

The background is a dark blue-grey color with a faint, light-colored map overlay. The map shows various geographical shapes and lines, suggesting a topographic or political map. In the lower-left corner, there is a prominent compass rose with a needle pointing towards the top-left. The letters 'N', 'E', 'S', and 'W' are visible around the compass rose, indicating North, East, South, and West respectively. The overall aesthetic is clean and professional, suitable for a presentation or informational graphic.

# African-American Ancestry

Helping your users find their  
African ancestors

## The Challenges

- ▶ Records were not well-kept
  - If you died in infancy, there is a very good chance you're existence was never recorded.
- ▶ Slaves would take the last name of their owners
  - New owner, new last name
  - Some slaves did not have a last name
- ▶ Exact birthdates were not well recorded in Africa
  - Birth year may be an estimate
- ▶ Cemeteries were not well kept
  - Many were hidden and lost to history

# Is there African history in your county?

- ▶ Plantations
  - ▶ Freed Slaves
  - ▶ Shipping
  - ▶ Civil War
- ▶ Finding this information is a tough project and shouldn't be taken lightly.

## Where to Start

- ▶ National Archives ([Archives.gov/research/african-americans](https://www.archives.gov/research/african-americans))
- ▶ North American Slave Narratives ([docsouth.unc.edu/neh/](https://docsouth.unc.edu/neh/))
- ▶ Google Search
- ▶ Find-a-Grave
- ▶ Family Search
- ▶ Historical society
- ▶ Word of Mouth

# National Archives

- ▶ Laid end to end, the sheets of paper would circle the Earth over 57 times.
- ▶ In addition, they have:
  - over 93,000 motion picture films;
  - more than 5.5 million maps, charts, and architectural drawings;
  - more than 207,000 sound and video recordings;
  - more than 18 million aerial photographs;
  - nearly 35 million still pictures and posters;
  - and more than 3.5 billion electronic records.
- ▶ Only 1%-3% are so important for legal or historical reasons that they are kept forever.
- ▶ The volume grows at about 1.4 billion pages per year. Creating copies for the website exceeds the resources at this time.

# National Archives (cont'd.)

- ▶ Pre-Civil War
- ▶ Military Records
- ▶ Post-Civil War
- ▶ Links to Resources
- ▶ Historical Documents
- ▶ The Freedmen's Bureau

The screenshot shows the National Archives website's "African American Heritage" page. At the top, there is a search bar and navigation links for "Blogs", "Bookmark/Share", and "Contact Us". Below the search bar are tabs for "Research Our Records", "Veterans Service Records", "Teachers' Resources", "Our Locations", and "Shop Online". The main heading is "African American Heritage" with a sub-heading "Home > Research Our Records > Topics > African American Research".

The page is divided into two main columns. The left column contains a navigation menu with categories: "Ethnic Heritage" (African American, Chinese, Hispanic, Japanese-American, Native American, Other Ethnic Groups/Nationalities, Ethnic Heritage Links), "Research Our Records" (Main Page, What's New?, New Accessions, On Our Partners' Web Sites, Get Started), "Search Online" (Online Research Tools and Aids, Online Catalog, Access to Archival Databases, Presidential Libraries), and "Research in Person" (Free at the Archives).

The right column features a "Highlights from Our Collection" section with five items: Frederick Douglass (Abolitionist, Author & Orator, ca. 1879), Tuskegee Syphilis Study Memorandum (11/16/1972), First African American Navy Nurse, Phyllis Mae Daley, Civil Rights Act & Voting Rights Act (Act of August 6, 1965), and "Washer Woman" by Hale A. Woodruff. Below this is a "Table of Contents" section with links to "Introduction to Research" (Pre-Civil War, Military Records, Post-Civil War Records), "Links to Resources", and "Related Lesson Plans" (Civil War and Reconstruction (1850-1877)).

The main content area is titled "Introduction to Research and Links to Resources". It includes a section on "Pre-Civil War Records" explaining that African American historical research can be undertaken in both military and civilian records, but documentation is scattered. It notes that success in researching African-American ancestry in the years prior to the Civil War will depend largely on what one's status was, slave or free. It states that slave records are difficult to locate and found rarely at NARA. A paragraph follows discussing census records from 1790-1840 and 1850-1860, mentioning the supplemental slave census and the inclusion of all free blacks in the 1850 and 1860 censuses. It also mentions that beginning in 1870, the census listed the names of all African Americans. (See [Census Records](#)).

