



# Heritage Newsletter

*California African American Genealogical Society*

**January 2013    Volume 25    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 (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)

## **2013 Board of Directors**

Ronald Higgins - President  
Dr. Edna Briggs – First Vice President  
Carolyn Conway – Second Vice President /Membership  
Lloydine Outten – Corresponding Secretary  
Alvia Cross – Recording Secretary  
Joselyn Caruthers – 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

## **Grandma Climbed The Family Tree**

There's been a change in Grandma, we've noticed as of late  
She's always reading history, or jotting down some date.  
She's tracing back the family, we'll all have pedigrees,  
Grandma's got a hobby, she's Climbing Family Trees

Poor Grandpa does the cooking, and now, or so he states,  
he even has to wash the cups and the dinner plates.  
Well, Grandma can't be bothered, she's busy as a bee,  
Compiling genealogy for the Family Tree.

She has not time to baby-sit, the curtains are a fright.  
No buttons left on Grandpa's shirt, the flower bed's a sight.  
She's given up her club work, the serials on TV,  
The only thing she does nowadays is climb the Family Tree.

The mail is all for Grandma, it comes from near and far.  
Last week she got the proof she needs to join the DAR.  
A monumental project - to that we all agree,  
A worthwhile avocation - to climb the Family Tree.

There were pioneers and patriots mixed with our  
kith and kin,  
Who blazed the paths of wilderness and  
fought through thick and thin.  
But none more staunch than Grandma,  
whose eyes light up with glee,  
Each time she finds a missing branch for the Family Tree.

To some it's just a hobby, to Grandma it's much more.  
She learns the joys and heartaches  
of those who went before.  
They loved, they lost, they laughed, they wept –  
and now for you and me,  
They live again in spirit around the Family Tree.

At last she's nearly finished, and we are each exposed.  
Life will be the same again, this we all suppose.

*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)*

Grandma will cook and sew, serve crullers with our tea.  
We'll have her back, just as before that wretched Family  
Tree.

- by Virginia Day McDonald, Macon, GA

### 2013 Calendar of Events

#### January 1

Happy New Year!

#### January 19

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

#### February 16

CAAGS general meeting, MCLM 10am - 2pm

#### March 9

11<sup>th</sup> Annual Discover your Roots conference. Pre-register  
by February 2<sup>nd</sup> \$30 admission; after Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> and at the  
door \$35. Guest speaker will be Aaron L. Day For more  
info go to [www.discoveryourroots.org](http://www.discoveryourroots.org) or PH 310 475 7018

#### May 8-11

2013 NGS conference is now online. The conference will  
be held in Las Vegas, NV May 8-11<sup>th</sup>. Go to  
[www.ngsgenealogy.org](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org) to see all the details.

*\* Calendar is subject to change without notice*

\*\*\*\* Our condolences to CAAGS member Linda Rush on  
the passing last month of her mother Rena Harice \*\*\*\*

#### CAAGS Website Design Committee

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. Please also be prepared to  
give names of web site designers with whom you are  
familiar with. After the January 2013 meeting, the new  
committee can start soliciting proposals from them.

#### 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.maurentaylor.com](http://www.maurentaylor.com)) is the author of *Preserving Your Family Photographs* (Picture Perfect Press). She can be reached on Facebook, Twitter and Linked In.

- Copyright 2011, Ancestry.com, *The Weekly Discovery*

## NARA Field Trip

A special behind the scenes fieldtrip to the National Archives at Riverside - Saturday March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2013  
**Fieldtrip space is limited to first 20 reservations**

The **National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)** is the nation's record keeper of all documents and materials created in the course of business conducted by the United States Federal government. Those valuable records are available to you, whether you want to see if they contain clues about your family's history, need to prove a veteran's military service, or are researching an historical topic that interests you.

The Regional Archives (formerly in Laguna Niguel, CA has moved to a new facility in Perris, Riverside County.

This location will better preserve records for coming generations, at more affordable cost to the government and taxpayers. All holdings are open for on-site research at their new research room, and are available to the public. Bring your research, your brick wall problems, and see what you will find in the free computer room. Kerry Bartels will be available all day.

There will be NO instructional lecture provided, only the tours. Attend the free SCGS Lunch and Learn lecture on January 12 (refer to Dec 2012 newsletter) for information about NARA. Come to the free February 9, SCGS Lunch and Learn lecture to find out how to prepare for this field trip.

Only 20 people per tour, choose your tour time and RSVP ONLY between January 2 and February 23, 2013 to [riverside.archives@nara.gov](mailto:riverside.archives@nara.gov) include in subject line – SCGS Field Trip

### Tour times

Group 1	8:30 – 9:30am
Group 2	10:30 – 11:30am
Group 3	1:00 – 2:00pm

Meet in the lobby 5 minutes before your tour starts. NARA is open Monday to Friday and the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of most months - 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Address: National Archives at Riverside, 23123 Cajalco Road, Perris, CA 92570; PH: (951) 956-2000

The 2013 NGS conference is now online.  
The conference will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada  
May 8-11<sup>th</sup> 2013.  
Go to [www.ngsgenealogy.org](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org) to see all the details

## Registration is Now Open for the 2013 Jamboree Extension Webinar Series

The Southern California Genealogical Society announces that registration is now open for the popular Jamboree Extension Webinar Series for 2013. The webinar series 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 Pacific time / 1pm Eastern time. Wednesday sessions will be scheduled at 6pm Pacific time / 9pm Eastern time.

Upcoming sessions are listed below. For more information on each of these sessions, check out the SCGS website.

Saturday, January 5 - 10am Pacific time / 1pm Eastern time  
**Lisa A. Alzo**

Family History Writing Made Easier: Cloud-based Tools Every Genealogist Can Use

Wednesday, January 16 - 6pm Pacific time / 9pm Eastern

**Linda Geiger Woodward, CG, CGL**

Documentation: Never Having to Ask, 'Where Did That Come From?'

Saturday, February 2 - 10am Pacific time / 1pm Eastern

**Eric Basir**

Digital Organization for Documents and Photos

Wednesday, February 20 - 6pm Pacific time / 9pm Eastern

**Michael John Neill**

No Will? No Problem

Saturday, March 2 - 10am Pacific time / 1pm Eastern time

**Lisa Louise Cooke**

Time Travel with Google Earth

Wednesday, March 20 - 6pm Pacific time / 9pm Eastern

**Michael Brophy**

Erin in the USA: Irish Research on This Side of the Atlantic

The initial '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.

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.

You can also contact Paula Hinkel (phinkel@pacbell.net) for more information.

### **Genealogy Resources at the Los Angeles Public Library**

The Los Angeles Public Library now makes available access to the Los Angeles Times through ProQuest from 1985 to the present. Previously this had been offered by the library through NewsBank. At the same time, the library has now started to offer access to the ProQuest Newsstand, which currently includes 606 titles. These include The Sentinel of Los Angeles beginning with 1991 and the Daily News of Los Angeles beginning with 1995. Many of the other titles are American newspapers, but foreign titles are included as well. Examples of the latter are the Times of London beginning with

1992, the Jerusalem Post beginning with 1988, and the Vancouver Sun beginning with 1987. These databases are available at the Central Library as well as our 71 branches and at home as well for patrons with library cards.

Obituaries are included in the ProQuest version of the Los Angeles Times from 1985 to the present, but death notices are not. In order to do a search at home, you should begin at the library's home page, which is <http://www.lapl.org>. Once there click on Access the Databases. At this point you will be prompted to enter your library card number. When you have been verified, you can scroll down through the alphabetical list to Los Angeles Times (ProQuest) and click on it. If you want to search the ProQuest Newsstand instead, you can scroll down to where it is found and click on it.

The death notices from the Los Angeles Times are now available on Legacy.com. If you go to their web site at: <http://legacy.com/Obituaries.asp> you will find a listing for the Los Angeles Times under browse. By clicking on it, you will be able to search the last 30 days of death notices and read the full text for free at: <http://legacy.com/LATimes/LegacyHome.asp>. Towards the bottom of this page, you will see the word Archives, if you click on it, you will go to this page: <http://legacy.com/LATimes/LegacySubpage1.asp?Page=ArchiveSearchGateway> where it is possible to search for death notices from 5/26/2001 to a date 31 days from today. Here you will be given the date that the article ran in the paper. You can view the full text for a \$2.50 fee. If you are in the Central Library or want to come to the Central Library and view the microfilm, you will be able to read the death notice for free.

At this point all obituaries in the Los Angeles Times are now available online through the Los Angeles Times, Historical Archives (ProQuest) from 1881-1985, and through the Los Angeles Times (ProQuest) from 1985 to the present. (Note that the year 1985 overlaps in the two separate databases.) The library offers access to the Historical Archives at the Central Library and at our 71 branches, but not at home.

All death notices in the Los Angeles Times are now available online through the Los Angeles Times, Historical Archives (ProQuest) from 1881-1985 and through Legacy.com from 5/26/2001 to the present.

11<sup>th</sup> Annual Discover your Roots conference  
Pre-register by February 2<sup>nd</sup> \$30 admission; after Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>  
and at the door \$35. Guest speaker will be Aaron L. Day  
For more info go to  
[www.discoveryourroots.org](http://www.discoveryourroots.org) or PH 310 475 7018



# Heritage Newsletter

*California African American Genealogical Society*

**February 2013    Volume 25    Number 2**

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)

**2013 Board of Directors**  
Ronald Higgins - President  
Dr. Edna Briggs – First Vice President  
Carolyn Conway – Second Vice President /Membership  
Lloydine Outten – Corresponding Secretary  
Alvia Cross – Recording Secretary  
Joselyn Caruthers – Treasurer  
Ophelia Sanders – Parliamentarian  
Webmaster – Theodore Higgins/Gena Weaver  
([www.caags.org](http://www.caags.org))

**Committee Chairs**  
Ruth Palmer – Book Sales and Acquisitions  
Charles Butler – 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**

Ron Higgins

Theodore Higgins and I traveled to San Diego on December 8, 2012 to attend the San Diego African American Genealogical Research Group's annual Christmas luncheon. It was a very nice 'buffet-style' affair and it was held at a nice place. They had a White Elephant Gift Exchange which always turns out to be a very beautiful event. They sent their season's greetings to CAAGS.

CAAGS held its annual Christmas luncheon on December 15, 2012 at the Royal Buffet in Inglewood. Thanks to Odessa Yokum for acquiring the large room; there were 30 members and friends who attended this event. Norma Bates, who was in charge of the games, did a great job. Gifts were given to the participants. Ophelia Sanders brought her karaoke box which had 100 songs that could be played. My daughter Riva Higgins and Marilyn White sang and lent their voices to numerous songs. Everyone had a great time. I'd like to give special thanks to Cheryl Washington, Theodore Higgins, Annette Johnson, Norma Bates, and your president for the gift bags everyone received.

There have been a number of deaths of some of our members and relatives in the last few weeks. We send our deepest sympathy to the families of those who have lost loved ones.

I want to make a correction on the number of attendees at the International Black Genealogy Summit (IBGS). There were 266 in attendance.

*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)*

Please remember that the heart of humility is found in sacrificial service and also that great leaders are made great through their tireless work on behalf of others.

At our January meeting our new officers were installed. I want to thank the old officers for their dedication and service to CAAGS. Welcome to the new officers and I extend a sincere thank you to Jamesetta Hammons-Glosson for conducting the installation of our new officers. Let us give them our support and encouragement.

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

Please remember and save the date - Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup> 2013 for the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Discover Your Roots Conference, our guest speaker is Aaron L. Day. You can register on line at [www.DiscoveryYourRoots.org](http://www.DiscoveryYourRoots.org).

I wish each of you a Happy Valentine's Day!

### 2013 Calendar of Events

#### February 16

CAAGS general meeting, MCLM 10am - 2pm. Lula Gorrell, guest speaker.

#### March 9

11<sup>th</sup> Annual Discover your Roots conference. Admission after Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> and at the door is \$35. The guest speaker will be Aaron L. Day. For info [www.discoveryyourroots.org](http://www.discoveryyourroots.org) or PH 310 475 7018

#### March 16

CAAGS general meeting, MCLM 10am - 2pm

#### May 8-11

2013 NGS conference is now online. The conference will be held in Las Vegas, NV May 8-11<sup>th</sup>. Go to [www.ngsgenealogy.org](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org) to see all the details.

*\* Calendar is subject to change without notice*

### LUNCH AND LEARN

Southern California Genealogical Society and Family  
Research Library

417 Irving Drive, Burbank CA., Ph. 818-843-7247  
Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>  
Doors open at 12 noon

Lunch - 12 noon to 1pm Sit, chat, and share your

genealogy stories and questions while eating your brown bag lunch.

Learn - 1 - 4:45pm includes questions and answers

Speaker - Charlotte Bocage

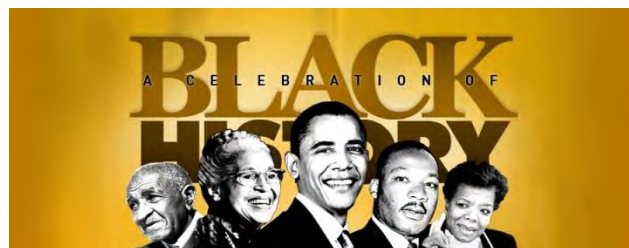
1 - 2:15 pm - I Thought I Was Organized, So Don't Do What I Did!

2:15 - 3:30 pm - Why and How to Source Your Documents

3:30 - 4:30 pm - Getting Ready for the National Archives Field Trip

These three presentations explain the need for and types of forms, a simple filing system, and other genealogical paraphernalia. You will avoid the sin of incomplete sourcing by organizing your source citations. Then the mini lecture will prepare you for our field trip to the National Archives on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Charlotte M. Bocage has over 40 years of genealogy experience, a full-time genealogist, lecturer, author and Louisiana specialist. Also on the Board of Directors and Education Committee chair for the Southern California Genealogical Society and First Vice President for the Pasadena Area African American Genealogical Society. The library will not be open for research. Times are approximate. Any questions please contact Charlotte [rubymoon01@yahoo.com](mailto:rubymoon01@yahoo.com)



### Celebrating 100 Years of Life & Times With Mrs. Lula Gorrell

Mrs. Gorrell reached her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in November 2012. She resides in Los Angeles and is the matriarch of a family that extends down 7-generations. Please join CAAGS at the February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013 meeting to hear her talk about what she has experienced during her lifetime. Come prepared with questions, regarding her life and legacy that may enlighten your family history research efforts.

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.

## What Race is Bruno Mars?



*Bruno Mars next to one of his grandfathers. This apple didn't fall far from his family tree. (credit for photo on right: PR Photos)*

Which of the following describes the heritage of Peter Gene Hernandez, better known as Bruno Mars?

