

Press Kit

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

Author: Paul Crooks

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Overview

Tracing African Caribbean Family History: A Practical Guide to Reconstructing Roots Through Records, Oral Tradition, and DNA is a breakthrough guide to African Caribbean genealogy. Paul Crooks, a trailblazer in the field, shares how he traced his own family history from London, through Jamaica, back over 200 years to Africa—becoming the first African Caribbean person to do so using public records.

Crooks demystifies the process of ancestral research for people of Caribbean descent, combining practical guidance with cultural reflection. The book helps readers navigate historical records impacted by slavery, migration, and colonial systems, and makes genealogy approachable and empowering.

Key Features

- Offers detailed, step-by-step guidance on tracing ancestry through UK and Caribbean records

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- Incorporates illustrative case studies from the author's personal research journey
 - Reflects on the impact of enslavement and diaspora on identity and historical memory
 - Explains how to read and interpret sources like slave registers, parish records, and migration documents
 - Designed for readers beginning their research, as well as institutions supporting community heritage work
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About the Author

Paul Crooks is the first African Caribbean person to publicly trace his African ancestry from the UK back over 200 years to Africa using historic records—most notably the 1817 Slave Registers. His research and writing have been widely covered in national media and form the basis of a body of work that includes historical fiction, nonfiction, and public education events. Paul is recognised as a pioneer of African Caribbean genealogy and a powerful advocate for historical empowerment.

Why This Book Matters

- **Institutional Value:** This book fills a critical gap in genealogy collections by addressing a longstanding lack of accessible guidance for African Caribbean communities.
- **Educational Relevance:** It supports lifelong learning, identity development, and Black history programming for public libraries, schools, and cultural organisations.
- **Cultural Impact:** It connects personal identity with historical processes, challenging narratives of erasure and making space for empowered self-discovery.