The "Military Records" section states that since the time of the American Revolution, African Americans have volunteered to serve their country in time of war. Federal records document this from then to modern times. Records of the American Revolution and the War of 1812 are filled with the services of African Americans. In addition, the Papers of the Continental Congress cite numerous sources around the discussion of slavery and slaves serving in

# North American Slave Narratives

- ▶ Documents the individual and collective story of the African American struggle for freedom and human rights in the eighteenth, nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.
- ▶ It is the goal of the University Library at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to digitize all known extant narratives written by fugitive and former slaves and published as broadsides, pamphlets, or books in English up to 1920.
- ▶ Search by county and city
  - Be careful of cities which could also be a name (e.g: Leander)
  - Confirm the county is in Texas and not another state
- ▶ Slave Narratives: Texas Part IV  
**<http://tinyurl.com/kh3vqot>**

# Penny Thompson

- ▶ Born in Alabama and brought to Tyler, TX in Williamson County
- ▶ “Do I 'member slavery days? Yes, suh! How could I forgit dem? For an old person I has good 'collection. I's 10 year old when de war start and my massa am Calvin Ingram. My mammy and pappy was a weddin' present to Massa Ingram from his pappy. Mammy give birth to 15 chilluns, but I never saw any of my brothers and sisters, 'cause they all born on Massa Ingram's pappy's plantation 'fore he give my mammy to Massa Ingram.”



# Google Search

## ▶ Search terms to try...

- " \_\_\_\_\_ county" +tx slaves
- " \_\_\_\_\_ county" +tx african
- City +tx slaves
- Region slaves

## ▶ Tips for Google Searches

- Any term in quotes searches for that exact term
- A plus sign means you also want to include that term
- Google sees singular and plural words as two different search terms
- Play with these combinations to get several results rather than settling for just one search

# Google Results

"williamson county" +tx slaves

Web Shopping News Images Maps More Search tools

About 25,100 results (0.65 seconds)

**Hidden History - Southwestern University**  
[www.southwestern.edu/live/.../4215-hidden-hist...](http://www.southwestern.edu/live/.../4215-hidden-hist...) Southwestern University  
Feb 2, 2011 - Students in the Texas Slavery class look at the marker in the Old ... are researching and sharing the history of slavery in Williamson County.

**Round Rock Cemetery Williamson County Texas**  
[www.williamson-county-historical-commission.org/.../Round\\_Rock\\_Ce...](http://www.williamson-county-historical-commission.org/.../Round_Rock_Ce...)  
Round Rock Cemetery, an old slave cemetery and Hopewell cemetery. ... of the community as well as Williamson County and the State of Texas as a whole.

**Rocky Hollow Cemetery - Williamson County Historical ...**  
[www.williamson-county-historical-commission.org/.../TEXAS/Rocky-Hol...](http://www.williamson-county-historical-commission.org/.../TEXAS/Rocky-Hol...)  
It was settled by pioneer Negro Slaves who had come to Texas from Union County, Arkansas and it is retained by descendants of these early residents of the ...

**Old Round Rock Cemetery | "The Loss and Recovery of ...**  
<https://slaveryintexas.wordpress.com/2011/01/.../old-round-rock-cemeter...>  
Jan 18, 2011 - A Southwestern University Course on Slavery in Texas ... It was almost saying, "There is a slave cemetery around here..but Sam Bass is Buried here! Oh, and ... is a historical reminder of the early history of Williamson County.

**Round Rock Cemetery - Austin Explorer**  
[www.austinexplorer.com/Locations/ShowLocation.aspx?LocationID...](http://www.austinexplorer.com/Locations/ShowLocation.aspx?LocationID...)  
★★★★★ Rating: 3 - 1 vote  
When the cemetery was first opened slavery continued to exist as an ... was a former Texas Ranger who was serving as Deputy Williamson County Sheriff when ...

**Pond Springs Cemetery Blog | A blog about an historic ...**  
<https://pondspringscemetery.wordpress.com/>  
John Blessingame in 1860 Lavaca County TX Slave Schedule, white, born ca. .... "surviving wife Arza" is selling their homestead in Williamson County Texas.

## Hidden History

### Southwestern English professors are researching and sharing the history of slavery in Williamson County

Williamson County is not a place people typically associate with slavery. After all, there are no large plantations and the major Civil War battles were fought hundreds of miles away.

But slavery did exist in the county, just as it did in other parts of Texas. According to one local source, there were 1,074 slaves in Williamson County from 1837-1864. Most were domestic servants.

Mention of these slaves is excluded from most history books and local communities do not actively grapple with the legacy of slavery. In Georgetown, for example, the historical marker at the town's oldest cemetery makes no reference to a portion of the cemetery devoted to slaves and their descendants.

