

Discover Your Roots – March 11, 2023 – Track 3, 11:00 a.m.

African American Research - Stories from the Journeys of Slave Ancestors/Descendants

This segment is presented with the understanding that, of the forty-one point one million persons (41,100,000 African-Americans), representing roughly, 13.6 percent of the total population of the United States, will find varying degrees of increased difficulty in learning about their family history¹

“I have spent a lifetime looking for my ancestral connections. These records are sacred to me...Every find in African American research is a precious miracle...” Co-author Sharon Leslie Morgan’s words, remind me to never underestimate the ‘breadcrumbs’ ancestors left for us, the discovery, that often lead to amazing stories of people that bring us, face-to-face to ourselves.

Marietta Stevens Crichlow and Linda Crichlow White, offer an exceptional “Historical Genealogical Memoir,” generously supported by relevant photographs, documents, (including a 1860 U.S. Federal Census-Slave Schedule) and verbal accounts passed from generations past to present, in their writing of *APPOMATTOX WHO, WHAT, WHY, WHEN, WHERE?*

<https://www.backtherethen.com/>

Write the story! Let all of your senses be engaged so the story has depth and texture!

The second example of the makings of a story is presented based on the discovery of a written letter by a person who was born in Louisiana in 1862 to his niece, in response to her questions about her recently deceased father.

Writing the stories...difficult task, even today, with history ‘white washing,’ downgrading African - American Studies in the “anti-woke” movement, etc.

“If the stories are not written, a direct effect on the nature of the reading level must, assuredly have a detrimental result in the communities of color.” Jean B. Randall

Between 1740 and 1834 Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North and South Carolina, and Virginia all passed anti-literacy laws.³

Literacy rates in America are not as impressive as it should be...

Beginning with the ‘Sacred Historic Letter,’ we populated a pedigree chart for Harry and Antione Rosemond

¹ Pew Research Center article, *Family history, slavery and knowledge of Black history*, by Kiana Cox and Christine Tamir - April 14, 2022: <https://www.pewresearch.org/race-ethnicity/2022/04/14/black-americans-family-history-slavery-and-knowledge-of-black-history/>

² Gather at the Table: The Healing Journey of a Daughter of Slavery and a Son of the Slave Trade by Thomas Norman DeWolf and Sharon Morgan

³ Cornelius, Janet Duitsman (1991). *The When I Can Read My Title Clear: Literacy, Slavery, and Religion in the Antebellum South*. Columbia, South Carolina: University of South Carolina Press.

Research work on this project began before 2005, prior to Hurricane Katrina, with the assistance of Camille Dumas, Antione Rosemond's granddaughter (1924-2012). Camille (Janice Coleman's mother) referred to her copy of the letter (sent to her by Tena Rosemond around 1970).

The beginning of this story has begun already! Antione, the author (or writer) of the letter, is one of two individuals residing in the home at 639 Dupre, who can read and write (English)—Jane Rosemond, Antione and Camellia's eighteen-year-old daughter is the other individual deemed literate in the 1900 Census.⁴

The story is largely based on 'the letter,' a rare, sacred, record of the history of the family of Joseph Rosemond, Antione and Harry's father, and much, much more!⁵

What does Tena want to 'figure' out?

1. "I don't think your grandfather wanted you all to know he was born a slave..."
Was my uncle, Antione a slave?
2. "...I think my father was the only one of them born free. (after the emancipation proclamation)..."
Was my father Harry the only child of Joseph Rosemond born free?
3. "As you see he was born February 7, 1867, just 2 years after they were freed, and his father took them to New Orleans."
Was my father the only one of the twelve siblings free (because of the Emancipation Proclamation/End of the Civil War/the 1865 adoption of the Thirteenth Amendment)?
4. "...I hope Pat will get a chance to do some too after reading this letter. I am sending some extra blanks for her."
Pat, can you (and your mother, Camille) begin filling out a pedigree chart for your family, including my uncle, and your grandfather, using the blank forms I've provided?

The answers to questions 1, 2 and 3 were answered by Antione Rosemond and the history of Harriett Rosemond.⁶ After Harriett came to Louisiana, sometime prior to 1840 when she bought a home in St. James Parish (Convent, Louisiana).⁷

Thanks to Camille, Pat (Ua), and many other descendants of the Rosemond family, a pedigree charts have been, and continue to be prepared! Question 4, has been answered.

⁴ Antione J Rosemond in the 1900 United States Federal Census.
<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MS5V-9G4>

⁵ Joseph Rosemond in the 1880 United States Federal Census.
<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MDX6-J4L>

⁶See the Saint-Domingue Revolution at: https://64parishes.org/entry/the-saint-domingue-revolution?gclid=CjwKCAiA3KefBhByEiwAi2LDHH_7is4FMYgWlQ9qNaQ-Ze6fikdA3nYFstHTrmZhKLA0Dgr0qAeZchoCzGwQAvD_BwE

⁷ See highlighted area in the article 6f. "Slave Codes" at:
<https://www.ushistory.org/us/6f.asp#:~:text=Legally%20considered%20property%2C%20slaves%20were,a%20white%20person%20was%20doomed.>