



# Heritage Newsletter

*California African American Genealogical Society*

*Celebrating 25 Years*

## **President's Message**

By Ron Higgins

**January 2012    Volume 24    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)

### **2011 Board of Directors**

Ronald Higgins - President  
Lloydine Outten – 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](http://www.caags.org))

### **Committee Chairs**

Ruth Palmer – Book Sales and Acquisitions  
Betty Smith – Public Relations  
LaVerne Anderson – Librarian  
Dorothy Lou Sands – Historian (Interim)  
Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor  
Colette DeVerge – FGS Delegate/Fundraising Chairman  
Norma Bates – Volunteer Chairman

Welcome to the New Year to all of CAAGS members and friends. I would like to congratulate the new, yet the same officers for the next two years. I'm looking forward to continuing to work with you again. I am also looking for a combined effort of officers and members to make the next two years come together. The year 2012 is a big year for all of us as members and officers.

Our first major event is the CAAGS 25th anniversary celebration to be held on February, 18<sup>th</sup>. Then there's the Discover Your Roots conference on March 10<sup>th</sup>. On October 18<sup>th</sup> will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Black Genealogical Summit. These events will loom large in the history of the California African American Genealogical Society. Please make plans to attend all of the events planned in 2012.

I am looking for someone to do a presentation on the subject of planning a family reunion at our April meeting, please let me know if you are willing and available to present.

In November we had a wonderful meeting. It started off with the election, then we had two young ladies from the Inglewood Cemetery speak to the members on pre-paid and setting aside a resting place before you pass away. This is something we all need to look into. Their names were Cassandra Thomas and Sheila Perez.

From the Mayme Clayton Library & Museum, we had Ashley Hardin who talked to us about how to preserve our papers and pictures. These documents are precious and need to be kept for future references. Thanks to those ladies as our morning presenters. The afternoon presenters

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were from Corona, CA. Helen Cudjo Woods and her daughter spoke about and showed us information on her grandfather Ned Cudjo who was a Seminole Indian. She found him on the Dows Rolls which was a big step for her in uncovering her genealogy. We all can't find our family with a tribe but, if we do it is a great thing. As a genealogist we can't stop looking. Luck to ALL.

The CAAGS Christmas party was held at the Royal Buffet in Inglewood, CA. We had 25 in attendance, it was a good social get together. Norma Bates had a number of games for us to play and the food was tasty. Thanks to all who participated in that event. Remember, February 18<sup>th</sup>, come one, come ALL too CAAGS 25th anniversary conference. Let's fill the building up to hear what Paula Stuart-Warren has to tell us.

Thank you to all members and officers for your continued help. I will be looking forward to seeing everyone again at our January meeting.

### **2012 Calendar of Events**

#### **January 21**

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

#### **January 21**

Genealogy Garage will be held on the third Saturday of each month, from 11am-noon. This month's topic is Genealogy Garbage: Files, Binders or ??? Where: Los Angeles Public Library, 630 W. 5th St., Los Angeles, CA History and Genealogy Department on Lower Level 4, Ph: 213-228-7000. If you would like to lead a workshop contact Charlotte Bocage/SCGS Ed. Chair: 323-669-1982, rubymoon01@yahoo.com or Donie Nelson/GSHA-SC Outreach Chair: 310-204-6808, doniegsha@earthlink.net

#### **February 18**

CAAGS 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Genealogical Conference, 8am - 3:45 pm at the LDS Westwood Chapel, 10740 Ohio Ave., Los Angeles, CA. Guest speaker, Paula Stuart-Warren, CG, FUGA.

#### **March 18**

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

*\* Calendar is subject to change without notice*

### **Websites of Interest**

#### **Fifty Years of the Quarterly of the Austin Genealogical Society is Now Available Online**

As a service to its members and the greater genealogical

community, the Austin Genealogical Society has digitized its entire run of Quarterlies and placed them online. These span from its inception in 1960 through the present day with new issues added as they are produced. The series contains articles and records of interest to a wide genealogical audience. In addition to transcriptions of many Austin and Travis County records, a wide variety of member contributions nationwide are included.

Each issue is a single PDF file and is fully text searchable. The PDFs and their tables of contents may be found at [www.austintxgensoc.org/quarterly/](http://www.austintxgensoc.org/quarterly/).

### **Need Inspiration?**

#### **25 Great Topics for Genealogy Society Blogs**

Does your genealogy society have its own blog but you lack ideas for articles? Has your blog fallen behind in terms of recent posts? Amy Coffin, of the We Tree blog, has published a FREE book (in PDF format) entitled 25 Great Topics for Genealogy Society Blogs. You can use this book as inspiration for creating winning blog posts from the author of an award-winning genealogy blog. Use the link below to download your free copy: [www.lulu.com/product/ebook/25-great-topics-for-genealogy-society-blogs/16662104](http://www.lulu.com/product/ebook/25-great-topics-for-genealogy-society-blogs/16662104)

### **Web-based Fundraising Opportunities For Genealogy Societies**

by Thomas MacEntee

This is a follow-up to the July 30 episode of FGS Radio - My Society show entitled Web-Based Fundraising Opportunities and includes notes and hyperlinks on some of the opportunities discussed.

I can't stress enough this fact: starting thinking as an "individual" when you try to set these sites and opportunities up. Think about what you would want as a consumer: bargains, discounts, the ability to recycle, to give back to your community. So if you use Groupon, eBay, a credit card, etc. then there is no reason why you can't put those same ideas to work for your society.

### **Affiliate Marketing Programs**

What is affiliate marketing? Affiliate marketing can take many forms – mostly it means signing up for an affiliate program with a genealogy-related vendor or service provider and if a purchase is made using your unique ID and link, the society gets a set percentage. This is not the same as members discount (for example, ISGS members get 50% off on a Footnote subscription) – this is member benefits and the topic of a different show in the future. Also this is not "per click" advertising such as Google AdSense.

One vendor for societies to check out is FamilyLink

([www.familylink.com](http://www.familylink.com)) and society leaders should contact Mark Olsen, Online Marketing Manager for FamilyLink for more information at [mark.olsen@familylink.com](mailto:mark.olsen@familylink.com). Many genealogy vendors have affiliate marketing programs and remember, if a vendor doesn't have an affiliate program, ask them to set one up!

### ***Why Affiliate Marketing Works***

Your society members shop – why not go through the affiliate links for the society and let the society earn a percentage? Make it easy for them to find the links. Make sure there is a reminder in your newsletter. Better yet, in your email signature! *Examples of Genealogy Societies Using Affiliate Marketing*  
Southern California Genealogical Society  
[www.scsgenealogy.com/Affiliates.htm](http://www.scsgenealogy.com/Affiliates.htm)  
Iowa Genealogical Society  
[www.iowagenealogy.org/shop/affiliates/](http://www.iowagenealogy.org/shop/affiliates/)  
San Diego Genealogical Society  
[www.casdgs.org/cpage.php?pt=36](http://www.casdgs.org/cpage.php?pt=36)  
Lee County (FL) Genealogical Society  
[lcgsfl.org/cpage.php?pt=23](http://lcgsfl.org/cpage.php?pt=23)  
FGS Voice – 2011 September 5

### ***Online Retailers***

An online retailer is a vendor of items such as mugs, calendars, shirts that can be customized with your society logo and sold online at your society's virtual store.

### ***Why Online Retailers Work***

Set up your own store Web presence  
No warehousing – products produced on demand  
No shipping & handling issues. Simple as using your logo.  
Your customers act as a billboard for your society

### ***Examples of Genealogy Societies Using Online Retailers***

Utah Genealogical Association  
[www.zazzle.com/ugagenealogy](http://www.zazzle.com/ugagenealogy)  
Minnesota Genealogical Society  
[www.zazzle.com/gifts?ch=mnngensociety](http://www.zazzle.com/gifts?ch=mnngensociety)  
Idaho State Historical Society  
[www.zazzle.com/idahoparl](http://www.zazzle.com/idahoparl)  
Hudson County Genealogical Society (NJ)  
[www.cafepress.com/sk/hcgs](http://www.cafepress.com/sk/hcgs)  
Southern California Genealogical Society  
[www.cafepress.com/sk/scsgenealogy](http://www.cafepress.com/sk/scsgenealogy)

### ***Google AdSense***

Google AdSense allows you to collect advertising revenue by placing ads on your blog or website. There is a little known division of Google AdSense called Google Grants  
[www.google.com/grants/details.html](http://www.google.com/grants/details.html) which allows non-profits to collect this same ad revenue.

### ***Ebay Community Selling***

Ebay allows nonprofits to receive a certain percentage of online auction proceeds from auctions and sales run by the

members of that non-profit.

[pages.ebay.com/help/sell/nonprofit.html](http://pages.ebay.com/help/sell/nonprofit.html) for more information. Think of this as a genealogy society garage or rummage sale but done online!

### ***Other Ideas***

Staples Ink Cartridge Recycling - your members return used cartridges at any store and your society gets coupons for office supplies:  
[www.staples.com/sbd/cre/products/3dollar\\_inkrecycle/](http://www.staples.com/sbd/cre/products/3dollar_inkrecycle/)  
Branded Credit Cards (aka Affinity Cards) - just like NFL teams have branded credit cards, nonprofits also brand their own credit cards and get 1% or more of the amount spent by the member

Cookbook – just like the church or community cookbooks that our mothers and grandmothers not only bought but contributed their recipes to, your society can self-publish a cookbook with member recipes, photos and family stories.

Please be sure to renew your **2012 CAAGS membership** if you have not done so already. Current members who have not renewed by the March meeting will be removed from the roster. Also, remember if want to continue receiving your newsletter by mail you will need to add an additional \$5 to the membership fee.

### ***Open the Doors to the Poorhouse for Ancestral Clues***

By Mary Penner

The register of inmates for the Fulton County, Illinois poor farm includes a column entitled "Cause of Pauperism." Old age, nearly blind, no home, silly, crippled in feet and ankles, sick, not right—these are just some of the causes listed.

It can be a melancholy realization to find ancestors whose lives were poor and desperate, but it's a reality that many family historians face. Known as poorhouses, poor farms, almshouses, and county farms, these were places our elderly, poor, disabled, and ill ancestors often called home.

Poorhouses have had a long presence in America, dating to before the Revolutionary War. Boston had a poorhouse as early as 1664. Care of the poor in early America was largely a local undertaking. Communities, counties, and states devised their own systems. Many people received an early form of public assistance called "outdoor relief." Despite the sad circumstances that warranted a poorhouse stay for our ancestors, the good news is that these institutions often produced records that can help our research.

Just recently, Ancestry.com released a new collection of records for New York, Census of Inmates in Almshouses

and Poorhouses, 1830-1920. I've been researching an elusive Irish immigrant named Henry Irwin who lived in New York City. I plugged his name into the search box. Now I know why Henry disappeared from city directories in the 1870s. He had taken up residence at the almshouse on Blackwell's Island.

His intake record contains a mighty array of clues: his birthplace in Ireland (down to the town), the birthplaces of his parents in Ireland (towns here also), when he arrived in the U.S. and through what port. (He arrived at Quebec - that dandy piece of information was news to me.) Other clues confirm that this Henry Irwin is probably my guy.

Despite my glee at finding this record, I can't ignore the stark reality of Henry's circumstances. According to the record he suffered from "paralysis and destitution" and his future was "doubtful."

How do you know if any of your ancestors lived in a poorhouse? Look for clues, some obvious and some subtle. My great-grandfather's obituary noted that he died at the "county farm." I ignored that clue for many years. Eventually, I realized there could be a paper trail related to his home away from home. Regrettably, I discovered that when that farm closed in the 1940s the final head-mistress burned all the records.

Look carefully at the place of death noted on death certificates. Have you overlooked a reference to a poorhouse? Census records are another handy resource. Typically, residents of institutions were often identified as "inmates" and the census-taker usually noted the name of the institution somewhere on the form.

The 1880 census, in particular, gathered valuable data on our poor relations. Look carefully at the columns under the heading "Health."

SCHEDULE 1.—Inhabitants in *West Bradford* in the County of *Cheshire*, State of *Pennsylvania*, enumerated by me on the *22<sup>nd</sup>* day of *June*, 1880.

*Cheshire County Poor House Continued*

NAME	AGE	SEX	COLOR	RELATION	EDUCATION	INDUSTRY	VALUE	PROPERTY	REAL ESTATE	PERSONAL	INSTITUTION	REMARKS
<i>James J. Smith</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Cheshire County Poor House</i>	<i>Indigent</i>
<i>John J. Smith</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Cheshire County Poor House</i>	<i>Indigent</i>
<i>William J. Smith</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Cheshire County Poor House</i>	<i>Indigent</i>
<i>Elizabeth J. Smith</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Cheshire County Poor House</i>	<i>Indigent</i>
<i>Marshall J. Smith</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Cheshire County Poor House</i>	<i>Indigent</i>
<i>Robert J. Smith</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Cheshire County Poor House</i>	<i>Indigent</i>
<i>John J. Smith</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Cheshire County Poor House</i>	<i>Indigent</i>
<i>Elizabeth J. Smith</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Cheshire County Poor House</i>	<i>Indigent</i>
<i>Marshall J. Smith</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Cheshire County Poor House</i>	<i>Indigent</i>
<i>Robert J. Smith</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Cheshire County Poor House</i>	<i>Indigent</i>
<i>John J. Smith</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Cheshire County Poor House</i>	<i>Indigent</i>
<i>Elizabeth J. Smith</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Cheshire County Poor House</i>	<i>Indigent</i>

If any of those are checked, see if you can find your ancestor also listed on the 1880 special schedules of Defective, Dependent, and Delinquent Classes.

The "Pauper and Indigent" schedule focused on people living in almshouses. You'll find a few clues on these schedules, but equally important is the basic knowledge that your ancestral relative spent some time at the poorhouse. That piece of information should jumpstart your hunt for those records.

Poorhouse records could be in any number of places, just like most records we use. They could be at the county courthouse, at a local historical society, at the state archives or state library, or in the holdings of a local college. Check out the website The Poorhouse Story ([www.poorhousestory.com](http://www.poorhousestory.com)) for more clues. As with all records that we pursue, keep in mind that errors can creep in. Not every detail you find on a poorhouse record may be completely accurate, but there sure can be some good clues.

SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE No. 7.—PAUPER AND INDIGENT inhabitants in institutions, poor-houses or asylums, or boarded at public expense in private houses) in the County of *Cheshire*, State of *Pennsylvania*, June 1, 1880.

NAME	AGE	SEX	COLOR	RELATION	EDUCATION	INDUSTRY	VALUE	PROPERTY	REAL ESTATE	PERSONAL	INSTITUTION	REMARKS
<i>John J. Smith</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Cheshire County Poor House</i>	<i>Indigent</i>
<i>Elizabeth J. Smith</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Cheshire County Poor House</i>	<i>Indigent</i>
<i>Marshall J. Smith</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Cheshire County Poor House</i>	<i>Indigent</i>
<i>Robert J. Smith</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Cheshire County Poor House</i>	<i>Indigent</i>
<i>John J. Smith</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Cheshire County Poor House</i>	<i>Indigent</i>
<i>Elizabeth J. Smith</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Cheshire County Poor House</i>	<i>Indigent</i>
<i>Marshall J. Smith</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Cheshire County Poor House</i>	<i>Indigent</i>
<i>Robert J. Smith</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Cheshire County Poor House</i>	<i>Indigent</i>
<i>John J. Smith</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Cheshire County Poor House</i>	<i>Indigent</i>
<i>Elizabeth J. Smith</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Cheshire County Poor House</i>	<i>Indigent</i>

Even if your ancestor didn't die in a poorhouse, don't rule out the possibility that he or she may have lived there for a while. Some people only stayed in poorhouses for a short time. One prevailing theory was that if the living conditions in poorhouses were miserable enough, those who were able-bodied would be inclined to seek out work and vacate the premises as soon as possible. If you've lost track of an ancestor, check to see if a poorhouse existed near his or her last known residence. If the records still exist, add "poorhouse" to your research list.

Have you had any experience with poorhouse records? Did you find some fascinating details? Have you ever been denied access to poorhouse records? Leave a comment and share what you've discovered about poorhouses.

