



*Teaching
Genealogists AI™*
Instructor: Sylvia
Vargas

Puerto Rican Slave Record Research

A Practical Self-Study Course

Course Instructor: Sylvia Vargas

Organization: Puerto Rican Genealogy Group

Website: <https://puertoricangenealogy.org>

Difficulty: Beginner to Intermediate

Estimated Time: 2–3 hours total (30–45 minutes per module)

A Note Before You Begin

This course deals directly with the history of slavery in Puerto Rico. The records you will encounter name enslaved people, document their origins, describe their physical appearance, and record the names of those who enslaved them.

For many researchers, this material connects to their own family history. You may discover ancestors who were enslaved, ancestors who were enslavers, or both. These discoveries can be meaningful, difficult, or both at once. Proceed at your own pace and with care for yourself.

Who Is This Course For?

This course is for you if you:

- Suspect your Puerto Rican ancestors were enslaved or were slaveholders
 - Need a structured way to search the 1872 central registry by town
 - Want to extract usable genealogical details from Spanish-language schedules
 - Are ready to connect slave registry data to civil, church, and notarial records
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What You Will Need

- A computer or tablet with internet access
 - A free FamilySearch account (required to view many image sets)
 - A research notebook or digital research log
 - The Spanish Genealogy Glossary included with this course
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What You Will Walk Away With

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Identify the correct district and municipality to search in the 1872 registry
 2. Browse digitized images efficiently to locate entries
 3. Extract key identifiers needed to continue research: parents, origin, owner, residence
 4. Create a short next-steps plan connecting slave registry data to civil, church, and notarial records
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Modules Included

1. Understanding the Registro Central de Esclavos (1872)
 2. Finding and Navigating the Records
 3. Extracting and Preserving Evidence
 4. Building the Research Bridge
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Companion Materials

- Spanish Glossary of Key Terms

• Worksheet: Registry Extraction Form

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