

HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

Editor: GERALYN JOHNSON RATLIFF

Vol. 8, No. 1, January, 1996

CAAGS MEETING

January 20, 1996
Martin Luther King Jr.
United Methodist Church
6625 4th Avenue & 67th St.

Beginners Class
9:00 am - 10:00 am

CAAGS CALENDAR

February 17, 1996 - Black History Month Program.

March 16, 1996 - No Meeting. 10th Anniversary, 6 pm, Hollywood Park Casino Banquet Room.

From Our President:

We, Ronald Higgins, Colette DeVerge and Carolyn Conway thank you for re-

electing us to another term of office (96/97).

Thank everyone who came out on December 20, 1996 to participate in the video taping by Ancestry Publications. We will be part of a 10 part series for the Ancestors Project being produced for PBS TV Network. Air date to be announced.



RESEARCH

A White Man's Search for Black Roots

By Walter Parker Hollowell

It may seem presumptuous for a white man to write about black genealogy, but I think that I can offer something as a result of my efforts to uncover my links with the black side of my family.

My search for the black roots in my family began a year ago when I met a young lady with the same last name as mine. On that fateful day, I learned that her ancestors were slaves of my family in western Kentucky. Up to that time, I was well aware of my family's history from 1560 in England to America as Quakers

in 1649, and their migration to Kentucky at the beginning of the 19th Century. Regarding black genealogy, I only knew that my family owned slaves. One year later, I know who most of those slaves were. I know that some former slaves were willed land and money by my white family, and some black children had white legal guardians to care for them. In addition, there were many mixed children. Black, mixed, and white Hollowells lived side by side for decades after the Civil war. I know the roots of my cousin back to 1777.

So, how did I learn all this in such a short time? Hard work and luck. I spent hundreds of hours at the Family History Library in west Los Angeles. I went to Kentucky to find original records. I collected Census information on **every** black Hollowell in the local area from 1870 to 1920. In addition, I collected every marriage license and bond from 1866 to 1900. I tried to link each person together to build family trees. I also looked at the Census records of free individuals back to 1790. In the 1850 Census, I found two free black individuals living with my family - Abram and Anica. They would turn out to be the original slaves brought to Kentucky from North Carolina. This is the hard work.

The luck came when I was looking at a roll of microfilm on estate inventories. I arbitrarily stopped and discovered the same names: Abram and Anica. They were in the estate of my middle name family (Parker), not Hollowell. Abram and Anica and other slaves were given to the

Hollowells. What's the point? Look at the collateral white families and go through their estates, property deeds, court orders. Look at every scrap of paper you can find on the primary slave owner and their related families.

I recently completed history of my family in which most of the information illuminates the roles of black members of my family. Since February, I have been fortunate to add several hundred black members to the family genealogy chart. In fact I just mailed a package to a new found cousin containing 38 pounds of documents from slavery times to 1920.

It is because of what I have learned that I wrote this article. As you can see with a lot of hard work and a bit of luck, you can find your roots.

Ancestor Sets the Tombstone Straight

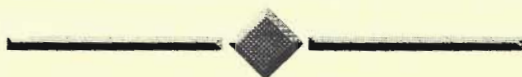
Submitted by Ethel Dillon

It came as a shock to genealogy buff Iris LeJeune when, last All Saints Day she saw the newspaper story about St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery burial spot of a distant cousin of hers, Theophile Pierre Allain. The problem was that a history professor at Southern University had incorrectly identified the tombstone in question as belonging to the founder of Southern University, Theophile T. Allain. He was even recognized as the occupant of the burial plot during All Saints Day ceremonies last year--an oversight that was corrected for Wednesdays ceremony. LeJeune and others have helped set the record straight.

Turns out, Theophile P. Allain was a white, middle class planter who never married. He retired when he was 65 and moved to New Orleans dying five years later, said Anne Newman president of the West Baton Rouge Genealogical Society.

T. P. and T. T. Allain who was black, were possibly related, LeJeune said. "They're cousins definitely, but don't ask me how" she said. T. T. Allain was the son of a slave and a slave owner. As a delegate to the Louisiana Constitutional Convention of 1879, he won a plank calling for the funding of higher education for black people. Later, as a state Legislator, Allain sponsored bills that set aside money to build what is known now as Southern University. A researcher doing work on the areas prominent black citizens told Newman that T. T. Allain is buried in Chicago.

Associated Press
Houma Louisiana Newspaper
November 2, 1995



RESEARCH TIPS

First Aid For a Drowning Genealogist

By Marilyn White

Anyone who has been researching for more than a week has found that for every fact you prove, you end up with 3 or more pieces of paper. After a while, there are stacks of papers in every corner of

every room, waiting for you to usher them to their proper destinations.

Whether you have a computer or not, at some point in time you will say, "enough is enough"! What I hope to do is to give you some first aid tips to keep you from drowning in an angry sea of unorganized paperwork.

Though it doesn't matter at which point you begin to organize, sooner is always better! Don't look at the stacks of unknown papers. Pretend that they don't exist! Instead, begin at the beginning and prepare to place to permanently keep all of those loose papers you have accumulated.

Allow me to throw you a life preserver.

1. Get a file, a box, a crate or whatever you have available to hold file folders.
2. Buy a box of file folders.
3. Write the names of each ancestral couple on a separate folder.
4. File the folders in alphabetical order by family (use the husband's name).
5. Make one folder for each surname and file it in front of the correct family's folders.
6. Make one folder for every type of other information you have ie. finding aides, maps and so on. File these alphabetically in another box or crate.

As you accumulate documents file them in the correct family folder or content file immediately after reviewing them. Do not set them aside for later. Begin that habit now, so that no additional papers will stack up. Each evening when you come in the door pick up the top 5 papers from the nearest stack and file them where they belong. Even picking up 1 paper a night will make a dent in the task.

When the folders become too large, it is time to separate them into their components (birth records, death records, marriage records, wills, etc.). Keep the family folders together in the file. It makes it easier to locate information on the family when you need it. One item that we sometimes forget to include in the family file is the audio tape of the family reunion presentations or interviews of family members. These tapes should be transcribed as soon as possible to avoid errors and to take advantage of the opportunity of re-interviewing a subject, when the information is unclear or incomplete. The transcription can be on computer, but a copy should be sent to the subject also. To safeguard my interview transcripts, I also like to keep a copy in the family file. It might be a good idea to keep a back up copy of your computer disk in the family file too.

Another filing method is to use notebooks and plastic sleeves to store documents by family in place of file folders. These files are easily transported and their contents are secure when carrying them on research trips. This system is for copies only! Always safeguard your originals!

There are many methods of organizing genealogical information. You the researcher must decide for yourself which one suits your needs. There is no perfect method and no one is an expert.

Use of a research log will save many reams of paper in the long run. I can't number the times I have made copies of a crucial piece of information only to arrive home and find that I had three other copies of the same document in three separate stacks of papers. Each time you research a family, write in the log, what you were looking for, on which date the research took place and what the outcome was. Make sure you document your sources carefully somewhere on the papers you copy in the library and on the research log, immediately, absolutely before leaving the library, so that you can locate that information again if need be. File that paper in the front of the first ancestral folder in your file. Any information you gather pertaining to the family in general goes in the already prepared surname folders at the front of your ancestral files.

Review your computer files periodically to check for gaps in information. It is also important to review your paper files because we do not always copy every word into the computer and we may miss valuable clues.

An additional set of paper records which may have been accumulated are the many letters received and copies of letters sent. depending on your correspondence habits, these may or may

not be on the computer. At any rate, keeping a correspondence log will free up your dendrites for more useful decision making.

Having the most compelling evidence is not worth a thing if you cannot produce the evidence when needed. If you are the only person in the family with the magic clues (and even if you are not) what is hidden at the bottom of stack number six, is not really a clue if you can't put your hands on it when you need to do so.