Professional genealogist and writer Mary Penner can be reached through her website: [www.marypenner.com](http://www.marypenner.com).

### Chambers Of Commerce

Search older the larger US Chamber of Commerce at [www.2chambers.com/](http://www.2chambers.com/) and the newer smaller [www.chamberofcommerce.com/chambers/](http://www.chamberofcommerce.com/chambers/) for their chambers. Ask about their reverse or criss-cross directories, maps, the names and addresses of the local historian, genealogical society, funeral directors and cemeteries.



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(Old Culver City Courthouse across from VA building)

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Webmaster (visit us at [www.caags.org](http://www.caags.org))

**Committee Chairs**

Ruth Palmer – Book Sales and Acquisitions  
Betty Smith – Public Relations  
LaVerne Anderson – Librarian  
Dorothy Lou Sands – Historian (Interim)  
Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor  
Colette DeVerge – FGS Delegate/Fundraising Chairman  
Norma Bates – Volunteer Chairman

**President's Message**

By Ron Higgins

This month is your month in more than one way. First, this is Black History Month. Secondly, your society will culminate the celebration of its 25<sup>th</sup> year as a genealogical society. I am looking forward to seeing all CAAGS members and friends at the conference. Your presence will show your commitment to CAAGS and all it stands for. Remember, all things work together for the good, for them that love each other and genealogy. Belonging to a genealogical society makes the world becomes smaller and more interesting. Families are made and maintained with love. Our research is done for the love of family. Finding family makes you powerful and stronger in numbers. Genealogy helps maintain families. Oh! By the way: Happy Valentine's Day!

Thanks to Reverend Cassandra Thomas-Wright for inducting the newly re-elected officers for 2012-2014 term, Lloydine Outten - recording secretary; Carolyn Conway - membership/2<sup>nd</sup> vice-president and Ronald W. Higgins, president.

Remember we can only be the best with the help of all of the members. A big thanks is extended to Lorna Rice for her presentation on documentation and its importance. We all benefited from this useful information.

Hope to see you at the conference on February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012 from 8:00am – 4:00pm.

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

## 2012 Calendar of Events

### February 18

CAAGS 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Genealogical Conference, 8am - 3:45 pm at the LDS Westwood Chapel, 10740 Ohio Ave., Los Angeles, CA. Guest speaker, Paula Stuart-Warren, CG, FUGA.

### February 25

Whittier Area Genealogical Society 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Seminar, 8am – 4pm, Guest speaker George G. Morgan. For registration, [www.cagenweb.com/kr/wags/seminar.html](http://www.cagenweb.com/kr/wags/seminar.html) or contact [wags.seminar@gmail.com](mailto:wags.seminar@gmail.com) or follow on Facebook.

### March 17

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

### March 24

Conejo Valley Genealogy Society Annual Seminar, featuring John Philip Colleta, Ph.D. For more info contact [cvg2012seminar@aol.com](mailto:cvg2012seminar@aol.com) or call 805 379 2067

### April 21

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

*\* Calendar is subject to change without notice*

## Websites of Interest

### Fifty Years of the Quarterly of the Austin Genealogical Society is Now Available Online

As a service to its members and the greater genealogical community, the Austin Genealogical Society has digitized its entire run of Quarterlies and placed them online. These span from its inception in 1960 through the present day with new issues added as they are produced. The series contains articles and records of interest to a wide genealogical audience. In addition to transcriptions of many Austin and Travis County records, a wide variety of member contributions nationwide are included.

Each issue is a single PDF file and is fully text searchable. The PDFs and their tables of contents may be found at [www.austintxgensoc.org/quarterly/](http://www.austintxgensoc.org/quarterly/).

### Need Inspiration?

#### 25 Great Topics for Genealogy Society Blogs

Does your genealogy society have its own blog but you lack ideas for articles? Has your blog fallen behind in terms of recent posts? Amy Coffin, of the We Tree blog, has published a FREE book (in PDF format) entitled 25 Great Topics for Genealogy Society Blogs. You can use this book as inspiration for creating winning blog posts

from the author of an award-winning genealogy blog. Use the link below to download your free copy: [www.lulu.com/product/ebook/25-great-topics-for-genealogy-society-blogs/16662104](http://www.lulu.com/product/ebook/25-great-topics-for-genealogy-society-blogs/16662104)

## 12 In 2012

In 2011, we made those connections easier for you by adding more than 637 million new historical records spanning the globe—from Irish birth, marriage and death details, to 1911 UK census images and records from the U.S. Civil War. This fall, we asked you what we could do to make Ancestry.com fit both your lifestyle and your research goals even better. Based on your responses, we put together our list of 12 things you can count on from Ancestry.com in 2012:

1. Announcing the 1940 U.S. Federal Census—the 72-year wait is over
2. A fully-indexed 1911 UK Census, plus more U.S. state censuses
3. Additional U.S. birth, marriage and death records
4. New U.S. and international church records
5. Millions of new occupation-related records
6. Clearer images plus new census technology showing more details
7. Direct access to more Ancestry Hints that can lead you to new records
8. Free family tree apps for Apple, Android, Kindle Fire and NOOK
9. New ways to connect and grow your tree with help from social networking sites
10. New answers in your DNA
11. Ancestry Hints from new historical record collections
12. Tips and instruction directly from the pros at Ancestry.com

## IBGS Conference

For those of you planning to attend the IBGS Conference in October, please make your hotel reservations soon. The rooms are filling up fast and we only have a limited number at the conference rate. You need a credit card to guarantee/hold your reservation. If you try to reserve your room after the block is filled you will need to make your reservations at another hotel.

### Black History Fact

#### The Negro Motorist Green Book

The Negro Motorist Green Book was a publication released in 1936 that served as a guide for African-American travelers. Because of the racist conditions that existed from



segregation, blacks needed a reference manual to guide them to integrated or black-friendly establishments. That's when they turned to "The Negro Motorist Green Book: An International Travel Guide" by activist Victor Green and presented by the Esso Standard Oil Company. Originally provided to serve Metropolitan New York, the book received such an alarming response, it was spread throughout the country within one year. The catch phrase was "Now we can travel without embarrassment."

The Green Book often provided information on local "tourist homes," which were private residences owned by blacks and open to travelers. It was especially helpful to blacks that traveled through "sunset towns" or towns that publicly stated that blacks had to leave the town by sundown or it would be cause for arrest. Also listed were hotels, barbershops, beauty salons, restaurants, garages, liquor stores, ball parks and taverns. It also provided a listing of the white-owned, black-friendly locations for accommodations and food. The publication was free, with a 10-cent cost of shipping. As interest grew, the Green Book solicited salespersons nationwide to build its ad sales.

Inside the pages of the Green Book were action photos of the various locations, along with historical and background information for the readers' review. Within the pages of the introduction, the guide states, "There will be a day sometime in the near future when this guide will not have to be published. That is when we as a race will have equal opportunities and privileges in the United States"

The Green Book printed its last copy in 1964 after the passing of the Civil Rights Act.  
Go to the below link to see  
[www.autolife.umd.umich.edu/Race/R\\_Casestudy/87\\_135\\_1736\\_GreenBk.pdf](http://www.autolife.umd.umich.edu/Race/R_Casestudy/87_135_1736_GreenBk.pdf)

### **Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter - Standard Edition - Illiana Cemetery Website to Contain 400,000 Tombstone Photos**

Michael Coan has created a valuable resource for many genealogists researching ancestry in Illinois or Indiana. He has placed many tombstone photographs online from Vermilion and Champaign counties in Illinois, as well as from other cemeteries in Edgar County, Illinois; Iroquois County, Illinois; Douglas County, Illinois; Ford County, Illinois; Vermillion County, Indiana; and Warren County, Indiana.

A few of the pictures are wide-area shots, showing dozens of tombstones. These give a perspective of the cemetery. The majority of pictures, however, are of individual tombstones. Michael writes on the site: "I have around 400,000 pictures to put up on this site. AGAIN, not all of

these are up on this site YET..."

You can read more about this valuable resource in an article by Joan Griffis in the Commercial-News web site at <http://goo.gl/0JL9J> while the Illiana Cemetery Website is available at <http://www.vermilioncounty.info>.

Please be sure to renew your **2012 CAAGS membership** if you have not done so already. Current members who have not renewed by the March meeting will be removed from the organization's roster. Also, remember if want to continue receiving your newsletter by US postal mail you will need to add an additional \$5 to the membership fee.

### **African American Golden Legacy A PICTURE SPEAKS A THOUSAND WORDS... AFRO INDIANS**



#### **History of Africans among the Native American Indians**

Runaway African slaves often found new homes in American Indian villages. Even though classified as "slaves" in White society, many African Americans became part of an INDIAN family group, and many intermarried with Native Americans - thus many later became classified as Black Indians. This is a unique history between African (black) slaves and Native American Indians which developed in many U. S. communities.



“Despite every European effort to keep one dark people from assisting the other, the two races began to blend on a vast scale. Black Indians were apparent everywhere if one bothered to look. Thomas Jefferson, for example, found among the Mattaponies of his Virginia, “more negro than Indian blood in them.” Another eyewitness reported Virginia’s Gingaskin reservation had become “largely African.” Peter Kalm, whose famous diary described a visit to the British colonies in 1750, took note of many Africans living with Indians, with marriage and children the normal result.”

~ Quote From: William Loren Katz’s **Black Indian: A Hidden Heritage** (New York: Atheneum, 1986)

When more than 60,000 Native Americans were removed from their homes during the 1830s by U.S. Federal troops from the southeastern states of the United States - they were forced Westward to **Oklahoma, Kansas, and Nebraska**. This was called the “**Trail of Tears**.”

In some cases, Blacks and Indians joined together in acts of rebellion to massacre White plantation owners and White soldiers. Many of these Native American tribes had previously embraced and either helped or kept numerous African Americans as slaves. African Americans and Native Americans created a mixed cultural blend depending upon the specific tribal group.

#### **Well-Known Black Indians:**

**Tina Turner**  
**Rosa Parks**  
**Eartha Kitt**  
**L.L. Cool J.**  
**Debbie Allen**  
**Felicia Rashad**  
**James Earl Jones**  
**The Jacksons... (Janet, Michael, etc.)**

<http://www.freewebs.com/black-legacy/slaveryindians.htm>

#### **1940 Census — Countdown to 2012** **Less than 60 days remaining until Monday, April 2**

The 1940 Census will be made available for public inspection beginning Monday, April 2, 2012. The U.S. Census Bureau and National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) have been coordinating closely for many months to prepare for and ensure access to the 1940 census schedules as quickly as possible. NARA has already announced the completion of a digitization project and their plans to place all images online for free browsing via the Internet. Although there will not be an index immediately available to search by name, a little preparation can increase your chances of finding your ancestors in the 1940 census without much trouble.

#### **“Brave, Bold and Beautiful”** **Book Series ISO Story Submissions**

Joslyn Gaines Vanderpool and Anita Royston, creators of the “Brave, Bold and Beautiful” book series, are asking the public to submit their stories for publication consideration in two of their upcoming books.

The first book, entitled, “Our Black Mothers: Brave, Bold and Beautiful!,” is an anthology honoring mothers & mother figures of African descent (living or deceased). Stories must be touching and truthful.

The second book entitled, “Challenges, Truths and Triumphs - The Success Stories of People of Color: Brave, Bold and Beautiful!,” is an upcoming anthology honoring people of color who have overcome obstacles in their lives and have accomplished feats through struggle, oppression, hardship and indifference. Tell the story about your family or yourself and the journey and sacrifices that were made to make you or your family what you/they are. You can write about a specific incidence or write a biography about your parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, siblings, self or friends that you know of who defied the odds and have led positive lives and created success with very little.

For this book, the publishers are accepting stories from individuals who are Asian, Asian Pacific Islander, Native American, Middle Eastern, Pakistani, East Indian, African American, African, Jewish, Hispanic, Latino/Latina.

#### **DEADLINES:**

March 31, 2012 for Our Black Mothers  
 May 31, 2012 for Challenges, Truths Triumphs

For info/submission guidelines go to:  
<http://www.braveboldbeautifulseries.com>





# Heritage Newsletter

*California African American Genealogical Society*

**March 2012    Volume 24    Number 3**

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)

**2011 Board of Directors**

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

**Committee Chairs**

Ruth Palmer – Book Sales and Acquisitions  
Betty Smith – Public Relations  
LaVerne Anderson – Librarian  
Dorothy Lou Sands – Historian (Interim)  
Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor  
Colette DeVerge – FGS Delegate/Fundraising Chairman  
Norma Bates – Volunteer Chairman

**President's Message**

By Ron Higgins

The California African American Genealogical Society has made footprints in the sands of history. I am proud that we have concluded 25 years in CAAGS history! The conference held at the Westwood Chapel of the Church of the Latter Day Saints, February 18<sup>th</sup> was great. Our presenter, certified genealogist, Paula Stuart-Warren gave an all day seminar entitled "Finding Our Roots in Records." She has a vast knowledge of genealogy and gave four informative sessions. During our lunch break we viewed a video scrapbook and history of CAAGS of our 25 years, produced by our own member, Dr. Edna Briggs. We were happy to be able to recognize our founding and charter members as well as the many members who have volunteered their services at the Los Angeles Family History Research Center.

I am so proud of our members who worked tirelessly in planning all aspects of the seminar. Everything reflected the time and attention given to all of the details involved in planning a conference. We are also grateful to the Elders of the Church of the Latter Day Saints who volunteered their time to ensure that everything ran smoothly. We are indebted to the Westwood Chapel for allowing us to use their beautiful facility.

As your president, it was my pleasure to serve as host of this wonderful event. My sincere thanks are extended to all of the members and friends who attended and it is because of your efforts that the seminar was successful.

March signals the arrival of the beginning of our 26<sup>th</sup> year. Don't forget our next milestone celebration - 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](mailto:CAAGS@hotmail.com)*

10<sup>th</sup> Discover Your Roots Conference on March 10<sup>th</sup>. It promises to be a great event and I will look forward to seeing everyone at our general meeting the following Saturday.

### 2012 Calendar of Events

#### March 17

CAAGS general meeting 10am -2pm, Mayme Clayton Library and Museum. Marjorie Sholes, guest speaker

#### March 24

Conejo Valley Genealogy Society Annual Seminar, featuring John Philip Colleta, Ph.D. For more info contact [cvgs2012seminar@aol.com](mailto:cvgs2012seminar@aol.com) or call 805 379 2067

#### April 21

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

#### May 19

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

*\* Calendar is subject to change without notice*

### Websites of Interest

#### Black Wall Street

<http://www.blackwallstreet.freesevers.com/>

### What is Web Search?

A wealth of genealogical information is made available online by libraries, local governments, genealogical societies, universities and genealogists. Ancestry.com Web Search makes it easy to find records from many of these content publishers. To help you find genealogy information wherever it exists, we summarize basic information from freely-available web records and provide a link to the original site where you can view the full record, including any associated images.

### The guiding principles of Web Search are:

- Free access to Web Records – Users do not have to subscribe or even register with Ancestry.com to view these records
- Proper attribution of Web Records to content publishers
- Easy access to Web Records – Prominent links in search results and the record page make it easy to

get to the source website

### What's the difference between Web Records and Ancestry.com records?

Web Records are published online by entities other than Ancestry.com. What you see on Ancestry.com is an index of basic information (such as names, dates, places and family members) that aids in searching. Often you can find out much more by visiting the source website, including references, publication information, comments, historical context, and even images.

In some cases you may need to perform a search on the external website to find the record you're looking for.

### Do I need to register or pay in order to access Web Records?

No. Web Records are freely searchable and accessible without any registration or sign-in required.

### Which records are included in Web Search?

We look for family history records on free-to-access websites that we think will be of interest to you. Our goal is to provide pointers to as many interesting free family history records on other websites as possible in order to provide the best available genealogy search experience.

Only freely-available websites which allow indexing are included in the Web Search index. Sites can be added to or removed from Web Search by owner request.

We'd love to hear your feedback about Web Search.

### For content publishers and website owners:

If you have a website with family history records, we would love to hear your feedback. Please feel free to join the discussion on our message board.

