



# Heritage Newsletter

January 2005

## California African American Genealogical Society

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

Volume 17  
Number 1  
ISSN 1083-8937

**Published monthly except June and August**

### General Meetings

Third Saturday monthly at 10 am (except June and August)

Martin Luther King United Methodist Church  
6625 4<sup>th</sup> 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**

Hope you all had a beautiful holiday. The New Year is upon us and we are looking forward to another successful year for CAAGS.

Our last meeting of 2004 was a festive affair. The hospitality chairperson out did herself. Kudos to Dorothylou Sands for her coordinating and making it such a success.

Members present got an opportunity to share the surnames they are researching and the states. There were many that benefited from this. We may need to do this more often. Another way of sharing is to prepare your ancestral chart and submit it to CAAGS for inclusion in our ancestral book. Take a look at the first collection of charts in our library. For those of you who have previously submitted one, check for additions that may need to be made.

Are you having a problem with your pedigree chart? Do you have a family group sheet for each couple on your chart? By attending our meetings or any local genealogical society's seminar you could learn many helpful hints on how to overcome the problems with your research. The calendar section of our newsletter will keep you informed of the dates and times of future seminars.

### 2005 Membership Drive

The 2005 membership drive has started. Please be sure to renew your membership with CAAGS

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

## 2005 Calendar of Events

### January 15

CAAGS general meeting 10am; Intermediate instructor Richard Procello, topic - Where to Look for Free Genealogical Information

### January 23

Field trip to Los Angeles Public Library, 1-3pm

### Jan 29

2005 Family History Seminar, Simi Valley, CA. For info contact Donna Cuillard at DCuillard@aol.com

### 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

### March 4

CAAGS board meeting, 6:30pm

### March 19

CAAGS general meeting, 10am

*\* Calendar is subject to change without notice*

### Happy Birthday To You.....

Monica Maurasse	1/3
Cheryl Williams	1/3
Edna Wilkerson	1/5
George B. Jenkins	1/8
Maria Salome Alequin-Sosa	1/9
Cartellia Marie Bryant	1/10
Michelle Le Doux	1/12
Ronald Higgins	1/13
Katie Johnson	1/15
Harold A. Jackson Jr.	1/16
Darnell R. Bell	1/20
Catherine Watkins	1/21
Clifton V. Lee	1/21
Edna Briggs	1/21
Madison Taylor Sosa	1/24
Birthday corrections for Gladys Carter 12/ 26 and Ernestine Stoval 12/15	

### A Letter From First Vice President Charlotte Bocage

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of the instructors for leading the beginning and intermediate classes during 2004: Mary Alequin-Sosa,

Jamila Banks, Daisy Jenkins-Saffold, Carletha Le-Noir-Mfume, Ruth Palmer, Dorothylou Sands, Marjorie Sholes-Higgins, and Jean Wright-Calhoun. Henry Ward Beecher once said "Gratitude is the fairest blossom which springs from the soul." I am grateful to all of you for sharing your expertise.

Thanks to Richard Procello, he will teach the intermediate class in January. The topic will be "Where To Look For Free Genealogical Information."

Our first January field trip will be on Saturday, January 8<sup>th</sup> to the Los Angeles County American Indian Resource Center at 6518 Miles Ave., Huntington Park. Their phone number is 323-583-2794. I will be there from 12 – 2pm. We will see what they have to offer us. Our next field trip to the Downtown Los Angeles Public Library will be on Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>. It is located at 5<sup>th</sup> and Flower. I will be there from 1pm-3pm. 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. Later this year we will have a field trip to the Huntington Beach City Library.

I also volunteer at the Southern California Genealogical Society Library on MOST Wednesday's between 10:30am-4:00pm. 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.

### Query

Family looking for **Mattie Lee Farley** from Union Church, Jefferson County, MS whose mother was Cora Buie, father was Jessie Farley; Mattie was raised by aunts in Fayette and Bude MS. Last seen in 1994 at the funeral of Charles Lee Conley in San Bernardino CA.

Contact your cousin Julius Boarden Jr., P.O. Box 2822142, Nashville, TN 37228

### Smashing Brick Walls

By Robin Carroll in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

A while back, I was transcribing United Kingdom BMDs, [births, marriages and deaths] and doing surnames starting with H. I came across a few HGREEN's and wondered what accent would put a H in front of Green.

Yesterday, the penny dropped. Not an accent, but a typing error, the H being next to the G on a keyboard.

So if you can't find your ancestors under their starting initial in records that were typed, have a look under the letter on either side of it on the keyboard, with and/or without the starting initial. e.g. HGREEN, HREEN, FGREEN, or FREEN and GHREEN, along with GHENT -- and look for misspelling of the second letter as well.

I guess if you still can't find it, have a look under the letters above and below your starting initial. We have so many weird surnames, who's to say what is or isn't a typo?

### Niagra Movement

The Centennial Committee of the Niagra Movement at Harpers Ferry is looking for descendants of the original 29 participants. At present they have located 10. If you are a descendent of one of the Niagra Movement members or know of one, please contact Mr. Todd Bolton, project director. If you want more information, you can go to the website <http://nps.gov/hafe/niagara/>. Please address inquiries to the Niagra Movement Centennial Harpers Ferry NHP, P.O. Box 65, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425, phone 304-535-6026 or email [Todd\\_Bolton@nps.gov](mailto:Todd_Bolton@nps.gov)

### Census Web Sites

- Census Lookup Site. Volunteers will do reasonable census lookups. Give the surname, first name, county, state and year - maximum 2 families per request. <http://www.rootsweb.com/~uslookup/>
- Census Online: Census Sites on the Web. Links to census information, online data, and transcriptions, also with links by state or province <http://www.census-online.com/>
- CensusLinks. Lots of good links to online census information, by location (even has a link to register for online search of the Danish census!) <http://censuslinks.com/>
- Cyndi's List of U.S. Federal Census Resources <http://www.cyndislist.com/census.htm>
- Family History SourceGuide (also available on CD). This site has source guides on how to use the censuses and AIS Indexes, as well as downloadable blank forms for census abstracts (U.S., Canada, and UK) [http://www.familysearch.org/sg/index\\_s.html](http://www.familysearch.org/sg/index_s.html)
- Genealogy.com: Printable abstracts for census

- records, 1790-1920 <http://www.genealogy.com/genealogy/00000061.html>
- Heritage Quest Census CD's: <http://www.heritagequest.com/>. Also has a link to a description of soundex and miracode systems
- National Archives and Records Administration To order census films and publications <http://www.nara.gov/publications/micro.html#census>
- Soundex card. Blank cards to print for use in abstracting information from soundex indexes <http://www.genealogy-mall.com/sndxcard.html>
- The Soundex Machine - NARA-sponsored site which calculates the Soundex code for a surname entered - quick and easy <http://www.nara.gov/genealogy/soundex/soundex.html>
- U.S. Census Bureau - <http://www.census.gov/>. For specific census availability information: <http://www.census.gov/prod/2/gen/cff-9702.pdf> For 2000 census information: <http://www.census.gov/jobs2000/www/index.html>
- U.S. Census images online from Genealogy.com, formerly Broderbund and Familytreemaker sites. Now offers more than 220,000 images from the 1850 Census for a total of 18 states [www.GenealogyLibrary.com](http://www.GenealogyLibrary.com) (also available on Family Archive CD-ROMs). Note, access requires a paid subscription. See the site for details.
- US Genweb Archives Census Project Census Images [http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/cen\\_img.html](http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/cen_img.html)
- And don't forget, census' also available (along with a lot of other good resources) at [www.godfrey.org](http://www.godfrey.org) (\$35/yr)
- And don't forget, if you go to websites for specific states/counties (Root web/Genweb, etc), many times there are links from there to the Census' for that particular locality

### Dating Old Letters

If you have undated letters and want to determine when they were written, the answer may be on the envelope. Prior to 1847, stamps were not used on letters carried by the U.S. Postal Office. After that, first class postage rates per ounce, by date, are as follows:

July 1, 1882	2 cents
Nov 3, 1917	3 cents
July 1, 1919	2 cents
July 6, 1932	3 cents
August 1, 1958	4 cents

Jan 7, 1968	6 cents
May 16, 1971	10 cents
March 2, 1974	10 cents
Dec 31, 1975	13 cents
May 29, 1979	15 cents
March 22, 1981	18 cents
Nov 1, 1981	20 cents
April 3, 1988	25 cents
February 3, 1991	29 cents
June 1, 1995	32 cents
Jan 10, 1999	33 cents
July 1, 2001	34 cents
July 1, 2002	37 cents

\* This information was taken from the FHC newsletter

### ADDITIONAL ESTATE RECORDS FOR JAMES BRYAN: Slaves At Partition

Craven County, NC - Estates - James Bryan, 1805

[Note: this is not the entire estate record which was abst. by Martha Marble. This is list of slaves only].

Name: Age: Value:	Name: Age: Value:
Gabe 25 \$550	Hannah of Zilpha 10 \$275
Nelly 15 \$400	John (ditto) 8 \$250
Lewis 20 \$575	Charles (ditto) 6 \$200
Simon 12 \$450	Becca (ditto) 2 \$150
Cate 43 \$300	Theressa 15 \$400
Betty 53 \$100	Lizzy 12 \$350
Harry 10 \$450	Rinah 29 \$375
Samarrow 12 \$450	Amy of Rinah 9 \$275
Old Rose 70 \$ 10	Harriet (ditto) 5 \$150
Zilphia 25 \$400	Melvina (ditto) 2 \$150
Amey 50 \$150	Delia 24 \$400
Julia 18 \$400	Harriot 17 \$400
Rose 13 \$350	Old Ben 60 \$200
Calvin of Julia 1 \$100	Eliza 15 \$400
Milly (of Delia) 6 \$200	
Clifton (ditto) 3 \$150	
Sophia of Amey 14 \$350	

This is from December term, 1817. Some of these children were born after James Bryan died, and it is quite possible that there were others who had died by this date; therefore, this is not the list of slaves at James Bryan's death.

Another list, which appears older, but is undated lists the following:

Name: Value:	Name: Value:
Bill \$500	Rosetta \$350
Ben \$400	Sukey \$225
Ceasor \$550	Zilpha \$275
Jack \$300	Bitty \$200}
Clifton \$350	Venice \$325
Gabe \$350	Delia \$200
Robbin \$300	Rosetta \$200
Sam (old) \$100	Julietta \$150
Lewis \$200	Harriett \$175
Samarraux \$ 90	Tracy \$150
Wright \$125	Simon Binah child \$125
Betty & child Harry \$225	Sall \$200
Emy & child Sophey \$250	Sukey (marked out)
Molly & child Sam \$325	Little Bitty \$150
Lucy & child Sukey \$350	Nelly \$150
Rose old Lady \$ 50	Binah & child \$350
Elvia \$150	Cate \$250}

In 1808, the list of slaves hired out were: Ben, Jack, Clifton, Gabe, Robbin, Lewis, old Sam, Rose & Tre-cy, Venus & 2 children, Cate, Zilpah, Delia, Rosetta, Sukey.

1810 slave hire list included: Ben, Jack, Gabe, Robin and old Sam, Rose & Trace, Cate, Delia, Rosetta, Lewis.

[Heirs at death were John,, James, and Elizabeth, an infant dead by Sept 1814].

[See also, on this site: "Bryan Family Collection, Estate Records, pre-1850", and "Bryan Family Wills, Collection", contributed by Sue Guptill and Martha Marble]

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#### 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

February 2005

*Celebrating Black History Month*

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Ruth Odell – Public Relations  
Evelyn Ross – Librarian  
Marilyn White – Historian  
Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor

## **President's Message**

**Marjorie Sholes-Higgins**

### **Slave Research**

Slave research can be difficult if not impossible. Were your ancestors slaves or slave owners? Yes, there were Negroes, Blacks or Colored who owned slaves. Even in the first census (1790) there were free people of color (fpoc) enumerated.

So how do you find your ancestor who was a slave? It would take a little bit of luck, some detective work, knowledge of the localities' history and a whole lot of patience. So, if you have done all of the census work (1930-1870), collected the vital records (marriage, birth, death certificates) and interviewed older relatives and friends you are ready to begin the slave research.

You must understand that most slaves "did not" carry the surname of the slave owners, some just picked a name. When some women remarried the whole family adopted the new name.

Keep in mind that slave schedules only lists the slave owner's name, the gender, age and color of each of the slaves. There were exceptions where the names were listed.

For Black History month the meeting will be focusing on the researching of your ancestors who were slaves and Black slave owners.

*March is CAAGS 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary, celebrate with us!*

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## 2005 Calendar of Events

### February 6

CAAGS board meeting 6:30pm

### February 19

CAAGS general meeting 10am

### February 20

Field trip to LA public library

### February 28

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CAAGS board meeting, 6:30pm

### March 19

CAAGS general meeting, 10am

*\* Calendar is subject to change without notice*

## Happy Birthday To You.....

Emma Jean Willie	2/3
Ozziel F. Smith	2/7
Evelyn Ford Williams	2/10
Ethel Dillon	2/10
Sonya Greenland Davis	2/14
Don Goodwin	2/16
Jean Wright-Calhoun	2/20
Francis Stubblefield	2/21
Edgar F. Love	2/23

Jean Wright-Calhoun    wcalh54746@sbcglobal.net

## A Letter From First Vice President Charlotte Bocage

I was the only person that showed up for our January field trip to the Los Angeles County American Indian Resource Center in Huntington Park on Saturday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. I found it to be a very interesting resource.

Our next field trip is to the downtown Los Angeles Public Library on Sunday, February 20<sup>th</sup> from 1-3p.m. Meet at the reference desk on lower level 4. Parking is \$1 under the library with library card and validation. Then it's on to NARA on Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> from 9am-12n. Their address is 24000 Avila Road in Laguna Niguel. I was told the MapQuest directions are not correct. Please call NARA for directions if you need them. Lastly, on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> from 1-4p.m. we go to the Fam-

ily History Center located at 10741 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, phone 310-474-9990. I hope to see some new faces so I can help you jumpstart your research. Please bring your pedigree charts and family group sheets.

I also volunteer at the Southern California Genealogical Society Library on MOST Wednesday's between 10:30am-4:00pm. 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.

## 2005 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Membership fees for 2005 are now due. To insure there is no lapse in receipt of the CAAGS newsletter or removal from the roster, fees must be received by Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Please submit a membership application form with your fees. The form is used to verify current address, phone and e-mail information for each member and allows you to state the surnames and locations you are researching. It also gives you the opportunity to inform the CAAGS board members of activities of interest and areas you would like to volunteer your services. You may also use the form to make suggestions you feel will benefit our organization.

