

CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

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

EDITOR: Gena Weaver ISSN: 1083-8937 Vol. 10, No. 1, Jan 1998

CAAGS MEETING

January 17, 1998

Martin Luther King, Jr.
United Methodist Church
6625 4th Avenue & 67th St.
Los Angeles, CA 90043

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, Mary Grindall will
discuss "Women in the American Revolution".

(Schedule is subject to change without notice.)

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DISCLAIMER

The Editor nor CAAGS assumes responsibility for
articles submitted to the Newsletter by its members.

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QUERIES

The Editor would appreciate any queries you may
have for the Newsletter.

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NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

January 22, 1998 for February 1998 issue

PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to thank each one that has helped me and
the society in many ways. We have
accomplished much as a society. It has been a
joy serving as your President the past five years.

Those of you that came when you were called on
to teach and represent CAAGS, it was very much
appreciated. I'm proud of our many
accomplishments through the years. It was all
made possible by hard-work and loyal members.
No one person can possibly do what has been
done. It took teamwork.

In closing, I personally want to thank everyone
for the support and help. I hope that you can
find that elusive ancestor in the near future. I
trust that you will be helpful to the New
President and other Officers of CAAGS.

Yours in Genealogy,

Ron Higgins

THANKS THANKS THANKS

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NEW YEAR'S

I expect to pass through the world but once. Any
good thing, therefore, that I can do or any kindness I
can show to any fellow human being let me do it
now. Let me not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not
pass this way again.

Love is patient, love is kind.

Unknown Source

**NEW MEMBERS – WELCOME!**

John Brown  
Lawrence Laws Daniels  
Barbara J. Irving  
Muriel Jones  
Michelle A. LeClair-Allen  
Stanley Rodriguez

Muriel Jones and John Brown are researching Brown, Gray, Johnson, Jones, McDaniel, Stroy, Wells, White and Woodard.

Lawrence Daniels is researching Daniel, Duckle, Hamilton, Laws and Williams from Texas.

Barbara Irving is researching Hood and Lewis.

Michelle LeClair-Allen is researching Bee, Cale, Edwards, Gondenague, Gray, Hamilton, LaFarque, Martin and Rol, from Ward and Hardaway, Georgia.

Stanley Rodriguez is researching McIntash, Rodrigues and Scott from Jamaica and Bahamas West Indies.

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**JANUARY HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE**

Charlotte Bocage  
Mattie Curtis  
Pat Jackson  
Stella E. Mays  
Callie Simpson

Please don't forget to bring refreshments for the January meeting.

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**JANUARY BIRTHDAY WISHES!**

Cecelia F. Alleyne  
Marion Gardner  
George B Jenkins  
DeVaughn C. Lee

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**CAAGS BOOK CORNER**

**Black Genealogy**, by Charles L. Blockson; first published in 1977; republished in 1991 by Black Classic Press, \$14.95 + tax. Affectionately known as THE BIBLE, this excellent reference guide and how-

to book is a staple item in every African American genealogist's library.

**African American Genealogy Workbook**, by Nova Law; published by Legacy Publishing Co., 1994, \$17.95 + tax. A very user-friendly how-to book (with workbook pages that can be filled in). This book can be easily understood by a beginner or young child, yet also offers information that is helpful for advance researchers. The workbook pages are very useful in helping one to become organized.

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**1998 MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Bylaws, Article I, Section 3

Membership fees are due and payable in January of each year. Members whose dues have not been paid to the Treasurer by March 1st will have their names removed from all the Organization's mailing and membership lists. A member removed for non-payment of dues will be reinstated by paying the delinquent dues.

**NEW MEMBERS** joining in November or December dues shall apply to subsequent year.

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**PEOPLE OF COLOR NETWORK**

Oliver Tucker at HFCCM3

PMPC Network Bulletin Board Black Newborn Sextuplets Shunned by America.

In May of 1997, a Black family living in Washington DC, gave birth to the first African American sextuplets in the US. It was the first pregnancy for the Thompsons, a couple married for 12 years who accomplished this miracle of birth without the aid of fertility experts.

As you can well imagine, having six additional mouths to feed was a tremendous hardship. They did not receive the outpouring of public and corporate support that was bestowed upon the McCaughey family in Iowa.

It would be horrible for the sextuplets first lesson in life to be that no one cares because they are Black. The following is contact information for any donations you may wish to give. In addition to providing your donations, please pass this

information along to others who may be able to help:  
Sisters In Touch (301) 499-8976.

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**CHECK IT OUT**

John Hanson is documented as being the first African-American President of the United States to serve from 1721-1783. Check it out for yourself on the website at:

http://www.aoc.gov/art/nshpages/Hanson.htm.

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**E-MAIL ADDRESSES**

Due to space limitation in the Newsletter, a list of e-mail addresses can be located at the sign-in table of each meeting.

If you are unable to attend the meetings, but still wish to obtain the e-mail addresses, please request current listings from the Editor by writing to the address on the front page of the Newsletter.

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**EVENTS IN THE HOOD**

**NEAT**

Check out a coming of age tale of an African-American family during the burgeoning black pride activism of the late 60s in Charlayne Woodard's NEAT. Woodard portrays more than a dozen characters. The show opens January 11th and runs through February 1 at the Mark Taper Forum. Call (213) 628-2772 for more information.

**HARRIET'S RETURN**

The multi-talented Debbie Allen brings to life the legendary Harriet Tubman in the moving chronicle, HARRIET'S RETURN. This powerful new play weaves the drama of slavery's inhumanity with the humor of one woman's wit and indomitable spirit. The play runs January 27th through March 1 at the Geffen Playhouse. Call (310) 208-5454 for more information.

**MUSEUM EXHIBIT**

UCLA's Fowler Museum is holding a fabulous exhibit showcasing the beaded works of the Yorubas in West Africa and the Americans both past and

present. A spectacular array of some 150 beaded objects, including crowns and ceremonial regalia, masks, divination implements, necklaces and even a royal throne are all on display from January 25th through July 19th.

**The Slave Trade**

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**NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

Standards for Sound Genealogical Research, Recommended by the National Genealogical Society

Remembering always that they are engaged in a quest for truth, family history researchers consistently--

- record the source for each item of information they collect.
- test every hypothesis or theory against credible evidence, and reject those that are not supported by the evidence.
- seek original records, or reproduced images of them when there is reasonable assurance they have not been altered, as the basis for their research conclusion.
- use compilations, communications and published works, whether paper or electronic, primarily for their value as guides to locating the original records.
- state something as a fact only when it is supported by convincing evidence, and identify the evidence when communicating the fact to others.
- limit with words like 'probable' or 'possible' any statement that is based on less than convincing evidence, and state the reasons for concluding that it is probable or possible.
- avoid misleading other researchers by either intentionally or carelessly distributing or publishing inaccurate information.
- state carefully and honestly the results of their own research, and acknowledge all use of other researchers' work.
- recognize the collegial nature of genealogical research by making their work available to others through publication, or by placing copies in appropriate libraries or repositories, and by welcoming critical comments.
- consider with open minds new evidence or the comments of others on their work and the conclusions they have researched.

*submitted by Patricia Jackson*

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## STATUE OF LIBERTY

A bit of little known information....I had heard that the Statue of Liberty was originally a Black Woman, but, as memory serves, it was because the model was Black. The following is far more enlightening.

In a book called "The Journey of The Songhai People", according to Dr. Jim Haskins, a member of the National Education Advisory Committee of the Liberty-Ellis Island Committee, professor of English at the University of Florida, and prolific Black author, points out that what stimulated the original idea for that 151 foot statue in the harbor. He says that's what stimulated the idea for the creation of the statue initially was the part that Black soldiers played in the ending of Black African bondage in the United States. It was created in the mind of the French historian Edourd de Laboulaye, chairman of the French Anti-Slavery Society, who, together with sculptor Frederic Auguste Bartholdi, proposed to the French government that the people of France present to the people of the United States through the American Abolitionist Society, the gift of a Statue of Liberty in recognition of the fact that Black soldiers won the Civil War in the United States. It was widely known then that it was Black soldiers who played the pivotal role in winning the war, and this gift would be a tribute to their prowess. Suzanne Nakasian, director of the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island Foundation's National Ethnic Campaign said that the Black Americans' direct connection to Lady Liberty is unknown to the majority of Americans, BLACK or WHITE. When the Statue was presented to the U.S. Minister to France in 1884, it is said that he demonstrated that the dominant view of the broken shackles would be offensive to a U.S. South, because since the Statue was a reminder of Blacks winning their freedom. It was a reminder to a beaten South of the ones who caused their defeat, their despised former captives.

### Documents of Proof:

- 1) You may go and see the original model of the Statue of Liberty, with the broken chains at her feet and in her left hand. Go to the Museum of the City of N.Y., Fifth Avenue and 103<sup>rd</sup> Street (212) 534-1672 or call the same number and dial ext. 208 and speak to Peter Simmons and he can send you some documentation.
- 2) Check with the N.Y. Times magazine, part II, May 18, 1986. Read the article by Laboulaye.
- 3) The dark original face of the Statue of Liberty can be seen in the N.Y. Post, June 17, 1986, also

the Post stated the reason for the broken chains at her feet.

- 4) Finally, you may check with the French Mission or the French Embassy at the U.N. or in Washington, D.C. and ask for some original French material of the Statue of Liberty, including the Bartholdi original model. You can call (202) 944-6060 or 6400.

submitted by Helen Johnson

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## SLAVE ADVERTISEMENTS

This information was taken from the Family Tree Maker's Genealogy Site: African-American Research.

"By examining records of slaves sales and slave advertisements, many people may be able to trace their family history all the way back to the original arrival of their ancestors in America.

Below is a sampling of early colonial newspapers that published slave advertisements. From them you may be able to find information about your own ancestors.

- Boston Independent Advertiser
- Connecticut Gazette
- The Georgia Gazette or Independent Register
- The Guardian of Freedom (Frankfort, Kentucky)
- Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser
- Missouri Republican
- Mobile Gazette
- The New England Journal
- New Orleans Advertiser and Prices Current
- New York Gazette
- New York Weekly Journal
- New York Weekly Post Boy
- The Norfolk Intelligencer
- North Carolina Gazette
- The Pennsylvania Chronicle and Universal Advertiser
- Virginia Gazette

Books such as those listed below may be able to help you locate the newspapers that you are seeking.

- 1) The Afro-American Press and Its Editors, by Penn I Garland.
- 2) Bibliographic Checklist of African-American Newspapers, by Barbara K. Henritze.

- 3) Sesquicentennial 1827-1977: Black Press Handbook, 1977.
- 4) Encyclopedia Directory of Ethnic Newspapers and Periodicals, by Lubomyr R. Wynar”.

submitted by Pat Jackson

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***RESEARCH ARCHIVES IN CYBERSPACE:  
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS GRANTS HELP  
LIBRARIES PUT TREASURES ON LINE***

USA Today, Thursday, April 10, 1997, page 8D

By Mike Snider

Much of the attention given the Internet lately has dealt with content that many believe has little value or virtue. Librarian of Congress James H. Billington hopes that will change in the near future.

Today, Billington announces 10 recipients of Library of Congress/Ameritech National Digital Library grants to help historical societies and libraries put digital versions of their treasures on line. Materials slated for cyberspace include almost 1,500 pieces of sheet music from before 1920, 19<sup>th</sup> century Native American documents, images and artifacts, and more than 8,000 photographs that document the history of the south Texas and northeastern Mexico border.

These collections will add to a growing repository that includes almost 2 million items the library has put on line or is in the process of putting on line.

From the Library of Congress home page (<http://www.loc.gov>), visitors can get to drafts of the Declaration of Independence and the Gettysburg Address and photos by famed Civil War photographer Mathew Brady.

“There’s been so much talk about all the junk on the Internet,” Billington says. “What we’re trying to do is get some quality content out there.”

As Librarian of Congress, Billington has been a force behind its ongoing five-year, \$60-million plan to establish a National Digital Library. Supervised by the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., the digital library would link historical societies and libraries nationwide and worldwide so that the public would have access to vital historical documents, artifacts and images.

His goal is to have 5 million items of American history and culture, specifically items that are interesting and important enough to engage school-age children. The stories behind the artifacts, coupled with “the interactivity that the Internet allows, can capture the minds of those who play video games,” Billington says.

Grant recipients are at various stages of getting their collections on line. The Ohio Historical Society in Columbus will be using its \$75,000 grant to scan into digital form 22,000 pages of text and images that focus on slavery and emancipation, religion, and the lifestyle of Blacks in Ohio from 1850 to 1920.

Ohio was the first state to prohibit slavery, and many citizens settled there, says the society’s George Parkinson. Its collection includes a narrative by Lucy Warfield, a former slave in Kentucky who is thought to have lived to age 117 in Ohio. “We’re trying to put up material that shows the variety and the complexity of the African-American experience,” Parkinson says.

Other grantee’s plans:

- Brown University, Providence, RI – 1,500 pieces of sheet music from 1870-1920.
- Denver Public Library – 7,500 photos documenting the lives of the Plains, Mountain and Southwestern Indian tribes and the mining booms in Colorado.
- Duke University, Durham, NC – 3,000 pieces of sheet music, circa 1850-1920, from minstrel songs to World War I compositions.
- Harvard University, Cambridge, MA – 2,500 architectural images from 1850-1910.
- New York Public Library – 11,552 stereoscopic views representing the tri-state area of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.
- North Dakota State University, Fargo – more than 900 images documenting the settlement and development of the upper Great Plains.
- University of Chicago – 5,800 photos and images on U.S. environment and ecology.
- University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill – 100 printed texts including memoirs of 19<sup>th</sup> century Southerners and ex-slaves.
- University of Texas at Austin – 8,241 photos documenting the ethnic groups in northeastern Mexico and southern Texas from 1900 to 1920.

