



SNACSchool 4.0

Module 2:

Archival Authority Control

Updated February 2022

Objectives for Module 2:

Define **authority control**, **authority work**, and **authority file**, and understand:

- Why we as information specialists apply authority control
- The elements of an archival authority record
- Differences between archival and library authority records
- Doing research to support archival authority records
- Authority control of corporate body names
- Authority control of person names
- Authority control of family names

Authority control is the process of establishing the preferred form of a heading, such as a proper name or subject, for use in a catalog, and ensuring that all records in the catalog use such headings. The forms of headings, both **preferred and variant forms**, are defined by a standard.

Once established, the forms are recorded in an **authority file** for future reference to ensure consistency.

[\(SAA Dictionary, 2022\)](#)

[Harriet Tubman's SNAC record.](#)

Tubman, Harriet, 1822-1913 [Variant names](#)

The screenshot displays a SNAC record for Harriet Tubman. At the top, there are navigation tabs: Detailed View, Revision History, Sources, Export, Edit, and Reserve for Editing. Below these are category tabs: Biography, Resources, Relationships, Places, Subjects, and Occupations. The main content area is titled 'Activities' and contains a detailed biography of Harriet Tubman. To the right of the biography is a list of variant names. Further right is a 'Person' information panel with fields for Exist Dates, Nationality, and Languages Used. A photograph of Harriet Tubman is shown on the right side of the record.

Biography: Harriet Tubman (born Araminta Ross; b. ca. 1822–d. March 10, 1913) was an American abolitionist, humanitarian, and an armed scout and spy for the United States Army during the American Civil War. Born into slavery, Tubman escaped and subsequently made thirteen missions to rescue approximately seventy enslaved families and friends, using the network of antislavery activists and safe houses known as the Underground Railroad. She later helped abolitionist John Brown recruit men for his raid on Harpers Ferry, and in the post-war era was an active participant in the struggle for women's suffrage. Born a slave in Dorchester County, Maryland, Tubman escaped to Philadelphia in 1849, then returned to Maryland to rescue her family. Slowly, one group at a time, she brought relatives with her out of the state, and eventually guided dozens of fugitives to freedom. After the war, she worked as a cook and nurse, and then as a leader of the 13th Expedition in the war, she rescued more than 700 slaves. After the war, she lived in Auburn, New York, where she was active in the suffrage movement until her death in 1913. She became an icon of American history.

Variant names:

- Aunt Harriet, 1822-1913
- Black Moses, 1822-1913
- Broadus, Araminta Ross, 1822-1913
- Davis, Harriet Tubman, 1822-1913
- Greene, Araminta, 1822-1913
- Ross Broadus, Araminta, 1822-1913
- Ross, Araminta, 1822-1913
- Tabman, Garriet, 1820?-1913
- Tabman, Garriet, 1822-1913
- The Modern Moses, 1822-1913
- Tubman Davis, Harriet, 1822-1913
- Tubman, Harriet Ross, 1815?-1913
- Tubman, Harriet, 1820?-1913
- Tubman, Harriet, ca. 1820-1913
- Ross, Minty, 1822-1913
- Tubman, Harriet, 1822-1913

Person Information:

- Exist Dates:** Birth 1822, Death 1913-03-10
- Nationality:** Americans
- Languages Used:** English

Image: Image from Wikimedia Commons

Authority work deals with the formulation and recording of authorized heading forms in catalog records ... names and other headings that are access points to records are given one and only one conventional form.

The purpose of control is to ensure consistency in a single catalog and across many catalogs so a user has to search under one and only one name to located associated materials.
(Maxwell's Guide to Authority Work, 2002)

Madonna, 1958-

[Variant names](#)

Detailed View | Revision History | Sources | Export

Biography | Resources | Relationships | Places | **Subjects** | Occupations

Activities

Madonna (b. Madonna Louise Ciccone, August 16, 1958) is an American singer, songwriter, actress, and businesswoman. A leading pop star of the 1980s, Madonna is known for pushing the boundaries of popular music, as well as visual imagery in music videos.