## SLAVERY AND THE MAKING OF AMERICA

is a four-part series documenting the history of American slavery from its beginnings in the British colonies to its end in the Southern states and the years of post-Civil War Reconstruction. Drawing on a wealth of recent scholarship, it looks at slavery as an integral part of a developing nation, challenging the long held notion that slavery was exclusively a Southern enterprise. At the same time, by focusing on the remarkable stories of individual slaves, it offers new perspectives on the slave experience and testifies to the active role that Africans and African Americans took in surviving their bondage and shaping their own lives.

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/slavery/about/index.html>

Narrated by Morgan Freeman. You can find where PBS is showing this series in your area (February) and print copies of the transcripts of the show at the Web address above.

*In Los Angeles, the PBS station is channel 28/KCET and channel 56/KOCE in Orange County*

The **Freestone County Historical Museum** is having a fundraiser called "**The Freestone County Quilt.**" Prices range from \$10 - \$50. This fundraiser allows you to memorialize friends or family members who have lived in Freestone County by having their name included in the quilt. The quilt will be permanently displayed in the Freestone County Courthouse. For information about the quilt call the Freestone County Historical Museum on Wednesday, Friday or Saturday at 903-389-3738.

### Book Review

#### **DIARY OF A CONTRABAND**

(The Civil War Passage of a Black Sailor)

**By: William B. Gould IV**

Stanford University Press 2002 373pp.

Never before has one man's diary, in great measure, accounted for such a large slice of unrecorded Civil War history. *Diary of a Contraband (The Civil War Passage of a Black Sailor)* imparts one runaway slave's experience as he escapes bondage in North Carolina and joins the Union Navy in 1862. That runaway, or contraband, as such were designated, was William B. Gould (WBG), the great-grandfather of the author of this work, William B. Gould IV.

Along with the diary in its entirety, William B. Gould IV has included a most insightful introduction, maps, photographs, and several other writings of his great-grandfather. Readers wishing to further their studies on the subject will find the *Slave Narrative Collection*, housed at the Library of Congress, a wonderful complement.

The day-to-day diary often reads repetitious and uneventful, but then, such is day-to-day life. Other times, the diary offers fresh insight into the lives of bold black men who escaped slavery and sought to fight against subjugation by adventure and courageous escapades on the high seas. In the words of James McPherson, in describing a letter that President Lincoln writes to Horace Greeley in August of 1862: "Arms in the hands of slaves constituted the South's ultimate nightmare." Although at first hesitant, President Lincoln eventually embraced this revolution, and it is this change of heart by the President that leads to WBG's entry into the service of "Uncle Samuel."

Some facts about William B. Gould: born on Nov.

18, 1837 to Alexander Gould (a white man born in England), and Elizabeth Moore (a black woman from Wilmington, North Carolina); the *U.S.S. NIAGARA* muster roll, which gives WBG's height as 5' 5 1/2", sometimes refer to him as *mulatto* and sometimes as *Negro*. (WBG served aboard the *Niagara*, and the *U.S.S. Cambridge* as well); we also know that he worked as a plasterer and mason.

William B. Gould wrote many letters during his time of service, and the most interesting of all his correspondents was his nephew, George Lawrence Mabson, who earned a law degree from Howard Law School in 1871 and eventually became North Carolina's first black lawyer.

All in all, the diary and compilation of other writings offer the reader a positive affirmation of the role black men had in the War Between the States, and serves as compulsory provocation for our African-American youth to lend a voice of nobility to today's political arena.

The diary is presented in its entirety, just as William B. Gould kept it between the years of 1862 and 1865. As a genealogy tool, it would immensely augment research of this time period, as well as enhance studies of African-American history.

*Reviewed by: Armand M. Ross, December 2004. The author, William B. Gould IV, was the keynote speaker at the Fourth Annual West Coast Summit on African-American Genealogy in San Diego, California on October 16, 2004.*

### **Your Family History on TV**

Did your family make its mark on history? Your genealogy research could land you on *History Detectives*, the hit PBS program, produced by OPB TV, which returns for its third season this summer.

Is your family history connected to a significant moment in America's history? If your genealogy research has turned up clues that your ancestors played a key role in a history-making event, *History Detectives* wants to help you piece the puzzle together. You and the ghosts of ancestors past could appear on PBS's hit series this summer!

*History Detectives* will also feature a school-kid *History Detective* this summer along with their cool case. The detectives are looking for stories about old houses, family heirlooms, or local legends that might

contain a fascinating mystery from our nation's past. If your story is chosen, you'll appear on the programs and solve your mystery right alongside our detectives on TV.

Submit your mystery online at [pbs.org/historydetectives](http://pbs.org/historydetectives) or by mail: History Detectives, Oregon Public Broadcasting, 7140 SW Macadam Ave., Portland, OR 97219

### Slave Names From Kentucky

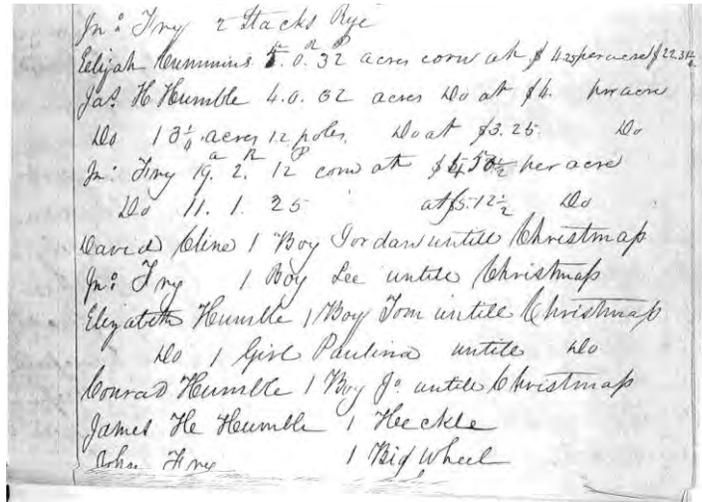
Submitted by Marjorie Bach Mota

In the Bourbon County, Kentucky Courthouse, Deed Book O, pp. 163-164, dated 1819, five slaves formerly belonging to Conrad Humble (1736?-1791) were conveyed to Henry Man[n]. Their names were Jordan, Joe, Tom, Jim, and Cara. No surnames or descriptions for the slaves were given in the document.

In Bourbon County, Kentucky Courthouse, Will Book J, Account of Sales of the Estate of Uriah Humble, pp. 483-486, 6 Sep 1833, are found the names Jordan, Joe, Tom, Lee, and Paulina. (Uriah Humble, 1772?-1833, s. of Conrad Humble above). Whether this list refers to the same "Jordan, Joe, and Tom" who appear in the 1819 document, it is not clear. However, the Mann's and the Humble's were allied families and fellow travelers from Rockingham County, Virginia, making it worth investigating if these individuals were one and the same, and perhaps brought into Kentucky from Rockingham County, Virginia in the 1790's. The account of the sales contains the following: "David Cline 1 Boy Jordan until Christmas/Jn: Fry 1 Boy Lee until Christmas/ Elizabeth Humble 1 Boy Tom until Christmas/Ditto 1 Girl Pauline until ditto/Conrad Humble 1 Boy Jo until Christmas..." Why until Christmas? Perhaps the family was trying to buy time to sort out the inheritance. By October 19, 1833, a Petition to Divide Property of Uriah Humble was filed. I speculate that the heirs were trying to divide things equitably, but some of them had moved on to Indiana, where they could not take slaves. This Petition may contain more on what finally happened to the slaves. The staff at the courthouse dutifully tried to locate this record for me, but they were unable to produce it. I could not find any records in Rockingham County, Virginia that made reference to slaves. Note: this latter county's records were partially burned during the Civil War, and the existing ones are reconstruct-

ed.

Without knowing the Humble, or Mann surnames, these records would be difficult to retrieve from the various Courthouse index books. The slave names were not indexed.



Bourbon County, Kentucky, Will Book J, portion of p. 484

### The SEARCH Act S1292

This bill was first introduced in June 2003 by Senator Mary Landrieu of Louisiana. Her state, of course, has many persons of color and multi-racial groups. You can visit their site at the below address for information

<http://www.theorator.com/bills108/s1292.html>

Afrigenias.com, the major web community for African American research posted information on this bill S1292 in June 2004 at its website.

As a result of this act private and public partnerships have produced access to valuable African American records. For example, the Howard University effort to record African American sailors in the Civil war, is in fact the only one for sailors currently catalogued, at the popular CWSS site: <http://www.civilwar.nps.gov/cwss/>

NARA has already added significant collections to microfilm and CD in recent years including the Freedman's Bank Records. Also through the contribution of the LDS Church we now have the Military Service Records of the US Colored Troops (USCT) on film.



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## **President's Message**

**Marjorie Sholes-Higgins**

### **Burned Counties Records**

The Hemet-San Jacinto Genealogical Society presented Dr. George K. Schweitzer in a seminar on February 5<sup>th</sup>. Of the three topics that he presented there was one that I found to be especially beneficial, it was about burned counties. How often while doing our research are we told that the county records were burned, thus creating a “brick wall.” Areas highlighted included doing a thorough county investigation, records found in state, national and other related counties and non-governmental substitutes.

Just because the clerk said the records for the time period you are researching were lost in a courthouse fire doesn't necessarily mean that “all” the records were lost. Were any efforts made to reconstruct those records and where would they be located? Are there any transcriptions or abstraction of the records? After listening to this presentation, a mental light bulb was turned on. It was ten years ago when I found a probate record at the back of a book of marriage records. I wondered why they were there. Could this be one of those incidents where reconstructed records were placed in a book where there were blank pages and the book cover not labeled or mislabeled? So the next time, you visit a county which was burned think again, maybe “all” was not lost.

For more information - Schweitzer's Genealogical Guidebooks, Dr. George K. Schweitzer, 407 Ascot Court, Knoxville TN 37923-5807 or visit <http://www.gensource.com>

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

## 2005 Calendar of Events

### March 12

CAAGS field trip to LA Family History Center, 1-4pm; 10741 Santa Monica Blvd, West Los Angeles

### March 12

San Fernando Stake Hispanic Genealogy Conference, 15555 Saticoy Ave. Van Nuys, CA 91406, 9- 5:30 pm. Over 20 free classes taught in Spanish & English. For registration contact Teresa Andrade 818-899-7686, saveyourlife.1@verizon.net.

### March 19

CAAGS general meeting, 10am

### April 1

CAAGS board meeting 6:30pm

### April 12

Lancaster Family History Conference – Lancaster, PA

### April 14-16

Ohio Genealogical Society Conference – Akron, OH

### April 15

CAAGS general meeting, 10am

### April 30

Oklahoma Genealogical Society Spring Seminar – Oklahoma City, OK

### May 1

California Genealogical Society Genealogy Cruise

### May 13 – 14

Genealogical Jamboree – Burbank, CA

*\* Calendar is subject to change without notice*

## 2005 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Membership fees for 2005 are now due. To insure there is no lapse in receipt of the CAAGS newsletter or removal from the roster, fees must be received by Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Please submit a membership application form with your fees.

### *Southern California Genealogical Society and Family Research Library*

#### **Presents**

#### **The 36<sup>th</sup> Annual**

#### **GENEALOGICAL JAMBOREE AND RESOURCE EXPO**

**Friday, May 13, 2005**

**Saturday, May 14, 2005**

Burbank Airport Hilton and Convention Center  
2500 Hollywood Way, Burbank, CA

**Early Registration Thru March 31<sup>st</sup>**

For more information call 818-843-7247

scgs@earthlink.net

www.scgsgenealogy.com

#### **CGS Genealogy Cruise**

The California Genealogical Society is announcing their 3<sup>rd</sup> Genealogy Cruise, this time to the Southern Caribbean. The 11 day round trip cruise is on the Holland America ship Maasdam leaving May 1, 2005 from Norfolk VA. This is a smaller ship holding 1266 passengers.

Our speakers will be Henry Hoff, Editor of the NEHGS Register, also an expert in NY genealogy and the Caribbean, and Eric Grundset, Director of the DAR library in Washington DC, an expert in VA research. Both speakers will have topics of general interest as well as some topics in their area of expertise. The 10+ lecture topics will be available on the [www.calgensoc.org](http://www.calgensoc.org) website

Only participants who make reservations through All Cruise will be offered the very competitive cruise rates. For specific information about the cruise call All Cruise Travel at 1-800 227-8473 or go to [www.allcruise.com](http://www.allcruise.com) click on Hosted Cruises, scroll down to genealogy cruise.

For more information about the genealogy part of the cruise, please email Jane Lindsey at [jkl-roots@comcast.net](mailto:jkl-roots@comcast.net) or [CGSlibrary@calgensoc.org](mailto:CGSlibrary@calgensoc.org).

## Happy Birthday To You.....

Marianna Cushnie	3/2
Daisy Jenkins-Saffold	3/6
Ruth Palmer	3/6
Marva Harris	3/10
Ethel Jones	3/22
Barrington Singleton	3/28

### **SCGS Library**

Please remember that I volunteer at the Southern California Genealogical Society Library on MOST Wednesday's between 10:30am-4:00pm. Please call me, Charlotte Bocage (CAAGS First Vice President) 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.

### Websites of Interest

#### Maps

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/histus.html>

#### Prairie Bluff Cemetery

<http://www.prairiebluff.com/aacemetery/>

#### Surry Co., VA

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~vaschsm/>

#### Missouri Death Index

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~nettimae/modeaths/>

#### Genetic Genealogy

DNA helping to untangle roots of family trees

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/05039/454179.stm>

### Is There a DNA Project on Your Surname?

by Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak

Anyone who doubts that genetic genealogy (which I like to shorten to “genetealogy”) has truly arrived would have been astonished to see the recent gathering of close to two hundred DNA project administrators held in Houston, Texas, by Family Tree DNA. At a time when many conferences are seeing their attendance dip, this one-day symposium--quietly advertised by e-mail about three months before the event and strictly limited to those who manage a surname or regional project--had to turn away would-be participants due to lack of space. No one had imagined that so many would come from across the country on such short notice, but they did.

#### The DNA-Surname Connection

While there are a variety of tests now available, the clear favorite is still the standard Y-DNA test. The Y-chromosome is passed essentially unchanged from father to son, down through the generations (only men have a Y-chromosome, but women can participate by talking their father, brother, uncle, or cousin into taking the actual mouth swab test). In other words, Y-DNA is passed down exactly the same way our surnames are, so Y-DNA and surnames travel through time linked together. This is why surname studies are such an obvious application of genetic testing for genealogists.

