*_ga_4QT8FMEX30*MTY2MzQ0MjIxNS4xNC4xLjE2NjM0NDQzNjYuMC4wLjA.

[146] "U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947 - Ancestry.Com for Henry Turner." n.d. Accessed September 17, 2022. https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/334474996:2238.

In November of 1967 there is a divorce record for Henry Turner in Alameda City, California from his wife, Doris F. Brown.[147] This record gives a maiden name for his wife. It is not unusual to find a maiden name with records in the 1900s and even into the 1800s, but in some countries and any earlier, finding a maiden name is an obstacle to further research.

Although there are likely many more records for Henry Turner, this video can only cover some of the basic research. Henry's father is identified in the U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007[148] and other records as Isom Turner. His name is also spelled as Ison.

Isom Turner is also identified in the California, U.S., Voter Registrations, 1900-1968[149] in 1944 living in Alameda County, California. This indicates that his son Henry probably migrated from Louisiana with his father and perhaps his whole family.

There is also a record from the U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947[150] for Isom Turner. He was living in Short Ogden, Bastrop, Morehouse, Louisiana and is 41 years old. His birthdate is shown as 26 September 1900 and his birthplace was Bonita, Louisiana. He identified a person who would always know his address as Mose Turner. Isom Turner was working for Southern Kraft, Corporation in Bastrop, Morehouse, Louisiana. WWII Draft cards can give us more information than the U.S. Census records.

The 1920 U.S. Census[151] for District 0081, Police Jury Ward 10, Morehouse, Louisiana has Mose Turner living with his children including his son Isam or Isom who is 17. Mose Turner was 42 years old and had six children. If this research were to be continued, all the children would need to be researched.

The 1940 U.S. Federal Census[152] identifies Mose Turner's wife's name as Pernella They were living in Bonita, Morehouse, Louisiana. He is listed as being 65 years old and would have been born in 1875.

[147] "Henry Turner - California, U.S. Divorce Index, 1966-1984 for Henry Turner." n.d. Accessed September 17, 2022. https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/185117309/person/352426833830/hints.

[148] "U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007 - Ancestry.Com for Ison Turner." n.d. Accessed September 17, 2022. https://ww w.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/645350459:60901?ssrc=pt&tid=185117309&pid=352426835949.

[149] "California, U.S., Voter Registrations, 1900-1968 for Isom Turner - Facts." n.d. Accessed October 18, 2022. https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/185117309/person/352426835949/facts.

[150] "Ancestry.Com - U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947 Ison Turner." n.d. Accessed October 12, 2022. https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2238/images/2238_09_00049-00328?pId=334475069.

[151] "Ancestry.Com - 1920 United States Federal Census for Isom Turner." n.d. Accessed October 18, 2022. https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/6061/images/4300972_00907?pId=60354664.

[152] "Ancestry.Com - 1940 United States Federal Census for Mose Turner." n.d. Accessed October 18, 2022. https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2442/images/M-T0627-01413-00189?pId=123882871.

Moving back in time, the 1930 U.S. Federal Census[153] has much of the same information as the 1940 U.S. Census. One child is identified as a stepson, indicating that Pernella (or Pernilla with an "I") was previously married.

Mose Turner died when he was 80 years old on 11 March 1955 in Morehouse Parish, Louisiana. His father was an enslaved person.[154]

Learning about The Great Migration continues. There is really no end to the research that can be done and the discoveries that can be made. There are always more records. The next video, number six in the series, will continue with research about a family beginning in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Part Six - The Great Migration - Summary of the Main Record Sources and Impact of The Great Migration and the Remaining Research Challenges

The musical introduction to the videos is "Someday We'll All Be Free" from the Greatest Black Gospel Songs[155] on Archive.org.

This is part six and the last of a series of videos designed as a supplement the presentation in my one-hour class at RootsTech 2023[156] about The Great Migration between 1915 and 1970 when over 6 million African Americans moved from the Southern States to the North.

There is also a text handout that contains information from each of the seven presentations with links to the sources of all the information and an extensive bibliography with an additional copy of all the links. This presentation will summarize the information in the previous presentations. I will also continue illustrating, as I have done so far with this entire presentation, how various records, including beginning with the 1950 U.S. Federal Census can help identify a family back to its origins in the 1800s. The live presentation and the video series focus on records from the 1900s realizing however, that the most difficult research about enslaved people begins in the 1800s. But success in doing research in the 1800s is predicated on complete and thorough research in the 1900s.

