

# HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

EDITOR: Gerri Johnson

Vol. 3 No. January 1991

## CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

SOCIETY MEETING: Our meeting will be held on January 19, 1991, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 P.M. The installation of New Officers will take place during our meeting.

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### MEETING LOCATION

BROADWAY FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN  
Community Meeting Room  
110 S. LaBrea Avenue  
Inglewood, CA

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### MEMBERSHIP

THE 1991 MEMBERSHIP FEE IS \$10.00 AND IS NOW DUE. Dues can be paid at our meetings on January 19, February 16, and March 16, 1991 or can be mailed to the V.P. of Membership - Rozella Hall at 1828 W. 50th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90062. Anyone who has not paid by or on March 16, 1991 will be considered DELINQUENT and will be DROPPED FROM THE NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST.

### PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Planning Committee is a part of our organization that helps to bring programs/speakers to our monthly meetings. It is a vital part of our organization and we are interested in what you would like to hear or take place at our monthly meetings.

For instance, if you know of someone who could speak on a historical or genealogical subject or a place that we might take a field trip to further our research, let us know.

Any member interested in being on the 1991 Planning Committee should leave your name with Ronald Higgins or Jamie Hammonds at the January Meeting.

### NOTE

I failed to note that the article in the December issue of the Heritage Newsletter on Social Security Information, submitted by Ed Grey; was written by Barbara Bennett, who worked for the Social Security Administration for 15 years in various local offices as a claims representative and for 4-1/2 years in the enumeration systems branch. Although she is employed by the Social Security Administration she published this information as a private individual and not as a representative of the SSA.

Ed Grey followed the procedures discussed in the above article and has received a copy of the original application of a relative, but not without a few holdups.

## HERITAGE \*\*\* NEWSLETTER

### MUSEUM PRESERVES MOHEGAN LEGACY

Charles Hillinger's America - L.A. Times, Nov. 11, 1990

Uncasville, Conn. - Gladys Tantaquidgeon, one of the last of the Mohegans still is still living here in the traditional home of the once-powerful tribe. The 91 year old is a ninth-generation direct descendant of Chief Uncas and a long line of Mohegan chiefs. He brother, Harold, who died last year, was a chief of the Mohegans for many years.

The small village (population 1,600) on the Thames River 15 miles upstream from New London and the Atlantic Ocean, is named after Uncas, the grand sachem of the Mohegans who lived at the time of the first English settlement here in the 1600's.

Gladys Tantaquidgeon is the official caretaker and protector of the Mohegans' traditions, heritage and artifacts. A three room stone museum was erected on Mohegan Hill in 1931 by her father and brother to house the tribe's treasures. The name Mohegan means wolf people and Tantaquidgeon means going fast. Gladys's aunt, Fidelia Fielding who died in 1908, was the last speaker of the ancient Mohegan language and her father John Tantaquidgeon, who lived from 1865 to 1949, was the last Mohegan basket maker. Many of the baskets along with other artifacts and memorabilia is housed in the Mohegan Museum located in Gladys's backyard.

A few hundred yards from Gladys's home and Mohegan Museum is the picturesque 1831 Mohegan Congregational Church, where church services are still held every Sunday. The Mohegan burial grounds with the monument and grave of Chief Uncas is located at nearby Ft. Shantok State Park. Within the park is Tantaquidgeon Pond, the Chief Samson Occum Bridge over the Thames river and a memorial boulder to Fidelia Fielding.

Contrary to James Fenimore Cooper's famous book "The Last of the Mohicans" published in 1826, the tribe did not die out. One of the heroes of Cooper's historical novel was a Mohegan named Uncas. There are only 35 Mohegans left in Uncasville and approximately 600 scattered throughout the United States. An annual homecoming of Mohegans is held in Uncasville every August.

### BLACK GENEALOGY RECORDS ON MICROFILM

Los Angeles Public Library - Genealogy Department  
433 S. Spring Street, L.A., CA

The following is an Index to compiled service records of volunteer Union soldiers who served with United States Colored Troops.

H E R I T A G E   \* \* \*   N E W S L E T T E R

MICROFILM CALL NUMBER - NR GEN R. 973.7415 I385 Roll Number 1-98.

Records of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia relating to slaves, 1851-1863.

MICROFILM CALL NUMBER - NR GEN R 975.3 U538 Roll Number 1-3.

Registers of indentures of colored orphans, 1865-1866, and Register of marriages of Freedmen, volumes 1-4, 1863-1866.

MICROFILM CALL NUMBER - NR GEN R 976.2 U527 Roll Number 1.

Registers of signatures of depositors in branches of the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company, 1865-1874.

NOTE: This banking institution was founded by Congress in 1865. These registers contain information such as name, birthplace, place of residence as a child, complexion, employer, parents, as well as names of former slave owners and the name of the plantation of residence. All applications do not contain all information.

MICROFILM CALL NUMBER - NR GEN R 975 U52

ROLL NUMBER

- |                            |                                      |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Alabama, Huntsville     | 16. Missouri, St. Louis              |
| 2. Alabama, Mobile         | 17. New York, New York               |
| 3. Arkansas, Little Rock   | 18. North Carolina, New Bern         |
| 4-5. Wash. D.C.            | 19. Penn. Philadelphia               |
| 6. Georgia, Atlanta        | 20. South Carolina, Beaufort         |
| 7. Georgia, Augusta        | 21-23. South Carolina,<br>Charleston |
| 8-10. Georgia, Savannah    | 24. Tennessee, Memphis               |
| 11. Kentucky, Lexington    | 25. Tennessee, Nashville             |
| 11. Kentucky, Louisville   | 26. Virginia, Lynchburg              |
| 12. Louisiana, New Orleans | 26. Virginia, Norfolk                |
| 13. Maryland, Baltimore    | 26-27. Virginia, Richmond            |
| 14. Mississippi, Columbus  |                                      |
| 14. Mississippi, Natchez   |                                      |
| 15. Mississippi, Vicksburg |                                      |

HERITAGE \*\*\* NEWSLETTER

Indexes to deposit ledgers in branches of the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company, 1865-1874.

MICROFILM CALL NUMBER - NR GEN R 975 U52 INDEX.

ROLL NUMBER

- |                           |                               |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Alabama, Huntsville    | 3. Missouri, St. Louis        |
| 1. Arkansas, Little Rock  | 3. New York, New York         |
| 1. Wash. D.C.             | 4. North Carolina, New Bern   |
| 2. Florida, Jacksonville  | 4. North Carolina, Raleigh    |
| 2. Florida, Tallahassee   | 4. North Carolina, Wilmington |
| 2. Georgia, Augusta       | 4. Penn., Philadelphia        |
| 2. Georgia, Savannah      | 4. South Carolina, Beaufort   |
| 2. Kentucky, Lexington    | 4. South Carolina, Charleston |
| 2. Kentucky, Louisville   | 5. Tennessee, Memphis         |
| 3. Louisiana, New Orleans | 5. Tennessee, Nashville       |
| 3. Louisiana, Shreveport  | 5. Virginia, Norfolk          |
| 3. Maryland, Baltimore    | 5. Virginia, Richmond         |
| 3. Mississippi, Natchez   | 5. Unidentified               |

EVENTS

- 1/16/91      ROBERT TAYLOR, CAAGS member will once again be teaching a class in Genealogical Research at the Family History Library (Mormon Temple Library) from 6:00 P.M. to 6:45 P.M. starting Wednesday, January 16, 1991 and continuing throughout the year unless otherwise notified.
- 1/18/91      GEORGE JENKINS, CAAGS member will be speaking at the L.A. Westside Genealogy Society meeting held on Friday, January 18, 1991 at the Burton Chase Community Room at 7:30 P.M., in Burton Chase Park, 13600 Mindinao Way (West End), Marina Del Ray. He will be speaking on his research in Louisiana, Parrish of Orleans. Come at 6:30 for the pre meeting workshop.

# HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

EDITOR: Gerri Johnson

VOL. 3 NO. 2 FEBRUARY 1991

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CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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SOCIETY MEETING: Our meeting will be held on FEBRUARY 23, 1991 (the fourth Saturday) 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 P.M. Robert Taylor will be holding a beginning genealogy class from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

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## MEETING LOCATION

BROADWAY FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN  
Community Meeting Room  
110 S. LaBrea Avenue  
Inglewood, CA

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## SPEAKER

CAAGS MEMBER: RENEE COCHEE

TOPIC: GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

IN THE WEST INDIES

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## MEMBERSHIP

THE 1991 MEMBERSHIP FEE IS \$10.00 AND IS NOW DUE. Dues can be paid at our meetings on February 23, and March 16, 1991 or can be mailed to the V.P. of Membership - Rozella Hall at 1828 W. 50th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90062. Anyone who has not paid by or on March 16, 1991 will be considered DELINQUENT and will be DROPPED FROM THE NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Due to circumstances relating to tighter security, at the Chet Holifield Federal Building, we wish to inform our patrons that the NATIONAL ARCHIVES--PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION will not be open for Genealogical Research the first Saturday of the month beginning in February and until further notice.

HERITAGE \*\*\* NEWSLETTER

If patrons wish to use the research facility on a regular workday, we recommend that they enter the building from the fourth floor entrance on Avila Road. Take the elevator on the left to the first floor, then turn left from the elevator to get to the archives. No exits will be allowed from the first floor. This policy will remain in effect for an undetermined period of time. Research room limitations will be in effect.

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The California State Library has microfilmed all California City Directories in its collection. 1231 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814. Reprinted from the Forum, Summer 1990.

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GENEALOGY RESEARCH BOOKS & BOOKSTORES

Antique Week Newspaper 12/31/90 - Submitted by  
Rozella Hall

1879 Census Index to the City of Toledo in Lucas County, Ohio, Vol. 2 by Helen Hund 214 pages in Accopress binder, offset. Price \$25.00 post paid. Order from Helen H. Read, 5711 Vail Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43623. (Vo. 1, 203 pages, same price; sold as a set, \$45.00)

Information in this index includes name, ethnicity, age, birthplace, ward number, page number of the original census and a 1868 map of Toledo showing ward locations.

Slave Genealogy: A Research Guide with Case Studies - David H. Streets. This guide demonstrates with three case studies from Wayne County, Kentucky the research methods and types of analysis to be employed in researching slave genealogy. 1986, 8.5 x 11, 90 pages \$10.00. Heritage Books, Inc., 1540E Pointer Ridge Place, Suite 107 Bowie, Maryland 20716 (301) 390-7709 11 - 4 Mon. thru Fri.

BOOKSTORES: Heritage Books, 1540 E. Pointer Ridge Place, Suite 107, Bowie Maryland 20716, (301) 390-7709

Hearthstone Bookshop, Potomac Square FO  
8405-H Richmond Hwy., Alexandria, VA  
22309. (703) 360-6900 (Catalog \$1.00)

NOTE: The L.A. Public Library, Downtown, 433 S. Spring Street holds a used book sale every 3rd Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

HERITAGE \*\*\* NEWSLETTER

GENEALOGY VOCABULARY WORDS

Antique Week Newspaper 12/31/90 - Submitted by  
Rozella Hall

Consort - If found on tombstones or legal records means husband or wife.

Caution Money - Sum of money paid by a settler to a proprietor of a North American colony for a specific tract of land in the 17th Century. the certificate or warrant for that land could not be issued until the caution money had been paid.

Socage Tenure - a form of land occupation required that tenants on a proprietor's land pay him an annual rent in either hard money or as was most often the case, in services. When a tenant died, his heirs could continue on the land under the same conditions upon paying a separate fee. This system was used primarily in Maryland in the 17th century.

EVENTS

February 19

LECTURE ON THE ORIGINATION OF "KENTE CLOTH"  
African textile expert Harriet Schiffer will speak on the origins of Kente Cloth and the weaving techniques of the African villages of Wonoo and Bonwire. Grand Theater, 2:00 P.M. at Trade Tech College, 400 West Washington, L.A., (213) 744-7471 (Free)

Feb 19 thru  
March 30

FILM FESTIVAL - The Afro-Hispanic Legacy, African Films, Tragic Mulattos of the Silver Screen, The Strong Black Matriarch, Black Stars Over Africa, Best Black Actress Nominees, Social Consciousness in Black Films. Films shown between 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 P.M. Call 744-7432 for program brochure.

Feb thru April

"MASSIVE" an exhibition of contemporary art, featuring the creations of Ronn Davis, Darrell Evers, Bernard Hoyes, Kayren Lyle and others. The Museum of African American Art, 4005 Crenshaw Blvd., 3rd floor, May Company 294-7071.

March 16

THE BLACK HISTORY MYSTERIES HUNT - Presented by the California African American Museum - History and Education Council March 16, 1991 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 P.M. Volunteers are needed for the following: Site Monitors, Registrars, and refreshment committee. Contact Patsy Edwards at 744-7432 for information on registration or to volunteer.

HERITAGE \*\*\* NEWSLETTER

March 19, 1991      UNEXPLORED TREASURES OF THE GENEALOGICAL COLLECTION - Presented by the Los Angeles Public Library, 433 South Spring Street, Downtown L.A. Branch in the 6th floor auditorium at 11:00 A.M.

Speakers are Library Staff Members; Darell Brown, Dianne Maccary, Michael D. Kirley

March 29            BACK YARD GRIOTS: A FESTIVAL OF BLACK STORYTELLING - "Swappin Tales" hosted by Whitman Mayo (Grady) and Francis Williams (Franks Place) at 8:00 P.M. This show is the last in a series and will be open mike and will serve as an invitation to storytellers to come and share their own tales. Held at the Francis Williams Theatre, 3692 5th Avenue, Los Angeles 684-7605

May 11, 1991      UNEXPLORED TREASURES OF THE GENEALOGICAL COLLECTION - Presented by the Los Angeles Public Library, 433 South Spring Street, Downtown L.A. Branch in the 6th floor auditorium at 11:00 A.M.