If you would like us to consider linking to records on your family history site, let us know at [www.websearch@ancestry.com](mailto:www.websearch@ancestry.com).

We follow web standards for restricting crawling (robots.txt files). If a website has a robots.txt file that prohibits crawling the genealogical records, we don't search those records. If records from your website are included, but you would like them removed, simply send your request to [websearch@ancestry.com](mailto:websearch@ancestry.com) or call our member services team at 1-800-262-3787.

Copyright © 2011 Ancestry.com Taken from *The Weekly Discovery*

### **Siblings' Death Records**

Be sure to cross-check the death certificates of your ancestor's siblings'. My great-grandfather's mother was a mystery. Her first name had been listed as Eleanor, Elender, and Elvira in different census records. There was also a question about her last name. Unfortunately, the death certificate of my great-grandfather was hard to read. I couldn't make out his mother's name with certainty. So I looked for his siblings' death certificates and compared them all to figure it out. Now I search and save death certificates of all siblings. It's also helpful in making sure I have the right brothers and sisters listed.

### **Scanning Sense**

*By Maureen Taylor*

Here's a big question: Is it OK to scan photos onto your computer for storage and reprinting?

The short answer is yes. Scanning is misunderstood. There is a common belief that scanning will destroy pictures. Sure scanning exposes images to heat and light, but a single pass of the scanner won't cause permanent damage. Plus, it's important to remember that by scanning your images you're creating a digital copy in case something happens to the original.

While it's not recommended to scan the same image again and again, it's okay to scan it once. Photocopying is more hazardous to your images than scanning. Copiers are a toxic combination of heat, light and chemicals. Scanning is a quick pass of light. The key to saving your photos in a digital format is to know the facts.

### **Resolution**

It's important to scan at a high resolution. You can always make a digital file smaller, but you can't increase the resolution. It's advisable to scan at the highest possible resolution (at least 600 dpi) at 100% scale, in color (even if they are black and white) and save them as Tiff files. Scanning photos at 100% scale is often all you need, but if the original is small then increase the percentage. That gives you the flexibility to enlarge the photo if you decide to publish the image in a family history book. Don't forget to scan the back too. There might be information that you'll need later on.

Don't rely on being able to find the original again. You probably know at least one genealogist that has "lost" a family photo. It's a scary situation. You'll be glad you scanned the images as a back-up.

Each digitized picture will be multiple megabytes. These big files take up a lot of room on your hard drive. If you have a lot of photographs, you may need an external hard drive for storage.

By scanning them at these specifications you'll be able to later reduce their size for sharing, projection or uploading. Consider these high resolution files your "archival" copies.

When scanning, turn off the auto-correct feature that automatically corrects flaws in an image. Save your photos in their original condition, then make copies and use photo editing software to "fix" problems. Always save those edited images as a separate file and keep the original scan.

### **Slides and Negatives**

Not all scanners have the capability to scan slides and negatives. When purchasing a scanner specifically ask if a particular model can accommodate these types of images, and then do your research. You can find specifications on the manufacturer's website. Once you've purchased a machine, read the manual and follow their directions. If that doesn't work, do an Internet search for your scanner model followed by "scanning slides" or "scanning negatives." There are dedicated slide scanners, but they are expensive.

### **Cased Images: Daguerreotypes and Ambrotypes**

It is possible to scan these cased images, but not all scanners can manage it. Sometimes the scanner reads the glass rather than the image causing a fuzzy scan. Try scanning one on your scanner to see what happens. If you have a dedicated photo scanner rather than a combination machine it should work.

If it doesn't work, don't take the images out of the cases. You could inadvertently cause damage to the image. Daguerreotypes have chemical salts on the surface of a silver plate and are very fragile.

Ambrotypes are on glass, but the photographic emulsion (the picture) can flake off. If you have a collection of these cased images, you'll have better luck with a dedicated photo scanner. An alternative can use a camera to photograph these cased images, but the reflective mirror-like surface of a daguerreotype is a problem. You often end up photographing yourself in the image.

Once you've scanned your pictures store the originals in acid- and lignin-free boxes. Find an organizational system that works for you. In general, keep it simple such as filing images in surname order.

Use a photo organizing program to keyword your digital pictures so you'll be able to see all the digital files of "Aunt

Sue” with a single click. Once you have these digital files take time to share the images and the stories with family. They’ll appreciate it and you’ll be saving your family history.

*Maureen Taylor (www.maureentaylor.com) is the author of Preserving Your Family Photographs Follow her on Facebook, Twitter and Linked In. Copyright 2011, Ancestry.com*

### Tricks For Growing Your Family Tree

In Episode 2 of Who Do You Think You Are? Marisa Tomei set out to find the true story behind her great-grandfather’s murder. But to crack the case, she had to know the characters involved, how they were related and where they were at the time. That’s when her mom showed her the family tree, which held names and dates that led her to important historical documents—each one with surprising new details about the murder. Missed the episode? Watch it on NBC.com.

You can put your own family tree to work with a few simple steps. Three steps to getting the most out of your family tree — even if you don’t have one yet

**Step 1.** Enter information. Say you want to learn more about your grandmother. Enter her name and anything else you know about her into your Ancestry.com family tree. (Need help creating or adding to a tree? Download our guide.) Ancestry.com uses what you enter to search historical records. A shaking leaf on your tree means we’ve found a possible record match.

**Step 2.** Follow the leaves. Click each leaf that pops up in your tree to see records and other information it could reveal.



**Step 3.** Save what you find. If a leaf leads you to new details about an ancestor, click on “Continue” and follow the instructions to save it in your tree. The best part? Ancestry.com uses information in that record to search for even more records about people in your tree.



*Taken from ancestry.com 2012*

## Mark Your Calendars Annual International Black Genealogy Summit

On behalf of the IBGS Committee, we would like to invite you to attend the upcoming International Black Genealogy Summit. The summit will include lectures, workshops, and skill building on varying topics; technology and DNA discussion; and other resources for the advancement of family and historical research. We will have vendors and exhibitors. There will be an opportunity to tour the library, hear the Tabernacle Choir—more details on events to follow. The conference will be as follows:

**October 18-20, 2012; Thursday-Saturday  
Radisson Hotel Salt Lake City Downtown  
215 West South Temple  
Salt Lake City, Utah**

We are focused on the planning and releasing of information as soon as it becomes available. To check for updates go to [www.blackgenealogysummit.com](http://www.blackgenealogysummit.com). The hotel reservation cut-off is August 18, 2012. The IBGS hotel rate is \$119+ tax per night. (801) 531-7500.

Space is available in the syllabus for ads or messages: Full page \$100; half page \$50; page and business card is \$25.

The Call for Papers and Vendor/Exhibitor Space Application has been released on the website. Please get the word out to your members to reference the website for the forms or current information.

Questions or inquiries can be e-mailed to [info@blackgenealogysummit.com](mailto:info@blackgenealogysummit.com) or call (520) 401-2177.

### 10th Annual African American Family History Conference March 10, 2012

#### **DISCOVER YOUR ROOTS X** “Face To Face With Our Past”

Special Guest Keynote:  
L.A. City Councilwoman Jan Perry  
1209 South Manhattan Place  
Los Angeles, CA 90019

There is limited parking. Additional Parking is available on the street. (Nearest cross streets are Western and Pico)  
Registration at the Door is \$35  
Doors Open at 7:00 a.m.  
Sorry, no refunds.



# Heritage Newsletter

*California African American Genealogical Society*

## **President's Message**

By Ron Higgins

We have had a wonderful 25 years as a society. As we start our 26<sup>th</sup> year, I wish to thank everyone who helped our society endure. You have been a wonderful group and it has been an amazing journey as we seek to discover our genealogy.

On February 25<sup>th</sup>, CAAGS had a booth in support of the Mayme A. Clayton Library and Museum celebrating the unique history and cultural heritage of African-Americans. Dorothylou Sands, Carolyn Conway, Gwen Foster, Lloydine Outten and I represented CAAGS. The event was chaired by Ms. Leah M. Kerr from the museum. Refreshments were served and the 1983 independent film, "The Gifted" was shown; the producer Audrey Lewis was present. It was a lovely all-day affair.

On February 26<sup>th</sup>, CAAGS members were present at the Museum of African American Art. The theme of this event was 21<sup>st</sup> Century Griot-Discovering Our Ancestors. Our own member, Dr. Edna Faye Morehead-Briggs was a presenter. She spoke on family history research

For our March meeting we were honored with a special presenter, Bonnie Petrovich. She spoke on the urgency of indexing the 1940 Census which were released April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Members who wish to participate in this indexing effort should contact member Alvia Cross, who will serve as CAAGS administrator. She can be reached at (310) 412-6077 or email [alviacross@sbcglobal.net](mailto:alviacross@sbcglobal.net). Also, Ron Batiste gave a timely presentation on the 1790 to 1940 Censuses and talked about the unique differences of each census. Thanks to CAAGS for allowing me to be a delegate at the upcoming IGBS conference.

**April 2012    Volume 24    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 (dark -July and August)

### **Mayme Clayton Library and Museum (MCLM)**

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

### **2012 Board of Directors**

Ronald Higgins - President  
Lloydine Outten – First Vice President  
Carolyn Conway – Second Vice President /Membership  
Lloydine Outten – Corresponding Secretary  
Linda Rush – Recording Secretary  
Marjorie Sholes – Treasurer  
Ophelia Sanders – Parliamentarian  
Webmaster – Theodore Higgins/Gena Weaver  
([www.caags.org](http://www.caags.org))

### **Committee Chairs**

Ruth Palmer – Book Sales and Acquisitions  
Open – Public Relations  
LaVerne Anderson – Librarian  
DorothyLou Sands – Historian (Interim)  
Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor  
Colette DeVerge – FGS Delegate/Fundraising Chairman  
Norma Bates – Volunteer Chairman

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

Thanks to all of you who participated in the “Discover Your Roots X” conference; it was a success. The keynote speaker Jan Perry gave a wonderful and interesting presentation detailing her family’s genealogy

You will want to be present for our April meeting. We look forward to having Marjorie Sholes as our presenter, she was featured on a segment of “Who Do you Think You Are” and has a vast knowledge of all aspects of genealogy.

### 2012 Calendar of Events

#### April 21

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

#### May 19

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

#### June 8-10

**Southern California Genealogical Society Jamboree** will be held at the Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel. Three full days of top-tier genealogists, exhibits, networking opportunities, tours, meals. This is one of the nation’s largest genealogical events. Info & registration go to [www.genealogyjamboree.com](http://www.genealogyjamboree.com) or email [jamboree@scgsgenealogy.com](mailto:jamboree@scgsgenealogy.com)

#### June 16

CAAGS Annual Juneteenth Celebration, contact Gwendolyn Foster to volunteer

*\* Calendar is subject to change without notice*

### CAAGS 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary DVD

Features photographs taken at the Society’s activities over the past 25 years. Donation is \$10, proceeds benefit

CAAGS. Copies will be for sale at the April membership meeting or you can mail the order form.

Our condolences to CAAGS member, Cartelia Bryant on the loss of her mother Opal Connor. She slipped away quietly in her sleep Sunday, Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>

### 5 Ways to Win the Name Game

By Juliana Smith

Whether the family name is Smith or Jones or something a little trickier like Szucs or Szkokan, our ancestors’ surnames can become stumbling blocks. Here are some tips, tricks, and tools that can help you win the “name game.”

### 1. Search Directly

When you’re having a hard time locating your ancestor in a particular census or some other collection, search for them directly in that collection, rather than through the global search on the home page or on the Search tab. Those search boxes are searching through 7 billion records in more than 30,000 collections. They’re great for picking off low-hanging fruit, but when you want to zero in, go right to the source. You can navigate down to a particular record category through the options on the Search landing page (e.g., Immigration & Travel, Census & Voter Lists, etc.), or whittle it down to a particular record type like passenger lists or birth records from that same page.

To get even closer to the data, use the Card Catalog to find a particular collection. Using the filters on the left, you can zero in on your ancestor’s place of residence, the type of record you’re interested in, and even the time frame.

### 2. Search without a Surname

Sometimes we get hung up on trying to find that corrupted spelling of a surname, when in reality we don’t need it. If you have enough details, it’s often possible to locate your ancestor without a surname, particularly in 1880 and later census records where we can use family structure in our search.

For this trick you’re probably going to want to search the collection of interest directly. Let’s use the 1930 census as an example. I’m going to do a search for my great-grandfather John Szucs. Although his name wasn’t misspelled in this census, we’re going to leave the last name out. You’d think with this being such a large census and a first name like John, this would be a tough search, but it’s not.

I include his first name, year of birth, state of residence in 1930, and I added his wife’s name (with wild cards, since I’ve seen her name spelled Theresa, Teresa, and Teresia), and his son’s name, Stephen.

I could have added his daughter, Irene, but I didn’t need it. Just those few extra elements pushed his entry up to the #1 spot.



I can do the same thing with my grandfather on my mom's side. Just using his first name, an "estimated" date of birth (I made it off by two years as an experiment), place of residence of Brooklyn, Kings County, New York, and his wife's first name, brought his census entry to within the top three.

Try it with your family and you'll see how powerful searching with family structure can be. And don't overlook other search options like specifying the relationship to the head of household as well. Every piece you can match can nudge your ancestor toward the top.

### 3. Investigate Ethnic Variants

If your ancestor came from a non-English speaking country, don't overlook the possibility that he may have used an ethnic variation of his first name, last name, or both, particularly when he was traveling to, or had recently arrived in the United States.

Ethnic first names are pretty easy to research online (e.g., "Polish given names," or "German first names") and there are also many publications that can help as well. For surnames, investigate pronunciation as well. Your ancestor's name may have been recorded as the record keeper heard it, which may not necessarily correspond to the spelling.

### 4. Get Wild with Wildcards

The great thing about searching is you can get wild and crazy, and wildcards are a great way to experiment. On Ancestry.com:

- An asterisk \* matches zero or more characters—so Ann\* matches Ann, Anne, Anna, Annabelle, etc.
- A question mark ? matches one character—so Ann? matches Anne or Anna.
- The first letter can now be a wildcard, although either the first or last character must be a non-wildcard character.
- Names must contain at least three non-wildcard characters.
- Try the wildcard as a first letter to capture cases where a flourish on the first letter may cause it to be mis-transcribed.

### 5. Play with "Default Settings"

Just below the names in Ancestry.com search forms, you'll see a little link that says "Use Default Settings." (If you're not seeing it, you are using the basic search and will need to click "Show Advanced" to take advantage of these options.)



There are several options for both first names and last

names. Play around with these and see if you can't shake up the results you're getting.

For first names, when I'm not using the default settings, I like to choose to search "Exact and Records where only initials are recorded." Although Ancestry.com factors these records into search results, often (especially when you're working with common names) those results are pushed down below other variations and can be missed. You'd be surprised how many times your ancestor's first name was only recorded with an initial.

For last names, I like to uncheck Soundex, especially for my non-English speaking ancestors. Soundex doesn't always work well on our Eastern European ancestor's names.

Experiment with the many options in the advanced search form. You can't break it. The worst thing that can happen is you'll need to try another search. And the best case scenario? You find the record. And that makes it all worthwhile.

*The Weekly Discovery, (Copyright 2012, Ancestry.com)*

### The Irish Slave Trade – The Forgotten “White” Slaves: The Slaves That Time Forgot

By John Martin

They came as slaves; vast human cargo transported on tall British ships bound for the Americas. They were shipped by the hundreds of thousands and included men, women, and even the youngest of children.

Whenever they rebelled or even disobeyed an order, they were punished in the harshest ways. Slave owners would hang their human property by their hands and set their hands or feet on fire as one form of punishment. They were burned alive and had their heads placed on pikes in the marketplace as a warning to other captives.

We don't really need to go through all of the gory details, do we? After all, we know all too well the atrocities of the African slave trade. But, are we talking about African slavery?

King James II and Charles I led a continued effort to enslave the Irish. Britain's famed Oliver Cromwell furthered this practice of dehumanizing one's next door neighbor.

