

Researching the Slavery, Abolition, and the Underground Railroad

*Note: This list is not meant to be exhaustive, but provide some direction in getting started on research related to this important history. All of the resources are accessible for free, unless otherwise noted.

Web Based Resources:

Periodicals and Books

19th Century Newspapers

Available online through Gale Resources or through subscription through Godfrey Library – see below.

Accessible Archives-www.accessible.com

Accessed through local and university libraries, and online membership for yearly fee of \$59.95 for individuals. Includes 18th and 19th century newspapers, African American newspapers, Civil War. Also available through membership at Godfrey's, some public libraries, and university libraries.

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

Chronicling America: America's Historic Newspapers- <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

Searchable database of American newspapers from 1836-1922 sponsored by the National Endowment for Humanities and the Library of Congress. Can search by state, year, and keyword.

Death Penalty USA- <http://deathpenaltyusa.org/>

A database of executions in the USA. Can search for those individuals who received the death penalty for aiding a runaway slave by date, by name, and by state.

Documenting the American South (DocSouth) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill- <http://docsouth.unc.edu/> .

A free online digital publishing initiative that provides Internet access to texts, images, and audio files related to southern history, literature, and culture. Currently includes ten thematic collections of books, diaries, posters, artifacts, letters, oral history interviews, and songs. Hundreds of slave narratives, antislavery tracts, memoirs, biographies, histories. All fully searchable.

The Gilder Lehrman Collections- <http://www.gilderlehrman.org/collections>

“The Gilder Lehrman Collection is a unique archive of primary sources in American history. Owned by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and located at the New-York Historical Society, the Collection includes more than 60,000 letters, diaries, maps, pamphlets, printed books, newspapers, photographs, and ephemera that document the political, social, and economic history of the United States. An extensive resource for educators, students, and scholars, the Collection ranges from 1493 through the twentieth century and is widely considered one of the nation's great archives in the Revolutionary, early national, antebellum, and Civil War

Modified from “SOURCE LIST FOR RESEARCHING THE HISTORIES OF SLAVERY, ABOLITION AND THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD IN YOUR COMMUNITIES AND BEYOND – A BEGINNING,” compiled by Kate Clifford Larson, Ph.D.

periods.” Part of the extensive collection is available online under “Featured Primary Sources,” which is searchable by era, theme, and creator. Registration is required. Registration is free for K-12 teachers or students and \$25/year for all others. Universities and research libraries may also have a subscription through Adam Matthew Digital.

Google Books and Google News – <http://books.google.com/> and <http://news.google.com/newspapers>

Includes an historical archive of millions of pages of historical books and journals and some full-page newspaper images that you can search for unique coverage of past events and early published resources for research, including *The Fugitive Slave law and Its Victims* (1861) by Samuel May. Some available for free, others require fee payment.

Harper’s Weekly- <http://www.sonofthesouth.net/leefoundation/the-civil-war.htm>

This Son of the South website features full issues from the Civil War (1861-1865). Issues from this period include information about contrabands

Hathi Trust- <http://www.hathitrust.org/>

Digital library, featuring millions of titles digitized from libraries around the world. Fully searchable.

Historical Newspapers online at UPenn-

<http://guides.library.upenn.edu/historicalnewspapersonline>

Internet Archive – <http://www.archive.org/>

Digital Library of free books, movies, music and Wayback Machine. It is a source for 19th century text and early local histories. Can read online or can often download complete pdf. Text is fully searchable.

Internet Library of Early Journals- <http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/ilej/>

A digital library of 18th and 19th century journals.

Journal of the Grand Council of South Carolina-

Available on Google Books and Archive.org. Contains colonial records for the state.

***The Liberator*, Edited by William Lloyd Garrison-** <http://fair-use.org/the-liberator/>

Complete on-line archive of full-issues of the abolitionist paper *The Liberator* (1831-1865). Is not searchable by keyword.

Making of America- <http://ebooks.library.cornell.edu/m/moa/> or

<http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/moagrp/>

Digital library that contains 19th century books and journals from the antebellum period through reconstruction.

