

SOURCE LIST FOR RESEARCHING THE HISTORIES OF SLAVERY, ABOLITION, THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD, AND, as a BONUS! GENEALOGY IN YOUR COMMUNITIES AND BEYOND:

- This is not a comprehensive list, but a very good reference resource as you begin your research
- Some are fee based, many are free or a combination of both.
- If your local or university library does not have access to some of these sources, ask them to purchase them for your community. Libraries have budgets for these sorts of resources, and often all it takes is a request from a patron for the library to purchase access.

Web Based Resources:

NewspaperArchive.com – 18th, 19th and 20th century digitized newspaper sources. Fully searchable. Available through libraries and individual membership. Also available through online membership in Godfrey Library – see below. www.newspaperarchive.com

19th Century Newspapers available online through Gale Resources at your local or university library, or through subscription through Godfrey Library – see below.

Newspapers.com – free and fee based historical newspaper archive: www.newspapers.com

SABR – Society of American Baseball Research online research resources. Membership required. Offers Genealogy Bank, Google News Archives, Paper of Record, and more as part of one membership fee, so it is a cost-effective and very good resource for any type of historical research. <http://sabr.org/research>

Google Books and *Google News* – includes an historical archive of millions of pages of historical books and journals and some full-page newspaper images. Some available for free, others require fee payment. Google Historical Newspaper Archive search: <https://news.google.com/newspapers?hl=en>

Documenting the American South (DocSouth) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. <http://docsouth.unc.edu/> DocSouth is a free online digital publishing initiative that provides Internet access to texts, images, and audio files related to southern history, literature, and culture. All fully searchable.

FOLD3 – Generous website for digitized National Archives and Library of Congress primary sources – free *and* fee based – www.fold3.com . Military and Pension records online. Many, many other government documents, colonial through present day.

Transatlantic Slave Trade Database – 35,000 documented voyages, fully searchable: <http://www.slavevoyages.org/tast/index.faces>

Ancestry.com – invaluable online genealogical resource. www.ancestry.com. Fully searchable US Censuses; military records; city, county, state and other federal sources; WPA former slave interviews; International Canadian records; Historical newspapers. Fee based, though *many* public and university libraries offer the database for patrons.

USGenweb - <http://usgenweb.org/> - free for most resources

Heritage Quest - <http://www.heritagequestonline.com> - free and fee based

Christine's African American Genealogy: <http://www.ccharity.com/?page=73> - free

Rootsweb: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/> - free

Genealogy.com : www.genealogy.com – free and fee based

Family Search through Mormon Church at www.familysearch.com – excellent genealogical and research sources. Mormon Library also loans out its extensive microfilm collections to local Mormon centers and libraries for public use.

New England Historic Genealogical Society. <http://www.newenglandancestors.org/> some free and also Membership (\$75) entitles online access to extensive genealogical databases, Massachusetts People of Color Census (1855 and 1865), historic newspapers, vital statistics.

GenealogyBank.com – \$70 per year. Newspaper archive; census; other documents. 1690–today.

Historical Newspapers online at UPenn (free): <http://guides.library.upenn.edu/historicalnewspaperonline>

Fulton Historical Newspaper project - <http://www.fultonhistory.com/> FREE Online searchable historical New York newspapers, but still great for national research.

Godfrey Library, Connecticut. www.godfrey.org available for \$70.00 per year. Gives access to hundreds of online resources, digitization projects, genealogical databases, thousands of digitized newspapers (historical and contemporary), and more.

Accessible Archives, accessed through local and university libraries, and online membership for yearly fee – www.accessible.com . 18th, 19th century newspapers, African American newspapers, Civil War. Excellent resource – also available through membership at Godfrey's, some public libraries, and university libraries.

Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore. <http://www.prattlibrary.org/> Online databases including historical newspapers and more. Free access with library card. Library card available to non-residents for a fee.

Maryland State Archives: <http://www.msa.md.gov/> . Indispensable!

Maryland State Archives Slavery Research: <http://www.mdslavery.net/index.html> and Digitization Project “Beneath the Underground” includes runaway advertisements, court dockets, etc.: <http://www.mdslavery.net/ugrr.html> - Indispensable!

The Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition - scroll down to [Yale Slavery and Abolition Portal](http://www.yale.edu/glc/index.htm) - <http://www.yale.edu/glc/index.htm>

Internet Library of Early Journals, a digital library of 18th and 19th century journals: <http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/ilej/>

Samuel May Abolition Pamphlet Collection. Cornell University Library:
<http://www.library.cornell.edu/mayantislavery/>

The Atlantic Slave Trade and Slave Life in the Americas: A Visual Record:
<http://hitchcock.itc.virginia.edu/Slavery/index.php>

New Bedford Whaling Museum - <http://www.whalingmuseum.org/>

New Bedford Historical Society - <http://www.nbhistoricalsociety.org/>

New York Historical Society, Slavery In New York: http://www.slaveryinnewyork.org/gallery_6.htm

Digital Public Library of America: <https://dp.la/>

Friends Historical Library of Swarthmore College - <http://www.swarthmore.edu/library/friends/> extensive Quaker and regional history archives. Also see <http://trilogy.brynmawr.edu/speccoll/quakersandslavery/>

Links to the new online primary source database Quakers and Slavery at Haverford College Libraries, Quaker and Special Collections. <http://www.haverford.edu/library/special/>

Library of Congress – www.loc.gov/ and the Library of Congress American Memory project, including African American historical resources, Maps, Women's history, American culture and folk life, Civil War, etc., photographs and prints, and more - <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html/>

National Archives: www.nara.gov and <http://www.archives.gov/> and <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

Internet Archive – Free books, movies, music: <http://www.archive.org/> Great resource for 19th century

Open Library Digital resource – free - digital book downloads and borrowing. <http://openlibrary.org/>

Brooklyn Daily Eagle Newspaper (1841-1902) <http://www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/eagle/>

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission slavery and Underground Railroad Resources:
<http://www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-Online/Pages/Slavery-Underground-Railroad-Resources.aspx#.VpUkIuIo7IU>

Dickinson College *House Divided* Project Underground Railroad Resources:
<http://housedivided.dickinson.edu/ugrr/>

New York Historical Society: Researching the Underground Railroad and Slavery -
<https://www.nyhistory.org/web/PDF/Slavery%20and%20Underground%20Railroad%20Resources%20Available%20at%20the%20New-York%20Historical%20Society%20Library.pdf>

ProQuest Historical Newspapers. Extensive 18th, 19th and 20th century newspapers digitized and fully searchable. Available through some public and university libraries. Available at National Archives sites. Fantastic resource!

Google Books at Google.com - <https://books.google.com/bkshp?hl=en&tab=wp&ei=vMtLWaySMILp-AGnnoOwAQ&ved=0EKkuCBEOEA>

Google Historical Newspaper Archive at <https://news.google.com/newspapers?hl=en>

Historical Newspapers Online: <http://viewshare.org/views/refhelp/historical-newspapers-online-usa-2/>

New Jersey Online Historical Newspapers Online - http://www.theancestorhunt.com/blog/new-jersey-online-historical-newspapers-summary#.VpU_t1ldzh8 and <https://sites.google.com/site/onlinenewspapersite/Home/usa/nj>

Massachusetts Historical Society: <http://www.masshist.org/> and see, especially, their online digital exhibit, Boston Abolitionists 1831-1865 - <https://www.masshist.org/features/boston-abolitionists> and digitized collection of Anti-slavery papers: <http://www.masshist.org/online/>

Massachusetts State Archives: <http://www.digitalstatearchives.com/massachusetts>

Boston Public Library: www.bpl.org and Boston Anti-slavery collection (massive and important) online digital records <https://archive.org/details/bplscas> and https://www.bpl.org/archival_subject/anti-slavery-movement/ and <https://www.bpl.org/tag/anti-slavery-manuscripts/>

Connecticut Historical Society African American Research Resources - http://chs.org/finding_aides/afamcoll/index.htm

Vermont Historical Society Underground Railroad History Project: <http://vermonthistory.org/educate/online-resources/underground-railroad-project>

New Jersey Digital Highway - <http://www.njdigitalhighway.org/index.php>

Boston Public Library – as a resident with library card, online access available to their electronic resources, including historical newspapers: www.bpl.org. Some non-patron resources also available.

