



Heritage Newsletter

California African American Genealogical Society

President's Message

Ronald Higgins

January 2009 Volume 21 Number 1

Ten Issues Published Annually
ISSN 1083-8937

California African American Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 8442
Los Angeles, CA 90008-0442

General Membership Meetings

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

***** Our New Location *****

Mayme Clayton Library and Museum (MCLM)
4130 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA 90230-3734
(Old Culver City Courthouse across from VA building)

2009 Board of Directors

Ronald Higgins - President
Ron Batiste – First Vice President
Ruth Palmer – Second Vice President /Membership
Gwen Foster – Corresponding Secretary
Jean Wright-Calhoun – Recording Secretary
Anjail M Bakeer – Treasurer
Marjorie Sholes – Former President
Gena Weaver – Webmaster (visit us at www.caags.org)

Committee Chairs

DorothyLou Sands – Book Sales and Acquisitions
Open – Publications Editor
Lillian Glover – Public Relations
LaVerne Anderson – Librarian
DorothyLou Sands – Historian (Interim)
Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor
Colette DeVerge – FGS Delegate/Fundraising Chairman
Charlotte Bodge – NGS Delegate

We're in a new year, the year of "yes we can." I'm wishing each of you and your family a bright joyous New Year.

Thanks to all the members, family and friends that attended CAAGS Christmas party at the Carson Buffet on December 20th. All enjoyed good food, good conversation, fun games and the singing of Christmas carols.

CAAGS will have its first election at the Mayme A. Clayton Library & Museum this month. Please come out and cast your vote. Offices up for election are first vice president, recording secretary, treasurer and FGS delegate. Remember only you can make the society be what you want it to be with your participation.

It's time for the membership drive. Bring a new person to the meeting. I will be in touch with those of you who signed the volunteer list. Thanks to all of you for the interest in volunteering.

Help make this year a year to remember by attending the International Black Genealogy Summit October 29-31, 2009 in Fort Wayne Indiana.

On a sad note....

On November 24th CAAGS treasurer Anjail Bakeer died. She will be missed dearly. Asilah El Amin, Marjorie Sholes and myself attended her graveside service at Inglewood Park Cemetery on November 28th.

Neither the newsletter editor nor CAAGS guarantees publication of any submission. Submissions for the newsletter are due by the third Saturday of each month. Please email your submissions or inquiries to CAAGS@hotmail.com Our new meeting location, Mayme Clayton Library and Museum, 4130 Overland Blvd., Culver City, CA.

2009 Calendar of Events

January 17, 2009

CAAGS general meeting 10am – 2pm. Mayme Clayton Library and Museum (MCLM)

January 31

Black Family Genealogy & History Society Mini Summit, Phoenix, AZ.

February 21, 2009

CAAGS general meeting 10am – 2pm. Mayme Clayton Library and Museum (MCLM)

March 14

Discover Your Roots VII, 1209 South Manhattan Pl., LA
For more info visit <http://discoveryourroots.org/>

March 21

CAAGS general meeting 10am – 2pm. Mayme Clayton Library and Museum (MCLM)

** Calendar is subject to change without notice*

Websites of Interest

These sites are valid as of December 12th, 2008. If they do not link up, please notify me at charsroots@yahoo.com. Use the University library web sites to see what is in their catalog (i.e. special collections, plantation records, maps or papers) so you can request a look up, an inter-library exchange, or go to the library.

Various websites have information for their group but also information that may be informative for another group. \$ = Fee-based or may require membership

Land and Maps:

Google maps <http://maps.google.com/>

Land Title terminology and history

<http://users.arn.net/~billco/uslpr.htm>

U.S.G.S. National Mapping Information

<http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnishome.html>

Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office Records

www.glorerecords.blm.gov

Historic Map Works www.historicmapworks.com

David Rumsey Historical Map Collection

www.davidrumsey.com

Perry-Casteñeda Library Map Collection

www.lib.utexas.edu/maps

Old Maps www.livgenmi.com/1895/

Ireland's History in Maps

rootsweb.com/~irlkik/ihtm/iremaps.htm

Bookstores:

Advanced Book Exchange (hard to find books)

www.abebooks.com

ALibris (hard to find books) www.alibris.com

Photographs:

Dead Fred <http://deadfred.com>

Ancient Faces www.ancientfaces.com

Alternative Genealogy Communication:

Roots Television <rootstelevision.com>

Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter <blog.eogn.com>

Soundex machines

<http://resources.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/soundexconverter>

www.archives.gov/research_room/genealogy/census/soundex.html

Black Family Genealogy & History Society Presents A Mini-Summit

Black Indians: Searching for our indigenous & Cultural Roots, Double Tree Guest Suites, 320 North 44th Street Phoenix, AZ, Saturday January 31, 2009 – 9:00am to 5:00pm, \$20 – Light lunch to be served

Speakers: Darnell Alanda Morehand-Olafunde, M.Ed (Choctaw) in Enid, OK and (Shinnecock) on Long Island, NY and Eric Smith (Narragansett) Rhode Island, (Nehantic) Connecticut and (Montauk) of Long Island, NY

Send checks payable to: BFGHS P.O. Box 90683 – Phoenix, AZ 85042 Ph 602/276-7931 480/854-2504 F: 480/396-9650

Call for Papers: 2009 BYU Conference on Family History and Genealogy Conference

Proposals are now being accepted for the 2009 BYU Conference on Family History and Genealogy, which will be held Tuesday, July 28 through Friday, 31 July at the Conference Center, BYU campus, Provo, Utah.

Each presentation will be 60 minutes in length, which includes time for questions and answers. Each presentation should reflect the latest status of research and publication on the topic. Please do not submit more than eight proposals.

The deadline for proposals is Monday, 16 February 2009. We welcome proposals that allow participants to gain new skills and helpful information in the following areas of family history and genealogy:

- Getting started in family history
- Classes specifically designed for those never having done research
- Other beginner topics
- Using computers and new software to simplify research
- Using new technologies for family research
- Research methodology: using BCG standards, research process, pedigree analysis, evidence evaluation, tracing immigrants, etc.
- Beginning, intermediate, and advanced research

methodology in:

- England
- Ireland
- Scotland
- Wales
- Germany
- Scandinavia
- United States
- Canada
- Other world areas
- Presentations for expert and professional researchers
- Writing and publishing family histories, journals, articles
- Family organizations and collaboration
- Family History Center support and family history consultant training

Presentations should not only inform, but should provide step-by-step instructions to help the participants use the class materials. All syllabus materials should reflect the content of classes, both in detail and in sequence of instruction.

Presentation style must be PowerPoint, lecture, or Internet. Conferences and workshops will provide a laptop computer with wireless Internet connection in each classroom connected to a LCD projector. Speakers should plan to bring their PowerPoint slide show on a flash drive, CD-ROM, or DVD-ROM. Be sure to have available a backup copy of your presentation. If yours is an Internet presentation, you must have screen shot backups in case of Internet failure.

Proposals should include:

Full name of presenter

Title

Class description used for advertising brochure and Web page (50 words maximum).

The class description should include detailed information about the main topics to be discussed in the class.

Audience skill level (beginner, intermediate, or advanced)

Include a current e-mail, mailing address, telephone number(s), List your previous experience presenting at conferences or workshops in the past three years, including titles of presentations and a brief biographical sketch for the syllabus (50 words maximum).

Compensation: Speakers participating in the Conference will receive: Complimentary registration, \$100 per presentation, plus a bonus of \$50 per presentation if your camera-ready syllabus materials (1) follow the syllabus guidelines listed above and (2) are submitted by midnight on Monday, 22 June 2009. Out-of-state speakers selected to present four or more presentations will also receive accommodations, \$100 towards travel, and a cafeteria meal

card covering the days of the conference.

If an in-state speaker is speaking both in the morning and in the afternoon of a specific day, lunch will be provided.

Please e-mail lecture proposals in Word or Acrobat format no later than 16 February 2009.

NOTE: Microsoft Word documents are preferred.

Judy Jones

George Ryskamp

Family History Library

Brigham Young University

Office: (801) 240-7015

Office: (801) 422-8047

jonesja@ldschurch.org

george_ryskamp@byu.edu

New Law Creates Database of Slavery, Emancipation Records

WASHINGTON President-elect Barack Obama was unique among African-Americans with the ability to trace both sides of his family tree.

However, a new law may increase dramatically the access to that information.

As part of a Senate bill to insure that all presidential records are preserved, a House bill introduced by the late Rep. Tom Lantos, D-CA, requires the National Archives to supplement its Freedman Bureau archives with a comprehensive database of all federal and state records relating to slavery, emancipation and Civil War reconstruction.

It also provides for grants to states and localities to establish local databases as well.

The legislation is also a testament to the late Dr. Walter Hill, who created a finding guide on National Archives resources on African-Americans.

Before his death, Lantos said on the House floor in 2007, The federal and local records covered by this legislation are not only of personal importance to the families involved. They are also historically significant to us all. They document the reuniting of our nation and the historic moment of transition for slaves from the status of property to citizens, a time when our country finally began to right a horrible moral wrong. We need to take the process another step now, by ensuring that those records and the lessons they hold are preserved for all eternity.

He added, Unfortunately, African Americans face a unique challenge due to our nation's history of discrimination and slavery. Instead of simply looking up wills, birth and death certificates, or other traditional genealogical research documents, African Americans are forced to identify the names of former slave owners, and then hope that these owners kept accurate records of pertinent property, tax, and probate information.

Such databases are critical for improving educational outcomes for African-American children, who are often hampered at the beginning of their educational experience because early social science frameworks begin with exploring family histories.

It can also impact the ability of communities to seek historic preservation protections for significant African-American historic figures and sites.

African-American history, genealogy, historic preservation, National Archives, Obama, pedagogy, slavery, Tom Lantos

Tips from the Pros: You Can't Believe Everything You Hear, from Paula Stuart-Warren, CG

Over the many years I have been researching, there have been several times where I've been advised against researching in valuable collections. A librarian, historian, or archivist might tell you that a certain set of files, index cards, or an electronic database or image doesn't have anything to do with genealogy. Some have even said it would be a waste of time to check the record or index. A recent experience demonstrates how much we might miss if we heed that kind of advice.

Browsing around a library is a great way to become acquainted with it and possibly find some things you did not expect to find. I was searching through an extensive old card catalog and was told that there was "nothing in there for genealogy." I smiled and politely said I was just going to browse a bit. What did I find in this catalog? County histories, biographies, autobiographies, town and community histories, excerpts from diaries and journals, war history, maps, historical directories, histories of hereditary and occupational organizations (some with list of members), Daughters of the American Revolution publications, fur trade history, regional histories, Historical Records Surveys (WPA), and even some personal papers.

Saving Your Family Treasures: A Directory of Past Columns, by Maureen Taylor

General Advice

➤ **A Case of Mistaken Identity**
www.ancestry.com/s23560/t14941/rd.ashx
Learn more about the true meaning of the often used and misused term "archival" and what all those terms on product packaging really mean.

➤ **Protected from the Elements: Storing Family Heirlooms at Home**
www.ancestry.com/s23560/t14942/rd.ashx

➤ **If you've often wondered about where to keep all these valuable family treasures then this article is for you.**

➤ **One Step at a Time**
www.ancestry.com/s23560/t14943/rd.ashx

Here's a step-by-step approach for preserving family

heirlooms.

➤ **Four Destructive Habits**
www.ancestry.com/s23560/t14944/rd.ashx

If you know someone who's still laminating photos and news clippings please show them this article.

Artifacts

The focus of this piece is my attempt to learn more about an aunt's gift of a small handmade item. You can use these techniques to learn more about almost any type of artifact in your collection.

➤ **Taking Stock of the Past**
www.ancestry.com/s23560/t14945/rd.ashx

Bibles

A reader's question about how to care for a family Bible ended up so popular I had to write a second follow-up piece to answer additional inquiries and concerns.

➤ **Bless Them: Caring for Family Bibles**
www.ancestry.com/s23560/t14946/rd.ashx

➤ **Bless Them, Part 2**
www.ancestry.com/s23560/t14947/rd.ashx

Newspapers

Who doesn't have a newspaper clipping they'd like to preserve?

➤ **Saving the News**
www.ancestry.com/s23560/t14948/rd.ashx

Photographs and Movies

Got a picture in your family collection that's slowly disappearing and wondering what you can do about it? Here are a few tips on how to enhance the image using contemporary tools.

➤ **Fading from View**
www.ancestry.com/s23560/t14949/rd.ashx

➤ **Home Movies**
www.ancestry.com/s23560/t14950/rd.ashx

➤ **Sliding Home**
www.ancestry.com/s23560/t14951/rd.ashx

Vintage photos last so much longer than contemporary ones. Here's what experts recommend when storing slides.

Photo Albums

This was my all-time most popular topic. So many people added comments to the original posting that there was enough material for two more blog pieces on the same topic.

➤ **Between the Covers: Family Photo Albums**
www.ancestry.com/s23560/t14952/rd.ashx

➤ **Saving the Stories in Family Albums**
www.ancestry.com/s23560/t14953/rd.ashx

➤ **Album Redux: Questions and Answers**
www.ancestry.com/s23560/t14954/rd.ashx

Voice Recordings

➤ The inspiration for this column was the wonderful work being done by the StoryCorp (www.storycorps.net) folks who document oral histories and the Recording Rescue feature of VoiceQuilt (www.voicequilt.com).

➤ **Voices from the Past**
www.ancestry.com/s23560/t14955/rd.ashx

- Taken from the *Ancestry Weekly Journal*



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DorothyLou Sands – Historian (Interim)
Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor
Colette DeVerge – FGS Delegate/Fundraising Chairman
Charlotte Bocage – NGS Delegate
Jeanne Gagnard – Volunteer Chairman

President's Message

Ronald Higgins

January 2009 was a historical month for America, we inaugurated our first African American president in the free world and made a big leap in the progress of making a dream a reality for our people. Many Americans are proud that Barack H. Obama is President.

CAAGS also held our elections. A challenge I place to the new board is make our society stand out in our community. Our newly elected officers are Ron Bastiste, First VP; Jeanne Gagnard, Recording Secretary; Marjorie Sholes, Treasurer; Ophelia Sanders, Parliamentarian and Charlotte Bocage, NGS delegate. Thanks to each of you and I look forward to working with you. Give a round of applause to Barbara Thomas for heading up the election during our meeting, to Hal Jackson and Valerie Warrick-Durette who chaired our nominating committee and Jamesta Hammons for leading the swearing in ceremony.

For those of you who are interested in volunteering some time to the society, please see Jeanne Gagnard who is also our volunteer committee chairperson. She has a list of volunteer opportunities that need your time and effort.

If you are interested in the writers group please contact Marilyn White or Dasiy Saffold-Jenkins.

February is Black History Month. If you can, attend one of the various community events and for our monthly meeting please wear your African attire in celebration of our heritage.

As I mentioned at the January members meeting I'm looking for scrapbooks to display at the 7th Annual African American Discover Your Roots Conference on March 14th. Let me know if you would like to share and display one or more of your books.

Neither the newsletter editor nor CAAGS guarantees publication of any submission. Submissions for the newsletter are due by the third Saturday of each month. Please email your submissions or inquiries to CAAGS@hotmail.com Our new meeting location, Mayme Clayton Library and Museum, 4130 Overland Blvd., Culver City, CA.

2009 Calendar of Events

March 14

Discover Your Roots VII Conference, LDS Stake
1209 South Manhattan Place, Los Angeles, CA 90019

March 21

CAAGS general meeting 10am – 2pm. Mayme Clayton
Library and Museum (MCLM)

April 18

CAAGS general meeting 10am – 2pm. Mayme Clayton
Library and Museum (MCLM)

June 26 – 28

40th Annual Southern California Genealogy Jamboree,
Burbank, CA; go to www.scsgenealogy.com for more info

October 29 -31

1st International Black Genealogical Summit, Allen County
Public Library: for info www.blackgenealogysummit.com

** Calendar is subject to change without notice*

- African American Newspapers
www.accessible.com/about/aboutAA.htm
- Colorado's Historic Newspaper Collection
www.cdpheritage.org/newspapers
- Utah Digital Library Project
www.lib.utah.edu/digital/unews
- Alberta Canada Newspapers Collection
www.ourfutureourpast.ca/newspapr/np_home.asp
- London Times Digital Archive
www.gale.com

(+) Multiple Operating Systems the Easy Way

A new technology has become very popular in the past two or three years: virtual computers. Five years ago, almost no one talked about virtual computers. Now it seems that almost every computer magazine you pick up has an article about virtual computing. I use virtual computers every day and love the convenience and money-saving features.