Getting organized and staying organized is not painful. It simply takes one moment here and one moment there. Try not to look at the entire task at once. That is the secret. This riddle may help you put things into perspective. How do you eat an elephant? **PIECE BY PIECE** is the answer. That is exactly the life preserver you must hold onto if you are to survive in that sea of paperwork, and research happily ever after.



EVENTS

15th Annual Black Doll Exhibition - "Adventures in Dollhouse Land," William Grant Still Arts Center, 2520 S. West View St., Los Angeles. Exhibition features 200 pieces including for the first time a selection of doll houses. Items available for purchase in the Dollhouse Gift Shoppe. Through March 3rd. For further information call (213) 734-1164.

January 17, - March 10, 1996

Seven Guitars by August Wilson - Journey back to 1940's Pittsburgh as Floyd "Schoolboy" Barton, on a collision course with fate, struggles to make good with a promising music career and with Vera, the woman he left years before. **Tickets \$15.00, \$25.00. Ahmanson Theatre, 135 N. Grand Avenue, Downtown L.A., 213-365-3500**

January 21, 1996

Colleen Fliedner, Oral Historian and Research Specialist, will present "**The Elements of Research**," covering guidelines to research and methods of building a timeline for accurate plotting. A workshop given by Los Angeles Romance Authors division of the RWA. Open to the public, \$3.00. Westside Pavillion Community Room level three behind the food court. For more information call Jeane Renick, 310-276-7990.

February 1 - 4, 1996

Fox Hills Art Show & Sale - featured artist **Robin A. Strayhorn**. Coordinated by Deborah McDuff. Show during regular mall hours. Showing 10-9 TH, Fri, 10-7 Sat., 11-6 Sun. For more information call Janet LaFevre **310-390-7833**.

February 6 - 11, 1996

4th Annual 100 Artist Art Show & Exhibition - Coordinated by Kathy Pearson and Linda Gray. 213-290-6636.

A Variety of Cultural Events will also be held. Events take place during regular mall hours. Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza.

February 6 - 18, 1996

Pan African Film Festival - Opening Night Gala on February 6, Children's Fest Feb. 10 & 17; Magic Johnson Theaters, Crenshaw & MLK Blvds., 213-896-8221. Adults \$7.00, Seniors & Children \$4.00.

February 8, 1996

The Africans Are Coming - An African cultural extravaganza featuring drumming and dancing from all over the continent. An arts and crafts exhibition as well as traditional African foods will be available.

*California African American
Genealogical Society*



*10th Anniversary
Dinner Dance
March 10, 1996*

*Hollywood Park Casino
Banquet Room
Inglewood, CA*

Tickets \$35.00

OFFICERS

President
Ronald Higgins
213-777-4816

2nd Vice President
Membership
Colette DeVerge
213-933-8381

Recording Secretary
Alva Griffith
213-735-7261

Correspondence Secretary
Carolyn Conway
213-931-8350

Treasurer
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213-777-4816

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Geraldyn Johnson Ratliff
310-568-0437

Parliamentarian, Librarian
Joyce Sumbi
310-854-6967

Historian
Marilyn White
213-756-2804

Public Relations
Deborah Fountain
310-637-4838

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

**Attn: Colette DeVerge
P. O. Box 8442
Los Angeles, CA 90008-0442**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ **PHONE:** _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

SURNAMES YOU ARE RESEARCHING: _____

SPECIAL SKILLS: _____ **OCCUPATION:** _____

Student \$10.00 Individual \$20.00 Family \$25.00

Organizations & Libraries \$30.00 New Renewal

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

- Serve as an Officer
- Serve on a committee, ie Fund Raising, Seminar Planning,
Black History Month, Christmas Party, etc.
- Write articles/book reviews for the Newsletter
- Research Special Projects
- Computer Input of Special Projects
- Public Speaking
- Other _____

Speakers/Program Suggestions: _____

Fundraising Suggestions: _____

HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

Editor: GERALYN JOHNSON RATLIFF

ISSN: 1083-8937

Vol. 8, No. 2, February, 1996

CAAGS MEETING

February 17, 1996
Martin Luther King Jr.
United Methodist Church
6625 4th Avenue & 67th St.

Black History Month Program

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Dancers, Singers,
Drummers & More

and students; may also run the Olympic Torch on April 27th in Los Angeles.

Marilyn is back in training with Marv Thompson who is the Track Coach at Southwest College.



RESEARCH NOTES

The Navy Log

Submitted by: Johann Hassan

The Naval Memorial Foundation is looking for information about a lot of good sailors and soldiers -- on active duty or back in private life, as well as those who have died.

Authorized by Congress in 1980, the Naval Memorial in Washington, D.C., is operated by the nonprofit private foundation. One of the memorial's features is a "video register: of 225,000 former and current military personnel".

The register serves two purposes, said Tom Coldwell, a foundation spokesman. It is a tribute to those who have served or are serving in the Navy and its sister services--the Coast Guard, Marines and Merchant Marine.

Called the Navy Log, the roster contains the service person's name, service branch, rank, service dates and hometown. About 50,000 biographies on file also have photos to go with

CONGRATULATIONS

If you haven't heard yet, CAAGS member and 1964 Olympic Silver medalist **Marilyn White** will be running a leg of the Olympic Torch Relay in the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia.

In addition Marilyn who is a 3rd grade teacher and bilingual specialist at Miles Avenue School in Huntington Park has been nominated as a Community Hero by teachers

them. Searches can be conducted by surname, including maiden name, although not by town or branch of service. Biographies can be searched on a video terminal in a room at the memorial. Information can be summoned through a touch screen. Of the 225,000 names in the log, 236 served between 1800 and 1900. Fifty-six saw duty before 1800.

The Naval Memorial also hosts a variety of activities, including concerts in an amphitheater, retirement ceremonies, reunions and educational programs. The memorial, dedicated on the Navy's 200th birthday on October 13, 1987, is located midway between the White House and the Capitol.

The cost to enroll on the video registry is \$25. Adding a picture is another \$25. Enrollments are welcome from relatives of deceased military veterans.

Enrollment donations are tax deductible. For further information, contact Navy Log, Dept. V, P. O. Box 96570, Washington, D.C. 20077-7685.

The Columbus Dispatch,
Bernie Karsko
September 25, 1995

L.A. County Death Certificates

If the death occurs in Los Angeles County, certified copies may be obtained from the Department of Health Services, 303 N. Figueroa St., Room L-1, Los Angeles, CA 90012, up to 60 days after death. After 60 days obtain copies from the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, 1200 E. Imperial Highway, Room 1002, Norwalk, CA 90650, (310) 462-2137 or 462-2106. If the death occurs in another county or state, the local agency handling birth and death records should be contacted.

L.A. County Military & Veterans Affairs

Submitted by: Johann Hassan

If you think a deceased was in the military, a place to check for possible relatives is the Military & Veterans Affairs department who would have issued survivors benefits if they were available. Military & Veterans Affairs, 1816 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, CA 90015, (213) 744-4825.

Multiracial Designation Census 2000

Submitted by: Johann Hassan

In bowing to national pressure from organizations of mixed-race parents, the U.S. Census will test a new "multiracial" category in a mini census survey this year 1996, in preparation for the next national count in the year 2000. Almost a dozen states have passed or are considering legislation allowing the multiracial designation.

Many African American individuals and organizations denounce the proposed change because of its legal and political implications and how it may affect affirmative action policies.

But, if you really think about it almost all African Americans have some other ethnicity tied into their

family lines; so if we all checked the multiracial box who would be left to check the black box?

Clarence Page, Columbus Dispatch
Pg. 7A, 9/12/95

Library Resource

Submitted By: Helen Johnson

The National Library of Jamaica, 12 East Street, Kingston, Jamaica, Phone 92-20620-8.

HISTORY

A. G. Gaston - Pioneering Black Businessman

A. G. Gaston, a slave's grandson who became the state's leading black businessman and who once bailed the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. out of jail, died on January 19, 1996 at the age of 103.

