Myth-busting: What You Must Know About Black History

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myth
noun ˈmth\n: an idea or story that is believed by many people but that is not true
: a story that was told in an ancient culture to explain a practice, belief, or natural occurrence
: such stories as a group

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What types of myths are there?

■ Personal / Family
  “My great-grandfather was the last African American blacksmith in Norfolk.”

■ Community / Public
  “Black people weren’t allowed to read and write.”

Where do myths come from? How are they perpetuated?

■ People we trust

■ Events that occurred

■ Unchallenged media

How does a myth damage your family history?

How do you detect – and bust – a myth?
Selected Resources

Web Sites

The Amistad Research Center
http://www.amistadresearchcenter.org/

Documenting the American South
http://docsouth.unc.edu/

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History
https://www.gilderlehrman.org/

Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture
http://www.nypl.org/locations/schomburg

Bibliography


