



Heritage Newsletter

California African American Genealogical Society

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California African American Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 8442
Los Angeles, CA 90008-0442

General Membership Meetings

Third Saturday monthly at 11:45am (dark July and August)

Mayme Clayton Library and Museum (MCLM)

4130 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA 90230-3734
(Old Culver City Courthouse across from VA building)

2014 Board of Directors

Dr. Edna Briggs – President
Ronald Higgins – Immediate Past President
Ron Batiste – First Vice President
Carolyn Conway – Second Vice President /Membership
Cartellia Bryant – Corresponding Secretary
Open – Recording Secretary
Christina Ashe – Treasurer
Dr. Stanley Viltz – Parliamentarian
Website – www.caags.org

Committee Chairs

Open – Book Sales and Acquisitions
Open – Public Relations/Fundraising Chairman
LaVerne Anderson – Librarian
Open – Historian
Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor
Open – FGS Delegate
Open – Volunteer Chairman

President's Message

By Dr. Edna Briggs

CAAGS New DNA Interest Group

Using DNA in our genealogical research offers new and expanded opportunities for identifying and connecting with our ancestors and their descendants who are connected to us. This science opens the door for African Americans to be able to more easily search for connections to the past, beyond 1870 and the effects of slavery.

In October 2014, Alice Fairhurst made a presentation, outlining the major types of tests, their benefits, and the companies offering them. Since October, Alice has suggested that CAAGS establish a special interest group, thus she has arranged for a group of DNA Administrators to facilitate the meetings.

This means that CAAGS will be the first African American genealogical organization in Southern California (possibly in all of California) to establish a DNA special interest group. In that computers will be needed, arrangements have been made to meet quarterly at the Los Angeles Family History Library in West Los Angeles. Individuals will be able to obtain first-hand assistance with interpreting, understanding and using their DNA data. The 2015 meetings will be held:

Saturday, April 25, 2014

Saturday, October 24, 2015

10:00 a.m. - 12 noon

Join us on April 25th and get prepared to visit the vendors for DNA testing during the Southern California Genealogical Society's Jamboree, June 5-7, 2015.

Neither the newsletter editor nor CAAGS guarantees publication of any submission. Submissions for the newsletter are due by the third Saturday of each month. Please email your submissions or inquiries to CAAGS@hotmail.com

Conference registration is not required in order to enter the Exhibit Hall. And those who already have their DNA test results (like me) can receive personal assistance with interpreting the data at the April 25th meeting, and learn about what our next steps should be.

Quote for the Month: *“I want to inspire people. I want someone to look at me and say, “Because of you I didn’t give up”* - Unknown

2015 Calendar of Events

On going

CAAGS Writers Group, Fourth Friday monthly 10-12
Check our website for meeting details

April 18

CAAGS Board meeting, 10 am - 11:30 am
Beginner/Intermediate Classes, 11:45 am - 12:45 pm
General membership meeting/Show & Tell, 1-3pm

May 16

CAAGS Board meeting, 10 am - 11:30 am
Beginner/Intermediate Classes, 11:45 am - 12:45 pm
General membership meeting/Guest Speaker, 1-3pm,
Gerard McKay, Pension Files

June 5-7

46th Annual Southern California Genealogy Jamboree. For all the details go to www.genealogyjamboree.com **Early Bird registration ends April 30, 2015**

June 30

Deposits due for Salt Lake City, UT research trip

** Calendar is subject to change without notice*

46th Annual Southern California Genealogy Jamboree

June 5 - 7, 2015 Friday through Sunday

Registration is now open go to
www.genealogyjamboree.com

Early Bird registration ends April 30, 2015

The theme of the 2015 Jamboree is *Genealogy FANfare: working together*. We welcome attendees who are fans of genealogy, amateur or professional. Jamboree 2015 celebrates the use of friends, associates, and neighbors (FANs) of our elusive ancestors in order to aid in our research. Our heritage focus will be on African American, Jewish, Eastern European and Russian research. In addition to these, sessions on other geographic regions in the United States, United Kingdom, and Europe will be included.

Special pricing for 2015 offers a discount to those who register for both Jamboree and Genetic Genealogy: DNA

*Day Plus! as well as discounts for SCGS members for each event. **Early Bird registration ends April 30, 2015.***

Stay updated on all the Jamboree news through the Jamboree blog. Follow @SCGSGenealogy and #scgs2015 on Twitter. Join the SCGS Group on Facebook and add Jamboree to your list of events. Join our group on Linked In.