- Ukrainian
- American
- Filipino
- Hispanic
- Jewish
- Hawaiian
- Puerto Rican
- European
- Hungarian
- Asian
- Spanish

The correct answer is all of the above. So riddle me this: What race is Bruno Mars?

Many have long said that race is an artificial construct, and as a genealogist who's been playing with family trees for most of my life and with DNA for more than a decade, I wholeheartedly agree. While the recent presidential election has certainly increased awareness of diversity in America, the more multicultural trees I research and genetic ancestries I explore, the more apparent I think the growing "melangification" of all this diversity will gradually become to everyone.

Folks like myself who are 100-percenters or half-and-halves with roots in only one or two places are rapidly becoming quaint, and families like Bruno's (the Obamas also come to mind) are slightly ahead of the curve. If you were to come back 100 years from now, I have no doubt that you'd find a lot more family trees of the Cloud Atlas variety with branches extending to every corner of the

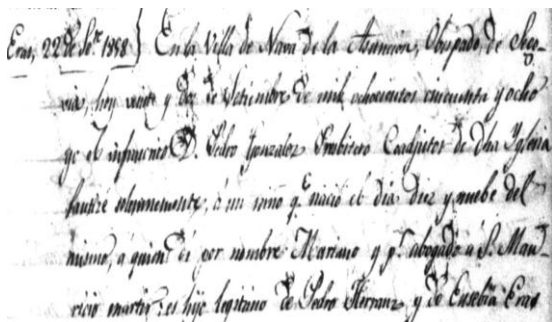
globe. But for now, let's linger on Bruno's for a bit. Here are a few things you didn't know about his roots:

- He is typically described as being Hawaiian-born to a father of Puerto Rican heritage and a mother from the Philippines. This is all true. His parents are indeed Boricua and Filipina. But his ancestral pool also happens to be one-quarter Jewish hailing from Hungary and Ukraine (which perhaps makes the "dancing juice/Jews" aspect of this viral Marry You video even more fitting).
- In the U.S., Hawaii, New York, California, Nevada, Puerto Rico and Texas all hold a piece of his family's past.
- Bruno's Ukrainian immigrant ancestor, a one-time Hebrew teacher, entered America not through Ellis Island, but through the port of Galveston, Texas as part of the Galveston Movement. His future bride, however, was of Ellis Island stock.
- This same ancestor was once banned from ever becoming a citizen, but after modifying his name (please see the Ellis Island chapter of Hey, America, Your Roots Are Showing if you still believe that old myth about names being changed by immigration officials) and waiting about 20 years, he was finally naturalized.



- As seen in this photo, continental blending in Bruno's family began a long time ago. This shows a pair of his great-great-grandparents - the father born in Spain and the mother in the Philippines - with two of their daughters around the 1890s. About a decade after her husband passed away, Bruno's great-great-grandmother remarried to a Chinese gentleman 19 years her junior, introducing yet another country into the family mix.





- When it comes to Spain, it's Segovia – 'I'm talking to you, Nava de la Asunción and Fuentelayo! - that gets the bragging rights.

Were Bruno Mars to go on a world tour for the release of *Unorthodox Jukebox*, there would likely be unsuspecting cousins in the audiences in Madrid, New York, Kiev, San Juan, Manila and Budapest. So tell me: Which box do you think Bruno Mars ticked on the 2010 census?

- Taken from ancestry weekly, 2012

## LostCousins A New Approach to US Genealogy

Who better to help you research your family tree than someone who shares the same ancestors?

The LostCousins website has a unique system that identifies living relatives who share the same ancestors automatically, confidentially, and with close to 100% accuracy.

Recognizing that everyone has their own approach to research, and that the very flexibility of the GEDCOM format means that no two files are alike, LostCousins spotted the potential of census data as a way of simply and accurately linking together people who share the same ancestors.

And to ensure that as many people as possible have access to the census data, LostCousins focuses on censuses that are available at the free FamilySearch website.

It's a very simple system - but one that's amazingly powerful. LostCousins members enter brief details for their relatives taken from the census transcripts, then click the Search button. Matches with other members who share the same ancestors are identified within seconds, and because the data is saved - to search again at any point in the future requires little more than a click of the Search button!

Although LostCousins is relatively new to the US, the system is tried and tested - thousands of researchers with British ancestry have found living relatives through the site since it first opened. The accuracy has been amazing - only

a handful of incorrect matches have been reported.

LostCousins was founded in 2004 by Peter Calver, a British researcher who has visited the US more than 40 times over the past quarter of a century. He stills runs the site, and is really excited about this latest expansion: "This is the moment I've been waiting for! With the addition of the US we now cover most of the English- speaking world - it's an amazing opportunity for our members to discover living relatives without having to work through hundreds of false leads".

Using data from just one census is like taking a snapshot of a family tree. And because everyone takes the snapshot at the same time - 1880 in the case of the US census, or 1881 for Britain and Canada - the sophisticated software behind the LostCousins site can quickly identify people who share the same ancestors, even if those ancestors died long before 1880.

Registration and basic membership of LostCousins are completely free. However there are advantages to becoming a paying subscriber.

The LostCousins website can be found at:  
<http://www.LostCousins.com>

## *Genealogy Quick Tip* *Search Census by Place of Birth*

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

A word of caution--in the nineteenth century, despite the unification of Italy in 1861 and the unification of Germany in 1871, some immigrants reported their place of birth by former kingdoms, duchies, cities, etc.

### **Door Prizes**

In preparation for the 2013 holiday party, Norma Bates is seeking volunteers to donate door prizes. Please contact Norma at [teapotnorma@yahoo.com](mailto:teapotnorma@yahoo.com)





# Heritage Newsletter

*California African American Genealogical Society*

**March 2013    Volume 25    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 (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)

**2013 Board of Directors**

Ronald Higgins - President  
Dr. Edna Briggs – First Vice President  
Carolyn Conway – Second Vice President /Membership  
Lloydine Outten – Corresponding Secretary  
Alvia Cross – Recording Secretary  
Joselyn Caruthers – Treasurer  
Ophelia Sanders – Parliamentarian  
Webmasters – Theodore Higgins/Gena Weaver  
([www.caags.org](http://www.caags.org))

**Committee Chairs**

Gwendolyn Foster/Hellene Palmer – Book Sales and Acquisitions  
Charles Butler – Public Relations  
LaVerne Anderson – Librarian  
Dorothy Lou Sands – Historian (Interim)  
Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor  
Colette DeVerge – FGS Delegate  
Norma Bates – Volunteer Chairman

**President's Message**

Ron Higgins

Every family has legends about their ancestors. Are these legends true or false? Most legends are handed down by word of mouth and are influenced by memory. Memories also change with time and one story may be merged with others but presented as a single event. There may be some truth in the story, but often these stories are embellished over time and may not be entirely accurate.

The dictionary defines legend as an unverifiable story handed down from the past; a body of stories connected to a people or culture; a legend can be a saga, fable, allegory, myth, parable, folklore or fictional chronicle. We must remember to always cite the source of the information. Don't accept the legend as true. Legends provide insight into the experiences of our ancestors and make them come to life as real human beings.

The month of March will begin the 27<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CAAGS. Those members and friends who have helped us to achieve this milestone have my sincere appreciation. Don't forget the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Roots Conference on March 9, 2013.

At our March meeting, we are looking forward to our special guest, a centenarian, Mrs. Lula Gorrell who, because of a conflict engagement, couldn't be with us at our February meeting. A very sincere thank you is extended to Marilyn White (The Importance of Memory) and Chaitra Powell (Submitting Your Research to the Mayme Clayton Library and Museum) for their helpful and informational presentations at our February meeting. Come prepared to 'show and tell' some aspect about

*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)*

your research at the March meeting. No family history is ever complete. Every day new members are added and new materials are being made available. Let us all continue researching our family history.

### 2013 Calendar of Events

#### March 9

11<sup>th</sup> Annual Discover your Roots conference. Admission at the door is \$35. The guest speaker will be Aaron L. Day. For info [www.discoveryourroots.org](http://www.discoveryourroots.org) or PH 310 475 7018

#### March 16

CAAGS general meeting, MCLM 10am - 2pm. Come prepared to share your latest 'Show and Tell' item.

#### April 20

CAAGS general meeting, MCLM 10am - 2pm

#### May 8-11

2013 NGS conference is now online. The conference will be held in Las Vegas, NV May 8-11<sup>th</sup>. Go to [www.ngsgenealogy.org](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org) to see all the details.

*\* Calendar is subject to change without notice*

### Los Angeles Family History Center

For those that work we have a six week course:

**Foundation Course in Genealogical Research** offered starting on Sunday night March 10, March 17, March 24, April 7, April 14 and April 21. The classes start at 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm. There is a \$10 fee which may be waived. Call 310-474-9990 or visit [www.lafhl.org](http://www.lafhl.org) to register.

**3-Day Intensive Family History/Genealogy Training Course**, March 26-28 and again in May 14-16. Call 310-474-9990 or visit [www.lafhl.org](http://www.lafhl.org) to register. There is a fee of \$20 for materials which may be waived.

**Advanced Three-Day Intensive Family History/Genealogy Training Course** offered April 23-25. There is a fee of \$20 for the materials. Call 310-474-9990 or visit [www.lafhl.org](http://www.lafhl.org) to register.

Please be sure to renew your **2013 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 you want to continue receiving your newsletter by mail you will need to add an additional \$5 to the membership fee. The 2013 membership roster will be available at the April meeting.

### Welcome to the 44th Annual Southern California Genealogy Jamboree Friday through Sunday, June 7 through 9, 2013 Plus Pre-Event "Family History & DNA" Thurs, June 6

The Southern California Genealogical Society is proud to announce the **44th 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 7 through the 9th. With about 1600 attendees, speakers, exhibitors, and volunteers, Jamboree is one of the largest genealogical events in the United States.

This year's theme is "Follow the Path to the Past," and our special emphasis is on **military records** and **African-American research**. As in the past, we are fortunate to have world-class speakers leading nearly 100 classes.

New to Jamboree this year is the introduction of thirteen **90-minute workshop sessions** (Friday and Sunday) to allow our attendees to dig deep into the subjects of interest. Best of all, there is no additional charge for these workshops!

Of course, we will have a number of special events, including a behind-the-scenes look at *Who Do You Think You Are*, which is back in production for a fourth year to be shown on a yet-to-be announced cable channel. Allie Orton and other members of the team of WDYTUA will be on hand Friday evening to answer your questions during a Q&A session moderated by Lisa Louise Cooke.

This year's innovative **Family History and DNA: Genetic Genealogy in 2013**, a joint production of the Southern California Genealogical Society and the International Society of Genetic Genealogy (ISOGG), will be held June 6. This is the first independently produced DNA event (that is, not sponsored by a DNA commercial company.) An outstanding slate of speakers, including Dr. Spencer Wells, will be on hand for this very special event.

Speakers for this session are experts in the relatively new tool for tracing ancestors. Are you confused about all of the letters and numbers and terminology and interpretation of results? This is just the event for you. Seating is limited, so register today at [scsgenealogy.com](http://scsgenealogy.com).

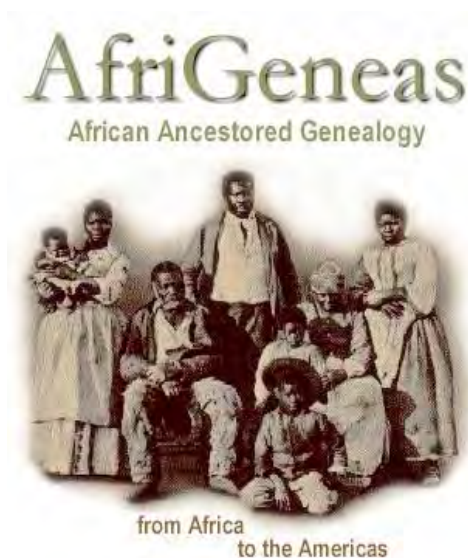
### January 2013 Educational Survey Results

A total of 33 surveys were completed and analyzed. The following is the ranking of topics and presentation methods. The Board will use these topics when planning future programs, classes and presentations by guest speakers at our general membership meetings. All are

encouraged to continue to submit ideas/recommendations to the President or any Board member

1. **Using Old and New Photographs in Genealogy (“Can I borrow Aunt Opal’s Album”)** – 97%\*  
Presentation Mode – Guest Speaker
2. **National Archives (NARA)** – 94 %\*  
Presentation Mode – Field Trip
3. **Goggle Toolbox** – 94%\*  
Presentation Mode – Guest Speaker
4. **Breaking Down Brick Walls** – 91 %\*  
Presentation Mode – Guest Speaker
5. **Writing About My Research** – 91%\*  
Presentation Mode – Guest Speaker
6. **Using DNA in my Research** – 90%\*  
Presentation Mode – Guest Speaker
7. **Interviewing Techniques** – 75%\*  
Presentation Mode – Guest Speaker
8. **Planning A Family Reunion** – 72%\*  
Presentation Mode – Guest Speaker
9. **Getting Acquainted with Social Media** – 66%\*  
Presentation Mode – Guest Speaker

*\*Combined ‘Moderate + Most’ Scores*



**AfriGeneas** is a site devoted to African American genealogy, to researching African Ancestry in the Americas in particular and to genealogical research and resources in general. It is also an African Ancestry research community featuring the AfriGeneas mail list, the AfriGeneas message boards and daily and weekly genealogy chats.

Chat with us · LUNCH BUNCH · M-F noon-1:30pm  
ET · TUESDAY NIGHTS · 9pm ET  
**AfriGeneas.com**

## Vacaville Man Traces Black Heritage to Pre-Civil War Era



*Gerald Gordon, of Vacaville, points out the 1838 deed of sale of his great-great grandfather, Peter Hughes, that he had enlarged and put on display in his house. It is the oldest document Gordon has been able to find about his ancestors. Hughes was born in the United States around the 1780s, lived to be about 100 years old, became a minister and founded Mt. Rowell Baptist Church, which still exists in South Carolina. (Brad Zweerink/Daily Republic)*  
By Ian Thompson

VACAVILLE — The deed of sale lists Peter Hughes, his wife and seven children as the slaves that South Carolina landowner Thomas Hughes was selling to his daughter on Aug. 6, 1838.

The 175-year-old document found in a deed book in Union County, S.C., is a flash of light into the darkness that envelopes the early history of Vacaville resident Gerald Gordon’s family in America – when blacks were considered property, rather than people.

That is shown in a bill of estate that lists the sheep, cattle, guns, tools “and then all of his slaves” that the owner of Gordon’s ancestors possessed.