I first searched several online dictionaries and encyclopedias looking for a definitive explanation of virtual computers. Most of the explanations I found were accurate but overly complex. Instead of using any of those complex explanations, I will simply say that virtual computing is the ability to run multiple operating systems simultaneously on one computer. Computer gurus will cringe at that simplistic explanation and say, "There's more to it than that!" They are right; but, from a user's viewpoint, my definition is accurate and will suffice until you get interested in the details of how it operates.

Would you like to run Windows XP and Windows Vista and Windows 98 and MS-DOS and Linux and Macintosh and perhaps other operating systems, all on one computer? You can do it with virtual computing. This can be a great way to run an older genealogy program or a database or a game that doesn't work properly on the latest version of Windows. You can run it on an older version of Windows while simultaneously running other applications on the latest version of Windows Vista.

Virtual computing also allows you to experiment with other operating systems without disrupting what you already use. Perhaps you have heard good things about Macintosh and would like to try it, but you don't want to abandon your investment in other programs and operating systems. Perhaps you want to use a Macintosh but don't want to abandon RootsMagic or Legacy or The Master Genealogist or AncestralQuest or your word processor or checkbook program? Virtual computing will allow you to do just that.

The complete article can be purchased for \$2 at
www.lulu.com/content/5230730

- Posted by Dick Eastman on December 06, 2008

Websites of Interest

These sites are valid as of December 12th, 2008. If they do not link up, please notify me at charsroots@yahoo.com. Remember to use university library web sites to see what is in their catalog (i.e. special collections, plantation records, maps or papers) so you can request a look up, an inter-library exchange, or go to the library.

Death and Cemetery web sites

- USA Searchable death indexes
<http://home.att.net/~wee-monster/deathrecords.htm/>
- Find A Grave
www.findagrave.com
- Southeastern U.S. Cemetery Surveys
www.cemeterysurveysinc.com
- Nationwide Veteran's Gravesite Locator
<http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/>
- African American Cemeteries Online
www.prairiebluff.com
- Save Our Cemeteries, Inc., New Orleans
www.saveourcemeteries.org

City Directories

- Distant Cousins
www.DistantCousin.com
- Old Directory Search
www.OldDirectorySearch.com

Newspaper web sites

- Louisiana Newspaper Project
www.lib.lsu.edu/special/lnp.html
- Jefferson Parish, Louisiana Library System
www.jefferson.lib.la.us/genealogy/neworleansbeemain.htm
- Newspaper Archive
www.newspaperarchive.com

Army News – Two Colored Regiments Newly Organized – Commanded by White Field Officers and Black Captains and Lieutenants

An order for the organization of two colored regiments was issued from the War Department yesterday. All of the field officers of these two regiments are white men now in the regular army. All of the company officers are colored men who served in the war with Spain in either the regulars or volunteers. The regiments will be designated the Forty-Eighth and Forty-Ninth Volunteer Infantry. The Forty-Eighth will be organized at Fort Thomas, KY, and the Forty-Ninth at Jefferson Barracks, MO.

Following are the colored Company Commanders of the Forty-Eighth Regiment:

Captains:

- John BUCK, first sergeant, Troop B, Tenth Cavalry;
- Thomas CAMPBELL, late first lieutenant, Company L, Seventh U.S. Volunteer Infantry;
- William H. BROWN, sergeant major, Ninth Cavalry;
- Carter P. JOHNSON, Tenth Cavalry;
- Thomas GRANT, late first lieutenant, Company F, Tenth U.S. Volunteer Infantry;
- Robert R. RUDD, late captain, Company A, Ninth Battalion Ohio Volunteer;
- James E. HANLIN, late captain, Third North Carolina Volunteer Infantry;
- Pleasant WEBB, late Captain, Sixth Virginia Volunteers;
- William A. HANKINS, late captain, Sixth Virginia Volunteers;
- Leon W. DENISON, late Captain, Company K, Eighth Illinois Volunteers;
- Stephen STARR, late second lieutenant, Ninth U.S. Volunteer Infantry;
- Alexander RICHARDSON, late first lieutenant, Ninth U.S. Volunteer Infantry.

First Lieutenants:

- L. H. SMITH, first sergeant, Troop M, Tenth Cavalry;
- Peter McGOWN, first sergeant, Troop E, Tenth Cavalry;
- William H. ALLEN, sergeant, Company A, Ninth Cavalry;
- John H. ANDERSON, squadron sergeant major, Ninth Cavalry;
- Charles O. THOMAS, late lieutenant, Eighth U. S. Volunteer Infantry;
- Jerry M. WHITE, late first lieutenant, Twenty-Third Kansas;
- James F. POWELL, late second lieutenant, Indiana Volunteers;
- H. B. BROWN, late first lieutenant, Third North Carolina Volunteer Infantry;
- H. J. PARKER, late first sergeant, U. S. Volunteer

Infantry:

- Jacob G. SMITH, late second lieutenant, Ninth U. S. Volunteer Infantry;
- John W. BROWN, late second lieutenant, Ninth U.S. Volunteer Infantry;
- Charles C. CALDWELL, late first lieutenant, Company B, Ninth Ohio Battalion Volunteers.

Second Lieutenants:

- Walter GREEN, first sergeant, Company K, Tenth Cavalry;
- G. B. TURNER, commissary sergeant, Tenth Cavalry;
- Joseph MOORE, first lieutenant, Company H, Eighth U.S. Volunteer Infantry;
- J. B. COLEMAN, late first lieutenant, Company E, Seventh U.S. Volunteer Infantry;
- Lincoln WASHINGTON, sergeant major, Ninth Cavalry;
- David B. JEFFERS, late second lieutenant, Tenth U.S. Volunteer Infantry;
- Wilson BALLARD, late second lieutenant, Ninth Battalion, Ohio Volunteers;
- Joseph C. ANDREWS, private, Company L, Sixth Massachusetts Volunteers;
- Frank R. CHISHOLM, late private, Company L, Sixth Massachusetts Volunteers;
- John K. RICE, late first lieutenant, Sixth Virginia Volunteers;
- George W. TAYLOR, non-commissioned officer. Third North Carolina Volunteers;
- Green F. MARION, late sergeant, Third Alabama Volunteers.

Following are the colored Company Commanders of the Forty-Ninth Regiment:

Captains:

- William B. EDWARDS, sergeant, Company A, Tenth Cavalry;
- Charles W. [unreadable – JA - - rton?], first sergeant, Company B, Ninth Cavalry;
- Floyd W. GRUMBLY, late first lieutenant, Company A. Tenth U.S. Volunteer Infantry;
- Edward L. BAKER, late first lieutenant, Company B, Tenth U.S. Volunteer Infantry;
- John C. PROCTOR, late first lieutenant, Eighth U. S. Volunteer Infantry;
- Emanuel D. BASS, late first lieutenant, Company D. Ninth Battalion, Ohio Volunteers;
- William H. HAWKINS, late captain, Twenty-Third Kansas Volunteers;
- Benjamin GRAVES, late captain, Sixth Virginia Volunteers;
- William R. STAFF, sergeant major, Twenty-Fourth Infantry;
- Frank R. STEWARD, late second lieutenant, Eighth U.S. Volunteer Infantry;

- Robert G. WOOD, late second lieutenant, Ninth U.S. Volunteer Infantry;
- Robert GAGE, late captain, Third Alabama Volunteers.

First Lieutenants:

- Charles PERRY, first sergeant, Troop L. Tenth Cavalry;
- L. H. JORDAN, first lieutenant, Company K, Seventh U.S. Volunteer Infantry;
- Charles SPURLOCK, sergeant, Company E, Ninth Cavalry;
- Ebert W. MADEN, sergeant, Company E, Ninth Cavalry;
- Charles H. ROBINSON, first lieutenant, Sixth Virginia Volunteers;
- James H. THOMAS, late first lieutenant, Indiana Volunteers;
- David J. GILMER, late captain, Third North Carolina Volunteer Infantry;
- Robert BLAKEMAN, late first sergeant, Company H, Eighth Illinois Volunteers;
- Hamilton H. BLUNT, late first lieutenant, Ninth U.S. Volunteer Infantry;
- Thomas C. BUTLER, late second lieutenant, Ninth U. S. Volunteer Infantry;
- Macon RUSSELL, late second lieutenant, Eighth U.S. Volunteer Infantry;
- L. A. TILLMAN, late quartermaster sergeant, Seventh U.S. Volunteer Infantry.

Second Lieutenants:

- A. M. RAY, sergeant, Company F, tenth Cavalry;
- Robert L. GOUGH, corporal, Company D, Twenty-Fourth Infantry;
- Wyatt HUFFMAN, late second lieutenant, Eighth U. S. Volunteer Infantry;
- Beverly PERES, late first lieutenant, Seventh U.S. Volunteer Infantry;
- Henry F. WALLA, commissary sergeant, Ninth Cavalry;
- William BLANEY, late second lieutenant, Tenth U. S. Volunteer Infantry;
- Horace F. WHEATON, private, Company L, Sixth Massachusetts Volunteers;
- Frederick G. WILSON, private, Company L, Sixth Massachusetts Volunteers;
- George E. PAYNE, second lieutenant, Twenty-Third Kansas Volunteers;
- Leander W. HAYES, late sergeant, Third North Carolina Volunteers;
- Gilford E. CAMPBELL, late sergeant, Eighth Illinois Volunteers;
- Edward B. JOHNSON, Tenth Cavalry.

Direct link for complete article:

www.newspaperabstracts.com/link.php?action=detail&id=59160
Note To Readers - These are the units that became the Buffalo Soldiers that rescued Teddy Roosevelt at the Battle of San Juan Hill

during the Spanish-American War.

New At Ancestry

Ancestry.com is excited to announce the completion of the first record collection indexed through the World Archives Project, its new community indexing program. Community contributors participating in the project indexed the nearly 60,000 records within the Wisconsin Mortality Schedules, 1850 - 1880. The Wisconsin Mortality Schedules collection was completed in the three months following the World Archives Project beta launch in September. Beginning with this collection, all indexes completed through the World Archives Project are searchable for free on Ancestry.com. The new Ancestry.com World Archives Project is a global initiative that gives individuals everywhere the opportunity to help index and preserve important historical records. Anyone interested in indexing through the World Archives Project can go to www.ancestry.com/worldarchivesproject.

Soon, active contributors (those keying at least 900 records per quarter) indexing for the World Archives Project will be able to take advantage of several benefits including:

- Free access to all images associated with all collections keyed through the Ancestry.com World Archives Project
- Discounts on their current Ancestry.com memberships upon renewal
- The ability to vote on which collections are indexed next (and thereby suggest collections that may be of personal interest to them)

Current Collections in the World Archives Project include:

Current Projects	% Complete
Historic Postcards (France) & nbsp;	40%
Lubeck Marriage Banns (Germany)	86%
England & Wales, Criminal Registers, 1805 – 1892	28%
England, Newspaper Index Cards (Andrews – UK)	14%
Nebraska State Census, 1885	38%
New England Naturalization Indexes;	20%
New York Naturalization Indexes	2%
NYC Naturalization Indexes	1%
Southern California Naturalization Indexes	19%

We also have a few collections that are now in the arbitration process. These include:

Projects in Arbitration	% Complete
Middlesex, Criminal Registers	69%
Marriages of the Deaf in America	71%
Alabama State Census & nbsp;	89.9%
Historic Postcards (Swedish)	69%
Historic Postcards (Italian)	76%

**Wishing All Of Our Readers A
Happy Valentine's Day!**



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California African American Genealogical Society

March 2009 Volume 21 Number 3

Ten Issues Published Annually

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California African American Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 8442

Los Angeles, CA 90008-0442

General Membership Meetings

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

***** Our New Location *****

Mayme Clayton Library and Museum (MCLM)

4130 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA 90230-3734

(Old Culver City Courthouse across from VA building)

2009 Board of Directors

Ronald Higgins - President

Ron Batiste – First Vice President

Ruth Palmer – Second Vice President /Membership

Gwen Foster – Corresponding Secretary

Jean Giagnard – Recording Secretary

Marjorie Sholes – Treasurer

Ophelia Sanders – Parliamentarian

Gena Weaver – Webmaster (visit us at www.caags.org)

Committee Chairs

DorothyLou Sands – Book Sales and Acquisitions

Open – Publications Editor

Lillian Glover – Public Relations

LaVerne Anderson – Librarian

DorothyLou Sands – Historian (Interim)

Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor

Colette DeVerge – FGS Delegate/Fundraising Chairman

Charlotte Bocage – NGS Delegate

Jeanne Gagnard – Volunteer Chairman

President's Message

Ronald Higgins

First of all let me apologize to the lady, the members and friends of CAAGS who attended the February meeting. My response to her question was inappropriate and I express my sincere apologies to all I may have offended.

Remember in March that CAAGS will be celebrating our 23rd anniversary, congratulations to all the members and friends for their continued support through the years. We will also have our bi-annual Show and Tell so bring our stories and visual aids to present to the group. There will be sign up sheet at the meeting for presentations.

Please be sure to come out and support the Discover Your Roots VII conference of which CAAGS is co-sponsor. The conference will be March 14th, 1209 South Manhattan Place, Los Angeles, CA. Remember we still needs scrapbooks to display. Please call me if you have a scrapbook to bring.

Thank you to CAAGS member Richard Procello for sharing his notebook and scrapbooks. Also thank you to our presenter Earl Ofari Hutchinson, he has two books he's recently written. One is about his father titled "A Colored Man's Journey Through the 20th Century Segregated America" and another titled "How Obama Won." The ISNs are listed further in the newsletter.

Thanks to my daughter Renada Johnson, my granddaughter Jaeriah Johnson, grandson Jermaine Johnson and my niece Ashleigh Scott for the great dance routine they choreographed and performed for us, A Celebration of Black History.

Happy Anniversary to CAAGS

Neither the newsletter editor nor CAAGS guarantees publication of any submission. Submissions for the newsletter are due by the third Saturday of each month. Please email your submissions or inquiries to CAAGS@hotmail.com Our new meeting location, Mayme Clayton Library and Museum, 4130 Overland Blvd., Culver City, CA.

2009 Calendar of Events

March 14

Discover Your Roots VII Conference, LDS Stake
1209 South Manhattan Place, Los Angeles, CA 90019
Registration is \$30 or call for info 800.533.2444

March 21

CAAGS general meeting 10am – 2pm, Bi-annual Show & Tell; Mayme Clayton Library and Museum (MCLM)

April 18

CAAGS general meeting 10am – 2pm. Mayme Clayton Library and Museum (MCLM)

June 26 – 28

It's the 40th Annual Jamboree June 26-28 Keep updated on all the news at www.genealogyjamboree.blogspot.com

October 29 -31

1st International Black Genealogical Summit, Allen County Public Library: for info www.blackgenealogysummit.com

** Calendar is subject to change without notice*

Websites of Interest

Libraries and Archives - Your local or county public library usually has free access to many genealogical databases.

State Archives can provide information on attaining birth, marriage, or death records. Type in the YAHOO! or Google Search area "state archives" and a list of all the state archives will appear, click on the one you need, or type "(state name) state archives" for your particular state.

- Catalog of book locations in the world www.worldcat.org
- National Archives & Records Administration www.archives.gov
- Library of Congress www.loc.gov, click Research Centers
- Smithsonian Institution Archives www.si.edu/archives/start.htm
- Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office Records www.glorerecords.blm.gov/
- National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections www.lcweb.loc.gov/coll/nucmc
- Archdiocese of New Orleans Archives www.archdiocese-no.org/archives/index.htm
- Louisiana State Archives www.sos.louisiana.gov
- Louisiana Digital Library <http://louisdl.louislibraries.org/>
- Louisiana State Archives Confederate Pension Applications Index www.sec.state.la.us/archives/gen/cpa-index.htm

Legacy Charting update now available - 7.0.120

A new update for Legacy 7's Charting is now available. This free update includes some new features and resolves a

few minor issues.

What's New

Short location names can now be used (one of the most-requested features). This setting is found at: Appearance tab > Box Items. After clicking on the birth/marriage/death location item in the "Items to Display" section, click on the new "Use short locations" option to the right.

Removing leading commas in locations is now available. Instead of displaying ", , Massachusetts" on the chart, you can now display it as "Massachusetts". This option is found at: Appearance tab > Box Items. After clicking on the birth/marriage/death location item in the "Items to Display" section, click on the new "Remove leading commas" option to the right.