"Even Southwestern University has secrets regarding slavery," said Carina Evans, assistant professor of English, noting that that one of the school's founding institutions, McKenzie College, was supported by slave labor and a plantation economy.

Evans is one of two English professors from Southwestern are trying to "recover" the hidden history of slavery in Texas through their research and a new course they are offering this spring.

Evans has always been interested in slavery since her scholarship focuses on African-American literature. But the subject became personal five years ago when she discovered that members of her father's family were slaves in Jackson, Miss.

Elizabeth Stockton, an English professor who focuses on 19<sup>th</sup> century American literature, became familiar with slavery since the period she is particularly interested in, 1840-1864, is when the abolition movement was active.

The two received an \$11,367 grant to fund their research from a grant to Southwestern from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The two used some of the grant money to hire Susan Garrard, a junior majoring in English and history, to help with their research.

Evans and Stockton spent the summer of 2010 visiting towns in Texas where slavery and post-bellum African-American communities were most prevalent, such as Galveston and Marshall. They also found slave narratives in the Williamson Museum and spoke with members of the Macedonia Baptist Church in Georgetown, who gave them genealogies of some of their oldest members. Using this information, they were able to match existing lists of slaves in Williamson County to markers in local cemeteries.



Students in the Texas Slavery class look at the marker in the Old Georgetown Cemetery. The marker says the cemetery contains the graves of "pioneer citizens of Georgetown," but says nothing about the fact that slaves may be buried there as well.

# Google Results (cont'd.)

"williamson county" +tx african

Web Maps News Shopping Images More Search tools

About 518,000 results (0.77 seconds)

**Wesley Chapel A.M.E Church - Williamson County Historical ...**  
[www.williamson-county-historical-commission.org/...TEXAS/Wesley\\_C...](http://www.williamson-county-historical-commission.org/...TEXAS/Wesley_C...)  
Richard Robert Haywood, an early Texas missionary in the African Methodist Episcopal church. Trustees of the church bought land at this site in 1881, and ...

**Williamson County African American Chamber of ...**  
[www.african-americanchamber.org/photo\\_gallery](http://www.african-americanchamber.org/photo_gallery)  
Nov 29, 2014 - Miss Jr. Teen - Austin/Cedar Park Small Biz Saturday Scavenger Hunt Give-a-Way and Celebrations \*\*\*\*

**Hidden History - Southwestern University**  
[www.southwestern.edu/live/.../4215-hidden-hist...](http://www.southwestern.edu/live/.../4215-hidden-hist...) Southwestern University  
Feb 2, 2011 - Students in the Texas Slavery class look at the marker in the Old ... professors are researching and sharing the history of slavery in Williamson County ... in slavery since her scholarship focuses on African-American literature.

**[PDF] Region I South Texas - The University of Texas at Austin**  
[www.utexas.edu/world/.../Region6.pdf](http://www.utexas.edu/world/.../Region6.pdf) University of Texas at Austin  
For research and preservation of African American History in Texas ..... "Williamson County Sesquicentennial" by Austin American Statesman. 1998. The library ...

**Brazos Valley African American Museum | Brazos Trail Region**  
[texasbrazostrail.com/plan.../brazos-valley-african-american-museum](http://texasbrazostrail.com/plan.../brazos-valley-african-american-museum)  
ANCIENT HERITAGE, MODERN CULTURE The history of African Americans in Texas represents a compelling story of struggle and triumph for fellow Texans, ...

**Williamson County Courthouse | Brazos Trail Region**  
[texasbrazostrail.com](http://texasbrazostrail.com) Plan Your Adventure Historic Sites and Cities  
Officially known as the Williamson County Courthouse Historic District, the restored ... public space anchored by the splendid (and restored) Williamson County Courthouse. ... Participant in the Texas Historical Commission's ..... African American Heritage, European Heritage, Historic Bridges, Railroads, Schools and

 **Williamson County Historical Commission**  
contact Wayne Ware (512) 863-2202

Home About News Cemeteries History Calendar Links

**Wesley Chapel A.M.E Church Historical Marker**  
circa 1904



508 West 4th Street  
Wesley Chapel A.M.E Church



click on thumbnail image for an enlarged view

GPS Coordinates  
Latitude: 30.64000 - Longitude: -97.68175

# Google Results (cont'd.)

georgetown +tx slaves

Web Shopping News Images Videos More Search tools

About 25,600 results (0.59 seconds)

**Hidden History - Southwestern University**  
[www.southwestern.edu/live/.../4215-hidden-hist...](http://www.southwestern.edu/live/.../4215-hidden-hist...) Southwestern University  
Feb 2, 2011 - Students in the Texas Slavery class look at the marker in the Old Georgetown Cemetery. The marker says the cemetery contains the graves of ...

