



Heritage Newsletter

California African American Genealogical Society

January 2010 Volume 22 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)

Mayme Clayton Library and Museum (MCLM)

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

(Old Culver City Courthouse across from VA building)

2010 Board of Directors

Open - President

Ron Batiste – First Vice President

Barbara Thomas – Second Vice President /Membership

Gwen Foster – Corresponding Secretary

Linda Rush – 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

Ethnic Newspapers

By Michael John Neill

Those of us with non-English speaking immigrant ancestors are sometimes dismayed by the small amount of genealogical information found on them in local newspapers. One way to potentially overcome this problem is to utilize American newspapers in your ancestor's native language. Many large (and sometimes not so large) cities with substantial immigrant populations had newspapers printed in the immigrant's native language. Ignoring these papers could result in significant information being overlooked.

Why Use Them?

It might have been that the only people who "cared" that your ancestor died, married, etc. were fellow natives of his or her home country. An ethnic newspaper may include more details about your ancestor than the local English-language paper.

When Antje Fecht died near Carthage, Illinois, in 1900, there was no obituary in the local weekly paper. Not even a one-line death notice. Her obituary in a German language newspaper was fairly detailed and included her date and place of birth, information on her immigration, and the Bible text from which the funeral sermon was given.

Louise Mortier's 1921 obituary in the Gazette van Moline (a Flemish language paper published in Moline, Illinois) provided her exact village of birth in Belgium, but did not mention her first name, only listing her as Mrs. August Mortier.

Why the extra details in an ethnic newspaper? Because the readers knew the area and usually shared a heritage, fellow Belgians reading the Gazette van Moline would want to know where in Belgium she was born. Readers of the

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.

English-language paper were not as familiar with the country and not as likely to care. *Continued on page 4*

2010 Calendar of Events

January 1, 2010

Happy New Year!

January 16

CAAGS general meeting 10am -2pm. Installation of Officers. Guest speaker Angel Selgado on Blacks in Puerto Rico.

February 6

San Luis Obispo, CA - San Luis Obispo County Genealogical Society "Reverse Genealogy: Techniques for Finding Your Lost Loved Ones," "Online Newspaper Research," Trace Your Roots with DNA" and "Right Annie, Wrong Annie."

February 20

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

African American Origins

[http://blog.familytreemagazine.com/insider/2009/10/26/DNA Tests In Ghana May Shed Light On African Americans Origins.aspx](http://blog.familytreemagazine.com/insider/2009/10/26/DNA%20Tests%20In%20Ghana%20May%20Shed%20Light%20On%20African%20Americans%20Origins.aspx)

Louisiana Slave Database

Database <http://www.ibiblio.org/laslave/>. It might help those searching for the last slaveholder.

The Black Genealogist

Food for the soul of the African American researcher
Historical Spotlight on African American History and Genealogy

Memorial Services for Nelle Slaton

Our member Nelle Slaton who had just celebrated her 88th birthday this year died peacefully in her home. The funeral was Monday 14, December 2009, Inglewood Park Cemetery-Manchester Chapel

We also mourn the passing of Charter Members Herb Laffoon who passed in October along with Edgar Love and Fredrick Dumas who passed earlier in 2009.

Memorial Services for Avery Clayton

A memorial service was held Saturday December 19th, at

Agape International Spiritual Center.

Donations expressly for the family to assist them during this extremely difficult time should be directed to Mr. Lloyd Clayton llc4@webtv.net Mailing address: Lloyd Clayton, 3617 Montclair St. Los Angeles, CA 90018

In Lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be given to the Mayme Clayton Library and Museum.

National Archives in Laguna Niguel is Moving

CAAGS member, Charlotte Bocage spoke with Paul at the National Archives in Laguna Niguel and as you may know they will be moving starting in February to their new facility off Interstate 215 in Perris, California. Until they move they will be opened Monday –Friday from 8-4:30pm. They are also opened the first Saturday of the month from 8-4:30pm. That means they will be open on January 2, February 6, and MAYBE March 6 until they move.

If you are interested in going to the National Archives go to their website www.archives.gov to see if the records they have are what you need. Remember the Laguna Niguel facility is a regional archives and only has local information.

I am not sure if I will be there on January 2, but they have wonderful people there to help you find what you need.

Finding Treasures, Black Chicagoans Honor Ancestors

by Chika S. Oduah

For many African-American genealogists, historical artifacts are valuable treasures. Some of these treasured finds were passed down through generations.

The Hotel Florence Museum in the Pullman Historic District is presented an exhibit of photographs, documents and memorabilia brought to Chicago by black migrants. The items in "The Great Migration and What They Brought with Them" exhibit were presented by families in Chicago.

African-American genealogists preserve these artifacts to remember what life may have been like for their ancestors.

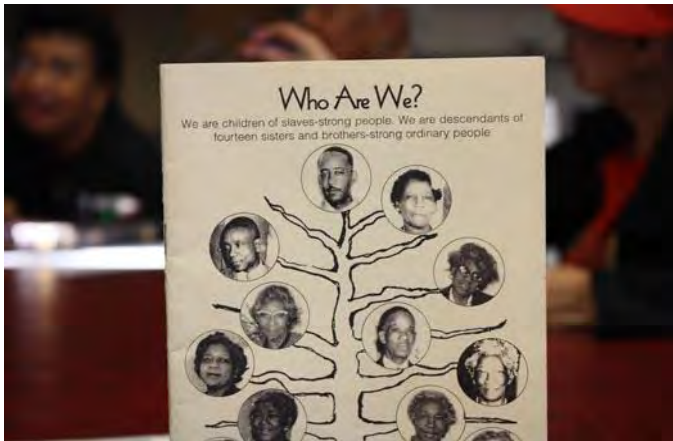
Priscilla Giles of Evanston has an antique iron door stopper shaped like a dog that she uses in the door between her living room and kitchen.

"I'm using the same thing my mom used and my grandparents used and my great-grandparents used," she

said.

For Patricia Bearden, president of the International Society of Sons and Daughters of Slave Ancestry, keeping these treasures are a way to honor the memories and the lives of ancestors.

“Without them, we wouldn’t be here today,” Bearden said. “We stand on their shoulders.”



Chika Oduah/Medhill

Priscilla Giles’ book shares the history of her mother’s family.

Proposed Closure of the Arizona State Historical Society

Many of you may have seen the editorial in the Arizona Daily Star “Don’t Cut off Funds to State’s Historical Society.” For those of you who didn’t see it, you can read the full editorial at <http://www.azstarnet.com/allheadlines/296193.php>.

Basically, the new budget proposed by Governor Brewer not only reduces funding for the Arizona State Historical Society, it proposes to “close” the society completely by 2015. This in combination with the severely restricted hours that the state archive is now open (8 hours a week by appointment only) pose a serious threat to the historical and cultural resources of the entire state. Even the state of Kansas, which is in such financial difficulty that it considered delaying state income tax refunds, keeps its state archive open to the public 37.5 hours a week.

I encourage everyone to write to both the governor and your state representative to protest this incredibly short sighted attack on two of Arizona’s most important cultural institutions.

Contact state lawmakers through the Web sites <http://www.azhouse.gov> and <http://www.azsenate.gov> or call the Tucson legislative office at 398-6000. Contact Gov. Jan Brewer through Web site <http://azgovernor.gov> or call 1-800-253-0883.

Murphy’s Law for Genealogists

1. The public ceremony in which your distinguished ancestor participated, and at which the platform collapsed under him, turned out to be a hanging.
2. When at last, after much hard work, you have solved the mystery that you have been working on for two years, your aunt says, “I could have told you that.”
3. You search ten years for your great-grandmother’s maiden name only to eventually find it on a letter in a box in the attic-and it turns out to be Jones.
4. You never asked your father about his family when he was alive because you weren’t interested in genealogy then.
5. The will you need is in the safe on board the Titanic.
6. Copies of old newspapers have holes occurring only on the surnames.
7. John, son of Thomas the immigrant whom your relatives claim as the family progenitor, died on board ship at the age of 10.
8. Your great grandfather’s newspaper obituary states that he died leaving no issue of record.
9. Another genealogist has just insulted the keeper of the vital records you need.
10. The relative who had all the family photographs gave them all to her daughter who has no interest in genealogy and no inclination to share.
11. The only record you find for your great-great-great-grandfather is the names of the men who sat on the inquest of his death (and the fact that they were paid one dollar for it.)
12. The one document that would supply the missing link in your dead end line has been lost due to fire, flood or war.
13. The town clerk to whom you wrote for the information sends you a long handwritten letter which is totally illegible.
14. The spelling of your European ancestor’s name bears

no relationship to its current spelling or pronunciation.

15. None of the pictures in your recently deceased grandmother's photo album have names written on them.

16. No one in your family tree ever did anything noteworthy, owned property, was sued or was named in a will.

17. You learn that your great aunt's executor just sold her life's collection of family genealogical materials to a flea market dealer "somewhere in New York City."

18. Ink fades and paper deteriorates at a rate inversely proportional to the value of the data recorded.

19. The 37 volume, 16,000 page history of your county of origin isn't indexed.

20. You finally find your great grandparents' wedding record and discover the bride's father's name was John Smith. The bride's mother's name is listed as "Jane."

Ethnic Newspapers continued

Learning About the Papers

There are many ways one can learn about ethnic newspapers. The website for the United States Newspaper Program is an excellent place to start, looking both in the state where the ancestor lived and died. Searches should not end there. Library card catalogs of specific libraries in the research areas should be searched and finding aids and bibliographies for specific locations should be referenced for additional citations.

A few samples:

Newberry Library's Illinois newspapers
<http://www.newberry.org/genealogy/ilnewspapers.html>

Center for Research Libraries
<http://www.crl.edu/content.asp?l1=5&l2=22&l3=39&top=42>

Flemish Language Papers
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~gsfa/gsfainfo.html>

Kansas City Public Library
<http://www.kclibrary.org/guides/localhistory/index.cfm?article=read&articleID=161>

Swedes in Texas

<http://www.cah.utexas.edu/guides/swedes.html>

Questions regarding ethnic newspapers may also be posted to an appropriate mailing list at RootsWeb or on a related message board at Ancestry.com. Keep in mind that as your ancestor's family assimilated, the likelihood they appear in an ethnic newspaper diminishes.

Not Necessarily Close By

It may be that the ethnic newspaper you need was published hundreds of miles from where your ancestor lived. The Ostfriesische Nachrichten was originally published in Breda, Iowa, beginning in the 1880s and still published as late as World War II. This German language newspaper was a means by which emigrants from this area of northern Germany could keep in contact with former neighbors and friends. The newspaper published obituaries, marriage announcements, and letters from correspondents across the United States and news from Europe as well. My Ostfriesen relatives were generally in Illinois, Kansas, and Nebraska and yet they appear numerous times in the newspaper, including several letters to the editor that an ancestor wrote in the 1910s.

Reading the Newspaper

For many the real challenge will be in reading. My experience reading the German script in the Ostfriesische Nachrichten was frustrating at first; however, it is possible. Some letters look exceedingly similar especially to the untrained eye. I first focused on the names and locations in any item I was trying to decipher in an attempt to read some of the letters. I then worked my way from there focusing on German words that I already knew.

The Family History Library's Guide to reading German Gothic script was also a tremendous help. Researchers reading newspapers in other languages are encouraged to reference the Family History Library's website for online guidance in reading handwriting or to visit Cyndi's List for the specific country of interest to find links to handwriting sites.

Make certain you have included non-English language newspapers in your search for your ancestor. It may be that something published in his new home in his native language is what will take your searches back to his homeland.

Taken from Ancestry.com. Michael John Neill is the Course I Coordinator at the Genealogical Institute of Mid America (GIMA) held annually in Springfield, Illinois, and is also on the faculty of Carl Sandburg College in Galesburg, Illinois.

Don't forget to renew your membership

The 2010 membership drive has started



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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

By Ronald Higgins

Happy New Year to all CAAGS members and friends. Thank you for your vote of confidence in allowing me to be your president once again. My goal for the society is to increase our membership and to let the community and world know about CAAGS. These things can only happen with your support. We need your help so please sign up for a committee. Let's make it work for the good of CAAGS.

As you know we are in our second year of meeting at the Mayme A. Clayton Library and Museum. We are looking for great things to come out of our relationship with MCLM.

Congratulations to the new officers - Second Vice President, Carolyn Conway; Corresponding Secretary, Lloydine Outten; Recording Secretary, Linda Rush; FGS Delegate, Colette DeVerge. Appointed positions are Book Sales and Acquisitions, Ruth Palmer and Public Relations, Betty Smith. Jamesetta (Jamie) Glosson Hammons installed the new officers in the most unique way at our January meeting.

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped to make the CAAGS general meetings run smoothly. Hats off to, Gena Weaver, Ron Fairley, Marie Sosa, Gerald McKay and Carolyn Connor. They do exemplary volunteer work before and after the meetings.

February is Black History Month go out in the community and celebrate. Remember this year the 2010 U.S. Census will be taken, make sure you and your family are counted. It's very important to your state and country.

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.

The Discover Your Roots VIII conference will be the 13th March 2010. The theme is "Families are Forever" and will be held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 1209 South Manhattan Place, Los Angeles, CA 90019. Time: 9:00 am – 4 pm. Cost: Pre-registration \$15, same day registration \$20. Registration deadline is February 20, 2010. Invite everyone that you know interested in genealogy to attend. Visit their website at WWW.Discoveryourroots.org or contact the LDS church at (800) 533-2444.

Thanks to the CAAGS members that have invited others to our meeting and Happy Valentines Day to all.

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February 6

San Luis Obispo, CA - San Luis Obispo County Genealogical Society "Reverse Genealogy: Techniques for Finding Your Lost Loved Ones," "Online Newspaper Research," Trace Your Roots with DNA" and "Right Annie, Wrong Annie."

February 20

CAAGS general meeting 10am -2pm. Mayme Clayton Library and Museum.

February 20

Annual African American History & Genealogy Society Conference, St. Louis, MO. For more info www.stl-aahgs.com

March 13

Mark your calendars for the annual Discover Your Roots Conference. For more info visit www.discoveryourroots.com or call 800 533-2444

March 27

CAAGS general meeting 10am -2pm. Mayme Clayton Library and Museum.

April 21

CAAGS general meeting 10am -2pm. Mayme Clayton Library and Museum.

April 28 – May 1

NGS Family History Conference, Salt Lake, City UT.

** Calendar is subject to change without notice*

Websites of Interest

Genealogy Research of Black Cemeteries in Harris County

For your use, there is now an extensive new burial list in spreadsheet form available online for the historic African American College Surname Facts, College Surname Board

<http://www.ancestry.com/facts/college-family-history.ashx>"College Memorial Park Surname Facts

Park Surname Board

<http://www.ancestry.com/facts/park-family-history.ashx>"Park Cemetery located at 3500 West Dallas Surname Facts, Dallas Surname Board

<http://www.ancestry.com/facts/dallas-family-history.ashx>"Dallas near South Shepherd Surname Facts, Shepherd Surname Board

<http://www.ancestry.com/facts/shepherd-family-history.ashx>"Shepherd. You may discover you have family at the cemetery or find clues in the data to lead you to your own research discoveries. To access the database click http://mycity.houstontx.gov/fourthward/genealogy_cemetery-intern-program.html

then scroll down to College Surname Facts College Surname Board

<http://www.ancestry.com/facts/college-family-history.ashx>"College Memorial Park Surname Facts Park Surname Board

<http://www.ancestry.com/facts/park-family-history.ashx>"Park Cemetery Lot Owner & Burial Database (draft)"

Additionally, Genealogy and College Surname Facts, College Surname Board

<http://www.ancestry.com/facts/college-family-history.ashx>"College Memorial Park Surname Facts Park Surname Board

<http://www.ancestry.com/facts/park-family-history.ashx>"Park Cemetery: History Found contains a hard copy of the database of thousands of burials and over 400 death certificates of people buried at the cemetery. The book can be accessed at the Clayton Library for Genealogical Research, 5300 Caroline, Houston Surname Facts, Houston Surname Board

<http://www.ancestry.com/facts/houston-family-history.ashx>"Houston, Texas State Board

<http://boards.rootsweb.com/localities.northam.usa.states.texas/mb.ashx>"Texas 77004, 832-393-2600.