NewspaperArchive – <http://newspaperarchive.com/>

18th, 19th and 20th century digitized newspaper sources. Fully searchable. Available through libraries and individual membership starting at \$9.95/month. Also available through online membership in Godfrey Library – see below.

Open Library Digital resource – <http://openlibrary.org/>

Free digital book downloads and borrowing.

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.

Project Gutenberg- <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/>

Download free e-books.

Signal of Liberty– <http://signalofliberty.aadl.org/>

Abolitionist newspaper available for free through the Bentley Historical Library and Digital Library Production Services

SABR– <http://sabr.org/research>

Society of American Baseball Research membership online research resources. Membership required. Offers Genealogy Bank, Google News Archives, Paper of Record, and more as part of membership.

The Underground Rail Road (1872) by William Still-

Available at <http://www.quinnipiac.edu/other/ABL/etext/ugrr/ugrrmain.html> or <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/15263>

The Underground Railroad (1898) by Wilbur Siebert-

Available on Archive.org.- <https://archive.org/details/undergroundrailr00sieb> and Google Books- http://books.google.com/books/about/The_Underground_Railroad_from_Slavery_to.html?id=cmS4AAAAMAAJ

Slave Narratives

American Slave Narratives: An Online Anthology (University of Virginia)-

<http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/wpa/wpahome.html>

WPA Slave narratives, along with “photographs taken at the time of the interviews.”

Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writer’s Project, 1936-1938-

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/snhtml/snhome.html>.

Website “contains more than 2,300 first-person accounts of slavery and 500 black-and-white photographs of former slaves. These narratives were collected in the 1930s as part of the Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and assembled and microfilmed in 1941 as the seventeen-volume *Slave Narratives: A Folk History of Slavery in the United States from Interviews with Former Slaves.*”

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Documenting the American South (DocSouth) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill- <http://docsouth.unc.edu/>

Although mentioned above, it is worth mentioning again here as the database has probably the most extensive holdings of slave narratives available on the web.

Remembering Slavery- <http://www.uncg.edu/~jpbrewer/remember/>

WPA Slave Narratives with audio recordings.

Genealogy

African-American Migrating to Ohio, 1861-1863-

http://www.ogs.org/research/search_ohafram1861.php

Abstracted from the "Special enumeration of Negroes, 186": "On 3 March 1863, State Auditor R. W. Tayler directed the county auditors to compile a report of the "colored persons" residing in their respective counties who had migrated from other states since 1 March 1861. Included in the report was to be the person's name, residence, and from which state he or she had migrated. Unfortunately, not all counties complied with some refusing to participate or providing only a count with no names. Franklin, Hamilton and Ross counties replied that they would not compile such a report. This database contains nearly 1,400 entries." The actual microfilm of the enumeration is available at the Ohio Genealogical Society library.

Afrigenes African American History and Genealogy Website and Forum-

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

Afro-Louisiana History ad Genealogy, 1718-1820-

<http://www.ibiblio.org/laslave/introduction.php>

Database of documents from archives in Louisiana, Texas, France and Spain that shed light on the identities of enslaved people in Louisiana.

Ancestry.com - www.ancestry.com.

Invaluable online genealogical resource. Fully searchable US Censuses 1790-1930; military records; city directories; municipal, county, state, and federal records; land records; cemetery records; WPA former slave interviews; Canadian records (census, marriage, birth and death), and more. Fee based, though many public libraries offer this database to their patrons.

Archives.com- <http://www.archives.com/>

Database of images, newspapers, census, vital records.

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

Family Search - <https://familysearch.org/>

Searchable database of historical records offered through the Church of Jesus Christ Latter-day Saints. Includes collections of birth, death, probate, land, and military records.

Genealogy.com- http://www.genealogy.com/index_r.html

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GenealogyBank.com – <http://www.genealogybank.com/gbnk/>

Exclusive newspaper archive for **family history** research provides information on millions of American families from 1690–today. Membership \$70 per year.