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REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE

Thank you in advance to the February refreshment committee:

=====  
| Jamie Hammonds  
| George Jenkins  
| Florine Love  
|=====  
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Articles for the March Issue should be submitted by March 7, 1991 to Gerri Johnson, 2026 4th Avenue, L.A., CA 90018 (213) 733-1835.





# AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

P.O. Box 73086  
Washington, D.C. 20056-3086

## ANNOUNCING A CALL FOR PAPERS!!!!

The Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc., founded in 1977, has a national membership of individuals representing a broad spectrum of professions. The common interest among all members is the advancement of knowledge about the history and genealogy of people of the African diaspora. The Society publishes a scholarly journal and hosts an annual conference.

The Society is now seeking scholarly papers, case studies, model experiences and historical and genealogical research findings as a basis for presentations at our 1991 national conference. The theme of the conference is **Connections: Global Dimensions of the Black Experience**. The conference will be held May 2-4, 1991 at the Holiday Inn-Capitol in Washington, D.C.

Each proposal should focus upon a particular people of the African diaspora, whether in Africa, Asia, Australia, the Caribbean, Europe, North America, or South America. The proposal can be theoretical or practical in nature.

An abstract should be submitted in duplicate and not exceed three pages, including a descriptive statement of the topic, the scholarly or professional process used, and the findings or results. Include all requirements for space, electrical outlets, blackboards, etc. necessary for the presentation. Provide a cover page including the title of the presentation, name, address and telephone number of the person submitting the abstract. The deadline for submitting a proposal is **January 11, 1991**. Proposals accepted for presentation will be determined on February 15, 1991. Presenters will be expected to submit a scholarly article about the presentation to AAHGS by March 30, 1991. For further information about proposals call (717) 337-6311, and call Mrs. Barbara Walker for general information about the conference at (202) 829-8970. Mail proposals to:

Dean Harry Bradshaw Matthews  
Intercultural Resource Center  
Box 2448  
Gettysburg College  
Gettysburg, PA 17325  
RE: AAHGS Conference



# AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

P.O. Box 73086  
Washington, D.C. 20056-3086

## EARLY BIRD CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT!!!!

1991 ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
MAY 2 - 4, 1991  
HOLIDAY INN-CAPITOL  
550 C STREET SW  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Fourteenth Annual Conference of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society will be held May 2 - 4, 1991 at the Holiday Inn-Capitol in Washington, D.C. The theme for the conference will be **Connections: Global Dimensions of the Black Experience.**

Hotel accommodations: The Holiday Inn Capitol offers single and double room at \$85 [plus prevailing taxes at the time of arrival] per night. *Reservations must be made directly through the hotel by calling (202) 479-4000. To receive the conference rate, reservations must be made no later than 1 APRIL 1991.*

Vendors and Exhibitors: As part of the Conference events, we have invited vendors and exhibitors to display their items. All vendors and exhibitors have paid a fee for the space they are using. Individuals who bring items for sale will not be permitted to sell materials in the vending or exhibit areas unless the fee has been paid in advance.

For additional information, write to AAHGS, P.O. 73086, Washington, DC 20056-3086 or call Mrs. Barbara Walker at (202) 829-8970. Contact Dean Harry Bradshaw Matthews for information concerning proposals for presentations at (717) 337-6311.

The conference will include activities designed to meet a variety of genealogical and historical needs, as expressed in the evaluations from previous conferences. There will be a one-day workshop concerned with family research, conducted by internationally noted genealogist, James Dent Walker, for those interested in learning more about how to research your family [preregistration is required and participation is limited to the first fifty registrants].

12-5-90

## BLACK HISTORIC SITES WALKING TOUR

**1. Market Square** — 300 block of King Street. Since the founding of the city in 1749, this square has always been the center of activity. The Fairfax County Courthouse was located here in the middle 1700s. Local farmers often came to the square to sell their produce; the most famous of these farmers was George Washington. The city of Alexandria was one of the largest exporters of slaves in the South and the square was used as a slave market.

In the 1790's the Black astronomer, mathematician and surveyor, Benjamin Banneker, helped to survey this area when Alexandria became a part of the District of Columbia.

*West on King to Royal and south on Royal to Duke*

**2. Church Alley** — On the south side of Duke Street, between Royal and Fairfax Streets is Church Alley. In this alley was located the First Methodist Episcopal Church where Blacks were allowed to worship with the White congregation. Many of the Black worshippers came from the nearby community of Hayti.

*South on Royal to the northwest corner of Wolfe St.*

**3. Hayti** — 400 block of S. Royal Street. This community was probably named for the country of Haiti (Hayti was an earlier name for Haiti). The residents on the block were free Blacks and Whites. Sometimes slaves lived with free Black families. The house at 404 S. Royal was the home of George Seaton, a free Black master carpenter, who became a member of the City Council and State Legislature in the 1870s.

*West on Wolfe to the northeast corner of Wolfe and St. Asaph Sts.*

**4. George Seaton House** — 323 S. St. Asaph Street. (Northwest corner). Wood frame. Greek Revival style. 1852. Built by George L. Seaton, a prominent free Black master carpenter. He was a member of the Alfred Street Baptist Church and chaired a lecture series at that church. In 1868 he founded the "Colored Building Association". In addition to being the founder of the local Black YMCA, Seaton was a member of the City Council, the State Legislature and constructed the first public schools for Black students, the Snowden School for Boys and the Hallowell School for Girls.

*West on Wolfe to Washington; right on Washington to the Church*

**5. Beulah Baptist Church** — 320 South Washington Street. Brick. 1863-1864. Remodeled, 1930-1953. First Black church founded in Alexandria after the occupation by Federal troops and the third oldest Black church in Alexandria. The "first select colored school" was founded by Rev. Clem Robinson in 1862 for contrabands and soon had over 700 students. This was one of several schools in the city founded for the thousands of contrabands who entered the city during the Civil War. These schools were among the first contraband schools. Beulah Baptist Church grew out of the school. A lot was purchased for the church in October 1863.

*South on Washington to the 400 block*

**6. Alexandria Academy** — 400 block South Washington Street. Brick. 1785. Federal style. Included three schools: English School, Learned Language School and the Free School. Financed by George Washington for indigent students, the Free School developed from the Academy and was located where the Washington School building is today. In 1812 a "free colored school," founded by a group of free Blacks, was held in the Washington Free School, not then being used for a white school. During the Civil War, it was used to house contraband slaves. Significant as an early educational site for free Blacks.

*South on Washington to the 600 block*

**7. Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church** — 606 South Washington Street. Brick. 1834. Gothic style. The oldest Black church building in Alexandria. Front and interior altered in twentieth century. Began as part of the predominantly white congregation at the First Methodist Episcopal Church, now Trinity Methodist. In 1830, four White and five Black members purchased a lot and began the foundation for a separate church. Work stopped in 1831 because of the reaction to the Nat Turner Rebellion. The congregation was forced to move to the present site in 1834. Named Davis Chapel for the Reverend Charles A. Davis, the first pastor of the church.

*South on Washington to Gibbon; west one block to Columbus and north on Columbus 2 blocks to 411 S. Columbus*

**8. The area in which you are walking is known as The Bottoms of the Dip Neighborhood** — bounded roughly by Duke, Franklin, Patrick and Washington Streets. The first free Black neighborhood in Alexandria. Settled about 1800, when undesirable marshy "bottom" land was leased to free men. Many slaves were freed in the early 18th century because of the dying tobacco trade in Virginia. Similar neighborhoods developed c. 1830 and 1850 as Alexandria's free Black population continued to increase. Since the 1960's, the neighborhood has been a part of the DIP Urban Renewal Project.

**9. Odd Fellows Hall** — 411 S. Columbus Street. Brick. c. 1870. Probably built with funds from the Freedmen's Bureau. Major gathering place for Blacks and their secret organizations following the Civil

War, including the Odd Fellows, Rising Star, Daughters of Zion and many other groups. Served an important role in developing community identification, promotion of racial consciousness and leadership skills.



*The Odd Fellows as they drill in the Uptown section of Alexandria.*

*North on Columbus to Wolfe; west one block to Alfred and north to the Old Church*

**10. Alfred Street Baptist Church** — 313 South Alfred Street. Brick. 1855. Probably designed and built by free Black craftsmen. Founded in 1803, it is the oldest Black congregation in Alexandria and one of the oldest in the Washington area. The Black members built their own church on the present site in 1818. The present church dates from 1855, with alterations dating from the 1880s. Significant for its major religious, educational and cultural role in Alexandria's free Black community prior to the Civil War. Its Sunday schools, started in the 1820s, gave free Blacks a rare opportunity to learn to read and write. In 1833 Mr. Nuthall, an Englishman, opened a school in the church but it was closed after the Nat Turner rebellion. During a period when Virginia law denied Blacks the right to assemble in groups without a White overseer, the church provided the most consistent opportunity for members of the Black community to meet, exchange information and develop leadership skills. During the Civil War, Alfred Street Baptist Church was located within the compound of the U.S. Military Railroad Yard. The congregation has moved into a new building located close to the historic church.

*North on Alfred to Duke; 4 blocks west to 1315 Duke St; use north side of Duke St.*

**11. Franklin and Armfield Slave Market** — 1315 Duke Street. Brick. c. 1812. Three-hay facade with mansard roof. Built as the residence of Robert Young, Brigadier General of the Second Militia of the District of Columbia. By 1828, leased by Isaac Franklin and John Armfield and used as a "Negro Jail" or slave pen for slaves being shipped from Northern Virginia to Louisiana. Active until 1836, this was one of the largest slave trading companies in the country exporting over 3,750 slaves to the new cotton and sugar plantations of the Deep South. During the Civil War the building and its surrounding site were used as a military prison for deserters, the L'Ouverture Hospital for black soldiers and barracks for contraband — slaves who fled Confederate states and sought refuge with Union troops. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

*East on Duke to 814*

**12. Dr. Albert Johnson Residence** — 814 Duke Street. Brick. Mid-19th century. Two-story with cast iron porch. Home of Dr. Albert Johnson (1866-1949), one of the earliest professionally trained Black medical doctors to practice in Alexandria. Graduated in 1892 from Howard University Medical School, the first Black medical school.

*East on Duke across Washington St. Left on Washington to the Church*

**13. Downtown Baptist Church** — 212 S. Washington Street. Brick. 1858. Replaced earlier church. Italian Romanesque style. Designed by Thomas Tefft of Rhode Island. Original home of the Alexandria Baptist Society founded on April 22, 1803. Free Blacks and slaves were included in the Society. In 1818, the Black members of the church, with the support of the Society, moved to their own building. This was the beginning of Alfred Street Baptist Church, the oldest Black congregation in Alexandria.

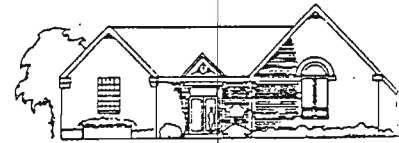
*North to Prince; right on Prince to Royal and north on Royal to Market Square.*

### ALEXANDRIA BLACK HISTORY RESOURCE CENTER

638 N. Alfred Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
(703) 838-4356

Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

## THE ALEXANDRIA BLACK HISTORY RESOURCE CENTER



The Alexandria Black History Resource Center located in the Parker-Gray district of the city. The Center's staff, with the assistance of volunteers from citizen organizations, interprets the contributions African Americans to Alexandria's history and culture. The building that today houses the Center was constructed in 1940 as the Robinson Library, the African American community's first public library. With desegregation in the 1960's the building was converted to use for community service programs.

Due to the efforts of the Alumni Association of Parker Gray School and the Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage, Inc., the building reopened in 1983 as the Alexandria Black History Resource Center. Staff for the Center was provided by the members of the Alumni Association of Parker-Gray and the Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage. In 1987, the City Council placed the operation of the Center under the direction of the Office of Historic Alexandria and provided funds for an addition to the building which was completed in 1989.

The Alexandria Black History Resource Center presents lectures, tours of the Center and other activities relating to the history and accomplishments of African Americans in Alexandria. Paintings, photographs, books and other memorabilia document the African American experience in Alexandria and Virginia from 1749 to the present. The Center has a special collection on the history and graduates of the Parker-Gray School.

The Center seeks objects and materials on the history of the African American community in Alexandria as well as the community's African heritage. Document or behind-the-scenes volunteer opportunities are available.

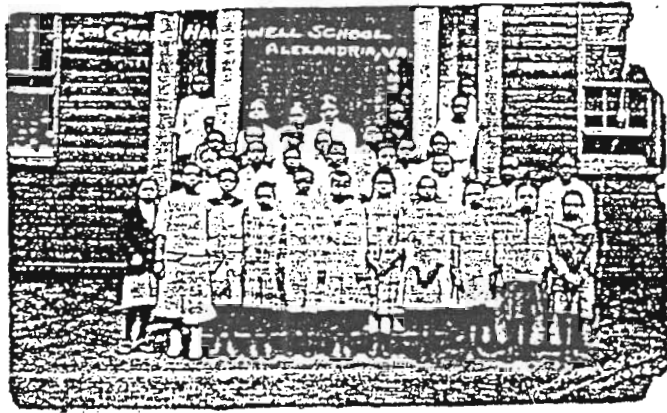
### HOURS

Tuesdays - Saturdays: 10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
(Contact the Center for information on holiday hours.)  
Handicapped - accessible

### The Alexandria Black History Resource Center

638 North Alfred Street  
(Entrance on Wythe St.)  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
(703) 838-4356

# BLACK HISTORIC SITES IN ALEXANDRIA



The Hallowell School for Girls, 1915. The school was located in the 400 block of North Alfred St.

## EARLY FREE BLACK NEIGHBORHOODS IN ALEXANDRIA

In 1790, when the first Federal census was taken, 52 free Blacks were recorded as having lived in Alexandria. This population increased dramatically to 836 by 1810 and continued to expand until 1864 when Alexandria retroceded to the Commonwealth of Virginia from the District of Columbia. The free Black population began increasing again after 1860 and reached 5,300 by 1870.

