



Tracing Back to Slavery?

It is much easier than you think!

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What is SDUSMP?

- First lineage society sole membership based on US enslavement
- Founded in 2013; incorporated in DC in 2014
- 501(c)3 organization.
- Approaching 100 members.
- Over 100 identified ancestors (enslaved people in the United States).
- Hold Annual Conferences, Issue Book and Service Awards, Support other organizations.
- Mission–To **C**onnect Members, **C**ommemorate Ancestors, and **E**ducate the world about the horrors of US slavery.
- We do not have an official stance of reparations.



Eligibility Requirements

“Any person is eligible for legatee membership in the National Society of the Sons and Daughters of the United States Middle Passage (SDUSMP) who is not less than eighteen years of age and who can prove lineal descent from a man, woman, or child who is of African descent and was forced into slavery, including indentured servitude, in the United States of America, including its colonial days, before the end of slavery as marked by the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution, effective December 1865 and the Indian Treaties of 1866.”



Purpose

1. Assure the committee of the absolute possibility for the vast majority of descendants of individuals enslaved under the horrors of U.S. chattel slavery institution to connect themselves to their aggrieved, but triumphant ancestors.
2. Propose ideas for more efficient ways to accomplish this task of identifying enslaved ancestors.

Negative Evidence

“An inference one can draw from the absence of what should exist under given circumstances....”

As defined in, Evidence Explained; Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace, E. S. Mills, 2017

Step 1: Find Parents with Their Parents on Latest Census



- Determine your parent's and grandparent's names and places and dates of birth and death.
- Starting at the most recent published census, find your parents living with their parents. The 1940 census is published; however, 1950 census will be available in April 2022.
- Keep going back until you find parent with their parent(s). For my parent (father), Ervin Aniton, I located him in Oneonta, Alabama living with his parents, Boston and Irene Aniton in 1940. Confirm details.

Ervin Aniton, Boston	Head	M	Reg 45	M	No 6	Alabama	
—, Irene	Wife	F	Reg 42	M	No 4	Alabama	
—, Edwice	Daughter	F	Reg 20	S	No 7	Alabama	
—, Estelle	Daughter	S	Reg 19	S	No 8	Alabama	
—, B. Charles	Son	M	Reg 17	S	No 6	Alabama	
—, William W	Son	M	Reg 15	S	No 5	Alabama	
—, Irvin	Son	M	Reg 14	S	No 3	Alabama	

Screenshot from ancestry.com

Step 2: Find Grandparents Living with Their Parents

- Obtain the names and places and dates of birth and death of your parents' grandparents. Try to get birth or death certificates. My father told me his grandparents name were Easter and William Aniton. Confirmed this information on my grandfather's death certificate.



CERTIFICATE OF DEATH											
STATE OF ALABAMA											
1. PLACE OF DEATH a. COUNTY		b. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION		3. NAME OF HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION		4. DATE OF DEATH		5. SEX		6. COLOR OR RACE	
BLOUNT 05025		ONEONTA		D. O. A. TO HOSPITAL		10-10		MALE		3 NEGOR	
MAY NO.		6. IN PLACE OF DEATH (INSIDE CITY LIMITS?)		7. MARRIED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NEVER MARRIED <input type="checkbox"/>		8. DATE OF BIRTH		9. AGE (In years last birthday)		10a. USUAL OCCUPATION (Give kind of work done during most of working life)	
		YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		WIDOWED <input type="checkbox"/> DIVORCED <input type="checkbox"/>		1-24-1889		78		LABOR	
2. USUAL RESIDENCE (Where deceased live before admission)		c. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION		8. LENGTH OF STAY IN 3b		9. BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country)		11. FATHER'S NAME		12. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME	
ALABAMA		ONEONTA 05				BLOUNT Co., ALA.		WILLIAM ANITON		EASTER STANON	
c. STATE		d. STREET ADDRESS		13. WAS DECEASED EVER IN U. S. ARMED FORCES? (Yes, no, or unknown) (If yes, give war or dates of service)		14. SOCIAL SECURITY NO.		15. INFORMANT'S NAME		16. NAME OF BU	
ALABAMA		RT. 1 BOX 298		YES / WORLD WAR I				IRINE		IRINE	
								Address RT. 1 BOX 298,			

My Grandfather's, Boston, Lincoln Aniton's Death Certificate

Step 2: Find Grandparents with Parents

- Obtain the names and places and dates of birth and death of your parents' grandparents. Try to get birth or death certificates. My father told me his grandparents name were Easter and William Aniton. Confirmed this information on my grandfather's death certificate.
- Find grandparent with their parent on the census. I found them on the 1910 census, living in Blount County, Alabama.



