

HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

EDITOR: GERRI JOHNSON

VOL. 4 No. 1 JANUARY 1992

CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

SOCIETY MEETING

CAAGS will meet on the 4th Saturday, JANUARY 25, 1991 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Community Room at BROADWAY FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN, 110 S. LABREA, INGLEWOOD, CA.

Our new President, **Robert Taylor** would like you all to participate in a planning session to give your input on what activities you would like to see, hear and do for the year 1992.

Dr. **Edgar Love** will speak on **BLACK MEXICANS IN MEXICO.**

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS 1992: We welcome the following new members to CAAGS; **Frezell Lova Jones, Deborah Fountain & Family and Jean P. Evans.**

* * * * *

A Reminder: If your 1992 membership fee has not been paid, please take a moment to send a check (\$15.00 Single, \$20.00 Family) to Membership Chairperson, **ROZELLA HALL, 1828 W. 50TH STREET, L.A., CA 90062.** Dues can also be paid at the monthly meeting. Dues are delinquent as of March 1, 1992 after which you will be dropped from the mailing list.

SOCIETY T SHIRTS: T SHIRTS with our organization logo are available for purchase at a cost of \$10.00 from **V.P. Ron Higgins.** See him at our meeting or call 213-753-8290.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **NEGRO LEAGUES BASEBALL MUSEUM INC.** is offering membership in several different categories as well as soliciting the donation of historical material and artifacts. For additional information, write to: The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, 1601

E. 18th Street, Suite 260, Kansas City, MO 64108; Call (816) 221-1920.

JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN been named winner of the Eugene M. Kayden Award for Race and History: Selected Essays, 1938-1988 (Louisiana State University Press). The prize is given by the University of Colorado at Boulder for the best book in the humanities published by a university press.

American Visions 12/91

FLORIDA PARISHES BY **JOEL GARDNER**

A parish is Louisiana's equivalent to a county; eight of them are collectively referred to as the "Florida Parishes": East and West Feliciana, East Baton Rouge, Livingston, St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa and Washington. They are bounded by the state of Mississippi to the north and east, by the Mississippi River to the west, and by Bayou Manchac and lake Ponchartrain to the south. In colonial days, they fell within the Spanish Territory of West Florida and for a few months in 1910, before annexation into the United States, they were the Republic of West Florida, hence their present designation, Florida Parishes.

The Florida Parishes region encapsulates the diversity of the state as a whole. Its residents are Scotch-Irish-English and Afro-American. French and Creole, Italian and Eastern European. Unlike the rest of south Louisiana, however, the Florida Parishes have seen very little creolization; rather, the traditions and ethnicity of its people have remained more discrete. The folk landscape of the parishes today includes plantation homes, piney woods, farmsteads, bayou fishing camps, Creole cottages and Sunbelt subdivisions.

FLORIDA PARISHES....cont'd

The major migration to the Florida Parishes was by British Americans in the 19th century. Tidewater English from Virginia and the Carolinas settled the cotton plantations of the Felicianas, and Scotch-Irish moved into the piney woods of Washington, St. Helena, and Tangipahoa by way of the mid-south areas of Georgia and Mississippi.

In front of the Anglo planters and farmers moved the Acolapissa, the major Native American group of the pre-settlement era--some now mixed with the Houmas in the Terrebonne Parish to the southwest--and the Choctaw, a few of whom remain along the bayous of the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain. Behind the planters came the African slaves, who later became sharecroppers when the post-bellum cotton economy dwindled. In the meantime, French, Spanish and German settlers moved in from New Orleans to the south to fish and hunt around the lake and rivers, as did the Creoles of Color (free men of color), who made homes in St. Tammany Parish and intermixed with the Europeans and the Indians.

At the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries, the last to arrive were Italians--nearly all of them Sicilians--and Hungarians. Each group formed a community, in Tangipahoa and Livingston parishes respectively, that remains culturally cohesive today.

The extent to which all these ethnic groups have maintained customs from generation to generation has depended on the economic or social isolation chosen by or forced upon the group. Thus Blacks, restricted from integration into the social structure of the dominant class, maintain traditions of subsistence and sustenance, worship

and recreation that are characteristic of the deep South. Their domestic folkways, such as food gathering and preparation, are those practiced by their forebears.

Like African Americans, many piney woods Scotch-Irish retain an economic isolation from Sunbelt growth. In piney woods areas in the northern Florida Parishes, where logging once served as an industry and a way of life, many remain tied to small farms. Most maintain traditional methods of food gathering and preparation, and some practice handcrafting farm implements, such as axe and hammer handles. The traditions of the piney woods area of the Florida Parishes are typically the Upland South culture that dominates north Louisiana. By contrast, the northshore of Lake Pontchartrain is home to a creolized mix of people and customs, comparable to that found throughout the southern part of the state. Intermingled descendants of Spanish, French and Germans fish and hunt, which is an important part in Northshore lifestyle.

In Bayou Lacombe, east of Mandeville, French, Creoles of Color and Choctaws have intermarried over the years. Their most striking tradition is the celebration of All Saints' Day, Toussaint, which includes blessing the dead by lighting candles around each gravesite in Lacombe cemeteries. At these rituals, Creole-speaking worshippers with French surnames gather to pay homage to their earliest French ancestors as well as their most recently departed relatives.

The Sicilian ancestors of most Italians in the Florida Parishes first worked the sugar fields across the Mississippi or the docks in New Orleans, then moved to the Hammond area, where they bought small strawberry farms. The Sicilians of Tangipahoa and East Baton Rouge Parishes, along with those in New

FLORIDA PARISHES...cont'd

MARCH 1, 1992

Orleans and north Louisiana, observe St Joseph's Day for which alters are built at home and church to honor the dead and provide a meal for all to share.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC. - 23rd Annual genealogy JAMBOREE. Exhibition Building, Pasadena Convention Center, 300 E. Green Street, Pasadena, CA. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Call 818-7247 for more information.

30 miles southeast of Independence lies Hungarian Settlement where Hungarian customs and traditions still continue. One custom is the making of traditional costumes for their celebrations which are then passed on to the next generation who still continue their European traditions.

CAAGS OFFICERS

In the Florida Parishes today, as in the rest of Louisiana, many of the traditions practiced for centuries are being continued by the diverse cultures that still exist.

President - Robert Taylor
1st V.P. - Ronald Higgins
2nd V.P. - Rozella Hall
Recording Secretary - Marilyn White
Correspondence Secretary - Marjorie Higgins
Treasurer - Sandra Phillips
Parliamentarian - Herb Laffoon
Historian - George Jenkins
Newsletter Editor - Geralyn Johnson

This article is based on Florida Parishes Folklife Survey 1983-84 and appears in a book titled "FOLKLIFE IN THE FLORIDA PARISHES"

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

BOOKS

Please submit all newsletter articles by January 31st for the February Newsletter to Gerri Johnson, 2026 4th Avenue, L.A., CA 90018 or call 213-733-1835.

ADAM CLAYTON POWELL JR.: THE POLITICAL BIOGRAPHY OF AN AMERICAN DILEMMA - Charles V. Hamilton. - This book is an account of the life of the Harlem Congressman who was a complicated activist and his rise and fall in the political arena.

EVENTS

JANUARY 20, 1992

CAAM presents a film series on Martin Luther King Jr., IN REMEMBRANCE OF MARTIN screens at 1:00 pm and 3:15 p.m. and MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. MONTGOMERY TO MEMPHIS screens at 2:45 p.m. For more information call 744-

1992 AAHGS Conference Bulletin 1

AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

**1992 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
APRIL 2, 3, & 4
SHERATON NORTH
903 DULANEY VALLEY ROAD
TOWSON, MARYLAND**

The Fifteenth Annual Conference of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society will be held April 2, 3, and 4, 1992 at the Sheraton North in Towson, Maryland. As thoughts worldwide are directed to the quincentennial of Columbus' voyage across the Atlantic, our conference theme will be:

"DISPELLING THE MYTHS: DISCOVERING NEW WORLDS"

Sessions will include papers by historians and laypersons focusing on local histories, research techniques, and topics of special interest to educators and families who wish to strengthen family ties. The conference will include activities designed to meet a variety of genealogical and historical needs as expressed by comments from members and conference evaluations. Currently plans call for workshops on writing grant proposals, how to begin genealogical research, and interrelationships of archaeology and anthropology to the preservation of the African American heritage.

Hotel Accommodations: The Sheraton North is a conference hotel which sits just off the Baltimore Beltway at Exit 27. It is near Morgan State University, Towson State University, and Goucher College. The Sheraton North offers rooms with single and double occupancy for \$75.00 per night and triple and quadruple occupancy for \$85.00 per night. In addition, there are over 1600 free parking spaces. A block of rooms has been reserved for AAHGS conferees. Across from the hotel will be a new shopping mall with more than 400 stores. The hotel operates a free shuttle to Baltimore City's Inner Harbor and research facilities nearby.

RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE DIRECTLY THROUGH THE HOTEL BY CALLING (301) 321-7400. TO RECEIVE THE CONFERENCE RATE, RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE NO LATER THAN JANUARY 31, 1992.

Vendors and Exhibitors: There will be an abundance of display space at the 1992 conference and vendors and exhibitors are invited to display their items. Those who wish to bring items for sale must complete the application form and submit the appropriate fees no later than March 1, 1992. Exhibitors who wish to display items primarily for educational and informational purposes must also file an application and submit payment. For more information, send your name, address, telephone number, and a description of the items you wish to display to AAHGS, Vendor and Exhibitor Information, P.O. Box 73086, Washington, D.C. 20056-3086 or you may call (202) 234-5350. AAHGS Chapters are encouraged to display materials representative of their regions and/or projects. Further information on Chapter exhibits will be sent directly to the Chapters.

ANYONE WISHING TO PRESENT A PAPER OR CONVENE A PANEL RELATING TO AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND/OR GENEALOGY SHOULD SUBMIT A ONE PAGE PROPOSAL BY NOVEMBER 30, 1991.

For additional information and a preliminary schedule, write to AAHGS, P.O. BOX 73086, WASHINGTON, DC 20056-3086 or call (202) 234-5350 and leave a message.

Chart your course in Maryland

Mathias DeSouza and **John Price**, men of African descent, emigrated to what is now Maryland in 1634 on the *Ark* and the *Dove*. Since that time, blacks have played an integral role in the development of the state.

In 1820, Maryland had more than 10,000 free blacks and a little more than 4,000 slaves. By 1860, the state had approximately 26,000 free blacks and a slave population of about 2,000.

Baltimore's appeal lies in the charm of an old city that is being preserved and enhanced by a carefully planned renaissance, maintained today by the African-American Mayor, **Kurt Schmoke**. Researchers of African-American history will find the following points of interest:

- **Sam Lacy**, sports editor of the *Afro-American* newspaper, was the first, and for many years only, African-American member of the Baseball Writers Association of America.
- **Thurgood Marshall**, the first African-American Supreme Court Justice, was born in Baltimore on July 2, 1908.
- **Eubie Blake**, the composer of "Shuffle Along," the show that brought jazz dancing to Broadway, was born in Baltimore in 1883.
- **Frances Ellen Watkins Harper**, born free and raised in Baltimore, rose to fame when her "Poems on Miscellaneous Subjects" was published in 1854.

- **William Douglass**, born September 6, 1805, in Baltimore, was the first African-American ordained to the ministry of the Episcopal Church at St. Stephen's Parish, Cecil County.