We've added a new link on the **Background Options** screen to give you easier access to the new background pictures that you can download. Just click on the Appearance tab, then click on the Background button. To access the additional backgrounds, just click on the "More backgrounds online..." link.

Scanning your hard drive and other drives is now easier. If you want to create a new chart from a different family file, after clicking on the New Chart icon on the Home tab, you can now click on the new **Options** button allowing you to tell Legacy Charting which drives you want to scan for family files. Then, when you click on the **Scan Computer** button, it will search only these directories/drives for existing family files.

How to update

1. Launch Legacy Charting by clicking on the Charting icon in Legacy 7's main toolbar.
2. Click on the Tips & Updates tab and click on the link which reads: Download New Update Now

Honoring Our Ancestors Grants

Congrats to our recent grant recipient!
January 2009

The First International Black Genealogy Summit is a momentous event that involves all of the black historical and genealogical societies in the U.S., Canada and the Caribbean coming together to celebrate the joys and challenges of black genealogy. The grant award will be used to sponsor the 2009 Summit, taking place at the Allen County Public Library in Ft. Wayne October 29-31, 2009.

New Orleans Notarial Archives Research Center closing?

On January 1, 2009, the Notarial Archives, which includes the Research Center and the fifth floor filing department, were merged into the office of the Clerk of the Civil District Court, along with two other public offices. The Notarial Archives doesn't receive funds from the City or State. It operates from filing/recording fees received from users.

Please contact Ms. Atkins at daleatk@orleanscdc.com. Explain what a precious resource the NARC is to scholars, genealogists, and people researching the history of their houses, and offer suggestions for how to procure funding to keep it open, including not only outside funding sources but also increased user fees.

FGS 2010 Annual Conference Rediscovering America's First Frontier at the Knoxville Convention Center Knoxville, Tennessee, 18-21 August 2010 Request for Lecture Proposals Deadline: 1 May 2009

We encourage lecture topics that focus on the historic and cultural roots of Tennessee and Kentucky as well as the in and out migrations of Tennessee and Kentucky. Suggested subject areas include (not to the exclusion of others):

- Basic research topics
- Methodology
- Archives/Libraries
- Record types (military, land, probate, tax, etc.)
- Society management
- Research Repositories
- Ethnic records
- Technology
- Religious records

Submissions on original genealogical topics are requested, but relevant historic topics of interest to researchers are encouraged. One may submit any number of proposals. While most sessions are expected to follow the usual one-hour lecture format, the program committee will consider proposals for workshops. Sponsored lecture proposals are welcomed (please contact the Program Chair for details). Please include the following information in your proposal:

- Name, address, telephone, website (if available) and e-mail address
- Title of each proposed presentation
- Brief description of presentation (up to 50 words for the registration booklet)
- Audience Level (beginning, intermediate, advanced)
- Category (Methodology, Record type, Society management)
- Outline or summary of presentation

- Audio/visual requirements for proposed presentation (**Computer technology is strongly encouraged although FGS does not provide LCD projectors, computers, or live Internet connections.**) An overhead projector will be provided if needed.
- Brief biography (50 words for the registration booklet, including speaker's name)
- Summary of recent speaking experience.

Proposals will be evaluated on the Speaker's experience, skill, and relevance to the conference themes and audience. **Proposals must be received by 1 May 2009**, by e-mail to the fgsprogramchair@fgs.org. Each proposal should be sent in a separate individual single PDF or RTF document.

For additional information you may contact the Program Chair: Linda Woodward Geiger, CG, CGL
10718 Big Canoe
Jasper, Georgia 30143
706-268-3311 fgsprogramchair@fgs.org

Summit County Ohio Court Receives Grant *Hundreds of thousands of historic records will be freely available online*

Salt Lake City, Utah—Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, and the National Association of Government Archive and Records Administrators (NAGARA) announced on July 24, 2008, that Judge Bill Spicer and the Probate Division of the Summit County Common Pleas Court in Akron, Ohio, were awarded a 2008 grant for the digitization of Summit County marriage, birth, and death records. The court's grant was one of only two awarded in 2008. This significant grant will make it possible for Summit County to digitally preserve and provide free online access to select historical documents.

The project targets 1840 to 1980 marriage records for over 550,000 individuals, birth records prior to 1908 for over 46,000 individuals, and death records prior to 1908 for over 22,000 individuals. A free, searchable name index linked to the digital images of the original records will be available to the public through the probate court's Web site www.summitohioprobate.com and the grant partners' sites.

This is the first year that this national grant was offered. It is sponsored by Ancestry.com and FamilySearch and administered by NAGARA. Under the grant, FamilySearch will digitize the original documents on-site in the Summit County courthouse by the end of 2008, and Ancestry.com will create an electronic index linked to the images. The entire project is scheduled for completion in 2009.

Books by Earl Ofari Hutchinson*
A Colored Man's Journey Through 20th Century
Segregated America (2000) ISBN 978-1881032175
How Obama Won (2009) ISBN 978-1439219294

Staying Organized

By Juliana Smith

Desk Trays

I have long since resigned myself to the fact that my research time won't always come to an end on my own terms. So I try to find ways to cut my research off in such a way that I can easily go back and pick up where I left off. One thing that helps me is a tray on my desk that is reserved for family history work that needs to be processed or filed.

Sometimes I'll come home from a research trip and not have time to file everything right away. Or perhaps I was able to attach a record I found online to my online tree, but didn't get a chance to enter the information into my genealogical software. Maybe I need to scan a record and save it electronically. Whatever the reason, unfinished business left lying around can quickly lead to problems.

Since I know I'll probably forget where I left off when I get the chance to return to my research, I keep plastic sleeves and sticky notes so that when I'm interrupted, I can slip it into a sleeve and jot down where I am in terms of processing the information. (I use the plastic sleeves to protect the document and then put the sticky note on the outside of the sleeve to keep from damaging original documents.) Into the tray it goes, and the next time I get a free minute, I go right for that tray and pick up right where I left off.

Get Organized

I've also learned the hard way that it's pretty much impossible to get any research done if it takes you twenty minutes to find what you're looking for. Take ten minutes each day to go through and clear out that tray and any stray piles you have lying around. Even if you've gotten way behind in your filing (been there, done that, got the t-shirt), you can make a big dent in ten minutes.

When I do get too far behind, I add another step. I found a small file tabletop file like this one that is portable. I have folders in it with each surname and when the filing tray gets overwhelming, I can sit and sort papers while I watch TV with the family, or even while I'm waiting in the parking lot for my daughter to get out of school. Then when I get a little more time, I grab a surname file folder and file the documents in it properly in my binder. This way I don't have to drag out all of my binders at once to get my filing done and I'm not bouncing around between families.

Electronic Organizing

Don't overlook electronic organization too. I have a special folder in "My Documents" for Family History. In it, there are folders for locations in which I have research interests and for each surname I'm researching. Within these there are subfolders for each individual. In them I keep all of the

electronic records I have for that person, and also any photographs that are available.

To keep my e-mail inbox clean, I also save family history related correspondence to text files and file them in the appropriate folder as well. That way, I don't have to search in a lot of different places. Did I archive that e-mail yet? Is it filed in a surname folder in Outlook? Or did I leave it in my inbox?

To-Do List

When I run across a lead that I don't have time to pursue, because my memory isn't what it used to be, I make a note of it on my to-do list. To make this as easy as possible, my to-do list is a Word document that I have saved to my desktop for easy access. (To save a document to your desktop in Windows, just click on File, Save As, and when the dialog box pops up, choose Desktop from the icons on the left. Or you can go to My Documents, find the file, right-click on it and Create a Short-cut. Then make the window smaller and just drag the shortcut to your desktop.) Now when you get some free time, and your tray is empty, if you're good about recording your to-do tasks, you can open it up and start right away, rather than spending ten minutes wondering where to begin. I use this list a lot when I see databases being posted that I'd like to search, but don't have time because of work or other obligations.

Use Your Digital or Phone Camera

Ever been in a library and been interrupted by the flickering lights and that "last call" announcement that, "You don't have to go home, but you can't stay here." (OK, maybe most libraries don't use those exact words, but you know what I mean.) If you don't have time to record the source information, pull out your digital camera or camera phone and document the source that way. You can copy book title pages, or even copy a microfilm record with the film box positioned so that the film number is showing.

Or take a picture of the catalog card or online catalog screen. I've found this helpful even when it isn't closing time. Go to the catalog and take pictures of the catalog screen for all the resources you want to check and then when you leave the catalog, retrieving the resources you need is easy because you have the call numbers/film numbers in your phone or camera.

Juliana Smith has been an editor of Ancestry newsletters for ten years and is author of "The Ancestry Family Historian's Address Book." She has written for "Ancestry" Magazine and wrote the Computers and Technology chapter in "The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy," rev. 3rd edition.

People will never look forward to Posterity who never look backward to their ancestors.

- Edmund Burke



Heritage Newsletter

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Charlotte Bocage – NGS Delegate

Norma Bates – Volunteer Chairman

President's Message

Ronald Higgins

Thanks to all of you and your friends that helped to make the Discover Your Roots VII a big success. Everyone who attended came away with some more knowledge about genealogy research.

CAAGS members and friends who had a scrapbook on display were Richard Procello, Daisy Saffold, Marjorie Sholes, Nelda Slater Huthen, Jamesetta “Jamie” Hammons, Ronald Higgins, Surah Carletha M’fume, Marilyn White, DorothyLou Sands, Gwen Foster and Gerard McKay. Members of the San Diego African American Research Group who also contributed were Felix Green, Glennie and Milton Hines and Margaret Lewis. The displays were beautiful and inspiring

A personal “thank you” to the many committee members who helped make a success by generously donating the many gifts for prizes during the conference.

Our June meeting will be on June 20 this year and we are planning a big Juneteenth celebration. At the April meeting we will have a sign up for members to volunteer and work on the committee to plan the event. Please help us in planning this celebration if you can.

CAAGS members who wish to sell merchandise during our monthly meeting are requested to donate 10% of the revenue to the society. We also require that you sell your merchandise outside of the meeting room and get approval from the president prior to the meeting.

Neither the newsletter editor nor CAAGS guarantees publication of any submission. Submissions for the newsletter are due by the third Saturday of each month. Please email your submissions or inquiries to CAAGS@hotmail.com Our new meeting location, Mayme Clayton Library and Museum, 4130 Overland Blvd., Culver City, CA.

2009 Calendar of Events

April 18

CAAGS general meeting 10am – 2pm. Mayme Clayton Library and Museum (MCLM)

May 16

CAAGS general meeting 10am – 2pm. Mayme Clayton Library and Museum (MCLM)

June 20

CAAGS Juneteenth Celebrations, details to follow soon

June 26 – 28

It's the 40th Annual Jamboree June 26-28 Keep updated on all the news at www.genealogyjamboree.blogspot.com

October 29 -31

1st International Black Genealogical Summit, Allen County Public Library: for info www.blackgenealogysummit.com

** Calendar is subject to change without notice*

Websites of Interest

- Afriquest, the Free Online Database for African and African American Genealogy see the link below <http://ccharity.com/node/329?>

Archives and Libraries

- Alabama Department of Archives and History www.archives.state.al.us
- Archives of Maryland Online www.aomol.net/html
- Arizona Genealogy Birth and Death Certificates <http://genealogy.az.gov/>
- Digital Library of Georgia <dlg.galileo.usg.edu>
- Georgia's Virtual Vault <http://content.sos.state.ga.us/index.php>
- Library of Virginia www.lva.lib.va.us
- Online Archive of California www.oac.cdlib.org
- Illinois State Archives www.library.sos.state.il.us/department/archives/databases.html
www.libdex.com/country/USA.html
- National Agricultural Library www.nal.usda.gov/ref/aghist.html
- University of Washington www.lib.washington.edu/
- Tulane University www.tulane.edu
- Columbia University Libraries Guide to Research www.columbia.edu/
- New Orleans Public Library <http://nutrias.org>
- New Orleans Obituary site <http://obits.gno.lib.la.us/nopl/obitindex.htm>
- New Orleans Notarial Archive www.notarialarchives.org
- Denver Public Library www.denver.lib.co.us/ebranch/index.html
- Los Angeles Public Library www.lapl.org, click on databases

- Southern California Genealogical Society and Research Library www.scsgenealogy.com
- Los Angeles Co. Public Library www.colapubliclib.org/
- Chicago Public Library www.chipublic.org/
- Cook County, IL records www.cookcountygenealogy.com
- The Newberry Library, Chicago www.newberry.org
- Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne Indiana <http://acpl.lib.in.us>
- Oakland (CA) Public Library www.oaklandlibrary.org
- New York Public Library www.nypl.org/
- New York Public Library – Digital www.nypl.org/digital
- Brooklyn Public Library www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org
- Jefferson Parish, Louisiana Library System www.jefferson.lib.la.us/
- Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System Genealogy Pathfinder www.af.public.lib.ga.us/
- St. Louis Public Library www.slpl.lib.mo.us/
- Denver Public Library www.aarl.denverlibrary.org
- Corpus Christi Public Library www.library.ci.corpus-christi.tx.us

It's the 40th Annual Jamboree June 26-28th

**Keep updated on all the news at
www.genealogyjamboree.blogspot.com**

Here's the news you've been waiting for. The Southern California Genealogy Jamboree lecture schedule is now online and available for download at www.genealogyjamboree.blogspot.com. Jamboree will be held June 26-28, 2009, at the Burbank Marriott Hotel and Convention Center, Burbank, California.

On Friday morning, we will continue the tradition of offering several free sessions. This year, Tom Kemp will conduct a special Genealogy Librarians' Boot Camp. Last year's Beginning Genealogy session has been expanded into two sessions of three hours each. And the very successful Kids' Family History Camp will help to bring the youngest generation into the study of family history. You'll hear more about all of these activities, as well as several other special events, in the coming weeks.

This year's Jamboree will feature over 100 sessions conducted by more than 50 genealogical experts. We have expanded into the Marriott main hotel for all three days, which will increase our seating capacity substantially. Jamboree is shaping up to be another exceptional event.

The schedule and speakers are subject to change. We expect to have a very special announcement regarding the Friday Night Banquet speaker very soon.

The Jamboree website will be up in the next few days, and I'll let you know when you are able to register online. The registration form can be downloaded from the Jamboree blog page now if you prefer to register by mail.

We'll continue to issue important updates through this Rootsweb mailing list. To be sure you receive all of the up-to-the-minute updates for Jamboree, register on the Jamboree blog to get updates delivered directly to your email inbox.

Leo Myers and Paula Hinkel, Co-Chairs, Genealogy Jamboree, Southern California Genealogical Society

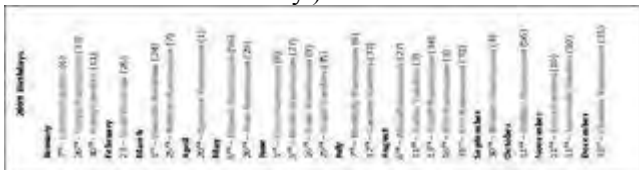
How to Create a Family Tree Bookmark

If you are looking for an inexpensive gift idea that the whole family can enjoy, create a family tree bookmark. Using Legacy Charting and a little creativity, your bookmarks will be the talk of the family this year.

(Front - a 3-generation descendanty chart. The background is an aerial photograph of our home.)



(Back - a birthday calendar listing the dates and ages of each member of the family.)



Using Legacy Charting and a word processor, these bookmarks measure 6.5" x 1.5". The steps below demonstrate how to duplicate this example, but feel free to get creative.

Step 1 - Add the pictures to Legacy

After collecting and digitizing your family's "mug shots," add the pictures to each individual in Legacy. (Watch a video on how to do this by clicking on the Pictures link in this video.) I cropped each picture so they all shared the same dimensions of 161 pixels by 231 pixels. There's nothing special about those dimensions except that each mug shot is the same size.

Step 2 - Launch Legacy Charting

In Legacy, navigate to the starting person of the desired family and launch Legacy Charting by clicking on the Charting icon in the main toolbar. [Click here to see where this button is.](#) If you don't have this button, either you

haven't yet installed Legacy 7, or the button hasn't been added to your toolbar. [Click here for instructions on adding this button to your toolbar.](#)

Step 3 - Choose the chart type, # of generations, and theme

- Select the Descendant Standard chart.
- On the **Home** tab, change the # of generations to 3.
- On the **Appearance** tab, click on the **Themes** button and double-click on the Mug Shot theme. You should now have a 3-generation descendanty chart with pictures of each individual.