A copy of the deed document from the era of slavery in America is now framed on the wall next to a plentiful crop of pictures of the Gordon family and their ancestors. Aside from discovering the 1882 death date of the “about 100 years old” Rev. Peter Hughes on his gravestone next to the church he founded, the deed is the oldest piece of family history that Gordon has found.

“It was the first black church in the county,” Gordon said.

The deed has created as many questions as answers. Prior to six months ago, when he got an email from a man who found the deed, Gordon did not know his great-great-grandfather had seven children. He is now trying to find out what happened to most of them.

Gordon said he is not chronicling his family's heritage for himself. He said he is doing it so the Gordon family's younger generation, such as 12-year-old grandson Drake Claxton, have knowledge of their past that will help them make a better future.

"He has to go through this for himself, and I want to make sure we will be there for him," Gordon said, pointing to a picture of Drake on the mantelpiece of his Vacaville home.

Gordon speaks of his regret that his own father and grandfather never talked about their family history when they were alive. He said what they knew could have shed more light on his family's past.

"Our parents never talked about slavery," Gordon said.

Gordon's family has been involved in collecting records, pictures and documents of its history for the past 50 years – for as long as the family has gathered for reunions. Gordon got actively involved in the 1980s.

"My grandmother said, 'You need to know where you came from,' and that inspired me to get involved," Gordon said.

Gordon's great-grandfather, Charles Gordon, was later sold to a Mississippi man named Gordon who took the family to Chickasaw County, Miss. The slave owner's name stuck.

In Mississippi, the family won its freedom after the Union Army swept through the area during the latter days of the Civil War. The Gordons actually managed to get ownership of some of the land, which they managed to keep until just after World War I, when the bank purportedly cheated the family out of their property.

The seizure was successfully fought in the courts, but when Gordon's great-uncle was told on the courthouse steps that he could either get out of town or be killed, the family decided to leave.

"The whole family went to Wisconsin," Gordon said.

His grandfather and father found work in a foundry in Beloit, Wis., that made engines for locomotives.

"It is still there today, and if you see a diesel locomotive, it was probably made there," Gordon said.

Gordon joined the U.S. Air Force because he didn't want to go to work in the foundry, and settled in Vacaville.

Tracing his heritage prior to the Civil War is daunting, since black slaves are simply listed in documents as property. Only those who were freed are somewhat easier to trace.

"Most black people can't trace this far back," Gordon said.

Modern technology gave Gordon one more insight into his past after his brother had his DNA checked, and it showed a common paternal genetic ancestry shared with the Yoruba people in Nigeria.

Gordon spends much of his free time at the computer and is a member of the Solano County African-American Genealogy Society and the Chickasaw County Genealogy Society.

He is now trying to find out more about one ancestor who served in one of the Union Army's black regiments and was killed during the Battle of New Market Heights in late September 1864.

"I would like to know where he is buried," Gordon said.

Gordon is a firm believer that everyone should know about their past. He contends it helps them become a better person.

"You don't know who you really are until you know your past," Gordon said. "We all come from somewhere."

*The Daily Republic*

*Sunday, February 3, 2013 FAIRFIELD-SUISUN, CALIFORNIA*

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.

### **Ulster Irish Seminar - Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - SCGS Family Research Library  
417 Irving Drive, Burbank, CA

We are fortunate to welcome Ulster Irish experts to SCGS for a full-day seminar on Saturday, March 16. Conducting the seminar are Fintan Mullan, Executive Director of the Ulster Historical Foundation and Dr. Brian Trainer, retired Research Director with the Ulster Historical Foundation.

- Introduction to Irish and Scots-Irish Family History Research
- The Ulster Plantation: Sources for 17th Century Families
- Researching the Farming Community in 18th and 19th Century
- Sources Available for Research by County

Registration \$30 for SCGS members, \$35 for nonmembers. Sandwich box lunches are available for \$10.

You can register for the Ulster Irish Seminar online.



# Heritage Newsletter

*California African American Genealogical Society*

**April 2013    Volume 25    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)

**2013 Board of Directors**

Ronald Higgins - President  
Dr. Edna Briggs – First Vice President  
Carolyn Conway – Second Vice President /Membership  
Lloydine Outten – Corresponding Secretary  
Alvia Cross – Recording Secretary  
Joselyn Caruthers – Treasurer  
Ophelia Sanders – Parliamentarian  
Webmasters – Theodore Higgins/Gena Weaver  
([www.caags.org](http://www.caags.org))

**Committee Chairs**

Gwendolyn Foster/Hellene Palmer – Book Sales and Acquisitions  
Charles Butler – Public Relations  
LaVerne Anderson – Librarian  
Dorothy Lou Sands – Historian (Interim)  
Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor  
Colette DeVerge – FGS Delegate  
Norma Bates – Volunteer Chairman

**President's Message**

Ron Higgins

Hope, Joy, Peace, Goodwill, Kindness, Love, Friendship, and Unity. All of these things are found in a family and they are a part of things we find in our research. We also receive hospitality in warmth from others in the genealogy family.

March 9<sup>th</sup> was the Eleventh Annual Discover the Roots Conference held at the Historic Chapel of the Church of the Latter- Day Saints Stake on 1209 South Manhattan Place, Los Angeles, California. The guest speaker was Aaron Day from Long Beach, California. He spoke on the timely theme "Strength from our Past, Hope for our Future." He interjected some helpful hints for gathering information from the past and for preserving our future as genealogists. We had approximately 106 in attendance. We also had some members from our sister societies present. Someone was present from Phoenix, Arizona, Las Vegas, Nevada, and San Diego, California.

There were several new class topics at this conference. CAAGS had several members who were presenters: Gerard McKay, Asiliah Shakoor El Amin, Dr. A. Nelson El Amin, Ophelia Sanders, Dr. Edna F. Briggs, Richard Procello and Sam Ward. Thank you to all of our great presenters.

At our March CAAGS meeting we were blessed with the presence of centenarian, Mrs. Lula M. Gorrell as our keynote speaker. She was born in Louisiana and lived in Texas before settling in California.

She regaled us as she reminisced about her life in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. She answered all questions and we were impressed by her vivid recall and keen sense of

*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)*

humor. She was honored with a Centenarian Award and yellow roses. At age 100 (and five months) she has a really sharp memory. She was accompanied by two of her daughters, Mary and Faye. She later remarked that being with us brought back so many cherished memories. She offered her thanks to us for inviting her and making her feel so welcomed and loved.

CAAGS is now entering into its 27<sup>th</sup> year as of March 23. As president I want to thank all of the faithful members and friends for their support throughout the years.

### 2013 Calendar of Events

#### April 20

CAAGS general meeting, MCLM 10am - 2pm. Come prepared to share your latest 'Show and Tell' item.

#### May 8-11

2013 NGS conference is now online. The conference will be held in Las Vegas, NV May 8-11<sup>th</sup>. Go to [www.ngsgenealogy.org](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org) to see all the details.

#### May 18

CAAGS general meeting, MCLM 10am - 2pm

#### June 7 - 9

Southern California Genealogy Jamboree - Pre-Event "Family History & DNA" **June 6**. Los Angeles Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel, 2500 Hollywood Way, Burbank, CA. Register today at [scsgenealogy.com](http://scsgenealogy.com)

#### June 15

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

*\* Calendar is subject to change without notice*

### SCGS Library Catalog Searchable Online

The Southern California Genealogical Society is pleased to announce the launch of its online library catalog.

The Society's library holds items from all fifty states and several countries, including Germany, Canada (French Canada), England, and Ireland. Although the Library's collection does not circulate, the SCGS professional research team will be happy to do lookups.

Try searching the new catalog today! You'll find it on the SCGS Website.

**Los Angeles Family History Center**  
**Advanced Three-Day Intensive Family History/Genealogy Training Course** offered April 23-25. There is a fee of \$20 for the materials. Call 310-474-9990 or visit [www.lafhl.org](http://www.lafhl.org) to register.

***Interested In Being A Part of the CAAGS Board of Directors?*** The Nomination Committee will be seeking candidates for the following offices, President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary, Parliamentarian and Federation of Genealogy Society Delegate, (FGS). Members can refer to the job duties in the CAAGS By-Laws. No need to contact the nomination committee at this time. We'll start actively soliciting for the offices around September.

### CAAGS Website

It was voted at the March general meeting to proceed with a new website design. We will use Altered States Web Design. Members and friends of the Society can make a donation to this project. As little as \$25 would be a big contribution in support of the project. See any Board member for details or mail your tax deductible donation to CAAGS, P.O. Box 8442, Los Angeles, CA 90008-0442



### Burial Database Project of Enslaved African Americans

#### About Us

The mission of the *Burial Database Project of Enslaved African Americans* is to identify, document and memorialize burial sites of the enslaved, most of which are abandoned or undocumented. Operating from the premise that all burial sites are sacred, we seek to identify these grounds by creating a database for their documentation regardless of their current condition - survived and protected or neglected and deserted.

The initial stage of this project will be to collect, record, and store pertinent information submitted to us by descendants, property owners, churches, community organizations and concerned citizens through online submissions. The collective impact of the future database



will not only identify known and unknown burial sites, but will bring into national focus a lasting memorial for the enslaved.

For scholars and historians, as well as institutions interested in reconstructing the history of American slavery, the database will be a valuable research tool. Once established, a primary goal of the *Burial Database Project of Enslaved African Americans* will be to create a national burial registry that will be accessible to the public as a genealogical instrument to assist those searching for lost fragments of their personal history.

The *Burial Database Project of Enslaved African Americans* is currently housed in the Department of African and African American Studies at Fordham University in New York City.

### Data Submission

We are currently seeking submissions regarding the location of slave burial grounds in any state. A submitted slave burial ground is a gravesite that includes one or more burials of persons who died enslaved or were born enslaved and died after emancipation. We welcome any burial submission regardless of its status (marked, unmarked, abandoned), its size or its type (family cemetery, plantation cemetery, church cemetery, etc.) Each evaluated submission will receive follow up communication for verification and complete documentation.

If you are aware of a slave burial ground or cemetery and would like to contribute information, please go to the submission section of our website, [www.vanishinghistory.org](http://www.vanishinghistory.org).

Help us identify, document and memorialize burial grounds of enslaved African Americans. Burial grounds of enslaved African Americans are disappearing from the American landscape, taking with them history, heritage and a people's place in the world. You can help us protect these sacred places.

### **44th Annual Southern California Genealogy Jamboree Plus Pre-Event "Family History & DNA"**

The Southern California Genealogical Society is proud to announce the **44th 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 7 - 9th. With about 1600 attendees, speakers, exhibitors, and volunteers, Jamboree is one of the largest genealogical events in the United States. Register today at [scsgenealogy.com](http://scsgenealogy.com)

### **Legacy Family Tree 2013 Genealogy Cruise 22 September 2013 - 7 October 2013 (15 days) Celebrity Cruise Line's Millennium Ship**

September 22 - October 7 - **Legacy Family Tree 2013 Genealogy Cruise** - Panama Canal Cruise – "Trace Your Roots with DNA", "Solving Historical and Family Mysteries with DNA", "Find That Obituary! Online Newspaper Research", "Hey, America, Your Roots Are Showing" and "Giving Back: A Look at 13 Years of Genealogy Grants."

Departs from San Diego, CA. For more info go to [www.legacyfamilytree.com](http://www.legacyfamilytree.com)

#### **Door Prizes**

In preparation for the 2013 holiday party, Norma Bates is seeking volunteers to donate door prizes. Please contact Norma at [teapotnorma@yahoo.com](mailto:teapotnorma@yahoo.com)

### **Ancestry.com - US, African American Newspapers, 1829-1947**

This database contains issues of African-American newspapers printed in the 19th and early 20th century.

### **Historical Background**

The black press in America traces its roots to the *Freedom's Journal*, first published in 1827. Later, papers often were established to serve growing black population centers, where they provided news of interest to the community that was not always reported in the mainstream press. This database contains issues from more than 200 African-American newspapers printed in the 19th and early 20th centuries from all across the United States.

### **What You May Find in the Records**

The newspapers microfilmed in this database contain news (local, national, world), editorials, advertisements, and other items that provide context on a place and time. They may also include notices about births, marriages, and deaths, which can be crucial to genealogical research. The following details have been indexed to help you find references to names and other important genealogical information:

- names
- residences
- birth dates and places
- brides and grooms
- marriage dates and places
- age at marriage
- death dates and places



- age at death

Ancestry.com. *U.S., African American Newspapers, 1829-1947* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2013. This collection was indexed by Ancestry World Archives Project contributors. Original data: *Negro Newspapers for the American Council of Learned Studies*. Washington, D.C.: The Library of Congress.

## Related data collections

### ***African American Photo Collection, 1850-2000***

This database contains collections of public domain photos and prints relating to African Americans from the National Archives and the Library of Congress.

### ***California, African American Who's Who, 1948***

This database contains the 1948 edition of the Negro Who's Who in California, featuring short biographical sketches of prominent African American residents of California.

### ***Freedman's Bank Records, 1865-1871***

This database is an index to Freedman's Savings and Trust Company's registers of signatures of depositors. Some information that may be found in this index includes: name of depositor, date of application or deposit, age, height, complexion, names of relatives, birthplace, residence, and occupation. Freedman's Saving's and Trust Company existed from 1865-1874 and operated in 17 U.S. states. It is a great source for African American researchers.

### ***Slave Registers of former British Colonial Dependencies, 1812-1834***

This database contains slave registers from former British colonial dependencies, many of them in the Caribbean, for various years in between 1812 and 1834. Information available on these records includes: name of owner, parish of residence, name, gender, age, and nationality of slave.

### ***Historical Newspapers, Birth, Marriage, & Death Announcements, 1851-2003***

This database is a collection of birth, marriage, and death announcements from several major U.S. newspapers for a variety of years. Images of the original newspapers are included.

Please be sure to renew your **2013 CAAGS membership** if you have not done so already. Existing 2012 members who did not renew by the March meeting will be removed from the membership roster. Also, remember if you want to receive your newsletter by mail you will need to add an additional \$5 to the membership fee. The 2013 membership roster will be available no later than the May meeting.

## Get The Most Out Of Your Search

Search engines help you find your ancestors quickly and easily because they bring up the best possible matches first in your list of search results. Many also automatically return alternate spellings and abbreviations for your ancestor's name(s). For example, a search for "Bill Smith" might return "William Smith", "Wm Smith", "Bill Smyth" or "B. Smith". An exact name match is the closest match, and therefore the most relevant, followed by common variants, misspellings, and nicknames.

