

Metadata Sheet

Title: Tracing African American Family History: A Practical Guide to Reconstructing Roots Through Records, Oral History, and DNA

Author: Paul Crooks

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Genre / Subject: Nonfiction – Genealogy / African American History / Reference

Target Audience:

Adult and young adult readers; high school and college libraries; patrons interested in African American family history, family heritage, or personal development.

Unique Features & Selling Points

Research Made Accessible

Guides readers—especially beginners—through the process of tracing African American ancestry using real-world examples, including how to work with U.S. Census records, slave registers, plantation archives, and military documents.

Rare Cross-Atlantic Approach

Combines U.S.-based genealogy with transatlantic research methods that trace Black family histories through the Caribbean and into West Africa, enabling deeper ancestral discovery.

Learn more at paulcrooks.info

Based on Pioneering Work

Paul Crooks is credited as the first person to trace African Caribbean roots using the 1817 Slave Registers. His trailblazing approach has inspired thousands to begin their own family history journeys.

Practical & Inspirational

Helps readers find meaningful connections to history, while demystifying DNA testing and traditional research for use in libraries, schools, and community settings.

Curriculum-Adjacent Use

The book supports lifelong learning, personal confidence-building, and intergenerational dialogue. It complements public library programming, African American heritage month, and adult education initiatives without using politically charged terminology.

Institutional Licensing

Flexible institutional licensing is available (perpetual, annual, and multi-site access). Please contact us to request terms.

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