- **Henry Blair** became the first African-American to receive a U.S. patent, for his corn planting machine in 1834.

- **Benjamin Banneker**, scientist, mathematician and astronomer, was born free in Maryland in 1731; he served as surveyor of the District of Columbia in 1791 and returned home to develop his 1794 almanac.

- **Joshua Johnston** was listed in the Baltimore city directories from 1796 to 1824 as a portrait painter; slaves never were listed in these directories.

- Abolitionist **Frederick Douglass** learned to read in Baltimore and escaped to freedom from Baltimore.

- The second-oldest high school for African-Americans is **Douglass High School** in Baltimore.

Other notable black Marylanders include:

Ira Aldridge	Harriet Tubman
Benjamin Cardin	Daniel Coker
Cab Calloway	Sugar Ray Robinson
Pauli Murray	Mathew Henson
Chick Webb	Henry Highland Garrett
Josiah Henson	Billie Holliday
Daniel P. Murray	Joe Gans

Research in Maryland

Baltimore City and County are in the heart of Maryland. The **Sheraton North Conference Center** is just off Exit 27 of the Baltimore Beltway/U.S. Route 695, convenient to **Washington, DC**, historic **Annapolis** and the **Pennsylvania Archives** in Harrisburg, as well as the **Baltimore-Washington Airport** (BWI). BWI is served by 27 passenger airlines and has an average of 650 departures daily.

Since the conference center has 1,600 free parking spaces, researchers are encouraged to motor in a day or so before the conference and visit the research facilities listed below -- all can be reached in less than one hour by car from the Sheraton. Other places of interest will be listed in your conference registration package.

Baltimore County Historical Society Library

9811 Van Buren Lane
Cockeysville, MD
301/666-1876

Maryland Historical Society

201 W. Monument Street
Baltimore, MD 21201
410/685-3750

Maryland Hall of Records (State Archives)

350 Rowe Boulevard
Annapolis, MD 21401
301/974-3914

Peabody Library

17 E. Mount Vernon Place
Baltimore, MD 21202
410/659-8179

Howard County Historical Society Library

3725 Park Avenue
Ellicott City, MD 21043
301/750-0370

Enoch Pratt Free Library

400 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, MD 21201
410/396-5430

Howard County Historical Society

8328 Court Avenue
Ellicott City, MD 21043
301/461-1050

Baltimore City Archives

Calvert & Pleasant Streets
Baltimore, MD 21202
410/396-4861

Attention computer enthusiasts!!!

Computer vendors are invited to demonstrate their genealogy software at the 1992 AAHGS Conference. Members who have programs to share also are welcome to participate in this activity.

Contact the **Vendor/Exhibit Committee**, AAHGS, PO Box 73086, Washington, DC 20056-73086 for more information.

1992 AAHGS Conference Bulletin 4

AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
1992 Annual Conference
April 2, 3, & 4
Sheraton North
Towson, MD

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

CONFERENCE FEES

Full Package (3 days) Includes your choice of sessions, reception, and entrance to exhibits.

Preregistration (postmarked on or before March 13) \$45.00 (Members) \$55.00 (Non-members) \$ _____

On-site Registration \$55.00 (Members) \$65.00 (Non-members) \$ _____

Daily Package Includes your choice of that day's sessions and entrance to exhibits

Thursday Registration (1 day) \$25.00 \$ _____

Friday Registration (1 day) \$25.00 \$ _____

Saturday Registration (1 day) \$25.00 \$ _____

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

(Not included in registration fee above.)

Luncheon, Date \$16.50 \$ _____

Banquet, Date \$35.00 \$ _____

Luncheon, Date \$16.50 \$ _____

1992 MEMBERSHIP DUES

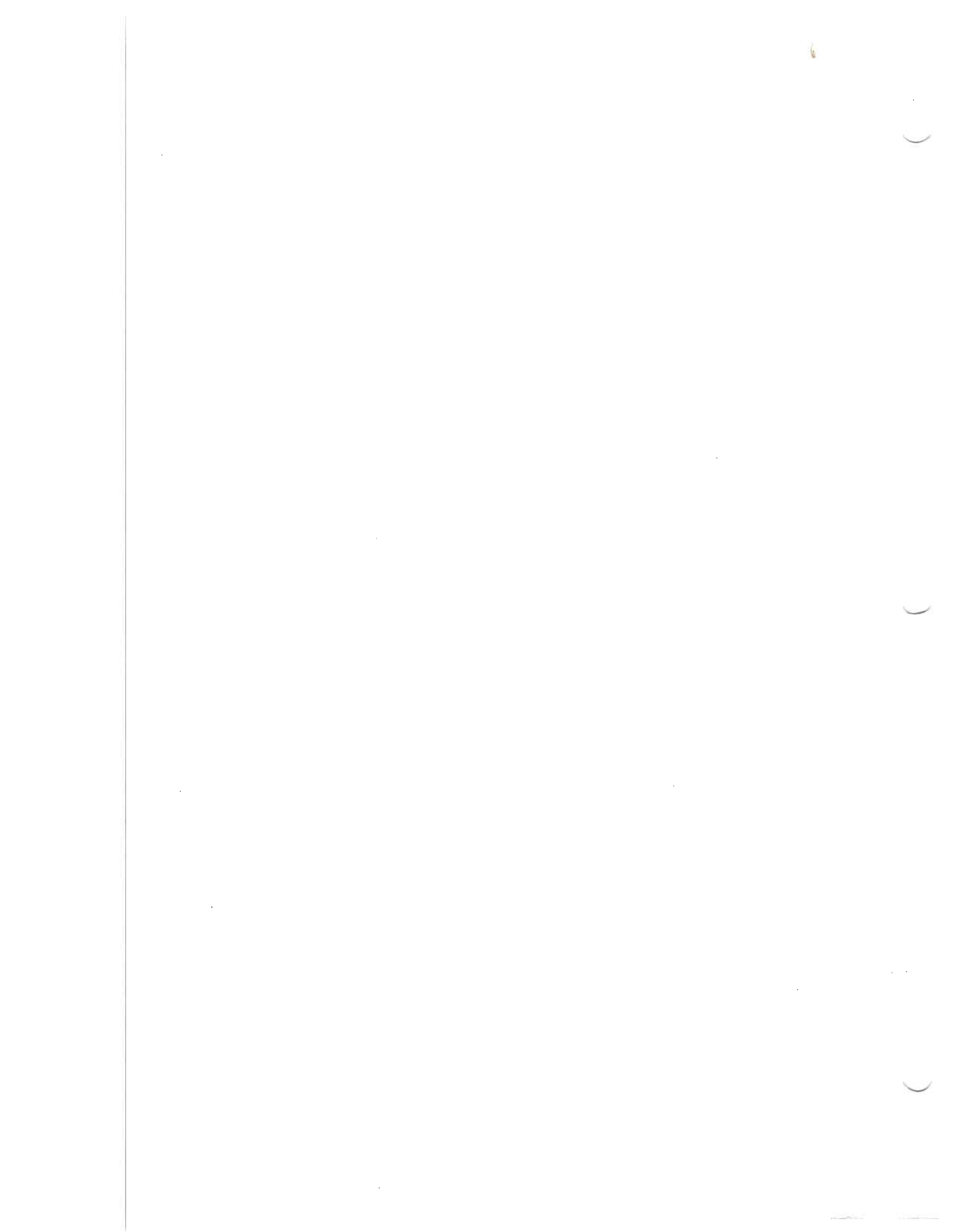
	_____ New	_____ Renewal	
Individual		\$25.00	\$ _____
Family		\$30.00	\$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Please complete the enclosed registration form and mail with your check to:

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

Mail-in registrations must be postmarked by March 13, 1992. No refunds after March 27.



HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

EDITOR: GERRI JOHNSON

VOL. 4 No. 2 FEBRUARY 1992

CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

SOCIETY MEETING

CAAGS will meet on the 4th Saturday, February 22, 1992, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Community Room at BROADWAY FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN, 110 S. LABREA, INGLEWOOD, CA.

JAMIE HAMMONS will be the class instructor from 9:00 a.m. - 10:00. TOPIC: 1920 CENSUS.

JANE SENEGAL - CAAM - PAF
AFRICAN AMERICAN DATABASE.

GUEST SPEAKER

CAROLE FULLER

TOPIC

CHEROKEE INDIAN CULTURE

MEMBERSHIP

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS 1992

Nathleen Albright
Donald E. Brown
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Choice
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew J. Cornelius
Jean P. Evans
Glenn & Deborah Fountain
Jene Gresham
Frezell Lova Jones
Tolliver McKinney

* * * * *

A Reminder: If your 1992 membership fee has not been paid, please take a moment to send a check (\$15.00 Single, \$20.00 Family, \$10.00 Student) to Membership Chairperson - ROZELLA HALL, 1828 W. 50TH STREET, L.A., CA 90062. Dues are delinquent as of March 1,

1992 after which you will be dropped from the mailing list.

SOCIETY TEE SHIRTS: TEE SHIRTS with CAAGS logo are available for purchase at a cost of \$10.00 from V.P. Ron Higgins. See him at our meeting or call 213-753-8290 to order.

ALEXANDER MURRAY PALMER HALEY

AUGUST 11, 1921

FEBRUARY 10, 1992

ALEX HALEY died Monday February 10, 1992. His research and writing of the book "ROOTS" inspired us to find our lost relatives; link together our past and present and be proud of our heritage. Thank you Alex, we'll miss you.

GEORGE WASHINGTON OF CENTRALIA OREGON

By Joseph Washington

To my fellow genealogy enthusiast, I am not related to George Washington, Founder of Centralia Washington. But because we share the same surname his history caught my eye.

African Americans played a very vital and active part in the settlement of the western frontier. One such overlooked unsung hero was a Black man named George Washington.

George Washington was born around 1817 in Virginia to a White mother and a black slave father. His birth mother gave him up for adoption to a white

GEORGE WASHINGTON...cont'd

couple that were moving West. The couple briefly stayed in Ohio and later settled in Missouri.

George learned reading, writing and arithmetic without any formal schooling. He worked as a Distiller, Cook, Miller, Tanner, Weaver and Spinner.

The family later settled in the Oregon Territory around 1850. Washington staked a claim on a 640 acre plot in the Territory. Because of the laws forbidding Black settlement, Washington had his father place the land in his name. After the law forbidding Black settlement was changed, Washington had the land placed in his own name. His land was at the junction of the Chehalis and Skookumchuck rivers, the exact point where Centralia Oregon would later stand. Washington had become quite prosperous growing cereal and vegetable crops. He and his father raised cattle and operated an Inn and a Ferry.

George Washington was a very civic minded philanthropist. He donated some of his land in Centralia for parks, a Cemetery and churches. Washington acquired a reputation for helping Centralia's less fortunate citizens.

In 1905 George Washington died from injuries sustained while taking a buggy ride in which he was thrown into the road. Washington was 88 years old. He had the largest funeral recorded at the time and was

buried in a Cemetery on land he donated. Centralia named a park after its' founder; George Washington a proud and noble black man.

BLACK PEOPLE WHO MADE THE OLD WEST - WILLIAM LOREN KATZ

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON COIN

Marsha Mitchell

As Joe Woodard cleaned out the garage of his deceased sister, he came across an odd looking coin that he was tempted to throw away. What Woodard found was a commemorative half-dollar with the likeness of Booker T. Washington imprinted upon it.