To get the most out of your search, type in as much information as possible. The more search criteria the search engine has to match against, the more likely it is to pull the best matches to the top of your results list. Not sure about an exact date? Take an educated guess. As long as you're within a few years, you'll get much better results than if you leave a date field blank. Try these general suggestions to improve your results:

- Add a middle name if you know of one
- Add a birth and/or death year
- Add a birth and/or death place

After completing your initial search, you might want to narrow your search results to those found only in a particular category or database. Simply click on the desired category or database listed to the left of the search results to narrow your results. This will take you to a new search results page that shows you results found only in the chosen category.

Categories are unique to each type of search. For example, Historical Records contain categories like "Census" or "Immigration" and houses specific databases such as the "1930 US Federal Census." Once you drill down to an individual database, a new search box may appear at the bottom of the search results page. This will allow you to search exclusively within that database thereby narrowing the scope of your search. Just keep in mind that the search field options may vary depending on the category or database selected.

### \*\*\* New CAAGS General Meeting Schedule \*\*\* Effective September 2013

Starting in September, CAAGS will be changing the schedule of our general membership meetings. The Board meeting will commence from 10 – 11:30am followed by our Beginner/Intermediate classes at 11:45am (1 hour). The membership business meeting/Guest speakers and/or special presentations will be 1- 3pm. Members are welcome and encouraged to join the monthly Board meetings.



# Heritage Newsletter

*California African American Genealogical Society*

**May 2013    Volume 25    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)

**2013 Board of Directors**

Ronald Higgins - President  
Dr. Edna Briggs – First Vice President  
Carolyn Conway – Second Vice President /Membership  
Lloydine Outten – Corresponding Secretary  
Alvia Cross – Recording Secretary  
Joselyn Caruthers – Treasurer  
Ophelia Sanders – Parliamentarian  
Webmasters – [www.caags.org](http://www.caags.org)

**Committee Chairs**

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

**President's Message**

Ron Higgins

What was the one thing or things that lit up your life in your genealogy research? How much did it mean to you? Has it made a big change in researching your family tree?

I hope it has been a lasting change and has it helped you to move forward. Remember you have quality groups like CAAGS, other genealogy societies, the Internet, and the Church of the Latter Day Saints Family History Center to provide you with assistance in your family search. Be determined not to give up the fight.

Plans are underway for our Juneteenth celebration and meeting. It will be held on Saturday, June 15, at Lindberg Park, 5041 Rhonda Way, Culver City from 10am - 5pm. We plan on having a good time while we acknowledge our ancestors. Each member is asked to bring a dish (lunch will be served at 12:30). For additional information, please contact Gwen at (323) 856-9499. She does an excellent job in coordinating and planning this annual event.

Thanks to all of the participants in our "Show and Tell" at the April meeting. It inspires all of us to hear about your success in finding out more about your family. Thank you again for sharing this information.

Happy Mother's Day to all of the women in CAAGS. You are so special. Also, let us remember and honor all of the men and women who have served in the armed forces this Memorial Day.

*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)*

## 2013 Calendar of Events

### May 18

CAAGS general meeting, MCLM 10am - 2pm;  
Presentation - Using Old & New Photographs In Genealogy  
("...and I can't borrow Aunt Opal's Album")

### June 7 – 9

44<sup>th</sup> Annual Southern California Genealogy Jamboree -  
Pre-Event "Family History & DNA" **June 6.** Los Angeles  
Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel, 2500 Hollywood Way,  
Burbank, CA. Register today at [scsgenealogy.com](http://scsgenealogy.com)

### June 15

CAAGS Juneteenth celebration, Lindberg Park, 10am 5041  
Rhonda Way, Culver City. Contact Gwendolyn Foster to  
volunteer at (323)856-9499, [gwenfoster1678@att.net](mailto:gwenfoster1678@att.net).

### July/August

No CAAGS membership meeting. Enjoy your summer!

### September 21

#### New meeting schedule, Bi-annual Show & Tell

CAAGS Board meeting 10 am - 11:30 am  
Beginner/Intermediate Classes 11:45 am - 12:45 pm  
General membership meeting & guest speaker 1 – 3pm

*\* Calendar is subject to change without notice*

### CAAGS Membership Dues Deadline Extension

At the April 20<sup>th</sup> general membership meeting, CAAGS members voted to extend the time for payment for the 2013 membership dues until May 15<sup>th</sup> and to waive the \$5 late fee. If you have not paid your dues, you are encouraged to do so ASAP and keep your membership with CAAGS active.

### Request for Nominations

The CAAGS nomination committee would like to announce that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary, President, Parliamentarian and FGS Delegate 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, starting in January 2014.

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

### CAAGS Field Trip To NARA

The Board is in the process of planning a one-day field trip to the Regional National Archives located in Riverside County. The trip will occur during July or August on a week day. Members can expect to receive a questionnaire during the month of May that will be used to survey member preference and finalize the plans.

### Family Treasures: 15 Lessons, Tips, and Tricks for Discovering Your Family History – Free PDF Download

Recently during the RootsTech 2013 conference, genealogists who participated in the Barry J. Ewell presentation he mentioned that he would share a free PDF version of his book Family Treasures: 15 Lessons, Tips, and Tricks for Discovering Your Family History.

#### Download PDF

You can download a PDF copy of the book from the following link:

<https://www.yousendit.com/download/UVJpRm85NmMwVWtsYzIvVag>

#### Companion Website

The following website is a companion website for the book. It will provide hundreds of videos, podcasts, and free forms related to the book.

#### Companion website link:

[http://mygenshare.com/news/book/family\\_treasures](http://mygenshare.com/news/book/family_treasures)

### Digital Story Telling

By Margaret Lance Cheney



Photo Story 3 Welcome Screen

What are you doing with all those photos in your computer? Isn't it time to use them to tell your stories? Digital storytelling is the practice of using computer-based tools, such as images, text, and music, to tell a personal story, recall historical events, or even to promote a genealogy society and its events.

A few months ago, I discovered Microsoft's *Photo Story 3* that can create a digital story in five easy steps. Although this free program has been available since

2003, it has been overshadowed by Windows *Movie Maker* or Windows *DVD Maker*, although some users still prefer the flexibility offered by the earlier program. *Photo Story 3* was not originally included with Windows XP, but was (and still is) available as a free download to authenticated users at <http://www.microsoft.com/enus/download/details.aspx?id=11132>. Besides XP, *Photo Story 3* can be used on computers running Vista or Windows 7. Windows 8 users would need to use Windows *Movie Maker*, which can be downloaded at <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows-live/moviemaker-get-started>.

*Photo Story 3* is a user-friendly program that can create amazing movies even for those with little to no technical expertise. All that's required is a computer and microphone. I found that an inexpensive headset worked best to make the voice come through with less background noise. Once the program has been downloaded, the fun truly begins.

### **Preparing your digital story**

Before creating your story, it is helpful to have all your pictures placed in a separate folder, either on a hard drive or flash drive, to make the story-building process easier. *Photo Story 3* recognizes a variety of image formats, including JPG, GIF, TIFF, and BMP. While the program offers some editing tools, such as red-eye reduction and basic color correction, you may want to adjust pictures in another image-editing software prior to importing. Besides preparing the digital images, any background music, other than what *Photo Story 3* offers, should be digitized as an MP3, WAV, or WMA file.

### **Creating the story**

*Photo Story 3* opens with a Welcome Screen where you can choose from three options: start a new story, edit an existing story, or play a story. From here, the basic navigation tools are the Next and Back buttons, allowing you to move forward or backward during the five-step process of building a digital story.

### **Step 1: Import images**

The first step is to load the pictures to be used in the story by clicking on the Import Pictures button. Simply navigate to the folder where the images have been stored. *Photo Story 3* will import multiple pictures with a maximum of two hundred in one batch. The pictures do not have to be in order as they can be rearranged on the timeline, which is visible below the Image Viewer window.

Directly under the Image Viewer are some buttons for simple image editing. Besides correcting color levels and removing red eye, special effects can also be added to the images, like washing out a picture and adding sepia tones. Images that have been edited will display a small pencil

and paper icon beneath the image when viewed on the timeline.

### **Step 2: Adding titles**

Once the pictures have been arranged and edited, the next step is to title the pictures. Titles can be used to create a title screen for the story, to help identify an image, or to tell a story without audio narration. Several font styles are available, along with the ability to change text alignment.

### **Step 3: Narrate the story**

This next step literally puts the story in motion. One advantage to using *Photo Story 3* over Windows *Movie Maker* is the ability to pan and zoom on each image, known as the Ken Burns effect. In this effect, used extensively by the American documentarian Ken Burns, action is given to still photographs by slowly zooming and panning in on subjects of interest, then using a fading transition between frames. To help make things easier on you, *Photo Story 3* will automate certain settings: duration of how long the photo appears on screen; motion of the images, such as in and out, pans and zooms; transitions between images; and how long transitions will last. Specific adjustments can be made to the story by selecting the Customize Motion button. One note of caution: While it may be fun to play with all the special motion techniques, in the end you want the viewer to notice your story, not your effects. Narration is also added during this step by using an external microphone and *Photo Story 3*'s built-in recording tool. A text box is provided to add notes for each individual picture.

If you are not satisfied with the narration, it can be re-recorded. This step adds a great deal of dimension and personalization to a story. For example, have a grandchild narrate a picture, or in the case of a society, a past president or charter member. Remember to speak clearly and deliberately to have a good narration.

### **Step 4: Adding music**

Adding background music to a story helps to set a tone and mood for the viewers, as well as enhancing a storyline through a song's lyrics. To add music, select a picture from the timeline where music should start, then either click the Select Music button to import music, or click the Create Music button to use the music that came with *Photo Story 3*.

When using personal music, keep in mind copyright laws. There are Internet sites for royalty-free music (although expect to pay a subscription fee for the right to use the music) and for music in the public domain. Before going on to the final step, preview your story, taking note of any unwanted background noises, ill-timed transitions, strange photo edits, missing narrations, etc.

### Step 5: The end

All that's left in the final step is to save and share the story. When asked what to do with the story you just created, I suggest selecting the option to save the story for playback on your computer. The other options can be selected once you become comfortable with the program.

Congratulations! In just five easy steps, you created a one-of-a-kind digital story for your family or organization. This story can now be e-mailed to others or shared on YouTube. If you are a member of a genealogical society, you may want the society to have its own YouTube channel, which can be private or public. When private, only those you invite can see posted videos.

Here is a link to the first video I created about my grandparents, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d4ijoW\\_zWMw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d4ijoW_zWMw) and for a video I created for a cemetery workshop for the Ohio Genealogical Society, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GA9UO0OSZr0>. I hope you will enjoy this program as much as I have. There are endless possibilities to this program. Let your creativity shine!

- Taken from the FGS Forum Winter 2012

*Margaret Lance Cheney has been involved in genealogy for the past fifteen years. You can reach her at [margcheney117@gmail.com](mailto:margcheney117@gmail.com).*

### Win a One of a Kind War of 1812 Commemorative Quilt Thomas MacEntee



Genea-Quilters, founded by Pat Richley-Erickson, Gena Philibert-Ortega and Tami Osmer-Glatz, have created a one of a kind War of 1812 commemorative quilt in support of the Preserve the Pensions project. In order to maintain the old timey feel, the quilt was pieced together using patterns of the time period of 1812-1900, when most of the War of 1812 pensioners' wives and mothers would have been making quilts.

Genea-Quilters have kindly donated this unique quilt to be given away as the grand prize in our drawing. For every \$1 donated to Preserve the Pensions an entry is made into the drawing. The winner will be announced at the 2013 FGS

Conference being held at the Grand Wayne Convention Center in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, August 21-24, 2013.

### Here's How To Win!

The Genea-Quilters have out done themselves as you can see from the pictures of this amazing Bi-Centennial Commemorative Quilt! This Carpenter's Star quilt was created by over a dozen Genea-Quilters to support the fundraising efforts to Preserve the Pensions for the soldiers of the War of 1812. Yes, you have the opportunity to own this quilt – here's how!

Make a donation to the Preserve the Pensions project by visiting [www.preservethepensions.org](http://www.preservethepensions.org). Click on the Donate button and make your donation. Be sure to check the box "Please enter this donation into the War of 1812 Quilt Drawing." Each dollar donated increases your chances of this quilt being awarded to you.

If you choose to mail your donation to the FGS Business Office at: P.O. Box 200940, Austin, TX 78720-0940, please make your check payable to "Preserve the Pensions" and note on your check "Quilt Drawing."

### About Preserve the Pensions

The Federation of Genealogical Societies in conjunction with the National Archives, fold3, and Ancestry.com are leading the effort to raise \$3.7 million dollars to digitize 180K Pensions and Bounty Land files of the War of 1812, including 7.2 million images and making those images available free online.

Each dollar donated to this project preserves two images of a War of 1812 pension or bounty land application. Ancestry.com has generously agreed to match each dollar donated with an equal number of images preserved, so each dollar donated actually preserves four images! Please consider a donation of \$25, \$45, \$100, \$250 or \$500 today and help preserve a cherished piece of American history!

The digitized images that have already been captured are available for FREE online and will always be free. You may view these free images at <http://go.fold3.com/1812pensions/>.

### \*\*\* New CAAGS General Meeting Schedule \*\*\* Effective September 2013

Starting in September, CAAGS will be changing the schedule of our general membership meetings. The Board meeting will commence from 10 – 11:30am followed by our Beginner/Intermediate classes at 11:45am (1 hour). The membership business meeting/Guest speakers and/or special presentations will be 1- 3pm. Members are welcome and encouraged to join the monthly Board meetings.





# Heritage Newsletter

*California African American Genealogical Society*

**June/July 2013    Volume 25    Number 6**

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)

**2013 Board of Directors**

Ronald Higgins - President  
Dr. Edna Briggs – First Vice President  
Carolyn Conway – Second Vice President /Membership  
Lloydine Outten – Corresponding Secretary  
Alvia Cross – Recording Secretary  
Joselyn Caruthers – Treasurer  
Ophelia Sanders – Parliamentarian  
Webmasters – [www.caags.org](http://www.caags.org)

**Committee Chairs**

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

**President's Message**

Ron Higgins

I hope everyone will attend the Juneteenth Picnic. Bring your family and friends and also bring a chair; card table, and plan to sit back and relax. There is a play area for the children at the park. We will have good food and have many activities planned and look forward to having a great time.

FLASH! Has your knowledge of the accomplishments of your ancestors influenced you or your family today? For example, my granddaughter, Reagan Higgins, who recently graduated from high school, received a scholarship to Tuskegee University. In my genealogical research of my family, I discovered that I had a cousin named Mabel Higgins who also attended Tuskegee in the 1930s. This had a great impact on my granddaughter. By researching and sharing with her information about her ancestry, it helped to influence the personnel at Tuskegee and she received a full scholarship. I am proud that this tradition continues.

