



Heritage Newsletter

January 2004

California African American Genealogical Society

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

Volume 16
Number 1
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General Meetings

Third Saturday monthly at 10 am (except June and August)
Martin Luther King United Methodist Church
6625 4th Avenue
Los Angeles, CA
(East of Crenshaw; between Gage & Florence)

Board of Directors

Majorie Sholes-Higgins - President
Charlotte Bocage – First Vice President
Barbara Thomas – Second Vice President and Membership
Gwendolyn Harris – Corresponding Secretary
Jean Wright-Calhoun – Recording Secretary
Colette DeVerge – Treasurer
Vacant – Parliamentarian

Committee Chairs

Alva Griffith – Book Committee/Book Sales
Ronald Higgins – Special Events
Ellis Jones – Public Relations
Evelyn Ross – Librarian
Marilyn White – Historian
Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor

President's Message

Marjorie Sholes-Higgins

Thank you for your votes of confidence. It will be my pleasure to serve as your president. My goals for the society are to increase our membership, improve the quality of our meetings, and have our library available for browsing. These and other things can only happen with your support. There are several committees where you can render that support. Sign up now. Some committees meet only once others may be longer, but please volunteer.

Are you in need of assistance or just need to boost your research? Bring your ancestral chart to the Los Angeles Family History Center. I am available on Thursdays 1-5pm and by appointment only 5-9pm. The Family History Center has the following film that may be of interest to some of you. Slave Importation Registry 1818-1837 (missing 1831-1834) for Richmond Co. GA. SL# 276401 & 276402.

Did you know that CAAGS has a suggestion box where you can submit your ideas to the board for review and advisement? Is there a specific topic that is of interest to you? Let your executive committee know what you are interested in.

The Heritage Newsletter is your newsletter, so take a moment and write something about your family and the research you are doing. One important aspect of family research is share, share, and share.

Do you know about queries? If you have not put a query in the newsletter you are missing out on an opportunity to obtain some information from a fellow researcher. Queries are a request for information.

The newsletter editor nor CAAGS guarantees publication of any submission. Submissions for the newsletter are due by the 20th of each month. Please email your submissions or inquiries to CAAGS@hotmail.com or submit them on computer disk to the editor.

Your query should be less than 50 words and they are free to members. The following abbreviations are to be used when writing your query: b-born, d-died, m-married, p-place, mor-mother, f-father, bro-brother, sis-sister, co-county, par-parish, aft-after, bef-before, abt- about, bur-buried, res-resided, bpl- place of birth, bd-birthdate, s-son, dau-daughter, unk-unknown.

Example: *Higgins, Marjorie(mhigg71503@aol.com) looking for the bd, bpl, & parents of John Sample Bd-unk., D-February 1910, Pattersonville, St Mary Par, LA, Killed on the railroad, m-Callie Gayden, Res. in Gurley, East Feliciana Par, LA. Children: Venus, John, Sadie, Eugene & Pearl.*

Your query should include your full snail mail or email address for responses.

Keep watching your newsletter for interesting and informative happenings in the genealogy community. Upcoming events include Discover Your Roots III in February, SCGS Jamboree in April and NGS in May.

2004 Calendar of Events

January 17, CAAGS general meeting - 10am; Mary Alequin-Sosa will conduct the beginners class, Charlotte Bocage intermediate class.

January 24, Santa Clarita - Santa Clarita Valley Family History Fair. 8:30am - 3:30pm. Keynote speaker Carl Boyer "Mistakes We Make." Over 24 additional classes will be offered. Free entrance, pre-registration is recommended. Please contact Helene Younger at helney@comcast.net

January 12-16, Utah, Salt Lake City: - The Utah Genealogical Association announces its 9th Annual Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. This week long institute will offer 10 tracks of learning. For details for this institute, please see www.infouga.org

February 6 – CAAGS Board meeting 6:30pm

February 7, California, San Luis Obispo:

The San Luis Obispo County Genealogical Society will host its annual seminar with speakers Janice Cloud see the society's site www.kcbx.net/~slogen/.

February 21 – CAAGS general meeting 10am

March 13 - Family History Day

Plan to join us next year for another great Family History Day at the Archives

April 16 - Jamboree 2004 Genealogy in the New Millennium Friday, April 16th from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday, April 17th from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Calendar is subject to change without notice

A Letter from First Vice President Charlotte Bocage

I would like to bring you up to date on some of CAAGS activities. I will maintain the schedule for the Bilbrew Library volunteers. Please contact me for details or to volunteer your time.

In January, Mary Alequin-Sosa will conduct the beginners class. I will lead the intermediate class and continue my sharing class about the NGS Conference in 2003. If you are interested in conducting a beginner or intermediate class please contact me, Charlotte at 323-669-1982.

Field Trip dates

January 18th 1pm-5pm Los Angeles Public Library, 5th & Flower

January 24th 11am-12 noon Palos Verdes Library and 12 noon- 4pm Bilbrew Los Angeles County Library Black Resource Center, 150 E. El Segundo, Los Angeles, CA, 310-538-3350

January 31st 10am-2pm the Family History Center 10741 Santa Monica Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 310-474-9990

February 7th 8:30-4:30pm National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) 24000 Avila Rd, Laguna Niguel 949-360-2641 (do not use MapQuest directions) .

The purpose of visiting the Palos Verdes Library on January 24th is to obtain library cards so we can access their web site for Heritage Quest. For more information contact their web site www.pvld.org.

I volunteer at the Southern California Genealogical Society Library located at 417 Irving Drive in Burbank. Please call me at home or the library at 818-843-7247 to verify if I'm there. Here are the dates I'm scheduled to be there during the month of January:

Wednesday, Jan. 7th SCGS Library 10am-4pm

Wednesday, Jan. 14th SCGS Library 10am-4pm

Wednesday, Jan. 21st SCGS Library 10am-4pm

Wednesday, Jan. 28th SCGS Library 10am-4pm

I invite you to attend a CAAGS Board meeting. The Society is only as strong as its members and therefore your opinions are of great value to all of us on the Board. If you can't make a Board meeting please volunteer for some of the many committee vacancies we have.

Last Call For Recipes

As members are aware, the CAAGS cookbook project was postponed until after the Summit. The Cookbook Committee has now begun to get everything ready so that our cookbook can be published. This is really and truly the VERY LAST CALL for your ancestral recipes, with or without a genealogical note on the family cook who passed it down. If you have not yet contributed yours, and wish to do so, please contact Alva at alvagriff@pacbell.net or 323-735-7261 or Evelyn at Evross358@aol.com or 323-299-7740.

EMAIL CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS
Lucille Williams luwillms@sbcglobal.net

CAAGS membership drive has started. Please remember to renew your current membership and encourage past members to come back and join us.

Our condolences to the family of CAAGS member Teresa Sims. Teresa passed on December 11, 2003.

Scholarships

Microsoft is offering more than a half-million dollars in scholarships in the upcoming year. Get information on eligibility, general scholarship provisions, and the application review process at www.microsoft.com/college/scholarships.

The MIT program now known as MITE²S (Minority Introduction to Engineering, Entrepreneurship and Science) was created as part of a national effort sponsored by the Engineers' Council for Professional Development. The objective of the program is to increase the number of underrepresented minorities in the engineering profession by exposing students to engineering during their high school years. Interested high school juniors, should apply for the summer 2004 session. Complete application packages must be postmarked no later than February 6, 2004, www.web.mit.edu/mites/www/home_page.html

Railroad Retirement Board

By Jim Thornton – CAAGS member

My grandfather, his brother and their first cousin all worked for the railroad almost of their working lives. These jobs and the benefits there from were consid-

ered prized for the non-professional African American man. The Railroad Retirement Board (Board) administers a Federal retirement benefits program covering the national railroad workers. The records the Board maintains are primarily administrative in nature.

The Board will provide information from these records on deceased persons for the purpose of genealogical research. However, it will not release information on persons who are still living without the written consent of that person.

The Board, like the Social Security Administration, was not established until the mid 1930s, and it began to maintain its own records of all covered railroad service in 1937. Therefore, the Board service records are limited to persons who worked in the rail industry after 1936.

If a person was not actually working for the railroad after 1936, they would not be listed in the records. Nor would the Board generally have any pertinent records of persons whose rail service was performed on a casual basis and/or was of short duration. Also, the records are only on persons whose employers were covered under the Railroad Retirement Act. Employers, such as street, interurban, or suburban electric railways are not covered.

The fee for searching the Board's records is \$27 for each individual on whom records are requested. The fee is payable before any search is attempted and the fee is not refundable, even if the file cannot be located.

The records are kept by the employee's social security number. If the number is not available, you should have the employee's full name including the middle name or initial and the complete dates of birth and death if possible.

To request information, send the request and the fee, payable to the Railroad Retirement Board, Office of Public Affairs, 844 Rush Street, Chicago, IL. 60611-2092. If you are not certain what information you expect, you might send an inquiry before sending the fee.

CAAGS is currently looking for someone to chair the hospitality committee. Please see any board member if you are interested

The Progenitor Tax Refund

By H. David Morrow

I'm preparing my tax returns.

It's a chore made more difficult by the fact that GW (Geneaholic Wife) insists on keeping all her receipts in date order. In fact, she files everything in date order, all together. So I have to go through every pile of genealogy documents to find receipts, cancelled checks, etc.

All her genealogy paperwork represents about a thousand ancestors. At least half of them are being researched by no one else; therefore our house is their current domicile. They take up space, make it difficult to get around, and generally contribute to the turmoil that makes our house look a lot like the apartment I had when I was single.

It's not a pretty way to live. If you don't believe it, just ask GW – she's always complaining about finding my dirty socks and underwear under the bed. I haven't figured out how she does this, because I literally have to leap over stacks of documents just to get into bed. Nevertheless, she manages to find week-old socks -- usually right after she's finished washing a load.

"But," you say, "what's the idea?" Sorry, I digressed.

Anyway, we're devoting a considerable amount of valuable living space to a whole bunch of her progenitors. They pay no rent, but deny me the ability to walk unimpeded around my own house. Even our dog has trouble finding enough floor space to curl up and take a nap.

So, you see, sharing a domicile with all these relatives (by marriage) is more than just a simple inconvenience. (Imagine how you'd feel if you had to live with 500 in-laws.)

What's more, they earn no money, which means they're indigent. Now, if I remember correctly, you can deduct (from your taxes) the costs for caring for indigent relatives.

My idea is to take off, for each of the 500, the amount of square footage given over to their storage. The deduction would also include a portion of the heat and light costs. Without heat, the relatives might

mildew and without light, I might break a leg falling over one of them.

Further, I want to reduce my taxes by the amount the forebears generate in cleaning costs, insect treatment and dust bunny supplies. (Happily, GW's ancestors don't eat all that much.)

I asked GW to call the IRS to find out what forms to use, but she was thoroughly wrapped up in genealogy and history Internet sites. So I called. The phone rang 42 times before it changed to a loud, high-pitched tone. I'd misdialed their fax line. No matter, I'll simply call my tax advisors at Shyster & Shaftem.

I had previously been working closely with Ilya Shaftem, but through some slight misunderstanding in interpreting the complicated tax code, she's on leave for 10-20 years. Ilya, nee Shyster, was married to Phil Shaftem, who was tall, handsome, gregarious, well spoken and, it turns out, a con artist.

He went out to mail some IRS forms one day and never returned. Their jointly held stock and bond portfolio never surfaced, either. But, I digress, again.

Ilya was in partnership with her sister, Ima, who I'm now using for tax advice. The phone at their office only rang 14 times. "Hello. This is David Morrow. Is Ima free?"

I figured her vast experience entitled her to such an exorbitant rate, so I bit the bullet and spoke to her. "Ima," I asked, "I've got around 500 of my wife's indigent relatives living here and I'd like to deduct them. What I.R.S. forms should I get?"

"Hmmm," said Ima being her usual thoughtful self. "If any of them earns less than \$10,000, they might be entitled to Earned Income Tax Credits."

Without boring you with too many details, this year I'm filing for all of them. Ima called yesterday to tell me I'll get back \$32.63 for each of GW's progenitors. That works out to \$16,350 that Ima says I have to split with her 60/40. But the best news is this: the combined refunds from all GW's ancestors total \$486,654. Finally, GW's addiction is going to reward me! If I can get this kind of return every year, I might just let all the in-laws stay.

“Five Steps to Organizing Your Research”

By Patricia Law Hatcher

This is not about organizing what you’ve already found. It’s about organizing what you are going to do.

What’s Your Problem?

In genealogy we have many problems, too many to work on all at once. We are most likely to find solutions if we focus on a single problem and stick with it until we reach a conclusion, either by finding the solution or by admitting that we can’t do any more on it right now.

Be specific and keep a narrow focus. Instead of, “Who was the wife of Samuel Smith?” consider the problem statement, “Did Samuel Smith’s wife come from a neighboring family in Scott County?” Put your problem statement in writing and post it near your work area. Use these as reminders to keep you from straying onto other problems.

What Do You Know?

The next step is to review and compile all of the information that you currently have. This may take quite a while, certainly more than you expect, maybe even more than the research itself. Plan for the time. The Dallas Library is open on Sunday from 1 until 5. I get home from church about 11:30. Many times I have thought to myself “I can organize my stuff after church and be at the library soon after one o’clock,” only to find myself at 4:30 still collating and analyzing the research I had already done.

No matter how much time this step takes, it can save you much, much more. I know from sad experience. I have searched in the wrong years. I have searched for the wrong person. I have searched in records I have examined already. This wasted effort, time, and money could have been saved if I had taken the time for this step. I usually organize the information in two parts. First, I abstract all the documents I’ve found thus far and arrange them chronologically. Second, I compile family groups from the information.

What Do You Need to Find Out?

Once you’ve clearly identified what you know, it’s relatively easy to identify what you don’t know. This is not the same as the problem. It is, instead, the specific items that you need to find out. You probably

thought of several “need to find” items as you were organizing your prior research.

For example, you may need to find out “Who were the neighbors of Stephen Smith?” “Did any of them have a daughter the right age?” and “Can any of them be eliminated as a potential family?”

Where Will You Find It?

Before you head for to the library or courthouse, prepare a plan for how you intend to go about seeking the answers.

List the types of resources you want to check. For example, to identify the neighbors, you’ll want to check census, land, and tax records. Censuses will identify families with eligible daughters. Probates of neighbors may help eliminate possible families. Check for specific sources to use. Online catalogs for large libraries are very helpful at this stage. Next you need to determine if these resources are going to be available to you at places you plan to research. Do you need to order microfilm from the Family History Library or from the state archives on Interlibrary Loan? List microfilm or book call numbers from online catalogs to save on-site time.

What’s the Deliverable?

The term “deliverable,” familiar in the consulting environment, isn’t usually used by genealogists—but it can be valuable in focusing your efforts. Consultants don’t just tell clients their conclusions. They must prepare a report that describes the existing situation, make key observations about it, and recommend future activities—not unlike the report a professional genealogist might make to a client.

Likewise, for your problem, merely finding the solution is insufficient. That is not a deliverable. You should bring closure to the problem by preparing a written document that states the problem, describes the research, comes to a conclusion, and suggests further work.

This deliverable will be useful in sharing your efforts with others interested in the research and it will help bring you up to speed quickly the next time you work on this family.

Patricia Law Hatcher, CG, FASG, is a technical writer, instructor, and professional genealogist. She is the author of *Producing a Quality Family History*. Copyright 2003, MyFamily.com



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February 2004

Celebrating Black History Month

California African American Genealogical Society

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General Meetings

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Gwendolyn Harris – Corresponding Secretary
Jean Wright-Calhoun – Recording Secretary
Colette DeVerge – Treasurer
Vacant – Parliamentarian
Ron Batiste – Former President

Committee Chairs

Alva Griffith – Book Committee/Book Sales
Ronald Higgins – Special Events
Ellis Jones – Public Relations
Evelyn Ross – Librarian
Marilyn White – Historian
Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor

President's Message

Marjorie Sholes-Higgins

CAAGS is your society. What type of membership do you hold? Are you just a dues paying member or do you support your society by taking **advantage** and **participating** in the many activities that are available to you?

Advantages

The first vice president and chairperson of education and outreach is hard at work planning group tours to various facilities in the area that contain resources for doing research.

➤ Internet Research

By taking a trip to the Palos Verdes Public Library and getting a library card you can access Heritage Quest on-line through the library's website.

➤ Census Research

If you are new to family research the first thing you want to do is find your family on the census. Of course, this is after you have written down everything you already know about your family and are now looking for the missing pieces. The entire collection of the Federal Population census can be found at the Regional National Archives in Laguna Niguel.

➤ Classes

At the beginning of our meeting there are two classes, a basic beginner's class and the other is an intermediate class where various topics on research are discussed. Have you discovered a unique technique or resource for research? Our classes are the platform for sharing your finds. Is there something in

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particular you want to know about or a facility that you would like to visit? Let the first vice president hear from you.

Participate

In December a copy of the updated bylaws and constitution were distributed. Get to know about the inner workings of the society by reviewing it and volunteering to work on any one of the committees listed. Many committees are only a one-time event, others may be long term but if you can, please volunteer.

2004 Calendar of Events

February 21

CAAGS general meeting, 10am; Dasiy Saffold – beginner class instructor

February 28

Discover your Roots III, 9-3pm

March 5

CAAGS board meeting 6:30pm

March 6 - Atlanta, Georgia

The Georgia Genealogical Society's will present "African American History" and "Documenting Cherokee Ancestry" <http://www.gagensociety.org>

March 11

LAFHC AA Workshop, 11am www.lafhc.org

March 20 – CAAGS 18th anniversary

General meeting, 10am

April 2

CAAGS board meeting, 6:30pm

April 8

LAFHC AA workshop www.lafhc.org

April 16 - Jamboree 2004 Genealogy in the

New Millennium - Friday, April 16th from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday, April 17th from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. **No CAAGS general meeting (4/17).**

* *Calendar is subject to change without notice*

The CAAGS membership drive has started. Renew your membership today by completing the form on the back page and mailing it back to us with the appropriate fee.

Our condolences to the family of CAAGS member Gena Weaver. Gena's father passed on January 6th, 2004.

SICK AND SHUT-IN

If you know of a CAAGS member that is ill, please submit that individual's name to the editor at

CAAGS@hotmail.com.

A Letter from First Vice President Charlotte Bocage

I was excited at the number of people that attended our last field trip to the downtown Los Angeles Public Library. I assisted many members with their genealogical research. Our field trip on Saturday, February 7th from 8:30am-4pm will be to the National Archives 24000 Avila Rd, Laguna Niguel, 949-360-2641 (do not use MapQuest directions). On Thursday, February 12th we will be at the Family History Center from 12noon-5pm, 10741 Santa Monica Blvd, Los Angeles 310/474-9990 and on Saturday, March 13th 1-6pm at the Los Angeles Public Library located on 5th & Flower, 213/228-7000.

In February the beginners class will be taught by Daisy Saffold and for the intermediate class we will have a theme class for the celebration of Black History Month. Several fellow members will share and discuss how they found their slave relatives and what they learned.

I volunteer at the Southern California Genealogical Society Library, 417 Irving Drive located in Burbank. Please call me at home 323/669-1982 or the library at 818/843-7247 to verify if I'm there. Here are the dates I'm scheduled to be there during February:

Wednesday, February 11 SCGS Library 10am-4pm

I hope to see more participation this year. We will be going to a few new libraries this year.

NEW MEMBERS - WELCOME!

Octoria E. Crockett & Gladys Crittendon are researching Cox from North Carolina and Crockett from Illinois or Ohio.

Carl Simmons is researching Simmons.

