

**Finding the Slave Generation**

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Midwest Genealogy Center  
Mid-Continent Public Library  
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**To begin, use basic genealogical research techniques.**

- Family Traditions
- Census records 1930 through 1870
- Vital records, military records
- Area histories, archive materials
- Internet resources



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**Determine status during and prior to the Civil War.**

- Free person of color
  - Never slave, purchased freedom, or manumitted
  - Follow basic research techniques
  - Remember the records may be segregated

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**Determine status during and prior to the Civil War.**

- Married into, adopted by, or owned by Native American Tribe
  - Freedom followed the mother
  - Escaped slaves, free persons of color
  - Study Native American History
  - Usually stayed with the tribe when freed
  - Records are Federal
    - Bureau of Indian Affairs
    - National Archives Branches

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**Determine status during and prior to the Civil War.**

- Slave
  - Referred to in records by first name only
  - Families sold away from each other
  - Freed slaves could take name from owner, plantation, or one of their choosing

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**Resources -- Slave Schedules**

- 1850, 1860
- Only owners listed
- Slaves listed by sex and age, occasionally by first name

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**Resources -- Military**

- Colored Troops on both sides
- Record could show owner
- Record could contain affidavits of slave's life history
- Owners were paid bounty if slave enlisted or was drafted
- Colored troops received their enlistment bounty after the war ended - Union

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**Resources -- Military**

- U.S. Serial Set
- County Court House
- NARA
- Internet

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**Resources -- Plantation**

- Antebellum Southern Plantation Records
- Southern Women's Series
- Court slavery records
- American Slave Narratives
- Book Series
- Internet

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## Resources -- Freedmen's Bureau

- Record slave marriages
- Transportation records
- Employment records
- Freedman Bank records
- NARA
- Internet

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## Questions

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