As summer approaches, many of you will visit relatives. I hope that you will be able to attend family and class reunions and acquire information about your ancestors while visiting other places. This will be a good time to continue your quest for information about your family tree.

*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)*

## 2013 Calendar of Events

### June 15

CAAGS Juneteenth celebration, Lindberg Park, 10am, 5041 Rhonda Way, Culver City. Contact Gwendolyn Foster to volunteer at (323)856-9499, gwenfoster1678@att.net.

### July 13

Family History Seminar with Geoff Rasmussen, 9am – 4pm, Fullerton Public Library and Conference Center, 353 Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, CA 92832. Pre-registration thru July 6<sup>th</sup>, Members \$30, Non-members \$35 at Door \$40, lunch is not included. Box lunches \$7 with pre-registration only. For more info call 714 319 5994 or visit [www.gsnocc.org](http://www.gsnocc.org)

### July/August

No CAAGS membership meeting. Enjoy your summer!

### August 10

Lunch & Learn, 10–3:30pm, Free and open to the public. Bring your bag lunch. This is one of SCGS most popular educational programs. Info [www.sgsgenealogy.com](http://www.sgsgenealogy.com)

### September 21

#### New meeting schedule

CAAGS Board meeting 10 am - 11:30 am

Beginner/Intermediate Classes 11:45 am - 12:45 pm

General membership meeting & guest speaker 1 – 3pm

*\* Calendar is subject to change without notice*

## CAAGS Field Trip To NARA

The Board is in the process of planning a one-day field trip to the Regional National Archives located in Riverside County. The trip is tentatively planned for July 19<sup>th</sup> based on member feedback from the May meeting. Details of the trip are being finalized.

Our condolences to **Sam Ward** on the passing of his wife of 46 years, Dorothy on Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. She had been battling cancer for the past couple of years. Her funeral was on Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, at Cross Word Christian Church on the March Air Reserve Base facility.

## Request for Nominations

The CAAGS nomination committee would like to announce that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary, President, Parliamentarian and FGS Delegate 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, starting in January 2014.

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.

## TLC and Ancestry.com bring back 'Who Do You Think You Are'

TLC announced that it has ordered new episodes of the Emmy-nominated series Who Do You Think You Are?, Executive Produced by Lisa Kudrow and Dan Bucatinsky (Scandal).

The network has ordered 8 hour-long episodes, going behind the famous names of celebrity contributors and sharing their hidden backstories. Celebrities such as Christina Applegate, Cindy Crawford, Zooey Deschanel, and Chris O'Donnell have signed up for the emotional journey, with additional subjects to be announced. All-new episodes, helmed by EPs Lisa Kudrow & Dan Bucatinsky, set to premiere July 23.

The series famously takes celebrities on a journey into their personal histories, mining their surprising pasts to reveal unknown details about themselves and their families. The series opens the doors to the fascinating real life stories of some of the most well known names in America, sharing how the eye-opening revelations they uncover about their backgrounds impact their lives today.

## What happened to Black Wall Street on June 1, 1921?



*A child rescuer on June 1, 1921 – with Whites out to kill them, Blacks could rely on no one but each other. Black Wall Street, the name fittingly given to one of the most affluent all-Black communities in America, was bombed from the air and burned to the ground by mobs of envious Whites. In a period spanning fewer than 12 hours, a once thriving Black business district in northern Tulsa lay smoldering – a*



*model community destroyed and a major African-American economic movement resoundingly defused.*

The night's carnage left some 3,000 African Americans dead and over 600 successful businesses lost. Among these were 21 churches, 21 restaurants, 30 grocery stores and two movie theaters, plus a hospital, a bank, a post office, libraries, schools, law offices, a half dozen private airplanes and even a bus system. As could have been expected, the impetus behind it all was the infamous Ku Klux Klan, working in consort with ranking city officials and many other sympathizers.

Black America's most prosperous community, Black Wall Street in Tulsa, Oklahoma, went up in flames June 1, 1921, in the KKK-led Tulsa Race Riot. According to Wikipedia, "During the 16 hours of the assault, over 800 people were admitted to local hospitals with injuries, an estimated 10,000 were left homeless, and 35 city blocks composed of 1,256 residences were destroyed by fire caused by bombing."

The best description of Black Wall Street, or Little Africa as it was also known, would be to compare it to a mini Beverly Hills. It was the golden door of the Black community during the early 1900s, and it proved that African Americans could create a successful infrastructure. That's what Black Wall Street was all about.

The dollar circulated 36 to 100 times, sometimes taking a year for currency to leave the community. Now a dollar leaves the Black community in 15 minutes. As for resources, there were Ph.D.'s residing in Little Africa, Black attorneys and doctors. One doctor was Dr. Berry, who owned the bus system. His average income was \$500 a day, hefty pocket change in 1910.



These are Black-built, Black-owned buildings that were occupied by bustling Black businesses before envious whites rioted and destroyed them. It was a time when the entire state of Oklahoma had only two airports, yet six Blacks owned their own planes. It was a very fascinating community.

The mainstay of the community was to educate every child. Nepotism was the one word they believed in. And that's what we need to get back to. The main thoroughfare was Greenwood Avenue, and it was intersected by Archer and Pine Streets. From the first letters in each of those three names you get G.A.P. And that's where the renowned R&B music group the GAP Band got its name. They're from Tulsa.



At the end of the day, June 1, 1921, this is what remained of Black Wall Street. Lost forever were over 600 successful businesses, including 21 churches, 21 restaurants, 30 grocery stores, two movie theaters, a hospital, a bank, a post office, libraries, schools, law offices, a half dozen private airplanes and a bus system.

Black Wall Street was a prime example of the typical Black community in America that did business, but it was in an unusual location. You see, at the time, Oklahoma was set aside to be a Black and Indian state. There were over 28 Black townships there. One third of the people who traveled in the terrifying "Trail of Tears" alongside the Indians between 1830 and 1842 were Black people. The citizens of this proposed Indian and Black state chose a Black governor, a treasurer from Kansas named McDade. But the Ku Klux Klan said that if he assumed office that they would kill him within 48 hours.

Here, the businesses that had been the economic engine of this most prosperous Black community in the U.S. are identified. A lot of Blacks owned farmland, and many of them had gone into the oil business.

The community was so tight and wealthy because they traded dollars hand to hand and because they were dependent upon one another as a result of the Jim Crow laws. It was not unusual that if a resident's home accidentally burned down, it could be rebuilt within a few weeks by neighbors. This was the type of scenario that was going on day to day on Black Wall Street.

When Blacks intermarried into the Indian culture, some of them received their promised "40 acres and a mule" and with that came whatever oil was later found on the

properties. On Black Wall Street, a lot of global business was conducted.

The community flourished from the early 1900s until June 1, 1921. That's when the largest massacre of nonmilitary Americans in the history of this country took place, and it was led by the Ku Klux Klan. Imagine walking out of your front door and seeing 1,500 homes being burned. It must have been amazing.

Survivors we interviewed think that the whole thing was planned, because during the time that all of this was going on, White families with their children stood around the borders of their community and watched the massacre – the looting and everything – much in the same manner they would watch a lynching. The riots weren't caused by anything Black or White. They were caused by jealousy.



Almost 1,500 homes were also destroyed in the 35 blocks that went up in flames and over 3,000 Black residents murdered by the Ku Klux Klan-led Tulsa Race Riot. A lot of White folks had come back from World War I and they were poor. When they looked over into the Black communities and realized that Black men who fought in the war had come home heroes, that helped trigger the destruction. It cost the Black community everything, and not a single dime of restitution – no insurance claims – has been awarded the victims to this day. Nonetheless, they rebuilt.

We estimate 1,500 to 3,000 people were killed, and we know that a lot of them were buried in mass graves all around the city. Some were thrown into the river. As a matter of fact, at 21st Street and Yale Avenue, where there now stands a Sears parking lot, that corner used to be a coal mine. They threw a lot of the bodies into the shafts.

#### **Door Prizes**

In preparation for the 2013 holiday party, Norma Bates is seeking volunteers to donate door prizes. Please contact Norma at [teapotnorma@yahoo.com](mailto:teapotnorma@yahoo.com)

## **Genealogy Garage**

Genealogy Garage workshops are for family researchers at all levels of expertise and are held at the Los Angeles Central Library. Whether you are a beginner or have been researching for years, here is an opportunity to “tune-up” your current research skills or learn something new about family history research.

Workshops are sponsored by the Southern California Genealogical Society (SCGS), the Genealogical Society of Hispanic America-Southern California (GSHA-SC), and the Los Angeles Public Library, Genealogy & History Department.

To RSVP: Call the Central Library Info: 213-228-7000, ask for the History and Genealogy Dept. Tell them you are making a reservation for the Genealogy Garage workshop, give the specific date.

### **Next Workshop - Tune-up For a Road Trip**

Time: 11am-1pm Location: Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL), Central Library, 630 W. 5th St., Los Angeles, CA 90071 History & Genealogy Dept., Lower Level 4

- June 15
- July 20
- August 17
- September 21
- October 19
- November 16
- December - no event

## **The Genealogy Guys**

Free podcast includes genealogical news, press releases and announcements, interviews, book and product reviews, responses to listener email from around the globe, and other features. Each episode is sponsored by RootsMagic, findmypast.com, and the Federation of Genealogical Societies. Recordings of all of the podcast episodes are available for listening and download at <http://genealogyguys.com>, complete with show notes for each show. Listeners can also subscribe to the podcast in the iTunes store.

### **\*\*\* New CAAGS General Meeting Schedule \*\*\* Effective September 2013**

Starting in September, CAAGS will be changing the schedule of our general membership meetings. The Board meeting will commence from 10 – 11:30am followed by our Beginner/Intermediate classes at 11:45am (1 hour). The membership business meeting/Guest speakers and/or special presentations will be 1- 3pm. Members are welcome and encouraged to join the monthly Board meetings.



# Heritage Newsletter

*California African American Genealogical Society*

**August/September 2013    Volume 25    Number 7**  
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)

## **2013 Board of Directors**

Ronald Higgins - President  
Dr. Edna Briggs – First Vice President  
Carolyn Conway – Second Vice President /Membership  
Lloydine Outten – Corresponding Secretary  
Alvia Cross – Recording Secretary  
Joselyn Caruthers – Treasurer  
Ophelia Sanders – Parliamentarian  
Website – [www.caags.org](http://www.caags.org)

## **Committee Chairs**

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

## **\*\*\* New CAAGS General Meeting Schedule \*\*\*** **Effective September 2013**

Starting September 21<sup>st</sup>, CAAGS will be changing the schedule of our general membership meetings. The Board meeting will commence from 10 – 11:30am followed by our Beginner/Intermediate classes at 11:45am (1 hour). The membership business meeting/guest speakers and/or special presentations will be 1- 3pm. Members are welcome and encouraged to join the monthly Board meetings.

## **President's Message**

Ron Higgins

Welcome back to everyone. I hope you enjoyed your family and class reunions and summer vacations. I trust that some of you have done some worthwhile research and broke down some genealogical brickwalls.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the Juneteenth picnic. A big thank you is extended to Gwen Foster for being chairperson. As always, she did a wonderful job. We are grateful to everyone who brought food items and beverages. The food was delicious. A sincere thanks is also extended to those who helped with the setup and the cleanup. Richard Procello gave a wonderful presentation and offered many hints on how to improve and enhance our photographic compositions.

CAAGS enjoyed a trip to the National Archives at Riverside (NARA) on July 19<sup>th</sup>. Members and friends enjoyed a tour of the facility, lunch and hours to do genealogical research. Thanks to Esther Bohannon for serving as chairperson. She did a great job!

*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)*

CAAGS was visible this summer and had a booth at the Leimert Park Book Fair, American Heart Association Health Fair at Darby Park and the Watts Festival. We were able to make contact with many people and peaked their interest in genealogy and invited them to join CAAGS so they could begin their family research.

Thanks to all who came out and shared their time: Dorothylou Sanders, Esther Bohannon, Josalyn Caruthers, Charles Butler, Marie Bryant, Gwen Foster, Frankye Charles, Hellene Palmer, Barbara Phillips and Shannon Lampkins. Please let me know if I overlooked anyone. And, of course, I was present at all of these events.

### 2013 Calendar of Events

#### August

No CAAGS membership meeting. Enjoy your summer!

#### September 21 – Welcome Back!

\*\*\* New meeting schedule \*\*\*

CAAGS Board meeting 10 am - 11:30 am

Beginner/Intermediate Classes 11:45 am - 12:45 pm

General membership meeting & guest speaker 1 – 3pm

#### October 19

CAAGS Board meeting 10 am - 11:30 am

Beginner/Intermediate Classes 11:45 am - 12:45 pm

General membership meeting & guest speaker 1 – 3pm

*\* Calendar is subject to change without notice*

### Request for Nominations

The CAAGS nomination committee would like to announce that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary, President, Parliamentarian and FGS Delegate 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, starting in January 2014.

The nomination committee will be contacting members via phone and email 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. Elections will be held at the November general meeting.

Condolences to Barbara Thomas on the passing of her mother Violet Terrell. A memorial service will be held on August 31<sup>st</sup>, 11am, Bel-Vue Presbyterian Church, 675 E. 118<sup>th</sup> St., Los Angeles, CA



### SC Slave Cabin Dismantled For Smithsonian Display

Edisto Island, S.C. (AP) — As a cool sea breeze wafted across a 17th century South Carolina plantation that once grew prized sea island cotton, workers this week carefully disassembled, measured and numbered wooden planks from a dilapidated antebellum slave cabin.

Once one of about two dozen on slave row at Point of Pines Plantation, the cabin will be shipped north where it will go on display at the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture when it opens on Washington's National Mall in two years.

"The reason we collect a cabin like this is it allows you to humanize the slavery experience," said Lonnie Bunch, the director of the museum that has been in planning for a decade. "Often people think about the concept of slavery but they forget this is the story of men and women and children. So this allows us to personalize the experience."

The plantation was carved out of the sea island less than 15 years after Charles Towne, now Charleston, was founded in 1670 about 45 miles to the northeast. The cabin is one of only two remaining at the plantation and the only one in its original location.

The museum looked at other locations throughout the South for a cabin before settling on the one found on Edisto Island.

Edisto Island is in the middle of the Gullah-Geechee Heritage Corridor reaching along the coast from North Carolina to northern Florida. A federal commission has been created to help preserve the culture of the descendants of sea island slaves.