EMAIL CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS

Vernon Anderson	lasavage@comcast.net
Dr. Nelle Becker-Slaton	beckerslat3@aol.com
Melrose Bell	esorlema21@msn.com
Gladys Carter	gxcarte2001@yahoo.com
Edward Gauthier	edwgau1@compuserve.com
Don Goodwin	sgmgood1@herizon.net
Vernon Robinson	kf6fh@earthlink.net

Items currently for sale by CAAGS

Video (CAAGS history)	\$10.00
Sweat jackets	\$30.00
T-shirts	\$15.00
Summit souvenir bags	\$ 5.00
Souvenir syllabus (6)	\$10.00
Surname badges	per order

Order forms will be available at the meeting

***Southern California Genealogical
Society and Family Research Library***
Presents
**The 35th Annual
Genealogical Jamboree and Resource
Expo**

Jamboree 2004 Genealogy in the New Millennium
Friday, April 16, 2004 from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Saturday, April 17, 2004 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Westin Pasadena Hotel
191 North Los Robles
Pasadena, CA 91101**

Pre-registration postmarked Jan 1 through March 1, 2004 is \$25 but does not include parking. After March 1, registration is \$30.

For more information call 818/843-7247
scgs@earthlink.net or www.scgsgenealogy.com

The National Urban Fellows

The National Urban Fellows (NUF) program is seeking minority professionals for its 34th annual fellowship class. National Urban Fellows is a rigorous, full-time graduate program comprised of two semesters of academic course work and a nine-month mentorship, leading to a Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree from Bernard M. Baruch College, School of Public Affairs, City University of New York.

Corporations nationwide match the funding for the program as well as offer a mentorship opportunity. During the mentorship Fellows complete course work via distance learning. A MPA degree is awarded to Fellows upon completion of all academic and program requirements. NUF Fellowship award and benefits include:

- \$25,000 stipend over 14 months

- Full payment of tuition
- \$500 relocation allowance
- Reimbursement for program travel
- \$500 book allowance

General requirements for the program are:

- US Citizenship
- Bachelor's Degree
- Demonstrated leadership abilities
- Meet admissions requirements of Baruch College
- High standard of integrity and work ethic
- Possess self-discipline, interpersonal and problem solving skills
- 3-5 years work experience
- Willingness to relocate

Applications are due February 27, 2004.
Contact Luis Benitez for more information
<http://www.nuf.org>

CAAGS is currently looking for someone to chair the hospitality committee. Please see any board member if you are interested

For an excellent source of information about Social Security Numbers (SSN) and the Social Security Administration (SSA) visit this website.

<http://members.aol.com/rechtman/ssafaq.html>

Civil War Medals Available

Greg Carroll, a historian with the West Virginia State Archives, has posted the following offer and information to the Afrigeneas mail list. The actual 1866 Civil War Medals for members of two companies of the 45th US Inf. Colored Troops who were assigned to West Virginia during the Civil War are available for their descendants! These are not commemorative medals or reproductions, but are the real medals which the men did not receive. The 45th Inf. USCTs were organized in PA, but two of the companies were assigned to WVA. Descendants must be able to prove their relationship to the soldier with copies of official documents in order to receive the medal. A list of these soldiers is available at the WVA Archives site at www.wvculture.org

For further information write to Mr. Carroll at greg.carroll@wvculture.org

Using Clues: The Pros and Cons of Secondary Information

By Julian Smith

A couple of weeks ago I had the opportunity to speak at a conference sponsored by the Indiana Genealogical Society. I met a lot of very nice people, all of whom were very kind to this “rookie” speaker.

My talk was based on an old column of mine, “When You Assume . . .” and it included the requisite warnings about assuming accuracy in secondary sources. We’ve all probably heard that particular warning before and for most genealogical teachers, columnists, and lecturers, this warning has become a kind of mantra - and rightly so. We all run into conflicting data in the course of our research, and if anyone hasn’t, please let me know - I’d like to adopt that family! My ancestors seemed to take great pleasure in giving conflicting answers with every record they created.

The dangers are real. Should we be led down the proverbial garden path by this conflicting information, we run the risk of encountering those dreaded brick walls, wasting time and money searching in the wrong place, or worse yet, chasing the wrong people altogether.

After the talk, in chatting with one of the conference attendees, I was asked if we should completely disregard unproven sources. This got me to thinking. (Insert the wisecrack of your choice here.) Where would we be without the clues we extract from secondary sources?

Family History is not an exact science, and there is no magic formula that will crack every mystery. If that were true, by now, all our ancestries would have probably been computer-generated. Just because there's a birth record for James Kelly born in 1851 in New York City and our ancestor James Kelly was born in 1851 in New York City, it doesn't mean we have our man. We have to use common sense and put together every little clue we have, using whatever records and means are available to us, both online and off, to determine whether or not we have our James or some other James.

So what about that old mantra? Well, the problem with secondary sources really boils down to how we use them.

Look At Each Source

When seeking to incorporate new information into our records, we should look at the sources that provide that information separately. Some questions we want to ask include:

- Who provided the information for the record? If we're looking at a death record, we know the information was provided by someone other than the subject of the record. Presumably the deceased didn't have the foresight to fill out the paperwork before passing on, and it's highly unlikely that they came back to do it. If they did come back, I'm sure they were far too busy visiting TV shows with “psychic” hosts.

The information was likely given by family members or friends. While they can probably be relied on when they say, “Yes, great-grandpa died today,” will they be as accurate about his birth date, birthplace, parentage, and other details?

The informant on my great-grandfather's death certificate was his son, Hank. He had most everything right, but the date of birth was ten years off. Not surprising. He wasn't there. He may have known his age and birthday and when asked for a date of birth had to do some hasty math to figure out the year and miscalculated it.

- How and why was the record created? Are we looking at an index or publication taken from handwritten records that may have been misread? Did the creator of the record have ulterior motives? Are we looking at a sworn statement by someone who stands to inherit some money by this testimony? Does this old pedigree or publication attempt to establish a link to a famous person or provide eligibility for a lineage society? Could the information have been given to conceal some indiscretion?

- How much time passed between the time of the event and the creation of the record that cites the event? While the date of birth found on a death certificate, as mentioned above is one example, what about the birth certificate that is written out by the doctor a week after the delivery? How clear are those details going to be in his mind?

Should We Throw in the Towel?

Does this mean we should dismiss any information that may be suspect? No, we should look for more

records that will corroborate it. Should we look at an obituary to corroborate the birth information on a death record? Going back to great-grandpa's birth information, there's a good chance that Uncle Hank also provided the information for the obituary. Remembering what he had just told the doctor for the death certificate, we may find the same erroneous date in that obituary.

We want to look for records that didn't use information from the same source, and preferably was created at or at least nearer the event, by someone closer to the event.

GEDCOM files from lineage linked databases online or on CDs have received a really bad reputation, and in too many cases they really deserve it. Researcher #1 puts up some bad data, which is in turn downloaded by researchers 2, 3 and 4 without verifying it. Researcher #5 happens along and says, "Well, all these peoples files say the same thing, so they must be right." Wrong! We need to look at each fact and the source for each fact, for each person in these files before accepting them.

Isn't this a lot of work? Well, sure it's more work than just merging the files in, but the information within the database can be considered clues as to where we can find the records we need for verification. This can make the search much quicker than it might be otherwise. If that still seems like too much work consider how difficult it will be to "unmerge" these people from your files when you find out there's a problem. Now, that's a lot of work!

That Grain of Truth

Sometimes the information we find may not be entirely true, but not entirely false either. On my great-grandfather's alien registration, he says, "I last arrived in the United States at New York, N.Y. on Dec. 24, 1892. I came in by *Pretoria* German Steamship Co."

Nice! Unfortunately, not quite true. A little further research revealed that the steamship *Pretoria* operated on the Hamburg-American Line between 1898 and 1919, so how did he catch a ride on it in 1892? In this case, I have information given by the person in question, but some forty-eight years after his supposed immigration. But let's look at that date again. December 24, 1892. Which part do you think might have stuck in his mind when giving this testimony?

The fact that he arrived in the U.S. on Christmas Eve, or the year 1892? To make a long story short, I found him arriving on the *Dania*, December 24, 1894. Family legend says that he went back and forth several times. It's possible that he traveled on the *Pretoria* on a later date and confused the ships.

One Last Important Note

When you do make a discovery using clues, be sure to document the path you took and how you came to any conclusions clearly. You may not be able to recreate your train of thought a few months (or in my case a few days) down the road and have to start from scratch.

By picking apart the clues provided in secondary sources, we can go after more records that will either prove or disprove what we have found. Either way, we're making progress. Each additional record we find can make the picture a little clearer and can make any errors more obvious. It's the close analysis of these clues and how we follow them that can make or break our family history.

Juliana Smith is the editor of the Ancestry Daily News and author of The Ancestry Family Historian's Address Book. She has written for Ancestry Magazine and Genealogical Computing.

Dates in Autograph Books

I hadn't paid much attention to the dates in my grandmother's autograph book starting 1884, my mother's starting 1905, and my dad's starting 1906 until I took them to a meeting of our local genealogy society. I noticed the dates were in different towns and I could determine when the families moved and where they moved by the dates in the autograph books. I made a timeline of the dates, which helped me a lot. You have to be careful though, that they weren't added when just visiting another area.

Maxine Johnson

Carter Goodwin Woodson

Educator Carter Goodwin Woodson is often called the father of Black History. He earned a doctorate in history from Harvard, catalogued the history of Africans and African Americans and founded the Negro History Week on February 1, 1926. This event was later changed to Black History Week and, in 1976, began being celebrated throughout the month of February.



Heritage Newsletter

March 2004

Celebrating CAAGS 18th Anniversary

President's Message

Marjorie Sholes-Higgins

On Saturday, February 28th the Third Annual Discover Your Roots conference was held with over 400 in attendance.

Keynote speaker, Beverly White of NBC news, gave a very thought provoking address. She spoke of how often time we know very little about our own immediate family because they don't talk to us. It wasn't until a reporter did a report on the accomplishments of her father that she truly learned about him. It became important for her father to talk to her when she asked him "why didn't you tell us?"

As a researcher, how often do we say I wish I could have talked to my grandparents about the family?

As a special gift Beverly White was presented with a book that contained documents and census records of her maternal family history, prepared by Nancy Carlberg.

At the conference there were 17 sessions where you could learn about everything from treasures you find in the home, under utilized sources, interview questions, photo retouching and everything you ever wanted to know about head stones, just to name a few. If you couldn't decide on which session to attend, attendees had a well-prepared conference syllabus containing all of the materials presented.

If you missed the conference you can purchase a syllabus for \$10 by contacting Steve and Judy Gililand by email at roots3@comcast.net

California African American Genealogical Society

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

Volume 16
Number 3
ISSN 1083-8937

General Meetings

Third Saturday monthly at 10 am (except June and August)
Martin Luther King United Methodist Church
6625 4th Avenue
Los Angeles, CA
(East of Crenshaw; between Gage & Florence)

Board of Directors

Marjorie Sholes-Higgins - President
Charlotte Bocage - First Vice President
Barbara Thomas - Second Vice President
/Membership
Gwendolyn Harris - Corresponding Secretary
Jean Wright-Calhoun - Recording Secretary
Colette DeVerge - Treasurer
Vacant - Parliamentarian
Ron Batiste - Former President

Committee Chairs

Alva Griffith - Book Committee/Book Sales
Ronald Higgins - Special Events
Ellis Jones - Public Relations
Evelyn Ross - Librarian
Marilyn White - Historian
Monica Maurasse - Newsletter Editor

The newsletter editor nor CAAGS guarantees publication of any submission. Submissions for the newsletter are due by the 20th of each month. Please email your submissions or inquiries to CAAGS@hotmail.com or submit them on computer disk to the editor.

A new African American Family History Resource CD has been produced which contains the genealogy program PAF version 5.2, Freedman Bank Records, Adobe Acrobat 6.0 Reader, How to Start Guide, workbook, research log, pedigree worksheet, and family group worksheet. Look for it on familysearch.org..

2004 Calendar of Events

March 11

LAFHC AA Workshop, 11am www.lafhc.org

March 20 – CAAGS 18th anniversary

General meeting, 10am – Jamila Banks beginner class instructor; Charlotte Bocage, intermediate class instructor; Dr. Mayme Clayton guest speaker

April 2

CAAGS board meeting, 6:30pm

April 8

LAFHC AA workshop www.lafhc.org

April 16 - Jamboree 2004 Genealogy in the New Millennium - Friday, April 16th from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday, April 17th from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. **No CAAGS general meeting (4/17).**

May 7

CAAGS Board Meeting 6:30pm

May 15

CAAGS general meeting 10am

* *Calendar is subject to change without notice*

A Letter from First Vice President Charlotte Bocage

Our field trip on February 7th to the National Archives was very interesting. The computers couldn't print and two of the computers were down. In spite of these setbacks Mary Alequin and June Coggins found some success in their research.

February 12th at the Family History Center there were a few new people. Our next field trips will be to the Los Angeles Public Library, on Saturday, March 13th and Saturday, April 3rd from 1-6pm. The library is located on 5th & Flower, phone 213-228-7000. Then again to the Family History Center on March 25th and April 10th from 1-5pm. The FHC is located at 10741 Santa Monica Blvd, Los Angeles, phone 310-474-9990. I will schedule new libraries in the next newsletter.

In March Jamila Banks will teach the beginning class and for the intermediate class I will teach a class on

“Let’s Get a Family Reunion Together.”

Please remember that I volunteer at the Southern California Genealogical Society Library, 417 Irving Drive in Burbank on most Wednesday’s between 10am-4pm. Please call me at home at 323-669-1982 or call the library at 818-843-7247 to verify if I’m there.

Here are the dates I’m scheduled to be there in March

Wed. March 10	SCGS Library	10am-4pm
Wed. March 17	SCGS Library	10am-4pm
Wed. March 24	SCGS Library	10am-4pm
Wed. March 31	SCGS Library	10am-4pm
Wed. April 7	SCGS Library	10am-4pm

I hope to see more participation this year. Good will in hunting.

NEW MEMBERS - WELCOME!

SHIRLEY & DARRYLL ALBERT is researching Albert, Dorsey, and Francis

CHRISTINA ASHE is researching Ashe, Fowler, Prates, and Sullivan

LINDA BRADSHAW is researching Kelley, O’Kelley, Perry, and Rhodes in Texas

LULLA DENSON is researching Bridges, Denson, King, Smith, and Wiley

SHARON GILLINS is researching Albert, Baptiste, Berwick, Bourgeois, and Cerf from St. Mary Parish, Louisiana; Branch, Burton, Johnson, and Norman from Waller County, Texas

MELISSA HOLLOWAY is researching Holloway

TATIA SMITH is researching Smith and Stovens

VINCENT WATKINS is researching Drake, Wadkins, and Watkins

EMAIL CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS

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Sharon Gillins	iandiranch@earthlink.net
Melissa Holloway	melissaholloway@yahoo.com
Rita Miles	yitalia@worldnet.att.net
Vernon Robinson	kf6fh@earthlink.net

Tatia Smith tatia12169@yahoo.com
 Francis Stubblefield
 francis_stubblefield@yahoo.com
 Geraldine Thompson gthomp4369@aol.com
 Vincent Watkins vdw@earthlink.net
 Bobbie Wright wrightit@sbcglobal.net

***Southern California Genealogical
 Society and Family Research Library***
Presents
The 35th Annual
Genealogical Jamboree and
Resource Expo

SICK AND SHUT-IN

If you are aware of a CAAGS member that is ill, please submit that individual's name to the editor at CAAGS@hotmail.com.

Everyday Hero Honored by CAAGS

Dr. Mayme Clayton, who has assembled one of the most impressive private collections of African American history and memorabilia on the West Coast will be honored by CAAGS and bestowed with the "Everyday Hero" award at the March meeting.

Among the materials currently in her library are more than 30,000 books, including a rare copy of Phyllis Wheatley's "Poems of Various Subjects - Religious and Moral," 10,000 rare 33 and 78 LPs, 600 films dating back to mid-19th century, 350 videos and more than 75,000 photos, posters, pamphlets and other memorabilia.

Dr. Clayton will discuss her lifelong efforts to collect and preserve the American legacy of unique history and cultural heritage of African Americans.

CAAGS is currently looking for someone to chair the hospitality committee. Please see any board member if you are interested.

Congratulations to Ronald Higgins for being named "2003 Volunteer of the Year" by FGS. Ron was recognized for his outstanding service to the genealogical community.

Items currently for sale by CAAGS	
Video (CAAGS history)	\$10.00
Sweat jackets	\$30.00
T-shirts	\$15.00
Summit souvenir bags	\$ 5.00
Souvenir syllabus (6)	\$10.00
Surname badges	per order
Order forms will be available at the meeting	

Jamboree 2004 Genealogy in the New Millennium
 Friday, April 16, 2004 from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.
 Saturday, April 17, 2004 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Westin Pasadena Hotel
191 North Los Robles
Pasadena, CA 91101

Registration is \$30
 For more information call 818/843-7247
 scgs@earthlink.net or www.scsgsgenealogy.com

NEW ADDITIONS TO CAAGS LIBRARY
 January /February 2004
 Submitted by Evelyn Ross – CAAGS Librarian

African American Genealogical Society of Northern California Member and Surname Directory 2003-2004

Third Annual West Coast Summit On African American Genealogy, Celebrating A Tree Of Life-Our Family October 17-18, 2003 - Syllabus. Presented by the African American Heritage Society Of Long Beach & CAAGS

Bergmann, Leola Nelson - The Negro In Iowa, 1969. (donated by Ronald Batiste)

Clark-Lewis, Elizabeth, Editor First Freed, Washington, D.C., In The Emancipation Era.

A number of CDs donated by CAAGS member Mr. DeVaughn Lee:

Marriage Records- CD #5:
 Arkansas 1820-1949 13 Counties
 Mississippi 1799-1925 82 Counties
 Missouri 1766-1893 16 Counties
 Texas 1814-1909 84 Counties
 Marriage Records- CD#6: Arkansas (no dates provided)
 Marriage Records Early-1850- CD#227
 West of Mississippi River:

Arkansas, California, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Oregon and Texas. (all are early 1850)

Family Tree Maker's Family Archives

Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1500s-1900s.
2000 Update

Nomination Committee Election Update

Requests for nominations for the position of parliamentarian resulted in three nominations. All nominees were qualified to run, however, two declined to do so. The nomination committee submits the name of the remaining nominee, Jamila Banks, for the office of parliamentarian. A special election for parliamentarian will take place during the general meeting on March 20th.

Jamila Banks states, "I am a Los Angeles native and an excellent candidate for the position of parliamentarian." She says, "I possess the required skills to carry out the duties of this position. I am a responsible and trust worthy individual. Additionally, I have excellent verbal and written communications skills. I am a graduate of Howard University ('94). I enjoy working with both adults and children. I am the proud mother of Xavier, my son. In 2000, I was the recipient of the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award for teaching. I am also bilingual, speaking both English and Spanish. My hobbies include designing memory albums, travel, photography, music, reading and sports."

Sharing Your Family History Knowledge with Fellow Genealogists (and Being a Bit Selfish along the Way!)

by Paula Stuart Warren

As you become more experienced in family history research, there are ways to learn more, share your expertise, and make connections to help your own quest. If you are just beginning the search, keep these ideas in mind for down the road. You can share your knowledge and even be a bit selfish at that! I don't suggest you do it too blatantly, but here are some

gentle volunteer ways.

Assistance at Libraries

Does your area have a genealogical library or local history room that needs volunteer staff? Think about the folks you can assist with their research. Yes, you do need some good research experience, but don't feel you have to know everything. You should know how to direct folks to the guidebooks, websites, experts, and other sources of help when you don't know the answer. As you assist a patron with research, what if you find out they live in your ancestral area two states away? Maybe they will share information on libraries and courthouses in their area or repay your generosity by checking out an obituary for you when they return home. Another "selfish" benefit is the self-satisfaction that comes when you help others.