**Rocky Hollow also known as Little Arkansas Bullion and ...**  
[www.williamson-county-historical-commission.org/GEORGETOWN\\_TE...](http://www.williamson-county-historical-commission.org/GEORGETOWN_TE...)  
The Sedwick Cemetery was on land that Lake Georgetown now covers and the ... It was settled by pioneer Negro Slaves who had come to Texas from Union ...

**Alphabetical Listing - African Americans in Texas**  
[www.africanamericansintexas.com/alphabetical-listing/W](http://www.africanamericansintexas.com/alphabetical-listing/W)  
... to visit, if possible. 508 W. 4th St. Georgetown, TX 78626 (Map it) ... This church was established at the end of the Civil War for former slaves. Designations:.

**Round Rock Cemetery Williamson County Texas**  
[www.williamson-county-historical-commission.org/.../Round\\_Rock\\_Ce...](http://www.williamson-county-historical-commission.org/.../Round_Rock_Ce...)  
Round Rock Cemetery, an old slave cemetery and Hopewell cemetery. ... who died July 21, 1878, two days after being shot by Texas Rangers in Round Rock.

**Old Round Rock Cemetery | "The Loss and Recovery of ...**  
<https://slaveryintexas.wordpress.com/2011/01/.../old-round-rock-cemeter...>  
Jan 18, 2011 - A Southwestern University Course on Slavery in Texas ... After that one brief statement about the slaves and African Americans ... Like old Georgetown Cemetery, the area was heavily wooded and had not been cleared.

**[PDF] Region I South Texas - The University of Texas at Austin**  
[www.utexas.edu/world/.../Region6.pdf](http://www.utexas.edu/world/.../Region6.pdf) University of Texas at Austin  
Africa in the Americas: Slavery in Spanish and Portuguese Realms ..... The chair of the group is Ethel Moore, 704 W 8th Street, Georgetown, TX 78626, ...

 Williamson County Historical Commission  
contact Wayne Ware (512) 863-2202

Home About News Cemeteries History Calendar Links

**Rocky Hollow (also known as) - Little Arkansas - Bullion and Sedwick Cemetery Historical Marker**  
Williamson County, Georgetown / Andice, Rocky Hollow community Texas

new as of 9-10-10



old photo



# Google Results (cont'd.)

"williamson county" +tx +african

Web Images Maps Shopping More Search tools

About 56,300 results (0.82 seconds)

**Williamson County African American Chamber of ...**  
[www.african-americanchamber.org/](http://www.african-americanchamber.org/)  
 The Mission of the Williamson County African American Chamber of Commerce is to provide: \* Information to our members which will help them achieve their ...

**Williamson County African-American Psychiatrist - African ...**  
[psychiatrists.psychologytoday.com](http://psychiatrists.psychologytoday.com) Start Texas - TX  
 Find African-American Psychiatrists in Williamson, Texas (TX), get help from a Williamson County African-American Psychiatrist in Williamson County ( expanded ...

**Travis County - African American Rural Schools**  
<https://www.traviscountytx.gov/historical-commission/rural-schools>  
 African American Rural Schools. At one time Travis County hosted forty-two rural schools for black children. Without telephones and other modern tools of ...

**Williamson County - Texas State Historical Association**  
[www.tshaonline.org/handbook/](http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/) Texas State Historical Association  
 About · Browse · Search · Texas Day by Day · Civil War Texas · African American Texas · Texas Lighthouses · Contact ... Williamson County (K-17), in Central Texas, is on the Balcones Escarpment just north of ... Williamson County is also crossed by four railroads, the Southern Pacific, the ..... Marlow, TX (Fort Bend County).

**Williamson County, Texas - FamilySearch**  
<https://familysearch.org/> Williamson County, Texas Ge... FamilySearch  
 Feb 6, 2015 - Williamson County, Texas Genealogy Edit This Page ... African American Cemeteries Online ~ Partial index/transcriptions of African American ...



**The Mission of the Williamson County African American Chamber of Commerce is to provide:**

- \* **Information** to our members which will help them achieve their specific business goals;
- \* Guidance in **Communicating** the needs and goals of our members to the community at large;
- \* **Empowerment** of our members in achieving economic
- \* **Success** through our knowledge, skills, resources, connections and relationships throughout the Williamson County community;
- \* Increasing **Awareness** of our member's interests and or concerns with local business and community leaders along with government officials.