Step 4 - Fine tune the text

Because I only want the given names to appear with the picture, on the **Appearance** tab, click on the **Box Items** button.

- Turn off the checkmark next to Life Span.
- Click on the Name option in the **Items to Display** section.
- Then, in the **Item Options**, change the format to: First.
- Change the font size to 24.
- Finally, click on the Italics button in the **Settings** section. Click **OK**.

Step 5 - Other fine tuning

- Turn off the page border by going to the Appearance tab > Borders section and clicking on the **Page** button. Click on **No page border**.
- Turn off the title, also on the Appearance tab, by clicking on the **Title** button and deselecting the **Show Title** option.
- Increase the line size by clicking on the **Line** button in the **Borders** section of the **Appearance** tab. I set the line width to 6 and changed the line color to black. This will help make the lines visible when the chart size is reduced later on for printing.

Step 6 - Add a background

This one's your choice. You can choose to include a background or not. It can be any of the backgrounds that is included in Legacy Charting, or you can use your own digital picture. To add a background, follow these instructions. In this example, I chose a picture of the house where we grew up. I changed the Display Options to **Stretch to Frame** and set the **Transparency** to 25%.

Step 7 - Adjust the sizing

If the picture boxes are too close together, use the **Sizing Options** button on the Appearance tab to make adjustments. I set the Space option to 1". The larger the space between pictures, the skinnier the bookmark will eventually be.

Timeout - Create a new theme

Steps 4-7 can be eliminated in the future if right now I take

the time to save my fine-tuning as a new theme. On the **Appearance** tab, click on the **Themes** button. Click on the **Create New Theme** link and call it Bookmark. Now, in the future, if you want to quickly create another bookmark, just select this theme.

Step 8 - Export to File

Now that the bookmark is complete, click on the **Publish** tab, then click on **Export to File**. I chose to export to TIFF. When you select the Location and File Name, just remember where you are saving it. Click **OK**. The front of the bookmark is now ready to print. However, my bookmark is still 42.5" wide by 11" tall. The next step will take care of this.

Step 9 - Insert the bookmark image into a word processor

Using your favorite word processor (I use Microsoft Word 2007), insert the picture into the document. Using Word 2007, click on the **Insert** menu and click on the **Picture** button. Word will automatically resize the picture to fit within the margins. Word tells me that my bookmark is now 6.5" wide by 1.5" tall.

Step 10 - Add the birthdays for the back of the bookmark

If you want, you can print the bookmark at this point without adding anything to its back side. To add the birthdays to the back, you'll need to create a text box of the same size as the picture. But first, press <Control-End> on your keyboard to ensure that the cursor is at the end of the document. Then, press <Control-Enter> to start page 2. Now, insert a text box. In Word 2007, click on the **Insert** menu, click on **Text Box**, and select the first choice. Now, adjust the size of the text box to have the same dimensions as your image.

Now you'll need to change the text direction. In Word 2007, in the Text section in the upper left, just click on the **Text Direction** button a couple of times until the text is turned sideways, as is displayed in the bookmark example above. Here, type in the birthdays for everyone in the family. I also typed how old each person will be in the upcoming year.

Finally, I turned off the Text Box's outline by clicking on the **Shape Outline** button and choosing a white outline.

Step 11 - Print and laminate

You're ready to print the bookmarks now. If your printer does not have the ability to print double-sided, just print the first page, refeed the paper into your printer, and print the second page. You'll just need to experiment with your printer to get the paper turned the right direction. Because both the image and the text box are identical in size, the bookmark should print perfectly, front-and-back. Print as many as you want. I printed one for each person in

the picture. Using a paper cutter (or really straight scissors), cut the bookmark. Take them to a copy store to have them laminated.

Step 12 - Mail

No explanation necessary, I hope.... :)

- Posted on November 20, 2008 in *Legacy Charting* | [Permalink](#)

FamilySearch indexing - 100 million names indexed this year

FamilySearch announced that the FamilySearch Indexing project has indexed 100 million names in 2008. Congratulations to all of the indexing volunteers! Results of the indexing projects are published at <http://pilot.familysearch.org> and includes records from the United States, Canada, Mexico, France, United Kingdom, Norway, Germany, Czech Republic, Spain, Argentina, Peru, Brazil, and Russia.

Anyone can participate in the world's grandest volunteer indexing project. You can even choose which records you want to help index. Current projects are listed there. Upcoming projects are listed there. Completed projects are listed there.

Ancestry.com Invests in Future of Genetic Genealogy by Offering DNA Testing for Only \$79

Ancestry.com, the world's largest online resource for family history, has reduced the prices of its genetic genealogy DNA tests, allowing consumers more affordable access to the family history information provided by these tests.

Effectively immediately, the 33-marker paternal lineage test is now only \$79 (down from \$149). The paternal lineage test analyzes DNA in the Y chromosome, which is passed virtually unchanged from father to son. Advanced paternal line age tests, maternal lineage tests (which looks at mitochondrial DNA passed from a mother to her children), and combination paternal and maternal lineage testing options are also part of the product suite.

With similar DNA tests typically costing more than \$150, the new \$79 price offers individuals the best available value for genetic genealogy DNA testing. Test options priced in the \$79 range usually test fewer markers and are less genealogically useful.

We live with a heritage from earlier generations and must seek to create positive legacies for those who follow us. When the old are not allowed to tell their story, the young grow up without history. If the young are not listened to, we have no future.

- Dr. Gunhild O. Hagstad



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General Membership Meetings

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

***** Our New Location *****

Mayme Clayton Library and Museum (MCLM)

4130 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA 90230-3734

(Old Culver City Courthouse across from VA building)

2009 Board of Directors

Ronald Higgins - President

Ron Batiste – First Vice President

Ruth Palmer – Second Vice President /Membership

Gwen Foster – Corresponding Secretary

Jean Giagnard – Recording Secretary

Marjorie Sholes – Treasurer

Ophelia Sanders – Parliamentarian

Gena Weaver – Webmaster (visit us at www.caags.org)

Committee Chairs

DorothyLou Sands – Book Sales and Acquisitions

Open – Publications Editor

Lillian Glover – Public Relations

LaVerne Anderson – Librarian

DorothyLou Sands – Historian (Interim)

Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor

Colette DeVerge – FGS Delegate/Fundraising Chairman

Charlotte Bocage – NGS Delegate

Norma Bates – Volunteer Chairman

President's Message

Ronald Higgins

It's that time of year again, when we celebrate our mother (biological mother), our Godmother, or our adopted mother by wishing them a **Happy Mother's Day**.

Thank you to all who provided suggestions for the next "Discover Your Roots" conference. I will pass on your suggestions and ideas.

Our May meeting at the Mayme Clayton Library and Museum will feature a writing exercise about one of your family members. Bring sharpened pencils, paper and/or your laptop and the "**story**" about a parent, grandparent, aunt or uncle - or it might even be your best friend.

Many of you may remember our Juneteenth celebrations from the past. We are planning a celebration this year and hope you can join us. **Where:** CAAGS member Ron Fairley's home in his spacious backyard, 2952 S. Halldale Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90018 **Time:** 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 pm

Please join or contact Gwen Foster our Juneteenth committee chairperson at (323) 856-9499. Bring your card tables, lounge chairs and don't forget to bring your favorite picnic food or southern dish. Please prepare enough to share with at least 20 members and their guests.

October is Family History Month and CAAGS will celebrate with a "**Stay at Home Tea**" on Sunday, October 4th at 4pm or the time of your choice. Norma Bates and her committee are asking each CAAGS members to send a minimum of five invitations to family and friends. Thank you for your support of our October fundraiser.

Remember the International Black Genealogy Summit is October 29-31 in Fort Wayne, IN. Have you registered?

Neither the newsletter editor nor CAAGS guarantees publication of any submission. Submissions for the newsletter are due by the third Saturday of each month. Please email your submissions or inquiries to CAAGS@hotmail.com Our new meeting location, Mayme Clayton Library and Museum, 4130 Overland Blvd., Culver City, CA.

Please visit www.blackgenealogysummit.com and register soon. Thank you to Norma Bates and Ophelia Sanders who presented an informational skit for the summit.

Also, Linda Bush, thank you for volunteering at the membership table in the absence of Ruth Palmer. Lastly, a job well done to those of you who participated in sharing your "Family Finds."

2009 Calendar of Events

May 16

CAAGS general meeting 10am – 2pm. Mayme Clayton Library and Museum (MCLM)

June 20

CAAGS Juneteenth Celebration – Home of Ron Fairley

June 26 – 28

40th Annual Jamboree - Keep updated on all the news or register on line at www.scgsgenealogy.com/ or www.genealogyjamboree.blogspot.com; Early Bird registration discounts end May 14. Pre-registration ends June 15. Walk-in registrations will be available at the door.

July & August

No CAAGS general meeting

October 29 -31

1st International Black Genealogical Summit, Allen County Public Library, for info www.blackgenealogysummit.com

** Calendar is subject to change without notice*

Kimberly Powell is a professional genealogist and she's created a nifty website chock full of good information. Her topics include free online genealogy classes, DNA, cemetery records, ethnic research, and dozens more. She also publishes a free weekly online newsletter that includes tid-bits of information from around the world.

Cheap Texas Death Certificates

<http://www.jayodom.org/texasdeathcertificates.html>

There's this guy, Jay Odom, who will provide fast, cheap Texas death certificates for only \$7 each. These are uncertified death certificates, but the information is identical to the certified certificates, missing only the fancy paper and official embossed stamp from the Department of Health. If you were to order these from the State of Texas, you'd pay \$20 for a certified copy.

You can order these online (and pay with a credit card or via PayPal) or mail in the order form. In addition to the death certificates, he also provides Tennessee Death Certificates (\$7 each), Texas Civil War Pension files (\$30 each), Texas Civil War Enlistment records (\$15 each) or Oklahoma Civil War Pension files (\$30 each).

Missouri Birth & Death Records Database

www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/birthdeath/

The Missouri State Archives has taken the very bold and timely step of providing online, free of charge, birth and death records that you can download and print on your home printer. Missouri started requiring the recording of all births and deaths statewide in 1910 and in this database you'll find death records that are more than 50 years old and birth records prior to 1910.

Websites of Interest

CivilWarDocs.com

www.civilwardocs.com

CivilWar Docs.com allows you to purchase Union or Confederate documents at a fraction of the cost you'd pay to get the identical docs from the National Archives. They give you the option of either sending you a hard copy via postal mail, or emailing you a digital copy of the document, for the same price.

Olive Tree Genealogy

www.olivetreegenealogy.com

Olive Tree Genealogy is our choice for the Web site of the month. Olive Tree provides countless transcriptions and extractions from dozens of different genealogical topics. Their site is well planned, easy to navigate and search, and considering that they've been free for over a decade, Olive Tree Genealogy is one place you should plan to visit. Lorine McGinnis Schulze, founder/owner of Olive Tree, has collaborated with other researchers to publish their research information online.

Genealogy.about.com

<http://www.genealogy.about.com>

IBGS Update

If you have not heard or just waiting to hear, the International Black Genealogy Summit is moving right along but if you are thinking about going but have not made the first attempt you may find yourself at a real loss.

Please note that if plan on attending the IBGS conference you need to reserve hotel rooms immediately. Remember you don't have to pay up front for the entire stay, just reserve and pre-pay for one night with a credit card, which is normal for hotel reservations. There is a limited number of blocked rooms and after these go, you will be paying the hotel's standard rate.

If you can, please register for the summit as soon as possible. The summit committee is trying to get a projection on the number of attendees. They need to plan on the number of conference materials required for a successful event. Therefore, those wanting guaranteed conference materials will need to be registered by August 31, 2009.

Old Photos of Men in Military Uniforms Wanted

Family Chronicle Magazine is in need of old photos of men in military uniforms for a tentative book they'd like to do, which will be similar to their Dating Old Photographs series. They need photos taken between the Mexican-American War and the end of World War I. It sure would be nice to see some photos in the book of African American military men. Please do NOT send photos of men from World War II.

You MUST include any known data, such as the subject's name, regiment, unit, conflict, etc. Please do NOT send any photos that you do not know, or guessed the army, regiment, or conflict etc. Do NOT send originals, as photos will not be returned. Copies from a color photo-copier are fine, as are copies on CD (in PC format), or they can be attached to e-mail as JPEG. No more than 3 attachments per e-mail, can be sent to militaryphotos@moorshead.com/ Mailed photos can be sent to Family Chronicle, P.O. Box 194, Niagara Falls, NY 14304.

Please include the sender's complete name and address with each submission so that you can be credited for any photos used. If your photos are used, you will receive 2 free copies of the publication when it comes out. For further information, please go to www.familychronicle.com/militaryphotos.htm/

Leimert Park - The Tour

By Marilyn White

If you've never been on a tour of Leimert Park, California, you have missed a delicious treat. There were restaurants galore, calling us with their hypnotizing aromas, offering us promises of a sumptuous faire, but the actual treat in Leimert Park, was the rich mix of the flavors of the people, and the culture.

We began our adventure on the corner of 43rd Place and Degnan Blvd. Our culture tour guide, Torree Hunter, gathered us all into a circle and together, holding hands, we began our tour with the traditional gathering prayer, uniting us as one, regardless of our race, regardless of our color and regardless of our gender.

Facing the open grassy park area running along the street, we learned that this open space has been the traditional meeting place of the Drum Circle, an open air gathering of drummers and dancers since 1997.

Beginning at the corner Torree introduced us to each building, its past and present history, its occupants and its place in the overall history and culture of Leimert Park's existence.

Sunny's Spot has now closed replaced by the cleaners.

Next door was 5th Street Dick's, followed by the Vision Complex. The Vision Complex was built in the the 1930's by Howard Hughes as the Leimert Theater which featured Clark Gable, Joan Crawford and Eddie Cantor. It was more recently owned by Marla Gibbs. The theater is now in renovation which could be complete as early as 2010.

We passed The Kaos Network, which was founded by Ben Caldwell, was set up as an electronic think-tank and electronic café online with new media to bring together different cultures. Together they made a time capsule which is impacting thousands of multicultural kids who were and are even now, possessed by the art. A partnership with Cal Arts has allowed communities of youths in Cuba, South Africa and Ghana to teleconference and create together.

Babe and Ricky's Inn was Los Angeles' Oldest Blues Club. In the 1950's it was originally on Central Avenue run by their mother, Mama Laura who was born in Mississippi. Drop by on any Monday evening around 8PM for open mike.

As we continued our walk, we passed the Church of Religious Science and were drawn around the corner by the aroma of Phillips BBQ, a delicious landmark since the 1960's. A glance up revealed a mural painted on the backside of the Vision Complex featuring Michael Massenburg, artist, Kamal Daood, poet, Horace Tapscott, the spirit of music and founder of the Pan African "Archestra", Dale and Alonzo Brockman, founders of the Brockman Gallery, Marla Gibbs, actress and owner of the Vision Complex, and Billy Higgins, World Space founder, the most recorded drummer ever (even more recorded than Buddy Rich). He also played R&B, Country, Blues on guitar.

Turning the corner, we arrived at the Lucy Florence Coffee House and Gallery. The real Lucy Florence lives in Atlanta and is the mother of Richard Harris. She still makes and sends the sweet potato pies sold there. It began as the Earl Underwood and Lisa Gallery and Business Collective in 1966 in Santa Monica, they then moved to Leimert Park in 2000.

We were pleasantly surprised to find an auditorium inside Lucy Florence and to be entertained by a poem by Dannyo, National Poetry Slam artist and a song by Marilyn White. Richard Harris told us that, "Every art must have a business in it to stay alive." Lucy Florence is certainly proof of that.

As we walked along the west side of Degnan, we found ourselves treading on the Sankofa Project. Sankofa means "look back so you know where you are going." Bronze plates with names and accomplishments of distinguished African American men and women, lined the sidewalk, Leimert Park's "Walk of Fame."

A recent addition to Degnan Blvd. is the Vieux Carre, a restaurant with the character, charm and delicious menu of New Orleans. Our taste buds were speaking to us in French as we collected take out menus.

Sadly, the Museum in Black is no longer on Degnan. But we were told that they do still trade and sell at various locations.

Our last stop before lunch was the Eso Won Bookstore, founded by James Fugate, Thomas Hamilton (and a third partner at the beginning). Eso Won means “water over rocks” and is the African name for As Won, Egypt. It opened in 1988 as “Books on Wheels” a mobile bookstore, then relocated to Slauson and Crenshaw, La Brea and Centinela and then La Brea and Colesium, before finding “home” on Degnan in Leimert Park. Eso Won Bookstore is a tremendous resource for Black History.