Born in Demopolis, Georgia, Gaston founded the Booker T. Washington Insurance Co. in 1923 with \$500 and began selling insurance policies to steelworkers. His empire grew to include Citizens Federal savings and Loan, two radio stations, two cemeteries and other businesses. Gaston, who

did not go beyond 10th grade, worked past his 100th birthday and amassed a fortune once estimated at between \$30 million and \$40 million. He began each day by reading The Wall Street Journal. "That's my bible," he said in a 1992 interview.

Gaston was viewed as a moderate during the turmoil that engulfed Birmingham in the 1960s, serving as a go between the city's white moderates and civil rights leaders.

He just died of old age said nephew Thomas Gardner, owner of Smith and Gaston Funeral Home, which his uncle founded.

The L.A. Bulletin 1/19/96

COMPUTER CORNER

Submitted by: Helen Johnson & Alva Griffith



Cajun Clickers Genealogy Club has information about Louisiana.
<http://www.tyrell.net/-rccarson>

Civil War information for individuals researching specific units. <http://cobweb.utcc.utk.edu/-hoemann/cwunits3>.

Vital Statistics at the University of Kentucky. <http://www.uky.edu>.

Computer Users - subscribe to BOBC!! This is a FREE online news-service at America On Line, and keeps you informed on a variety of topics from a Black perspective. BOBC is short for "Black On Black Communications", and comes to you by E-Mail on a bi-weekly basis. Subscribe to **ABOLD 1 @ AOL.COM** with a subject of Add Me, for the

latest news on just about everything.

African-American History, Slavery to Civil Rights - this disk divides African American history into eight sections, ranging from the Colonial period nearly 400 years ago to the protest movements of the 1960s. It includes the text of several historical documents such as the Emancipation Proclamation, the Gettysburg Address, the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 and the entire text of the Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, Supreme Court decisions and much much more. **CD-ROM by Queue Software 1-800-232-2224.**

History and Culture of Africa - maps covering the land boundaries of early tribal kingdoms and more recent political territories. Includes the text of W.E.B. Du Bois "The Suppression of the African Slave Trade to the United States of America. This CD-ROM is in general an encyclopedia of Africa. **CD-ROM by Queue Software 1-800-232-2224**

ECO EAST AFRICA - is an interactive game where you solve the problems of a fictional East African game preserve.

One of the functions allows users to simply visit the game reserve as a tourist watching the animals in their natural habitat. **CD-ROM by IVI Publishing 1-800-432-1332.**

History of the Blues - A comprehensive history of the blues examining the origin, patterns, melodies, Classic Blues and City Blues through the 1920's. Also talks about the incorporation of the blues into other musical styles. **CD-ROM by Queue Software 1-800-232-2224.**



BOOKS

Free African Americans of North Carolina/Virginia, by Paul Heinegg.

Tracing Your Civil War Ancestor, by Bertram H. Groene.



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February 17 - April 1996

California Afro-American Museum - presents *The Art Of John Biggers*: View from the Upper Room, prints, sculpture, paintings and murals. Traces the development of artist's work over five decades.

At 1:00 pm February 17th, curator Alvia J. Wardlaw, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and artist John Biggers will discuss his career as an artist and the influences on his work. Book signing follows.

February 18, 1996

The Writers Corner will be reading and performing their poetry at the Museum of African American Art. The Museum is located on the 3rd floor of Robinson/ May Co. in the Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Shopping Mall. **CAAGS Member**, Michael Addison will be performing her poetry. 3:00 p.m. Free. For more information call (909) 874-3220.

March 9th, 1996

The Phoenix Bookstore will be holding its annual Beginning Genealogy workshop. CAAGS Member, Michael Addison will instruct. The Phoenix Bookstore, 4th & E. Streets, San Bernardino, CA. For more information call 909-874-3220.



ANNOUNCEMENT



If you signed up for the refreshment committee or would like to sign up please contact **Rachelle McMurray (213) 240-8201.**

1996 Membership Dues

If you have not paid membership for 1996 it is now due. If dues are not paid by March 1st your name will be dropped from the mailing list.

CAAGS OFFICERS

President
Ronald Higgins
213-777-4816

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Public Relations
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714-748-9665

*CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 8442
L. A., CA 90008-0442*

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- Serve on a committee, ie Fund Raising, Seminar Planning, Black History Month, Christmas Party, etc.
- Write articles/book reviews for the Newsletter
- Research Special Projects
- Computer Input of Special Projects
- Public Speaking
- Other _____

Speakers/Program Suggestions: _____

Fundraising Suggestions: _____

THE CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Takes great pleasure in inviting you to their
10th Anniversary Celebration
Dinner Dance

Saturday, March 16, 1996

Hollywood Park Casino
Banquet Facility
1050 S. Prarie Avenue
Inglewood, CA

R.S.V.P. by February 28, 1996 \$35.00 per person

Dinner Selection
Choose One by Checking the box

All Entrees include salad, desert, coffee, tea.

1.

Chicken Santa Ynez

Roasted breast of chicken stuffed with three peppers and proscuitto
served with a roasted corn buerre blanc sauce

2.

BBQ Chicken and Garlic Shrimp

With lemon pasta and Dijon cream sauce
tossed with tomato, basil, feta cheese and linguine vegetables

Please return this card with your dinner selection and a check
in the enclosed envelope by February 16, 1996

Tickets Will Be Mailed Upon Receipt of Check

Will Attend _____ Number Attending
 Will Not Attend Would Like To Make a Donation

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

Editor: Geralfyn Johnson Ratliff

ISSN: 1083-8937

Vol. 8, No. 2, March, 1996

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

**THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY
DINNER DANCE HAS BEEN
CANCELLED**

**WE WILL MEET AT OUR
REGULAR TIME WHERE WE
WILL BE HAVING OUR 10TH
ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM
AND AWARDS CEREMONY**

CAAGS MEETING

March 16, 1996
Martin Luther King Jr.
United Methodist Church
6625 4th Avenue & 67th St.

**10th Anniversary Program &
Awards Ceremony**

Beginners Class
9:00 am - 10:00 am

**California African American
Genealogical Society**
P. O. BOX 8442
L.A., CA 90008-0443

PRESIDENTS NOTE

Ronald Higgins

This year 1996 and the month of March marks our 10th anniversary. In my years of service as CAAGS President and Vice President along with just being a member, I have observed many genealogists perusing knowledge about their families. I am understanding more and more that genealogists are a special people willing to share the time, talents and knowledge with others. Genealogists are unique because they have a keen understanding of the value of obtaining family history. Most genealogical research is done by one member of a family and they enjoy it as a hobby.

If there were more genealogists around, the world would be a better place. After all, only good can come from knowing and understanding our family history. What is especially great is that people of all ages are involved in learning more about their families. People from every culture, ethnic group, religious background and occupations are sharing family information. We all share a common bond and language that is universal.

CAAGS is a growing organization and we have the desire and incentive to be greater. With the assistance of the officers, volunteers and members, we can achieve this goal.

Thanks very much to those of you that have helped make this society what it is today.

On behalf of my family and I we wish you **Happy 10th Anniversary** to all past and present members.

CAAGS President, Ronald Higgins



BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

By Vera Merritt

If you were not present at the CAAGS' meeting on Saturday, February 17, 1996, I'm sorry. You really missed a treat!

It was a warm, sunny Saturday morning, a great time to be outdoors. But members and friends of the California African-American Genealogical Society chose to ignore the spring-like weather on February 17th and gathered at Martin Luther King Methodist Church for a special celebration.

The well-attended meeting marked the First Annual Black History Month Celebration and Old-Fashion Pot Luck "Supper". If success depends on the gathering of an enthusiastic audience, this event has to be ranked among our most successful. The program was narrated by committee member Marilyn White.

A herald of drumbeats and singing marked the beginning of the festivities. This Ngnoma (Call to Assembly) was provided by John O. Slaughter Davidson.