Ciccone, Madonna Louise Veronica, 1958-
 Kikon, Madona Luis, 1958-
 Madona, 1958-
 Madonah, 1958-
 Mantona, 1958-
 Mādūnnā 1958-
 Ritchie, Madonna Louise Ciccone, 1958-
 Ritchie, Madonna Louise Veronica Ciccone Penn, 1958-
 Ritchie, Madonna, 1958-
 Riči, Madona Luiza Čikoné, 1958-
 Tsikone, Mantona Louiz Veronika, 1958-
 Čikone, Madona Luīze, 1958-
 Čikoné, Madona Luiza, 1958-
 Μαντόνα, 1958-
 Таіковэ, Манто́на Луі́з Веро́ника, 1958-
 Кикон, Мадо́на Луис, 1958-
 Мадо́на, 1958-
 Мадо́нна 1958-
 Чиконе, Мадо́на Луиз Вероника, 1958-
 Чыко́нэ, Мадо́нна Луі́за Ве́раніка, 1958-
 1958 ,מדונה-
 1958 ,مادونا-



International Business Machines Corporation

[Variant names](#)

Detailed View | Revision History | Sources | Export | Edit | Reserve for Editing

History | Resources | Relationships | Places | **Subjects** | Occupations | Functions

International Business Machines Corporation was incorporated in New York State on June 16, 1911 under the name Computing-Tabulating-Recording Co. In 1922, Computing-Tabulating-Recording Co. purchased all of the shares of Deutsche Hollerith Maschinen Gesellschaft. In 1924 the official name of the company was changed to International Business Machines Corporation. In 1933, IBM CEO Thomas Watson ordered the merger of IBM subsidiaries in Germany (Optima, Degemag, Holgemag, Dehomag) under the name Dehomag, granting the company rights to sell Hollerith punch-card machines throughout Europe.

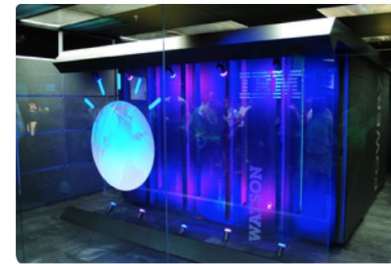


Image from Wikimedia Commons

Hide Profile

Compagnie International business machines
 Ay. Bi. Em.
 Āy Bī Am
 Blakytņų ģihant (Firm)
 IBM Abkuerzung
 IBM社
 International Business Machines (firma)
 National Interest Security Company
 Uluslararası İş Makineleri (Firm)
 Блакитний гігант (Firm)
 א.י.ב.י.מ.
 آی بی إم
 アイビーエム
 アイビーエムシャ
 I.B.M.
 Big Blue (Firm)
 I.B.M. (Firm)

Elements of an Archival Authority Record

Ginsburg, Ruth Bader, 1933-2020 Variant names

Detailed View Revision History Sources Export Edit Reserve for Editing

Biography Resources Relationships Places Subjects Occupations Activities

Filters: [Person] [Organization] [Location] [X]

Show 10 entries Search: Relation or Name

Relation	Name
memberOf	Alpha Epsilon Phi
associatedWith	American Civil Liberties Union.
associatedWith	American Civil Liberties Union. Women's Rights Project.
associatedWith	American Jewish Archives.
correspondedWith	Bernice Resnick Sandler
associatedWith	Berry, Betty Blaisdell.
correspondedWith	Betty Friedan
correspondedWith	Betty Friedan

Image from Wikimedia Commons
Supreme Court of the United States. Photographer: Steve Petteaway
[https://supremecourthistory.org/justice-ruth-bader-ginsburg-1993-2020] - Public Domain

Person

Exist Dates: Birth 1933-03-15
Gender: Female
Nationality: Americans
Languages Used: English

1. Identity (name)

2. Description

3. Relationships

4. Control

Elements of an Archival Authority Record

Ginsberg's SNAC authority record provides biographical information along with contextual links to original archival collections created by her, or archival materials about her.