After lunch, we were treated to a life-changing experience. We returned to the Kaos Network for a viewing of the film “Leimert Park, the Story of a Village in South Central L.A.” The film was introduced by Ben Caldwell. This amazing film was produced by Jeanenette Lindsay. She captured the total essence of Leimert Park and had us captured and captivated from the very beginning.

The film begins, “Leimert Park is a sacred place, a gathering spot. It is the story of a village in Los Angeles.” Walter H. Leimert owned the land on which Leimert Park sits today. He bought it in 1927 to develop an upper class residential area. Then the 1929 Depression hit. By the 1930’s this unsuccessful area had failed to prosper and was restructured by the bank.

Around 1948, Blacks, seeking relief from the restrictive covenants they had encountered on Central Avenue moved into the Leimert Park area. But their move was not without problems. They faced many of the same attitudes and discrimination as before. One of the interviewees stated that in 1954, he had to view the house he wanted to buy at night and could not move in until the previous owner had already moved away. That was the racial climate then. In the 1960’s more African Americans moved into the Leimert Park area. Among them were, Sam Cook, Ray Charles, Ella Fitzgerald and Billy Eckstein. The 1965 Watts Riot caused Leimert Park residents to join together as a community to save it all.

The film went on to reveal how Leimert Park developed into what it is today. In 1967, Dale and Alonzo Brockman opened the Brockman Gallery to encourage art and culture. It was open to everyone, not just Black artists. Leimert Park was becoming part of the social scene in Los Angeles. John Outterbridge contributed his art. Bill Cosby was a frequent guest. Other artistic endeavors joined the Leimert Park community; the Ramses Studio featuring stained glass, The

Museum in Black, with its African American artifacts, slave documents, manumission papers and African art Kamal Daoode and the World Stage Performance Theater with performances of jazz greats such as Dwight Trible, and the Watts Prophets joined as the Watts Writers’ Workshop. The Leimert Park Artistic became famous all over Los Angeles.

During the Rodney King incident in April 1992, and its upheaval, the community again stood together. The whole community helped move every item out of the Museum in Black to keep it all safe from the fire blazing in the market directly behind it. After the incident, Richard Fulton owner of 5th Street Dick’s, traded remodeling for rent. Everyone struggled to stay.

Horace Tapscott was heard to say, “There are more things in life than being famous or rich.” He was referring to the community of artists in Leimert Park. Michael Datcher became director of the World Stage in July 1993. By August there was standing room only. Leimert Park was at its best when it hosted the Leimert Park Jazz Festival. The Dance Collective, lets you feel the energy with Lady Walker Vreen, dance teacher wraps it up for us when she says that Leimert Park is a “spot where people can come see and touch their culture.”

How this film was produced can only be explained by simple serendipity. Ms Jeanette Lindsay researched for a full year before beginning to film. She took this project on as a labor of love, never seeking funding for it from any outside source. Instead, at the beginning of the project, she saved her own money to purchase a camera (which she had to learn to use). She filmed meticulously for seven years and edited for two. After the editing stage, she received a grant to create a workbook to give to schools for the enhancement of the students.

You can reach her at: info@leimertparkmovie.com
You can also order the film at: www.leimertparkmovie.com

Census Browsing Tip

When I couldn’t locate my ancestors from Belgium in the 1900 Moore County, North Carolina census (where I knew them to be living at that time), I accessed the actual census pages and began scrolling through. I looked down the “Country of origin” column for Belgium and found them that way. The spelling of the name was unusual so I hadn’t been able to find them by just putting in their name. Of course, this could work also if one’s relative was born in another state rather than country.

Beverly Hall
North Carolina



Heritage Newsletter

California African American Genealogical Society

June/July 2009 Volume 21 Number 6

Ten Issues Published Annually

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California African American Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 8442

Los Angeles, CA 90008-0442

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President's Message

Ronald Higgins

As with all genealogists our family trees are most important to us. It doesn't matter whether we find a new ancestor or a new descendant. New family members are being born all the time. This form of genealogical research has been called extended family research. Importantly this does not just include direct line relatives.

If you are interested in visiting Allensworth, CA, join us June 13th, 2009, for the Juneteenth Celebration and Tour at Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park, for more information, call (661) 849-3433 or go to parks.ca.gov.

CAAGS will celebrate Juneteenth on June 20, 2009 from 11am – 5pm at the home of Ronald Fairley, 2952 S. Halldale Ave, Los Angeles. Contact Gwen Foster committee chair at (323) 856-9499. Join your fellow CAAGS members and enjoy yourself for a down home family get together and picnic.

The May meeting focused on how to write your story. Marilyn White was the facilitator for the workshop. Members were asked to pair up and one person was to write the story as told by the other then we reversed the process. Several members shared their stories with us after the exercise was finished.

As you plan your trip this summer for researching in a library or courthouse, be sure and note the hours of operation for the location before you leave. We'll be looking for you to share your finds with us at Show and Tell when you return.

Please remember no meeting in July or August. We'll see you in September. Have a safe and fruitful summer break!

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2009 Calendar of Events

June 20

CAAGS Juneteenth Celebration, 11am – Home of Ron Fairley, 2952 S. Halldale Ave., LA 90018

June 26 – 28

40th Annual Jamboree - Keep updated or register on line at www.scsgenealogy.com; Pre-registration ends June 15. Walk-in registrations will be available at the door.

July & August

No CAAGS general meeting

September 19

CAAGS general meeting, 10am – 2pm; Intermediate class “Blacks in Puerto Rico,” Angel Selgado. Royce Jefferson will be our guest speaker

October 17

CAAGS general meeting, 10am – 2pm; Intermediate class “What To Bring On A Research Trip,” Charlotte Bocage; Show and Tell, open to all members

October 29 -31

1st International Black Genealogical Summit, Allen County Public Library, for info www.blackgenealogysummit.com

* *Calendar is subject to change without notice*

about distinct areas within each county. Individual atlas data may also include links to additional Kentucky maps, lists of patrons, biographical sketches, post offices, census and other period data.

The Compiled Table of Contents of 19th Century Kentucky Atlases may be an invaluable research resource for historians, genealogists, historical archaeologists, libraries, stamp collectors, metal detector enthusiasts or anyone interested in researching early Kentucky places and place names using these cartographic materials. This Adobe PDF document is comprised of searchable text; however, the freely distributed Adobe Acrobat Reader is required to utilize this compiled table of contents.

CAAGS Budget Committee

If you are interested in being a part of the 2010 budget committee please contact our treasurer Marjorie Shoals. The committee will be having its first meeting in July (date and place to be determined).

Urban Summer Exodus

By Juliana Smith

One of the more frustrating aspects of family history research is when you “know” your ancestors are in a particular location, but you can’t find them in the records. Perhaps you have back-to-back city directories showing your ancestor living at the same address in New York City for the years 1869, 1870, and 1880, but when it comes to locating them in the 1870 Census they’re nowhere to be found. Where could they be?

It could be that they really weren’t there at the time of the census. City dwellers who could afford to leave the city, often did so in the summer--and who could blame them? Because street sanitation was problematic at best during the 1800s, as temperatures rose in crowded cities, so did the smell. Ash from fireplaces and stoves muddied the streets. That and other refuse made pedestrian traffic a dirty business, particularly after the spring thaw.

Those who could afford it sometimes left the city for extended stays at nearby resorts. New Yorkers may have vacationed at summer retreats on Long Island, the Jersey Shore, or the Catskills. Newport, Rhode Island was another popular destination, although it would seem that the residents of Newport weren’t necessarily thrilled about the summer influx.

Other urban areas saw similar trends. Some wealthy Chicagoans sought refuge in Galena, Illinois, little towns all along Lake Michigan and the cool woods of Wisconsin. *The New York Times* for 03 July 1861 is evidence of the summer departures with plenty of classified ads for chambermaids, cooks, and other household help,

Websites of Interest

African Roots Podcast

www.AfricanRootsPodcast.blogspot.com

Afriquest, the Free Online Database for African and African American Genealogy

<http://ccharity.com/node/329?>

The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database

Has information on almost 35,000 slaving voyages that forcibly embarked over 10 million Africans for transport to the Americas between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries. It offers researchers, students and the general public a chance to rediscover the reality of one of the largest forced movements of peoples in world history. www.slavevoyages.org/tast/index.faces

**Now available for download and free distribution:
Compiled Table of Contents of 19th Century Atlases**
http://www.historic-atlas-series.com/private/KY_TOC.pdf

This is a 3.5M PDF file that details the contents of 22 early Kentucky county atlases including: Boone, Kenton, Campbell, Bourbon, Clark, Fayette, Jessamine, Woodford, Bracken, Pendleton, Carroll, Gallatin, Davies, Graves, Henderson, Union, Hopkins, Jefferson, Oldham, Nelson, Spencer and Shelby.

Each Atlas Table of contents is divided into precincts and towns & villages providing the reader with information

with the requirement “will go in the Country for the Summer.”

Families also left for extended periods during epidemics. Check historical newspapers and local histories to see if there was sickness in the area around the time your ancestor is missing.

Since the 1870 census was taken as of June 1st, families who traveled to the country may well have been out of town when the enumerator came to call. The instructions for the 1870 specified that, “houses only temporarily uninhabited are to be returned and numbered in order. In that case a dash, thus (—), will be drawn through column No. 2, and the remaining spaces on the line be left blank.” Other enumerations include similar distinctions. (View enumerator instructions for all U.S. Census years.)

To locate your ancestor, widen your search to include surrounding counties, and even nearby states. They may have been counted in the census while they were at their summer retreat or staying with family in the country. Keep in mind that the extension of railroad lines made it easier for families to escape the stifling summer heat.

Check the social section in local newspapers. These columns often include the comings and goings of prominent residents. Even if your ancestor isn't listed by name, you will get a better feel for what destinations were popular at that time.

New African American History Collection Now Online

Over a million pages of original documents, letters and photos, most digitized for the first time.

In celebration of Black History Month, Footnote.com launched its African American Collection. Footnote.com has been working with the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in Washington, D.C., to digitize records that provide a view into the lives of African Americans that few have seen before.

Footnote.com has spent the last two years with NARA compiling this collection and is currently working on adding more records that will be released in the upcoming months. African American records currently on Footnote.com include:

- Service Records for Colored Troops in the Civil War – Records for the 2nd-13th infantries including enlistment papers, casualty sheets, oaths of allegiance, proof of ownership and bills of sale.
- American Colonization Society – Letters and reports relating to this colony established in 1817 for free people of color residing in the U.S.
- Amistad Case – Handwritten records of this

landmark case beginning in 1839 involving the Spanish schooner Amistad, used to transport illegal slaves.

- Southern Claims Commission – Petitions for compensation resulting from the Civil War.

Footnote.com is also working on additional record collections that will be released shortly. Those records include:

- Records of the US District Court for the District of Columbia Relating to Slaves, 1851-1863 – includes slave schedules, manumission papers and case papers relating to fugitive slaves.
- Records for the Emancipation of Slaves in the District of Columbia, 1862-63 – minutes of meetings, docket books and petitions pertaining to emancipation of slaves.
- Registro Central de Esclavos 1872 (Slave Schedules) – registers from Puerto Rico giving information for each slave: name, country of origin, name of parents, physical description, master's name and more.
- Records Relating to the Suppression of the African Slave Trade and Negro Colonization, 1854-1872 - letters, accounts, and other documents relating to the suppression of the African slave trade.
- Correspondence of the Military Intelligence Division Relation to “Negro Subversion” 1917-1941 - record cards and correspondence of the Military Intelligence Division (MID) that relate to activities of blacks in both civilian and military life.

In addition to these records, Footnote.com also features member contributions that include topics ranging from the Underground Railroad to Women Abolitionists to African Americans receiving the Congressional Medal of Honor.

To view the African American Collection on Footnote.com visitors can go to <http://go.footnote.com/blackhistory/>.

About Footnote, Inc.

Footnote.com is a subscription website that features searchable original documents, providing users with an unaltered view of the events, places and people that shaped the American nation and the world. At Footnote.com, all are invited to come share, discuss, and collaborate on their discoveries with friends, family, and colleagues. For more information, visit www.footnote.com.

About The National Archives

NARA alone is the archives of the Government of the United States, responsible for safeguarding records of all three branches of the Federal Government. The records held by the National Archives belong to the public – and it

is the mission of the National Archives to ensure the public can discover, use, and learn from the records of their government.

- Taken from Legacy Family Tree

New Law Creates Database of Slavery and Emancipation records

President-elect Barack Obama was unique among African-Americans with the ability to trace both sides of his family tree. However, a new law may increase dramatically the access to that information.

As part of a Senate bill to insure that all presidential records are preserved, a House bill introduced by the late Rep. Tom Lantos, D-CA, requires the National Archives to supplement its Freedman Bureau archives with a comprehensive database of all federal and state records relating to slavery, emancipation and Civil War reconstruction.

It also provides for grants to states and localities to establish local data bases as well.

The legislation is also a testament to the late Dr. Walter Hill, who created a finding guide on National Archives resources on African-Americans.

Before his death, Lantos said on the House floor in 2007, the federal and local records covered by this legislation are not only of personal importance to the families involved. They are also historically significant to us all. They document the reuniting of our nation and the historic moment of transition for slaves from the status of property to citizens, a time when our country finally began to right a horrible moral wrong. We need to take the process another step now, by ensuring that those records and the lessons they hold are preserved for all eternity.

He added, Unfortunately, African Americans face a unique challenge due to our nation's history of discrimination and slavery. Instead of simply looking up wills, birth and death certificates, or other traditional genealogical research documents, African Americans are forced to identify the names of former slave owners, and then hope that these owners kept accurate records of pertinent property, tax, and probate information.

Such databases are critical for improving educational outcomes for African-American children, who are often hampered at the beginning of their educational experience because early social science frameworks begin with exploring family histories.

It can also impact the ability of communities to seek historic preservation protections for significant African-American historic figures and sites.

The Year Was 1880

The year was 1880 and it was known as "The Gilded Age"-a post-Civil War era of industrialization and economic growth. Railroads continued to grow and the oil industry was still young. Methods for refining oil to produce kerosene helped drop the price of the fuel. Kerosene was used in lamps to light homes, and oil was used as a lubricant for machinery, important in this age of industrialization. John D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil Company controlled 90 percent of the oil market in 1880 and his control over all aspects of extraction, production, and transportation of the product was the start of an era of "trusts."

The rise of oil weakened the whaling industry. Prior to the use of kerosene, whale oil had been used in lamps, but it was expensive because of a shortage due to overfishing. With the price of kerosene dropping, the need for whale oil for fuel was all but eliminated.

In 1880, the town of Wabash, Indiana, found a new way to light its streets when it had the first electric streetlight installed. Another first for electricity also occurred in 1880 as Thomas Edison developed the first electric railway in Menlo Park, New Jersey.

Temperance reformers made progress in Kansas in 1880 with the passing of legislation prohibiting the manufacture and sale of alcohol except for medicinal purposes (a loophole which was widely used). In Canada, women scored a victory when Dr. Emily Stowe became the woman to be given a license to practice medicine in Canada.

Britain was involved in several conflicts in 1880. While the Battle of Kabul signaled the end of the second Anglo-Afghan War on 1 September, December marked the beginning of the first Boer War, pitting the British against the Boers, or "Afrikaners."

The U.S. saw several natural disasters in 1880. On 12 October, a hurricane struck Brownsville, Texas, causing extensive damage and taking numerous lives.

In Missouri, disaster came in the form of a tornado outbreak that killed 152 people in southwestern and central parts of the state. Particularly hard hit was the town of Marshfield in Webster County.

The winter that year is noted for the "Blizzard of 1880." The snows began in October and continued throughout the winter. Laura Ingalls Wilder made the storms the subject of her book, "The Long Winter."

Staples Rewards - Be sure to give the cashier our number, **2638818399**. CAAGS receives a 10-20% rebate on all purchases. We use the rebate to help defray newsletter printing costs.



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Marjorie Sholes – Treasurer
Ophelia Sanders – Parliamentarian
Gena Weaver – Webmaster (visit us at www.caags.org)

Committee Chairs

DorothyLou Sands – Book Sales and Acquisitions
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LaVerne Anderson – Librarian
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Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor
Colette DeVerge – FGS Delegate/Fundraising Chairman
Charlotte Bocage – NGS Delegate
Norma Bates – Volunteer Chairman

President's Message

Ronald Higgins

On June 20th CAAGS had one of the best Juneteenth celebrations. The day was overcast but that made for a very pleasant day. Thanks to Ronald Fairley for hosting the event in the backyard of his home.

