The Freedmen’s Bureau Transcription Project: Additional Resources
Smithsonian Transcription Center and The National Museum of African American History and Culture

Historical Background/Context

- **Books**

- **Resources on the Freedmen's Bureau Records / African American History, US National Archives**
  - Background and additional organizational information: [https://www.archives.gov/research/african-americans/freedmens-bureau](https://www.archives.gov/research/african-americans/freedmens-bureau)
  - African American History Research: [https://www.archives.gov/research/african-americans](https://www.archives.gov/research/african-americans)

- **Resources on the Freedmen’s Bureau, Smithsonian Institution (Transcription Center and the National Museum of African American History and Culture)**
  - The Freedmen’s Bureau Project, NMAAHC: [https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/initiatives/freedmens-bureau-records](https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/initiatives/freedmens-bureau-records) and [https://nmaahc.si.edu/about-freedmens-bureau-database-records](https://nmaahc.si.edu/about-freedmens-bureau-database-records)
  - Transcription Center Instructions and Resources: [https://transcription.si.edu/instructions-freedmens-bureau](https://transcription.si.edu/instructions-freedmens-bureau)

- **Resources on the Freedmen’s Bureau, Family Search.com**
  - Freedmen’s Bureau Record Types: [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Freedmen%27s_Bureau_Record_Types](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Freedmen%27s_Bureau_Record_Types)
Getting Started with African American Research:

Discoverfreedmen.org: http://www.discoverfreedmen.org/

Additional Research: Primary Source Databases, Digital Collections, Documentary Editing, and Digital History Projects (related to African American History, Reconstruction, and the Freedmen’s Bureau)

- **Documentary Editing Project**: The Freedmen and Southern Society Project, University of Maryland, College Park: http://www.freedmen.umd.edu/
- **Genealogical / Government Records Websites/Databases**:
  - Family Search - http://www.discoverfreedmen.org/ (indexed all of the Freedmen’s Bureau Records)
  - Ancestry.com
  - Fold3: http://www.fold3.com/
  - Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System, NPS: http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/
- **Digital Newspaper Collections**
  - Chronicling America, Library of Congress: https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/
  - Purdue University has a great LibGuide on digitized US Newspaper Databases: https://guides.lib.purdue.edu/digitalUSnewspapers
  - Newspapers.com, Ancestry: https://www.newspapers.com/
- **Digital Archival Collections and Digital History Projects**
  - “Documenting the American South,” UNC: https://docsouth.unc.edu/
  - “Visualizing Emancipation,” University of Richmond: https://dsl.richmond.edu/emancipation/
  - Reconstruction-Era Archival Collections, University of South Carolina: https://digital.library.sc.edu/topics/reconstruction-era/
  - https://www.freedmensbureau.com/
  - Mapping the Freedmen’s Bureau: https://mappingthefreedmensbureau.com/about/

Transcribing 19th-Century Handwriting Resources
- SI Transcription Center resources: https://transcription.si.edu/historichandwriting
- Genealogy Bank:
- Ancestry.com: https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/Tips-for-Reading-Old-Handwriting
● Natural History Museum, London:

Transcription Center/Volunteer Content Shared on the Freedmen’s Bureau and African American Genealogy:
● https://transcription.si.edu/articles/what-are-the-odds
● https://transcription.si.edu/articles/insights-tips-volunpeer-expert-context-matters
● https://transcription.si.edu/articles/insights-tips-volunpeer-expert-transcribe-style
● https://transcription.si.edu/articles/insights-tips-volunpeer-expert-transcription-review
● TC Twitter Thread Celebrating 100,000 pages of Freedmen’s Bureau pages transcribed and the impact of this work:
   https://twitter.com/TranscribeSI/status/1295356031137132545
● Smithsonian Magazine, “How the Smithsonian Can Help African Americans Research their Ancestors,”
   https://www.smithsonianmag.com Smithsonin-institution/how-Smithsonian-can-help-trace-african-american-families-research-ancestors-180977115/