The Irish slave trade began when James II sold 30,000 Irish prisoners as slaves to the New World. His Proclamation of 1625 required Irish political prisoners be sent overseas and sold to English settlers in the West Indies. By the mid 1600s, the Irish were the main slaves sold to Antigua and Montserrat. At that time, 70% of the total population of Montserrat were Irish slaves.

Ireland quickly became the biggest source of human livestock for English merchants. The majority of the early slaves to the New World were actually white.

From 1641 to 1652, over 500,000 Irish were killed by the English and another 300,000 were sold as slaves. Ireland's population fell from about 1,500,000 to 600,000 in one single decade. Families were ripped apart as the British did not allow Irish dads to take their wives and children with them across the Atlantic. This led to a helpless population of homeless women and children. Britain's solution was to auction them off as well.

During the 1650s, over 100,000 Irish children between the ages of 10 and 14 were taken from their parents and sold as slaves in the West Indies, Virginia and New England. In this decade, 52,000 Irish (mostly women and children) were sold to Barbados and Virginia. Another 30,000 Irish men and women were also transported and sold to the highest bidder. In 1656, Cromwell ordered that 2000 Irish children be taken to Jamaica and sold as slaves to English settlers.

Many people today will avoid calling the Irish slaves what they truly were: Slaves. They'll come up with terms like "Indentured Servants" to describe what occurred to the Irish. However, in most cases from the 17th and 18th centuries, Irish slaves were nothing more than human cattle.

As an example, the African slave trade was just beginning during this same period. It is well recorded that African slaves, not tainted with the stain of the hated Catholic theology and more expensive to purchase, were often treated far better than their Irish counterparts.

African slaves were very expensive during the late 1600s (50 Sterling). Irish slaves came cheap (no more than 5 Sterling). If a planter whipped or branded or beat an Irish slave to death, it was never a crime. A death was a monetary setback, but far cheaper than killing a more expensive African.

The English masters quickly began breeding the Irish women for both their own personal pleasure and for greater profit. Children of slaves were themselves slaves, which increased the size of the master's free workforce. Even if an Irish woman somehow obtained her freedom, her kids would remain slaves of her master. Thus, Irish moms, even with this new found emancipation, would seldom abandon their kids and would remain in servitude.

In time, the English thought of a better way to use these women (in many cases, girls as young as 12) to increase their market share: The settlers began to breed Irish women and girls with African men to produce slaves with a distinct complexion. These new "mulatto" slaves brought a higher

price than Irish livestock and, likewise, enabled the settlers to save money rather than purchase new African slaves.

This practice of interbreeding Irish females with African men went on for several decades and was so widespread that, in 1681, legislation was passed "forbidding the practice of mating Irish slave women to African slave men for the purpose of producing slaves for sale." In short, it was stopped only because it interfered with the profits of a large slave transport company.

England continued to ship tens of thousands of Irish slaves for more than a century. Records state that, after the 1798 Irish Rebellion, thousands of Irish slaves were sold to both America and Australia.

There were horrible abuses of both African and Irish captives. One British ship even dumped 1,302 slaves into the Atlantic Ocean so that the crew would have plenty of food to eat.

There is little question that the Irish experienced the horrors of slavery as much (if not more in the 17th Century) as the Africans did. There is, also, very little question that those brown, tanned faces you witness in your travels to the West Indies are very likely a combination of African and Irish ancestry.

In 1839, Britain finally decided on it's own to end it's participation in Satan's highway to hell and stopped transporting slaves. While their decision did not stop pirates from doing what they desired, the new law slowly concluded THIS chapter of nightmarish Irish misery. But, if anyone, black or white, believes that slavery was only an African experience, then they've got it completely wrong.

Irish slavery is a subject worth remembering, not erasing from our memories. Do the memories of hundreds of thousands of Irish victims merit more than a mention from an unknown writer? Or is their story to be one that their English pirates intended: To (unlike the African book) have the Irish story utterly and completely disappear as if it never happened.

None of the Irish victims ever made it back to their homeland to describe their ordeal. These are the lost slaves; the ones that time and biased history books conveniently forgot.

#### **CAAGS Logo Apparel**

T – shirts \$15

Sweatshirts \$20

Hooded Sweat Jackets \$35

See Marjorie Sholes if you would like to place an order.

Pre-payment is required for all orders.



# Heritage Newsletter

*California African American Genealogical Society*

## President's Message

By Ron Higgins

**May 2012    Volume 24    Number 5**

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 (dark -July and August)

### **Mayme Clayton Library and Museum (MCLM)**

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

(Old Culver City Courthouse across from VA building)

### **2012 Board of Directors**

Ronald Higgins - President

Lloydine Outten – First Vice President

Carolyn Conway – Second Vice President /Membership

Lloydine Outten – Corresponding Secretary

Linda Rush – Recording Secretary

Marjorie Sholes – Treasurer

Ophelia Sanders – Parliamentarian

Webmaster – Theodore Higgins/Gena Weaver

([www.caags.org](http://www.caags.org))

### **Committee Chairs**

Ruth Palmer – Book Sales and Acquisitions

Open – Public Relations

LaVerne Anderson – Librarian

DorothyLou Sands – Historian (Interim)

Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor

Colette DeVerge – FGS Delegate/Fundraising Chairman

Norma Bates – Volunteer Chairman

Hip Hip Hooray! Thanks for the 1940 Census. We can now discover more information about our ancestors. Your life will change even more when the 1940 Census has been indexed. I know some of you have been able to find grandmothers, mothers, fathers, uncles, aunts, brothers and sisters. If you were born before April 1, 1940, you may be able to find yourself. I am grateful to have found my family in the 1940 Census!

I hope you have been able to find time to join us in our efforts to assist with the Indexing Project. If you have not, please contact Alvia Cross, our CAAGS Indexing Administrator at (310)412-6077, [alviacross@sbcglobal.net](mailto:alviacross@sbcglobal.net). There are group and individual incentives and prizes available for our assistance in indexing the census. Get on Board! Join the bandwagon! We can make a difference.

In March Ron Batiste provided information on the Census – from 1790 to 1940. He continued this series with a presentation on Vital Statistics.

I want to thank Marjorie Sholes for her presentation and five-page handout which provided invaluable tools and information to aid us in our research. She reminded us to complete pedigree charts and family group sheets; document all information, create timelines, research logs, and give special attention to informants and executors listed on vital records.

She suggested that we subscribe to genealogy magazines; attend genealogical conferences as well as utilize online classes and information. This comprehensive look at many aspects of researching will help us to overcome challenges and brick walls.

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

If you haven't seen the May Ebony magazine, you will want to read the article by Louis Henry Gates, Jr. on detailing how DNA analysis will confirm your true ancestry. You may be surprised.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our May meeting. We will finalize preparations for our Juneteenth celebration which will be Saturday June 16<sup>th</sup> (our regular meeting date) at Holly Park from 9am-5pm, (2058 West 120th Street, Hawthorne, CA 90250). If you have not already signed up with Gwen Foster, please contact her at (323) 856-9499 or gwenfoster1678@att.net.

We welcome all of our new members, and a special thanks to all of you who have renewed your membership. Just a reminder, Jamboree is June 7-10<sup>th</sup> at Marriott Hotel in Burbank, hope to see you there!

### 2012 Calendar of Events

#### May 19

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

#### June 8-10

**Southern California Genealogical Society Jamboree** will be held at the Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel. Three full days of top-tier genealogists, exhibits, networking opportunities, tours, meals. This is one of the nation's largest genealogical events. For info and registration go to [www.genealogyjamboree.com](http://www.genealogyjamboree.com) or email [jamboree@scsgenealogy.com](mailto:jamboree@scsgenealogy.com)

#### June 16

CAAGS Annual Juneteenth Celebration, Holly Park in Hawthorne, CA 9-5pm. Contact Gwendolyn Foster to volunteer, [gwenfoster1678@att.net](mailto:gwenfoster1678@att.net)

#### July/August

No CAAGS meeting

*\* Calendar is subject to change without notice*

CAAGS member Jamie Hammons was featured on NPR, March 30<sup>th</sup> discussing the 1940 census. Visit their podcast archives to listen to her interview, <http://www.npr.org/>

#### - Correction -

Our condolences to CAAGS member, Carolyn Connor on the loss of her mother Opal Connor. She slipped away quietly in her sleep Sunday, Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>

## Welcome to the 43rd Annual Southern California Genealogy Jamboree

The center of the genealogical world will move to Burbank in June as the Southern California Genealogical Society opens the doors to the 43rd Annual Southern California Genealogy Jamboree.

The popular conference will be held at the home of Jamboree, Los Angeles Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel, 2500 Hollywood Way, Burbank, California, from Friday through Sunday, June 8 through the 10th. Pre-events Family History Writers Conference and Tech-Trax will be held on Thursday, June 7.

We expect to welcome about 1700 attendees, speakers, exhibitors, and volunteers to the Marriott. Our attendance makes Jamboree one of the most popular genealogical events in the United States.

Go to [www.genealogyjamboree.com](http://www.genealogyjamboree.com) for the details on registration (both online and by mail) speakers, schedule, hotel reservations, maps and directions, local resources and sights, and those all-important FAQs. If you don't find what you're looking for, drop us a note at [jamboree@scsgenealogy.com](mailto:jamboree@scsgenealogy.com) and just ask.

Tweeters, follow @SCSGenealogy and use hashtag #scgs12. If you're on Facebook, join the SCGS Group, add Jamboree to your list of events, and send friend requests to Paula Hinkel and Leo Myers.

The best way to stay updated on all the Jamboree news is through the Jamboree blog. It's painless: Just sign up one time to have updates sent directly to your email. Your email address will remain confidential and will be used for no purpose other than Jamboree updates.

## A Death Record Can Bring A Story To Life



Professional football great Jerome Bettis set out to learn about his mother's family history on the latest episode of Ancestry.com-sponsored Who Do You Think You Are? He started by searching for his great-grandfather, who was said to have disappeared, and found his first solid clues on a



death certificate. It was death certificates that propelled his search back five generations – providing names, dates, places and clues to a life that began in slavery – and opening up an entirely new chapter in his family history. What could you discover in a death certificate?

- Names: You might find the name of the deceased, his or her spouse, parents, children and sometimes other relatives. You can even find maiden names.
- Cause of death: This may indicate a family medical history. If the death was suspicious, look for a coroner's report, newspaper articles and court records that can tell you more.
- Place of birth: This can lead to a birth record or another trail to follow.

Details on a death certificate can help support theories or suggest next steps in your research, though they aren't always easy to come by. If you can't find the death certificate you're looking for, search local newspapers for an obituary or try tombstones, church documents or funeral home records

### Questions? Give us a call for FREE

An expert at Ancestry.com headquarters is waiting to answer your family history questions. Call 1-800-ANCESTRY (1-800-262-3787). Hours: Mon-Thu, Sat-Sun 10am-10pm, Fri 10am-midnight ET.

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## Searching for Common Surnames

By Juliana Smith

I was watching the news this morning and an ad came on advertising a furniture sale for "National Smith Day." Wow, why was I not apprised of this holiday? Was there a parade? Surely, the news media is slipping. They should have been all over this.

Apparently I missed the actual celebration since it was on January 6th, but as a Smith (albeit by marriage), I appreciate the gesture. After all, it's not every surname that gets a furniture sale in its honor. (Or is it? Note to self: Check to see when "National Szucs Day" falls this year.)

Not to seem ungrateful, as a family historian I feel that a little guidance through the bazillion or so Smiths in U.S. records will be more useful than say a 20% discount on a new ottoman. So in the spirit of "National Smith Day," I offer these tips for locating your Smiths (or Browns, or Kellys, or Johnsons, etc.).

## Remember Your Ancestor Was an Individual

Your ancestor was a unique individual, despite his or her common moniker. Yes, there may have been a boatload of James Smiths in his city, but how many of them were about his age? Had a wife named Martha? Attended his church? The more you learn about your James Smith, the easier he'll be to pick out of the crowd.

I like to create profiles for my commonly-named relatives (and it doesn't hurt for the non-so-commonly-named either). Gathering all the records I have, I extract everything I know about him or her and condense it into a summary of sorts. I use the profile to formulate my searches and review it often when I'm brainstorming new research avenues. Here's one I created for James Kelly.

### James Kelly, Jr.

Parents, James Kelly, Sr. and Bridget McLoghlin

Occupations--artificial flowers in early years, later dealing in real estate

Born c. 1813 in County Donegal, Ireland

Immigrated to the U.S. through Halifax, c. 1820

#### Lived in:

- New York City, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward in 1850, 9<sup>th</sup> Ward in 1860, (lived at 740 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue in 1867).
- In 1875, lived at 161 Walworth St., (21st Ward, 4th Dist.), in 12<sup>th</sup> Ward, Brooklyn by 1880 and for the remainder of his life. Owned property 155 Huntington and died at 78 4<sup>th</sup> Place, 12<sup>th</sup> Ward.

Married: Margaret ??, born c. 1812, married probably before 1837, died before 1880.

#### Children:

- James (possibly killed in the Civil War), born c. 1840,
- Anna Maria Josepha, born c. 1837 and died of consumption, August 1867

#### Siblings:

- Mary Ann (Doherty), born c. 1815
- Jane (Pechin), born June 1819
- Catherine (Tobin) born c. 1824 and died in March 1850 of consumption
- Elizabeth (never married), born c. 1826
- Cornelius, born c. 1830 and died in 1852 in St. Augustine, Florida of consumption

#### Known church affiliations:

- St. Francis Xavier R.C. Church, New York City, NY
- St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City, NY (according to family story-not proven)
- St. Mary Star of the Sea R.C. Church, Court & Luquer, Brooklyn, NY
- Family ties to Sisters of Charity in New York
- Rev. Charles E. McDonnell, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bishop of Brooklyn mentioned in his will. James bequeathed his library to him.

Died 15 October 1896, 78 4<sup>th</sup> Place, 12<sup>th</sup> Ward, services at St. Mary Star of the Sea, and burial at Calvary Cemetery with other family members. Left his property to his grand-niece, Emma (Tobin) Dennis.

## Use Family Structure

You'll notice on that the profile I included the names and birth dates (estimated wherever necessary) for his parents, siblings, spouse, and children. This will help me identify the family group in census records, and is particularly useful when working with pre-1850 censuses. Using the estimated dates can help me project how old family members would be in each census year. I used this chart to help keep track.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	Name (Birth year and age)	1813	1815	1819	1824	1830	1837	1840	1845	1850
2	James Kelly	1790	1796	1790	1790	1790	1790	1790	1790	1790
3	Bridget Kelly	1788	1788	1788	1788	1788	1788	1788	1788	1788
4	James Kelly	1813	1815	1819	1824	1830	1837	1840	1845	1850
5	James Kelly	1813	1815	1819	1824	1830	1837	1840	1845	1850
6	James Kelly	1813	1815	1819	1824	1830	1837	1840	1845	1850
7	James Kelly	1813	1815	1819	1824	1830	1837	1840	1845	1850
8	Mary Ann Kelly (Doherty)	1815	1815	1815	1815	1815	1815	1815	1815	1815
9	Jane Kelly (Pechin)	1819	1819	1819	1819	1819	1819	1819	1819	1819
10	Catherine Kelly (Tobin)	1824	1824	1824	1824	1824	1824	1824	1824	1824
11	Elizabeth Kelly	1826	1826	1826	1826	1826	1826	1826	1826	1826
12	Cornelius Kelly	1830	1830	1830	1830	1830	1830	1830	1830	1830

When I was looking for James living with his parents and

ancestry.com

1830 United States Federal Census

See how family history charts and forms  
with www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSK3-M?i=179-1

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Call Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Enumeration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Index number	Name of the head of household	Number of Heads of Family	SEX AND COLOR, White or color of person														Enumeration Date
			Males over 15 years	Females over 15 years	Total over 15 years	Males under 15 years	Females under 15 years	Total under 15 years	Total	Free white males	Free white females	Free colored males	Free colored females	Slave males	Slave females		
X 9th W/L	Kelly Jas	1		1									1	1	①		1
X 1st W/L					2	3			1						1		
1st W/L		1				1								1		1	
2nd W/L	black																
3rd W/L		1														1	
4th W/L	Francis				2	15	1	1					2	1	1		2
5th W/L	Jas Kelley					3											
6th W/L														2	2	1	1

ancestry<sup>™</sup>

1830 United States Federal Census

Name: James Keller  
[James Kelley]

Home in 1830: New York Ward 13, New York, New York  
(City, County, State)

Free White 1  
Persons - Males - Under 5: Cornelius? (b 1830)

Free White 1  
Persons - Males - 5 thru 14: James Jr

Free White 1  
Persons - Males - 15 thru 49: James Sr

Free White 1  
Persons - Females - Under 5: Elizabeth

Free White 2  
Persons - Females - 5 thru 9: Catherine (+1)

Free White 2  
Persons - Females - 10 thru 14: Jane (+1)

Free White 1  
Persons - Females - 15 thru 49: Mary Ann

Free White 1  
Persons - Females - 50 thru 99: Bridget.