There was various entertainment that was enjoyed by all. Beverly Higgins-Taylor sang several negro spirituals and had the members and friends join in. Marilyn White recited a poem and sang and Jeriah Johnson did an oration on "Lord, Why You Made Me Black." Gwen Foster read the Emancipation Proclamation, Ernestine McNeil told a few jokes and we all sang the Negro National Anthem. Renada Johnson said a prayer and blessed the food while Lloyd Outten had crafts for all to try that were very interesting and all the children present had a ball.

Thanks to all the members, family and friends that helped to make this day so wonderful and a special thanks to the committee member who worked so hard in its preparation.

Volunteers are needed for the nomination and election committee. Call Norma Bates if you are interesting in serving on this committee.

The budget meeting was scheduled for the 31 of July.

CAAGS had a booth at the Southern California Genealogical Society Jamboree in Burbank on the 26th - 28th of June. Thanks to the members that helped at this event.

Our next meeting is on September 19th. See you all there.

Neither the newsletter editor nor CAAGS guarantees publication of any submission. Submissions for the newsletter are due by the third Saturday of each month. Please email your submissions or inquiries to CAAGS@hotmail.com Our new meeting location, Mayme Clayton Library and Museum, 4130 Overland Blvd., Culver City, CA.

2009 Calendar of Events

September 19

CAAGS general meeting, 10am – 2pm; Intermediate class “Blacks in Puerto Rico,” Angel Selgado. Royce Jefferson will be our guest speaker

October 17

CAAGS general meeting, 10am – 2pm; Intermediate class “What To Bring On A Research Trip,” Charlotte Bocage; Show and Tell, open to all members

October 29 -31

1st International Black Genealogical Summit, Allen County Public Library, for info www.blackgenealogysummit.com

November 21

CAAGS general meeting

** Calendar is subject to change without notice*

IBGS News

The IBGS events will take place at in part at the Grand Wayne Convention Center, which is adjacent to the Ft. Wayne Hilton Hotel and across the street from Allen County Public Library. We are honored to have as the Luncheon Keynote Speaker, Ms. Hana Stith, Curator of the African/African American Historical Museum and the Banquet Keynote Speaker, Ms. Dorothy Spruill Redford, author of *Somerset Homecoming: Recovering a Lost Heritage*. There will be exciting workshops, exhibitors, vendors and much more to make this inaugural event a success that you will not want to miss.

Brown Bag Lunch

Members are asked to bring their own brown bag lunch to the meetings if you like. Please be mindful and help keep our meeting room clean and dispose of all waste. Light refreshments are served if you do not wish to bring a lunch.

Websites of Interest

My Afriquest: Testimonials

Share your family stories and historical documents on our FREE online site. Check us out and participate in this groundbreaking endeavor.

www.afriquest.com/index.php?filename=myafriquest.php

Native American Genealogy: Reconnecting With Your American Indian Heritage

www.native-languages.org/genealogy.htm

In case you may not have heard, NARA is closing the archives in Laguna Niguel:

http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2009/06/nara-to-close-laguna-niguel-pacific-region-office.html

This might be of interest to those that knew someone that died in the Vietnam War. You are able to search by name and locations, leave a message, etc.

<http://www.thewall-usa.com/>

NGS Magazine Online

Recent issues (2005–current) of NGS Magazine (formerly NGS NewsMagazine) are currently available under the Members Only section of the website. The hot-off-the-presses Apr/May/June 2009 issue is now available. Read it online today before it is delivered to your mailbox! Visit www.ngsgenealogy.org for more information.

Also available is a Free Online Course - Family History Skills Start your family history quest or brush up on genealogy basics by reviewing our free online course for members of the National Genealogical Society which started mid June 2009. You may wish to try this shorter course first and then delve into some of the other NGS online courses or the in-depth Home Study Course.

CAAGS 2009 - Request for Nominations

We need volunteers for the nominations committee to coordinate the 2009 elections. The positions open for election are 2nd Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, President and NGS delegate. Each is for a two year term and you can refer to your copy of the by-laws to see the duties involved for each office. Please contact us if you are interested in running for office.

Call for Papers

The Pennsylvania Historical Association, publisher of the quarterly journal *Pennsylvania History* will be publishing a special issue in the Summer of 2010 on “Slavery and Freedom in Pennsylvania.” The Special Issues editor, Dr. Jeff Davis of Bloomsburg University, has issued a call for papers. Anyone working on this topic and wishes to have their material considered for publication should directly contact Dr. Davis at: Department of History, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, 128 Old Science Hall, Bloomsburg, PA 17815, or electronically to jdavis@bloom.edu.

30th Anniversary, AAGHSC Heritage Book

In celebration of its 30th anniversary, the Afro-American Genealogical and Historical Society of Chicago (AAGHSC) will be publishing a Heritage Book: a collection of biographical sketches, church and family histories, life events, memorials, oral histories, and much more.

AAGHSC is now accepting submissions from across the country. For more information on pre-orders, submittal guidelines and deadlines, and sample stories, please visit our website at www.aaghsc.org. Please direct any

questions to aaghsc@yahoo.com.

Years from now, imagine your family's joy when they discover that you've left them a gift that money can't buy. Won't you please join us in this endeavor?

The AAGHSC Heritage Book Committee

World War I Veterans' Records now Available at State of Washington's Digital Archives

The Washington state Digital Archives has a new program allowing people to access records of about 48,000 World War I veterans from Washington. Copies of World War I Service Statement Cards from 1917 to 1919, recently indexed by Washington Historical Records Project volunteers, are now available and searchable online at the Digital Archives. The United States War Department had originals of the cards, and copies were provided to the Washington State Auditor many years ago.

Information contained in the records includes full name, serial number, race, place inducted, place of birth, unit assignments, ranks attained, engagements fought in, wounds received, dates served overseas, date of demobilization, and degree of disability (if any). Volunteer Sam Cagle has provided added value to the records with a glossary that fully identifies the many military abbreviations used in the records.

To search, go to <http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov/TitleInfo.aspx?TID=640>. For more information on the World War I Service Statement Cards and related records, contact the Washington State Archives at (360) 586-1492 or visit its Web site at http://www.secstate.wa.gov/archives/archives_state.aspx.

Posted by Dick Eastman on April 15, 2009 | [Permalink](#)

Anatomy of a City Directory by Juliana Smith

As I was winterizing the house and wrestling with a particularly stubborn storm window, it came crashing down and, of course, broke. With snow and frigid temps in the weather forecast, the hubby peeked in my office today and asked me where the phone book was so he could call the hardware store and see about getting the glass replaced. Phone book? I gave him that blank stare that told him I had absolutely no clue and turned back to my computer to Google the name of the hardware store.

Years ago, even before the telephone became widely used, directories were the way to go when it came to locating people and businesses. For family historians, they're also

the way to go when you want to locate your ancestors. As I mentioned in last week's column, I have been anxious to dive into the new collection of U.S. city directories that were posted last week, and last night I finally got my chance. I spent quite a bit of time browsing through an 1879 directory of Brooklyn, New York, and was quickly reminded of just how much directories have to offer—and how much we may miss if we only focus on that one little line that gives our ancestor's name, occupation, and address. While this article will use the Brooklyn directory as an example, others typically followed a similar format and you may find comparable content in other areas of the U.S. and around the world.

The Joys of Online Access

When I've been in libraries looking through city directories on microfilm, I have to really discipline myself because my time is limited. I need to pull as many of my family names and addresses as I can in the short time I have before closing time.

As I spin through the film, my eye catches sight of advertisements for local businesses. "Ooh, is the Tobin's hat shop advertised in this one?" It's like dangling something shiny in front of a child. Next thing you know I'm completely distracted from my purpose and reading the directory page by page. With these directories now available online, I can sit here in my jammies and browse to my heart's content—page by page, or skipping ahead by changing the image number.

Navigating

These directories are searchable, so you can put in your ancestors surname and jump right to that page, but it can be worthwhile to take the time to browse. Because the index was created by OCR (which means a computer reads the print), unusual fonts (especially those used in advertisements) or heavy print and smudges can cause you to miss some references.

The first thing I look for is the title page in the front of the directory. This tells me the publisher and typically what kinds of things I can find in the directory. In the 1879 directory I looked at, the title page reads, "The Brooklyn City and Business Directory for the year ending May 1st, 1880, containing also A Street and Avenue Directory, A Municipal Register, and a New Map of Brooklyn." Yeah!

Some directories will also include a table of contents with page numbers. This directory didn't have one for the entire book, but there were indexes for some of the sections that gave page numbers. For example, on image 21 of 774, I found an index to all the advertisements. Alas, I quickly found that the Tobins didn't advertise here.

Although the pages of the directory won't match up with

the image numbers, with a little bit of math, you can estimate how far ahead you need to jump to get from the index to the desired page. Just bear in mind that there are two directory pages on each image when you're doing your calculations.

Introductory Information

The 1879 directory of Brooklyn included a preface from the publisher, who strongly recommended that owners of his guide attach it to their counters with chains to deter those who might "borrow" the book, rather than purchase one. The preface also often includes tidbits on what is going on in the city and this volume mentions the long-awaited Brooklyn Bridge, which would open in 1883. Look for this section to learn what was happening in your ancestor's city.

Other introductory material I found included a page of "Names too late for insertion in regular order," and a list of abbreviations used in the directory.

Historic Maps and Street Directories

Being a map geek, I was thrilled to see the "new" map for the year 1879 (also see the previous page for more of the city). It shows the various ferry lines to Manhattan, ward numbers and boundaries, cemeteries, parks, and other features.).

The street directory can help you to pinpoint exactly where your ancestor lived on the block. Streets and avenues are listed alphabetically and each listing gives the start and ending point, as well as the house numbers for the intersections. For example, one of my ancestors lived at 117 Tillary. The street directory tells me that the on the corners of Tillary and Lawrence are on the left house number 113 and 112 on the right. This way I can tell that they lived near this intersection. When I locate it on the map, it reveals that they are in the fourth ward. You'll find the numbered streets follow the named streets in this directory, although that's not always the case.

Municipal Register

If your ancestor served in public office you may find him or her listed in the municipal register along with those serving on the boards of charitable institutions, or social and fraternal organizations. Churches are listed, along with clergy; cemeteries with the management.

My ancestor Edwin Dyer, was police captain of the twelfth precinct, so I was interested to learn that the station was located on Fulton at the corner of Schenectady Ave.

Courts were also listed, schools and principals, ferry companies and the routes they ran, as well as orphanages and asylums.

Advertisements

Even advertisements can be helpful. The descendants of Dr. Geo. W. Holman, "Inventor of that Modern Marvel of Medical Science, Holman's Fever and Ague and Liver Pad" will be thrilled to find an image of the good doctor accompanying his ad.

Many were just fun to read. I ran across an interesting advertisement for Taggart's Storage Warehouses that got me thinking. The images of high society ladies and gentleman in Victorian clothing were accompanied by captions like "I am going to leave for the country soon; but, I really don't know what to do with my furniture. Why! My Dear, Send it to Taggart's Storage Warehouses." In another scene, a gentleman tells his friend, "Yes, my dear fellow, we are all going to Europe for two years," and of course he'll be sending his furniture to Taggart's as well.

While this probably wasn't a scene played out by many of my ancestors, there are a few that were relatively well off. My infamous Kellys appear to have made some money in real estate, and they continue to evade me in several censuses. Could it be that like these society ladies, they retired to the country in the summer? Maybe I should be looking at some of the fashionable summer retreats for them. The social pages of local newspapers can sometimes give you hints as to the arrival and departure of society families. (The Taggart's ad is above. Click on the image to enlarge it.).

To Sum Up

While I may not pay much attention to the directories that find their way into our home each year, last night's journey will definitely have me returning to this collection. These directories provide us with a snapshot (sometimes literally) of the cities in which our ancestors lived.

Juliana Smith has been an editor of Ancestry newsletters for ten years and is author of "The Ancestry Family Historian's Address Book." She has written for "Ancestry" Magazine and wrote the Computers and Technology chapter in "The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy," rev. 3rd edition. Juliana can be reached by e-mail at Juliana@Ancestry.com, but she regrets that her schedule does not allow her to assist with personal research.

Staples Rewards - Be sure to give the cashier our rewards number, **2638818399**. CAAGS receives a 10-20% rebate on all purchases from Staples stores. We use the rebate to help defray newsletter printing costs.

Combine Middle and Last Names

I would like to add that it is possible to add the middle and last name when searching. In the case of my great-grandfather whose name was Thomas Fitz Martin in later years he is listed as Fitzmartin. Hope this will help someone.

- Taken From Ancestry.com



Heritage Newsletter

California African American Genealogical Society

October 2009 Volume 21 Number 8

Ten Issues Published Annually

ISSN 1083-8937

California African American Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 8442

Los Angeles, CA 90008-0442

General Membership Meetings

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

Mayme Clayton Library and Museum (MCLM)

4130 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA 90230-3734

(Old Culver City Courthouse across from VA building)

2009 Board of Directors

Ronald Higgins - President

Ron Batiste – First Vice President

Ruth Palmer – Second Vice President /Membership

Gwen Foster – Corresponding Secretary

Jean Giagnard – Recording Secretary

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Charlotte Bocage – NGS Delegate

Norma Bates – Volunteer Chairman

President's Message

Ronald Higgins

October is Family History Month!

CAAGS will have our Show and Tell. This is the time when you can tell about your family reunion and the new cousin you've found. I'm asking all members to wear a T-shirt from one of your Family Reunions to the meeting. We'll have our own parade of family reunion t-shirts fashion show at the meeting.

We also celebrate a milestone during October. CAAGS will have been meeting at Mayme Clayton Library and Museum for one year. We look forward to many more years of meeting there.

It's election time. Every two years an office is open to be filled in our general election. This year the open offices are President, 2nd Vice President-Membership Chairperson and Corresponding Secretary. Our Recording Secretary has resigned, leaving this position open as well. Elections are held during our November meeting and the installation of officers at the December meeting.

Remember our society is only as good as you make it. Therefore we need you to volunteer for a position to keep the society strong and bring in some fresh ideas.

The election committee may be calling you to volunteer for a position. Now is the time to give it some serious consideration, become a member of our Board.

Current board members are reminded to turn in your annual report at the November board meeting.

Lastly, "thank you" to those on the election committee and all other committee chairs and volunteers for all your hard work.

Neither the newsletter editor nor CAAGS guarantees publication of any submission. Submissions for the newsletter are due by the third Saturday of each month. Please email your submissions or inquiries to CAAGS@hotmail.com Our new meeting location, Mayme Clayton Library and Museum, 4130 Overland Blvd., Culver City, CA.

2009 Calendar of Events

October 4

Stay at Home Tea

October 17

CAAGS General Meeting, 10am – 2pm; Beginners Class Instructor Dorthylou Sands; Intermediate class “What To Bring On A Research Trip,” Charlotte Bocage and Maria Sosa; Show and Tell, open to all members. Wear your family reunion T-shirts to the meeting

October 29 -31

1st International Black Genealogical Summit, Allen County Public Library, for info www.blackgenealogysummit.com

November 21

CAAGS General Meeting

** Calendar is subject to change without notice*

Websites of Interest

General USA information

- **U.S. Government’s official web portal**
www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/History_Family/State_Genealogy.shtml
- **Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System**
www.itd.nps.gov/cwss
- **U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service**
www.uscis.gov/genealogy
- **Western States Marriage Records Index**
<http://abish.byui.edu/specialcollections/westernstates/search.cfm>
- **African American Coal Miner Info Page**
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~blackcoalminers/>
- **The Ships List**
www.theshipslist.com
- **Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild**
www.immigrantships.net
- **Our Time Lines**
www.ourtimelines.com
- **County Histories**
www.higginsonbooks.com
- **State of Louisiana Vital Records**
www.sos.louisiana.gov

- **State of Louisiana Vital Record**
www.dhh.louisiana.gov
- **Cook County IL**
www.cookcountygenealogy.com
- **Costumes**
www.costumes.org/history/100pages
- **Civil War**
www.civilwar.com
- **The Oregon Trail**
www.isu.edu/~trinmich/oregontrail.html
- **Portuguese Hawaiian Genealogy and Heritage**
www.islandroutes.com/
- **Ohio Genealogical Society** www.ogs.org
- **New England Historic and Genealogy Society** \$*
www.newenglandancestors.org
- **The Godfrey Memorial Library** \$*
www.godfrey.org

** \$ = Fee-based or may require membership*

Building a Better Chronology

By Juliana Smith 10 April 2009

When it comes to putting your ancestor’s life in context, there’s nothing like a chronology to flesh out those names and dates. Arranging the records you’ve found in the order in which they were created allows you to see their lives unfold through time. If you haven’t created a timeline of your ancestor’s life, go to ancestry.com to see step-by-step instructions.