It also contains contextual links to other related entities described in SNAC records.

Ginsburg, Ruth Bader, 1933-2020 Variant names

Detailed View Revision History Sources Export Edit Reserve for Editing

Biography Resources Relationships Places Subjects Occupations Activities

Archival Resources

Show 10 entries Search: Title, Role, Repository

Role	Title	Holding Repository
creatorOf	Ginsburg, Ruth Bader, 1933-. Ruth Bader Ginsburg letter and speech, 2005 Jan. 6 and 2004.	American Jewish Archives
creatorOf	Ginsburg, Ruth Bader. Ratification of the ERA : a question of time / address delivered by Ruth Bader Ginsburg at the University of Texas School of Law, March 22, 1979.	Texas Woman's University Library, Mary Evelyn Blagg-Huey Library
creatorOf	Ginsburg, Ruth Bader. Ruth Bader Ginsburg papers, 1897-2005 (bulk 1970-1997).	Library of Congress
creatorOf	Griswold, Harriet Ford, 1904-. Letters of condolence, 1994-1995.	Harvard Law School Library, HLS Library

Filters: [Person] [Institution] [Organization] [X]

Show 10 entries Search: Relation or Name

Connection Graph Radial Graph

Relation	Name
alumnusOrAlumnaOf	Cornell university
associatedWith	American Civil Liberties Union.
associatedWith	American Civil Liberties Union. Women's Rights Project.
associatedWith	American Jewish Archives.
associatedWith	Berry, Betty Blaisdell.
associatedWith	BURNITA (SHELTON) MATTHEWS, 1894-
associatedWith	Califano, Joseph A., 1931-

Comparing Archival and Library Authority Records

Both archival and library authority record have:

- A preferred heading
- Variant heading(s)
- Biography/history
- Demographic attributes
- Source citations

But unique to archival authority records in SNAC:

- **Links to related archival resources**
- **Links to internal related CPF entities**
- **Links to external related CPF entities**

Thorpe, Jim, 1887-1953 Variant names

Biography Resources Relationships Places Subjects Occupations Activities

View Collection Locations

Archival Resources

Show 10 entries Search: [Title, Role, Repository]

Role	Title	Holding Repository
referencedIn	[Player File. Thorpe, James Francis, 1913- / compiled by the National Baseball Hall of Fame Library, Cooperstown, N.Y.]	National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum
referencedIn	Baseball Heros : scrapbook, 1910-1916.	National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum
referencedIn	Connolly, Lila H. Lila H. Connolly papers, 1901-1943, 1950-1955, undated.	U.S. Army Heritage & Education Center
referencedIn	Ford, J. mss., 1906-1976	Lilly Library (Indiana University, Bloomington)

Person

Exist Dates: Birth 1888-05-28 Death 1953-03-28

Nationality: Americans

Languages Used: English

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Library of Congress > Linked Data Service > LC Name Authority File (LCNAF)

Thorpe, Jim, 1887-1953

URI(s)
- http://id.loc.gov/authorities/names/n79117906

Instance Of
- MADS/RDF PersonalName
- MADS/RDF Authority
- SKOS Concept

Scheme Membership(s)
- Library of Congress Name Authority File

Collection Membership(s)
- Names Collection - Authorized Headings
- LC Names Collection - General Collection

Variants
- Thorpe, James Francis, 1887-1953
- Thorpe, Jacobus Franciscus, 1887-1953
- Wa-Tho-Huk, 1887-1953

Thorpe, Jim, 1887-1953 Variant names

Biography Resources Relationships Places Subjects Occupations Activities

Filters: Connection Graph Radial Graph

Show 10 entries Search: [Relation or Name]

Relation	Name
associatedWith	Connolly, Lila H.
associatedWith	Ford, John, 1895-1973
associatedWith	Johnson, Freeman C., 1886-1969
memberOf	Sac and Fox Nation.
parentOf	Thorpe, Grace F., 1921-2008
alumnusOrAlumnaOf	United States Indian School (Carlisle, Pa.)
associatedWith	Wadsworth, Frances Laughlin, 1909-1978.

