



Heritage Newsletter

California African American Genealogical Society

January 2014 Volume 26 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)

2014 Board of Directors

Ronald Higgins - President
Dr. Edna Briggs – First Vice President
TBA – Second Vice President /Membership
Cartellia Bryant – Corresponding Secretary
Alvia Cross – Recording Secretary
Esther Bohannon – Treasurer
Idella Slaughter – Parliamentarian
Website – 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

Caring For Family Bibles

If your Bible has sustained damage over the years, a first inclination is to fix it yourself. Before you reach for adhesive or pressure-sensitive tape to repair torn pages, Salls recommends contacting a book conservator. You can inadvertently damage the item you're trying to preserve. Locate a conservator in your area by using the online referral service through the American Institute for the Preservation of Historic and Artistic Works (<http://aic.stanford.edu>).

Check the Ancestry.com Archives for the full article
Ancestry Daily News 5/17/2004 - Archive

- Ancestry Daily News, 17 May 2004
- Bless Them: Caring for Family Bibles

Maureen continued the article:

- Ancestry Daily News, 23 June 2004
- Bless Them: Caring for Family Bibles, Part 2

Bible Information Online

Another way to preserve Bible records is by publishing them online. So how many Bible records are online? Alot. CyndisList www.cyndislist.com has a category devoted to family Bible records with several subdivisions. If you've lost a Bible, have one in need of restoration, or are looking for transcriptions, there is plenty available on the Web. Some sites are free, while others are fee-based. One reader wrote to express her wish that "all the family Bible record sites would consolidate—into a free site."

Copyright 2004, MyFamily.com

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

2014 Calendar of Events

January 18

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

February 15

CAAGS Board meeting 10 am - 11:30 am
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** Calendar is subject to change without notice*

*** CAAGS Cookbook ***

CAAGS is taking advanced prepaid orders for a cookbook to be published in time for Black History month. Please support this fundraising effort by reserving a copy for yourself, friends and family. The cost is \$10. The cookbook will include recipes great for individuals with diabetes, high cholesterol, hypertension and heart disease.

For more info contact Alvia Cross at
alviacross@sbcglobal.net.

Manhattan's Forgotten Graveyards, Under Public Parks, Famous Hotels and Supermarkets

By Greg Young

If you're visiting one of New York's many amazing parks and squares, it's likely that you're standing on land that was formerly used as a cemetery or potter's field.

Manhattan is still dotted with several interesting historic cemeteries, such as the **First Shearith Israel Graveyard** at 55-57 St. James Place (*pictured below, between 1870-1910*). But a great many other burial grounds once existed but were removed due to new developments. And in several cases they even left the bodies behind!



Picture courtesy Museum of the City of New York

In the colonial era, the city of New York was mostly confined to the area south of today's **City Hall**. As New York rapidly grew starting in the early 19th century, its population naturally moved up the island.

At the same time, deadly epidemics ravaged the city during various periods, forcing the city to quickly develop burial grounds and potter's fields (for unclaimed bodies) on the edge of town. But as what was considered "the edge of town" moved further north, those burial grounds were suddenly considered valuable land. In many cases, they exhumed the corpses and turned those spots into well-manicured public parks.

Sometimes, however, they left the bodies where they lay.

Most of these burial plots date from before 1851, when the city passed an ordinance forbidding further burials below 86th Street. Historical cemeteries (like those at **Trinity Church** and **Old St. Patrick's**) and land with private vaults (such as the East Village marble cemeteries) were allowed to remain, and unique exceptions have been made, such as the singular grave of **William Jenkins Worth** in front of the **Flatiron Building**.

Here's just a handful of Manhattan's old burial sites:
Liberty Place (at Maiden Lane) Late 17th century -1820s
This burial ground served New York's first Quaker congregation and is sometimes referred to as the **Little Green Street Burial Ground** of the Society of Friends (Liberty Place, a tiny alley today, was once known as Little Green Street). Its location is near the **New York Federal Reserve**.

In the 1820s, the Quakers sold this property, exhumed their dead, and moved to a new burial ground at....



Picture courtesy Whole Foods

Houston Street Burial Ground (105-107 East Houston Street) Approx. 1820s-1848

This remained the principal cemetery for Quakers in New York during a period of incredible prosperity for New York City, thanks to the opening of **Erie Canal** and the planned

formation of streets and avenue from the **Commissioner's Plan of 1811**.

Today this is the location of **Whole Foods** supermarket. In 1848, the bodies were moved again to a private cemetery, where they remain today, located in today's **Prospect Park**. It was in this very cemetery in 1966 that the actor **Montgomery Clift** was laid to rest.



Picture courtesy Library of Congress

African Burial Ground

(Modern marker at Duane Street and Elk Street)
For almost one hundred years, starting in the 1690s, New York slaves and black freedmen alike were forced to bury their friends and loved ones outside the comfort of church and city limits, in an area south of **Collect Pond**, New York's source for fresh drinking water. As many as 20,000 bodies may have been interred here at one time.

It was a lonely and unprotected area; at one point, in 1788, bodies were even exhumed from here illegally for medical experiments. New York simply developed over the land in the 19th century, building department stores, government buildings, even opera houses.

For decades, the area's original identity went unmarked, until burials were discovered during excavations in the 1990s. A spectacular monument was built here on one portion of the former burial ground and dedicated in 2007.

For more information on the African Burial Ground, check out our podcast on the incredible history of this area.

Washington Square Park 1797-1825

"Where now are asphalt walks, flowers, fountains, the Washington arch, and aristocratic homes, the poor were once buried by the thousands in nameless graves." (Kings Handbook of New York, 1893)

This plot was used as a potter's field during a devastating outbreak of yellow fever. When fashionable New Yorkers moved from the confines of lower Manhattan to this area of Greenwich Village, the burial ground was closed for business and a lovely park placed on top of it.

While this might seem truly morbid, in fact the city considered this a preventative and sanitary option. According to city records, a recommendation was made that "the present burial ground might serve extremely well for plantations of grove and forest trees, and thereby, instead of remaining receptacles of putrefying matter and hot beds of miasmata, might be rendered useful and ornamental."

Of course, in modern times, that "hot bed of miasmata" serves as one of New York's most bustling and vibrant outdoor spaces. But the city simply built over the burial ground. It was claimed during the 19th century that a blue mist could be seen hanging over the park at night, the creepy vapor of the remains underground.

It is believed that over 20,000 people are still buried here. Bodies are routinely uncovered during excavations.

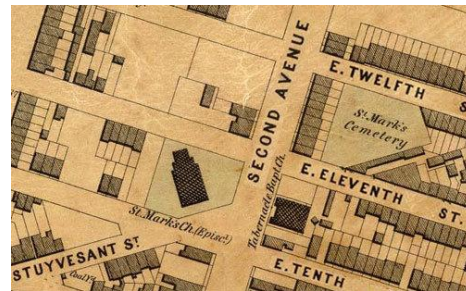


Image courtesy New York City Cemeteries Project

St. Marks Church-in-the Bowery - Second Burial Ground 1803-around 1851

One of the East Village's most historic landmarks, St. Marks Church-in-the-Bowery has a very famous burial area on its immediate land, strewn with the vault markers of famed families, as well as that of New Amsterdam director-general **Peter Stuyvesant**. But the congregation owned another burial ground one block north for less wealthy members of the community. Most notably, many stars of the theater were buried here, including **Stephen Price**, impresario of New York's famed Park Theater.

According to historian Mary French, the land was donated to the church by **Peter Stuyvesant IV**, with an unusual stipulation, "that any of his present or former slaves and their children have the right to be interred in the burial ground free of charge."

This yard was closed for several years before St Mark's finally sold it in 1864, and the bodies were moved to **Cemetery of the Evergreens** in Brooklyn and Queens.

Union Square Probably late 1790s-1815

Potter's fields -- where the poor or unclaimed were buried -- moved frequently around the city as land values improved with the city's growth. This particular area at 14th Street was once comfortably outside of town, but its proximity

near **Bloomingdale Road** (the future **Broadway**) soon required its functions as a burial plot be transferred to other usable fields, like Washington Square.

The land here was transformed into the elliptical-shaped Union Place, a strolling park surrounded by an iron fence. By the 1830s, Samuel Ruggles would modify it further into New York's toniest park, Union Square, luring the wealthy who quickly built homes of 'costly magnificence' around it.



Picture courtesy New York Public Library

Madison Square Park 1794-1797

The short duration of this burial ground stems from the fact that it was used only to inter those who died at nearby at the hospital at nearby Belle Vue Farm (today's **Bellevue Hospital**) and the local almshouse during a devastating yellow fever epidemic. Later, with fears of a new war with England looming, the land was given to the U.S. Army as an arsenal, and the land that was later Washington Square became the official place to bury the dead.

There's some evidence to suggest that some of the remains were never moved.

Bryant Park 1823-40 but possibly used as late as 1847 Yet another burial plot for paupers, still further north of city center. Soon however the adjoining land became an ideal spot to put the **Croton Reservoir**, supplying the city with drinking water. And, well, it wouldn't do to have a bunch of graves next to that, would it? After a duration as the location of the grand **Crystal Palace Exposition**, the land was turned into a park, named after editor **William Cullen Bryant**.

While it's unclear whether the old potter's field grants the park any kind of supernatural aura, the **New York Public Library** (on the site of the old Reservoir) provides some of the more interesting specters from the film *Ghostbusters*.



Courtesy Waldorf Astoria

Park Avenue and 49th Street 1822-1859

In the early 18th century, the area soon to become known as **Park Avenue**, the richest street in America, was home to railroad tracks, cattle yards, various grim asylums and, yes, Manhattan's last potter's field.

Before **Columbia University** moved to Washington Heights, it was located here in this area of today's Midtown. The campus sat near this unpleasant spot, a potter's field so shockingly maintained that "the ends of coffins still protruded from the ground," according to historian Edward Sandford Martin, "a malodorous neighbor much in evidence and disrepute."

In the late 1850s, the city forced the potter's field off the island entirely, and the bodies were slated for removal to Ward's Island (today attached to **Randall's Island**). Given municipal corruption and delays, however, the project took years, with train passengers often greeted with the sight of coffin stacks and grisly open pits.

Today, that former burial plot is occupied by the **Waldorf Astoria Hotel**, built on the property in 1931, long since transformed by the burial of tracks into **Grand Central Terminal**.

NOTE: Some of the dates above are estimates, as record keeping for these kinds of things is rather hit and miss! Many dates are from Carolee Inskye's exhaustive survey of old New York burial grounds The Graveyard Shift. Follow Greg Young on Twitter:

www.twitter.com/BoweryBoys

Writer, The Bowery Boys: New York City History

Posted: 10/30/2013

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President's Message **By Dr. Edna Briggs**

"Looking Back, Moving Forward"

Greetings Fellow CAAGS Members,

The SANKOFA is a mythical bird coined by the Akan people of West Africa. It means, "It is not taboo to go back and fetch what you forgot." It teaches that we must go back to our roots in order to move forward; we should reach back and gather the best of what our past has to teach us, so that we can achieve our full potential as we move forward. Whatever we have lost, forgotten, foregone or been stripped of, can be reclaimed, revived, preserved and perpetuated.

Visually and symbolically, "Sankofa" is expressed as a bird that flies forward while looking backward and holding an egg (symbolizing the future) in its mouth.

As CAAGS members, we can be grateful for the past, and look forward to the future as we prepare to confront the challenges faced by all other Societies - increasing and retaining members, improving/expanding our use of technology, and ensuring the Society's preservation for future generations.

And so as we move forward in continuing CAAGS' mission and the pursuit of its objectives, I hope that we do so in accordance with a quote that says,

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

“Nevertheless,
to the degree that we have already attained,
let us walk by the same rule,
let us be of the same mind.”

I do humbly appreciate the membership’s vote that now gives me this opportunity to serve as your President. After “Looking Back” at CAAGS’ past, I do look forward to “Moving Forward” with you over the next two years, and beyond.

2014 Calendar of Events

February 15

CAAGS Board meeting 10 am - 11:30 am
Beginner/Intermediate Classes 11:45 am - 12:45 pm
General membership meeting/Guest Speaker 1 – 3pm
Joseph Payton – African American Ancestors

February 22

Whittier Area Genealogical 31st Annual Seminar. Guest speaker – Laura G. Prescott; 9 to 4, Masonic Lodge, Whittier, California. For registration form and info go to www.cagenweb.com

March 15

CAAGS Board meeting 10 am - 11:30 am
Beginner/Intermediate Classes 11:45 am - 12:45 pm
General membership meeting/Guest Speaker 1-3
Gloria Jackson – Booker T. Washington’s Family

March 22

Annual Discover Your Roots Conference. For more info www.discoveryourroots.org

April 19

CAAGS Board meeting 10 am - 11:30 am
Beginner/Intermediate Classes 11:45 am - 12:45 pm
General membership meeting/Guest Speaker 1-3
Evan Stubblefield – Writing A Family Memoir workshop

** Calendar is subject to change without notice*

‘Beginning Genealogy’ Booklet Needed

Remember this popular basic booklet that CAAGS developed, published and sold many years ago? Unfortunately, copies are no longer in stock. It would be worthwhile to resurrect and revise it, and make it available again!

If anyone has a copy of this booklet, please contact Edna Briggs, ASAP, at 323-779-6195 or email her at ednabriggs@att.net.

Norma Bates would like to thank everyone who contributed to the 2013 holiday celebration. She is also accepting donations for the 2014 CAAGS holiday celebration.

10 Top Web Sites for African American Genealogy

By Kimberly Powell

Explore your African American heritage and family history with the databases, resources and family trees found on these outstanding African American genealogy Web sites.

1. AfriGeneas

AfriGeneas is dedicated to the particular challenges of researching African-American ancestors, and offers support in the form of chat rooms, discussion forms and recommended resources solely focused on African American ancestry, plus a great beginner’s guide. If you need some expert guidance to get you started on your African American research, this site is the best place to start.

2. The USF Africana Heritage Project

This all-volunteer research project and Web site sponsored by the Africana Studies department at the University of South Florida works to discover records that document the names of slaves, freed persons and their descendants, and share them online.

3. Freedmen’s Bureau Online

The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, generally referred to as the Freedman's Bureau, was established in the War Department by an act of March 3, 1865 to supervise all relief and educational activities relating to refugees and newly freed slaves. On this site you can find many reports and documents generated by the Freedman's Bureau, including labor records and marriage records, as well as a comprehensive overview of the Freedman's Bureau history, the Reconstruction Era, labor contracts and other aspects of African American life after Emancipation.

4. American Memory Collection

This huge collection of documents, photographs, sound recordings, maps, and other records related to African American history and culture is an essential starting point for those interested in learning more about their African American heritage.

5. Civil War Soldiers & Sailors System

Search this free database for information on the 235,000 USCT (Unites States Colored Troops) soldiers, regiments (units), battles, and NPS civil war parks. It also includes histories of 180 USTC units/regiments.

6. Slaveholders and African Americans, 1860-1870

Tom Blake has spent many years identifying the largest slaveholders on the 1860 U.S. census, and matching those surnames to African American households listed in the 1870 census (the first census to enumerate the former slaves by name). He estimates that these large slaveholders held 20-30% of the total number of slaves in the United States in 1860.

7. Free African Americans of Virginia, N Carolina, S Carolina, Maryland & Delaware. Paul Heinegg shares the entire body of his published work on free African Americans online, as found in his books *Free African Americans of North Carolina, Virginia and South Carolina* and *Free African Americans of Maryland and Delaware*, including about 2,000 pages of family histories based on colonial court order and minute books, free Negro registers, marriage bonds, census records, etc. You'll also find hundreds abstracted tax lists.

8. American Slave Narratives - An Online Anthology
A project of the University of Virginia, this database of slave narratives includes a sampling of some of the 2,300+ interviews and photos of former slaves taken between 1936 and 1938 with first-hand accounts of their experiences. 1930 Us Census www.myheritage.com/1930-Census_Search Official Census Records. Discover Your Ancestors! Free Trial. Family History Conference rootstech.org/RootsTech 2014 includes family history classes, help, and more!