Chronologies are also important research tools, and by comparing your family’s timeline of events to important dates that go beyond the family, you can learn even more and find clues to your next research steps. Here are some items to consider:

Church Establishment Dates

Knowing what churches were established during your ancestors’ time can lead you to valuable religious records. If there wasn’t a church of your ancestor’s denomination, check the churches of similar denominations in the area. Your ancestor may have had to go to the only church that was nearby, particularly in rural neighborhoods. In urban areas where there were more options, look for ethnic congregations that match your ancestor’s background.

Municipal Incorporation and Boundary Changes

Your ancestor may never have moved in his life, but still lived in different counties or municipalities. In these cases, locating the records left by the family is dependent on when they were created. By adding dates of incorporation for cities and towns and any city, state, or county boundary changes, you'll have a better idea of where to look.

Vital Records Availability

Vital records are the cornerstone of family history research, so displaying their availability in your chronology will remind you to go after records for all of these events.

Cemeteries Incorporated or Closed

In cases where death-related records don't reveal where an ancestor was buried, you can canvas the cemeteries in the area and try to determine which were open for business at the time of the ancestor's death.

Newspapers Began/Ended Publication

Newspapers chronicle the events of your ancestor's neighborhood. Make a note of the start and end date of publication, as well as availability in collections like **those at Ancestry.com**. This will serve as a reminder to check these publications for information on family events like marriages and deaths, as well as local events that may have prompted an ancestor to relocate, change occupations, etc.

Historical Event

Of course you'll also want to make note of the dates of historical events that were relevant to the family. This information will be very helpful when it comes time to write your family's history. Your chronology can serve as the skeleton for your story, and these events will help you to flesh it out.

You can find more ideas for creating chronologies in this article by Tana Pedersen Lord in the March/April issue of **Ancestry Magazine**.

Copyright 2009, The Generations Network; 13 April 2009 *Weekly Discovery*

Researching Military Units

Most of us can identify at least one family member in our family tree who served in the military. Have you researched his or her military service? Where were they stationed? Did they see active duty and if so, what engagements did the unit participate in? Look for their military unit history online and investigate the holdings of the archives of their service branch. Learning more about our ancestors military service is a great way to honor the veterans in our family this Veterans' Day.

Freedman's Savings and Trust Company

The Company was incorporated by an act of Congress approved March 3, 1865, as a banking institution established in the city of Washington, District of Columbia, for the benefit of freed slaves. The military savings banks at Norfolk, Va., and Beaufort, S.C., were transferred to the Company soon after it was founded. From 1865 through 1870 a total of 33 branches were established, including an office that was opened in New York, N.Y. in 1866.

In 1874 the Company failed... The information contained in many of the registers is as follows: account number, name of depositor, date of entry, place born, place brought up, residence, age, complexion, name of employer or occupation, wife or husband, children, father, mother, brothers and sisters, remarks, and signature. The early books sometimes also contain the name of the former master or mistress and the name of the plantation. In many entries not all the requested data are given. Copies of death certificates have been pinned to some of the entries. In each case the certificate has been filmed immediately after the page that shows the registration of the person's signature.

The registers are arranged alphabetically by name of state. The entries are arranged alphabetically by name of city where the bank was located, there-under chronologically by date when the account was established, and there-under numerically by account number. Many numbers are missing, a few are out of numerical order, and in some cases blocks of numbers were not used. Many registers seem to be missing. The volume for Philadelphia, Pa., dated January 7, 1870, to June 26, 1874, contains signatures of officers of societies.

Freedman's Savings and Trust Company * Registers of signatures of depositors 1865-1874: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, New York City, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington D.C. - Microfilm of original records at the National Archives and Records Service in Washington, D.C.; *Also on microfilm at the LDS Family History Library.

Great Black History

This is, without doubt, Great Black History...old copies of Jet, Ebony, etc., available online! It is reported "Johnson Publishing Company" has partnered with Google to digitize its magazine archives. If you are a "Jet," "Ebony" and/or "Black World/Negro Digest" reader from back in the day, just go to the magazine of your choice and then once in the site, all is self-explanatory to 'read' a particular issue or article. This is great for doing research or just personal enrichment.

2010 Genealogical Ancestral Calendar

The non-profit San Diego African American Genealogy Research Group, which I'm a member, is now offering its 2010 Genealogical Ancestral Calendar. Each month features a short bio of an ancestor of one of our members' w/photos of both. One month will feature my paternal great grandmother, Sarah DeLisle-Darensbourg and myself. The donation is \$12.00. If you're interest in placing an order, please make check or money order out to SDAAGR and mail to Surah LeNoir-Mfume at P O Box 56216, L A, CA 90056. You'll receive your calendar by December 1, 2009.

Alex Dees to be inducted into the National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum Hall of Fame

Alex Dees will be inducted into *The National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum Hall of Fame*, in Fort Worth, Texas on November 6, 2009. The induction ceremony will be held at the Sheraton Hotel and Spa in Fort Worth. If you wish to attend the induction ceremony, details can be provided to you upon your request. Please contact me for this information.

Alex has been involved in the cattle industry for nearly 50 years, and has become one of the most successful and respected cattleman in the Southwest area as a cattle breeder. Alex has received numerous prestigious awards, accolades and other inductions. To name a few, Heart of American Brangus Breeders Hall of Fame, The Arizona Hall of Fame Museum and The Cattleman of the Year Award Brangus Breed. Let us all join together in congratulating Alex on his induction into the Museum's Hall of Fame. You can contact Alex at: www.deesbrothersbrangus.com

To learn more about The National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum please visit the website at www.cowboysofcolor.org or contact Craig M. Crosby at craig@crosbylivestock.com

Three "Slaves" Get Formal Burial

After spending three decades in a New Jersey museum, the 200-year-old remains of three Black slaves were recently interred at a small African-American cemetery. In the 1970s, a bulldozer driver stumbled on the remains of Tom, Dan and John when land owned by Henry Simpson, Sr. in Sussex County was being developed. He wasn't quite sure what he had found and turned it over to Fred Space, owner of Space Farms Zoo and Museum, where it has been stored for the past for 30 years, Dailyrecord.com reports.

With a light rain falling, a couple dozen people, including members of the Sussex County (N.J.) Historical Society, gathered to pay homage to the dead. "The guy doing the digging didn't know what to do with them," Parker Space, Fred's son, told Dailyrecord.com. "He thought of the Spaces because of their dealings with artifacts." The Spaces brought the remains to the American Museum of Natural History in New York City to be studied. Experts there confirmed that the remains were those of three slaves from around 1800. The museum preserved the bones and sent them back to Space Farms. Bob Simpson, a retired United Methodist minister, found the will of his ancestor, Henry Simpson, Sr.

What he found was astonishing. "It was very complex," said Simpson of the will, which detailed every piece of property Henry Simpson Sr. owned. It included cattle and crops – and a list of seven slaves, five males and two females. A little more research and Simpson discovered about the digging up of the graves and how the remains were sent to Space Farms. "I often thought that I was going to bury them in our cemetery," said Fred Space. Simpson believed it was his family's responsibility to bury the men, said Louis Ruggiero, president of Iliff-Ruggiero Funeral Home in Newton. "We believe everyone deserves a proper burial," said Ruggiero of his funeral home, which was established in 1900. "In all our years, we have buried those who have fallen between the cracks."

Learn The Ropes To Mine Courthouse Deed Records

Before setting out to visit the courthouse, researchers should study Christine Rose's "Courthouse Research for Family Historians: Your Guide to Genealogical Treasures." It's available through the Hillsborough County public library system. Go to www.hcplc.org and check the catalog. Rose has a smaller publication "Courthouse Indexes Illustrated." It fits nicely in a briefcase or file folder so it's handy to take on research trips. The book is available for \$9.95 plus \$2.50 postage at www.christine4rose.com. She also sells her courthouse research book for \$21.98 plus \$4.95 shipping/handling.

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We need volunteers for the nominations committee to coordinate the 2009 elections. The positions open for election are 2nd Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, President and NGS delegate. Each is for a two year term and you can refer to your copy of the by-laws to see the duties involved for each office. Please contact us if you are interested in running for office. We also need a volunteer to complete the remaining term of our Recording Secretary.



Heritage Newsletter

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

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(Old Culver City Courthouse across from VA building)

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Charlotte Bocage – NGS Delegate
Norma Bates – Volunteer Chairman

President's Message

Ronald Higgins

The 1st International Black Genealogical Summit, Allen County Public Library was held the last weekend in October. I will share the highlights of the conference with you in our next newsletter. I've been busy with this historic event and not had sufficient time to compile a message for the newsletter this month.

Things to remember this month:

It's election time. Every two years an office is open to be filled in our general election. This year the open offices are President, 2nd Vice President-Membership Chairperson and Corresponding Secretary. Our Recording Secretary has resigned, leaving this position open as well. Elections are held during our November meeting and the installation of officers at the December meeting.

Remember our society is only as good as you make it. Therefore we need you to volunteer for a position to keep the society strong and bring in some fresh ideas.

The election committee may be calling you to volunteer for a position. Now is the time to give it some serious consideration, become a member of our Board.

Current board members are reminded to turn in your annual report at the November board meeting.

Lastly, congratulations to our First-Vice President, Ron Batiste. He was elected First Vice President of the California State Genealogical Alliance at their Sacramento meeting.

Neither the newsletter editor nor CAAGS guarantees publication of any submission. Submissions for the newsletter are due by the third Saturday of each month. Please email your submissions or inquiries to CAAGS@hotmail.com Our new meeting location, Mayme Clayton Library and Museum, 4130 Overland Blvd., Culver City, CA.

2009 Calendar of Events

November 17

Registration and fees due for Tamale Festival (see flyer included in newsletter).

November 21

CAAGS general meeting 10am – 2pm; Elections

December 5

Indio International Tamale Festival including an excursion to Desert Hills and Cabazon Outlet Malls and Casino Morongo, 8am – 8pm.

December 19

CAAGS general meeting 10am – 2pm; Installation of Officers

December 25 – January 1, 2010

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

January 16

CAAGS general meeting 10am -2pm

** Calendar is subject to change without notice*

Websites of Interest

Cemetery Workers Accused of Digging Up Graves, Reselling Plots

A sad story on CNN describes apparently illegal actions by cemetery workers in Alsip, Illinois, 20 miles south of Chicago. The crime was reported by the cemetery owners who became suspicious. At least four cemetery workers have been accused of digging up graves, dumping bodies, reselling the burial plots, and pocketing the cash.

The Burr Oak Cemetery is the final resting place of lynching victim Emmett Till, blues legend Dinah Washington and some Negro League baseball players. Sadly, some of those remains have been moved and identification is probably impossible.

You can read more at
<http://www.cnn.com/2009/CRIME/07/09/illinois.cemetery.scheme/index.html>.

Los Angeles County Library

The Los Angeles Public Library has upgraded the availability of the Access Newspaper Archive database that may be of interest to the readers of the CAAGS newsletter. It is now available to library users at home with their library card at the Los Angeles Public Library. The card is available free to all residents of California. According to their website, the database “contains tens of millions of searchable newspaper pages, dating as far back at the 1700s.” This includes the Van Nuys News under its many title changes, as well as Long Beach, Pasadena and other

local newspapers.

In addition, I would invite your readers to check out our Genealogy & Local History Index database. It is available to all even without a library card. We have been doing all the in depth indexing that used to be typed on cards for our Family History Index and Local History Index here for the last decade. In addition, we have begun transferring the indexing from the two card catalogs to this online database. It has doubled in size in less than two year.

From the library’s home page:
<http://www.lapl.org/>

One can click on Access the Databases in the center part of the page, which will lead here:

<http://databases.lapl.org/>

The databases themselves are in alphabetical order and can be found by scrolling down the page.

CNN.com

Site Explores African-American Family Histories via Genealogy Insider by Diane on 6/23/09 CNN iReporter Neal Kelley, of Lawrenceville, Ga., has traced his African American family’s roots to his great-grandfather, a slave in Louisiana in 1842, and he’s hoping to discover his ancestors’ African homeland.

The story of Kelley’s genealogical explorations is part of the Journeys section on CNN’s Black in America Web site.

As you listen to Kelley and other iReporters talk about their families, you see their ancestors’ migrations on a map and a slideshow of family documents and photos.

You also can hover over states on the map for statistics on African-American residents now and then.

Click the surnames above the map to see each family’s story. Click Nation for an overview of historical African-American migrations by era. Use the Submit or see all link at the bottom of the page to share your own photos and videos.

Things you can do from here:

Subscribe to Genealogy Insider using Google Reader

Get started using Google Reader to easily keep up with all your favorite sites

Learn The Ropes To Mine Courthouse Deed Records

By Sharon Tate Moody, Tribune correspondent, Published: August 23, 2009

Finding land records at the courthouse can be tricky because counties use different systems to index them. And some don't index them at all.

Generally, though, two indexes are created for county deeds. One is for the grantors, or those selling the land; the other is for grantees, the buyers. The information in these indexes is limited. Resourceful researchers must read the deeds to get tidbits such as the names of adjacent landowners.

In some counties, the deeds have been abstracted. An abstractor goes through each deed for a specific time period and pulls critical information from it. That usually includes the names of the people buying and selling the land; a description of the land; names of neighbors; and perhaps a history of the land and each individual who owned it previously.

Abstractors publish their work with titles such as "Kinfolks of Johnston County North Carolina, Abstracts of Deeds 1759-1825." The index of such a book will contain the names of everyone listed on the deed, not just the grantor and grantee.

Early deed books used a simple, straightforward system, listing grantors and grantees, mostly alphabetically, at the beginning of the book. All surnames beginning with an "A" would appear together, but not strictly alphabetically, because the list was handwritten and was not re-alphabetized with each addition.

Some county deed records use the Cott or Russell index systems, recognizable by the lack of a straightforward alphabetical index at the front of the volume. Cott and Russell are similar in that both create subindexes. For example, if a county uses the Russell system, the index volumes will consist of tables formatted with letters of the alphabet running down the first column. Each subsequent column is headed by the key letters of l, m, r and t.

Searching for the surname "Mathis," look in the first column for the "M" row. Next look at the surname for one of those key letters in the Mathis name. The "a" is not a key letter, so look for the "t," which is a key letter. Following the "t" column down until it merges with the "M" row, the researcher will learn that the index for Mathis deeds is on page 45 of the book.

On page 45 the researcher will find a list of grantors or grantees with the name Mathis. Each Mathis entry will give a deed book volume and page number. The deed books are

large, heavy ledgers housed on special filing shelves that can be rolled off with ease.

It never hurts to ask for help in a deed room, but don't be surprised if no one goes out of their way to assist. The deed room will be filled with lawyers or paid researchers searching land titles for modern-day real estate transactions. Untrained genealogists usually are viewed as pests, so go prepared and don't be intimidated.

Before setting out to visit the courthouse, researchers should study Christine Rose's "Courthouse Research for Family Historians: Your Guide to Genealogical Treasures." It's available through the Hillsborough County public library system. Go to www.hcplc.org and check the catalog. Rose has a smaller publication "Courthouse Indexes Illustrated." It fits nicely in a briefcase or file folder so it's handy to take on research trips. The book is available for \$9.95 plus \$2.50 postage at www.christine4rose.com. She also sells her courthouse research book for \$21.98 plus \$4.95 shipping/handling.

Sharon Tate Moody is a board-certified genealogist. Send your genealogy questions and event announcements to her in care of Getaway, The Tampa Tribune, 200 S. Parker St., Tampa, FL 33606 or stmoody0720@mac.com. She regrets that she is unable to assist with personal research

Six Common Missteps . . .and How to Avoid Them

By Juliana Smith

1. Overlooking Resources in Your Own Backyard

Just because you don't live in the same area in which your ancestors lived, don't assume that your local library doesn't have information that can help you in your family history research. Larger libraries with genealogical collections may largely focus on local materials, but also include materials from other states from which large groups emigrated.