Person

Exist Dates: Birth 1888-05-28 Death 1953-03-28

Nationality: Americans

Languages Used: English

Establishing Names

Corporate Body: A collective agent who is composed of persons who are organized for a common purpose or activity. (*RDA*)

Boone Hall (Plantation: S.C.)

John F. Kennedy (Aircraft Carrier)

United States. National Park Service

United States. Embassy (Germany)

Baffin Island Expedition (1927)

White House Conference on Aging (1961)

Chemistry and Biology Research Institute (Canada)

Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation (Utah)

Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library Variant names

Holding Repository

Detailed View Revision History Sources Export Edit Reserve for Editing Hide Profile

History Resources Relationships Places Subjects Occupations
Activities Holdings

The Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, in New Haven, Connecticut, is Yale University's principal repository of literary archives, early manuscripts, and rare books. Designed by Gordon Bunshaft of the architecture firm Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, the Beinecke Library opened in October 1963. It was the gift of three Yale alumni—Edwin J. Beinecke, 1907; Frederick W. Beinecke, 1909S; Walter Beinecke, 1910—and their families, who intended it as “a symbol of the loyalty and devotion of three brothers” and as “a source of learning and...an inspiration to all who enter.”

[Beinecke record in SNAC](#)





Image from Wikimedia Commons

 **Corporate Body**

Exist Dates: Establishment 1963

[*SNAC Editing Cheat Sheet - Corporate Bodies PDF*](#)

[*Creating, Editing ... Corporate Body Entity Descriptions*](#)

Corporate Body Name Components:

Boone Hall (Plantation: S.C.)	[Name of Corporate Body] ([Qualifier : Location])
John F. Kennedy (Aircraft Carrier)	[Name of Corporate Body] (Qualifier)
United States. National Park Service	[Jurisdiction component]. [Name of Corporate Body]
United States. Embassy (Germany)	[Jurisdiction component]. [Name of Corporate Body] (Location)
Baffin Island Expedition (1927)	[Name of Corporate Body] (Date)
White House Conference on Aging (1961)	[Name of Corporate Body] (Date)
Chemistry and Biology Research Institute (Canada)	[Name of Corporate Body] (Location)
Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation (Utah)	[Name of Corporate Body] (Location)

[SNAC Editing Cheat Sheet - Corporate Bodies PDF / Creating, Editing ... Corporate Body Entity Descriptions](#)

Describing Plantations, Estates, Farms as Corporate Bodies in SNAC

- Plantations, estates, farms, etc., with enslaved peoples are classified as corporate bodies in SNAC
- Enslavers **and** Plantations could be **ownerOf** other enslaved peoples or families
- SNAC differs from LCNAF on this point; Plantations are geographic names in LCNAF

Boone Hall (Plantation : S.C.) Variant names

[Detailed View](#) [Revision History](#) [Sources](#) [Export](#) Hide Profile

[History](#) [Resources](#) [Relationships](#) [Places](#) [Subjects](#) [Occupations](#)

Functions

Boone Hall Plantation, located in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, is one of America's oldest working plantations, continually producing agricultural crops for over 320 years. The land was gifted from owner, Theophilus Patey, to his daughter Elizabeth and her new husband Major John Boone as a wedding gift in 1681; it was then known as Boone Hall Plantation. The Boone family owned the plantation until 1811 when it was sold to Thomas A. Vardell and then Henry and John Horlbeck bought the property. By 1850, enslaved laborers produced 4 million bricks, by hand, per year.




Image from Wikimedia Commons

[Describing Plantations, Estates, Farms, and Comparable Entities as Corporate Bodies](#)

Determining Direct v. Indirect Naming for Corporate Body Entities ...

Under RDA rules, there are several criteria used to determine whether a corporate body name needs to be established directly or subordinately. The default is to record names in direct order **unless** the name itself includes a word that implies subordination, such as "department of", "division of", "office of", or "committee on"; basically a name that is so general that creating it directly would be confusing or not helpful.

Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

not Yale University. Rare Book and Manuscript Library

National Museum of the American Indian (U.S.)

not Smithsonian Institution. National Museum of the American Indian

United States. Department of Labor

not Department of Labor

[Creating, Editing ... Corporate Body Entity Descriptions](#)

Doing the Research / Gathering Information About the Entity



Smithsonian Institution Archives

National Museum of African American History and Culture

Planning Records, 1991-1993, 2002-2003



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

Article Talk

National Museum of African American History and Culture

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC)** is a [Smithsonian Institution](#) museum located in 2003 and opened its permanent home in September 2016 with a ceremony led by [President Barack Obama](#).

[Main page](#)
[Contents](#)
[Current events](#)

1. The [finding aid](#) provides a name
2. Let's check [Wikipedia](#)...it gives more clues that its part of the Smithsonian and also referred to as NMAAHC
3. The [website](#) also has the same information
4. The [Library of Congress Name Authority File](#) has its name with "(U.S.)" and several alternative names.

 **NATIONAL MUSEUM**
of **AFRICAN AMERICAN**
HISTORY & CULTURE



Smithsonian

LIBRARY
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

[The Library of Congress](#) > [Linked Data Service](#) > [LC Name Authority File \(LCNAF\)](#)

National Museum of African American History and Culture (U.S.)

Finding Aids to Official Records of the Smithsonian Institution Archives

Accession 07-172

National Museum of African American History and Culture

Planning Records, 1991-1993, 2002-2003

Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives , Washington, D.C. Contact us at osiaref@si.edu .
Creator:	National Museum of African American History and Culture
Title:	Planning Records
Dates:	1991-1993, 2002-2003
Quantity:	0.5 cu. ft. (1 document box)



The National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) was established on December 16, 2003, when President George W. Bush signed the National Museum of African American History and Culture Act (PL 108-184) into law, establishing the museum as part of the Smithsonian Institution. The new museum will be devoted exclusively to the documentation of African American life, art, history and culture. The museum's collections will cover topics such as slavery, post-Civil War Reconstruction, the Harlem Renaissance and the civil rights movement. This accession consists of planning records for NMAAHC and includes materials related to the African American Institutional Study, 1991; task force meetings of the National African American Museum Project, 1992-1993; and the Plan for Action Presidential Commission, 2001-2003. Materials include reports, surveys, research materials, and other related records.

MANUSCRIPT/ ARCHIVE

RecorDIM project records, 1994-2009, undated

Getty Conservation Institute. Field Projects Division.

1994-2009, undated



RecorDIM project records

1994-2009, undated

IA10016

Getty Conservation Institute. Field Projects Division

5.58 Linear Feet (10 boxes, including 7 audiocassettes)

19.4 GB (21,614 files)

Records comprise reports, meeting materials and handouts, correspondence and memoranda, budgets, contracts, publication development and design material, images, audiocassettes, and ARIS workshop materials, dating 1994-2009 and undated, created and maintained by the Field Projects Division of the Getty Conservation Institute. The materials concern the development, operation, and results of Field Projects' Recording, Documentation, and Information Management (RecorDIM) Initiative. Some of the planning, publication, and ARIS workshop materials are in digital form, consisting of text, database, PowerPoint, image, website, and CAD files. The majority of the records were authored by project director and Field Projects Head, Francois LeBlanc, and by consultant Robin Letellier. Some of the files were also maintained by Christopher Gray, a senior project specialist in Field Projects, and Rand Eppich, project specialist and manager of the Institute's Digital Lab.

Getty Conservation Institute. Field Projects Division

*A review of the finding aid and further catalog searching reveal no variant forms of the name.

Person: An agent who is an individual human being who lives or is assumed to have lived. (RDA) *

Anna (Enslaved person : Hemingway, S.C.)