Awards will be given in each of the next two years.

For more information, go to <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/award> or <http://www.ameritech.com>.

submitted by Evelyn Ross

CAAGS CALENDAR

January 17, 1998 - Mary Grindall will discuss "Women in the American Revolution".

February 21, 1998 - Black History Month Celebration.

March 21, 1998 - Electra Kimble Price, her discussion is unknown.

April 18, 1998 - Nancy Carlsberg will discuss "How to Get Organized".

May 16, 1998 - To be announced.

May 30-31, 1998 - Southern California Genealogy Jamboree.

June 20, 1998 - Juneteenth Celebration.

July 18, 1998 - To be announced.

August 15, 1998 - No meeting will be held.

August 19-22, 1998 - Federation of Genealogical Society Conference will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio.

September 19, 1998 - Show & Tell.

October 17, 1998 - To be announced.

November 21, 1998 - Roundtable Discussion and Election of Officers.

December 19, 1998 - Christmas Party and Installation of Officers.

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COMMITTEES

If you have any interest in joining one of the following Committees, please contact Kenneth Kwame Welsh, President.

- Allensworth
- Budget
- Calendar (1998-2000)
- Cemetery/Mortuary
- Century Club
- Fundraising
- Holiday
- Hospitality
- Jamboree
- Newsletter
- Surname Directory

OFFICERS

President

Kenneth Kwame Welsh

E-Mail: wrelocserv @ hotmail.com (or)  
pdcla59 @ rocketmail.com  
(213) 766-0677

1st Vice President

Erma J. Hurse

(909) 736-5461

2nd Vice President/Membership

Jeanette Scott

E-Mail: jsherbs @ aol.com  
(213) 299-7641

Recording Secretary/ Parliamentarian

Marjorie Higgins

E-Mail: mhigg71503 @ aol.com  
(213) 777-4816

Correspondence Secretary

DorothyLou Sands

E-Mail: bipsylou @ aol.com  
(213) 299-8642

Treasurer

Vera Merritt

E-Mail: vmerit @ aol.com (or)  
vmerit @ earthlink.net  
(310) 215-1626

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Gena Weaver

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(213) 526-2971 (pager)  
(213) 857-0287 (fax)

Librarian

Evelyn Ross

(213) 299-7740

Historian

Marilyn White

E-Mail: marol @ aol.com  
(213) 756-2804

FGS - Delegate

Colette DeVerge

(213) 933-8381

Public Relations

Open

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1998 HOSPITALITY CHAIRPERSON

Sandra Welsh

(213) 766-0677

CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
P. O. Box 8442  
Los Angeles, CA 90008-0442

ATTN: JEANETTE SCOTT

1998 MEMBERSHIP NEW/RENEWAL APPLICATION  
(please circle one)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth (MM/DD) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME: \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Home/Business)

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

SURNAMES YOU ARE RESEARCHING: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL SKILLS: \_\_\_\_\_ OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_

Student \$10.00     Individual \$20.00     Family \$25.00  
 Organization & Libraries \$30.00     New     Renewal Year \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_

CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

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

EDITOR: Gena Weaver ISSN: 1083-8937 Vol. 10, No. 2, Feb 1998

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February 21, 1998

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February 22, 1998 for March 1998 issue

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table of each meeting, or you can request the current
listing from the Editor.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you for electing me President of the
Society, first of all! Thanks to all who have
offered their support to me and the other
Officers of the Society.

We are on the threshold of the next century, and
the next millennium. We are just around the
corner from the future. I am proclaiming a
three-phase plan of action. These will be called
"Recruiting, Reclaiming and Retaining."

The Society will take a new turn towards being
a Society for all Californians of African
American ancestry. Since we are called the
California African American Genealogical
Society, that's what we'll be. I foresee many
joining the Society in the next few months. We,
who are here now, have to be prepared for the
"mad rush" to "jump on the bandwagon."

We have to be prepared, not only for the new
ones, but the old ones that will be returning to
our midst. Those are the recruiting and
reclaiming phases.

Those of us, who are here now, will be used to
train those mentioned above. Our overall plan
is also to retain those who are here. When the
new officers were elected, I promised you some
new things, including a plan to have a mentor or
buddy system. Those in need of help in
researching, would be assisted by capable
volunteers. We also need volunteers for all of
our committees, including Fundraising, the
Century Club, and Cemetery/Mortuary; and
assistants for our new Librarian.

We will not turn away anyone; we will be a
light to our community.

Your new friend and servant,

Kenneth Kwame Welsh



VALENTINE'S



Two souls with but a single thought, two hearts that beat as one.

by Fredrick Halm

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NEW MEMBERS – WELCOME!

Perry W. Booth  
Lloydine Outten

Perry Booth is researching Booth (from Georgia), Butler (from Alabama) and Catron (from Georgia and Tennessee).

Lloydine Outten is researching Adams, Love, Outten, Rodgers, Taylor and Watson.

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FEBRUARY HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

John Brown  
Mattie Hunt  
Barbara Irving  
Muriel Jones  
Jeanette B. Kirby  
Betty Lawson  
Vera Merritt  
DorothyLou Sands

Please don't forget to bring refreshments for the February meeting.

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FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY WISHES!

Dianne Alexander  
George Cohen  
Ethel Dillon  
Don Goodwin  
Sonya Greenland  
Lula Harris  
John Lakatta  
Pamela McClester  
Ozieal Smith  
Gloria Williams (Ujima)

EVENTS IN THE HOOD

The Pan-African Film Festival and Art Show will be held at the Magic Johnson Theatres and Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza, between February 5-16, 1998. Over 60 new Black movies from around the world and 100 prominent and emerging Black artists will be presented. For information call (213) 896-8221.

Eso Won Bookstore Flyer

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Bylaws, Article I, Section 3

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PAUL ROBESON COMMUNITY CENTER

South Side Cultural Society, Inc.  
6569 South Vermont Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90044

From Irving Kessler, Ph.D., Coordinator

April 8, 1998 will be the centennial of the birth of Paul Robeson. Sad to say, the vast majority of Americans do not even recognize the name of this great American Renaissance man—Paul Robeson.

Mr. Robeson demonstrated scholarship and skill in all his endeavors. He graduated from Rutgers University as a Phi Beta Kappa scholar and made All-American in football for two consecutive years. He was the second African American to graduate from Columbia University Law School. He was renowned for his vocal rendition of spirituals and "Old Man River." His portrayal of "Othello" on Broadway received universal acclaim.

Paul Robeson was more than a man with a keen mind, resonant voice, and athletic prowess. He was deeply committed to the struggle for peace and against racism; however, he paid dearly for the

courage of his convictions. During the 1950s, when the country was consumed with anti-Communist witch hunts, Paul Robeson was hounded by the House American Activities Committee for his beliefs until he could no longer work anywhere in this country. Denied a United States passport, Robeson was virtually driven into exile.

Unfortunately, most young people today know nothing about the accomplishments and struggles of Paul Robeson. And while some cities do have libraries, university buildings, and public schools which bear his name, references to this important historical figure seem to have been deliberately purged from high school and college history books.

Many people across America, wanting to correct this unacceptable historical wrong, have begun a campaign for a Paul Robeson Centennial Stamp to be issued in 1998. The Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee will not honor this request unless they receive thousands of signed letters very soon.

We need you and those you know to write a brief, supportive letter now to:

Dr. Virginia Noelke, Chair  
Citizens' Advisory Stamp Committee  
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 4474  
Washington, DC 20260-2437

For more information about this subject matter phone (818) 986-3606, fax (818) 986-5415 or write to 14001 Margate Street, Sherman Oaks, CA 91401-5748.

submitted by Sheila Powell-Faulkner

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**THE RIGHT NAME FOR THE RIGHT  
COUSIN**

Champaign County Genealogical Society Newsletter,  
July/Aug/Sept 1997, page 101

Conversation on the subject of who is related to whom often bogs down over terminology, particularly when it comes to the defining of cousins.

Your **FIRST COUSIN**, of cousin, is your parents' brother's (or sister's) child. However, the first cousin's child is **NOT** your second cousin, as it sometimes thought to be the case, but your **FIRST COUSIN ONCE REMOVED**. The child of the first cousin once removed is your **FIRST COUSIN TWICE REMOVED**, and his child, your **FIRST COUSIN THREE TIMES REMOVED**.

Your **SECOND COUSIN** is your grandparents' brother's (or sister's) grandchild. That second cousin's child is your **SECOND COUSIN ONCE REMOVED**. His child is your **SECOND COUSIN TWICE REMOVED**, and so on.

And your **THIRD COUSIN**? It's your great-grandparents' brother's (or sister's) great-grandchild. The third cousin's child is your **THIRD COUSIN ONCE REMOVED**, his child is your **THIRD CHILD TWICE REMOVED**.

From Miami Meanderings and other newsletters

submitted by Vera Merritt

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**A COUSIN FOUND!**

On Sunday, October 19, 1997, I attended the lecture presented by San Bernardino County Museum and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. The topic of the lecture "How To Do Your Family Genealogy," featured Lyman Platt, Chief Genealogist for Broderbund, makers of the computer program "Family Tree Maker". The President of our Society, Ron Higgins, suggested I attend the lecture, in support of our Society's involvement. I was willing to attend in support of CAAGS, and because I use Family Tree Maker, my interest was indeed peaked by the credentials of the speaker.

Marilyn Mills, coordinator for the lecture, expressed her surprise and pleasure at the number of people in attendance. There were several workshops available: Spanish research; African-American research; and Native American research. There was also a computer research demonstration. I attended the African-American workshop.

There were approximately 15 people attending the African-American research group lead by Ron & Marjorie Higgins and Charles Allen. At the end of the workshop, folks chatted and exchanged numbers. I noticed a lady preparing to leave, and asked her not to leave until I talked with her. She introduced herself as Joel. Before she could say her last name, I said Joel Moore? She responded 'yes'. When she acknowledged her father's name, that's when I brought the roof down. I yelled, "You're my cousin". "You're my cousin". Standing before me was my long lost cousin. I had reached the end of my 2-year search!

The moral of the story is "Attend lectures in support of CAAGS, and you may find a relative".

submitted by Pat Jackson

## FEDERAL CENSUSES – READING BETWEEN THE LINES

Champaign County Genealogical Society Newsletter,  
Apr/May/June 1997, p. 66

It is usually not very long before the beginning genealogist realizes the value of census records and begins to use them to build his or her family tree. It is also not very long before the same enthusiastic genealogist begins to realize that the censuses are not always accurate and that their use can sometimes create more questions than answers.

The information in censuses must always be used wisely in conjunction with other primary source materials and vital records and never relied upon as the sole proof of a particular ancestor's age, residence or place of birth.

However, when used cautiously and carefully, census records can be one of the best sources we have for providing clues to lead us to other sources to extend our research. Some suggestions for this kind of practical use of the census are offered here.

Beginning with the 1850 Federal Census, we have for the first time a picture of full family groups. We can now determine the make-up of our ancestor's family with relationships and locations spelled out. Or can we?

Be cautious! Remember that no census was taken in one day. Over a period of weeks or sometimes months, the weary census taker made his rounds of towns and cities. Americans, not given to spending a long time in any one place, often moved even as the census taker was moving about.

The result was that often children who were working on a farm in a neighboring town for the summer were not counted in the household where they really belonged. The infant who was being cared for next door because his mother was sick might be counted in either home-and the beleaguered census taker might or might not have noted the fact that its surname was not the same as that of members of the household where it was boarding! Equally as confusing is the domestic worker or the farm hand who listed in a family group but who, in fact, is NOT related. It is often very difficult to tell when young people are in a home, but do not have the same surname, whether they are relatives or are employed in that home.

If you find children "missing" and you are sure that they should have been in the family at that time, check the entries for neighbor's homes and then go

even farther afield. Be sure the child wasn't enumerated at his or her grandmother's home that day or while visiting with an aunt.

### **Living in two places?**

Sometimes even more puzzling, whole families have been known to show up at two different addresses during the same census year. Where did they REALLY live?

Second guessing the census enumerator and double-checking his entries is the mark of a careful researcher.

Now, what about those mysterious gaps that so often appear in a census enumeration? Let's consider an entry as it might have appeared for a hypothetical family named Blake in Bridgton, Maine in 1850.

It's always a real plus when a mother-in-law comes to live with the family-perhaps John Blake didn't think so, but certainly the genealogist working on this line today does!

---

Name	Age	Occupation	Relationship	Born
John Blake	45	Farmer	Head	MA
Mary	42	Home	Wife	MA
Samuel	21	Laborer	Son	NH
Martha	18	Home	Dau	NH
Lucinda	16	School	Dau	NH
Matthew	9	School	Son	ME
John	7	School	Son	ME
Olive	5		Dau	ME
Sarah Walsh	72		Mother-In-law	VT

---

For now we may have answered that most difficult of questions: What was the wife's maiden name? Sarah's birthplace can also lead us to yet another state in which to research the female line.

Next, it is quite noticeable that there is a gap of seven years without a birth of a child between Lucinda and Matthew, although the other children all seem to have come regularly and more commonly at two to three year intervals. What kinds of possibilities are raised by this situation?

### **More than one marriage?**

Of course, there could have been two marriages. The first Mrs. John Blake may have died and it may have been several years before John Blake remarried.