White Persons - Aliens - Foreigners not Naturalized: 2

Free White 8  
Persons - Under 20:

One of the best ways to identify your ancestor is to know where he lived. Many records include a location or

*Visit us at [www.caags.org](http://www.caags.org) and follow us on Facebook, California African American Genealogical Society*





# Heritage Newsletter

*California African American Genealogical Society*

## President's Message

By Ron Higgins

**June/July 2012    Volume 24    Number 6**

Ten Issues Published Annually  
ISSN 1083-8937

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

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Carolyn Conway – Second Vice President /Membership  
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Dorothy Lou Sands – Historian (Interim)  
Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor  
Colette DeVerge – FGS Delegate/Fundraising Chairman  
Norma Bates – Volunteer Chairman

This summer – take a vacation and visit family and friends. Ask questions of the older members of the family – they may have some answers to questions that have been puzzling you. You will be surprised as to what they might know. Especially now that the 1940 census is out, they may be able to help you identify other relatives. Sometimes there are other family members in the neighborhood with different surnames. Please remember to take family group sheets to your family outings, and remember some of the research tools Marjorie Sholes and other members shared with us at our last meeting. Fortunately, “ancestry.com” has a lot of new resources with different links that may aid you in your research.

Remember our next meeting will be our Juneteenth celebration held at Holly Park, 120<sup>th</sup> and Van Ness Avenue, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Please contact Gwen Foster at (213) 909-2845, for details and to let her know what you are bringing. Let's enjoy a pleasant day as we honor our ancestors for making this a special day for us. I hope that everyone will have a wonderful July and August. I will look forward to seeing you in September at our “Show and Tell” meeting.

### **Volunteers Needed**

CAAGS is always in need of volunteers for various committees and committee leaders. We need a chairman and committee for the 2013 Board elections to be held in November, individuals to plan and coordinate ongoing fundraising activities, the annual holiday party and individuals to fill current vacant Board positions. Please see any CAAGS Board member if you are interested.

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

## 2012 Calendar of Events

### June 16

CAAGS Annual Juneteenth Celebration; Holly Park, 2058 W. 120<sup>th</sup> St., Hawthorne, CA 9-5pm. Contact Gwendolyn Foster to volunteer and bring a dish; PH (213) 909-2845

### June 29

Annapolis, MD - Kunta Kinte - Alex Haley Foundation – “Hey America, Your Roots are Showing” - 135 Stepney’s Lane, Edgewater, MD (site of Sojourner Douglass College)

### July/August

Summer Break, No CAAGS meeting

### August 1

Legacy Family Tree – “Neglected History” Webinar - 6:00 pm \*Please note: This presentation will simultaneously be broadcast live at the BYU Conference on Family History and Genealogy.

### September 15

Welcome Back! CAAGS general meeting 10am-2pm; Show and Tell

### October 18, 19, 20

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual IBGS Summit** - Understanding our Past to Grow Into The Future; Radisson Hotel downtown, Salt Lake City, UT for more information and to register go to [www.blackgenealogysummit.com](http://www.blackgenealogysummit.com)

### October 21

CAAGS Stay at Home Tea.

*\* Calendar is subject to change without notice*

## Web Sites of Interest

### Museums

Use the Official Museum Directory (069.025 A3am) book to find the museums.

Ask for details, drawings and photos of ships and their ship captains. See SHIP RESEARCH at <http://www.encinojon.com/ships/>

### Military Research

U.S. Website at <http://www.encinojon.com/military/> Order veteran records using NATF Form 85 for Pension and 86 for Service. WWI draft registration at [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com)

### Newspapers

Newspaper Research Website at <http://www.lafhl.org/newspaper.htm> Use the Gales Directory of Publications which can be found at local libraries and write directly to the newspaper and ask for

copies of birth, marriage and obituary notices.

### Public Archives

State Historical Archives - Ask for copy of their inventory of newspapers on microfilm and missing issues for a specific city. See Newspaper Research at <http://www.lafhl.org/newspaper.htm>

### Libraries

Use the 2 volume set of American Library Directory (Ref 973 J54a) or <http://www.worldcat.org/libraries> for addresses of libraries. Local County Public Libraries have - County Histories, all name indexes, card files, folder files, criss-cross directories and newspaper indexes. Ask for copies of newspaper notices and items from all county histories. Use A Bibliography of American County Histories (973 H23bi) and separate all-names indexes for each county history. Ask for names and addresses of County Historical Society, Genealogical Societies, DAR Chapter, DAR Chapter members and the local historians.

## 12 Steps to Genealogical Fitness

Is your genealogy in shape? When we hear the phrase “in shape” we automatically associate it with our physical health. So, what could these two concepts -- “fitness” and “genealogy” -- possibly have in common?

Often you start off with a bang; you have the best of intentions that excite you and initially spur you on. With genealogy, you discover a detail about an ancestor. You feel great. Both activities require a great deal of hard work and also have similar obstacles. Below is a 12-step guideline for working on personal fitness and genealogy.

- ✓ **Set Realistic Goals** - When starting any new project or endeavor like a diet or exercise regimen, or a genealogical quest, it is important to set realistic goals, and develop a workable timetable.
- ✓ **Devise a Schedule and Stick To It** - With our busy lives, most of us have to schedule time to exercise, and this same discipline should be applied to genealogy.
- ✓ **Make Time for a Check-up** - It is a good idea to make an appointment with yourself to take a “research inventory.”
- ✓ **Trim the Fat and Toss Out the Junk** - Go through your family history files and purge what you don’t need.
- ✓ **Diversify Your Tasks** - Strive to make your search fun and challenging throughout the year.
- ✓ **Count Your Steps** - You must get organized
- ✓ **Pick Up the Pace** - You may have to work harder to for a desired result in a limited period of time.
- ✓ **Vary Your Location** - If you always do your research at your computer or desk, find a change of scenery.
- ✓ **Find a Buddy** - When researching your roots, try to find a family member to share the research tasks.
- ✓ **Take a Break** - Put aside the family line you have been researching and do something totally unrelated.

- ✓ **Add a New Twist to Your Routine** - With genealogy, try subscribing to or using a new database or taking an on line class.
- ✓ **Persist Over the Plateau** - If you find yourself facing an impasse, don't give up.

*For complete article go to MyFamily.com*

## **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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.knowyourheritage.org/Courses/courses.htm). The University of Toronto's two-year program that has attracted many U.S. students, [www.genealogicalstudies.com/](http://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.

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## **A Simple Start Can Lead To Remarkable Results**

On this season's premiere of *Who Do You Think You Are?*, Martin Sheen set off to learn more about an uncle he'd heard fought in the Irish Revolution. Would family history research turn up more details? Absolutely. Sheen not only learned the price his uncle paid in his fight for freedom; he also uncovered a similar path taken by another uncle, as well as an almost unbelievable twist further back in his family tree.

Lesson learned: fascinating stories exist in everyone's family tree. Though sometimes you have to travel back a few years to uncover the really meaty ones. Here's how you can do it:

### **Set a goal**

Searching is easiest when you start with a goal. It can be simple, like learning where a grandmother was born, or something more complex, like Sheen's quest to discover if and why his ancestors fought for social change.

### **Search modern lines**

Turn your goal into a manageable search by choosing someone from the family line who was alive in 1930. This is the year of the most recent U.S. Census available to researchers. Even if your family story pre-dates 1930 by a century, starting with this census can provide details to help you continue back through time.

Enter the name, approximate birth year and place, if known, for the family member you want to find, click on “Search” and then review your results. Be sure to look at images of the actual records whenever available. They might list names of other family members, addresses, ages, occupations or other useful details.

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### **CAAGS Logo Apparel**

T – shirts \$15

Sweatshirts \$20

Hooded Sweat Jackets \$35

Marjorie Sholes will be taking orders through June for pick up at the September meeting. Pre-payment is required for all orders.

**Original genealogical articles and stories are always welcome for submission to the newsletter. Please email the newsletter editor at [caags@hotmail.com](mailto:caags@hotmail.com). The deadline for submissions is the third Saturday of each month for consideration in the upcoming newsletter.**



# Heritage Newsletter

*California African American Genealogical Society*

## President's Message

By Ron Higgins

I hope that most of you have been able to look into the 1940 census. I heard that some of you have found your relatives. I wish all of you the best in your hunt. I know the 1940 census will put new life into you and your search.

The society has been busy in the community the past two months. First was the Jamboree in Burbank, June 8-10, at the Marriott Hotel by the airport. This was hosted by the Southern California Genealogy Society. CAAGS booth was hosted by Ron Batiste, Marie Bryant, Ophelia Sanders, Mary Alequin-Sosa, Marjorie Sholes, Barbara Thomas, Dr. Edna Briggs and Ron Higgins.

I want to thank all CAAGS members and friends that participated in the Juneteenth picnic. We had about 45 in attendance. The food was good, camaraderie with others was excellent. Many thanks to Lloydine Outten for the arts and crafts projects and all the other helping hands in the set up at the park.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Leimert Park Book Fair was on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Members who participated were, Marie Bryant, LeVerne Anderson, Thaila Clark, Barbara Phillips, Delores Jordan, Hellene Palmer and Ron Higgins. We interviewed about 200 interested people. A number of them had done some research on their families. CAAGS is honored to have been invited back for this event and hosting a booth.

We participated in the Powerful Black Families Celebration on Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup>. The event was sponsored by the American Heart Association. Thanks to Patricia Shields and Jennifer Hopson for their invite. It was held at Van Ness Park and Recreation Center, on the

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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 (dark July and August)

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

### 2012 Board of Directors

Ronald Higgins - President  
Lloydine Outten – First Vice President  
Carolyn Conway – Second Vice President /Membership  
Lloydine Outten – Corresponding Secretary  
Linda Rush – Recording Secretary  
Marjorie Sholes – Treasurer  
Ophelia Sanders – Parliamentarian  
Webmaster – Theodore Higgins/Gena Weaver  
([www.caags.org](http://www.caags.org))

### Committee Chairs

Ruth Palmer – Book Sales and Acquisitions  
Open – Public Relations  
LaVerne Anderson – Librarian  
Dorothy Lou Sands – Historian (Interim)  
Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor  
Colette DeVerge – FGS Delegate/Fundraising Chairman  
Norma Bates – Volunteer Chairman

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

corner of Slauson and Van Ness Ave, in Los Angeles. The park had a large number of people at the Health Fair. Thanks to Charles Butler, DorothyLou Sands, Ron Higgins and Pat Mitchell for their good work in the booth. We talked to about 100 people.

A block party hosted by The Evening Star Missionary Baptist Church, 211 W. 59th, Los Angeles, Saturday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, their theme was "We're All Together Different! Uniting to Share a Common Unity," motto: "Let's make it happen, family." We made it happen; Charles Butler, Gwen Foster and your president Ron Higgins were in attendance. Thanks to Claudette Powers for the invitation to this block party.

As I stated the society has been out in the community, talking about the society and on searching for their family. We have had wonderful three months putting CAAGS on the map around the city of Los Angeles.

As you may know the month of September is our SHOW AND TELL meeting. I am looking forward to the stories you have to tell about what you have found this summer. I've been told by some members that they've found family members they knew nothing about.

The time is drawing close for the International Black Genealogy Summit (IBGS); October 18-20, in Salt Lake City, Utah. Let's go and make it a big one. Remember all the research you can do while you are there.

Welcome to all the new members. Thanks to the members and friends of the California African American Genealogical Society for their support in all the events thus far.

Remember we need you as a volunteer. This year is coming to a close and we need new officers. Become part of CAAGS on the leadership side.

### QUERY WORKSHEET

Do you know about queries? If you have not put a query in the newsletter you are missing out on an opportunity to obtain some information from a fellow researcher. Queries are a request for information. Your query should be less than 50 words and they are free to members. The enclosed attachment and form should be used when writing your query.

Your query should include your name, full snail mail and/or email address for responses. Return your completed query to [caags@hotmail.com](mailto:caags@hotmail.com) or mail to California African American Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 8442, Los Angeles, CA 90008-0442

### 2012 Calendar of Events

#### August

Summer Break, No CAAGS meeting

#### September 8

San Diego Genealogical Society seminar, Handlery Hotel and Resort, San Diego, CA; For more info go to [www.casdgs.org](http://www.casdgs.org)

#### September 15

Welcome Back! CAAGS general meeting 10am-2pm; Show and Tell

#### October 18, 19, 20

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual IBGS Summit** - Understanding our Past to Grow Into The Future; Radisson Hotel downtown, Salt Lake City, UT for more information and to register go to [www.blackgenealogysummit.com](http://www.blackgenealogysummit.com)

#### October 20

CAAGS general meeting, 10am – 2pm

#### October 21

CAAGS Stay at Home Tea.

#### November 17

CAAGS general meeting, 10am – 2pm; 2013 elections. If you are interested in running for a position please see any current CAAGS board member.

*\* Calendar is subject to change without notice*

### San Diego Genealogical Society to Host Seminar

Lisa Ann Alzo will be the featured speaker at a seminar held on September 8<sup>th</sup>, at the Handlery Hotel and Resort in San Diego, California presented by the San Diego Genealogical Society.

Sessions include:

- \* Demystifying Eastern European Research
- \* Show, Don't Tell: Using Nonfiction Writing
- \* Techniques to Write a Better Family History
- \* Immigrant Cluster Communities: Past, Present and Future
- \* 365 Ways to Discover Your Family History

The cost is \$40 for SDGS members and \$45 for non-members. The registration deadline is August 30<sup>th</sup>. For more information please visit [www.casdgs.org](http://www.casdgs.org).



## 2012 Jamboree Extension Webinar Series

The Southern California Genealogical Society announces the return of the popular Jamboree Extension Webinar Series, which provides web-based family history and genealogy educational sessions for genealogists around the world.

Jamboree Extension Series webinars are conducted the first Saturday and third Wednesday of each month. Saturday sessions will be held at 10am PST / 1pm EST. Wednesday sessions will be scheduled at 6pm PST / 9pm EST.

Upcoming sessions for the last half of 2012 include:

### **Denise Spurlock**

Saturday, September 1 (morning/afternoon schedule)  
Butcher, Baker, Candlestick Maker. Researching Your Ancestors' Occupations

Labor Day Special: It's likely not all your ancestors were farmers. This session will explore strategies for researching how your ancestors made a living: what they did, where, why, and for whom.

### **Janet Hovorka**

Wednesday, September 19 (evening schedule)  
Playground Rules for Genealogy on the Internet

The internet creates an exciting gathering place where we can find distant cousins and fast friends to help us research our family tree. It's never too late to play by the rules and have fun. Be sure to follow these three basic safety rules and you'll have a great time.

### **Linda Woodward Geiger, CG**

Saturday, October 6 (morning/afternoon schedule)  
Hark! That Tombstone is Talking to Me!

You CAN get blood from a stone. Learn about wringing the tombstone dry and learning more about your ancestors.

### **Lisa A. Alzo**

Wednesday, October 17 (evening schedule)  
Family History Writing Made Easier: Cloud-based Tools Every Genealogist Can Use

Telling your family's story just got a whole lot easier thanks to a number of cloud-based note taking and writing tools and apps you can access from home, your netbook or iPad, and even your smartphone. Learn about the latest tech tools and writing apps for bringing your family's story to life!