Help Tables at Meetings

Offer to set up a "Problem Solving" or "Genealogy Help" table at your local genealogical society meetings. Find others to assist and take turns staffing the table during the meeting. Be sure it is advertised in your society's newsletter and on the website. Bring along some genealogy guidebooks for reference and a list of helpful websites. Once you begin answering questions you will be learning more and may even find a distant relative or research companion.

Small Group Genealogy

Is your genealogical society small, or does your larger society have some special interest groups? Years ago I belonged to a small Danish genealogy group. In the small group setting I learned some of my most valuable genealogy lessons. Joining and participating are invaluable tools in our family research. We took turns sharing our research efforts and problems. As we described our work, others offered suggestions. We learned from each other's research paths and problems.

I once discussed research on my paternal grandmother's first cousin, Anne H. Carlsen of Jamestown, North Dakota. This was before the Internet. Anne was born without arms and legs and never let this stop her from leading a full life in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Colorado, and North Dakota. When I mentioned the research I was doing on her, one of the other members of this group had something to share. A relative of hers in Jamestown had a trunk in which there were pictures and newspaper clippings related to Anne! She shared them with me. This is an exam-

ple of networking at its best! Unfortunately, Anne passed away a year ago. The Anne Carlsen Center for Children in Jamestown is named for her. She served the school and its pupils in many ways and was principal and administrator for many years. For more on her follow this link.

Teaching Is Good (This is my own selfish bit!) Offer to teach a class about a research topic in which you are experienced. Include a few of your own family documents as examples. Don't make this a class just about your family and personal research, but a few items won't hurt. Someone in the class may recognize a name on one of those examples!

Use That Computer

Write short articles on your family or ancestral locality research for a genealogical or historical society publication. Most editors are looking for articles. Check with the editor for guidelines and make sure you let the readers know where you obtained your information. If the guidelines allow, include your e-mail address so a reader could contact you if they see something familiar.

Choose to Index!

Find an unindexed small book or record for an ancestral area and index it. Heck, you might find some of your own ancestors as you do the indexing. Give the index to your local genealogical or historical society to publish or put online. See if they will permit you to include your contact information and a short phrase: "Ms. Jones is especially interested in the Griffin family who settled in Brown County in the early 1820s."

Be a Docent

Did this word send you to the dictionary? If not, you already know that this is an important word and can be of benefit to you! Docents are usually volunteers. Your job might be to lead tours at a historical society or house or participate in a living history site. You may receive special training and perks. These could include free parking; advance knowledge of new books, collections, and indexes; and a chance to write the tour text or instruction session for the local school children. Don't forget to include family history ideas and examples as you do the tours or presentations.

Does Your Society Website Need More Information?

Compare your society's site with those of others. Check out Society Hall for links to hundreds of genealogical society websites.

This site, developed by Ancestry.com and the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS), is a directory of genealogical societies. What content do other sites have that you think your society should have? Might you develop some "how to" lessons to be posted? The selfish part is that you might include some brief case studies or items that include data on your own family. How about developing a guide to the local libraries and the courthouse? Be sure to check your ideas with the society's Webmaster first.

Share Your Knowledge in Other Online Ways

You can help in many ways via the USGenWeb Project or Rootsweb.com sites by sharing information and answering the questions of others. Have you shared your family information via the message boards at Ancestry.com or the Family History Library's site, to name just a couple?

Still Looking for More Ideas?

Go back and read George Morgan's *Ancestry Daily News* column of November 26th, "A Genealogist's Thanksgiving List" for some other ideas on ways to share. In this article, George thanks many types of volunteers.

Each time you prepare an index or article, directly help another genealogist, lead a tour, or involve yourself in another volunteer activity, you are adding to your own knowledge and you might learn more about the history of the research sources for your area. On the way to this "selfish" end, you will have generously shared with others who are interested in genealogy and history. You may even find a distant relative who can share details about your family or your ancestral locality.

I'll be looking for your efforts and maybe I will find a name relating to my own family. I am just a bit selfish in my own family history search!

Paula Stuart Warren, CGRS, is a professional genealogist, consultant, writer, and lecturer. She has lectured all across the U.S. and is a coordinator of the Intermediate Course, American Records & Research at the annual Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. She is co-author of *Your Guide to the Family History Library: How to Access the World's Largest Genealogy Resource* and a contributor to genealogical periodicals including *Ancestry Magazine*. She spends many weeks each year at the Family History Library and at the U.S. National Archives.

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Heritage Newsletter

April 2004

California African American Genealogical Society

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

Volume 16
Number 4
ISSN 1083-8937

General Meetings

Third Saturday monthly at 10 am (except June and August)
Martin Luther King United Methodist Church
6625 4th Avenue
Los Angeles, CA
(East of Crenshaw; between Gage & Florence)

Board of Directors

Marjorie Sholes-Higgins - President
Charlotte Bocage – First Vice President
Barbara Thomas – Second Vice President
/Membership
Gwendolyn Harris – Corresponding Secretary
Jean Wright-Calhoun – Recording Secretary
Colette DeVerge – Treasurer
Vacant – Parliamentarian
Ron Batiste – Former President

Committee Chairs

Alva Griffith – Book Committee/Book Sales
Ronald Higgins – Special Events
Ellis Jones – Public Relations
Evelyn Ross – Librarian
Marilyn White – Historian
Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor

President's Message

Marjorie Sholes-Higgins

Congratulation to Jamila Banks who was elected Parliamentarian for 2004-2006 at the March general meeting.

One campaign promise I made was to have the CAAGS library collection open for browsing on a day other than our Saturday general meeting day. Starting in the month of April the library will be open the 1st Friday of each month from 1-5pm. Those interested in seeing what is in CAAGS' collection can visit the library at that time.

For those who missed the March meeting you really missed a very special guest. Dr. Mayme Clayton a retired librarian accompanied by her son explained what inspired her to start her collection of African American memorabilia and their future plans for the collection.

It would be the second largest collection of African American memorabilia ranging from art, books, films and music. Her collection is second only to the collection at the Schomburg Center in New York. Her vision is to have the collection housed in an African American Educational & Cultural Center on the West Coast. When this project is completed you may want to consider having a copy of your family's history housed at this center. To learn more about her collection check her web site at www.wsbec.org.

The newsletter editor nor CAAGS guarantees publication of any submission. Submissions for the newsletter are due by the 20th of each month. Please email your submissions or inquiries to CAAGS@hotmail.com or submit them on computer disk to the editor.

2004 Calendar of Events

April 8

LAFHC AA workshop www.lafhc.org

April 17

The CAAGS General meeting will held in the San Ramon Room at 11:30a – 12:15p during Jamboree

April 16 - 17

Jamboree 2004 Genealogy in the New Millennium
Friday, April 16th from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday,
April 17th from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

April 24

Family History Fair, 8-5pm, Orange Stake Center,
674 Yorba St., Orange, CA or phone 714/977-7710

May 7

CAAGS Board Meeting 6:30pm

May 15

CAAGS general meeting 10am; Jean Wright-Calhoun beginner instructor, Randy Thompson intermediate class

May 19 – 22

NGS Conference – Sacramento, CA; www.ngsgenealogy.org

June 19

No CAAGS general meeting

** Calendar is subject to change without notice*

A Letter from First Vice President Charlotte Bocage

The Internet has been very helpful to me in locating information to obtain records of my ancestors from the Louisiana State Archives. I have also been using my Palos Verdes library card to access Heritage Quest. It has been great for me and I hope it has been helpful to you too.

The National Genealogical Society conference will be in Sacramento from May 19-22. Please check their website at www.ngsgenealogy.org and also check Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter at www.rootsforum.com for more information.

We will return to the downtown library on our field trip on Saturday, April 3rd, from 1-6 p.m. The Los Angeles central library is located at 630 W. 5th Street. We will meet on lower level 4 at the reference desk. Please call 213-228-7000 for more information. Parking is \$1 with validation. On Saturday, April 10th from 1-5 p.m. we will visit the Family History Center located at 10741 Santa Monica Blvd.,

Los Angeles. Please call 310-474-9990 for directions. I will schedule new libraries in the next few months.

Let me take this opportunity to apologize for double scheduling instructors for our March meeting. I will reschedule my class for later this year. In April we will be at Jamboree. In May, Jean Wright-Calhoun will conduct the beginning class. In sticking to my theme class of the month, the intermediate class for May will have Randy Thompson discussing military records available at NARA. I would also like one or two people to share how they found military people in their family. Please contact me if you are interested.

I volunteer at the Southern California Genealogical Society Library located at 417 Irving Drive in Burbank most Wednesday's from 10am-4pm. Please call me at home at 323-669-1982 or call the library on that day at 818-843-7247 to verify if I'm there. Following are dates I'm scheduled to be there:

Wednesday, April 7	SCGS Library	10am-4pm
Wednesday, April 14	SCGS Library	10am-4pm
Wednesday, May 12	SCGS Library	10am-4pm

I hope to see more participation this year. Good will in hunting.

NEW MEMBERS - WELCOME!

OCTORIA E. CROCKETT & GLADYS CRITTENDON are researching Cox from North Carolina and Crockett from Illinois or Ohio

ROY THOMAS DODSON is researching Dodson, Doss, Lacey, Miller, Ottey, and Walker

EMMETT KNOX is researching Blackman, Collins, Evans, Harris, and Knox from Hale and Perry Counties Alabama

LEON MARTIN is researching Hunt, Mack, Martin, Stephens, Warren, and Young from Cass County, Texas

DR. CAROLYN ROSENBERG is researching Walker

DARELENE WARREN ROTHWELL is researching Allen, Cole, Horsley, Knight, Martin, Owens,

Simington, Smith, Stephens, and Warren
CARL SIMMONS is researching Simmons.

EDITH SUMLIN is researching Daniels, Moton, Sheppard, and Vasher.

CHRISTINE WATKINS is researching Watkins.

WONDA POWELL is researching Arnold

CHARLOTTE TIMMONS is researching Withers & Johnson in South Carolina

RAFAEL BEY & JEWELL LUPOMA are researching Bey, Revis, Matthews, Moore and Lupoma

SHIRLEY ANN FLINT is researching Flint, Coker, Everhart, Sanders in Georgia and Alabama

ROXANNE DAVIS TURNER is researching Turner (VA); Ricks (TX & AL); Davis (TX); Hamilton (AK)

BETTY "MIMI" CARMICHAEL is researching Callier, Sibley, Mathis, & Searcy

JESSE L. DENNIS is researching Dennis & Bayley

TONI COLBERT is researching Taten

EMAIL CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS

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Edith Sumlin	projens@aol.com
Christine Watkins	cwatks2650@aol.com
Vera Merritt	vmerit@msn.com
Jesse Dennis	jdennissr@aol.com

SICK AND SHUT-IN

If you are aware of a CAAGS member that is ill, please submit that individual's name to the editor at CAAGS@hotmail.com.

Genealogical Query

Looking for date of death and burial sites for the following individuals:

London GOODWIN born Alabama 1820, died in Texas; Matlila GOODWIN born in Virginia 1820, died in Texas; Thomas Anderson GOODWIN born in east Texas, died in Texas; Mollie GOODWIN died in Texas *Submitted by Don Goodwin, PO Box 2561, Downey, CA 90242.*

Items currently for sale by CAAGS

Video (CAAGS history)	\$10.00
Sweat jackets	\$30.00
T-shirts	\$15.00
Summit souvenir bags	\$ 5.00
Souvenir syllabus (6)	\$10.00

Order forms will be available at the meeting

Southern California Genealogical Society and Family Research Library

Presents

The 35th Annual

Genealogical Jamboree and Resource Expo

Jamboree 2004 Genealogy in the New Millennium

Friday, April 16, 2004 from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Saturday, April 17, 2004 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Westin Pasadena Hotel

191 North Los Robles

Pasadena, CA 91101

Registration is \$30

For more information call 818/843-7247
scgs@earthlink.net or www.scsgsgenealogy.com

NARA Spring Workshops

April 7 - Introduction to Genealogical Resources

April 14 - Naturalization & Immigration Records

April 20 - Preserving Your Family's History

May 5 - Introduction to Military Records

Reservations are required as class size is limited. All workshops begin at 9:30am. Please call 949/360-2641 ext 0 to reserve your place and for directions. All workshops are \$7.50, payable at the door.

NARA

24000 Avila Road

Laguna Niguel, CA 92677-3497

Be Sure To Check Funeral Home Records

By Donna M. Brown

Funeral home records are as varied as funeral homes. Location, time period, owners and many other factors play a significant role in the types and quality of records created and preserved. It's a good idea to check this underused resource when researching family members.

Funeral home records can contain information about where a person died, perhaps even the cause. They often offer the names of surviving relatives, obituaries, birth information including parentage, information about military service, organizational memberships and details about religious affiliations. They can also, of course, help you find that grave you have been searching for, for years.

Searching for funeral home records can be a large undertaking (no pun intended). To determine the name of the organization or individual who handled your research subject's arrangements, check the death certificate, obituary notice or death notice. If you already know where the grave is, check with the cemetery administration to see if the name of the funeral home is listed in administrative records. Depending on the area of death, it might be easiest to check town records to determine which funeral homes and undertakers were in business at the time of death - from there you can determine which handled your subject's arrangements through the process of elimination.

Many funeral homes that passed on passed their records on to other functional operations. If you find the funeral home you search for is closed, check with others in the area. Sometimes libraries store copies of early records in their special collections. Local genealogical societies are also often aware of where records are kept and just might save you loads of time. To find a genealogical society that specializes in the area that you are researching, check the Handybook for Genealogists, 10th edition.

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Tombstone Art and Meanings

By Pamela Reid

While the subject is at hand ~ just in case you don't

have it in your files this is excerpted from Pamela Reid's work [founder of the US Tombstone Project] the entire article can be located by checking out the USGenWeb project pages online.

Art and Meanings

✓ Mortality

Arrow - mortality
Broken column - decay, loss of family head
Broken ring - severed family circle
Candle being snuffed - loss of life
Coffin - mortality
Figure with dart - mortality
Grim reaper - death personified
Hourglass - time has run out
Scythe - death cuts us down
Skull, crossed bones - death
Spade, crossed spade and shovel - death

✓ Religious

Angels - spirituality and tomb guarding
Holy books - Christianity
Chalice - sacraments
Cherub - angelic innocence
Crescent -Islam
Crown - glory of life after death
Cross - faith (There are many different types of crosses, and each may represent something different. For a good explanation of the various types of crosses, see a part of the City of the Silent Web site.)
Heart (sacred) - suffering of Christ
Menorah - Judaism
Star of David- Judaism

✓ Plants

Fruits- eternal plenty
Full rose- death in the prime of life
Ivy - friendship and immortality
Laurel- worldly accomplishment and heroism
Lily- innocence and purity, the virgins flower
Morning glory- beginning of life
Oak, oak leaves, and acorn- power, authority, or victory (Often seen on military tombs.)
Palm branch- victory and rejoicing
Poppy- eternal sleep
Roses- completion, brevity of earthly existence
Rosemary - remembrance
Thistle- remembrance, or Scottish descent

✓ Trees

Tree- life

Sprouting tree - life everlasting
 Tree trunk - brevity of life
 Stones shaped like tree stumps - Woodman of the World
 Weeping willow - perpetual mourning, grief
 Wheat strands or sheaves - divine harvest
 Hands
 Hand, pointing upward - pathway to heaven
 Hands, clasped - farewells or the bond of marriage
 Hands, praying - asking God for eternal life
 Hands, blessing - blessing for those left behind
 Harp - praise to God
 Heart - love
 Joined hearts - marriage
 Rod or staff - comfort for the bereaved
 Stars and stripes around eagle - eternal vigilance and liberty (Often seen on military tombs.)
 Urn with flame - undying remembrance

✓ **Animals**

Birds - eternal life, resurrection
 Butterfly - short life
 Dog - good master worthy of love
 Dove - innocence, peace
 Lamb - innocence, usually a child's grave
 Lion - courage, eternal guarding
 Rooster - awakening, resurrection
 Resurrection, Eternal Life, Immortality
 Angel, flying or trumpeting - rebirth, resurrection
 Bird (dove) or bird flying - eternal life, resurrection
 Cross - resurrection
 Flame, light, lamp, torch - immortality of the spirit, resurrection
 Garland or wreath - saintliness, glory, victory in death
 Horns - resurrection
 Ivy - immortality
 Rooster - awakening, resurrection
 Star - death could not overpower the light
 Sun - light, warmth, renewed life, life everlasting
 Trumpeters - harbingers of the resurrection
 Urn - immortality (The storing of the vital organs was of extreme importance to the ancient Egyptians who believed that life would be restored through the vital organs placed in the urn.)

✓ **Trade and Occupation**

Anchor, sextant, or cross staff - mariner
 Axe, steel knife, or cleaver - butcher
 Bible - minister
 Bowl and razor - barber
 Compasses - shipwright
 Coulter (hoe), flail (threshing implement) - farmer

Crossed swords - military, high rank
 Crown, hammer, anvil - blacksmith
 Leather cutter, knife, nippers, or awl - shoemaker
 Loom, shuttle, or stretchers - weaver
 Open book - teacher
 Rake and spade - gardener
 Scales - merchant
 Stalk of corn - farmer
 Single tree (rod for beating flax) - farmer
 Wedge and level - mason
 Wheel - wheelwright

Pamela Reid founded the USGW Tombstone Project and serves on the USGW board. She has been involved with the USGen-Web Project for four years.

Ryan Tanner Short, a candidate for Eagle Scout, signed an agreement with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to conduct research at the Port Hudson National Cemetery. Short will identify and map graves of Union soldiers killed during the 1863 siege of Port Hudson. For more information http://www.2theadvocate.com/stories/032204/new_gravemap001.shtml

CSUS Launches California Slavery Archive

California's little-known history of slavery will be a click away when California State University, Sacramento's Underground Railroad Digital Archive project is now online.

Launched as part of the University's celebration of Black History Month, the archive will use high-quality digital images of letters, journals, photographs, documents, newspapers and more to tell the often-overlooked experiences of African-American slaves in California and the new state's involvement in the Underground Railroad. It can be found at digital.lib.csus.edu/curr <<http://digital.lib.csus.edu/curr/>>.

The collection brings together materials collected from around the state and includes a bibliography of more than 1,000 documents related to 19th-century African-American history in California and the West Coast.

"It's a growing process and this is just the beginnings of it," Joe Moore, organizer of the archive project, said. "We'll be adding to it constantly." Although California was admitted to the Union as a free state in 1850, slavery was winked at in the early

years. Slave owners openly held blacks in bondage and at least one city--Sacramento--held public auctions where African-Americans were bought and sold. The state, however, also attracted abolitionists, both black and white, who worked to free enslaved blacks, often sending them north to British Columbia.

In one well known case, Archy Lee, a slave from Mississippi, successfully sued for his freedom when his master threatened to send him back. Moore said that visitors to the digital archive will be able to see how the trial was reported in local newspapers.

"You'll be able to track how the trial progressed and what took place here in Sacramento," Moore said.

The CSUS Library archive is one part of the National Park Service's Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program, a interpretive program that looks at how blacks and some whites worked together to help Southern slaves escape to freedom in the North and West as well as Canada, Mexico, Europe and the Caribbean. The University's archive will be linked to similar projects across the nation and is funded through a \$132,000 federal grant administered by the California State Library.

For more information, contact Moore at (916) 278-7302. Media assistance is available from CSUS public affairs at (916) 278-6156.