Forest Lawn Cementary - Burial Site Locator www.forestlawn.com

Search only applicable to: Glendale, Hollywood Hills, Cypress, Covina Hills, Cathedral City (Long Beach - Please call for information (800) 204-3131). For accurate search results, the minimum search entries of first name, last name, and at least one of the following: birth date, death date, or park is required. Maximum 10 inquires per hour.

If you have difficulty finding your search please call Forest Lawn at (800) 204-3131 and someone can assist you with the location.

**Annual African American History & Genealogy
Society Conference**

Tracing African American Roots:
“A Bridge to the Future”

Where did you first learn about your family stories?

Learn to Connect with your Family History

Saturday, February 20, 2010
at Harris Stowe University

Present by:

**St. Louis African American History & Genealogy
Society**

Sponsored by:

**Harris Stowe University
stl-aahgs.com**

**Registration Now Open for
2010 Southern California Genealogy Jamboree!**

Registration is now open for the 41st Annual Southern California Genealogy Jamboree, which will be held Friday through Sunday, June 11-13, 2010, at the Marriott Los Angeles Burbank Airport Hotel and Convention Center in Burbank, California.

The 2010 Jamboree follows the longstanding tradition of delivering the perfect mix of lecture sessions, exhibitors, networking and social activities. This year's Jamboree offers nearly 130 quality classes conducted by the most knowledgeable and experienced genealogy speakers from the US, Canada and points beyond. The geographic focus for this year's Jamboree is North America -- Canada, Mexico, and all regions of the United States. DNA and technology will also receive special emphasis in 2010.

The exhibitors represent the leading organizations and commercial companies who provide products and services to today's genealogists and family historians, as well as local, regional, and national genealogical societies.

What's New In 2010?

1. Thursday Evening Registration. Many of our attendees requested that they be allowed to pick up the syllabus and other registration materials on Thursday evening. We listened, and in 2010 we will have a Jamboree check-in period on Thursday evening. Thursday night's check-in will be for pre-registered attendees only, and no walk-in registrations will be processed when the registration desk opens Friday at noon.

2. More Seats. In response to last year's post-conference

satisfaction survey, we are expanding our seating capacity by adding a pavilion that will be situated behind the Convention Center, adjacent to the lawn. The pavilion will hold 300 seats, will be fully air conditioned, with wireless internet access. Jamboree will take over the Marriott Hotel as well as the Convention Center and hold sessions in both buildings as well as the pavilion.

3. Mini-courses. We will be running a track of hands-on computer lab workshops throughout the weekend. About 20 people per course will bring their laptops and go through hands-on workshops on using Excel, Word, blogging software, Skype, Google Earth, etc. These mini-courses are open only to paid Jamboree registrants. A special online registration for mini-course attendees will open on May 1.

4. Free Friday Forenoon sessions will ensure that in these economically challenging times, expense will not be a barrier to learning. Several concurrent sessions, each lasting three hours, include a Genealogy Librarian's boot camp, a repeat of last year's highly popular Kids' Family History Camp, and beginner and advanced beginner genealogy sessions. Registration is required to attend the Free Forenoon Friday sessions.

5. The "Small World" round table discussion has been expanded to three hours and moved to Friday morning. The session affords an excellent opportunity to network, to explore research tactics for specific geographic regions of the world, and to exchange tips and techniques on an informal basis. A complete list of round table discussion topics will be announced at a later date. There is no charge to attend the Small World session, but registration is required.

6. Ancestry Scanning. Ancestry will be bringing a number of high-speed scanners and scheduling free, 15-minute scanning sessions. Ancestry has provided this service at other conferences, and we are thrilled that they will be scanning documents and photos for Jamboree attendees.

As in years past, registration discounts are available for SCGS members and early-bird registrants (before May 1).

For all the details, visit our website at www.scsgsgenealogy.com and click on the Jamboree brochure.

**Who Do You Think You Are?
Premier Date -- March 5, 2010**

"Who Do You Think You Are?" premieres Friday, March 5 (8-9 p.m. ET) and gives viewers an up-close and personal look inside the family history of some of today's most beloved and iconic celebrities. Among the celebrities featured are Matthew Broderick, Lisa Kudrow, Spike Lee,

Sarah Jessica Parker, Susan Sarandon, Brooke Shields and Emmitt Smith. Ancestry.com is NBC's official partner on the series. From executive producer Kudrow ("Friends," "The Comeback") - in conjunction with her production company Is or Isn't Entertainment and the U.K.'s Wall to Wall productions - "Who Do You Think You Are?" is an adaptation of the hit BBC television documentary series created and executive-produced by Alex Graham.

"Who Do You Think You Are?" is produced by Wall to Wall productions (a Shed Media Company) in association with Is or Isn't Entertainment. Alex Graham and Lucy Carter from Wall to Wall and Lisa Kudrow, Dan Bucatinsky and Don Roos from Is or Isn't Entertainment are the executive producers. Bryn Freedman is the co-executive producer.

Carribbean Genealogy at Ancestry.com

Susan Samuel, of Texas, knew she had relatives in the Virgin Islands, but she had no idea that her fourth great-grandmother, Venus Johannes, had been brought there as a slave in the early 1880s until she received a call from Ancestry.com earlier this summer.

Venus's story was discovered in a set of slave records that Ancestry.com has started digitizing in partnership with VISHA (Virgin Islands Social History Associates). Virgin Islands slave records are the most comprehensive slave records from the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, and will allow many people of African descent to trace their ancestors all the way back to their towns of origin in Africa. Included in these records was a detailed, two-page document from Venus, describing how she was kidnapped from the side of a river in Senegal and sold into slavery and then marriage, eventually ending up in St. Croix, in the Virgin Islands.

We contacted Susan to let her know about the find, and offered to take her and her family to St. Croix to learn about Venus's—and her own—story. Go to Ancestry.com to see the video clip.

Visit our [Virgin Island's website](#) at ancestry.com, with the records we've already digitized and a list of those to come. These records can be invaluable for people trying to trace slave ancestors since many came through the Carribbean on their way to the mainland.

Message from Footnote.com

Footnote.com is granting free access to all the WWII records. Read first-hand accounts of submarine missions or reports of missing air crews. Explore the USS Arizona Memorial or view over 80,000 photos from the US Army Air Force.

Other WWII records on Footnote.com include:

- Japanese Air Target Analysis
- Army JAG Case Files
- Navy JAG Case Files
- Naval Press Clippings
- Allied Military Conferences
- Holocaust Records

Remember that Footnote.com is available for free use to SCGS members when researching at the SCGS Family Research Library. Visit www.footnote.com

Post-WWII Immigration Files To Be Opened To Public By Maria Sudekum Fisher, Associated Press Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - Millions of files containing detailed information about U.S. immigrants - including their spouses' names, as well as personal photographs and letters - will soon become available to the public through a federal facility in suburban Kansas City.

Preservationists had been worried that the documents providing an important picture of immigration after 1944 would be lost because the federal government considered them temporary and could have destroyed them after 75 years.

But a deal was signed between the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the National Archives and Records Administration preserves all 53 million files. About 21 million will be sent to the National Archives and made available in batches to genealogists, families and others.

Some files contain items such as Chinese wedding scrolls or the locations of family homes, said Jeanie Low, another SONA spokeswoman.

The first batch of about 135,000 files is expected to be available to the public this fall at National Archives' storage facility in Lee's Summit. People also can ask the archive to mail them copies of records.

Immigrants will continue to be able to get copies of their own files under the Freedom of Information Act.

The files will not be open to others, however, until 100 years after an immigrant's birth.

Lists of documents contained in A-files had been previously available to the public with a FOIA request. But the files themselves were not open for viewing or copying.

This article was posted with permission from the media outlet.



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President's Message

By Ronald Higgins

I hope each of you was able to share in a Black History Month event. I had a very rewarding experience at the Eddie G. Robinson Museum opening held February 12th and 13th in Grambling, LA at Grambling State University. Friday night was a banquet and the keynote speaker was Pittsburg Steelers coach Mike Tomlin. On Saturday there was an outdoor ceremony before the ribbon cutting and opening the doors to the museum. This was a heartwarming event for all who attended. Coach Brian Kelly from Notre Dame was the keynote speaker of this event. For more information about the museum visit there website at robinsonmuseum.com.

March is CAAGS 24th Anniversary. Thanks to all members and friends of the society for celebrating with us.

As you know next year CAAGS will be celebrating our 25th anniversary. We need everyone to be a part of this momentous celebration. If you are interested in helping to plan for the 25th anniversary please contact Colette DeVerge, she could use some volunteers.

2010 Census

This is the year our country will do a census of all the people living in your household. It is very important for you to fill it out and mail back to our government. So please do not forget to fill out your census form and return it.

However, before you return it make a copy of it and place it in your genealogy files. Your future generation genealogists will be thrilled to find in your files your 2010

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census. Remember the census we will fill out this year will not be available for 72 years to the future generations for research.

Please encourage all your family members and fellow genealogists to do the same.

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CAAGS general meeting 10am -2pm. Mayme Clayton Library and Museum. Presenter Sam Ward, using genealogical software (Roots Magic). Ron Batiste, beginner class instructor.

March 27

Birmingham, Alabama Genealogical Society

The Alabama Genealogical Society's Spring Seminar on DNA, "Tracking Your Genetic Roots," at Samford University's Dwight Beeson Business Building, www.algensoc.org/main/SpringFlyer2010.pdf for registration form and information, ycrump@bellsouth.net (Yvonne Crumpler)

April 21

CAAGS general meeting 10am -2pm. Mayme Clayton Library and Museum. A guest from the Oral History Association will be our speaker

April 28 – May 1

NGS Family History Conference, Salt Lake, City UT.

** Calendar is subject to change without notice*

Websites of Interest

Ethnic Web Sites

Native American:

Native American Culture

www.nativeculturelinks.com/Indian_genealogy.html

Native American Indian Genealogy

www.accessgenealogy.com/native

Arizona State Libraries – Genealogy

www.asu.edu/lib/archives/genealogy.htm

Los Angeles County Public Library, American Indian Resource Center

www.colapubliclib.org/lib/huningtonpark/indian.html

Native American and African-American:

Native American genealogy www.af.public.lib.ga.us

African-Native American Genealogy www.african-nativeamerican.com

Colored American Magazine

The *Colored American Magazine* arrived on the scene in May of 1900, and continued on a monthly basis for nearly a decade, the November, 1909 issue being the last. It covered a wide range of topics, and on close inspection there appears to be a lot for the genealogist in its pages. This is no doubt exciting news, but equally thrilling is the fact that there is an index!

An extended project originating within the American Studies Program of George Washington University, culminated in the publication of a two volume work called the *Analytical Guide and Indexes to The Colored American Magazine, 1900-1909*. It is one of those resources that researchers should certainly take a considerable amount of time going through and compiling a list of articles which seem to be related to their research. And, it is one we should add to our brickwall buster list so that we are reminded to consult it once again when we find ourselves stymied on a future research path.

Volume one begins with an introduction that is well worth reading as it outlines the methodology by which the indexers went about conducting their work. The entire balance of the volume is a chronological listing of articles from each issue. Each entry consists of about ten pieces of data, including the article title and a brief summary. To give you some idea of content, let's look at a few. An article titled "The Brighton of America," "optimistically foresees Atlantic City (that 'mecca of pleasure') becoming a place where 'citizens of color' will assume noteworthy positions in the community. Names a few outstanding negro leaders there." Another, with the title "The Queen of the Spas," "sketches the lives of some prominent Negro employees of hotels in Saratoga Springs." (NY) And one more jewel found is a series of four lengthy articles on what is called "The Smoky City," Pittsburgh, Penns.

Volume two encompasses three indexes: author, title, and subject. In flipping the pages of the title index, it is clear that the magazine had a tendency to discuss the African American population living in large cities. Among the entries were "The Afro-Americans of Topeka" and "Louisville and its Afro-American citizens." The most logical way for the typical genealogist to approach both volumes is to start with page one of the title index. When an article of interest is encountered, the accompanying record number will point you to the additional, detailed information located in volume one.

The indexes for the *Colored American Magazine* are in book form. I have found them in the main stacks at Kent State University (OH), Northern Illinois University, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The magazine itself is in both bound volumes and on microfilm. I suspect

that you can get the magazine and index fairly easily via interlibrary loan (ILL).

Genealogy's 'Alphabet Soup' A Consumer's Guide to Credentials

by Elizabeth Shown Mills, CG, CGL, FASG, FNGS, FUGA

You see them after a lot of names in genealogy. Sitting there in all-caps--sometimes a whole string of them--after the name of a writer or a researcher or a lecturer, they definitely command attention. But what do they mean? If you need research help in a certain area and find someone with impressive "letters" after their name, are you a savvy consumer? Do you know whether those letters represent expertise or whether you're about to be hoodwinked? The acronyms we typically see in genealogy come in five types:

Earned genealogical credentials

Honorifics from genealogical societies

Educational degrees (rarely in genealogy)

Credentials earned in other fields

Abbreviations of everything under the sun, added to a name that imply that one has genealogical credentials.

Earned Credentials

In the United States, two agencies certify or accredit genealogists after rigorous testing. Both were founded in 1964 as a cooperative effort by leaders of the genealogical field.

The certification program conducted by the D.C.-based Board for Certification of Genealogists (BCG), www.bcgcertification.org, is a standards-based program that certifies researchers, writers, lecturers, and teachers across the U.S., Canada, and abroad. Those who carry BCG credentials have been tested on their knowledge of historical resources within their specialty; on their skill at evaluating and interpreting evidence; and on their ability to resolve genealogical problems. They are also required to undergo renewal testing at five-year intervals to retain their credentials.

The accreditation program, founded by Salt Lake City's Family History Library to test researchers on their knowledge of FHL holdings, has been operated since 2000 by the Salt Lake-based International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists (ICAPGen), www.icapgen.org. Accredited Genealogists, who also undergo renewal testing every five years, are fairly evenly distributed between American specialists and other international specialists, although most are based in Utah.

Remembering the key words certification and accreditation can help you identify researchers who are credentialed by these organizations. Certification credentials begin with "C" while the accreditation credential (AG) begins with "A." Historically, BCG has offered certification in several

research categories and two teaching categories, creating a series of "C" credentials, as follows:

Research categories:

CG (Certified Genealogist)

CGRS (Certified Genealogical Records Specialist)

CLS (Certified Lineage Specialist)

Teaching categories:

CGL (Certified Genealogical Lecturer)

CGI (Certified Genealogical Instructor)

BCG has recently announced the upcoming consolidation of its three research categories into a single credential, CG, although individual genealogists will retain their specializations. That move to a single research credential should help to clarify genealogy's alphabet soup.

Outside the U.S., genealogists in several other nations have developed credentialing programs of their own. In Canada, the Genealogical Institute of the Maritimes offers credentials patterned somewhat after the BCG credentials although the testing process is significantly different. The Canadian credentials are distinguished by a parenthetical (C) at their end--i.e., CG (C) and CGRS (C).