It is also possible that an epidemic took the lives of several Blake children. It may be that, during an

extended period of ill health, May Blake had several stillborn children.

It is even possible that the first three children are stepchildren of John Blake, belonging to Mary by her first marriage, but the surnames were not noted by the enumerator as being different. Go where the census leads you, following them with an open mind, taking nothing for granted.

Look next at the column where the place of birth is indicated. In addition to letting you know where you may find the birth records of each member of the family, this information can provide a clue to migrations.

We can see that sometime between 1834 and 1841, the Blake family moved from New Hampshire to Maine. By checking the 1840 census, we should be able to pinpoint the date more exactly.

The censuses of 1850, 1860 and 1870 also had columns, which gave the value of real estate owned and the value of personal property.

#### **Were they rich or poor?**

Besides giving a clue to the wealth or poverty of your ancestor at any given time, these columns give an excellent opportunity to compare how he fared during a twenty-year period.

Many individuals were enriched financially during the decade of the Civil War; many others were impoverished.

Beyond this, however, don't neglect to allow the clues in these columns to lead you to Probate Records and Deeds.

Often whether or not these latter two sources will be productive depends on whether a person owned real estate (land) and/or had enough wealth to leave a will, or to be required to go through estate proceedings.

Clearly, census records can lead us far astray or can point us in the direction we need to go to proceed with our research. It all depends on how well we learn to "read between the lines" and carefully evaluate what we find there.

From "Pathways and Past Tracks," No. 4-1996

submitted by Vera Merritt

## **RESEARCH AT THE LOS ANGELES FAMILY HISTORY CENTER**

All librarians at the Family History Center (FHC) are volunteers. Their research backgrounds are of all degrees of skill. Some have no research background, but they are willing to help you in the many clerical aspects of the library. None are professional librarians, so they ask your indulgence if some librarians are unable to help you.

To make the most of your library time, there are some things you must prepare for:

1. Start with your pedigree sheet, fill it out and take it with you every time you go the FHC.
2. You must work from yourself backwards in time to your earliest ancestor.
3. You must start with a known fact, in a known place, in a known period – only then can you progress to the unknown.
4. Check the surname you are researching alphabetically in the:
  - Master Card Catalog
  - Four Generation Family Group Sheets Collections
  - IGI
  - Library of Congress Card Catalog
  - Computer (Family Search) Search consists of:
    - Ancestral File
    - Social Security Death Index
    - Military Index
    - Family History Library Catalog
5. Now you are ready to check for the locality files to find out what kinds of records are available in the FHC library.

Check the Master Card Catalog again, but this time look first for the name of the state in which your ancestor lived, and then within that drawer, under the county name for the call number in the library.

The Family History Library Catalog (FHLC) should be checked to see what records may be ordered from the Salt Lake City main library.

Don't forget to ask for help.

submitted by Helen Johnson

CAAGS CALENDAR

February 21, 1998 - Black History Month Celebration.  
March 21, 1998 - Electra Kimble Price, her discussion is unknown.  
April 18, 1998 - Nancy Carlsberg will discuss "How to Get Organized".  
May 16, 1998 - To be announced.  
May 30-31, 1998 - Southern California Genealogy Jamboree.  
June 20, 1998 - Juneteenth Celebration.  
July 18, 1998 - To be announced.  
August 15, 1998 - No meeting will be held.  
August 19-22, 1998 - Federation of Genealogical Society Conference will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio.  
September 19, 1998 - Show & Tell.  
October 17, 1998 - To be announced.  
November 21, 1998 - Roundtable Discussion and Election of Officers.  
December 19, 1998 - Christmas Party and Installation of Officers.  
January 16, 1999 - To be announced.  
February 20, 1999 - Black History Month Celebration.  
March 20, 1999 - To be announced.  
April 17, 1999 - To be announced.

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COMMITTEES

If you have any interest in joining one of the following Committees, please contact Kenneth Kwame Welsh, President.

- Allensworth
- Budget
- Calendar (1998-2000)
- Cemetery/Mortuary
- Century Club
- Fundraising
- Holiday
- Hospitality
- Jamboree
- Newsletter
- Surname Directory

OFFICERS

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Kenneth Kwame Welsh  
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pdcla59 @ rocketmail.com  
(213) 766-0677

1st Vice President  
Erma J. Hurse  
(909) 736-5461

2nd Vice President/Membership  
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Colette DeVerge  
(213) 933-8381

Public Relations  
Open

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1998 HOSPITALITY CHAIRPERSON

Sandra Welsh  
(213) 766-0677

CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

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

EDITOR: Gena Weaver ISSN: 1083-8937 Vol. 10, No. 3, Mar 1998

CAAGS MEETING

March 21, 1998

Martin Luther King, Jr.
United Methodist Church
6625 4th Avenue & 67th St.
Los Angeles, CA 90043

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 - Roundtable Discussion .

(Schedule is subject to change without notice.)

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DISCLAIMER

The Editor nor CAAGS assumes no responsibility for
articles submitted to the Newsletter by its members.

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QUERIES

The Editor would appreciate any queries you may
have for the Newsletter.

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NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

March 22, 1998 for April 1998 issue

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E-MAIL ADDRESSES

A listing of e-mail addresses is located at the sign-in
table of each meeting, or you may request the current
listing from the Editor.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello, fellow CAAGS members. I hope
everyone enjoyed and was stimulated by the last
two general meetings, January and February.
Many called and thanked both speakers; and
that made me feel good personally.

CAAGS, we are not going to be just
"members," but committed individuals as well.
A call is put out constantly for volunteers. I
want everyone to take it upon themselves to join
a committee and/or project, such as Calendar,
Jamboree and Library Committees.

At the March meeting, we will not have a guest
speaker. We will have a forum and group
meetings that we are calling Regional and State
Caucuses. Some examples are Alabama,
Louisiana, Tennessee, West Indies, etc. We will
have sample questions for your Caucus to
answer.

Your new friend and servant,

Kenneth Kwame Welsh

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MARCH HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Emma Hurse
Herb Laffoon
Hoydice Outtun
Ozieal Smith
Bobbie Wright

Please don't forget to bring refreshments for the
March meeting.

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MARCH BIRTHDAY WISHES!

Dorothy Gaither
Issac Miller
Kenneth Kwame Welsh
Sandra Welsh
George Yates

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

THE NIGHT SHIFT

*"Black folks need to blow out the dim lamp of poverty and turn on the beacon light of hope."*

Some years ago, on returning from a business trip, a man brought his wife some souvenirs. Among them was a matchbox that would glow in the dark. After giving it to her, he turned out the light, but the object was not visible.

"This must be a joke!" she said. Disappointed, the husband commented, "I've been cheated!" Then his wife noticed a few words written in French on the bottom of the box. Taking it to a friend who knew the language, she was told that the directions read, "If you want me to shine at night, keep me in the sunlight during the day." So she placed her gift in her bedroom window. That evening when she turned out the light, the matchbox had a brilliant glow. Her surprised husband asked, "What did you do?"

Oh, I found the secret," she replied. "Before it can shine at night, it must be exposed to the light."

This tale has a deeper meaning. Before you can shine in all types of circumstance—before you can reach your full potential—you must be exposed to the light: *You must place yourself in situations where opportunity is possible.* How do you ask electricity for light for your lamp? By turning on the switch. How do you ask the Creator for what you want? By placing yourself in the Divine flow. All light, all power, all energy, flows to the individual who places himself or herself in situations where opportunities are possible.

T. J. Jemison, President, National Baptist Convention

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NEW MEMBERS – WELCOME!

Jan Johnson  
Ellis Jones  
Roberta M. Reddick

Jan Johnson and Roberta Reddick are researching Johnson, Moore, Price and Poynter.

Ellis Jones is researching Barnes, Boykin, Culver, Hicks, Jones, Moore, Toles, Watkins and Watts.

NEW EDITIONS TO THE CAAGS LIBRARY

New collections to the library include:

**History of the Old Cheraws** by Alexander Gregg. A history of the Indian Tribes formerly inhabiting the valley of the Pedee in South Carolina.

**The Black Student's Guide to College Success** by Ruby D. Higgins, Editor.

**Memories of Days Gone By, an Oral History of My Elders** by Mary E. Huddleston. An intimate look at what life was like for black people in the deep South in the decades between Post Reconstruction and the Pre Civil Rights era.

**Louisiana's Households of Free People of Color Residing Outside of Orleans Parish in 1810 & 1820.** A compilation of information of Louisiana's free people of color, extracted from the 1810 and 1820 U.S. Federal Censuses.

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CENSUS PAGES VIA E-MAIL

Champaign County Genealogical Society Newsletter, Apr/May/June 1997, p. 41

Census may be obtained via E-mail attachment format for \$5 or on floppy disk via U.S. mail. For a list of states and counties available, send an E-mail to [censusvu@galstar.com](mailto:censusvu@galstar.com)

In the subject line type SEND LIST. Service by mail: Census View, P. O. Box 39, Ripley, OK 74062, (918) 372-4624.

submitted by Vera Merritt

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EVENTS IN THE HOOD

**Bring In 'Da Noise, Bring In 'Da Funk** will be appearing at the Ahmanson Theatre between March 4 – April 26, 1998. For more information call (213) 628-2772.

**CSU Dominguez Hills Jubilee Choir** Annual Scholarship Benefit Concert, Hanson Caldwell, Conductor, will be held March 22, 1998 at 4 p.m. CSUDH University Theatre. For information call (310) 243-2463.

**Dr. James L. P. Hurd**, organist, will be held March 29, 1998 at 3 p.m. First Presbyterian Church of Inglewood (100 N. Hillcrest Blvd.). For information call (310) 677-5133 or (213) 678-0268.

**Holman United Methodist Church** presents a Palm Sunday Program - St. Cecilia Mass by Charles Gounod on April 3, 1998 at 3 p.m. Charles Dickerson, Director of Music. 3320 West Adams Blvd., L.A. For information call (213) 731-9285.

**South Central Chamber Orchestra**, led by Charles Veal, Jr. on April 5, 1998 at 3 p.m. at the Harriet & Charles Luckman Fine Arts Complex, CSU Los Angeles (5151 State University Drive, L.A.)

**Chicago, The Musical**, starring Jasmine Guy, will appear at the Ahmanson Theatre beginning April 29, 1998. For information call (213) 628-2772.

L.A. Times and The Ikoro Communications.

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### **BLACK-OWNED VISA CARD**

I don't know if anyone knows or uses it, but Boston Bank of Commerce, a sizable Black Bank in Boston, has offered a no-annual fee Visa Card called the United card for a few years. The number is 1-800-59-UNITY, the card has all the regular benefits, why not give them a call?

They give a certain percent of all purchase monies of theirs to Urban League, UNCF, etc. Their interest rates are average, same as other Visa cards.

Who says we can't support our own? Let's pass the word, simply as informed consumers. I have a list of Black banks that I have to pull out of a huge data file set that needs to be re-configured, but you can find them on the Internet using **altavista.digital.com**.

Forward this to any Black Folks you know. Calling can't hurt. (It is a 1-800 number.)

The struggle continues...

submitted by [James\\_Gordon@HP-USA-om2.om-hp.com](mailto:James_Gordon@HP-USA-om2.om-hp.com)

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### **CAAGS FUNDRAISING**

Fellow members, we don't want to bleed you dry. We want to bleed your friends, family members and fellow co-workers dry 😊.

Actually, we need your help in getting referrals and information for some of the fundraising projects the Fundraising Committee is currently working on.

submitted by Charlotte Bocage

### **OPPORTUNITY DRAWING**

Genealogy baskets will be on sale this month. The baskets include genealogy information, address book, pens, pencils, highlighters, a binder and other miscellaneous items. Ticket will be on sale for a \$1 each.

submitted by Charlotte Bocage

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### **FUND RAISING COMMITTEE**

The Fund Raising Committee kicked off the new year with a bang. "A Stay-at-Home-Tea" was scheduled for March 8, 1998. Members attending the February meeting took home invitations to be sent to friends and relatives. Don't feel left out if you did not participate. There will be other fund raising events held throughout the year. We will keep you updated on the results of this event.

A 50/50 raffle will be held at each monthly meeting. The tickets for the raffle are \$1 or 6 for \$5. The winner of the 50/50 raffle for the month of February was Alva Griffith who took home a whopping \$25.50. Congratulations!

submitted by Pat Jackson

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### **CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL**

Honorable Frank Smith, Jr., Chairman & Civil War Memorial Freedom Foundation proudly announces Unveiling Events Civil War Memorial July 15-18, 1998, Washington, and D.C.:

The *Spirit of Freedom*, the 9-foot bronze sculpture, designed by Ed Hamilton, is under way at the foundry.

The stainless steel plaques are being engraved with the names of 208,000 U. S. Colored Troops and their White officers, furnished by the National Park Service, in conjunction with the National Archives.

The Memorial Plaza is under construction at 10<sup>th</sup> & U Streets, NW, Washington, D.C. and will receive the plaques and the *Spirit of Freedom* sculpture July, 1998, Paul Devroux, Executive Architect, Ed Dunson, Memorial Design Architect.

NOTE: According to the National Park Service who approve monument permits, all monuments and memorial have several date changes due to construction delays. In fact, the Roosevelt Memorial unveiling date was changed several times, too. The contractors have promised that they can keep to this



date. They are now working, the Plaza area is coming to life, and they are right on schedule.

For questions or comments, contact Ms. Lyndia Grant (202) 677-2667.