When the Civil War broke out, there were 410,000 blacks living in South Carolina, the majority of them slaves, compared to about 290,000 whites. Along most of the coastal areas, more than half the population was black.

The sea island culture survived for decades after the Civil War because of its relative isolation. Now, however, it's threatened by breakneck coastal growth.

Bercaw said researchers want to find out as much as possible about the cabin to tell its story both during the time of slavery and in the years after emancipation.

Toni Carpenter, the founder of Lowcountry Africana, a group that works to document the history of blacks in the Lowcountry from South Carolina to Florida, said an 1851 map of the plantation shows the cabin at its present site. An 1854 plantation inventory showed 75 people were enslaved there.

The researchers got a bit of unexpected help on Monday when 76-year-old Junior Meggett came by. He identified the cabin as one that his aunt and uncle used to live in when he was a child.

Meggett said he lived in another nearby cabin in the 1940s until he was grown. That cabin later was destroyed by fire. He described living in a two-room cabin with a wood stove and a small attic and opening wooden window shutters to catch the breeze.

"Boys and girls would sleep in the same room," he said. "You were just glad to have a place to lie down."

Workers from Museum Resources Construction and Millwork of Providence Forge, Va., carefully removed planks from the cabin roof, then measured them, numbered them and wrapped them with clear plastic tape for the journey north.

The cabin will be rebuilt at the company and then fumigated before being disassembled for a second time before it's taken to the \$500 Smithsonian museum and put on display, said Kerry Shackelford of the contracting company.

The cabin was donated to the Edisto Island Museum, which worked to stabilize the structure several years ago. The original plan was to move it to the museum several miles away, but there were budgetary problems, museum director Gretchen Smith said.

"We had given up on our chance of preserving it and then the Smithsonian came along and said they would love to have it," she said. "We would be pleased to have it on our property where thousands could see it. But millions will see it in Washington and learn from it."

Bunch, who spoke by telephone from Washington, said some people are still uncomfortable talking about slavery. But at the time, he said, "slavery was the dominant institution in America — it colored religion, it colored politics and it colored expansion. It was an economic engine for both northern and southern prosperity. By not talking about it, we neglect a great understanding of who we are."

### **PBS Genealogy Roadshow**

PBS announced that it will add the new series Genealogy Roadshow to its fall lineup. Part detective story, part emotional journey, Genealogy Roadshow will combine history and science to uncover the fascinating stories of diverse Americans. Each individual's past will link to a larger community history, revealing the rich cultural tapestry of America. Genealogy Roadshow will air Mondays, September 23 - October 14, 9-10 p.m. ET.

Genealogy Roadshow's premiere season will feature participants from four American cities — Nashville, Austin, Detroit and San Francisco — who want to explore unverified genealogical claims, passed down through family history, that may (or may not) connect them to an event or a historical figure. These cities were chosen as American crossroads of culture, diversity, industry and history, with deep pools of potential participants and stories. Experts in genealogy, history and DNA will use family heirlooms, letters, pictures, historical documents and other clues to hunt down information. These experts will enlist the help of local historians to add color and context to the investigations, ensuring every artifact and every name becomes a clue in solving the mystery.

### **State Level Archives That We Love**

Many state level archives contain extensive record collections that you can access for free. Here are some that are visited most often and recommended highly!

#### **Florida**

The Alachua County Clerk of Court Ancient Records archive is our absolute favorite Florida resource. Although it contains information on north and central Florida only, it offers a stunning 141,812 Page Images of deeds, wills, probate records, court records, land records and other primary documents that bring to life African American history and genealogy in Florida. 4,589 pages have been transcribed from document images (with the help of a small handful of dedicated volunteers)! This site is an excellent source of primary document images for educators as well.

The USF Special Collections Department Online offers the entire full text collection of articles from the Florida

Historical Quarterly, that cover a wide range of topics pertaining to African American history and genealogy. You may freely download and print these articles for your research.

### **Georgia**

Without a doubt, the Georgia USGenWeb Archives contain the most extensive collection of records for every county in Georgia. Virginia Crilley, State File Manager, Debra Crosby, Asst State File Manager and Ken Johnson, Asst State File Manager, have worked diligently to encourage readers to contribute records, and the result is an incredible collection of records for every county in Georgia. Be sure to scroll to the bottom of the page to access the thousands of county level records there!

### **Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee**

Dawn's Records and Resources Site is a powerful collection of records that website creator Dawn Watson has gathered and shared online. This site is really a hidden treasure! With only 4,200 visitors since 2001; this site is definitely under-utilized.

### **Illinois**

The Database of Servitude and Emancipation Records, Illinois is an extensive archive of records that document all aspects of slavery in Illinois. The database, offered by the Illinois State Archives, is fully searchable by a number of variables. Our sample search under race for "negro" returned 1,626 records.

### **Louisiana**

The Afro-Louisiana History and Genealogy, 1719-1820 website not only contains an extensive database, but also many beautiful photo images and information about African American history in Louisiana. This is a wonderful site for educators as well.

### **Missouri**

The Missouri Slaves/Slaveowner Database is an incredible compendium of records, and a definite must see and starting point for Missouri research.

### **North Carolina**

The Plantations of North Carolina website is a comprehensive database of various plantations derived from a variety of information mediums. This rich database contains articles, pictures, slave lists and links to offsite resources on documented plantations in North Carolina. This is a very rich source of information on North Carolina plantations.

### **Pennsylvania**

The Afrolumens Project is dedicated to researching central Pennsylvania's African American history from the end of slavery through today's headlines, and combining the

various eras into a cohesive shared history of the region. Here you will find a refreshingly balanced and fully human picture of African American history in Pennsylvania. Readers may contribute records to the archives, too.

### **South Carolina**

One could write an entire article about the online resources at the South Carolina State Archives alone. Because Charleston was a crossroads of the US slave trade, the records here document slaves in many other states. Some records even contain the African names of the slaves mentioned. The 300,242 records online here are a rich source of historical information on southern slavery as well. This is a very popular website, and occasionally the server bogs down under heavy traffic. Do not despair, just take a break and try again later, as it is definitely worth the return visit!

The exciting new South-Carolina-Plantations.com is a directory of information about South Carolina plantations and the people who lived and worked on them. It includes basic data for more than 1,900 SC plantations. The entire site can be searched as well. Be sure to check it out if your research involves South Carolina or southern plantations.

### **Tennessee**

Tennessee Colored Pension Applications for Civil War Service is an online index of former slaves who filed for pensions for service in the Civil War. The names were compiled by John V. Brogden using sources at the Tennessee State Library and Archives in Nashville, Tennessee. Additional research has been done by webmaster Willie L. Robinson.

#### **CAAGS Holiday Party Door Prizes**

In preparation for the 2013 holiday party, Norma Bates is seeking volunteers to donate door prizes. Please contact Norma at [teapotnorma@yahoo.com](mailto:teapotnorma@yahoo.com)

### **Genealogy Garage**

Genealogy Garage workshops are for family researchers at all levels of expertise and are held at the Los Angeles Central Library. Workshops are sponsored by SCGS, GSHA-SC, and the Los Angeles Public Library.

To RSVP, call the Central Library info: 213-228-7000, ask for the History and Genealogy Dept. Tell them you are making a reservation for the Genealogy Garage workshop, give the specific date. Time: 11am-1pm, Los Angeles Central Library, 630 W. 5th St., Los Angeles, CA 90071 History & Genealogy Dept., Lower Level 4

- September 21
- October 19
- November 16
- December - no event



# Heritage Newsletter

*California African American Genealogical Society*

## President's Message

Ron Higgins

Greetings. Our September meeting was held at the Veteran's Complex, I hope you weren't too inconvenienced. Thanks to everyone who participated in the Show and Tell. It was very enlightening to hear about what our members discovered in their genealogical journey during the summer months.

Although CAAGS doesn't formally meet in July and August, we were well represented in the community. On August 3<sup>rd</sup> we were asked to have a booth at the American Heart Association Powerful Black Family Celebration. It was held at Darby Park in Inglewood and we spoke to 150 people who inquired about how to begin doing their family research. Thanks to Dorothylou Sands, Gwen Foster, Charles Butler, along with your president Ron Higgins for manning the booth.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of August CAAGS had a booth at the 2013 Watts Summer Festival at the Ted Watkins Memorial Park in the Watts community in Los Angeles. Thanks to Charles Butler, Shannon Lampkins, and Frankye Charles for representing us. This was the first time these two members participated in a community event on behalf of CAAGS. They were able to share their knowledge of genealogy with those who came by the booth. I am proud of the fine job they did.

The Society had a booth for the third straight year at Van Ness Park on Slauson and Van Ness. This event was held by the Park Mesa Heights Community Council Unity Fest. This was held the 31<sup>st</sup> of August. Members manning the booth were Dorothylou Sands, Ron Higgins, and Charles Butler. It seems as though everyone had a good time at this event. There were

**October 2013    Volume 25    Number 8**

Ten Issues Published Annually  
ISSN 1083-8937

### **California African American Genealogical Society**

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

### **General Membership Meetings**

Third Saturday monthly at 10am (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)

### **2013 Board of Directors**

Ronald Higgins - President  
Dr. Edna Briggs – First Vice President  
Carolyn Conway – Second Vice President /Membership  
Lloydine Outten – Corresponding Secretary  
Alvia Cross – Recording Secretary  
Joselyn Caruthers – Treasurer  
Ophelia Sanders – Parliamentarian  
Website – [www.caags.org](http://www.caags.org)

### **Committee Chairs**

Gwendolyn Foster/Hellene Palmer – Book Sales and Acquisitions  
Charles Butler – Public Relations/Fundraising Chairman  
LaVerne Anderson – Librarian  
DorothyLou Sands – Historian (Interim)  
Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor  
Colette DeVerge – FGS Delegate  
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)*



On September 10<sup>th</sup> I was asked by Aaron Day to share the stage with him at the Breakers Senior Retirement Living Facility, 210 East Ocean Boulevard, in Long Beach. Mr. Day and your president did a ‘tag team’ discussion about how to do genealogy research. There were 38 seniors present. We distributed paperwork on techniques to begin genealogy research. Charles Butler, our public relations person, was also present at this event.

CAAGS executive board. A request for nominations and nomination form are enclosed with this newsletter. 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 and installation of officers at the December annual meeting.

In preparation for the 2013 holiday party, Norma Bates is seeking volunteers to donate door prizes. Please contact Norma at **[teapotnorma@yahoo.com](mailto:teapotnorma@yahoo.com)**

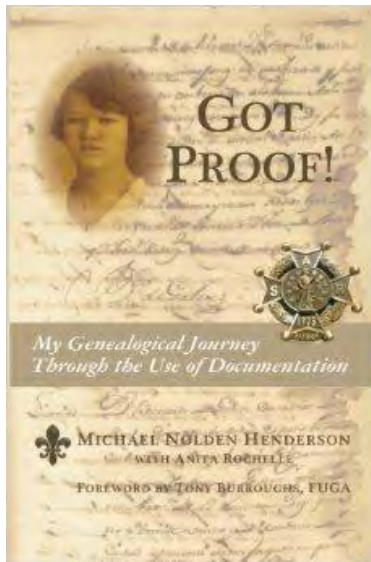
Even worse, the city's vital records department will close October 1. Wayne County will assume responsibility for issuing birth and death certificates.

"Employees (at the vital records department) were sitting outside because they didn't have anything to do," says the Rev. Gleo Wade, Stinson Funeral Home director, who drove to the vital records department that day to see what was going on. "I've never seen the employees just sitting outside like that before." The assumption is that these employees are still being paid their full salaries, even though the city cannot afford a modest payment for printer paper.

You can read more in an article by Laura Berman published in the Detroit News at <http://goo.gl/qHGUhm> as well as in an unsigned UPI article at <http://goo.gl/s1t2Ht>.

- Taken from Eastman Online Genealogy

**Book Review:**  
**Got Proof! My Genealogical Journey**  
**Through the Use of Documentation**  
*Written by Bobbi King*



*Got Proof!*  
*My Genealogical Journey Through the*  
*Use of Documentation.*

*By Michael Nolden Henderson. Published by The Write Image.*  
*2013. 196 pages.*

When I first picked up this book and read the title, I thought, "Oh joy, another book about documentation. But you know, this book does look more interesting than most."

Turns out, it's a book not so much about documentation as about Michael Nolden Henderson's search for his ancestry. Early in his research journey, Mr. Henderson paid a visit to

his Cousin Leonor, a family relation he had never met but who would disclose a tantalizing piece of family history. She told him, "There was this free woman of color who had a relationship with a Frenchman named Mathieu Devaux...she used to be a slave, but she bought her freedom.... They had seven children, and they lived down in the French Quarter....she was a mulatto--you know, mixed race--but of course there are no pictures of her...Her name was Agnes."

So began Mr. Henderson's search for his French background, and the story behind a slave ancestor's purchase of her freedom. He read up on his hometown's (Algiers, Louisiana) history, methodically researched the records of French and Spanish colonial Louisiana, then recounted in this book how he built and authenticated the story of his Louisiana roots.

Mr. Henderson is a retired Naval officer whose ancestors were featured in a segment of the PBS series "History Detectives" called "The Galvez Papers." His research skills were honed during his distinguished naval career, which eventually led to his becoming the first African American in Georgia to be inducted into the National Society, Sons of the America Revolution. The chapter elected him president and vice-president, and he remains the only African American member.

Don't let the word "documentation" put you off. This is a very good story, not a manual.

Got Proof! My Genealogical Journey Through the Use of Documentation is available from many genealogy bookstores as well as from Amazon at <http://goo.gl/UqfHce>.

**Genealogy Mistakes to Avoid**

- Don't put off talking to your relatives - you'll regret it if you do
- Don't accept family legends without questions – they're not always true
- Don't be satisfied with just names and dates – prove they are correct
- Beware of the generic family history – each family is a brand name not a generic
- Don't limit yourself to the current spelling of your surname(s) – too many chances that they have been changed throughout the years
- Don't neglect to write down your sources – you will need them at some time
- Don't assume that everything you find on the internet is reliable – anyone can post on the internet
- Don't misspell the word genealogy

## U.S. Agricultural Census Schedules

*by George G. Morgan*

You would think that after all these years of researching my great-grandfather, Green Berry Holder, that there would be few resources I had not checked. However, I will be the first to tell you that there is always something new to find—and to learn.

U.S. federal census records are a common starting point for most American researchers after they have gathered information from home sources. The population schedules were used for censuses from 1790 to 2000, including the 1885 census for Colorado, the Dakota Territory, Florida, Nebraska, and the New Mexico Territory. The cost for the 1885 enumeration was split between the federal and state/territorial governments.