Heritage Quest - <http://www.heritagequestonline.com>

New England Historic Genealogical Society. <http://www.newenglandancestors.org/> Membership (\$75) entitles online access to extensive genealogical databases, Massachusetts People of Color Census (1855 and 1865), historic newspapers, vital statistics. Useful to track runaways and seamen, and post war settlement. Check for accessibility.

Lowcountry African: African American Genealogy and History in SC, GA and FL-
<http://www.lowcountryafricana.com/>

Sponsored by the Magnolia Plantation Foundation of Charleston, South Carolina, the website is “dedicated to records that document the family and cultural heritage of African Americans in the historic rice-growing areas of South Carolina, Georgia and extreme northeastern Florida” associated with the Gullah/Geechee. Records include “primary documents, book excerpts and multimedia.”

Olive Tree Genealogy- Ontario Genealogy: Black Research
<http://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/can/ont/blacks.shtml>

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

USenWeb Project- <http://usgenweb.org/>

Slave Trade

Parliament and the British Slave Trade, 1600-1833- <http://www.parliament.uk/slavetrade/>

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

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

Slave Ships- http://genealogytrails.com/scar/slave_ships.htm

A listing of slave ships sailing to/from South Carolina.

Slavery

African American Women On-Line Archival Collections-
<http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/collections/digitized/african-american-women>

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Features documents from the archival collection of Duke University, includes rare letters by enslaved women to their slaveholders and enslaved family members.

Digital Archaeological Archive of Comparative Slavery - <http://www.daacs.org/>

Database for learning about “enslaved Africans and their descendants, living in the Chesapeake, Carolinas, and Caribbean during the Colonial and Ante-Bellum Periods.”

Free at Last?: Slavery in Pittsburg in the 18th and 19th Centuries-

<http://www.library.pitt.edu/freetatlast>

The website based on the exhibit at the Heinz History Century in presenting this important history includes images of original freedom papers and transcriptions.

Illinois Servitude and Emancipation Records (1722-1863)-

<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases/servant.html>

The “database includes approximately 3,400 names found in governmental records involving the servitude and emancipation of Africans and, occasionally, Indians in the French and English eras of colonial Illinois (1722–1790) and African-Americans in the American period of Illinois (1790–1863). The Archives extracted the names of servants, slaves, or free persons and masters, witnesses, or related parties from selected governmental records to produce this database. After searching the database, researchers can see an abstract of the record by clicking the record number of the appropriate entry.”

Race & Slavery Petitions Project- <http://library.uncg.edu/slavery/petitions/>

The Project was “Underwritten by a “We the People” grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, The Race and Slavery Petitions Project is a cooperative venture between the Race and Slavery Petitions Project and the Electronic Resources and Information Technology Department of University Libraries at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. The Project offers a searchable database of detailed personal information about slaves, slaveholders, and free people of color. Designed as a tool for scholars, historians, teachers, students, genealogists, and interested citizens, the site provides access to information gathered and analyzed over an eighteen-year period from petitions to southern legislatures and country courts filed between 1775 and 1867 in the fifteen slaveholding states in the United States and the District of Columbia.” The database allows you to search “by keyword, select geographic and date criteria then enter a search term or phrase below. To search the database for specific named individuals, select the Search By Name tab. To see petitions associated with particular historical, legal, or cultural topics, select the Browse Subjects tab,” including runaways.

Searching for Ancestors Who Were Slaves: An Index to the Freedom Records of Prince George’s County Maryland, 1808-1869 by Louise J. Hinton-

<http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/stagser/s1400/s1411/html/index38.html>

Slave Biographies: Atlantic Database Network- <http://slavebiographies.org/project/>

“An Atlantic Database Network is an open access data repository of information on the identities of enslaved people in the Atlantic World. It includes the names, ethnicities, skills,

occupations, and illnesses of individual slaves.” Currently contains information regarding the enslaved in colonial Louisiana and Maranhão, Brazil.