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[153] "Ancestry.Com - 1930 United States Federal Census for Mose Turner." n.d. Accessed September 17, 2022. https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/6224/images/4584883_00567?pId=35086742.

[154] "Mose Turner - Facts Louisiana, U.S., Statewide Death Index, 1819-1964." n.d. Accessed October 18, 2022. https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/185117309/person/352426852232/facts.

[155] *Greatest Black Gospel Songs*. n.d. *Someday We'll All Be Free*, Accessed September 30, 2022. http://archive.org/details/GreatestBlackGospelSongs.

[156] "Home • RootsTech 2022 • FamilySearch." n.d. Accessed September 29, 2022. https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/.

The Great Migration is one of the most dramatic movements of people within United States that has ever occurred, and it is almost completely ignored by historians and is unknown to most genealogists.[157] Understanding the African American Great Migration may help to explain difficult family history research issues that occur when an individual seems to appear suddenly in the north or disappear suddenly from the south. The social, economic, and cultural effects of the movement of over 6 million people within the United States because of systematic discrimination should not and cannot be ignored by historians and genealogists.

I often hear people claim that they have searched everywhere for their ancestors. This statement cannot possibly be true. There are so many types of records scattered across the world that no one person can possibly have searched or even learned about all the records available.

Very often genealogical research starts with discovering information about our own parents and immediate family members. Today's population of the United States was born entirely in 20th and 21st Centuries; both of which have an abundance of available records documenting almost every aspect of a person's life. However, the abundance of records poses its own challenges. Even with the vast resources on the ubiquitous internet, we must recognize that many valuable records are still only available from specific repositories with specific restrictions concerning their availability.

For African Americans, research back into the 1800s increases in difficulty because of the lack of records identifying individuals. However, there are more records available today than in the past and doing research from the present back to the time of slavery will markedly assist in adding additional information. One impact of The Great Migration has been the establishment of archives and repositories for African American history.

One great example of what is happening is The International African American Museum's Center for Family History[158] in Charleston, South Carolina. This is a one-of-a-kind research center with a special focus on African American genealogy at one of our country's most sacred sites. The Museum has been under construction and development for years and the Museum opens on January 21, 2023, and so by the time of RootsTech 2023 it will already be open.

The Hutchins Center for African American Research located at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts[159] supports research on the history and culture of people of African descent the world over and provides a forum for collaboration and the ongoing exchange of ideas. It seeks to stimulate scholarly engagement in African and African American studies both

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[157] National Archives. "The Great Migration (1910-1970)," May 20, 2021. https://www.archives.gov/research/african-americans/migrations/great-migration.

[158] "IAAM Center for Family History | Center for Family History at the International African American Museum." n.d. Accessed September 19, 2022. https://cfh.iaamuseum.org/.

[159] "The Hutchins Center for African & African American Research." n.d. Accessed September 19, 2022. https://hutchinscenter.fas.harvard.edu/home.

at Harvard and beyond, and to increase public awareness and understanding of this vital field of study.

The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem[160], one of The New York Public Library's renowned research libraries, is a world-leading cultural institution devoted to the research, preservation, and exhibition of materials focused on African American, African Diaspora, and African experiences.

The African American Research Center of the History, Philosophy and Newspaper Library of the University of Illinois[161] is one of several units responsible for building the University Library's African American Studies collection. The University Library's African American Studies collection includes materials on the Black experience in the Americas and worldwide outside of Africa. Consisting of more than 100,000 volumes, the collection is distributed throughout the University's various libraries, with the largest number located in the Main Library book stacks.

There is also an increasing amount of information to help researchers identify their enslaved families. One guide to moving back before 1870 is an article by Kimberly Powell entitled, "African American Family History Step by Step"[162] She also urges the researcher to do research back to 1870 before attempting to research the first enslaved people in an ancestral line.

Quoting from a Wikipedia article entitled "History of African Americans in Philadelphia:[163]

> World War I brought an influx of black migrants from the rural South, who moved to Philadelphia lured by wartime jobs there during The Great Migration. As a result, the black population of Philadelphia doubled from 63,000 in 1900 to 134,000 in 1920. Most of the new residents came from rural backgrounds and were working poor.