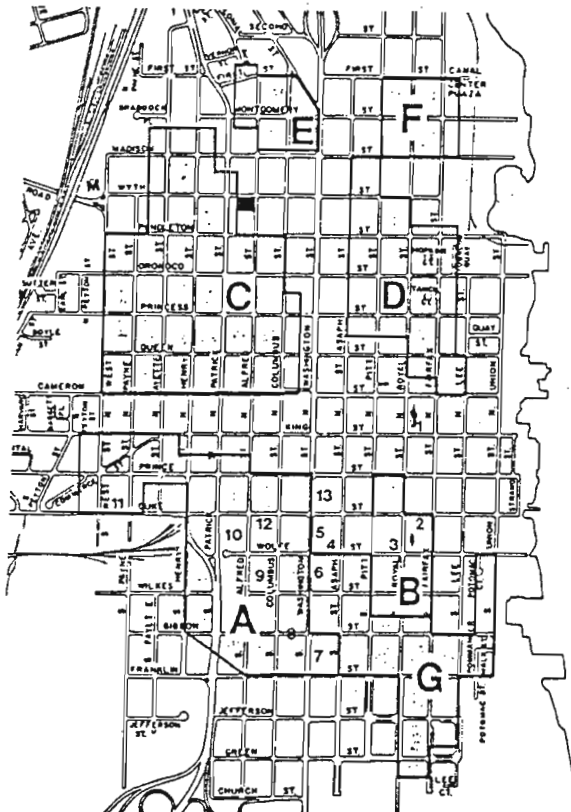
The earliest free Black Neighborhood in Alexandria began between 1790 and 1810. The first community of free Blacks formed at the southwestern edge of the city and became known as "The Bottoms." By 1810, this neighborhood had extended to the southeast and a new community, "Hayti," sprang up to the east. In midcentury, "Uptown" began in the northwestern section of Alexandria. Around this time also,

a community known as "The Berg" or "Fishtown" developed in an area just back from the north waterfront. These Black neighborhoods expanded and three new settlements began in the post-bellum period. These were "The Hill," south of "Hayti;" "Cross Canal," located each side of the Alexandria canal locks on the north end of town; and "The Hump," to the west of "Cross Canal."

By 1910, there was almost a continuous band of African American neighborhoods surrounding the city's center and edging Alexandria's boundaries. These residential areas continued and expanded into the present time.

Courtesy of Alexandria Archaeology

## FREE BLACK NEIGHBORHOODS IN ALEXANDRIA



- A. The Bottoms
- B. Hayti
- C. Uptown
- D. The Berg and Fishtown
- E. The Hump
- F. Cross Canal
- G. The Hill

- 1. Market Square
- 2. Church Alley
- 3. Hayti
- 4. George Seaton House
- 5. Beulah Baptist Church
- 6. Alexandria Academy
- 7. Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church
- 8. The Bottoms or the Dip Neighborhood
- 9. Odd Fellows Hall
- 10. Alfred Street Baptist Church
- 11. Franklin and Armfield Slave Market
- 12. Dr. Albert Johnson Residence
- 13. Downton Baptist Church

■ Alexandria Black History Resource Center

This brochure was made possible by the Ford Motor Company.



Special recognition is given to the Alumni Association of Parker-Gray, the Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage and the staff of the Office of Historic Alexandria.



# HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

EDITOR: GERRI JOHNSON

VOL. 3 No. 3 MARCH 1991

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CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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SOCIETY MEETING: Our meeting will be held on MARCH 16, 1991  
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 P.M. Robert Taylor will be holding a  
beginning genealogy class from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

## MEETING LOCATION

BROADWAY FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN  
Community Meeting Room  
110 S. LaBrea Avenue  
Inglewood, CA

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## SPEAKER

JOYCE CHAPPEL

AFRICAN AMERICAN

AND

NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN

GENEALOGY CONSULTANT

TOPIC: 234 SLAVE SHIPS

\*\*\*\*\*

## MEMBERSHIP

THE 1991 MEMBERSHIP FEE OF \$10.00 FOR INDIVIDUAL AND \$15.00 FOR  
FAMILY, IS NOW DUE. Dues can be paid at our meetings on  
February 23, and March 16, 1991 or can be mailed to the V.P. of  
Membership - Rozella Hall at 1828 W. 50th Street, Los Angeles,  
CA 90062. MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT PAID DUES BY MARCH 16, 1991  
WILL BE DROPPED FROM THE NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SOCIETY FUNDRAISER

We are now conducting a fund-raiser of selling subscriptions to **VISIONS MAGAZINE** the Magazine of Afro-American Culture. This magazine has been designated as the African American Museum Association's official publication. The AAMA is the national voice of black museums in the United States, representing over 100 museums nationwide.

For each subscription which is \$18.00 that we sell, we will receive a \$7.00 rebate. This is an excellent magazine that provides historical, art, science and political information on Black life in America and abroad. Were not just asking for members to purchase a subscription but also for members to make others aware of the magazine. For further information contact; Johann Hassan 213-731-7584 or mail a check for \$18.00 with your name, address and zip code to Johann Hassan, 2523 10th Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90008. Subscriptions will be mailed to the magazine as a group. Thank you for your support.

\* \* \* \* \*

BLACK INVENTORS

Mikki Walker - Sentinel Staff Writer, 2/21/91

Black Americans have made major contributions to society despite the stigmas of slavery, racial barriers and cultural isolation. The truth of the matter is that anyone who wears shoes, uses a gas mask, stops at a traffic light or uses public transportation has been affected by the contributions of Black inventors and innovators of the past century.

Jan Earnst Matzelliger - Shoe Lasting Machine - He was a Black South American immigrant from Paramaribo, Suriname (formerly Dutch Iguana), who had no formal education before coming to the U.S. so revolutionized the industry that one man could produce 700 pairs of shoes a day. Matzelliger died of Tuberculosis in August 1889, at the age of 37 in relative obscurity.

Garrett Morgan - Gas Mask, Stop Signal - A native of Paris, Kentucky - Patented the Gas Mask in 1912, he wasn't taken seriously until 1914 when a explosion occurred beneath Lake Erie, trapping several employees of the Cleveland Waterworks Company in a gas filled tunnel. Company officials hurriedly summoned Morgan and brother to the spot. Donning their inhalators, Morgan and his brother went into the tunnel and were able to rescue 32 of the men. For his bravery he was awarded a key to the City of Cleveland.

He also invented the traffic light and patented it in 1923. Because he couldn't provide adequate mass production and therefore, sold the invention to General Electric Company for \$40,000.

Elijah McCoy - Automatic Oil Lubricating Equipment - Patented in 1872. For the next twenty-five years, he made various changes and subsequently patented more than fifty different automatic lubricators.

#### PAUL R. WILLIAMS - ARCHITECT

Mikki Walker - Sentinal Staff Writer and Broadway Federal Savings and Loan Calendar

Born in Los Angeles on February 18, 1894 - Died 1980. Attended the University of Southern California where he was one of eight Architecture students and the only African-American. Knowing he had to prove himself, Paul aslo attended three art schools to get as much education as he could.

His first big project was to design 25 homes in an area near Pasadena called Flintridge for Senator Flint. Some of his other designs are: the Litton Corporation Building in Beverly Hills, St. Jude Hospital, Memphis Tennessee, Perino's and Chasen's restaurants in Los Angeles, Saks Fifth Avenue, the Beverly Hills Hotel, 1ST African Methodist Chruch and 2nd Baptist Churches, Golden State Mutual Insurance building, Angelus Funeral Home, the County Courthouse and Hall of Administration Paul Williams went on to become the first African-American member of the American Institute of architects, as well as the first African- American Fellow of the A.I.A.

Paul Williams served on the Board of Directors of Broadway Federal Savings & Loan for over 25 years, and held the office of Director Emeritus until his death. Paul Williams also designed the Broadway Federal Midtown Office and over 3,000 buildings worldwide.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### COURT HOUSE RESEARCH

Myra V. Gormley - Syndicated Communalist/Genealogist

There comes a time in every genealogists life when a trip to a county courthouse is necessary. Noting beats on-site research and the examination of original records.

Before you go, do your homework. Take your pedigree charts and family group sheets and make a list of NAMES and dates of events and which records you need to consult in that county. If

possible, put them in alphabetical and chronological order: alphabetical to help you to check off the names as you research, and chronological because the records you will be examining are arranged that way.

Check the dates that you plan to be at a courthouse. Watch out for holidays; courthouses are usually open Monday through Friday, but hours vary. Many small courthouses sometimes close 1 hour for lunch.

Check marriages, wills and probate, deeds, births and deaths (if available), divorces and miscellaneous records, which can be anything from animal brands to voter registrations.

#### TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL COURTHOUSE RESEARCH

- Carry a briefcase or folder.
- Don't bore the clerks about your ancestors. Simply ask politely where the specific indexes and books are.
- Do not touch records with a pencil or pen or make any marks. Do not run your finger down the indexes; don't rest your arms on printed pages.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke where the records are stored.
- Put all books back as you finish them.
- Be prepared to pay high prices for photocopying. Bring money in small denominations as clerks seldom can change \$20 or \$50 bills. Clerks don't set the prices, so it does no good to complain.
- Marriage records are the most frequently needed records. They will have a direct index (alphabetical by surnames of the bridegrooms) and an indirect or reverse index (names of the brides). These indexes may be in separate books, or in the front and back of the same book. Turn to the letter you want in the direct index. Names will not be in strict alphabetical order. Copy every reference to your surnames. Do the same for the reverse index. Errors abound in indexes, so check both. In Southern records check both "whites" and "colored" marriages--many books have been rebound and mislabeled.
- When you finish copying every reference to all your surnames, look up the marriage records in the books. If possible, photocopy them. While expensive, this saves time and eliminates errors of hasty transcription.



COURTHOUSE RESEARCH.....cont'd

- Deeds are indexed by grantor (seller) and grantee (buyer). Check both and write down every reference. If your ancestor has many references in these records, obtain photocopies for later study.
- Some courthouses have birth and death records. Divorces are considered civil suits and will be filed where the civil and criminal lawsuits are kept.

\* \* \* \* \*

KENTE CLOTH

Herbert M. Cole - Visions Magazine - October 1990

Kente Cloth is a hand woven cloth made by the Aslant people of Ghana and the Ewe of Ghana and Togo. "Kente" is not the traditional name for this cloth in the language of either ethnic group but is perhaps a corruption of the Fante word for "basket". The Fante are southern neighbors of the Asante and were for a long time the middlemen in trading Kente to non-Africans.

Kente Cloth is woven on a narrow horizontal looms which are 2-1/2 to 4-1/2 inches wide, worked exclusively by men and the art is traditionally passed down from uncle to nephew, from father to son, generation to generation. The entire textile is made in one long, continuous strip over 200 feet long for large man's Kente. It is then cut into equal lengths and sewn together. Thousands of types of patterns have been created. The specific designs used have distinct names. Many of these names are proverbs or refer to proverbs. An abstract cross, interpreted as a body design pattern, for example, refer to the proverb that translates as "Every man carries his own mark", meaning every man has a distinct personality. a sign called "hand" recalls the proverb, "It is with the hand that we work." As recently as 1960, a pattern was introduced to commemorate the newly opened hydroelectric dam at Akosombo. As it enabled the electrification of much of Ghana, the new dam was an important contribution to national life. Women also weave in several cultures, but at a different type of vertically oriented loom that produces fabrics much wider than Kente.

In pre-colonial times, laws governed the use of textiles of the Asante. Persons of lesser rank were forbidden to wear more elaborate cloths than those worn by the chiefs. The richness and complexity of the fabric were primary indicators of wealth and prestige. Some fabrics indicate particular rites of passage, occupations or social situations. Certain Ewe cloths were given to brides, others worn by mourners, while yet another

KENTE CLOTH....cont'd

type celebrated the birth of twins. These specific uses are rarely, if ever, observed today; however, they clearly highlight the cultural meaning once encoded in Ewe textile arts.

There were also many functions for the Aslant strip cloth, some worn by Kings and Priests when holding court. The Asante were preoccupied with rank and social position. Neither today nor in the past in Africa have Kente cloths been cut and sewn into form-fitting tailored garments. Rather, their rectangular form is preserved. The fabric is wrapped and draped on the body, toga-fashion for males, and generally as a long skirt tied above or below the breast for women with a second cloth draped over the shoulder.

Most of the new Kente cloths available in American boutiques and museum shops are Ewe. The Ewe weave a lot of cloth for the external market, whereas most Aslant fabrics are still woven on commission or are sold in local markets, rather than exported.

The names of cloths and patterns, the situation and role specific wearing of cloth, the styles and protocol of fabric making and display, and finally, the interactions with strangers, all of which are embedded in the history of Kente, bespeak an exceptionally rich, meaningful tradition. Americans of African descent are showing pride in their heritage by working with and wearing Kente or Kente-inspired fabric.

\* \* \* \* \*

MARCH REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE

Thank you in advance to this month's Refreshment Committee.

Gerri Johnson and Margaret Thomas

THANK YOU

Dr. Norman McCrae, thank you for the Booklet "Resource Units In African American Life and History. This teaching outline is very helpful in teaching African-American history and will also aid us in our research quest.

Thanks also to Charles Meigs for sharing his research information on Indians and Indian Ancestry and Renae Cochee for sharing her West Indian research material. We all found the information most interesting and informative.

Send news articles to Gerri Johnson, 2026 4th Avenue or Call, 213-733-1835. Deadline April 6, 1991 for April Newsletter.

# HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

EDITOR: GERRI JOHNSON

VOL.4 APRIL, 1991

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GUEST SPEAKER: SHERRY HARRIS

### TOPIC

CIVIL WAR RECORDS  
"A USEFUL TOOL"

Step by step guide to the availability  
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PGS Newsletter 21:2, Antique Week 3/4/91

The California State Genealogical Alliance will launch a statewide indexing project in May that is projected to eliminate the gap in records left by the missing 1890 federal census. Members of local societies are being recruited to abstract from microfilm names and details from the extant 1890 Great Registers kept on county/district levels and now held by the state Library in Sacramento. When the abstracting is completed, the alliance proposes to compile and publish the data in one combined work as a statewide index. Anyone wishing to participate in the project should contact Wendy Elliott, 4808 E. Garland St. Anaheim, CA 92807.

RESEARCH NOTES

NOTE: All articles noted from Antique Week are submitted by Rozella Hall who subscribes to this newspaper. This newspaper is published weekly and has an Eastern States Edition and a Central States Edition. This newspaper includes a Genealogy section with research sources, articles and research books list; as well as information on all kinds of antique collectibles.

Kentucky Land Grant System

By Kandie Adkinson

1990 Quarterly - Fayette County (Ky) Genealogical Society Reprinted in Antique Week March 11, 1991

She offers that the state land office is the place of record for all land grants, warrants and surveys in Kentucky. She indicates that the land grant system can be a very quick and easy way to trace an ancestor in Kentucky. "If they were veterans, a military patent could have been issued for service in the French and Indian War or the Revolutionary War. No Military Warrants were used in Kentucky for service in the War of 1812 or for later wars. But only about 11 percent of the patents issued were labeled Military in the Virginia and Old Kentucky Patents. The remainder were authorized by such warrants as settlement certificates, preemption claims, treasury, village warrants, seminary funding and special Acts of the General Assembly. All deeds trace back to an original patent recorded in the Land Office. The steps through which a title was granted are outlined as well as the group(s) of land grants (series) which the researcher should request in the course of a search. The largest group in the series is County Court Order Series under which counties (after 1835) could sell warrants for unappropriated land within their boundaries at the rate of \$5 per 100 acres (later limited to 200 acres per warrant). This series of more than 70,000 land patents is being computer indexed by the Kentucky Historical Society.

MORTALITY SCHEDULES, 1850 - 1885

These schedules list deaths for the twelve months prior to the census (1 June through 31 May 1849, 1859, 1869, 1879, 1884). They provide nation-wide, state-by-state death registers. This record predates the recording of vital statistics in most states.

Mortality schedules give the dead person's name, sex, age color (Chinese and Indian added in 1870); free or slave, married or widowed, place of birth (state, territory, or country), month of death, profession/occupation/trade,

HERITAGE \*\*\* NEWSLETTER

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Please submit your newsletter articles for the next issue by May 6, 1991 or call Gerri Johnson (213) 733-1835.

# ALTERED STATES

## OVER THE BORDERS

The partial borderlines of some of the states in the United States are shown below. Can you name the states?

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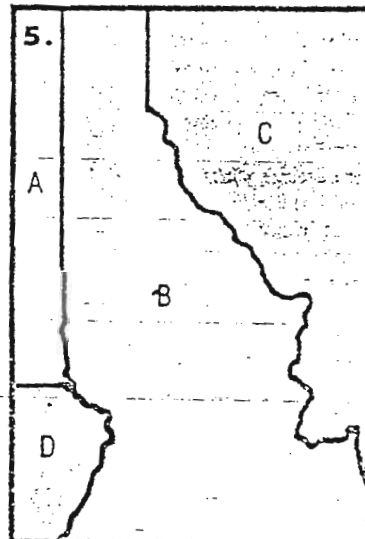
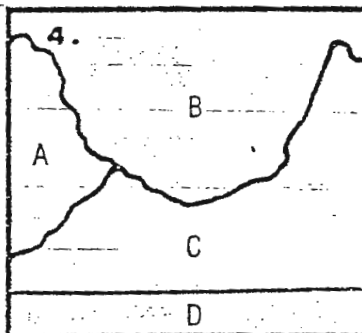
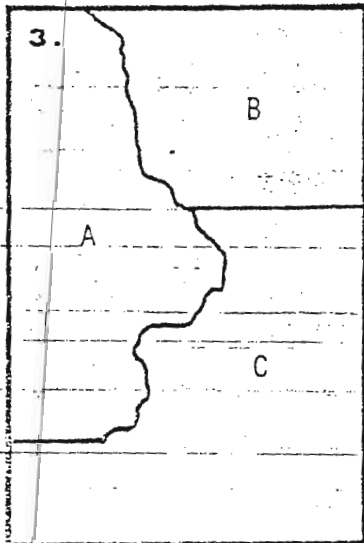
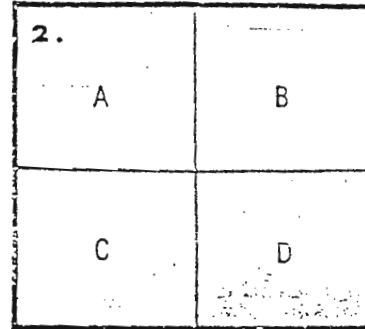
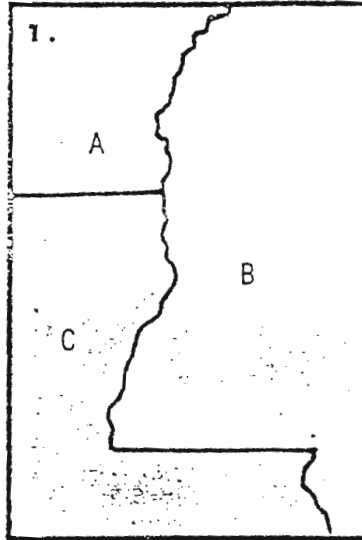
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PREPARED EXCLUSIVELY FOR PINKY BY THE EDITORS OF GAMES MAGAZINE

## UNITED STATES

How many U. S. cities can you find in the grid of letters? Each name is concealed in a series of squares connected across, down, or diagonally. For example, WACO can be found starting at the W, going right to the A, down and right to the C, and right to the O. Standing on a letter is not allowed, but you may return to a letter to use it more than once in a word. Our answer list contains 11 cities.

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| W | A | E | M | H |
| N | T | C | O | I |
| L | A | M | N | L |
| H | I | B | U | S |

## INTERSTATES

The names of six official state birds, trees, and other mascots are listed below. The letters of the state and its representative read consecutively from left to right, but the two words are intertwined. Can you untangle them all?

Example: State emblem BUETEHAIVEH (Utahbeehive)

1. State tree PETECAXANS
2. State bird SUETAGUALHL
3. State fossil MANEMBMROASTKHA
4. State motto FOWIRSWACORNSIND
5. State sport MAJORUSYLTAINNGD
6. State flower OMIKSLTLAHETOOMAE

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## HERITAGE \*\*\* NEWSLETTER

### MORTALITY SCHEDULES cont'd...

disease or cause of death and number of days ill. In 1870, the birthplace of parents was added. In 1880, the place where the disease was contracted and how long the deceased was a citizen or resident of the area.

Original schedules are in the state archives, in the DAR Library in Washington, D.C., or in the National Archives. Copies,

indexes and printed schedules are also available in many libraries.

Mortality schedules are useful for tracing and documenting genetic symptoms and diseases and verifying and documenting Black, Chinese and Indian ancestry, although blacks are often omitted especially if they were slaves. By using these records you can follow up with focused searches in obituaries, mortuary records, cemeteries and probates.

### THE DESTROYED CENSUS OF 1890

So, you wonder what happened to the 1890 Census records? Well, 99 percent of them were destroyed by fire in the Commerce Department Building in Washington, D.C. and most were disposed of. Some sections of the records did survive.

This was a very important Census because it gave the address, number of families in the house, number of persons in the house and number of persons in the family. It lists each individual by name; whether a soldier, sailor, or marine during the Civil War and whether Union or Confederate, or whether the widow of a veteran; relationship to head of family; White, Black, Mulatto, Quadroon, Octoroon, Chinese, Japanese, or Indian; sex, age, marital status, whether married during year; mother of how many children, number now living, place of birth of the individuals, whether a prisoner, convict, homeless child, or pauper and much more. There are approximately 6,100 legible entries existing.

### SURVIVING RECORDS

ALABAMA, Perry County (Perrysville Beat No. 11 and severe Beat No. 8)

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, Q. Thirteenth, Fourteenth, R.Q. Corcoran, fifteenth, S, R, and Riggs streets, Johnson Avenue, and S Street

GEORGIA, Muscogee County (Columbus)

HERITAGE \*\*\* NEWSLETTER

CENSUS 1890 (cont'd)...

ILLINOIS, McDonough County, Mound Township

MINNESOTA, Wright County, Rockford

NEW JERSEY, Hudson County, Jersey City

NEW YORK, Westchester County, Eastchester, Suffolk County, Brookhaven Township

NORTH CAROLINA, Gaston County, South Point Township and River Bend Township; Cleveland County, Township No. 2

OHIO, Hamilton County (Cincinnati) and Clinton County, Wayne Township

SOUTH DAKOTA, Union County, Jefferson Township

TEXAS, Ellis County, J.P. No. 6, Mountain Peak, and Ovila Precinct; Hood County, Precinct No. 5; Rusk County, Precinct No. 6, and J.P. No. 7; Trinity County, Trinity Town, and Precinct No. 2; Kaufman County, Kaufman

There is an every-name index to the 1890 census prepared by the National Archives in two rolls, microfilm number M496. It covers all names appearing on the surviving population schedules.

MEMBER CONTEST

The enclosed puzzle "ALTERED STATES" is a contest for 1991 members. There will be 4 prizes given for the first 4 entries with the most correct answers. The winners will pull a number for one of the four listed prizes.

1. Jamaican Spice Basket
2. Jackson Phenomenon - The Man, The Power, The Message
3. Invented Lives - Narratives of Black Women 1860-1960
4. \$10.00 or 1992 Paid Membership

EVENTS

4/19/91 L.A. WESTSIDE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY FOUNDER'S NIGHT Guest Speaker Mary Swartz, A.G., topic "Unusual Resources". Friday 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room, Burton Chace Park, 13650 Mindano Way (West End) Marina Del Rey.

4/20/91 SEMINAR - Ventura County Genealogical Society presents, Arlene H. Eakle, PhD. Professional Genealogist. Topics include Migration Patterns into the Central United States, The Palliation Triangle, Tracing The Ladies On Your Pedigree.

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VOL. 3 MAY, 1991

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\*\*\*\*\*

## MEETING LOCATION

BROADWAY FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN  
COMMUNITY ROOM  
111 N. LABREA  
INGLEWOOD, CA

\*\*\*\*\*

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## Family Tree Pictorials

Presented By

John H. Johnson  
JHJ Enterprises

Bring Your Photographs

\*\*\*\*\*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hollis Gentry, is preparing a multi-volume genealogical guide and bibliography on the Freedmans Savings and trust Bank. Anyone who has researched this subject and would like to contribute to his book should contact: Hollis Gentry at 5014 S. Chesterfield Road, Arlington, VA 22206.

Liva Baker is writing a book on Federal District Judge J. Skelly Wright and the issues surrounding Bush vs. Orleans Parish School Board which led to the desegregation of New Orleans Public Schools. If you have information and anecdotes about Wright and the racial situation in New Orleans from 1950 through the early 60's, contact: Liva Baker, 615 G. Street, SW, Washington, DC 20024.

Blackside Inc., the production house for the series Eyes on the Prize, is seeking films, photos, radio recordings, manuscripts and memorabilia for a documentary examining the 1929 Depression from a multicultural perspective. If you can be of assistance, contact: Blackside Inc., 486 Shawmut Avenue, Boston, MA 02118.

HISTORICAL/ENTERTAINMENT VACATION STOPS

As we come into Vacation Time we wonder what can we do or see that's different and memorable. Well, here's a list of historical places as well as entertainment to help you enjoy your travels.

INDIANA

Fort Wayne - The Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) and The Allen County Public Library Historical genealogy Department are sponsoring **AN ALL AMERICAN CONFERENCE**, August 15 - 17, 1991 at the Grand Wayne Center. A variety of seminars are offered from 8:30 - 5:00 featuring some of the country's top genealogist such as: Arlene Eakle, Wendy Elliott, Elizabeth Shown Mills, Julie Elliott and many others. A social hour and banquet will be held on Friday, August 16 from 5:30 - 9:00 p.m.

REGISTRATION FOR "AN ALL AMERICAN CONFERENCE"  
15-17 AUGUST 1991

(Please use one registration form per person. This form may be duplicated.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

CONFERENCE FEES:

|  |                                       |         |    |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------|----|
| Registration by 15 June 1991                 | .....                                 | \$80.00 | \$ |
| Registration after 15 June 1991              | .....                                 | \$90.00 | \$ |
| Single Day Registration by 15 June 1991      | ..... Day                             | \$40.00 | \$ |
| Single Day Registration after 15 June 1991   | ..... Day                             | \$45.00 | \$ |
| *Guests may purchase tickets for meals only. |                                       |         |    |
| FGS Luncheon (open) 15 August                | ..... (Boat Transportation Type)..... | \$15.00 | \$ |
| ISBGFH Luncheon (open) 16 August             | ..... (Chicken Roasts).....           | \$15.00 | \$ |
| BCC Luncheon (open) 16 August                | ..... (Chicken Morays).....           | \$12.50 | \$ |
| APG Pre-Banquet Social (open) 16 August      | ..... (Cash Bar).....                 | Open    |    |
| FGS Banquet (open) 16 August                 | ..... (Dry Served Steaks).....        | \$25.00 | \$ |
| An Indiana Luncheon (open) 17 August         | ..... (Chopped Steaks).....           | \$14.00 | \$ |
| APG Luncheon (open) 17 August                | ..... (Chicken Dinner).....           | \$12.50 | \$ |

Check payable to: "FGS 1991 Conference" TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Plus refund upon written request prior to 31 July 1991)

Mail to: An All American Conference

Attn: Curt Wiltcher

Allen County Public Library

P.O. Box 2270

Fort Wayne, IN 46801-2270

ACCOMMODATIONS

The Conference will be held at the Grand Wayne Center, Fort Wayne's convention facility--one and a half blocks from the Library. The Hilton Hotel adjoins the Grand Wayne Center; the Holiday Inn is three blocks away. Both provide airport shuttle service. Please mention the FGS Conference to receive the special rates noted below.