NOTE: The "official hotel" is The Hyatt Regency Hotel on Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. Our "official airlines" is American Airlines. Our travel agency is Onyx Travel. Please sign up!!

submitted by Rozella Hall

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**CIVIL WAR: PHOTOGRAPHS OF VETERANS FROM BOTH ARMIES INDEXED AT THE US ARMY MILITARY INSTITUTE, SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER**

Taken from the Orange County Register, Date unknown.

BY Georgia Dent

Since the US Army Military History Institute began filing and indexing photographs of Civil War soldiers in 1973, its collection has nearly doubled to more than 80,000. Included are Union and Confederate soldiers, many in uniform.

Participants in this war were as young as 16 and as old as 66. If your ancestors were here at that time, chances are you descend from at least one Civil War veteran.

The Institute will search its index when given the soldier's full name, regiment and company in which he served. If a photograph is on file, you will be sent a photocopy and information on how you can order a print.

To find out if an ancestor served in the Civil War, ask the National Archives to send NATF form 80 - Order for Copies of Veterans Records. Write:

General Reference  
Branch (NNRG)  
National Archives  
Seventh and Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 30408

To request pictures send requested information to:

U. S. Army Military History Institute  
Carlisle Barracks, PA 17013-5008

submitted by Pat Jackson

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**CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL**

J. Lorraine Walls ([walls@pps.pgh.pa.us](mailto:walls@pps.pgh.pa.us))

I read in the February 17, 1997 edition of Jet Magazine about an African-American Civil War Memorial. Anyone who has family members who are descendents of African-American Civil War soldiers or seaman are eligible to be honored at a ceremony at Arlington, VA. Amphitheater in March. For more information contact:

African-American Civil War Memorial  
Post Office Box 73517  
Washington, DC 20009  
(202) 667-2667

submitted by Dorothylou Sands

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**EPITAPH FROM A MASSACHUSETTS GRAVEYARD**

Good wills us free; Man wills us slaves.  
Here lies the body of John Jack,  
A Native of Africa who died,  
March 1773 aged about 60 years.

Tho born in a land of slavery, he was born free.

Tho he lived in a land of freedom, he lived a slave.  
Till by his honest, tho stolen labors,  
He acquired the source of slavery,  
Which gave him his freedom.

Tho not long before death the grand tyrant  
Gave him his final emancipation,  
And set him on a footing with Kings.

Tho a slave to vice he practiced those virtues  
Without which Kings and Queens are born slaves.

submitted by Mary Grindall

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**REVOLUNTIONARY WAR VET IS HONORED**

The Associated Press (date and paper is unknown)

WORCHESTER – Jeffrey Hemenway came from African and American Indian heritage. But still he fought during colonial days for a fledgling country That considered his ancestors' inferior.

In a tribute to Hemenway's devotion to his country, nearly 100 people gathered Saturday to mark his grave and recall the sacrifices he made.

“Not only was Hemenway fighting as an English colonist,” said Stephen Trent Seames, military archivist for the commonwealth. “He was serving and defending his country as a native American, his ancestors being the original occupiers of the land he fought to preserve.”

Seames said Hemenway fought in both the Revolutionary War, and the French and Indian War.

When he died at 82, Hemenway was interred in a Mechanic Street cemetery next to his home, but development forced the relocation of his grave in the 1830s. From there he was moved to Hope Cemetery, a landscaped mortuary park where hundreds of veterans of the Revolutionary and Civil wars rest, Seames said.

Seames said the ceremony to honor Hemenway was part of a local program to locate and remark the graves of Revolutionary War and Civil War soldiers.

“It afforded the Sons of the American Revolution a great opportunity to gather and perpetuate the memory of one of our forefathers who made a significant sacrifice in the cause of American freedom,” said Seames, who is president of the Henshaw Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution of Worcester.

As part of the ceremony, Hemenway’s grave was marked with an 1892 bronze flag marker and a flag was presented to a descendent, Agnes Moynihan Krzyzanowski, who lives in the Worcester area.

Hemenway’s granddaughter was married to Alexander Johnson, drummer of the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Regiment of the Civil War. The drummer is depicted on the Boston Monument that pays tribute to the regiment, which was made up of African and American Indian soldiers.

Presiding over Saturday’s ceremony was the Rev. W. Merritt Greenwood. The National Society SAR was represented by the honorable Duane Thomas Sargisson, Chancellor General, who presented the litany of remembrance.

The Massachusetts National Guard ceremonial horseback unit and the U.S. Navy ROTC midshipmen took part, as did the Junior ROTC from Burncoat High School in Worcester, which presented and laid the wreath. Numerous veterans groups joined the military procession as did Worcester’s Firemen Bagpipers Band.

submitted by Mary Grindall

## **GENEALOGY MEETINGS**

**March 24, 1998**, Introduction to Genealogical Resources at the National Archives and Records Administration. A course for beginners, and those wishing to review the variety of resources available to genealogical researchers. The instructors will be Judy Deeter, Kathie Mauzey and Karen Langer.

**Directions to the National Archives and Records Administration—Pacific Region (Laguna Niguel):** I-5 to Oso Parkway exit (Laguna Niguel); west approximately two miles to La Paz stoplight; left approximately a quarter mile to Allegra; right turn, dead-ends in Chet Holifield Federal Building parking lot immediately outside east entrance door (marked National Archives and Records Administration). Handicapped parking in lots nearest the building.

The address is:

National Archives and Records Administration  
Pacific Region (Laguna Niguel)  
24000 Avila Road, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, East  
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677-3497

<http://www.nara.gov>

**March 27-28, 1998**, the California Genealogical Society will hold its 13th Annual Family History Fair, “A Century of Prospecting for Ancestors” to be held at the Concourse Exhibition Center & Fashion Center, 8<sup>th</sup> Street, between Townsend & Brannon Street, San Francisco, California. For information call (415) 777-9936.

**April 4, 1998**, the Orange County California Genealogical Society will be held in Meeting Rooms C & D at the Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Avenue, Huntington Beach. Meeting begins at 10 a.m., with guest speaker, lunch break followed by beginners’ classes and mini-workshops. For information contact Joan Rambo, (714) 543-3811 or Doris Emerson, (714) 957-0135.

**April 7, 1998**, Introduction to Census Indexes on CD-ROM at the National Archives and Records Administration. A course for beginners and experienced genealogical researchers in the convenience of Census indexes on the Region’s CD-ROM system. The instructor will be Paul Wormser.

**May 6-9, 1998** – The National Genealogical Society will meet in Denver, Colorado.

**August 19-22, 1998** - Federation of Genealogical Society Conference will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio.

**October 29<sup>th</sup> to November 1, 1998** – AAHGS Annual Conference will be held in Washington, DC.

CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 16, No. 2 (February 1998)  
and Letter from the National Archives and Records  
Administration

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
5028 Cochran Street  
Simi Valley, CA  
Phone (805) 526-1983

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### WASHINGTON ARCHIVES

The Sequoia Genealogical Society, Inc., Newsletter,  
Volume 24, Number 9, November 1997.

The Washington section of the USGenWeb Archives  
Table of Content is

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~pub/usgenweb/wafiles.htm>

or all files are accessible via FTP at:

<ftp://ftp.rootsweb.com/pub/usgenweb/wa>. Also

check out the new data on census at

<http://www.rotsweb.com/~usgenweb/wa/wacensus.htm>.

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### "DISCOVERING YOUR HERITAGE"

A genealogical Workshop presented by the Everton's  
Genealogical Helper and sponsored by The  
Genealogical Society of Riverside on March 21,  
1998, between 8:00 am to 4:00 PM.

Drinks, snacks and lunches will be available, in  
addition, to free coffee.

The pre-registration fee is \$30; at the door \$35. Send  
pre-registration fee to:

Genealogical Society of Riverside  
Post Office Box 2557  
Riverside, CA 92516-2557

The workshop location is:

Trinity Lutheran Church  
5969 Brockton Avenue  
Riverside, CA 92506

Everton's Flyer

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### "FROM ROOTS COME BRANCHES"

Syllabus from the "From Roots Come Branches"  
seminar, held by The Church of Jesus Christ of  
Latter-day Saints, on March 7, 1998 are on sale for  
\$12.

For further information, please contact Mrs. Billie  
Myers, 3140 Township Avenue, Simi Valley, CA  
93063, (805) 583-0294 or contact:

The topics included:

#### **BLOCK I:**

- a. Finding Your Ancestors' Parents
- b. Internet Basics
- c. Ohio Research – Part I
- d. Preserving Our Heritage
- e. Southern States Research – Part I
- f. Overview of English Records – Part I
- g. Courthouse Records
- h. PAF 3.0

#### **BLOCK II:**

- a. Ohio Research – Part II
- b. Beginning Research – Part I
- c. Colonial Military Research
- d. Wills & Probate Records
- e. Southern States Research – Part II
- f. Overview of English Records – Part II
- g. Germany

#### **BLOCK III**

- a. Researching Burned Counties
- b. Beginning Research – Part II
- c. U.S. Census & Their Substitutes – Part I
- d. New England Research on the Web
- e. Computer Auxiliary Programs – Part I
- f. "I'm ready to write a book on my family..." &  
other delusions
- g. West Virginia Research

#### **BLOCK IV**

- a. New England Resources – Part I
- b. U.S. Census & Their Substitutes – Part II
- c. Writing Your Family History
- d. Civil War Military Records
- e. Northeastern Europe
- f. English Research Tools
- g. Computer Auxiliary Programs – Part II
- h. Unusual Sources: New Leads

#### **BLOCK V**

- a. Virginia Research
- b. Illinois Research
- c. New England Resources – Part II
- d. Creating Your own Genealogy Page on the Web
- e. South Carolina Research
- f. Finding Women's Maiden Names
- g. Southeastern Europe
- h. Huguenots to America

**WHY NOT EQUAL?**

AAHGS-JSSGNY, Summer 1996, p. 6

I know of no other ethnic group that has encountered the magnitude of confusion, concerning what they are to be called than the American Black (Negro, Colored, and African?)

In most own research (Barbados, West Indies) I have had to consult Alien Ship Manifests, for ships sailing from the Caribbean to New York, to locate my ancestors. In doing so, I found that during the years 1905 through 1928—the dates of my research—the following instructions were instituted to document non-white persons from the Caribbean:

- Cuban           The term “Cuban” refers to the Cuban people (not Negroes).
  
- West Indian     “West Indian” refers to the People of the West Indies other than Cuban (not Negroes).
  
- African (Black) “African (Black)” refers to the African Negro whether coming from Cuba or other islands in the West Indies, North or South America, Europe or Africa. Any alien with an admixture of blood of the African Negro should be classified under this heading.

It is ironic that after slavery, a systemic eradication and dilution of our “Africaness”, that denied us our African languages and names, African religions, African music and culture, in favor of a Eurocentric world view, would now again attempt to deny us our new found identities, and call us Africans. Somehow it is always disturbing to have to bear witness to these blatant examples of attempts to diminish people of African bloodlines to a common denominator, and cause them to continue to wonder who they were. These actions confirm and document how the seeds of racism were planted. As genealogist and historians we must continue to hold fast to our commitment to document the history/herstory of our proud ancestors in the hope that one day we will be called “equal.”

submitted by Andrea Ramsey

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**BRIDGET “BIDDY MASON  
1818-1881  
MIDWIFE AND LANDOWNER**

The African-American Commemorative Society

Bridget Mason was born into slavery in 1818, in Hancock, Mississippi. Young Bidy grew up on a series of plantations in Mississippi, Georgia and South Carolina.

As a girl, Bidy became interested in the healing arts as practiced by people who remembered African traditions and beliefs. A quick study, she soon became a skilled midwife.

In 1848, her master, for whom she had borne three daughters, became a Mormon and joined a 300-wagon caravan. Bidy’s task was to walk behind the wagons all the way to Utah, tending livestock.

Although her master had promised Bidy her freedom, he changed his mind. When he took her and her children to California, she went to court and won her freedom, setting an important precedent.

After she became free in 1856, she went to work for a local doctor. Her services as a midwife were demanded among Whites and Blacks in Southern California and she delivered hundreds of babies.

After ten years of freedom, Bidy was able to earn enough money to buy a home for herself and her daughters. She became the first Black woman to own property in Los Angeles.

She lived comfortably with her daughters and bought more land, becoming quite rich. Some of her wealth was shared with the AME Church in Los Angeles, which she helped found.

Although wealthy, Bidy never forgot the difficult days of her past. She worked tirelessly in the community and often took food and words of comfort to men in jail. She died in 1881 in her beloved Los Angeles. She is remembered as one of the earlier settlers of Los Angeles whose contributions provided a legacy for succeeding generations.

submitted by Evelyn Ross

\*\*\*\*\*

**U.S. SOCIAL SECURITY DEATH INDEX**

Champaign County Genealogical Society Newsletter, Apr/May/June 1997, p. 41

Can now be searched on-line free at <http://www.infobases.com/ssdi/query01.htm>

For genealogist doing 20<sup>th</sup> century research this is a dream come true! Infobases, Inc., is making the valuable SSDI available on-line, free of charge, and fully searchable (on all fields). With entries through October 1995, the database includes individuals for

whom a death benefit payment was made by the Social Security Administration. Infobases, Inc., with Ancestry Publishing, is an electronic publisher of genealogical sources, offering CD-ROM products in addition to access to on-line databases (some by subscription).

