

# International Society of Sons & Daughters of Slave Ancestry (ISDSA)

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## Fact Sheet

- ISDSA promotes the study of the life and culture of African Americans---in slavery and in freedom---through the use of historical photographs and oral histories collected from descendants of slave ancestry.
- ISDSA chose as its mission to share with the world community positive historical images of the Black family, its roots and its traditions to:
  1. Humanize this episode in American history by assigning names and faces to the enslaved
  2. Dispel the myths and correct the misperceptions about enslaved people in America
  3. Record the stories of African Americans in slavery and in freedom, as told by their living descendants, before the stories are lost forever.
- *A Tribute to Enslaved Ancestors: The Peoples Exhibit* serves as a historical photo(con)text for critical analysis of African American life and culture before and after slavery. ISDSA's collection of **Former Slaves in Freedom** depicts African Americans as they really were: a people who experienced the same feelings as other human beings: joy, sorrow, love, generosity, jealousy---a people filled with hope and determined to experience the American Dream. The images tell our stories---stories rarely shared at family reunions, recalled around dinner tables or studied in American history classes.
- A few places the ISDSA Collection and/or workshops & lectures have been featured:

Black Expo Cultural Exposition (Philadelphia); Carter G. Woodson Regional Library (Chicago); DuSable Museum (Chicago); James R. Thompson Center (Chicago); Juneteenth Lineage Association Convention (San Jose, CA); Metro History Education Center, Newberry Library (Chicago); Richard J. Daley City College (Chicago); Southside Community Arts Center (Chicago); State Of

## Illinois Center (Chicago); United States Capitol Building (Washington, DC). Featured on channels 2, 5, 7, CLTV, CNN.

The ISDSA Collection includes over 400 images of enslaved African Americans, collected from living descendants. ISDSA is partnering with CSU to digitize the Collection, so users can access it at the Digital Public Library of America.