The article goes on to state:

> By the time the American Revolution broke out in 1775, slaves were one-twelfth of the roughly 16,000 people who lived in Philadelphia. Recent 2010 estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau put the total number of people living in Philadelphia who identify as Black or African American at 644,287, or 42.2% of the city's total population.

Both World War I and World War II had a huge impact on the movement of African Americans from the South due to increased employment demand. Ultimately the demographic changes

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[160] "Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture | The New York Public Library." n.d. Accessed September 19, 2022. https://www.nypl.org/locations/schomburg.

[161] "African American Research Center – University of Illinois Library." n.d. Accessed September 19, 2022. https://www.library.illinois.edu/afx/.

[162] "Powell, Kimberly, Why Researching African American Genealogy Is so Difficult." n.d. ThoughtCo. Accessed September 19, 2022. https://www.thoughtco.com/african-american-family-history-1421639.

[163] "History of African Americans in Philadelphia." 2022. In *Wikipedia*. https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=History_of_African_Americans_in_Philadelphia&oldid=1111056816.

caused by The Great Migration were an underlying factor in the civil rights movement that extended from 1940s during and shortly after World War II and extended into the 1960 with U.S. government court decisions and legislation.[164]

Quoting from an article entitled "The Post-World War 1 Housing Crisis and Interracial Tensions," by Timothy Tay Soon Inn published in the West Philadelphia Collaborative History,[165]

> The Great Migration created a severe housing crisis in Philadelphia during the first World War as the city struggled to accommodate the huge influx of newcomers. New housing construction slowed dramatically from 1916 to 1918 due to the wartime labor and supply shortages, resulting in little available new housing. Migrants packed into every available space.

As Black families continued to move into new areas of Philadelphia, there was an increase in racial tension and the incidence of violent opposition from white residents.

In the previous five videos in this series, I gave examples of tracing the origin of an African American migrant from the South showing the records needed to discover the families' origins. As I have also mentioned in the previous videos in this series, I am using Ancestry.com as my primary record source because at the time these videos were created, they had a complete index to the 1950 U.S. Census.

In the 1950 U.S. Federal Census,[166] Leland Glover was 30 years old and was born in South Carolina. He was working in a shoe factory as a shoe finisher. His wife Rosena was 25 years old and was at home. They had a daughter and a son living with them at 1113 Ogden Place, Philadelphia.

Here is a screenshot from Google Maps[167] showing what this address looks like today. It appears that the whole area has been reconstructed in the last 70 years.

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[164] "African American Migration." n.d. Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia. Accessed September 19, 2022. https://philadelphiaencyclopedia.org/essays/african-american-migration/.

[165] "West Philadelphia Collaborative History - The Post-World War I Housing Crisis and Interracial Tensions." n.d. Accessed September 20, 2022. https://collaborativehistory.gse.upenn.edu/stories/post-world-war-i-housing-crisis-and-interracial-tensions.

[166] "Ancestry.Com - 1950 United States Federal Census for Leland Glover." n.d. Accessed September 20, 2022. https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/62308/images/43290879-Pennsylvania-057589-0033?backlabel=ReturnSearchResults&queryId=ab066c0e130fa31f3a0ef040b5578523&pId=235760041.

[167] "Google Maps Ogden Place Philadelphia." n.d. Google Maps. Accessed September 20, 2022. https://www.google.com/maps/@39.967949,-75.1531086,3a,90y,65.85h,80.81t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1sQED8Z09lxprjV0ekIbvL3A!2e0!7i16384!8i8192.

Beyond the census records, the first document I found was a marriage record for Leland Glover and Rosena Walker. This record was found in both the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S., Marriage Index, 1885-1951[168] and in the Pennsylvania, U.S., Marriages, 1852-1968.[169] They were married in Philadelphia in 1945. This record adds a maiden name for Leland's wife.

It turns out that Ancestry.com found another individual with the same name in the same place at about the same time, but further research indicated that this person died as a result of injuries in World War II. It is important to do additional research for all the records you find to make sure you are not making the same name = same person mistake.

Don't expect to find genealogical records in chronological order. In this case, I found an interesting record from the U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007[170] The record shows a death date on 29 November 1996 and also has names for his father, Sidney Glover and his mother Amelia Cheesboura. However, this record has no information connecting this individual with the Leland Glover in Philadelphia other than a name and a possible birth date and place that might agree. The problem with this record arises because of a note about citizenship or alien status. There is also a note that he submitted "Evidence other than birth record submitted; U.S. citizen or alien allowed to work." The claim date is 1972.