Arizona has put birth and death records from about 1887 to 1958 online. Even if you do not think any of your people were in AZ, remember that it has always been a place to travel and many travelers die here. You might be surprised at what you find. Great site. <http://genealogy.az.gov/>

First Ever Every-Name Index for the 1870 Census Is Complete

Ancestry.com recently completed its posting of an every-name index to the 1870 U.S. Federal Census with the addition of an index for Iowa. The project links 40,253,845 records to their corresponding census images.

Five years after the conclusion of the Civil War, the 1870 census was the first to name many African American former slaves who, prior to emancipation, had only been tallied under their owners' listing with minimal

information in regard to age, gender, and/or race (black or mulatto). By this time, George Pullman was producing his famous "sleeper cars;" and the transcontinental railroad, completed in 1869, now connected the East with the West, making travel westward much more appealing. Domestic travel was on the rise.

For family historians, this means ancestors with greater mobility may be a bit tougher to find. Because travel was no longer quite so difficult and hazardous, people could now hop on a train and explore the western states.

This nationwide index will be helpful for those family historians who wish to locate their wandering ancestors. The fact that it is an every-name index makes it even more valuable. This allows users to search for the names of spouses, children, and siblings when the head of household is deceased or unknown. Also, because the index is linked directly to the images, once a name is located, finding out whether the rest of the family matches up is only a click away.

What Information Can Be Found in the 1870 Census?

The 1870 U.S. Census asked for the following information:

- Dwelling—Houses numbered in the order of visitation.
- Families numbered in the order of visitation.
- The name of every person whose place of abode on the first day of June 1870 was in this family.
- Age at last birthday. If under one year, give months in fractions, thus 3/12.
- Sex—Male (M) Female (F)
- Color—White (W); Black (B); Mulatto (M); Chinese (C); Indian (I)
- Profession, occupation, or trade of each male Person over 15 years of age.
- Value of Real Estate
- Value of Personal Estate
- Place of birth naming the State, Territory, or Country
- Parentage—Father of foreign birth; Mother of foreign birth
- If born within the year state month (Jan. &c.)
- If married within the year state month (Jan. &c.)
- Attended school within the year
- Education—Cannot read, cannot write
- Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict
- Male Citizens of U.S. of 21 years of age and upward
- Male Citizens of U.S. of 21 years of age and upward where right to vote is denied on other grounds than rebellion or other crime.



Heritage Newsletter

May/June 2004

California African American Genealogical Society

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

Volume 16
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ISSN 1083-8937

General Meetings

Third Saturday monthly at 10 am (except June and August)
Martin Luther King United Methodist Church
6625 4th Avenue
Los Angeles, CA
(East of Crenshaw; between Gage & Florence)

Board of Directors

Marjorie Sholes-Higgins - President
Charlotte Bocage – First Vice President
Barbara Thomas – Second Vice President
/Membership
Gwendolyn Harris – Corresponding Secretary
Jean Wright-Calhoun – Recording Secretary
Colette DeVerge – Treasurer
Jamila Banks – Parliamentarian
Ron Batiste – Former President

Committee Chairs

Alva Griffith – Book Committee/Book Sales
Ronald Higgins – Special Events
Ellis Jones – Public Relations
Evelyn Ross – Librarian
Marilyn White – Historian
Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor

“Why I Love Maps”

by George G. Morgan: “Along Those Lines...”

Genealogy brought history and geography to life for me. After my aunt and grandmother infected me with the “family history bug” at an early age, the stories and facts about my relatives and my ancestors raised my interest in these subjects. Whereas some of my friends found history a dull exercise in the memorization of names and dates, and many considered geography a waste of time, I was busy consuming whatever I could find.

I want to share with you my own perspective about maps and why they have, over the years, become a passion. Perhaps you can already relate to this. If you can't, I hope you'll give it another thought.

Maps Are Mirrors

Maps are mirrors of the geographic, geologic, historic, political, and social conditions at a specific point in time. The study of maps is known as cartography. Our contemporary road atlases reflect the status of roads and highways at the present. However, you might be surprised to learn that there are hundreds of types of maps available. In fact, maps occupy an essential place in almost every major library and archive in the world. The largest and most comprehensive map collection in the world is the United States' Library of Congress Geography and Map division (<http://www.loc.gov/rr/geogmap/>) which holds “collections numbering over 4.8 million maps including 65,000 atlases, 6,000 reference works, over 350 globes, and numerous plastic relief models, and a large number of cartographic materials in other formats, including electronic.” Wow!

The newsletter editor nor CAAGS guarantees publication of any submission. Submissions for the newsletter are due by the 20th of each month. Please email your submissions or inquiries to CAAGS@hotmail.com or submit them on computer disk to the editor.

Consider the fact that a map can be used to represent an overall geographic image of an area at a specific point in time, or the topographic, geological, or oceanic landscape of an area. Further, though, maps that illustrate political boundaries reflect information about the history of an area at the time, the governmental entities in charge at the time, and often represent the social structure of an area.

Continued on page 29

2004 Calendar of Events

May 7

CAAGS board meeting 6:30pm

May 15

CAAGS general meeting 10am - Jean Wright-Calhoun beginner class, Randy Thompson intermediate class, guest speaker Caroline Braxton Rober

May 19 – 22

NGS Conference – Sacramento, CA; www.ngsgenealogy.org

June 4

CAAGS board meeting, 6:30pm

June 19

No CAAGS general meeting

July 2

CAAGS board meeting

July 17

CAAGS general meeting 10am

August 21

No CAAGS general meeting

October 16

Fourth Annual West Coast Summit, San Diego, CA

October 18 –22

AAGNCA Genealogical Cruise

** Calendar is subject to change without notice*

A Letter from First Vice President Charlotte Bocage

Those of you who are lucky enough to already have a Los Angeles Public Library card are in for a treat. Those who don't have one go to their web site at www.lapl.org and find out how to get a library card. You don't have to live in Los Angeles to get one. The Los Angeles Public Library has upgraded their web site to include access to the Heritage Quest website. The site includes Heritage Quest Census records, Heritage Quest Books, and now includes PERSI. PERSI is short for the Periodical Source Index. PERSI is an index for genealogical articles.

You can type in a name or subject you are searching for and it will locate the articles that apply. You can also order the articles if you choose by clicking on the link, and printing out the order form. PERSI is usually sold on CD for BIG bucks now you can access it for free. This collection of links provided by the Los Angeles Public Library is a wonderful addition to our genealogical search.

I'll be leaving for the National Genealogical Society Conference to represent you in Sacramento on May 19-22. While I'm there I'll be visiting with relatives and friends in Sacramento and the bay area. Please check the NGS website at www.ngsgenealogy.org and also check Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter at www.rootsforum.com for more information.

My weekends are getting full so we will return to the Family History Center on Thursday, May 27th and Tuesday, June 15th, from 1-5 p.m. It is located at 10741 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles. Please call 310-474-9990 for directions. We will visit the new genealogy library opening in June details at the May meeting. I will schedule new libraries during the next few months.

In May, Jean Wright-Calhoun will instruct the beginner class. In sticking to my monthly theme class, the intermediate instructor will be Randy Thompson discussing military records available at NARA. I would also like one or two people to share how they found military members in their family. Please contact Charlotte if you are interested, 323-669-1982 or via e-mail at rbymoon4@pacbell.net to be included. Remember no meeting in June.

I volunteer at the Southern California Genealogical Society Library located at 417 Irving Drive in Burbank on most Wednesday's between 10am-4pm. Please call me at home, 323-669-1982 or call the library on that day at 818-843-7247 to verify if I'm there. Here are dates I'm scheduled to be there:

Wednesday, May 12 th SCGS Library	10am-4pm
Wednesday, May 26 th SCGS Library	10am-4pm
Wednesday, June 2 nd SCGS Library	10am-4pm
Wednesday, June 9 th SCGS Library	10am-4pm
Wednesday, June 16 th SCGS Library	10am-4pm

I hope to see more participation in our field trips this year. Good will in hunting.

NEW MEMBERS - WELCOME!

Etta Mae Craig is researching Jeffery
email: emcraig@aol.com

SICK AND SHUT-IN

If you are aware of a CAAGS member that is ill, please submit that individual's name to the editor at CAAGS@hotmail.com.

Items currently for sale by CAAGS

Video (CAAGS history)	\$10.00
Sweat jackets	\$30.00
T-shirts	\$15.00
Summit souvenir bags	\$ 5.00
Souvenir syllabus (6)	\$10.00

Order forms will be available at the meeting

About our Guest Speaker.....

Caroline Braxton Rober began an interest in genealogy over 45 years ago. She credit's her grandmother for sparking that interest. She is a native Californian, wife, mother and grandmother. She started her career by researching her own family, which she has done for over 34 years and is still actively pursuing. Today she is a professional genealogist and lecturer. She is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogist and treasurer for the Southern California Chapter of APG. She is technical director for the Orange, CA Family History Center and a member of many genealogical and historical societies. She has authored many reviews published in the National Genealogical Society Quarterly. Her field of research expertise is in Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana and Luxembourg.

Overcoming Dead Ends and Brick Walls

Seasoned researchers as well as beginners can hit a brick wall once in a while in their research. It could be that you might have picked up some bad information. Perhaps you have predetermined which proofs you must find, what names should appear in the documents and how the information must be worded. Sometimes the records fail to meet our expectations and we find ourselves "stuck." In this case it's often our own illogical notions that have dead-ended us and not the records. No matter how you got there, it's time to get a new perspective about the ideas and solutions. Caroline will share her perspective with us on this topic.

CAAGS Name Badges are back

The badges that were ordered in February can be picked up at the May meeting. If you want yours mailed and you paid the mailing fee it will be mailed to you. A new order will go in after the July 17th meeting so if you want to order a badge please complete the order form you received in a past newsletter or pick up an order form at the May meeting.

\$1,000 Genealogical Grant

Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak's "Honoring Our Ancestors" Web site is offering a \$1,000 genealogical grant. Quoting the information on the Web site:

Genealogical societies, local and specialized libraries, and avid genealogists are always short of the funds they need to buy appropriate books and CDs, acquire the necessary computers and peripherals, get collected information into print, and pursue other projects. I'd like to take a tiny step toward addressing this problem.

If you represent an organization which serves the genealogical community at large -- or if you serve a smaller community (perhaps you produce a family newsletter, host a website, organize reunions or some such thing) -- and find yourself shy of necessary funds, please consider filling out the form to apply for a small grant. Megan will review all submissions and periodically select one for a donation. Her goal is one per month. Submissions will remain active candidates for six months from the date of receipt. Hint: I find myself drawn to innovative ideas that can serve as a model to others! Why not give it a go?

This grant is part of a monthly program (Honoring Our Ancestors Grant Program) that Megan has been doing for several years. She is about to make the 50th grant and so decided to make it for \$1,000, a bit more than usual.

This is a great idea and can greatly benefit your local society or library. Take a minute to read all the details at www.honoringourancestors.com/grants.html. The application process is the same as ever - takes about 5 minutes. Everything you need to know is on the website (including summaries of all the past awardees).

You may also see information about this grant opportunity by going to Ancestry.com's archived newsletter list, it was run on 01 April 2004.

Los Angeles Public Library

The Los Angeles Public Library has recently added HeritageQuest Online to the list of databases offered by the library. It is available to researchers at the Central Library and also at our 67 branches located within the city limits. In addition, it is available to library patrons at home if they have a library card. In order to do a search at home, you should begin at the library's home page, which is <http://www.lapl.org>. Once there, click on Databases. At this point you will be prompted to enter your library card number. When you have been verified, you can scroll down through the alphabetical list to HeritageQuest Online and click on it. Another database, which can be used at the Central Library, all branches, and at home, is the Biography and Genealogy Master Index (Gale). It is useful for searching for prominent persons who might be mentioned in who's who publications and biographical dictionaries.

The library also offers access to Ancestry Plus, which is the library version of Ancestry.com. It is available as a database at the central library and all of our branches, but not for home use.

A new database, which the library is gradually getting, is the Los Angeles Times, Historical Archives (ProQuest). It is available at the Central Library and at all of our branches, but not for home use. It currently covers from 1881-1961, but there are gaps in here that have yet to be digitized. Eventually it will cover from 1881-1984. For many of these years there was no index to the Times. Now it is possible to easily search for obituaries and deaths notices and see the actual image of the article on the computer without needing to use microfilm. In many cases it is now possible to print a better copy of the article because our old microfilm were often badly scratched after years of heavy use.

African American Genealogical Society of Northern California Inc., Genealogy Cruise

AAGSNC invites you to join their genealogy cruise October 18th through October 22nd. Cost varies de-

pending on room accommodations and only a few rooms are available at the discounted prices. **A \$100 deposit is required when you make your reservation. Rates are guaranteed until June 15th** and the payment deadline is August 18th. Your deposit is fully refundable if you cancel before this date.

All on board classes are free. Your only cost is for the class materials that are required at a cost of \$50/class. You are not required to attend the classes you can simply take the cruise at the discounted rates.

To make reservations please call All Cruise and Travel at 800/227-8473 or visit their website at www.allcruise.com. For specific cruise information please visit the Royal Caribbean website at www.royalcaribbean.com. Space is limited so reserve early. You can also contact AAGSNC at 877/884-2843 or info@aagsnc.org.

Cruise Intinerary

Monday, October 18th Depart San Pedro, 5:30pm
Tuesday, October 19th Arrive San Diego, 8:00am –
depart 6:00pm On board classes
Wednesday, October, 20th Arrive Catalina Island
8:00am – depart 5:00pm On board classes
Thursday, October, 21st Arrive Ensenada, MX 8:00am
– depart 5:00pm On board classes
Friday, October, 22nd Arrive San Pedro 8:00am

Genealogical Quiz

While working on her family tree, Bonnie discovered some members of her family were involved in interesting occupations. Bonnie's cousin, aunt, uncle, mother, father, grandmother, and grandfather are a mayor, dairy farmer, antique dealer, author, conservationist, railroader, and a lumber mill worker.

- The mayor is married to the man who works at the lumber mill.
- Ruth runs the dairy farm in Wisconsin.
- Jerry is Nancy's father.
- The author is the niece of the railroader.
- The lady who sells antiques is the daughter of the mayor and the wife of the railroader.
- The father is not a conservationist and he does not work at the lumber mill.

Who does/or is what? Answers on page 30

Why I Love Maps con't from page 26

Using Maps for Your Family History

Your research into your family and its history is dependent on your skillful use of maps at every turn. In order to make certain that you are seeking records in the right place, you must determine where your ancestor lived at a particular time and what governmental entity was in charge. That helps you access historical references that may define the lifestyle of the residents, the types of formal and informal records created at the time, and where they would have been housed during that period. Once you know that, you can continue your quest to locate where those records may now reside.

For example, if your ancestors settled in the area that is now Burlington, North Carolina, in the early 1830s, you would need to know that they might be included in the census population schedules of 1840 of Orange County, but that they would not be there in the 1850 census. Why? It is because Orange County was divided into two counties in 1849, leaving a portion of Orange County and creating the new Alamance County. Your ancestors in the area mentioned (even though there was no incorporated Burlington until 1893) would have been included in the new county's federal census schedules. You also might be looking for other family members in the extreme southern end of Alamance County and they may have "disappeared" between the 1880 and 1900 censuses. Further research on your part would reveal that a boundary line dispute between Alamance and Chatham Counties was resolved in a new survey performed in 1895. You would need to know that, between 1849 and 1895, it would be wise to look in the population schedules of *both* counties to locate your family members because each county claimed ownership of the land between those years.

I refer to maps whenever I am reading the history of an area, either for the United States or any other country. When a place name is mentioned, it helps me to visualize the place in relation to other locations. And by using historical maps of the time about which I am reading, the political boundaries help me understand the jurisdictions being referenced.

Maps are also great visual tools for tracing the migrations of your ancestors and their families. A copy of an historical map of the original thirteen colonies is always near my fingertips.

I have studied my ancestors' movements and have drawn lines with colored markers on the map to trace their migration maps. (For those of you who are color-blind, you can consider using different types of lines—dashes, broken lines, dots, and combinations of some or all of these and more symbols.) Make a legend to paste to the map and you'll always be able to see at a glance what person or family traveled where. You would be wise to note the year of the migration too. This visual aid is a great tool for inspiring thought and hypothesizing, and it works on world maps as well to help envision emigration (or immigration) routes.

Where to Locate Great Maps

An excellent starting point for your map research can be at your local public library. Many academic libraries at colleges and universities also have fine cartographic collections to explore.

There are any numbers of places on the Internet that I use on a regular basis. Perhaps my favorite is the Map Center at Ancestry.com (at www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/reference/maps/main.asp). You can reach the collection from the Ancestry.com main screen by clicking on the "Search Records" tab and scrolling down to the "Reference & Finding Aids" link, under which is a link to the "Ancestry Map Center." At that webpage are drop-down boxes representing the various areas of the world. You can drop the menu box to obtain an alphabetical list of maps available for viewing. Select the one you want to see and then click the "View" button. The description, author, publisher, dates of depiction and of publication, and bibliographic information are shown.

Another personal favorite of mine is the Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection at the University of Texas at Austin. The website at www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/index.html cannot be praised enough, in my opinion, for its excellent collection of materials. Under the Map Room Guide at the left of the screen, click on the link labeled "Historical" to access the massive collection of maps from many time periods and sources. Also here you will find links to map collections at other websites. I guarantee you that you'll spend at least one entire evening online viewing these wonderful resources!

As a Florida resident, I have to tout the Publication of Archival Library & Museum Materials (PALMM)

website, <http://palmm.fcla.edu/> . PALMM “is a cooperative initiative of the public universities of Florida to provide digital access to important source materials for research and scholarship. PALMM projects may involve a single university or may be collaborative efforts between a university and partners within or outside of the state university system. PALMM projects create high-quality virtual collections relevant to the students, research community and general citizenry of Florida.” Not only are there Florida materials there, but a collection of links to World Map Collections also will lead you to more resources.

Finding Other Maps

If you can't find the map you want, try using your favorite Web browser and typing in the following: [place name] + map

The place name can be as simple as a single word, such as Poland, or a multiple-word name such as Ontario, Canada, for which you would enter the place name as an exact phrase, enclosed in quotation marks as follows:

“ontario Canada” + map

You also can help narrow your search for historic maps by perhaps adding a year or decade as in one of the two searches below:

“north Carolina” + map + 1775

“baden germany” + map + 1800s

It may take a little trial and error, but you may be surprised at the vast quantity and diversity of the digitized map resources available online. You also will want to bookmark your favorite map websites in your Web browser for future reference.

Summary

Maps really are mirrors, reflecting the physical condition of the world or the universe as we humans view it. Invest the time in learning about different types of available maps and explore the tremendous wealth of cartographic resources on the Web. Learn how to really use maps in your genealogical resources and you will be rewarded in many ways. And you'll soon be as hooked on maps as I have become! Happy Mapping!

George

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If you are a veteran or next-of-kin of a deceased veteran, you may now use www.vetrecs.archives.gov to order copies of military records.

1860 Census Every-Name Index Update: Missouri added

Following the recent completion of an every-name census index for 1870, Ancestry.com has now begun posting an every-name index to the 1860 U.S. Federal Census. This update adds Missouri and brings the collection to over 17.1 million names from twenty-six states and territories, covering over 62% of the population.

Available States

Alabama, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Dakota Territory, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Missouri, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.

Answers genealogical quiz:

Grandfather--lumber mill

Father--railroader

Uncle--conservationist

Cousin--author

Grandmother--mayor

Mother--antique dealer

Aunt--dairy farmer

City Directories

City directories can help us locate families and trace their movements from year to year, giving us a much clearer picture of where to look for other records. They fill gaps where census indexes don't exist or fail to turn up desired results. When directories are available in database form, they present even more opportunities for exploration.

Chicago Voter Registrations 1888, 1890, and 1892

Searching for ancestors in the United States around the time of the 1890 U.S. Federal Census can be difficult, particularly in large cities. Those with ancestors in Chicago are fortunate in that Ancestry.com has posted indexes and images of Chicago Voter registrations for the years 1888, 1890, and 1892.