#### An Easy Way to Jump In

If you're one of the many who has been watching from the sidelines to see how things develop, the good news is that your patience has been rewarded. Back when genetic genealogy first appeared on the scene--back in the Dark Ages of 2000 and 2001--it

was necessary to launch a project of your own. But now there are thousands of surnames already being investigated (several sources claim up to nine thousand surnames), so there's a very good chance that you have the option of joining an existing project. How do you find out if there's one on your surname underway? Fortunately, you have a growing number of resources to choose from:

- ❖ World Families Network ([www.worldfamilies.net](http://www.worldfamilies.net)): This site, offered for the benefit of all by Rich and Terry Barton, contains a searchable list of projects, along with links to each project's website or contact information.
- ❖ Ysearch ([www.ysearch.org](http://www.ysearch.org)) and Ybase ([www.ybase.org](http://www.ybase.org)): Sponsored by Family Tree DNA and DNA Heritage respectively, these sites provide free databases for all to search or post their results, regardless of which testing company is used. While they don't provide links to project websites, you can e-mail those with your surname whose data is included.
- ❖ Ancestry's Announcements of DNA Projects Board: Since this message board was launched a couple of months ago, at last check it contains about 335 messages, but it will presumably become a useful place to seek out existing projects as more people discover it. Alternatively, you can search the appropriate surname message boards at Ancestry (just search on +Smith + DNA, replacing Smith with your surname of interest), as quite a few include project announcements and updates as well.
- ❖ RootsWeb's Genealogy-DNA Mailing List: Still another alternative is searching the archives at Rootsweb's popular DNA mailing list. Quite a few participants in this list post announcements of their projects, as well as occasional interesting or unexpected results.
- ❖ Testing Companies' Websites: Yet another option is to search at the websites of some of the companies that offer these genetic tests. These include Family Tree DNA ([www.familytreedna.com](http://www.familytreedna.com)), Relative Genetics, and DNA Heritage ([www.dnaheritage.com](http://www.dnaheritage.com)).
- ❖ Search Engine: And of course, there's always Google.com (or whatever your favorite search engine is). Simply enter “DNA” and the surname you're interested in. If you're dealing with a very common name and get too many hits, filter your search a bit more by adding words such as “genealogy” and “surname.”

## You Were Smart to Wait

I became involved in genealogy more than 30 years ago, and when I meet new genealogists, I frequently tell them that they were smart to wait. While I wouldn't trade all those years of sleuthing for the world, I can't deny that research is easier and faster now than it was then.

The same is true of geneteealogy. While I'm delighted that I jumped in back in January 2001, those who start now will have a slightly easier time of it. More projects are underway, a greater variety of tests exists, prices are lower, and you have a lot more genetic genealogy playmates to compare results with. If you're one of those who's been waiting for the pioneers among us to work out the kinks, I invite you to poke around a few of the resources listed above and see if the time is right for you to join us!

Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak, co-author of *Trace Your Roots with DNA: Using Genetic Tests to Explore Your Family Tree* (as well as *In Search of Our Ancestors*, *Honoring Our Ancestors*, and *They Came to America*), can be contacted through [www.genetealogy.com](http://www.genetealogy.com) or [www.honoringourancestors.com](http://www.honoringourancestors.com).

## Black Migration, Both Slave and Free

By Felicia R. Lee

The extraordinary range of African-American migrations - from the earliest Africans who arrived to the recent movement of blacks back to the South - is the focus of a new Web site and an exhibition of recent research that could redefine African-American history, said scholars involved with the project, which was announced at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem. "In Motion: The African-American Migration Experience," a three-year project that cost \$2.4 million, is probably the largest single documentation of the migrations of all people of African ancestry in North America, said Howard Dodson, director of the center, part of the New York Public Library.

The exhibition at the Schomburg Center's Exhibition Hall, showcases many of the images, maps and music assembled for the project. But the project's 16,500 pages of essays, books, articles and manuscripts, as well as 8,300 illustrations and 60 maps are also available on the center's Web site ([schomburgcenter.org](http://schomburgcenter.org)) and could encourage a national conversation on the very definition of African-American, Mr. Dodson, a historian, said in an interview.

The project is chock full of illuminating facts. It shows that in recent years, twice as many African-Americans have moved from the North to the South as from the South to other regions. From 1995 to 2000 approximately 680,000 African-Americans moved to the South and 330,000 left, for a net gain of 350,000.

And for the first time, all the elements of the African diaspora - natives of Africa, Americans whose ancestors were enslaved Africans, Afro-Caribbeans, Central and South Americans of African descent, as well as Europeans with African or Afro-Caribbean roots - can be found in the United States.

The project's scholars represent a range of mostly American universities, including the University of Chicago, Columbia and the University of Delaware. They were commissioned by the Schomburg, and most expanded on research that had already yielded scholarly material.

The money for the project, Mr. Dodson said, came in part from a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a federal agency, through the efforts of the Congressional Black Caucus and Representative Charles B. Rangel, Democrat of New York.

The research topics included the movements of blacks out of the United States to places like Liberia, Trinidad, Canada, Haiti and Mexico; the 19th-century migration north of both free and enslaved blacks; the migration of blacks in the West and even the journeys of runaway slaves. Some said their findings were surprising or at least tweaked conventional theories.

Loren Schweninger, a professor of history at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, said his research on runaways showed that many more fled to other parts of the South than made it North. Of the 50,000 or more slaves who ran away each year, perhaps only 2,000 made it North; it was just too difficult, for one reason. "And that tells you a lot about slavery," he said.

*Copyright 2005 The New York Times Company*

### Los Angeles Family History Center

#### New Hours of Operation

Tues-Thurs: 10 am to 9 pm

Fri-Sat: 9 am to 5 pm

Closed Sun & Mon



# Heritage Newsletter

April 2005

## California African American Genealogical Society

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

Volume 17  
Number 4  
ISSN 1083-8937

**Published monthly except June and August**

### General Meetings

Third Saturday monthly at 10 am (except June and August)

Martin Luther King United Methodist Church  
6625 4<sup>th</sup> 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  
Open – Librarian  
Marilyn White – Historian  
Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor

## President's Message

**Marjorie Sholes-Higgins**

The African-American Genealogical Society of Northern California (AAGSNC) hosted the conference "Rooted in History" in San Francisco, February 26<sup>th</sup>. The keynote speaker was Dr. Tukufu Zuberi co-host of the PBS series History Detective.

The Presidio, an old military base was the ideal facility to hold the conference. The base itself is rooted in history. In addition to several presentations there was a walking tour of the Buffalo Soldiers section of the Golden Gate National Cemetery that is located on the grounds of the Presidio. Attendees were shown the area and a park ranger gave a brief history.

If you have not attended a genealogy conference you are missing out on a wealth of information and resources available at these conferences

### Future Conferences

AAGSNC will host the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual West Coast African American Genealogy Summit in Oakland during Family History Month, Oct 2005

In May, the Southern California Genealogy Society (SCGS) will have their 35<sup>th</sup> annual Genealogy Jamboree, this year at the Burbank Airport Hilton

### Los Angeles Family History Center New Hours of Operation

Tues-Thurs: 10 am to 9 pm    Fri-Sat: 9 am to 5 pm  
Closed Sun & Mon

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

## 2005 Calendar of Events

### April 12

Lancaster Family History Conf. – Lancaster, PA

### April 14-16

Ohio Genealogical Society Conference – Akron, OH

### April 16

CAAGS general meeting, 10am; Tom Underhill guest speaker – Finding People Before They Have Died

### April 20-23

28<sup>th</sup> Annual Conf. Black History in Pennsylvania; Karen 717/783-9871, kajames@state.pa.us for info

### April 30

Oklahoma Genealogical Society Spring Seminar – Oklahoma City, OK

### May 1

CA Genealogical Society Genealogy Cruise; For info call All Cruise Travel 800/227-8473 or Jane Lindsey at jklroots@comcast.net, CGSlibrary@calgensoc.org

### May 6

CAAGS Broad Meeting 6:30pm; CAAGS library open 1-5pm

### May 13 – 14

Genealogical Jamboree – Burbank, CA

### May 21

CAAGS general meeting 10am

\* *Calendar is subject to change without notice*

## Happy Birthday To You.....

Rita Miles	4/4
Richard Procello	4/17
DorothyLou Sands	4/21
Phyllis S. Stones	4/28

## A Letter From First Vice President Charlotte Bocage

The Southern California Genealogical Society presents it's 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Jamboree and Resource Expo on Friday May 13<sup>th</sup> and Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup>. I will be leading the "Let's Get a Family Reunion Together" workshop. Please check their program for date and time. Remember anyone can teach you something new about genealogy.

Melrose Bell will lead the beginning class at our next general meeting and Leon Martin will lead the intermediate class. He will discuss courthouse records.

Our next field trip will be on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> to

the Family History Center located at 10741 Santa Monica Blvd., from 1-4 p.m, phone 310-474-9990. Lastly, on Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup> it's the downtown Los Angeles Public Library, from 1-3 p.m. Please meet at the lower level four reference desk. The address is 630 W. 5<sup>th</sup> St., phone 213-228-7000 (Parking \$1 under the library with validation). Also bring your pedigree charts and family group sheets with you.

Please remember that I volunteer at the Southern California Genealogical Society Library on MOST Wednesday's between 10:30am-4:00pm. Please call me, Charlotte Bocage 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.

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## *Southern California Genealogical Society and Family Research Library*

### **Presents**

### **The 36<sup>th</sup> Annual**

### **GENEALOGICAL JAMBOREE AND RESOURCE EXPO**

*Friday, May 13, 2005*

*Saturday, May 14, 2005*

Burbank Airport Hilton and Convention Center  
2500 Hollywood Way, Burbank, CA

For more information call 818-843-7247  
scgs@earthlink.net      [www.scgsgenealogy.com](http://www.scgsgenealogy.com)

Evelyn Ross, CAAGS librarian has resigned. We commend her for doing an excellent job at maintaining an inventory of our collection. There is a need for a new librarian now. Duties include receiving all donations for the library and maintain an inventory of our collection. If you are interested contact the president or any board member.

## **Publication Committee Update**

Several years ago an attempt was made to publish a book of the society's ancestral charts. Ruth Palmer the publication chairperson will try to complete that project.

A current ancestral chart from each member is being requested. Please bring a copy of your ancestral chart to the meeting. If you have submitted one in the past you may need to update it.

In the library there is a book of members' ancestral charts that have been submitted in the past. Please take time to look at it. There may be someone else who is also researching your surnames.

### **A History of African-American Families and Slaveholders in Cass County, East Texas...**

Any member wishing to purchase the book, [A History of African-American Families and Slaveholders in Cass County, East Texas, from the Colonial Days and Slavery to the Twenty-First Century](#), may order it directly from the author, Darelene Warren Rothwell. You may contact her at (951)601-9479, mailing address: P. O. Box 9835, Moreno Valley, CA 92552 or send e-mail requests to: DR21845@AOL.COM

This biographical book of 381 pages includes an index of family surnames. It is wonderfully illustrated with hundreds of historical photos and documents detailing the author's ancestors back to slavery. The book is available now and sales for \$65 plus shipping and handling of \$7.50.

### **NYPL Digital Gallery**

The NY Public Library has put on-line hundreds of thousands of its images, allowing free personal downloads of materials including maps, Civil War photos, and illuminated medieval manuscripts.

The NYPL Digital Gallery will have 275,000 images available, and the collection will grow to 500,000 images over the next several months, library officials announced.

The images can be downloaded free for personal use. Use of the images for publication or in film, television or the Internet can be arranged through the library.

*Taken from the Associated Press 3/3/05*

URLs for the collection is:

<http://digitalgallery.nypl.org/> <http://www.nypl.org/digital/>

### **No Fade Newspaper Clippings**

To preserve a news clipping, dissolve a milk of magnesia tablet in a pan containing a quart of club soda. Soak paper in the mixture for an hour. Lay flat to dry.

- *Barefoot Lass Household Tips*

### **Find County Records Fast Facts About U.S. Counties**

- \* Number of Counties in the U.S. - 3,114
- \* Most Populated County:  
Los Angeles County, CA Population: 9,519,338
- \* Least Populated County:  
Loving County, TX Population: 67
- \* State With The Most Counties: Texas, 289
- \* State With The Least Counties: Delaware, 3

To find more information on country records visit  
<http://www.findcountyrecords.com>

### **GOOGLE Genealogy Search Engine Tips**

- Word for Word

Choose search keywords that are likely to appear on the web page you want to find, since this is one of the ways Google chooses relevant search results. For best results, use a few very precise keywords. Use [slave Alabama database] NOT [slave genealogy site].

- What if my surname is also a common word?

To find genealogy pages with common noun surnames, use google math. Put a plus sign [+] before words that you want to appear in your search results and use a minus sign [-] before words that you do NOT want to appear in your search results.

Try searching for [church +family] or [church +surname] or [church +born]. The keywords [family] or [surname] or [born] are likely keywords that will appear on a genealogy web page and will help limit your search results to web pages about the surname. In this case the word family or surname or born will have to appear on the web page to appear in your search results greatly increasing the chances that the web page will be genealogy related. This works rather well for all surname searches.

- No Ifs, Ands OR Buts

There is no need to use the operand [and] between keywords since Google already makes this assumption. But the operand [OR] can be a very useful Google tool. [OR] must be in all uppercase letters or Google will ignore it.

Use [OR] to search for multiple spellings of your surname. For example, if you are looking for the Myers/Meyers family in Pottsville, you can search

for [Myers OR Meyers Pottsville]. Your search results will list web pages that list either Myers or Meyers or both, and Pottsville.

- Don't Know the Exact Year?

With Google, you can search for a range of years. If you are not sure of the year, but you have an approximate idea, do a number range search.

Some examples are:

ship passenger list 1850..1860; obituary 1920..1925; John Smith Pennsylvania 1901..1980

- Put your Name in Quotes

If you type [John Smith] in Google you may receive search results with every occurrence of John and every occurrence of Smith but not necessarily John Smith together. Try this trick to force exact and more accurate search results:

Put a name ["John Smith"] in quotes so that Google will search for that exact phrase. Put two word locations ["New York"] in quotes for Google to find that exact phrase.

- Google Address Locator

Google search results now give current street maps, street addresses, and phone numbers for the U. S.

For additional details and to read the complete article, go to <http://www.searchforancestors.com/archives/google.html>

### **Harris Ogilvie, Dcd., Division Of His Estate Recorded June 6, 1824**

A division together with this valuation of Negroes slaves belonging to the legal heirs & representative of Harris Ogilvie deceased. In obedience to an order of the county court of Davidson County, April Sessions 1824, to us the undersigned commissioners directed. We have valued and allotted to Elizabeth Ogilvie the following Negroes; George, Frank & Caroline which Negroes was valued at \$743.50 cents. And we also have valued & allotted to John Rains & Frances Rains, his wife, daughter of Harris Ogilvie, dec'd, the following named Negroes, To wit, Linda & Littleton which valued at \$650 And we have valued to George H. Allen and Mary Allen, his wife daughter of Harris Ogilvie dec'd, the following named Negroes Rachel & Jackson, which was valued to \$525. And also to Henry Bailey and Nancy Bailey, his wife, daughter of Harris Ogilvie, dec'd the following named Negroes,

To wit, Jerry and Mary which was valued at \$625. And also to William Ogilvie, the following named Negroes, Luke and Harriet, which was valued to \$600.

