

# **Most Overlooked Record Types Resources Used For Documenting Ancestors**

**Objective: To help researchers overcome the challenge of locating documentation.**

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## **I. Build a foundation before turning to overlooked records.**

- A. Oral history interviews
- B. Extract information from family archives.
- C. Identify place where ancestor lived.
- D. Create timeline of ancestor's life.
- E. Start family history database (PAF 5.2 at [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org))

## **II. Characteristics overlooked records.**

- A. Most often not indexed
- B. Varied by geographical area/time period.
- C. Generated by historical events.
- D. Not traditionally used for genealogy.
- E. Sensitive in nature

## **III. How to locate the most overlooked records.**

- A. Become a student of history again.
  - 1. Local history
  - 2. Politics
  - 3. Economy and labor
  - 4. Social customs
- B. *Online book sites.*
  - 1. Google Books
  - 2. Questia [Questia.com](http://Questia.com)
  - 3. Internet Archive
  - 4. WorldCat [WorldCat.org](http://WorldCat.org)
  - 5. Amazon [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)
  - 6. Gutenberg [Gutenberg.org](http://Gutenberg.org)
- C. Regional Library Holdings (Newberry Library, Allen County)

- D. Investigate Holdings in Archives, Courthouses, Libraries, and Societies.  
1. Example: *South Carolina Department of Archives and History: African American Genealogical Research.*



2. Search Online Catalogs.  
Example: The State Library (SC LENDS)  
*statelibrary.sc.gov.*



E. Research Records Sited by Scholars

1. Ancestors name  
*One More Days Journey, Allen Ballard*



*Hurrah for Hampton, Edmund L. Drago*



*Freedoms Lawmakers, Eric Foner*



2. By Topic or keyword  
*A Hard Fight for We, Julie Saville*



Branches Without Roots, Gerald David Jaynes



*The Work of Reconstruction*, Leslie A. Schwalm



*Our Fathers Fields*, James Everette Kibler



#### IV. **Topics Overlooked Records Reveal**

Convict labor (railroad, roads, penitentiary)	Emancipation
Union League	Red shirts/carpetbaggers
Reconstruction	Chain gang
Southern agriculture	The Great Migration
Plantation records	Criminal cases
Asylum Records	Breeding plantation/farm
Peonage	Fraternal Societies
Tenant farming	Sharecropping

#### V.

##### **Types of Overlooked Records.**

Freedman Bank Records	1869 SC State Census
Church programs	Church Directories
Tithing records	Graduation programs
1869 Militia Roll	Estate sales

Bill of sale

1868 Voter's Registration

1871/1876 Senate testimonies

Bank statements

Agricultural census

School records

Civil/Criminal Court records

Journals

1868 Senate testimonies

NAACP records

Delayed birth records

Grantee/Grantor deed index

World War I Draft Registration

More Helpful Resources:

1. Chicora Foundation, INC [chicora.org](http://chicora.org)
2. SCIWAY: South Carolina's Information Highway.  
[sciway.net](http://sciway.net)
3. After Slavery: Race, Labor, and Politics in the Post-Emancipation Carolina's.  
[afterslavery.com](http://afterslavery.com)
4. FamilySearch WIKI: South Carolina, African American Research, South Carolina African Americans.  
[wiki.familysearch.org](http://wiki.familysearch.org)
5. Lowcountry Africana/ Restore the Ancestors Project.  
[lowcountryafricana.net](http://lowcountryafricana.net)
6. 371<sup>st</sup> Historical Society, WWI  
[371stworldwar1.org](http://371stworldwar1.org)
7. Nurturing Our Roots, BlogTalkRadio.  
[blogtalkradio.com](http://blogtalkradio.com) (search Antoinette Harrell)