Genealogy's Scholastic Honor Society

One credential often seen in genealogy represents an intermediate step between tested credential and honorifics: FASG. Since 1940, the American Society of Genealogists has served as genealogy's scholastic honor society. As with scholastic honor societies in other disciplines, no one "applies" for membership. Fellows of ASG are tapped by the society for the quality and quantity of their published scholarship, and the ranks are at all times limited to 50 living fellows. FASG represents a "tested" credential in the sense that holders must publish extensively in peer-reviewed journals and their published interpretations and conclusions must have withstood further testing by the profession. Unlike fellows of other societies, no one is inducted into FASG for "service to the field" or for prominence achieved in ways other than published scholarship.

Other Honorifics

Two of the other acronyms attached to my own name at the head of this column represent the typical "honorifics" given by "learned" societies in such fields as genealogy. FNGS stands for Fellow of the National Genealogical Society, while FUGA stands for Fellow of the Utah Genealogical Society. Both are honors bestowed by the societies. Those who are graced by a respected society in this manner use their honorifics with pride. However, honorifics are typically given for service to a society or widespread service to the field; and "service" is never synonymous with "tested expertise."

Educational Degrees

Degree granting programs are still rare in genealogy.

Within the U.S., Brigham Young University offers a standard four-year degree, a B.A. in Family History--Genealogy, <http://history.byu.edu/family/index.htm>. Vermont College of Union Institute and University, a distance-learning program, offers a custom-designed B. A. or M.A. in Family History under the guidance of a Certified Genealogist with a Ph.D. in History, www.tui.edu/prospective/lifelong/online/family. The new Salt-Lake based Heritage Genealogical College offers a combination of onsite and online classes leading to two-year and four-year degrees (A.A. and B.A.), www.knowyourheritage.org/Courses/courses.htm. The University of Toronto's two-year program that has attracted many U.S. students, www.genealogicalstudies.com/, offers a Professional Learning Certificate in Genealogical Studies. While the PLCGS does not represent a "degree" from the University of Toronto, it has become a valued educational credential among practicing genealogists. All education is worthy. However, to avoid misleading the public as to what an educational degree actually represents in terms of genealogical expertise, the Association of Professional Genealogists has adopted guidelines for the use of academic credentials <http://apgen.org/organization/policies/postnominals.html>. Under these guidelines, professional genealogists who use academic credentials from other fields in their resumes and advertisements should clearly indicate the field in which they hold that degree--e.g. B.A. (Mathematics); M.A. (Education); or Ph.D. (Physics).

This policy also applies to those who hold honorary degrees, such as Sc.D. (Honorary Doctorate in Science), granted for contributions or service to an educational institution.

Non-Genealogical Credentials

Genealogy as a field is greatly enriched by the fact that most of its practitioners come into genealogy as a second career or hobby, after training in other fields. Certifications earned in those other fields may or may not be relevant to genealogical work. For example, a Certified Genetic Counselor who becomes a Certified Genealogist would typically advertise herself genealogically as Jane Jones, CG--that being her genealogical certification. However, if she were lecturing or writing on genetics in a genealogical context, then she might validly use her "non-genealogical" credential and bill herself as Jane Jones, CG, CGC.

As with academic degrees, any time that a non-genealogical credential is used by a practicing genealogist, that non-genealogical credential should be clearly explained so that the public is not misled.

Other Abbreviations

Some individuals who solicit genealogical clients demonstrate "creativity" by inventing postnominals that

would seem to be credentials. The most common is probably "PG" as an acronym for "Professional Genealogist." While use of that full phrase "Professional Genealogist" after one's name is a legitimate usage, clearly stating what one does, the reduction of that phrase to a postnominal "PG" misleads consumers into thinking it represents an earned credential. Other self-designated "professionals" will use the initials of an organization to which they belong--as in "John Jones, HDGS" wherein the acronym represents nothing more than the Happy Day Genealogical Society.

All legitimate fields are governed in one of two ways. Ideally, they are "self-policed," but when or if that ideal is violated to the point that the public suffers, government regulation steps in. Genealogy, traditionally, has been governed by no statutes other than the ones that apply to the general public.

Within the United States, the certification and accreditation programs were developed forty-one years ago to advance the field of genealogy, to protect the public, and to offer consumers a way they can identify professionals who have proved their expertise through rigorous testing.

Every genealogist today is a consumer. Even if we never hire a professional genealogist, we use their works--in print and on line. To prevent wasting precious years and funds on poorly compiled material and wrongly linked "families," all of us need to know the standards of the field. We also need to know what genealogy's "acronyms" represent, and we need to use that knowledge to critically evaluate the "expertise" of those whose work we use.

Copyright 2005, MyFamily.com

The National Archives and Records Administration is relocating to the city of Perris in Riverside County, California. As part of the move, they are trying to find a home for approximately 30+ microfilm cabinets and 30 microfilm readers. The cabinets are either Russ Basset or Recordex and have both a top cabinet and a bottom cabinet. The cabinet dimensions are roughly:

Bottom cabinet:

25" wide x 51.5" high x 28.5" deep; 10 drawers (Recordex)
11 drawers (Russ Basset)

Top cabinet:

25" wide x 34" high x 28.5" deep; 5 drawers

The microfilm readers are hand crank readers only. Tables for the microfilm readers are also available.

Everything is free. The "taker" would have to come to their facility and pick up the items. For information, contact monique.sugimoto@nara.gov or by phone at 949.448.4927.



Heritage Newsletter

California African American Genealogical Society

April 2010 Volume 22 Number 4

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)

2010 Board of Directors

Ronald Higgins - President

Ron Batiste – First Vice President

Carolyn Conway – Second Vice President /Membership

Lloydine Outten – Corresponding Secretary

Linda Rush – Recording Secretary

Marjorie Sholes – Treasurer

Ophelia Sanders – Parliamentarian

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

Committee Chairs

Ruth Palmer – Book Sales and Acquisitions

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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

By Ronald Higgins

First of all I'd like to congratulate Marjorie Sholes on her participation in the NBC television series "Do You Know Who You Are." She helped football great Emmitt Smith of the Dallas Cowboys start in finding his family. The show airs on Friday nights at 8pm. Check your local listings for episode details. The series may be beneficial in showing you methods on how to overcome your obstacles and brick walls.

March 13th, 2010 was the 8th Annual Discover Your Roots Conference, held at the Christ of the Latter Day Saints Church in Los Angeles. This year only about 160 people registered for the conference. Thanks to all CAAGS members who came out and supported the conference with their attendance and shared family displays, Lloydine Outten, DorothyLou Sands, Jamesetta Hammons, Marilyn White and Ron Higgins. A big thanks to Ron Fairley for helping set up tables on Friday night.

I'd like to give praise to the San Diego Genealogical group and their support of the conference for all these years. They bring a large number of people to the conference each year. Thanks again to all for your support and participation.

January 29th Manual Arts High School held the Toiler Business Expo in celebration of their 100th Anniversary. CAAGS sponsored a booth and we had a chance to talk with the students about their family genealogy. Working the booth with me was Norma Bates, Carolyn Conway, Jamesetta Hammons and Mary Alequin-Sosa. Thanks to

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.

you all for representing CAAGS. I'm a Manual Arts High School alumni.

Welcome to our new board members, new CAAGS members and to those of you who continue to help out and support CAAGS in all our ventures.

2010 Calendar of Events

April 17

CAAGS general meeting 10am -2pm. Mayme Clayton Library and Museum. A guest from the Oral History Association will be our speaker

April 28 – May 1

NGS Family History Conference, Salt Lake, City UT

May 15

CAAGS general meeting 10am -2pm. Mayme Clayton Library and Museum. Dr. Ed Fletcher from UCLA, guest speaker

June 11-13

See you at one of the largest genealogy conferences. The **41st Annual Southern California Genealogical Society Jamboree**, June 11-13, 2010 at the Burbank Airport. Marriott Hotel and Convention Center, Burbank, CA. View Jamboree updates online at www.scgsgenealogy.com

June 19

CAAGS Annual Juneteenth Celebration, details TBD

July/August

No CAAGS meeting

** Calendar is subject to change without notice*

Websites of Interest

Ethnic Web Sites

Asia and Pacific Islands:

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service

www.uscis.gov/genealogy

Chinese Historical Society of America www.chsa.org

Chinese Historical Society So. California www.chssc.org

Family History www.familysearch.org

Los Angeles County Public Library, Asian Resource Center

www.colapubliclib.org/libs/montebello/asian.html

Chinese Surnames www.geocities.com/Tokyo/3919

Angel Island State Park www.angelisland.org

Chinese Exclusion laws www.sanfranciscochinatown.com

Distant Cousin www.distantcousin.com

Kindred Trails www.kindredtrails.com

Chinese Roots www.chineseroots.com

Chinese Genealogy www.jiapu.cn

Filipino Links www.filipinolinks.com

Google Web Page Translator www.google.com, click language tools

Visit FindAGrave Addicts at:

http://www.genealogywise.com/groups/group/show?id=3463583%3AGroup%3A2937&xg_source=msg_mes_group

New Content is Added to Footnote.com

Footnote.com continues to add to their historical collections on a daily basis with one of the largest collections of original historical records found on the internet. See what has been recently added and updated to Footnote.com within the following collections.

- Vietnam War Photos of the U.S. Army
- Texas Death Certificates
- City Directory of Minneapolis
- Homestead Records

Board of Commissioners - Emancipation of Slaves in DC

These records include minutes of meetings, docket books, and petitions filed under the acts of April 16 and April 12, 1862, pertaining to the emancipation of slaves in the District of Columbia www.Footnote.com

SUVCW National Graves Registration Database

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) National Graves Registration Project was established in 1996. Since then, hundreds of dedicated people from within and without our Order have graciously devoted thousands of hours of their time and energy visiting cemeteries, recording, verifying, researching and entering the final resting places of Civil War veterans. From the beginning, one thing was missing - the means for the SUVCW and the general public to search and view the results of our labor on the Internet. As the number of registrations grew, it was also apparent that duplication of effort and waste of time was reaching an unacceptable level, without knowledge of what was completed and what needed further investigation.

The National Graves Registration Database (<http://www.suvcwdb.org/home>) is now available to all. The database was activated February 22, 2005. This will make all original registrations available for viewing by the general public, as well as allowing for new registrations to be entered through our online program.

It is our hope that this online database program will promote increased interest in the SUVCW National Graves Registration Project and take us to an entirely new level of achievement. Depending on the source referenced, there were between 4.2 and 4.8 million Union Civil War Veterans. Due to mass burials, unreported battlefield losses, burials at sea and other circumstances, we can never expect to register all Union graves, but with your assistance

we will succeed in honoring the “boys in blue” to the best of our ability.

Mitochondrial DNA's Surprising Variability Could Complicate Forensic and Genealogical Analyses

By HHMI

(HealthNewsDigest.com) - Forensic anthropologists, human evolution researchers, and crime scene investigators might want to take note: The mitochondrial genome—long thought to be nearly identical in every cell in the human body—actually varies to a surprising degree, according to new research by Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) scientists. The research shows that different forms of the mitochondrial genome can be present in different organs from the same individual, and that these forms probably arise during embryonic development.

Mitochondria are the power plants of the cell, and each of these organelles holds several copies of its own genome, a circle of DNA about 16,000 base pairs long. Human mitochondria are almost always inherited from the mother, and so mitochondrial DNA has been used to trace maternal ancestry. Mitochondrial DNA makes up only a tiny fraction of the total amount of DNA in human cells, yet because each cell in the body holds anywhere from 50 to several hundred mitochondria, each mitochondrial gene is present in much greater abundance than genes in the cell's nucleus. The relative abundance of mitochondrial DNA has made it a powerful tool for forensic scientists, who use it to match suspects to human blood or tissue samples retrieved from crime scenes.

“The bottom line is there is no single mitochondrial genome in humans.” Bert Vogelstein

New data from the lab of HHMI investigator Bert Vogelstein may push scientists to reconsider how they employ mitochondrial DNA. “The bottom line is there is no single mitochondrial genome in humans,” says Vogelstein. “We were surprised to find how much the DNA of mitochondria varies within each individual.”

Vogelstein, who studies colon cancer at the Kimmel Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, began studying mitochondrial DNA because he was interested in using it as a tool to track whether tumors recurred after treatment. Mitochondrial DNA is attractive as a diagnostic tool for the same reason it is used in forensics: mutations indicating the presence of a tumor are easier to find if they are present in many copies. About a decade ago, scientists in Vogelstein's laboratory discovered that mitochondrial DNA inside tumors carried telltale genetic mutations that could be used to signify the presence of colon cancer. Vogelstein wanted to develop a blood test to search for these mutations, reasoning that such a

diagnostic would help clinicians detect the presence of residual cancer after surgery or other treatments. This information could help clinicians decide when or whether to begin additional therapy.

Previous studies of mitochondrial DNA suggested that the billions of mitochondrial genomes within each individual were largely identical. But those studies used DNA sequencing techniques that are not sensitive enough to detect differences in DNA sequence that occur infrequently. In the current study, which was published in the March 4, 2010, issue of the journal *Nature*, Vogelstein deployed highly sensitive next-generation DNA sequencing technologies. The technology allowed Vogelstein and his colleagues to find single-letter DNA changes that occur in as few as 1 in 10,000 mitochondria.

Starting with the DNA from a colon cancer, the next-generation sequencing technology allowed the investigators to identify several variations in mitochondrial DNA. To see if these variations were tumor-specific, Vogelstein's team sequenced mitochondrial DNA from healthy colon tissue from the same patient. Again, they found many variations in the mitochondrial DNA sequences, much more than they expected.

Next, the team studied 10 different tissue types from a single individual. They found that mitochondrial DNA sequences varied from tissue to tissue. However, occasionally two different types of tissue – such as kidney and liver – contained the same variation.

To sort out the source of these variations, Vogelstein's team in Baltimore contacted researchers at the Centre d'Etude du Polymorphisme Humain in France to obtain white blood cells from the parents and two children in each of two different families. In both families, Vogelstein found that mitochondrial DNA variants from the father were not passed to the children, meaning that – as expected -- sperm cells were not the source of any variation. However, in one family, the mother passed two telltale mitochondrial DNA variants to her children. In both mother and child, the variant appeared in about 56 percent of all mitochondria. This suggested to Vogelstein and his colleagues that the oocyte that eventually developed into the child contained mitochondria with slightly different genomes.

However, the total variation in the mother's mitochondrial DNA was too low to account for the wide variation seen in the earlier sequencing. That led the scientists to conclude that most of the variants arose spontaneously during early embryonic and fetal development. That origin would explain why the same variant sometimes appears in two tissues: the variation arose very early in development, before the two tissues differentiated from each other.

“Mutations in mitochondrial DNA are apparently occurring

all the time, but only the variants that are locked in during early development occur at a high enough frequency for to be detected by the techniques we used," says Vogelstein.

The implications for forensic science are clear. Right now if the mitochondrial DNA from a crime scene sperm sample does not match the mitochondrial DNA from a suspect's cheek swab, the suspect is ruled out as the perpetrator. But Vogelstein's work shows that even if the mitochondrial DNA from two tissues doesn't precisely match, it might still be from the same individual. "Forensic scientists should be cautious when excluding suspects on the basis of mitochondrial DNA evidence," says Vogelstein.

As for mitochondrial DNA's utility in tracking tumors, Vogelstein and his colleagues found that mutations specific to colon tumors can be found in tiny blood samples, and that the signature of those mutations vanished after the tumor was removed surgically. Vogelstein says that ongoing research will show whether such tests can also predict cancer recurrence.

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Beatitudes of Family Genealogy

Blessed are the great-grandmothers,
who hoarded newspaper clippings and old letters ...
For they tell the story of their time.



Blessed are all grandfathers who filed every legal
document ... For this provides proof.



Blessed are grandmothers who preserved
family Bibles and diaries ... For this is our heritage.



Blessed are fathers who elect officials
that answer letters of inquiry ...
For some ... they are the only link to the past.