Given under our hands and seal this 20<sup>th</sup> day of April 1824, William H. Nance, Alexander Buchanan Charles Hays

### **State of Tennessee, Davidson County Court, April Session, 1824**

William H. Nance, Alexander Buchanan, and Charles, three of the commissioners appointed by order of the proceeding court to divide the Negroes belonging to the estate of Harris Ogilvie, dec'd among his heirs now make report of having so done which is received and sanctioned by the court & ordered to be recorded.

From certified copy, Davidson County,  
Roll No. 429, Book 8, Page 334

Type; Division of Estate, Tennessee State Library and Archives.

### **1824 Hardy Harris & Britton Harris to Isham Harris Dc'd.**

Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> To Return of Guardians out for the year  
1823 7002.50

Oct. 22 An inventory of the remaining property of Isham Harris (sic) dc'd taken by Hardy Harris and Britton W. Harris 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 1824.

1 Bond on Francis McRowe for the Hire of Peter for			
	\$50.00	due the 25 <sup>th</sup> ,	1824
1 Bond on Francis McRowe for the hire of Henry for			
	\$20.00	'	'
1 Bond on Ransom Harris for the hire of Gabriel for			
	\$38.00	'	'
1 Bond on Rowland Harris for the hire of Bob for			
	\$24.00	'	'
1 Bond on Rowland Harris for the rent of Plantation			
for	\$1.00	'	'
1 Bond on James H. Davis for rent of Plantation for			
	\$45.00	'	'
1 Bond on James J. Farrar for rent of Plantation for			
	<u>\$20.00</u>	'	'
	\$ 198.00		

....(con't).....

*Source: Estate settlements of Granville Co. North Carolina*



# Heritage Newsletter

May/June 2005

## California African American Genealogical Society

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

Volume 17  
Number 5  
ISSN 1083-8937

**Published monthly except June and August**

### General Meetings

Third Saturday monthly at 10 am (except June and August)

Martin Luther King United Methodist Church  
6625 4<sup>th</sup> 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  
LaVerne Anderson – Librarian  
Marilyn White – Historian  
Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor

## Where Do I Find It?

by Michael John Neill

The key to locating many genealogical records is location. The location where an event took place, the location where any events were recorded, and the current location of those records are all key factors in proving that an event took place. This week we discuss some ways to determine where records of vital events might have been created.

### Marriage Records

Civil records of marriages are usually a local responsibility, either at the county, town, or city level. The laws governing marriage are typically determined by the state. Consequently records within a specific state are relatively uniform, although there can be differences from one county or town to another. As a marriage is usually a contract between two individuals, records of marriages typically begin before records of births and deaths. A record of a marriage puts a man and a woman in the same place at the same time. The record may also provide additional information about the couple including their age, residence, and religious affiliation. Locating where a marriage took place can be difficult in some situations. There are several things to think about when trying to find where your ancestors got married:

- Did they get married in the county in which they lived?
- Did they marry in an adjacent state that might have had marriage laws that were more lax?
- Where was their first child born?

*Continued on page 20*

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## 2005 Calendar of Events

### May 13 – 14

36<sup>th</sup> Annual Genealogical Jamboree – Burbank, CA  
scgs@earthlink.net www.scsgsgenealogy.com

### May 21

CAAGS general meeting 10am; Ophelia Sanders  
beginner class instructor; Show and Tell

### May 28

Main Library Long Beach Genealogy/Internet class  
10am

### June 1-2

Nashville, TN – Annual Conference and NGS  
Gentech 2005 www.ngsgenealogy.org/Nashville.htm

### June 3

CAAGS board meeting 6:30pm

### No June CAAGS general meeting

### June 24-25

Marina Del Ray CA - The Gottscheer Heritage and  
Genealogy Association announces its annual  
meeting. More information can be found by visiting  
the society's Web site <http://www.gottschee.org>, or e-  
mail [anthro@privatei.com](mailto:anthro@privatei.com).

### June 26-29

Provo, UT - Brigham Young University (BYU) will  
host its annual Family History and Genealogical  
Conference; [www.genealogyconferences.byu.edu](http://www.genealogyconferences.byu.edu) or  
e-mail [cw136@byu.edu](mailto:cw136@byu.edu), telephone 801-422-4853

### No July CAAGS board meeting

### July 16

CAAGS general meeting 10am

### July 30

LDS Family History Center tour of center and time  
for research 11am

*\* Calendar is subject to change without notice*

### Welcome New Members.....

Ronald Fairley – researching Fairley (AL), Hardeman  
and Payne (TX)

Judy Sample – researching Sample, Malone, Antoine,  
Tillman, Gayden, Joseph, Arthurlee and Gooden  
email [jbaps@yahoo.com](mailto:jbaps@yahoo.com)

Barbara Phillips – researching Brooks and Haskins

Barbara Butts – researching Means, Woods, Emery,  
Ruffin (SC, LA); Hargrove-Hoggro, McHenry,  
Hawkins, Moffitt (LA)

Katie Johnson – researching Wall and Thomas (AK);  
email [maykaty@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maykaty@sbcglobal.net)

Odessa Yocum – researching Curry and Johnson  
(AK)

Emmett Knox - email [eanddknox@yahoo.com](mailto:eanddknox@yahoo.com)

### A Letter From First Vice President Charlotte Bocage

Ophelia Sanders will lead the beginner's class at our  
next general meeting and someone from the National  
Archives will lead the intermediate class on military  
research. I'm looking for members who have found  
their military family members and tell your 5 to 10  
minute story at our meeting. Please call me to sign  
up to be a part of the class.

Our first May field trip will be on May 17<sup>th</sup> to the  
Family History Center located at 10741 Santa  
Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, from 2-7 p.m, phone  
310-474-9990. Our next trip will be on May 22<sup>nd</sup> to  
the Downtown Los Angeles Public Library, from  
1:30-3 p.m. Meet at the lower level four reference  
desk. The address is 630 W. 5<sup>th</sup> St., 213-228-7000  
(parking \$1 under the library with validation).

Please call the facility for directions. I hope to see  
some of you new members so I can help jump-start  
your research. Please remember to bring your  
pedigree charts and family group sheets with you.

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

---

### *Southern California Genealogical Society and Family Research Library 36<sup>th</sup> Annual*

Genealogical Jamboree and Resource Expo  
*Friday, May 13, 2005 Saturday, May 14, 2005*  
Burbank Airport Hilton and Convention Center 2500  
Hollywood Way, Burbank, CA

For more information call 818-843-7247  
[scgs@earthlink.net](mailto:scgs@earthlink.net) [www.scsgsgenealogy.com](http://www.scsgsgenealogy.com)

## New Addition to CAAGS Library

**Taps For A Jim Crow Army-Letters From Black Soldiers In World War II** by Phillip McGuire,  
Editor - Donated by Cartellia Marie Bryant

*Please congratulate and welcome LaVerne Anderson for volunteering to be our new librarian*

Myfamily.com, owners of Ancestry.com, Rootsweb.com and dozens of other genealogy websites has introduced a new feature to help users perform effective genealogy Internet searches using the power of Google's search engine. The Easy Google Genealogy Searcher put advanced Google features on one page, to easily search the massive Myfamily.com databases. Search tools include surname website search, location search, search the Google directory, definitions, a calculator to determine ages and conversions, maps, search of the US phone book and many others. Links to several other Myfamily.com genealogy sites are also listed. [www.searchancestor.com/google/searcher.html](http://www.searchancestor.com/google/searcher.html)

### Call for Papers for the AAAHRP Third Annual Conference

The Association for African American Historical Research and Preservation (AAAHRP) has issued a call for papers for the AAAHRP Third Annual Conference scheduled for Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006, in Seattle, WA. They are now accepting conference proposals on topics pertaining to African American and African history, culture and genealogy.

AAAHRP welcomes submissions from scholars, professional and avocational historians, genealogists, graduate students, teachers, community activists, authors and those engaged in the study or preservation of African American or African history at archives, libraries, historic sites, museums, and historical societies.

The conference theme is Reexamining the History Books: Uncovering and Discovering the Black Experience.

AAAHRP is particularly interested in proposals for papers, panels, workshops and innovative presentations on the following subjects:

- \* 18th and 19th century African American/African leaders
- \* Organizations including, but not limited to, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), the Black Panther Party for Self Defense, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; and the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA)
- \* African American and African writers (including playwrights)
- \* Black newspapers and their publishers
- \* Race uplifting publications
- \* "Colored" women's clubs
- \* Culture and history of African nations
- \* Relations between American Indians and Africans in America
- \* Pacific Northwest (including Alaska) and far West Black history

Proposals for other topics within the scope of the conference theme are also desired. The conference committee also has a strong desire to expand the dialogue established during the successful "On Africa" session at the AAAHRP 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference.

Abstracts should be no longer than 2 or 3 paragraphs (12 point font). Message text rather than attachment is preferred for proposals. Please include your name, affiliation, mailing address, contact phone number and e-mail address with your proposal, and send to [conferences@aaahrp.org](mailto:conferences@aaahrp.org). Please note that the time allotted for individual paper presentations is 20 to 25 minutes.

If you plan to submit a proposal for the 2006 conference, it is highly recommended that you notify AAAHRP with an advance notice message as soon as possible. All correspondence concerning the AAAHRP 2006 conference should be sent to [conferences@aaahrp.org](mailto:conferences@aaahrp.org) or visit [www.aaahrp.org](http://www.aaahrp.org).

#### Important dates:

Advance Notice: As soon as possible  
Deadline for Proposals and Abstracts: Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005  
Deadline for Draft Submission: November 15, 2005

CAAGS is always looking for members willing to share their talents. If you would like to be on a committee, teach a class, etc. Please let us know.

## Genealogical Grants

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.

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. Hint: Megan finds herself drawn to innovative ideas that can serve as a model to others! For the few minutes it takes to complete the form, you may be able to buy that handful of books or that scanner that's been on your wish list for so long.

### Want to Know a Little More?

Read Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens's article about this grant program entitled *Honoring Our Ancestors Genealogical Grants* on Ancestry.com. You might also enjoy visiting Liz's web site, Ancestor Detective. Another behind-the-scenes peek can be found here. Past winners include the below:

#### April 2005

The Lavaca County Historical Commission Lavaca County citizens put up markers whenever airplane crashes occurred that involved the loss of life of Army Air Corps cadets and other flyers during pilot training for WWII.

#### March 2005

The active members of the Benton County Genealogical Society of Philomath, Oregon have had a project underway for almost 12 years to index Benton County birth and deaths as reported in the Corvallis newspapers from 1865 to 1926 (approx. 9,700 names to date). The society will use this grant to digitize two reels of microfilm to allow volunteers to work from their home computers.

#### February 2005

In recent years, the descendants of Chang and Eng, the world's original Siamese twins, have begun holding an annual Bunker family reunion in North Carolina. This grant will be used in support of this year's reunion.

## Related websites

[www.genetealogy.com](http://www.genetealogy.com) [www.honoringourancestors.com](http://www.honoringourancestors.com)  
*Taken from [honoringourancestors.com](http://honoringourancestors.com)*

### Where Do I Find It - Continued from front page

- Did they marry where the bride was from or where her parents were living?
- Did they take the train and ride to an adjacent county (or a county a few counties over)?
- Were they married by an itinerant minister who left no records?
- Might they have gone to a nearby county to find the "right" church?
- Did they elope in a county where no one would know them?
- Were they ever "officially" married?
- Marriage records may come in many forms and will vary from one time period and one locality to another. Some records created at the time of the marriage may include:
  - Marriage contracts
  - Marriage bonds
  - Marriage licenses
  - Banns
  - Church records
  - Announcements in newspapers

Keep in mind how your ancestors likely met. They may have been neighbors or they may have attended the same church. They might have been members of the same ethnic group or had parents of the same social class. A couple often met because they had something in common. Determining that commonality is the difficulty.

Other records besides marriage records may provide information about the marriage even if the records are not technically marriage records and even if they were created years after the marriage took place. These secondary sources of marriage information should be compared with other known information to determine if the information is consistent or not.

Other records that may document a marriage include:

- Pension papers
- Inheritance papers
- Death certificate
- Court papers

A question to ask: Did anything in my ancestor's life require them to prove their marriage? If so, are there records of that proof?

*Part 2 in the next issue - Taken from Ancestry's Daily News...*



# Heritage Newsletter

July/August 2005

## California African American Genealogical Society

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

Volume 17  
Number 6  
ISSN 1083-8937

**Published monthly except June and August**

### General Meetings

Third Saturday monthly at 10 am (except June and August)

Martin Luther King United Methodist Church  
6625 4<sup>th</sup> 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

LaVerne Anderson – Librarian

Marilyn White – Historian

Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor

## President's Message

Marjorie Sholes-Higgins

Summertime is the time to visit with family and take trips to the home place. If you have the time, will you visit the old family church and its cemetery? Genealogist, family historians and family history enthusiasts all use this time to try and gather that elusive bit of information to complete their family tree. At the July meeting we want you to "Show and Tell" us about those exciting finds.

It was several months ago at the general meeting that many members expressed a need to have more meetings like this. So this year we will have two such meetings. In July and September and we will incorporate problem solving in those meetings.

You know there is always that burning question you need an answer to. If you have come to that brick wall and need just a little more help then you don't want to miss our meeting on July 16<sup>th</sup>.

Don't forget to check out the monthly calendar listing upcoming events for doing genealogy research. Mark your calendar for these two upcoming events - West Coast African American Genealogy Summit Oakland, CA Oct. 22, 2005 and our Salt Lake City Research Tour, celebrating CAAGS 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary on March 5-12, 2006.

### Save NARA Budget

If you haven't done so already, please go to this website and sign the petition to save our National Archives. Congress is threatening a zero budget for NARA in 2006. <http://www.savearchives.org/>

*The newsletter editor nor CAAGS guarantees publication of any submission. Submissions for the newsletter are due by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Please email your submissions or inquiries to [CAAGS@hotmail.com](mailto:CAAGS@hotmail.com) or submit them on computer disk to the editor.*

## 2005 Calendar of Events

### July 16

CAAGS general meeting 10am; Show and Tell

### July 26 -29, Provo, UT

Brigham Young University (BYU) will host its annual Family History and Genealogical Conference. [www.genealogyconferences.byu.edu](http://www.genealogyconferences.byu.edu); email [cw136@byu.edu](mailto:cw136@byu.edu), PH 801-422-4853.