**Hilton Hotel at the Convention Center**  
1020 South Calhoun St. Fort Wayne, IN 46802  
Reservations: 1-219-420-1100 Rates: \$67.00 per room

**Holiday Inn Downtown**  
300 East Washington Blvd. Fort Wayne, IN 46802  
Reservations: 1-219-422-5511 Rates: \$55.00 per room

ILLINOIS

Chicago - The Newberry Library, 60 West Walton Street, Chicago, IL 60610. (312) 943-9090. This library is a private reference and research library containing one of the most extensive collections of local history and genealogy in the country. Excellent resource for genealogical research in the Midwest, New England, mid-Atlantic, southern and border states. Over 16,000 printed family histories, extensive collection of county and town histories as well as the Census, military records, lineage books, passenger lists.

Chicago cont'd

Call the Chicago Chamber of Commerce for the dates of the Chicago Blues Festival and A Taste of Chicago (generally June/July) and enjoy the city as well as your research.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston - Black Heritage Trail - 1.6 mile walk leads to the African Meeting House where the volunteers enlisted into the 54th Colored Infantry, Saint-Gaudens Memorial to Robert Gould Shaw and the 54th Regiment, the Home of George Middleton who served as a colonel in the Revolutionary War leading an all-black company called the Bucks of America and other homes which were part of the underground railroad and are still private residences. These are just a few of the places on the tour for more information call above numbers.

Boston African American National Historic Site  
46 Joy St., Boston, MA 02114 (617) 742-1854

Tours: In the Summer 10 a.m., Noon and 2 p.m.  
The rest of the year by appointment.  
(617) 742-5415 for reservations and  
current schedules. Free by the National  
Park Service.

Handicapped visitors can arrange to see a  
video tape of the trail at the Boston  
African American National Historic Site;  
call (617) 742-5415 in advance.

MEXICO

Cancun - Jazz Festival, May 20 - 27, 1991 starring Wynton Marsalis, Nancy Wilson, Najee, Alex Bujnon, Marlon Jordan, Gato Barbieri, Marcus Robert, Tito Puente, Joe Sample. The main concert takes place on the 25th, 26th, and 27th.

Contact: The Mexican Tourist Board (213) 203-8350  
for more information. or (800) 542-8953

MISSISSIPPI

Jackson - Mississippi State Historical Museum, houses Civil Rights era photos, documents and artifacts.

The Smith-Robertson Museum is a former school for blacks that now houses exhibits about black life in Mississippi.

Jackson cont'd

There are vintage quilts and photographs by Richard Henry Beadle of Farish Street--Jackson's version of Harlem.

Natchez - "FROM PROVINCIAL OUTPOST TO NATIONAL TREASURE," May 29 to June 1. A celebration honoring the city's 275th anniversary with an educational and cultural events. Activities include lectures, readings and discussions on history and culture by writers and scholars from Europe, Canada and the U.S. In addition, a dedication of the House of William Johnson a free Black and local historian who died in 1851; will take place May 30 at 6 p.m., making the house part of the new Natchez National Historical Park.

A play based on Johnson's 16 year diary, will be premiered following the house dedication at 8:30 p.m.

An Indian picnic will be held on May 30 with Choctaw Indians weaving baskets and offering Indian music, food and exhibits. The literary celebration will end June 1 with a family style birthday party on the Natchez Bluff with cake, ice cream, street dancing and fireworks over the Mississippi River.

For More Information Contact: Natchez Literary Celebration, P.O. Box 894, Natchez, Miss. 39121 - (800) 647-6742 or Carolyn Vance Smith at (601) 442-9111.

MISSOURI

Sedalia - Scott Joplin Ragtime Festival, June 6-9, 1991.

Contact: Edward A. Berlin, Queensborough Community College, Bayside, N.Y. 11364.

WASHINGTON D.C

Howard University - Moorland-Spingarn Research Center - Located in the Founder's Library building on campus. Founded December 19, 1914, the MSRC has one of the largest collections in the world documenting the history and culture of people of African descent.

Dr. Jessee E. Moorland, secretary of the YMCA and a member of the Howard University board of Trustees from 1907 to 1940, donated his private library to his alma mater. In 1946 the private library of Arthur B. Spingarn (1914-1971), an attorney and one of the founders of the NAACP.

Washington cont'd

The library contains many rare books written by Blacks, Afro-Brazilian, Afro-Cubans, Hatians etc. In addition there are more than films, 50,000 photographs, 4,000 pieces of sheet music, 10,000 recordings and 1,000 oral history interviews, African artifacts, and items of Black Americana.

Location: Founders Library Building, main campus, Howard University. Street parking available.

Hours: Open to general public for research Monday Friday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Manuscript research by appointment only. Call: (202) 636-7239

VIRGINIA

THE ALEXANDRIA BLACK HISTORY RESOURCE CENTER

638 North Alfred Street (Entrance on Wythe St.)  
Alexandria, VA 22314 - (703) 838-4356  
Hours: Tuesdays - Saturdays 10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Handicapped - Accessible

Located in the Parker-Gray district of the city this building was constructed in 1940 as the Robinson Library, the African American community's first public library in Alexandria Virginia. It was reopened in 1983 as the Alexandria Black History Resource Center. The center presents lectures, tours and other activities relating to accomplishments of African Americans in Alexandria. Paintings, photographs, books and other memorabilia document the African American experience in Alexandria and Virginia from 1749 to the present. The Center has a special collection on the history and graduates of the Parker-Gray School.

THE ISLANDS

Curacao - Haunted Plantation - Jan Kock House, built in 1650 is one of the oldest colonial homes on the island. Locals say the house is haunted by the angry souls of the enslaved men and women who were tortured on the premises.

And there are tales of eerie misfortunes that have come upon the families that have lived here since the death of Jan Kock. The house is currently owned by a black woman Jeannette Leito who has owned it for 15 years with no misfortune. Jeannette runs a restaurant there on the



Curacao cont'd

weekends called the Funchi Pot and also gives tours of the property.

Contact: Curacao Tourist Board  
400 Madison Avenue, Suite 311  
N.Y., N.Y. 10017  
(212) 751-8266 for more information

RESEARCH BOOKS

CHEROKEE BY BLOOD: RECORDS OF EASTERN CHEROKEE ANCESTRY IN THE U.S. COURT OF CLAIMS, 1906-1910 - Jerry Wright Jordan.  
In 1904 the Eastern Cherokees won a million dollar judgement against the U.S. because of its violations of the treaties of 1835-36 and 1845. The payments wer to go to all living persons who had been members of th Eastern Cherokee tribe at the time of the treaties, or to their descendents if they were deceased. Over 46,000 people filed claims. This series of volumes presents detailed abstracts of those applications including numerous verbatim transcriptions of affidavits by the applicants, their families and friends. Since most of the applications were descendants, and had to prove their descent, the quantity of genealogical information in these volumes is impressive.

- Vol. 1, Applications 1-1550 1987, indexed, \$25.00 #J321  
Vol. 2, Applications 1551-4200, 1988, indexed \$25.00 #J322  
Vol. 3, Applications 4201-7250, 1988, indexed \$25.00 #J323  
Vol. 4, Applications 7251-10170, 1989, indexed, \$25.00  
#J324  
Vol. 5, Applications 10171-13260, 1990, indexed \$25.00  
#J325  
Vol. 6, Applications 13261-16745, 1990, indexed, \$25.00  
#J326

Order from Heritage Books, Inc, 1540E Pointer  
Ridge Place, Suite 111, Bowie, Maryland 20716.  
(301) 390-7709

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TENTATIVE SOCIETY MEETING CALENDAR

JUNE 15, 1991 - SECOND ANNUAL  
JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION - PICNIC

Time: 9:00 a.m. until the funs over

Location: Baldwin Hills  
Kenneth Hahn Park

Bring Family and Friends  
More details in next  
newsletter.

For those who like to fish there is a  
lake stocked with fish. You must have  
a fishing license to fish.

JULY - LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY  
Downtown L.A.

AUGUST - NO MEETING - VACATION

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Thank you in advance to our May refreshment committee.

Refreshment Committee: Frederick Dumas  
Virgilene West  
Elaine McGee

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Submit Newsletter Articles to Gerri Johnson, 2026 4th Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90018 or Call (213) 733-1835

# HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

EDITOR: Gerri Johnson Vol. 3 No. 7 JULY, AUG., SEPT., 1991

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## CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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SOCIETY MEETING: THERE WILL NOT BE A MEETING IN AUGUST.  
The next meeting will be September 21, 1991 from 9:00 a.m.  
until 1:00 p.m. Robert Taylor will hold a class from 9:00  
a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

CAAGS would like to say "WELCOME" to all of our new  
members.

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### MEETING LOCATION

BROADWAY FEDERAL SAVINGS & LOAN  
COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM  
330 S. LABREA AVENUE  
INGLEWOOD, CA

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### SPEAKER

NANCY KEELER KEPLEY  
TOPIC: COURT RECORDS I & II

BOOKS WILL BE AVAILABLE  
FROM HER STORE  
ROOT OF IT ALL

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### ORAL INTERVIEWS

By: Robert Taylor

#### Maggie Sells

Recently, my 6 year old Grandson and I took a trip to Phoenix, Arizona to meet a new found relative, Mrs. Maggie Sells. She is 101 years old and the Niece of Charley Clark who married my Great Aunt, Mary Taylor. Mrs. Sells is a beautiful lady in very good health, who could easily convince you that her age is 80, rather than 101. She moves around without the aid of a walker, crutch or cane and willingly "posed " to have her picture taken. Mrs. Sells reared her younger siblings, including Clifford Clark age 88 and F.L. Clark age 84, both of Phoenix.

I had expected to get information almost exclusively concerning the family in Phoenix and was amazed to be told of other relatives' migration from Carroll County, Tennessee to Oklahoma. To my great delight, Mrs. Sells volunteered names of several people in Oklahoma that prior to the conversations with her and her brother Clifford, I had identified with only living in Tennessee.

ORAL INTERVIEWS.....cont'd:

By: Robert Taylor

Reverend Albert Gentry Thurmond

In July I took a trip up to Sacramento to visit with Reverend Albert Gentry Thurmond age 103. He is the Great Grandfather of three of my maternal First Cousins.

Pastor Thurmond possesses a keen mind and a marvelous accurate memory. I have been able to verify from public sources the more than 100 family members identified by this relative. The 1880 Census substantiates Pastor Thurmans' statement that his Grandfather (Great Grandfather, actually) was born in Africa, and purchased by the Rembert family, whose name was given to the maternal ancestors of Pastor Thurman. He continued to tell us that his African Ancestor came from the Orange Free State which is a district of South Africa.

These oral interviews have opened doors of information to the past, as well as to the present, helping to identify and meet the living descendents of our beautiful family.

COLORED PATHS

By: Ronna Lockett

Around three years ago I began conducting Missouri cemetery research for academic as well as genealogical purposes. I was aware that Missouri birth, death, and burial records were not officially maintained until 1913. As a genealogist, I realized how invaluable cemetery records are in the preservation of historical, cultural, and family records. In many cases, these are the only records we, as a people of color, have to our ancestor heritage.

Mine was a solitary genealogical journey, which has mushroomed to include concerned and supportive volunteers across the U.S. This project is now known as "COLORED PATHS," and our primary concerns are the restoration, accurate compilation, documentation and preservation of information from all Black/Negro/Colored...Cemetaries.

Colored Paths is a threefold project consisting of locating, indentifying and documenting the persons in the burial place. In an effort to refine my research documentation, I requested an interstate library search for books concerned with slave and/or all Black/Negro Colored...cemetaries. To my surprise, no books or articles had been written with this particular focus. I then solicited help from persons in the community of my research.

From these efforts and compilation of data, I have produced a book titled "COLORED PATHS" Volume I, which documents a church cemetery in Wright City, Missouri. The property is church owned and is presently in use. The tombstone information, as well as the burial reports have been verified by residents in the surrounding community.

I can only hope that the challenges I accepted in writing this book will be a source of inspiration and motivation to others; who are seeking to restore and preserve the names of our ancestors, by acknowledging the strength of their existence.

We are following our Colored Paths, presently (1991) in Missouri, in an effort to acknowledge and lift up the names and worth of our ancestors--by gathering the leaves from our family trees.

I wish you all good luck as you gather the leaves from your family trees.

#### F.Y.I - FOR YOUR INFORMATION

##### CREOLE-AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

This non-profit organization serves as a forum and support group for all Americans of interracial parentage; unites people of similar and culturally related ancestries, especially Creoles, Criollos and Crioulos, and preserves an American sub-culture.

Membership application fee is \$25.00 for which you will receive a list of certified genealogists, the CAGS customized genealogical chart with complete instructions, needed to get started tracing your family tree, and permission to ask five "free" consultation questions during the first 30 days after receipt of application. (Applicants must be at least 18 years of age). Workshops are held the first Saturday of each month.

For further information contact P. Fontaine, Director, CAGS, P.O. Box 2666, Church Street Station, New York, NY 10008.

INDIANA AAH&GS - EBONY LINES - SUMMER 1991

##### L.A. LINKS DONATE AFRICAN AMERICAN BOOKS

The Los Angeles Chapter of the Links, Inc. purchased and donated 260 books by and about African Americans to seven Los Angeles County schools and public libraries. The Links funded the "African American Books For Schools and Libraries" project because of its awareness of the serious lack of books by and about Blacks and other minorities. This project is to show

L.A. LINKS DONATE AFRICAN AMERICAN BOOKS....cont'd

positive African American images to children to encourage them to read more. The program will be expanded next year.