Blessed are mothers who relate family traditions and
legends to the family ...
For one of her children will surely remember.



Blessed are the relatives who fill in family sheets
with extra data ... For them we owe the family history.



Blessed is any family whose members strive
for the preservation of records ...
For theirs is a labor of love.



Blessed are the children who never say ...
"Grandma, you have told that old story twice today."

Wilma Mauk, Source: Prairieland Pioneer, Prairieland Genealogical Society, Summer 1995 Edition

2011 FGS/ISGS National Conference Call for Lecture Proposals

The Federation of Genealogical Societies and the Illinois State Genealogical Society are pleased to announce the official call for lecture proposals for their 2011 national conference, "Pathways to the Heartland," to be held in Springfield, Illinois, 7-10 September 2011. The conference will explore the resources of America's Heartland through a variety of regional and national topics aimed at engaging genealogists and family historians of all levels and experience. Topics relating to the Midwest, migration patterns, and religious and ethnic groups are encouraged. The program committee is specifically seeking new and dynamic proposals that will provide exceptional and unique educational experiences for conference attendees. Speakers are strongly encouraged to submit multiple proposals (more than four) as most speakers, if selected, will provide a minimum of three lectures at the conference. There is no limit to the number of proposals a speaker may submit. Proposals should be sent electronically to program2011@fgs.org no later than 15 May 2010. Additional Information Speakers will receive compensation according to the FGS Conference Speaker Policy at <http://www.fgs.org/conferences/speakerspolicy.php>. See the FGS website for complete details and requirements.



Heritage Newsletter

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May 2010 Volume 22 Number 5

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P.O. Box 8442

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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)

2010 Board of Directors

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Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor

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Charlotte Bocage – NGS Delegate

Norma Bates – Volunteer Chairman

President's Message

By Ronald Higgins

It's the time of the year that we start thinking about family reunions. I hope you have made plans to attend yours. This is your time to get information about your family members and meet new cousins. Sometimes you find out they live closer to you than you ever expected. Please ask and talk with older ones and friends about the family and those they know. You may be surprised at what they will tell you. Oral histories come in handy when doing your research. You will have some joy in putting your ancestors into context. Do you plan to write your family's history? Not just a list of names and dates.

March 3rd the Long Beach Public Library presented a Black Authors Festival Day in celebration of National Library Month at the newly opened Mark Twain Library, 1401 East Anaheim Street in Long Beach. The event was honoring and remembering Phyllis Wheatley and John H. Johnson. Twenty local authors were in attendance. I had a chance to talk with the group about the Mayme Clayton Library and Museum and CAAGS.

On March 27th Normandie Avenue Elementary School held a Health & Safety Fair along with a Family Run/Walk. CAAGS has two members that are teacher sthere, Hellene Palmer and Gwendolyn Foster. I volunteered to help and got a chance to talk with teachers and others who also had booths at the fair about CAAGS and genealogy.

Manual Arts High School held its 3rd Annual College and Career Fair on April 2nd. It was held in the boy's gym and auditorium. Carolyn Conway and Norma Bates worked the CAAGS booth and I spoke to two assemblies

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.

about being a student athlete, genealogy and CAAGS. Thanks to Carolyn and Norma for their help. It was the first time that I had been back to Manual Arts High School since I had graduated there in 1958. It was a fun filled day for all. This was also a part of their 100th Centennial celebration.

Don't forget our annual Juneteenth celebration will be June 19th at the home of Ron Fairley. We will not have a regular members meeting this day. This will be a pot luck like last year, contact Gwen Foster if you would like to volunteer to help or can bring a dish.

Lastly, I want to thank DorothyLou Sands and Asilah El-Amin for taking time to be a part of the Board for the annual Discovery Your Roots Conference.

2010 Calendar of Events

May 15

CAAGS general meeting 10am -2pm. Mayme Clayton Library and Museum. Dr. Ed Fletcher from UCLA, guest speaker

June 11-13

The **41st Annual Southern California Genealogical Society Jamboree**, June 11-13, at the Burbank Airport. Marriott Hotel & Convention Center, Burbank, CA. View Jamboree updates online at www.scsgenealogy.com

June 19

CAAGS Annual Juneteenth celebration at the home of Ron Fairley, 2952 S. Halldale Ave., Los Angeles, CA, 11 - 5pm

July/August

No CAAGS meeting

September 18

Welcome Back, CAAGS general meeting 10am -2pm. Mayme Clayton Library and Museum

** Calendar is subject to change without notice*

Websites of Interest

Ethnic Web Sites

Hispanic:

Los Angeles County Public Library, Chicano Resource Ctr
www.colapubliclib.org/libs/eastla/chicano.html

Family History www.familysearch.org

National Hispanic Genealogical Society

www.hispanicgen.org

National Library of Mexico or Biblioteca Nacional de México

www.biblional.bibliog.unam.mx/bib/biblioteca.html

National Archives of Mexico or Archivo General de la Nación www.agn.gob.mx/indice.html

Hispanic and Latin American Genealogy and Family Research www.lasculturas.com, click genealogy

Brazilian National Archives www.arquivonacional.gov.br

South African:

South African Genealogical Research Directory

www.rupert.net/~lkool/page17.html

National Archives and Records Service of South Africa

www.national.archives.gov.za/

Jewish Genealogy:

Jewish Genealogy www.jewishgen.org

Sephardic Genealogy

www.orthohelp.com/geneal/sefardim.html

CAAGS Annual Juneteenth Celebration

Please 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.

Jamboree Volunteers Needed

We need members to man the CAAGS vendor booth at Jamboree, please contact Marjorie Sholes (323) 733-4815.

What's in Your Suitcase?

By Paula Stuart Warren

Those of you who have been reading my Ancestry Daily News columns know I am an avowed list maker. Several years ago at a national genealogical conference my friend and I began some good-natured comparisons of our travel packing lists. Linda, who lives in Arizona, does quite a bit of traveling in her job. She knew that I traveled a lot with my business, too. For quite some time we continued a verbal and e-mail one-upsmanship on what we thought was important to keep packed for travel or to at least have on our packing lists.

We talked about many things that were common to both of our lists. Of course there were the pain relievers, pens, pencils, paper, prescriptions (filled ones and the actual prescription in case of a problem), clothing, extra shoes, robe, wet wipes, hair care supplies, set of silverware, zippered plastic bags, and some granola bars or raisins in case there is not a close-by restaurant or it is one with short hours. As you may have guessed, I do not travel lightly.

Linda and I learned that we each keep many of our travel items packed all the time and have duplicates at home. Then there were the differences. That is where we enjoyed taunting each other.

One of my triumphs was that I carry a kitchen timer on most of my travels. If I am in a motel where I can do

laundry, I set the timer so that I don't forget to change loads. Also, I may need to remember to call my daughter back in 30 minutes.

I also carry a very small plastic bottle of liquid dish soap to wash my silverware or a few personal clothing items. This leak-proof bottle was found at one of the chain "organizing" stores.

I carry a sharp knife, which is never put in my carry-on bags. This comes in handy for snacks or get-togethers with genealogical friends. (Before you get the wrong idea, it is used to slice things such as cheese!) I have a small refrigerator thermometer that I take when I will be in a motel that has guest room refrigerators. These refrigerators never seem to work right. I hate sour milk or frozen fruit.

--- I have a "road" edition grocery list that I print out and take along. That way I remember to get the things I need for quick breakfasts and snacks.

--- I carry a pad of sticky-type notes so that I can put a note on the motel room door as a reminder of something I must bring along when I venture out. I put notes on the bathroom mirror to remind myself of appointment times or to ask the housekeeping staff for extra towels or tissues.

--- I carry a few wooden spring-type clothespins to keep the draperies shut tight or to close a bag of pretzels I have purchased.

--- I used to carry a zippered plastic bag with enough Tide powder for two loads of laundry. I have now decided that carrying that white powder, no matter how innocent, is not a good idea! If I drive I will take a small bottle of liquid laundry detergent. Whether flying or driving I take along a few unscented dryer sheets in a zippered plastic bag.

--- I carry a spare pair of eyeglasses, which is always the pair I had before the new prescription. As a researcher, I don't want to miss being able to read a record in a courthouse or a microfilm at a library.

Following are some of the other items I bring:

- mesh laundry bag
- flashlight
- tape
- clothesline
- phone charger
- first aid kit
- umbrella
- toiletries
- sewing kit
- stain remover packets
- extension cord
- sunglasses

- cosmetics
- extra dollar bills for tipping
- small tool kit

My travel-related items go into a green file folder. I put an apple and a couple of other items in my carry-on bag in case the plane is delayed. I also put in a few magazines or genealogy periodicals that are in my to-be-read pile.

Linda and I both frequently update our lists based on items that would have been convenient to have along. I don't remember them all, but I did add some things to my list just because Linda suggested them. She also added some of my suggestions to her own list. I know I will hear from Linda that she also carries some of the above items! Maybe we will have to start the competition again.

I print out a fresh packing list before each trip and put it on a large clipboard. As I pack or verify the items that remain in my suitcase, I highlight each item. That way, I can easily see what is left to pack or what I may have to leave behind. I just checked online and found that by typing the phrase "travel packing list" into my favorite search engine I had access to a variety of packing lists and ideas. I should have known these would be online!

I do have to concede that in the long run, Linda won our polite battle. In September of 2001 at the FGS Conference in the Quad Cities area of Illinois and Iowa, a woman fell and twisted her ankle. She did not do big-time damage, but wanted an elastic bandage. From our bantering I knew Linda carried just such a bandage when she traveled. I asked someone to find her and borrow her bandage for Mary. Did I learn from that? Yes, on some trips I do carry an all-purpose elastic bandage.

Paula Stuart Warren, CGRS, is a professional genealogist, consultant, writer, and lecturer. Contact her at PSWResearch@comcast.net.

It's Time For Jamboree 2010 !!

Registration is now open for the 41st Annual Southern California Genealogy Jamboree, which will be held Friday through Sunday, June 11-13, at the Marriott Los Angeles Burbank Airport Hotel & Convention Center in Burbank, California.

The 2010 Jamboree follows the longstanding tradition of delivering the perfect mix of lecture sessions, exhibitors, networking and social activities. This year's Jamboree offers nearly 130 quality classes conducted by the most knowledgeable and experienced genealogy speakers from the US, Canada and points beyond. The geographic focus for this year's Jamboree is North America -- Canada, Mexico, and all regions of the United States. DNA and technology will also receive special emphasis in 2010.

The exhibitors represent the leading organizations and commercial companies who provide products and services to today's genealogists and family historians, as well as local, regional, and national genealogical societies.

What's New In 2010?

1. Thursday Evening Registration. Many of our attendees requested that they be allowed to pick up the syllabus and other registration materials on Thursday evening. We listened, and in 2010 we will have a Jamboree check-in period on Thursday evening. Thursday night's check-in will be for pre-registered attendees only, and no walk-in registrations will be processed when the registration desk opens Friday at noon.
2. More Seats. In response to last year's post-conference satisfaction survey, we are expanding our seating capacity by adding a pavilion that will be situated behind the Convention Center, adjacent to the lawn. The pavilion will hold 300 seats, will be fully air conditioned, with wireless internet access.
3. Mini-courses. We will be running a track of hands-on computer lab workshops throughout the weekend. About 20 people per course will bring their laptops and go through hands-on workshops on using Excel, Word, blogging software, Skype, Google Earth, etc. These mini-courses are open only to paid Jamboree registrants. A special online registration for mini-course attendees will open on May 1.
4. Free Friday Forenoon sessions will ensure that in these economically challenging times, expense will not be a barrier to learning. Several concurrent sessions, each lasting three hours, include a Genealogy Librarian's boot camp, a repeat of last year's highly popular Kids' Family History Camp, and beginner and advanced beginner genealogy sessions. Registration is required to attend the Free Forenoon Friday sessions.
5. The "Small World" round table discussion has been expanded to three hours and moved to Friday morning. The session affords an excellent opportunity to network, to explore research tactics for specific geographic regions of the world, and to exchange tips and techniques on an informal basis. There is no charge to attend the Small World session, but registration is required.
6. Ancestry Scanning. Ancestry will be bringing a number of high-speed scanners and scheduling free, 15-minute scanning sessions. Ancestry has provided this service at other conferences, and we are thrilled that they will be scanning documents and photos for Jamboree attendees.

For all the details, visit our website at www.scsgenealogy.com, click on the Jamboree brochure.

Martin Luther King, Jr., National Memorial Project

The month of April marked the 42nd anniversary of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. A project is underway to commemorate the life and work of Dr. King by creating a memorial in Washington, DC. The Martin Luther King, Jr., National Memorial will honor his life and contributions to the world through nonviolent social change.

After years of fund raising, the memorial is now \$14 million away from its \$120 million goal. This will be more than a monument to a great humanitarian, the National Memorial will be a place for visitors from around the world to share the spirit of love, freedom, and peace.

A web site that helps get the message out is available at <http://mlkmemorialnews.org>. The site contains videos, photos, banners, and even a web toolbar that, when used, donates money to the creation of the memorial.

Taken from Eastman Online Genealogy, April 2010

Tips from the Pros: Is a Wrong Original the Problem? from Michael John Neill

When indexes are created, indexers are instructed to record information exactly as it appears on the original record. Humans do occasionally err, but it is important to remember that the error could have been done by the informant or the clerk filling out the record.

A search of the World War I Draft Cards at Ancestry indicates that 10,893 individuals in the database were born in 1918. There has to be something amiss someplace. Registrants for this draft could not actually have been born in 1918. My unscientific study of some of these hits failed to locate one card that did not say the registrant was born in 1918.

How could this happen? There are many reasons, but obviously none of the men were actually claiming to be under the age of 1. Registering men for a draft when war might have appeared imminent could have led to some distraction on the part of the registrars. After all, how many of us today have accidentally put the incorrect year on a check when writing one?

It is important to keep this in perspective. There were approximately 24 million registrants for this draft--10,893 only represents .045% of the total—a small percentage to be certain, but enough to consider if you can't locate your ancestor when searching by year of birth.

When searching any database, consider that one of the pieces your ancestor gave could have been either given or recorded incorrectly. It will impact how he appears in the database. Try altering or omitting one search term at a time. You may be pleasantly surprised at the results even if his age is correct.



Heritage Newsletter

California African American Genealogical Society

June/July 2010 Volume 22 Number 6

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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)

Mayme Clayton Library and Museum (MCLM)

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

(Old Culver City Courthouse across from VA building)

2010 Board of Directors

Ronald Higgins - President

Ron Batiste – First Vice President

Carolyn Conway – Second Vice President /Membership

Lloydine Outten – Corresponding Secretary

Linda Rush – Recording Secretary

Marjorie Sholes – Treasurer

Ophelia Sanders – Parliamentarian

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

Committee Chairs

Ruth Palmer – Book Sales and Acquisitions

Betty Smith – 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

By Ronald Higgins

How has your attitude been in your research? Slow moving, dead ends, so you have to ask yourself “ Am I taking the right approach?” With a positive attitude, gathering information like family history, photos and making phone calls to people who know your family can be accomplished easily. Remember your research can affect your family in more than one way, never give up. You may encounter set backs along the way. These set backs may depress you and crush your spirit. Remember you want to tell a story about your family, “Never give up.”

CAAGS member Carolyn Connor shared with fellow members after years of research she hit pay dirt while in the LDS Church Family History Center in Long Beach, CA. Thanks to her for sharing, there is always hope.

Gerard McKay was our presenter in April, he showed us how he works with Photo Shop on his computer to refine images, including documents that are not legible to the naked eye. We were impressed with how he uses the software.