9. African American Cemeteries Online
Search by surname or explore by state to find people buried in African American cemeteries across the United States. Cemetery transcriptions are contributed by volunteers.

10. The African-American Migration Experience
The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture presents information on the thirteen defining migrations that formed and transformed African America, including International Slave Trade, Runaway Journeys, the Domestic Slave Trade, Colonization and Emigration, Haitian Immigration, Caribbean Migration, African Migration and African American migration within the United States.

Why Genealogy

Genealogy is one of the world's most popular hobbies. Hundreds of millions of people around the globe are actively engaged in some form of family research. It seems as if everyone, in some part of their lives, wonders where they came from. Maybe it's the red hair that your mom says has been passed down from your Irish great-grandfather. Or perhaps a curiosity as to why Grandma never spoke about her family. Some people have become intrigued after visiting a battlefield and wondering if one of their ancestors fought or even died there. For others it's the box of old photos or clothing which has been left to them by a relative.

What starts as a simple curiosity, however, quickly grows into an obsession. Forget shopping or gambling - climbing your family tree is much more addictive, so never say we didn't warn you!

Reasons to Research Your Family's History

People get involved in researching their family's history for any number of reasons, all of which are right for them.

Here are a few of the most popular:

- ✓ To satisfy your curiosity about yourself and your roots.
- ✓ To provide your children with a sense of who their ancestors were, where they came from and how they lived their lives.
- ✓ To preserve family cultural and ethnic traditions for future generations.
- ✓ To compile a medical family history to give family members an advantage in the battle against inherited diseases or defects.
- ✓ To qualify for a lineage or heritage society.
- ✓ To assemble and publish a family history book, whether for family members or for profit.
- ✓ To discover facts that others have overlooked and solve the puzzle of a lifetime.

Who was Solomon Northup?

Solomon Northup was a free black living in upstate New York, who was lured to the south and sold as a slave. After nearly 12 years, he was rescued, and returned to his family. His book, *Twelve Years a Slave*, described his experiences.

The book can still be purchased in many print and electronic editions. Two annotated versions have been published. One, put out by the Louisiana State University Press in 1968 and edited by Sue Eakin and Joseph Logsdon, is widely available (often economically available from eBay sellers). It's available from Amazon: LSU edition on Amazon

A 2007 edition titled *Solomon Northup's Twelve Years a Slave and Plantation Life in the Antebellum South*, prepared by the late Sue Eakin. The hardcover edition is no longer in print, but it is available as an audiobook, e-book and paperback. See: *Twelve Years a Slave*, by Dr. Sue Eakin and Louis Gossett, Jr. Since it was originally published in 1853, the book is in the public domain, and is available online from several sites including: Docsouth <http://docsouth.unc.edu/fpn/northup/northup.html> (text version) or Google Books, where you can even save a copy on your own computer by clicking on the Gear icon, then use download PDF.

In 2012, a screen adaptation of Northup's story was filmed in Louisiana, directed by well-known British filmmaker Steve McQueen. Chiwetel Ejiofor plays the role of

Solomon Northup, and the cast includes many notable performers. The movie was released in October 2013 and is now available on DVD.

Tips for Tracing Your Family Tree

By Tony Burroughs

- Write Your Autobiography - You are the first link in your family tree. Record your life story and what you remember about your relatives and ancestors.
- Interview All Living Relatives - Records on the Internet and in libraries, archives and courthouses will be around long after you are gone. You have plenty of time to research them. However, your living relatives have a limited time here on earth. Get to them and record their stories while they are still around and their minds are still sharp.
- Explore the Family Archives - Search for documents, books photos and artifacts around your house and your relative's houses that mention relatives and ancestor's names or images. Have relatives identify photos and label them.
- Visit the family cemetery - Photograph the grave markers and get records from the cemetery office. I tell young people that the ancestors live in the cemetery. Take your children to your family cemetery when you get records and tell your children stories about their ancestors.

Find more details about these tips and others in my book, "Black Roots: A Beginners Guide to Tracing the African American Family Tree." To order a copy.

<http://www.amazon.com/Black-Roots-Beginners-Tracing->
<http://www.tonyburroughs.com/genealogy-tips.html>

Legacy Family Tree 2014 Webinars

Millennia Corporation and FamilyTreeWebinars.com are pleased to announce that registration is now open for its 2014 Legacy Family Tree Webinar Series. Choose from 52 classes from genealogy's leading educators (nearly 80 hours of free genealogy education) on topics ranging from genealogy technology to in-depth research methodologies and evidence analysis. Legacy Family Tree Webinars was awarded the **Best Genealogy Education or Learning Experience** by the About.com 2013 Genealogy Readers' Choice Awards.

Sign up for one or for all of them (so you don't forget later) and you will receive a reminder email both one day and one hour prior to the live event. Sign up for the webinars at www.familytreewebinars.com.

February 2014

- Family Stories: Using Newspapers to Reconnect with the Stories of Your Family's Past by Tom Kemp. 2/12
- The Ties That Bond by Judy Russell. 2/19
- Searching for Surnames: Challenges, Pitfalls and the Downright Ridiculous by Kirsty Gray. 2/26

March 2014

- Genealogy and Technology - State of the Union by Barbara Renick. 3/1
- Using Google Earth for Genealogy by Lisa Louise Cooke. 3/5
- Sources and Citations Made Simple, Standard, and Powerful by Geoff Rasmussen. 3/7
- Some Lesser Known Irish Resources by Judy Wight. 3/12
- 50 Most Popular Genealogy Websites by Kory Meyerink. 3/19

April 2014

- 7 Habits of Highly Frugal Genealogists by Thomas MacEntee. 4/2
- Get Organized Using the FamilyRoots Organizer Color-Coding System by Mary Hill. 4/9
- Estate Records - More Than Just Wills by Linda Woodward Geiger. 4/11
- Genealogy Evidence and Online Family Trees by Karen Clifford. 4/16
- The Homestead Act of 1862 by Thomas MacEntee. 4/23
- Google Glass and Family History by Devin Ashby. 4/30

All live webinars are free, and their recordings are free to watch for the next 7 days. If you missed a previous webinar you can access to the entire archives and instructors handouts through a monthly or annual webinar membership. Visit www.familytreewebinars.com.

*** CAAGS Cookbook ***

CAAGS is taking advanced prepaid orders for our cookbook. Please support this fundraising effort. The cost is \$10 per book. \$100 prizes will be given to the members who sells the most books, sells the most in advertisement dollars and sells the most patrons. For more info contact Alvia Cross at alviacross@sbcglobal.net.

*** If you borrowed a beginner genealogy book from Edna Briggs at the November meeting please return it to her at the next meeting. ***

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**President's Message
By Dr. Edna Briggs**

Greetings Fellow CAAGS Members,

If you were not in attendance at the February 2014 CAAGS meeting, you missed a great presentation! Joseph Payton, who was assisted by his cousin Terri De La Pena, presented his family's research based on genealogy and DNA.

Personally, I have avoided incorporating DNA into my family history research. However, since hearing this presentation, I'm now re-thinking this topic, and am putting forth great effort to dispel the mental notion that I'm too old to scramble my brain with this high level science subject. Since our February meeting, it seems that everything I have picked up to read contains something pertaining to DNA.

While on a recent flight to Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW), I pulled an airline magazine out of a back seat pocket and was shocked to see a caption on the cover that read, ***"Tracking your roots through ancestral DNA testing."*** And the table of contents read ***"Ancestry -Tracking your roots can be as easy as a spit test, thanks to ancestral DNA testing."***

Later, I opened the latest membership edition of the Southern California Genealogical Society's (SCGS) issue of *The Tracker*. For some reason, I paid much closer attention to the DNA Special Interest Group article. It felt as though it was pulling at me. I am now strongly considering attending their March 29th meeting, and I will take the data from my brother's DNA test that was done approximately 5-6 years ago, after much arm twisting, and my agreement to pay for the test.

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

The SCGS will also sponsor a one-day conference during the Jamboree on June 5th entitled, "Family History and DNA: Genetic Genealogy in 2014." I must decide whether or not I will attend before early bird registration ends on April 30th.

It is said that continuing to learn new things keeps the brain healthier longer. And so, why not tackle DNA!! Your feedback is welcomed.

REMINDER – March 2014 marks the Society's 28th anniversary. Join us at the March 15th meeting.

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Our condolences to **Lloydine Outten**, on the loss of her son; to **Norma Bates**, on the loss of her son and to **Patricia Terrell** on the loss of her brother.

Going Digital: Preserving Louisiana's Colonial Records

The Colonial Documents Project is a project of the Louisiana State Museum to digitize Louisiana's French

Superior Council (1714-1769) and Spanish Judicial Records (1769-1803). Due to the documents' age and fragility, the only safe way for researchers to consult them today is through microfilm, much of which is illegible and disregards the original order and provenance of the records. Digitizing them will enable them to be indexed, described, and made available to the public free of charge on the LSM website in a searchable database. The project will ultimately publish more than 150,000 document images on the Internet. Currently, a small sampling of the documents is available on the Louisiana Digital Library. The Louisiana Museum Foundation is currently accepting donations to help fund this worthy project.

For more information on Le Comité des Archives, please contact Judy Riffel, via e-mail at riffelj@bellsouth.net or write the society at P.O. Box 1547, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-1547, website www.lecomite.org

Introduction To Genealogy Charting Your Course

Genealogy is basically one big puzzle. If you don't put the pieces together in just the right way, then you'll never get to see the final picture. To make sure your puzzle pieces end up in the proper positions you should use genealogy charts and family group sheets to record your research data. While many genealogy software programs will help you to properly record data and print it out in a variety of formats, for the purposes of this lesson we will be discussing the old-fashioned paper and pencil method. It is important as a genealogy newbie that you understand the principals behind the charts and numbering systems before you turn that responsibility over to your computer.

The two basic forms for recording genealogical information are ascendant charts and descendant charts. An **ascendant chart** starts with you and moves back through the generations of your ancestors. A **descendant chart** starts with you or another individual in your family tree and lists all of the descendants coming down through the generations. On these forms you record the names of your ancestors or descendants and the dates and places of the three major genealogical events (birth, marriage and death). They basically serve as a master outline of your genealogy information and make it easy to see at a glance where you have gaps in your knowledge of people or events.

Ascendant Charts

The chart which most people begin with is the **pedigree chart**, a type of ascendant chart. The most common type of pedigree chart displays five generations of family data on a single page (also known as a five generation chart), but you can purchase paper charts which will accommodate as many as 15 generations. Personally, I prefer working with a four-generation chart as it fits neatly on a standard size page and leaves enough room for data.

The first individual named on the left of the chart is the one whose ancestry the tree documents. You should start by placing yourself as person number one on your first pedigree chart. The chart then branches in two to show your parents, then in fourths to show your grandparents and so on. This chart only shows your ancestors - there is no room on a pedigree chart for siblings, multiple marriages, etc.

An **ahnentafel** is another type of pedigree chart in the form of a table or list. The pedigree chart is the more graphic representation of a person's ancestors, while the ahnentafel presents the information in a neat, compact manner. Ahnentafels are not used quite as often today as they were in the past.

Ancestors are numbered on pedigree charts and ahnentafels using a system known as the ahnentafel numbering system. You (or the person whose ancestry is being traced) are number **1**. A father is twice his child's number ($1 \times 2 = 2$) and a mother is twice the child's number plus one ($1 \times 2 = 2 + 1 = 3$). The numbers for men are always even and the numbers for women are always odd, with the exception of number **1** which can obviously be either. One thing which I think is neat is that the first number for each generation is equal to the number of people in that generation.

Descendant Charts

You won't find descendant charts to be extremely useful to you as you are starting out, although you should prepare one to include your children and grandchildren if that applies. In general, however, descendant charts begin with a **progenitor**, a term usually used by genealogists to refer to the earliest proven ancestor in a line. This means that you must do some research first before you can create this type of chart. Descendant charts are most often used to chart all of the descendants (or at least as many as can be found) of a specific ancestor (often an immigrant ancestor or the first one living in a specific area or country).

Family Group Sheets

By now I bet you are wondering what you do with all those aunts, uncles and cousins you have floating around. This is where the **family group sheet** comes in. A family group sheet is the basic worksheet used for genealogical research. While a pedigree chart identifies your ancestry and serves primarily as a culmination of your work, the family group sheet is how you get there.

There are many different formats available, but each Family Group Sheet is based on a single family unit - husband, wife and children. A family group sheet has space for the basic genealogical events for each family member, including dates and places of birth, marriage, death and burial. For each child on the list, a name of a spouse can be given, along with a date and place of the marriage. There is usually a place for notes where you should record where

you got your information (source) as well as make note of any discrepancies in your findings. Family Group Sheets are essential because they 1) serve as a simple means of recording data 2) make it easy to see at a glance what information is known and what is missing and 3) serve as a means of easily exchanging information with other researchers.

You can download a free Pedigree Chart from various websites on line or as a CAAGS member please contact us for Pedigree Chart.

- *Taken from genealogy.com*

Military Abbreviations Found on U.S. Grave Markers

By Kimberly Powell

Many military graves are inscribed with abbreviations that denote the unit of service, ranks, medals, or other information on the military veteran. Many may also be marked with bronze or stone plaques provided by the Veterans Administration. This list includes some of the most common abbreviations.

Military Rank

BBG - Brevet Brigadier General
BGEN - Brigadier General
BMG - Brevet Major General
COL - Colonel
CPL - Corporal
CPT - Captain
CSGT - Commissary Sergeant
GEN - General
LGEN - Lieutenant General
LT - Lieutenant
1 LT - First Lieutenant (2 LT = 2nd Lieutenant, and so on)
LTC - Lieutenant Colonel
MAJ - Major
MGEN - Major General
NCO - Noncommissioned Officer
OSGT - Ordinance Sergeant
PVT - Private
PVT 1CL - Private First Class
QM - Quartermaster
QMSGT - Quartermaster Sergeant
SGM - Sergeant Major
SGT - Sergeant
WO - Warrant Officer

Military Unit & Branch of Service

ART - Artillery
AC or USA - Army Corps; United States Army
BRIG - Brigade
BTRY - Battery
CAV - Cavalry
CSA - Confederate States of America
CT - Colored Troops; may precede the branch such as CTART for Colored Troops Artillery

CO or COM - Company
 ENG or E&M - Engineer; Engineers / Miners
 FA - Field Artillery
 HA or HART - Heavy Artillery
 INF - Infantry
 LA or LART - Light Artillery
 MC - Medical Corps
 MAR or USMC - Marines; United States Marine Corps
 MIL - Militia
 NAVY or USN - Navy; United States Navy
 REG - Regiment
 SS - Sharpshooters (or sometimes Silver Star, see below)
 SC- Signal Corps
 TR - Troop
 USAF - United States Air Force
 VOL or USV - Volunteers; United States Volunteers
 VRC - Veteran Reserve

Military Service Medals & Awards

AM - Air Medal
 ACM - Army Commendation Medal
 BS or BSM - Bronze Star or Bronze Star Medal
 CSC - Conspicuous Service Cross
 DFC - Distinguished Flying Cross
 LOM - Legion of Merit
 MOH - Medal of Honor
 PH - Purple Heart
 SS or SSM - Silver Star or Silver Star Medal

These abbreviations generally follow another award to indicate superior achievement or multiple awards:

A - Achievement
 V - Valor
 OLC - Oak Leaf Cluster (generally follows another award to indicate multiple awards)
 Military Groups & Veterans Organizations
 DAR - Daughters of the American Revolution
 GAR - Grand Army of the Republic
 SAR - Sons of the American Revolution
 SCV - Sons of Confederate Veterans
 SSAWV - Sons of Spanish American War Veterans
 UDC - United Daughters of the Confederacy
 USD 1812 - Daughters of the War of 1812
 USWV - United Spanish War Veterans
 VFW - Veterans of Foreign Wars

12th Annual Discover Your Roots African American Family History Conference

Saturday, March 22, 2014
 Registration/Check-In 8:00am – 9:00am
 Program 9:00am – 4:30pm

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
Historic Chapel
 1209 S. Manhattan Place, Los Angeles 90019
 Exciting new classes with lunch included

Direct from the Genealogy Roadshow
 Author/Lecturer, TV personality, **Kenyatta Berry**

Pre-registration after 1 March and at the door: \$35
 New Children's Classes (9–14 years old)... an adult must attend class with child

310.475.7018

www.DiscoverYourRoots.org

For conference email alerts, send an email to:

shyer@lds.org

In the subject line enter: DYR 2014

Family Tree Builder 7.0

The best free genealogy software in the world
Get the FREE download at MyHeritage.com

- ✓ **Fun to use** - Build a family tree visually, add thousands of people quickly
- ✓ **Smart Matching™ technology** - Matches your tree to millions of others & discovers new relatives
- ✓ **New: Record Matching** - Researches your family tree for you, automatically discovers historical records of your ancestors
- ✓ **Charts to make you proud** - Create, customize and print beautiful charts and reports, even all-in-one charts
- ✓ **Private family site** - Share your family history on your very own secure family site
- ✓ **New: Full sync** - Update your family tree anytime anywhere, using your computer, your browser or our free mobile apps
- ✓ **Easy to use** - Friendly wizards make even complex tasks simple
- ✓ **Ideal for family photos** - Add photos, documents and videos; organize them in albums easily
- ✓ **Automatic face tagging** - The world's only genealogy software with face recognition technology, enriches your photos
- ✓ **Maps** - Discover where your ancestors came from, enhance your family tree
- ✓ **DNA** - Document DNA markers in your family tree
- ✓ **Consistency checker** - Checks your tree for conflicts, mistakes and inconsistencies
- ✓ **Supports 40 languages** - Bi-lingual trees and charts, automatic name translations
- ✓ **Advanced data manipulation** - Import and export GEDCOM and Excel files. Convenient Find & Replace tools
- ✓ **Detailed privacy settings** - Control every aspect of your privacy online and offline

CAAGS membership drive is ending. Please remember to renew your current membership by the end of March to continue receiving our newsletter.