### July 30

LDS Family History Center tour of center and time for research 11am

### Aug 5

CAAGS Board Meeting, 6:30pm

\* **No August CAAGS General Meeting**

\* **No September CAAGS Board Meeting**

### September 7-10, Salt Lake City, UT

The Federation of Genealogical Societies and The Utah Genealogical Association host the national FGS/UGA Conference.

### September 17, Bakersfield, CA

The Kern County Genealogical Society will host a seminar. Speakers will be Barbara Washburn and Kathy Burrow. Further information can be found at the society's Web site [www.mykernlife.com/29/](http://www.mykernlife.com/29/) or contact Delores M. Dahlee at 661-588-0154

\* *Calendar is subject to change without notice*

## Genealogy Success Story

Carol Thomas of Chiloquin, OR recently sent CAAGS a letter about the recent success she has had in her family research. Below is excerpted from her letter.

In an interview with her mother about her ancestors Carol was told to talk with her mother's sister (Bessie). Aunt Bessie told Carol that her family lived on a plantation in Louisiana called the Burmuda. Carol was able to locate the plantation in the April 1930 issue of National Geographic magazine.

The following summer her sister, cousin and she went to Louisiana to find the plantation. Upon arrival they introduced themselves as decedents of William Smith, the slave who had did the ironwork on the plantation. They were warmly welcomed and given a tour of the property. The owners also pointed out work specific work done by William to them. This included the fence that surrounded the property and its very ornate gate. Since their visit to the plantation it has been turned into a federal museum

with their family history firmly planted in a publication about the plantation.

## Cite Your Sources

Genealogists are always being told to "cite your sources." Now that so much data is available online, we also need to learn how to properly cite Internet and other electronic sources. One very good site, with samples and cut-and-paste templates, can be found at [www.progenealogists.com/citations.htm/](http://www.progenealogists.com/citations.htm/)

Information about the elements of a good citation is available there, as well as a few links to other helpful websites. At one of these, you can get a tool called The MLA Bibliography Composer, which will automatically format and create a bibliography for your work. This is a very useful website, and will make citing our sources much easier and more professional.

## Websites of Interest

Virginia Tax list

[homepages.rootsweb.com/~ysbinns/vataxlists/index.htm](http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~ysbinns/vataxlists/index.htm)

If you had ancestors in MS in 1885, you will appreciate this new site created by MS historian and genealogist Bob Franks. The site contains 1885 county maps, as well as population and location names for communities, some which no longer exist. [www.homepages.rootsweb.com/~robfra/](http://www.homepages.rootsweb.com/~robfra/)

[www.genetealogy.com/resources/html/cat11.html](http://www.genetealogy.com/resources/html/cat11.html)  
For those interested in having DNA test done or for educational purposes.

*Below Continued from May/June - Where Do I Find It...*

## Birth Records

The civil recording of births in the United States typically began in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In the early days of recording these events many were not recorded, and slowly the proportion of events recorded increased over time. Birth records are recorded in the jurisdiction where the birth took place, not necessarily where the mother was living (especially if the bride returned "home" to have the baby). And a birth in specific location proves only that the mother was in that location on that date.

Some questions to ask when trying to locate a birth record:

- \* Did the family move frequently?
- \* Are you certain of where the family lived?
- \* Did the family live near the county line?
- \* Would the family have cared if the birth were recorded?
- \* Might there be a church record of the birth?
- \* Is there a pension record that might prove the age?
- \* Is there a guardianship or other estate record that might provide information on the person's age?

Again, if you cannot find the record, might your ancestor have had to prove his birth at some later point in his life? If so this record might assist you in locating birth information. If a delayed certificate of birth was filed, it probably was filed where the event took place but might have been filed where the individual resided at the time the record was filed.

*Taken from Ancestry's Daily News...*

## **More Projects in Fifteen Minutes or Less**

by Juliana Smith

Well, it's here. School is out and it's officially summer here in the Midwest, complete with temps in the 90s. So what does that mean for the family historian? Well for me, it means I have to go into hyper-efficiency mode if I want to sneak in any "genealogy time."

So for those of you out there whose time may also be limited this summer (or winter for all of you "down under"), here we are with another 15 family history projects you can accomplish in 15 minutes or less:

### **#1 Create a Master List of Surnames and Variations**

When we're searching databases for those hard to find ancestors, we often find ourselves rotating in any number of variations for that surname, and it's easy to lose track. Keep the list handy by your computer and then just go down the list to get a more complete search than just entering names at random. It serves as a reminder so you don't miss anything and also makes it easier to log what names and variations you've searched for.

### **#2 Check Mailing List Archives**

Ancestry.com sister site, RootsWeb.com ([www.rootsweb.com](http://www.rootsweb.com)) currently hosts over 29,000

mailing lists and the archives for those lists are searchable online. To prevent missing anything that might be pertinent to our family history, I periodically go in and search the archives for items of interest. The easiest way I've found to search the archive is to go to the mailing list main page <http://lists.rootsweb.com> and select the list of your choice. Below the subscription information and links are links to either search or browse the archive.

### **#3 Search a Message Board**

Similar to the tip above, the Ancestry.com and RootsWeb.com message boards can be searched ([www.ancestry.com/share/](http://www.ancestry.com/share/)) and here you can search all the boards simultaneously.

### **#4 Build up Some Genealogical Karma**

We've all accumulated records that may be helpful to other researchers who are working on the same or similar family lines. Why not throw out a couple of posts on the message boards and mailing lists with some of these records. You may make some other researcher(s) very happy, and as a reward, you may find that they have collected the records of your ancestor that you've been seeking.

### **#5 Create a Reading Stash**

Summer activities sometimes afford time for reading—at the beach, in the car on road trips (preferably not while driving though), lounging in the yard or on the porch (or on hot days curled up in front of the air conditioner), etc. Assemble a tote bag with reading materials so that when the opportunity presents itself, you just have to grab your bag and go.

### **#6 Search a Data base—Again**

Try re-searching databases where you have previously been unable to locate an ancestor. Ancestry.com is continually updating databases and correcting bugs that are found in databases. In addition, if you've found new information on that ancestor since your last search, you may be able to better refine your search, identify your ancestor or do a more localized search or browse and get better results.

### **#7 Create a Visual Impression**

Seek out historical photos, postcards, and maps from the places and time in which your ancestors lived. The visual impression you get will enhance your family history and may even provide you with unexpected clues.

### **#8 Update Your MyAncestry Profile**

Ancestry.com allows users to create a MyAncestry profile that lists the people you are researching. (Go to [www.ancestry.com/myancestry/](http://www.ancestry.com/myancestry/) or click the My Ancestry tab to get there from any Ancestry.com page.) As databases are added, Ancestry.com automatically searches the databases for you and notifies you via email if it finds a possible match. It is also important to watch the new databases, as those tricky ancestors with misspelled names may require some additional searching. A list of all the recently added/updated databases is available at [www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/recent.aspx](http://www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/recent.aspx).

### **#9 Put on Your Detective Hat**

Grab a magnifying glass and look closely at the background in an old photograph, searching for clues. Check out family heirlooms as well. Worn engravings and manufacturers' names may lead to locations and dates for your ancestors.

### **#10 Learn About Research in a New Location**

Have you been holding off at researching a family's origins because you're not familiar with the resources for that country? Grab a book on the subject or check out how-to websites for more information.

FamilySearch.org has research guides for many geographic locations available online. (Click the "Search" tab and then "Research Helps.") You don't have to learn it all in one day; start with a chapter or article on the subject and expand upon it 15 minutes at a time.

### **#11 The Lost Art of Letter Writing**

When's the last time you received a letter? Not those pre-fab ones that come in Christmas cards, but a real, live letter. Wasn't it a great feeling? Why not make someone's day and send her a letter. Let a family member know what's going on in your life, and possibly slip in a few family history questions. (You know you will!) Then, don't just mail it off, make a copy first and keep it for yourself with your family history. It's a snapshot of your life and will be treasured by future family historians.

### **#12 Plan Your Dream Research Trip**

Even if you can't take a long trip, or any trip for that matter, right now, start planning it. Pick a repository or some ancestrally related location and start making plans. What will you research? Set research goals, explore card catalogs, and prepare your research. Check prices for rooms and transportation--just for

kicks. You may find that your preparations make your dream research trip a real possibility. And even if you have to put it on hold for a year or two, setting goals and reviewing your files may help you to make some breakthroughs in your research.

### **#13 Back up Your Data**

When was the last time you backed up your family history files? If it's been a while, take a few minutes to do it now. If something happens to your computer files down the road, it may well be the best-spent 15 minutes of your genealogical life.

### **#14 Plot Your Ancestors on a Map**

Get a historical map of the area in which your ancestor(s) lived. Make a copy and using the records you have found, plot their various moves on the map. Seeing where they were at various points in time, may provide clues as to where to look for other records and other family members.

### **#15 Take 15 Minutes to Pat Yourself on the Back**

You are preserving a piece of history. The present and future generations of your family will be able to better connect with their roots thanks to your hard work. Maybe some of these projects will take over 15 minutes, but they can be broken down into more manageable pieces, and you will be making significant progress with little effort.

*Copyright 2005, MyFamily.com.*

## **World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-18**

Ancestry.com continues to update its exclusive collection of World War I Draft Registration Cards with images and indexes now available for the following states: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming. [www.ancestry.com/search/](http://www.ancestry.com/search/)

### **New Records and Databases at Ancestry.com**

New Orleans, Louisiana Death Records Index, 1804-1949

Mexican Parish Records, 1751-1880

Texas Birth Index, 1903-97

Texas Divorce Index, 1968-2002



# Heritage Newsletter

September 2005

## California African American Genealogical Society

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

Volume 17  
Number 7  
ISSN 1083-8937

**Published monthly except June and August**

### General Meetings

Third Saturday monthly at 10 am (except June and August)

Martin Luther King United Methodist Church  
6625 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Los Angeles, CA  
(East of Crenshaw; between Gage & Florence)

### Board of Directors

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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

LaVerne Anderson – Librarian

Marilyn White – Historian

Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor

## President's Message

Marjorie Sholes-Higgins

We are nearing the end of another year and have had some changes implemented during the year. We now have "Show and Tell" twice a year so you, the members, can share your research stories with other members of the society. You don't have to be an expert just a researcher willing to share what you have learned with us. You are also invited to make suggestions on topics you would like presented at the meetings and evaluate our meetings. It was because of your suggestion that we made the "Show and Tell" change. Our anniversary month of March will be the first "Show and Tell" followed by September.

Election time is here and you may be asked to serve as an officer on the CAAGS executive board. Please accept the opportunity to work and help the organization continue to grow. Positions open during this election are President, Second Vice President (membership chairperson) Correspondence secretary, Parliamentarian, FGS and NGS delegate. Review the information provided in the newsletter for details.

In March 2006 we will celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, this will kick off another exciting year. We are hosting a research trip to Salt Lake City and an opportunity drawing for a trip to Salt Lake. If you are planning to join us on this trip take a chance, your trip could be paid for if you win the drawing.

The West Coast African American Genealogy Summit will be hosted by the Oakland society on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Conferences are an excellent opportunity to network with other researchers as well as learn new techniques for researching.

*The newsletter editor nor CAAGS guarantees publication of any submission. Submissions for the newsletter are due by the third Saturday of each month. Please email your submissions or inquiries to [CAAGS@hotmail.com](mailto:CAAGS@hotmail.com) or submit them on computer disk to the editor.*

## 2005 Calendar of Events

### September 7-10, Salt Lake City, UT

The Federation of Genealogical Societies and The Utah Genealogical Association host the national FGS/UGA Conference.

### September 17

CAAGS general meeting 10am -2pm - Show & Tell, Family Archive Service

### September 17, Bakersfield, CA

The Kern County Genealogical Society will host a seminar. Speakers will be Barbara Washburn and Kathy Burrow. For info, [www.mykernlife.com/29/](http://www.mykernlife.com/29/) or call Delores M. Dahlee at 661-588-0154

### October 7

CAAGS board meeting 6:30pm

### October 15

CAAGS general meeting 10am – 2pm

### October 15, Chino Hills, CA

Chino Valley Family History & Genealogy Seminar, LDS Church, 3354 Eucalyptus St., Chino Hills, CA, 9am to 5pm. This full-day seminar consists of five sessions with separate tracks in each session. For more information call 909-393-1936

### October 22, Oakland, CA

5<sup>th</sup> Annual African American West Coast Summit on genealogy. Preservation Park 8:30am – 4:30pm

### November 4

CAAGS board meeting 6:30pm

### Nov. 5, Escondido, CA

Escondido Family History Fair, 9am to 5pm, Escondido South Stake Center 2255 Felicita, Escondido, CA 92029. Full-day seminar consists of five sessions with seven separate tracks in each session and all day Hispanic research workshops. For info [www.familyhistoryfair.org/](http://www.familyhistoryfair.org/), call (760) 745-1662

### November 19

CAAGS general meeting 10am – 2pm

*\* Calendar is subject to change without notice*

## Welcome New Members

Gwendolyn Foster – researching Foster, Holt, Busby, Gilder and McKinney

Sonya Reese Greenland-Davis – researching Reese, Vaughn, Meeks, Maxwell, McCall, Brandenburg and Clayton Email: [sqreenda@sbcglobal.com](mailto:sqreenda@sbcglobal.com)

Marlene Davis

## CAAGS 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Research Trip to Salt Lake City Family History Library

CAAGS invites you to celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary by joining us on a research tour to the Salt Lake City Family History Library. Share seven days and nights with experienced researchers from CAAGS as well as professionals who live and work in Salt Lake City.

The trip is March 5-12, 2006. The deadline for deposits is September 30, 2005. Please send your nonrefundable \$75 (per person) deposit to CAAGS no later than this date. The balance is due on December 30, 2005. For more information please call Colette DeVerge at (323) 933-8381 or pick up a registration form at the general meeting.