Dramatic readings provided by Griot--Kadijah Nance Farabi proved to be both inspiring and motivational. She already has published a collection of her own original writings but another volume is due to be published soon.

The Washington Prep Dance Group, under the direction of Janice Beckford, left us marveling at the multifaceted abilities of our young, gifted and black teens who have devoted themselves to preserving African Dances that were a vital part of every African celebration. And let us not forget the talents of their drummer, Chief Masemala, who gave us all a language lesson as he taught us the history behind the making of the drums by our ancestors many moons ago.

Following intermission and a second Ngnoma. The Dorsey Dance Group, directed by Bernice Jackson Heaven, entertained us with modern dance interpretations such as "The Day The Earth Stood Still". They too made us extremely proud of our young people.

Samihah Thompson shared some of her own poetry with us as well as selections from others that she admires. She too has had her works published.

Growing Up "Colored", "Negro", and "Black" in L.A. was a topic many of our members could contribute to. Vivian Medlock shared her memories with us first and she asked members to

pitch in as they could. Yes, memories came "flooding" back to many of us. What a wonderful trip down Memory Lane this proved to be. Us youngsters just stared in amazement.

Everyday Hero Awards were given to nominated individuals who best exhibited the Seven Principles of Kwanzaa everyday.

After all this, I'm sure the residents in the next block could hear us as we sang our national anthem, Lift Every Voice and Sing. The pride just wouldn't let us be still or quiet.

Rev. Lesa Smith of M. L. King Methodist Church led us in prayer and blessing of our meal. Then it was time to delve into such goodies as fried chicken, potato salad, deserts and much more as "supper" was served.

Those who attended left feeling not only full, but with the feeling that they had been truly blessed by witnessing all that was a part of the celebration. We are in debt to "The Committee", (Thalia Clark, Mattie Curtis, Rozella Hall, Kelvin Hodrick, Lowell Osborne, Dorothylou Sands, Kwame Welsh and Marilyn White) that gathered so many talents for us. We praise "The Cooks" for we tasted and felt the love that went into your preparations. We thank you all; we feel CAAGS is much more than just another group. How do you plan to "outdo" yourself next year?



HISTORY

Origin of the Names of U.S. States

Alabama -Indian for tribal town, later a tribe (Alabamas or Alibamons) of the Creek confederacy.

Alaska -Russian version of Aleutian (Eskimo) word, alakshak, for "peninsula," "great lands," or "land that is not an island."

Arizona -Spanish version of Pima Indian word for "little spring place," or Aztec arizuma, meaning "silver-bearing."

Arkansas -French variant of Quapaw, a Siouan people meaning "downstream people." California Bestowed by the Spanish conquistadors (possibly by Cortez). It was the name of an imaginary island, an earthly paradise, in "Las Serges de Esplandian," a Spanish romance written by Montalvo in 1510. Baja California (Lower California, in Mexico) was first visited by Spanish in 1533. The present U.S. state was called Alta (Upper) California.

Colorado -Spanish, red, first applied to Colorado River.

Connecticut -From Mohican and other Algonquin words meaning "long river place."

Delaware -Named for Lord De

HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

CAAGS MEETING

APRIL 20, 1996

Martin Luther King Jr.
United Methodist Church
6625 4th Avenue & 67th St.

9:00 - 1:00

Awards Ceremony

HISTORY

Segregation in Arizona

Not much is heard or written about segregation in southwestern states but I ran across some interesting articles on the internet that will give a little insight.

In 1913, a single black student was permitted to graduate from **Phoenix Union High School**. But as more blacks attended, a "colored department" was established in the basement of PUHS at Seventh Street and Van Buren.

Black students were later housed

in rented quarters, until Phoenix Colored High School opened in the fall of 1926 at 415 E. Grant and was the only high school in Arizona built for black students. In 1943 the school was renamed for renowned scientist George Washington Carver. The school was closed in 1954 when segregation was ruled unconstitutional after more than a half century and segregation ground to a halt in Arizona.

The Phoenix Monarchs Alumni Association

Ruth Franklin and Calvin Goode remembered that they first met in a cotton field somewhere in the Chandler area.

Franklin was a student at all black Carver High School in Phoenix. Goode had graduated from Carver and was going to college. And in the 1940s, picking cotton was one of the few jobs available to young African-Americans.

Franklin, a Freelance teacher in Chandler, and Goode, a retired educator who served 22 years on the Phoenix City Council, were among eight people who gathered on a recent morning in a classroom at the former high school at 415 E. Grant. Carver, a segregated school for blacks only, closed in 1954 as nearly half a century of school segregation ground to a halt in Arizona.

The alumni were at their former campus to explain how the Phoenix Monarchs Alumni

Association plans to turn the school into an African-American cultural center and museum. The Phoenix Union High School District trustees voted Dec. 12, 1994 to sell the school to the Phoenix Monarchs Alumni Association of Arizona for \$200,000. It is now being converted into a museum, cultural center, African American library and community sanctuary for children, youth and adult programs.

Franklin was the oldest of seven children. Her family was recruited to come to Arizona in 1942 from Texas, where they had been sharecroppers, occupying a farm where they could grow much of their own food.

Her father came first and found work in Eloy. The rest of the family followed in the closed trailer of a semi-truck used to haul migrants and their belongings. Instead of occupying a farm, the Franklins lived in tents and worked in the fields.

"In many instances, our people couldn't get the kind of toehold in Arizona that they had before they came here," Franklin said. The Franklins moved to the Chandler area, where Ruth was able to graduate from the eighth grade of a small, all black school. "The day we graduated, the superintendent came out to our school and said we wouldn't be allowed to go to high school in Chandler, but he had arranged for us to attend Carver. We had to find our way there."

So Franklin picked cotton on Saturdays to pay for her daily bus fare from Chandler to downtown Phoenix, 24 miles away. "I spent seventeen cents for lunch every day - a hot dog, a cold drink and an ice cream," Franklin said. "I couldn't afford the 35 cents for a cafeteria lunch."

Franklin graduated from Carver in 1948. After her children were grown, she returned to school and got a degree in education. Her brother, Coy Payne, also graduated from Carver and much later became mayor of Chandler.

Goode, whose family had come from Oklahoma, graduated from a segregated grade school at Gila Bend but was not permitted to attend high school there. His family moved to Prescott for three years, then back to Phoenix for his senior year. He graduated from Carver in 1945, and Arizona State University in 1949.

Students came to Carver not only from small, segregated Arizona districts, but from small towns in New Mexico, said Ethel Stubbs, a 1947 graduate and retired teacher.

Laura Harris, who graduated in 1941 from Phoenix Colored High School, said, "We never even thought about getting desegregated. We knew it wasn't going to happen."

Carver students had to get by with worn, obsolete equipment discarded by other schools. What the school had going for it, however, was a faculty that nurtured and challenged students, teachers who "told us we could do anything we wanted to do, be anything we wanted to be," Stubbs

said. Parents and the faculty teamed up to take care of their own, in the face of oppressive discrimination.

That was especially true after W.A. Robinson (called "War" behind his back) became principal in 1945. Robinson traveled throughout the country, recruiting teachers who had master's degrees from such black universities as Howard and Fisk. Robinson also demanded better equipment.

Carver students excelled scholastically and in a number of other areas, notably music and sports. Goode, passing a stuffed trophy case, had smiled and noted, "A lot of our trophies are out in the community. We need to persuade people to bring them back." The Monarchs football team had a 21 game winning streak beginning in 1951; the basketball team won state championships in 1952 and 1954.

Many Carver graduates couldn't find work in Phoenix, so they went to California, where they prospered. James Franklin (not related to Ruth) returned from California in 1990 and is now a youth correctional officer at Adobe Mountain.

"I went to grade school at Mobile but had to come to Phoenix to go to high school," he said. "Our graduation speaker (in 1950) was Barry Goldwater (then a Phoenix city councilman). He told us, 'The world will not greet you with open arms, but with a clenched fist.' "

Armed with Goldwater's warning and his mother's admonition that no one owed him a living, Franklin went to California. He earned a degree from LaVerne University in California and began a career with the California Youth Authority. Ruth Franklin said, "Hardships gave

us the drive to do better."

