

# 10 Million Names

 American Ancestors



## 10 Million Names Pilot Project

### Remembering Slavery

### Testimonials After Emancipation

The most powerful, poignant, and detailed records of formerly enslaved persons are first-person accounts collected in the pre- and post-emancipation eras. The oral tradition of persons of African descent and enslaved persons helped Black family history and culture survive. Like the records of historically Black institutions, these testimonials can help genealogists to learn more about the first generation of free people, as well as their ancestors and descendants.

#### Examples of records:

- Narratives collected by Fisk University, the Virginia Writers Project, and the Works Progress Administration (WPA)
- Oral histories collected by individual families and institutions
- Information wanted/lost friends newspaper advertisements (*Black Republican* [New Orleans], *Charleston (SC) Courier*, *Colored Citizen* [Cincinnati], *Free Man's Press* [Galveston, Texas], *The Liberator* [Boston], etc.)

#### Completed Databases:

- GU272 Descendants, 1785-2000
- 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.*