Booker Taliferro Washington, the African-American educator who founded Tuskegee Institute lived from 1856 to 1915. The coin depicting this great Black educator has his face and an inscription of his name on the front and the phrase "From Slave Cabin to Hall of Fame Franklin County, VA." inscribed on the back. Also included on the back perimeters of the coin are the words "Booker T. Washington Birthplace Memorial." These coins minted between 1946 and 1951 can be worth as much as \$100 individually and the 1950 set (which has S, D and no mint markings) collectively could yield as much as \$900.

Woodard's new found treasure has important historical value as well as monetary value. According to coin collectors, it is one of two coins that feature the likeness of a Black American. The only other coin to do so is also a commemorative half dollar which also

B. T. WASHINGTON COIN....cont'd

depicts Booker T. Washington, but this time he is joined by George Washington Carver, a famous Black scientist.

Joe Woodard attended a high school named after Washington in his home town of Shreveport, Louisiana. He said he wished the coin had been a part of history taught while in school so this part of Black history wouldn't have been missing for so long.

L. A. Sentinel 2/6/92

W.E.B. DuBOIS STAMP

The U.S. Postal service's Black Heritage Series released in Atlanta on January 31, the DuBois stamp commemorating his influence and dedication to the advancement of the Black community. This release coincides with the celebration of Black History Month.

DuBois was born in Great Barrington, Massachusetts on February 23, 1868. He received a bachelor's degree from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee and a Ph.D from Harvard. As an author, Dubois books from 1896 to 1961 covered a variety of topics and remains a testimonial to his efforts toward social emancipation.

NOTE: W.E.B. DuBOIS STAMP ON YOUR NEWSLETTER ENVELOPE.

BLACK HERITAGE STAMP SERIES

This series of stamps originated February 1, 1978 honoring Harriet Tubman. The collection has documented on U.S. postage stamps the contributions of African-Americans toward the development of the nation. One stamp each year will be released by the postal service dedicated to the Black Heritage Series.

Blacks have also appeared on other U.S. Postage Stamps and Stationery. In total 50 stamps and stationery products have been created.

I HAVE A DREAM COLLECTION

This month, February 1992 the U.S. Post Office will make available the I HAVE A DREAM COLLECTION OF BLACK AMERICANS ON STAMPS. ALEX HALEY, author of ROOTS provides the introduction to the 68 page hardback book included with the collection. The Mint Set features 19 stamps with mounting hinges and 28 portraits designed by Black artist Thomas Blackshear. Twenty five stamp illustrations included in the set depict Black related events and activities.

QUERIES

Walter L. Darris is seeking information on Enslaved People Of Color. He is looking for diaries, wills, deeds, estate inventories, Bibles, etc. Write to Walter Darris at P.O. Box 2183 Florissant, Mo 63032, or call 314-741-4963.

HERITAGE NEWSLETTER - 2/92

QUERY....cont'd

FREE QUERIES

If you have ancestors in Indiana, place a query in the "INDIANA ANCESTORS" column in the Indianapolis Star. P.O. Box 145 Indianapolis, IN 46206

MICHIGAN ROOTS is a column in the South Bend Tribune, send queries to South Bend Tribune, 225 Colfax, South Bend, IN 46626

TOPEKA GEN. SOC. NEWSLETTER

EVENTS

FEBRUARY 29, 1992

RESEARCHING YOUR SOUTHERN ANCESTORS - WHITTIER AREA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY presents Lloyd DeWitt Brokstruck at the Masonic Temple, 7604 Greenleaf Ave. Whittier, CA 8-3:00 p.m. Members \$15, Non-Members \$17
INFORMATION CALL 310-944-5924

MARCH 21, 1992

MACINTOSH COMPUTER - PAF USER GROUP. Meeting from 9-10:30 a.m. at the L.A. Family History Library classroom, 10741 Santa Monica Blvd., West L.A., CA.

APRIL 28, 1992

6TH ANNUAL TOUR TO SALT LAKE CITY FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY Orange County, CA. Genealogical Society sponsors trip from April 28 - May 7, 1992. Cost \$535.00 for 10 days, double occupancy, by train. Call M. J.

Lewis 714-847-8341 or Jackie Garcia 714-735-1324.

BOOKS

MY STORY BY ROSA PARKS - by refusing to give up her seat on a bus she set in motion an entire american civil rights movement. Here for the first time in her own moving language is her remarkable story. \$17.00

HOW FAR WE SLAVES HAVE COME - NELSON MANDELA AND FIDEL CASTRO Mandela and Castro's views on apartheid and racism and social injustice. \$7.95

CAAGS CALENDAR

MARCH 21 - DEBORAH FONTAINE
SHOW & TELL

APRIL 18 - INDIANS OF THE
EASTERN SHORE

MAY 16 - CAAGS SEMINAR
CULVER CITY LIBRARY
4975 OVERLAND BLVD.
CULVER CITY, CA

JUNE 20 - JUNTEENTH PICNIC

CAAGS OFFICERS

President - Robert Taylor
1st V.P. - Ronald Higgins
2nd V.P. - Rozella Hall
Treasurer - Sandra Phillips
Recording Secretary -
Marilyn White
Correspondence Secretary -
Marjorie Higgins
Newsletter Editor -
Geraldyn Johnson
Parliamentarian - Herb Laffoon
Historian - George Jenkins

HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

EDITOR: GERRI JOHNSON

VOL. 4 No. 3 MARCH 1992

CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

SOCIETY MEETING

CAAGS will meet on the 3rd Saturday, March 21, 1992, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Community Room at BROADWAY FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN, 110 S. LABREA, INGLEWOOD, CA.

SPEAKER

CAAGS MEMBER
DEBORAH FOUNTAIN

SHOW & TELL

Ralph Cager
Estella Campbell
Margaret & Orlando Campbell
Joyce Chappel
Eloise Cox
Collette DeVerge
Frederick Dumas
Caldwell druham
Pamela Durousseau
Ronna Fletcher
Mark Greenfield
Alva Griffith
Zelda Grubbs
Rozella Hall
Jamesetta Hammons
Betty Harris
Ronald & Marjorie Higgins
George Jenkins
Geraldyn Johnson
Emmett Knox
Kathryn Littleton
Elaine McGee
Dr. Norman McRae
Issac Thomas Miller
Camilla Fontenot Nelson
Beverly Perry
Barbara Phillips
Sandra Phillips
Vernon Robinson
Bill & Dorie Russell
Carrie Sargent
Nettie Simons
Dr. Nellie Becker Slaton
William Slaton
Ozeal Smith
Warren Story
Carolyn Tang
Robert Taylor
Hilda & Oscar Teel
Carol Thomas
Margaret Thomas
Nathan Vidato
Xerxes & Myrtle Walker
Joseph Washington
Virgilene West
Marilyn White
Ceola Wiley

MEMBERSHIP

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS 1992

Nathleen Albright
Donald Brown
James E. Choice
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Cornelius
Doreen Cook Dullea
Jean P. Evans
Deborah & Glenn Fountain
Sonya Greenland
Jene Gresham
William & Mary Ann Hill
Berlean Holland
Marvin Holmes
Frezell Lova Jones
Gregory & Gwen Jones
Helen Kennedy
Tolliver McKinney
Phillip Wagner

Thank you for becoming a part of organization.

* * * * *

RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS

Ernest Albertson
Josephine Burch

Thanks to all of you for remaining a part of organization.

MEMBERSHIP

NOTE: A CAAGS Membership Directory is being produced. Included will be your profession, businesses, hobbies, surnames being researched. If you do not wish your phone number or other information published please contact Gerri Johnson, 213-733-1835.

AFRICANS & SPANISH IN EARLY AMERICAN LOUISIANA - A STUDY OF SLAVES AND FREE PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

By Marilyn White
CAAGS Member

In the near future, genealogists who are researching their slave ancestors in Louisiana will find the information easier to access. There is a project in progress under the auspices of the National Endowment of the Humanities Division of Research Programs/Collaborative Research Projects through Rutgers University; creating a data base of nearly 30,000 names extracted from wills and successions executed during the Spanish rule, 1766 to 1803.

The project is an outgrowth of a book: Africans In Colonial Louisiana - Development Of Afro-Creole Culture In The 18th Century written by Gwendolyn Midlo-Hall. The emphasis of that book was the African origins in Point Coupee Parish, Louisiana. The book is available through Louisiana State University Press.

Mrs. Midlo-Hall, a professor at Rutgers University and the

University of New Orleans is the principal investigator on the current project. She is joined by Ulysses Ricard, chief archivist of the Amistad Research Center at Tulane University now on a one year research leave) and researchers Gregory Osborn and Philip MacLeod.

The collaborator on the project is Patrick Manning historian at North Eastern University, a specialist in African-American economic and demographic history.

Documents already researched have yielded detailed information on slaves such as slave name, given African name, age, gender, nation, language spoken, family relationships, plantation, buyer, seller, slave ship, emancipation and its circumstances and whether a slave was bought by a relative. All information, of course, will not be available for all slaves. My observation has been that name, age, gender, buyer, seller and plantation are available on most.

Research on the following Parishes have been completed to date: Point Coupee, Orleans, St. Charles, St. John The Baptist, Avoyelles, Ascension, Assumption and Iberville. The researchers plan to complete the following: St. Landry, St. Martin, Natchitoches, East Baton Rouge and Feliciana.

There will be two types of data bases set up. The name data base will be accessed by inputting the slave name, owner name, seller name or plantation name.

AFRICANS & SPANISH IN EARLY AMERICAN LOUISIANA...Cont'd

A separate data base will be set up for emancipations and the circumstances surrounding them. It will tell whether the slave bought himself, was purchased by someone else, whether purchaser was a relative, his purchase price, or whether he was simply freed by his owner.

Additionally, any document involving any people of African descent will be placed in the data bank.

The project with an anticipated date of completion in late 1993 or early 1994, will culminate in a joint book by Gwendolyn Midlo-Hall and Patrick Manning. The book will be an economic, historical and demographic study of Louisiana and will also touch upon race relations.

The data base itself will follow the book and be available at the Historical New Orleans Collection, 533 Royal St. New Orleans, LA. It will also be accessible by computer modem from Rutgers University's Medieval and Early Modern History Data Bank by subscribing to the data bank service.

* * * * *

MYSTERIOUS SYMBOLS ON THE DOLLAR BILLS

Dollar bills come and go so quickly that hardly anyone ever thinks of the strange design on the back: the great seal of the United States, with its bristling eagle, strange pyramid and hovering eye.

Over the years many attempts have been made to give a reason

for the presence of the symbols on the seal and the bill. One explanation is that many leaders of the American Revolution were Freemasons, and that the group's symbols might therefore have found their way into symbols of the emerging nation.

That is by no means the accepted explanation. In "The Eagle and the Shield: a History of the Great Seal of the United States," a 1976 State Department publication, Richard S. Patterson and Richardson Dougall argue that, "It seems likely that the designers of the Great Seal and the Masons took their symbols from parallel sources, and unlikely that the seal designers consciously copied Masonic symbols."

Those who support the case for Masonic symbolism recall that in England in the late 1800's stonemasons found their numbers declining. To bolster their rolls they began accepting honorary members: men who couldn't lay a course of stone but were highly regarded by their neighbors and might have had a few quid for refreshments.

By 1717, a Grand Lodge was formed in London and by 1738 the old order of stonemasons had evolved into the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, an order with few real masons but many "accepted" or honorary members. The implements of masonry began to take on symbolic meanings, many of them religious.