### **D. Joshua "Josh" Taylor**

Saturday, November 3 (morning/afternoon schedule)  
Thanksgiving Special: Online Resources for Colonial America

Discover web sites, online databases, university projects, online archives, and other resources for researching your Colonial American ancestors online. Learn how to use Early American Imprints, JSTOR, and other resources.

### **Daniel Horowitz**

Saturday, December 1 (morning/afternoon schedule)  
Sharing and Preserving Memories in a Digital Era

Today you have a lot of options to store and share all your research material, including text, images, videos, documents or sound. Options start from the capture tools (audio recorders, cameras, cellular and scanners) and extend to sharing physical products (CD's, DVD's, portable disc, electronic photo frames) or the Internet, which is the perfect place to share and preserve all your memories. You have the option to publish your material from a completely private to a completely public way, and all the levels in between. You can ask for collaboration or simply display the information, people can only see or download a copy of your material; you can control every aspect. There are all kind of easy-to-use tools and resources that facilitates the work of setting up websites, blogs, wikis or any other way you decide to publish the information.

### **Schelly Talalay Dardashti**

Wednesday, November 19 (evening schedule)

### Jewish Genealogy 101

Learn the fundamentals of researching your Jewish ancestors.

The live webcast is offered free of charge and open to the public. "We offer these webinars as part of our educational mission," said SCGS president Alice Fairhurst, "but are always grateful for contributions to offset our costs." Donations can be made through PayPal, online through the SCGS website or by check made out to SCGS and mailed to the address below.

As a benefit of membership, SCGS members can review archived sessions at any time by accessing the SCGS members-only section of this website.

To join a webinar, most participants attend via computer with audio speakers or a headset. Those with a fast Internet connection (either broadband or DSL) will have the most satisfactory experience. It is possible to phone in to listen to the presentation. Long-distance charges may apply.

For more info: Paula Hinkel, phinkel@pacbell.net

## How to Research Your Family Tree

By Elina Bolokhova

Your child just came home with a homework assignment to find out the origin of his surname. Or perhaps your parents or grandparents have passed away, and you regret not asking them more. Whatever the scenario may be, *where do I come from?* is a fundamental question many of us ask at one point or another. In fact, 73% of people believe it is important to pass along their history to the next generation, and four in five Americans have an interest in learning about their family history, according to a survey conducted by Harris Interactive for Ancestry.com. So why don't more people actually do it?

With digitized records you previously had to search through libraries to find, it turns out that researching your family history is easier than ever. "People think it's going to suck up all of their time and that it's going to be really hard," says Sherry Lindsay, an associate genealogist at Ancestry.com. "But you're not writing a history report—you're just kind of gathering bits and pieces and finding things along the way. Just take it one step at a time."

Knowing your family history can also be vital for maintaining your health. Diseases like heart disease, cancer, cystic fibrosis and sickle cell anemia can run in families. Mapping the illnesses suffered by your blood relatives can help your doctor predict the disorders you may be at risk for and take the appropriate preventative measures.

But ultimately, genealogy is all about connections. "These days, we're all vagabonds," says Megan Smolenyak, author of *Hey, America, Your Roots are Showing*. "We all wind up living in places that our families aren't originally from. It helps to have that sense of connection, of belonging—that's one of the things that genealogy does for you. It connects people across oceans and across centuries. As you research ancestors, you learn more about yourself, too."

### Make History In Your Pajamas

On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, after a long wait of 72 years, the 1940 census will be released, and in a historic first, the collection will emerge online in digitized form. Last year, the National Archives and Records Administration selected Archives.com to build and host a website for the 3.8 images containing details about 132 million Americans. Best of all, this remarkable snapshot of a nation still recovering from the Great Depression and not yet aware of its approaching entry into World War II will be free.

So important are these records that genealogists and historians have been counting down the days for the past year and speculation is high that the 1940 census website will crash, though every precaution has been taken to

prevent such an occurrence.

An estimated 21 million Americans are finally old enough to be able to find themselves in the census, while others will have the pleasure of spotting their parents or grandparents for the first time. Each household entry will paint a family portrait that includes names, ages, relationships, birth places, occupations, education, residence (in 1935 and 1940) and more.

The year 1940 was a time of transition and the census will capture that. Millions whose family histories were considerably altered by the Dust Bowl and Great Migrations, not to mention the dash to the big city in pursuit of opportunities (Detroit with its burgeoning automotive industry comes to mind), will find concrete evidence of these pivotal moments. And while many of the 40 percent of Americans of Ellis Island heritage will see their immigrant ancestors in these records for the last time, those whose families escaped the turmoil in Europe in the 1930s will spy their "old country" relatives for the first time.

There's just one, small catch. According to the law, no one could have access to these records before their release, so there's no index. That's not an insurmountable problem as the website will include finding aids for those who know where their families lived in April 1940 (if you're not sure, ask relatives, look for old letters, official documents and newspaper articles that might include addresses, or check city and phone directories for relevant locations).

But for those who would prefer to simply search by entering Grandpa's name, there will be an index before long. And rather appropriately, it's being done on a collaborative and volunteer basis. Archives.com, FamilySearch and findmypast.com have all teamed up to sponsor The 1940 U.S. Census Community Project to encourage as many people as possible to help index the census to improve accessibility for all. Moreover, all three organizations have committed to provide these name-indexes free on their respective websites.

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### Volunteers Needed

CAAGS is always in need of volunteers for various committees and committee leaders. We need a chairman and committee for the 2013 Board elections to be held in November, individuals to plan and coordinate ongoing fundraising activities, the annual holiday party and individuals to fill current vacant Board positions. Please see any CAAGS Board member if you are interested.



# Heritage Newsletter

*California African American Genealogical Society*

## President's Message

By Ron Higgins

It was wonderful to see you after our summer break. Best of all is was good to have "Show and Tell" at our September meeting. Thanks to all who shared with us. We benefitted from your presentations.

Again, thank you to all of the members who worked on the Indexing Project – the 1940 Census. Alvia Cross was our chairperson. Also, thanks are in order to the volunteers who indexed CAAGS's papers and books by putting them in a database at the Mayme Clayton Library and Museum. Thanks to LaVerne Anderson, Lloydine Outten, Norma Bates, Cartellia Marie Bryant, Carolyn Connor, Lulla Denson, Brishette Mendoza, Ophelia Sanders, and Emma Willie who worked during the summer to complete this task.

Remember: There will be no meeting in October. The IBGS (International Black Genealogical Summit) will be held at Salt Lake City, October 18-20. There will be a large contingent of CAAGS members attending the summit, some whom will be attending an event like this for the first time. SEE YOU IN NOVEMBER!

November is election time! As Uncle Sam said on the poster: WE NEED YOU! Members on the nominating committee will soon get in contact with you by email or phone. I'm looking forward to some of you coming on board. I am asking all members to come out and vote in November.

CAAGS is fortunate to have two former members return: Charles (Chuck) Butler and Brishette Mendoza. Though it has only been a few months, they have stepped up and are making a difference! Both of them are sharing their expertise. Charles has been a great help to me at our booth

**October 2012    Volume 24    Number 8**

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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 (dark July and August)

### **Mayme Clayton Library and Museum (MCLM)**

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

### **2012 Board of Directors**

Ronald Higgins - President  
Lloydine Outten – First Vice President  
Carolyn Conway – Second Vice President /Membership  
Lloydine Outten – Corresponding Secretary  
Linda Rush – Recording Secretary  
Marjorie Sholes – Treasurer  
Ophelia Sanders – Parliamentarian  
Webmaster – Theodore Higgins/Gena Weaver  
([www.caags.org](http://www.caags.org))

### **Committee Chairs**

Ruth Palmer – Book Sales and Acquisitions  
Open – Public Relations  
LaVerne Anderson – Librarian  
Dorothy Lou Sands – Historian (Interim)  
Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor  
Colette DeVerge – FGS Delegate/Fundraising Chairman  
Norma Bates – Volunteer Chairman

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at community events around the city. Brishette is putting her great computer skills to excellent use. We appreciate all of our volunteers and need everyone's assistance. Thank you to all CAAGS members who routinely help with the activities and programs of CAAGS. Welcome to all new members.

### 2012 Calendar of Events

#### October 7

CAAGS Annual Stay at Home Tea.

#### October 13

Lunch and Learn at the Southern California Society and Family Research Library, Let's Get A Family Reunion Together and Producing a Family Reunion Book. Doors open at noon and sessions at 1pm and 2:45pm; Details included in newsletter or contact rubymoon01@yahoo.com

#### October 18, 19, 20

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual IBGS Summit** - Understanding our Past to Grow Into The Future; Radisson Hotel downtown, Salt Lake City, UT; [www.blackgenealogysummit.com](http://www.blackgenealogysummit.com)

#### October 20

No CAAGS general meeting, see you at IBGS

#### November 17

CAAGS general meeting, 10am – 2pm; Executive Office elections to be held. Turn in donations for Stay At Home Tea

#### December 15

Holiday Party, place TBD

*\* Calendar is subject to change without notice*

### LUNCH AND LEARN

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

417 Irving Drive, Burbank, California 91504  
818-843-7247

Saturday October 13, 2012 Doors open at 12 noon

**Lunch** - 12:00 noon to 1 p.m. Sit, chat, and share your genealogy stories and questions while eating your brown bag lunch.

**Learn** - 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm with questions and answers

#### Let's Get a Family Reunion Together

Presented by Charlotte Bocage

Now that you have worked hard to collect all of your family information Charlotte Bocage will show you how to organize a family reunion so you can bring your living

family together to share your information. She will show you how you can enjoy yourself too. Handouts will be provided to get you started.

#### Producing a Reunion Book From content to printed copy

Presented by Dick Humphrey

**Learn** - 2:45 - 4:00 pm with questions and answers

This workshop will provide a look at various options for printing at home, at copy centers and with online services. A demonstration will show steps to use Microsoft PowerPoint for custom pages with images, text, tables, genealogical charts and reports and will conclude with uploading online for printing. He encourages you to bring your laptop if you have PowerPoint already loaded on your computer so you can follow him step-by-step. If you don't bring a laptop don't worry Dick will provide you with enough information to duplicate the process at home.

The library will not be open for research. Ending times are approximate.

Questions, contact Charlotte at [rubymoon01@yahoo.com](mailto:rubymoon01@yahoo.com)

### CAAGS Request for Nominations

The CAAGS nomination committee would like to announce that the 1st Vice-President, Recording Secretary and Treasurer positions are open for election and are seeking members to run for an office.

Please refer to your By Laws and Constitution for the specific job description and responsibilities of the respective office. Also be advised that each office is for a two year term.

The nomination committee will be contacting members to inquire about serving, we ask that you maintain an open mind to serve as an officer on the CAAGS executive board.

Those wishing to run for an office can also contact Esther Bohannon at (323)291-8296 or [estboh2002@yahoo.com](mailto:estboh2002@yahoo.com).

Elections will be held at the November general meeting.

### Bouse Genealogical Society Genealogy Technology Seminar

December 7<sup>th</sup> at the Blue Water Casino, 11222 Resort Dr., Parker, AZ. Seminar will be featuring nationally known speaker Geoff Rasmussen. Topics: Googling Around with Google: Alerts, iGoogle, Calendar, Reader and more; Legacy Tips and Tricks; Something for Everyone; Genealogy on the Go: CDs, thumb drives, GEN Viewer, and Families App; Social Media for Genealogists; Message

Boards, Mailing Lists, Blogs and more.

Cost including lunch is \$40 before November 16 and \$45 after November 16. Additional info and registration form are available on the website [bousegenies.weebly.com](http://bousegenies.weebly.com) or contact us at [BouseGenies@gmail.com](mailto:BouseGenies@gmail.com).

### Tales from the Grave: Beyond Names and Dates in Death Records

As family historians, we're often accused of having an obsession with the dead. In addition to providing names and death information, these records include clues, and in some cases stories that can enrich your family history.

When we think of civil death records, typically a death certificate or a death register comes to mind. But in browsing through these collections I found other related records included as well. For example, the description of the South Carolina Death Records, 1821-1955 database reveals that it also includes "returns of interment, returns of death, transportation for burial forms, and physician's certificates," among other things.

When you browse the collection by place of death you'll see places from Cumberland, Maine, to Los Angeles, California. The records from places other than South Carolina are typically burial transit records issued by the municipality in which the person died. These records were required to ship the body to South Carolina. Here's an example of a record from Cook County, Illinois, for Joseph Cross. While the contents of burial transit records vary from place to place, Joseph's record gives a street address where he died in Chicago, and the name of the cemetery in South Carolina in which he was to be interred, as well as his age, date and time of death, and the cause of death.

Within death registers, we can sometimes find the name of travelers. In the collection of Missouri Death Records, 1834-1910, when you browse St. Louis, you also find the Register of Deaths outside the City of St. Louis. This one from 1890 includes S.N. Wood's record, which states that he died "on a train near San Antonio, Texas." His origins aren't noted, but that record goes on to show he was buried at Bellefontaine Cemetery in St. Louis.

*Side note:* This record and a surprising number of others reminded me of the importance of searching for initials when you're not having luck with a given name. Although [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com) does include initials in its default search, those results can sometimes be buried under other hits. Searching on the initial can help bump records with that initial to the top of the results. This can be very important if you're searching wide for an ancestor who "went missing."

### The Name of the Cemetery

Knowing the name of the cemetery that is your ancestor's final resting place is an important piece of information because you will often find other family members buried there as well. They can also reveal affiliations that can be helpful in your research. For example, on the opposite page of the same St. Louis record we showed above, the next person, Benjamin Jennings, was buried in the Odd Fellows Cemetery, indicating that he was likely a member of that fraternal organization.

I did a little poking around for more information on St. Louis cemeteries and found this website, courtesy of the St. Louis Public Library, which lists cemeteries in St. Louis—city, county, and some from adjoining counties. From the list I can also see that the next cemetery mentioned, Mt. Sinai, is a Jewish cemetery located on Gravois Rd., Affton, west of River Des Peres. The one after that, Sts. Peter and Paul is a Catholic cemetery, "Established in 1865, by German Catholics of the Sts. Peter and Paul parish; successor to St. Vincent Cemetery." Check around for similar websites for the places where your ancestors died.

### Cause of Death

The reason for your ancestor's death is an interesting and important piece of information. Since some medical conditions are hereditary, it's important to note the cause of death for close family members. It can also give you some insights into your family's story. When it's provided, make note of how long the decedent had been under a doctor's



care. Lacy McKay Culpepper's doctor, Orem Moore, had been treating her since 1919 for pulmonary tuberculosis when she died in 1922. (From North Carolina Death Certificates, 1909-1975) When you see lengthy illnesses, you can imagine the toll that it took on the family throughout those years.

Registers make it easy to scan and see what other people in your ancestor's neighborhood were dying of. As you scan this page from a 1904 Ohio County, Kentucky death register, you can see that the measles were clearly going around. Nine children and two adults listed measles as the cause of death, most of them dying in February and March of 1904. (From Kentucky Death Records, 1852-1953)

Since collections of death certificates are typically arranged chronologically, it can be interesting to page through the certificates around the time of your ancestor's death as well.

If you find a cause of death that is unusual, perhaps the result of an accident, check local newspapers for that time period for more details. Since you have the date of the event, you can use that (specifying exact) to narrow your search to events within that month in the Newspaper Collection on Ancestry.com.

Keep in mind that newspapers often picked up stories from nearby areas, and in some cases even across the country, so don't limit your search to your ancestor's local newspaper.

### Addresses and Informants

Often you'll find the residence of the decedent listed in a death record. Make a note of it and add it to your list of known addresses for that family. I like to incorporate them into chronologies I keep on my ancestors.

It's also a good idea to look for the name of an informant (the person who supplied the details for the record). You may find the name of a family member there. In this 1909 North Carolina death record for the infant child of Rosalean Love, we can see that the informant's last name of Watt is the same as the maiden name given for Rosalean.

In fact, when we find that informant, Carrie Watt, in the 1910 census, Rosaline is listed as the daughter of the head of household and she is the wife. The address in that census matches up with the address Carrie gave in the death certificate.