Population schedules are, of course, the most frequently used census record type. These are followed by mortality schedules (available for 1850-1885) and slave schedules (1850 and 1860). There were, however, other non-population census schedules used over time for the collection of other information. These include agricultural schedules (1850-1885), industry or manufacturing schedules (1810, 1820, 1850-1885), veterans' and widows' schedules (1890), social statistics (1850-1870), and the defective and delinquent classes schedules (1880). We also use enumeration district (ED) maps (1880 to present).

The John F. Germany Library in Tampa, Florida, is my home library for genealogical materials. It is the fastest-growing genealogical collection in the state, and the past three years have seen monumental increases in both the print and microfilm collections. The newest microfilm received includes agricultural schedules for a number of places, including Georgia.

While I have always meant to visit the local LDS Family History Center to order these films from Salt Lake City, I just never quite found the time. Suddenly I have the film within my immediate reach, no waiting required, and I finally sat down to examine just one year: the 1880 agricultural schedules for Floyd County, Georgia.

Although I had to search the entire county, I quickly found both my great-grandfather, Green Berry Holder, and his older brother, John Thomas Holder, living side by side. The information on this census schedule brought both men's lives into much clearer focus for the year 1879, which is the year for which the agricultural data was being collected. The sheer amount of data was tremendous!

Included in the 1880 agricultural schedule I now have the brothers' names and know that they owned their land, rather than rented or sharecropped. Green Berry owned forty-five acres, valued at \$1000.00. He had \$100.00 of farm equipment/machinery and \$400.00 in livestock. He

had installed or repaired no fences in 1879, nor did he use fertilizers that year. He paid \$140.00 to white laborers over fifty weeks of that year. His estimate of all farm products sold, consumed or on-hand for 1879 was \$700.00. He raised no grass land crops. He owned one mule, two horses, one milk cow, one other cow, two swine, and five barnyard poultry. He raised no cattle or sheep of any kind, but he did produce 365 pounds of butter, presumably most of which was for sale. His farm produced eighty-five dozen eggs in 1879. He raised sixteen acres of Indian corn with a value of \$300.00, five acres of oats valued at \$50.00, but no buckwheat, rye, or wheat. He raised twenty-eight bushels of peas and sixteen bushels of beans. He raised no apples, peaches, flax, hemp, hops, tobacco, sugar products, nursery stock, or vineyards. He grew no garden produce for sale. He did keep bees and produced twenty pounds of honey but no beeswax. He did not produce any cut cords of wood in that year.

As you can see, just from this abbreviated inventory on the census, I now have a far clearer picture of my great-grandfather's family's life on the farm and the nature of their agricultural activities. Even without photographs, I can better visualize the family at that time and better place them into context.

If you haven't explored the agricultural and other non-population censuses, you owe it to yourself to add them to your "to-do" list.

- *Taken from Ancestry.com*

## Unclaimed Persons

Over 350 genealogists are offering volunteer services to this project. The purpose of this web site is to provide information to the public regarding a deceased loved one for whom next of kin has never been located. Coroner's Departments, Medical Examiner's offices and Sheriff's departments throughout the United States oftentimes conduct an investigation for which a deceased person's identity is known, however due to various reasons, family member(s) could not be located. Visit the website at [www.unclaimedpersons.org](http://www.unclaimedpersons.org)

### \*\*\* New CAAGS General Meeting Schedule \*\*\*

Effective September 21<sup>st</sup>, CAAGS has changed the schedule of our general membership meetings. The Board meeting will commence from 10 – 11:30am followed by our Beginner/Intermediate classes at 11:45am (1 hour). The membership business meeting/guest speakers and/or special presentations will be 1- 3pm. Members are welcome and encouraged to join the monthly Board meetings.



# Heritage Newsletter

*California African American Genealogical Society*

**November 2013    Volume 25    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)

## **2013 Board of Directors**

Ronald Higgins - President  
Dr. Edna Briggs – First Vice President  
Carolyn Conway – Second Vice President /Membership  
Lloydine Outten – Corresponding Secretary  
Alvia Cross – Recording Secretary  
Esther Bohannon – Treasurer  
Ophelia Sanders – Parliamentarian  
Website – [www.caags.org](http://www.caags.org)

## **Committee Chairs**

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

## **President's Message** Ron Higgins

It's election time! Now it is up to you to make sure that you elect the people that will get the job done. The positions open are President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President (Membership Chair), Corresponding Secretary, and Parliamentarian. Remember to elect the person you feel is the most worthy for the job.

Many of you know that Lloydine Outten's father passed in October. She would like to thank all of the members for their thoughts and prayers at this time and those who attended the service and your president for his kind remarks.

One of our charter members, Mr. Lonnie R. Bunkley has published a book about his family entitled "Journey to Freedom." It is a genealogical study of an African-American family and the political and social issues that impacted their lives from 1778 – 2013. I found this book interesting, it has timelines of events that occurred in the United States that reflected his family experiences. It is a good book. You can order this book on Amazon.com.

I wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. The holiday season offers everyone an excellent opportunity to share and learn more about our family history. Let us cherish the time we spend together and learn about family customs, relatives and gather other information for our genealogical research during the holiday season.

*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)*

## 2013 -2014 Calendar of Events

### November 16

CAAGS Board meeting 10 am - 11:30 am  
Beginner/Intermediate Classes 11:45 am - 12:45 pm  
General membership meeting & guest speaker 1 – 3pm;  
Election of 2014 officers; guest speaker Michael Sanborn,  
director at the Banning Museum

### November 28

Happy Thanksgiving

### December 21

CAAGS annual meeting and holiday party, MCLM, \$15  
per person, RSVP required. Please contact Esther  
Bohannon at (323)291-8296 or estboh2002@yahoo.com to  
volunteer for the holiday party committee.

### December 25 – January 1

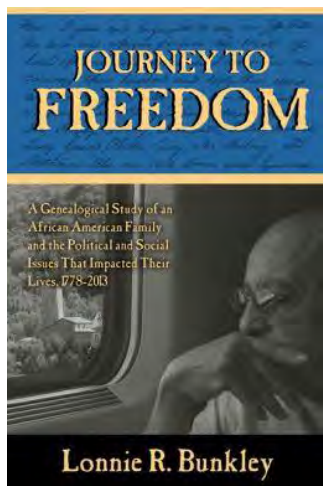
Happy Holidays

*\* Calendar is subject to change without notice*

### \*\*\* CAAGS Holiday Party Door Prizes \*\*\*

In preparation for the 2013 holiday party, Norma Bates is  
seeking volunteers to donate door prizes. Please contact  
Norma at [teapotnorma@yahoo.com](mailto:teapotnorma@yahoo.com)

Our condolences to **Lloydine Outten** on the  
passing of her father, Lloyd Leon Outten, Sr.  
during the month of October.



Please support and congratulate CAAGS member Lonnie Bunkley on the publication of his book, Journey to Freedom: A Genealogical Study of an African American Family and the Political and Social Issues That Impacted Their Lives, 1778-2013. Available at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).

## The History and Genealogy Department Presents

### A SPLIT FEATHER: An Introduction to Navajo and Cherokee Nation Genealogy Research Through the Eyes of a Citizen of the Navajo Nation

Leland Morrill, born Leland Kirk, adopted before the Indian Child Welfare Act, shares his experiences researching his heritage and obtaining his Navajo Nation birth certificate and Navajo Nation Certificate of Indian Blood. Mr. Morrill will discuss resources and give tips on searching Navajo Nation and Cherokee Nation genealogy resources, the Dawes Rolls, and the United States Census.

**Saturday, November 23, 2013 1-3 p.m.**

**Central Library**

**Meeting Room A - First Floor**

**Los Angeles Public Library**

**630 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street**

**Los Angeles, CA 90071**

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities. Please call (213) 228-7430 within 72 hours of the event should an accommodation be needed.

### DNA Genealogy Test

[23andme.com/GenealogyTest](http://23andme.com/GenealogyTest)

World's Largest Genealogical DNA Database

Now Only \$99

Discover if you're part Irish, West African, or maybe Native American. Meet a third cousin for the first time. When combined with 34 million family trees and 11 billion records on Ancestry.com, the new AncestryDNA creates the most comprehensive family history experience yet. It's family history, reinvented.

### Using Enumeration District Maps

The key to finding your ancestor in the 1940 census is determining which enumeration district (E.D.) they lived in. In cities, enumeration districts could encompass a few city blocks, while in rural locations a district could cover a much larger area. Ancestry.com has posted enumeration district maps that outline these districts and can be very useful in locating your ancestors in the 1940 U.S. federal census.

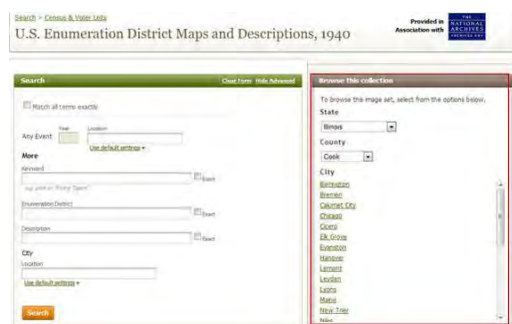
To begin, plot your ancestor's address on a contemporary map by typing the address into a search engine. In some cases street numbering may have changed over the years, but in most cases, this will get you in the ballpark.



Jot down cross streets and surrounding streets and look for features like lakes or rivers, diagonal streets, railroads, parks, cemeteries, and other landmarks. This will help you locate the street on the enumeration district map. (Keep in mind that some aspects of the neighborhood may have changed. That shopping center on the contemporary map, may have once been a sub-division, so try to find things that would have stood the test of time.)

Once you've become familiar with your ancestor's immediate surroundings, widen the zoom to determine what portion of the city you're looking at. Since the maps for some cities were scanned in quadrants or even smaller pieces, this can help zero in on the map image your portion of the city falls in.

Now you're ready to take a look at enumeration district maps. Use the browse drop-downs on the right, and navigate to the map you need.



In some cases, you'll find the location all on one map, but in other cases you may have to browse through a few to get to the map you need. Note the edges of the map as you browse the images to determine whether you're in the north, south, east, or west sections of the map and look for those landmarks you noted in the contemporary map. Knowing the general direction you need to find can help you jump ahead to the section you need.

Once you've identified the location on a map, look for a hyphenated number that is the enumeration district number. The boundaries of the district are typically outlined, as below.



Now that you have a number, it's time to start browsing 1940 census records. Using the Standard Browse, select

your ancestor's location, and you get to the local level, look for that enumeration district number. Now you can start browsing those images for your family. If you look along the left side of the census forms, you'll see the street names. From the green Actions button in the upper right corner of the image viewer, you can select image options and then rotate the image left. Now you can fly through the images looking at street names without getting a crick in your neck. When you come to your ancestor's entry, just select the option to rotate right to flip it back.

## No Matter Where You Go, Your Tree Can Grow

The Ancestry.com mobile app experience just keeps getting better. Take your family history discoveries even further with our new app for Android. Version 4 for iPhone, iPad, and iPod Touch® now includes Ancestry Hints – shaky leaves that can lead you to new information to help grow your tree. Plus, you can still access generations of family history and add facts, photos and other historical anecdotes at every turn.

See your tree on the amazing iPad Retina display to see historical records in a whole new way, and use the iPad's Multi-Touch screen to quickly move through and view generations of your family. It's an exciting new way to interact with your tree, wherever you are.

Here's the app Android users have been clamoring for as well. This addition to the Ancestry.com mobile family lets you take generations of information with you on your Android phone and tablet.

### Features (varies by device):

- Dynamic family tree that shows more family members including: grandchildren, siblings, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and more
- NEW Customize your family tree to show direct ancestors only, similar to a pedigree chart
- NEW An updated look and feel that's both beautiful and functional
- Intuitive pedigree viewer to navigate your Ancestry.com tree
- Easily upload photos, add ancestors, correct dates, include notes and more, from within the app
- Information is automatically available when you log in to your Ancestry.com account from your computer
- Access trees that were shared with you
- View attached records



## FGS Radio - My Society

Did you know that FGS now has its own radio show? My Society is broadcast each Saturday afternoon live on the Internet at 1:00 pm Central and focuses on the issues that confront genealogical societies. Each episode features a guest speaking about a specific topic such as increasing society membership, moving to digital publications and more. In addition, each episode is archived and available for playback at a later date, [www.fgs.org](http://www.fgs.org)

### *FGS Radio – My Society: Listener Instructions*

- **What is an Internet radio program?**

An Internet radio program is just like any other radio program except you listen to the broadcast on the Internet using your web browser such as Internet Explorer.

- **What do I need in order to listen to FGS Radio?**

You need a computer with speakers that play sound in order to listen to FGS Radio. You can also access FGS Radio on a mobile device such as an iPhone or iPad.

- **How do I access the FGS Radio program on the Internet?**

Visit <http://www.blogtalkradio.com/mysociety> at Blog Talk Radio which hosts FGS Radio.

- **How do I listen to the live broadcast of FGS Radio?**

1. On the FGS Radio website, scroll down and locate Upcoming Broadcast.

FGS Radio – *My Society*: Listener Instructions Page 2

2. Click the title of the episode. The episode page appears and once the broadcast begins, it will automatically play – check your sound to make sure it is enabled and turned up.

- **I understand there is a chat board for FGS Radio where I can read messages from other listeners and participate in an online chat. How can I access the Chat Board?**

1. On the FGS Radio website, click the Follow button. The Register or Sign In dialog appears:

2. If you have a Facebook account, click the Facebook button. You will then be signed in to Blog Talk Radio.

3. Otherwise click Register and set up a free Blog Talk Radio account.

4. Once signed in, proceed to the live broadcast and a chat room option will appear.

FGS Radio – *My Society*: Listener Instructions Page 3

- **How do I listen to the previous episodes of FGS Radio?**

1. On the FGS Radio website, scroll down and locate On Demand Episodes.

2. Click the title of the episode. The episode page appears and the broadcast will begin.

- **How do I download previous episodes of FGS Radio?**

1. On the FGS Radio website, scroll down and locate On Demand Episodes.

2. Click the title of the episode. The episode page appears.

3. Click Download Episode at the bottom of the player. The recording will be downloaded on your computer in the MP3 file format.

- **How do I access previous episodes of FGS Radio on iTunes?**

1. Visit <http://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/my-society-blog-talk-radio/id434090469>

and select the episode to download on iTunes.