### Family Archive Services

Services focus on preserving your treasured photos in a form that won't burn, wash away or fade. We capture your memories and save them digitally. You can share these photos with family members who may never have seen them, but most importantly, they are safe from the ravages of time, the danger of flood or fire, or simple wear and tear of daily life. Prices for services vary. Please join us at the September meeting to talk with a representative or for more info contact [jill@familyarchiveservices.com](mailto:jill@familyarchiveservices.com), phone 310/245-3122

## Websites of Interest

- [www.africanaheritage.com/onlinearchives.asp](http://www.africanaheritage.com/onlinearchives.asp)
- [www.buffalosoldiers.net](http://www.buffalosoldiers.net) - Buffalo Soldiers America's Unsung Heroes
- Clues for Successful Interviews  
[www.ancestry.com/learn/library/article.aspx?article=3427](http://www.ancestry.com/learn/library/article.aspx?article=3427)
- Accident-Report.com  
Accident-Report.Com provides copies of actual Military reports from 1918-1955 on soldiers and aircraft involved in airplane accidents or lost in combat. A database of over 200,000 names provides an index to available records.
- Access Genealogy: A free genealogy resource [www.accessgenealogy.com](http://www.accessgenealogy.com)
- Congress is threatening a zero budget for NARA in 2006. <http://www.savearchives.org/>, sign the petition to save our National Archives

## Request for Nominations

It is time to nominate people you feel will make good leaders for CAAGS. Elections will take place during the November general meeting. There are five offices slated for the November ballot. Each office is held for two (2) years. Please consider nominating someone you feel is qualified for one of the following positions or submit your own name if there is a position you would like to hold. The positions and related duties are as follows:

**President** – Presides at all meetings of the Society and the Executive Committee (Board). Serves as program chairperson, appoints committee chairperson and is an ex-officio member of all committees, except the nomination committee. **A nominee for the position of president must have been a member of CAAGS for two (2) consecutive calendar years immediately prior to nomination.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President** – Receives membership applications and dues; turns in dues to treasurer and copies of membership documentation to newsletter editor; send out welcome letters and Bylaws to new members; issue membership cards; maintain membership file; and chair membership and nomination committee.

**Corresponding Secretary** – Receives, open and read all mail directed to the Society; read correspondence at Board meetings; conduct the correspondence of the Society; maintain record of correspondence received and answered.

**Parliamentarian** – Make rulings on procedures in all instances covered or not by the Constitution or Bylaws. Shall review all proposed amendments to insure there is no conflict with constitution or bylaws, making recommendation to Society for acceptance or rejection; chair any committee for review of changes to Constitution or Bylaws.

**Federation of Genealogical Societies Delegate** – Have a good working knowledge of the society and be available for travel to and from conferences; willing to accept financial responsibilities of attending the conference; make verbal report of conference activities to CAAGS membership within 60 days of conference.

**National Genealogical Societies Delegate** – Have a good working knowledge of the society and be available for travel to and from conferences; willing to accept financial responsibilities of attending the annual conference; make verbal report of conference activities to CAAGS membership within 60 days of conference

## The 5th Annual West Coast Summit

The 5th Annual West Coast Summit on African American Genealogy will be held on Saturday, October 22, 2005 from 8:30am – 4:30pm at Preservation Park, 1233 Preservation Parkway Oakland, CA. The summit is hosted this year by the African American Genealogical Society of Northern California.

### Keynote Speaker: Tony Burroughs

Mr. Burroughs is the author of Black Roots and is an internationally known genealogist with over 20 years of genealogical experience to share with event participants.

### Features

- Workshops for beginners, intermediate and advance participants
- Networking with other West Coast genealogists
- Books and supplies available for purchase
- Hotels within walking distance from venue

### Registration Information

Registration fee includes lunch and workshop materials

- **\$45 on or before September 30, 2005**
- \$50 after September 30, 2005

### To register:

- Online [www.aagsnc.org](http://www.aagsnc.org)
- Send a check or money order to AAGSNC, PO Box 27485, Oakland, CA 94602

Please visit the official web site: [www.aagsnc.org](http://www.aagsnc.org) or write to AAGSNC, PO Box 27485, Oakland, CA 94602

## 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](mailto:CAAGS@hotmail.com)

### Conclusion - Where Do I Find It...

#### Death Records

Determining where your ancestor died is usually the first step in locating a record of his death. When the record is not in the obvious location, consider:

- Did the ancestor die while en route to a new location?
- Did the ancestor die in an adjacent county?
- Did the ancestor die at a hospital, state home, or veterans' facility a distance from his actual home?
- Did the ancestor move in with a child and die in that location?

Other records besides the civil record of death may provide death information. These records could include:

- Pension records
- Newspapers
- County histories
- Estate or probate records
- Cemetery records or tombstone inscriptions
- Land sales of property after the death may list the ancestor as "deceased."

#### Wrapping It Up

There are many sources that might provide the information you need. Ideally a primary source will be located, one that was created relatively close to the time of the event by someone who logically had firsthand knowledge of the event.

When primary sources cannot be located, secondary sources must be used. These secondary sources may be in records or documents filed hundreds of thousands of miles from where the event took place. For example, if you are looking for the birth of Johann Schmidt, ask yourself where that date or location could be written. It could appear on:

- Johann's death record
- Johann's obituary
- Johann's children's death records
- Johann's children's biographies
- Johann's manifest listing when he came back from a 1912 return trip to Europe, etc.

Expand your circle and you may end up snaring the information for which you are looking.

Michael John Neill is the Course I Coordinator at the Genealogical Institute of Mid America (GIMA) held annually in Springfield, IL, and is on the faculty of Carl Sandburg College in Galesburg, IL. Michael is currently a member of the board of the Federation of Genealogical Societies. Visit his website at [www.rootdig.com/](http://www.rootdig.com/), but he regrets that he is unable to assist with personal research. *Taken from Ancestry's Daily News*

## Slave Research

### Wills, Deeds and Inventory

Taken from the will of James JONES, Wayne Co NC, 20 December 1825, found in the estate records of Moses BOYTE, North Carolina State Archives, Wayne Co Estate Records 1782-1937, Moses BOYTE, 1826.

Negro boy called Coalman was willed to Moses BOYT.

Two negroes named Rose and her infant (unnamed) willed to Moses BOYTE

Negro name Nathan willed to Thomas WISE; if WISE dies w/o heirs, then Nathan to go to Stephen BOYT.

Seven negroes willed to Stephen BOYT: Bile/Bill, Silva, Charly, Sampson, Lucy and her two infants (unnamed).

### Thomas Bell Will

Oct 18, 1761 proved Nov. court 1761 on oath of Daniel Pegram and William Person Sr. and Jr. qualified as executors.

Thomas Bell wills to son William, the land on east side of Hobquarter Creek on John Higgins' line to the main creek and all land below creek and 10 pds. Money of Virginia; to son Samuel land on west side of Hubquarter Creek to Eaton's line, to main creek, a Negro called Morgan, my smith's tools and William Bell to use

### Bank Records Uncover Louisiana Family Links

Researchers with African-American roots in Louisiana in the mid-1800s may want to obtain a copy of the Wall Street Journal of May 10, 2005. On page one is an article detailing the links to slavery of a predecessor bank of J. P. Morgan Chase & Company of New York. The story covers an investigation into the 170-year records of the Citizens Bank of Louisiana by a researcher hired by J.P. Morgan Chase.



# Heritage Newsletter

October 2005

*Celebrating Family History Month*

## **California African American Genealogical Society**

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

Volume 17  
Number 8  
ISSN 1083-8937

**Published monthly except June and August**

### **General Meetings**

Third Saturday monthly at 10 am (except June and August)

Martin Luther King United Methodist Church  
6625 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA

(East of Crenshaw; between Gage & Florence)

### **Board of Directors**

Marjorie Sholes-Higgins - President  
Charlotte Bocage – First Vice President  
Barbara Thomas – Sec. 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  
LaVerne Anderson – Librarian  
Marilyn White – Historian  
Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor

## **President's Message**

Marjorie Sholes-Higgins

Like many of our meetings that tend to be interesting, educational and exciting, September was no exception. September is designated as our Show and Tell meeting and there were several members who were willing to share their family news.

We also had two special guests. First was Jill Novak who shared information about her company Family Archive Services. Jill stressed the importance of preserving your photos, documents and family stories. Her services include scanning and restoring photos and saving them on CD or DVD. A few members brought their pictures in and had them put on CD. If you missed this opportunity to work with Jill she agreed to come back to our October meeting.

The other special guest was Craig Osborn a librarian from the New Orleans Public Library. He spoke to us about the condition of the New Orleans Public Library records. Records of historical significance were moved to the library's basement for safety and survived the hurricane without any damage.

We also had several members give Show and Tell presentations that included the local history of one member's ancestor who was prominent in the early 1920s in the city of Venice before it was known as Venice and we viewed female slave shackles purchased by a member at an antique store.

Our condolences are extended to one of our charter members Alva Griffith on the loss of her husband.

Next month's message will include FGS highlights.

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

## 2005 Calendar of Events

### October 15

CAAGS general meeting 10am – 2pm. Family Archive Service, [jill@familyarchiveservices.com](mailto:jill@familyarchiveservices.com), phone 310/245-3122

### October 15, Chino Hills, CA

Chino Valley Family History & Genealogy Seminar, LDS Church, 3354 Eucalyptus St., Chino Hills, CA, 9am to 5pm. This full-day seminar consists of five sessions with separate tracks in each session. For more information call 909-393-1936

### October 22, Oakland, CA

5<sup>th</sup> Annual African American West Coast Summit on genealogy, 8:30am – 4:30pm; [www.aagsnc.org](http://www.aagsnc.org)

### November 4

CAAGS board meeting 6:30pm

### Nov. 5, Escondido, CA

Escondido Family History Fair, 9am to 5pm, Escondido South Stake Center 2255 Felicita, Escondido, CA 92029. Full-day seminar consists of five sessions with seven separate tracks in each session and all day Hispanic research workshops. For info [www.familyhistoryfair.org/](http://www.familyhistoryfair.org/), call (760) 745-1662

### November 19

CAAGS general meeting 10am – 2pm; Elections

### Dec 9

CAAGS board meeting 6:30pm

### Dec 17

CAAGS general meeting and holiday party 10am-2pm

### December 30

All unpaid balances are due for CAAGS anniversary research trip, Colette DeVerge (323) 933-8381

*\* Calendar is subject to change without notice*

## Welcome New Members

Allie Almore-Randle - new email  
[akainger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:akainger@sbcglobal.net)

## Message From First Vice President Charlotte Bocage

At the October general meeting Ophelia Sanders will lead the beginner's class and Richard Procello will lead the intermediate class. Richard will show how to create a quality family history book.

Our October field trips are scheduled for Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup> to the Downtown Los Angeles Public Library, from 1:30-3 p.m. Please meet at the lower level four, reference desk. Then on Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> to the Family History Center, 3-7 p.m. Call 310-474-9990 for directions. Please bring your pedigree charts and family group sheets with you.

I also volunteer at the Southern California Genealogical Society Library on most Wednesday's from 10:30am-4pm. Call me at home, 323-669-1982 or call the library on Wednesday at 818-843-7247 to verify if I'm there.

## Websites of Interest

The Fun Stuff for Genealogists website  
[www.funstuffforgenealogists.com](http://www.funstuffforgenealogists.com)

**Louisiana Parish Offers Some Public Records Online** - Caddo Parish in northwest Louisiana offers a free search in some of its marriage license indices. Searches can be by the name (or partial name) of the bridegroom, bride or bride's maiden name.

You can search by book, page or by date. While this parish's marriage licenses date back to 1838, those currently available to search online date back only to the early 1930s.

To search go to <http://www.caddoclerk.com/> and follow the instructions on the website. The user name is muser; the password is caddo.

Ancestry.com has made available the first every-name index to the 1920 U.S. Federal Census. The previous index only lists the heads of households enumerated in the 1920 United States Federal Census. The names listed on the population schedule are linked to the actual images of the 1920 Federal Census, copied from the National Archives and Records Administration microfilm (T625, 2,076 rolls).  
[www.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?sourceid=831&dbid=6061](http://www.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?sourceid=831&dbid=6061)

## Request for Nominations

Please consider nominating someone you feel is qualified or submit your own name if there is a

position you would like to hold. The open positions are President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary, Parliamentarian, FGS and NGS delegates.

### 2006 West Coast Summit

#### West Coast African American Summit Discovering Your Roots and Branches

October 20-21 2006 Las Vegas, NV

Registration only \$65- payable by 9/15/06

Pre registration \$45 - payable by 10/22/05

Make checks payable to NAAGS

NAAGS, P.O. Box 270263, Las Vegas, NV 89127

Please include your name, address, phone number and email address. More details to come in 2006.

*CAAGS extends our prayers and condolences to all those affected by the Hurricane Katrina tragedy*

#### Five Tips to Save You Time and Effort

By George G. Morgan

##### Tip One: Use Pre-Punched Printer Paper

One way to save a little genealogy filing time is to maintain a supply of printer paper that is already three-hole-punched. When you plan to print materials that will be filed in binders, simply swap the paper supply to the three-hole punched stock and print your documents. This simple act can save time and the aggravation of having to punch holes and clean up the confetti residue.

This paper is available from most office supply stores and usually costs about the same as un-punched paper. Be watchful to purchase acid-free paper.

##### Tip Two: Photocopy the Source Citations Too!

Whenever I visit a library or archive, I know that the printed materials I find must always be identified with a source citation. I've made my own format for citations up, using Elizabeth Shown Mills' definitive book, *Evidence! Citation and Analysis for the Family Historian*, as a guide.

Author: \_\_\_\_\_.

Title: \_\_\_\_\_.

Edition: \_\_\_\_\_ (if appropriate).

Printing location: \_\_\_\_\_.

Publishing Company: \_\_\_\_\_.

Year: \_\_\_\_\_.

Repository: \_\_\_\_\_.

Date Accessed: \_\_\_\_\_.

I put this format on a page in my word processor, and then I copy and paste it three or four times down the page, allowing a little additional blank space between them. I print several copies of the document and then use my paper cutter to slice strips with these little mini-forms. I store them in a #10 envelope. When it comes time to photocopy pages or documents, I neatly print the citation information and place it at one end of the first document page or on each page that needs a citation, adhere it to the material to be copied so that the citation information will also be photocopied.

##### Tip Three: Shop Back-to-School Sales and Closeouts

Office supplies are some of the largest expenditures you will make on your genealogical passion. The end of the school year is when many closeout items are placed on sale by office supply stores and other merchants. However, the competition among these same vendors for the back-to-school dollars makes July and August a prime time to start shopping for bargains on paper, pens, pencils, lined pads, file folders, binders, utility storage boxes, computer disks, and many other items--sometimes including printer ink cartridges. Office supply stores also promote some furniture items, computers, printers, and other electronics.

Another way to save money is to join the office supply store "loyalty card" programs. Staples and Office Depot are among those that offer such programs.

##### Tip Four: Label Group Photos Using Tracing Paper

Use tissue or onionskin typing paper to outline the head and shoulders of all the people in group photographs. Then, number each head, and use your word processor to type up a list of each person, in numerical order. You can cut this to fit beneath the outlines, lay or tape it to the tissue paper and photocopy (or scan) the tissue paper onto plain white, acid-free paper, and store it with the photograph. You now have an index to all the people in the photo.

##### Tip Five: Take an Office Supply Kit on Research Trips

I purchased a plastic utility box at a dollar discount store. I fill this with office supplies and take it with

me on research trips. The supplies include: plastic-covered paper clips (small and large), rubber bands, a miniature stapler, a staple remover, pencils and erasers, change for the photocopy machine, sticky-notes and sticky-flags for use on my own materials, a small roll of tape, and even a tiny pair of scissors. I've never been stopped at a library or archives, but I certainly pack the kit in my luggage if I am flying these days. Be sure to label the kit with your name and address or enclose your business card.