L.A. SENTINEL NEWSPAPER - JUNE 27, 1991

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REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

JOSEPH R. BAKER IV, is seeking information for a thesis on the cultural history of Black fraternities. He would appreciate information such as; historical documents, charters, rituals, diaries, meeting minutes, etc. He can be contacted at: 17 Spellman Hall, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08544, 609-258-8471.

WRIGLEY'S, the Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri, is looking for those who's ancestry includes the surname of Wrigley. Medical researchers have discovered that people with Wrigley ancestry have a unique protein in their blood that results in very low blood cholesterol often (17 - 50).

People with this ancestry are sought to participate in additional tests of this protein; participants will receive \$250 plus expenses. Contact: Kathy Garlock, Washington University School of Medicine, Barnes Hospital, 4566 Scott Avenue, Box 8046, St. Louis, MO 63108, 314-362-7465.

AAHGS NEWSLETTER - WA D.C. - APRIL/MAY 1991

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BOOKS

THE BLACK PRESS IN MISSISSIPPI, 1865 - 1985: A DIRECTORY (1988) - Julius E. Thompson - This is a reference book of primary and secondary materials available on the Black Press in Mississippi. It provides a chronological listing by county of titles, publishers, organizations, institutions, and cities where the Black press operated. Cost: \$27.00 including postage. Order from Locust Hill Press, Box 260, W. Cornwell, CT 06796.

AFRO AMERICAN REGISTRATIONS OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS IN KENTUCKY 1852 - 1862 - Gwendolyn Tippie. This is a 6 volume index of births and deaths listed by county. This reference material can be found in the L.A. Public Library, Card Catalog Number: GEN R 976.9 T595.

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BOOKS....cont'd

BEGINNING AN AFRO-AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL PURSUIT - Jean Sampson Scott, Self Published - Explained in her book is what you would expect to find in your search. Every person has a past. Every person has two parents, four grandparents and eight great-grandparents; each ascending generation doubles. Move back ten generations, representing about 300 years of family, and there will be 1,024 people plus all those descendants between the tenth generation and you--over 2,000 people responsible for you.

To obtain a copy write to Professor Osborne E. Scott  
323 Egmont Avenue, Mount Vernon, N.Y. 10553, \$5.00.

ESSENCE MAGAZINE - AUGUST, 1991

THE COLLECTED STORIES OF CHESTER HIMES - Chester Himes - This is a collection of stories some from his Harlem detective series; and some other titles include Headwaiter, All God's Chillun Got Pride, The Meanest Cop in the World and many more.

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MEMBER NEWS

Dr. Nelle Becker-Slaton is the founder and President since its inception, of the Association of Pan African Doctoral Scholars. The Association of Pan African Doctoral Scholars was formed to provide support and guidance to African-American graduate students who are enrolled in the doctoral programs of universities throughout Southern California.

L.A. Sentinel Newspaper - June 27, 1991

Carolyn Powell-Williams has moved to Decatur, Georgia but will continue to be a member of CAAGS. Carolyn we'll miss you and hope to hear from you as you progress in your research.

EVENTS

AUGUST 24/25, 1991 AFRICAN MARKET PLACE - A festival showcasing Arts, Crafts, Entertainment, and of course a wide variety of Foods. The festival will once again take place at Rancho Cienega on Rodeo next to Dorsey High School, L.A., CA.

AUGUST 24/25, 1991 BLACK FAMILY REUNION - Organized by the National Council of Negro Women, is a reunion of African American Arts, Crafts and Entertainment from old to new. Exposition Park, L.A., CA. Near the Museum of Natural History.

EVENTS....cont'd

AUGUST 25, 1991 - KENTUCKY HISTORICAL SOCIETY will be holding a symposium on "Frontier Kentucky: Myth and Reality". Marion Lewis, historian and one of the authors of KHS's upcoming publication on Black History of Kentucky, will lead discussions on the participation of African-Americans in Pioneer Kentucky.

For details on participating, contact Vicky L. Middleswarth, KHS, P.O. Box H, Frankfort, KY 40602-2108, 502-564-2662.

Reprinted from AAHGS Newsletter - WA. D.C.

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SOCIETY MEETING CALENDAR

OCTOBER - SHOW AND TELL  
SHOW YOUR MEMORABILIA  
TELL US WHAT YOU'VE FOUND

NOVEMBER - BRENDA AUGUST  
CENSUS BUREAU

DECEMBER - ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS  
CHRISTMAS PARTY

Thanks in advance to the September Refreshment Committee:

Gerri Johnson  
Elaine McGee  
Sandra Phillips

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Newsletter deadline for October Issue is September 14, 1991, anyone who would like to contribute information please mail it to GERRI JOHNSON, 2026 4TH AVENUE, L.A., CA 90018 or call me at 213-733-1835.



# HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

EDITOR: GERRI JOHNSON

VOL. 3 No. 11 ~~SEPTEMBER~~ 1991

*October*

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## CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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**SOCIETY MEETING:** Our meeting will be held on October 19, 1991 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 P.M. This is our Show and Tell Meeting and in order to allow all of those who signed up to speak the class taught by Robert Taylor will not be held this meeting.

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### MEETING LOCATION

BROADWAY FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN  
Community Meeting Room  
110 S. LaBrea Avenue  
Inglewood, CA

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### SHOW & TELL

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

### CAAGS MEMBERS

WILL BE SHARING THEIR  
RESEARCH FACTS AND FINDS

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME ALL NEW MEMBERS.

Membership Pins are still available at \$5.00 each. See Rozella Hall V.P. Membership if you would like to purchase one.

### LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY - SHADES OF L.A. PROJECT

Phase I, African Americans in Los Angeles from 1800's to 1950. Please! Save the history of our communities by sharing your photographs with the Photo Friends of The History Department of the Los Angeles Public Library. This project is being done so that you can see African American in Los Angeles as well as read about accomplishments of African Americans in Los Angeles.

Bring your family photo albums, pictures from church archives, pictures in old business files, etc depicting African American life/lifestyles in Los Angeles. Photographs will be copied (While you wait), and will be put in the library's collection, and made available to the public.

SHADES OF L.A. PROJECT.....cont'd

The following are the locations where you can bring your photos for copying.

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| VERNON BRANCH LIBRARY<br>4504 S. CENTRAL AVENUE  | SAT., OCT. 19 |
| CALIF. AFRO-AMERICAN MUSEUM<br>600 STATE DRIVE, EXPOSITION PARK  | SAT., NOV. 2  |
| WATTS TOWERS ART CENTER<br>1727 E. 107TH STREET  | SAT., NOV. 9  |
| THE MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN ART<br>4005 CRENSHAW BLVD.<br>MAY CO. 3RD FLOOR<br>BALDWIN HILLS-CRENSHAW PLAZA | SAT., NOV. 16 |

Volunteers are still needed to work the afternoons (1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.) on the above dates. If you would like to volunteer call Carolyn Cozo at (213) 612-3316, L.A. Public Library.

\* \* \* \* \*

MEMBER NEWSTRAVELING WITH WILLIAM AND NELLE SLATON

Submitted By Nelle Becker-Slaton

This summer, Bill and Nelle visited the Military Archives in Rhode Island. Nelle verified with documentation that her great great grandfather Daniel Perry fought in the Revolutionary War. He also signed a petition along with three other Narragansett Indians demanding a \$500.00 payment for land taken from them.

While in Washington D.C. this past spring attending the African American Historical Genealogical Society Conference, Bill and Nelle Slaton spent time at the National Archives. Nelle found her great grandfathers' Martin F. Becker Civil War pension records, which contained reams of information about him and his family. Although he proved to be quite a ladies man after the Civil War, during the war he braved many hours in the ocean when his navy ship went down. Martin Becker left the Navy and joined the 55th Unit of the Union Army. Bill Slaton unearthed information about his great grandfather

BILL & NELLE SLATON.....cont'd

During their stay in Washington they received considerable assistance from Robert Taylor who was also attending the conference. Robert located and copied information not only for his own records but for friends and relatives too. Nelle, Bill and Robert attended an all day seminar given by James Walker at the conference. Bill and Nelle encourage members of our group to attend the next one because it is very informative and helpful.

\* \* \* \* \*

FREED SLAVES OF ROBERT CARTER III

Submitted by Zelda Grubbs

The following article is a synopsis of a larger article entitled THE DAY SLAVERY BOWED TO CONSCIENCE, printed in the July 21, 1991 issue of the Washington Post Newspaper. Zelda Grubbs received a copy of the article from a friend in Washington, D.C. who thought it interesting and that it could possibly provide some insight to those searching for their Virginia Roots.

In 1791, Robert Carter III was one of the richest and most powerful men in America. He owned 16 plantations and 500 slaves from the Chesapeake Bay in the Eastern part of Virginia to the Northern Shenandoah Valley in Virginia. He had a mansion in Williamsburg and a mansion in Westmorland County, "Nomini Hall", was a showplace of its owner's many accomplishments in music, literature, science and the arts. He even loaned money to Thomas Jefferson.

On August 1, 1791, 200 years ago Robert Carter III freed his 500 slaves. This was 30 years before the abolitionist movement and 70 years before the civil war. According to manumission laws freed slaves should be sound in mind and body, between the ages of 18 and 45 if female, and 21 and 45 if male. All others, if manumitted had to be maintained at the expense of their previous master. Robert Carter provided that 30 slaves over 45 were to be set free immediately, even though he would still be charged to support them. Those of legal age would then be set free at the rate of 15 a year, over a 10 year period beginning with the oldest. The younger slaves were to be released as they reached their majorities. Therefore, it took until 1812 to free all his slaves. In 1806 a Virginia law required after May 1 of that year all freed slaves be required move to another state. Many of the freed

FREED SLAVES OF ROBERT CARTER III.....cont'd

slaves probably went to Ohio. Many of Carter's slaves were manumitted from his plantations in the Shenandoah Valley and stayed in Frederick County, Virginia.

Manumission records show that Carter ordered each slave to come to court with both a first and last name with which to start his new life, and it is the list of those family names in the court records that most intrigues contemporary historians. (Note: It is mentioned that Robert Carter III died before 1812 but no date of death was given in the article) (It is not known whether all of his slaves were freed before his death. (SEE LIST OF SURNAMES UNDER QUERY SECTION OF THIS NEWSLETTER).

WASHINGTON POST NEWSPAPER - JULY 21, 1991

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BIRTH AND DEATH INDEXES IN THE TEXAS STATE LIBRARY

The Genealogy Collection of the Texas State Library has the INDEXES for Texas births and deaths from 1903 through 1973.

Genealogy staff will make copies of the entries in the indexes upon written request. The charge is \$.15 per page, with a minimum charge of \$1.00. In order to find a name in the indexes, the staff MUST have both first and last name of the person as well as the approximate or exact year of birth or death.

Several factors may cause a search in these indexes to be unsuccessful. Although the law providing for registration of births and deaths went into effect in 1903, it was not mandatory until 1921. Therefore, many births and deaths, especially those in rural areas, were never recorded. Some births and deaths may be recorded only in the county where the event happened.

The names in the indexes to the death certificates for the years 1903 through 1945 are in one alphabet. The names in the indexes for 1941-1945 from a second alphabet. The remaining years (1946-1973) consist of a separate list of names for each year. Similarly, the names in the indexes to the birth certificates for 1903 through 1909 are in one alphabet; the remaining years (1910-1973) consist of a separate list of names for each year. If, therefore, the approximate date of

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**BIRTH AND DEATH INDEXES IN THE TEXAS STATE LIBRARY.....cont'd**

birth or death cannot be given to the Genealogy Staff, a list of private researchers will be sent upon request.

Many people who had no official record at the time of birth established a record later in life with the bureau of Vital Statistics. These are called "probate" or delayed births. The Genealogy Collection has two sets of delayed birth indexes. These indexes cover roughly the period from 1880-1940.

Copies of birth and death certificates can be obtained by sending the index information, along with \$5.00 per certificate, to the Bureau of Vital Statistics, 1100 West 49th Street, Austin, Texas 78756.

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Copies of birth and death certificates can be obtained by sending the index information, along with \$5.00 per certificate, to the Bureau of Vital Statistics, 1100 West 49th Street, Austin, Texas 78756.

The following indexes have been microfilmed and may be borrowed from the Genealogy Collection by your local library through interlibrary loan:

Deaths 1903-1940 (7 reels)  
Deaths 1941-1945 (2 reels)  
Probate Births 1880-1940 (7 reels)

BIRTH AND DEATH INDEXES IN THE TEXAS STATE LIBRARY.....cont'd

If you do wish to borrow any of these, please indicate the surname(s) you are interested in. We will forward the appropriate reel to your local library. Interlibrary loan requests for these reels must be made on an ALA Interlibrary Loan Form. Requests should be addressed to: Genealogy, Texas State Library, Box 12927, Austin, Texas 78711.

\* \* \* \* \*

FYI - FOR YOUR INFORMATIONLos Angeles

The INGLEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY, 101 W. Manchester, Inglewood, California has a complete set of L.A. City Directories from 1894 to 1924 and Inglewood City Directories for 1925, 1927, 1929, 1931, 1935, 1938, 1940, 1942, 1947 and 1950. These directories list the names of persons living in the area for the year they were published.

New York

New York records of births and deaths are housed in their individual Boroughs which are Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and Richmond. To obtain records you must write to the Department of Health in the Borough of your search.

Death records before 1866 are incomplete as are birth records for the same period. Birth records date from 1824, deaths as early as 1801 and marriages from 1828. Some of these records may have been retired to the New York Municipal Archives, Room 103, 31 Chambers St., New York, NY 10007 (births up to 1897, marriages until 1937 and deaths to 1929).

