

Indiana Jones and the Freedman's Bank Records

THERE REALLY WAS AN INDIANA JONES. Far from the fictional, she was a woman, born in the slave South in 1834. Through the Freedman's records, census data, death records, and on the ground research, Dr. James Rose, co-author of *Black Genesis*, tracked a wide range of her descendants including her great-nephew, a World War II veteran and successful owner of a funeral home, and to her great-great niece, who is alive today. In 1864, the Union Army created a depository to support black soldiers stationed in New Orleans, South Carolina, and Virginia. After the war, hundreds of thousands of dollars went to unclaimed because depositors had died, changed names, or disappeared without withdrawing their funds.

The U.S. Congress, with the persuasion of several Christian philanthropists, use the unclaimed funds to charter the *Freedman's Saving and Trust Company* in 1865. The bank primarily assisted black soldiers and freed slaves with their new financial responsibilities. The bank operated from 1865—1874, with 37 branches across the U.S., and over \$57 million deposited during the bank's lifetime. Overexpansion, speculation, mismanagement, and the Panic of 1873 left the bank vulnerable and contributed to its demise in 1874. Though an undoubtedly tragic turn, the bank records left an indispensable legacy for African-American genealogical research. HeritageQuest Online includes all of the surviving records from 29 of the 37 branches—more than 489,000 names in all, including Indiana Jones.



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Provides online and film products including census records, for genealogy and family history research. HeritageQuest Online combines digital, searchable images of U.S. federal census records with the digitized version of the popular UMI Genealogy & Local History collection and other valuable content.

Follow the link below to access HeritageQuest:

<http://www.mclsms.org/research.php>

A paid service provided by the Madison County Library System

Get a Great Start with Primary Sources:

U.S. Federal Census

Delivers the original images of every federal census from 1790 through 1930 in existence. All new name indexes are searchable by any combination of fields including age, sex, race, and birthplace. All census page images are fully downloadable. In total, the U.S. Federal Census covers more than 140 million names, all backed by editorial work to ensure high accuracy of names, dates, birthplaces, etc.

Unique Revolutionary War Information

Access selected records from the Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant application files. These easily searched records, in downloadable full image, identify more than 80,000 American Army, Navy, and Marine officers and enlisted men from the Revolutionary War era.

Vital African-American Records

The Freedman's Bank Records are one of the most important resources for African-American Genealogical research. This fully searchable subset documents more than 480,000 bank applicants, their dependents, and heirs. Black Americans will also find valuable family information in the 1870 federal census, the first to identify former slaves as households in their own right.

Expand your Quest with Secondary Sources:

Genealogy and Local History Books

Delivers more than 7 million digitized page images from over 26,000 family histories, local histories, and other books. Titles have been digitized from our own renowned microform collections, as well as from the American Antiquarian Society via an exclusive partnership. Search results allow you to explore books by the table of contents, browse page by page, or go directly to pages that contain your search words.

PERSI—The Largest and Best Periodical Index

The Periodical Source Index covers more than 2 million citations from over 6,500 genealogy and local history periodicals published in the United States, Canada, and abroad since 1800, with hundreds of thousands of new article citations added every year. Published by the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, IN., *PERSI* is recognized as the most comprehensive index of genealogy and local history periodicals.

LexisNexis U.S. Serial Set

Offers memorials, petitions, private relief actions, and many other sources for finding family and local history information. Through a simple keyword search, researchers can access 48,000 pages of images contained within 150,000 U.S. Congressional documents dating back to 1789.

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- ⇒ **Search Revolutionary War**—Search selected records from the Revolutionary War Era Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files.
- ⇒ **Search Freedman's Bank**—Search for individuals in Freedman's Bank (1865-1874), which was founded to serve African Americans.
- ⇒ **Search U.S. Serial Set**—Search the Memorials, Petitions, and Private Relief Actions of the U.S. Congress in the LexisNexis U.S. Serial Set.



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