From The Cool Site of the Month for Genealogists and Franklintonian, Jan/Feb 1997

submitted by Vera Merritt

\*\*\*\*\*

### **DNA ANALYSIS**

William T. "Bill" Chapman, AA6JZ  
E-Mail: [wchapman@home.com](mailto:wchapman@home.com)  
Fax: (619) 475-6402  
Web Page:  
<http://www.members.home.net/wchapman/index~1.htm>

Happy New Year Everyone, I would like to tell the list about an unsubstantiated third party rumor that I recently was told. It was that through the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, it is possible to submit your blood for DNA analysis to determine which area of Africa your family originated. In fact, the person who apparently had this done stated that his analysis revealed that his ancestors were from Sierra Leone.

I know that the technology to do this is available today but there are some interesting questions. In 300 years our families have married others from different areas and it seems that this would cause some confusing results.

Does anyone have any knowledge of any study that is attempting to do this? If so, is it free or must you pay to have it performed?

submitted by Dorothylou Sands

\*\*\*\*\*

### **BLACK FAMILY FILES**

[Owner-Afrigeneas@MSSState.Edu](mailto:Owner-Afrigeneas@MSSState.Edu)

AAGHSTN (TAGS) is seeking families with Tennessee roots to share any genealogical information through newly established Black Family Files, a special collection now housed in Nashville, TN Public Library System.

Send to Black Family Files, AAGHSTN, P. O. Box 171124, Nashville, TN 37217, c/o Dr. Tommie Morton-Young, Founder/Director.

submitted by Dorothylou Sands

### **AFRICAN BURIAL GROUND UPDATE**

Howard University Biological Anthropology Laboratory

The historians working with the African Burial Ground Project aim to provide a unique and invaluable perspective to the study of Black New Yorkers. They will facilitate a greater understanding of the lives of the eighteenth century people interred in the cemetery by 1) placing evidence from the archaeological and biological-anthropological research in the appropriate historical context; and 2) studying the population within the broader context of the African Diaspora which resulted from the Atlantic slave trade and the growth of European colonial settlements in the Americas. From this perspective, the historians can best delineate the process by which Black New Yorkers experienced the cultural transformation from Africans to African American... Hence, the historians are considering questions of diet, disease, labor, trade, customs (especially those related to death and interment), and relationships within various social networks in specific African societies. They will focus as well on the dietary, epidemiological, social, economic and cultural background of relevant societies in the Caribbean... Through the examination process historians hope to more fully appreciate the experiences of those interred in the African Burial Ground.

### **FOLEY SQUARE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT**

Artifacts from the Five Points excavation portion of the Burial Ground are currently on display at the U. S. Court House Building at 500 Pearl Street, Albany, NY. Viewing hours are 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

### **STAMP CAMPAIGN**

Recently 85,000 signatures were submitted to the U.S. Postal Service with the support of OPEI (Office of Public Education and Interpretation for the African Burial Ground). More than 100,000 signatures (and still counting!) have been collected, representing overwhelming support from concerned citizens across the country and the world. The 100,000 signatures goal was proposed after Washington's Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee's initial rejection of 20,000 signatures. Strategies are now being planned in anticipation of a meeting tentatively scheduled for the fall 1996.

For more information about the burial ground, contact Deborah Wright or Donna Cole of the African Burial Ground Project, (212) 432-5705.

AAHGS-JSSGNY, Summer 1996, page 7

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS  
ADMINISTRATION**

Dear Genealogical Society Membership:

We are pleased to announce extended open hours of the microfilm research room of the National Archives and Records Administration—Pacific Region (Laguna Niguel). Beginning Tuesday, March 3, 1998 and continuing on the first Tuesday of each month thereafter (except Federal holidays), the Laguna Niguel facility will remain open evenings until 8:30 p.m..

Extended hours on the first Tuesday of each month should prove very beneficial for patrons wishing to do microfilm research after their working hours. Since the Pacific Region (San Francisco) also offers some evening hours, our extended hours will enable us to achieve regional consistency.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (714) 360-2618.

Sincerely,

Diane S. Nixon  
Facility Director

January 28, 1998 letter

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**THE INTERNET TRAVELER**

MSG Quarterly: Spring 1997

Have you traveled the Internet recently? Some of you may be just learning how to access the wonderful information that is growing by leaps and bounds—such as cemetery records in a county of Kentucky or a listing of early Virginia land grants or wills. This is real data—inputted by somebody in another state or county who wants to help you find your ancestors. There are thousands of these wonderful sites and you will miss some great stuff if you don't bit the bullet and begin!

First, of course, you need access to the Internet. This access is provided by a local internet service provider (ISP) such as America Online (AOL) or Mindspring or WSNNet. It usually cost about \$20 month for unlimited access, an important point to remember. In the beginning at least, you will spend lots of time learning how to work your way through the many sources of genealogy on the Net. It will be rewarding to you, though. Several providers, such as (AOL), will give you 50 hours of free time to explore before they begin to charge your account.

Some of the interesting places you can visit without ever leaving home are listed below, with a bit of information about each.

Begin with a wonderful site run by a lady in Oregon name Cyndi Howells. Cyndi has links (connections) to 20,600 other internet sites that you can get to by merely clicking your mouse. There is no part of genealogy that Cyndi hasn't considered in putting this site together. This is a must!

<http://www.oz.net/~cyndihow/sites.html>

There are many surname lists that you can join. People from all over the world join this list and share the information they have gathered. Perhaps you are working in Coppocks or Russells. There is probably a list where you can compare notes with others doing similar research, and maybe even exchange information and extend your family. To find out which surnames have lists, type the following URL: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~maillist>

You will find directions for subscribing to the list.

Do you need a Form 80 from the National Archives to request a military record? Type in:

<http://www.nara.gov/genealogy>

Follow the directions to order the form. You should receive it in a few days.

To access the home page for the Library of Virginia and its project to put digital documents on the Internet, type in: <http://leo.vsla.edu>

Do you need information from North Carolina? The address for the Archives is:

<http://www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/archives>

The Alabama Archives has a webpage with all sorts of information that may be helpful:

[http://www.asc.edu/archives/gen\\_info.html](http://www.asc.edu/archives/gen_info.html)

There is even a site where people who own various books offer to look up information for you. You might want to offer lookups from your own books.

To access this site, type in:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~websits>

There is an excellent tutorial on reading old handwriting at the following site:

<http://www.firstct.com/fv/oldhand.html>

The USGenweb has a webpage for every state, then broken down into counties. Eventually, every county in the United States should have a sponsor. People contribute information such as cemetery records, will, Bible records, etc. This is REAL data that could be very valuable to you. Many Covington County, Alabama, cemeteries have been surveyed and are available on USGenweb for Alabama, thanks to Lisa Wilson. This is where you will find our Society's home page. There is usually a place for your queries.

(To use this site, click the map at the bottom for the state you want.) <http://www.usgenweb.com>

Do you need the telephone number for a cousin in California? Try SWITCHBOARD  
<http://www.switchboard.com> or Cyber411:  
<http://www.cyber411.com>

You can find Social Security death information on the Ancestry webpage. Type in:  
<http://www.ancestry.com>

These URLs should wet your appetite and get you started on this new and fascinating facet of genealogy. Let the millions of other enthusiasts help you break through that brick wall that's had you stopped for so long. Until the next edition of this column, good traveling!.

submitted by Helen Johnson

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**CAAGS CALENDAR**

March 21, 1998 – Roundtable Discussion.

April 18, 1998 - Nancy Carlsberg will discuss "How to Get Organized".

May 16, 1998 – World War II Military information will be provided.

May 30-31, 1998 - Southern California Genealogy Jamboree.

June 20, 1998 - Juneteenth Celebration.

July 18, 1998 - To be announced.

August 15, 1998 - No meeting will be held.

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October 17, 1998 - To be announced.

November 21, 1998 - Roundtable Discussion and Election of Officers.

December 19, 1998 - Christmas Party and Installation of Officers.

\*\*\*\*\*

**COMMITTEES**

If you have any interest in joining one of the following Committees, please contact Kenneth Kwame Welsh, President.

Allensworth  
Budget  
Calendar (1998-2000)  
Cemetery/Mortuary  
Century Club  
Fundraising  
Holiday  
Hospitality  
Jamboree  
Newsletter  
Surname Directory

**OFFICERS**

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Erma J. Hurse  
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2nd Vice President/Membership

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Public Relations

Open

**MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO THE BOARD MEETINGS, THE FIRST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH, LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED**

\*\*\*\*\*

**1998 HOSPITALITY CHAIRPERSON**

Sandra Welsh  
(213) 766-0677

CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
P. O. Box 8442  
Los Angeles, CA 90008-0442

ATTN: JEANETTE SCOTT

1998 MEMBERSHIP NEW/RENEWAL APPLICATION  
(please circle one)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth (MM/DD) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME: \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Home/Business)

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

SURNAMES AND LOCATIONS YOU ARE RESEARCHING: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL SKILLS: \_\_\_\_\_ OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Organization & Libraries \$30.00     New     Renewal Year \_\_\_\_\_

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

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

EDITOR Gena Weaver, ISSN 1083-8937, Vol. 10 No. 4, Apr 1998

CAAGS MEETING

April 18, 1998

Martin Luther King, Jr.
United Methodist Church
6625 4th Avenue & 67th St.
Los Angeles, CA 90043

General Schedule
9:00 - 10:30 Class

Beginners - taught by Patricia Jackson
Intermediate - Resource Workshop on Military
Records by Marilyn White

10:30 - 11:00 - Business Meeting
11:00 - 11:15 - Break
11:30 - 1:00 - Nancy Carlsberg will discuss
'How to Get Organized'.

(Schedule is subject to change without notice.)

\*\*\*\*\*

DISCLAIMER

The Editor nor CAAGS assumes any responsibility
for articles submitted to the Newsletter by its
members.

\*\*\*\*\*

QUERIES

The Editor would appreciate any queries you may
have for the Newsletter.

\*\*\*\*\*

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

April 22, 1998 for May 1998 issue

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E-MAIL ADDRESSES AND
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

A listing of e-mail addresses and the membership
application are located at the sign-in table of each
meeting, or you may request the current listing/
application from the Editor.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to thank all those who attended and
participated in our March meeting. Thanks to all of
you who helped with organizing and running the
meeting. Our open forum with caucuses was fine,
but will need some refining. We aim to have this as
part of our buddy system I promised you recently.
Any suggestions you have, please bring it to the
Board of General meetings (we will continue to have
suggestions boxes available for your convenience).
Special thanks to the Fundraising Committee.

Thanks, also, to all those who signed the 'Save
Black History Month' petition. I received a packet
from Mrs. Patricia Barrett, thanking us for submitting
the signatures. We will be receiving monthly updates
from the committee in New Jersey.

Keep up the good moods and helpful attitudes in
doing yours and others genealogy. Thanks to all that
had sent the encouraging e-mails and made the
helpful phone calls to me and my family. We all
need a little help, sometimes.

Your new friend and servant,

Kenneth Kwame Welsh

\*\*\*\*\*

TAXES

He is rich enough who owes nothing.
The greatest wealth is contentment with a little.
If you pay what you owe, what you're worth you'll
know.
Ready money works great cures.
A good wife and health are a man's best wealth.
He who is ashamed of his poverty would be equally
proud of his wealth.
Money is a good servant, but a dangerous master.

Bonhour

**APRIL HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE**

George Cohen  
Marjorie Higgins  
Imani Oshodin  
Lloydine Outten  
DorothyLou Sands

Please don't forget to bring refreshments for the April meeting.

\*\*\*\*\*

**APRIL BIRTHDAY WISHES!**

James Hunt  
Vanessa Hunter  
DorothyLou Sands

\*\*\*\*\*

**NEW MEMBERS - WELCOME!**

Darnell Bell  
Surah Carletha LeNoir-Mfume

Darnell Bell is researching Bell.

Surah LeNoir-Mfume is researching Bracey, D'arensbourg/Darensbourg, Freeman, Lenoir/LeNoir, Ratcliff/Ratliff and Rutledge.

\*\*\*\*\*

**LENOIR/LeNOIR AND RATCLIFF/RATLIFF DESCENDANTS**

The Lenoir/LeNoir and Ratcliff/Ratliff families whose ancestors, from at least the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, resided in the area of Mississippi, now known as Marion, Pike and Walthall Counties are busily preparing for what will be one of the most heart warming events in our lives, a reunion of our families and descendants, who now span the world.

In order to perfect this vast undertaking, **WE NEED YOU**, descendants of these families, to join us June 19-21, 1998, as we journey to Mississippi, the land of our ancestors, in celebration of our African American heritage and fellowship with one another.

Let us know your family tie and your desire to join us by contacting **Surah Carletha LeNoir-Mfume, P. O. Box 351205, Los Angeles, CA 90035, (213) 938-8560**, so that we may provide the necessary information to participate in this reunion of our families. The information you provide may assist us in contacting other family members, and will allow us to accurately represent your ancestral pedigree

group as we put together our souvenir family tree album.

Please...Let us hear from you soon!

Family yours,

Surah Carletha Lenoir-Mfume & Phadra Toney-Glenn

\*\*\*\*\*

**EVENTS IN THE HOOD**

**"Anderson String Quartet and storyteller Sybil Desta,"** Come celebrate the African tradition of storytelling combined with the music of the lively Anderson String Quartet at the California African-American Museum, 600 Exposition Drive, Los Angeles, (213) 954-4300, \$10 children, \$18 adults, 1:30-3:30 p.m. on April 25, 1998.

