

African American Genealogy Resources

Compiled by Caylin Wigger at the Gainsboro Library

Physical Resources

- *Virginia Kaleidoscope: the Claytor family of Roanoke, and some of its kinships, from first families of Virginia and their former slaves* by Woodbury, Margaret Claytor.
- *The Hairstons: An American Family in Black and White* by Henry Wiencek.
- *African American history in Roanoke City: a compilation of records* by Ollie, Arleen F.
- *African American railroad workers of Roanoke: oral histories of the Norfolk and Western* by Scarborough, Sheree.
- *The Roanoke Valley's African American heritage: a pictorial history* by Shareef, Reginald.
- The Vertical File Index at the Gainsboro Branch Library (searchable on the Virginia Room website).
- The Vertical File Index at the Virginia Room in the Main Library.
- *The Schools of Roanoke* by Worrell, Annie L.
- City Directories
 - The Virginia Room has a set of Roanoke City Directories dating back to 1888. (Missing years 1893, 1894, 1896, and 1897).
 - The Gainsboro Branch Library has a set of Roanoke City Directories dating back to 1907. (Missing years 1911, 1912, 1915, 1956) (Additional early years 1889, 1895, 1898-99)
 - City directories can also be found on Ancestry.com.
- Sanborn Maps are fire insurance maps that can clearly identify locations of buildings as well as the makeup of the building itself.
 - The Virginia Room has:
 - 1898
 - 1903
 - 1907 with updates through November 1915
 - 1919 with updates through October 1938
 - 1955 with updates through August 1966
 - The Gainsboro Branch Library has:
 - 1898
 - 1907 with updates through November 1915
 - 1919 with updates through 1948
 - Digital versions are available through the Library of Congress.
- *Black Genesis: A Resource Book for African-American Genealogy* by James M. Rose and Alice Eichholz.
- *Black Genealogy* by Charles L. Blockson

- *A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your African-American Ancestors. How to Find and Record Your Unique Heritage* by Franklin Carter Smith and Emily Anne Croom
- *Finding Your African American Ancestors: A Beginner's Guide* by David T. Thackery.
- *Black Roots: A Beginners Guide To Tracing The African American Family Tree* by Tony Burroughs.
- *Virginia Slave Births Index, 1853-1865* edited by Leslie Anderson Morales.
- *Some Slaves of Virginia: The cohabitation records of 27 February 1866 from the Lost Records Localities Digital Collection of the Library of Virginia* by Sandra Barlau
- Registers of Free Negroes, available for various Virginia counties.
- Microfilm: *Roanoke Tribune* (1992-2019); *Roanoke Times* (1889-2018)

Online Resources

- Through the Virginia Room:
 - Ancestry.com can be accessed **at any branch of Roanoke Public Libraries**.
 - FamilySearch.org, the Virginia Room is an affiliate library. Records not available to individual subscribers can be accessed **in the Virginia Room**.
 - NewsBank provides issues of the Roanoke Times from 1990-present. This can be accessed **with a Roanoke Public Libraries Library Card**.
 - African American Historical Newspapers is hosted by ProQuest. This can be accessed **at any branch of Roanoke Public Libraries or remotely with a Roanoke Public Libraries Library Card**.
 - Find my Past may **only be accessed at the Virginia Room in the Main Library**.
 - Digitized Yearbooks on the Virginia Room's Digital Collections site.
 - Neighborhood Oral Histories on the Virginia Room's Digital Collections site.
 - Roanoke County Register of Free Negroes, 1838-1865 in the Virginia Room Digital Collection
 - Roanoke County Register of Colored Persons Cohabiting as Husband and Wife, 1866 in the Virginia Room Digital Collection.
- Deed Cards are available on the Roanoke City GIS website.
- Unknown No Longer and Virginia Untold
<https://virginiahistory.org/research/collections/unknown-no-longer-virginia-untold>