

# PRESS KIT

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

Author: Paul Crooks

Publisher: Paul Crooks (Independent)

Publication Format: EPUB (compatible with OverDrive, EBSCO, Baker & Taylor, etc.)

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Publication Date: 2025

Genre: 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.

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## About the Author

Paul Crooks is a pioneer in African diaspora family history research. He was the first to trace African Caribbean ancestry using the 1817 Slave Registers and to publicly present his findings, inspiring a global wave of interest in Black ancestry. His work combines personal storytelling, historical records, and practical methodology to illuminate the African American and Caribbean experience across generations.

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## Book Overview

Tracing African American Family History: A Practical Guide to Reconstructing Roots Through Records, Oral History, and DNA is an empowering guide for individuals beginning—or deepening—their genealogical journey. With an emphasis on accessibility, Paul Crooks leads readers through the challenges of tracing family lineage

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despite fragmented records and gaps in the historical record. He blends hands-on strategies with personal reflection, making this both a how-to guide and a work of narrative insight.

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## **Key Features and Unique Selling Points**

### **1. First-of-Its-Kind Resource Anchored in Practice**

Unlike generic genealogy guides, this book is rooted in real research experience. Paul Crooks shares field-tested methods tailored specifically to African American ancestry, including strategies for navigating U.S. census data, slave registers, Freedmen's Bureau records, and DNA results.

### **2. Bridges Gaps in the Historical Record**

By acknowledging and addressing the unique challenges African Americans face when researching enslaved ancestors, this book fills a critical gap in the genealogy and heritage literature landscape. It empowers readers with knowledge often left out of mainstream resources.

### **3. Library-Ready and Curriculum-Relevant**

The content aligns with current interest in personal heritage, cultural studies, and American history. It's ideal for adult continuing education, family research clubs, and high school or university library programming that fosters engagement with American identity.

### **4. Offers a Practical Framework for Self-Guided Learning**

Each chapter builds skills in a structured way—ideal for patrons who want to begin immediately with meaningful results. Tools include tips for organizing evidence, interpreting slave schedules, and evaluating online DNA test outcomes in a historical context.

### **5. Encourages Intergenerational and Community Engagement**

By situating genealogy as a bridge between past and present, this book encourages conversations across generations and within communities. It makes ancestry research not only personal but relevant to collective identity and legacy.

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## **Interview & Speaking Requests**

Paul Crooks is available for interviews, lectures, and virtual author events. He has spoken at major national libraries, archives, and educational institutions.

To arrange media appearances, contact **info@paulcrooksuk.info**

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