Turning Point, Feb/Mar/Apr 1998, p. 51

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**FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE**

**Raffle**

The winner of the monthly 50/50 raffle was Roberta Reddick. The pot total was \$24. We shared the pot and CAAGS received \$12. Roberta Reddick generously donated \$10 of her share back to CAAGS. Thanks again, Roberta.

The Fundraising Committee would like to thank Mr. Ray Marshall for generously donating a beautiful Kaleidoscope to CAAGS to be raffled off at the Jamboree on Sunday, May 30, 1998. Tickets are on sale at each General meeting for \$1.

**Genealogy Basket**

Tickets for our "Opportunity Basket" are on sale at each General meeting for \$1 each.

Charlotte Bocage

**Stay-at-Home Tea**

The Stay-at-Home Tea has raised \$390 so far. The Fundraising Committee would like to thank all of those who generously donated to our project.

Pat Jackson

Recycling-Thon

**“Bag-It! Line-Them-Up and Bring Your Recyclable Here!”**

The Fundraising Committee is sponsoring a “Six-Month Recycling Thon” starting April 18, 1998 through October 17, 1998, to help CAAGS raise funds for future programs and events. We encourage everyone to participate by bringing their aluminum cans, plastic soda, and water containers marked with the official recycling codes to our monthly meetings. Free 30-gallon trash bags will be supplied to transport your recyclable items. Look for our recycling display at the General Meetings.

Erma Hurse

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**RECORDS SURVIVE THE FIRE**

In the famous destruction of the 1890 US Census, one of the little known survivors was a part of a special census of “Surviving Soldiers, Sailors and Marines and Widows” of the Civil War. In most Southern states, it includes both Union and Confederate Veterans.

The records for states AL through some of KY were lost along with the population schedules. However, most of the rest of the states, plus a part of KY were saved. These records are available on microfilm from the National Archives in Washington, DC.

CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 16, No. 2 (February 1988)

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**DELILAH L. BEASLEY:  
BLACK HISTORY PIONEER**

by Carla Kallan

In 1871, Delilah Leontium Beasley, a Black woman, set out to write a history of the accomplishments of black Americans in building the West-at a time when this was a less than popular idea.

At the age of 15, Beasley was writing a regular column for the *Cincinnati Inquirer*. As a young woman, she moved to California, where she continued her newspaper career with the *Oakland Tribune* and other publications.

As she worked as a journalist, Beasley became more and more interested in Black history. She began to do research in private libraries, mulling through volumes at the University of California library in Berkeley and the State Archives. She dredged up old land records, newspaper files, senate journals and legal reports.

Ultimately, Beasley traveled all over California to interview elderly pioneers. She would go, she said, “wherever a railroad or horse and buggy could go. Along the way, she enlisted the help of many well-known California scholars.

Beasley’s task was a difficult one. Blacks had been largely excluded from playing many major roles in history, and when they had, their achievements were often unrecorded. But she was able to discover much during the course of her historical digging. For example, San Francisco’s leading merchant before the Gold Rush was a Black Danish West Indian, Williams Leidesdorff. Many ‘49ers were Black and some, such as Moses Rodgers, became very prominent mine owners. Black Americans participated in the Bear Flag Revolt and in the Pony Express.

It took Beasley eight-and-a-half years to complete her book. The fruit of her labor of love was the volume: *The Negro Trail Blazers of California*. This 317-page compendium was published by the *Time-Mirror* Press in Los Angeles in 1919. In 1968 it was reprinted under the sponsorship of the California Historical Society and the San Francisco Negro Historical and Cultural Society.

Beasley was the first person to record the long ignored story of California’s Black pioneers. In so doing, she safeguarded their stories for future generations

Delilah Beasley, who died in 1934, overcame enormous obstacles to complete her book. For her achievement in preserving Black history, she should surely be ranked among the great trailblazers of California.

Carla Kallan is a free-lance writer from Los Angeles.

The Fedco Reporter, January 1998

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**AN APOLOGY FOR SLAVERY**

Representative Tony P. Hall, a White Democrat from Ohio, introduced a resolution in June 1997 urging his colleagues in the 105<sup>th</sup> Congress to publicly apologize for slavery. The resolution, HR96, specially calls for an apology to African Americans whose ancestors suffered as slaves under the Constitution and laws of the United States until 1865. Hall argues that although the slave and slave holders are all gone and no one alive today is responsible for slavery, African Americans continue to suffer from its lingering effects. He adds that, “We all pay the price of slavery”.

Hall reinforces his claim by reporting that on at least three other occasions in recent years, Congress delivered formal apologies to citizens for former injustices imposed by the government: in 1993 to

native Hawaiians for the role the U.S. played in the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii over a century ago; in 1990 to uranium miners and their families affected by nuclear tests in Nevada; and in 1988 to Japanese survivors of World War II internment camps.

Critics of any type of amends for any number of the country's 33 million African Americans say Blacks already received retribution through the Freedmen's Bureau, and more recently through affirmative action. Proponents counter that neither adequately addressed the legacies of slavery, particularly since they were both cut off before their time.

Turning Point, Feb/Mar/Apr 1998, p. 37

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**CAAGS CALENDAR**

April 18, 1998 - Nancy Carlsberg will discuss "How to Get Organized".

May 16, 1998 - "Forgotten Heroes...A Video on African Americans in World War II: A Legacy of Patriotism and Valor"

May 30-31, 1998 - Southern California Genealogy Jamboree.

June 20, 1998 - Juneteenth Celebration.

July 18, 1998 - To be announced.

August 15, 1998 - No meeting will be held.

September 19, 1998 - Show & Tell.

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- |                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Allensworth          | Holiday           |
| Budget               | Hospitality       |
| Calendar (1998-2000) | Jamboree          |
| Cemetery/Mortuary    | Newsletter        |
| Century Club         | Surname Directory |
| Fundraising          |                   |

\*\*\*\*\*

**MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO THE BOARD MEETINGS, THE FIRST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH, LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED**

**OFFICERS**

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Public Relations

Open

\*\*\*\*\*

**1998 HOSPITALITY CHAIRPERSON**

Sandra Welsh

(213) 766-0677

# THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

## Hosts the 29th Annual GENEALOGICAL JAMBOREE

Open to public

THE PASADENA CENTER  
300 EAST GREEN ST., PASADENA, CA

Info: (818) 843-7247

Parking \$5.00

Donation: 1 day \$10.00  
2 days \$15.00

### DOOR PRIZES

### GRAND PRIZE

*1 week stay at the  
Salt Lake Plaza Hotel*

*Courtesy of Best Western  
Salt Lake Plaza Hotel*



**30 MAY 1998 8:30 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.**

**31 MAY 1998 8:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.**

#### CONFERENCE BLDG. RM 106 - SAT. 30 MAY

- 9:30 a.m. **DOROTHY TINCUP MAULDIN**  
Land Allotment For the 5 Civilized Tribes  
of Indians in Oklahoma
- 11:00 a.m. **FRAN CARTER**  
Searching for your Pre 1800 Ancestors
- 12:30 p.m. **PETER CARR**  
Little Known Secrets in Newspapers
- 2:00 p.m. **ARLENE EAKLE**  
New Sources for Tracing Women
- 3:15 p.m. **GEORGE OTT**  
Unique Sources for Civil War Research

#### CONFERENCE BLDG. RM 107 - SAT. 30 MAY

- 9:30 a.m. **MELDON WOLFGANG**  
Tracing Paupers & Orphans, Sturdy Beggars  
& the Worthy Poor: A Walk on the Dark Side  
of Genealogical Research.
- 11:00 a.m. **JOHN WHITAKER**  
Oral Histories: Interviewing Your  
Relatives How to Do it Right.
- 12:30 p.m. **BILL DOLLARHIDE**  
Census Records Look Again!
- 2:00 p.m. **PAT GOOLDY**  
Early Kentucky Research
- 3:15 p.m. **NANCY CARLBERG**  
Preparing in Advance to Visit a  
Genealogical Library

#### CONFERENCE BLDG. RM 106 - SUN. 31 MAY

- 9:30 a.m. **PETER CARR**  
Little Known Secrets in Newspapers
- 11:00 a.m. **GEORGE OTT**  
U.S. Military Research
- 12:30 p.m. **FRAN CARTER**  
Searching for your Pre 1800 Ancestors
- 2:00 p.m. **ARLENE EAKLE**  
Evaluating Evidence
- 3:15 p.m. **DOROTHY TINCUP MAULDIN**  
Land Allotment For the 5 Civilized Tribes  
of Indians in Oklahoma

#### CONFERENCE BLDG. RM 107 SUN 31 MAY

- 9:30 a.m. **PAT GOOLDY**  
Early Kentucky Research
- 11:00 a.m. **NANCY CARLBERG**  
Preparing in Advance to Visit a  
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- 12:30 p.m. **MELDON WOLFGANG**  
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& the Worthy Poor: A Walk on the Dark Side  
of Genealogical Research
- 2:00 p.m. **BILL DOLLARHIDE**  
Census Records Look Again!
- 3:15 p.m. **JOHN WHITAKER**  
Genealogy Programs & CD's.  
How Can They Help Me?

#### BEGINNER CLASSES - EXHIBITION BUILDING 2ND FLOOR

**BERNICE GUNDERSON**

SATURDAY 30 May 9:30 A.M. - 11:00 A.M. & SUNDAY 31 May 1:30 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

The Jamboree is the annual genealogical exhibition sponsored by the Southern California Genealogical Society, Inc. In addition to guest speakers there are beginning and advanced classes and exhibits relating to every aspect of genealogical research. The JAMBOREE has been called the largest annual genealogical event west of the Mississippi River.

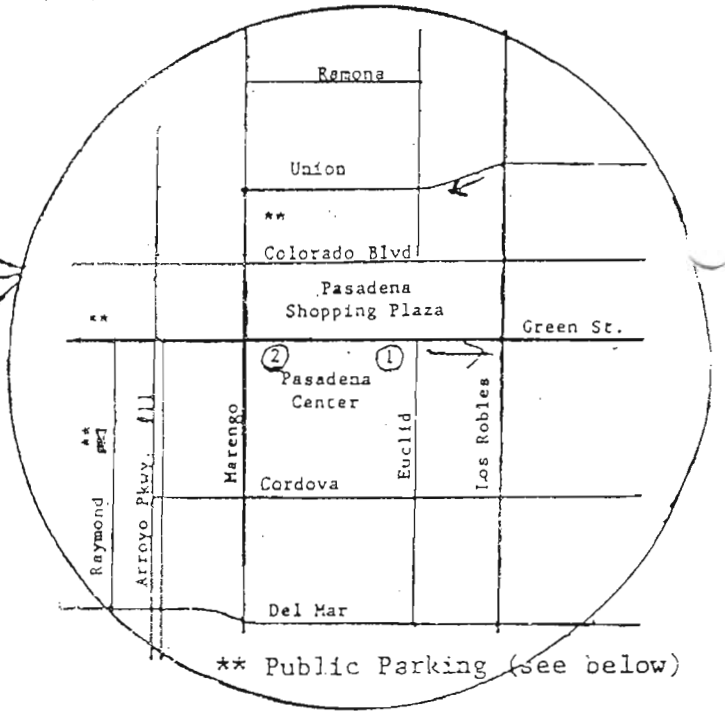
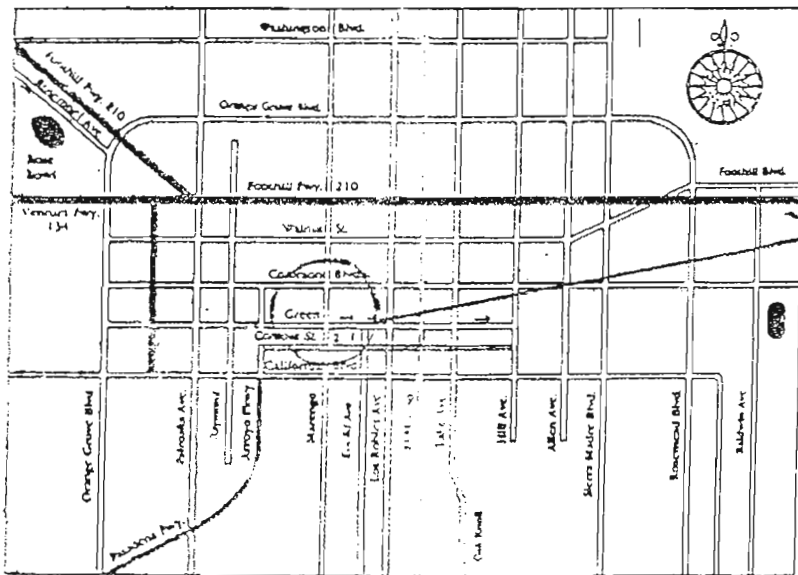
The Exhibition Hall (2) houses exhibits of genealogical, historical and hereditary societies, family associations, adoptive organizations, and exhibitors. Items available for purchase range from genealogical charts and forms; family and county histories and "How to" books to bumper stickers, kuts, maps, crafts and books.

SCGS volunteers will staff tables providing research assistance for many of the states and foreign countries. Volunteers also staff special interest tables including American Indian, Amish, Mennonite, Pennsylvania Dutch, Black Genealogy and the Research Team of the Southern California Genealogical Society.

