

# 10 Million Names

 American Ancestors



**CAUTION!!**  
**COLORED PEOPLE**  
**OF BOSTON, ONE & ALL,**  
You are hereby respectfully **CAUTIONED** and advised, to avoid conversing with the **Watchmen and Police Officers of Boston,**  
For since the recent **ORDER OF THE MAYOR & ALDERMEN,** they are empowered to act as  
**KIDNAPPERS**  
AND  
**Slave Catchers,**  
And they have already been actually employed in **KIDNAPPING, CATCHING, AND KEEPING SLAVES.** Therefore, if you value your **LIBERTY,** and the *Welfare of the Fugitives* among you, *Shun* them in every possible manner, as so many **HOUNDS** on the track of the most unfortunate of your race.  
**Keep a Sharp Look Out for KIDNAPPERS, and have TOP EYE open.**  
**APRIL 24, 1851.**

## 10 Million Names Pilot Project

### Journeys to Liberation

### Records of Mariners, Migrants, and Freedom Seekers

All throughout the slavery era in pre- and post-colonial America, individuals and families of African descent pursued paths to freedom. Most famously, people used the Underground Railroad to escape, but other enslaved people turned to legal channels through “freedom suits,” paid for self-manumission, or experienced emancipation through African emigration. Invaluable collections of historical records provide an opportunity to read accounts (sometimes firsthand) of formerly enslaved individuals and gain insights into their extraordinary paths to emancipation.

#### Examples of records:

- Records of abolitionist groups, such as the American Colonization Society
- Court records (federal, state, and local court records)
- Crew lists, seamen’s registers, and passenger lists
- First-person accounts from the Underground Railroad
- Runaway advertisements in newspapers

#### Upcoming Databases:

- New Bedford, MA: BIPOC Residents Project
- New Bedford, MA: Whaling Ship Crew Lists
- Peoples of Color in Bristol County, Massachusetts Prior to 1880

#### Completed Databases:

- Hampden County, MA: Black Families in Hampden County, 1650-1865
- United States 1830 Census: Free Negro Heads of Families

*The 10 Million Names Project is dedicated to finding the names of the estimated ten million men, women, and children of African descent who were enslaved in pre- and post-colonial America (specifically, the territory that would become the United States) between the late 1500s and 1865. For this ambitious undertaking, Dr. Kendra Field serves as our Chief Historian, and we will split the work into five manageable flagship projects, each with a clear and defined scope.*