Seven Hispanic students attended Carver in 1953 as the PUHS district began to integrate, and some Carver students transferred to Phoenix Union. Then, in 1954, Carver was closed and black students began attending PUHS.

Why close Carver, which had an enrollment of 350 students and could have handled upwards of 600? Why not just integrate it? "They said it was because the school was small, and we believed the lie," Georgie Goode said. "The feeling was that if we attended it, we contaminated it. That myth came from the days of slavery," she said. Her husband said, "It was good enough for Negroes." She graduated not from Carver but from Booker T. Washington High, a similar school in Atlanta.

She came to Phoenix, married Calvin and had a long career as a teacher. She also served on the Phoenix Union High School board of trustees.

John Ford Smith II was born too late to attend Carver; he attended South Mountain High. His grandmother Myrtle Rodgers was a legendary Carver teacher, and his mother, Senoma Smith, taught at several Valley schools. Smith, a former Seattle Super Sonics and Harlem Globetrotters basketball

player, sees Carver as "not so much a museum but a cultural center so young people can see what the older generations have done."

Smith is involved in the Arizona 10th Cavalry, Company E, a Buffalo soldiers re-enactment outfit that specializes in educating young blacks. He said that Company E, and such groups as the Black Theater Troupe, may rent office space in the school, bringing in revenue and making Carver a point of convergence for the black community.

"I see it as a place to commemorate the accomplishments of blacks in Arizona and Carver grads who moved to other states to excel," Smith said. "And it would help correct the negative image of the south side of Phoenix that you see and read everywhere."

For more info on the **Carver/PUCH Museum and Cultural Center** call **(602) 254-7516**.

James E. Cook
Arizona Republic Newspaper 2/5/95

* * * * *

Harvey Emerson - First Black Football Player at Arizona State University

Arizona in the 1930's was almost as Jim Crow as Alabama or Mississippi. Throughout the south and much of the rest of the nation, blacks attended legally- segregated schools until the late 1950's when it was ruled illegal.

Into this universally-accepted situation in 1937 came Emerson Harvey, the first black athlete to play varsity football at Arizona State University (then known as Arizona State Teacher's College).

Harvey grew up in Sacramento, Calif, where attitudes about blacks were considerably ahead of those in Arizona. He had played two seasons of football with Sacramento Junior College, where he performed in track and field, and had done some boxing. But, as a black athlete, his chances for competing at the college or university level were dim.

Harvey was working at a Walgreen's Drug Store in San Francisco when Tom Lillico, Arizona State's new graduate manager of athletics, paid him a call early in the summer of 1937. Lillico was looking for Bulldog football talent, and he didn't care what color it came in. He interceded for Harvey, cleared up his eligibility problem with local authorities and steered him toward Tempe.

Except in the Black colleges, there were little more than a dozen black football players on American collegiate teams that year.

Not all of Harvey's teammates were happy about playing with a "Negro", the concept of a black man playing football - actually tackling a Caucasian or drinking from the same water bucket with him - was unthinkable. But Coach Rudy Lavik soon promoted him to a starting position as blocking back and defensive end.

The good-natured Californian ignored racial slurs, on the field and in the classroom and accepted the fact that the handful of black students at ASTC were barred from dormitory living, from the dining hall, from the Varsity Inn and from school dances.

In the classroom, Harvey was as brilliant as he was on the gridiron. He breezed through his teaching curriculum with nearly a straight-A average.

(Carver/PUCH Museum) Phoenix Newspapers Inc.



RESEARCH

J. F. Champlain Plantation- Land Grants 1863

The following is a list of persons who took advantage of President Lincoln's order, issued in September 1863, to sell twenty-acre plots of land to black heads of family for not less than \$1.25 an acre, eighteen freed people (seventeen men and one woman) selected plots on the John F. Champlain plantation on Port Royal Island for purchase.

Mrs. Cesar Reubens - Lot 18
John Snipe - Lot 16
Peter White - Lot 17
James Bashful Lot 15
Joseph Green Jr. - Lot 12
Richard Brown - Lot 6
James Binyard - Lot 8
Stephen White - Lot 14
James Myers - Lot 11
Moses Robinson - Lot 5

Frank Middleton - Lot 13
Joseph Green - Lot 10
Robert Stevens - Lot 4
Ben Stevens - Lot 9
Ben Stevens Jr. - Lot 3
Israel Jones - Lot 2
William Gibbs - Lot 4

Lot numbers 18 and 16 are side by side at the North end of Champlain Plantation. The following lots all flow South 17, 15, 12, 6, 7; 14, 11, 5, 8; 18, 10, 4; 9, 3; 2, 4.

Americas Reconstruction, Froner & MaHoney Pg. 32



COMPUTER CORNER

Amistead Research Center - For those searching for African-American roots a cyber visit to the Amistead Research Center is a must. One of the nation's premier minority repositories. This center has more than 10 million documents and is the largest independent African-American archives in the country. It has oral history and video collections, along with a specialized library, publications and significant African and African American art holdings. To access this research area type <http://www.arc.tulane.edu/>

General Genealogical Info - lists of historical societies, family associations, surname publications, reunions, international

directories of genealogical libraries and a link to the various state vital records available on the **WEB**. There are also professional genealogical resources including societies that offer research services, U.S. and foreign and those who can translate documents. From here you can also link to the Newspaper Association of America which links to many online limited edition newspapers and what's called Four 11--the Internet's white page directory of users. To access this area type <http://www.magibox.net/~tfc/>



EVENTS

April 13-14

SCGS Genealogy Jamboree - Pasadena Convention Center on Green Street, 8:30 - 5:30 Saturday, 9:00 - 5:00 Sunday.

April 20-21

Los Angeles Times Festival of Books - A full schedule of events including authors panels, poetry reading, storytelling, and more..... UCLA Dickson Plaza, admission is Free, parking \$5.00. For more info **1-800-LATIMES, Ext. 7BOOK.**

May 18

SHHAR Hispanic Genealogical Society - Will be our guest speakers.

June 15

CAAGS Juneteenth Celebration - at Allensworth, \$20.00 per person, contact Ron Higgins 213-777-4816.

CAGGS OFFICERS

President
Ronald Higgins
213-777-4816

1st Vice President
Irma Jean Hurse
909-736-5461

2nd Vice President
Membership
Colette DeVerge
213-933-8381

Recording Secretary
Alva Griffith
213-735-7261

Correspondence Secretary
Carolyn Conway
213-931-8350

Treasurer
Marjorie Higgins
213-777-4816

Newsletter Editor
Geraldyn Johnson Ratliff
310-368-0437

Parliamentarian, Librarian
Joyce Sumbi
310-854-6967

Historian
Marilyn White
213-736-2804

Public Relations
Deborah Fountain
310-637-4838

California African American Genealogical Society
P. O. BOX 8442, L.A., CA 90008-044

CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

Editor: GERALYN JOHNSON RATLIFF

ISSN: 1083-8937

Vol. 8, No. 5/6, May/June, 1996

CAAGS MEETING

May ¹⁸ 1996

Martin Luther King Jr.
United Methodist Church
6625 4th Avenue & 67th St.

9:00 - 10:00

Beginners Class

Marjorie Higgins
How To Plan A Family Reunion

pass the baton. Hence this May/June edition will be my last.

While publishing this newsletter for the past 8 years, it's been quite an educational and enjoyable experience. Thank you all for your contributions and support.

Sincerely,
Geraldyn Johnson Ratliff

HISTORY

WWII Black Veterans
Receive Medals of Honor

Five decades after they fought, seven black war heroes are in line to get the Medal of Honor, America's highest military decoration. 432 Medals of Honor were given out after WWII but none were received by any Black Military personnel.