Digital Commonwealth (Massachusetts): <https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/>

New York Slavery Records: <https://nyslavery.commons.gc.cuny.edu/>

National Park Service Study: The Underground Railroad in Massachusetts Statement of Historic Context - http://www.nps.gov/subjects/ugrr/discover_history/upload/MassUGRR.pdf

Sophia Smith Collection at Smith College, Northampton, MA. Garrison Family Collection. Some items digitized: <http://www.smith.edu/libraries/libs/ssc/index.html>

Ohio Historical Society/Ohio History Center. Wilbur Siebert Papers, a significant collection of interviews with former abolitionists and freedom seekers during the 1890s. Link to Collection Finding aid available online and link to photographs: <http://www.ohiohistory.org/undergroundrr/> ; and, Ohio Pix for photographs collected by Siebert. <http://ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/ohiopix/>

Maryland Historical Trust - *Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties* is a documentation archive of the State's architectural, archeological, and cultural resources. http://mht.maryland.gov/research_mihp.shtml

African Americans in Antebellum Boston: <http://www.primaryresearch.org/bh/>

Slavery related documents in Delaware: <http://www.state.de.us/sos/dpa/exhibits/document/slavery/toc.shtml>

Historical Society of Delaware (Delaware Historical Society; Delaware History Center): www.hsd.org/

New Jersey Historical Society - <http://www.jerseyhistory.org/outsidereources.html>

New York State Archives: <http://www.archives.nysed.gov/aindex.shtml>

New York Historical Society: <https://www.nyhistory.org/web/>

Digital Archaeological Archive of Comparative Slavery - Chesapeake, Carolinas, and Caribbean during the Colonial and Ante-Bellum Periods. <http://www.daacs.org/>

Rutgers University Special Collections – <http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/lib/scua/scua.shtml> . Note William Still family papers.

Making of America: <http://www.hti.umich.edu/m/moagrp/> and <http://cdl.library.cornell.edu/moa/>

Library of Virginia/Virginia State Archives: <http://www.lva.lib.va.us/>

Virginia Historical Society: <http://www.vahistorical.org/> including *Unknown No Longer: A Database of Virginia Slave Names* at <http://www.vahistorical.org/collections-and-resources/unknown-no-longer-database-virginia-slave-names>

Maryland Historical Society: <http://www.mdhs.org/>

Baltimore City Freedom Records: http://mdhistory.net/msaref07/bca_sm230/html/index.html

New York Public Library: <http://www.nypl.org/collections> - check their digital library

Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture at the New York Public Library – large collections and digitized resources: <http://www.nypl.org/locations/schomburg>

Historical Society of Pennsylvania – See, in particular, William Still “*Journal C*” digitization project: <http://www.hsp.org/> Some portions of site are free, but fee based for the some resources

Brooklyn Historical Society: <http://brooklynhistory.org/library/wp/research-guides/african-american-history-subject-guide/>

Free African Americans in Maryland, Delaware, North Carolina and Virginia by Paul Heinegg: <http://www.freeafricanamericans.com/>

Last Seen: Finding Family After Slavery: digitized and transcribed advertisements from the *Christian Recorder* and other newspapers posted by individuals looking for displaced family members after the Civil War - <http://www.informationwanted.org/>

Underground Railroad and Abolition in Auburn, Cayuga County, New York: <http://www.co.cayuga.ny.us/history/ugrr/report/index.html>

Myth of Follow the Drinking Gourd Research: www.followthedrinkinggourd.com

Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System for African American Servicemen: <http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/>

National Park Service Underground Railroad Network to Freedom: <http://www.nps.gov/history/ugrr/>

Lexis-Nexis for legal cases involving slaves/fugitives, available through public and university libraries.

American Slave Narratives – UVA: <http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/wpa/wpahome.html>

Remembering Slavery: WPA Slave Narratives audio <http://www.uncg.edu/~jpbrewer/remember/>

Freedmen's Bureau Records online: <http://www.freedmensbureau.com/> and also, extensive original records available via the Internet Archive <https://archive.org/> ; Family Search website <https://familysearch.org/> ; and National Archives website <https://www.archives.gov/atlanta/finding-aids/black-history.html> .