CAAGS 30th Anniversary Quilt

In commemoration of our 30th Anniversary, CAAGS members Norma Bates and Tommie Mallet are creating an Underground Railroad themed quilt. Donations are being accepted to help purchase the quilting supplies. If you would like to make a donation, give at the next monthly meeting or mail us your donation. You can also contact Norma Bates, teapotnorma@yahoo.com. Our goal is to raise \$300 for the quilting project.

Salt Lake City Research Trip

CAAGS invites you to celebrate Family History Month by joining us in a Family History research tour to the Salt Lake City Family History Library. Take advantage of 5 days with professional researchers who live and work in Salt Lake City. Trip dates are October 19-24th 2015, your non-refundable deposit is due by June 30th. Registration forms were included in the March newsletter. Contact Colette DeVerge at 323 933 8381.

Genealogy Roadshow

The producers of Genealogy Roadshow are looking for people to be on Season 3 of the show and applications are being accepted now. The casting call application can be found at <http://genealogyroadshow.org/casting-page>. We are asking that all interested CAAGS members submit an application in the hopes that if they get enough applications the film crew will consider coming to Los Angeles to film a few episodes.

Essential technology For Genealogists

By D. Joshua Taylor

In today’s digital world, genealogists need to be aware of technology that can assist their work. The needs of each and every genealogist are diverse and distinctive. For example, a genealogist who frequently conducts research away from home will use technology that is small and portable; while a genealogist who conducts a majority of work from home will need technology that creates a

comfortable at-home working space. Regardless of the type of technology needed, it is important to remember a few things. First, because technology is constantly developing, any list of “essential technology” will often become obsolete within a few months after its creation. Second, it is important to only purchase technology that you will actively use. One should not raid the nearest store with a checklist of “must haves” for their genealogical research. Technology is meant to be an addition to the tools of a genealogist, not the only resource.

The basics

Some “essential” technologies are so basic that they seem to be automatically included in the thoughts of every genealogist. A computer and printer likely grace the desk of almost every genealogist. However, these basic technologies offer various options and accessories that need to be considered.

Desktop vs. laptop

While some genealogists prefer to own both a desktop and a laptop, others have to make the hard decision between the two. A variety of systems and configurations are available for purchase, and the needs of every genealogist are different. Some genealogists prefer to just use a laptop, as their data can be easily transported from home to other research locations. Multiple accessories exist to make a laptop look, feel, and work like a desktop computer.

Wireless keyboard and mouse

Whichever type of computer you choose, a wireless keyboard and mouse can be a great addition to any workspace. These handy devices can be easily moved to make way for sorting papers, data entry, or for that pile of books. Always keep a supply of batteries on hand for the mouse and the keyboard.

Inkjet vs. laser printer

The decision between owning an inkjet or laser printer is one of great importance. Because pages printed on inkjet printers tend to smear when they come into contact with moisture, some genealogists use a laser printer. Laser printers are generally more expensive than inkjet printers but they do use toner (powder rather than ink) and heat, which prevents smearing. Laser printers also tend to print faster than inkjet printers. However, because some genealogists print color documents, they prefer the use of an inkjet printer because of the high cost of color laser printers. Before purchasing a new printer (or “all-in-one” device), examine the prices of the device’s ink and/or toner cartridges. Recently a series of “throw-away” printers have hit the market, meaning printers that are much less expensive than the cost of their toner cartridges, making it cheaper to simply buy a new printer than pay for a new toner cartridge.

Surge protectors

A small, important, yet often forgotten piece of technology is a surge protector. Do not be afraid to purchase a high quality surge protector for your computer, laptop, printer, scanner, and other devices. In fact, it is never a bad idea to own more than one surge protector. When traveling with technology, always pack a surge protector. Several good portable surge protectors are on the market for those who do not want to bring along a standard-sized surge protector.

Security and antivirus software

A variety of software companies produce security and antivirus software to protect personal computers and to work quietly in the background while the computer is being used. The software should protect Internet browsing, e-mail (both incoming and outgoing), and the computer and its files. It is important to keep the software up-to-date, as new viruses and security threats are created every day. Before purchasing security or antivirus software, make sure the software allows for updates from the company’s servers. It is also a good idea to check on the cost of keeping the software updated.

Communication

Genealogists need to use technology that enables them to communicate and share their research findings. They need to communicate with other genealogists, libraries, archives, and other individuals.

Online presence

Because of the popularity of online genealogical research, genealogists need to have an online presence. That presence can exist in the form of a Web site, blog, or message board posting. 16 Digital Genealogist Just because research is not “complete” on a family or project does not mean the information cannot be shared online. Blogs allow information to be quickly and easily shared among individuals and are available free through Blogger.com.