**WCAACC Membership Includes:**

Advertising  
Referrals

**Call Us Today!**

*Please contact us!*

*We look forward to hearing from you.*

OFFICE: (512) 426-4911

HOME  
 WHO IS THE WCAACC?  
 BUSINESS CORNER  
 EXECUTIVE BOARD  
 UPCOMING EVENTS  
 THANK YOU  
 WCAACC'S NEWSLETTER  
 CONTACT US  
 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION  
 PHOTO GALLERY

# Google Results (cont'd.)

georgetown +tx african ancestry

Web News Images Shopping Videos More Search tools

About 7,120 results (0.68 seconds)

**Alphabetical Listing - African Americans in Texas**  
[www.africanamericansintexas.com/alphabetical-listing/W](http://www.africanamericansintexas.com/alphabetical-listing/W) 508 W. 4th St. Georgetown, TX 78626 (Map it) ... houses feature a design—three to five rooms with no hallways—with origins in Africa and the Caribbean.

**W.H. Passon Historical Society - RootsWeb**  
[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txwhphs/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txwhphs/) Mr. Passon made many contributions toward the preservation of African American ... of the history of the African American population in Austin, Texas in 1907. ... who protect, enhance and reflect respect for Austin's African American heritage.

**Institute of Texan Cultures | Hill Country Trail Region**  
[txhillcountrytrail.com](http://txhillcountrytrail.com) > Plan Your Adventure > Historic Sites and Cities What about German, Wendish, Jewish, African American, or Greek? The Institute explores the dozens of heritage lines that comprised the Texas culture we, and ...

**Texas State Cemetery | Hill Country Trail Region**  
[txhillcountrytrail.com](http://txhillcountrytrail.com) > Plan Your Adventure > Historic Sites and Cities You may even have somebody like that among your own ancestry. But we also have one cemetery where everyone has a place of honor – the Texas State ...

**Parkside At Mayfield Ranch neighborhood in Georgetown ...**  
[www.city-data.com/.../Parkside-At-Mayfield-Ranch-Georgeto...](http://www.city-data.com/.../Parkside-At-Mayfield-Ranch-Georgeto...) City-Data Parkside At Mayfield Ranch neighborhood, Georgetown, Texas (TX), 78681 detailed profile.

**Pros and Cons of living in Sun City Georgetown (Austin: lease ...**  
[www.city-data.com](http://www.city-data.com) > ... > US Forums > Texas > Austin City-Data Apr 15, 2008 - 10 posts - 6 authors  
We're considering the purchase of a home in Sun City Georgetown. We're mid-60s, both retired recently as scientists in the pharmaceutical ...

**Bikes stolen in Cedar Breaks Park, Georgetown (Austin ...** 9 posts Nov 6, 2012

## AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE

**JUNETEENTH AND BEYOND**



Sandra Reed, Bastrop

the state toward a freer, more democratic society.

The story of the African American presence in Texas history follows the familiar script written for every other southern region in the nation: slavery brought most African Americans to the state. By the mid-1800s, slavery played an important role in Texas' economic development and, in fact, enslaved African Americans comprised 30 percent of the state's population by 1860. Freedom for the African American in Texas finally arrived on June 19, 1865, known as Juneteenth, and the end of the Civil War. After secession and during reconstruction, federal intervention was required once again to insure the protection of civil rights in Texas, ushering in an era that saw African Americans helping the Texas economy recover from the Civil War, serving in the state legislature, and helping to guide

Her success was short-lived, however, as segregation established a grip on the state that wouldn't be released for another 60 years. Despite what seemed like impossible odds during this period, African Americans in Texas were able to build communities and businesses, allowing economies and cultures to thrive. Today, we recognize the important contributions made by African Americans to Texas by commemorating their heritage in our museums, with our celebrations, and in our history books.

Journey through the African American culture and heritage in Texas with the Texas Historical Commission's travel resources. Use the links and map below to explore historic sites that tell the real stories of Africans Americans in Texas. The *African Americans in Texas: A Lasting Legacy* travel guide, published in 2011, is also available by [download](#) (PDF) or in print by submitting an [order form](#).