Heritage Newsletter

California African American Genealogical Society

April 2014 Volume 26 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 11:45am (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)

2014 Board of Directors

Dr. Edna Briggs – President

Ronald Higgins – Immediate Past President

TBA – First Vice President

Carolyn Conway – Second Vice President /Membership

Cartellia Bryant – Corresponding Secretary

Alvia Cross – Recording Secretary

Esther Bohannon – Treasurer

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Website – www.caags.org

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Open – Book Sales and Acquisitions

Open – Public Relations/Fundraising Chairman

LaVerne Anderson – Librarian

Open – Historian

Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor

Alvia Cross – FGS Delegate

Open – Volunteer Chairman

President's Message

By Immediate Past President Ronald Higgins

As a member of the California African American Genealogical Society I'm proud to recognize that last month marked our 28th year as a genealogy family. I would also like to recognize our new officers for 2014 and I'm looking forward to their successful guidance in leading us into the future. This can only be done through the support of the proper leadership by both the officers and membership of the entire society. I also personally wish to thank each of the society's members for your total support of my leadership these past years. We must all remember that we are a family and that family is the core of Genealogy. While doing this we also have to be aware that all offices held by members are done so on a volunteer basis. Therefore, we should all recognize that holding office under these conditions is a committed labor of love. I please then ask that we all are respectful to, and supportive of, both our past and present officers and all that they do. I wish to say again "Thank You" to all who have supported all my endeavors and past efforts as well as any future projects that I may embark upon.

Did You Know?

In the state of Massachusetts that deaths are registered where the person lived not where the death occurred.

Ancestry Digest News Quick Tip 26 June 2002

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

2014 Calendar of Events

April 19

CAAGS Board meeting, 10 am - 11:30am

General membership meeting, 11:45am

Guest Speaker 1-3pm, Evan Stubblefield – Writing A

Family Memoir workshop

**There will be a \$5 fee charged to non-members who attend this workshop. No genealogy classes will be offered.*

May 17

CAAGS Board meeting, 10 am - 11:30 am

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

General membership meeting/Guest Speaker, 1-3

June 6-8

45th Annual Southern California Genealogy Jamboree

Los Angeles Marriott Burbank in Burbank, California. The

theme is “Golden Memories: Decorating Your Family’s History.” For registration & info www.scgsgenealogy.com

June 21

CAAGS Board meeting, 10 am - 11:30 am

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

General membership meeting/Guest Speaker, 1-3

** Calendar is subject to change without notice*

Introduction to Genealogy Recording Names

When recording your genealogical data on charts there are some important conventions which should be followed with regard to names, dates and places. By following these standard rules, you can help to ensure that your genealogy data is as complete as possible and that it will not be misinterpreted by others.

Record names in their natural order - first, middle, last (surname). Use full names if known. If the middle name is not known, you may use an initial. **Example:** Shawn Michael THOMAS

Print SURNAMES in upper case letters. This provides easy scanning on pedigree charts and family group sheets and also helps to distinguish the surname from first and middle names. This convention is widely used, but is not necessary. **Example:** Garrett John TODD

Enter women with their maiden name (surname at birth) rather than their husband’s surname. When you do not know a female’s maiden name, insert only her first (given) name on the chart followed by empty parentheses (). Some genealogists also record the husband’s surname. Both ways are correct as long as you are consistent and follow all naming rules. In this example, your ancestor Mary

Elizabeth’s maiden name is unknown and she is married to John DEMPSEY. **Example:** Mary Elizabeth () or Mary Elizabeth () DEMPSEY

If a woman has had more than one husband, then you would enter her given name, followed by her maiden name in parentheses followed by the names of any previous husbands (in order of marriage). If the middle name is known then you may enter that as well. This example is for a woman named Mary CARTER at birth who was married to a man named Jackson CARTER prior to marrying your ancestor, William LANGLEY. **Example:** Mary (Carter) SMITH or Mary (Carter) SMITH LANGLEY

If there is a nickname that was commonly used for an ancestor, include it in quotes after the given name. Do not use it in place of a given name and do not enclose it in parentheses (parentheses between a given name and surname is used to enclose maiden names and will cause confusion if it is also used for nicknames). If the nickname is a common one (i.e. Kim for Kimberly) it is not necessary to record it. **Example:** Rachel “Shelley” Lynn BROOK

If a person is known by more than one name (i.e. due to adoption, name change, etc.) then include the alternate name or names in parentheses after the surname, preceded by a.k.a. **Example:** William Tom LAKE (a.k.a. William Tom FRENCH)

Be sure to include alternate spellings when your ancestor’s surname has changed over time (possibly due to it being spelled phonetically or due to the surname being changed upon immigration into a new country). Record the earlier usage of the surname first, followed by later usages.

Example: Michael HAIR/HIERS

Don’t be afraid to use the notes field. For example, if you have a female ancestor whose birth name was the same as her husband’s surname, then you will want to make a note of that so that it is not assumed in the future that you had just made a mistake.

**genealogy software programs will each have their own individual rules for entering names. Be sure to read the directions completely so that you get it right the first time!*

- Taken from genealogy.com

New offer for AARP members with Ancestry.com Save 30% on an Ancestry.com® membership

Ancestry.com® is the world’s largest online family history service dedicated to helping everyone discover, preserve and share their family history. People join Ancestry.com® for many reasons - to explore roots, discover their ethnicity, and seek community with distant, perhaps unknown, relatives.

Federal Land Patent Records www.glorerecords.blm.gov/

Federal Land Patents offer researchers a source of information on the initial transfer of land titles from the Federal government to individuals. In addition to verifying title transfer, this information will allow the researcher to associate an individual (Patentee, Assignee, Warrantee, Widow, or Heir) with a specific location (Legal Land Description) and time (Issue Date). We have a variety of Land Patents on our site, including Cash Entry, Homestead and Military Warrant patents.

Library Partners Win NEH Grant to Digitize Free People of Color Documents

The National Endowment for the Humanities recently awarded a grant of \$194,152 to the LSU Libraries Special Collections to digitize, index, and provide free access to family papers, business records, and public documents pertaining to free people of color in Louisiana and the lower Mississippi Valley. “Free People of Color in Louisiana: Revealing an Unknown Past” will bring together collections held by LSU, the Louisiana State Museum in New Orleans, the New Orleans Public Library, The Historic New Orleans Collection, and Tulane University’s Louisiana Research Collection. The collection will be accessible through the Louisiana Digital Library. The grant activities will take place between May 2013 and April 2015. The end product will include 25,000-plus digitized items, data sets, full finding aids for the selected collections, links to collections related to free people of color at other repositories and online exhibitions, bibliographies, contextual information about free people of color, and other scholarly resources.

For more info visit www.lecomite.org
Like Us on Facebook Le Comité has established a Facebook page. If you are a Facebook user, please “Like” us – www.facebook.com/LeComitedesArchives.

Life After Ancestry

It’s been exactly one month, now, since my Ancestry.com membership expired and I’m finding that as time goes by, I’m doing QUITE well. I have had to make some adjustments along the way, but with just a very FEW exceptions, I’m able to do all of my research on other databases.

That said, I DO miss using Ancestry.com as my One-Stop-Shop, but losing, rather CHOOSING, to walk away from Ancestry.com has allowed me to explore and discover information I’d have otherwise missed. I’ve been able to easily find all of my favorite Ancestry.com databases elsewhere, save these:

1930 U.S. Census

WWI Draft Registration Cards

U.S. Public Records Index (Vols. 1 & 2)

In all fairness, I can find both the WWI Draft Registration Cards and the U.S. Public Records Indices on FamilySearch.org, but their search engine is TERRIBLE, simply because I cannot limit my searches in ways most useful to me. For example, if I want to find all of the GOODRICHES living in Shelby County, TN, during the WWI Draft, there’s no way I can do this on FamilySearch.org and actually receive results that conform to my search. I can limit my search by their birthplace and where they registered, but the registration place is often different than their residence. In most instances, the search results provide way too many hits (and virtually NONE of them pertain to my search parameters) or none at all. I truly miss doing my WWI Draft Registration searches on Ancestry.com. But, is it worth it for me to pay \$300 for this luxury? Nope, not yet.

The same goes for the U.S. Public Records Indices. On FamilySearch.org, I can limit it by a birth year range or by their residence, but if I don’t know either of those, I’m left with dozens (if not hundreds) of useless hits. I truly miss being able limit my searches by location and for the results to actually match my search parameters. Again, are these databases worth \$300 per year? Still no.

Now, regarding the 1930 U.S. Census – Heritage Quest has only the partial 1930 census done (five states) with no plans to complete it. And though FamilySearch.org has the entire U.S. Census indexed, there again, their search engine is GAWD-awful, and with no way to streamline the results so that they’re useful to me, it does me no good. PLUS, the images on FamilySearch.org’s 1930 U.S. Census reside on Ancestry.com, and without a paid subscription, I cannot view them. Yes, I miss this, but with the 1920 and 1940 Censuses available elsewhere, 1930 isn’t SO crucial.

ENTER: The *Satellite* Office

My workaround for these three databases is to utilize my new “Satellite” Offices, which resides at either the Berkeley, Oakland or San Francisco Public Libraries. Once or twice a week, I travel to one of my satellites and do all of the Ancestry.com research on their computers that I cannot do at home. Yes, this also means I must contend with the problematic and woefully inferior Ancestry *Library Edition*, but it’s free and it’s better than anything FamilySearch.org has to offer. Just sayin’.

However, as I’m getting into exploring my local libraries, I’ve discovered some truly delightful information I’d never have seen had I stayed at home. All three libraries (SF Main, Berkeley Main and Oakland Main) have delightful local history rooms, chock full of incredible

information. I've developed a personal relationship with several of the employees and I'm enjoying getting to know all the hidden treasures contained within these collections. I would hazard to guess that most of you haven't visited your local public library in a month of Sundays.

As I prepare for my satellite office days, I print out Family History Reports and highlight where the MISSING information will be once I find it. This makes it easier for me to refer to what I already have and to quickly hone-in on what I need to do, especially if I have the computer reserved for only an hour. Though only an hour seems like not a lot of time, since I've done pretty much all of the other research elsewhere, I can get in and get out with plenty of time to spare.

Just this week, I discovered an alternative source for the California Births Index. It had been on Rootsweb for years, but due to privacy concerns several years ago, it was removed, though the Deaths Index remained. The only place you could go for the CA Births Index was Ancestry.com – but not anymore. *CaliforniaBirthIndex.org* provides this information far better than Ancestry ever did. For example, I did a search for “George Douglass,” and here's what I got:

The screenshot shows the website *californiabirthindex.org* with the title "CALIFORNIA BIRTH RECORDS 1905 thru 1995". The search results for "GEORGE DOUGLASS" are displayed, showing a list of records with birth dates and locations. The records are as follows:

Record	Birth Date	Location
George M Douglass, born 09/13/1917 to Ms. Wilkerson in Plumas County	09/13/1917	Plumas County
George E Douglass, born 12/18/1921 to Ms. Fowler in Fresno County	12/18/1921	Fresno County
George A Douglass, born 09/07/1922 to Ms. Upp in Sacramento County	09/07/1922	Sacramento County
George A Douglass, born 07/26/1924 to Ms. Perry in Alameda County	07/26/1924	Alameda County
George Onville Douglass, born 09/09/1947 to Ms. Bybee in Los Angeles County	09/09/1947	Los Angeles County
George Adam Douglass, born 08/07/1961 to Ms. Adams in Orange County	08/07/1961	Orange County

I LOVE how the information is provided. It's free, easy to navigate and you can do a surname-only search (alas, they don't support wild cards).

As I continue along this noble quest, I'll share more of my amazing finds. Life After Ancestry has left some holes, for sure, but it's not nearly as difficult as it was a few weeks ago, and as time goes by, I'm missing my subscription to Ancestry.com less and less AND enjoying getting out of the house more.

- Taken From *gotgenealogy.com*

2014 Southern California Genealogy Jamboree Family History and DNA: Genetic Genealogy In 2014

The 45th Annual Southern California Genealogy Jamboree will be held Friday through Sunday, June 6 through 8, 2014, at the Los Angeles Marriott Burbank in Burbank, California. The theme is “Golden Memories: Decorating

Your Family's History.” Our heritage focus will be on European ancestors. Sessions are scheduled for German, Irish, English / UK, Scotland, Eastern Europe, Italian, Mennonite, Swedish, and Russian, as well as African American and Jewish classes.

The three days of Jamboree are full of classes led by internationally recognized expert genealogists and instructors. We expect to welcome 70 vendors, societies, data providers and others to the exhibit floor.

Special events will provide opportunities for socializing, networking, relaxation, and fun. Take time to read the Jamboree website to learn how to get the most out of the conference, where to stay, sessions to attend, exhibitors to visit, and the genealogical celebrities you have wanted to meet.

Saturday evening will see the culmination of a year-long celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Southern California Genealogical Society.

Following on the heels of an exceptional conference in 2013, SCGS and ISOGG (International Society of Genetic Genealogy) are again joining forces to sponsor Family History and DNA: Genetic Genealogy in 2014. The session will be held on Thursday, June 5, 2014, also at the Los Angeles Marriott Burbank.

With classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced genetic genealogists, the DNA conference will have something for everyone. An outstanding slate of speakers will answer the questions that surround the use of DNA in genealogy.

Online registration is now open for both conferences. Special discounts are available for SCGS members, for early-bird registration before May 1, 2014, and for registering for both DNA and Jamboree events.

Other links you may find useful:

- Register by mail
- Bulletin board flyer for DNA
- Bulletin board flyer for Jamboree
- Bulletin board flyer for DNA and Jamboree combined
- Volunteer during Jamboree
- Advertise in the Syllabus or Mobile App
- Exhibitor Registration Form

Visit our website at <http://www.scsgsgenealogy.com>

CAAGS is accepting door prize donations for our 2014 holiday party. Please see Norma Bates or email her at teapotnorma@yahoo.com



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P.O. Box 8442

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Third Saturday monthly at 11:45am (dark July and August)

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(Old Culver City Courthouse across from VA building)

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Ronald Higgins – Immediate Past President

TBA – First Vice President

Carolyn Conway – Second Vice President /Membership

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Open – Historian

Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor

Alvia Cross – FGS Delegate

Open – Volunteer Chairman

President's Message

By Dr. Edna Briggs

Are You A Genealogist or Family Historian?