American Masons first met in 1720 in Boston. Within half a century, Freemasons were meeting in the lodge rooms of

Boston and at the Green Dragon Tavern there, plotting the

DOLLAR BILLS....Cont'd

overthrow of the British colonial authorities.

While many non-Masons were also involved, Masonic historians say that three of the best-known firebrands--Peter Faneuil, Paul Revere and John Hancock--were Masons.

With many of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence Freemasons, it is possible that when the great seal of the United States was to be designed, Masons were among those asked to help prepare it. While it is hard to know today what the designers were thinking, some modern Masons point out some interesting associations.

Masons say the eye at the top of the pyramid is of the all-seeing Grand Architect, a Masonic term for God; and the pyramid signifies the release of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, a theme the economically enslaved colonist may have embraced.

There are certainly many symbolic elements that have less to do with Freemasonry than with the Revolution. The pyramid has 13 courses/rows of stone, one for each rebel colony, and the date across the bottom shown in Roman numerals, is 1776.

The motto "Annuit Coeptis," Latin for "He has favored our undertaking," appears above the pyramid. "Novus Ordo Seclorum" meaning "A new order of the ages," appears underneath.

On the right side of the dollar bill appears the face of the great seal, the coat of arms of the United States. Here it is more difficult to make a case that the symbols are specifically Masonic.

Some Masons say that the eagle represents the patron of Freemasonry, St. John the Evangelist. It might take the most imaginative of symbolists to find a Masonic connection in the number of feathers the eagle displays. But some who are that imaginative note that one wing has 32 feathers and the other 33.

Perhaps it is just chance: who would require an artist to depict the same number (or any particular number) of feathers in each wing of an eagle? But it is at least a coincidence that 32 and 33 are the highest number of degrees conferred on a Mason as he passes through the Scottish rites, one of two series available to a Mason. The other, called the York, has only 9 ranks--the number of feathers in the eagle's tail.

Whether these symbols are truly derived from Freemasonry or were just an amalgam of popular designs of the late 18th century, no one may ever know.

L. A. TIMES 1/92

WILLIAM LEIDESDORFF - SUCCESSFUL BLACK ENTREPRENEUR OF SAN FRANCISCO

By Joseph Washington
CAAGS Member

William Leidesdorff was born in the Virgin Islands through the union of a Danish planter and an African mother. Around 1841 William Leidesdorff sailed a

160 ton schooner into San Francisco Bay and became a resident of the city. After residing in San Francisco for several years, he acquired a WILLIAM LEIDESDORFF...Cont'd

great deal of wealth including a 35,000 acre estate called Rio Del Rancho Americana.

William Leidesdorff was a very civic minded person. In 1845 he worked as a U.S. Subconsul becoming one of the first black diplomats, as well as working with the those who wanted California admitted into the Union. Leidesdorff had also WILLIAM LEIDESDORFF...Cont'd

functioned as the treasurer for the San Francisco City Council. Leidesdorff was responsible for introducing the first steamboat into San Francisco Bay and set up organized horse racing.

Prior to 1845, there were no public hotels in San Francisco. Thanks to Leidesdorff's business acumen the first public hotel was established in San Francisco called "The City Hotel" which opened in 1846. Leidesdorff was also responsible for founding the first public school in San Francisco. The state of California and the city of San Francisco in particular owe a debt of gratitude to Mr William Leidesdorff for his many accomplishments.

BLACK PEOPLE WHO MADE THE OLD WEST - WILLIAM LOREN KATZ

QUERIES

REV. JAMES R. CUNNINGHAM is searching for descendants of his father, John Cunningham of the Uriah, Alabama area; his uncle Hilbert Mosley of the

Benton, Alabama area; and Jesse Mosley, a cousin who resided near Suttle, Alabama.

If you can be of assistance, contact: James R. Cunningham, 1918 Irene Vista, Tucson, AZ 85713-6523.

VISIONS MAGAZINE FEB/MAR, 92

HISTORY NOTES

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH - In 1910, March 8th was designated as International Women's Day. Five years ago, the U.S. Congress designated the month of March as National Women's History Month.

MINIMUM WAGE - The first minimum wage in this country was 25 cents an hour.

ANNOUNCEMENT

SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

Applications for the second annual American Institute of Foreign Study College Division Minority Scholarships for the fall 1992 semester are now being accepted. For additional information, write to: Minority Scholarship Committee, Anne Decker AIFS, 102 Greenwich Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830, or call (800) 727-2437, ext. 6106.

EVENTS

MARCH 19, 1992

O.U.S.D. NATIVE AMERICAN AWARENESS COMMITTEE'S FAMILY

NIGHT - Tribal Dancing, snacks and information on the past and future of the Native Americans. Free to the public. 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., Yorba Middle School 935 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92667.

DIRECTIONS: 55 freeway south to Katella turnoff, right to Cambridge, left to Collins, Yorba Middle School is at corner of Cambridge and Collins.

MARCH 21, 1992

JAMES BALDWIN: THE PRICE OF THE TICKET - A documentary using Baldwin's own words and images, told through a combination of archival and original material. Two screenings 1:00 and 2:45 p.m. California Afro American Museum, 600 State Drive, Exposition Park, L.A., CA, 213-744-7432

CAAGS CALENDAR

APRIL 18 - INDIANS OF THE
EASTERN SHORE

Note: We will be meeting at the California Afro American Museum, Multi Purpose Room, 600 State Drive, Exposition Park, L.A., CA.

MAY 16 - CAAGS SEMINAR
CULVER CITY LIBRARY
4975 OVERLAND BLVD.
CULVER CITY, CA

JUNE 20 - JUNTEENTH PICNIC

CAAGS OFFICERS

President - Robert Taylor
1st V.P. - Ronald Higgins
2nd V.P. - Rozella Hall
Treasurer - Sandra Phillips

Recording Secretary -
Marilyn White
Correspondence Secretary -
Marjorie Higgins
Newsletter Editor -
Geraldyn Johnson
Parliamentarian - Herb Laffoon
Historian - George Jenkins

THANK YOU NOTES

Our V.P. and Program Chairman Ron Higgins thanks all of you who staffed our booth at the S.C.G.S. "JAMBOREE 92". We received many compliments on our booth and on those of you who dressed in costume.

* * * * *

Thank you January and February refreshment committies.

Please submit all Articles and Queries for the April Newsletter by March 31, 1992 to Gerri Johnson, 2026 4th Avenue, L.A., CA 90018 or call 213-733-1835

THE PEDIGREE CHARTS ENCLOSED WITH YOUR NEWSLETTER SHOULD BE FILLED OUT WITH THE INFORMATION YOU HAVE TO DATE. THESE CHARTS WILL BE PUT INTO OUR SURNAME BOOK.

**MAIL TO: MARJORIE HIGGINS,
CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY,
P. O. BOX 8443, L.A., CA 90008**

HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

EDITOR: GERRI JOHNSON

VOL. 4 No. 4 APRIL 1992

CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

C.A.A.G.S. MEETING

Our April meeting will be held on the 4th SATURDAY, APRIL 25TH from 10 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. in the MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM of the CALIFORNIA AFRO AMERICAN MUSEUM, 600 STATE DRIVE, EXPOSITION PARK, L.A., CA, 213-744-7432.

GUEST SPEAKER

MARY HILLIARD
FAMILY TREE RESEARCHER

TOPIC

NATIVE AMERICANS & BLACK
INDIANS OF THE
EAST COAST

MEMBERSHIP

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS 1992

Steven C. Brooks
Teddie Gilkey
DorothyLou Sands
Connie O. Swayne

MEMBER NEWS

Photographs of Marilyn White's family are featured in an exhibit "SHADES OF L.A." which is an outgrowth of the Shades of L.A. Photo Project, conducted by the Downtown L.A. Library with the help of volunteers. This project was established to enhance the L.A. Public Library's photo collection to include all ethnic groups of early Los Angeles. The exhibit is now open for viewing at the Vernon Branch of the L.A. Public Library located at 48th & Central Avenue.

RESEARCH NOTES

PERSONAL CENSUS SEARCH 1930-1990 CENSUSES

Genealogists should take advantage of a special service provided by the Bureau of the Census through their AGE SEARCH office. This branch of the Census Bureau until recently was in Pittsburg, Kansas. The function of personal census searches has now been attached to the Geography Department of the Census Bureau located in Jeffersonville, Indiana.

Any person can request a personal search of census records, including the 1930 through 1990 censuses currently closed to the public. The basic search fee is \$25.00, and the Age Search branch will search any two (2) censuses for a person appearing in the schedules. The person who is the subject of the search must be yourself or a direct ancestor, such as a father, grandmother, etc. You must provide proof of death for an ancestor, and a copy of a death certificate may be necessary.

The search is limited to the person for whom you are requesting information, but you can ask for other members of the family to be included for \$2.00 for each extra person. You can also request the full line of information from the census schedules for \$6.00 additional. Unless more information about a person and other members of the family is requested the basic search for one person will be conducted. If successful in locating the person, the Census Bureau will return to you an official document giving the person's

name, age (at time of census), place of birth, citizenship, and the name and relationship of the Head of Household, if applicable.

The document is certified by the Census Bureau as accurate, and this certificate can be used to obtain passports, social security cards, etc., for persons without a recorded birth certificate. Printed on the certificate are the words, "The Census Bureau does not issue Birth Certificates but this record is often accepted in place of one." The application form has a place for a signature of person who can authorize another person to request the census information in their behalf. For example, a genealogist could request a personal census search for a relative or friend, with that person signing on the form and giving their permission to conduct the search. Each census search is for one person, and to request a search for another person in a different family, a new application form (and another \$25.00 fee) is needed.

If you wish to submit a request for a collateral relative, declare your relationship to the person and provide evidence of the death of that person as part of the application form. The chances are good that by stating your purpose as "genealogical research" and providing evidence of death for a person, just about any deceased person's census record can be received.

This special service must be

requested on the Census Bureau's form, one of the better government forms around (because you can actually read it and understand the steps involved). Since the primary use of this service is for persons applying for Social Security and need evidence of their age, any Social Security office is your best source for getting your hands on an application form -- go to a local Social Security office and request Form BC-600, entitled Application for Search of Census Records. There is a place on the form to indicate the purpose of the census search. Family researchers should indicate "genealogical research" as the purpose.

You can request an application form to be mailed by writing to the following address: Bureau of Census, "Age Search" P.O. Box 1545, Jeffersonville, IN 47131

GENEALOGY BULLETIN #13 -
JAN-FEB-MAR 1992 by
William Dollarhide.

* * * * *

COMPUTER GENERATED CIVIL WAR CERTIFICATES

In response to patrons' requests, the Indiana State Archives has developed a facsimile of a Civil War discharge. The facsimile is a reproduction of an original design; the Archives' staff used an optical scanner to copy the eagle and shield emblem and desktop publishing software to set the type. The document itself is generated using a PC and laser printer on a parch-

ment-like paper suitable for framing.

Patrons may write or visit the Archives and ask the staff to look up the records of their ancestors in the master card index of Civil War veterans. A photocopy of that record is available for \$1.00; a facsimile discharge record costs \$5.00; there is, in addition, a charge of \$1.00 for postage and handling on all mail requests. **Indiana State Archives, 140 North Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46204.**

The Hoosier Genealogist
March 92, Vol. 32 No. 1
Published by Indiana
Historical Society

BLANCHE K. BRUCE:
UNITED STATES SENATOR

By Gerri Johnson

Blanche Kelso Bruce, was the first Black man to serve a full term in the Senate of the United States.