1910 United States Federal Census for Esther Aniton

Alabama > Blount > Oneonta > District 0020

Save

Slavery!

Name	Relation	Sex	Race	Age	Marital S	Years Ma	Children	Children	Birthplace	Father's Birthplace	Mother's Birthplace	Immigrat
Aniton, William	Head	M	W	41	M	11	3		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	
Esther	Wife	F	W	37	M	10	0		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	
John	Son	M	W	12	S	0	0		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	
John	Son	M	W	10	S	0	0		Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	

Screenshot from Ancestry.com

Establish Negative Evidence

- The Alabama State Legislature passed Act 44 (Slavery Code), effectively eliminating its free people of color population by threatening to torture and re-enslave them.
- Consequently, any black or mulatto person born in Alabama after 2-1-1833 but before December 1865 (passage of 13th Amendment), was most likely enslaved.
- “Free” individuals are enumerated on the non slave census; look on 1860 and 1850 censuses.

1832—(8)
Sec. 9.
Free persons
of color for
settling in
the state, to
receive thirty-
nine lashes.
Not depart-
ing within
twenty days
after punish-
ment, to be
sold as a
slave for one
year.

§ 30. From and after the first day of February next, it shall not be lawful for any free person of color to settle within the limits of this state; and should any free person of color, after that time, settle in this state, he, she, or they shall, on notice of this act, depart within thirty days, or shall be liable, on conviction before any justice of the peace, to receive thirty-nine lashes; and any person may arrest any such free person of color, and take him or her before any justice of the peace for trial; and if any such free person of color shall not depart this state within twenty days after the infliction of the punishment last mentioned, he or she shall be liable to be arrested by any person, and be taken before a justice of the peace for trial, and on conviction by such justice, shall be ordered to be sold as a slave for the term of one year for ready money, ten days' notice being given of the time of sale,

Proof of Enslavement

Easter Staton Aniton (Anderton)

Census Year= 1910-58 =

Calculated year of birth 1852

Excerpts from 1910 Census for William and Easter Aniton

The image shows three rows of handwritten census data. The first row is for William Aniton, with 'W' in the first column, 'M. Mar 49, 1831' in the second, and 'Alabama' in the third, fourth, and fifth columns. The second row is for Easter Aniton, with 'E. Apr 57, 1852' in the second column, and 'Alabama' in the third, fourth, and fifth columns. The third row is for another individual, with 'M. Mar 21, 1852' in the second column, and 'Alabama' in the third, fourth, and fifth columns.

- Easter Staton Aniton was born in Alabama in 1852, between 1833-1865 and identified as “Black”.
- Her mother was born in Alabama, establishing long roots in slave state and a mother who would have been enslaved.
- Easter Staton (nee) and parents were not enumerated on the 1850 and 1860 non slave census.

For SDUSMP, we request more details of the experience of enslavement—who, when, what, where, how? Lest We Forget! Remember Slavery!

Negative Evidence–A Database Proposal

- According to the 1850 and 1860 censuses, fewer than 10,000 individuals immigrated to the United States as “Free people of color” with most coming from the West Indies.
- Developing a database of individuals and their descendants who immigrated to the United States as “Free” would help to generate a key source of negative evidence. We may also add free individuals who were living in the Spanish colonies and unclaimed territories (Naturalized) before they became a part of the United States prior to 1865. If an ancestor was born before the end of slavery, living in the United States, and not on the ***Free People of Color Immigration and Naturalization List***, the ancestor would be considered enslaved or coming from a lineage of slavery.
- In addition, to honor the millions and millions of individuals who lost their freedom, families, lives, and fruit of their labor, our government could help to create a vast database of enslaved individuals, using negative evidence and help descendants connect to them.

Thank You!

Do you have any
questions?

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@SDUSMP