### HISTORIC SITES

<b>African American Heritage Cultural District</b> Austin	<b>Calaboose African American History Museum</b> San Marcos	<b>Clarksville Historic District</b> Austin
<b>Connelly-Yearwood House</b> Austin	<b>David Chapel Missionary Baptist Church</b> Austin	<b>First Colored Baptist Church (now First Baptist Church)</b> Austin

### HERITAGE REGION MAP



Click to explore a map of the Hill Country Trail Region

### EXPLORE THE REGION

Themes  
 [Browse All Themes](#)

Sites & Attractions  
 [Browse All Sites](#)

Cities  
 [Browse All Cities](#)

### STATEWIDE SEARCH

Visit our Texas Time Travel website to see all sites in Texas.

# Google Results (cont'd.)

"central texas" slaves

Web Images Videos News Shopping More Search tools

About 173,000 results (0.44 seconds)

**Slavery - Texas State Historical Association**  
<https://www.tshaonline.org/.../yps01> Texas State Historical Association  
Enough of Austin's original 300 families brought slaves with them that a census of ... was 72 percent slave in 1860, while north central Texas, the area from Hunt ...

**Waco History Project: Slavery**  
[wacohistoryproject.org/Slavery/slaveryshadows.htm](http://wacohistoryproject.org/Slavery/slaveryshadows.htm)  
Although slavery arrived much later in Texas than it did in many other Southern states, the institution was certainly no stranger in Waco and Central Texas in the ...

**Slavery on the Frontier: The Peculiar Institution in Central ...**  
[www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/01440399908575278](http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/01440399908575278)  
by WD Carrigan - 1999 - Cited by 2 - Related articles  
The Peculiar Institution in Central Texas. WILLIAM DEAN CARRIGAN. Elsewhere at the South, slavery had seemed to be accepted generally, as a natural ...

**Going South and West - AAME : image**  
[www.inmotiona...](http://www.inmotiona...) In Motion: The African-American Migration Experience  
THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE ... THE DOMESTIC SLAVE TRADE ... Slavery of the Frontier: The Peculiar Institution of Slavery in Central Texas from ...

**Artifacts, descendants tell story of freed slaves in Texas ...**  
[www.utexas.edu/features/2010/09/.../artifact...](http://www.utexas.edu/features/2010/09/.../artifact...) University of Texas at Austin  
Sep 20, 2010 - The discipline has its roots in the study of black slavery and has been a .... and more specifically to how Central Texas came to be what it is..

**Slavery | TSLAC**  
<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/treasures/earlystate/slavery-01.html> Texas  
Jun 17, 2011 - Most slaves came to Texas with their owners, and the vast majority lived ... They were pushing slavery westward into Central Texas at the time ...

**'Tomlinson Hill' is an honest look at slavery in Texas ...**  
[www.houstonchronicle.com/.../Tomlinson-Hill-is-an-honest-look-at-slav...](http://www.houstonchronicle.com/.../Tomlinson-Hill-is-an-honest-look-at-slav...)  
Jul 18, 2014 - But he also learned that his ancestors had been slave owners and that ... slave plantation in Central Texas about 25 miles southeast of Waco.



## Slavery in Waco

[Slaves in the Shadows of the Past](#) | [Slavery Must Be Faced](#) | [Growth of Slavery](#) | [Aspects of Slave Life](#)

### Slaves in the Shadows of the Past: The Institution Was No Stranger to the Waco Area in the Mid-1800s

Slavery in Waco, Part 1 of a series

By: Karla Price

Although slavery arrived much later in Texas than it did in many other Southern states, the institution was certainly no stranger in Waco and Central Texas in the mid-1800s.

Slaves were with the founders of Waco from the beginning of their journeys across the South. The first of those settlers was Shapley Ross, who came to Waco in March of 1849 and bought much land.

The Ross family, with the help of other settlers, built the first home in Waco. Ross and his wife, Catherine, brought with them two slaves, Armstead and Lucindy, who are listed as two of the original 21 settlers of Waco, according to Patricia Wallace, Baylor University associate professor and historian.

Other families, including the McLennan's, the Walkers, the Eraths and the Earles, brought their slaves with them when they settled in Waco in the early 1850s.

The fertile land of Central Texas attracted many of Waco's first settlers from the Deep South, said Waco historian Roger Conger.

"While lots of Texas in frontier days was cattle country, McLennan County was actually a planter culture, because the leaders who came here in the 1850s, which was the first decade of Waco history, were almost all, even the lawyers, from a planter culture over in Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia and elsewhere," he said. "The rich soil of the Bosque and Brazos rivers was an attraction.["]

"It was a wonderful opportunity for these planter people, so they opened up these big plantations in the 1850s, and of course most of them brought slaves with them from Alabama and Mississippi," Conger added.