Ancestry.com subscribers with access to the U.S. and Canada Records Collection can access the databases at:

Chicago Voter Registrations, 1888

Chicago Voter Registrations, 1890

Chicago Voter Registrations, 1892



Heritage Newsletter

July/August 2004

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Los Angeles, CA 90008-0442

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Committee Chairs

Marietta Sue Welch – Book Sales and Acquisitions
Ronald Higgins – Special Events
Ellis Jones – Public Relations
Evelyn Ross – Librarian
Marilyn White – Historian
Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor

President's Message

by Marjorie Sholes-Higgins

From time to time I come across articles I find interesting and helpful. If you are not a subscriber to any of the genealogy magazines you are missing out on a resource that could be helpful in your research. More and more information is becoming available online. However, the best, more accurate, and most reliable source is a visit to the local area of your ancestor when you can't use the online sources as a road map to finding your ancestor.

National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)

For those of you who have never visited the National Archives in Washington, D.C. it is time now to plan that trip. In the past researching in the National Archives required navigating on several floors. Since last October NARA has developed a new research center. Everything you need is in the Research Center on the ground floor. It is designed to be a one-stop resource, but there are many steps to follow within the center. To have a successful research trip there are several useful guides that can prepare you for the trip.

First be sure to visit NARA's web site (www.archives.gov) and the new Access to Archives databases (www.archives.gov/aad). You will also find NARA publications, which includes inventories and guidebooks.

For more about NARA see *Research Center* by Paula Stuart Warren, June 2004, Family Tree Magazine.

The newsletter editor nor CAAGS guarantees publication of any submission. Submissions for the newsletter are due by the 20th of each month. Please email your submissions or inquiries to CAAGS@hotmail.com or submit them on computer disk to the editor.

2004 Calendar of Events

July 17

CAAGS General Meeting 10am
Ruth Palmer, beginner class instructor; Charlotte Bocage, intermediate class instructor; Jamila Banks, photograph workshop

August 21

No CAAGS general meeting

September 3

CAAGS Board Meeting 6:30pm

September 18

CAAGS general meeting – Show & Tell

October 16

Fourth Annual West Coast Summit, San Diego, CA

October 18 –22

AAGNCA Genealogical Cruise

* *Calendar is subject to change without notice*

A Letter from First Vice President Charlotte Bocage

Since I have been conducting the field trips to various local libraries. I have noticed that many of you don't have a pedigree chart on the people you are researching. I became painfully aware of this fact on my last trip to New Orleans. I met a new friend and in the conversation she informed me she had been doing her genealogical research for more than 20 years and she did not have a pedigree chart or any family group sheets for her families. I asked her how does she know what to look for and she pointed to her head and said with a smile, "It's all up here." That's all well and good but what if she dies, who's going to make sense out of all of the papers she has. So please if any of you don't have a pedigree chart filled out, please take advantage of our beginner class in July.

At our July meeting Ruth Palmer will be able to assist those of you needing to have a pedigree chart and a family group sheet filled out. Please don't be shy. If you don't write down and organize your information it may be thrown out and all of your hard work will be for nothing. In my intermediate class I will share my experiences and the knowledge I gained from the NGS Conference in Sacramento in May. The next stop on our field trip train will be to the Long Beach Public Library, Burnett Neighborhood Library, 560 E. Hill St. Long Beach, CA 90806. Their phone number is 562-570-1041. We will visit them on Saturday, July 24th. They are open

from 10 am - 5 pm. The librarian provided directions - take the 405 freeway south to Atlantic, turn right, go down to Hill St. turn right. They have an extensive African-American resources area. It includes reference and circulating materials on African-American history, biography and achievement.

Our next trip to the National Archives and Records Administration, Pacific Region, will be Saturday, August 1st. NARA's address is 24000 Avila Road, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677-3497. Please meet on the 1st floor, east entrance. On the first Saturday each month from 8am- 4:30pm there is microfilm research only. Direction: From Los Angeles, take I-5 South or 405 South. Exit at La Paz Road and turn right. Turn right onto Avila, and turn left at the first traffic light (marked Federal Building parking).

On Saturday, August 21st, we will return to the downtown Los Angeles public library. It is located at 5th and Flower. I will be there from 1pm-5pm. Their phone number is 213-228-7000. Parking is \$1 with library card and validation. We will also plan to visit the UCLA Library Special Collections and the UC Irvine Library in the fall.

I volunteer at the Southern California Genealogical Society Library located at 417 Irving Drive in Burbank on most Wednesday's between 10am-4pm. Please call me at home, 323-669-1982 or call the library on that day at 818-843-7247 to verify if I'm there. Here are dates I'm scheduled to be there:

Wednesday, July 14 th	SCGS Library	10am-4pm
Wednesday, July 21 st	SCGS Library	10am-4pm
Wednesday, July 28 th	SCGS Library	10am-4pm
Wednesday, August 4 th	SCGS Library	10am-4pm
Wednesday, August 11 th	SCGS Library	10am-4pm
Wednesday, August 18 th	SCGS Library	10am-4pm

I hope to see more participation in our field trips this year. Good will in hunting.

NEW MEMBERS - WELCOME!

Jesse L. Dennis is researching Dennis & Bayley; email jdennissr@aol.com

Leona V. Reed is researching Hoskins, Ricks and Reed; email - LeonaVonne@aol.com

Allie Louise Almore-Randle, Ed.D is researching

Gatlin, Ward, Garrett (McGarity) and Almore;
e-mail - akainger@acnine.net

Email Addition/Corrections

Laurene Smith e-mail lsmith0050@aol.com

Items currently for sale by CAAGS

Video (CAAGS history)	\$10.00
Sweat jackets	\$30.00
T-shirts	\$15.00
Summit souvenir bags	\$ 5.00
Souvenir syllabus (6)	\$10.00

Order forms will be available at the meeting

Photograph Preservation Class

Jamila Banks will be instructing a class on July 17th on photograph preservation. She is asking that each member bring at least 4-5 photographs pertaining to their research to the next meeting. This will be a hands-on, interactive workshop. Topics of discussion will include photo storage, labeling, scrap booking and memory albums.

Happy Birthday To You.....

Virgilene West	5/10
James Thornton	5/18
H. Renee Cochee	5/25
Gloria Ballard	5/29
Gena Weaver	5/6
Marlene Davis	5/8
Donald Brown	6/1
Alva Griffith	6/2
Vera Merritt	6/20
Mary Walker	6/23
Edward Gauthier	6/28
Raymond Marshall	6/29
June Coggins	6/3
June Rhinehart	6/6
Rose McDuffy	7/14
Carol Thomas	7/15
Ruth Odell	7/16
A. Nelson & Asilah El-Amin	7/2
Charlotte Bocage	7/2
Asbury Ellis	7/2
Gloria Vercher-Love	7/2
Earnestine McNeil	7/21
Eva Allen	7/22
Jamie Hammons	7/22
Jacqueline Alex	7/31
William & Nelle Slaton	7/7
Harriet Smith	8/12

Lonnie Bunkley	8/12
Harold Campbell	8/22
Gail Swan	8/24
Martha Thomas-Johnson	8/3
Barbara Thomas	8/30
Marietta Welch	8/31
Barbara Glass	8/7

CAAGS Name Badges are back

The badges that were ordered in February can be picked up at the meeting if you have not received yours. If you want them mailed and you paid the mailing fee they will be mailed to you. A new order will go in after the July 17th meeting so if you want to order a badge please complete the order form you received in a past newsletter or pick up an order form at the next meeting.

Congratulations to Marjorie Sholes-Higgins in being elected as an FGS Board Member

The Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) has elected Marjorie Sholes-Higgins as a Board member to serve through 2006.

Marjorie Sholes-Higgins, Los Angeles, California, is a charter member of the San Diego African-American Genealogy Research Group and the Las Vegas /Westside African-American Genealogical Society and the president of the California African-American Genealogical Society. She is an African-American consultant at the Los Angeles Family History Center and the 2003 chairperson of the 3rd Annual West Coast Summit.

In 1984, she began doing her research as the result of a statement about her great grand father being the father of 24 children. She has since compiled a database of over 1,600 direct descendants of her great-grand father and organized the first family reunion, "A Homecoming," in 1989.

Volunteers Needed

Congratulations to **Marietta Sue Welch** for volunteering to head our Book Sales and Acquisitions Committee. If you are interested in heading a committee such as Public Relations or Special Projects, or being a member on one of our many committees, please let us know. Email CAAGS@hotmail.com

USGenWeb Census Project

The USGenWeb Census Project is pleased to announce the completion of the following census transcription. 1830 Lafayette Parish
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~cenfiles/la/lafayette/1830/>. Abstracted by Nancy Roques.

This transcription is made available due to the dedication and effort of the transcriber and will now benefit researchers everywhere.

Other new additions to the project are online at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~cenfiles/nu/index.htm>

Please visit the USGenWeb Census Project at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~census/> if you are interested in transcribing any county of any federal census records. Copies of all transcriptions done for this project are submitted to the appropriate state File Manager for inclusion in the USGenWeb Archives.

Slaves and the Courts, 1740-1860

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/sthtml/sthome.html>

Slaves and the Courts, 1740-1860 contains just over a hundred pamphlets and books (published between 1772 and 1889) concerning the difficult and troubling experiences of African and African-American slaves in the American colonies and the United States. The documents, most from the Law Library and the Rare Book and Special Collections Division of the Library of Congress, comprise an assortment of trials and cases, reports, arguments, accounts, examinations of cases and decisions, proceedings, journals, a letter, and other works of historical importance. Of the cases presented here, most took place in America and a few in Great Britain. Among the voices heard are those of some of the defendants and plaintiffs themselves as well as those of abolitionists, presidents, politicians, slave owners, fugitive and free territory slaves, lawyers and judges, and justices of the U.S. Supreme Court. Significant names include John Quincy Adams, Roger B. Taney, John C. Calhoun, Salmon P. Chase, Dred Scott, William H. Seward, Prudence Crandall, Theodore Parker, Jonathan Walker, Daniel Drayton, Castner Hanway, Francis Scott Key, William L. Garrison, Wendell Phillips, Denmark Vesey, and John Brown. Slaves and the Courts was made possible by a generous gift from the Citigroup Foundation. This is an excellent site!

Department of Veteran Affairs Grave Locator

More than three million records showing where veterans have been buried in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national cemeteries are now available online. The innovation will make it easy for anyone with Internet access to search for the gravesite locations of deceased family members and friends.

The nationwide grave locator contains more than three million records of veterans and dependents buried in VA's 120 cemeteries since the Civil War. It also has records of some burials in state veterans' cemeteries and burials in Arlington National Cemetery from 1999 to the present.

"This advance in service culminates years of effort by VA's national cemetery staffs to put old paper records into this database," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi. "Making burial locations more accessible may bring more visitors to the honored resting places that we consider national shrines and historical treasures."

The records date to the establishment of the first national cemeteries during the Civil War. The web site - at <http://www.cem.va.gov> -- will be updated nightly with information on burials the previous day. The home page, "Burial and Memorial Benefits," allows the reader to select the Nationwide Gravesite Locator to begin a search.

Attention High School and College Students!

There's a new, extremely useful tool available for African-American high school and college students called BlackStudents.com. It's a free online newsletter that keeps students posted about new scholarships, internships, and entry-level jobs on a weekly basis. Currently, there are over one million Black high school and college students in the United States, and many will either not go to college or overpay for college tuition because they are unaware of the opportunities around them. Many African-American college graduates are also unemployed or underpaid--again, because they are unaware of certain opportunities. Please go to the website to learn of opportunities for you!

Gathering Genealogical Information at Your Family Reunion

The following is an excerpt from George G. Morgan's book, *Your Family Reunion: How to Plan It, Organize It, and Enjoy It*. In this excerpt George hopes that these tips will help family historians expand on their genealogy research at a family reunion.

Family reunions can be extremely exciting events, especially for a genealogist or family historian. Where else can you get a large group of relatives together and gather so much information at one time? That's the good news. The not-so-good news is that you can be overwhelmed with information too.

As always, the key to success is organization. Advance preparation is important. Start by gathering all the genealogical information and materials you have collected that are pertinent to the family units involved in the reunion and that you haven't yet completed. That means taking all those photocopies and notes, photographs and vital records, and that mess of sticky notes and going through them. Sort it all out by surname, evaluate it, and enter the appropriate information into your computer database.

Once the data is entered, print new pedigree charts for every branch of the family and every collateral line you think will be represented at the reunion. Prepare these charts for display at the reunion. Take a package of tape flags along so that you can tape the charts to a wall. (The tape flags are less likely to damage a wall than ordinary adhesive tape.) The pedigree charts will be a tremendous hit at the family reunion.

In addition to the pedigree charts, print a complete set of family group sheets for all the lines you think will be represented at the reunion. Most genealogical software programs will allow you to print custom reports. I urge you to include on your family group sheets every piece of information you have. That includes dates, notes, and all your source citations. If there is information of which you are unsure or that has yet to be verified or corroborated, you might want to make a notation to that effect so that other family members are aware.

Make several copies of each family group sheet. You might put one complete set in a binder as a master

set. You can then write on this set as the reunion takes place and, most importantly, make notes of who told you what. The other sets you can take with you and distribute to key contact people. They can make copies for others in their family and can also update them and return them to you or the family historian.

You will find that people will flock around the family tree display to see what family information has been compiled. Don't get defensive if someone's feathers are ruffled because you have the wrong information. Just explain that the information is what you were told or given, and ask them to give you the correct information and tell you how or where you can find verification. You might want to have a supply of forms and writing utensils handy for people to provide this information on the spot, or you can ask them to mail it to you. A sample form titled Family Genealogy Correction is included here (opposite) as well as in Appendix B. [*Editor's Note:* George's book contains a copy of these forms.]

If you want to collect new information or make corrections to the information you already have, try to enlist one person from each branch of the family or collateral line to act as the coordinator of his or her line. Be prepared to give this person a copy of all the family group sheets for his or her line, as well as some blank copies for new generations or collateral lines. Ask him or her to add to the sheets, make changes or corrections, and return them to you. Encourage him or her to also provide you with photocopies of any documents they might have that could verify the information they are providing.

Whatever you do, encourage the return of information to you. Prepare self-addressed 9"x12" manila envelopes with plenty of stamps. Provide an envelope to each person who will be collecting information for you. Tell them that you will reimburse them for any postage and/or photocopies of the additional materials they send to you.

Be prepared to accept all types of information in a variety of formats from your family members. One thing you may want to collect is family recipes. At many family reunions, there are homemade pies, cakes, appetizers, main dishes, and other foods. Some of these recipes have been passed down through the generations. Take some index cards along and compliment the creator by asking him or her for that spe-

cial recipe.

As for collecting information, I have known people to take laptop computers to their family reunions for the purpose of displaying information and updating their database onsite. While this seemed like a great idea, it actually glued them to the computer and prevented them from circulating, making contacts, asking questions, exchanging information, gathering new information, and otherwise having a great time.

There are four tools I suggest you use to gather information at a family reunion. These are in addition to the family members you enlist to help you update charts and family group sheets. Let's talk about each of the four tools:

Steno Pad -- Purchase several steno pads at the office supply store and carry several pens or pencils. As you talk with people and hear interesting stories, ask if you can take notes. Some people may be unnerved by this and refuse so don't press the point. However, listen carefully to what they say, and then jot notes as soon afterward as you can. Whenever you take notes, make sure you indicate who told you what. Like a good journalist, you can always contact the person again later for clarification or more details.

Tape Recorder -- A small handheld cassette tape recorder is an invaluable genealogical tool. I use one whenever I visit a cemetery to read and record the inscriptions on tombstones. If a photo doesn't develop clearly enough to allow me to read the inscription, I still have a record of it on audiotape. At a reunion, a tape recorder is terrific for quickly and accurately capturing information. Always ask permission to tape. Take a number of cassettes with you and label them as you use them. You can assign a number to each cassette and, as you record, make a note on your steno pad of the cassette number, the number of the conversation, and the name of the person you recorded. Be careful not to record over something. Nothing is worse than recording over a wonderful interview! Last but not least, don't forget extra batteries for the recorder.

Camera -- A reunion is an invaluable opportunity to take pictures. If you own a camera, make sure you are prepared for all contingencies with all-purpose, indoor/outdoor film. Disposable cameras are inexpensive and versatile, and you may want to take several along. These come in the indoor variety with a

built-in flash, the outdoor variety, and in a terrific panorama model that is great for large, wide-angle group shots. Even if you don't use all the film, it is definitely worth the price to obtain those priceless shots.

If you are terrible at remembering names you may use a technique used by professional photographic journalists. They date and number every roll of film. (You can date and number each disposable camera.) They carry a small pad (like your steno pad) with a date and number at the top of each page corresponding to each of the rolls of film. They number the lines of each page to correspond to each of the pictures on the roll of film. As they take pictures, they make a note of the subjects' names (and location if appropriate). Later, when the film is developed, it is easier to identify the people and places in each shot--and the photographer can then correctly label the pictures as needed.

Please note that black-and-white photographs will endure far longer than color shots. You may want to consider taking a roll of black-and-white pictures in addition to color shots for posterity. Digital cameras are also terrific for capturing pictures as data. However, keep in mind that technology changes quickly, and you will need to continue converting your digital photographs to new technologies as they evolve so that the images are never lost to future generations.

Video Recorder -- If you have a video camera, you may want to supplement your genealogical experience by making videotapes. Videos can capture motion pictures, voices, and sounds. They can become a wonderful part of your genealogical collection. Even if there is a professional videographer at your reunion, you may want to make your own videotapes. If you plan to video family members at the reunion, be sure they are not uncomfortable at the prospect. And be sure to ask permission before trying to interview someone on videotape. Take several blank videocassettes with you, and remember the batteries and/or a charger.

All of the above tools can be carried in a shoulder bag. It keeps all your information-gathering tools close at hand and keeps your arms and hands free for important things like hugs, handshakes, and eating all that wonderful food!

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Heritage Newsletter

September 2004

California African American Genealogical Society

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

Volume 16
Number 7
ISSN 1083-8937

General Meetings

Third Saturday monthly at 10 am (except June and August)
Martin Luther King United Methodist Church
6625 4th Avenue
Los Angeles, CA
(East of Crenshaw; between Gage & Florence)

Board of Directors

Marjorie Sholes-Higgins - President
Charlotte Bocage – First Vice President
Barbara Thomas – Second Vice President
/Membership
Gwendolyn Harris – Corresponding Secretary
Jean Wright-Calhoun – Recording Secretary
Colette DeVerge – Treasurer
Jamila Banks – Parliamentarian
Ron Batiste – Former President

Committee Chairs

Marietta Sue Welch – Book Sales and Acquisitions
Ronald Higgins – Special Events
Ellis Jones – Public Relations
Evelyn Ross – Librarian
Marilyn White – Historian
Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor

President's Message

by Marjorie Sholes-Higgins

I hope all have had a happy summer. Do you have that burning desire to tell someone about your big research discovery? Well, the time is now for you to showcase that find. You may have spent the summer traveling to your family's reunion or just hit pay dirt by reviewing your materials and found that you had that missing information. September has been designated as the month our members are given the opportunity to share with each other the wonderful new research techniques and discoveries we've found. Don't miss this month's meeting.

In October the Fourth Annual West Coast Summit will be held in San Diego on our meeting day (October 16th) and we are hoping that many of our members will be attending that event. There will be no general meeting for CAAGS that day.