WorldCat is a great tool for locating relevant materials in libraries near your home. Search WorldCat for surnames, geographic location, and other topics of interest, and when you find something of interest, click on the title to locate it in the nearest library. This database is a real time-saver because it searches so many facilities at once, including not only your local public library, but university and other libraries as well.

2. "I'll Remember Where I Got This."

When you make a new family history discovery, between the "happy dances" and telling everyone within earshot about the new find, it is easy to overlook the more tedious step of recording exactly where and how you found a record. At the time you may even think to yourself, "This is so fantastic, I'll remember this moment and exactly how I came across this record forever." But time and new discoveries tend to fade that glorious memory and soon

you'll be looking at that miraculous find, scratching your head in bewilderment.

Take the time to make sure you record all the information you need to recreate your search years from now. With records from Ancestry.com, if you choose the "Custom Print" option, you'll not only get the image of the record, but also the index entry, source information, and title automatically, and you can easily add more text if necessary.

3. Heading Straight for the Index

When we find an interesting publication or database, it's easy to head straight for the index and truth be told, that's not necessarily a bad thing—provided you don't stop there. Also take a minute to read any introductory materials in the publication. This will tell you the scope of the information included, and other important details. You may find that there is relevant material to your family, even when their name is not included. For example, in the introduction to the "Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution" it says that,

"At the close of the revolution, and for a number of years thereafter, South Carolina compensated the patriot veterans with cash payments. Not always did the soldiers lay claim to such stipends . . . Those that did file for a pension often stated that they had not fought for pay, but fought for principles; therefore, they were accepting the federal gratuities because they could not care for themselves."

The introduction goes on to reveal many other interesting observations of the author that could be helpful to those researching their Revolutionary War ancestors..

In the case of databases, take a moment to click on the database title and scroll past the search box to read the extended description. Not only will you find information on the coverage of the database, but you may find helpful information on where to take your search next and on how to interpret your find.

4. Avoiding Certain Records

Some records seem to get a bad rap and we may be tempted to put off searching them. For example, last week we talked about pre-1850 census records . It's easy to stay on that familiar path and work with later census, immigration, and vital records, but doing so limits your success. There are so many record types off the beaten track that can break down brick walls and really add depth to your family story. Family history is a constant learning process, so don't be afraid to tackle something new, whether it is land records, or perhaps records from a different country.

For years, I had shied away from researching my Hungarian ancestors, but on a recent trip to Salt Lake City,

I visited the Family History Library and explored some Hungarian church records, using a translation guide that was available. Using the guide I was able to determine the type of record I was looking at, and interpret most of the column headings. One roll of microfilm took my family history research back two generations.

Similar to my experience, once you begin exploring the records, you'll often find they aren't as difficult to navigate and understand as you thought. If you do have trouble, seek out the advice of fellow family historians through message boards, mailing lists, or through your local genealogical society.

5. If All Else Fails, Follow Directions.

Yes, that old adage recited by fathers everywhere still applies. It's really tempting to dive right in and start using the new genealogical "toys" we get, tossing that user's guide on a shelf to collect dust, but although software providers and other technology creators try to make their products as intuitive as possible, you'll get much more from them if you take some time and read about the tools you use in your family history. In some cases it may mean reading a manual or online help files, but most products come with easy to follow tutorials that can teach you the basics and make sure you get off to a good start.

6. "I'll File This Later."

After a long night of surfing for ancestors, when the wee hours roll around, filing your finds might not be top on your list of priorities. And let's be realistic here, it won't always be possible to file everything after a research session. Life happens. But rather than beginning piles that can quickly overrun your desk, designate an easy spot to put things until you can get them filed. A tray with folders for the surnames you're researching is a great place to temporarily put your discoveries until you have time to enter them in your database and file them properly. Keep a pack of sticky notes handy to make notes reminding yourself where you left off. That way when you come back, the records are already sorted by surname and you can easily pick up your research again.

One last word of advice from someone with first-hand experience: when the tray begins to buckle under the weight of the temporary folders, it's time to file.

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Don't forget to renew your membership

The 2010 membership drive has started



Heritage Newsletter

California African American Genealogical Society

December 2009 Volume 21 Number 10
Ten Issues Published Annually
ISSN 1083-8937

California African American Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 8442
Los Angeles, CA 90008-0442

General Membership Meetings
Third Saturday monthly at 10am (except July and August)

Mayme Clayton Library and Museum (MCLM)
4130 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA 90230-3734
(Old Culver City Courthouse across from VA building)

2009 Board of Directors
Ronald Higgins - President
Ron Batiste – First Vice President
Ruth Palmer – Second Vice President /Membership
Gwen Foster – Corresponding Secretary
Jean Giagnard – Recording Secretary
Marjorie Sholes – Treasurer
Ophelia Sanders – Parliamentarian
Gena Weaver – Webmaster (visit us at www.caags.org)

Committee Chairs
DorothyLou Sands – Book Sales and Acquisitions
Open – Publications Editor
Open – Public Relations
LaVerne Anderson – Librarian
DorothyLou Sands – Historian (Interim)
Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor
Colette DeVerge – FGS Delegate/Fundraising Chairman
Charlotte Bocage – NGS Delegate
Norma Bates – Volunteer Chairman

President's Message

Ronald Higgins

November was the month for our election. We are still in need of a president for our society. Several members because of personal reasons will not be able to complete their term so there were more openings than usual this year. Please open your hearts and mind to being a more important member by becoming an officer. All of our members are special and we need you to step up and get more involve in the society. CAAGS needs YOU.

Thanks go out to the friends and families of CAAGS for their donation to the Stay at Home Tea on October 4, 2009.

Thanks to everyone who supported the trip to the Tamale Festival in the Coachella Valley December 5th.

Our Christmas Celebration this year will be held at the Carson Buffet, 888 E. Dominguez, east of Avalon across from Ikea. The time will be 11am – 3pm and everyone will be responsible for paying for there meal.

October 29-31st was a very special time for twenty of CAAGS members. They joined with other genealogists from across the country in the first International Black Genealogy Summit in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The Summit was a history making event for the African Americans in the city, there were over 400 in attendance. Fort Wayne opened up it arms in welcoming us. For many it was an overwhelming experience with the variety of presenters to choose from. The volunteers of the Allen County Public Library warmth and friendliness helped make the summit a success.

It was a rewarding experience to those who attended, it was like being in a genealogical deli and hopefully we all left fulfilling our genealogical needs.

Neither the newsletter editor nor CAAGS guarantees publication of any submission. Submissions for the newsletter are due by the third Saturday of each month. Please email your submissions or inquiries to CAAGS@hotmail.com Our new meeting location, Mayme Clayton Library and Museum, 4130 Overland Blvd., Culver City, CA.

2009 - 2010 Calendar of Events

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December 19

CAAGS general meeting 10am – 2pm; Installation of Officers

December 25 – January 1, 2010

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

January 16

CAAGS general meeting 10am -2pm

March 13

Mark your calendars for the annual Discover Your Roots Conference. More to come

** Calendar is subject to change without notice*

Websites of Interest

Ethnic web sites:

African-American and Creoles of Color:

- Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society
www.aahgs.org
- California African American Genealogical Society
www.caags.org
- Louisiana Creole Research Association
www.lacreole.org
- Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, LA - houses the Louisiana Creole Heritage Center
www.nsula.edu/creole
- African American Genealogical Society of Northern California
www.aagsnc.org
- Smithsonian African-American History and Culture
www.si.edu/resource/faq/nmah/afroam.htm
- Los Angeles County Public Library, A.C. Bilbrew Branch, Black Resource Center
www.colapubliclib.org/libs/bilbrew/brc.html
- WWW-Virtual Library
www.ku.edu/history/VL/USA/african-american.html
- University of California, Berkeley
www.lib.berkeley.edu/Collections/Africana/
- City of San Jose/San Jose University, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library
www.sjpl.lib.ca.us/research/special/chc/africana_index.htm
- Oakland (CA) Public Library's African American Museum
www.oaklandlibrary.org/AAMLO/collection.html
- Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture at the New York Library

www.nypl.org/research/sc/sc.html

- Columbia University Libraries Guide to Research
www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/africa/jobib.html
- Corpus Christi Public Library
www.library.ci.corpus-christi.tx.us
- Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System Genealogy Pathfinder for American-American History
www.af.public.lib.ga.us/bibresources/genealogy/pathfinder_aa.html
- St. Louis Public Library
www.slpl.lib.mo.us/libsrc/afrindex.htm
- Chicago Public Library, the Vivian G. Harsh Research Collection of Afro-American History and Literature
www.chipublic.org/002branches/woodson/wнварsh.html
- Denver Public Library, Blair-Caldwell African-American Research
www.aarl.denverlibrary.org
- Digital Library of Georgia
<http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/>
- Library of Virginia
www.lva.lib.va.us
- Louisiana State Archives Confederate Pension Applications Index
www.sec.state.la.us/archives/gen/cpa-index.htm
- Online Archive of California
www.oac.cdlib.org
- Family History
www.familysearch.org
- National Underground Railroad Freedom Center
www.freedomcenter.org
- National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center
www.ohiohistory.org/places/afroam
- Born in Slavery
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/snhtml/snhome.html>
- Free African Americans
www.freeafricanamericans.com
- Homecoming
www.pbs.org/homecoming
- In Motion: The African-American Migration Experience
www.inmotionaame.org
- AfriGeneas
www.afriGeneas.com
- US Colored Troops Organized in South Carolina
www.blackcamisards.com/sc-usct
- Family Seekers Genealogy
www.familyseekers.org/genealogy-books/isbn2080111736.html
- Freedmen's Bureau Records
www.freedmensbureau.com
- African-American Cemeteries Online
www.prairiebluff.com/aacemetery
- Gens de Couleur
www.creolehistory.com

- Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System
www.itd.nps.gov/cwss
- Afro-Louisiana History and Genealogy
www.freesurnamesearch.com

Congratulation to our new board members
 Second Vice President – Barbara Thomas
 Corresponding Secretary – Lloydine Outten
 Recording Secretary (temporary) – Linda Rush
 President – No nominations for election

Last Minute Holiday Gifts without Joining the Crowds

by Paula Stuart Warren, CG

Christmas is too few days away. Is the tree decorated? Baking done? Presents wrapped? Still can't find anything for your father or grandaunt Susie? Your budget is probably like that of so many others this holiday season. Maybe your nephew or children have asked what you want for Christmas. Many things related to family history can truly be last minute and budget-conscious gifts.

You First

The family historian just doesn't pay enough attention to the family historian! Is there a conference such as the National Genealogical Society or Federation of Genealogical Societies that you want to attend this year? Maybe it is one of the week-long institutes including the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy or the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research. Is your Ancestry.com or some other subscription about to expire? Or perhaps you have decided that 2009 is the year you want to begin your subscription.

Send your relatives the suggestion of a check to help cover your subscription, membership, conference registration, or hotel costs. Maybe a relative would give you some airline miles or redeem hotel points for coupons for you to use in 2009. Going to Salt Lake City? Several national chain restaurants are within a few blocks of the Family History Library. A gift card for one of these might be a great idea for you.

For the Family Members Who Don't Need Anything

This year you said you would have early ideas for those "difficult to buy for" family members. Like you, they don't want or need more knick-knacks. Today you are still thinking about possible gift ideas. How about some last-minute genealogy?

Print out a stack of census records that relate to parts of the family. Look for obituaries that might be in the newspapers on Ancestry. Check for family members in county histories,

city directories, or locate the record of a birth, death, passport application, or passenger arrival. Add notes to records in the margins that explain what the record shows. Purchase a big white envelope and put a big red or green bow on it after putting the record copies inside. Not only will the recipient begin reading, but will soon be surrounded by others eager to see and read the gift.

Military Buff in the Family?

What about that Revolutionary War, War of 1812, or Civil War pension and service record in your files? Copy it for the military buff in your family. A military history on Ancestry or Google Books that covers a family member's unit can be printed out. Do you have some old medals that belonged to a common great-grandfather? Imagine the look on cousin John's face when he opens the gift of those medals accompanied by military records for that great-grandfather.

Identify Holiday Heirlooms

During the holiday season, as you're pulling out those holiday decorations and serving pieces, take a few minutes to record the origins and significance of your heirloom and "special memory" pieces. Was that beautiful ornament made by a favorite aunt or a young child? Did that gravy boat once adorn Great-grandmother Johnson's table? Was that tablecloth hand-embroidered by Grandma Smith? Or perhaps that centerpiece was from the first year you were married. Take photos of these precious heirlooms, and create a holiday book noting their significance. Include family stories and traditions to complete the album. Preserving your family's holiday heritage in this manner will help to ensure that heirlooms and traditions are preserved for generations to come.

Tax Assessments: Tips and Next Steps

By Juliana Smith 10 April 2009

Last year Ancestry.com helped ease the pain of the April 15 income tax deadline by launching the collection includes more than 8.8 million records, most from the 1860s, although coverage varies from state to state. (database *U.S. IRS Tax Assessment Lists, 1862-1918*. You can see a list of the years available by state by clicking through to the extended description on the database search page.)

Many of you may have seen the article on these records that just appeared in this month's *Ancestry Monthly Update*. In it, I talked about how you can narrow your search by determining the district where your ancestor lived. (If you missed it, you can still read it in the Ancestry Learning Center)

I have a few additional tips I'd like to share with you for searching this unique collection.

Surname-Only Searches

In addition to searching for your ancestor's given name, try using only the surname and location. This will bring up business names that don't always include the first name (e.g., Tobin & Isdell, Reilly & Sons, etc.).

Search by State Name

When specifying a location under "Other Information," you'll get better results if you include only the state name; that's the only location information that was indexed. You can then preview the results by hovering the mouse over each link to "View record" and only click through to those that apply to your ancestor's district.

Investigate Business Associates

The business listing for Tobin & Isdell listed the "article or occupation taxed" as "hats." Some further research on the surname Isdell located the following entry in a New York City directory for 1869:

Isdell, Reuben, furs, 413 B'way

Since fur was used in the felting process (as well as wool) it could explain the partnership. Mr. Isdell should be investigated further to see if there's even more to their relationship. Another entry showed that John Tobin was taxed on slaughtered sheep. If he's related to the Tobin hatters, perhaps he supplied wool as a side to the butcher business that he lists in the city directory for 1869.

Get a Feel for the Neighborhood

Since the records typically include addresses, it can be useful to browse the district. The address given in the tax record regarding John Tobin's slaughtered sheep was 229 Elizabeth. Using an 1857 street directory and a historic map from 1866, I can see that this address is just about a mile north of the notorious Five Points neighborhood. (A similar map to the one I used is online).

Browsing the neighborhood also shows nearby addresses being taxed on "cattle over three months." You wouldn't normally picture slaughterhouses in the middle of Manhattan, so this tour of the area through the eyes of the tax assessor was quite revealing.

Thayer Horace.	53 Prince.	Blackning Boxes
Tiffany & Co.	550 Broadway	Steel Swords.
Tiffany & Co.	550 Broadway	Gas Pistols & Ammets
Tiffany & Co.	550 Broadway	Printed Cards.
Tobin John.	229 Elizabeth	Slaughtered Sheep
Tobin John.	229 Elizabeth	Slaughtered Sheep
Tobin John.	229 Elizabeth	Slaughtered Sheep
Wagt, J. Henry.	560 Broadway	Obail Rolls.
Wrede Fredk. A.	598 Broadway	Furniture.
Wraughn Patrick.	229 Elizabeth	Slaughtered Sheep
Wraughn Patrick.	229 Elizabeth	Slaughtered Sheep
Wraughn Patrick.	229 Elizabeth	Slaughtered Sheep
Wraughn Patrick.	229 Elizabeth	Slaughtered Sheep
Wraughn Patrick.	229 Elizabeth	Slaughtered Sheep

Addresses

You may find that business addresses are storefronts and that the family lived at that same address, but that's not always the case. In the cases of the slaughterhouses, there were typically several different family names taxed on slaughtered animals referencing the same address. Be sure to check all of the entries bearing your ancestor's name in the area because you may find a separate entry that gives his home address where he was taxed on luxury items like a watch or carriage.

This is an incredible set of records that can really give you a unique look into the lives the ancestors found within, as well as their neighborhood as a whole. If you haven't had a chance to investigate it, it's well worth a look.

Taken from The Weekly (Copyright 2009, The Generations Network)

**Don't forget to renew your membership
The 2010 membership drive has started**

*Merry Christmas,
Happy Kwanzaa
and a wonderful
New Year to everyone*