Freedmen and Southern Society Project, University of Maryland: <http://www.history.umd.edu/Freedmen/>

Afrigeneas African American History and Genealogy website and Forum: <http://www.afrigeneas.com/>

John Hope Franklin Research Center on African American History and Culture at Duke University: <http://library.duke.edu/specialcollections/franklin/index.html>

House Divided Civil War Research Engine at Dickinson College – Underground Railroad Digital Classroom: <http://housedivided.dickinson.edu/ugrr/>

West Virginia Memory Project – John Brown/Boyd Stutler Collection <http://www.wvculture.org/history/wvmemory/imlsintro.html>

Charles Blockson Collection at Temple University, Philadelphia, PA. <https://library.temple.edu/collections/blockson>

Black Abolitionist Archive: University of Detroit Mercy - http://research.udmercy.edu/find/special_collections/digital/baa/index.php?browseBy=DC_title_parent

Colored Conventions – transcribed and digital images of Colored Conventions during the antebellum period: <http://coloredconventions.org/>

Patriots of Color Database: http://www.archives.com/GA.aspx?_act=POCRecordView&StateOfService=MD&UniqueId=2482

Digital Collections at the University of Maryland: <https://digital.lib.umd.edu/>

Atlas of County Boundaries: <https://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp/pages/Maryland.html>

SOUTHERN Primary Document SOURCES:

Court Houses – court dockets and cases, tax lists, assessment records, bounty (Civil War) lists, censuses, manumission papers, chattel (sale) records, importation lists, arrest records, poor house records, land records and deeds, wills, guardianship papers, slave patrol records, auction notices.

Runaway advertisements in local newspapers

Newspaper stories of escapes

Birth, death, marriage records.

Prison records, state level court cases (appeals courts, etc.)

Freedman's Bureau Records – Marriages, school attendance, indentures, bank records

Freedman's Bank Records – names of people who opened bank accounts after Civil War. Available through Heritage Quest, Ancestry.com, and by disk from Mormon Church (see familysearch.org)

Church records, school records, benevolent and mutual aid society records

Free black census taken in 1832-1833

Indenture records

Family papers

Local Historical Societies; public and university libraries, museum collections, State archives, etc.

NORTHERN Primary Document SOURCES:

Newspaper accounts of fugitive/runaway slaves

Census records

Court cases, arrest records

Birth, marriage, death certificates

Anti-slavery and Vigilance Committee minutes and documents

Newspaper obituaries

Church records

Benevolent Society records

Private family papers

Local Historical Societies; public and university libraries, museum collections, State archives, etc.

Canadian sources – Ontario Historical Society; St. Catharines Museum; Brock University Special Collections; etc. Many resources also available online through Ancestry.com Canadian Museums, Historical Societies, Libraries, vital records, Canadian National Archives (by Province)

OTHER SOURCES:

Citizenship papers – particularly for runaways who went to Canada and had children there, who later returned to US

Library and Archives Canada: <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Pages/home.aspx>

Archives Canada: <http://www.archivescanada.ca/>

Some Published (early) Historical resources, most specifically contain resources related to Maryland and Chesapeake region and freedom seekers from those areas:

Documenting the American South – hundreds of narratives available:

<http://docsouth.unc.edu/>

Gutenberg ebooks at <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/> for original slave narratives

Still, William. The Underground Rail Road. Philadelphia: Porter & Coates, 1872. (available online at <http://www.quinnipiac.edu/other/ABL/etext/ugrr/ugrrmain.html> or <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/15263>)

Drew, Benjamin, A North-Side View of Slavery. The Refugee: or the Narratives of Fugitive Slaves in Canada. (1855-56) (available online at **Documenting the South website** <http://docsouth.unc.edu/>)

Search online for early county histories – for instance: The History of Caroline County, Maryland, from its Beginning, <https://archive.org/details/historyofcarolin00nobl> ; and The History of Dorchester County, Maryland, <https://archive.org/details/historyofdorches00jone>

Not Available online, but excellent sources:

Blassingame, John. Slave Testimony – not available online, try local library.

Gay, Sydney H. *Sydney Howard Gay Papers, Journal 1855-1856*; Columbia University Special Collections. This journal was kept by abolitionist, UGRR agent and journalist Sydney Howard Gay in New York City during the years 1855-1856. Not available online, but see Secret Lives of the Underground Railroad in New York City: Sydney Howard Gay, Louis Napoleon, and the Record of Fugitives, by Don Papson and Tom Calarco. McFarland, 2015

Howe, Samuel Gridley. Canadian Testimony, American Freedmen's Inquiry Commission. Washington, D.C.: Record Group 93, Reel 201. National Archives. First person interviews with freedom seekers living in Canada in 1863. Check Internet Archive, and also, Slave Testimony, by Blassingame.