Two large rooms in the Conference Building (1) of the Pasadena Center will be used for the lectures. For information contact:

## JAMBOREE '98

Southern California Genealogical Society, Inc.  
417 Irving Dr., Burbank, California 91504  
(818) 843-7247



### Directions to Pasadena Center

210  
East or west bound on 210. Foothill Freeway exit on Fair Oaks/Marengo off ramp  
Pasadena Freeway to end of Freeway on Arroyo Pkwy & right on Green Street  
to end of

### PASADENA CENTER PARKING ENTRANCES

Entrances off Marengo & Euclid  
(between Green & Cordova)

### \*\* PUBLIC PARKING

Raymond (between Union & Colorado)  
Green & Raymond (entrances off Fair Oaks, Green & Raymond)  
Raymond (between Union & Colorado)  
Green & Raymond (entrances off Fair Oaks, Green & Raymond)

Raymond (between Green & Cordova)  
(between Green & Cordova)

**THE CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY WILL  
PRESENT ON MAY 16, 1998:**

**A NEVER BEFORE SEEN VIDEO  
OF BRAVE ACTS AND HEROISM  
OF AFRICAN AMERICAN  
SERVICEMEN AND  
SERVICEWOMEN IN EUROPE  
AND IN THE PACIFIC, TITLED:**

**"AFRICAN AMERICANS IN  
WORLD WAR II: A LEGACY  
OF PATRIOTISM AND  
VALOR"**

**A COMMENTARY BY RETIRED GENERAL  
COLEN POWELL AND OTHERS...**

**MEET IN PERSON OUR SPECIAL GUEST,  
JAMES A. STATON, A PARTICIPANT AND  
RECIPIENT IN THE VIDEO WHO RECEIVED  
SEVERAL METALS AND AWARDS AFTER A  
50 YEAR DELAY**

**This video contains valuable historical and  
genealogical information, please come and bring a  
friend.**

CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

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

EDITOR Gena Weaver, ISSN 1083-8937, Vol. 10 No. 5/6, May/June 1998

CAAGS MEETING

May 16, 1998

Martin Luther King, Jr.
United Methodist Church
6625 4th Avenue & 67th St.
Los Angeles, CA 90043

General Schedule
9:00 - 10:30 Class

Beginners - taught by Dorothylou Sands
Intermediate - Continued Resource Workshop on
Military Records by Marilyn White

10:30 - 11:00 - Business Meeting
11:00 - 11:15 - Break

11:30 - 1:00 - "Forgotten Heroes...A Video on African
Americans in World War II: A Legacy of Patriotism
and Valor". Our special guest will be James A. Staton,
a participant and recipient in the video who received
several medals and awards after a 50-year delay.

(Schedule is subject to change without notice.)

\*\*\*\*\*

DISCLAIMER

The Editor nor CAAGS assumes any responsibility
for articles submitted to the Newsletter by its
members.

\*\*\*\*\*

QUERIES

The Editor would appreciate any queries you may
have for the Newsletter.

\*\*\*\*\*

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

June 22, 1998 for July 1998 issue

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E-MAIL ADDRESSES AND
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

A listing of e-mail addresses and the membership
application is located at the sign-in table of each
meeting, or you may request the current listing/
application from the Editor.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you ALL for participating in the March
meeting. We are looking forward to the rest of 1998,
and on into the next century.

Our three-phase program of Recruiting, Reclaiming
and Retaining will continue. Everything that we do
as a society will reflect some aspect of this three-
point Plan. For example, the Mentorship Committee
and the Open Forums/State Caucuses are part of our
Reclaiming phase. We are "reclaiming" the minds
of our members, who need help in genealogical
endeavors, or who have become stagnant because of
other cares. And, as part of the recruiting phase, I
want each of our members, new or old (renewals), to
pledge to bring at least one or two new friends or
family to each monthly meeting.

Please plan to attend our military history meeting in
mid-May and the Jamboree at the end of May. If you
haven't already done so, please sign up to spend at
least an hour or two at our booth in Pasadena. And
join one of our committees to help advance our
Society. Any ideas or suggestions you might have
for any Board member, please submit it either to the
suggestion box or to that person's e-mail. I am
available to YOU either in person at meetings, on the
phone, mail, or e-mail.

Thanks to our capable Board members and
Committee heads for all their assistance. A round of
applause to the Hospitality Committee for their
services, and to Nancy Carlsberg for her presentation
last month.

Your new friend and servant,

Kenneth Kwame Welsh

\*\*\*\*\*

MEMORIAL DAY

A man of courage never wants a weapon.
Who, with a courage of unshaken root,
In honor's field advancing his firm foot,
Plants it upon the line that justice draws,
And will prevail or perish in her cause;
'Tis to the virtues of such men, man owes
His portion in the good that Heaven bestows.

William Cowper



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2

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**JUNE MEETING**

THERE WILL BE NO MEETING FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE. THE NEXT NEWSLETTER YOU RECEIVE WILL BE FOR THE MONTH OF JULY.

\*\*\*\*\*

**MAY HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE**

Jeanette Kirby  
I. Walton  
Gena Weaver  
Kwame Welsh

Please don't forget to bring refreshments for the May meeting.

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**BIRTHDAY WISHES!**

**May**

Renee Coche'e  
Carolyn Conway  
Edward Fletcher  
Erma Hurse  
Barbara Irving  
Doris Russell  
Gena Weaver  
Lyndell Wesley  
Virgilene West

**June**

Donald Brown  
Alva Griffith  
Vera Merritt

\*\*\*\*\*

**NEW MEMBERS – WELCOME!**

Asbury Ellis

Asbury Ellis is researching Ellis, Maddox, Moore, Taylor and Valentine.

**April Correction:** Darnell Bell is researching Pleasant Junior (P.J.) Farley from Georgia and West Virginia (1860-1937), Henly or Henley Farley from Virginia or West Virginia (1815-until present time), not Bell.

\*\*\*\*\*

**EVENTS IN THE HOOD**

**Chicago, The Musical**, starring Jasmine Guy, will appear at the Ahmanson Theatre beginning April 29, 1998. For information call (213) 628-2772.

**FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE**

**Raffle**

The winner of the April's 50/50 Opportunity Drawing was Joyce Sumbi. Her share was \$16.50, which she generously donated back to CAAGS.

CAAGS member Ray Marshall generously donated the Kaleidoscope that we are having the drawing for.

The Opportunity Drawing tickets are still on sale for the Kaleidoscope and the Opportunity Basket for Genealogist. The tickets are \$1 each. The drawing will be on Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at the Jamboree.

**Genealogy Basket**

Tickets for our "Opportunity Basket" are on sale at each General meeting for \$1 each.

Submitted by Charlotte Bocage

**Stay-at-Home Tea**

The "Stay-At-Home" Tea Fundraising Committee is excited to report a grand total of \$465.89. We ask the members to please contact their family and friends to thank them for their support.

CAAGS membership and Fundraising Committee appreciate and thank the following people for participating and making of our "Stay-At-Home" Tea a success.

Martha Andrus	Carrier Napier
Sandra Beaudette	Lloydine Outten
Ivolene Brewster	Phyllis Paxton
Edna Bush-Branch	Georgia Payton
SeElcy Caldwell	Shirley Phillips
Delores Chappell	Vanessa Poe
Eddie & Bridget Cook	Deloris Powell
Nellie Cooper	Sr. Elmo Reynolds, Jr.
Marjorie Dexter	Fannie Rice
Doris Dillard	Evelyn Ross
Patricia Dobbs	George & Liz Scrotchings
Pearlye Dorsey	June Small
Barbara Duplessis	James & Laura Snowden
Claudia Farmer-Perry	Pearlene Staffold
Marva Graves	Vivian Stewart
Alva Griffith	Barry Stinson
Pauline Hardy	Claudia Taurean
Clothilde Hewlett	Evelyn Thompson
Maxine Higgins	Marguerite Waddy
Marvin Hunt	Virgilene West
Paulette Hunt	Helen Whitaker
Beatrice Jones	Marilyn White
Jeanette Kirby	Rosetta Wicker
William Lemmie	Betty Williams
Margaret Lewis	Crystal Wright
Ernestine McNeil	Bobbie Wright
D. L. Merrit	Janiece Young
Unia Muldrew	

Raymond & Consuela Marshall and all the members of the Lockheed AA Retiree Breakfast Club.

Submitted by Pat Jackson

### Six-Month Recycling Thon

Thank you! We received almost 12% (\$23.66) toward our goal of \$200 for the first month of recycling. We still need someone with a truck, who can donate one hour after the general meetings to help transport our recyclables.

Submitted by Erma Hurse

The Fundraising Committee would like to thank all of you who participated in our many events.

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### 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 surnames only 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.

Submitted by Majorie Higgins

\*\*\*\*\*

### A DAY OF ABSENCE

The real author and true title are unknown.

This is a story of a little boy name Theo, woke up one morning and asked his mother, Mom, what if there were no Black people in the world? Well his mother thought about that for a moment and then said, "Son, follow me around today and let's just see what it would be like if there were no Black people in the world". Mom said, "Now go get dressed and we will get started.

Theo ran to his room to put on his clothes and shoes. His mother took one look at him and said, "Theo, where are your shoes? And those clothes are all wrinkled son, I must iron them". However, when she reached for the ironing board it was no longer there. You see Sarah Boone, a Black woman, invented the ironing board and Jan E. Matzeling, a Black man, invented the shoe lasting machine.

Oh well, she said, "please go and do something to your hair". Theo ran in his room to comb his hair, but the comb was not there. Walter Sammons, a Black man, invented the comb. Theo decided to just brush his hair, but the brush was gone. You see Lydia O. Newman, a Black female, invented the brush. Well, this was a sight, no shoes, wrinkled clothes, hair a mess even Mom's hair, without the hair care inventions of Madam C. J. Walker, well, you get the picture. Mom told Theo, "let's do our chores around the house and then take a trip to the grocery store. Theo's job was to sweep the floor. He swept and swept and swept. When he reached for the dustpan, it was not there. Lyodyd P. Ray, a Black man, invented the dustpan. So he swept his pile of dirt over in the corner and left it there. He then decided to mop the floor, but the mop was gone. Thomas W. Stewart, a Black man, invented the mop. Theo yelled to his Mom, "Mom, I'm not having any luck."

Well son, she said, let me finish washing these clothes and we will prepare a list for the grocery store. When the wash finished, she went to place the clothes in the dryer, but it was not there. You see, George T. Samon, a Black man, invented the clothes dryer. Mom asked Theo to go get a pencil and some paper to prepare their list for the market. So Theo ran for the paper and pencil but noticed the pencil lead was broken. Well, he was out of luck because John Love, a Black man, invented the pencil sharpener. Mom reached for a pen, but it was not there because William Purvis, a black man, invented the fountain pen. As a matter of act, Lee Burridge invented the typewriting machine, and W. A. Lovette, the advanced printing press.

Theo and his mother decided to head out to the market. Well, when Theo opened the door he noticed the grass was as high as he was tall. John Burr, a Black man, invented the lawn mower. They made their way over to the car, and found that it just wouldn't go. Richard Spinkes, a Black man, invented the automatic gearshift and Joseph Gammell invented the supercharge system for internal combustion engines. They noticed that the few cars that were moving were running into each other and having wrecks because there were no traffic signals. Garrett A. Morgan, a Black man invented the traffic light.

Well, it was getting late, so they walked to the market, got their groceries and returned home. Just when they were about to put away the milk, eggs and butter, they noticed the refrigerator was gone. John Standard, a Black man, invented the refrigerator. So they just left the food on the counter.

By this time, Theo noticed he was getting mighty cold. Mom went to turn up the heat, and what do you know. Alice Parker, a Black female, invented the heating furnace. Even in the summer time they would have been out of luck because Frederick Jones, a Black man, invented the air conditioner. It was almost time for Theo's father to arrive home. He usually takes the bus. But there was not bus, because its precursor was the electric trolley, invented by another Black man, Elbert R. Robinson. He usually takes the elevator from his office on the 20<sup>th</sup> floor, but there was no elevator because Alexander Miles, a Black man, invented the elevator. He also usually dropped off the office mail at a near by mailbox, but it was no longer there because Philip Downing, a Black man, invented the letter drop mailbox and William Barry invented the postmarking and canceling machine.

Theo and his mother sat at the kitchen table with their head in their hands. When the father arrived he asked, Why are you sitting in the dark? Why? Because Lewis Howard Latimer, a Black man, invented the light bulb filament. Theo quickly learned what it would be like if there were no Black

people in the world, especially if he were ever sick and needed blood. Charles Drew, a Black scientist, found a way to preserve and store blood, which led to his starting the world's first blood bank. And, what if a family member had to have heart surgery. This would not have been possible without Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, a Black doctor in Chicago, who performed the first open-heart surgery. So, if you ever wonder, like Theo, where would we be without Black Folks?? Well, it's pretty plain to see. We would still be in the DARK!!!!

Submitted by James Swindell[SMTP:James. Swindell@healthnet.com]

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### **SPIRIT OF RESISTANCE**

By Dr. John T. Reilly

The whites did not know they would die that night. They slept peacefully in their beds, secure in the knowledge that they were in control. Their tomorrows would be the same as their yesterdays. At the break of day, they would be awakened, fed, bathed, dressed and pampered by their Black slaves, who lived and labored only to please and profit them. This was the design of God and nature, which made whites supreme over Blacks. But, die they did, hacked to pieces and burned to a crisp by the same Africans who had attended them humbly the day before.

*"Brethren, arise! Arise! Strike for your lives and liberties. Now is the day and the hour. Rather die free men than be slaves. Let your motto be Resistance! Resistance! Resistance!"*

This was the battle cry of these daring Black rebels. The date was 1526. Their cry echoed from a source 300 years older than the 1839 revolt aboard the slave ship La Amistad, which Steven Spielberg and Debbie Allen faithfully recreated in the new film "Amistad." The place was a 16<sup>th</sup> century Spanish settlement in the southern region of America, the first white settlement to contain slaves. Within a year, the Blacks drove those oppressors out of the country and thereby signaled the bloody fate of slavery in America: slavery would end by violence.

