



AAHGS Metro Atlanta Chapter SOUTH CAROLINA-RELATED GENEALOGICAL SITES

Compiled by a member of the South Carolina Focus Group

(NOTE: This list, updated regularly, does not include county genealogical websites, but search the web to see if one exists for your research county. Nor does this list include well-known sites such as the main search pages of Ancestry.com or FamilySearch.org.)

[South Carolina Department of Archives and History \(SCDAH\)](#)

- ❖ [African American Genealogical Research](#) -- General overview to finding records. Examples of records are shown.
- ❖ [Online Records Index](#)
- ❖ [Guide to Searching the Online Records Index](#)
- ❖ [SC Birth Certificates – How-To-Search Blog](#)

[The Accidental Historian](#)

Web page by Margaret Seidler, a white Charlestonian who discovered slave-trading ancestors while searching ancestor health history via DNA. She has connected with African American cousins. Read newspaper article [here](#) and see a video [here](#). Part of the **Voices: Stories of Change: Charleston, SC** website, featured on the last page of this document.

[African American Heritage – Charleston](#)

Essays on Black history in the area. A subsidiary of the Charleston Visitor's Bureau.

[African American Historic Places in South Carolina](#)

County-by-county descriptive listing of properties on the national and state historical registers as of 2015. Originally compiled by South Carolina State University (Orangeburg) students.

[African American Historical Alliance](#)

Info on Black history in SC.

African American History Monument – Columbia, SC

- ❖ [\(Video by Myers Photography, Sumter, SC\)](#)
- ❖ [\(Video by Prime Travels\)](#)

Dedicated in 2001 on the Statehouse grounds in Columbia (1100 Gervais Street), this 3-part structure features (1) a wall depicting historical periods in sculpted relief, (2) a large in-pavement image of a tightly packed slave ship, and (3) an obelisk with rubbing stones from four African regions where slaves were from.

[African Americans in South Carolina \(Wikipedia\)](#)

Laypersons' summaries of African Americans' existence in the state. Written by contributors to this free "encyclopedia" that anyone can edit. The site encourages documentation links for statements made.

[African Americans in the South Carolina Room](#)

A formerly active website now preserved on Internet Archive's Wayback Machine, E. E. Vaughn shares resources she found while researching her family tree. Includes many detailed transcriptions and lists of churches, mortgages of enslaveds, prison inmates, Reconstruction-era voter registrations, and more from her counties of interest.

[African Slave Trade and South Carolina](#)

Historical discussion. Part of SCIWAY - South Carolina's Information Highway.

[All We Ask Is Equal Rights – University of South Carolina School of Law](#)

Lists 19th- and 20th-century South Carolina African-American congressmen, judges and lawmakers.

[Atlas of Historical County Boundaries \(South Carolina Historical Counties Viewer\)](#)

Interactive maps let you see how boundaries changed, which affected custodianship of records – and possibly where to look for them.

[Avery Research Center](#)

History of African Americans in Charleston and the South Carolina Lowcountry. Named for a now-closed African American school.

[Black History -- Digital Collections, University of South Carolina \(USC\) Libraries](#)

Links to photos, manuscripts, documents and publications and videos.

[Carolana.com](#)

Historical information about South Carolina *and* North Carolina after 1729. The title salutes the name of the original British political land mass from which the two states formed. Includes lists of towns and townships by county. NC-born author J.D. Lewis, who lives in SC, describes himself as an amateur historian intrigued about each state's evolution and differences.

[Chicora Foundation](#)

A non-profit heritage and archaeological group with articles displaying a sensitivity towards African-American culture. Interesting info on cemetery preservation.

[Chronicling America](#)

See pages of selected newspapers from each state. Operated by the Library of Congress.

- ❖ [Chronicling America – African American Newspapers list](#)

Direct link to listing of currently 119 African American newspapers arranged by state, dates, and number of issues searchable on the Chronicling America website that's part of the Library of Congress.

