



## Beginners Researching and the Legal (and other) documents

- What is your “Why”
- Organization
- Start with You
  - Then work backwards
  - Use an Ancestor chart and Family group sheet
- Gather information you may already have access to
  - Family Bibles
  - Birth, Marriage, Divorce and Death Certificates
  - Obituaries
  - Funeral programs
  - Funeral Homes
  - Social Security Records
  - Cemeteries
  - Military records
  - Church and other religious records, programs, histories
  - Report Cards
  - School yearbooks
  - Newspaper articles
- Records to start with
  - US Census Records (1790 – 1950)
    - Start with 1950 and work backwards
  - Freedmen’s Bureau
  - Old City directories/phone books
  - Published biographies/family histories
  - Military records
  - Slave Narratives
- Legal and Court related records
  - Deeds
  - Tax Records
  - Wills and Probate
  - Inventories
  - Land and Homestead Records
  - Manumissions and Guardianship records
  - Labor Contracts
  - Voter Registration lists
  - Court Case Proceedings
  - Where to go to find these records
    - Internet: FamilySearch, Ancestry, NARA
    - Courthouse of the county and/or city ancestor lived
      - Find an index to help narrow your search
    - GA Archives, Auburn Ave Library, Colleges, NARA in Atlanta, LDS Libraries

## □ **Genealogy Tools**

As your research grows, use internet and desktop software to help with organizing and containing your information. Some of the tools listed have records available to you online for research at your fingertips

- Software/Internet tools and websites
  - [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) – There is a cost associated with this tool, but it can be used for free at your local library
  - [FamilySearch.com](https://www.familysearch.org) – This is a free resource but requires you to create an account
  - Genealogy Software
    - [Family Tree Builder](https://www.myheritage.com/family-tree-builder) (https://www.myheritage.com/family-tree-builder)
    - [Family Tree Maker](https://www.mackiev.com/ftm/) (https://www.mackiev.com/ftm/)
    - [RootsMagic](https://www.rootsmagic.com/) (https://www.rootsmagic.com/)
  - [Family Tree Magazine](https://familytreemagazine.com/) (https://familytreemagazine.com/)
- Books
  - Black Roots: A Beginners Guide To Tracing The African American Family Tree (Author: Tony Burroughs, ISBN: 9780684847047)
  - Finding a Place Called Home: A Guide to African-American Genealogy and Historical Identity (Author: Dee Parmer Woodtor, Ph.D., ISBN: 037570843X)
  - Black Genealogy (Author: Charles L. Blockson, Contributor: Ron Fry, ISBN: 0933121539)