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### **Fast Fact Misspellings and Initials**

Having trouble finding your ancestors in a database? Databases are rather picky creatures; one key letter read wrong by the database creator can throw a huge monkey wrench into your search. Often-confused letters in transcriptions and indexes include:

L and S    T and F    J, G, and Y    I and J  
K and R    O and Q    P and R    U and W

In addition, vowels are also frequently misinterpreted. Switching similar-looking letters or vowels in the surnames you are researching can bring surprisingly good results.

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## **Slave Research**

*Submitted by Judith D. Vanskike*  
**Will of John Haydon 27 June 1801**

John Haydon of Jessamine County, KY, being sick and weak in body, but sound in memory and judgement, knowing the uncertainty of life do make my last Will and Testament.

I leave to my beloved wife Lucy Haydon, Roger and Tenah that part of the plantation on which I now live. To my son Jerry Haydon and Elijah Haydon equal portion of hogs and to son Elijah Haydon a negro named Milford.

I give to my son Abner Haydon, 1/5 part of my thousand acre tract of land, and a negro named Abraham, also a cow, calf, and bed which he now has.

I give to my son William Haydon 400 acres on the Ohio, also one fifth of my thousand acres of land, and one negro named Milford.

I give to my daughter Susannah Stevens, 1 equal part of

3 thousand acres, also one negro girl named Amy, and a cow, calf and bed.

I give to my daughter Polly Haydon, one sixth of 3 thousand acres and a negro named Milly, also one cow and one calf.

I give to my daughter Sarah Thomas, 1 equal part of 2 thousand acres, a negro girl named Delph, also 1 cow and calf.

I give to my daughter Betsy Bourne, 1 equal part of 3 thousand acres, a negro named Peter, also 1 mare, cow, calf and bed which she has received.

I give to my daughter Thruza Nelson, one sixth part of 3 thousand acres, also one negro woman named Easter, but if the child Easter is now big with should be living, I give to my daughter Lucy Selled, also one cow and bed which she now has.

I give to my son John Haydon, one equal fifth of one thousand acre tract of land, also a negro named Winney, also a horse, cow, and bed which he has received.

I give to my son Jeremiah Haydon, one bed worth \$20.00 to him and his heirs forever.

I give to my son Thomas Haydon, all the land between John Mosley and the road, also one negro named Jacob, one horse, cow and calf and one bed which he has already received

I give to my son Noah Haydon, one equal part of my thousand acres, also one negro boy named Lewis. Also a blazed face filly that came out of the mare I gave my son Thomas Haydon. Also a cow, calf, and bed.

I give to my son Lewis Lunford Haydon, 1/2 equal part of the land I now live on lying between the road leading from Clay's Mill to Cares Mill and Monoak Singleton and Alford Williams lives, and bound in the division by the line called for in Elijah Hayon'd legacy, the other next to Mount Pleasant house including my mansion now. He is to have the house but not during the lifetime of his mother, but after her death, also one negro named Peter.

I give one fifth in volume of my thousand acres of land on Mill Creek, and one negro boy named Ted, and one two year old filly with a flaxen mane and tail, and one cow and calf to be left at the disposal of my friend the executor of this Will and Testament with this that should my son Jeremiah Haydon forsake his extravagant way of his debts and become a sober settled man clear of such things that would arrest the properties. I wish then to remember him, but if he should not then it is to be divided between the rest of my children, and all my other estate real or personal not already disposed of left for the selling and discharge all my debts except my work horse Jockey, which I leave to my wife during her natural life time and after all my debts are paid the rest of my estate equally divided between all my children. Executors: William Haydon, Abraham Bowman, George S. Smith



# Heritage Newsletter

November 2005

*Happy Thanksgiving*

## President's Message

Marjorie Sholes-Higgins

FGS, the Federation of Genealogical Societies is an organization for societies. Annually they hold a national conference hosted by a local society. This year the conference was held in Salt Lake City, the research capital (my opinion).

Conferences afford you the opportunity to network with other researchers, learn new research techniques and share the triumphs and tribulations of researching those wayward ancestors. There is a day for society delegates, a track for librarians and a track for accreditation and certification.

The Association of Professional Genealogist (APG) holds a full day of Professional Management Conferences that anyone can attend for an additional conference fee. If you were thinking about starting a research business this was the place to learn the tips, tricks and secrets for the professional to use, along with organizing your business digitally and marketing techniques. If you were not interested in starting a business, there was three days from 8am to 6pm where you could learn new information as well as build upon your skills. In between sessions you had time to visit the exhibit hall where there was a wealth of tools for the trade, books, software and organizations that offered a variety of helpful resources.

Developing Good Research Habits, The Courthouse Burned - Alternate Approaches and Treasures, Recognizing Errors In Primary and Secondary Sources, What Do You Mean They're No Records? - Using Vital Records Substitutes, Off The Beaten Path - Unusual

### California African American Genealogical Society

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

Volume 17  
Number 9  
ISSN 1083-8937

**Published monthly except June and August**

#### General Meetings

Third Saturday monthly at 10 am (except June and August)

Martin Luther King United Methodist Church  
6625 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA  
(East of Crenshaw; between Gage and 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  
LaVerne Anderson - Librarian  
Marilyn White - Historian  
Monica Maurasse - Newsletter Editor

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Sources For Research and Reporting Your Research were a few of the topics presented at the conference.

In 2006, FGS will be celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Boston, plan now to join other genealogists in a conference you won't want to miss.

### 2005 Calendar of Events

#### November 19

CAAGS general meeting 10am – 2pm, Dorothylou Sands intermediate class instructor; Elections; Thanksgiving potluck

#### Dec 3

Tamale Festival Fundraiser

#### Dec 9

CAAGS board meeting 6:30pm

#### Dec 17

CAAGS general meeting and holiday party 10am-2pm

#### December 30

All unpaid balances are due for CAAGS anniversary research trip, Colette DeVerge (323) 933-8381

*\* Calendar is subject to change without notice*

#### ✓ **New Databases on Ancestry.com**

Maryland Marriages, 1655-1850

Maryland and South Carolina Lutheran Newspapers, Marriages and Deaths

Civil War Research Database

Confederate States Field Officers

U.S. Records Collection Update

South Carolina Marriages, 1641-1965 (Update adding 1945-65)

### New At The Los Angeles Public Library

The Los Angeles Public Library now makes available the America's Newspapers (NewsBank) database to patrons at the central library, our 71 branches within the city limits, and also at home for patrons with library cards. Currently 587 titles are included from across the country. The length of time covered varies widely. In the case of the Los Angeles Times, for example, it is 1985 to the present. The content included varies widely too. For some newspapers both obituaries and paid death notices are included. In the case of the Los Angeles Times, death notices are not included.

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 "Access the 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 America's Newspapers (NewsBank) and click on it.

Another database offered by the library is the Los Angeles Times Historical Archives (ProQuest). It is available at the central library and our 71 branches, but not at home. The coverage now extends from 1881 through 1985. It consists of digitized images of the actual printed page. This means that in addition to obituaries, all death notices and pictorial content are included.

Three other databases of interest are Ancestry Library Edition which is available at the central library and all 71 branches, HeritageQuest Online which is available at home to patrons with library cards as well as at the central library and all 71 branches, and NewEnglandAncestors.org, which is the web site of the New England Historic Genealogical Society and is available only at the central library.

### Welcome New Members

**Bertha Wesley** - Researching Wesley, Davison, Nettles  
Email: [bwsanders@dslextreme.com](mailto:bwsanders@dslextreme.com)

**E. Onja Brown-Lawson** - Researching: Hattie Elizabeth Patience - Email [eonja2@yahoo.com](mailto:eonja2@yahoo.com)

**Laurene Smith** - Email: [laurensmith1@comcast.net](mailto:laurensmith1@comcast.net)

### Websites of Interest

#### ✓ **Weekly Genealogy Podcast on the Web**

Check out the new Genealogy Guys Podcast, a weekly discussion by George G. Morgan and Drew Smith that includes news, research guidance, interviews with well-known genealogists. A podcast is a new type of Internet broadcast. Rather than using streaming audio that downloads in chunks, a podcast is a single MP3 audio file that you can download to your computer, your PDA, or other equipment that connects to the Internet and plays MP3 files. Go to <http://genealogyguys.com/>

#### ✓ **Genealogy Radio Show**

Relatively Speaking - host, Irene Johnson, is well-known to many FHL visitors for the wonderful orientations she used to give to visiting groups of researchers. If you are in northern Utah, you will find the show from 4-6pm each Sunday on KUTR radio, AM820. Researchers beyond that area can listen in online at <http://utaham820.com/listen.php>

**CAAGS 2006 membership drive is underway  
Please renew your membership today**

**Library of Congress  
Wants Your Family History**

If anyone has a published family history that they would like to have added to the collection at the Library of Congress, they would be delighted to receive a copy.

All book donations should be sent by courier to: Local History & Genealogy, Collection Development, Library of Congress, 101 Independence Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20540-4660.

Upon receipt, you will receive a note of acknowledgement. The item(s) will be sent to their cataloging department for processing and within 3 to 4 months will appear in the OPAC.

**Southern California Genealogical Society's 6th  
Annual Family History Writing Contest**

Just a reminder that it's time to prepare your entries for the Southern California Genealogical Society's Family History Writing Contest. Entries must be in our library by December 31, 2005.

All the contest details can be found on the SCGS website at [scgsgenealogy.com](http://scgsgenealogy.com).

**Los Angeles Regional Family History Center**

For complete class schedule please visit their new web address [www.larfhc.org](http://www.larfhc.org)

**Date Time Subject**

- |        |        |  |   |
|--------|--------|--|---|
| Th. 10 | 11am   | African American Class/Workshop                        | Instructors - Melrose Bell and Eve Savage |
| Th. 10 | 1pm    | Baldwin Hills Oasis Group – African American Resources | Instructor - Surah Lenoir-Mfume           |
| Sa. 12 | 1pm    | African American Class                                 | Charles Meigs                             |
| Sa. 19 | 9:30am | Using Passenger Lists                                  | Instructor - Elaine Alexander             |
| Sa. 19 | 11am   | Family History Films and Presentation - Part II        | Instructor - Rafael Bey                   |
| Tu. 29 | 2pm    | Introduction To Family History Center                  | Instructor - Barbara Algaze               |

The Family History Center will close at 5pm, Wed., Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> and will re-open on Friday, Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> at 10am

**Different Sorts of Kinship, or, What Did  
Cousin Mean 150 Years Ago?**

*By Sherri Irvine*

It is a census entry which usually sparks the question. You wonder exactly what it means when the record

shows a resident of a household as a cousin, or niece, or sister-in-law or any one of the many relationship terms in the English language.

**Old Usage**

Cousin was taken to mean a collateral relation more distant than a brother or sister, which leaves scope for the word referring to just about anyone who is not a sibling or in the direct blood line. Similarly, the word niece was not always so precise in meaning; back in the 1500s it referred to any female relative outside the immediate family. It could have been used to refer to a granddaughter.

Have you wondered about the use of the term "step?" This word is derived from Old English (OE), arising from a root that appears in OE for bereaved and orphan. That makes sense, for the situation arises from second marriages, often due to the death of a parent. My mother was brought up by her father and step-mother because her own mother died when my mother was six years old. This second union produced one child, my mother's half-brother. Had her stepmother had a child by a previous marriage this would have been my mother's step-brother or step-sister.

The census is unlikely to show such distinctions as "step" or "half"; in other words, what appears as the son of the head of the household may be a son by a previous marriage or a step-son. Be prepared to find kinship terms like cousin and in-law used for situations other than what we assume by these words today. In older documents you may see the term "cousin-german." People with this relationship had a common grandparent, what we know as first cousins.

**The Blood Connection May Not Be There**

Kinship terms are used now and were used in the past where, in fact, no blood connection exists. We encounter this all the time because most of us are either an aunt or an uncle by marriage. My brother's children refer to my husband as "uncle" but there is no relationship other than his connection to me. Also, many of us use aunt and uncle affectionately for elderly cousins, where a close relationship needs to be expressed or some acknowledgement given to age difference. Close family friends sometimes, too, are called aunt or uncle.

**Consanguinity and Affinity**

Consanguinity is defined as individuals who are descended from the same ancestor, and who are therefore related by blood. Affinity is the word for relations who lack a blood connection, step-sisters for example.

The Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches have set out for centuries who may marry whom, expressed in a Table of Kindred and Affinity or as degrees of consanguinity. There is not space here to go into the subject more deeply; it would lead on to considering church law, otherwise known as canon law. Most of what we are familiar with regarding kinship arose from church laws. In fact, "in-laws," those relations we often like to abuse, acquired their name because of the definition of the connections in canon law.

### **Conclusion**

Relationships interest many people besides genealogists. It is understandable that lawyers, geneticists and medical people take an interest. I discovered along the way that mathematicians have taken hold of the topic too and actually created formulae related to kinship and consanguinity. I am relieved that I am unlikely to find a use for an algebraic sort of expression of cousinly connections.

A final word of caution--experienced genealogists learn to be ready for all sorts of pitfalls and kinship terminology is one of them. It is a good idea to be wary and avoid quick conclusions as to the precise meaning of a relationship recorded in a register, record, or document.

## **Slave Research**

*Submitted by Judith D. Vanskike*  
**Will of Joseph Duncan Fauquier County, VA**

"In the name of God, amen, I Joseph Duncan of the County of Fauquier and State of Virginia, being of sound mind and memory thanks be to God for the same, but being of an advanced age, and calling to mind that it is ordained that all men must once die, have thought fit to make and declare this last Will and Testament, in manner and -- I give my soul to Almighty God the Creator, and preserved, of all things, and my Body I desire may be buried in a decent Christianlike manner at the desire of my Executors and as for my worldly estate, which it hath pleased God to--in a wish after my just debts, and funeral expenses are paid, I give and Bequeath in the manner and form following that is to say, I give and Bequeath to my loving wife, Lydia Duncan one Negro woman named Sally and also her four children, Jerry, Thornton, Jacob and Benjamin also the increase she may hereafter have to her my said wife her heirs and --forever item I land to my said wife Lydia, for and during her natural life, and no longer, the plantation or Tract of Land whereas I live, containing three hundred and twentyeight acres more or less and

also I further --to my -Lydia Duncan all the estate I now have and possess both real and personal --my said wife during her natural life and no longer. Item, my wish and desire is that my son Joseph Duncan and my daughter Myra Mauzey and also my daughter Rose Winters and also that my daughter Hannah Porter and also my wish and desire that my son Hausen Duncan and my daughter Mary Wright I should have and --enjoyable the Negros that I have heretofore given to them or thereof them, Item, that is -after the natural death of my afore wife Lydia Duncan, I give and bequeath to my son Hausen Duncan the plantation on Tract of Land whereon I now live containing three hundred and twenty eight acres more or less to which land I have before to my aforesaid wife Lydia, to him my said son Housen Duncan his heirs and --forever, Item, my wish and desire is that after the natural death of my aforesaid wife Lydia Duncan, all my estate that I have before lent her my said wife, the plantation I live on excepted as is above provided may be sold at the direction of my Executors and the money arising from the sale thereof to be equally divided between my daughter Lydia Obannon, and my son Joseph Duncan and my daughter Myma Mauzy and my daughter "Rose" Withers and my daughter Hannah Porter and also my Housen Duncan. Item all the Bequests I have before made I do hereby ratify and confirm. Lastly I do hereby constitute an appoint my son Joseph and Housen Duncan and also my sons in law, John Obannon and John Mauzy, sale Executors of this my last will and Testament and hereby revoke and declare void all other will or wills Tentament or Testaments, heretofore by me made. In witness where of I have here unto set my hand this the thirteenth day of February in the Year of Our Lord Christ one thousand four hundred and ninety two."