Slavery Era Insurance Registry- <http://www.insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/150-other-prog/10-seir/>

Database featured by the California Department of Insurance includes insurance policies issues to slaveholders for death or damage to their enslaved.. The Illinois Department of Financial & Professional Regulation, Division of Insurance also has a website with this information- <http://web.archive.org/web/20040820062856/www.ins.state.il.us/Consumer/SlaveryReporting.nsf/>. The database is actually two charts, one organized alphabetically by the names of the enslaved and the other by the name of the slave holder. In addition to names of the enslaved and slave holders, contains other identifying information including location of enslavement, residence of slaveholder, policy number, and slave job/skill.

Slaves and the Courts, 1740-1860- <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/sthtml/sthome.html>

The Library of Congress collection, made possible by funding from the Citigroup Foundation, “contains just over a hundred pamphlets and books (published between 1772 and 1889) concerning the difficult and troubling experiences of African and African-American slaves in the American colonies and the United States. The documents, most from the Law Library and the Rare Book and Special Collections Division of the Library of Congress, comprise an assortment of trials and cases, reports, arguments, accounts, examinations of cases and decisions, proceedings, journals, a letter, and other works of historical importance...Among the voices heard are those of some of the defendants and plaintiffs themselves as well as those of abolitionists, presidents, politicians, slave owners, fugitive and free territory slaves, lawyers and judges, and justices of the U.S. Supreme Court.”

Abolition and Emancipation

Abraham Lincoln Historical Digitization Project- <http://lincoln.lib.niu.edu/>

In addition to writings by Lincoln, also includes materials related to abolitionism and fugitive slave cases.

African-American Pamphlet Collection, 1822-1909-

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/aaphtml/aapchome.html>

The collection contains “396 pamphlets from the Rare Book and Special Collections Division, published from 1822 through 1909, by African-American authors and others.” Topics include slavery, abolition, African colonization, and Emancipation.

African Americans in Antebellum Boston- <http://primaryresearch.org/antebellum-boston-african-american-project/>

Includes primary resources related to the African American presence enslaved and free in Boston including slave census, directories, tax assessment records, maps, voluntary association, etc.

Black Abolitionist Archives: University of Detroit Mercy-

<http://www.dalnet.lib.mi.us/gsd/cgi-bin/library?p=about&c=baa>

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The collection consists “of over 800 speeches by antebellum blacks and approximately 1,000 editorials from the period. These important documents provide a portrait of black involvement.

Freedman and Southern Society Project- <http://www.freedmen.umd.edu/>
Harriet Beecher Stowe Center Hartford, Connecticut-
<http://www.harrietbeecherstowecenter.org/collections/>

Library collection contains “200,000 manuscripts, pamphlets, books and images. They illustrate important themes in nineteenth-century U.S. history: women's history including suffrage; abolition; African American history and racial history and racial attitudes in the U.S.; the activist Beecher family; and decorative arts and architecture.”

James G. Birney Papers, Manuscript Division, William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan- <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/c/clementsms/umich-wcl-M-399bir?view=text>

Louisiana. Parish Court (Orleans Parish): Index to Slave Emancipation Petitions, 1814-1843- <http://nutrias.org/~nopl/inv/vcp/emancip.htm>

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

Yale Slavery and Abolition Portal- <http://slavery.yale.edu/>

Website contains primary resources related to slavery and abolition within the Yale University's libraries and galleries.

Underground Railroad

Follow the Drinking Gourd Research- www.followthedrinkinggourd.com

House Divided Civil War Research Engine (Dickinson College) -
<http://housedivided.dickinson.edu/>

Features free digital searchable database that contains materials from 1840 to 1880.

Myth of the Quilt Code research- www.hartcottagequilts.com

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

North Carolina Runaway Slave Advertisement, 1751-1840-
<http://libcdm1.uncg.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/RAS>

Texas Runaway Slave Project- East Texas Research Center-
<http://digital.sfasu.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/RSP>

“Database of runaway slave advertisements, articles and notices from newspapers published in Texas.”

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

The Underground Railroad in Chester, Pennsylvania (1883) by R.C. Smedley- Available through Google Books- <http://books.google.com/books?id=hzyOAAAIAAJ&oe=UTF-8>

The Geography of Slavery in Virginia- <http://www2.vcdh.virginia.edu/gos/>
 Contains searchable database of runaway ads from Virginia's colonial period, 1736-1777.