Yellowtail, Robert, 1889-1988

Chisholm, Shirley, 1924-2005

Stanton, Elizabeth Cady, 1815-1902

Ride, Sally, 1951-2012

Kennedy, Robert F., 1925-1968

Kennedy, John F. (John Fitzgerald), 1917-1963


Moby, 1965-

Ride, Sally, 1951-2012 Variant names

Detailed View Revision History Sources Export Edit Reserve for Editing

Biography Resources Relationships Places Subjects Occupations

Activities



Chisholm, Shirley, 1924-2005 Variant names

Detailed View Revision History Sources Export

Biography Resources Relationships Places Subjects Occupations

Activities

Shirley Anita St. Hill Chisholm (1924-2005) activist, educator, politician and author was born in Rmankiv, New York, the oldest of four girls. She lived in the Redford-Stuyvesant section of (British Guyana) and her from Barbados). Between Hide Profr, Emaline Seale, in Christ er B.A. in sociology at Brooklyn Columbia University (1952), professor Louis Warsoff,




Moby, 1965- Variant names

Detailed View Revision History Sources Export

Biography Resources Relationships Places Subjects Occupations

Activities

Richard Melville Hall (born September 11, 1965, New York City), known professionally as Moby, is an American musician, songwriter, singer, producer, and animal rights activist. He has sold 20 million records worldwide. AllMusic considers him to be "among the most important dance music figures of the early 1990s, helping bring dance music to a mainstream audience both in the United States and the United Kingdom".




Yellowtail, Robert, 1889-1988 Variant names

Detailed View Revision History Sources Export

Biography Resources Relationships Places Subjects Occupations

Activities

Robert Yellowtail was a leader of the Crow Nation. Separated from his mother at the age of 4 years old, Yellowtail was culturally assimilated into a reservation boarding school. When he was 13 years old, he went to the Sherman Institute, in Riverside, California, graduating in 1907. He then attended the Extension Law School in Los Angeles, transferring to the University of Chicago Law School, where he gained his Juris Doctor degree. Yellowtail's first official position, in 1912, was as a district representative on a tribal business committee where he negotiated grazing leases and gave the tribe a voice during land disputes. Initially, Yellowtail was in this committee to fight disputes related to Crow land, but caught the




Kermit, the Frog

Detailed View Revision History Sources Export Edit Reserve for Editing

Biography Resources Relationships Places Subjects Occupations

Activities

Kermit the Frog is a Muppet character and Jim Henson's most well-known creation, introduced in 1955. Kermit is best known for his work with the Muppets, especially Sesame Street and The Muppet Show.



[SNAC Editing Cheat Sheet - Persons PDF](#)
[Preference for Fullest Forms of Names in SNAC](#)

Fannie Lou Hamer papers, 1966-1978 | Amistad Research Center

 [Printer-friendly](#) |  [Email Us](#)

Title: Fannie Lou Hamer papers, 1966-1978

Extent: 16.0 Linear Feet

[Arrangement](#)

[Creators](#)

[Subjects](#) (links to similar collections)

[Forms of Material](#) (links to similar genres)

[Languages of Materials](#)

[Administrative Information](#)

Scope and Contents:

The Papers of Fannie Lou Hamer measure approximately 16 linear feet and consist of 3,293 pieces of correspondence dated between 1966 and 1978. The correspondence represented includes not only that of Fannie Lou Hamer, but also that of a number of organizations to which she was in some way connected and of her business manager, Joseph Harris. Much of Hamer's business correspondence is included in the Harris correspondence. He was almost entirely responsible for the business aspects of Hamer's career, and in some cases he also represented her interests in organizations to which she belonged.



Hamer, Fannie Lou (1917-1977) | Amistad Research Center

Name: Hamer, Fannie Lou (1917-1977)

Variante Name: Townsend, Fannie Lou

Historical Note:

Fannie Lou Hamer was a civil rights activist at the height of the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi. She was a member of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, as well as other organizations that sought to assist the lives of African Americans.