In about 1994 or 1995, I announced that I had become a “self-appointed ***Family Historian***” to my family. Afterwards, I used this title at family reunions and other events, and everyone understood what it meant. At some point later, I was informed that I should use the title of “Genealogist” instead, because a Family Historian was merely a “***collector of names,***” whereas a Genealogist was one who studies the family’s history by utilizing a variety of valid resources to research names, dates, places and relationships. The resources may include census and land records, birth, marriage and death certificates, church records, deeds and wills and other family records.

When I flipped the switch and announced to my family that my new title was “Genealogist,” the general response was “***genee- what?***” A longer explanation was then needed to explain why I wanted them to complete a family group sheet for me.

While attending the 2012 Jamboree sponsored by the Southern California Genealogy Society, I ran into one of their officers, Alice Fairhurst. After sharing my definition dilemma with her, she promptly marched me to a table in the Exhibit Hall where three individuals were seated. They were instructors representing three major genealogist certification programs.

When I explained my dilemma and asked if there were formal or mandated definitions for these titles, their collective response was “no”. There are no recognized

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Los Angeles Marriott Burbank in Burbank, California. The theme is "Golden Memories: Decorating Your Family's History." For registration & info www.scgsgenealogy.com

June 21

CAAGS Board meeting, 10 am - 11:30 am
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General membership meeting/Guest Speaker, 1-3

July 19

Summer break, no CAAGS meeting

August 16

Summer break, no CAAGS meeting

** Calendar is subject to change without notice*

President's Message continued...

formal or legal qualifications for individuals who call themselves Genealogists or Family Historians. They indicated that communities of genealogists recognize their members via Societies and Associations based on years of experience and specialization in researching family histories and family trees. They state that there are many Genealogists who only collect names.

In the 19th century many families designated a literate member of the family to keep note of family history related events (births, deaths, burials, marriages, and more) and this person was referred to as the Family Historian. The Family Historian recorded family history in a 'family bible' - a gem to find as a researcher!

The bottom line from these genealogist certification instructors was it does not matter what you choose to call yourself. It depends on your objective. Completing one of the genealogist certification programs is an option if you may choose to pursue if you want academic credentials.

With or without certification, you may choose to research your ancestors and update your pedigree chart or family tree with new names and dates from time to time. You may primarily keep and catalog family heirlooms, write family histories about your ancestors, maintain a family web site, organize family reunions, compile and publish a collection of family recipes, write a family newsletter, create heritage

scrapbooks, or research the lives of the names on your family tree.

Are you a Genealogist? Family Historian? Family History Researcher? Genealogist? Familiologist? Just interested in family's story? It really does not matter, as long as you DO something about your interest in your family's history and legacy, starting with yourself.

The Family History Library will be offering several classes to help you learn how to do research.

Beginning 3-Day Intensive Family History/Genealogy Training Course offered May 13-15 daily 8:00am - 5:00 pm. Call 310-474-9990 or visit www.lafhl.org to register. There is a fee of \$20 for materials which may be waived. There is an optional beginning computer class offered on May 12 from 1:00pm - 4:00pm.

These **free classes** will be offered:

Finding Ancestral Names for Temple Work - Thursday, May 8th at 1 pm and Sunday, May 18th at 6:30pm.

Gathering Information for Temple Work - Sunday, May 25th at 6:30pm and Thursday, May 29th from 1 - 3pm.

Charles Meigs will offer a class on **African American Research** on May, 3rd from 1 - 2:30pm and a class on Cherokee Research from 2:30- 4:00 pm.

There will be a free **one-day Intensive class on Family Tree** from 10am - 5 pm on Saturday, May 3rd and Thursday, May 22nd.

John Schmal will offer a class on Saturday, May 17th from 1 - 3pm on The Indigenous Roots of Nueva Galicia and Nueva Vizcaya

A class on **Family Tree Sources, Photos, Stories and Documents** will be held at 10 am - 12 noon on Saturday May 24th

Introduction to Genealogy Recording Dates

It is especially important to follow genealogical standards when recording dates as the usual way that you enter a date may be different from the standard date format in another country or a different time period.

*genealogy software programs may have somewhat different standards for recording dates. Many will allow you to record them in the format of your choice and will still allow you to print out charts and forms with the standard genealogical format.

1. When recording dates, use the accepted European standard of DAY, MONTH (spelled out) and four digit YEAR. This is different, for example, than most Americans are used to entering dates. Do not enter dates using a number format. If you enter a date as 02/01/01, people will not know if you meant February 1 or January 2 or if you meant 1801, 1901 or 2001. Example: 30 June, 1993

2. It is usually standard practice to spell months out, but there are also standard abbreviations which may be used. May, June and July are usually not abbreviated. Examples: Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. May June July Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec.

3. Sometimes you may only have an approximate date and you want to indicate that it is not exact. You may specify an approximate date as either "about" (abbreviated abt) or "circa" (abbreviated ca. or c.). Examples: c. 1850, abt December 1850

4. If you know an event occurred before or after a specific date (i.e. you know your ancestor was still living at the time he wrote his will), you might preface the date as bef. or aft. in your records. Example: aft. 19 January, 1771

5. If you are unable to determine an exact date that an event occurred, then try using the records to narrow it down to a specific span of time (i.e. it's a logical assumption that your ancestor would have died between the date a will was signed and the date it was admitted to probate). Record the time span using the abbreviation bet. (between) followed by the dates (in standard date format) with a hyphen between them. Example: bet. 13 Apr. 1789 - 3 May 1880

6. If you find a date in a record which may have multiple interpretations, what should you do? The best method is to enter it exactly as it was written. You can add your interpretation of the date, such as expressing it in the traditional format, by enclosing it in square brackets [] following the original date. Example: 02/01/01 [2 January, 1901]

7. An understanding of the change from the Julian Calendar to the Gregorian calendar is very important to genealogists. This change took place in 1582 by order of Pope Gregory XIII, but it wasn't adopted by England and British North America until 1752. China didn't conform to the Gregorian calendar until 1949! I'm not going to get into too many details here (that could be another entire class), but here is an example of how it can affect genealogy records and why it is important to understand the history of the change to the Gregorian calendar. Example: The "Old Style" calendar was in effect in the British Empire before 1752, when the present (Gregorian) calendar was adopted. The new historical calendar recognized January 1 as the first day of the year, while the ecclesiastical calendar recognized March 25 as the first day. Thus, dates between

those two days prior to the calendar change in 1752 were often written with both year numbers (i.e. 5 January 1712/13). This is referred to as double dating. Also, if a record says "The 6th day of the third month it could be referring to March or May, depending upon the calendar in use at the time. The best rule of thumb is to record dates in your records exactly as written. Then you can go to the historical records to determine the best possible date, depending on the country your ancestor lived in. Include this in brackets after the original date. The French Republican Calendar is another source of possible confusion but because of the complexity of dealing with dates that followed this calendar, I am not going into it here. For more specific information on the Julian, Gregorian, French Republican and other calendars, please see Calendars and Dates.

- Taken from *Aboutgenealogy.com*

Lunch and Learn

Looking for a place to learn more about genealogy and how to do family research? **Lunch & Learn** is simply the best place to do just that. **Free and open to the public**, it is one of the SCGS's most popular educational programs. Please join us soon.

The library will NOT be open for research during these hours.

2014 Dates:

- May 14
- June 10
- September TBA - Road Trip to Family History Center, Salt Lake City, UT

Doors open at 12noon

Lunch - Noon to 1p.m. Sit, chat, and share your genealogy stories and questions while eating your brown bag lunch.
Learn - 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. with questions & answers.

Location: 417 Irving Drive, Burbank, CA 91504
Southern California Genealogy Society building
Contact: Charlotte Bocale Rubymoon01@yahoo.com

Saturday, May 10, 2014

1:00 - 3:15 p.m. Speaker - SCGS IT Team

"Questions & Answers on your personal computers and genealogical software."

Legacy Family Tree Webinars

Millennia Corporation and FamilyTreeWebinars.com are pleased to announce that registration is now open for its

2014 Legacy Family Tree Webinar Series. Choose from a variety of classes from genealogy's leading educators on topics ranging from genealogy technology to in-depth research methodologies and evidence analysis. Legacy Family Tree Webinars was awarded the Best Genealogy Education or Learning Experience by the About.com 2013 Genealogy Readers' Choice Awards.

Sign up for one or for all of them today (so you don't forget later) and you will receive a reminder email both one day and one hour prior to the live event by visiting our website, www.familytreewebinars.com

May 2014

- 50 Year View - What I've Learned Climbing My Family Tree by Tom Kemp. 5/7
- Photo Apps for Android, iPhones or iPads by Maureen Taylor. 5/14
- I Had My DNA Tested - Now What? by Ugo Perego. 5/21
- Using Tax Lists to Solve Genealogical Problems by Linda Woodward Geiger. 5/28

June 2014

- German Internet Research: A Launching Place for Your Research by Kory Meyerink. 6/11
- 10 Ways to Jumpstart Your Family History Narrative by Lisa Alzo. 6/13
- Copyright Mythconceptions by Judy Russell. 6/18
- Documenting Native American Families in 19th and 20th Century Records by Angela Walton-Raji. 6/25

July 2014

- Thinking About Becoming a Board-certified Genealogist? by Elissa Scalise Powell. 7/9
- Legacy Family Tree - Virtual User's Group Meeting by Legacy Family Tree Panel. 7/11
- When Freedom Came - Documenting the Family's Freedom Story by Angela Walton-Raji. 7/16
- Researching Your Illinois Ancestors by Thomas MacEntee. 7/23

August 2014

- Researching Your Tennessee Ancestors by J. Mark Lowe. 8/6
- Research Recharge - Turning Old Clues into New Leads by Lisa Alzo. 8/8
- Find A Grave - The World's Largest Cemetery Database by Russ Worthington. 8/20
- Researching Your Italian Ancestors by Ruth Merriman. 8/27

September 2014

- Researching Your Jewish Ancestors by Jennifer Alford. 9/3
- Legacy Family Tree - Virtual User's Group Meeting by Legacy Family Tree Panel. 9/5
- Success with Manuscript Sources by Barbara Renick. 9/10
- Evaluating Evidence and Resolving Discrepancies by Kory Meyerink. 9/17
- A Library at Your Fingertips - the Internet Archive by Maureen Taylor. 9/24

October 2014

- The Fair Court: Records of Chancery Courts by Judy Russell. 10/1
- Overcoming Destroyed or Missing Records by Karen Clifford. 10/3
- Welcome to FamilySearch Indexing! by Devin Ashby. 10/8
- Researching Your War of 1812 Ancestor by Thomas MacEntee. 10/15
- Tracking Migration Using the Draper Manuscripts by Mary Hill. 10/22

November 2014

- Legacy Family Tree - Virtual User's Group Meeting by Legacy Family Tree Panel. 11/14
- Using Evernote for Genealogy by Lisa Louise Cooke. 11/19

December 2014

- Family History for Kids by Devin Ashby. 12/3
- Look Ma, No Hands! Using Dragon Naturally Speaking for Your Genealogy by Ivan Baugh. 10/5
- Researching Your North Carolina Ancestors by J. Mark Lowe. 12/10
- Bagging a Live One - Connecting with Cousins You Never Knew You Had by Mary Kircher Roddy. 12/17

FamilyTreeWebinars.com memberships

All live webinars are free, and their recordings are free to watch for the next 7 days. If you missed a previous webinar you can now have access to the entire archives and instructors' handouts through a monthly or annual webinar membership. Go to our website for more information or to subscribe.

CAAGS is accepting door prize donations for our 2014 holiday party. Please see Norma Bates or email her at teapotnorma@yahoo.com



Heritage Newsletter

California African American Genealogical Society

June/July 2014 Volume 26 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 11:45am (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)

2014 Board of Directors

Dr. Edna Briggs – President
Ronald Higgins – Immediate Past President
TBA – First Vice President
Carolyn Conway – Second Vice President /Membership
Cartellia Bryant – Corresponding Secretary
Alvia Cross – Recording Secretary
Esther Bohannon – Treasurer
Idella Slaughter – Parliamentarian
Website – www.caags.org

Committee Chairs

Open – Book Sales and Acquisitions
Open – Public Relations/Fundraising Chairman
LaVerne Anderson – Librarian
Open – Historian
Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor
Alvia Cross – FGS Delegate
Open – Volunteer Chairman

President's Message
By Dr. Edna Briggs

As we head into summer, many will look forward to opportunities to continue researching our families' histories in whatever we do – travel far and near for fun or to a conference, attending family reunions, or just spending time in a local library or museum. No matter the choice, there are many things to do.

During June we will only need to travel a short distance to Burbank for the Southern California Genealogical Society's Annual Jamboree. The program this year looks extraordinary. If you attend, remember to stop at CAAGS table in the Exhibit Hall.

During August, a trip to the Los Angeles Central Public Library is being planned. The Genealogy Librarian will provide an orientation, after which you'll be able to explore the resources there for Los Angeles, California, and for nearly any other state in the USA.

Remember to check CAAGS web site from time-to-time during the summer. You may be pleasantly surprised by what you'll find. And most of all, take time to share your research with your family and others in any form – writing a story or book, making a presentation at a family reunion, creating a scrapbook or video, or get started on your 2015 family calendar.

Wishing all a safe, prosperous and resourceful summer!

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

2014 Calendar of Events

June 6-8

45th Annual Southern California Genealogy Jamboree
Los Angeles Marriott Burbank in Burbank, California. The theme is "Golden Memories: Decorating Your Family's History." For registration & info www.scsgenealogy.com

June 21

CAAGS Board meeting, 10 am - 11:30 am
Beginner/Intermediate Classes, 11:45 am - 12:45 pm
General membership meeting/Guest Speaker, 1-3
Stanley Viltz, Ed.D topic - Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome

July 19

Summer break, no CAAGS meeting

August 9

Save the date - field trip to LA City Public Library, details to come

August 16

Summer break, no CAAGS meeting

September 20

Welcome Back! Show & Tell

** Calendar is subject to change without notice*

with dementia and early on-set Alzheimer's but she continues to embody the fighting spirit by making the necessary adjustments to ensure that she can maintain her active lifestyle. Marilyn E.P. White is a woman of many talents and a generous spirit; which we hope to showcase through the ages with the Marilyn E.P. White Legacy Project. We are raising money in order to create an oral history, describe Marilyn's archival materials at the Mayme A. Clayton Library and Museum, and maintain a website dedicated to Marilyn's legacy. If you are interested in donating (any sum helps) to this project, checks can be made out to CAAGS, (with Marilyn E.P. White Legacy Project in the memo) and mailed to: California African American Genealogical Society, Inc. (CAAGS) P.O. Box 8442, Los Angeles, CA 90008-0442. CAAGS will provide written acknowledgement of all contributions. For more information on Ms. White, this project, as well as updates on our fundraising progress, you can visit the website www.mepwlegacy.wordpress.com.

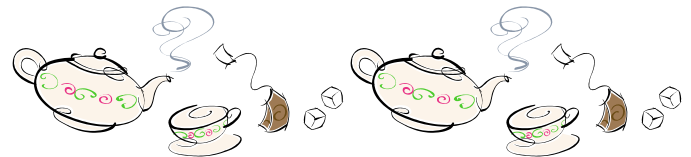
Our condolences to CAAGS member Idella Slaughter on the passing of her brother on May 18th whom lived Flint, Michigan.

