



**Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc.**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 28, 2016**

**“Index-A-Thon” of Historic Records of Freed Slaves to Be Held  
Across the US on Saturday, May 7, 2016**

*Partnership with FamilySearch for day-long event to transcribe Freedmen’s Bureau records*

The [Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc.](http://www.aahgs.org) (AAHGS) Chapters in partnership with [FamilySearch International](http://www.familysearch.org) will sponsor a Freedmen’s Bureau Project “Index-A-Thon” on Saturday, May 7, 2016, at various FamilySearch [family history centers](http://www.familysearch.org) across the United States. Most locations will host events from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., local time.

The “Index-A-Thon” is an effort to help finish the effort to make 1.5 million digital images from the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (known as the Freedmen’s Bureau) freely searchable online. Since the launch of the Freedmen’s Bureau Project on 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Juneteenth (June 19, 2015, also known as African American Freedom Day), more than 18,000 volunteers have assisted with transcribing historical documents that were maintained by the bureau between 1865-1872. This is the largest undertaking in history to preserve and make available records for nearly four million freed slaves and white southerners from the post-Civil-War era.

With 76 percent of the project complete as of April 27, we invite anyone to help reach the goal of completion by Juneteenth (June 19, 2016). Once indexed, in addition to freely being available on FamilySearch.org, the database will become a permanent part of the Genealogy Exhibit at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) which will open in Washington, D.C. on September 24, 2016.

Volunteers can attend events in person at any of the locations hosting an event and learn how to index the documents and submit them to the database. Or volunteers can visit [DiscoverFreedmen.org](http://DiscoverFreedmen.org) to learn how to help from home using their own computer. For more information about the effort and to find a participating location, visit the Facebook event page at <http://bit.ly/aahgsindexathon>.

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**ABOUT AAHGS**

The Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc. (AAHGS) is a non-profit membership organization that strives to preserve African ancestral family history, genealogy, and cultural diversity by teaching research techniques and disseminating information throughout the community. Our primary goals are to promote scholarly research, provide resources for historical and genealogical studies, create a network of persons with similar interests, and assist members in documenting their histories.

**ABOUT FAMILYSEARCH**

FamilySearch is the largest genealogical organization in the world providing billions of ancestral records. FamilySearch is a nonprofit organization sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Our commitment to helping people connect with their ancestors is rooted in our beliefs—that families are meant to be central to our lives and that family relationships are intended to continue beyond this life. Learn more at [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org).

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