Com join us this month for our Juneteenth celebration. It will be held in lieu of our normal meeting on June 19th from noon to until at the home of Ron Fairley, 2952 S. Halldale Ave., LA 90018. Contact Gwen Foster, committee chair at 323 856 9499 if you want to volunteer to help. Join fellow CAAGS members and enjoy yourself for a down home family get together and picnic. This is a pot luck, so please bring a dish large enough to share with 10 or more people. Dress is casual (jeans and sneakers). Parking is limited so car pool if possible. We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible. There will be lots of fun and games along with arts and crafts.

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.

Enjoy your family and friends, life is too short. You don't want to miss out on sharing with others. We all have a heritage and self worth to share and pass along.

On a sad note, one of our founding members, George Jenkins passed May 18th. George designed the CAAGS logo that we proudly display. I'm sure many of you knew him personally and will miss him dearly.

2010 Calendar of Events

June 11-13

The **41st Annual Southern California Genealogical Society Jamboree**, June 11-13, at the Burbank Airport Marriott Hotel & Convention Center, Burbank, CA. View Jamboree updates online at www.scgsgenealogy.com

June 19

CAAGS Annual Juneteenth celebration at the home of Ron Fairley, 2952 S. Halldale Ave., Los Angeles, CA, 12 - 5pm

July/August

No CAAGS meeting

September 18

Welcome Back, CAAGS general meeting 10am -2pm. Mayme Clayton Library and Museum

** Calendar is subject to change without notice*

Websites of Interest

Ethnic Websites

Canadian and French Canadian:

National Library of Canada www.nlc-bnc.ca/index-e.html
Library and Archives of Canada

www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/index-e.html

Family History in Canada www.familysearch.org

Genealogical Research Library www.grl.com

Early Canadiana Online www.canadiana.org

Images of Canada www.imagescanada.ca/index-e.html

Canadian Genealogy Center www.genealogy.gc.ca

Nova Scotia Coal Miners Tribute Page

<http://thepitsofcapebreton.com/cb.html>

American French Genealogical Society www.afgs.org

French Genealogy of North America www.francogene.com

French Canadian Genealogy

Research www.happyones.com/genealogy/research.html

University of Montreal – PRDH

www.genealogie.umontreal.ca/en/

Drouin Genealogical Institute www.drouininstitute.com

British Columbia Cemetery Finding Aid

www.islandnet.com/bccfa/

British Columbia Archives www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca

New Brunswick Provincial Archives

archives.gnb.ca/Archives/Default.aspx

Home Children

www.collectionscanada.ca/02020110_e.html

Quebec and Eastern Townships Genealogy Research Page

<http://simmons.b2b2c.ca>

Historic Atlanta Newspapers Online

A new digital database providing online access to 14 newspaper titles published in Atlanta from 1847 to 1922 is now available through the Digital Library of Georgia, housed at The University of Georgia Libraries. The Atlanta Historic Newspapers Archive (<http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/atlnewspapers>) contains more than 67,000 newspaper pages and provides historical images that are both full-text searchable and can be browsed by date.

The archive includes the following Atlanta newspaper titles: Atlanta Daily Examiner (1857), Atlanta Daily Herald (1873-1876), Atlanta Georgian (1906-1911), Atlanta Intelligencer (1851, 1854-1871), Atlantian (1911-1922), Daily/Georgia Weekly Opinion (1867-1868), Gate-City Guardian (1861), Georgia Literary and Temperance Crusader (1860-1861), New Era (1869-1872), Southern Confederacy (1861-1864), Southern Miscellany, and Upper Georgia Whig (1847), Southern World (1882-1885), Sunny South (1875-1907), Weekly Constitution (1869-1882).

You will note that the above list includes a lot of Civil War newspapers. They should provide valuable information to historians, genealogists, reenactors, and many others.

The Atlanta Historic Newspapers Archive is a project of the Digital Library of Georgia as part of the Georgia HomePLACE initiative. The project is supported with federal LSTA funds administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Georgia Public Library Service, a unit of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.

Other newspaper archives available through the Digital Library of Georgia include the Macon Telegraph Archive (1826-1908), the Columbus Enquirer Archive (1828-1890), the Milledgeville Historic Newspaper Archive (1808-1920), the Southern Israelite Archive (1929-1958, 1984-1986), and the Red and Black Archive (1893-2006). These archives can be accessed at:

<http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/MediaTypes/Newspapers.html>

My thanks to Jean Cleveland for letting me know about this valuable new resource.

Posted by Dick Eastman on April 06, 2010

War of 1812 Pensions - Help FGS Preserve Them!

The Federation of Genealogical Societies, the National Archives, and the genealogical community have started a project to digitize the War of 1812 pension files—a fitting

beginning to the bicentennial commemoration of this important war. Many know how information-rich military pension files can be, with comrades and family members providing service, family, and personal data. A sample of a War of 1812 widow's pension file can be viewed on an FGS associate member website.

With 7.2 million images in 180,000 files, there is much digitization to do. A donation of \$25 will digitize 50 images—a donation of \$500 will digitize 1000 images.

Oral History of African American Farmers

Scholars across the country have awoken to the rich treasure trove of oral histories from the past century. Due in part perhaps to an increased awareness brought about by technological advances, historians and others have been assembling the "collective memories" of specific groups of interviewees into published works.

In a recent visit to the library at Northern Illinois University, I came across such a work. Titled *Southern Farmers and Their Stories: Memory and Meaning in Oral History*, it chronicles the modernization of the rural South through the eyes of those who farmed the land. The voices included landowners as well as sharecroppers, and author Melissa Walker gathered oral histories from across a substantial number of collections from Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington to Baylor University in Texas.

Although the introductory chapter begins with discussion of various aspects of historical methodology, the majority of it gives a great overview of the southern farmer from after the Civil War to the modern era, in a section called "The Southern Countryside Transformed." In it the author comments that for "African Americans in particular, farming was mostly about freedom and independence from white control. Small black and white landowners often practiced a blend of diversified commercial and subsistence farming calculated to help families remain on the land. Yet federal programs were oriented to farmers who adopted the practices of industrial agriculture, and such programs either ignored or seemed irrelevant to small farmers who tried to remain independent of the demands of large-scale commercial agriculture."

The chapters of this book are interspersed with countless paragraphs illuminating the African American experience from economic, social and other perspectives. Chapter one, "Three Southern Farmers Tell Their Stories," features black farmer Woodrow Harper Sr. who was interviewed in 1987 in his hometown of Hartwell, Georgia. It is disclosed by Harper at one point that he was among the plaintiffs in a class-action lawsuit by African American farmers against the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

There are three appendices in the back of the book and they provide additional data on the interviewees, along with some statistical information. The first one consists of several tables of demographic information. In them you get the total number of people in the interviews (531), the number of African Americans (132), the state where they were conducted (14 different states; the most interviews were done in North Carolina-118), decade of birth of the interviewees, and more.

Appendix two is an alphabetical list of the interviewees containing the following: last name, first name, state, year of interview, sex, race, year of birth, landowning status, and level of education. The names of the black farmers along with the state and year of birth information will be on my website in the Uncovering History section in the next few days; they will be under the title "Black Oral History Interviews".

In the last appendix each interview is cataloged in a formal bibliographic style entry, arranged alphabetically by repository. If you find a name of interest in the list on my website, you can contact me and I'll get you the repository information.

Taken from the Black Genealogist, Feb. 2010

What's In YOUR Suitcase? Part 2

By Paula Stuart Warren

The e-mail response to my column reinforced several things. First, we genealogists are pack rats. Second, I always knew that a group of genealogists could dramatically slow down the security line at the airport. Third, we are a group eager to share advice with each other. Fourth, many of us keep permanent travel supplies packed.

Your responses did present me with a dilemma. I had to make time to add to my packing list for a recent trip. I could just see the look on my roommates' faces when I would tell them about all the extras I packed upon advice from the readers.

A bit of advice from me is that if you room with friends, coordinate your packing lists. You don't need multiples of the same items. I am responsible for packing the sharp knife for cutting cheese and the night light for those of us who get up in the middle of the night. One roommate is responsible for the electronic gadgets for our computers. The third person is in charge of the DVD player and the movies. The junk food responsibility falls to us all. I recently purchased an additional charger for my cell phone that can always stay with my travel supplies.

The first response I received suggested keeping your toothbrush, floss, and toothpaste handy in a separate plastic bag that fits in the outside pocket of luggage. She also

suggested using bubble wrap for packing. It can fill the cracks or protect some items. It then comes in handy to protect fragile purchases on the trip home. She sometimes packs a smaller suitcase inside a larger one. I know of many genealogists who do this same thing. She also advocates the wheeled carry-on. She says, "there is always a kind gentleman on the plane who will help me lift it in into the overhead bin." I generally find this to be true. I look for someone taller than me (and that is easy, as my friends remind me).

Several readers added the importance of a digital camera. One said you never know when you won't be able to scan stuff on your scanner and it takes great pictures without a flash!! Some of us carry that scanner, too.

Remember your tape recorder for your own notes or to interview a relative. One reader said, "I always carry a pocket-sized recorder with a couple of extra tapes. I have recorded directions to a grave in a cemetery (when I finally found it!), so I would be able to locate it again if I wanted to do so. I have whispered in libraries tidbits of information that I needed when the copy machine was not working. I described my feelings as I was standing on the ground my great-great uncle homesteaded in Kansas."

One woman said that her husband got a big chuckle out of my using a clothespin for the drapes. His comment "smart gal." (Boy, is he a smart man!) He uses paper clips that he carries with him. Now he'll try clothespins!

One reader carries older, ready to throwaway underwear or cheap pairs that can be tossed out. Others take throwaway clothes such as the slightly faded shirt and the too-short skirt that they no longer wear. This makes room for the inevitable purchases! This is so true if your travel is to a genealogical conference that has a vendor hall full of genealogical treasures that call out to you. I have a friend who regularly cleans out her closets when she is about to travel.

I can hear one of my genealogical roommates telling me "I told you so" to this next one. Apparently everyone but me knows about detergent "tablets," which are safer to carry. Sunscreen now comes in handy "stick" form or in foil packets for cemetery visits.

One suggestion was unique, and would apply to just some of us. When traveling to an area where medical care is unknown, poor, or at least questionable, talk to your doctor about obtaining your own sterile needle! A fellow traveler of hers became ill and had to have an injection and she was able to produce her own sterile needle. I want to see this one explained to the airport security screeners.

Here are some other additions from readers:

- flash light
- binoculars
- scissors
- small stapler
- duct tape
- magnifying glass
- reading light and batteries
- travel alarm
- address book with contacts of anyone you might need to reach
- compass
- granola bars and instant oatmeal for quick meals

One woman said, "My father is a volunteer fireman. He recommended a small clip-on keychain flashlight. When a storm (or fire) occurs the room and hallways can be pitch black visibility and unknown territory without electricity."

We are practical and polite people, too. I heard from more than one person to include some type of air freshener or bathroom deodorizer. That is a nice gesture when sharing a room with good friends. I don't think I have to explain this tip to you!

I hope some genealogist has stock in a company that manufactures those zippered plastic bags. Some suggestions of things to carry in these bags are:

- emergency medical items
- teabags and packets of coffee
- seasonings for in-room cooking (for instant gourmet meals)
- extras to use for packing wet/damp items or for soaking dental appliances overnight
- glass wipes for the dusty glass covers and lenses on microfilm readers

One person carries a cup to fill at the water fountain. It allows more water per trip and you can stand up to drink it! A plastic cup or glass doesn't take space if it's filled with socks or other soft items.

I hope the rest of you enjoy these additions as much as I did. I still have some suggestions in reserve for a future column. Happy traveling! Or, as one reader told me, "Take care and be careful in your traveling."

Paula Stuart Warren, CGRS, is a professional genealogist, consultant, writer, and lecturer. Contact her at PSWResearch@comcast.net.

***Have a Safe and Fun Summer
See You in September***



Heritage Newsletter

California African American Genealogical Society

August/September 2010 **Volume 22** **Number 7**
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ISSN 1083-8937

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

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

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Betty Smith – 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

By Ronald Higgins

Small steps can make a big difference. Stop thinking it will happen all at once. You must not believe it will jump in your lap on the first try. You must learn to be patient.

Remember the basics, have a guide line, talk to your family members, they all have a unique story to tell. If you do need to stop doing your research for a while, like many of us often do, remember there is always more out there to be found. Don't talk yourself out of doing the research when it gets hard. Good Luck.

To all CAAGS members, this is a note of thanks to you for your participation in volunteering for the numerous CAAGS events we've been involved in, Manual Arts High School Career Day, Jamboree and Juneteenth just to name a few. CAAGS member Tony Burroughs was in town in July hosting a lecture on Tracing the Family Tree. Broadway Federal Bank was the sponsor. It was a free lecture that was held at the Nate Holden Performing Arts Center, in the Ebony Repertory Theater. We had about 12 members to attend. It was good to see Tony and chat with him.

Remember September is our Show and Tell. Come ready to show and tell us about your new family genealogical gems.

CAAGS shared a booth with MCLM at the Leimert Park Book Fair in July. It was well attended and we shared genealogy information with those who dropped by the booth.

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.

Again, a big “thank you” to all who helped out during the summer by volunteering and attending these events and “welcome” to all new members.

Remember, CAAGS will soon be seeking nominations for our vacating board positions. We need your support by volunteering to run for an office. See any current board member if you are interested.

2010 Calendar of Events

September 18

Welcome Back, CAAGS general meeting 10am -2pm. Mayme Clayton Library and Museum. Show & Tell

October 9

Have you ever wondered about your family lineage? Have you ever wondered how to research your family tree? Wonder where to start? Start planning now to attend the **11th annual Family History Day!** You’ll find short classes on a variety of subjects: beginning genealogy, what’s available at local institutions, computer software and demonstrations, preservation techniques, and much more. Admission is free. For more information: Visit the Root Cellar–Sacramento Genealogical Society website or contact the Genealogical and Historical Council of Sacramento Valley www.sos.ca.gov/archive www.sacvalleygenes.org; www.rootcellar.org

October 16

CAAGS general meeting 10am -2pm. Mayme Clayton Library and Museum

November 20

CAAGS general meeting 10am -2pm. Mayme Clayton Library and Museum

* *Calendar is subject to change without notice*

Websites of Interest

Illinois Adoptees Gain New Access to Birth Records

Excerpted from the *Chicago Tribune*:

“Now anyone adopted before 1946 can gain immediate access to their birth certificates by filing a written request with the vital records division of the Illinois Department of Public Health. Adults 21 and over who were born after Jan. 1, 1946 will be able to request the same information beginning late next year through the state’s adoption registry.” To learn more, read the complete article from the *Chicago Tribune* at:

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/ct-met-quinn-adoption-recordslaw-20100521,0,5572977.story>
Digitization at the National Archives: Microfilm

Publications and Original Records Digitized by Our Digitization Partners

<http://www.archives.gov/digitization/digitized-by-partners.html>

- Genealogical research in the state of Alabama. http://www.newsouthbooks.com/bkpgs/detailtitle.php?isbn_solid=1603060448

Jamboree: Big Door Prize Winners

You’ll recall that they had over \$18,000 of door prizes donated by genealogical societies, businesses, and local establishments. Here’s a list of the big winners. Congratulations to CAAGS member Ophelia Sanders!

Salt Lake City 7-day trip and \$200 cash - Robin Halmer
AncestorSeekers Salt Lake City Trip - Jan Jennings
GoToWebinar - Geoffrey Rasmussen
23andMe DNA Testing Kits - Jackie Marsh & Brian Anderson

Flip Video Camera - Donna W.