Marilyn White Legacy Project



Ms. Marilyn White, circa 1945

The California African American Genealogical Society (CAAGS), Mayme A. Clayton Library and Museum (MCLM) and C. Marie Archival Consulting (CMAC) have joined together to create a very special opportunity to celebrate the life and legacy of a remarkable citizen of Los Angeles, Ms. Marilyn E.P. White. Ms. White's biggest claim to fame was her track and field appearance at the 1964 Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo Japan, where she, along with her teammates Willye White, Wyomia Tyus and Edith McGuire won the silver medal in the 4x100 meters relay. Beyond the Olympics, Ms. White has excelled as an educator, a genealogist, a motivational speaker, a musician, a poet, a jewelry maker and a source of inspiration as a breast cancer survivor. Ms. White was recently diagnosed



CAAGS is planning a Stay At Home Tea for October 12, 2014. Many of you are familiar with this popular fundraiser. Details on how to participate will be coming soon or you can contact Norma Bates at teapotnorma@yahoo.com

Allensworth State Historical Park *From the California State Park Guide*

A century has passed since the founding of this unique town dedicated to the dignity of the human spirit. Although the centennial celebration is now a part of history, there are still plenty of opportunities to come learn about Colonel Allen Allensworth and the courageous group of families and individuals who believed they could create their own version of the "American Dream." Come experience the inspiring story of the people who came to an isolated spot in the southern San Joaquin Valley to build a place of their own—a place where hard work, dedication, and faith would allow them and their children the opportunity to control their own discrimination-free destiny.

Allensworth History

In August 1908 Colonel Allen Allensworth and four other settlers established a town founded, financed and governed

by African Americans. Their dream of developing an abundant and thriving community stemmed directly from a strong belief in programs that allowed blacks to help themselves create better lives. By 1910 Allensworth's success was the focus of many national newspaper articles praising the town and its inhabitants.

An unavoidable set of circumstances made it impossible for the residents of this tiny town located 30 miles north of Bakersfield to achieve their founders' dreams over the long term. But the town did remain home to a handful of families and individuals throughout the 20th century, and true to the courage and resolve of its founders, the town has survived and persevered, earning the well-deserved title "The town that refused to die."

In 1974 California State Parks purchased land within the historical townsite of Allensworth, and it became Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park. Today a collection of lovingly restored and reconstructed early 20th-century buildings—including the Colonel's house, historic schoolhouse, Baptist church, and library—once again dots this flat farm country, giving new life to the dreams of these visionary pioneers.

Allensworth is the only California town to be founded, financed and governed by African Americans. The small farming community was founded in 1908 by Colonel Allen Allensworth and a group of others dedicated to improving the economic and social status of African Americans. Uncontrollable circumstances, including a drop in the area's water table, resulted in the town's demise. With continuing restoration and special events, the town is coming back to life as a state historic park. The park's visitor center features a film about the site. A yearly rededication ceremony reaffirms the vision of the pioneers.

Allen Allensworth was born a slave in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1842. At the age of 12, he was "sold down river" for trying to learn to read and write. After some trading by slave dealers, he was taken to New Orleans, and bought by a slaveholder to become a jockey. The Civil War started, and when the Union forces neared Louisville, Allensworth found his chance for freedom. He joined the Navy and when he was discharged, he had achieved the rank of first class petty officer. In 1871, he was ordained as a Baptist minister and entered the Baptist Theological Institute at Nashville. While serving at the Union Baptist Church in Cincinnati, he learned of the need for African American chaplains in the armed services, and got an appointment as Chaplain of the 24th Infantry.

He had seen many African Americans move west after the Civil War to escape discrimination. With four other men with similar vision, Allensworth decided to establish a place where African Americans could live and thrive without oppression. On June 30, 1908, they formed the California Colony Home Promoting Association. They selected an area in Tulare County because it was fertile,

there was plenty of water, and the land was available and inexpensive. They first bought 20 acres, and later, 80 more. The little town with a big vision grew rapidly for several years -- to more than 200 inhabitants, by 1914. That same year Allensworth became a voting precinct and a judicial district. Colonel Allensworth was killed on September 14, 1914, when hit by a motorcycle, while getting off a streetcar in Monrovia. After a funeral at the Second Baptist Church in Los Angeles, he was buried with full military honors.

Since most of the water for Allensworth farming had to come underground from the Sierra Nevada mountains, and there were many other farms and communities between the mountains and Allensworth, the water supply for the town and farms began to dry up. The next blow was the Great Depression that hit the whole country in the early 1930s. Public services began to shut down, and many residents moved to the cities to look for work. The Post Office closed in 1931. By the 1940s, most of the residents were migratory farm workers, and the population was mainly a mixture of Blacks and Hispanics. Housing deteriorated, as most of the people didn't consider Allensworth their permanent home. The population had shrunk to 90, in 1972, and later dropped to almost zero.



Annual Rededication Event

October 11th, 2014, Saturday, 10 am-4 pm

Join us for the last event of the 2014 event year at the annual Rededication. This festive event is presented to renew our commitment to the park and its symbolic representation of self-determination for all African Americans in the areas of education and economic development. A puppet show featuring "Colonel Allensworth" will also be presented.

A 5K Walk/Run will also take place October 12th at the park. The walk/run begins at 9 am and will finish in time to allow participants to take part in other Rededication Day activities. Registration is available online or by mail. For more information, contact Project Coordinator Dorothy Benjamin at (916) 346-4767.

10 Fun Family History Activities for Family Reunions

- By Kimberly Powell

Like many families, you and your relatives may have made plans to get together this summer. What a great opportunity for sharing stories and family history! Give one of these 10 fun family history activities a try at your next family reunion to get people talking, sharing and having fun.

1) Memory T-Shirts

If you have more than one branch of an extended family attending your reunion, consider identifying each branch with a different colored shirt. To further incorporate the family history theme, scan in a photo of the branch's progenitor and print it out on an iron-on transfer with identifiers such as "Joe's Kid" or "Joe's Grandkid." These color-coded photo t-shirts make it easy to tell at a glance who is related to who. Color-coded family tree name tags offer a more inexpensive variation.

2) Photo Swap

Invite attendees to bring their old, historic family photos to the reunion, including pictures of people (great, great-grandpa), places (churches, cemetery, the old homestead) and even previous reunions. Encourage everyone to label their photos with the names of the photographees, the date of the photo, and their own name and an ID number (a different number to identify each photo). If you can get a volunteer to bring a scanner and laptop computer with CD burner, then set up a scanning table and create a CD of everyone's photos. You can even encourage people to bring more photos by offering a free CD for each 10 photos contributed. The rest of the CDs you can sell to interested family members to help defray costs of the scanning and CD burning. If your family isn't very tech-savvy, then set up a table with the photos and include signup sheets where people can order copies of their favorites (by name and ID number).

3) Family Scavenger Hunt

Fun for all ages, but an especially good way to get the kids involved, a family scavenger hunt ensures plenty of interaction between different generations. Create a form or booklet with family-related questions such as: What was great-grandfather Powell's first name? Which Aunt had twins? Where and when were Grandma and Grandpa Bishop married? Is there someone born in the same state as you? Set a deadline, and then gather the family together to judge the results. If you wish, you can award prizes to the people who get the most answers correct, and the booklets themselves make nice reunion souvenirs.

5) Family Tree Wall Chart

Create a large family tree chart to display on a wall, including as many generations of the family as possible. Family members can use it to fill in the blanks and correct any inaccurate information. Wall charts are popular with reunion attendees as they help people visual their place within the family. The finished product also provides a great source of genealogical information.

5) Heritage Cookbook

Invite attendees to submit favorite family recipes -- from their own family or one passed down from a distant ancestor. Ask them to include details on, memories of and a photo (when available) of the family member best known for the dish. The collected recipes can then be turned into a wonderful family cookbook. A great fundraising project for the following year's reunion!

6) Storytime

A rare opportunity to hear interesting and funny stories about your family, a storytelling hour can really encourage family memories. If everyone agrees, have someone audiotape or videotape this session.

7) Tour into the Past

If your family reunion is held near where the family originated, then schedule a trip to the old family homestead, church or cemetery. You can use this as an opportunity to share family memories, or go a step further and recruit the clan to clean up the ancestral cemetery plots or research the family in old church records (be sure to schedule with the pastor in advance). This is a particularly special activity when many members are attending from out-of-town.

8) Family History Skits & Re-enactments

Using stories from your own family history, have groups of attendees develop skits or plays that will retell the tales at your family reunion. You can even stage these reenactments at places that are of importance to your family such as homes, schools, churches and parks (see Tour into the Past above). Non-actors can get into the fun by modeling vintage clothing or ancestral outfits.

9) Oral History Odyssey

Find someone with a video camera who is willing to interview different members about the family. If the reunion is in honor of a special event (Grandma and Grandpa's 50th Anniversary) ask people to talk about the guest(s) of honor. Or ask questions on other select memories, such as growing up on the old homestead. You'll be surprised how differently people remember the same place or event.

10) Memorabilia Table

Set up a table for attendees to bring and display treasured family memorabilia - historic photos, military medals, old jewelry, family bibles, etc. Be sure all items are carefully labeled and the table is always hosted.

Juneteenth Trivia

On June 19th, two years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, Union soldiers land at Galveston, Texas, with news that the war has ended and that the slaves are free. The Emancipation Proclamation had little impact on the Texans due to the minimal number of Union troops to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation.



Heritage Newsletter

California African American Genealogical Society

August/September 2014 Volume 26 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 11:45am (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)

2014 Board of Directors
Dr. Edna Briggs – President
Ronald Higgins – Immediate Past President
Open – First Vice President
Carolyn Conway – Second Vice President /Membership
Cartellia Bryant – Corresponding Secretary
Open – Recording Secretary
Christina Ashe – Treasurer
Open – Parliamentarian
Website – www.caags.org

Committee Chairs
Open – Book Sales and Acquisitions
Open – Public Relations/Fundraising Chairman
LaVerne Anderson – Librarian
Open – Historian
Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor
Open – FGS Delegate
Open – Volunteer Chairman

President's Message **By Dr. Edna Briggs**

“Who Wrote This Obituary?”

Obituaries often serve as valuable resources for clues or information on relatives. Therefore when writing an obituary, it is important that the family members listed have a distinct bloodline connection to the deceased and his/her ancestors.

Recently I attended a memorial service for a family friend, whose family history was somewhat familiar to me. The obituary contained a colorful assortment of photos, poems and a vivid description of the deceased person's life, all of which coincided with my personal knowledge of the family. However, when I reached the section where the survivors were listed, I felt a strong urge to jump up and shout, “*Who wrote this?*”

In addition to listing the bloodline family members, those who were from the bloodline of the deceased person's spouse were also included. In and of itself, this was not a bad thing to do, however, the in-laws were not labeled as such. Giving the appearance that the in-laws were bloodline relatives could cause unnecessary confusion, and possibly result in leaving a blueprint for a false “family tree” in print should future generations decide to research their genealogy.

In preventing this from happening to you, there are several options, of which there are at least two (2) that you may want to consider—

- Share your family history research with other family members, especially the young folks,

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

using media such as written articles or books, tape recordings, videos, blogs, etc.

- Simply put, **WRITE YOUR OWN OBITUARY!!**
Leave it with someone who is familiar with you, your research, and your bloodline.

Looking for help or support? Consider attending CAAGS new Writers' Group sessions that will start in September 2014

Trust that your summer went well and that you will be ready for "SHOW & TELL" at our September general membership meeting. Email me if you have questions or comments, I want to hear from you....ednafriggs@att.net.

2014 Calendar of Events

September 20

Welcome Back! Bring a Show & Tell item to present
CAAGS Board meeting, 10 am - 11:30 am
Beginner/Intermediate Classes, 11:45 am - 12:45 pm
General membership meeting/Show and Tell, 1-3

September 26

Writers Group 10am-noon, 4th Friday of each month; \$5 suggested donation for non-members; Mayme Clayton Library and Museum; for more info www.caags.org or email info@caags.org

October 12

CAAGS Stay At Home Tea

October 18

CAAGS Board meeting, 10 am - 11:30 am
Beginner/Intermediate Classes, 11:45 am - 12:45 pm
General membership meeting/Guest Speaker, 1-3

** Calendar is subject to change without notice*

CAAGS Business Cards

Norma Bates will have a limited number of CAAGS business cards available for disbursement to members at the September meeting for those whom would like them. You can also use these cards as a sample format for making your own.

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

Top 10 Places to Put Your Family History Online

By Kimberly Powell

The Internet is a great way to connect with family, and the perfect medium for collaborating on your shared family history. Putting your family tree on the Web allows other relatives to view your information and add their own. It is

also a great way to exchange family photos, recipes and stories.

These sites and software options include the tools you need to put your family tree online, along with photos, sources and pedigree charts. Some offer additional features such as chat, message boards and password protection. Many are free!

1. RootsWeb WorldConnect

If you like to keep things pretty simple, then RootsWeb WorldConnect is a wonderful (and free) option. Just upload your GEDCOM and your family tree will be available online for anyone searching the WorldConnect database. There is no option for private Web sites, but you can use controls to easily protect the privacy of living people. One caveat! WorldConnect sites often don't rank very well in Google search results unless you add a lot of keyword-rich text!

2. Ancestry Member Trees

Free, but no records access without subscription

While access to most records at Ancestry.com requires a subscription, Ancestry Member Trees is a free service - and one of the largest and fastest growing collections of family trees on the Web. Trees can be made public or kept private from other Ancestry subscribers, and you can also give family members free access to your trees without the need for an Ancestry subscription. While you don't need a subscription to create a tree, upload photos, etc., you will need one if you want to search, use and attach records from Ancestry.com to your online trees.

3. TNG - The Next Generation - \$29.99 for the software

Want to have complete control over the look and feel of your online family tree? Ready to tackle your own Web site? If so, then TNG (The Next Generation) is one of the best self-publishing options available for genealogists. Just import a GEDCOM file and TNG gives you the tools to publish it online, complete with photos, sources and even tagged Google Maps. For those of you Master Genealogist users, check out Second Site (\$29.95) - a great tool for getting information out of your TMG database and onto the Web! For both options, you will need your own Web site.

4. WeRelate - Free

This free, public service genealogy Wiki (Wikipedia is type of Wiki) allows you to create a profile to tell others about your research interests, to receive and respond to emails from other users without publishing your email address, to create online family trees and personal research pages, and to collaborate with other users. The service is completely free, thanks to the Foundation for Online Genealogy, Inc. and the Allen County Public Library, and very easy to use. But if you're looking for a private family Web site option, WeRelate isn't the place for you. This is a *collaborative*

Web site, which means others will be able to add to and edit your work.

5. FamilyLink.com & We're Related on Facebook

Free

Facebook users have a great family tree option from FamilyLink.com which offers one of Facebook's most popular free applications – We're Related - which helps individuals stay in touch with their families through photo sharing, a news feed, birthday reminders, and an online family tree function. For a more robust online family tree, FamilyLink.com also offers the free WebTree.com service.

6. FreePages at RootsWeb - Free

Free unlimited Web space for family history sites is the premise behind Freepages at RootsWeb. The site options are basic and not password protected, but they are entirely free. You can FTP your own HTML files (great for family trees created by your family history software) or use the online editor. Ancestry.com, which owns and operates RootsWeb, will display banner ads on your Web site.

7. Geni.com - Free for basic version

This social networking site's primary focus is connecting family, allowing you to easily create a family tree and invite other family members to join you. Each individual in the tree has a profile; family members can work together to build profiles for common ancestors. Other features include a Family Calendar, an editable Family Timeline and a Family News feature which highlights new additions and upcoming events from sites within a user's Family Group. All of the basic functions are completely free, although they do offer a pro version with extra tools.

8. MyHeritage - Free (limited)

A host of free genealogy tools enable you to let you create your family's own meeting place on the Internet where you can share family photos, post your family tree online, trace the family's medical history and keep track of important family events. Plus, free Family Tree Builder genealogy software and a genealogy search engine to help you expand your family history research. The basic level of online Family Pages (limited to 250 people and 250MB of storage) is free, but you'll have to put up with advertisements. Two subscription levels offer great storage and no ads (only one family member needs the paid subscription). All Family Pages (even the free ones) allow you to use the free software, make your site public or private, share photos and videos and use the applications such as calendar and message boards. Family Tree Builderwww.myheritage.com World's best genealogy program Free and easy to use Free Birth Records Onlinebirth.archives.com 1) Search Birth Records for Free 2) Find the Records Instantly!