He was born a slave in Farmville, Virginia, March 1, 1841. Even in his youth his ability to earn the good will of people was to be seen from the fact that he was given instruction by his master's son. While still a very young man, during the Civil War, he went to Missouri. There he made rapid progress, reading books and newspapers, working in a printing office, the as a teacher in Hannibal, Missouri. In 1868 he went to Mississippi, to Floreyville in Bolivar Cty., where he became a planter. At the age of twenty seven he

entered his career.

Soon after he reached Mississippi Bruce was appointed by the military governor, General Adelbert Ames, to the position of Conductor of Elections of elections for Tallahatchie County. In 1870 he became Sergeant-At-Arms in the State Senate, and in this position broadened his acquaintance with other statesmen. Within the next two years he was successively Assessor, Sheriff, and Tax Collector of Bolivar County, and served as Superintendent of Schools and on the Board of Levee Commissioners.

In 1872 a quiet campaign was started by James Hill a prominent Negro leader in Mississippi to get Blanche K. Bruce elected to the U.S. Senate. This was accomplished and on March 4, 1875 the new senator started his term in office. Bruce was placed on several committees with the help of New York Senator Roscoe Conkling who became a very good friend. He served on the Committees on Manufactures, Education and Labor, Pensions and the Improvement of the Mississippi River and its tributaries.

On June 24, 1878, Blanche K. Bruce married Josephine B. Wilson of Cleveland, Ohio. The wedding was a big social event for those considered to be "High Society Folks". For their honeymoon they took a tour of the major cities in Europe. They had 1 son, the name given him was Roscoe Conkling Bruce after Senator

Bruces' good friend Senator Roscoe Conkling of New York. Roscoe Bruce served as School Superintendent from 1907 - 1921 for the Preparatory High School for Colored Youth established in 1870 in Washington, D.C.

On April 7, 1879 Senator Bruce formed and became Chairman of a committee to protect the rights of depositors of the defunct Freedmen's Savings and Trust Company. His hope was that depositors be reimbursed (which was not accomplished) but he did put a stop to the salaries of the commissioners of the bank that were depleting the cash on hand.

A few weeks after the close of his term as Senator, Bruce was appointed by President Garfield on May 19, 1881 to position of Register of the Treasury, being the first Negro to hold the position. This position became known as a Negro job, because for thirty-two years, until the administration of Woodrow Wilson, it was held by Black men.

Under President Cleveland, Bruce was in charge of the Negro Exhibit at the World's Cotton Exposition in New Orleans in 1884. He appeared on the lecture circuit, and was a trustee of Howard University. Under President Harrison he was Recorder of Deeds for the District of Columbia. On December 2, 1897, he was appointed by President McKinley as Register of the Treasury for a second term, but he died at his home in Washington not long thereafter, on March 17, 1898. Throughout his career he had

placed himself upon the broad plane of statesmanship; at the same time he kept in mind the people he represented.

NEGRO BUILDERS AND HEROES
By Benjamin Brawley
Professor of English,
Howard University - 1937
University of North
Carolina Press

BLACK SOCIETY, Gerri
Major's and Doris E.
Saunders - Johnson
Publishing Co. Chgo. 1976

S E M I N A R ANNOUNCEMENTS

CAAGS SEMINAR - If your planning to attend our May 16th Seminar at the Culver City Library please make your reservation by April 30th. The cost is \$10.00 Members, \$12.00 Non Members, \$15.00 after April 30th. Any questions please call Gerri Johnson, 213-733-1835.

***NOTE THIS CHANGE. OUR 10:30 SEMINAR SPEAKER WILL BE:** Beth Wilson, Genealogist/Librarian, who will speak on "Tracing Black Ancestry Thru Deed and Probate Records Before 1860."

1992 NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE

A New Voyage of Discovery, April 29 - May 2, 1992 to be held at the Prime F. Osborn III

Convention Center, Jacksonville FLA. For more information write to NGS Conference in the States, 4527 17th St. North, Arlington, VA 22207-2399.

1992 FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES CONFERENCE:

NEW HORIZONS: A SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE: August 20-22, Phoenix Civic Plaza, Phoenix, Ariz. For more information contact "New Horizons" A Southwest Conference", P.O. Box 3385, Salt Lake City, Utah 84110-3385. Registration \$80.00 for 3 days 1-8 p.m.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH SEMINAR

July 13 - 17, Washington, D.C. This program will take an in-depth look at federal records of genealogical value primarily in the Washington, D.C. area. The program is geared to experienced researchers (genealogists, historians, librarians, archivists). It is not an introductory course in genealogy. Tuition is \$195 for the week, Hotel Reservations at the Hotel Washington is \$83.64 Single, \$94.74 Twin/Double, \$105.84 Triple. Contact National Institute On Genealogical Research, P.O. Box 14274, Washington, D.C. 20044-4274 Enrollment Limited to 40.

BOOKS/MAGAZINES

BOOKS OUT OF PRINT - A catalog of OUT-OF-PRINT, scarce and rare African American Books are available from the DUBOIS BOOK CENTER, P.O. Box 776, Englewood NJ 07631; 201/567-3611. The

president of the Center is AAGHS member Arnold E. Brown.

AAHGS Newsletter 11/91

FAMILY REUNIONS AND CLAN GATHERINGS - How to organize groups guide with recipes, anecdotes, and public relation tips. Write to: P.O. Box 1854, Dept. A, Yureka, CA 96097, \$12.95, CA residents \$13.74. Prices include shipping and handling. For faster delivery add \$1.50.

REUNIONS THE MAGAZINE - A quarterly magazine that gives information on planning family reunions. Includes feature articles on unusual reunions, tried and true methods to organize and minimize hassles, and genealogical research tips and information. \$22.00 year prepaid, \$24.00 year billed.

THE AMERICAN GENEALOGIST - by Donald Lines Jacobus. An independent quarterly journal, dedicated to the elevation of genealogical scholarship, through carefully documented analyses of genealogical problems and through short compiled genealogies. \$20.00 annually, Sample Copy \$5.00. The American Genealogist, Dept. 65, 128 Massasoit Drive, Warwick RI 02888-6307

CEMETARY RECORDS

CIVIL WAR BURIALS

To find out which national cemetery an ancestor who fought in the Civil War was buried in write to the Veterans Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue N.W., Washington D.C. 20420

CONFEDERATE PRISONS IN ILLINOIS

If your interested in finding out about Confederate Prisoners buried in the Confederate Cemetary on Arsenal Island and Rock Island, Illinois, write to: Rock Island Arnsenal, Attention S.M.C.R.I.A.D, Brian English Historical Office, Rock Island Illinois 61299.

Trails West 5/87

Reservations are required call 213-612-3314.

SPECIAL THANK YOU
to Coy Robbins - Editor
EBONY LINES NEWSLETTER
Indiana A.A.H.G.S for
the compliment of our
Heritage Newsletter

Thanks Again
Gerri Johnson & C.A.A.G.S

EVENTS

MAY 27, 1992

KCET Channel 28, Life and Times at 7:30 p.m. will feature our own **MARILYN WHITE**, her son **LEON MILLIGAN, JR.** and her mother **LAURENZA WHITE**. The emphasis of the program is the use of photography in documenting social history and the inter-action of how families pass on history through pictures.

MAY 30 & 31, 1992

6th Annual Cajun & Zydeco Festival - A family cultural event, music, food and dance at the **Rainbow Lagoon in Long Beach** from Noon to 7 p.m. Tickets general admission \$17.50, seniors (65+)/students \$15.00, children 10-16 \$5.00, under 10 free. For tickets call 415-386-8677

MAY 30, 1992

Tracing Your Hispanic Roots - with author **George R. Ryskamp** presented by the L.A. Public Library, 433 S. Spring Street. The seminar will be held at 10:00 a.m in the auditorium.

CAAGS OFFICERS

President - Robert Taylor
1st V.P. - Ronald Higgins
2nd V.P. - Rozella Hall
Treasurer - Sandra Phillips
Recording Secretary -
Marilyn White
Correspondence Secretary -
Marjorie Higgins
Newsletter Editor -
Geralyn Johnson
Parlimentarian - Herb Laffoon
Historian - George Jenkins

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE

This months refreshment sponsors are **Virgilene West, Elaine McGee.**

Thank you March refreshment sponsors **Ron Higgins, Marjorie Higgins and Carolyn Tang.**

BLACK FACT

William A. Hinton was the 1st African American Harvard Med. School Professor in 1949.

Dear Members:

If you would like to be included in the CAAGS Membership Telephone & Information Book would you please complete the following information and bring it to our April 25th meeting. If your not able to make this meeting please mail this information to Gerri Johnson, 2026 4th Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90018 or call 213-733-1835. (Deadline May 8, 1992)

Thank You.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____

HOBBIES/INTERESTS: _____

TYPE OF WORK PRESENT AND PREVIOUS: _____

IF SELF EMPLOYED WHAT TYPE OF BUSINESS: _____

**CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

SEMINAR

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 1992

CULVER CITY LIBRARY, 4975 OVERLAND, CULVER CITY

SCHEDULE OF THE DAY

- 10:00 REGISTRATION
- 10:30 WELCOME
 CAAGS V.P., RONALD HIGGINS
- 10:30 BETH WILSON - GENEALOGIST/LIBRARIAN

 Tracing Black Ancestry thru Deed and Probate
 Records Before 1860
- 11:30 RICH ROLLINS - CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE OF LONG BEACH

 African Americans in the Confederate Army
- 12:30 LUNCH
- 1:45 DARRELL BROWN - GENEALOGIST/LIBRARIAN

 Genealogical Resources and Research in the L.A.
 Public Library
- 2:45 BILL MASON - NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

 Research In Voter Registration List
 Black Families In L.A. 1850 - 1910

REGISTRATION FORM CLIP & MAIL

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **ZIP:** _____ **PHONE:** _____

DONATION:

CAAGS MEMBERS.....\$10.00 NON MEMBERS.....\$12.00

LATE REGISTRATION AFTER APRIL 30.....\$15.00

BOX LUNCH.....\$ 5.50

**Make Checks Payable to C.A.A.G.S. : Mail to Gerri Johnson
2026 4th Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90018, 213-733-1835**

HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

Editor: GERALYN JOHNSON

Vol. 3, No. 5, 1992

C.A.A.G.S. MEETING

THERE WILL NOT BE A GENERAL MEETING THIS MONTH.

MEMBERSHIP

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS 1992

William & Mary Hill
Miriam Matthews
Sonya Smith

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please mail your completed Surname Index Card to Rozella Hall, 1828 W. 50th Street, L.A., CA 90016.

Mail your Pedigree Charts to Marjorie Higgins, P. O. Box 8443, L.A., CA 90008.

HISTORY NOTES

LITTLE EGYPT AND THE MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION

By Joseph Washington

Residents of Southern Illinois commonly refer to that part of the country as "Egypt" or "Little Egypt". Southern Illinois is bounded by an inverted triangle by the Wabash, Ohio and Mississippi rivers. Little Egypt is a land between the rivers similar to the Egypt that's located on the African continent. There are various cities in Southern Illinois with Egyptian names Cairo pronounced Kerro is where the Ohio and Mississippi rivers connect. Karnak and Thebes are also cities found in both Southern Illinois ("Little

Egypt") and Egypt on the African continent.