2. You can also search for “my society” in the iTunes Store and look in the Podcasts section.

### **CAAGS Logo Apparel**

Items being offered are cotton tee shirts, \$15 ea; nylon windbreaker jacket, \$35 ea; and polo shirts, \$22 ea. Embroidery only on white shirts/blouses, \$15 per item (provided by the individual placing the order). Make checks payable to CAAGS, orders must be received and prepaid no later than the December meeting.

### **Easy Documentation of Sources**

*By Debbie Metcalf*

With the great wealth of information available to our genealogical research on the Internet, I got frustrated when I constantly had to stop my search to grab a sheet of paper, jot down notes and sources, then continue with my search. Sometimes I couldn't remember where I had actually found the information when I needed to return to that link. Always, I had lots of individual sheets to sort through and try to deal with.

Now while “genealogy surfing,” I open a Word document, date it, and put some sort of title at the top, i.e. Jones County GA Wills 1810-1850. Then I'll also copy and paste the actual URL underneath my heading. Each time I find something interesting, useful, hopeful, or just questionable I'll copy and paste it to a Word document. Sometimes I'll have several documents open to keep surnames in their own files. It saves an incredible amount of time and handwriting, and preserves the sources for later documentation.

In the “My Documents” section of my computer, I've created various folders--surnames, counties, events, etc. where I store these documents for later use. This makes later retrieval and documentation in my database so much easier, particularly the ability to copy and paste important information in the “Notes” section of an individual's record.

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





# Heritage Newsletter

*California African American Genealogical Society*

**December 2013    Volume 25    Number 10**

Ten Issues Published Annually  
ISSN 1083-8937

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

**General Membership Meetings**  
Third Saturday monthly at 10am (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)

## **2013 Board of Directors**

Ronald Higgins - President  
Dr. Edna Briggs – First Vice President  
Carolyn Conway – Second Vice President /Membership  
Lloydine Outten – Corresponding Secretary  
Alvia Cross – Recording Secretary  
Esther Bohannon – Treasurer  
Ophelia Sanders – Parliamentarian  
Website – [www.caags.org](http://www.caags.org)

## **Committee Chairs**

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



## **President's Message** Ron Higgins

We wish to thank Mr. Michael Sanborn, the director of the Banning Residence Museum, for his excellent and informative presentation on the life of Harriet Mason. What a wonderful tribute also to life of Biddy Mason and a great way to celebrate Biddy Mason Day — November 16<sup>th</sup>.

The holiday season is a time for family and friends to socialize in the spirit of togetherness. I send my best wishes to everyone for a healthy and happy new year!

### **\*\*\* CAAGS Cookbook \*\*\***

CAAGS will be selling a cookbook to be published in time for Black History month. Please support this fundraising effort by bringing your recipes to the December meeting or email them to Alvia Cross at [alviacross@sbcglobal.net](mailto:alviacross@sbcglobal.net). Please reserve a copy, the cost will be \$10. They will also make great gifts for family and friends.

*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)*

## 2013 -2014 Calendar of Events

### December 21

CAAGS annual meeting and holiday party, MCLM, \$15 per person, RSVP required by December 7th. Please bring your favorite dessert to share. Contact Esther Bohannon at (323)291-8296 or estboh2002@yahoo.com

### December 25 – January 1

Happy Holidays

### January 18

CAAGS Board meeting 10 am - 11:30 am  
Beginner/Intermediate Classes 11:45 am - 12:45 pm  
General membership meeting, installation of officers 1 – 3pm

*\* Calendar is subject to change without notice*

## FGS Partner Benefit

### Dell Offers Holiday Deals on Tablet Computers

One of the FGS member benefits our organization receives is the Partner Benefits Program. One of these is the Dell Member Purchase Program that was announced at the 2013 Conference. Through this program, Dell provides discounts on products sold through the Dell website to our FGS member societies' members, their families, and their friends.

Dell has just announced a new holiday program featuring its new family of tablet computers, with prices starting at \$146.99 for members. These, along with other products at the Dell site, are excellent deals.

Please take advantage of this great offer. The Dell member store can be found at <http://dell.com/mpp/FGS> or reached by telephone at 1-800-695-8133. You will need this ID code once you are ready to purchase: SS131372490.

## Los Angeles County Library Web Services

Some of the databases available from your home computer are the African American Biographical Database, the City Directory Index, the LA Times (News Bank), and the Sanborn Insurance maps (1867-1970). Unfortunately, Ancestry Plus cannot be accessed from home at this time. Here are the directions to access the LAPL web site from home:

- 1) Go to [www.lapl.org](http://www.lapl.org) from your browser
- 2) On the right side of the web page, click on "Databases"
- 3) On the database page that states "For databases available from outside the library (Remote Access) [Click here](#) select "Click here"

4) On the remote access page click on the database you want to search

5) At the "Welcome to LAPL's Web Check Center" type in your library card number and zip code and click "enter"

6) If you have any problems accessing the site please contact the webmaster e-mail address, [webmaster@lapl.org](mailto:webmaster@lapl.org) or call LAPL at 213-228-7000 during business hours.

**Lloydine Outten**, on the behalf of the family of Lloyd Leon Outten, Sr. would like to Thank You for the kindness of your sympathy and love.

## Creating a Health History

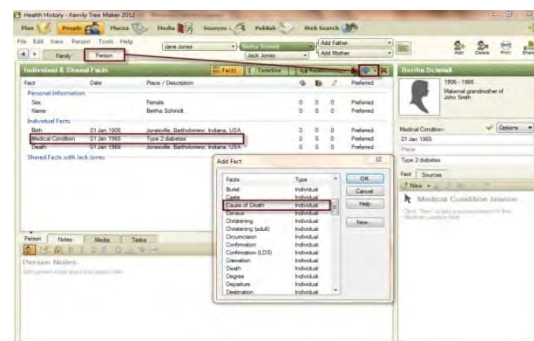
Quick question—how did it get to be November without my noticing? I'd swear it was just summer a minute ago, and here we are taking down Halloween decorations and starting to think about Thanksgiving. (Yay, turkey!)

The U.S. Surgeon General has declared Thanksgiving to be National Family History Day and encourages us to talk about health conditions that run in our families. When you think about it, the holidays present a really good time to fill in what we know about our families' health histories. Family get-togethers present opportunities to catch up with relatives and holiday letters sometimes include details about health challenges that others in our family are facing.

As we research our family histories, we are gathering information that can help us in compiling a health history. Using the tools we already have at our fingertips, we can create a chart that we can share with our doctors and other family members.

## Gathering Information

This year as part of my organizing efforts, I've been going through and adding the details in records to my family history data in Family Tree Maker 2012. As I'm going along updating the people in my tree, I've started extracting the cause of death from death records and adding them as "Facts" in my tree. To do this, I go to the person's page in my tree and select the blue + to add a fact. In the example below, you can see that I've added a "Medical Condition" to the facts and I'm about to add a "Cause of Death."



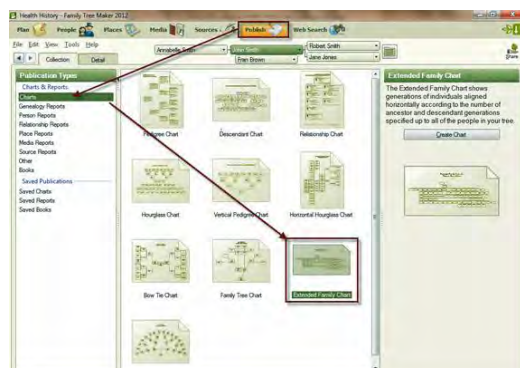
Once I click OK, I can go ahead and enter the cause of death in the box on the right. Health details are a very personal matter and if your Family Tree Maker 2012 file automatically syncs with an online tree, you may choose to keep medical conditions and causes of deaths private.

Family Tree Maker allows you to keep certain facts private by selecting the “Options” button in the right panel. And of course you’ll want to cite the source of the information and can easily do so by clicking on the “New” button under the “Sources” tab.

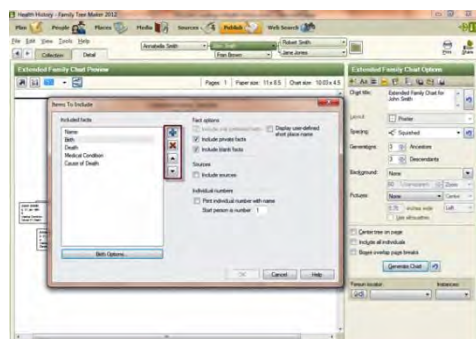


## Creating a Report

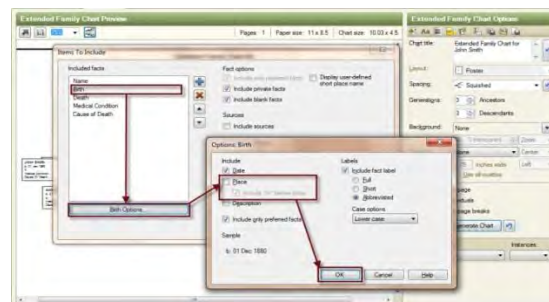
Once I’ve included medical conditions and causes of death in Family Tree Maker, I can create a report that includes them. To start I select the person in my tree that I’m creating the report for. Since I want to see siblings as well as direct ancestors, I went to the “Publish” tab and from the “Charts” menu, I selected the “Extended Family Chart” and click “Create Chart.”



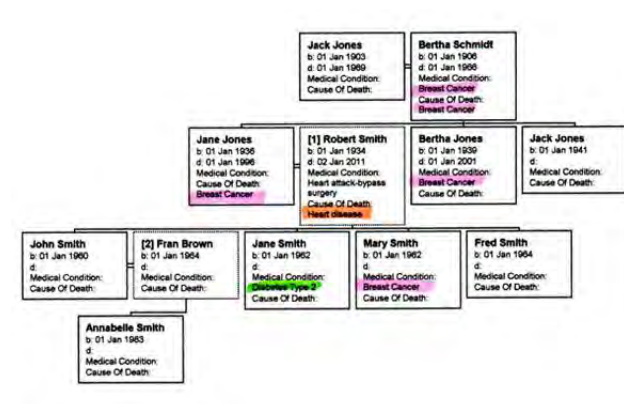
Now that I’ve created my chart, I’m going to customize it to fit my needs. I click on the first icon in the right panel to open up the “Items to Include” dialogue box. In that box, I can add items to include using the + sign, remove unnecessary elements with the x, and rearrange the order of the items I’m including using the up and down arrows.



I’ve included birth and death information in this chart so that I can see each person’s lifespan, although it’s not necessary. To cut back on the space used, since a birthplace isn’t needed, I clicked on the button below that box for “Birth options” and unchecked the “Place” box. Selecting “Death” in the list of fields included, I could do the same for the place of death.



This gave me a chart that looked something like this. I printed it off and highlighted conditions that carry increased risk factors based on heredity. (For the record, this is a fictitious family tree that I created for the purposes of this article.)



Using this type of chart also makes it easy to see where I’m missing information. For people who are deceased, I can check on vital record availability. For those still living, the upcoming holiday season may provide an opportunity to share what I’ve learned. Being aware of any risk factors could help all of us stay healthier and that’s a good thing. I have a lot of ancestors to chase, and I’m counting on my family to help.

*Juliana has been writing and editing Ancestry.com newsletters for more than thirteen years and is now in full panic mode after coming to the realization that the holidays are almost upon us.*

- Taken from the Weekly Discovery

## When You Can’t Find the Vital Record...

Looking for a birth, marriage, or death record but coming up short? Here are some places – and techniques – you can turn to for answers when the usual sources don’t pan out.

### **Birth Dates**

While it's important to remember that these are not primary sources for birth information, both marriage and death records often include birth dates and places.

U.S. federal censuses records for the years 1850–1930 include ages for everyone in the household. With a little math, this will help you close in on a birth year. Enumerators used fractions to record ages for people born within the census year (e.g., 1 month = 1/12, 2 months = 2/12, etc.). The 1900 census asked for the month and year of birth, as well as ages.

Military records will often include birth information for the person who served, and occasionally you'll also find birth details for family members. World War I Draft Records and the World War II "Old Man's Draft" are two good examples of military records that include birth dates.

### **Marriage Dates**

Since churches began recording marriages before counties and states did, they are an obvious choice as an alternative to a civil marriage record. Determine what churches were around at the time you think your ancestors married; then search those closest to where your ancestor lived or that shared an ethnic affiliation with your relatives. (You may find reference to church affiliations in death and other records.) Once you have determined what church your ancestor attended, a call to the church may be all it takes to find where the records are located, but if the church no longer exists, it may take a little digging. Many denominations have their own archives, while records for others may be held at a local or state historical society. And don't overlook the possibility that a local group has made the records available online. Plugging the church name into a search engine could bring you an unexpected surprise. Don't forget to search collections like the new Pennsylvania, Church and Town Records, 1708–1985, which include records from many Pennsylvania congregations.

Local newspapers may have run notices of your ancestor's engagement or marriage. Look for tidbits in social columns, as well as in sections that regularly listed marriage announcements and engagements. You can search historical newspapers on Ancestry.com. Also look for notices of anniversaries, especially memorable ones like 25<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup>, in local newspapers. You may find details about the original marriage, including the date and names of witnesses, or a guest list of anniversary party attendees that will likely include other family members.

When marriage records can't be found, estimate the marriage date based on the age of the first child (subtract a year, just to be safe). As with any estimation you include in your research, be sure to note it as such. And bear in mind

that there are a number of factors capable of throwing this estimate off.

### **Death Records**

New York, Death Newspaper Extracts, 1801–1890 (Barber Collection), is just one example of a collection that can be invaluable for finding information about New Yorkers, people who died in New York while visiting, or even individuals who did not live in New York but whose relatives did.

An obvious alternative to a death certificate can be found at the cemetery, whether on a tombstone or in the records of the cemetery sexton. Millions of cemetery records have been transcribed and indexed by genealogical societies. Find-a-Grave.com includes photographs of several million graves with death and other information.

If your ancestor lived in a city, city directories can be especially useful. When someone who has been listed in a directory for several consecutive years suddenly disappears, it might be that he or she has passed away. When a man died, his wife may be listed in subsequent years as "widow" or "widow of..." Ancestry.com has directories for many cities and years.

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

Your idea of a fun vacation includes a library, courthouse and a couple of cemeteries.

Your dream vacation is to spend a week at the LDS Library, in Salt Lake City.

You can answer all of the queries on Genforum.

You receive 100 e-mails a day and 99 of them are from Roots-L mailing lists.

You have your own set of keys to the local family history center and the employees think you work there.

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

You know the mailman's schedule better than he does, and if he's late you drive around looking for him.

You've read the entire Root-L archives twice.

You introduce your children as your descendants.

You begin referring to cemeteries as ancestor farms and headstones as concrete evidence.

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

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