* **GotGenealogy Ipod Nano - Ophelia Sanders**

Strawberry Creek Inn - Beverly Brown
Ancestry.com Subscriptions - Nancy Hampton, Rosemary Moore, Ruth Day, Marilyn Ulbright
Legacy Software - Danielle Mareschal & Kathleen Shannon
World Vital Records Subscription - Patt Eberhart & C. Martin
University of Toronto Genealogical Studies Online Study Course - Pam Wiedenbeck, Sharon Robison, Karen De Rose, V. Hollis, Danielle Mareschal, Melissa Bird

Joyce Sumbi

Our condolences go out to the family of CAAGS member Joyce Sumbi. On Saturday morning, after feeling tired, Joyce took a nap and passed peacefully at approximately 9:40 am on July 17. She was 74 years old.

Joyce was rare gift to us all who unselfishly gave of herself. Her greatest joy was in inspiring and helping others.

1-8-6-5

By Lloydine Outten

I was 10 years old, this kind of funny man with all the color clothes, would tell the children all kind of stories, we be to scared to walk home or we be laughing all the way home. When he finish his story telling the children always ask how old are you, he get up looked all around and go into his log cabin house.

Momma what is, 1-8-6-5, momma said, I remember your grandpa was saying that to folks, where you heard it child, I said, from the funny man with all the color clothes.

Momma thinking can't be.

Most of the families where I live were taken away, I guesst the funny man went to. Time went by the year 1732. I heard loud sounds of children laughing I look, with surprise in my face, It was the funny man with all the color clothes, I ran over so I could hear his story telling.

The funny man said to me, girl you have grown. The children ask the funny man how old are you; he got up looked all around and went into his log cabin. The children ask me if I knew how old the funny man is, I said no, and the first time I heard his stories I was 10 years old. The children ask me, what is 1-8-6-5, I don't know.

Walking home thinking, the funny man with the color clothes had to be older than my grandpa and grandpa died when he was 97 years old. I was told when I was 10 years old, that grandpa died 30 years ago before I was born, and he lived in a log cabin by all the big waters.

The funny man with all the color clothes would end his story telling with, 1-8-6-5. What do that mean to us slaves?

Michelle Obama's Roots: Proving Your Freedom (Over and Over Again)

Not long ago, I wrote about Michelle Obama's family in Henry County, Virginia and shared this document in which her Jumper ancestors indicated that they had been free before Emancipation. In the columns where others listed the names of their last owner, Peter and Dolly Jumper simply said "free."

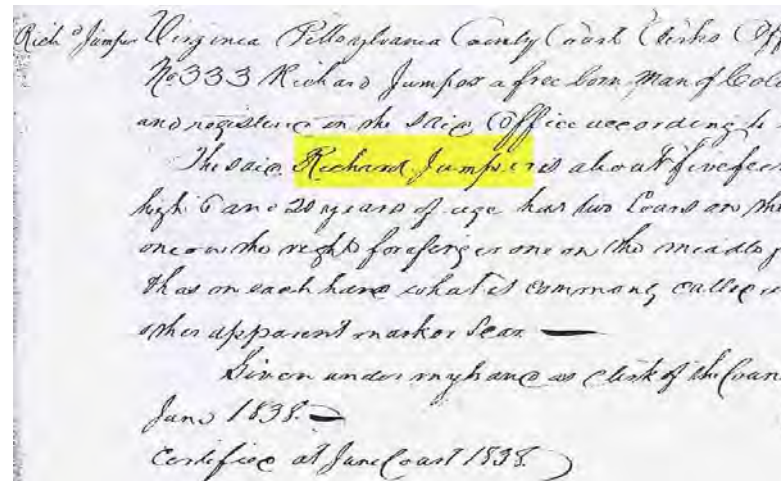
While this certainly made the Jumpers a distinct minority, many aren't aware that approximately ten percent of African Americans were free prior to Emancipation. This is an important reality for anyone interested in African American genealogy because those of us living today had quite a few ancestors back in the 1860s. Depending on your age and assuming generations of roughly 25 years, you might have had approximately 16, 32 or 64 direct line forebears at the time (two parents, four grandparents, eight great-grandparents, etc.). And with so many branches in your family tree, there's a decent chance that at least one of them was free.

The reason this matters is because those ancestors will be easier to research since they weren't hidden behind the obscurity that slavery inflicted on so many. Free ancestors will appear in census, military and other records with all the details genealogists hope for - names, dates and places. Moreover, their paper trail will often be supplemented by regular appearances in local court records. Why? Because they had to prove their freedom - over and over again.

In Virginia where Mrs. Obama's Jumper ancestors resided, the General Assembly passed an act in 1793 requiring the registration of free blacks. It was only about a decade earlier in 1782 that Virginia had passed an act permitting the manumission of slaves, but the growing number of free blacks during that interval concerned some, so the 1793 legislation was the beginning of efforts to impose controls on the African American population. Free blacks had to register every three years at the local courthouse, and lists were maintained by the courts. Once registered, an individual was given 'free papers,' which had to be produced on demand to prove one's status.

Although the direct link to Mrs. Obama's family is unclear, the first known recording of a Jumper registering for freedom in Virginia is found in Petersburg in 1800. According to research conducted by Paul Heinegg (author of *Free African Americans of North Carolina, Virginia and South Carolina*), a woman named Hagar Jumper asserted her freedom on the basis of her descent from an Indian woman. His research also revealed earlier mentions of Jumpers dating back to a court case involving Tuscarora Indians in 1707, suggesting that the First Lady may well have some Native American ancestry.

If one follows the path of those bearing the Jumper name in Virginia, a gradual southwestern migration becomes apparent until some reached Henry and Pittsylvania counties where Mrs. Obama's family lived. It's Pittsylvania County where Richard Jumper (probably a brother of her 3rd great-grandfather) registered for freedom in 1838. At the time, he was about 20 years old and five foot ten, and the details provided indicate that he sported several scars as well a sixth finger on each hand.



Rich Jumper Virginia Pittsylvania County Court Clerk Office
No 333 Richard Jumper a free born man of color
and registered in the said Office according to
The said Richard Jumper is about five feet
high 6 and 20 years of age has two scars on the
one on the right forehead is one on the middle
that on each hand what is common called
other apparent marks scars —
Given under my hand as Clerk of the Court
June 1838.
Certificed at June Court 1838.

By the 1850s, the records show Mrs. Obama's family in Henry County. Here, for instance, are several members of her family, including her 3rd great-grandmother Dolly, in a list of "free Negroes over 12 years."

1856

A List of Free Negroes over 12 years of age

	Age
1 James Jumper	40
2 James Davis	15
3 Joseph Davis	13
4 John Jumper	16
5 Raney Jumper	21
6 Leath Jumper	24
7 Dolly Jumper	45

Three years later in May 1859, members of the same family went to the courthouse together to keep their registration in good standing. Note that her family used both the Jumper and Hall surnames (Hall was Dolly's maiden name) and that nicknames also enter the picture. Serena Hall, for instance, is the same person as the Raney Jumper listed in the 1856 record.

May 1859

Betsy Williams, Geo Williams, Green Bannister, Mary Harris, Harris, Jane Harris, John Harris, Serena Talbot, James Williams, W Hall, Melvina Hardy, Jane Robertson, Nancy Pate, Carter Robinson, Caroline Johnson, William Johnson, Geo Johnson, Allen John Thomas ^{Johnson} (Susan Beck, America Beck, Henry Beck, Sr, Maria Harris, John Jumper, John, John, Nicky Hall, John Hall, John Hall, Serena Hall, New features satisfactory proof to the Court that they were born free of Henry Williams entitled to be registered as free persons of color & that they be registered as such

Mrs. Obama's ancestors were fortunate in gaining their freedom earlier than others, but were required on a recurring basis to substantiate and reassert their liberty. The last record in which the Jumpers stated their freedom is the 1866 list mentioned at the outset of this article. Some 80 years later in 1946, Margie Jumper - born in Henry County, but then living in Roanoke, Virginia - was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a bus when a white man who had just boarded asked the conductor to make her get up. This was almost a decade before Rosa Parks would do the same in Montgomery, Alabama. True, Margie had married into the Jumper name, but she lived up to its history that day.

by Megan Smolenyak, Genealogist, Family History Expert
Posted: February 20, 2010 06:00 PM

For those of you who missed it the first time, NBC partnered with Ancestry.com, the world's largest online family history resource, to bring you the first season of **Who Do You Think You Are?** this past spring. Tune in to NBC Friday nights through September 3rd at 8/7c for another chance to watch the show again.

Also, Tuesday, September 28 at 7:30pm, Skirball Cultural Center - Magnin Auditorium is presenting an evening with Lisa Kudrow and the researchers and producers of "Who Do You Think You Are?"

Bring your questions for a lively, interactive panel discussion following the presentation. Free to JGSLA members, guests \$5. Also, the JGSLA traveling library will be open for business at 7:00pm.

Family History Center – Los Angeles Assisted Research Day

Plan on attending the next Assisted Research Day at the newly-renovated Los Angeles Family History Library!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10 - 1PM - 6:00PM

Get personalized help from experienced JGSLA volunteers with computer databases and microfilms, plus two lectures:

1:30pm - 3:00pm - Barbara Algaze will talk about "Introduction to the NEW Family History Library"
3:30pm - 4:30pm - Madeleine Eisenberg will speak on deciphering headstones, followed by a hands-on workshop in which you can receive personalized gravestone transcription assistance.

Any questions? Contact Pamela Weisberger, Program Chair: pweisberger@hotmail.com

New At Ancestry.com

Our collection of U.S. land ownership maps now has almost 7 million searchable names

Where did your ancestors live? How much land did they own? Who were their neighbors? The answers to these questions could lead you to even more answers about your family story. And you can find them easily in our recently updated U.S. County Land Ownership Atlases (1860-1918) collection, which is now searchable by name - and contains almost 7 million names. You can also search these maps by year, county and state.

See maps created long ago and view incredible visual details about the places your ancestors once called home.



Heritage Newsletter

California African American Genealogical Society

October 2010 Volume 22 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)

2010 Board of Directors

Ronald Higgins - President

Ron Batiste – First Vice President

Carolyn Conway – Second Vice President /Membership

Lloydine Outten – Corresponding Secretary

Linda Rush – Recording Secretary

Marjorie Sholes – Treasurer

Ophelia Sanders – Parliamentarian

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

Committee Chairs

Ruth Palmer – Book Sales and Acquisitions

Betty Smith – 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

By Ronald Higgins

October is the Family History Month. Is your family an awesome family? Remember you're the family keeper and that you're the family historian. Your genealogical work helps put stories together and family members together in the puzzle. Ask questions to your family, family friends and neighbors. They can be a great source of information.

Let us not forget October is when we have our Stay At Home Tea. Join up with your family and friends, share stories and talk about the good old days while having your tea. This is a CAAGS fundraiser, so thank you for participating.

Dear CAAGS family, it's time to think about your new officers for 2011. We need an election committee. Please sign up or let the board members know if you're interested. The vacating positions are 2nd Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and Parliamentarian.

September 15th the National Archives and Record Administration opened to the public. CAAGS and PAAAGS had members in attendance, from CAAGS we had, Marie Bryant, Jamesetta Hammond, Ronald Higgins and Norma Bates. From the Pasadena Area African American Genealogical Society members were Jane Rhinehart, Dorsey League and Lorraine Morris.

We went on a tour of the building and they told us about the holdings they have and how long they keep some their records. Some, they keep forever and others they keep for a limited number of years.

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.

On a sad note, we lost two members of the CAAGS family. Joyce Madkins Symbiotic. She was the librarian in the 1990's and Dora V. Walker left us on August 26. She was a member in the 1980's-1990's.

CAAGS had a visitor at the board meeting, Lloyd Clayton, who is now the CEO of the Mayme Clayton Library and Museum (MCLM). He came to inform us on our state with the MCLM. All was well and things are marching on. The CAAGS boards would like to thank him for his visit and update.

2010 Calendar of Events

October 9

Attend the **11th annual Family History Day!** You'll find short classes on a variety of subjects and much more. Admission is free. For more information: Visit the Root Cellar-Sacramento Genealogical Society website or contact the Genealogical and Historical Council of Sacramento Valley www.sos.ca.gov/archive www.sacvalleygenes.org; www.rootcellar.org

October 16

CAAGS general meeting 10am -2pm. Mayme Clayton Library and Museum. Open forum meeting, problem solving and genealogical sharing.

November 20

CAAGS general meeting 10am -2pm. Mayme Clayton Library and Museum

December 18

CAAGS general meeting 10am -2pm. Mayme Clayton Library and Museum

** Calendar is subject to change without notice*

Websites of Interest

Check out the one on Lowcountry Africana South Carolina project.
http://www.genealogyintime.com/GenealogyResources/newest_genealogy_records_on_the_internet.html?awt_l=5.WZw&awt_m=1h5PQs4lZwk.Vy

Ancestor Seekers Research Trips The Dream Genealogical Vacation

Call us TOLL-FREE at 877- 402-6846
<http://www.ancestorseekers.com/slcr/>
These dream genealogy vacations provide a wonderful opportunity to spend a whole week at the world's largest genealogy library, the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, with professional researchers on hand to provide help

and advice.

Hotel accommodations are provided at the Salt Lake Plaza Hotel at Temple Square - next door to the Library.

November/December 2010 Salt Lake City Research Trip Monday, 29 November 2010 - Saturday, 4 December 2010

February 2011 Salt Lake City Research Trip Sunday, 20 February 2011 - Friday, 25 February 2011

CAAGS 2010 Request for Nominations

Positions for election are 1st Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer and FGS delegate. Please contact us if you are interested in running for one of these offices.

San Diego African American Genealogy Research Group

Saturday, November 6, 2010

Malcolm X Library in San Diego

10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Speaker Dr. Theodore Kornweiber, Jr.

Topic: Railroads in the African American Experience

Refreshments will be served

The members of CAAGS have been invited to join this event. We would like to obtain a bus to go to San Diego. The cost will be \$25 per person. If you are interested, contact Ophelia Sanders phedie@pacbell.net or 310-259-7029 by October 14th.

We need your response as soon as possible, no later than October, 16th so we can determine if we can go by bus. If we don't get enough people to pay for the bus, let us know if you will be willing to drive and the number of people you can take in your car. We will leave no later than 7AM from L.A.

Fort Worth's National Archives Regional Library to Move

The public research room of the National Archives and Records Administration in Fort Worth is planning to move from a low-profile, 1940s-era building on the city's south side to a high-profile, 1920s-era building on the west side. The research room will relocate to 4,600 square feet on the ground level of Montgomery Plaza, 2600 W. Seventh St.

Preston Huff, the archives' regional administrator in Fort Worth, said the new location will be much easier for visitors to reach. Newsletter reader Betty Clay points out that the new location is in the old Montgomery Ward mail

order building on a very busy street near downtown, and only a few blocks from the ‘cultural center’ of theaters, museums, football stadium, parks, etc. The new location will be easy to access.

The research room will have 10 computers linked to online databases, as well as a few microfilm readers. It will also have a learning center for teachers who want to know how the archives can help them in the classroom.

Slave Records in Washington, D.C.

Emancipation in DC: #DS_069H00HP from the NYPL Digital Library

I have been thinking lately about how many states and locations have unique record sets that can really give a boost to those doing slave research. For example, how slave births in Virginia are recorded from the year 1853, and how Maryland’s slave statistics name the last slaveowner as well as surnames for most slaves. They may not survive for every county within a state, but if they do, you’re in for a treat.