The nominees are: 1st Lt. Vernon J. Baker, 76, of St. Maries, Idaho, the only one of the seven men still alive; 1st Lt. Charles L.

Welcome to all returning and new members.

Letter From The Editor

Geraldyn Johnson Ratliff

Viva Las Vegas!!! What's this you say. Well, I'm relocating to Las Vegas in June and therefore relinquishing my position as Newsletter Editor. Not that I

couldn't do the news from afar but it's time to

Thomas of Detroit; Pvt. George Watson of Birmingham, AL; Staff Sgt. Edward A. Carter Jr. of Los Angeles, CA's 1st Lt. John R. Fox of Boston, MA; Pfc. Willy F. James Jr. of Kansas City, KS; and Staff Sgt. Ruben Rivers of Tecumseh, OK. The nominees were identified in a study conducted by a team of military historians.

The list has been forwarded to Congress, which must wive the time limit for awarding WWII medals. It expired in 1952. The waivers are included in the fiscal 1997 defense authorization bill.

Associated Press
Las Vegas Review Journal 4/26/96

Veteran Notation

The 1910 census shows whether a Civil War veteran had Union or Confederate military service.

Antique Week 1/21/91

Atlanta Underground

At the turn of the century, a hundred trains a day crossed through Atlanta. The traffic was so heavy it became a source of gridlock with vehicles and pedestrians.

Atlanta's solution to the congestion was to rise above it. Between 1890 and 1929 a system of viaducts was erected one level up to carry city streets across the gulch. Merchants began to open up the second stories of their

establishments for business and using the ground floors as storage or closing them.

As time went by the shops and train traffic slowed, the stores began to open up underneath hence Atlanta Underground was established.

Jonathan Lerner, Forbes American Heritage
April 1996



RESEARCH

**Bible Written In
The Tongue Of Slaves**

Submitted by Johann Hassan

It took 15 years of painstaking work, the Gospel of Luke has been published in **Gullah**--the language spoken by slaves and their descendants for centuries along the Southeast coast of the U.S. on islands such as St. Helena.

"De Good Nyews Bout Jedus Christ Wa Luke Write" is the first complete book of the bible translated into the language that is a mixture of English and West African tongues. Translators hope to complete the entire New Testament in three years.

Rev. Ervin Green, the lead

translator says "What we are trying to do is let people hear the word of God in our own tongue". Green, the pastor of Brick Baptist Church, and a team of 13 other Gullah speakers and linguists labored over the translation. "What we have also tried to do with this is undo 350 to 400 years of indoctrination that the way we speak is wrong," said Green, in whose brick church slaves were once relegated to the balcony while their masters worshiped below. Green's church is in an oak grove on the edge of Penn Center School, founded after the Civil War to educate freed slaves. The center now works to preserve the heritage of the sea islands.

She habe boy chile, e fusbon, E wrop um op een clothe was been teah eenta leetle strip an lay un een a trough, de box weh feed de cow and oda animal. Cause Mary and Joseph beena stay weh de animal sleep. Dey ain't been so room fa dem eenside de bodin house.

Luke 2:7, the Christmas story, from the Gullah translation.

The Gullah language in its purest form survived in isolated black communities of former slaves and their descendants on the sea islands off the coasts of South Carolina and Georgia that were once home to massive cotton plantations. But for generations after slavery, blacks were told by their teachers to abandon their native tongue.

Linguists estimate that 250,000 people from North Carolina to northern Florida can speak Gullah and for about 20,000 of them, Gullah is the primary language.

The book, a 138 page paperback published by the American Bible Society, includes the Gullah text next to the familiar King James version of Luke.

Bruce Smith, Columbus Dispatch
4/26/96

Los Angeles Pioneer Cemeteries

Submitted by Johann Hassan

San Fernando Pioneer Memorial Cemetery--Bledsoe Street and Foothill Blvd., Sylmar. Originally part of the lands of the San Fernando Mission, it lost church affiliation 150 years ago. In 1961, it was donated to the Native Daughters of the golden West. Burials continued until 1939. The 750 graves include Native Americans, Civil War veterans, children who died in the 1918 worldwide influenza epidemic and victims of the 1928 St. Francis Dam disaster. Tours: 818-367-7957.

Savannah Memorial Park--9263 Valley Blvd., Rosemead - This pre Civil War cemetery is located in the community of Savannah next to the community of Lexington now known as El Monte. The first known burial was in 1846, five years before most of the settlers arrived. It is currently privately owned by the Elmonte Cemetery Association and still has 200 of its original 3000 plots remaining.

Fairmount Cemetery 301 N. Baldy Vista Ave., Glendora, a 119 year old cemetery, on land

donated by James Carson Preston which was formerly a Native American burial site. The Fairmount Cemetery trustees 818-335-4440.

Spadra Cemetery - 2882 Pomona Blvd., Pomona - A 2-1/2 acre cemetery dating to 1868. The land was donated by Rancher Louis Phillips. The last burial was in 1967 and in 1971 was deeded to the Historical Society of Pomona 909-623-2198.

El Campo Santo - 15415 E. Don Julian Road, City of Industry - William Workman set aside 1 acre of his vast ranch for a family cemetery. In 1854 his brother, David was killed and became the first family member buried there. His grandson Walter P. Temple had a mausoleum built at the entrance to the cemetery.

Also buried here are California's last Mexican governor, Pio Pico, and his wife, Ygnacia. They were originally buried in another cemetery which was dismantled in 192. The Workman family were friends with the couple and requested they be married in the family mausoleum.

The cemetery was acquired by the City of Industry in 1981 and has been restored as a cultural landmark. Tours 818-968-8492.

Olive Grove Cemetery - 10135 S. Painter Ave. Santa Fe Springs - Founded by a colony of German Baptists known as Dunkers just before

the turn of the century. Currently owned by the Bible Missionary Baptist Church. Contains around 1500 graves.

Woodlawn Cemetery - 1847 14th St., Santa Monica - This cemetery served as the burial ground for the family of Juan Carrillo, an early mayor of Santa Monica. Around 1898 the cemetery was donated to Santa Monica. 310-450-0871

Cecelia Rasmussen
L.A. Times, 11/21/94

Angeles Abbey Memorial Park - is a beautiful resting place for the families of Compton, California, and other surrounding communities. This is a beautiful cemetery with Moorish and Byzantine mausoleums. The cemetery's mausoleums have won praise from visitors around the world.

Evergreen Cemetery - founded in 1877 is one of the oldest privately owned cemeteries in the Los Angeles area. Evergreen was unusual at the time because it was open to all races and the plots were not segregated.

The word cemetery comes from the Greek Koimeterion which means sleeping room or burial place.

WPGS newsletter 11/9/92.

Some of the famous persons buried there are **Biddy Mason**, the first black woman to own land

in Los Angeles. Her grave was unmarked until Mayor Tom Bradley and the First A.M.E.

Church donated a tombstone. **Mathew Beard** who played Stymie in the Little Rascals; and Reverend William Seymour the force behind the holiness religious movement at the turn of the twentieth century. Thousands of believers visit his grave annually.

Lay Down Body
Roberta Hughes Wright and Wilbur Hughes
Pg. 181 - 183

Photo Tax Stamps

If you find a funny looking stamp on the back of your old photo, it was probably was taken between 1864 and 1868. This was the only period of time when tax stamps were used on photos according to Root Digger Newsletter, 6/91.

Early To Wed

In 1900 it was legal to marry in nearly half the states at the age of 14 for males and 12 for females.



BOOKS

A warm thanks to **Alva Griffith** who has donated books for us to sell in the name of

her late father **Wendell Allen**.

African-American Genealogical Source book - This book covers research tips specific to researching African American genealogy with many contributing authors. DeWitt Dykes authored *Things To Know Before You Start*, Chris Nordham provides detailed tips on the use on records of free African Americans, Tony Burroughs, discusses slave oral histories, WPA interviews, Freedmans Bureau and Plantation Records. There is information on the slave trade, ethnic intermixture, Native Americans and much more. Order from Gale Research, 835 Penobscot Bldg., Detroit, MI 48226-4094. Cost \$69.00.