9. MyFamily.com - \$9.95 per family group the first year, \$29.95 per year thereafter

A modest annual subscription fee (per family group, not per person) gives you up to 1GB per member in monthly uploads. The extras at MyFamily.com make the fee more than reasonable. A standard site includes email accounts for unlimited family members, space for sharing photos and family history files, and no popup ads. The sites are safe and password protected, and also feature a private message board and chatroom, a family calendar, blog, iPhone app, and even space for video and voice clips!

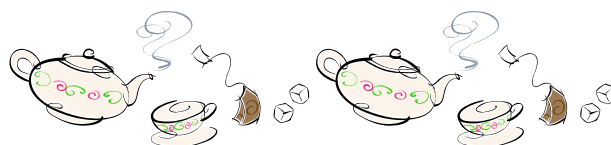
10. Tribal Pages - Free

Tribal Pages provides 10 MB of free Web space just for family history sites. Your genealogy data is stored securely, and you can set an optional password for viewing your site. Each free family history site allows you to upload a GEDCOM file and photos and comes with ancestor and descendant charts, ahnentafel reports, an events page, photo album and a relationship tool. You can include your family names in their database so your Web site can be found by other researchers, or keep it private.

Find Famous Graves

Now is the perfect time to honor someone who touched your life, whether war hero or hero at home. See the graves of thousands of famous people from around the world. Find the graves of ancestors, create virtual memorials, add 'virtual flowers' and a note to a loved one's grave, etc.

Visit Find A Grave to make your headstone photo requests by using the Find A Grave website or mobile app. Either way it'll make your gift all the more meaningful. Visit their website at www.findagrave.com



CAAGS is planning a Stay At Home Tea for October 12th
Many of you are familiar with this popular fundraiser.
Details on how to participate will be discussed
at the September meeting or you can contact
Norma Bates at teapotnorma@yahoo.com

National Geographic Concludes What Americans Will Look Like in 2050, and It's Beautiful

By Zak Cheney-Rice April 10, 2014

It's no secret that interracial relationships are trending upward, and in a matter of years we'll have Tindered, OKCupid-ed and otherwise sexed ourselves into one giant amalgamated mega-race.

But what will we look like? National Geographic built its 125th anniversary issue around this very question last October, commissioning Martin Schoeller, a renowned

photographer and portrait artist, to capture the lovely faces of our nation's multiracial future.

Here's how the "average American" will look by the year 2050:



Image Credit: *National Geographic*

Wow. These are obviously not Photoshopped projections, but real people, meaning tomorrow's America lives among us now in every "Blackanese," "Filatino," "Chicanese" and "Korgentinian" you meet at the DMV, grocery store or wherever it is you hang out.

Their numbers will only grow. The U.S. Census Bureau let respondents check more than one race for the first time in 2000, and 6.8 million people did so. By 2010 that figure had increased to nearly 9 million, a spike of about 32%. This is certainly encouraging, but there are obvious flaws with tracking racial population growth through a survey that lets people self-identify, especially since so many familial, cultural and even geographical factors influence your decision to claim one or multiple races. Complicating things further is the definition of race itself: It has no basis in biology, yet its constructions, functions and mythologies irrevocably shape the world as we know it.

So is an end approaching? Will increased racial mixing finally and permanently redefine how we imagine our racial identities? The latest figures suggest we're getting more comfortable with the idea, or perhaps that we simply give fewer shits than ever before. Either would be a step in the right direction.

The Wall Street Journal reported a few years back that 15% of new marriages in 2010 were between individuals of different races. It's unclear whether they've included same-sex unions in the count, but as currently stated, this number is more than double what it was 25 years ago. The proportion of intermarriages also varied by race, with "9% of whites, 17% of blacks, 26% of Hispanics and 28% of Asians [marrying] outside their ethnic or racial group." Interracial unions now account for 8.4% of all marriages in the U.S.

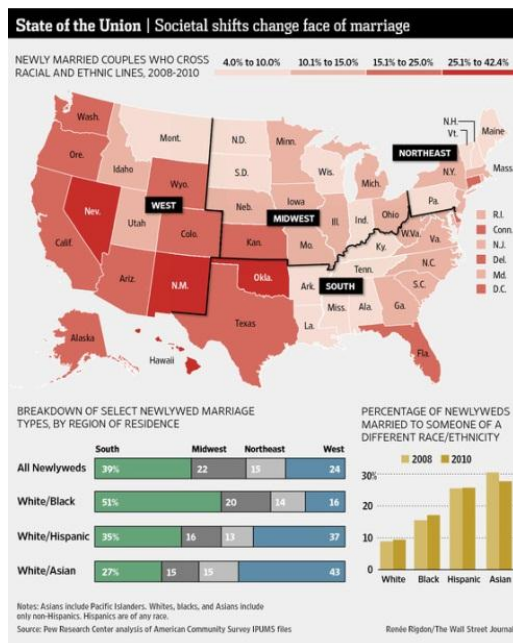


Image Credit: *Wall Street Journal*

In addition, more than 7% of the 3.5 million children born in 2009, the year before the 2010 census, were of two or more races.

The future: As for how this looks moving forward, studies have repeatedly shown that young people, especially those under 30, are significantly more amenable to interracial relationships than older adults, while college grads are more likely to have positive attitudes toward them than those with only a high school diploma. What does this mean for Millennials? As a population composed largely of over-educated 20-somethings, our generation is primed and expected to play a major role in populating this projected future America. That goes double if you live in a Western state, where people intermarry at higher rates; Hawaii is winning at the moment, with 4 of 10 new marriages identifying as interracial.

This doesn't mean it's all sunshine, rainbows and butterflies, however. Stark segregation still plagues many parts of the country. Poverty remains a barrier to social mobility and its consequent opportunities to interact with a diverse range of people. Sadly, the inequalities that shape American society as a whole are equally present in interracial relationship patterns. Time will tell if this holds for the long term.

But in the meantime, let us applaud these growing rates of intermixing for what they are: An encouraging symbol of a rapidly changing America. 2050 remains decades away, but if these images are any preview, it's definitely a year worth waiting for.

CAAGS is accepting door prize donations for our 2014 holiday party. Please see Norma Bates or email her at teapotnorma@yahoo.com



Heritage Newsletter

California African American Genealogical Society

October 2014 Volume 26 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 11:45am (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)

2014 Board of Directors

Dr. Edna Briggs – President
Ronald Higgins – Immediate Past President
Open – First Vice President
Carolyn Conway – Second Vice President /Membership
Cartellia Bryant – Corresponding Secretary
Open – Recording Secretary
Christina Ashe – Treasurer
Open – Parliamentarian
Website – www.caags.org

Committee Chairs

Open – Book Sales and Acquisitions
Open – Public Relations/Fundraising Chairman
LaVerne Anderson – Librarian
Open – Historian
Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor
Open – FGS Delegate
Open – Volunteer Chairman

U.S. Historical Newspapers Online - State by State

By Kimberly Powell - Genealogy Expert

Search indexed newspapers or browse the actual digitized pages of hundreds of digitized historical newspapers online. This listing of historical newspapers online by state includes many, but not all, of the available U.S. historical newspapers online. Most historical newspapers listed here are free.

➤ **Alabama**

Birmingham Iron Age, 1874-1887 - Free, from the Birmingham Public Library Digital Collections

➤ **Alaska**

Tundra Times, 1962-1997 - The “voice of Alaskan Natives,” online for free access from the Tuzzy Library at Ilisagvik College.

➤ **Arizona**

Casa Grande Newspaper Project, 1912-2007 - Search more than 267,735 historical newspaper pages online for free thanks to the Casa Grande Public Library.

➤ **Arkansas**

Northwest Arkansas Times (Fayetteville), 1937-1977 - Part of Ancestry.com's historical newspaper collection, along with selected years of several other Arkansas newspapers. Subscription required.

Arkansas Gazette, 1819-1899 - Just one of several historical Arkansas newspapers available online through GenealogyBank.com. Subscription required.

➤ **California**

Amador Ledger, 1900-1911 - Online as part of the free California Digital Newspaper Collection

Alta California, 1849-1910 - a daily San Francisco newspaper, online as part of the free California Digital Newspaper Collection

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

2014 Calendar of Events

October 12

CAAGS Stay At Home Tea

October 18

CAAGS Board meeting, 10 am - 11:30 am

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

General membership meeting/Guest Speaker, 1-3

October 24

Writers Group 10am-noon, 4th Friday of each month; \$5 suggested donation for non-members; Mayme Clayton Library and Museum; for more info www.caags.org or email info@caags.org

November 15

CAAGS Board meeting, 10 am - 11:30 am

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

General membership meeting/Guest Speaker, 1-3

** Calendar is subject to change without notice*

A special thanks to the below volunteers for assisting at the CAAGS booth

Leimert Park Book Fair at Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza

Marie Bryant	Odessa Yocum
DorothyLou Sands	Ron Higgins
Lulla Denson	Norma Bates
Michelle LeDoux	Edna Briggs
Rene Cochee	Linda Webb
Barbara Phillips	

Park Mesa Heights Unity Festival

Marie Bryant	Ron Higgins
DorothyLou Sands	Ashbury Ellis
Linda Webb	



CAAGS Stay At Home Tea is October 12th. Please plan on participating in this popular fundraiser. For info, contact Norma Bates at teapotnorma@yahoo.com

- Historical Newspapers Continued

Colorado

Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection - 140+ historical newspapers online, published in Colorado from 1859-1923, including the *Daily Rocky Mountain News* from Denver.

➤ Connecticut

The Hartford Courant, 1764-1984 - Online archives from the *Hartford Courant* offers free index searching, but requires a per article fee to access actual newspaper documents.

➤ Florida

Boca Raton Newspapers Collection, 1938-1970 - Free collection of several "hometown newspapers" from the Boca Raton Historical Society.

Chronicling America, 1836-1922 - This free historical newspapers collection from the Library of Congress offers access to several dozen different Florida newspapers, including the Gainesville Daily Sun, Pensacola Daily News and the Florida Agriculturist.

Florida Digital Newspaper Library, mid-1800s through present - Hundreds of Florida newspapers have been digitized and made available online for free viewing through this massive project.

St. Petersburg Times/St. Petersburg Evening Independent, 1901-present - Google News Archive hosts free digitized copies of these two long-time St. Petersburg newspapers. Enter "St. Petersburg" or the paper name in the source box.

➤ Georgia

The Cherokee Phoenix, 1828-1833 - American Indian newspaper, online for free viewing as part of the Georgia Historic Newspapers collection.

The Colored Tribune, 1876 - Savannah-based, African-American newspaper. From the Georgia Historic Newspapers collection.

The Dublin Post, 1878-1887 - Online for free viewing as part of the Georgia Historic Newspapers collection.
Rome News-Tribune, 1910-1999 - Selected issues, most from 1910, and from 1950-1990, are available online for free viewing through Google News Archive. Enter "Rome News" in the source box.

➤ Hawaii

Ulukau: Hawaiian Electronic Library, 1834-1948 - A collection of historic Hawaiian language newspapers available for free searching and browsing.

Hawaiian Language Newspapers, 1834-1927 - More than a dozen historic newspapers with free online access from the University of Hawaii. Scattered dates and titles available.

➤ Illinois

Barrington Review, 1914-1930 - Free access to full-page reproductions from January 1, 1914-December 29, 1921 and April 23, 1925-November 13, 1930. Also available, an index to births, deaths and marriages from the *Barrington Courier-Review* from 1890-2006.

Illinois Digital Newspaper Collection, 1895-1945 - Titles available include the *Daily Illini* (1916-1945), the *Urbana Daily Courier* (1903-1935), and the *Express - Tallula, Illinois* (1895-1896, scattered issues). Free!

Chicago Tribune Archive - Historic article images from 1852 to the present. There is a fee for individual article

access, or available via subscription from ProQuest Historical Newspapers (check with your local library). *Chicago Defender Archive* – Historic article images from 1905–1975. There is a fee for individual article access, or available via subscription from ProQuest Historical Newspapers (check with your local library). *Quincy Historical Newspaper Archive*, 1835-1919 - Free access to the *Quincy Daily Whig*, *Quincy Daily Herald* and *Quincy Daily Journal*. *Flora Digital Newspapers Collection* - Free, online historical newspapers from Flora and Clay County in Southern Illinois from the Illinois Digital Archives. *Chronicling America*, 1836–1922 – Includes the *Chicago Eagle* (1889–1922) and the *Cairo Bulletin* (1868–1878), plus a few others.

➤ **Indiana**

Muncie Post-Democrat, 1921-1950 - Includes issues of the historic anti-Ku Klux Klan newspaper published by George Dale from 1921 until his death in 1936, and continued as a local newspaper after his death until the 1950s. Free!

➤ **Iowa**

Adams County Free Press, 1876-2000 - Over 100,000 digitized pages online for free searching and viewing. Cedar Rapids Newspaper Archives, 1857-1998 - Free online access to a number of Cedar Rapids area historical newspapers, including the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, *Des Moines Daily News* and *Iowa State Leader*. *Charles City Press*, 1930-2007 - A free online database containing more than 3,300 historical newspaper pages from the Floyd County Museum. *Sioux County Newspaper Archives*, 1878-2000 - Search or browse over a dozen Sioux County historical newspapers for free.

➤ **Kansas**

Kansas Memory Historic Newspapers, 1850-1987 - Selected pages and articles from historical newspapers across the state. *Chronicling America*, 1836–1922 - Explore selected issues from over 20 historical Kansas newspapers in this free digitized collection from the Library of Congress. *GenealogyBank* - Historic Kansas Newspapers, 1841-1981 - Selected (mostly short) runs from over 68 historic African-American Kansas newspapers can be searched and viewed through a subscription to GenealogyBank, including such newspapers as the Wichita Searchlight and the State Ledger (Topeka). *Ancestry Historical Newspaper Collection* - Kansas - Subscription-based site Ancestry.com offers digitized issues of the *Atchison Globe*, in its various incarnations, from 1882-1976, plus the *Great Bend Tribune*, *Salina Journal*, and *Western Kansas Press*.

➤ **Kentucky**

Historic Kentucky Newspapers, 1896-1916 - The Kentuckiana Digital Library has over 35 historic Kentucky

newspapers online for free searching and viewing. Available issues vary by paper - from one to several thousand.

➤ **Louisiana**

New Orleans Bee, 1827-1953 - Free PDF files are browseable by date, but there is no other search feature. From the Jefferson Parish Library.

Louisiana Newspaper Access Program – A small number of the earliest newspaper issues from each of Louisiana's 64 parishes.

Chronicling America, 1836–1922 – This free historical newspapers collection from the Library of Congress offers access to over fifty historical Louisiana newspapers, including the Louisiana Democrat, the Colfax Chronicle and the Madison Journal.

Google News Archive – Digitized Louisiana newspapers in the Google News Archive collection include a large run of the New Orleans Commercial Bulletin, the Louisiana Courier, the New-Orleans Tagliche Deutliche Beitung and the Louisiana Staats-Zeitung.

➤ **Maryland**

Google News Archive – Browseable and searchable Maryland newspapers in the Google News Archive collection include the Baltimore Afro-Eagle (1933-2003) and the American Eagle (1856-1857).

Maryland Early State Records Online, Newspapers, 1802–1947 – Browseable only, these digitized early Maryland newspapers date as early as the 1802 American and Commercial Daily Advertiser to the Civil War era Baltimore Clipper and more recent Cambridge Chronicle (1830–1947).

Maryland Gazette Collection, 1728–1839 – Browseable, digitized pages from the Maryland State Archives.

➤ **Massachusetts**

The Barnstable Patriot Digital Archive, 1830–1930 - Searchable digitized newspaper covers Cape Cod and the Islands, plus the Hyannis Patriot (1894-1930) and Sandwich Observer (1910-1911). From the Sturgis Library. *The Chatham Monitor & Cape Cod Chronicle Historical Collection* – The Eldredge Public Library has digitized and made available online their entire collection of historic Chatham newspapers.

