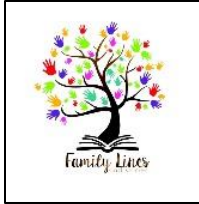


WILLIAM ECKLER & CHARLES ARTHUR: ONE MAN, TWO LIVES



Patti Gillespie, M.S.
Family Lines & Stories
www.familylinesandstories.com
Famlstories@gmail.com

“Many records and other information pertaining to the United States Colored Troops exist at the National Archives in Washington, DC and on-line at Fold3 and Ancestry.com. Compiled by the Colored Troops Division of the Adjutant General’s Office (RG 94), these records pertain primarily to the recruitment, organization, and service of black troops and their officers. Typical records include registers of applications of officers of colored troops, registers and rosters of officers, registers of colored enlistments, record of regiments of U.S. Colored Troops, and descriptive lists of colored volunteers” Bernice Alexander Bennett.

Key Questions to Ask When Performing African American Research

- Do I have a research question and a research plan? Am I changing it as new information comes in?
- Am I using a timeline?
- Is DNA testing part of my plan?
- Have I brought the line as far forward as possible?
- Have I contacted family members?
- If a community was started with the ancestor, have I contacted the historical society, the genealogical society, the state societies, or even a local library?
- Have I done a thorough newspaper search with understanding of the limitations?
- Have I searched as many death records as possible?
- Have I searched court records?
- Have I searched local and state jail and/or prison records?
- Have I asked for and searched, if available, the local miscellaneous records?
- Have I traced the line back to when military records are available? WWII, WWI, Spanish American War, Civil War?
- Is there evidence of a pension or a widow’s pension?
- Did I acquire other records?
- Was the ancestor free-born or enslaved?
- Have I checked the Freedman’s Bank records for owners and person?
- Am I fact checking family stories?
- Am I following relevant blogs, books, podcasts and speakers?

Resources

Blogs

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Huber, Leslie Albrecht. "Tracing Your African-American Genealogy," *FamilySearch Blog* (www.familysearch.org/blog), 26 Jul 2019.

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"Civil War Records: Basic Research Sources," National Archives, <https://www.archives.gov/research/military/civil-war/resources.html>.

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Henritze, Barbara K. *Bibliographic Checklist of African American Newspapers*. Baltimore: Clearfield, 1995.

Neagles, James C. *U.S. Military Records: A Guide to Federal and State Sources, Colonial America to the Present*. First Edition. Ancestry Publishing, 1994.

Smith, Franklin Carter and Emily Anne Croom. *Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your African American Ancestors: How to Find and Record Your Unique Heritage*. Cincinnati, OH: Betterway Books, 2003.

Woodtor, Dee Parmer. *Finding a Place Called Home: A Guide to African American Genealogy and Historical Identity*. New York: Random House Reference, 1999.

Witcher, Curt Bryan. *African American Genealogy: A Bibliography and Guide to Sources*. Round Tower Books, 2000.

Webinars

Bennett, Bernice. *Legacy Family Tree Webinars*. "United States Colored Troops Civil War Widows' Pension Applications: Tell the Story," 14 April 2015. (<https://familytreewebinars.com>).