ANTIQUÉ WEEK NEWSPAPER 4/22/91

Oklahoma

Before April 22, 1889, most of present day Oklahoma was known as Indian Territory. It had become home to more than 65 Indian Tribes. Oklahoma Territory was created May 2, 1890 from the unassigned lands and the panhandle, and Oklahoma statehood was recognized November 16, 1907. The Oklahoma Historical Society, 2100 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105; houses an extensive collection of records pertaining to Oklahoma and Indian Historical information.

ANTIQUÉ WEEK NEWSPAPER 4/8/91

NEWS FROM OTHER SOCIETIESNew Jersey

As a result of an article published in the New Brunswick, N.J. Home News, entitled "History Hidden in Graveyard", Lucius D. Bowser made a trip to Othello, N.J. to visit the hillside cemetery, known as AMBURY HILL, where Blacks who fought during the Civil War are buried. The newspaper mentions a church on the property around 1840 burned down; however, the "graveyard" remains hidden in that tall grass, visited every year by a few who know their way around the back roads. (Home News, May 30, 1991).

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER AAHGS NEWSLETTER VOL. 3 #7 10/91

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QUERY

R. Dickenson New Jersey Chapter AAHGS is seeking information on Bordentown Manual Training & Industrial School or "Old Ironsides" the only all Black training institution in New Jersey. The school was founded in 1886 by Rev. W. A. Rice, A.M.E. Anyone having information on students, faculty, alumni and current land ownership of former school on the Parnell estate please forward to: R. Boulton Dickenson, 140 Tysen Street, Staten Island, New York 10301.

\* \* \* \* \*

Surnames of Robert Carter's Freed Slaves - Historians combing through "freedom papers" in Virginia's state archives, are searching for descendants of Robert Carter's freed slaves. More than 50 surnames have been identified. The names identified on his deed of manumission include Allen, Arnold, Banks, Brooke, Brutus, Burke, Burton, Cary, Colson, Conway, Cooper, Craft, Daley, Daniel, Dial, Dicher, Dickerson, Gaskins, Glascock, Greggs, Gumby, Hackney and Harris, Harrison, Henry, Hollady, Hubbard, Johnson, Johnston, Jones, Kenardy, Mitchell, Newgent, Newman, Peterson, Puss, Reid, Richards, Richardson, Robinson, Single, Smith, Spence, Taylor, Thomas, Thompson, Thornton, Tossopot, Tuckson, Walker, Weldon, Wells, Wilson, Wormley and Wyatt.

Surname.....cont'd

If can trace your family history back to 1791 or you have information/documentation relating you to any of the listed surnames/persons who were owned by Robert Carter III contact: John Barden, Box 1234, New Bern, N.C. 28560 (919) 638-5109 or Frank Delano, P.O. Box 242, Warsaw, VA 22572 (804) 333-3321.

EVENTS

10/26/91 CLIMBING YOUR FAMILY TREE CAN BE FUN - Presented by The Everton Publishers, Inc. (The Genealogical Helper). Sponsored by The Conejo Valley Genealogical Society from 8:15 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. at the Thousand Oaks Library, 1401 East Janss Road, Thousand Oaks. The registration is \$25.00 postmarked prior to October 16th, \$27.00 postmarked after October 16th and includes a FREE subscription to "The Genealogical Helper" magazine. Call (805) 494-4575 or (805) 497-8293 for more info.

Thru 11/17/91 THE WORLD OF LOIS MAILOU JONES a restrospect of approximately 80 watercolors, oils, drawings and textile designs spanning the 60 year career of this prominent artist. California African American Museum, Exhibition Park, Los Angeles, CA 90037 (213) 744-7432.

\* \* \* \* \*

BOOK

THE HERITAGE OF BLACKS IN NORTH CAROLINA, VOLUME I, 1990 by Glenn D. Cunningham - Chronicles the history of the Edwin S. Cunningham (1852 - 1923) family. Also written by Glenn Cunningham is THE HIDDEN LIVES OF WAVERLY PLANTATION in which research of this plantation leads to clues regarding his ancestors. Contact Glenn Cunningham, 230 Bergen Avenue, Jersey City, N.J. 07305 (201) 433-3487.

Submit articles for the November Newsletter by 11/2/91 to Gerri Johnson, 2026 4th Avenue, L.A., CA 90018 or call (213) 733-1835



# HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

EDITOR: Gerri Johnson

VOL. 3 NOVEMBER 1991

## CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

**SOCIETY MEETING:** Our meeting will be held on November 16, 1991  
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Robert Taylor will be teaching a class from  
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on **EFFECTIVE DOCUMENT ANALYSIS.**

\* \* \* \* \*

### BROADWAY FEDERAL SAVINGS & LOAN

COMMUNITY ROOM

110 S. LABREA

INGLEWOOD, CA

\* \* \* \* \*

### CAAGS MEMBERS SHOW & TELL

PLUS

GUEST SPEAKER: CLARICE PHOENIX ROGERS

TOPIC: GRAND UNITED ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS

\* \* \* \* \*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ELECTIONS** - The following CAAGS officers positions are open for nominations: **President - 2 year term, 2nd Vice President - Membership - 2 year term and Correspondence Secretary - 2 year term.** The terms for these offices are to commence January 1, 1992 and end December 31, 1994. If you would like to nominate yourself or another CAAGS member please contact one of the following Nominating Committee members. Results will presented and voted on at our November 16, 1991 meeting.

|                      |   |              |
|----------------------|---|--------------|
| Renae Cochee Deckard | - | 310-753-8290 |
| Gerri Johnson        | - | 213-733-1835 |
| Ronna Lockett        | - | 213-298-7662 |
| Elaine McGee         | - | 310-672-2666 |
| Warren Story         | - | 213-296-6543 |
| Ozeal Smith          | - | 213-933-4506 |
| Oscar Teal           | - | 213-294-2001 |

### CAAGS MEMBERSHIP PINS

CAAGS Membership Pins are still available for \$5.00. See Rozella Hall - 2nd V.P. Membership.

A HISTORY OF SLAVERY IN ILLINOIS

By Georgia E. Crim

All lands just East of the Mississippi River were part of the Louisiana Territory. Slaves were introduced into the lower territory in 1719. In 1722, a number of families with slaves were escorted to the upper Louisiana Territory called the Illinois Country which was later a part of the Northwest Territory. Missions were formed by the French at Cahokia in 1699, Fort De Chartes in 1719, along with three other settlements along the Mississippi River down to the mouth of the Kaskaskia River. A 1732 census of these areas listed Negroes and Indian slaves.

Shipyards, flour and lumber mills began along the riverboat towns of Chester, Grand Tower, Elizabeth Town, Cairo, Mound City, Metropolis, Golconda, and Shawnee Town. After the counties of St. Clair, Madison, Randolph, Gallatin, and later Jackson were formed, many negroes were brought in from the Indies to work the salt and coal mines.

When Virginia ceded her claims to the Northwest Territory of the United States, Article VI of the "Ordinance of 1787" prohibited slavery in the district "Northwest of the river Ohio" but permitted "voluntary" servitude. Governor St. Clair, first, of the Illinois Territory (1809) interpreted the clause as prohibiting the introduction of slaves and not as aiming to emancipate those already in slavery. Because of this clause, Negroes became indentured slaves in the Illinois Country. Because of illiteracy, Negroes signed contracts of service for ten, twenty, fifty years, even a lifetime. Illinois became the 21st state, December 3, 1818. Although the situation was not as severe as in the deep south, the indentured condition operated under Black Codes similar to those existing in other states. Servants of color were not allowed to serve in the militia, or to have bail when arrested, to engage in unlawful assemblies, or to absent themselves from owner's lands without a pass.

Many slave owners from other states, because of the lax conditions moved to Illinois in order to free the slaves in their households. Illinois had many free people of color long before the Civil War and the Emancipation Proclamation. It also was the destination of many run-away slaves who were seeking a free way of life and who were fortunate enough not to be caught.

LITTLE EGYPT CHAPTER - AAHGS NEWSLETTER VOL. 1 NO. 3

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DRAFT REGISTRATION CARDS WW1 1917 - 1918

By Katheryne Littleton - CAAGS

Draft cards for World War I, are filed by the Selective Service Board of Registration. They are filed by state, and county. Draft cards contain vital information such as name of parent, wife, or the nearest relative. They also give the age, year of birth, place of birth, employer and address of the draft board of registration. Some cards (by design) omitted the name of the parents. Most cards give a description of the person, height, complexion, color of eyes and size, whether tall, medium or short. These people were from 17 to 45 years of age, so any one born as early as 1875 could be listed.

To obtain these records, you must have full name of person, city, county, state and address or ward etc. More than 24,000,000 WWI draft records are on file. Contact the Federal Archives and Records Center, 1559 St. Joseph Avenue, East Point, GA 30044.

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RESEARCH NOTES

DISCHARGE RECORDS

Each county in the U.S. was required to record the honorable discharge of soldiers and sailors who served in World War I. The records are kept in local courthouses and consist of typed or handwritten transcripts of the original documents given to the soldier. Sometimes, discharge records give marital status, horsemanship qualifications advancement, battles, decorations, honors, leaves of absence, physical condition and character evaluation. World War II records were kept the same way.

THE SOURCE GUIDEBOOK OF AMERICAN GENEALOGY

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F.Y.I. - FOR YOUR INFORMATION

**AFRICAN FILMS AVAILABLE ON VIDEO** - California Newsreal released the first collection of award-winning, feature-length African films on video in the U.S. The collection includes a program guide, introduction by Alice Walker, scholarly essays on each film, and curricular suggestions. These are available through the Library of African Cinema. For more information contact California Newsreal, 149 Ninth Street #420, San Francisco, Ca 94130, (415) 621-6196.

FYI.....cont'd

**PAUL ROBESON CULTURAL CENTER** - Rutgers University recently broke ground for the Paul Robeson Cultural Center. The center will provide cultural enrichment programs from the African-American perspective and serve the common interest of the Black student body, Black faculty and staff. The center is scheduled for completion and dedication in September 1991.

THE BLACK COLLEGIAN, SEPT./OCT. 91

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### BOOKS

**PEOPLE OF COLOR - AFRICANS AND INDIANS** - Self Published by CAAGS Member - Joyce Chappel. History of relationship of Indians and Africans. Includes a list of 222 slave ships and a special section for you to record your family history. For more information call Joyce Chappel, 714-947-9922 or write to P.O. Box 3903, Ontario, CA 91761. \$19.95 plus \$2.00 shipping & handling.

**COLORED PATHS - MISSOURI CEMETERY DOCUMENTATION VOL. 1** - Self Published by CAAGS Member - Ronna Lockett. Colored Paths documents the burials in the Old Cemetery and New Cemetery of Wesley-Smith Chapel United Methodist Church in Wright City, Missouri. Member Price \$15.00, Non Members \$17.00. Contact Ronna Lockett, P.O. Box 77534, L.A., CA 90007, (213) 298-7662.

**FREE BLACKS IN HARFORD, TALBOT, AND SOMERSET COUNTIES, MARYLAND - 1832** - Transcribed by Mary K. Meyer. Lists some 6000 free blacks in this three county area with their ages as required by the Act of the Maryland Legislature in 1832. Those listed in Talbot and Harford counties are shown in family groups. 105 pages with index, \$13.00 including shipping. Maryland residents add 60 cents tax. Order from Pipe Creek Publications, Inc., 5179 Perry Road, Mt. Airy, Maryland 21771.

**THE BLACK ABOLITIONIST PAPERS - VOL. 1 & II** - Focuses on the abolition movement in the British Isles and Canada. Volume III: The United States, 1830-1846. This volume begins with the brief period of unprecedented cooperation between black and white abolitionists in the 1830s and documents the emergence of a more independent black abolitionist movement as slavery and racism continued to thrive in the 1840s. \$50.00, The University of North Carolina Press, P.O. Box 2288, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-2288, 1-800-848-6624.

QUERIES

**FRANCIS W. ALEXANDER** is searching for descendants of his maternal great-great-grandmother, **AMANDA CARTER** who resided in Davie County, N.C., circa 1855 to 1939. She had six children, including Charlie, George and Mary, as well as at least three sisters, Mary Carter Stallings, Jennie Carter Bishop and Susan Carter Walden. If you can be of assistance, contact: Wes Alexander, 1816 Harrison Street, Sandusky, OH 44870. (October Visions Magazine 1991)

**HENRIETTA JACKSON** is seeking information on her great grandfather **JEREMIAH HOOKFIN**. It is believed that he was sold from Georgia to Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana and later sold to St. Helena Parish. Family stories indicate that he married **MARY R. WOMACK**, who was born in Alabama and sold to New Orleans where she was auctioned to a St. Helena Parish planter. Anyone with information, please contact Henrietta Jackson, 374 Elmer Avenue, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70807. (Journal of the Afro-Louisiana Historical & Genealogical Society Vol. 1 No. 2).

**MARY PIERCE SCOTT**, is seeking information about her grandfather, **RIVERS PIERCE**, of East Feliciana Parish. Prior to his marriage to **EMMA REESE** in 1889, he fathered a son named Stanton by **MARY ROBINSON** who was possibly from the Possum Corner area. **RIVERS** eventually moved to New Orleans. Anyone with information about these people, please call (219) 745-0260 or write to Mary Pierce Scott, 325 E. Woodland Avenue, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802. (Journal of the Afro-Louisiana Historical & Genealogical Society Vol. 1 No. 2).