Southern Illinois earned the nickname Egypt from the harsh winters of 1824 and 1831-1832 when northerners traveled southward to buy corn and seed, comparing themselves to the sons of Jacob who journeyed "down to Egypt" to buy corn in Genesis 42.

Little Egypt has another unique distinction the annual Memorial Day Celebration had its' origins in Little Egypt. Memorial day began in the Crab Orchard Church located a short distance southwest of Carbondale, Illinois. One spring day during the civil war, two men observed a widow and her offsprings bringing flowers and decorating the grave of the husband and children's father. The men thought it would be a worthy gesture if all graves could similarly be decorated. A movement was started to decorate all the graves within a few days. Tradition says in 1866 at a cemetery on East Main Street in Carbondale the annual ceremony of decorating graves began in honor of Union troops. Memorial day became an official holiday on May 5 1868 General Order No. 11. General John A. Logan spearheaded efforts for instituting Memorial Day as a national holiday.

Murder In Little Egypt - Darcy O'Brien: Jackson County Notes
- John W. Allen

* * * * *

THE CENSUS TAKER

The census is often talked about but not the census takers. Heres an add that appeared in the Illinois State Journal in 1850 that tells something about the salary received by enumerators.

ASSISTANT MARSHALS -

The marshals employed to assist in taking the census, are to be allowed as compensation for services, after the rate of two cents for each person enumerated, ten cents a mile for necessary travel; ten cents for each farm family returned; fifteen cents for each establishment of productive industry fully taken and returned; two cents for each name of a deceased person returned; and for social statistics, two percent upon the amount allowed for the enumeration of population. The Assistant Marshal is to visit each family personally.

I can't help but think that if anyone was overlooked, it was certainly a mistake since it would seem that the census taker would have been well paid so long as he interviewed as many people as he could. One can imagine the joy of the census taker as he approached a house with fourteen children playing in the yard.

Gregory Rexroad,
Genealogical Helper,
Nov. Dec. 86, Pg. 18

BLACK WOMEN IN THE WEST

MARY HALL REESE - Mrs. Reese and her sister walked from Tennessee to White Cloud, Kansas just before the Civil War. She helped organize the A.M.E. Church in Nebraska City."

AUNT CLARA BROWN - a slave prior to buying her freedom, had seen her husband and her three children sold to different slave owners. She was born in Virginia in 1803. When she was three years old, she and her mother were sold to a slave owner who was traveling West. Some years later after purchasing her freedom, she made her way to St. Louis, Missouri, where she persuaded a group of gold prospectors to hire her as a cook. She migrated to Colorado with these prospectors where she settled in Central City. She was active in the organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the mining regions and assisted in the founding of the Union Sunday School. She was dubbed "Angel of the Rockies" because she gave miners in Central City food and money, and because of her kindness to the ill on the wagon train.

ANNIE BOX NEAL - rode shotgun for her husband, William, former Army scot with Buffalo Bill Cody who hauled freight.

In 1895 the couple established a hotel at Orasia, Arizona. She handled the business and served as hostess.

LENORA RUSSELL - in the early 1880s went to Cripple Creek and then on to Denver, Colorado, from Iowa. She was a self-styled artist, and with her husband prospected for gold and silver near their homestead. Her two uncles, Fred and George, were said to be members of the Dalton Gang, a band of outlaws.

Black Ethnic Collectibles
Magazine Vol.4 No.3 1990

POEM

PLEA TO AN ANCESTOR

Ancestor! Ancestor,
Oh, why be elusive?
When all that I seek is of you
proof conclusive?
Your birth date, the place, the
time of your passing.
Your wedding, with whom?
That's all I am asking.
I spy and I pry into family
Tradition.
Old letters I read - they're
in awful condition!
Court records were burned in
"The War" (as you know).
To graveyards in brambles
and briers I oft' go.
So, somewhere and somehow,
I'll find you one day,
With "preponderance of
evidence," as we like to say.
Then, Eureka! Rejoice!
I'll write me a book!
I'll cite all my sources,

be you gentle - or crook.
So help me, do please;
neither shy nor coy be.
If you were where 'twould
help, I'd send an S.A.S.E.

Winston De Ville, Ville
Platte, LA - Genealogical
Helper, Nov., Dec. 86,
Pg. 18

* * * * *

CERTIFICATES OF ARKANSAS ANCESTRY

Certificates are issued in three categories: Territorial: a resident of Arkansas before 15 June 1836; Antebellum: A resident of Arkansas before 6 May 1861; and Nineteenth Century: A resident of Arkansas before 31 December 1900. Applicants must complete an application booklet which requests information in three areas: Lineage from the applicant to the ancestor; a family group sheet for the ancestor; and a proof document that the ancestor did reside in Arkansas. It is not always possible to record a date and place for every event in every ancestor's life. The booklet does not have to have every blank filled in--it just needs to show as much information as possible about the lineage and the family. The application booklet contains more information about applying for the certificate. Booklets (which can be photocopied for multiple submissions) are available from: Desmond Allen, Certificate Chairman, 99

Lawrence Landing Road, Conway, AR 72032. The application booklets are free but those requesting them are asked to send 52 cents in stamps for the postage required to mail the booklet. When the completed booklet is submitted, a ten dollar certificate fee should be sent with it.

SEMINAR ANNOUNCEMENT

CAAGS SEMINAR - May 16th at the Culver City Library 4975 Overland Blvd., Culver City. Registration at the door \$15.00. Any questions please call Gerri Johnson, 213-733-1835.

Park in the Assessors Building Parking Lot next to the Library

EVENTS

MAY 27, 1992

KCET Channel 28, Life and Times at 7:30 p.m. will feature our own MARILYN WHITE, her son LEON MILLIGAN, JR. and her mother LAURENZA WHITE. The emphasis of the program is the use of photography in documenting social history and the interaction of how families pass on history through pictures.

MAY 30 & 31, 1992

6th Annual Cajun & Zydeco

Festival - A family cultural event, music, food and dance at the Rainbow Lagoon in Long Beach from Noon to 7 p.m. Tickets general admission \$17.50, seniors (65+)/students \$15.00, children 10-16 \$5.00, under 10 free. For tickets call 415-386-8677

MAY 30, 1992

Tracing Your Hispanic Roots - with author George R. Ryskamp presented by the L.A. Public Library, 433 S. Spring Street. The seminar will be held at 10:00 a.m in the auditorium. Reservations are required call 213-612-3314.

BLACK HISTORY NOTE

April 29, 1992 - Riot erupts in Los Angeles after the jury brought in a verdict of not guilty for police involved in the beating Rodney King.

CAAGS OFFICERS

*President - Robert Taylor
1st V.P. - Ronald Higgins
2nd V.P. - Rozella Hall
Treasurer - Sandra Phillips
Recording Secretary -
Marilyn White
Correspondence Secretary -
Marjorie Higgins
Newsletter Editor -
Geraldyn Johnson
Parliamentarian - Herb Laffoon
Historian - George Jenkins*

HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

Editor: GERALYN JOHNSON

Vol. 3, No. 6, 1992

C.A.A.G.S. MEETING

In celebration of JUNETEENTH/TEXAS EMANCIPATION DAY; our June 20th meeting will be a Potluck Picnic/Meeting to be held at the home of our President, Robert Taylor.

JUNETEENTH POTLUCK PICNIC

Location: 4626 10th Ave.
L.A., CA
Telephone: 213-298-7107

Everyone, please bring a dish. What can I cook you say! Hmmm, maybe something traditional from your home state or an old family recipe that you like to make. See you at the picnic.

JUNETEENTH EMANCIPATION DAY

Juneteenth is the popular name among black people in Texas for their emancipation day, which they celebrate on June 19th. On that day in 1865, Major General Gordon Granger officially announced the freedom of slaves when he arrived at Galveston to command the District of Texas following the Civil War.

Three black folktales provide other explanations of the date. In one version, Texas landowners refused to announce emancipation until the 1865 harvest had been gathered by the slaves. A second story, states that a black man journeyed by mule from Washington to Texas and arrived

in June 1865 with word of the abolition of slavery. The other legend has the end of slavery declared as late as June because an earlier messenger was killed on the way to Texas.

As black Texans migrated throughout the country the celebration of June 19 as emancipation day has spread throughout the country. In the 1970s Juneteenth was declared an unofficial "holiday of significance" by the Texas Legislature. Typical celebrations over the years included parades, picnics, baseball games or other competitive contests, speeches on freedom and future goals, and dances.

Black Life, Alwyn Barr,
Texas Tech University

THANK YOU

*

Our President, Robert Taylor and Vice President, Ronald Higgins thanks everyone who attended our 1st Fundraising seminar that was held on May 6, 1992. The seminar was filled with good information and was a great success.

*

*

Thank you from Gerri Johnson to those who helped in making our seminar a success:

Rozella Hall for helping to coordinate promotional items,

and assisted me with the mailing.

Margaret Thomas for the fabulous lunches she prepared.

Marilyn White and Robert Taylor for helping with coordination of speakers.

Sonya Smith for utilizing her graphic arts talent in the design and donation of our CAAGS Seminar Bookmark.

Ronald Higgins for room setup and searving as our Announcer.

Nathaleen Albright for assisting with refreshment table setup.

Marjorie Higgins and Sandra Phillips for handling the Registration at the door.

Barbara Phillips and Beverly Perry for donation of Sodas.

MEMBERSHIP

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS 1992

Craig & Wanda Hall
Sandra McClendon

RESEARCH NOTES

STARS AND STRIPES: NEWSPAPER OF THE U.S. ARMED FORCES IN THE PACIFIC, 1945-1963

Pub. of the U.S. Govt.
Record Group 287

This collection will enable researchers to read one of the most important newspapers of

the War Department during and immediately after World War II. Reproduced here are all Pacific issues of *Stars and Stripes* in the custody of the National Archives, which received the collection from the Department of Defense.

Stars and Stripes was published during the Civil War and World War I, it was not until World War II that the paper became a daily. Aimed to boost troop morale, the newest version covered the progress of the war but also news from the home front. The paper employed journalist who reported stories from the major wire services, including syndicated features, sports, comics, editorial commentary and pin-ups to its readers.

Different editions of *Stars and Stripes* were published for the various theaters of operations during the war, with publication sites determined by troop movements. This publication is organized by edition, in chronological order. Roll Number: M1624, 1990, 166 rolls with descriptive pamphlet. Available at the National Archives in WA., D.C.

New Titles from the
National Archives,
Scholarly Resources
Inc, May 1992



LANGUAGE OF GENEALOGY

AHNENTAFEL - a table of ancestors.

ANTENUPTIAL CONTRACT - a contract made before marriage, between a man and woman in respect to their property rights.

ASCENDANT - an ancestor, or one who precedes in genealogical succession.

BANNS - the published notice of an intended marriage.

BONDS - (marriage bonds) money posted to insure a person was free to marry.

BOUNTY LAND - land given by the government, as a bounty, usually in compensation for military service.

BOUNTY LAND WARRANT - a right granted for military service, involving a specific number of acres of unallocated public land.

CENSUS - an official enumeration of the people of a state or nation.

CLAN - a social group comprising a number of households, the heads of which claim descent from a common ancestor, bear a common surname, and acknowledge the paramountcy of a chief.

CODICIL - an instrument made subsequently to a will, and modifying it in some respects. It must be executed in the same manner as the will itself, and forms a part of it.

COLLATERAL ANCESTORS - persons belonging to the same ancestral stock but not in a direct line of descent.