Provincetown Advocate – Search the Provincetown Public Library's digitized collection of Provincetown area newspapers, including the Provincetown Advocate, Provincetown Banner, Provincetown Beacon and News Beacon.

Boston Globe Historical Archive – Historic article images from 1872-1922, plus current content from 1979-present. There is a fee for individual article access, or available via subscription from ProQuest Historical Newspapers (check with your local library).

The Liberator – Digitized images from 1831-1865 can be searched or browsed for this influential anti-slavery

newspaper published by abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison. Available with a subscription to Accessible Archives.

➤ **Michigan**

Cass City Newspapers - Free PDF images of the Cass City Chronicle (1981–2009) and Enterprise (1881–1906) from the Rawson Memorial Library.

The Commercial Record (Saugatuck) – Back issues of this Saugatuck-Douglas community newspaper are available for browsing for most of the period 1868–1967. A small portion of the content has been indexed and is searchable. Grosse Pointe Newspapers – Includes the Grosse Pointe News (1940–present), Grosse Pointe Review (1930–1952), and Grosse Pointe Civic News (1923–1934). From the Grosse Pointe Public Library.

Making of Modern Michigan – Dozens of historical newspapers dating back to the mid-1800s are available from a cooperative of 52 participating libraries, including the Manchester Enterprise (1867-1892) and Owosso Press (1862-1869).

Lake Orion Review – Searchable archive covering the years 1868-1957 from the Orion Township Public Library.

➤ **Minnesota**

Holt Weekly News - Searchable and browsable archive of the community newspaper Holt Weekly News from 1911-1952.

Minnesota Digital Newspaper Project – A great gateway page to the Minnesota historical newspapers available online at Chronicling America, including various incarnations of the Saint Paul Globe (1878–1905) and Bemidji Pioneer (1896–1922).

Winona Newspaper Project – This searchable archive includes available issues of the Winona Argus (1854 and 1857), the Winona Daily Republican (1860–1901), the Winona Republican-Herald (1901–1954), and the Winona Daily News (1954–1976).

➤ **Mississippi**

The Citizens' Council - Digitized issues of the newspaper of the white supremacist Citizens' Council of Mississippi, published from October 1955 to September 1961.

Ancestry Historical Newspaper Collection, Mississippi – Subscription-based access to ten historical Mississippi newspapers, including several incarnations of the Daily Democrat Times (1904–1912 and 1930–1977) from Greenville, Mississippi.

The Memphis Daily Appeal – Although located in Memphis, Tennessee, this newspaper included several Mississippi towns in its coverage area, including Hernando, Grenada, Jackson, and Vicksburg, Mississippi.

➤ **Missouri**

Chillicothe Constitution Tribune – Searchable archive of more than 320,447 newspaper pages from the Chillicothe Constitution Tribune, 1889-2006.

Missouri Digital Heritage, Newspapers – Online archive of historic newspapers from St. Louis and other locations from the collections of various Missouri libraries and historical societies.

Chronicling America 1836–1922 – Over three dozen historical Missouri newspapers can be searched or browsed in this free online collection from the Library of Congress. Includes the St. Joseph Observer, Jackson Herald, and many others.

➤ **Montana**

Chronicling America - A small handful of Montana historical newspapers are available online as part of this free Library of Congress project; the two largest runs are The Anaconda Standard (1889-1970) and Daily Yellowstone Journal (1882-1893).

Digital CharKoosta News – Digitization of this newspaper published by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Indian Reservation covers the years 1956 to 1961, and 1971 to 1988.

➤ **Nebraska**

Nebraska Newspapers - Searchable full-text of selected Nebraska newspapers published in the state before 1923, plus great background information on each newspaper. These newspapers also available through Chronicling America.

Chronicling America – Nebraska newspapers digitized in this freely available full-text database from the Library of Congress include The Dakota County Herald (1891-1965), Omaha Daily Bee (1872-1922), Columbus Journal (1874-1911) and The Red Cloud Chief (1873-1923).

The Ord Quiz – This historic newspaper from the Ord Township Library is available as searchable PDFs, browsable by date.

➤ **Nevada**

Las Vegas Age Digital Newspaper Collection, 1905–1924 - Digital images of the Las Vegas Age from the special collections of the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District. Published from 7 Apr 1905–30 Nov 1947, but several issues are missing, including all of 1916.

Henderson Libraries Digital Collection – Includes two newspapers dating back to the mid-20th century – The Henderson Home News (1951-current), and The Big Job and Basic Bombardier newsletters (1940s) from the BMI magnesium plant in Henderson, Nevada.

➤ **New Hampshire**

Paper of Record - A few short runs of historical New Hampshire papers, including The White Mountain Reporter and Carroll County Independent, are available online from the subscription-based site, Paper of Record.

Newspaper Archive – Several New Hampshire newspapers can be accessed via a subscription to Newspaper Archive, including the Portsmouth Herald (1898–2007).



Heritage Newsletter

California African American Genealogical Society

November 2014 Volume 26 Number 9
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P.O. Box 8442
Los Angeles, CA 90008-0442

General Membership Meetings
Third Saturday monthly at 11:45am (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)

2014 Board of Directors

Dr. Edna Briggs – President
Ronald Higgins – Immediate Past President
Open – First Vice President
Carolyn Conway – Second Vice President /Membership
Cartellia Bryant – Corresponding Secretary
Open – Recording Secretary
Christina Ashe – Treasurer
Open – Parliamentarian
Website – www.caags.org

Committee Chairs

Open – Book Sales and Acquisitions
Open – Public Relations/Fundraising Chairman
LaVerne Anderson – Librarian
Open – Historian
Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor
Open – FGS Delegate
Open – Volunteer Chairman

President's Message **By Dr. Edna Briggs**

Our October CAAGS meeting was a tremendous success!. First we celebrated Marilyn White's 70th birthday with kind words spoken by her track coach (Coach Fred Jones), with poems dedicated by Ronald Higgins, and with a birthday cake. All were truly inspired when little Miss LeeYana Ashe came forward as the song leader, leading us in singing "Happy Birthday To You" and topping it off by blowing a kiss to Marilyn.

Later, Alice Fairhurst, Co-chair of the Southern California Genealogical Society's (SCGS) DNA Special Interest Group, spoke on "Interpreting DNA Results." I believe that the majority of us left knowing a bit more about the three DNA tests that are most useful in genealogical research, the best testing companies, and the advantages and disadvantages of tests and the companies. She encouraged us to seek help from SCGS's DNA Special Interest Group by attending their quarterly meetings which are held at the SCGC Library 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
417 Irving Drive, Burbank, CA 91504
818-843-7274 or visit them at www.scgsgenealogy.com

2014 Meeting Dates: November 29th
2015 Meeting Dates: January 31st, May 24th, August 29th, October 31st

Charles Meigs will be our guest speaker at our November 15th meeting. The topic will focus on finding your connections to famous people.

Please join us!!

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

2014 Calendar of Events

November 15

CAAGS Board meeting, 10 am - 11:30 am
Beginner/Intermediate Classes, 11:45 am - 12:45 pm
General membership meeting/Guest Speaker, 1-3; Charles Meigs, Finding Connections to Famous People

November 28

Writers Group 10am-noon, 4th Friday of each month; \$5 suggested donation for non-members; Mayme Clayton Library and Museum; for more info www.caags.org or email info@caags.org

December 20

CAAGS Holiday Party 11am - CAAGS is accepting door prizes for our holiday party. Please see Norma Bates or email her at teapotnorma@yahoo.com if you have a donation

December 25 – January 1, 2015

Happy Holidays

January 17, 2015

CAAGS Board meeting, 10 am - 11:30 am
Beginner/Intermediate Classes, 11:45 am - 12:45 pm
General membership meeting/Guest Speaker, 1-3

** Calendar is subject to change without notice*

2014 Election of Officers

November is CAAGS election month. We are looking for candidates to fill the following offices: 1st Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer and Parliamentarian. For the duties of each office please refer to your By Laws. Each office is for a two year team. The nominations committee will be contacting members to find interested candidates or if you would like to nominate yourself to run for an office please contact Carolyn Conway at fam.histr@yahoo.com

CAAGS Cookbook – Holiday Gift

A copy of "Recipes to Remember" would make an excellent gift for the holidays or any other celebration. If you would like to purchase a copy(s), inquire at the November meeting, contact any Board member or info@caags.org.

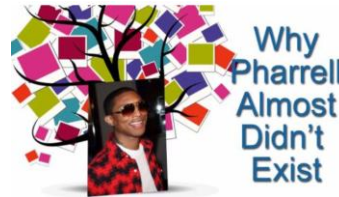
◆◆ GENEii Family History - Writing Contest ◆◆

NOW is the time to write your family's history. Submissions will be accepted for the 2014 GENEii Family History Writing Contest beginning November 1, 2014. The contest closes on December 31, 2014.

The GENEii Writing Contest is for factual articles: either family history or local history, character sketches, or

memoirs. Winning entries capture a sense of a family's experience(s), the character of a locality, or reveal an individual's character and personality. Complete contest rules and a brochure can be downloaded at www.scgsgenealogy.com. Winning stories for the past 10 years can also be found on their website.

Cash prizes are awarded in two categories: articles (1000 to 2000 words: \$200, \$100, and \$50) and Category 2 (under 1000 words: \$100, \$50, and \$25).



Peek Into the Family Tree of Pharrell Williams

Here's a quick synopsis - those of you who like all the nitty-gritty details can find more at <http://www.megansmolenyak.com/pharrell/>

Every one of us is an amalgamation not only of all our ancestors, but of their decisions, and in 1831, Ambrose Hawkins was contemplating moving his family from America to Africa. Had he done so, his son Joseph would have been raised in Liberia instead of North Carolina and never would have become Pharrell Williams's third great-grandfather.

As it happens, Ambrose did go to Liberia, but opted for a solo round trip, rather than a family migration. If not for this last minute change of plans, the gene pool that would eventually produce Pharrell couldn't have crystallized. He wouldn't exist and the rest of us would be considerably less *Happy*. We wouldn't *Get Lucky* and those *Blurred Lines* would remain clearly demarcated. All because one man changed his mind 183 years ago.

The Phenomenon of Pharrell

If you didn't know who Pharrell Williams was last year, you certainly know now. Long a major player in the music and fashion industries, his public profile exploded when we all started noticing the fellow with the park ranger hat (@Pharrellhat boasts more than 20,000 followers on Twitter) showing up at every awards ceremony as both a performer and recipient. Around the same time, *Happy* became a worldwide sensation sending people from Poland to Cambodia into spasms of gleeful, unfettered, YouTube-shared dancing.

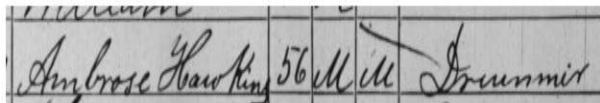
Pharrell's Family Tree

A Virginia Beach native and adopted favorite son of Miami, the cultural icon has one son named Rocket with his wife, Helen Lasichanh, but what about the family tree that produced him? I was curious, so decided to investigate.

Rarely have I researched a family that was so geographically concentrated. Generations of his forebears have called Virginia and North Carolina home. Virginia Beach and Norfolk feature prominently, as do Nash, Halifax, Johnston and Currituck counties in North Carolina. His tree is populated primarily by common surnames – Williams, Johnson, Allen, Edwards and Cooper among them – but also peppered with intriguing first names such as Cain, China, Fenner, General, Hilliard, and my favorite, Napoleon Bonaparte, known to his friends as “Bone.” But of all those ancestors, it was Ambrose Hawkins who caught my attention.

Why Ambrose?

Ambrose Hawkins was born about 170 years before Pharrell and was just one of his 64 fourth great-grandparents, so why obsess on him? On the surface, his life was ordinary enough. Born in Halifax County, North Carolina, he lived there all of his life. He married as a young man of 20 or so and had at least five children with his first wife before she passed away, prompting him to marry a second time.



1860 Federal Census entry for Ambrose Hawkins (National Archives and Records Administration)

Like many other family members, he worked as a shoemaker, though it brought a smile to my face when I noticed that the 1860 census recorded his occupation as drummer. As one who believes that non-physical traits are also passed down through the generations, I thought I had stumbled on to a scrap of evidence that Pharrell was not the first in his family to be musically inclined, but then it dawned on me that Ambrose was likely a shoe drummer, the term once used for representatives of footwear manufacturers. A heartbeat later, I flashed back to the Swarovski crystal-encrusted Adidas Pharrell wore on *SNL*, *Good Morning America*, and *Ellen*, and realized that his roots were claiming him after all.

A Free Person of Color

Fellow history buffs will understand that it was the very fact that Ambrose appeared in the 1860 census that made me do a double take because this told me that he was free before Emancipation. He was, in the parlance of the day, a “free person of color.” Had he been enslaved, he would have been reduced to a nameless entry of gender, age and race (typically, black or mulatto) on the slave schedule of his owner – a genealogical reality that robs descendants of critical clues for uncovering the lives of these relatives. But Ambrose and his family members, like roughly ten percent of African Americans at the time, were free before the Civil War and that meant there would be more of a paper trail to follow.

I began meandering back through the decades taking care not to confuse Pharrell’s ancestor with two white men also named Ambrose Hawkins living in the same vicinity. Fortunately, they were fairly easy to sort out due to age differences. It was clear that Ambrose was well regarded in the community as obtaining a gun license in the 1840s required a petition signed by five or more “respectable neighbors,” a qualification he was able to meet.

I kept working my way back and was able to find him as early as the 1830 census, indicating that he was free by that time. In fact, the more I dug, the more reason I found to believe that his family had been free for some time – well into the 1700s. Regrettably, I was unable to find documents that could explain how or when the Hawkinses secured their freedom, but at least one branch of the family claims Native heritage. While many more people think they have Native ancestry than actually do (DNA testing has shown this to be the case), this possibility offers a plausible theory. Several years ago, I researched the family tree of Michelle Obama, the largest portion of which also straddled the Virginia-North Carolina border (in her case, further west than Pharrell’s family). In that instance, a circa-1800 court case involving a woman who obtained her freedom based on Native descent shed light on one of the First Lady’s lines, but if such records exist for Pharrell’s family, they have yet to be discovered.

An African Connection

Since this goal eluded me, I focused on finding out whatever I could about Ambrose Hawkins and that’s when I first learned of a possible connection to Africa. Taking advantage of his somewhat unusual name, I tried googling it in conjunction with a variety of other relevant words, and tripped across several mentions from *The African Repository and Colonial Journal* of the American Colonization Society (ACS).

I wasn’t entirely sure it was him, but the first reference was excerpted from a letter written by a “gentleman in North Carolina,” apparently in 1831. The correspondent, whose name was not included, described Ambrose as “a very worthy and respectable colored man,” so it seemed likely since the two white, North Carolina-based Ambrose Hawkinses could be ruled out.

Frankly, I wanted it to be him as the letter described a curious proposition: Ambrose Hawkins wished to visit the colony to see things for himself, but didn’t intend to stay. “Should he be permitted to return and bring a favorable report,” the writer continued, “I have no doubt that a large number of emigrants would go immediately to the Colony.”

I was familiar enough with the American Colonization Society and its role in the founding of the country of Liberia to realize that the colony in question was in West Africa. So rather astonishingly, Ambrose, a free man of

color, was essentially campaigning to take a 9,200 mile round trip to Africa in 1831. Moreover, he was a man of influence whose opinion was valued by others – enough that they would consider emigrating based on his word.

I thought that identifying the letter-writer might offer confirmation that this Ambrose was indeed Pharrell's ancestor, so burrowed deeper. Further exploration of the online ACS's journal turned up a single entry that looked promising: "Joseph R. Gray, of Halifax Co., NC liberates 14." Since the opening line of the correspondence that mentioned Ambrose read, "I have come to the determination of placing my slaves (14 in number) at the disposal of the American Colonization Society," it seemed that this was probably the right man.