Looking at the informant is also important when it comes to assessing the accuracy of the details included in the record. Try to determine what the relationship is between the informant and the deceased, and then you'll be able to better judge what aspects of the record the informant would have first-hand knowledge of and what details are more

likely to be hearsay, educated guesses, or speculation.

Some death records also asked how long the deceased had lived in the city, state, or country. This burial record says that Mrs. Sabina Hackett had lived in St. Louis (Missouri) for 20 years.

**BURIAL CERTIFICATE**  
ST. LOUIS, MO.  
No. 4221  
This Certificate must be fully and accurately filled out in ink, provided by Sec. 380, Art. 9, Chas. 14, Revised Ordinances 1887.  
Name of Decedent Mrs. Sabina Hackett  
Age 38 Years, 8 Months, 24 Days  
Sex Female Race White Religion Methodist  
Occupation Housewife  
Place of Birth England Length of Residence in St. Louis 20 Years  
Place of Death, No. 1808 Street W. 1st  
Exact Locality of Death: Block 1 North by St. East by St.  
West by St. South by St.  
City Ward No. 14  
Date of Death June 24, 1880  
Cause of Death Typhoid  
I CERTIFY that I attended the person above named by A. H. Nichols, who died of the disease stated, or the other cause named.  
Place of Burial Crematorium  
OFFICE HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
St. Louis, Mo.  
I CERTIFY that I have examined this Certificate, and find it to conform with the requirements of the Ordinance and Charter.  
J. W. Nichols, M.D., Clerk of Health Commissioner and Board of Health.

### Contents May Vary

The records available and how comprehensive they are depends on the time and place where your relative lived, but it's important to always go after the entire record—and all records that relate to your ancestor's death. Often the records we find online are only indexes, and if we don't go after the original record we could miss out on valuable details.

### What's Available for My State?

Ancestry.com has a growing collection of vital records and vital record indexes. There are two ways to determine what collections are available for the state where your ancestor lived. The first is through the Card Catalog. Use the filters on the left side of the page to select the collection types (in this case, "Birth Marriage & Death," and then "Death, Burial, Cemetery & Obituaries"), and then select the country and state in the "Filter by location" options.

Another good way to view collections by state is through our state pages. To access the state pages, click on the "Search" tab and select a state from the map at the bottom of the page. From each state page, you can view the top collections for each record category.

For more information on vital record availability for each state, you can click over to the "Resources" tab, where you'll find information on when vital registration began and what repositories hold the original records.

*Taken from Ancestry Weekly, By Juliana Smith October 2011*



### **Volunteers Needed**

CAAGS is always in need of volunteers for various committees and committee leaders. We need a chairman and committee for the 2013 Board elections to be held in November, individuals to plan and coordinate ongoing fundraising activities, the annual holiday party and individuals to fill current vacant Board positions. Please see any CAAGS Board member if you are interested.



# Heritage Newsletter

*California African American Genealogical Society*

## President's Message

By Ron Higgins

**November 2012    Volume 24    Number 9**

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 (dark July and August)

### **Mayme Clayton Library and Museum (MCLM)**

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

### **2012 Board of Directors**

Ronald Higgins - President  
Lloydine Outten – First Vice President  
Carolyn Conway – Second Vice President /Membership  
Lloydine Outten – Corresponding Secretary  
Linda Rush – Recording Secretary  
Marjorie Sholes – Treasurer  
Ophelia Sanders – Parliamentarian  
Webmaster – Theodore Higgins/Gena Weaver  
([www.caags.org](http://www.caags.org))

### **Committee Chairs**

Ruth Palmer – Book Sales and Acquisitions  
Open – Public Relations  
LaVerne Anderson – Librarian  
Dorothy Lou Sands – Historian (Interim)  
Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor  
Colette DeVerge – FGS Delegate/Fundraising Chairman  
Norma Bates – Volunteer Chairman

Hello CAAGS members and welcome to all of the new members to the society. The month of October was Family History Month. I hope you and your friends and family honored our ancestors and talked about the family's past and the stories of your heritage. Remember genealogy is what we do. Did you remember our fundraiser, the 'stay-at-home tea'?

On October 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> the International Black Genealogy Summit (IBGS) was held at the Radisson Hotel in Salt Lake City. The theme: Understanding our Past to Grow into the Future. Twenty-five CAAAGS members attended and the rest of the west coast summit societies were well represented; there were approximately 125 people attending the conference. A number of attendees extended their trip and arrived early and stayed later to do additional research. I believe everyone made some startling discovery about their family.

Our keynote speaker for the banquet on Friday night was Pulitzer Prize winner Isabel Wilkerson, author of *The Warmth of Other Suns-The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*. It is a classic and historic text as well as an all-time bestseller. If you have not read it, go and buy it right away. I have been told it is a book that is hard to put down. Her presentation was awesome; there is a strong connection between our genealogical research and the historic migration of our ancestors.

Our presenters were some of the best in the country. They received rave reviews. The Radisson was a well chosen location because of its close proximity to the Family History Library. The classes were held on two floors and were well attended. I personally want to thank

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

all of the members on the IBGS Committee and all of the people who attended the summit. Thanks for keeping my vision alive! I hope to see you in 2015 in Washington DC for the next summit.

For the November meeting, we would like to have a "Show and Tell" from the members who were able to find new and interesting things about their families while in Salt Lake City. Elections will be held at the November meeting. The Nominating Committee, under the direction of Carolyn Conway, has my sincerest thanks. Finally, remember to save the date for our holiday party in December.

### **2012 Calendar of Events**

#### **November 10**

Lunch and Learn Southern California Genealogical Society and Family Research Library; My iPad, My MAC and Me: Doing Genealogy with Lisa B. Lee

#### **November 17**

CAAGS general meeting, 10am – 2pm; Executive Office elections to be held. Turn in donations for Stay At Home Tea

#### **November 22**

Happy Thanksgiving

#### **December 15**

Holiday Party and installation of officers, place TBD

#### **December 25**

Merry Christmas

#### **January 1**

Happy New Year

*\* Calendar is subject to change without notice*

### **LUNCH AND LEARN**

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

417 Irving Drive, Burbank, California 91504

818-843-7247

Saturday November 10, 2012

Doors open at 12noon

**Lunch** - 12noon to 1p.m. Sit, chat, and share your genealogy stories and questions while eating your brown bag lunch.

**Learn** - 1 to 4 pm with questions and answers

**My iPad, My Mac and Me: Doing Genealogy With Lisa Lee**

Lisa B. Lee encourages you to bring your Mac's and iPad's for hands on fun. This workshop will show you how various genealogy Web sites work differently on Mac's versus PCs, which genealogy programs are better for Mac users, and, best of all, how to incorporate your iPad into your daily genealogy life. If you've been riding the fence about whether or not to buy an iPad, when this workshop is done, you'll understand why Lisa's iPad has essentially replaced her laptop for ALL of her genealogy work.

The library will not be open for research. Any questions please contact Charlotte Bocage rubymoon01@yahoo.com

### **Volunteers Needed**

CAAGS is always in need of volunteers for various committees and committee leaders. We need individuals to plan and coordinate ongoing fundraising activities, the annual holiday party and individuals to fill vacant Board positions. Please see any CAAGS Board member if you are interested.

### **International Black Genealogy Summit**

October 18 – 20<sup>th</sup>, Salt Lake City, UT

By Ophelia Sanders

I have attended many genealogy conferences over the past 15 years, but this has been one of the best ever. From the opening session on Friday morning until the late night game of Bid Whist on Saturday evening with a few of the attendees it was great.

May I add that the food at the banquet was great! Some of the sessions that I attended were Exodusters: The birth of African American Migration by Damani Davis; Mapping Your Ancestors: Using Sanborn and Other Maps to Learn More About the Places and Geography of Where our Ancestors Lived by Tonya M. Hull; Using Non-Traditional Sources to Identify Slave Ownership by Janis Minor-Forte; Searching the Nooks and Crannies of the County Courthouse by Shamele Jordon; Overcoming Brick Walls in African American Research by David Dilts; Overcoming the Hurdle of the 1890 Census by Natonne Elaine Kemp and From Hobby to Professional Genealogist by LaDonna Garner. I cannot exclude our key note speaker Isabel Wilkerson, author of the book "The Warmth of Other Suns." Ms. Wilkerson was one of the best key note speakers that I have ever heard. All of the presenters were knowledgeable of their subjects and their presentations were excellent.

Our next IBGS will be in Washington D.C in 2015 or sooner. In DC we will have access to the National Archives and Library of Congress. I will start planning for it now.

## How to Plan a Family Reunion

*Tips for your family's next reunion that help you keep in touch throughout the planning and enjoy the day of the celebration*

- By Suzanne Rowan Kelleher

**Put the focus on family** - Every successful reunion starts with a good turnout, says Jack Bettridge of New Canaan, Connecticut, whose extended family has been gathering regularly since 1988. “Decide from the start that your goal is to spend time together, and not necessarily to have a lavish vacation,” he suggests.

**Plan way ahead** - The farther flung your family, the further ahead you should begin. Krissie Lynch of Ravenna, Ohio, meets up every four years with an extended family living in a panoply of states that includes Alaska, Florida, Texas, California and Massachusetts. “We usually set our reunion date about 18 months in advance, since we always have people who’ll need to take off time from work, buy plane tickets, or make other special arrangements,” she says. In the early-planning phase, she suggests coming up with several possible dates and locations and polling invitees to gauge preferences.

Though most of Beth Payer’s relatives live in the Northeast, they still start planning at least six months early. “Everyone has busy lives and full calendars,” she says. “You need to respect that tweens and teens will also have commitments that they care about. You want them to be fully present at the reunion and not feel like they’re missing something back home.”

**Adopt easy lines of communication** - The most efficient way to connect depends on how Internet-savvy your family is. “Group e-mail worked best for us because we could cover the most ground,” says Traci Suppa, a writer from Hudson Valley, New York, who runs the Go Big or Go Home family travel blog. “Not everyone uses social media sites like Facebook, especially the older members of our family.”

For large reunions, consider free online event-planning sites like Eventbrite.com, which can make tracking RSVPs and activity sign-ups a breeze. Another option is to set up a blog, like the one Krissie Lynch’s family created on

Google’s Blogger.com, where reunion guests can interact, view schedule information and peruse links to local tourism organizations. “Setting up the blog is a great job for a tech-savvy teen,” she says.

**Divvy up tasks** - Seasoned reunion-goers say sharing tasks is the way to go. “We usually have one main coordinator who assigns other responsibilities—one person in charge of researching lodging, another for meals, someone else to plan recreation and activities, and so on,” says Beth Payer. “If we’re staying at a place where we’re cooking our own meals, we would also assign turns for cooking and cleaning up.”

**Aim for a long weekend** - The consensus is that three or four days is an optimal length of time to catch up, share stories and build new memories. For busy families, Beth Payer recommends aiming for a holiday weekend such as Memorial Day, Columbus Day or Thanksgiving. “My husband’s family held a fantastic reunion on Cape Cod last Thanksgiving weekend. Off-season rates were low, and our group had the place completely to ourselves.”

**Rally around an occasion** - Milestone birthdays and anniversaries make particularly meaningful reasons to gather. Jack Bettridge’s first family reunion was planned to coincide with his mother’s 75<sup>th</sup> birthday, and they have reunited regularly for over 20 years since then. After his mother passed away, Bettridge became even more grateful for those earlier gatherings. “My mom really loved having all her kids and grandkids together,” he recalls. “Those reunions meant a lot to her, and to us.”

**Minimize distractions** - “Don’t try to make your event into a vacation *and* a reunion,” counsels Beth Payer. “You don’t need a lot of bells and whistles. They tend to take the focus away from family.”

**Include lodging options for smaller wallets** - “No hotel has one price for every room. So whether you are looking at a large resort, hotel, or cruise ship, there will be a range of price points,” says Traci Suppa. To keep costs down for everyone, consider campgrounds and smaller resorts with cabin-style accommodations.

“Booking out an entire B&B or inn has worked really well

for us,” says Jack Bettridge. “We get the run of the place and can take advantage of the facilities and all the common areas. And, as a bonus, breakfast is often included.”

**Don’t take an all-or-nothing view** - Your nephew’s baseball championship falls on the same weekend as your reunion. Cousin Tim has a big business trip he can’t get out of. Life happens, so don’t hold it against anyone who can’t come. “But make it equally clear that fragmented families are welcome,” says Krissie Lynch. “Whoever can go should just go.”

**Play up family history** - “I’m the second youngest of eight kids who were all born in Toledo,” says Jack Bettridge as an introduction to his favorite reunion destination. “One of the best things we did was to charter a coach that took us around to addresses that were meaningful to our family,” he remembers. The itinerary included their house, school, church, minor league baseball stadium, and the Toledo Zoo, where Bettridge’s grandfather had been president of the zoological society.

**Put together a loose schedule** - Start by blocking off times for meals and perhaps one mandatory gathering. “It’s nice to bring the whole group together for a big event, perhaps a dinner where you’ll present a slideshow of family photos,” says Krissie Lynch. Before or after the main event is the ideal time for a family portrait. “That’s really important to schedule in,” says Beth Payer, “or else you’re always missing one or two people.”

Next, build in a few group activities such as a karaoke night or an afternoon tag football game. “Don’t force participation for these activities,” says Payer. “Respect that not everyone enjoys being in a talent show. Everything is optional and it’s okay to just watch.”

**Leave some downtime** - Between the sing-alongs, croquet round-robins, and nature hikes, be sure to leave spaces of downtime, too. “Less is more,” stresses Krissie Lynch. “During unscheduled time, people get to just hang out together and that’s when really nice organic moments happen. One of my best memories from our last reunion is the impromptu tether-ball tournament that started up on the beach.”

“You really need to leave room for the telling of stories and the sharing of memories,” agrees Beth Payer. “I would hate to leave a reunion thinking that I hadn’t had time to talk to everyone.”

**Create a family heirloom** - “Food always plays a central role in Robson family gatherings,” says Beth Payer. “So one year we held the reunion around Granny’s birthday and created a cookbook.” The cover features a photo of the birthday girl and the title, *Robsons Eat: The Culinary Legacy of Elvah Marie Abbott Robson on the Occasion of her 85th Birthday*. Sprinkled in and among the recipes are old family photos and fond recollections of Payer’s grandmother, like this one from Uncle Bill: “It didn’t seem to matter how many of my friends would show up at the end of the day. There was always enough for everyone; I don’t know how she did it.”

Payer’s treasured keepsake is as nostalgic as it is useful. “That reunion happened in 2001 and we still use this cookbook all the time,” she says. “It always makes me smile, like a trip down memory lane.”

This packrat has learned that what the next generation will value most is not what we owned, but the evidence of who we were and the tales of how we loved. In the end, it's the family stories that are worth the storage.

- Ellen Goodman, *The Boston Globe*

## CAAGS QUERY WORKSHEET

Do you know about queries? If you have not put a query in the newsletter you are missing out on an opportunity to obtain some information from a fellow researcher. Queries are a request for information. Your query should be less than 50 words and they are free to members. The form was enclosed in the August/September newsletter that should be used when writing and submitting your query to us.