"The growing value of cotton as a cash crop was another factor in the rise of

# Find-a-Grave

- ▶ Find-a-grave has African cemeteries, but it isn't easy to find them.
  - Google Search: findagrave african williamson or findagrave slave williamson

**(F) Slave Cemetery**  
A [Virtual Cemetery](#) created by: [Derric Deon](#)

**Description:** Slaves graves that have been forgotten but not in our hearts.

Records **41 to 80** (of **103** total matches)

← [Records 1 - 40](#) [Records 81 - 103](#) →

Name	All Names	Cemetery
<a href="#">Find your ancestors at Ancestry.com</a>		
<a href="#">Slave, Baby</a> ❤️ 🌸 🪦 b. unknown d. unknown		<a href="#">Moore Cemetery</a> Rally Hill Maury County Tennessee, USA
<a href="#">Slave, Black</a> 🌸 b. unknown d. unknown		<a href="#">Taylor Island Cemetery</a> Iola Grimes County Texas, USA
<a href="#">Slave, Child of "Aunt Mary," A</a> 🌸 b. unknown d. unknown		<a href="#">Freeman Cemetery</a> Little River County Arkansas, USA
<a href="#">Slave, Unknown</a> 🌸 🪦 b. unknown d. unknown		<a href="#">Slave Cemetery</a> Round Rock Williamson County Texas, USA
<a href="#">Slave, Freed Female</a> ❤️ 🌸 🪦 b. unknown d. unknown		<a href="#">Shiloh Cemetery</a> Shook Wayne County Missouri, USA

# Family Search

- ▶ You can do a census search with the following information to find those citizens who are black.
  - [https://familysearch.org/search/record/results?count=75&englishSubcountryName=Texas&query=%2Bresidence\\_place%3A%22Williamson%20County%2C%20TX%22~%20%2Bresidence\\_year%3A1880~%20%2Bbrace%3ABlack~%20%2Brecord\\_country%3A%22United%20States%22%20%2Brecord\\_subcountry%3A%22United%20States%2CTexas%22%20%2Brecord\\_type%3A%283%29](https://familysearch.org/search/record/results?count=75&englishSubcountryName=Texas&query=%2Bresidence_place%3A%22Williamson%20County%2C%20TX%22~%20%2Bresidence_year%3A1880~%20%2Bbrace%3ABlack~%20%2Brecord_country%3A%22United%20States%22%20%2Brecord_subcountry%3A%22United%20States%2CTexas%22%20%2Brecord_type%3A%283%29)
    - ▶ <http://tinyurl.com/lh7f5xd>
  - You cannot add race to a filter. You have to add it as a hidden filter like above.
  - This shows people who resided in Williamson County, TX.
- ▶ If you do a full search from 1750-1950 for Williamson County, TX, you get over 3.5 million results, so choose your battles.
  - 1880 came back with 1,621 results.
  - Some counties in northeastern Texas may go back farther than central Texas.

**Refine your search**

**Deceased Ancestor's Name**

First Names

Last Names

**Search with a life event:**

[Birth](#)

[Marriage](#)

Residence Place

Residence Year (Range)

 

[Death](#)

[Any](#)

**Search with a relationship:**

[Spouse](#)

[Parents](#)

[Other Person](#)

**Restrict records by:**

Country

State or Province

Birth, Baptism, and Christenings

Marriage

**Records**

**Collections**

**Search Results from Historical Records**

1-75 of 1,621 results for Race: **Black**, Event: **Residence**, Place: **Williamson County, TX**, Country: **United States**, State or Province: **Texas**, Record Type: **Census, Residence & Lists**

Number of results to show:

[Export Results 1-75](#)

Preview	Name	Events	Relationships	Details	In
▶	<a href="#">Jeanie Aryain</a> Head United States Census, 1880	<b>birth:</b> 1850 Texas, United States <b>residence:</b> 1880 Georgetown, Williamson, Texas, United States	<b>children:</b> Albert Aryain, Alice Aryain		
▶	<a href="#">Albert Aryain</a> Son United States Census, 1880	<b>birth:</b> 1869 Texas, United States <b>residence:</b> 1880 Georgetown, Williamson, Texas, United States	<b>mother:</b> Jeanie Aryain <b>other:</b> Alice Aryain		
▶	<a href="#">Alice Aryain</a> Daughter United States Census, 1880	<b>birth:</b> 1872 Texas, United States <b>residence:</b> 1880 Georgetown, Williamson, Texas, United States	<b>mother:</b> Jeanie Aryain <b>other:</b> Albert Aryain		
▶	<a href="#">Hart Jo True</a> Head United States Census, 1880	<b>birth:</b> 1795 Virginia, United States <b>residence:</b> 1880 Precinct 8, Williamson, Texas, United States	<b>spouse:</b> Eadey True		
▶	<a href="#">Eadey True</a> Wife United States Census, 1880	<b>birth:</b> 1800 Virginia, United States <b>residence:</b> 1880 Precinct 8, Williamson, Texas, United States	<b>spouse:</b> Hart Jo True		
▶	<a href="#">Edlie White</a> Mother United States Census, 1880	<b>birth:</b> 1813 Georgia, United States <b>residence:</b> 1880 Precinct 2, Williamson, Texas, United States	<b>child:</b> James Washington <b>other:</b> Iona Washington, Clinton Washington, J Washington, William Washington, Aaron		