Round table discussions and geographical breakout sessions have been a part of our meetings in the past and this year we will introduce another concept, a consultant session. At the November meeting we are asking that you bring a copy of your pedigree chart and copies of funeral programs that you have. There will be several tables set up and you will have an opportunity to ask questions about your research problems. The tables will have consultants who are CAAGS' members and have been successful in various aspects of research. You will find someone who knows how to research, what resources and where to find them for Louisiana, Georgia and Virginia. Another table will have someone available to analyze your pedigree chart and help plan what to do next in locating the missing information. There will be a

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special table for the hidden treasures and funeral programs. At this meeting you will be given an opportunity to visit as many tables as you like talking with the different panelist and others having similar brick walls to climb. If you know of a particular area that you would like to consult with someone about, let us know so that we could plan on having someone available. Email me at Mhigg71503@aol.com.

CAAGS has come to a crossroad in our meetings. We have had a hospitality chairperson for many years. Those individuals have worked tirelessly for a few months up to a full year, coordinating the menu along with setting up and cleaning up. They usually miss the opportunity to hear the special presenters and enter into the discussions. The board is proposing to change to a "brown bag" time where you bring your own refreshments so that everyone can benefit from the meetings. Mealtimes has been a signature at our meetings however, there has been a shortage of volunteers to do the coordinating. When you come to a CAAGS meeting you've always known you would have a 'fulfilling' day. You, the members will be asked to make a decision on how to proceed.

2004 Calendar of Events

September 3

No CAAGS board meeting

September 18

CAAGS general meeting – Beginner class – Jean Wright-Calhoun; Intermediate class – Jamila Banks; Show & Tell – sign up at meeting

October 16

Fourth Annual West Coast Summit, San Diego, CA; No CAAGS general meeting

October 18 –22

AAGNCA Genealogical Cruise

November 5

CAAGS Board Meeting 6:30pm

November 20

CAAGS general meeting 10am

** Calendar is subject to change without notice*

A Letter from First Vice President Charlotte Bocage

If you don't have your copy of the "African American Family History Resources" on CD please go to the Family History Center on Santa Monica in West

Los Angeles to get your copy. The CD has a *How Do I Start* guide, research log, pedigree chart and family group sheet.

I hope you are able to attend the Fourth Annual West Coast Summit on African American Genealogy in San Diego being held on October 15-16, 2004. The discounted registration fee (\$60) deadline is Friday, September 17th. Hopefully, I will see many of you there for this wonderful experience.

Jean Wright-Calhoun will conduct our September beginners class meeting. She will assist those of you needing to have a pedigree chart and a family group sheet filled out. Please don't be shy. If you don't write down and organize your information it may be thrown out and all of your hard work will be for nothing. The intermediate class will have Jamila Banks for a return engagement on scrap booking. She will pick up where she left off in July.

When UCLA starts school at the end of September I will schedule a field trip to the libraries on campus that can be of genealogical assistance. It will be on a Saturday. You will have to sign up for this trip. I'll let you know the details, as they become available. Go to www.library.ucla.edu/ for a menu of all the UCLA libraries to see if there is a book, microform or periodical located on the UCLA campus of interest to you.

My weekends are very busy for the next few months. If you would like me to accompany you on a field trip please call Charlotte at 323-669-1982, so we can schedule one.

I volunteer at the Southern California Genealogical Society Library located at 417 Irving Drive in Burbank on most Wednesday's between 10am-4pm. Please call me at home, 323-669-1982 or call the library on that day at 818-843-7247 to verify if I'm there. Here are dates I'm scheduled to be there:

Wed. September 1 st	SCGS Library	10am-4pm
Wed. September 8 th	SCGS Library	10am-4pm
Wed. September 15 th	SCGS Library	10am-4pm
Wed. September 22 nd	SCGS Library	10am-4pm
Wed. September 29 th	SCGS Library	10am-4pm

I hope to see more participation in our field trips this year. Good will in hunting.

NEW MEMBERS - WELCOME!

Billie E. Smith - Researching: John Redding, Della Shields, Alfred Smith, Naomi Lark Smith

Evelyn Ford Williams - Researching: Bickham, Cryer, Mixon, and Ford

Vieyvett Stewart-Gordon - Researching: Tchula, Mississippi - Wilson, Young, Cooper
E-mail: vieyvett@msn.com

Cheryl Williams - Researching: Holmes, Marks, Spencer email: cstar@ixp.net

Marianna Cushnie - Researching: Cushnie (Jamaica), Lovett (VA, WV, PA), Waugh (PA)
email: m_cushnie@hotmail.com

Photograph Preservation Class

Jamila Banks will be continuing her class in September on photograph preservation. She is asking that each member bring at least 4-5 photographs pertaining to their research to the next meeting. This will be a hands-on, interactive workshop. Topics of discussion will include photo storage, labeling, scrap booking and memory albums.

Happy Birthday To You.....

Ronald Batiste	9/03/2004
Ophelia Sanders	9/04/2004
Caldwell Durham	9/12/2004
Carolyn Connor	9/16/2004
Evelyn Ross	9/19/2004
Vernon Robinson	9/19/2004
Barbara Butts	9/21/2004
Rachelle McMurray	9/24/2004
Florence Shelton Slade	9/27/2004
Colette DeVerge'	9/28/2004
Melrose Bell	9/29/2004
Ellis Jones	9/29/2004
Marjorie Sholes-Higgins	9/29/2004

New Additions to the CAAGS Library

Submitted by Evelyn Ross

Subscription periodicals

Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society Quarterly - Vol. 29 no.3 Winter 2003

American Legacy Mag. Spring, Summer and Fall 2003 issues

West Coast Summit Conf.-CAAGS, Oct. 2003 - Photo Album - Donated by Maria Alequin-Sosa

Books

Somebody Knows My Name, Marriages of Freed People in North Carolina, County by County. 3 vols. Donated by Francine Daniels

Discover Your Roots Conference Syllabus
Black Genealogy Research Group of Seattle, March 6, 2004.

William Dula and his Descendants, compiled by Karla Zimmerman. 2002 - Donated by Karla Zimmerman. (Indexed and pictures) 638 pages.

A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your African American Ancestors How to find and record your unique heritage. By Franklin C. Smith & Emily Anne Croom. 2003.

Microfiche

The American Genealogical Lending Library
Catalog Census Records 1790-1890 Cemetery Records; St. Louis Cemetery (Catholic)

East Tennessee Pensioners Revolutionary War, Hawkins-Rogersville, Tennessee, vl-3 Tombstone Inscriptions of Marshall County, TN- v.1-5

Virginia Negro Soldiers & Seamen in the Revolutionary War

Seeking Nominations

CAAGS will hold its annual election of officers, Saturday, November 20th, 2004, during the general membership meeting. The term of office is two (2) years. The offices that become vacant at year-end and associated requirements and/or duties are:

1st Vice President – Have been a CAAGS member for two consecutive calendar years prior to nomination. Preside at meetings in the absence of the President; Serve as chairperson of the educational Outreach Committee; Succeed to the office of President in case of a vacancy during the term; Chair the Special Projects Committee.

Recording Secretary – Keep a record of the proceedings of the Society and the Executive Committee (Board); Minutes of each general meeting shall be posted for review at the next meeting. Minutes of the board meetings will be made available to the members upon request; Perform other duties as may be requested by the President; Provide copies of minutes of all executive Committee (Board) and General Meetings to the Executive Committee (Board) members at the next Executive Committee meeting. (i.e., February minutes are to be provided at the March meeting.)

Treasurer – Be responsible for receiving monies from all sources, including, but not limited to: dues, fundraisers, committee chairpersons, etc.; Have custody of the funds of the Society, and shall deposit them in an insured financial institution; Disburse all monies and pay all bills of the Society by checking account, requiring the signature of two elected Officers of the Executive Committee; Maintain appropriate records of all financial transactions and make summary financial reports at each meeting of the Society and Executive Committee; Present a financial report at the annual general meeting in December; Insure signature cards for all Society bank accounts contain the names and signatures of current Officers authorized to sign on behalf of the Society; and chair the Finance Committee.

There is no length of membership requirement for Recording Secretary or Treasurer. If you would like to support CAAGS by holding an office on its Executive Board, please submit your name for nomination. If you know of a CAAGS member who is qualified to perform the duties of one of these offices, you may nominate them.

Last date for receipt of nominations for consideration by the nomination committee is Saturday, September 25th, 2004. Please use or make a copy of the form included on the back page of this newsletter for your nomination submission(s).

Volunteers Needed

If you are interested in heading a committee such as Public Relations or Special Projects, or being a member on one of our many committees, please let us know. See any board member or email us at CAAGS@hotmail.com

Top 12 Tips for Genealogical Research Success

by George G. Morgan

Whenever I deliver genealogy seminars, I'm often asked, "What are the key ways I can be more successful in my research?" That question is nearly impossible to answer. It depends on so many factors: where you are researching, at what period in time, which records you're seeking, what you're trying to prove/disprove, and others.

There are some strategies and methodologies that we can all apply. Some of these may seem like common sense, but I often find I have to stop and remind myself to examine all the angles. I need to slow down and remember the essentials of research.

In "Along Those Lines..." I'd like to share my personal list of twelve tips that I hope will help you achieve greater success with your genealogical research.

1. **Research the entire family unit, not just your direct ancestor**, to gain an understanding of family dynamics and each member's personality. The fact that a child is born in a certain sequence in the family influences his or her development and familial relationships.
2. **Place your ancestors into context by learning about the history, geography, and social conditions of the places and times in which they lived.** If you don't understand the place and times, the historical and social forces, and the influences of other people and events, you won't really "know" your ancestor or family member.
3. **Understand what records might have been created for and about your ancestors (and which types were not) and trace the current location of those records.** History, again, plays an important factor. Consider the government in power at the time, the types of records it caused to be created and why, and what may have happened to those records. Use historical maps so that you're looking in the right place at the right time.
4. **Take advantage of libraries and archives by mastering the use of their online catalogs and understanding the classification systems and organi-**

zation of their collections. If you don't know how to immediately locate materials in these facilities, you can waste research time.

5. Continually expand and hone your Internet skills in the use of search engines, databases, directories, metasearch engines, message boards, e-mail, mailing lists, people finders, and other tools. Seek out classes at colleges, universities, libraries, genealogical society computer groups, and at online venues such as the Genealogy Training Workshops at MyFamily.com.

6. Use all the resources available to you--books, magazines and journals, newspapers, microfilm, electronic databases, and the Internet--and integrate their use to obtain complementary information. Use the resources you have in tandem to prove and refute information.

7. Develop and employ your critical thinking skills to evaluate every piece of evidence you find. Consider each fact for accuracy, credibility, authority of the source, primary vs. secondary source, original vs. derivative source, currency, and bias.

8. Learn to locate and use alternative or substitute records when the ones you want can't be located. When you hit a brick wall, don't just collapse and cry that you've reached a dead end. Look for other available records and evidence that include the same or similar information. Sidestep to a sibling or other family member and research that person; move up another generation from them, for instance, and then connect your way downward to the person with whom you are stalled.

9. Document every piece of information you find using complete and accurate written source citations. You will come back to these sources over and over again. They are every bit as important as the data that they document. Just like you see on *Antiques Roadshow*, source citations are the provenance of your data.

10. Use the facts you have compiled to develop a timeline of data and life events for your key ancestors or those for which elude you. Learn to read your ancestor's life chronologically like a biography to better understand him or her.

11. Prepare in advance for every genealogical research trip. Define who and what you want to research, where the materials you want are located, and set up appointments to meet with people who may be able to assist you.

12. Periodically re-read all of the materials you have compiled for an individual in chronological sequence. Each time you do so, you will view the person's life story more clearly.

If you focus on these essential tips for your research guidance, your success rate will improve. And the better you understand your ancestors, you'll be amazed at how many of your brick walls crumble away.

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CARING FOR FAMILY BIBLES

If your Bible sustained damage over the years, a first inclination is to fix it yourself. Before you reach for adhesive or pressure-sensitive tape to repair torn pages, Salls recommends contacting a book conservator. You can inadvertently damage the item you're trying to preserve. Locate a conservator in your area by using the online referral service through the American Institute for the Preservation of Historic and Artistic Works (<http://aic.stanford.edu>).

Check the Ancestry.com Archives for the full article
Ancestry Daily News
5/17/2004 - Archive

- Ancestry Daily News, 17 May 2004
- Bless Them: Caring for Family Bibles

Maureen continued the article:

- Ancestry Daily News, 23 June 2004
- Bless Them: Caring for Family Bibles, Part 2

Bible Information Online

Another way to preserve Bible records is by publishing them online. So how many Bible records are online? A lot. CyndisList www.cyndislist.com has a category devoted to family Bible records with several subdivisions. If you've lost a Bible, have one in need of restoration, or are looking for transcriptions, there is plenty available on the Web. Some sites are free, while others are fee-based. One reader wrote to express her wish that "all the family Bible record sites would consolidate—into a free site."



Heritage Newsletter

October 2004

Celebrating Family History Month

California African American Genealogical Society

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

Volume 16
Number 8
ISSN 1083-8937

General Meetings

Third Saturday monthly at 10 am (except June and August)
Martin Luther King United Methodist Church
6625 4th Avenue
Los Angeles, CA
(East of Crenshaw; between Gage & Florence)

Board of Directors

Marjorie Sholes-Higgins - President
Charlotte Bocage – First Vice President
Barbara Thomas – Second Vice President
/Membership
Gwendolyn Harris – Corresponding Secretary
Jean Wright-Calhoun – Recording Secretary
Colette DeVerge – Treasurer
Jamila Banks – Parliamentarian
Ron Batiste – Former President

Committee Chairs

Marietta Sue Welch – Book Sales and Acquisitions
Open – Special Events
Open – Public Relations
Evelyn Ross – Librarian
Marilyn White – Historian
Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor

President's Message

Marjorie Sholes-Higgins

CAAGS Library

Do you need help to jumpstart your research? The trail has gone cold and you are wondering where to go next. Have you tried our library?

The CAAGS library is in the process of reorganization. First, all of the numerous handouts have been placed into file folders, numbered and placed in file boxes for your perusal. The handouts are various resource materials that can aid you in your research.

The library is opened the 1st Friday of each month from 1-5pm. As your president, I will be available for consultation during that time. Bring your pedigree charts and family group sheets with you for review.

You can browse through the many books and pamphlets we have. If you have microfiche but don't have a reader bring them with you. There are microfiche readers available for your use. The resources in the library are available at no cost to you but donations to the library are always welcome.

The library will be open next on November 5th and December 3rd.

The California State Library system has banned Post-it-Notes because testing by the National Archives has shown that they leave a residue, which can damage books.

The newsletter editor nor CAAGS guarantees publication of any submission. Submissions for the newsletter are due by the 20th of each month. Please email your submissions or inquiries to CAAGS@hotmail.com or submit them on computer disk to the editor.

2004 Calendar of Events

October 10

Field trip to Los Angeles Public Library

October 16

No CAAGS general meeting

Fourth Annual West Coast Summit, San Diego, CA

October 18 –22

AAGNCA Genealogical Cruise

October 31

Field trip to Family History Center

November 5

CAAGS Board Meeting 6:30pm

November 20

CAAGS general meeting 10am

** Calendar is subject to change without notice*

A Letter from First Vice President Charlotte Bocage

There will be no meeting in October because we will be in San Diego attending the 4th Annual West Coast Summit.

Daisy Saffold will be the instructor for our November beginner's class. She will assist those of you needing to have a pedigree chart and a family group sheet filled out. Please continue to attend these classes until you fully understand how to fill them out. If you don't write down and organize your information it may be thrown out and all of your hard work will be for nothing. I will teach the intermediate class on how to stay organized. This is a "show and tell" class. I will share my organizational procedures with you.

When UCLA starts school at the end of September I will schedule a field trip to the libraries on campus that can be of genealogical assistance. I'll let you know the details in the next newsletter. Go to www.library.ucla.edu for a menu of all the UCLA libraries to see if there is a book, microform or periodical located on the UCLA campus of interest to you.

Our October field trips will be on Sunday, October 10th when we return to the downtown Los Angeles Public Library. It is located at 5th and Flower. I will be there from 1pm-5pm. Their phone number is 213-228-7000. Parking is available under the library for

\$1 with library card and validation. On Saturday, October 31st we travel to the Family History Center from 1-5 p.m. located at 10741 Santa Monica Blvd. Los Angeles. Please call 310-474-9990 for directions. Please bring your pedigree charts and family group sheets with you.

My weekends are very busy for the next few months. If you would like me to accompany you on a field trip please call me (Charlotte) at 323-669-1982 so we can schedule one.

I will be teaching a family reunion class on Saturday, October 9th, at the Southern California Genealogical Society Library, located at 417 Irving Drive in Burbank, phone 818-843-7247. The program is for members only from 1-3pm. The one-hour class is scheduled within that time.

I also volunteer at the SCGS Library on most Wednesday's between 10am-4pm. The library has more than 30,000 books, CD's and microfiche. Please call me at home before Wednesday at 323-669-1982 or call the library on that day at 818-843-7247 to verify if I'm there. Here are dates I'm scheduled to be there:

Wednesday, October 6 SCGS Library 10am-4pm
Wednesday, October 13 SCGS Library 10am-4pm
Wednesday, October 20 SCGS Library 10am-4pm
Wednesday, October 27 SCGS Library 10am-4pm

NEW MEMBERS - WELCOME!

Lucindy Mike
Helen Taylor - Researching Longmiare & Coleman
email - genton.c@sacglobal.net

New E-mail address

H. Renee Cochee tallrotts@sbcglobal.net

Raydonna "Donna" Adams adamsrs@adelphia.net

Happy Birthday To You.....

Gwendolyn Harris 10/4/2004
Cresie Lockette Page 10/5/2004
Nancy Padron 10/9/2004
Se Elcy Caldwell 10/10/2004
Marilyn White 10/17/2004
Octoria Crockett 10/22/2004
Bobbie Wright 10/27/2004

The Nomination Committee is looking for members who are willing to work on the Executive Board. Everyone has some type of experience that can be drawn upon to do the duties required for 1st Vice President, Recording Secretary or Treasurer. If you enjoy the society, please consider taking an active part by becoming a board member. Without people who are willing to take an active role in leadership, the programs you enjoy may fade into the sunset.

Check out Slavery Era Insurance Policies Registry – Illinois Dept of Insurance

Illinois is the second state to require insurance companies to search records and report archival data about coverage of slaves, a development that genealogists say could help fill in gaps in knowledge about the black experience in the United States.

The law, which took effect in January, requires any insurance company that does business in Illinois to search for records of policies issued to slaveholders to cover death or harm to their slaves. Officials must report the names of slaves and slaveholders insured by their corporations or any predecessor companies.

Historians say the list will be especially valuable if, as it appears, it tracks the slaveholding patterns of several owners who show up several times on the list.

<http://www.ins.state.il.us/Consumer/SlaveryReporting.nsf>

California has a similar site that can be found at: <http://www.insurance.ca.gov/SEIR/main.htm>

From this site, you can read the report from the submitting companies, look at the names of slaves, etc.

Volunteers Needed

If you are interested in heading a committee such as Public Relations or Special Projects, or being a member on one of our many committees, please let us know. See any board member or email us at CAAGS@hotmail.com

Attention High School and College Students!

There's a new, extremely useful tool available for African-American high school and college students called BlackStudents.com. It's a free online newsletter that keeps students posted about new scholarships, internships, and entry-level jobs on a weekly basis.

Currently, there are over one million Black high school and college students in the United States, and many will either not go to college or overpay for college tuition because they are unaware of the opportunities around them. Many African-American college graduates are also unemployed or underpaid--again, because they are unaware of certain opportunities. Please go to the website to learn of opportunities for you!

October Is Family History Month Celebrate with Ten Easy Projects

by Juliana Smith

Well, it's that time of year again and the weather's turning chilly here in the Midwest. I'm looking toward winter with a little wistfulness because I'll miss being able to work in my garden, but also with the excitement that a new season brings.