Kinship: Figuring Out Your Cousins - Jackie Smith Arnold. Includes charts to help you determine and understand the various kinships. Additionally, it contains information about marriage laws, including which relatives cannot marry (legally), state by state. Available from Genealogical Publishing, 101 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, MD 212002; \$9.95.

COMPUTER CORNER

L.A. Watts Times on the Internet at
<http://www.afro.net.com>.

CAAGS CALENDAR

June 15

CAAGS Visit to the LDS Family History Library. Meet at the library at 9:00 for informational tour and research. Santa Monica Blvd. & Manning. Call Joyce Sumbi for more information 310-854-6567.

June 22

Juneteenth Celebration - at Allensworth, \$20.00 per person, contact Ron Higgins 213-777-4816.

August 96

Please take note: **NO CAAGS MEETING** in the month of August.

Oct. 27 - Nov. 3

CAGGS trip to Salt Lake City, Family History Library. Call Colette DeVerge for details. 213-933-8381.

CONFERENCES

August 14 - 17

FGS Conference in Rochester, N.Y.

September 21 - 22

San Diego Genealogy Society - Family History Fair. The Scottish Rite Center, 1895 Camino del Rio South in Mission Valley, San Diego, CA. \$5.00

Volunteer Opportunity—Our operating year ends on June 31st and we have to establish a new budget to operate the next year. If you would like to work on the Budget Committee please contact Marjorie Higgins 213-777-4816.

SPECIAL EVENTS

May 27

9th Annual Belize Caye Festival - this event celebrates the customs and culture of the Belizean people. Music, dance, Belizean and Caribbean food, arts and crafts. Sponsored by the Cultural Belize Association. Rancho Cienega Park, 5001 Rodeo Rd. at King Blvd., 11:00 am - 7:00 pm, Donation \$10.00, 5-12 \$5.00 (213) 731-2927

June 1 - 2

10th Annual Cajun & Zydeco Festival - featuring music, home cooked Cajun & Creole cuisine, accompanied by music, dancing, daily Mardi Gra and mask making for children. All children's activities are free. **Rainbow Lagoon, Long Beach** 11:00 am - 7:00 am. \$20.00 General Admission, \$15.00 Seniors/Students, 10/16 \$5.00 under 10 free. 310-427-3713

LOADS OF THANKS

Ron Higgins, President

Many thanks to all of the members and friends who have supported our organization with their time, material, and monetary donations. It is greatly appreciated.

Thanks to all members who came and worked at the SCGS Jamboree on April 17, 18 in Pasadena.

Thank you to everyone who put together the 10th anniversary program. Special thanks to Marilyn White for making the video show the CAAGS history from 1986 to 1996. It was fantastic! Patty Lee for certificates presented to our Charter Members and Rachelle McMurray and Jeannette Scott for the refreshments.

CAGGS OFFICERS

President

Ronald Higgins
213-777-4816

1st Vice President

Irma Jean Hurse
909-736-5461

2nd Vice President

Membership
Colette DeVerge
213-933-8381

Recording Secretary

Alva Griffith
213-735-7261

Correspondence Secretary

Carolyn Conway
213-931-8350

Treasurer

Marjorie Higgins
213-777-4816

Newsletter Editor

Geralyn Johnson Ratliff
310-568-0437

Parliamentarian, Librarian

Joyce Sumbi
310-854-6967

Historian

Marilyn White
213-756-2804

Public Relations

Patty Kay Lee
714-748-9665
714-748-1350 Fax

CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

Post Office Box 8442 - Los Angeles, CA 90008-0442

EDITOR: Gena Weaver ISSN: 1083-8937 Vol.8, No. 7/8/9, September 1996

CAAGS MEETING

September 21, 1996

Martin Luther King, Jr.
United Methodist Church
6625 4th Avenue & 67th St.
Los Angeles, CA

Beginners/Intermediate Class
9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

General Schedule

9:00-10:30 - Class
10:30-11:00 - Business Meeting
11:00-11:15 - Break
11:30-1:00 - Guest Speaker

(Schedule is subject to change without notice.)

CAAGS CALENDAR

October 19, 1996 - Show & Tell

November 16, 1996 - Election of Officers

December 21, 1996 - Guest speaker, Carmen Johnson will discuss Kwanza. A Christmas Party Potluck will also be held sometime during the month.

CANCELLATIONS

Both the Egypt and the Salt Lake City, Utah trips have been cancelled.

BOARD MEMBERS MESSAGE

The board members invite your suggestions to improve the Newsletter and the Society. Please send your recommendations to the above address. Names not required.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINES

September 29, 1996 for October issue

October 15, 1996 for November issue

November 15, 1996 for December issue

DEATHS

WARREN STOREY: May 28, 1945 - June 26, 1996. As a member of CAAGS, Warren collected reams of family history from sources across the United States, and had begun editing and compiling the STOREY Family History at the time of his passing.

THANK YOU

July Refreshments were served by Ron Higgins, President, and Rachelle Mc Murray, Hospitality Chairperson.

NEW MEMBERS - WELCOME!

Eva M. Allen
 Mrs. Allie Louise Almore-Randle
 Ruby Broome
 Richard Brown
 Kwyla B. Caronjalais
 Vera Dorsey
 Lula Griffith Harris
 Milton Hines
 Adele Cruse Johnson
 Maggie Johnson
 Pati Kay Lee
 M. T. Chachere Leonard
 Elizabeth Lewis
 Rosemary (Mikki) Parham
 Vivian Saunders
 Callie Simpson
 Lesa & Patrick Smith
 Janice Taylor
 Joan E. Theriot-Johnson
 Darlene Thompson
 Lowell & Aletha Toliva
 Izetta E. Walton
 Debra White-Hayes
 George T. Yates
 Josie Young

CALL TO ARMS

KCET, PBS CHANNEL 28 has decided NOT to air its ANCESTOR series. The Board Members are requesting your help by asking you to call and/or write KCET to express your opinion on their decision. You may contact Jackie Kain, Director of Broadcasters, 4401 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90027, (213) 953-5259.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

San Diego-Family History Fair, 1895 Camino Del Rio South Mission Valley, CA, (619) 588-0065, Saturday and Sunday, September 21-22, 1996.

The title is 'Fifty Years of Ancestor Searching', given by the San Diego Genealogical Society, 1050 Pioneer Way, S #E, El Cajon, CA 92020-1943

United Community Family Festival will host 'Let's Get Acquainted' on September 21-22, 1996, 10:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. at 3720 West 54th Street, Exposition Park, Los Angeles Coliseum, (213) 299-9751.

YOUTH NEWS

Are you studying genealogy in school? Are you a Boy Scout working on the Genealogy merit badge? Have you ever wondered about your family history? Whether these questions identify you, or you are just inspired by the genealogical research you have seen others do, 1996 is the year for you to enter the NGS Rubincam Youth Award Competition.

Named in honor of Milton Rubincam for his many years of service for the Society, the NGS Youth Award is presented to youths eighteen years (or younger) to recognize excellence in family history writing and genealogical research.

The winner of the Rubincam Youth Award will be announced at the NGS Conference in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, on 7-10 May 1997.

The winner will receive a plaque, a cash award of \$200, and a free, one year NGS membership. The second place winner will receive a cash award of \$100.

Applicants must submit a single line genealogy of three generations from a principal subject and spouse, following either male or female lines. A biography of the direct line descendant in each generation completes the submission. Supportive documentation must accompany the genealogy and cited in footnote form.

The application form which provides guidelines for content, format, and documentation serves as a Statement of Intention to apply for the Award, but does not represent a commitment to participate. It is used by the Committee as a planning guide.

Contact the: NGS Youth Award Committee, 4527 17th Street, North Arlington, VA 22207-2399 or telephone (703) 525-0050; fax (703) 525-0052 and ask for your application. All entries must be received by December 31, 1996.