Wilbur H. Siebert Collection -<http://www.ohiomemory.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/siebert>
 The collection “contains correspondence, notes, manuscripts, student papers, maps, and photographs related to the Underground Railroad. Research material includes the responses generated by his seven-question survey and copies and notes from a wide variety of sources: books; diaries; letters; photographs; newspaper articles; biographies and memoirs; state, county, and local histories; annual reports; trial records; U.S. and Canadian census reports; legislation; and Congressional speeches. Siebert also conducted interviews with Underground Railroad agents and former fugitive slaves. He organized his research by state and county, eventually binding his notes in volumes according to the location of the Underground Railroad station or activity. The collection contains bound and unbound volumes of Siebert's research.” The digital collection for Ohio is available for subscription through the Ohio Historical Collection. Other states are available on microfilm. The finding aid for this collection is available at <http://www.ohiomemory.org/cdm/ref/collection/aids/id/9267>.

Also check out **Ohio Pix** -<http://ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/ohiopix/> and its collection of photographs collected by Wilbur Siebert for his UGRR book.

William Still, Journal C of Station No. 2 (1852-1857)- <http://hsp.org/history-online/digital-history-projects/pennsylvania-abolition-society-papers/journal-c-of-station-no-2-william-still-1852-1857-0>

As part of its Digital History Project, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania digitized William Still's “Journal C of Station No. 2 of the Underground Railroad”. This journal provides extensive detail of the ways in which Philadelphia's Vigilance Committee offered aid to escaped slaves during their travels northward. His narrative offers rich documentation of families and individuals during their escape and illuminates the intricate network of people—including slaves, former slaves and free blacks—who made the Underground Railroad a success.”

Underground Railroad: The Struggle Against Slavery (Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History)- <http://ugrronline.com/>
 Contains primary and secondary resources for “researching, teaching, and exploring the Underground Railroad and anti-slavery history.”

Quakers

Friends Collection and College Archives at Earlham College Libraries-
<http://library.earlham.edu/ecarchives>

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Features digital collections including the Josiah Parker Papers. Parker, was a Quaker who migrated from North Carolina to Ohio and Indiana and was involved in anti-slavery activities.

Friends Historical Library of Swarthmore College -

<http://www.swarthmore.edu/library/friends/> extensive Quaker and regional history archives.

Links to the new online primary source database Quakers and Slavery at

<http://trilogy.brynmawr.edu/speccoll/quakersandslavery/> which is cosponsored with Haverford College belowgutenb

Haverford College Libraries, Quaker and Special Collections.

<http://www.haverford.edu/library/special/>

Quakers & Slavery-

<http://trilogy.brynmawr.edu/speccoll/quakersandslavery/>

Government and Military Records

Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System for African American Servicemen-

<http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/>

FOLD3 - www.fold3.com .

Website for digitized National Archives and Library of Congress primary sources – free and fee based –Military and Pension records online. Includes the records of the Southern Claims Commission. Many other government documents colonial through present.

Freedmen’s Bureau Records- <http://www.freedmensbureau.com/>

Lexis-Nexis

Contains legal cases involving violations of fugitive slave laws. Usually available through public or university libraries.

Canada

Can England Protect Fugitive Slaves: From the Christian Reformer 1861- Available through Hathi Trust <http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/100284911>

Fugitive Slaves in Canada- Elgin Settlement (1860) by William King and Robert Burns- Available through Hathi Trust-<http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/100280221>

Mission to Fugitive Slaves in Canada: Being a Branch of the Operations of the Colonial Church and School Society (1859)- http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=ody_rbcmisc&fileName=ody/ody0304/ody0304page.db&recNum=0&itemLink=/ammem/aahtml/exhibit/aopart3b.html@0304&linkText=9

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A North-Side View of Slavery. The Refugee or the Narratives of Fugitive Slaves in Canada (1856) by Benjamin Drew