It's time to start thinking about indoor projects, and I have a long list! Along with some painting and sewing projects I have planned for the house, I am hoping to finish an afghan that I'm crocheting. We're into year two on this one, and so far I have either the start of an afghan, a long scarf, or since one end seems to be wider than the other maybe a big hoop skirt? (I never said I was good at it!) Since October is Family History Month, it's also a great time to work some family history projects into our to-do list. For those of you who may be looking for some ideas, here are ten to get you started:

1. Write a Biographical Sketch and Share it with Your Family. What better way to introduce your family to a favorite ancestor than to share his or her life story? Who knows—you may inspire another family member to help in your search for more information!

2. Share a Story from Your Childhood with a Child. My daughter loves hearing stories about when I was little. I've decided that this month we're going to take some time and document some of these

stories together. She loves making little “books,” so I’m going to ask for her help in creating a storybook for one of my childhood stories. Besides helping with her composing, handwriting, and drawing skills, it will show how fun it can be to preserve memories. Hopefully she’ll begin preserving some of her own in this way as well, now and in the future.

3. Record the History of Your Heirlooms. As I was dusting some of the figurines I have in my china cabinet, I was once again reminded of where I got these treasures. It’s always a time of reflection on the people who gave me many of these items as gifts, the trips where I bought some of them, or on the original owners of those that are heirlooms. If something happened to me, or if my memory failed (which it so often does these days!), many of these stories could be lost. Another goal for the month is to record the origins of these things, so when it comes time for my daughter to inherit them, she’ll also inherit the stories behind them. This could be done fairly easily now with a notebook and a pen, or on my laptop. I can take photographs of them or describe them, and then include the story.

4. Create an Heirloom. Among the treasures I have that are not included in my china cabinet are the crocheted blankets from my grandmother, a framed cross-stitch from my sister, some pieces of embroidery from my Aunt Chula, a crib made by my Uncle Paul, paintings by my mother, and a pottery jewelry box painted by my daughter. Use a special talent that you have to create an heirloom for your family. If you’re an artist, paint an ancestor, a living family member, a family home or ancestral town, a pet... anything or anyone that appeals to you. It’s your handiwork and that’s what will matter most to the recipient. If you have a knack for photography, take photographs and have them framed. Or how about a scrapbook of a family reunion, vacation, or some other special event? Anything you create yourself has a piece of you in it, and it’s something your family will always treasure.

5. Cook up Some Family Recipes. I was thrilled the first fall day we had around here. I called my husband and told him, “It’s chili season!” In the summer I try everything to avoid heating up the house with the stove. We exist primarily on foods that can be grilled, crock-pot dinners that I can put on the back porch to cook, and foods that can be made quickly indoors. Now that it’s cool, I love being able

to use my oven again. I have a number of family recipes that are favorites and it’s time to start cooking them. While I’m at it, it would be a good idea to commit some of these recipes, which are primarily stored in my head, to paper. Recipes can be recorded on word processing documents (with any family stories that might go with them), and then bound in project folders to create simple family cookbooks. These could make great Christmas gifts—and you are taking steps to preserve an important part of your family’s heritage while you’re at it.

6. Make Copies of Family Photos. As the family historian, you have probably collected a number of ancestral photos. Why not get some copies made to share with other family members. (Stick them in a frame and you got yourself another great gift idea!)

7. Pass out Family Trees. With today’s genealogical software and your family data, it is fairly easy to print out a family tree that is suitable for framing. Family Tree Maker 11 has a number of templates that you can use in creating a keepsake family tree for your family. If your file is too large, there are also services, such as Ancestry’s Heirloom Family Tree, that will print it for you.

8. Write a Letter and Spread Some Goodwill. Have you had a good experience with your local librarian, archivist, or county clerk? Why not write a letter to that person’s supervisor, letting them know you appreciate the service you’ve received? They’ll probably remember it the next time you ask them for help. It will also serve as a pleasant reminder to that institution that family historians are a part of their clientele and their needs should be considered when it comes time for assessing collection needs.

9. Volunteer. There’s no better way to build “family history karma points” than to volunteer to help others. There are a number of online transcription projects that are always looking for help. Rootsweb.com (www.rootsweb.com) is a great place to start your search for them. Also, genealogical societies are leaders when it comes to records preservation. They are always in need of volunteers to help with projects. Plus, it’s a great way to connect with other researchers in your area. If your schedule won’t allow you to get involved with a large project, try “Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness” (www.raogk.com/), or simply share some of your expertise by answering someone’s question on a

mailing list.

10. Create Some Memories to Preserve for Your Family History. Don't forget that the root of Family History Month is family. Spend some time with your family and friends and create some memories that will last long after Family History Month is over!

If you have a tip for celebrating Family History Month, send it in to ADNeditor@ancestry.com and we'll run them throughout the month!

Juliana Smith is the editor of the Ancestry Daily News and author of *The Ancestry Family Historian's Address Book*. Copyright 2003, MyFamily.com.

Professional Genealogists Help Americans Find Their Roots during Family History Month

During Family History Month in October, many Americans searching for their ancestors will find special events to help them with their research. But one small group is always working behind the scenes to make sure genealogists make the right connections.

For nearly 25 years, the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) has promoted high genealogical standards, education, and professional development. President Sherry Irvine, CGRS, FSA Scot, of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, says, "Every genealogist, amateur or professional, needs help sometime. The APG and its 1,400 members worldwide have served as a guiding light to those trying to find ancestors in an often confusing maze of information."

APG supports its members through education projects, networking, publications, and online resources. Demand for reliable client service and practical guidance has increased, spurred recently by the explosion of genealogical information on the Internet.

As the world's leading professional organization of genealogists and related professionals, APG and its members provide sound genealogical information to millions of hobbyists virtually everywhere. Working either as individuals or part of a network of twenty-one chapters, the association's members provide genealogical expertise through client research services, publications, lectures, and conferences. They also volunteer at numerous family history and historical

activities and work for access and preservation of records in communities across the nation.

During the celebration of Family History Month, APG members will participate in a number of special programs. For example, they will give free one-on-one consultations to family history researchers at family history fairs in Denver on Oct. 11 and in New York City on Oct. 12th. In Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, professionals will hold a series of family history workshops from Oct. 4th to the Nov. 3rd finale featuring an all-night research "Lock In" at the Oklahoma Historical Society Library.

APG members are also leaders in providing authoritative genealogical information in books, magazines, and journals. They include standard genealogy reference books, such as *The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy*, edited by Loretto D. Szucs of Lockport, Illinois and Sandra Hargreaves Luebking, FUGA, of Western Springs, Illinois; and *Evidence! Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian*, by Elizabeth Shown Mills, CG, CGL, FASG, FNGS, FUGA, of Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Sen. Orrin R. Hatch (R-Utah), who annually designates the month of October as Family History Month, has cited a book written by an APG member (*In Search of Our Ancestors*, by Megan Smolenyak of Williamsburg, Virginia) for helping identify through family history research numerous members of a family threatened by a rare illness, which saved their lives through early diagnosis and treatment.

Some of the top popular genealogy magazines and books are directed by APG members, including Szucs at *Ancestry Magazine*, Leland K. Meitzler of North Salt Lake City, Utah, at *Heritage Quest Magazine*, and Sharon DeBartolo Carmack, CG, FUGA, at Betterway Genealogy Books in Cincinnati, Ohio. Scores of other APG members write for a variety of publications.

Many of America's most popular genealogical lecturers are APG members, including Mills; Helen F.M. Leary, CG, CGL, FASG, FNGS, of Cary, North Carolina; and John Philip Colletta, Ph.D., of Washington, D.C.

The Association of Professional Genealogists (www.apgen.org), established in 1979 and based near Denver, Colorado, is made up of professional

genealogists, professional researchers, librarians, writers, editors, instructors, booksellers, publishers, and others in all populated continents.

New Obituary Collection Available on Ancestry.com

Ancestry.com is pleased to announce that your subscription to the U.S. Records Collection has become more valuable! They have recently launched the Obituary Collection, which will enable subscribers to search obituaries from every state in the United States, plus Washington, D.C., from the comfort of your own home.

Ancestry.com will check the Internet every day, finding and posting thousands of new obituaries each week to help you in your family history searches. You can even create an obituary hunter! When Ancestry.com finds an obituary that fits your specifications, you will receive an e-mail notification. In addition to finding information on deceased family members or friends, you can also search for information on living people who may be listed in someone else's obituary. This continually growing collection starts out with over 600,000 obituaries from hundreds of newspapers.

If you subscribe to the Historical Newspapers, U.S. Records, or Starter Collection, you already have access to the Obituary Collection. Access the Obituary Collection at www.ancestry.com/search/obit/

WWI Draft Registrations: New York 1917-18 (Partial/Images and index)

Ancestry.com has recently updated its exclusive collection of World War I Draft Registration Cards, adding images and indexes for additional New York cities and counties.

Counties currently available for New York include: Albany, Chautauqua, Chemung, Chenango, Clinton, Columbia, Delaware, Dutchess, Erie, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Genesee, Greene, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Livingston, Madison, Monroe, Montgomery, and Nassau. States currently available include:

- Florida (Images and index)
- Georgia (Images and index)

- Maryland (Images and index)
- Montana (Images and index)
- New York (Partial/Images and index)
- North Carolina (Partial/Images only)
- Pennsylvania (Partial/Images only)

Don't Overlook List of Bills Paid in Probate

I was quite disappointed when I obtained a copy of my great-great-grandfather's probate package. Neither he nor his wife, who died only two weeks after his passing, left a will, and no mention was made of who was to have custody of their fourteen-year-old son--the primary information I was searching for.

In fact, all I seemed to get out of the probate package was a list of the appraisals and settlements which, while giving me a great insight as to my ancestors' living conditions and favorite foods, didn't seem to give me any of the information I was searching for.

However, when I settled into transcribing the information, I found a number of items of interest from when the bills were paid:

- 1) Bills were paid to two local newspapers. I assume one was for the obituaries, which I have, but one bill quite explicitly states that it is for an "auction ad." Since I have a good idea of when the auction was held (the sale bill for all items is dated), I have a brief time range in which to search for the ad. If I didn't have the sale bill, I could also guess based on when the auctioneers were paid.
- 2) My great-great-grandfather died in a tragic accident; I found a payment to a gentleman for "use of his room after the accident" and for "waiting on" my ancestor. Perhaps this will help me locate the sawmill my great-great-grandfather once owned.
- 3) A bill was paid to a previously unknown funeral home--a lead to more records.
- 4) A bill was paid for a subscription to what I presume was my great-great-grandfather's church. Such information could possibly lead to more records.
- 5) I found a bill that looks like it could be for his tombstone--could that be another source of records? So take heart! Even if your probate records seem like a dry list of names and items, they may still send you to other sources.

- Nola Taylor Redd



Heritage Newsletter

November 2004

California African American Genealogical Society

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

Volume 16
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General Meetings

Third Saturday monthly at 10 am (except June and August)
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6625 4th Avenue
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Gwendolyn Harris – Corresponding Secretary
Jean Wright-Calhoun – Recording Secretary
Colette DeVerge – Treasurer
Jamila Banks – Parliamentarian
Ron Batiste – Former President

Committee Chairs

Marietta Sue Welch – Book Sales and Acquisitions
Open – Special Events
Ruth Odell – Public Relations
Evelyn Ross – Librarian
Marilyn White – Historian
Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor

President's Message

Marjorie Sholes-Higgins

The November meeting will be a special meeting for us. We are asking that all members bring a copy of their "ancestral chart." If you are in need of jump starting your research because you haven't worked on it in a while or just hit that proverbial brick wall, you don't want to miss this meeting.

We will have members man consultant tables for various areas of research. There will be someone with resource materials for Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Washington DC, Virginia, Maryland, North and South Carolina.

There will also be someone to analyze your ancestral chart and assist you with identifying resources for the missing information. The funeral program project will be set up for your perusal.

Twenty-one CAAGS members attended the Fourth Annual West Coast Summit held in San Diego, CA. It was a very good conference with sessions on topics ranging from introductory genealogy, using land records, Freedman Bureau and Freedman Savings and Trust, and ended with a panel discussion for attendee's questions. There were a few vendors and the main conference room had many beautiful displays.

Ronald Higgins and myself were presented with a plaque and lifetime membership for our work in organizing the San Diego research group.

Mark your calendar now for the next Summit scheduled for October 14-15, 2005 in Oakland, CA.

The newsletter editor nor CAAGS guarantees publication of any submission. Submissions for the newsletter are due by the 20th of each month. Please email your submissions or inquiries to CAAGS@hotmail.com or submit them on computer disk to the editor.

2004 - 2005 Calendar of Events

November 5

CAAGS board meeting 6:30pm

November 7

Los Angeles County Public Library field trip

November 20

CAAGS general meeting 10am; Daisy Saffold beginner class instructor, Charlotte Bocage intermediate class instructor; 2005 elections

December 3

CAAGS board meeting, 6:30pm

December 18

CAAGS general meeting and holiday party 10am

January 7

CAAGS board meeting 6:30pm

January 15

CAAGS general meeting 10am

** Calendar is subject to change without notice*

A Letter from First Vice President Charlotte Bocage

The Los Angeles County Public Library has upgraded their web site to include access to the Heritage Quest website. The site includes Heritage Quest Census records, Heritage Quest books, and PERSI. PERSI is short for the Periodical Source Index. PERSI is an index for genealogical articles. You can type in a name or subject you are searching for and it will locate any articles that apply. You can also order the articles if you choose by clicking on the link and printing the order form. PERSI is usually sold on CD but you can now you can access it for free.

Daisy Saffold will conduct our November beginner's class. She will assist those of you needing to have a pedigree chart and family group sheets filled out. Please attend these classes until you understand how to fill them out correctly. With that in mind I will teach the intermediate class "I Thought I Was Organized." This is a "show and tell" class. I will share my organizational procedures with you. Hopefully you will learn a few new organizational tricks.

If you are looking for military information for yourself or next of kin try <http://vetrecs.archives.gov>. It took about five weeks for them to process my online request.

If you are looking for a living person and you have their social security number (SSN) you can go to the Social Security office provide them with the SSN and they will send a letter to the person letting them know you are looking for them.

Our November field trip will be on Sunday, November 7th when we return to the Downtown Los Angeles public library. It is located at 5th and Flower. I will be there from 1pm-5pm. Their phone number is 213-228-7000. Parking is \$1 with library card and validation. Please bring your pedigree charts and family group sheets with you.

Next year we will have a field trip to the Huntington Beach City Library and to the Los Angeles County American Indian Resource Center in Huntington Park. My weekends are very busy for the next few months. If you would like me to accompany you on a field trip please call me, Charlotte at 323-669-1982 so we can schedule something.

I also volunteer at the SCGS Library on most Wednesday's between 10:30am-4:00pm. Please call me at home before Wednesday on 323-669-1982 or call the library on Wednesday's at 818-843-7247 to verify if I'm there.

Happy Birthday To You.....

Raydonna Donna Adams	11/1/2004
Evelyn Ruth Martin	11/7/2004
Herbert Laffoon, Jr	11/9/2004
Amina Y. Humphrey	11/18/2004
Ina & Ida Bassett	11/30/2004

The Nomination Committee will present the 2005 slate at the general meeting. They are still seeking members who are willing to work on the Executive Board. Everyone has some type of experience that can be drawn upon to do the duties required for 1st Vice President, Recording Secretary or Treasurer. **Elections will take place at the November 20th general meeting.** Members who joined and paid dues prior to September 21st will be eligible to vote.

New Additions To The CAAGS Library

Submitted by Evelyn Ross

The 12th Annual Family Reunion of the Wade Family of Jackson, Missouri - July 8-9, 2004 - Burrell Wade, Sr. and Louisa Walker - donated by Ronald Higgins

Johnson's Family Reunion - Yantley, Alabama, June 19, 2004 - donated by Daisy Saffold

Jamison, Sandra - Finding Your People, an African American Guide to Discovering Your Roots. c1999 - donated by Ruth Palmer

Records of Military Agencies Relating to African Americans from the Post -World War I Period to the Korean War. Compiled by Lisha B. Penn.

National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 2000.

"Legends Live Forever" The Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference Syllabus, Austin Texas - Sept. 2004 - donated by Ronald Higgins

The following titles were donated by Alva Griffith Davis, Mary E.

North Carolina Research in Southern California. 1991

South Carolina Research in Southern California. 1993

Georgia Research in Southern California. 1991

Carlberg, Nancy E.

Using the Orange Family History Center. 1991

Using the Los Angeles (Temple) Genealogical Library. 1987

Alexander White III, Editor

Guide to Revolutionary War Records in L.A. Area Libraries.

Pub. by San Fernando Valley Genealogical Society. 1985

Donations to CAAGS Library

While the CAAGS library welcomes donations to our collection, due to limited space we can only accept those materials that pertain specifically to genealogy or have historical significance. All other donations will be discarded.

New Website: www.genetealogy.com

There is a new website dedicated to the topic of genetic genealogy, which I like to combine into "genetealogy." Well, I used my hybrid word as the address and the site is officially up and running. It's intended to be a handy site where folks can find out about upcoming seminars in their area (check out the calendar), peruse articles or locate books to learn more about particular aspects, and tap into a variety of resources, including testing companies, online analysis tools, DNA-related newsletters and forums, etc.

It's also meant to be interactive. Anyone can submit events, articles and resources for inclusion. There's a slight delay before they appear on the site (we needed to find a means to keep out pranksters and off-topic content), but as more and more folks contribute, the site should become increasingly useful for everyone. If you know anyone who's keen on genetic genealogy, please let them know about this new site.

Also, I'd be very grateful whether you're into the topic of genetic genealogy or not, if you would visit the site long enough to take a 5-question survey on the topic. Results will be posted on the website, and likely shared in an upcoming issue of this newsletter.

Megan (Smolenyak Smolenyak)
www.honoringourancestors.com
www.genetealogy.com

2005 Membership Drive

The CAAGS 2005 membership drive has started. Please use the registration form included in this newsletter to renew your membership with CAAGS

Legislation in Congress Seeks to Restrict Access to Birth Records; FGS Recommends Writing to Your Congressional Representatives

The U.S. House of Representatives is considering a bill, House Resolution 10 (H.R. 10), which seeks to restrict access to birth certificates. This bill, which purpose is to respond to the threat of terrorism, is on a fast track to passage and has been voted on by sev-

eral committees already. Your help is needed now.

David Rencher, Chairman of the Record Access and Preservation Committee, a joint committee of the National Genealogical Society and Federation of Genealogical Societies, has sent a letter to the bill's sponsor, Congressman Dennis Hastert, recommending an amendment to the bill as follows:

"However, nothing in this Chapter 2 shall be construed to require a State to change its law with respect to public access to (A) non-certified copies of birth certificates, or to (B) birth certificates or birth records once a period of 100 years has elapsed from the date of creation of the certificate or record."

A copy of the letter is available on the FGS site at www.fgs.org/rpa/formalactions.htm.

To view this bill, go to <http://thomas.loc.gov>. Enter HR 10 in the search box for "Bill Number."

Action Is Needed Now

Because this bill is moving toward passage so quickly, it is urged that the genealogical community take action immediately and let their representatives know that they are in support of David Rencher's amendment and the FGS position in this important matter. To find your state representative's contact information, go to www.house.gov/writerep/.

How Should I Word My Letter?

While you should word the letter in any way that is comfortable for you, it is recommended that you include the following as a portion of the letter:

"While I support the intention to increase security to protect the U.S. from terrorists and those who wish to improperly take U.S. identities, I am concerned that those researching their family's history continue to have access to non-certified birth records.