Your query should include your name, full snail mail and/or email address for responses. Return your completed query to [caags@hotmail.com](mailto:caags@hotmail.com) or mail to California African American Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 8442, Los Angeles, CA 90008-0442





# Heritage Newsletter

*California African American Genealogical Society*

## President's Message

By Ron Higgins

**December 2012    Volume 24    Number 10**

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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 (dark July and August)

### **Mayme Clayton Library and Museum (MCLM)**

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

### **2012 Board of Directors**

Ronald Higgins - President  
Lloydine Outten – First Vice President  
Carolyn Conway – Second Vice President /Membership  
Lloydine Outten – Corresponding Secretary  
Linda Rush – Recording Secretary  
Marjorie Sholes – Treasurer  
Ophelia Sanders – Parliamentarian  
Webmaster – Theodore Higgins/Gena Weaver  
([www.caags.org](http://www.caags.org))

### **Committee Chairs**

Ruth Palmer – Book Sales and Acquisitions  
Open – Public Relations  
LaVerne Anderson – Librarian  
Dorothy Lou Sands – Historian (Interim)  
Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor  
Colette DeVerge – FGS Delegate/Fundraising Chairman  
Norma Bates – Volunteer Chairman

The members of the election committee called and emailed our members prior to the election to provide us a 2012 slate. Thank you Carolyn Conway; chairperson, LaVerne Anderson, Esther Bohannon, Josalyn Caruthers and Carolyn Connor, they did an excellent job. We had an election and were happy to see some new candidates run for office. Congratulations to the newly elected CAAGS officers who will be sworn in at our January 2013 meeting:

Dr. Edna Briggs – First Vice-President  
Alvia Cross – Recording Secretary  
Josalyn Caruthers – Treasurer

Now is the time to take another look at yourself and become an active participant of the Society. We have a number of volunteer positions that are open. We have so many interesting, experienced and knowledgeable people in CAAGS. Please contact the president if you would like to participate. It just takes a little time to serve, whether you have ten minutes or four hours to spare, we need your assistance.

I would like to thank all of the CAAGS member families that participated in the 'Stay-at-Home Tea.' We raised \$410 and a special thanks to Norma Bates for organizing this event.

I pray your Thanksgiving holiday was enjoyable. We hope to see everyone at our Christmas celebration and luncheon at the Royal Buffet at 3310 West Century Boulevard (west of Crenshaw on the south side of Century Boulevard) in Inglewood on December 15, 11am to 2:30pm.

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

Thanks to our members that shared their experience from the International Black Genealogy Summit at November meeting. The Conference was hailed a success. Lastly, I personally want to thank all of the CAAGS members who have helped me throughout the years.

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year To All!!*

### 2012 - 2013 Calendar of Events

#### December 15

Holiday Party, Royal Buffet, 3310 West Century Blvd., Inglewood, CA, \$15 payable at door, 11am. No general meeting.

#### December 25

Merry Christmas!

#### January 1, 2013

Happy New Year!

#### January 19

CAAGS general meeting, Installation of officers, MCLM 10am - 2pm

#### February 16

CAAGS general meeting, MCLM 10am - 2pm

#### March 9

Save the date. Annual Discover you Roots. More to come

*\* Calendar is subject to change without notice*

### Save on RootsTech 2013 Registration

We're excited to announce the 3rd annual RootsTech conference on March 21-23, 2013 in Salt Lake City, UT. We are pleased to share a special discount with you.

RootsTech offers an opportunity unlike any other to discover the latest family history tools and techniques, connect with experts to help you in your research and be inspired in the pursuit of your ancestors. You will learn to use the latest technology to get started or accelerate your efforts to find, organize, preserve, and share your family's connections and history.

New In 2013! A full track of Getting Started classes and labs will help those new to family history learn things like where to start, how to build their family tree, and how to use technology to explore their connections. For more info, [rootstech.org/gettingstarted](http://rootstech.org/gettingstarted). **Registration is now open at [rootstech.org](http://rootstech.org).**

### CAAGS Logo Items

We have 1 T-shirt (\$15) and 1 sweatshirt (\$20), both size 2XL for sale. Also, we are considering doing a polo style logo shirt. A sample is available to view, sizing is not true to size. Please contact Marjorie Sholes

\*\*\*\*\* The CAAGS executive board is looking for members to form an Adhoc committee to request and review proposals for our website redesign. If you are interested in chairing or being on the committee, please contact Ron Higgins or any board member. \*\*\*\*\*

### Los Angeles Family History Center

- ✓ Family Tree Class (Free) is a one day intensive course for the new family tree, 10am -5pm to held on Dec 11, 15; Jan. 5 and 12. Please call 310-474-9990 to register.
- ✓ Sunday night Foundation Course held January 13<sup>th</sup> to February 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 - 8:30pm. \$10 pre-registration fee. Register at [www.lafhl.org](http://www.lafhl.org) or call us. This will also offered again March 10<sup>th</sup> -April 21<sup>st</sup>.
- ✓ Three-day intensive Class to be offered January 15-17<sup>th</sup> 8 m - 5pm with an optional Monday for introduction to computers, 1pm - 5pm. A \$20 pre-registration fee is required. Register at [www.lafhl.org](http://www.lafhl.org) or call us at 310-474-9990. This course is offered again February 19-21.
- ✓ LAFHC has some excellent courses that are free and offered most Saturday's. Go to the website: [www.lafhl.org](http://www.lafhl.org).
- ✓ Charles Meigs teaches African-American Research and Cherokee Research monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday.

### LUNCH AND LEARN

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

417 Irving Drive, Burbank, California 91504  
818-843-7247

Saturday, January 12, 2013

Doors open at 12noon

**Lunch** - 12noon to 1p.m. Sit, chat, and share your genealogy stories and questions while eating your brown bag lunch.

**Learn** - 1 to 4pm with questions and answers

#### Introduction to the National Archives Presented by Kerry Bartels

This lecture will cover four major categories of records held by the National Archives that are most commonly used by genealogists, a discussion of record digitization of the National Archives records, and an introduction to the partnerships for digitization. Examples of records that are rich in genealogical value but are little known and little used by genealogists will be explored. Additionally, Kerry



will provide information on African American, Chinese, and Hispanic research available at NARA.

The library will not be open for research. Ending time is approximate.

Any questions contact Charlotte rubymoon01@yahoo.com

## Extracting and Organizing Clues

By Juliana Smit

I love the holidays! This is the season for stories, memories and enjoying the people around us. As mentioned in the preface to this newsletter, I'll be taking a little break after Christmas to spend some time with my family. The past couple of years have been more than a bit tumultuous years around here and most of my time off had to be used on unexpected developments that called for immediate attention. Who knows? Maybe this little vacation will allow for a little down-time and even a few hours spent with my ancestors.

This week we're transitioning to a new Learning Center, in what's turned out to be a very manual process. I've been moving a lot of the columns written over the years, either to the new newsletter archive, or to a saved file to be updated as time permits, it's been like a trip down memory lane. I've often used examples from my own family history in articles, and if there's one thing that thirteen and a half years of writing about family history has taught me, it's that the best way to shine a light on inconsistencies and find new clues in research is to try to write an article about it.

It's always helpful to write your own "articles" when you run into a challenge in your family history research. This "article" doesn't even have to be in paragraph form. Even simply extracting clues from records and inserting your own thoughts and notes can bring a little clarity. Whether it's sorting out who's who (and more importantly who's yours), or trying to resolve conflicting dates, putting your thoughts in writing (handwriting or electronically—either is fine) will help you to sort out facts and clear out any assumptions that may be clouding your thinking.

Your first step is to grab the records you have for the individual and extract details from the records so that you can look for clues. Then look at the records together and add your own notes and observations. Below is a sample summary of some of the census records and a marriage index entry I found for my brother-in-law's great-grandmother on Ancestry.com.

### Clara B. (Crow?) Stitz Timeline

**Indiana Marriage Collection, 1800-1941** | Clara B. Crow

Name	Clara B. Crow
Spouse Name	John Stitz
Marriage Date	11 Sep 1895
Marriage County	Jasper
Source Title 1	Jasper County, Indiana
Source Title 2	Index to Marriage Record 1886 - 1920 Indiana let
Source Title 3	W. F. A. Original Record Located: County Clerk's O
Index	3
Of Page	231

Save This Record  
Attach this record to a person in your tree as a source record, or save for later evaluation.

Source Citation: This: Jasper County, Indiana, Index to Marriage Record 1886 - 1920 Indiana let, W. F. A. Original Record Located: County Clerk's O, Index: 3, Page: 231.

Source Information:  
Ancestry.com - Indiana Marriage Collection, 1800-1941 [Database online].  
URL: <https://www.ancestry.com/operation/india>  
Original Date:  
\* Write Progress Administration, Index: Index to Marriage Record Indiana: Indiana Write Progress Administration, 1935-1940.

#### 1900 U.S. Census, IN, Jasper Co., Carpenter, District 12, image 7 (18A)

Stitz, John, head, WM, Feb 1871, married 4 yrs., **IN/Ger/IN** farmer, owns farm (mtg)  
-- Clara B., wife, WF, Feb 1868, married 4 yrs., 3 children/2 living, IN/IL/MD  
-- Zella M., daughter, WF, Dec 1896, IN/IN/IL  
-- Estella M., daughter, WF, Feb 1898, IN/IN/IL  
Robey, Aquillis, servant, WM, Mch 1871, OH/OH/OH, farm laborer

#### 1910 U.S. Census, IN, Benton Co., Gilboa, District 0004, image 16 (sheet 8B)

Stitz, John, head, MW, 39 (b. 1871), M1, married 14 yrs., **IN/Ger/IN**, owns farm (free)  
-- Clara B., wife, FW, 42 (b. 1868), **M2**, married 14 yrs., 4 children born/4 living, IL/IL/MD  
-- Zella M., daughter, FW, 13 (b. 1897), IN/IN/IL  
-- Estella M., daughter, FW, 11 (b. 1899), IN/IN/IL  
-- Homer A., son, MW, 9 (b. 1901), IN/IN/IL  
-- Forest M., son, MW, 3 (b. 1907), IN/IN/IL

[Note: Is the Crow surname on the marriage index Clara's maiden name or the surname of her first husband?]

#### 1920 U.S. Census, IN, Benton Co., Gilboa, District 0004, image 7-8 (sheet 4A-B)

Stitz, John, head, owns farm, MW, 48 (b. 1872), married, **IN/IN/Ger** (German) [pos. reversed m/f pob], farmer  
-- Clara, wife, FW, 51 (b. 1869), married, IL/IL/MD  
-- Zella, daughter, FW, 23 (b. 1897), single, IN/IN/IL  
-- Estella, daughter, FW, 20 (b. 1900), single, IN/IN/IL  
-- Homer, son, MW, 18 (b. 1902), single, IN/IN/IL  
-- Forest, son, MW, 12 (b. 1908), single, IN/IN/IL

#### Notes:

Clara Stitz (b. 1866) and John Stitz (b. 1855) living in Sublette, Lee Co., Illinois in 1920

As I began going through each census, column-by-column, several things jumped out at me, one of the most notable of which was the notation that this was not Clara's first marriage.

When I attached the records I had found to Clara in the online tree I created for the family on Ancestry.com, I found that Ancestry.com was showing four hints (possible matches) for other records that might pertain to her.

Unreviewed Hints (4) | Ignored Hints (0) | Accepted Hints (3)

**1910-1947 Record**  
Birth, Marriage & Death  
Name: Clara Crow  
Spouse: William Crow  
Father: John Thupston  
Birth: 22 Feb 1869 in Benton Co., Ill  
Death: 5 Jul 1944 in Lafayette, Ill  
Residence: Keosauqua, Henry, Ill

**Kansas State Census Collection, 1894-1924**  
Record  
Name: Clara B. Crow  
Birth: abt 1866 in Ill  
Residence: 1 Apr 1875 in Williamsport, Shawnee, Kan  
Sex: F

**1880 United States Federal Census Record**  
Census & Voter Lists  
Name: Clara B. Crow  
Selling: Laura Crow  
Father: F. R. Crow  
Birth: abt 1866 in Ill  
Residence: 1880 in Williamsport, Shawnee, Kansas, U  
Noted States

**1870 United States Federal Census Record**  
Census & Voter Lists  
Name: Clara B. Crow  
Birth: abt 1866 in Ill  
Residence: 1870 in Lafayette, Coles, Illinois, United S  
State

I could quickly rule out the first entry, since the Clara in that record had died in 1944 under her married name of Crowe. Our Clara was Clara Stitz between at least 1895 and 1930 according to what I had found. The other three entries were interesting. In addition to matching the name, down to the middle initial, Clara B. Crow had been born in

1866 in Illinois—close enough to warrant closer scrutiny. Upon inspecting the records, the three hints all referred to the same Clara and her family, but in looking at the places of birth for her parents, the father gave his birthplace as Pennsylvania and mom showed Indiana, in contrast with the consistent Illinois/Maryland birthplaces Clara gave for her parents in the 20th century censuses. Was she mistaken? It's possible, but I won't be banking on it. If I hadn't really familiarized myself with the details on those 20th century enumerations, and noticed that M2 on the 1910 census (indicating this was not her first marriage), I might have jumped at those hints and possibly wrongly attached them to the tree.

I did a couple more searches for Clara, leaving off her surname since I'm not sure of it, and using the other details I know about her. I did find a Clara B. Grove in 1880, living in Livingston County, Illinois, who was of the right age and had a father born in Illinois and mother born in Maryland. Looking at a map, I can also see that Livingston County, Illinois is closer to Jasper and Benton Counties in Indiana than Coles County, Illinois, where the hinted Clara was living. So is this perhaps our girl? Again, I won't be jumping to any conclusions.

Fortunately, there may be a fairly simple way to solve this dilemma. It all goes back to that marriage index. Marriage records from this period often include details about the parentage of the bride and groom. I need to get a copy of the actual record, which will include more details than the index. I have several options. Since I live about an hour from the courthouse where the record is held, perhaps a road trip will be in order next week when I'm off. If I can't manage that, the description for that marriage index tells me that many of these records are available at the Family History Library and I may find that a local Family History Center has copies of that film.

#### **I Found An Ancestor In This Database....What Now?**

Marriage records are great sources for genealogists because they document an individual in a particular place and time as well as provide details about that person's marriage.

It is important that you use the information found in this database to locate your ancestor in the records that this index references. Usually more information is available in the records themselves than is found in an index. For example, marriage records sometimes provide the birth dates and places of the bride and groom, their parents' names, their addresses, and witnesses' names, in addition to the information listed in this index.

Not all of the marriage records compiled by Liahona Research at the FHL contain citations for the origin of each entry. When this is the case, it is up to the researcher to examine records (see the Family History Library Catalog -- available online at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)) under the heading "Vital Records" for the appropriate locality. Once a possible microfilm source is identified, or if a microfilm number is already supplied in this database, order that microfilm to your local LDS Family History Center (more information about this available on [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), under the Library tab).

Copies of the WPA printed indexes may be located at Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Allen County Public Library  
900 Webster Street  
Fort Wayne, IN 46802  
Phone: (260) 421-1200  
Fax: (260) 422-9688

Some of these printed indexes may also be available from the Indiana State Library or on microfilm from the FHL.

#### **Locating Originals:**

Because county clerks are responsible for maintaining marriage records, the originals are kept with them. To obtain a copy, contact the appropriate county clerk and inquire about their research facilities or the procedure for obtaining copies of records. These original records maintained by the county clerk may also be available on microfilm from the FHL and may be some of the sources used to compile this database as described above. For many researchers, it may be easier to check the FHL records first, before contacting the county clerk.

There's still plenty to be done researching Clara and her family, but this exercise is a good reminder to step back and take a look at the whole picture before grafting new limbs onto your family tree.

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I would like to wish the California African-American Genealogical Society members and officers a safe, healthy, and spiritual holiday season.

Congratulations to the CAAGS 2013 newly elected officers, Dr. Edna Briggs, First Vice President; Alvia Cross, Recording Secretary and Josalyn Caruthers, Treasurer. I welcome each of you and look forward to working with you and an exchange of knowledge.

Just a thought..... No matter how memories are kept, we as genealogist know we should be recording them as they are told to us, on some kind of technology digital device or software if possible. You may be over a relative's house for the holidays and an Uncle brings out the family Bible, he turns to the back of the Bible, his grandmother has listed every date of birth, death, marriage, sibling names, children names and divorce dates. Also, you may find in that family Bible the entire fork in the road to get to your grandmother's house.

In the kitchen an Aunt is preparing dinner, she asked if you could get something for her on the top shelf, where you would need a ladder to reach it. A box like chest sits on the very top shelf out of sight. Inside of this box is a cookbook, letter dated 1869, and five silver spoons. Your Aunt tells the story of that cookbook and the silver spoons.

So, no matter how recordings are done, we as genealogist, it is our duty to keep that recording alive and preserve it. Making sure that theory is now a fact.

Lastly, thank you, Ron Batiste for instructing the intermediate class on recording sources.

***Lloydine Outten, Corresponding Secretary and incumbent First Vice President***