A quick search of the 1830 census turned up a Joseph J. Gray who lived very close to Pharrell's fourth great-grandfather – just four census pages away. The same record indicated that he owned 14 slaves. Everything but the middle initial matched, so I was confident that this was the "gentleman from North Carolina" and the right Ambrose.

Having learned that the Society's original records were housed at the Library of Congress, I decided to go look for myself. A finding aid informed me that ACS records for this timeframe were voluminous, but roughly chronological and now I knew whose letters to look for. My hope? Maybe there would be other mentions of Ambrose or even a letter or two from him. But first, I needed to refresh my memory on the American Colonization Society.

American Colonization Society

With apologies in advance for this over-simplification, the American Colonization Society was created in 1816 with the objective of transporting free blacks from America to a colony in Africa. Paul Cuffee, a New England sea captain of African and Native heritage, piloted the idea in 1815 by taking 38 individuals to Sierra Leone, but passed away before getting much further – though not before inspiring others. Among the founders and early members of the ACS were notables of the time including Henry Clay, Francis Scott Key, Daniel Webster, Andrew Jackson, and Bushrod Washington, the Society's first president, a Supreme Court Justice, and nephew of George Washington.

Sponsoring the first emigrants in 1820, the ACS would ultimately be instrumental in sending thousands of Americans to Africa, as well as in the establishment of Liberia (Descendants of the earliest emigrants would run the country for over 130 years from the time of its official founding in 1847.). The organization dwindled in the early-1900s, but wasn't formally dissolved until 1964. It was controversial from inception and remains so today with academic consensus shifting over time, not surprising given the mixed bag of motivations behind the Society and among its supporters and members.

Some abolitionists, for instance, believed that blacks would never have equal opportunities in America, so would be better off in Africa. But these benevolent intentions were countered by those who regarded blacks as inferior and a burden to society. Still others perceived free blacks as a threat because they might undercut wages, or worse, incite slaves to revolt. So it was that a peculiar coalition, encompassing everyone from Quakers to slaveholders, formed. While they held widely divergent views, they found common purpose in "repatriation." The solution, they felt, was to "re-convey them to the land of their fathers" – "them" being free persons of color.

In language and logic that makes us wince today, the Society argued, "If we received them *slaves*, return them *freemen*. If they came hither *Pagans*, let them go back *Christians* – bearing with them the example and the fruits of civilized life, and the still more inestimable tidings of salvation, to the hordes of Africa." This approach would relieve "the South from danger, and the North from pauperism."

These quotes, complete with their deliberately italicized words, come from a letter written on December 10, 1831 by W.A. Duer, President of the New York chapter of the Society, as well as President of Columbia University. That same day, Pharrell's ancestor, Ambrose Hawkins, was on a ship headed to Liberia.

- Taken from *Honoring Our Ancestors Newsletter*

Black History Month Tour to Dakar, Senegal, Banjul and The Gambia February 14-25, 2015

\$3532 per person based on double occupancy. For general information contact Colette DeVerge, Genealogist and Los Angeles Travel Consultant, PH 323 933 8381. Registration form and details can also be found at www.caags.org

☪ LUNCH AND LEARN ☪

Southern California Genealogical Society and Family Research Library

417 Irving Drive, Burbank, CA
818-843-7247

Saturday, November 8th

Lunch - 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

1:00 – 3:00 p.m. The SCGS IT Team "Answers your Questions on PC's and Genealogical Software"

The SCGS Information Technology team will give a presentation on computers, both for general use and for genealogy research. Bring your laptop and the staff will work hands-on with you.

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



Heritage Newsletter

California African American Genealogical Society

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

General Membership Meetings
Third Saturday monthly at 11:45am (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)

2014 Board of Directors

Dr. Edna Briggs – President
Ronald Higgins – Immediate Past President
Open – First Vice President
Carolyn Conway – Second Vice President /Membership
Cartellia Bryant – Corresponding Secretary
Open – Recording Secretary
Christina Ashe – Treasurer
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Website – www.caags.org

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Open – Historian
Monica Maurasse – Newsletter Editor
Open – FGS Delegate
Open – Volunteer Chairman

President's Message By Dr. Edna Briggs

My Year-End Message to You

The Board and I would like to take a moment to wish each CAAGS Member the best for the upcoming holidays. We appreciate the privilege of serving on the Board, and as the year closes we will pause to reflect, meditate, and move on.

As we approach the beginning of a new year, it is important that we reflect on our accomplishments during 2014. Following are some highlights:

- * In January, our tax exempt status was fully restored.
- * By March-April, all of the Society's corporate documents were filed as required for 2014, with all local, state and federal agencies.
- * Our redesigned web site was released on the www.
- * In May, our "Recipes to Remember" cookbook fundraising project was launched.
- * In September, the new Writers' Group was established and held its first monthly meeting.
- * We also launched the Marilyn E.P. White Legacy Project and celebrated Marilyn's 70th birthday in October.

What does this say about a Society that is surviving and thriving after nearly 29 years? What's our secret? It's you our Members, your family and friends who faithfully donate your time, energy and financial support.

Why donate this year to CAAGS? In addition to addressing our fixed obligations (rent, telephone,

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

subscriptions, etc.), we plan educational programs around what you tell us is important. Guest speakers are offered an honorarium. We acquired some minimum equipment that will enable better presentation of our collection at the MCLM and secure our records. We must strive to attract new members by staying up-to-date with technology and information services, and acquire items needed for our outreach activities.

We welcome your feedback for improving the Society. As 2014 closes, please consider making a tax deductible donation to CAAGS. Your donation in whatever amount you choose will assist us in sustaining our current obligations, activities, and in planning for future growth and enhancements. We look forward to your continued confidence and support.

2014 Calendar of Events

December 20

CAAGS Holiday Party \$17, 11am – Royal Buffet, 3310 West Century Blvd., Inglewood, CA; No general meeting

December 31

2014 GENEii Family History Writing Contest closes. Brochure and complete rules can be downloaded at www.scgsgenealogy.com

December 26 – January 1, 2015

Happy Kwanzaa

January 17, 2015

CAAGS Board meeting, 10 am - 11:30 am
Beginner/Intermediate Classes, 11:45 am - 12:45 pm
General membership meeting/Guest Speaker, 1-3
Installation of 2015 Officers; Dr. Joice Lewis – speaker
Healing the Nation's Racial, Political, Social and Economical Wounds Through an Understanding of American History

** Calendar is subject to change without notice*

Membership Renewal

If you haven't done so, please renew your CAAGS membership for 2015. Current members whom have not renewed by March 2015 will be dropped from our roster.

CAAGS Cookbook – Holiday Gift

A copy of "Recipes to Remember" would make an excellent gift for the holidays or any other celebration. If you would like to purchase a copy(s), inquire at the December meeting, contact any Board member or info@caags.org.

Black History Month Tour to Dakar, Senegal, Banjul and The Gambia February 14-25, 2015

\$3532 per person based on double occupancy. For general information contact Colette DeVerge, Genealogist and Los Angeles Travel Consultant, PH 323 933 8381. Registration form and details can also be found at www.caags.org

Murrysville Woman Claims She's Virgin Mary's Cousin 65 Times Removed

MURRYSVILLE, Pa. —A Westmoreland County woman claims she is the 64th great-granddaughter of Saint Joseph Ben Matthat Arimathaea, who was the paternal uncle to the Virgin Mary.

Mary Beth Webb, of Murrysville, said she began searching her ancestry in 2010 after years of "communicating" with her deceased mother, father and brother. While doing the research on ancestry.com over a two-year period, Webb discovered the connection to Saint Joseph.

Saint Joseph of Arimathaea is written about in the Bible and is credited for providing the tomb in which Jesus Christ's body was placed following his execution on the cross. Webb's ancestry page shows the Virgin Mary is her first cousin 65 times removed.

Webb emailed the website to share her discovery, and said a spokesperson replied with skepticism. "They said, 'Well, that's nice, but you probably made a mistake along the way because that's easy to do,'" Webb said.

The journey into her ancestry began in 1999 when her brother, Donald, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and given six months to live. Webb claims she and her cousin began communicating with her parents, who had died years earlier.

"We would ask questions about Heaven, what it was like when you crossed over. I've gotten a really detailed account of what happened to my brother when he passed," Webb said. "I always asked them what it was like, and they said it was beautiful. Imagine the most beautiful place that you can, a beautiful garden."

Over the years, Webb's cousin has been the medium for the conversation, and would communicate messages from Webb's parents to her that included details only those three could know, Webb said, adding there is no way her cousin could have known some of those stories.

Webb wrote notes from all of the encounters and self-published a book on the experiences prior to discovering her lineage.

Webb said she published the book because she wants to share her story with the world and anyone who may be grieving the loss of a loved one. When asked why she didn't post her story for free on a website so people could access it without paying for a book, Webb said she hadn't thought of that prior to publishing the book, but said she did create a website after the book was published.

Webb said she understands not everyone will believe her, but she hopes her experiences provide hope for those grief-stricken over a loved one's death.

"I know a lot of people are skeptical and want proof and all that. I can only share what happened to me and hope they can learn from it," Webb said.

Read more: <http://www.wtae.com/news/murrysville-woman-claims-she-is-virgin-marys-cousin-65-times-removed/25553566#ixzz2zHxreJCY>

Mind Mapping for Genealogists

What is a Mind map?

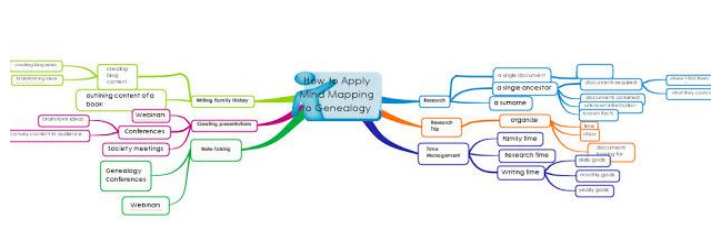
A mind map is a visual means of conveying ideas and information. It's a tool that helps you to structure, analyze and generate new thoughts in a visual format. The term "mind map" is in fact a trademark of the Buzan Organization. The brain child of Tony Buzan, his theory is that mind maps apparently resemble how your brain actually works and by utilizing them they can engage your brain in a richer manner allowing you to be more creative and aid in memory function. How I've come to understand them, they help me to do a brain dump into a pretty colourful visual picture when I have too many ideas to juggle and chaos has taken over in my brain.

How can I apply mind mapping to my genealogy?

- Mind mapping can aid in genealogical research, problem solving and breaking down brick walls. For instance, take Elizabeth Shown Mills Quick Lesson No. 6. In this post, Elizabeth demonstrates a mind map for a single record and how that one record generates numerous research options in a number of directions. She displays it visually in a mind map. Mind mapping your genealogy research can be done on a number of levels. For example, a single document as demonstrated by Ms. Mills or a single ancestor, or a surname. Consider mind mapping at every stage and level of your research to help identify, clarify and problem solve.
- Mind mapping allows us to see the bigger picture while also giving us the ability to break that big picture into detailed information. You can take a large project such as writing your family history, an overwhelming task for many, and break it down into manageable chunks.
- Mind mapping can help you organize mental clutter and information overload. We are all overwhelmed with juggling research, writing, blogging, clients, speaking

and creating presentations. Mind mapping can help you organize your priorities and time.

- Planning a research trip, regardless of whether it's a large scale trip to an ancestral hometown or to an archive, a mind map can help you create a game plan for your trip. A mind map will help to keep your goals in focus while organizing them into manageable tasks, increasing your chances of success and leaving you feeling less overwhelmed and distracted while at your destination.
- Any kind of large genealogy project can benefit from a mind map, writing a book or blog, creating a webinar or presentation for your local genealogical society or for a conference. Mind mapping can help you to clarify your goal and brainstorm ideas and keep you on point. Mind maps allow you to make associations easily and generate new ideas. As a genealogy speaker, mind maps can help you to convey your message to your audience.
- On the flip side if you are attending a genealogy conference or webinar mind mapping is a great note taking tool. Mind maps can help you summarize information during a conference in a quick and easy visual display.



Mind Mapping Software

There are several mind mapping software programs on the market today. Tony Buzan's iMindMap comes in a free basic version with more advanced options at a price. The mind map included here, visually demonstrates the information for this post. It was created on the free basic program of iMindMap5. Freemind is another popular and free software program. If you're using mind maps for your own personal use, the free versions will do the trick. If you're looking for more elaborate mind maps for presentations and to use in business you may wish to consider an upgraded version. Many software programs also offer apps for android and iPhone as is the case of iMindMap, allowing you to create a quick mind map on the go when inspiration strikes. You can access your information from anywhere and edit them on the go.

Of course mind maps don't only come in colourful and sometimes expensive software programs. You can create a mind map with a simple pen and paper, post-it-notes work well, as do cue cards on a bulletin board or a white board with erasable markers.

I personally use mind maps in my writing projects. When I

want to create a series of blog posts, I often organize and brainstorm ideas in a mind map. I use minds maps on larger projects including outlining my family history books.

Do You Mind Map? How do you use mind mapping in your genealogy research?

The Arm Chair Genealogist – Research and write your family history www.thearmchairgenealogist.com

Genealogist's Christmas Eve

'Twas the night before Christmas
When all through the house
Not a creature was stirring,
Not even my spouse.

The dining room table with clutter was spread
With pedigree charts and with letters which said...
"Too bad about the data for which you wrote;
Sank in a storm on an ill-fated boat."

Stacks of old copies of wills and such
Were proof that my work had become too much.
Our children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugarplums danced in their heads.

And I at my table was ready to drop
From work on my album with photos to crop.
Christmas was here, and such was my lot
That presents and goodies and toys I'd forgot.

Had I not been busy with grandparents' wills,
I'd not have forgotten to shop for such thrills,
While others bought gifts to bring Christmas cheers,
I'd spent time researching those birth dates and years.

While I was thus musing about my sad plight,
A strange noise on the lawn gave me such a great fright.
Away to the window I flew in a flash,
Tore open the drapes and yanked up the sash.

When what with my wondering eyes should appear,
But an overstuffed sleigh and eight small reindeer.
Up to the house top the reindeer they flew,
With a sleigh full of toys and 'ole Santa Claus, too.

And then in a twinkle, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of thirty-two hoofs.
As I drew in my head, and bumped it on the sash,
Down the cold chimney fell Santa--KER-RASH!

"Dear" Santa had come from the roof in a wreck,
And tracked soot on the carpet, (I could wring his short neck!)
Spotting my face, good 'ole Santa could see
I had no Christmas spirit you'd have to agree.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work
And filled all the stockings, (I felt like a jerk).
Here was Santa, who'd brought us such gladness and joy:
When I'd been too busy for even one toy.

He spied my research on the table all spread
"A genealogist!" He cried! (My face was all red!)
"Tonight I've met many like you," Santa grinned,
As he pulled from his sack a large book he had penned.

I gazed with amusement--the cover it read
Genealogy Lines for Which You Have Plead.
"I know what it's like as a genealogy bug."
He said as he gave me a great Santa hug.

"While the elves make the sleighful of toys I now carry,
I do some research in the North Pole Library!
A special treat I am thus able to bring,
To genealogy folk who can't find a thing."

"Now off you go to your bed for a rest,
I'll clean up the house from this genealogy mess."
As I climbed up the stairs full of gladness and glee,
I looked back at Santa who'd brought much to me.

While settling in bed, I heard Santa's clear whistle,
To his team, which then rose like the down of a thistle.
And I heard him exclaim as he flew out of sight,
"Family history is Fun! Merry Christmas! Goodnight!"

--Author Unknown

Congratulations to our Elected 2015 Board Members

Ron Batiste, 1st Vice President; Christina Ashe, Treasurer and Dr. Stanley Viltz, Parliamentarian. We are still looking for a Recording Secretary, please see any Board member if you are interested in filling that office.

The Twelve Days of Christmas (Genealogy Style)

My true love gave to me
Twelve census searches
Eleven family bibles
Ten e-mail contacts
Nine headstone rubbings
Eight wills and admons
Seven miners mining
Six second cousins
Five coats of arms
Four GEDCOM files
Three old wills
Two CD-ROMs
And a branch in my family tree.

--Author Unknown