

10 Million Names



10 Million Names Pilot Project

Making America

Records of Enslaved Laborers Within and Beyond the Plantation

Millions of enslaved people lived on plantations, private homes, and universities before emancipation. Enslavers often created financial and personal records to track, count, and inventory families and individuals laboring on their land. While these records were initially created for the benefit of the enslaver, genealogists can use these records to reconstruct family groups and rediscover names of the enslaved.

Examples of records:

- Antebellum censuses (1850 and 1860 US federal censuses, 1867 Maryland slave statistics, other state and local censuses, etc.)
- Plantation records (presidential properties—Monticello, Mount Vernon, Montpelier, private estate papers, Bible records, etc.)
- College and university records (Georgetown University, The College of William & Mary, University of Virginia, etc.)
- Probate records and land deeds

Upcoming Databases:

- Account Book of John Hull, 1667-1687
- Cambridge, MA: Black and Indigenous People of Color, 1630-1870

Completed Databases:

- GU272 Descendants, 1785-2000
- Hartford County, CT: Index to Hartford County Court Minutes, Vols 3-4, 1663-1687, 1697
- Massachusetts: People of Color in the State Census, 1855-1865
- United States 1830 Census: Free Negro Heads of Families
- United States 1850 Census (Slave Schedule)

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.