CONSANGUINITY - the state of being related by blood, or descended from a common ancestor, and in the law is divided into two classes--Agnate and Cognate. Agnate consanguinity applies to all relations on the father's side of the family, and cognate to all relations on the mother's side of the family.

DECLARATION OF INTENTION - a sworn statement by an alien that he intends to become a citizen.

De La; De Le; Del - all mean "from the," followed by place (Norman-French); as Dexter, meaning from Exeter.

DENIZEN - one admitted to residence in a foreign country.

DEVISEE - a person to whom lands or other real property are devised or given by will.

DEVISOR - a giver of lands of real estate by will; a testator.

DONATION APPLICATION - an application for frontier land in Florida, New Mexico, Oregon, or Washington, which was given to a settler who fulfilled certain conditions.

DOWER - the legal right or interest which the wife acquires by marriage in the real estate of her husband.

ERRATUM - an error or errors by a printer, or author, in a printed book or manuscript. A list of such errors with corrections, is found at the end of the text. It is to the advantage of the owner of a book to make these corrections in it.

EUGENICS - the science which deals with the influences that improve the unborn or native qualities of a race or breed, especially the human race.

FOLKLORE - the comparative science which investigates the life and spirit of a people revealed in their customs and tales.

FRANKLIN, STATE OF - a temporary state organized in 1784, in the western lands of North Carolina but now a part of Eastern Tennessee, which ceased to exist about February 1788.

FREEHOLDER - one who held land in fee simple, which entitled him to the right to vote and to hold office.

GAZETTEER - a geographical dictionary.

GENEALOGY - is derived from two Greek words--"Genea," meaning descent, and "logos," meaning discourse. It is the vital branch of history, and is catalogued as one of the social sciences.

GENERATION - the average lifetime or period of time at which one rank follows another.

A generation is usually considered to be 33 years.

HERALDRY - the art, practice or science of recording genealogies and blazoning arms.

HOLOGRAPHIC WILL - a will made in the handwriting of the testator.

HOMESTEAD APPLICATION - an application for government land under the Homestead Act of 1862.

h.s.,L. hic situs or sepultus - her is buried.

INDENTURE - a mutual agreement in writing, between two or more parties, whereof each party has a counterpart or duplicate, the parts being indentured by a notched cut for identification.

INDENTURED SERVANT - a person who engaged himself to another, for a certain number of years, to pay off a debt, usually from four to seven years.

INTESTATE - not having made a will; not disposed of by will.

KINDRED - relatives by blood.

LAND ENTRY PAPERS - papers filed in connection with the acquisition of public land, including bounty land warrants, donation, preemption and homestead applications, private land claims, land scrip and purchase by cash or installments. They include the name of the person who acquired the land, his place of residence, dates when

application and land were entered, and date of patent.

LIBER - a book in which deeds, mortgages, wills and other public records are kept.

LINEAGE - descent in a line from a common progenitor (forefather).

LINEAL - descent in a direct line from father to son.

MANUMISSION - formal emancipation from slavery.

MORTALITY SCHEDULE - a special census taken in connection with the regular enumerations of the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880, listing deaths in preceding year.

NAMING SYSTEMS/PATTERNS - DUTCH - the first son was named for his paternal grandfather; the second son for his maternal grandfather; first daughter was named for her maternal grandmother, the second daughter for her paternal grandmother. This gives a reliable clue to the names of all four grandparents.

NAMING SYSTEMS/PATTERNS - GERMAN - children were given one name for their parents, and one name for their godfather or godmother.

NAMING SYSTEM/PATTERNS - SCANDINAVIAN - in early records before surnames were common, the son of Jan was called Janson, and his daughter was called Jensdatter, etc.

NECROLOGY - a history of the dead; a register of deaths.

NUNCUPATIVE WILL - an unwritten will, having been declared or dictated by the testator in his last sickness, before a sufficient number of witnesses, and afterwards reduced to writing.

O' - a prefix to ancient Irish family names, followed by the genitive case of the name of the ancestor as O'Neill. Before surnames of females, O' is replaced in Irish by ni, daughter. It prefixes H before a vowel, as OhAirt, O'Hart. the apostrophe is due to the mistaken idea that O stands for of.

PATENT - a document which transfers legal title to public lands.

POLL TAX - a tax levied on every male citizen over a given age.

PROBATE - the process of proving a will or settling an estate.

PROVINCE - a district or division of a country.

PUBLIC DOMAIN - public lands of the U.S.; comprised Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, part of Ohio, Wisconsin, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and all states west of the Mississippi River except Texas and Alaska.

REDEMPTIONER - an indentured white person who sold himself as a servant for a brief term of years to defray the cost of his passage to America.

s.l.a.n., L. sine loco anno vel nomine - without place, year, or name.

s.l. et a., L. sine loco et anno; - without place and year.

TESTATE ESTATE - an estate which is disposed by will.

TESTATOR - a deceased person who died leaving a will.

TRADITION - that which is transmitted orally through successive generations, without the aid of written memorials; any belief, custom, or way of life which has its roots in one's family or racial past; an inherited culture.

WAR PERIODS - French and Indian and Colonial Wars, (1637-1765), American Revolution (1770-1781), War of 1812, (1812-1815), Civil War (1861-1865).

WILL - a legally executed document which a person makes disposition of his property to take effect after his death.

Know Your Ancestors - A Guide to Genealogical Research by Ethel W. Williams, PH.D 1968

Special Enumeration of Blacks Immigrating to Ohio 1861-1863
Geraldyn Johnson

This is a special census taken in the counties of Ohio to show the amount of Blacks migrating to the state between 1861 - 1863. The film includes letters from deputies and other officials with the count of black persons in their

counties. All counties did not report. This microfilm can be ordered through the L.D.S. Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

If you are in Los Angeles the film can be viewed at the L.D.S. Family History Library, call number 1688779.

QUERIES

Professor Granville Hough, Treasurer of the South Coast Chapter, California Society Sons of the American Revolution is seeking information on **Sally Hemmings and family**, Thomas Jeffersons seamstress who was his first wifes 1/2 sister. Please forward information or articles to Granville Hough, 3438-B Bahia Blanca West, Laguna Hills, CA 92653.

Geralyn Taylor Johnson seeks information on anyone with the Surname of GOHANNA/GOHANNAH from Virginia, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Washington D.C., Michigan, Illinois, Canada etc.

Also seeking information on **Henrietta Taylor (1860's - early 1900's)** of Charlottesville, Virginia and **Lena Taylor (1880's - 1929)** of Charlottesville, Virginia and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The two ladies are mother and daughter, and my Great Great and Great grandmothers. Please contact me at, 2026 4th Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90018, 213-733-1835.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Franklin County Genealogical Society Library at the Harrison House 570 W. Broad Street Columbus, Ohio is now open every Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. anyone who is interested in tracing their family roots or learning more about the history of Franklin County, Ohio, other counties or states is welcome. The Franklin County Chapter of OGS has also formed a new Afro-American Genealogy interest group. For information call 614-469-1300.

Franklin County Genealogy Newsletter 23.5 - Antique Week 6/1/92

HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS

The National Genealogy Hall of Fame is receiving nominations for the 1993 elections until December 1, 1992. For nominations forms and criteria, write to National Genealogy Hall of Fame 4527 17th Street North Arlington, VA 22207-2399. The honor is bestowed upon a deceased member of the genealogy community who has made significant contributions to the ongoing of genealogy interest.

FINDING MISSING PERSONS & BIRTHPARENTS

L.D.S. Family History Center sponsors a class on the fourth (4th) Saturday of each month: 1:30 - 4:30, L.D.S. Family History Center, 10741 Santa Monica Blvd., L.A., CA 310-474-9990 to reserve space.

BOOKS

Celebrating the Family - Steps to Planning a Family Reunion. Vandella Brown. This book talks about getting your relatives interested in a reunion, organizing a reunion committee and developing a program. Included are helpful sample letters and forms to simplify your work. Paperback, \$8.95

How To Write And Publish Your Family Book. Genealogy Publishing Service. This is a manuscript preparation guide put out by a company that prints family histories. Paperback, \$9.95

Black Southerners 1619 - 1869. John B. Boles. A synthesis of research and interpretation of the Black experience in the South from the African background through slavery to its disintegration. Paperback, \$13.00.

Order books from HEARTHSTONE BOOKSHOP, POTOMAC SQUARE, 8405-H RICHMOND HIGHWAY, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22309. (703) 360-6900

EVENTS

June 28, 1992

California Afro-American Museum presents - Dialog with Black Filmmakers a documentary of today's' black filmmakers; hosted by the late Pulitzer Prize winning author, Alex Haley. 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

July 25, 1992

California Afro American Museum
Family Day - Storyteller Sybil
Desta will entertain - 1:30 -
2:30 p.m. For more information
call 213-744-7432.

August 21, 1992

Unica Shows Unlimited -Black
Memorabilia/Collectible
Showcase & Sale. August 21,
1992 Wine & Cheese Reception
6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m \$10.00.

Saturday, August 22, 1992 11:00
a.m. to 7:00 p.m. \$3.50. Show
featuring dolls, toys, african
artifacts, historical items and
more.... For more information
contact Unica at (202) 726-8931
or (202) 723-8724.

SEMINARS

NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH SEMINAR

July 13 - 17, Washington, D.C.
An indepth look at federal
records of genealogical value
in the Washington, D.C. area.
Tuition is \$195 for the week,
Reservations at the Hotel
Washington is \$83.64 Single,
\$94.74 Twin/Double, \$105.84
Triple. Contact National
Institute On Genealogical
Research, P.O. Box 14274,
Washington, D.C. 20044-4274

1992 FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES CONFERENCE:

NEW HORIZONS: A SOUTHWEST
CONFERENCE: August 20-22,
Phoenix Civic Plaza, Phoenix,
Ariz. For more information

contact "New Horizons", P.O.
Box 3385, Salt Lake City, Utah
84110-3385. Registration
\$80.00 for 3 days 1-8 p.m.

CAAGS CALENDAR

JUNE 20, 1992 - JUNETEENTH
POTLUCK PICNIC.

JULY 18, 1992 - MARJORIE
HIGGINS WILL SPEAK ON - HOW TO
PLAN A FAMILY REUNION.

AUGUST 1992 - VACATION TIME -
NO MEETING.

CAAGS OFFICERS

President - Robert Taylor
1st V.P. - Ronald Higgins
2nd V.P. - Rozella Hall
Treasurer - Sandra Phillips
Recording Secretary -
Marilyn White
Correspondence Secretary -
Marjorie Higgins
Newsletter Editor -
Geraldyn Johnson
Parliamentarian - Herb Laffoon
Historian - George Jenkins



Please submit all Newsletter
Articles and Queries to:
Gerri Johnson, 2026 4th
Avenue, L.A., CA 90018 or
call 213-733-1835

HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

Editor: GERALYN JOHNSON

Vol. 4, No. 11, 1992

C.A.A.G.S. MEETING

Our monthly meeting will be held on November 14, 1992 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the MARTIN LUTHER KING METHODIST CHURCH, 6625 4th Avenue, Los Angeles.

Guest Speaker

Beth Wilson, Librarian

Topic

Land Deeds & Dower Rights

MEMBERSHIP

Prizes, Prizes

The first 50 people to renew their Membership for 1993 before January 15, 1993 will be entered into our early renewal prize drawing.