E-mail

In today’s digital world, communication between genealogists is essential. Message board and mailing list postings would not be effective without personal e-mail addresses. E-mail allows for the sharing of documents between genealogists in a matter of minutes (or seconds depending upon the speed of the computer). E-mail addresses also become usernames for logging into important databases and other Web sites. In order to avoid unsolicited e-mails (a.k.a. spam), consider using more than one e-mail address. For example, you could create three e-mail addresses: one could be used for online orders and database subscriptions, another to correspond with family and friends, and a third to post on public forums, mailing lists, and message boards.

Data storage

Genealogists collect large amounts of data that need to be transported, stored, and backed up. External hard drives,

USB flash drives, and the capability to burn and create CD-ROMs and/or DVDs are all essential technologies for genealogists. CD-ROM/DVD burning capability. Even with flash drives, external hard drives, and other media storage solutions, the capability to burn CD-ROMS and/or DVDs is important for genealogists to have. The ability to burn these disks can provide a method to back up material, preserve photos, share movies, and transfer large files between computers, genealogists, and friends.

Flash drives

A USB flash drive is an essential technology for any genealogist. Flash drives come in all shapes and sizes but are usually about 100 mm. in length, and easily fit on key chains and in purses and pockets. They plug into any computer's USB port, and can be protected with passwords and other security features.

External hard drive

Whether using a laptop or desktop, an external hard drive is an important piece of technology for genealogists. External hard drives can serve as a method to back up and store data. Some hard drives include built-in buttons that automatically back up computer files to the external hard drive. External hard drives are relatively inexpensive and are essential to anyone working with digital images, photographs, video files, and other large file types. Because these drives can easily be connected to a different computer, they can also facilitate the transfer of large amounts of data between computers. When purchasing an external hard drive, do not be afraid to purchase a drive that has a large storage capacity. Purchasing a large external hard drive ensures that it can serve as a regular drive for data storage as well as a back-up drive for the computer.

Preserve and share

Genealogists also need technology that helps to preserve and share their findings. Digital cameras allow for quick images of cemeteries, documents, and individuals, while scanners allow existing photographs to be quickly converted to digital format. One thing to look for when purchasing a scanner is an automatic document feeder, which automatically feeds a set of documents into the device, allowing you to work on other tasks rather than constantly lifting up the lid for every document.

Digital cameras

Several books and guides exist to assist genealogists in using digital cameras. In today's world, a digital camera saves time, money, and frustration. Visits to cemeteries or research repositories can be instantly recorded and shared with other genealogists and friends.

Scanner

When digitizing photos, images, and documents, owning a scanner is essential. Scanners generally come with OCR (optical character recognition) features, which allow scans

of text to be converted into actual text files. Look for a scanner that has a 300 dpi (dots per inch) resolution for its OCR capabilities. For basic scanning, a scanner that scans at a resolution of 2,400 dpi will be sufficient, although if the scanned images will eventually be reproduced in a book or other format, it is a good idea to use a scanner that scans at a resolution of at least 4,800 dpi.

Last but not least...library card

Though technically not a piece of technology, holding a library card to a major university or public library can offer access to databases that include important genealogical information. Often HeritageQuest Online and Ancestry Library Edition can be accessed at university or major public libraries. In addition, databases such as ArchivesUSA and ArchiveGrid allow access to the finding aids of archives and similar repositories across the United States. Some libraries allow users to access their databases remotely (via their Web sites) from home. Having a library card can help to bring the resources in electronic databases to your own home.

What is next?

The diverse needs of genealogists lead to a high demand for various technologies. As new technology is discovered, created, and released, genealogists will find ways to integrate these advances into their own work. As technology grows, this list of essential technology will change. Always keep in mind that what is essential to one genealogist may not be essential to another. It is important to purchase technology that you will really use. The number of gadgets and gizmos gathering dust on the floors and in the drawers of genealogists is astonishing. As a genealogist in this new digital world, embrace new technologies to assist you in your genealogical ventures—who knows what will be coming next!

**** D. Joshua "Josh" Taylor is a nationally recognized genealogical author, lecturer, and researcher. Josh has spoken for genealogical organizations throughout the United States, including FGS and the National Genealogical Society (NGS).**

Family History in Tax Returns

My mother went into a nursing home and we had to clean her house in preparation for selling it. I found many years of IRS tax returns and there was interesting information outlining where they lived, where my father worked and how much he made. It was a gold mine of information. So scan those old records before you shred them. If you wish to post them on your ancestry page, black out the social security number and any sensitive information before you do so.

Madelyn C. Farmer, Ancestry Quick Tip