- ❖ [Read about 10 newspapers here](#)

[The Dead Librarian](#)

A blog that's a guide to free online genealogical search info, written by a Richland County (Columbia) librarian. Easy to read, lots of good links, including African American.

[Digital Library on African American Slavery](#)

Online guide, searchable database containing names and other data extracted from wills, inventories and other documents in South Carolina and other states. Enter "South Carolina" in the Search bar to see indexes and abstracts of holdings at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History in Columbia, SC.

[Documenting the American South](#)

Online guide to items at UNC-Chapel Hill.

FamilySearch.org

- ❖ [South Carolina Wiki](#)

Lots of links to everything SC. Part of the FamilySearch web site.

- ❖ [South Carolina African Americans](#)

FamilySearch's wiki page about African Americans.

- ❖ [FamilySearch – The Most Overlooked Record Types in South Carolina](#)

Free, 66-minute video/slide presentation by genealogist Robin Foster (see more about her below). Includes a downloadable class handout in PDF. Part of FamilySearch's Learning Center.

[Genealogy Inc.](#)

The SC section of this website's listing of research sources for all states and counties. Simple narrative of settlement, plus interactive historical maps. Adding "/counties" at the end (without the quotation marks) brings up the counties page, which can also be accessed via a link on the original page.

[The Green Book of South Carolina](#)

Find more than 300 African American cultural sites across S.C. with this free mobile travel guide from the S.C. African American Heritage Commission.

[Historical Newspapers of South Carolina](#)

Local and regional newspapers in South Carolina since 1815.

[History of the American Negro and His Institutions](#)

Online Google book. South Carolina edition of a biographical book published in 1919 by a Black man, A.B. Caldwell, in Atlanta.

[International African American Museum](#)

Online advance version of a Charleston, SC museum and genealogy center, which is expected to open in 2022. This website features digitized sample records, a "Learning Library," videos and more. Charleston is where an estimated nearly half of Africans enslaved in the U.S. were brought ashore -- many on the spot where the museum will be built.

❖ [The Center for Family History](#)

[Internet Archive](#)

Historical documents and other materials, such as complete – although unindexed – censuses.

[WPA Inventory of SC Church Archives](#)

Digitized survey sheets of churches of all races and denominations, collected in interviews by the federal Works Progress Administration, 1937-1939. All counties except Chester, Edgefield, Fairfield, and Georgetown. Originals are at the South Caroliniana Library at USC in Columbia, SC.

[Lowcountry Africana](#)

Online documents and historical info about Blacks in SC, GA and FL.

[Lowcountry Digital History Initiative](#)

Features online exhibition projects relevant to the South Carolina Lowcountry region and historically interconnected sites. Examples: the illegal slave ship "Echo," post-slavery societal analysis, Charleston's Burke High School, and the 1968 Orangeburg Massacre of students from SC State University. Hosted by the College of Charleston, one of whose partners is the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture.

[Lowcountry Digital Library](#)

Collections of audio, documents, images, manuscripts, oral histories, videos and other media about the SC Lowcountry and “historically interconnected sites in the Atlantic world.”

[The Penn Center](#)

Commemorates the “first school in the South for formerly enslaved West Africans” established in 1862. In the 1960s it was the site of civil rights group conferences.

[Reconstruction – Historical South Carolina Newspapers](#)

A University of South Carolina Libraries web page of links to selected articles found on the Chronicling America website. At the bottom are links to other Chronicling America newspaper selected “finds” about related topics.

[Research in South Carolina With the Memory Keepers](#)

Blog radio broadcast hosted by Bernice Bennett, about a book written by her; Harris Bailey, Jr.; Ellen Butler; Ethel Dailey and Vincent Sheppard. The book, *Our Ancestors, Our Stories*, discusses each person’s family search journey in the Old Edgefield District (Greenwood, Abbeville, Aiken, McCormick counties). Posted in August 2014.