Therefore, in order to support HR-10 I ask that you amend HR-10 Section 3063(d)(2) by adding the following wording to the existing paragraph:

'However, nothing in this Chapter 2 shall be construed to require a State to change its law with respect to public access to (A) non-certified copies of birth certificates or to (B) birth certificates or birth records once a period of 100 years has elapsed from

the date of creation of the certificate or record.'

I believe that this additional language is imperative so that the states do not react by restricting all certificates to comply with the law, rather than dealing with certified as opposed to non-certified birth certificates. This proposed amendatory language would remind them that they can and should be treated differently."

National Park Service's Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System

Volunteers for the National Park Service's Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System Web site (CWSS; <http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss>) have completed the Name Index Project to post 6.3 million soldier records from 44 US states and territories. After the final million names-belonging to soldiers from Virginia and Pennsylvania-were added last month, a ceremony at Ford's Theatre marked the milestone.

Next up for indexing are naval personnel records, but that will take awhile, according to the CWSS site: "Given that the records sources for the Navy are not as well organized as the Army records, nor are they microfilmed, the target date for this is still to be determined."

About 18,000 African-American sailors are already cataloged on CWSS, thanks to Department of Defense funding and work by Howard University. The soldier data came from the General Index Cards in the National Archives and Records Administration's Compiled Military Service Records. CWSS also has Civil War information such as regimental histories and links to descriptions of nearly 400 significant battles.

Twenty-Five Places Where Your Family's Facts May Hide

- 1) Check between the pages of family bibles for newspaper clippings, obituaries, greeting cards, and other treasured papers.
- 2) Your parents' (or another relative's) address book is a goldmine for determining where to search for other family member's information.
- 3) Professional clubs, trade unions, and fraternity/sorority organizational records may hold important clues to activities, awards, and other records.
- 4) Check the backs of old photographs or the card

stock of cartes de visite for names of photographers, studio locations, and dates. The photographer's records may still exist in a library, archive, or private collection.

5) Never overlook the Periodical Source Index, commonly referred to as PERSI

www.ancestry.com/persi as a resource for locating articles about your ancestors, the places they lived, and the schools, businesses, churches, mortuaries, and cemeteries in the area.

6) Cemetery lot deeds are usually recorded as part of the county land and property records. Check with the county clerk or recorder of deeds or both for grantor/grantee entries that can point you to the right cemetery and a specific lot.

7) Old family jewelry should be checked for initials that might identify the owner, as well as dates such as wedding date, anniversary, birthday, graduation, and so on.

8) Insurance policies, premium notices, and special coverage schedule documents may contain the names and birth dates of family members and beneficiaries.

9) Old letters from family members should be collected, arranged chronologically, and read for names, dates, and clues to personal and family events and locations. If the envelopes were retained, the return address or postmark can point you toward places where records may exist.

10) Contact college and university libraries in the area near where your family lived for possible special collection materials.

11) Cancelled checks and checkbook stubs can identify payees that may still have records (tax bills, morticians, churches, lawyers, doctors, charities, fraternities/sororities, social clubs, unions).

12) School records contain the student's date of birth, parents'/guardians' names, address, and other information. Contact the schools for applications and academic transcripts.

13) Annuals and yearbooks from schools, colleges, and universities may contain biographical profiles that can point you to the next educational institutions, or reveal interests and organizations.

14) Alumni organizations may provide the current or last-known address for a family member who attended there.

15) Probate packets contain the names, addresses, and status (alive or deceased) of all named beneficiaries or presumed heirs of an estate.

16) Records of siblings may get you past the "brick wall" to provide names of parents and other family members. Sometimes you have to take a step side-

ways and research a sibling to go up a generation in order to connect downward to establish the relationship between your brick wall and his or her parents.

17) A baby book may contain valuable information about the child and his or her family, and that may include labeled photographs.

18) Cemetery administrator/sexton records can provide the exact site of an interment. There may also be an interment ledger or log indicating the name, age, cause of death, date of interment, and other useful information. In some cases, these were maintained many decades prior to death certificates, coroners' reports, and inquest records.

19) Investigate the availability of out-of-print local or county histories that might include details about your family. Even information about a blood relative or a collateral line may confirm the family's presence in the area at a given time.

20) Guardianship records can confirm the name(s) of the parent(s), date of death, details about the surviving family members, and arrangements for the minor child.

21) Alien registrations were required to be completed at various times in U.S. history, especially between 1798 and 1828, during WWI and WWII, and subsequently.

22) Tombstones and monuments often have the initials or a mark inscribed somewhere on the base to indicate the person or business that did the work. Business records and client files may still exist, including correspondence, work orders, invoices, and other documents.

23) Voter registration records contain name, address, and age, and sometimes indicate proof of citizenship for naturalized individuals.

24) Oaths of allegiance for Southern males were required to reinstate their U.S. citizenship following the Civil War, and to permit the men to vote in elections again. These can help you locate the person in the post-war years. They are typically found in state archives or libraries.

25) Ethnic and foreign language newspapers may provide information about your ancestors and their families, including births, engagements, marriages, deaths, and other events.

Volunteers Needed

If you are interested in heading a committee such as Special Projects or being a member on one of our many committees, please let us know. See any board member or email us at CAAGS@hotmail.com



Heritage Newsletter

December 2004

Wishing All A Happy and Safe Holiday Season

California African American Genealogical Society

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

Volume 16
Number 10
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General Meetings

Third Saturday monthly at 10 am (except June and August)
Martin Luther King United Methodist Church
6625 4th Avenue
Los Angeles, CA
(East of Crenshaw; between Gage & Florence)

Board of Directors

Marjorie Sholes-Higgins - President
Charlotte Bocage – First Vice President
Barbara Thomas – Second Vice President
/Membership
Gwendolyn Harris – Corresponding Secretary
Jean Wright-Calhoun – Recording Secretary
Colette DeVerge – Treasurer
Jamila Banks – Parliamentarian
Ron Batiste – Former President

Committee Chairs

Marietta Sue Welch – Book Sales and Acquisitions
Open – Special Events
Ruth Odell – Public Relations
Evelyn Ross – Librarian
Marilyn White – Historian
Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor

President's Message **Marjorie Sholes-Higgins**

This month brings my first year as your president to an end. It has been a most challenging year with many hurdles and firsts. For the first time in 18 years we lacked having members step up to the plate and assist the society by volunteering to run for an office on our executive board or chair the hospitality committee. At our November meeting the by-laws were approved to allow our incumbent first vice president and treasurer to run for a third term. Hopefully this will be a one time occasion and in the next two years one of you will be willing to step up and take a leading role in your society. I invite you to come and see your officers in action at a board meeting held the first Friday of each month at 6:30pm.

Another first at the November 20th meeting we had consultant tables set up where you could seek assistance in your research. Each table had a specific topic, such as resources in Louisiana/Mississippi, Alabama, Kentucky, Texas, Maryland/DC/Virginia, military and an analysis of your pedigree chart. It appears to have gone well. The members approved the purchase of the entire collection of the States Research Outlines published by the Family History Library for our library. They will be placed in a binder in our library.

There are also evaluation forms available at the meetings, so take a moment and let your officers know your thoughts about the society and the meetings.

Have a Happy Holiday and I look forward to 2005 being an even better year.

The newsletter editor nor CAAGS guarantees publication of any submission. Submissions for the newsletter are due by the 20th of each month. Please email your submissions or inquiries to CAAGS@hotmail.com or submit them on computer disk to the editor.

2004 - 2005 Calendar of Events

December 3

CAAGS board meeting, 6:30pm

December 18

CAAGS general meeting and holiday party; Installation of 2005 executive board 10am

January 7

CAAGS board meeting 6:30pm

January 15

CAAGS general meeting 10am

February 6

CAAGS Board Meeting 6:30pm

February 21

CAAGS general meeting 10am

February 28

Conference "Rooted in History" keynote speaker, Dr. Zuberi from the PBS series "History Detectives," presented by the African American Society of Northern California

** Calendar is subject to change without notice*

Happy Birthday To You.....

Cecelia Kerr	12/2
Velma E. Pauley Anderson	12/6
Linda Jackson Epstein	12/9
Jamila D. Banks	12/15
Stewart & Ernestine Stovall, Jr.	12/15
Faye Faulkner	12/20
Helen H. Page	12/25
Bobby & Gladys Carter	12/26
William L. Brent	12/29

New Members Welcome....

Carole Watts is researching Watts (SC, GA), Latam (GA), Moreland (GA), Grisby (MS, TX), Turner (MO, MI) and Johnson (Canada)
email: easyskier@aol.com

Rosetta Dunbar is researching Dunbar, Clark and Kimber email: rosey_d@hotmail.com

Congratulations to our 2005 board members

Charlotte Bocage First Vice President
Colette Deverge Treasurer
Jean Wright-Calhoun Recording Secretary

The African American Registry® has twelve categories, each has its own color (Activist is light Blue Politics/Law is Gray, etc). The categories show the wide range of American lifestyles through the Black experience.

<http://www.aaregistry.com/categories.php>

Coming Soon

Slave Names in Wills & Inventories

On several occasions at genealogy conferences researchers have been heard commenting, "My ancestors had slaves and I have some of those papers with the names of their slaves. What do I do with the information?" My response was send them to an African American genealogy society for publishing. One such researcher has sent her information to CAAGS. When we receive information like this we will publish it in our Heritage newsletter.

If you have some documents you would like to share with our society that may have the names of slaves listed on it, please submit them to the newsletter editor for publishing. Our newsletters are sent to the Allen County Library which has the PERSI database, which makes that information available to others outside our society.

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Compiling Medical Pedigrees

By Judy Florian, former Registered Nurse

When doctors, nurses, and hospital staff ask about medical history of a person's family, they are primarily interested in (in this order):

- Your own medical history
- Both of your parents' medical history
- Your siblings' (but not stepsisters or stepbrothers) medical history
- Paternal grandparents' medical history
- Maternal grandparents' medical history

Beyond these, medical histories are not considered as important, although some doctors "might" ask you to also include:

- Aunts' medical history (the full sisters of your father and/or mother)
- Uncles' medical history (the full brothers of your father and/or mother)
- First cousins' medical history

However, it is unusual for doctors to ask about the health of your aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Most adults will know already that the primary organ categories asked about are: heart, lung, renal (kidney), pancreas, and liver which cover the primary large group diseases such as:

HEART: Heart attack (M.I. myocardial infarction), arrhythmia (abnormal heart rate), CHF (congestive heart failure), and hypertension (high blood pressure).

LUNG: Asthma, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), and tuberculosis.

RENAL: Kidney failure, hypertension (high blood pressure, which can affect kidney function).

PANCREAS: Diabetes --high blood sugar.

LIVER: Liver failure, etc.

Doctors also ask for other specific diseases that can affect one or more body organs, such as:

CANCER (can affect skin or any organ).

ALCOHOL ABUSE (affects liver and changes blood chemistries).

CHEMICAL ABUSE/DRUG ABUSE (affects liver; can affect blood and other organs if person has used IV drugs, e.g., "shooting up").

While there are many diseases that are considered hereditary or to "run in the family," there are actually few diseases where it would be any more beneficial to know more than three generations of history. This means you, your parents and your four grandparents.

Diseases considered to be truly genetic include those such as blood diseases (example: sickle cell -- important to know if there is African American bloodline in "white" families); blood-clotting deficiencies; rare/true chromosomal abnormalities like in mental retardation, and "orphan" diseases such as Noonan's Syndrome. For the true genetic chromosomal diseases or rare orphan diseases it would be good to know a more extensive history. For more info on rare orphan diseases see: <http://www.rarediseases.org/>

So, while it is interesting for families to know "heart

attacks have been frequent in my primary family line for 150 years," doctors for the most part will still only be interested in three generations of medical history. Only when there is a rare diagnosis might an in-depth medical genealogy be worthwhile -- at least in today's medical world. Possibly in years to come, medical research will find a useful way to use the medical genealogies that researchers have compiled -- but authentic medical research must set certain criteria to have the research be valid, so in fact, our medical genealogies may end up still only being of interest to genealogy researchers.

One area that will become increasingly important, however, is the question "did you and your children have complete series of childhood immunizations?" Many children did not have all or only some immunizations and perhaps booster shots were skipped. There is discussion now about how boosters only protect people for X number of years. Americans, for the most part, do not remember the rampant illness, debility and deaths caused by communicable diseases such as whooping cough, smallpox, and polio. Even measles and mumps can kill from opportunistic infections that can come with a major illness.

So while you are collecting your ancestors' medical histories, pull out your children's immunization records and talk to your doctor about what might still be needed.

When Is a Marriage Date Not a Marriage Date?

Researchers should be aware: When searching out marriage records, you will often find different kinds of documents with slightly varying dates. For example, on March 6, 1828, John Jones obtained a marriage bond in Quebec City, Quebec, in order to marry Lydia Osborne. The bond was signed by Francis Osborne (the bride's father) and John Jones. The actual marriage, however, took place the following day, March 7, at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church.

In addition, there may be certain rare instances where banns were published, or a marriage bond or license was obtained, but the actual marriage never took place. Maybe someone protested or there was a legal problem or the groom got cold feet! The following are some facts related to marriages that will help beginning researchers better understand the various kinds of documents that might (or might not) be

found:

- **Banns:** Banns was the public announcement of an intent to marry, usually read out loud in church on the three consecutive Sundays prior to the marriage. This provided advance notice to those who might have reason to object. When the bride and groom live in different parishes, you can sometimes find banns published in both locations.
- **Civil Marriage:** A marriage performed by a government official rather than by a clergyman.
- **Common Law Marriage:** A marriage relationship created by agreement and cohabitation rather than by ceremony. No record will be found.
- **Consent Affidavit:** Consent given by a parent or guardian (usually the father) in cases where the bride or groom was under the minimum legal age for marriage.
- **Marriage Allegation:** When a man and a woman wished to marry without having the banns read out in church, they usually applied to the bishop or archdeacon for a special license called a marriage allegation. This may have been to avoid the three week delay or simply to avoid the publicity of banns. The couple might also have been away which would have made it difficult to arrange banns in their home parish.
- **Marriage Bond:** A legal document obtained by an engaged couple prior to their marriage. It provided a guarantee that there was no moral or legal impediment to the marriage. Sometimes the man affirmed in the bond that he would be able to support himself and his new bride. The bond date is usually not the actual marriage date.
- **Marriage License:** A legal permit authorizing a man and a woman to marry. It is issued upon application at a local court house or city hall. The couple to be married present the license to the person performing the marriage ceremony who, in turn, completes the information and returns it to the office that issued it. This information is then transferred to the couple's marriage certificate. The license application date, often recorded in indexes, is typically not the date of the actual marriage.
- **Marriage of Convenience:** A marriage for expediency rather than love.
- **Church or Parish Record:** A register kept by a church of marriages conducted within the congregation. Besides the names of the individuals being married, it may also contain their ages, occupation and residence, the clergyman's name, and possibly the names of sponsors.

And what if you bump into the situation where you have discovered both a marriage bond and a church marriage record? Simply record the actual marriage date and place in Legacy's Marriage Information screen in the normal way. Next add the marriage bond information in the lower half of the screen as an Event. This removes all ambiguity or confusion other researchers might have. This same procedure can be used for the publication of banns or license dates

Five Things to Learn about Your Library

by George G. Morgan

Your library is a different place than it was when you were growing up. The "Information Age" was accelerated by the introduction of the Internet to the public and its explosive growth more than a decade ago. Libraries rose to the challenge and now are technology sites, providing access to the Internet for millions of people. Libraries also offer access to databases, electronic media, and "traditional" resources such as printed books, periodicals, serials, and microfilmed materials.

As libraries have grown and have expanded their scope of access, not all of us have grown with them. If you think you know the difference between a card in the old card catalog drawer and its electronic replacement in the online catalog, that's terrific. But if you're not a regular library customer--what used to be referred to as a patron--you may not know how to use the library very well at all.

The Online Catalog

The online library catalog, in most areas of the U.S. and in many other places around the world, has replaced the old wooden cabinet of drawers containing typed cards. It is an essential access point into the collections of any library or archive, and it operates much like an Internet search engine. An electronic catalog provides much more flexibility in quickly locating materials in the library's collection.

The Organization of the Collection

The online catalog allows you to determine what materials are in a facility's collection and where they are located. Most public libraries use the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC); most academic libraries use the Library of Congress (LC) classification system. Let's focus, though, on the public library.

A public library typically uses DDC in order to pro-

vide structure for filing the materials. This system uses high-level numbers 000, 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800, and 900 to separate large groups of nonfiction materials. Most genealogists concentrate their research in the 900s, although we also use dictionaries from the 400s, literature from the 800s, and other resources around the library. Within each of the “hundreds” are subcategories or subclasses that group materials at a more granular level. For instance, within the 900s is the familiar (to genealogists) 929 area, which contains genealogy, names, and insignia. A good reference for the complete DDC can be accessed at www.tnrplib.bc.ca/dewey.html.

Not all genealogy collections are classified and not all materials are filed alike, however. Some libraries adhere strictly to the DDC system. That means that there will be items of interest filed in the 929s, of course, but there also will be materials of interest to your research filed separately. For example, you will find state materials also filed in one of the following areas:

- 973 General history of North America United States
- 974 General history of North America Northeastern United States
- 975 General history of North America Southeastern United States
- 976 General history of North America South central United States
- 977 General history of North America North central United States
- 978 General history of North America Western United States

Therefore, you may have to search in both the 929s and the 970s in order to locate reference books for Kentucky. Periodicals may be filed separately as well.

Pathfinders (a.k.a. handouts)

Whenever you visit a library, look for the free handouts that librarians refer to as “pathfinders.” These handy little reference flyers can tell you a great deal about how the collection is organized, where materials are located (maps of the library or a collection), and “how to” instructions for conducting specific research. The Tampa library, for example, has more than twenty pathfinders specifically relating to the genealogical collection that include: table of U.S. federal census microfilm holdings, listing of the ships’ passenger list microfilm, locating and working with military records, and how to get started with your African American research. They also offer oth-

er pathfinders in the collection relating to the DDC, Interlibrary Loan, and other topics. The library in Vero Beach, Florida, offers fifty-five pathfinders, and the one in Ft. Myers maintains a binder of more than 200 pathfinders that you can photocopy. Libraries may also place some or all of their pathfinders online at their websites, often in PDF file format.

Subscription Databases

An often overlooked and very underused library resource is the collection of subscription databases. Libraries may also refer to their collection of databases as the “Information Gateway.” As a genealogist, I use all sorts of databases, including Ancestry’s Library Edition (check with your local library for availability) and other “genealogy specific” databases. However, I also use a number of general databases available from my Tampa-Hillsborough Public Library System on a regular basis: Gale’s Ready Reference Shelf (for government agencies), InfoPlease Almanac, Biographical Dictionary, bigchalk Library, Info Trac, Digital Sanborn Maps, Biography Resource Center, and others. Don’t limit yourself to just the genealogy databases when there is so very much more information available. Take the time to learn what databases are available and how to access them!

Interlibrary Loan

ILL allows you to initiate a request through your own library to borrow books. However, since most genealogical materials are non-circulating, an ILL request can be used to obtain copies of pages from a book (index and/or text) or a document, and have the owning library send them to your local library. It also is a method of borrowing books or microfilmed materials for use at your own library, usually under certain conditions or for a small fee.

Making It All Work for You

So you thought you knew everything there is to know about libraries! Well, there are lots of secrets for getting the most out of your library. Cookies make a good librarian bribe--or “thank you!” However, as you can see, there are new and different library resources that you may not be using at all or to their fullest extent. Spend some time visiting and getting to know your library. It’s a great resource, always changing and growing. Don’t think that the Internet is the end-all resource, because it certainly isn’t. Librarians are “information brokers,” and are there to employ their research expertise and to assist you. Visit your library soon!