Born on October 6, 1917 in Montgomery County, Mississippi, Hamer was the youngest of twenty children born to Jim and Ella Townsend. The family worked as sharecroppers moving to Sunflower County, Mississippi, in 1919. At the age of nine, Hamer joined the family picking cotton, but was able to start her education in a plantation school at that time.

Hamer, Fannie Lou, 1917-1977

Variante: Townsend, Fannie Lou, 1917-1977


[Preference for Fuller Forms of Names in SNAC](#)
[SNAC Editing Cheat Sheet - Persons](#)

Doing the Research / Gathering Information About the Entity

Fannie Lou Hamer
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Fannie Lou Hamer (/ˈhæmər/; née Townsend; October 6, 1917 – March 14, 1977) was an American voting and women's rights activist, community organizer, and a leader in the civil rights movement. She was the co-founder and vice-chair of the Freedom Democratic Party, which she represented at the 1964 Democratic National Convention. Hamer also organized Mississippi's Freedom Summer along with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). She was also a co-founder of the National Women's Political Caucus, an organization created to recruit, train, and support women of all races who wish to seek election to government office.^[1]

declined nine years later. resilience in leading the civil threatened, harassed, shot trying to register for and ds of African-Americans in enfranchised people in her tive. She unsuccessfully ran 1. In 1970, she led legal continued illegal segregation. ppi. Her memorial service was to the United Nations Andrew



Fannie Lou Hamer
Hamer in 1971
Born Fannie Lou Townsend October 6, 1917 Montgomery County, Mississippi, U.S.
Died March 14, 1977 (aged 59) Mound Bayou, Mississippi, U.S.

Fannie Lou Hamer

(1917-1977)

Edited by Debra Michals, Ph.D. | 2017

Fannie Lou Townsend Hamer rose from humble beginnings in the Mississippi Delta to become one of the most important, passionate, and powerful voices of the civil and voting rights movements and a leader in the efforts for greater economic opportunities for African Americans.

Hamer was born on October 6, 1917 in Montgomery County, Mississippi, the 20th and last child of sharecroppers Lou Ella and James Townsend. She grew up in poverty, and at age six Hamer joined her family picking cotton. By age 12, she left school to work. In 1944, she married Perry Hamer and the couple toiled on the Mississippi plantation



National Women's History Museum

Hamer, Fannie Lou, 1917-1977

Variant: Townsend, Fannie Lou, 1917-1977

Variant: Hamer, Fanny Lou, 1917-1977

1. The [finding aid to Fannie Lou Hamer's personal papers](#) provides a great deal of information about her life (see previous slide)
2. Checking [Wikipedia and Wikidata](#) is a good starting point for general web sources
3. There are several websites with biographical information about Hamer.
4. The [Library of Congress Name Authority File](#) has an authority record for Hamer.



The Library of Congress > [Linked Data Service](#) > [LC Name Authority File](#)

Hamer, Fannie Lou

Variants

- Townsend, Fannie Lou
- Hamer, Fanny Lou

Family: A collective agent who is composed of persons who are related by birth as a family (RDA).

Truman (Family : Independence, Mo.)

Bacon (Family : Boston, Mass.)

Vanderbilt (Family : New York, N.Y.)

Bush (Family : Houston, Tex.)

Talmage (Family : McRae, Ga.)

Eastman (Family : Rochester, N.Y.)

Pinckney (Family : Colleton District, S.C.)

McCallum (Family : McCallum, Malcolm, active 1853-1864)



[SNAC Editing Cheat Sheet - Families PDF](#)

Doing the Research / Gathering Information about the Entity



1. The finding aid to the [Eastman Family Papers](#) provides information for the name, geographic location and names of family members.
2. Alvah Eastman and his son Harold A. Eastman appear have memorials in [Findagrave.com](#)
3. The Library of Congress Name File has nothing for the Eastman family, nor its individual members. But that's ok.

Eastman (Family : Barre, Vt.)

Harold A. Eastman

BIRTH	1909
DEATH	2 Nov 1978 (aged 68–69)
BURIAL	Hope Cemetery Barre, Washington County, Vermont, USA Show Map