Reprinted from the National Genealogical Society, July/August 1996 issue.

ANCESTORS SERIES OVERVIEW

Episode One: Getting Started.

Victor Villasenor grew up alienated and ashamed as a Mexican-American in Southern California. He started to look to his past for answers and in his journey he became whole. The episode dispels common misconceptions about family history and genealogy and introduces the pedigree chart as one of the most important tools used in searching for ancestors. Expert Desmond Allen explains how a pedigree chart is used to begin your family history today. It is as simple as starting with what you know.

Episode Seven: African American Families.

An unlikely spot of genealogical activity is found in South Central, Los Angeles Colette DeVerge and the members of the Southern California African-American Genealogical Society share what family history and genealogy means to them. This episode focuses on the distinct challenge in researching African American records. Our expert, Tony Burroughs, will dispel myths about African American records, and will introduce new information to help begin a successful search in this area.

HOW TO WRITE A QUERY

Buckeye California, Southern California Chapter of Ohio, Genealogical Society, 3/96.

Some queries are easy to understand; others, you just don't want to bother with. To make yours one that someone will answer, follow these suggestions:

1. Each query should concern only ONE FAMILY. Make the relationships of each family member to the others as clear as possible. Do list maiden names, if known.
2. Give all known dates and places, i.e., town or township, county, state, country. This is very important.
3. Other information should be minimal, giving only that which is most likely to ring a bell in someone's mind.
4. Give all known spellings.
5. Type or print clearly. This is Very Important!
6. Do not send a list of just surnames to a newsletter query column.
7. Some query editors ask that you do not use abbreviations. They prefer to use the abbreviations which have become standard to their newsletter.
8. Answer all queries you can. Sometimes only a little information is enough to set someone on the track to find

what they need.

9. When someone answers your query, be sure to send a 'Thank You' note, even if the information was of no help or was incorrect. If you need to correspond further, be sure to include a legal size, self-addressed, stamped envelope in your letter for their convenience.

10. Be generous. Help your fellow genealogist by giving any information you have, even if it is only to suggest a possible book, film, library or other researcher who may have some information.

11. Send queries to many newsletters. You may get answers from very unexpected places.

12. Keep your queries to 50 words or less.

QUERIES

Elny Cooper Jr., 15435 Hawthorne Blvd., #4, Lawndale, CA 90260, (310) 679-1350, is researching the names of Cooper/Brooks.

Soloman Cooper B.A Twin 1848 in MS/LA.M. Jemimah Brooks (B. 1846 in MS) on 8-10-1867 in Vicksburg, MS. Registered M. 3-28-1872 in Madison Parrish, LA. Searching for any family of their children Mariah (Harris), B. 1870, Giles Cooper, B. 1884, Lillie Cooper, B. 1887, Mary (Wilson), B.

1889, Rachael (Woods), B. 1881, Willis Cooper, B. 1882, Clark Cooper, B. 1884. Soloman migrated to Riely Co. Manhattan, KS during the great "Negroe Exodust of 1879" and by 1890 had homesteaded in Hennessey TWP., Kingfisher Co. OK where he remained until death on 9-3-1908. Also searching for twin brother family Abraham Cooper same area. Daughter Amelia Cooper (M. Name Unknown) Mother Rachel Brooks B. 1846 in MS. Mother of Rachel & Jemimah Brooks and Rachel Brooks B. 1820 in MS.

Theresa Hutson, 1206 N. Commonwealth Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90029, is seeking information on a plantation owner in Virginia or West Virginia name "Mr. Guest" and his slaves. Upon Freedom, slaves were given last names, including: Hutson, Lawson and Toller and sent to Guest Settlement, Brown County, Ohio. Also, seeking information on David Knowell, a Cherokee that worked on a plantation in West Virginia. He ran off with the plantation owners daughter, Elizabeth and their child to Chillicothe, Ohio, where they developed a tobacco farm.

Herbert William Laffoon Jr., P.O. Box 4933, Carson, CA 90745, is researching William Burnett and Livicie Crocker (Crooker), husband and wife both born in North Carolina circa 1820.

Katheryne Bradley Littleton, P.O. Box 83096, Los Angeles, CA 90083, (213) 294-7682, is

seeking information on the family of Rosie Hearn, son, Charles Bell, Sr., grandson John Hern Jr. Also Jose Easley and Eva Richardson and my great-great grandmother Elizabeth Lizzie Young, last known location was Macon County, Georgia, 1870. Soloman and Jessie Hunter last known location was Houston County, Georgia 1870 and Marion County, Florida 1890-1910. Also, Nancy Hunter, sister of Daniel and Peter Hunter. Oldest daughter of David & Caroline Hunter last known Macon County, Georgia, 1870.

Charlotte Matthews, 12796 Waynoka Road, Apple Valley, CA, (619) 240-5174, is looking for descendants of Prudence Matthews, B. February 1859 in Brunswick County, Virginia, the daughter of Richard Matthews and Dina (Dinah) Reid.

She had 9 children: Lady Anne Matthews, May 1880, Robert E. Matthews, February 1883, Curtis Olden Matthews, June 5, 1887, John Matthews, May 1888, Willie Matthews, January 1890, Leonard Matthews, 1891, Tooney Matthews, 1893, Laura Matthews 1898, and Mary Matthews, 1902?.

Found in the census from 1880 to 1920 in Brunswick County. In 1920, she lived in Red Oak, on Claiborne Lane a few houses from her daughter Lady Anne Graves, granddaughter Flora Matthews Williams, and son Leonard Matthews.

She died July 9, 1931 in Meredithville, VA, Brunswick

County, Virginia; buried Amiore Church Cemetery.

Kathi Rudolph, 1820 Bushnell Ave., South Pasadena, CA 91030, (818) 799-9767, is looking for any African-American with the surname Wassmuth or Wasmuth.

SOCIAL CALENDAR

Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc., (a Black business and professional women's sorority) is having its 25th Anniversary Scholarship Fundraising Fashion Show at the Hollywood Race Track in Inglewood on Sunday, October 20, 1996 at 12 noon. Tickets are \$45. Please contact Gena Weaver, (213) 526-2971, if you are interested.

ON EXPERIENCE AND WORTH

Every man's experience is a lesson due to all.

by M. Tupper

COMMITTEES

If you have any interest in joining one of the following committees, please contact Ron Higgins, President.

- Allensworth
- Budget
- Cemetery/Mortuary
- Fundraising
- Holiday
- Hospitality
- Jamboree
- Nomination

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ATTN: COLETTE DeVERGE

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME: _____ Birth (MM/DD) _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP: _____

HOME: _____ BUSINESS: _____ FAX: _____
(Home/Business)

SURNAMES YOU ARE RESEARCHING: _____

SPECIAL SKILLS: _____ OCCUPATION: _____

Student \$10.00 Individual \$20.00 Family \$25.00

Organization & Libraries \$30.00 New Renewal

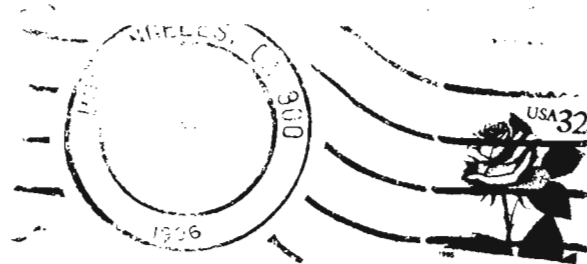
VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES:

- Serve as an Officer
- Serve on a Committee, i.e., Fundraising, Black History Month, Hospitality, etc.
- Write articles/book reviews for the Newsletter
- Research special projects
- Computer input of special projects
- Public Speaking
- Other _____

Speakers/Program Suggestions: _____

Fundraising Suggestions: _____

C.A.A.G.S.
Post Office Box 8442
Los Angeles, CA 90008-0442



Ronald & Majorie Higgins
P. O. Box 8443
Los Angeles, CA 90008-
0443