For those who had enslaved ancestors in Washington, D.C., a wonderful set of records exist. The National Archives has the following:

Records of the U.S. Circuit Court for the District of Columbia Relating to Slaves, 1851-1863 (M433)

-these include emancipation, manumission papers, freedom affidavits, and fugitive slave case papers

Habeas Corpus Case Records of the U.S. Circuit Court for the District of Columbia, 1820-1863 (M434)

These of course have very good information for those of us descended from these slaves. Christine’s Genealogy website has indexed parts of several of these records on her website:

D.C. manumissions from M433
Index to habeas corpus cases
And, fugitive slave cases

An even more exciting set of records exist. D.C. enacted an Emancipation Act in 1862 where the federal government agreed to pay slave owners up to \$300 for each slave laboring in D.C. Slave owners applied in droves. This created the record set:

Records of the Board of Commissioners for the Emancipation of Slaves in the District of Columbia (M520)

These records include the petitions of each slaveowner to qualify under the terms of the Act. In most cases, they provided very detailed physical descriptions of the slaves, what kind of work they did, and amazingly enough, the circumstances of where and how they acquired each slave. Sometimes, that can take us years to discover, if we are ever able to discover it! They even oftentimes reveal those

Very precious relationships among enslaved ancestors that are so hard to come by. Even luckier for us, Dorothy Provine has published all of these records in a wonderful book I just purchased, “*Compensated Emancipation in the District of Columbia*”. The book is available for purchase from Heritage books. This book is well worth the purchase price. Mrs. Provine also produced a volume called “*District of Columbia Free Negro Registers, 1821-1861*”.

A few examples will illustrate the richness of the records (these are abstracted, the originals are more detailed):

- Petition of Alfred Y. Robinson, of PG County, MD for Edward Humphrey, age 35 or 40, mulatto...Robinson inherited him from his mother Elizabeth Robinson and has held him for over 30 years.
- Petition of William Gunton, administrator for William A. Gunton, for two slaves, Joshua and Hennie. The late William A. Gunton purchased Joshua from William Tolson, Hennie was a gift from John B. Mullihan of PG County to his daughter upon her marriage to his son, William A. Gunton on June 20, 1848.
- Petition of Mary A. Smoot, for two persons, Henry and Margaret. Smoot’s grandmother, the late Mrs. Mary B. Smoot, left these persons to her by a will that was recorded in D.C. in June 1857
- Petition of Matthew McLeod, for Ellen Cole, age 51 or 52. He acquired title from the will of his mother-in-law, Mrs. Mary Manning of St. Mary’s County, and later the will of his deceased wife.
- Petition of Anna Bradley for William and James (brothers). Bradley acquired title from her mother. William and James’ great-grandmother, Patty (!!!) was a slave of Bradley’s mother, Elizabeth Ann King, long since deceased. Her mother acquired Patty from John Hammond, her father (!!!), late of Annapolis, MD. Bradley states she also became the owner of Jenny, the daughter, and of Mary, the granddaughter of Patty (!!!). Mary was the mother of William and James and thus they have belonged to Bradley since their birth.

Aren’t these records incredible? As you can see, many slaves were employed in D.C. but were owned by people living in Maryland and Virginia as well as a few other states. I found some important clues regarding several

owners of my Montgomery County, MD ancestors, who also applied under the Act. Christine's Genealogy Website also has an name index to these petitions on her website.

I hope if D.C. is one of your research areas (or someone you know) you will check these records out. And keep hope alive—a record set like this may open up one day for your state and county. We can always hope, right?

May 6, 2010 by msualumni | Posted in slave research | Tagged D.C. Emancipation Act, D.C. slave records | 2

Emmitt Smith on “Who Do You Think You Are?” By Joseph Shumway, AG®

Researching Emmitt Smith's family tree with Ancestry.com and Wall to Wall Productions was an incredible journey! There were many compelling and exciting stories uncovered.

While researching Emmitt's family tree, our talented team of professionals canvassed rolls of microfilm, examined online records and carefully analyzed the data each contained regarding Emmitt's ancestors.

One of our main goals was to find documentation about some of Emmitt's enslaved ancestors prior to Emancipation. Typically when working with African American family history this is not an easy thing to accomplish. However, the many hours of research paid off when documents were found that told the story of the Puryear family of southern Alabama. This story is featured in the episode.

Emmitt's great-great-great grandfather, Prince Albert Puryear, was born into slavery in Monroe County, Alabama in 1845. In searching the 1870 U.S. Federal Census, we discovered that Prince Puryear was living next to two other Puryear men named Thomas and Henry. Thomas and Henry were the right ages to have Prince's brothers. Also, living in Thomas's household was an older woman named Mariah who was born in Virginia. We asked the question “Are these three men brothers, and is Mariah their mother?” To find answers, we next wanted to identify the Puryears former slave owners. Further studies of census records showed that Emmitt's Puryear ancestors lived near a white Puryear family. Although not all emancipated slaves took the surname of their most recent owner, we developed the theory that Emmitt's ancestors may have been owned by this Puryear family and set out to either prove or disprove that theory.

Through a very time-consuming and intense study of tax lists, probate records, deeds, census and vital records, we were eventually successful in showing that our theories regarding Mariah Puryear and her children were indeed correct. An exciting discovery was made in the estate

inventory of a woman named Mary F. Puryear regarding Emmitt's ancestors. Here, a listing of Mary's slaves were provided and listed the following: “Mariah and her children Henry, Mary, McTom, Victoria and Prince Albert.” This document proved that Prince's mother was Mariah and that Henry and Tom (McTom) were his brothers. The ancestors had successfully been documented as slaves of Mary Puryear and her deceased husband, Alexander B. Puryear!

Further research revealed that Alexander B. Puryear and his brother Richard were slave traders who were originally from Mecklenburg County, Virginia. In studying the deeds, tax lists and probate files for this county, another exciting discovery was made in an 1826 deed wherein Emmitt's ancestor, Mariah Puryear, was again listed as a young girl originally belonging to Alexander's father Samuel Puryear! In the episode, this deed was shown at the Mecklenburg County courthouse. Emmitt was particularly moved by the coincidental fact that it came from Volume 22—Emmitt's former football jersey number was 22! Mariah would have been around 11 years old at the time, and because of this record, it was now possible to show a clear trail of this ancestor, Mariah, being brought by her owners from Mecklenburg County, Virginia to Monroe County, Ala.

Tracing African American ancestors prior to the Civil War is a difficult task. Unfortunately, in many instances there were not sufficient records kept about slave ancestors that can allow genealogists to find the kinds of information that we found about the Puryear family. However, at the same time, there are still many instances where surviving records can be used to document an ancestor's former slave owner and possibly even trace the line back another generation or two prior to emancipation. In rare instances, it has even been possible to find enough clues linking an African American family back far enough to the ancestor who was originally brought from Africa! This, of course, is a best-case scenario and usually requires dozens of hours of intense and difficult research.

Emmitt's family tree is filled of stories that capture the essence of African American history in the South. They help to tell the legacy of strong and noble men and woman who bore the hardship of slavery and who were eventually able to find their dream of freedom. Many Americans have family trees filled with stories similar to Emmitt's and his episode of “Who Do You Think You Are?” will certainly help anyone feel closer to their ancestors and no doubt want to know more about their own stories!

CAAGS member Marjorie Sholes was one of the genealogists featured in the episode that helped Emmitt with his research. Marjorie will be sharing her story along with things you did not see in the episode with CAAGS at our November general meeting. Please join us. I'm sure it will be very informative and interesting to all.



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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)

2010 Board of Directors

Ronald Higgins - President
Ron Batiste – First Vice President
Carolyn Conway – Second Vice President /Membership
Lloydine Outten – Corresponding Secretary
Linda Rush – Recording Secretary
Marjorie Sholes – Treasurer
Ophelia Sanders – Parliamentarian
Gena Weaver – Webmaster (visit us at www.caags.org)

Committee Chairs

Ruth Palmer – Book Sales and Acquisitions
Betty Smith – 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

By Ronald Higgins

In doing your research, have you ever gotten a surprise that changes everything? Did it start with something a relative said to you? This may have helped you see the big picture and go somewhere you couldn't ignore any longer. There are a lot of new websites today that can help you with your research. Explore them and have fun with your research.

It's time for you to make a change in the society. Become an officer or member at large. If you feel you have a gift for teaching, let me know. We need volunteers to teach our beginner genealogy classes. Also if you have a presentation to share with the Society let me know.

Two of our members that attended the grand opening of the National Archives in Perris, Ca. were inadvertently left off the list in the newsletter last month, Ophelia Sanders and Ron Fairley were in attendance.

The Los Angeles Temple, Family History Library is now open. The Grand Reopening will be November 6th, 9am – 9pm and November 7th, 3pm – 9pm. CAAGS was invited to attend to attend the Open House on October 15th. We had a few members attend.

Special thanks to Norma Bates for coordinating the Stay At Home Tea on October 3rd. She created the invitations and donated the envelopes. Thanks to all members who participated in this fundraiser.

The CAAGS Christmas Party will be held December 18th at the Carson Buffet from 11am – 3pm. The address

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.

is 888 E. Dominquez St., Carson, CA 90746, PH 310 324-3688. The restaurant is cash only \$13.75 and \$12.75 for seniors. Bring a friend and have some fun.

Welcome and thank you for joining to all new members.

2010 Calendar of Events

November 6

San Diego African American Genealogy Research Group - Saturday, Nov 6, Malcolm X Library in San Diego, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Speaker Dr. Theodore Kornweiber, Jr. Topic: Railroads in the African American Experience

November 6 & 7

Los Angeles Family History Library Open House
Nov. 6, 9am - 9pm, Saturday; Nov. 7 3pm - 9pm Sunday

November 20

CAAGS general meeting 10am -2pm. Mayme Clayton Library and Museum. Happy Thanksgiving

December 18

CAAGS Holiday Party, 11am – 3pm, Carson Buffet., 888 E. Dominquez St., Carson, CA 90746 Merry Christmas

January 1, 2011

Happy New Year!

* *Calendar is subject to change without notice*

Websites of Interest

Slavery records online

<http://www.newyorkhistoryblog.com/2010/09/important-slavery-collection-goes.html>

Dutch:

Family History	www.familysearch.org
Dutch Family History	www.dutchgenealogy.com
Dutch records	www.genlias.nl/en
Yvette's Dutch Genealogy	www.twente.NL/~genealogy/

Basque genealogy:

Ettxeto Basque Family website www.ettxeto.com

India:

Indian Family History	www.india.com.ar/
Family History in India	www.familysearch.org

CAAGS 2010 Request for Nominations

Positions for election are 1st Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer and FGS delegate. Please contact us if you are interested in running for one of these offices.

Nicknames and Phonetic Spellings

I was researching my Littlefield line and found myself stuck with my great-grandparents. I saved everyone who shared their surname in the census records for the county where I thought they lived, but I just couldn't find their family among them.

Come to find out, about two years later, I had them from perhaps the first day I searched. My great-grandfather must have had a great sense of humor (or something on the darker side), for he gave the census taker all his children's middle names, rather than their given names. It pays to know both first and middle names.

Leona Lane Littlefield
Warren, Arkansas

Professional Research Service

The **Ancestor Seekers Family History Service** is a genealogy research service undertaken by professional genealogists who have access to records held at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The work is carried out by researchers with many years experience of working with these records at the Library as part of the staff or as volunteers. Current library staff members do not undertake the work.

Over 3,000 satisfied clients, mainly from the United States and Canada, have received assistance with their ancestry since February 2005. See Research Service Testimonials

Original Records

We have access to the vast collection at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City - 2.4 million rolls of microfilm, 742,000 microfiche and 310,000 books! There is therefore a good chance that the records of your ancestors - your roots - are here, waiting to be found.

Our approach is to conduct a search of original genealogy records. This has become increasingly important as more spurious and unverified information finds its way on to the Internet. With the exception of digitized images of original documents, this information should always be verified by reference to the original records.

No-Obligation Research Plan and Quotation

If you are considering hiring a professional researcher to help you with your family tree, we invite you to Request a Research Plan and Quotation without obligation. We will conduct some preliminary work at no charge in which we will:

1. Review your current information
2. Check which records at the Library might provide

- information on your ancestors
3. Prepare a suggested research plan, including how much any further research would cost
 4. Email this to you for your consideration.

Our Fees

Should you wish to proceed with any work on your ancestry recommended in our Quotation, this will be undertaken for a fee of \$55 per hour plus a \$5.00 administration/documentation fee.

Your Own Personal Consultant

With Ancestor Seekers you will have the benefit of your own personal consultant who will keep you fully informed of the progress being made with your research and who is only an e-mail away!

No Minimums and No Obligation to Continue

Unlike some other research companies who will only do a minimum of 10 - 20 hours research, our minimum is only one hour (at \$60), although most of our clients request three to five hours. Although our initial report will include suggestions for further research, there is no obligation to continue.

Our Guarantee

We will quote the price before any work on your family tree is done. We will never proceed with any work until we have quoted the fee and received authorization to proceed. We guarantee not to exceed the quoted fee. Nothing is payable until the work has been done.

Request a Research Plan and Quotation

Let us help you trace your roots!
 REQUEST a Research Plan and Quotation
<http://www.ancestorseekers.com/research/request.php>

Anderson County SC USGenWeb Genealogy Project

Doing research in the Golden Corner (Anderson-Oconee-Pickens) counties of South Carolina might be time consuming for you, because of how these counties were formed. Based on your time-period, you might need to research all (3) counties. As a result, you'll find that many of the webpage links on the left side of this page will represent all (3) counties.

- Prior to 1783, no lawful White settlements were above present southern Anderson County border.
- In 1789 Pendleton County was formed as part of the 96 Judicial District from Indian Country.
- In 1795 Pendleton County was placed in the Washington Judicial District.

- In 1799, Pendleton County was named Pendleton District by the State legislature and Washington Judicial District was discontinued.
- In 1826/27, Pendleton District was divided into the Anderson & Pickens Districts.
- In 1868 the state legislature decided to change all districts to counties.
- Oconee County (est. 1868) represents part of old Pickens County & added Indian Land.
- Pickens County (est. 1825) represents part of old Pickens District.
- Anderson County (est. 1826) represents the old Anderson District.
- In 1986, Pickens County annexed Oconee County land that included Clemson University and land extending SE to Anderson County.

Anderson County and its county seat, Anderson, were named for Revolutionary War general Robert Anderson (1741-1812). This region was occupied by the Cherokee Indians until 1777, when it was ceded by treaty to the state. Part of the "Indian Land" became Pendleton District (also called Washington District at one time.) The area was given its present name in 1826, when Pendleton District was split into Anderson and Pickens. Most of the early settlers of this area were Scotch-Irish farmers who moved south from Pennsylvania and Virginia in the eighteenth century. The oldest town in the county is Pendleton, which was founded around 1790; it became a popular summer resort for low country planters in the nineteenth century. Some famous residents of Anderson County were United States senator and governor Olin D. Johnston (1896-1965), business leader Charles E. Daniel (1895-1964), and composer Lily Strickland (1884-1958). (Submitted by: SC State Library / Mary Morgan, 31-Mar-2008)

For more info go to:
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~scandrsn/>

7 Census Search Strategies

By Juliana Smith 08 June 2010

"They've just got to be here!" How many times have we uttered those words as we searched for ancestors in census records? I think we've all got at least one family that's playing play hide-and-seek with us. Before you jump to the conclusion that they were abducted by aliens, here are seven strategies that may help you to pull them from hiding.

1. First, determine whether or not they really should be where you think they were. Arrange other records you've collected chronologically, creating a timeline that will help you to pinpoint exactly where they were at the time of the census. City or county directories and other records that include addresses are particularly helpful.

2. Search for a neighbor from a previous or subsequent census. This is particularly helpful if your ancestor owned their home and didn't move around as much. You'll want to choose a neighbor who also owned their home, and was of an age that they would likely have been still living there at the time of the census.