Preview

Name

Events

Rel



### Jeanie Aryain

United States Census, 1880

Name:	Jeanie Aryain
Event Type:	Census
Event Year:	1880
Event Place:	Georgetown, Williamson, Texas, United States
Gender:	Female
Age:	30
Marital Status:	Widowed
Race:	Black
Race (Original):	B
Occupation:	Washwoman
Relationship to Head of Household:	Self
Relationship to Head of Household (Original):	Self
Birth Year (Estimated):	1850
Birthplace:	Texas, United States
Affiliate Name:	The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)
Affiliate Publication Number:	T9
Affiliate Film Number:	1332

Household	Role	Gender	Age	Birthplace
<b>Jeanie Aryain</b>	Self	F	30	Texas, United States
<a href="#">Albert Aryain</a>	Son	M	11	Texas, United States
<a href="#">Alice Aryain</a>	Daughter	F	8	Texas, United

# Historical Society

- ▶ Many historical societies have done research on African ancestry in their county.
- ▶ Of particular interest will be cemeteries and bibles.
- ▶ Also check for wills around the time period as some owners left their slaves to family members upon their death.

## Source Citation

This provides evidence for the following events for William Corley: Custom Event

### Source Citation

#### Citation Information

##### Transcription of text

William Corley for love and affection to the children of my daughter, Elizabeth Dillard, a negro woman named Susan, about 24 years of age. 22 Jun 1841 (P. 60)

##### Detail

##### Date

##### Other information

##### Web Address

#### Source Information

##### Source Title ([view source details](#))

Wilson County, Tennessee Trust Deeds 1828-1868

##### Source Repository ([view repository details](#))

Montgomery County Library Genealogy Department

#### Associated Facts/Events

Custom Event

## Word of Mouth

- ▶ I recommend placing a request for information on your African-American Ancestry page asking for information, but this probably won't generate many leads.
- ▶ If you have any African churches in the county, contacting them would also be a great way to generate information.
  - Ask for family histories or biographies.
  - Bring a scanner if someone has interest in donating old photos.
- ▶ You can set up a Google alert to let you know if something new shows up online.
- ▶ Lastly, ask the historical society to let you know if they find out anything new.

# African American Ancestry in Williamson County



*Williamson County, Texas*

- Home
- History
- African Ancestry
- Records
- Census
- Military
- Obituaries
- Cemeteries
- Photos
- Surnames
- People
- Bibles
- Resources
- Lookups
- Contact

County Archives  
All Texas Counties  
Nominate This Site  
Site Map

## AFRICAN ANCESTRY

I need help with this page. If you have photos, stories, biographies, records, etc. to add to this page, please [let me know](#). I would love to add as much information as possible about African families in the county.

### Links

- [African American Heritage at the National Archives](#)
- [African American Heritage Cultural District](#)
- [Free Inhabitants and Slave Schedules for the 1850 Census for Williamson County](#)
- [Hidden History](#)
- [North American Slave Narratives](#)
- [Slave Narratives: Texas Part IV](#)
- [Texas, Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, 1865-1870](#)
- [Texas Hill Country Trail Region](#)
- [Williamson County African American Chamber of Commerce](#)

### African American Ancestry in Williamson County

- [Wesley Chapel A.M.E Church](#)

### African Cemeteries

- [Kimbrow Cemetery](#)
- [Rocky Hollow Cemetery](#)
- [Slave Cemetery](#)
- [Union Baptist Cemetery](#)

### Census

- [1880 Census](#)
- [1900 Census](#)
- [1910 Census](#)

### Families

- [Fisher Family](#)
- [Thompson Family](#)

### Slavery

- [Mather Cabin](#)
- [Pickle-Mason House](#)