

# District of Columbia

## African American

### *Records of the Board of Commissions for Emancipation of Slaves in the District of Columbia 1862–1863.*

Microfilm	6 rolls	NARA M520	Locality	District of Columbia
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The three-man board appointed by the President under the Act of April 16, 1862 examined petitions for compensation from former owners of slaves freed in the District. After 12 July 1862 slaves could present petitions if their owners had not already done so.

### *Records of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia Relating to Slaves 1851–1863.*

Microfilm	3 rolls	NARA M433	Locality	District of Columbia
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These records include emancipation papers for the period 1856–1863, manumission papers for the period 1851–1863, and case papers relating to fugitive slaves. The act abolishing slavery in the District of Columbia, passed 16 April 1862, required loyal owners of freed slaves to file schedules of their slaves in order to claim compensation. If an owner failed to file, a supplementary act of 12 July 1862 permitted schedules to be filed by slaves whose owners had neglected to do so. The act also granted freedom to slaves whose owners lived outside the District and who, with their owners' consent, were employed within the district.

The emancipation papers usually note when the certificates of freedom were issued. The manumission papers record the voluntary emancipation of slaves. Fugitive papers may contain warrants for arrests but some contain papers pertaining to proof of ownership.

Contrary to popular belief Black Americans in bondage did have and regularly used surnames, and they were typically not the surname of the family who owned them at the time of emancipation. The file of Elizabeth Abbot contains the names of the following eleven slaves with significant biographical details:

Matilda Sims, aged about 48 years, female, 5'4", dark brown color  
Henry Sims, aged about 47 years, male, 5'9", sight in one eye injured, dark brown  
James Sims, aged about 38, male, 5'5" about, dark brown  
Charles Henry Ambush, aged about 36, male, 5'5", dark brown  
Ellen Norris, aged about 45, female, 5'4", mulatto  
Adel Francis Davis, twin, aged 22 years 6 months, 19 days, 5'2" about, dark brown, child of Ellen Norris  
Catharine Ann Davis, twin, aged 22 years, 6 months, 19 days, 5', chestnut color, child of Ellen Norris  
Indiana Davis, aged 20 years, 3 months, 18 days, 5'4" about, chestnut color, child of Ellen Norris  
Ellen Virginia Norris, aged 3 years, 5 months, female, chestnut color, child of Ellen Norris  
Joseph Davis, aged 4 years, 8 months, 23 days, male, bright mulatto, child of Catharine Ann Davis  
Cora Davis, aged 1 year, 8 months, 20 days, very bright mulatto, child of Catharine Ann Davis.

## Jewish

### *Index to Burials in Two Jewish Cemeteries in Washington, D.C.*

Microfiche	2 fiche		Microfiche	District of Columbia
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The cemeteries featured in this work are the Washington Hebrew Congregation Cemetery and the Adas Israel Cemetery.

## Military—Civil War (1861–1865) Union

### *Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the District of Columbia.*

Microfilm	3 rolls	538		District of Columbia
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The index is alphabetically arranged by the name of the soldier and gives his rank and unit.

## Miscellaneous

### *Record of Appointment of Postmasters, 1832–September 30, 1971: District of Columbia.*

Microfilm	1 roll	NARA M841	Locality	US
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These records show the dates of establishment and discontinuance of post offices, their changes of name, and the names of and appointment dates for their postmasters and postmistresses. The names of post offices to which mail from discontinued offices was sent begins in 1870.

The records are arranged by state or territory, thereunder alphabetically by name of county (or district or parish as relevant), and thereunder by name of post office.

The series is 145 rolls of microfilm, of which the library owns 15 rolls, including:  
District of Columbia, roll 18 [US Locality]

### *Indentures of Apprenticeship Recorded in the Orphans Court, Washington County, District of Columbia, 1810–1811.*

Microfilm	1 roll	NARA M2011	Locality	District of Columbia
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## Naturalization

### *Index to Naturalization Records of the U.S. Supreme Court for the District of Columbia, 1802–1909.*

Microfilm	1 roll	NARA M1827	Locality	District of Columbia
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## Newspapers

### *Abstracts of Marriages and Death Notices in The National Intelligencer, Washington, D.C., 1800–1850.*

Microfilm	3 rolls		Locality	District of Columbia
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## Georgetown

### *Records of the City of Georgetown (D.C.) 1800–1879.*

Microfilm	49 rolls	NARA M605	Locality	District of Columbia
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The city of Georgetown existed from 1751 to 1895 when it was consolidated with Washington, D.C. In this collection appear journals, ledgers, and related volumes of municipal government. The assessments for real property from 1800–1819 are contained on rolls 7–11 and those for 1865–1879 are on rolls 12–26. Roll 39 pertains to real estate belonging to D.C. for the years 1860–1869.