3. Consider ethnic given and last names—particularly if your ancestor was a recent immigrant at the time of the census. For example, your ancestor named John may be listed as Jan, Janos, Johann, or Giovanni. BehindtheName.com is one resource for finding ethnic equivalents or related given names. Likewise, your ancestor may have used a more traditional spelling of his surname when he first arrived or it may have been spelled phonetically by a census taker who wasn't familiar with the name. In this case, learning more about pronunciation in your ancestor's native tongue can be the key. For example, in Polish, *ę* represents an "en" sound. This could explain why I sometimes found my grandmother's surname spelled as Mekalski and other times as Menkalski.

4. If your ancestor's surname was prone to butchering by record keepers, perhaps a search with given name only can help. Try adding in birth, relationships, and any other criteria the advanced search allows. While your grandfather Charles, may have been one of 1,246 Charleses in Lake County, Indiana in the 1910 Census, there weren't as many born in 1903 (166). Throw in the fact that he was born in Pennsylvania and you're down to 14. I used the advanced search settings found below each field to restrict my search to exact on all except the year of birth, which we all know can be off a bit in censuses. If you're still not able to locate Grandpa, there are additional settings now that could allow you to expand your search to adjacent counties and state for location, and for variants of the name Charles. Just make sure you're in the "Advanced Search" and click on the links below each search field.

5. Search for a sibling. Sometimes while your ancestor's name might have been misspelled or obliterated by a smudge or tear on the page, his or her sibling's entry may be legible. Or if you're doing a given name only search like we discussed in #4, a sibling's more unusual given name could make it easier to locate the family.

6. Browse around the areas where extended family lived. Families often stayed close to one another. Locate extended family (siblings, parents, in-laws, cousins, aunts and uncles), and then browse pages around them to see if your ancestor was living nearby.

7. Expand your horizons. Open yourself up to the possibility that your ancestor may have moved away for a short time around the time of the census. Perhaps the economy drove him to seek work elsewhere for a time. Include personal details about your ancestor, but leave the residence field blank. You may find him living somewhere unexpected.

**Don't forget to renew your membership
The 2011 membership drive has started**

**The Los Angeles Family History Library will open
October 25, 2010 to serve you**

Library hours: Monday, Friday, Saturday 9 am - 5 pm
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9 am - 9 pm

Open House: Nov. 6, 9am - 9pm, Saturday
Nov. 7, 3pm - 9pm, Sunday

During the Open House twenty minute mini-classes will be taught. Check our website for the mini-class schedule. The Library will not be available for research during the Open House.

Come to the Open House and let us introduce you to our newly renovated library with:

State-of-the-art technology: High speed Internet, computers and virtual teaching classrooms facilitate genealogical research that cannot be accessed at smaller family history centers.

Large collection of resources: Microfilms/fiches, books and free use of fee-based websites such as Ancestry.com.

Video Conferencing: The computer laboratory is uniquely designed to support video conferencing technology.

Classroom Facilities: Two large new classrooms will be used for training and for beginning, intermediate, and advanced family history courses that teach the most current family history research methods.

The image shows a screenshot of a search interface with several sections:

- Name:** Fields for 'First & Middle Name(s)' and 'Last Name'. A dropdown menu below 'First & Middle Name(s)' is set to 'Restrict to exact'. A red arrow points to a 'Show Advanced' link with a text box: "If this link says Show Advanced you'll need to click it to make advanced search options below available."
- Birth:** Fields for 'Year' and 'Location'. A dropdown menu below 'Year' is set to 'Exact'. A red arrow points to a 'Show Advanced' link with a text box: "Click these links to specify what results you want included."
- Lived In (Residence):** A 'Location' field. A dropdown menu below it is set to 'Use default settings'. A red arrow points to a 'Show Advanced' link with the same text box.
- Family Members:** Fields for 'Father' and 'Mother', each with an 'Exact' checkbox.

 At the top right of the form are links for 'Clear Form' and 'Hide Advanced'.



Heritage Newsletter

California African American Genealogical Society

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California African American Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 8442

Los Angeles, CA 90008-0442

General Membership Meetings

Third Saturday monthly at 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)

2010 Board of Directors

Ronald Higgins - President

Ron Batiste – First Vice President

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President's Message

By Ronald Higgins

Our biggest year to come, in 2011 CAAGS will celebrate its 25th year. Come experience it with us.

Has your genealogy got your number? Is it your alternative living or your life style now? Are you sharing your work with others this holiday season? Do you suffer from depression because you can not find that one person you need to know about? Ask someone for help with your problem. Start going to conferences and seminars that might help you untangle your roots, stay hungry for genealogy.

CAAGS needs you, we want to hear your voice, become an officer. We will accept all the help we can get. We have top quality people in our organization. Come join us and share your point of view with others. Volunteer to teach a beginner genealogy class.

On November 6th 21 members of CAAGS took a road trip to San Diego, CA. The bus trip was to visit our sister society, the San Diego African American Genealogy Research Group. The presenter was Dr. Theodore Kornweibel, Jr. His topic of discussion was Railroads in the African American Experience. Dr. Kornweibel is a professor emeritus in African American History at San Diego State University and author. Thanks to everyone that joined us in supporting our sister genealogy society in a good presentation and meal following it. Also, thanks to Ophelia Sanders in making it happen.

Greetings from your president to you and your family during the holiday season, peace and love, and Happy Kwanzaa. I'm looking forward to a new year with you.

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.

Continued thanks to all our members and friends, we're still going strong. Come celebrate in 2011 with us and be our inspiration.

Lastly, save the date, the Discover Your Roots Conference be held March 12th, 2011. More details to come.

2010 Calendar of Events

December 18

CAAGS Holiday Party, 11am – 3pm, Carson Buffet., 888 E. Dominquez St., Carson, CA 90746

December 25

Merry Christmas

January 1, 2011

Happy New Year!

January 15

CAAGS general meeting 10am -2pm. Mayme Clayton Library and Museum. Speaker Alice Fairhurst will join us to discuss Adventures In Genealogy and DNA Testing

** Calendar is subject to change without notice*

Websites of Interest

Slavery records online

<http://www.newyorkhistoryblog.com/2010/09/important-slavery-collection-goes.html>

Dutch:

Family History	www.familysearch.org
Dutch Family History	www.dutchgenealogy.com
Dutch records	www.genlias.nl/en
Yvette's Dutch Genealogy	www.twente.NL/~genealogy/

Basque genealogy:

Etxeto Basque Family website www.etxeto.com

India:

Indian Family History	www.india.com.ar/
Family History in India	www.familysearch.org

Excavation of sites such as Timbuctoo, N.J., is helping to rewrite African American history

By DeNeen Brown
Washington Post Staff Writer

TIMBUCTOO, N.J. -- In Timbuctoo lies a hill. Underneath that hill lies a house, or what archaeologists think might have been a house once upon a time. The silver clasp of a woman's handbag, piles of Mason jars, chips of dinner

plates and an empty jar of Dixie Peach Pomade lie among the bricks that have broken away from the foundation.

These are crushed fragments of a past life when free black people lived in this New Jersey community almost 200 years ago -- free even then, 45 years before Emancipation. "Most of the history of this country is in that house," says David Orr, a classical archaeologist and professor of anthropology at Temple University. Orr is standing at the site down a gray road in Timbuctoo. A hot wind is blowing.

Orr said that the buried community has the potential to be a very important find in African American history.

"Timbuctoo is great in a larger context because it lasted, some of it, into the 20th century," he said. "It also has a very large descendant community, so ethnographically it is important."

Timbuctoo was founded by freed blacks and escaped slaves in the 1820s. It was probably named after Timbuktu, the town in Mali near the Niger River, although researchers are still trying to find out how and why it got its name. The neighborhood still exists in the township of Westampton, N.J., about a 45-minute drive northeast of Philadelphia, an enclave of many acres, so tiny and tucked away that when you ask someone at the store two miles away, he tells you he has no idea where it is.

Timbuctoo has always been a secret kind of a place. Had to be, because it was part of the Underground Railroad. There are newer houses here now where some descendants of original settlers still live. But much of the physical history of Timbuktu is buried underground. Based on a geophysical survey, archaeologists believe that foundations of a whole village of perhaps 18 houses and a church dating back to the 1820s lies beneath layers of dirt.

In June, those archaeologists from Temple University in Philadelphia began unraveling Timbuktu's secrets, excavating the hill next to a Civil War cemetery where African American troops are buried. The discoveries are fragile and ordinary artifacts of everyday life -- jars for medicines and cosmetics, pieces of shoes, dinner plates -- but to the people unearthing them, they are invaluable.

'Story of the oppressed'

Archaeological excavation of African American communities such as Timbuktu is booming across the country, spurred by an increasing number of prominent black academics and politicians and a proliferation of museums dedicated to African American history, whose curators are eager to display the artifacts. (Archaeologists had known about the hill in Timbuktu for years, but it wasn't until a recently appointed black mayor of the township of Westampton, Sidney Camp, pursued a

geophysical survey did the excavation begin.)

“It is very important that these excavations take place,” said Rex Ellis, associate director of curatorial affairs at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture, which is scheduled to open on the Mall in 2015. “The tradition has been to overlook these things in the past. There have not been archaeologists specifically searching for these kinds of treasures. For us, this activity will contribute appreciably to our understanding of African Americans as builders and contributors to this nation.”

Archaeologists involved in the excavations say they are helping to rewrite an incomplete history -- adding evidence of resistance, not just physical oppression; evidence of integration, not just segregation. They are, they say, unearthing evidence not only of lives endured in slavery, but also of whole communities of escaped slaves hiding in small, self-sufficient communities.

“Historical records are biased and written from a certain perspective. People we are working with haven't had control over the narrative of the past,” said Paul Shackel, professor of anthropology at the University of Maryland. “People wrote about them, but wrote from their perspective. If you read the diary of what people thought of African Americans, it is atrocious. It’s racist. . . . We are . . . helping to provide the story of the oppressed and helping to make it public.”

Aside from researching their own questions, some of the archaeologists are asking descendants and communities what *they* want to know. This practice spread after the 1990 passage of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation, which required archaeologists to repatriate human burial and funerary objects, prompting consultation with descendants, Shackel said. A Temple student working with Orr is conducting interviews with Timbuctoo descendants to help guide the dig.

Christopher Fennell, assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Illinois, says communities connected to old black towns are saying: “Don’t tell us about brutality in the past. Tell us about how African Americans overcame racism. ‘There is much more focus on free African Americans like Timbuctoo.’ Researchers are focusing, for example, on how blacks participated in the Underground Railroad. “The untold story,” Fennell says, “is that it was really run by free and enslaved African Americans helping slaves to escape.”

Arlington Cemetery Was Once Site of a Thriving Black Town

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

A group of freedmen are pictured in “Freedman’s Village,” the black community built on land confiscated from Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ARLINGTON Charter buses roll up to Arlington National Cemetery every day, depositing tourists who scramble uphill to see the eternal flame on President John F. Kennedy’s grave. People stream in all directions, toward the Tomb of the Unknowns or to remember at tombstones of loved ones lost to war.

Few, however, head downhill to a quiet corner near the Iwo Jima Memorial. Down here, there are no memorials to ancient battles, no ornate headstones honoring long-dead dignitaries. There are only rows of small unassuming white tombstones, many engraved with names like George, Toby and Rose.

They are the only visible reminders that part of the nation’s most storied burial ground sits atop what used to be a thriving black town – “Freedman’s Village,” built on land confiscated from Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee.

Milton Rowe recently made his way slowly around the famous grounds with Wayne Parks. There’s nothing here now to tell visitors that freed slaves once lived here, but the two men say they feel a connection with this land because they can both trace their ancestors to Freedman’s Village.

Parks said he remembers his grandfather repeatedly bringing him to the cemetery as a child to explain the bond. Parks’ great-grandfather, James Parks, lived in Freedman’s Village and other locations around the cemetery after being freed from servitude to the Lee family.

“I was sitting on this wall gazing out over the cemetery, and all of a sudden, I got it,” Parks said. “Our DNA is intrinsically intertwined in this property, integrated in this property. The spirits of my ancestors continue to exist here in this property, so I find like my grandfather, I now come here for strength, I come here to commune with them.” Arlington National Cemetery was established on land confiscated from Lee and his family in 1861 after the general took command of the Confederate forces.

The Civil War leaders of the Union buried soldiers’ bodies on the property in hopes that Lee would never want to return, and Parks’ ancestor dug the very first grave near the Freedman’s Village burial site.

The federal government turned some land about a half-mile north of Lee’s mansion into a town specifically for freed slaves who had nowhere to go.

At its height, more than 1,100 former slaves lived in a collection of 50 1½-story duplexes surrounding a central

pond.

Although the town was supposed to be temporary, the freed slaves put up churches, stores, a hospital, mess hall, a school, an “old people’s home” and a laundry -- to make a life for themselves.

“I think it would have very much resembled a town anywhere in America today with that population. They had the same needs as anywhere, and they sustained themselves by working,” said Thomas Sherlock, historian at Arlington National Cemetery.

Eventually, the village site, with a spectacular view of the nation's capital and the Potomac River, became desirable for development. Despite impassioned protests from the freed slaves, the federal government paid the residents \$75,000 for the buildings and property, and tore down the town in 1900.

Saving the city would have been a “gift to the American people to remember the struggles which seem like was a long time ago, but 150 years is not that long ago,” Sherlock said.

The only trace of Freedman’s Village left on the grounds are the lonely graves in Section 27 near the Iwo Jima Memorial.

Who Do You Think You Are? Returns to NBC on January 21

NBC is overhauling its schedule for mid-season. However, one program returns to its old time slot: *Who Do You Think You Are?* will air on Fridays at 8 PM, beginning on January 21. Check your local listings.

Five Question Challenge About Family

For 2011 your challenge is to answer and ask five questions to your family members. If you don’t like the below suggestions, make up five of your own.

- How has a member of your family influenced you?
- How often did you see extended family (e.g., aunts, uncles, cousins), and what was it like when you all got together?
- What kind of traditions did/does your family observe? Were there special ways you celebrated birthdays? Holidays?
- Did your family have pets?
- What foods did you family enjoy? Was there a special dish that was always on the table at family get-togethers?

Feel free to share your memories, they may help spark the

memories of others who had similar experiences.

Tips from The Pros: Make Note of It

from Michael John Neill

A great idea for an article hit me while I was changing terminals at the Memphis Airport. Unfortunately, by the time I got something out on which I could record the idea for later, it was too late. It was gone. The greatest genealogy tip ever lost for good.

You are not the newspaper of record, either. How many of us have parts of our genealogical information recorded only in our minds? Did we make assumptions about a date, a place, or an event and fail to record those assumptions in our notes? Did we reach a conclusion from a series of documents and fail to record our reasoning in our notes? There is always the chance that our assumption or line of reasoning was incorrect and if we fail to note such in our records it sometimes is difficult to see where facts left off and concluding began.

And what information is still resident only in the minds of living family members? Traditions, stories, the identities of people in old pictures, the reason Grandpa moved to Kansas, and other bits of family lore may exist only in the depths of someone’s mind? Have you taken the time to record that information in a more permanent format? If you don’t, it too could be lost forever, much like my “greatest genealogy tip of all time” is floating somewhere around the Memphis airport. Hopefully it won’t interfere with airplane navigation.

Search Census by Place of Birth

When you hit a brick wall searching for immigrant ancestors, try searching census records by place of birth alone after entering the state and city where they lived. This is most effective where the population count among the immigrant community in the city is expected to be relatively low. All the misspelled surnames suddenly appear, and among these you may recognize your ancestor based on similar spellings, age, familiar given names, etc. I found a great-grandfather, Paul Arata, a native of Italy listed as Paulo Larate in the 1860 census for Philadelphia using this method. He was one of 302 listings, easily scanned in a few minutes. I would never have found him otherwise.

Condolences to Madison Taylor Sosa-McDonald and family on the death of her grandfather on November 27 at the age of 68. He was born in Guatemala, C.A