Available through Archive.org- <https://archive.org/details/northsideviewofs00drew>, DocSouth-
<http://docsouth.unc.edu/neh/drew/menu.html>, and Google Books-
http://books.google.com/books/about/A_North_side_View_of_Slavery.html?id=BEo-x8q9hKEC

The Refugees from Slavery in Canada West: Report to the Freedmen’s Inquiry Commission by S.G. Howe (1864)- Available through Hathi Trust-
<http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=miun.ack4846.0001.001#view=1up;seq=1>

Archives, Libraries, and Historical Societies

Godfrey Library, Connecticut- www.godfrey.org

Gives access to hundreds of online resources, digitization projects, genealogical databases, thousands of digitized newspapers (historical and contemporary), and more. Available through subscription for \$50.00 per year.

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

Kansas Memory- <http://www.kansasmemory.org/>

Online database by the Kansas State Historical Society. Contains historical collections related to Bleeding Kansas (1854-1861) and the Civil War (1861-1865).

Library of Congress -www.loc.gov/

Includes the Library of Congress American Memory project, including African American historical resources, map, Women’s’ history, American culture a folk life, Civil War, etc. - <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html/>. It also includes *The African American Experience in Ohio 1850-1920* (Selections from the Ohio Historical Society)- <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/award97/ohshtml/aaeohome.html>

“This selection of manuscript and printed text and images drawn from the collections of the Ohio Historical Society illuminates the history of black Ohio from 1850 to 1920, a story of slavery and freedom, segregation and integration, religion and politics, migrations and restrictions, harmony and discord, and struggles and successes.”

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>

Missouri Digital Heritage- <http://www.sos.mo.gov/mdh/>

Contains more than 9 million records from institutions across the site which can be browsed by topic, media type, and institution. Its Civil War Resources contains collections related to slavery including Freedom Suits Case Files, 1814-1860 and the Revised Dred Scott Case Collection- <http://www.sos.mo.gov/mdh/CivilWar/>.

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

Open Library Digital-<http://openlibrary.org/>

Resource – free - digital book downloads and borrowing.

Presbyterian Historical Society- <http://www.history.pcusa.org/collections>

Contains collections, catalogs and research tools, as well as online exhibits related to the history of the Presbyterian Church. Among its collections are the Lane Theological Seminary Records (1828-1865).

Schomburg Center for Research on Black Culture at the New York Public Library-

<http://www.nypl.org/locations/schomburg>

Large collections and digitized resources.

State Historical Society of Missouri- <http://statehistoricalsocietyofmissouri.org/cdm/>

“The State Historical Society of Missouri Digital Collection provides online access to journals, photographs, newspapers, and oral histories telling the story of Missouri’s history, people, and culture.”

West Virginia Memory Project- John Brown/Boyd B, Stutler Collection Database-

<http://www.wvculture.org/history/wvmemory/imlsintro.html>

Digitized collection of photographs and primary documents related to John Brown by the West Virginia Archives and History. The “database also contains over 100 original John Brown letters and manuscripts, a similar number of family letters, and three books of business letters from Brown's partnership with Simon Perkins in the wool trade. There are several hundred letters of Brown's associates and biographers as well. Prominent among the correspondents are George Luther Stearns and Frank Sanborn, both members of Brown's "Secret Six," the group of New England abolitionists who supported Brown's foray into Virginia in 1859. Also prominently represented are Brown associate and author Richard Hinton and William Connelley, like Sanborn an early biographer of John Brown.”

Oral History Resources

The Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage –

<http://www.folklife.si.edu/center/mission.aspx>

Download their oral history/interview guide:

http://www.folklife.si.edu/education_exhibits/resources/guide/introduction.aspx

Download their community research guide:

http://www.folklife.si.edu/education_exhibits/resources/delta.aspx

Story Corps (available on smart phones)- <http://storycorps.org/>

Oral History Association - <http://www.oralhistory.org/>

Maps

Be sure to access historical maps! Many online sources. Library of Congress, NARA, University libraries, Archives, Historical Societies, government agencies.

