African American History at the National Archives

Every day we celebrate the remarkable contributions of African Americans to the American Story. The National Archives holds a wealth of material related to the interactions of African Americans with the Federal government—captured in millions of historical records including the Emancipation Proclamation, census records, military service records, and records documenting the civil rights movement.

As we celebrate African American history month this February, we pay tribute to the struggles and achievements of the people and events that have shaped our nation. Explore a selection of records documenting this vast history within the National Archives Catalog.
Do you have questions about researching African American records and history? Ask a question, answer an unanswered question, or share your research tips on [History Hub](#).

In celebration of African American History Month, the original Emancipation Proclamation from 1863 will be on a rare special display in the East Rotunda Gallery of the National Archives Building in Washington, DC from February 17 to February 19, 2018. [Learn more](#) about this important document, and view and download high-resolution images of the Emancipation Proclamation in the [National Archives Catalog](#).

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**Happy Valentine’s Day!**

Perhaps the National Archives isn’t the first place you would look to find romance, but these sweet photos sure pull at our heartstrings! Whether you’re spending this holiday with your sweetheart, your best friends, or curled up with archival research, we hope you enjoy this selection of photos from the National Archives Catalog:
Can’t get enough love? Browse more lovable images in the [Catalog](#).
Plan ahead! The Catalog will be offline for maintenance beginning 6:00 AM EST Saturday, February 17, until 6:00 PM EST Sunday, February 18.

Please excuse this interruption as we work to improve the Catalog.

Have a question? Find answers on History Hub!
History Hub is a support community for history enthusiasts, researchers, citizen archivists, family historians, and archival professionals. Visit us at now at history.gov!

Questions or comments? Email us at catalog@nara.gov.