Smedley, R.C., The Underground Railroad in Chester, Pennsylvania, 1883. reprint, Chris Densmore 2006. Also available in original 1886 edition online at Google Books.

Siebert, Wilbur. The Underground Railroad. 1898. See also available at Google Books for free online and fully searchable.

See also - George Rawick Slave Narrative Collection (40 volumes...Check local libraries)
Black Abolitionist Papers Collection

Some Secondary Sources, specifically those which contain resources related to Tubman, Maryland and Chesapeake region and freedom seekers from those areas (for a much more comprehensive list, check the compiled reading list at Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park and Visitor Center library):

Bordewich, Fergus M. Bound For Canaan: The Underground Railroad and the War for America's Soul. New York: Amistad, 2005.

Burroughs, Tony. Black Roots: A Beginners Guide to Tracing the African American Family Tree. New York: Simon and Schuster, 2001. A great resource for African American genealogy research and as an excellent resource guide as well.

Carroll, Kenneth. Quakerism on the Eastern Shore. Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1970.

Foner, Eric. Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Underground Railroad. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2015.

Franklin, John Hope and Loren Schweninger. Runaway Slaves: Rebels on the Plantation. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

Humez, Jean. Harriet Tubman, The Life and Life Stories. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 2003.

Larson, Kate Clifford. Bound for the Promised Land: Harriet Tubman, Portrait of an American Hero. New York: One World, 2004.

Papson, Don and Tom Calarco. Secret Lives of the Underground Railroad in New York City. Sydney Howard Gay, Louis Napoleon and the Record of Fugitives. Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Company, 2015

Sernett, Milton. Harriet Tubman: Myth Memory and History. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2007.

Switala, William. Underground Railroad in Delaware, Maryland, and West Virginia. Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 2004. Use with caution, some claims not well documented, and repeats faulty documentation in some cases. Check sources thoroughly.

_____. Underground Railroad in New York and New Jersey. Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 2006. Use with caution, some claims not well documented, and repeats faulty documentation in some cases. Check sources thoroughly.

_____. Underground Railroad in Pennsylvania. Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 2001. Use with caution, some claims not well documented, and repeats faulty documentation in some cases. Check sources thoroughly.

Also check published sources for specific regionally focused histories at Caroline County Historical Society and Caroline County Library, Dorchester County Historical Society and Dorchester Public Library, Maryland Historical Society, and Enoch Pratt Public Library, Baltimore.

There are many, many books on Slavery, Abolition, the Underground Railroad, African American History and Culture, Religion, community histories, biographies, etc. Please check your public or university library.

MAPS:

Be sure to access historical maps! There are many online sources. Library of Congress, NARA, University libraries, state and local Museums and Archives, Historical Societies, government agencies.

University of Alabama Map Collection: <http://alabamamaps.ua.edu/historicalmaps/> ; for instance, Historical Maps of Maryland: https://cse.google.com/cse?cx=017926714905816008955%3A_indd4c4hbi&ie=UTF-8&q=nautical&sa=Search&siteurl=alabamamaps.ua.edu%2Fsearchengine.htm&ref=alabamamaps.ua.edu%2F&ss=9170j31881734j11#gsc.tab=0&gsc.q=maryland

Also take special note of Navigation charts – For instance, see some Maryland maps: <http://alabamamaps.ua.edu/historicalmaps/Coastal%20Survey%20Maps/maryland.htm> ;
And here: <http://alabamamaps.ua.edu/historicalmaps/navigationcharts/index2.html>

David Rumsey Maps: <http://www.davidrumsey.com/view.html>

Osher Map Library, University of Southern Maine: <http://www.oshermaps.org/>

Perry-Castaneda Library Map Collection, University of Texas: <https://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/histus.html>

The National Map: Historical Topographic Map Collection: <https://nationalmap.gov/historical/>

Library of Congress Map Collection: <https://www.loc.gov/maps/collections/>

Sanborn Insurance Maps – available online through public and university libraries
Municipal, County, and state maps.

Johns Hopkins Sheridan Library Collections – Maps: Maryland State, County, and Baltimore City Maps:
<https://jscholarship.library.jhu.edu/handle/1774.2/32586>