OldMaps Online Portal- <http://www.oldmapsonline.org/>

Portal features digital historical maps from libraries around the world. Maps can be searched by location and date, which directs you to the host institution's website where a copy can be downloaded. Was "created by a collaboration between The Great Britain Historical GIS Project based at The University of Portsmouth, UK and Klokant Technologies GmbH, Switzerland.

University of Alabama Map Collection- <http://alabamamaps.ua.edu/historicalmaps/>

Sanborn Insurance Maps- <http://library.sc.edu/digital/collections/sanborn.html>

Available through the University of Southern California dating back to 1884.

Important Regional Sources

Web Based

Digital Archives of Allen County Public Library (1845-1970)

Collection of newspapers from Allen County, including the Fort Wayne Daily Democrat, Fort Wayne Daily Gazette, Fort Wayne Journal, and the Fort Wayne News & Sentinel.

Repositories

Earlham College

Elkhart County Historical Museum

Indiana Historical Society

Indiana State Library

Indiana-Perdue University

Selected Books and Articles

Brown, Maxine. *The Role of Free Blacks in the Underground Railroad Activities of Central Indiana*. Indianapolis: DNR-DHPA, 2001.

Cord, Xenia. *Black Rural Settlements in Indiana Before 1860*. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1993.

Crenshaw, Gwendolyn J. *"Bury Me in a Free Land": The Abolitionist Movement in Indiana, 1816-1865*. Indianapolis, IN: Indiana Historical Bureau, 1993.

Esarey, Logan. "Underground Railroad." In *A History of Indiana from its Exploration to 1922*,

Modified from "SOURCE LIST FOR RESEARCHING THE HISTORIES OF SLAVERY, ABOLITION AND THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD IN YOUR COMMUNITIES AND BEYOND – A BEGINNING," compiled by Kate Clifford Larson, Ph.D.

- Volume 2*, 623-629. Dayton, OH: Dayton Historical Publishing Co., 1922.
- Gara, Larry. *The Liberty Line: The Legend of the Underground Railroad*. Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, [1961] 1996.
- Hamm, Thomas D. *The Anti-Slavery Movement in Henry County, Indiana : A Study of the Local Abolitionists*. New Castle, Ind.: Henry County Historical Society, 1975.
- LaRoche, Cheryl J. *Free Black Communities and the Underground Railroad: The Geography of Resistance*. Champaign: University of Illinois, 2013.
- Money, Charles H. "The Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 in Indiana." *Indiana Magazine of History* 17.2 (1921):159-198.
- _____. "The Fugitive Slave Law in Indiana: (Concluded)." *Indiana Magazine of History* 17.3 (1921): 257-297.
- Peters, Pamela R. *The Underground Railroad in Floyd County, Indiana*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, Inc., 2001.
- Quinn, Angela M. *The Underground Railroad and the Antislavery Movement in Fort Wayne and Allen County, Indiana*. Indianapolis: DNR-DHPA, 2001.
- Robbins, Coy D. *Reclaiming African Heritage at Salem, Indiana*. Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, Inc., 1995.
- Salafia, Matthew. *Slavery's Borderland: Freedom and Bondage Along the Ohio River*. Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2013.
- Underground Railroad Research in Select Indiana Counties*. Indianapolis, IN: Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, 2003.

SOUTHERN 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 accounts of fugitive/runaway slaves
- 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
- Indenture records
- Plantation records
- Family papers
- Southern Claims Commission Records
- Civil War Pension Records
- Slave Schedules (1850 and 1860 indicate fugitives)
- County Histories

NORTHERN SOURCES:

- Newspaper accounts of fugitive/runaway slaves
- Census records
- Court cases, arrest records
- Birth, marriage, death records
- Anti-slavery and Vigilance Committee minutes and documents
- Newspaper obituaries
- Church records, school records, benevolent and mutual aid society records
- Family Papers
- City Directories
- Civil War Pension Records
- Canadian sources – many death, birth, and marriage records are online, some identify what state in the U.S. someone came from. Ontario Historical Society; St. Catharines Museum; Brock University Special Collections; etc. Many resources also available online through Ancestry.com
- County Histories