In the 1940 U.S. Federal Census,[171] there is an entry for Leland Glover living with a widow named Mariah Snipe in Amelia Township, Calhoun County, South Carolina. He is 20 years old, and this entry seems more likely than the one from the Social Security application. I would need to do more research to determine if the Mariah Snipe is a relative.

Focusing on the place in the 1940 U.S. Federal Census, I find a 1930 U.S. Federal Census record[172] for Leland Glover living in the same Amelia Township with parents named Sidney and Amelia.

Slide: In these situations, it is necessary to keep doing research for additional records. It is important to find all the possible census records to see if there is some kind of continuity. Here is

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[168] "Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S., Marriage Index, 1885-1951 - Ancestry.Com for Leland Glover." n.d. Accessed September 20, 2022. https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/1279649:2536?ssrc=pt&tid=185167721&pid=252423793594.

[169] "Pennsylvania, U.S., Marriages, 1852-1968 - Ancestry.Com Leland Glover." n.d. Accessed September 20, 2022. https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/1731344:61381.

[170] "U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007 Leland Glover - Facts." n.d. Accessed September 20, 2022. https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/39459873:60901?ssrc=pt&tid=185167721&pid=252423793594

[171] "Ancestry.Com - 1940 United States Federal Census for Leland Glover." n.d. Accessed September 20, 2022. https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2442/images/m-t0627-03792-00052?pId=138756312.

[172] "Ancestry.Com - 1930 United States Federal Census for Leland Glover." n.d. Accessed September 20, 2022. https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/6224/images/4547317_01072?pId=95763544.

a copy of the 1920 U.S. Federal Census[173] that is consistent with both the records for 1940 and 1930.

Consistent with the location in Amelia, Calhoun, South Carolina, I find a birth record showing his birth date as 12 August 1919 with his parents indexed on Ancestry.com as Sidney Glover and Annila Duaztor. The surname for his mother is different from the one given in the difficult Social Security record. The South Carolina Certificate of Birth is clear however, that his mother's maiden name is recorded as Amelia Cheezbro and wrongly indexed on Ancestry. There is still the mystery about the alien status mentioned in later Social Security Record.

One possible solution is that Leland could not produce a copy of his birth certificate in 1972 and so he was designated as either an alien who could work or a citizen. Either way, the document is a mystery. His date of death is further supported by the U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014[174] and his last residence in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Further research could clarify the information but here it is time to look at his father's records. His father is Sidney Glover who appears in the U.S. Federal Census records for 1920 and 1930 I have already discussed.

Sidney Glover is in the 1910 U.S. Federal Census[175] with his father Hanes Glover and his mother, Edith.

There is also a marriage record for Sidney's son Earnest[176] showing his mother's name as Amelia Cheeseburo. The cumulative evidence supports my conclusion about the identity of these people but there is always the possibility that all this is wrong.

There are still a lot of record sources we could look examine but the scope of my example is to identify the family back into the 1800s and Sidney's parents were very likely enslaved people.

As this video concludes the series it is important to remember that learning about the scope and implications of The Great Migration continues. There is really no end to the research that can

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[173] "Ancestry.Com - 1920 United States Federal Census for Leland Glover." n.d. Accessed September 20, 2022. https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/6061/images/4383808_00049?pId=42965931.

[174] "U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014 - Ancestry.Com for Leland Glover." n.d. Accessed September 20, 2022. https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=3693&h=22551744&ssrc=pt&tid=185167721&pid=252423793594&usePUB=true&_gl=1*qksbym*_ga*MTY1MjE5NTk2OC4xNjYyNjQzNDg0*_ga_4QT8FMEX30*MTY2MzY5NzAxMi4xOC4xLjE2NjM3MDM3MzguMC4wLjA.

[175] "Ancestry.Com - 1910 United States Federal Census for Sidney Glover." n.d. Accessed September 20, 2022. https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7884/images/4449781_01101?pId=153786738.

[176] "Ancestry.Com - Virginia, U.S., Marriage Records, 1936-2014 for Earnest Glover." n.d. Accessed September 20, 2022. https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9279/images/43067_172028004422_0690-00380?pId=116542925.

and will likely be done and the discoveries that may be made. There are also many more records. Please remember that there is an extensive handout that contains footnotes to all the sources used in my live presentation and this six-video series.

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