EVENTS

- 11/16/91 **CALIFORNIA AFRO-AMERICAN MUSEUM** - Invites you to view **EXTENSIONS OF THE HEART - DRUMS** - From the collection of Dr. Joseph H. Howard. 1:00 p.m. Dr. Joseph H. Howard discusses his global drum collection. 2:00 p.m. Drum Libation Ceremony. 600 State Drive, Exposition Park, L.A., CA 90037, Admission Free, 213-744-2056
- 11/16/91 **SHADES OF L.A. PROJECT** - The L.A. Public Library, Photo Friends will be viewing and making copies of pictures brought in by "you" the Black Community depicting Black life/lifestyles/places in Los Angeles. Bring your old photographs to the **AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM**, 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., 3rd Floor May Compay, Baldwin Hills/Crenshaw Shopping Center, Martin Luther King and Crenshaw Boulevard.

EVENTS.....cont'd

- 11/23/91      **KAOS NETWORK COFFEE HOUSE** - Presents **Poet Quincy Troupe**, co-author of Miles Davis autobiography, Saturday at 8:00 P.M. Kaos Network is a new Coffee House operated by Ben R. Caldwell professor of film at California Institute of of the Arts in Valencia. Kaos is located at 4343 Leimert Blvd., Leimert Park, L.A., CA. 213-296-5717.
  
- 11/23/91      **HUMAN ART GALLERY STUDIO** - Presents Artist **Bernard Stanley Hoyes** "**NEW WORKS FROM THE SPIRIT**". Artist Reception November 23, 1991, 7 - 10 p.m., 1319 Abbot Kinney Blvd. (formerly W. Washington Blvd.) Venice, CA 90291, 2130399-8188. The exhibit runs from November 20, thru December 31, 1991.
  
- 12/1/91      **MARLA GIBBS CROSSROADS THEATER** - Marla Gibbs will host a champagne Autograph Gala for the **BLACK FAMILY REUNION COOKBOOK** on **Sunday, December 1st, 2 to 5 p.m.** honoring **Libby Clark**, the Los Angeles Sentinel's food editor and **Varnette Honeywood**, nationally acclaimed fine arts painter and lecturer who are principals in the production of the book.

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CORRECTION

The first page of the October Heritage Newsletter which read VOL. 3 November 1991 should have read VOL. 3 October 1991.

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE

Thank You, October refreshment committee.

November refreshment committee is as follows:

- Nellie Becker-Slaton
- Ed Grey
- Ron Higgins.

H A P P Y   T H A N K S G I V I N G

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Newsletter Articles for the next issue should be submitted by December 7, 1991. Mail to Gerri Johnson, 2026 4th Avenue, L.A., CA 90018 or call 213-733-1835.

AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES

Gerri Johnson

African American Family  
History Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 115268  
Atlanta, GA 30310

African American Genealogy  
Group of the Afro-American  
Historical & Cultural Museum  
P.O. Box 1798  
Philadelphia, PA 19105-1798

African American Family  
History Project  
P.O. Box 6074  
Greensboro, NC 27405

Afro-American Genealogical &  
Historical Society of Chicago  
P.O. Box 37-7651  
Chicago, IL 60637

Afro-American Historical &  
Genealogical Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 73086  
Washington, DC 20056-3086

Afro-American Genealogical &  
Historical Society of Chicago  
-Dusable Museum  
P.O. Box A3093  
Chicago, Illinois 60690

Afro-Louisiana Historical &  
Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 2247  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

Arizona Chapter - AAHGS  
2436 E. Carmel  
Meza, AZ 85204

Baltimore Chapter - AAHGS  
822 Bonaparte Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21218

Black Heritage Society of  
Washington State, Inc.  
P.O. Box 22565  
Seattle, Washington 98122

Central Maryland  
Chapter - AAHGS  
16225 Old Frederick Road  
Mount Airy, MD 21771

Cleveland Chapter, AAHGS  
P.O. Box 200382  
Cleveland, OH 44120

Genealogy Section  
The Associ. for the Study of  
Afro-American Life, Inc.  
1407 Fourteenth Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20005

Indiana African American  
Historical & Genealogical  
Society - AAHGS Chapter  
502 Clover Terrace  
Bloomington, Indiana 47404

Patricia Liddell Researchers  
Chicago - Chapter AAHGS  
460 E. 41st Street #917  
Chicago, IL 60653

Metropolitan N.Y. City  
Chapter - AAHGS  
55 W. 68th Street, Apt. 3A  
New York, NY 10023

National Capitol Area -  
Chapter AAHGS  
7808 Berry Place  
Forrestville, MD 20747

New Jersey Chapter - AAHGS  
124 Mt. Salem Road  
Wantage, N.J. 07461

AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES

North Carolina Afro-American  
Historical & Genealogical  
Society P.O. Box 26785  
Raleigh, NC 27611-6785

Jean Sampson Scott Greater  
N.Y. Chapter - AAHGS  
P.O. Box 022340  
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11202

The Fred Hart Williams  
Genealogical Society  
Burton Historical Collection  
Detroit Public Library  
6201 Woodward Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48202

The Little Egypt Chapter -  
AAHGS  
908 Burton Street  
Carbondale, IL 62901

Texas State Chapter - AAHGS  
P.O. Box 670045  
Houston, TX 77267

Western Pennsylvania  
Chapter - AAHGS  
59 Penn Circle West  
Suite V-705  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Rhode Island Black  
Heritage Society  
1 Hilton Street  
Providence, RI 02905

Anyone having knowledge of other societies, please let me know.

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# HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

EDITOR: GERRI JOHNSON

VOL. 3 No. 12 DECEMBER 1991

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CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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SOCIETY MEETING: Our meeting will be held on December 21, 1991 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Robert Taylor will be teaching a research class from 9:00 A.M. - 10:00 A.M.

Our annual CHRISTMAS PARTY will be held on December 21, 1991 (see the enclosed invitation). The affair is POT LUCK. Guests are also welcome to attend. Please RSVP to let us know that your coming and what you will be bringing by December 18, 1991.

## MEETING LOCATION

BROADWAY FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN  
Community Meeting Room  
110 S. LaBrea Avenue  
Inglewood, CA

## INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Robert Taylor  
2ND V.P./MEMBERSHIP: Rozella Hall  
CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY: Marjorie Higgins

## CURRENT OFFICERS

President, Jamesetta Hammons; 1st V.P./Program Chairperson, Ronald Higgins; 2nd V.P./Membership, Rozella Hall; Treasurer, Sandra Phillips; Recording Secretary, Marilyn White; Newsletter Editor, GERALYN JOHNSON.

## THANK YOU

Our V.P. & Program Chairperson, Ronald Higgins says Thank You to everyone who participated in our Show & Tell it was a great success. We all learned a lot; all the interesting facts and stories keeps us inspired to continue on in our quest for knowledge of our ancestors.

*Happy Holidays*

YOUR PERSONAL GENEALOGY

By Gerri Johnson - CAAGS

We all know how hard it is to research our ancestors and piece together their lives through bits and pieces of information gleaned from relatives. They try to enlighten you on the persons lifestyle, personality and accomplishments as far as they know but, you wish you could have had a conversation with that person or some written documentation to know for sure. Right!

So, as you prepare your family genealogies don't forget to prepare a family group sheet for yourself and write a narrative on your life from past to present. Who could know you better than "you"; your likes, dislikes, accomplishments, awards, professions or lifestyle.

As we ring out the old year and ring in the new don't forget to include yourself in your research documentation of 1992.

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RESEARCH NOTES

Computerization of Civil War Soldiers

The National Archives is in the process of computerizing information on Confederate and Union soldiers of the Civil War. The project will make 5.5 million microfilmed records at the National Archives more readily available. Included will be information on the 7,000 regiments and units and on many of the 10,500 battles and skirmishes. Researchers to the National Archives in Washington D.C. and its 12 regional archives and visitors to all Civil War sites operated by the National Park Service would have access to the system.

This project is a joint venture of the National Archives, the National Park Service, the Federation of Genealogical Societies, and the Genealogical Society of Utah in a cooperative effort to create a database of the names, regiments, and ranks of Confederate and Union soldiers. For further information, call the National Archives Public Affairs Office at 202-501-5525.

National Archives Letter - Aug. 15, 1991

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BOOKS

DO PEOPLE GROW ON FAMILY TREES: GENEALOGY FOR KIDS & OTHER BEGINNERS, by Ira Wolfman (Sesame St. Magazine Editor in Chief), forward by Alex Haley - A book to encourage children as well as their parents to start researching their family backgrounds. The book is also the Official Ellis Island Handbook providing information about where families came from before moving to America, what port of entry they used and where they settled. It shows junior genealogist how to make a family tree, where to search for documentation, birth and death records and advises children to talk with grandparents and other relatives who can provide background. The book includes a list of last names, their countries of origin and what they mean; forms to request citizenship papers and other family information from government agencies. Workman Publishing, \$9.95. In Los Angeles this book can be purchased at Walden Books, Dutton's in L.A Century City and Brentwood or call 1-800-722-7202 for other locations.

L.A. TIMES 11/20/91

THE BOOK OF AFRICAN NAMES - by Molefi Kete Asante - A book responding to the growing use of African names in the U.S. Thinking African Americans want not only names that sound good, but names used in an Afrocentric context complete with historical rationale and proper meanings. Africa World Press, Inc., P.O. Box 1892, Trenton, NJ 08607, \$8.95.

BLACK COLLEGIAN - NOV./DEC. 1991

NATIVE AMERICAN TESTIMONY, edited by Peter Nabokov. - An anthology examining the 500 year history of Native American and white relations as seen through Indian eyes and told through Indian voices. Viking Press \$25.00.

CALIFORNIA BOOK BUYERS GUIDE 1991

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EVENTS

1/25/92 BLACK CONSERVATISM - YESTERDAY AND TOMORROW - two panels of distinguished authors and educators will explore the evolution of Black political thought. Book signings and refreshments from 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. RSVP by January 21, (213) 744-2056 CAAM.

Submit articles for the January Newsletter by 1/9/92 to Gerri Johnson, 2026 4th Avenue, L.A., CA 90018 or call (213) 733-1835

HOLIDAY RECIPESKWANZAA JELLOF RICE

|                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2 TABLESPOONS COOKING OIL | 3/4 CUP PEAS                |
| PLUS 1-1/2 TEASPOONS OIL  | 3 MEDIUM TOMATOES, CUT UP   |
| 1 FRYING CHICKEN          | 1 TEASPOON SALT             |
| CUT INTO SMALL PIECES     | 1/2 TEASPOON BLACK PEPPER   |
| 3 MEDIUM ONIONS CHOPPED   | 1/2 TEASPOON CAYENNE PEPPER |
| 1/2 POUND RAW SHRIMP      | 1 SPRIG THYME, CRUSHED      |
| SHELLED & DEVEINED        | OR 1 TEASPOON DRIED         |
| 6 CUPS WATER              | 1-1/2 CUPS UNCOOKED RICE    |
| 3/4 CUP CHOPPED CARROTS   | 1/4 CUP TOMATO PASTE        |
| 3/4 CUP CUT GREEN BEANS   |                             |

HEAT OIL IN STOCKPOT OR KETTLE. BROWN CHICKEN, ADD ONIONS AND GREEN PEPPERS. COOK ON MEDIUM HEAT 5 TO 10 MINUTES. SAUTE SHRIMP IN REMAINING 1-1/2 TEASPOON OIL IN SMALL SKILLET. BRING 6 CUPS WATER TO A BOIL IN A LARGE SAUCEPAN. ADD CARROTS, GREEN BEANS AND PEAS, COOK ABOUT 5 MINUTES. DRAIN VEGETABLES, RESERVING 3 CUPS COOKING LIQUID. ADD TO CHICKEN IN STOCKPOT ALONG WITH SHRIMP, TOMATOES, SALT, BLACK PEPPER, CAYENNE AND THYME. REDUCE HEAT AND SIMMER 5 MINUTES. COMBINE RICE AND TOMATO PASTE IN BOWL. STIR UNTIL RICE IS COATED. STIR INTO STOCKPOT. ADD SMALL AMOUNTS OF WATER AS NEEDED TO PREVENT STICKING. COOK ABOUT 20 MINUTES OR UNTIL CHICKEN, VEGETABLES AND RICE ARE TENDER. MAKES 6 SERVINGS

SOUL BREAD

|                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 3 CUPS CORNMEAL          | 1 CUP COLD WATER         |
| 1 TABLESPOON SUGAR       | 1 CUP ALL PURPOSE FLOUR  |
| 1-1/2 TEASPOONS SALT     | 1-1/4 CUPS MOLASSES      |
| 2-1/2 CUPS BOILING WATER | 1/2 TEASPOON BAKING SODA |
| 1 SMALL SWEET POTATO     |                          |

COMBINE CORNMEAL, SUGAR AND SALT IN LARGE BOWL. POUR IN BOILING WATER, BEAT WITH ELECTRIC MIXER UNTIL WELL MIXED. BOIL SWEET POTATO UNTIL TENDER, PEEL WHILE HOT, ADD TO MEAL MIXTURE, BEAT 10 MINUTES. ADD COLD WATER, BEAT WELL, ADD FLOUR AND MOLASSES, BEAT WELL. COVER MIXTURE AND LET SET OVERNIGHT. STIR IN BAKING SODA, POUR INTO 10 INCH BUNDT PAN. BAKE AT 250 FOR 3 HOURS. REMOVE FROM OVEN, COVER PAN TO STEAM BREAD. COOL THEN REMOVE FROM PAN.

THE BLACK FAMILY REUNION COOKBOOK  
 RECIPES & FOOD MEMORIES  
 FROM THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN

California African American  
Genealogical Society's

# ROARING 20's CHRISTMAS PARTY

A Celebration of the release of the  
1920 Federal Census

DECEMBER 21, 1991  
7 PM - UNTIL

Given at the home of  
JOHANN HASSAN  
2523 10th Avenue  
Los Angeles, Calif

Pot Luck  
20's Attire Optional

**RSVP**

By December 14, 1991  
(213) 731-7584

1/2 BLOCK NORTH of ADAMS BLVD. 4 BLOCKS EAST of CRENSHAW BLVD.