1993 dues \$20.00 Family, \$15.00 Single, \$10.00 Student, \$25.00 Organization. Mail to Rozella Hall, 1828 W. 50th St., L.A., CA 90016

HISTORY NOTES

HISTORIC WEST ADAMS - HOME TO AFRICAN AMERICAN MOVIE STARS

The West Adams area in Los Angeles, also known as Sugar Hill, in it's hayday was home to many of the Black elite.

At one time this area was off limits to African Americans because of restrictive housing codes disallowing them to purchase houses in the neighborhood. Once the housing codes were lifted in the late 40's, this neighborhood housed some of Black Hollywoods elite.

We'll start our tour on Harvard Blvd., where the 3 famous women of the movies were neighbors. At 2213 Harvard Blvd. was the home of Hattie Mc Daniel who won an Oscar for her part in Gone With The Wind. Just next door at 2215 Harvard is a three story craftsman style house which was the home of Ethel Waters who appeared in the movies Cabin In The Sky and Pinky. Across the street, the house at 2200 was occupied at one time by Louise Beavers who was the star of TV's Buelah and the original film version of Imitation Of Life.

Now we move on South down Western Avenue and just off 36th Place at 1932 Rochester Lane sits a colonial house with green shutters that was the home of Eddie "Rochester" Anderson of the Jack Benny Show. This wasn't a ritzy neighborhood at the time he built his showplace that included a pool, theater, dance floor and an exhibition space for his model railroad collection.

If you go east, toward the Exposition/Normandie area you'll come to the former home of Bill "Bojangles" Robinson.

At 36th Place and Catalina, the house is one of the few remaining buildings designed by the African-American architect Paul Williams.

St. Francois Cty (1865 - 1898)
Saline County (1865 - 1870)
Washington Cty (1865 - 1875)

AAH&GS, Cleveland Chapter
Newsletter, July/Aug./
Sept. 1992

RESEARCH NOTES

ANCESTOR SEARCHIN IN MISSOURI'S AFRICAN-AMERICAN MARRIAGE RECORDS COLLECTION

By Sandra G. Craighead
Cleveland AAHGS

The following are NEGRO/COLORED MARRIAGE RECORDS that can be researched in person or by letter from the Missouri State Archives, Office of the Secretary of State, P.O. Box 778, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102. These records can also be obtained by renting the microfilm from the Latter Day Saints (LDS) in Salt Lake City, Utah through their local branches; or by renting the film from the American Genealogical Lending Library (AGLL), P.O. Box 244, Dept. M., Bountiful, Utah 84010.

Audrian County (1865 - 1890)
Boone County (1865 - 1882)
Callaway County (1865 - 1915)
Carroll County (1865 - 1881)
Cedar County (1867 - 1872)
Clay County (1865 - 1891)
Cooper County (1865 - 1866)
Crawford County (1865 - 1866)
Davies County (1866 - 1904)
Franklin Cty. (1866 thru 1875)
Howard County (1865 - 1879)
Jackson County (1865 - 1882)
Jefferson County (1849 - 1871)
Lincoln County (1865 - 1901)
Moniteau County (1865 - 1891)
Monroe County (1865 - 1881)
Montgomery County (1865 - 1881)
Pettis County (1865 - 1874)

* * * * *

FREEDMAN'S AID SOCIETIES

With the end of the Civil War in 1865, ex slaves suddenly faced with the opportunity to use banks, courthouse facilities and records and in general, participate in the legal, economic and financial facets of American life.

For those fortunate to have money, the U.S. government set up special banking facilities for them (**Freedmen's Saving Bank**). Private organizations also came into existence to help African-Americans deal with investments, loans and other monetary matters. Fortunately, some of the records of these organizations have been preserved and can be seen today. These records may hold names and other data about some forebear. There is no one central location for these records.

Here is a partial list of some of these sources.

FREEDMEN'S LAND AND HOME SOCIETY - was started in Charleston, S.C., in 1869 by a group of freed slaves. Their reason for being was to be able to purchase land at **Remley's Point** for members of their organization. Check the South Carolina State Archives,

historical society or local library for these records.

AMERICAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION - This group was active prior to the Civil War especially in 1862 - 1863. Their records are housed in the Chicago Public Library, as part of the Vivian G. Harsh Collection, located at 1224 W. Van Buren St., Chicago, IL 60610; Phone 312-269-2900.

NEW ENGLAND FREEDMEN'S AID SOCIETY and the **NATIONAL FREEDMEN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION** (founded in N.Y. City), was active throughout the Southern States.

Ohio was the home of the **CONTRABAND RELIEF ASSOCIATION OF CINCINNATI** later known as the **WESTERN FREEDMAN'S COMMISSION**.

ST. LOUIS started the **WESTERN SANITARY COMMISSION** in 1861 to help those living along the Mississippi River.

UNITED STATES SANITARY COMMISSION - Washington, D.C., helped Blacks by chance. It was set up in 1861 to primarily take care of sick and wounded Union Army Soldiers.

PENNSYLVANIA WOMEN'S AID ASSOCIATION OF PHILADELPHIA, PORT ROYAL RELIEF COMMISSION OF PHILADELPHIA/PENNSYLVANIA FREEDMEN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION - included abolition manuscripts, information on the Underground Railroad. This collection is housed at Swathmore College, Friends Historical Library, Swathmore, PA 19081.

Many of these records can be found in the National Archives

in Washington D.C. or various State Archives.

Antique Week/Genealogy Week, Elsie Kilmer, 10/26/92. Source Research Guide

LETTERS/QUERIES

FROM: ROGER B. JONES
2232 London Street
New Westminster, BC
Canada, V3M 3G2

The following is an excerpt from a letter received in October from Mr. Jones who had received a copy of our newsletter from member William Washington.

I am originally from Nova Scotia and most of my family is still based there. If any of your members are looking for family in that part of the country, or might just need some information, I would be more than willing to help. I am less familiar with the area I am living in now, but I have met a few locals who are well versed in the local history. Incidentally, many of the Blacks here tell me that their roots stem from Oklahoma or Texas. Their ancestors were Homesteaders in the Canadian West.

When writing for information please send a SASE to Mr. Jones at the above address. He can also be contacted by FAX: 604-525-0089 or PHONE: 604-525-3666.

* * * * *



FROM: SHIRLEY BROWN
901 S. PLYMOUTH CT. #104
CHICAGO, IL 60605

My name is Shirley Brown. I'm a member of the Afro-American Genealogical Society of Chicago.

For the past several years I've been trying to develop the family history of my Great Grandparents, SOPHIE and HARVEY KNOX who lived in Danville, Kentucky - Boyle County. They had several children, Cyrilda, David (my grandfather), Lucinda, Alice, Julia, Fannie and Martha (Owsley). As far as I know, they've all deceased.

I've recently learned that FANNIE was a school teacher in Los Angeles who taught either Home Economics or Economics in the 1940's or 1950's. She married a man by the name of "Jones" (first name unknown) and had two sons, Emil and either Vertner or Vergner. At this point the trail ends.

Ms. Brown would appreciate any information or leads from anyone researching the Knox surname or anyone who may have been taught by Fannie Knox Jones.

If you have information write to Shirley Brown at the above address.

SOURCE FOR GENEALOGICAL BOOKS

GENESIS III

Genealogical & Historical
Research Literature & Art

L.A., CA - (213) 734-9507

Ms. Walker owner of GENESIS III Books personally specializes in African-American, Native American and Irish American Ancestries but, also maintains general reference books such as: the Source, Red Book and Handy Book for Genealogist.

Also available from GENESIS III BOOKS is: genealogy games and puzzles, maps, research forms and historical posters.

Contact: Dorie Walker, P.O. Box 712014, Bunker Hill Station, Los Angeles, CA 90071, for your mail order list.

GOLD NUGGETT WRITING CONTEST

The California State Genealogical Alliance is conducting it's second annual writing contest to "Mine" some of the many "Gold Nuggets" of information buried in the file, records, and experiences of California Genealogist and Historians.

RULES ARE AS FOLLOWS: The story should be typewritten in 10 or 12 pitch on 8-1/2 x 11 white paper (not erasable bond). Margins should be 1 inch top, bottom, left and right. The format is single spaced with a five space paragraph indentation, (do not double space between paragraphs). Margins should be 1 inch top, bottom, left and right.

Your title page should be centered 1 inch from the top with 3 lines of space before the text begins. The title of the paper and page number of the document should appear as a footer in small type at the lower left corner at the bottom

of each page. Abbreviations may be used in references, but not in the manuscript text.

The judging of the manuscripts will be based on content, originality, composition, clarity, format, style, grammar, spelling, punctuation, documentation, and appearance. All submissions should be previously unpublished material.

The winning stories will be included in a book to be published by the California Genealogical Alliance.

Mail your manuscripts to Jean Nepsund, 3641 Summer Shore Ln., Westlake Village, CA 91361. Deadline, March 1, 1993.

EVENTS

NOVEMBER 14, 1992

Photo Friends Event - San Fernando Mission Photography Session: Photograph this beautiful mission and consult with professional photographers. Monsignor Weber will show historic photos of the Mission and discuss the role photographers have played in documenting the history of the missions. Refreshments will be served. Time: 2:00 - 4:30 pm, Location: 15151 San Fernando Mission Boulevard, Mission Hills, CA. RSVP 213-612-3316.

NOVEMBER 14

ESOWON BOOKSTORE presents "THE CLEGG SERIES" - The Daughters of Isis: Black Women in Antiquity. Saturday November 14, 1992 from 1 to 5 p.m.

Reception, Preview Screening and Lecture. Marla Gibbs Crossroads National Education and Arts Center, 4310 Degnan Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. RSVP Legrand Clegg: 310-631-2661. Admission is Free.

NOVEMBER 21, 1992

California Afro-American Museum film series:

Hallelujah (1929)
Green Pastures (1936)

Series continues thru December, call 213-744-7432 for more information.

Thank you Deborah Fountain
for October Refreshments.

CAAGS OFFICERS

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7739 East Broadway #195
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P.O. Box 670045
Phoenix, AZ 85071

California African American
Genealogical Society, Inc.
2026 4th Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90018

Ontario Black History Society
Ontario Heritage Center
10 Adelaide St., East
Suite 202
Toronto, ON M5C 1J3
Canada

Black Genealogy Research Group
B. Shannon
4605 Kentucky Ave., 5F
Denver, CO 80222

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

Association For The Study
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1407 Fourteenth Street., N.W.
Washington, DC 20005

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Afro-Louisiana Historical &
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822 Bonaparte Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21218

Central Maryland
Chapter, AAH&GS
P.O. Box 2774
Columbia, MD 21045

National Capitol Area
Chapter, AAH&GS
7808 berry Place
Forrestville, MD 20747

Fred Hart Williams
Genealogical Society
Detroit Public Library
5201 Woodward Ave.
Detroit, MI 48202

Genealogical Society of
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Mary Joe Roberts
P. O. Box 26
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Mid-West Afro-American
Genealogical Interest Coalition
c/o Bernette Johnson
401 E. 85th St.
Kansas City, MO 64131

Afro-Gen
P.O. Box 14174
Greensboro, NC 27415

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

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Rhode Island Black
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1 Hilton Street
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Tarrant County Black History &
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1020 E. Humbolt
Fort Worth, TX 76104

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P.O. Box 670045
Houston, TX 77267

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

AMERICAN INDIAN SOCIETIES

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East 4516 - 6th Ave.
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Cherokee Family Researcher
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Mesa, AZ 85205

The Cherokee Tracer
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French Heritage Center
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Brooklyn Center, MN 55429

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The Belgian Researchers
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French Canadian Heritage
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