### **Genealogy Quick Tip - Frame Photocopies**

By Judith K. Grow

If you come across contemporary newspaper articles that you would like to frame, do not frame the originals. Instead make good color copies of them as soon as possible, and frame the copies. Often visible aging changes will be apparent in contemporary newspapers in a matter of days, depending on environmental conditions. Tuck the original away in a safe place to turn brown, brittle, and unsightly, away from public view, as it inevitably will do.

To prevent the black show-through from the reverse side of the newspaper from being as obvious in your copy, back the sheet with a piece of black paper or black mat board in the flat-bed scanner.



# Heritage Newsletter

December 2005

*Wishing All A Happy and Safe Holiday Season*

## **California African American Genealogical Society**

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

Volume 17  
Number 10  
ISSN 1083-8937

**Published monthly except June and August**

### **General Meetings**

Third Saturday monthly at 10 am (except June and August)

Martin Luther King United Methodist Church  
6625 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA  
(East of Crenshaw; between Gage and Florence)

### **Board of Directors**

Marjorie Sholes - 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  
LaVerne Anderson – Librarian  
Marilyn White – Historian  
Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor

## **President's Message**

Marjorie Sholes

It was beyond our control to cancel the November meeting on short notice. I did my best to call as many members as possible. I was also outside the church for two hours for those I missed. As a result of this problem we are in dire need of a meeting place for December. At the December meeting we will have the election and installation of the new officers right after the results are known. The November meeting was schedule to have a geographical group which we can resume in December.

We have asked for your pedigree charts so if you have one no matter how limited it is with information please bring it.

### **You Know You're Addicted to Genealogy When...**

Your idea of a fun vacation includes a library, courthouse and a couple of cemeteries.  
Your dream vacation is to spend a week at the LDS Library, in Salt Lake City.  
You can answer all of the queries on Genforum.  
You receive 100 e-mails a day and 99 of them are from Roots-L mailing lists.  
You have your own set of keys to the local family history center and the employees think you work there.

There's not one person on your X-mas card list that you have actually met, although they all have the same last name.

You know the mailman's schedule better than he does, and if he's late you drive around looking for him.  
You've read the entire Root-L archives twice.  
You introduce your children as your descendants.  
You begin referring to cemeteries as ancestor farms

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

and headstones as concrete evidence.

Taken from: <http://users.ap.net/~chenae/genhumor.html>

### 2005 - 2006 Calendar of Events

#### Dec 17

CAAGS general meeting and holiday party 10am-2pm;  
Turn in money for Salt Lake City raffle

#### December 30

All unpaid balances are due for CAAGS anniversary  
research trip, contact Colette DeVerge (323) 933-8381

#### Jan 21, 2006

CAAGS general meeting 10am

#### Jan. 26, 2006

Boerne TX- The Genealogy Society of Kendall County  
will sponsor a six-week course Locating and Analyzing  
Genealogical Records, at the Boerne Community Center.  
For more info visit <http://home.earthlink.net/~35madel/>  
or call Jim Boyd 830-336-4462

#### March 5-12

CAAGS 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Research Trip – Family  
History Center, Salt Lake City, UT

*\* Calendar is subject to change without notice*

### Websites of Interest

From the Virginia African American List  
[www.discovergenealogy.com](http://www.discovergenealogy.com)

Ancestry.com posts new or updated databases almost  
daily, adding millions of names a month to the site. The  
easiest way to see if something has been added or  
updated is to click on recently added databases located in  
the bottom right hand corner of the Ancestry Home  
page. The list generally shows the last 60 days worth of  
databases.

The Ancestry Daily News also spotlights new or updated  
databases. To sign up to receive the daily news or  
weekly digest go here: <http://www.ancestry.com/learn/>

### My Family Health Portrait

This past Thanksgiving marked the second annual  
National Family History Day. All families should take  
time to collect important health history information that  
can benefit all family members. Even with all the high-  
tech tests, medicines and procedures available in today's  
modern health-care setting, family health history  
remains the cornerstone of efforts to prevent disease and  
promote personal health. It's clear that knowing your

family history can save your life.

Dr. Carmona has released an updated, Web-based  
version of a free, computerized tool that organizes  
family health information into a printout that people can  
take to health-care professionals to help determine  
whether they are at higher risk for disease. The free tool,  
called "My Family Health Portrait," is available at  
[www.hhs.gov/familyhistory](http://www.hhs.gov/familyhistory).

### CAAGS 2006 membership drive is underway Please renew your membership today

#### Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia

The Centre houses a museum, auditorium, gift shop,  
RCMP Community Office, and a reference library. A  
colorful array of exhibitions, publications and souvenirs  
await you. If you are ever in Nova Scotia take time to  
visit Canada's only Black Cultural Centre. Discover the  
remarkable history of rich African Heritage they have to  
share!

Membership to the Black Cultural Society is open to all.  
Visit them at <http://www.bcns.com/> for more info.

#### Anacostia Museum

The Anacostia Museum collects African American  
family and community history materials. It is a  
Smithsonian Institution museum located in Washington,  
D.C., whose educational programs include national  
audiences.

If you are interested in donating family history  
materials, please send a copy of the material for  
consideration for donation. The museum's collection  
committee decides what materials will be accepted into  
the museum's permanent collection.

Send questions or inquires to Portia James, Senior  
Curator, Anacostia Museum & Center for African  
American History and Culture, Smithsonian Institution  
<http://anacostia.si.edu>

#### Marriage records

Did you know that South Carolina did not require  
marriage licenses until 1 July 1911. The probate judge's  
office in the county courthouse holds licenses issued  
before 1950. Both the Bureau of Vital Statistics and the  
county courthouse have copies of licenses issued after 1  
July 1950. You can find addresses and telephone  
numbers for county courthouses in Elizabeth Petty  
Bentley, *County Courthouse Book* (Baltimore, Md.:  
Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1990).

## Ten Free Things to Do on Ancestry.com

Excerpted from the article by Anastasia Sutherland Tyler

Just about everyone loves free things, be it free food, free concert tickets, or free samples. So, without further ado, here are ten things you can do for free on Ancestry.com.

### ➤ **Search Two Census Indexes**

Ancestry.com offers two census indexes for free searching: the 1880 U.S. Federal Census and the 1881 England, Wales, Isle of Man, and Channel Islands Census.

### ➤ **Get Search Tips for Specific States**

You can easily find out what's available on Ancestry.com for each U.S. state by going to "Search Records" tab, scrolling down to the U.S. map, and clicking on a specific state.

### ➤ **Download the FTM Trial Version**

You can download and install Family Tree Maker 2005 Starter Edition, a basic form of the most popular family tree program on the market. This starter version gives you full functionality to the program for fourteen days.

### ➤ **Download Family History Forms and Logs**

Ancestry.com provides many commonly used family history charts to help you extend your family tree.

### ➤ **Add Messages to Message Boards**

Message boards are an easy way to connect with researchers around the world. Ancestry.com houses message boards that focus on surnames, locations, and other topics of interest, such as adoption and cemeteries. To access the message boards, click on the "Message Boards" tab from the Ancestry.com home page.

### ➤ **Register in the Research Registry**

The Research Registry is a way for you to connect with people working on the same surnames or families as you. Access the Research Registry through the Message Boards tab on Ancestry.com ([www.ancestry.com/share/](http://www.ancestry.com/share/))

### ➤ **Find Facts about Surnames**

Knowing some basic facts about the surnames you are researching can help you know when and where to search for ancestors. Enter Family Facts--information about surname distribution across the United States in the 1840, 1880, and 1920 federal censuses, Civil War service by surname, occupations by surname, surname's place of origin, ports of departure by surname, and name origins (for both given names and surnames).

### ➤ **Find Answers in the Knowledge Base**

The knowledge base is a little-known treasure trove of information about Ancestry.com. In it you can

search though answers to many questions asked by our members or e-mail your question to Ancestry.com support. Access the knowledge base by clicking on the "Help" link in the upper right corner of most pages on Ancestry.com.

### ➤ **Find Articles in the Library**

Did you know that each *Ancestry Daily News*, each featured article, and each quick tip is archived in the Library on Ancestry.com? Did you also know that articles (minus graphics) from past issues of *Ancestry Magazine* and *Genealogical Computing* are posted in the Library as well? To access these articles, click on the Learning Center tab. Use the "Search the Library" box to find articles on a specific subject or by your favorite author.

### ➤ **Learn More in the Learning Centers**

Ancestry.com houses ten Learning Centers--areas on the website where you can learn about various family history topics. Each learning center focuses on a family history concept or an Ancestry.com record collection, including census, vital, immigration, and military records. These topic-focused areas allow you to easily basic information on each topic, search tips both on and offline, success stories from other researchers, and much more. Access Learning Centers by clicking the "Learning Center" tab from the Ancestry.com home page.

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## Slave Research

*Submitted by Judith D. Vanskike*

**Will of Joseph Duncan, Jr.**

**Will Bk., B, P 119, Harrison Co., KY**

I Joseph Duncan of Harrison County and state of Kentucky being now seventy six years of age but of sound mind and memory do constitute this my last will and testament hereby revoking and annulling all former wills or testamentary dispositions of my property to all intents and purposes first it is my will and desire that all my just debts be paid out of such of my personal estate as shall not otherwise herein appropriated secondly it is my will and desire that all my slaves be set free after my death under the terms and provisions hereafter mentioned my slaves now consist of Nancy and her children Sally Lewis & George Preston, Lavinia and her children Rachael and Charles Bowen and my faithful and trusty man Garrard and I have heretofore made a deed of gift of the girl Sally to my son in law Clairbourne Collier which is now recorded in the Nicholas County Court which donation I do now hereby confirm and give said girl to my said son in law and her

increase to him and his heirs for ever as his entire and full portion of my Estate and whereas I have also executed an Instrument of writing in the nature of a devise which is now of record in the Harrison County Court the object of which was to manunit my said negro men Garrard, but as said Instrument of writing is defective in not containing all the terms of my Intention Also, information do revoke it and it is now my will and desire that said Negro man Garrard shall be manunited after my death from slavery upon his paying my Executors hereinafter named the sum of two hundred dollars and for this purpose his sale--at liberty to enjoy the product of his own here or previses from and after my decease to unable him to discharge that sum and upon the payment thereof it shall be the duty of my Executors or some one of them to give said negro man a receipt of acquittance of a certificate of his freedom under the will and as to the negro woman Nancy and her children Lewis and George Prestan and her future increase it is in like manner my will and desire that from and after my decease a true and accurate account of the profits of said negros shall be taken by my Executors and when a sum equal to four hundred dollars shall be made by their hire or services my Executors or some one of them shall give to each a certificate of freedom in manner aforesaid in like manner it is my will and desire that from and after my decrease the hire and profits of the negro woman, Lavinia and her children aforesaid and all future increase shall be accurately estimated and received by my Executors until the shall make the sun of six hundred dollars, at which time my Executors or some one of them shall give to each of said slaves a certificate of Freedom as aforesaid and it shall be the duty of my Executors to have the care and protection of said slaves and provide for their clothing taxes medical attendanced or whatever else shall be necessary for their comfort until they shall respectively obtain their certificates of freedom aforesaid after which period said slaves and their increase shall be forever manunited from slavery it is my further will and desire that the sum of twelve hundred dollars this raised from the hire and profits of said slavery shall be divided into six equal portions whereof one portion to be paid to the children and heirs of my son named Duncan deced one portion to my son Washington Duncan one portion to daughter Lydia Mizner one portion to my daughter Nancy Hany one portion to my daughter Chanotte Parker and one portion to my daughter Susanna Whiteley and whereas about the year 1810 in considerately and without being in a proper state of mind executed an instrument in writing to my son James Duncan in the nature of a title bond for the land whereon I now -- containing 162 acres in which it appears a consideration of fifty pounds is -when in fact I received no consideration whatever and have even

thought myself imposed upon by it and that said bond is of my force it is therefore my will and desire that my son Archibald Duncan shall inherit said land and I do hereby devise said tract of land to be my said son Archibald and his heirs and -forever. I bequeath to my grand daughter Lydia Duncan a feather bed and bed furniture a sorel mare with blazed face a saddle and bridle a young cow and my weavers loom and the parties there unto belonging. I constitute my son Archibald Duncan and Washington Duncan and my son in law Clairbourne Collier Executors of this my last will and testament and charge and strictly enjoin them to cause the provisions of this will to be carried into full effect and as to the residue of my Estate not herein enumerated or devised I give my said Executor full power over the sell or distribute specifically taking care to make an equal distribution among my living children after all debts and demands against me are satisfied. In testimony whereof I do hereunto set my hand and seal this 30th day of March 1818

### SSDI (Social Security Death Index) Online

Ancestry subscriptions (individual or at the library) give you access to the searchable Social Security Death Index (SSDI), which is kept updated. This helps you determine death dates and places and sometimes birth dates for many, many folks who have died, mostly after 1969. The site will print out a letter for you to send to the SS administration if you want a copy of the person's SS application. That usually gives parents' names, birth date of the applicant, address at the time of the application, and employment at that time. Applications began in 1936, for those who were eligible. It's a good record to confirm info on deceased individuals. The SS-5, as the application is called, costs \$27.

The SSDI is available free at [Familysearch.org](http://Familysearch.org) (Family History Library site) under Search and at [ssdi.rootsweb.com](http://ssdi.rootsweb.com).

Sites vary on how recently their SSDI database has been updated. If you don't find your person listed:

- They may be alive.
- They may have died before the database was created and thus are not listed.
- They may not have had a SS card. (Not all workers were eligible at first.)
- You may be putting in too much information into the search engine. Try surname and state, or surname and death year, or given name and state, or other combinations of facts.
- Try another web site.