[SC Archives and History Foundation](#)

An arm of the South Carolina Department of Archives & History in Columbia.

[SC Gen Web Project: African American Research](#)

General links to sites, including some listed in this compilation.

[South Carolina African American Heritage Commission](#)

Promotes African American culture in SC. Part of the State Historic Preservation Office.

❖ [WeGOJA Foundation](#)

(Pronounced “we-GO-juh”) Formerly the South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation. The name is the fusion of words from three African languages of enslaved people.

[South Carolina – African American History and Resources](#)

Extensive list of links to various aspects of Black history in SC.

[South Carolina – PBS Episode “America’s Forests With Chuck Leavell” \(S1, Ep3\)](#)

SC African American tree farmers’ search for land ownership documentation is included in this documentary about their endeavors to access, and realization of, a sustainable wealth resource that can be passed down for future generations.

[South Carolina Council for African American Studies](#)

A professional organization for persons interested in Black studies and instruction.

[South Carolina Department of Environment and Health Control \(S.C. DEHC\)](#)

Vital records source.

[South Carolina Digital Library](#)

Online documents, photos and other materials, including African American. One interesting find: slave passes.

❖ [Abstract of Voter Registrations Reported to the Military Government, 1868](#)

Part of SC Digital Library. Use the slider bar to scroll through counties (for which records still exist).

[South Carolina Digital Newspaper Program](#)

Part of the USC Digital Libraries Collection, this “digitizes historical newspapers from the state and facilitates free access to the digital versions.”

[South Carolina Encyclopedia](#)

A “reference source of the people, places, events, things, achievements, and ideals that have contributed to the evolution of the Palmetto State.” A project of South Carolina Humanities, the University of South Carolina Press, the USC Libraries, South Carolina State Library and others.

[South Carolina Estate Inventories and Bills of Sale \(Fold3\)](#)

View for free on this mostly pay-to-view site of military records. Search by slave and slave-owner name, or browse by date. *(In the Search box at the top, type “South Carolina Estate Inventories and Bills of Sale, 1732-1872.” Then select the desired title or year range.)*

[South Carolina Genealogical Society](#)

Like county and other state genealogical sites, this is mostly white-oriented, but Blacks are members and contribute articles to the magazine.

[South Carolina Historical Society](#)

Find out about the Charleston, SC museum and search the online catalog of its collections.

[South Carolina Maps Online](#)

All about how boundaries changed from the state's settlement until today. Helpful to know so you can find where a particular record might be.

[South Carolina Plantations](#)

Basic information about some of the larger plantations in the state. Search by county.

[South Carolina State House](#)

View the following:

- ❖ **On-Site Tour brochure**
- ❖ **Grounds Brochure**
- ❖ **Scavenger Hunt/Map**
- ❖ **African American Monument brochure**
- ❖ **360 Virtual Tour** outside and inside
- ❖ **Video Overview and History**, – Hosted by a black man, “Michael.”

[South Caroliniana Library](#)

Located on the campus of the University of South Carolina in Columbia, this is an extensive research archives and special collections repository. Genealogical collections, plantation account books, manuscripts, oral histories, S.C. newspapers, WPA microfilmed records, dissertations and more. (“Caroliniana” means “things pertaining to Carolina.”)

- ❖ [WPA Inventory of SC Church Archives](#)

[Spartanburg Public Library – Kennedy Room](#)

Microform, maps, media clippings, manuscripts, visual arts and access to several online genealogy databases. Census, death, probate and military records. Also includes South Carolina and regional information.

[Upstate Index of Enslaved Persons](#)

Compiled by the Greenville Public Library. Names from Probate records in upstate SC, including Greenville, Laurens, Pendleton, Anderson and Pickens counties.

[Voices: Stories of Change: Charleston, SC](#)

The African American experience the city from colonial times to present-day. Search by Theme or Place through articles, first-person accounts, video, photography, and more.

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