

THE FORKS OF CYPRESS

African American Descendants

While you may not hear their stories in the nightly news, the enslaved at the Forks of Cypress and their descendants contributed to the building of Florence, Alabama. And it is time for their contributions to be recognized.

The African-American Descendants of the Forks of Cypress aims to reveal a history of which most people are unaware. Across the country, coast to coast, we are seeing a surge in unheralded histories being brought to life. This humbling work is being completed by independent researchers, institutions of higher education, as well as descendants of those who cultivated the country's economic, cultural, and tried and true sustainability. The said sustainability was/is afforded by the work of enslaved labor. Florence, Alabama has an opportunity to join in the collective of those we are intentional in creating a more comprehensive learning experience via the connection to ancestral roots for descendants of the Forks.

We hope you will help encourage the local community to explore their ancestry and share discoveries, if applicable, in connection to the Forks of Cypress. That is why we are humbly inviting you to join in the efforts in bringing awareness to the African-American Descendants of the Forks of Cypress.

Your role and ties in this community are invaluable to this project. Here are some ways you get involved and help to bring awareness to the African-American Descendants of the Forks of Cypress.

SPREAD THE WORD

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Like the Facebook Page: African-American Descendants of the Forks of Cypress. Use this place to share stories, pictures, memories, facts, etc. Invite others to like the page too.

Organize a meeting or event to share with your stakeholders about the African-American Descendants of the Forks of Cypress.

Share the list of free resources below, and educate the public on resources available in their quest to discover their ancestry.

Local historian Lee Freeman at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library

<https://www.familysearch.org/> <https://www.ancestry.com/>

<https://www.familytreedna.com/> <https://www.genealogybank.com/>

<https://www.newspapers.com/>

<https://ldsgenealogy.com/AL/Florence.htm>

<https://shoalsblackhistory.omeka.net/>

Say their names. Although not limited to, the following list of surnames may have ties to The Forks of Cypress. Please share these names with the public. *Jackson, Blue, Childress, Fern, Croft, Hawkins, Kirkman, Black, Omeil (O'neil), Rhodes Armstead, Hill, Cannon, Malone, Mann, Nusum, Sharpes (Sharper), Shoat, Tain, Thornton*

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