In years to come, over 250 Black insurrections exploded within U.S. territories. Instances of this were murderous uprisings of Blacks either alone or with allies of Indians or white indentured servants in Connecticut in 1657, Virginia in 1663, Long Island in 1708, New York in 1712, Massachusetts in 1723, and South Carolina in 1739. Many others occurred in the British West Indies, such as Barbados in 1861, Demerara in 1823 and Jamaica in 1831. In South America, Blacks waged full-scale wars against whites

and sometimes established independent states, such as the legendary Palmares Republic in Brazil, to govern themselves. Wherever Blacks were enslaved, they rebelled.

African descendants in America were by nature and culture a heroic, self-determining people. Perhaps the most successful insurrection was the Haitian/San Domingo rebellion led by Francois Dominique Toussaint L'Ouverture against the French in 1791. After brilliantly mobilizing thousands of Blacks, he destroyed the plantation aristocracy and took control of the Nation. Of equal significance, he inspired slave revolts throughout North and South America.

For instance, in 1800 Gabriel Prosser, a Virginia Black of great stature and shrewd intelligence, organized several hundred slaves to attack Richmond, kill the whites, overtake the arsenals, arm the Black population and wage war on slavery throughout the region. His banner copied that of the Haitian rebels, "Death or Liberty." Prosser declared with great dignity and candor, "I have nothing more to offer than what General Washington would have had to offer had he been taken by the British and put on trial by them. I have adventured my life in endeavoring to obtain the liberty of my countrymen, and am a willing sacrifice to their cause."

The spirit of Prosser's statement echoes through John Quincy Adams' defense of the *Amistad* Blacks in the film's Supreme Court scene. Blacks have always fought for their freedom. Following Gabriel Prosser, Denmark Vesey of Charleston in 1822 and Nat Turner of Southampton in 1831 rallied large bands of slaves to destroy slavery and its white perpetrators. Then came the Civil War in which Blacks fought for freedom as bravely as their Black ancestors had done in the 1776 Revolutionary War for American independence.

After achieving emancipation, Blacks struggled body and soul against the Klan, Jim Crowism, segregation, inequality and lynchings. Though denied equal benefits of American democracy, Blacks distinguished themselves as soldiers in the War of 1812, Spanish American War, the War of the Philippines, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and Desert Storm to defend this democracy.

The *Amistad* insurrection, the hundreds of other slave rebellions and the many national wars that African descendants in America bravely fought tell us the obvious: Blacks have been a warrior people who loved freedom. Thus, contrary to popular racist myths, Blacks were ill suited for slavery and domination by whites. Far from dampening their African spirit of rebellion, their American experience helped to fuel it. Why?

America idealized freedom despite her racist practices. Guns and guts were America's primary

means of achieving this freedom. When guns were not available, Blacks had no shortage of guts. Where they could not deal lethal blows against their oppressors, they struck back in subtle and covert ways. Their defiance was evident in how they would slow down the pace of their labor, make deliberate accidents and fake stupidity or illness to frustrate overseers.

Also, Blacks created stories, songs and religious practices that preserved their dignity, vented their resentments of whites and communicated plans for escape and resistance:

*I fooled Old Master seven years,  
Fooled the overseer three.  
Hand me down my banjo,  
And I'll tickle your bellee.*

From historical uprisings, such as the *Amistad* rebellion, down to the more contemporary 1992 Los Angeles insurrection, Blacks have shown that slavery, racism and discrimination did not subdue them as whites might have hoped. If anything, these evils along with the lip service America has paid to liberty, justice and equality have firmed the resolve of Blacks to be free, boosted their warrior spirits and sharpened their killing instincts.

These facts require that the history of Blacks should not be read as an easy adjustment to a bad situation. Rather, it should be seen as a never-ending story of militant resistance and rebellion to attain a freer life. Blacks should be seen as the defiant, warrior people they have been. Their story henceforth should be told as a heroic epic. It would be learned with pride by new generations of Americans of African descent.

Dr. John T. Reilly is professor, African American Studies/English, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles.

Turning Point, Feb/Mar/Apr 1998, p. 23-24,30

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**NEW ADDITIONS TO CAAGS LIBRARY**

**The Hornes, An American Family**, by Gail Lumet Buckley. Lena Horne Family History.

**National Archives-Southeast Region, (East Point, GA).** Checklist of records available for Research into Family History. (Including a brochure: "Black History, checklist off records available for Black History").

**Lumbee Indian Histories, Race, Ethnicity, and Indian Identity in the Southern United States** by Gerald M. Sider.

District of Columbia Free Negro Registers, 1821-1861. Vol. 1-1821-1828 & Vol. 3-1836-1846, by Dorothy S. Provine.

Submitted by Evelyn Ross

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**GET SMART**

Two important education bills are up for vote in the House of Representatives: **The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars Program (HR 777)**, which would guarantee four years of Pell Grant money to high-school graduates in underprivileged neighborhoods nationwide. The grassroots motive is to focus kids in their last year of elementary school on the financial benefits of graduating from high school. **The Equal Protection School Finance Act (HR 1234)** would ensure that the same money is spent on each child's education nationwide, as opposed to the current situation, in which the amount of money spent in a state varies widely from district to district. Both bills, are sponsored by Congressman Chaka Fattah, a Democrat from Pennsylvania, who says, "When young people have a sense of their future, they act in positive ways to secure that future." Write to your Congressman today and ask her or him to support both bills.

Submitted by Charlotte Bocage

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**SOUTHERN HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS**

Slave Paper. Free List. John Parks, 203 Tanglewood Road, Savannah, GA 31419. (912) 6075.

Submitted by Marjorie Higgins

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**PARMELEE,  
NO MATTER HOW YOU SPELL IT**

If you are researching this family name, please contact Jim Walters, Family Historian, 3872 Alberan Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90808, (310) 429-9259.

Submitted by Marjorie Higgins

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**DOCUMENTING AFRICAN AMERICANS'  
'ODYSSEY'**

Los Angeles Times, February 25, 1998

Exhibition: Using firsthand accounts, historical photos and the Internet, a sweeping Library of Congress show details Blacks' rich history.

By Esther Iverem, The Washington Post

Washington-In his lyrical and rich volume "*There Is a River*" (Harcourt Brace, 1993), Vincent Harding described African American history as a flowing body of water. The Library of Congress' new exhibit, "*The African American Odyssey*," might also remind you of a river-a very broad one moving rapidly from the transatlantic slave trade to the 1960s civil rights movement.

With 250 documents, photographs, prints and other items, the show spans the library's three buildings and is a strong sampler of its vast collection of materials on Black history-millions of pieces, the largest of its kind in the world.

This is a show cultivated with a librarian's sensibility. It best serves those of us who can lose ourselves in viewing centuries-old documents and be thrilled by the sight of the original paper and ink.

There is a yellowing copy of "*The Confessions of Nat Turner, the Leader of the Late Insurrection in Southampton, VA.*," an account by the man whose insurrection resulted in the deaths of 60 whites and sent alarm through the slaveholding states. The mutiny aboard the Amistad slave ship-subject of a recent film-is documented here with Supreme Court papers, a lithograph and an affidavit taken from Cinque, the African leader of the rebellion. Looming on one wall is the actual NAACP flag immortalized in an early 20<sup>th</sup> century photograph. It read: "*A Man Was Lynched Today*," and sits opposite chilling maps documenting the thousands of Black people lynched and burned in the United States from 1889 to 1922.

But the strength of the show is also its weakness. Because it is so sweeping, compared with more specific Black history exhibits the library has mounted in the past, those already acquainted with the files may find little new information here. And, young audiences might be turned off by the traditional presentation: no interaction, no buttons to push or levers to pull.

There is a certain restraint, no images, for example, of lynchings or other violence. Library officials insist that this tone was not influenced by last year's protest by some Black staffers against a photo exhibit on slave life that was yanked the same day it was mounted.

Perhaps the most significant aspect of "*The African American Odyssey*" is on view of the Internet, at <http://www.loc.gov>, with more materials being added every day. Debra Newman Ham, a professor of history at Morgan State University and the former specialist in African American History for the Library of Congress, is curator of the exhibit and editor of the show's 165-page catalog.

She said that while visitors to the exhibit will be able to see only a page or two of a displayed document,

visitors to the Web site will be able to read entire texts.

Ham expects the site will be in high demand. She said that the library's current site related to African American history, set up in 1994 in connection with her comprehensive 1993 Library of Congress resource guide, "*The African American Mosaic*," is one of the most popular of the library's electronic exhibitions. Print research technology has not fared as well-the comprehensive guide on which this show is based is virtually out of print or, as the library says, "is in printing in limited qualities."

The African American Odyssey" is on view at the Library of Congress through May 2, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday; the library is closed on federal holidays. Admission is free.

Submitted by Majorie Higgins

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**MONEY CAN GROW ON FAMILY TREES**

The *Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice*, July 3, 1997, p. 7/12

By John Willam Templeton

Special to Sentinel-Voice

It's time for family reunions. Many of us now living in urban centers will return to rural churches and cemeteries to teach our young about their heritage.

Don't discount the financial dimensions of that heritage. Our roots are grown in intangible soil and precious memorabilia. Land is always valuable. One need only visit the Sea Islands of South Carolina and Georgia to understand how valuable our forebearers' holdings are. We've been selling rural Southern land at an alarming rate, just when it has become most valuable.

History buffs will recall that the cross-burnings and lynchings of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century reduced Black land ownership in the South by 90 percent. It is not déjà vu that the eerie burning of Black churches had a similar migratory effect.

As you compile your family tree, also look into county land records. Far too many families had to flee into the night without a valid land transfer. So, your family might be richer than it knows.

We also need to take another look at what we actually inherited. The photos, clothing, tools, songs, narratives, clippings, posters, military records and financial dealings now have a new value because of the market for African-American collectibles.

Anthony Powell has made a career of researching his grandfather's reminiscences about being a Buffalo Soldier. He has now completed a traveling exhibition booked nationally to the end of the century.

Educator Agin Shaheed visited his mother's garage and found voluminous records of four significant historical ancestors ranging from the North Pole explorer Mathew Henson to the first stunt parachutist, Skippy Smith.

My own search through nine generations of family history resulted in a book, "*Grampa Jack's Secret*". My most surprising discovery was that our family had owned land in the same area continuously for almost two centuries.

Most of us are not equipped with space or facilities to handle primary source historical materials. But there are now more than 100 African-American historical museums that provide you a good place to start your information search.

Practically all of these museums were started from someone's personal family collection. The museums will offer good perspectives on the value of your holdings.

We can't continue to allow others to place more value on our assets than we do. Before you invest in the stock market or overseas, invest a little time in finding out how strong your roots are. That's always the investment that brings the highest return.

Submitted Rozella Hall

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**FIRST BLACK MARINE OFFICER  
FREDERICK C. BRANCH HAS BASE  
BUILDING NAMED IN HIS HONOR**

The Marine Corps' first Black officer returned to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, more than 50 years later to serve as a guest during the dedication ceremony of a building named for him.

When he joined the service in 1943, Frederick C. Branch marched at Montford Point, the base's all-Black training site. White officers and non-commissioned officers were in charge. "It wasn't right," recalled Branch who left the base with the rank of a corporal and immediately joined forces in the South Pacific during World War II.

Harsh military conditions never disheartened the Black Marine who had decided that he wanted to become a trailblazer in the field of education. The first breakthrough came when he was selected to attend the Navy's V-12 program at Purdue University where he made the Dean's List.

After graduation from college he stood out as the only Black in a class of 250 officer candidates. He became the Corps' first Black commissioned officer on November 10, 1945. At one time, he was the commanding officer of an all-White platoon. He had achieved the rank of Captain when he was released in 1952.

Receiving a degree from Temple University in Physics along with completing graduate courses in math, chemistry and science education, he put all of the knowledge to work when he became a teacher in Philadelphia's public schools. For 35 years as a teacher, he encouraged young people to improve their skills.

His strong inspirational desire to achieve never was forgotten by the Marines. This was the reason the Base's academics building was named in his honor.

*Jet*, August 4, 1997, Armed Forces, p. 18.

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**CAAGS CALENDAR**

May 30-31, 1998 - Southern California Genealogy Jamboree.

June 20, 1998 - Juneteenth Celebration. No meeting will be held.

July 18, 1998 - Guest speaker will be George Jenkins.

August 15, 1998 - No meeting will be held.

September 19, 1998 - Show & Tell.

October 17, 1998 - To be announced.

November 21, 1998 - Roundtable Discussion and Election of Officers.

December 19, 1998 - Christmas Party and Installation of Officers.

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**COMMITTEES**

If you have any interest in joining one of the following Committees, please contact Kenneth Kwame Welsh, President.

- |                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Allensworth          | Holiday           |
| Budget               | Hospitality       |
| Calendar (1998-2000) | Jamboree          |
| Cemetery/Mortuary    | Newsletter        |
| Century Club         | Obituary          |
| Fundraising          | Surname Directory |

\*\*\*\*\*

**MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO THE BOARD MEETINGS, THE FIRST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH, LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED.**

**The June Board Meeting will be held at the home of Marilyn White.**

**OFFICERS**

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Open

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**1998 HOSPITALITY CHAIRPERSON**

Sandra Welsh

(213) 766-0677



CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

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

EDITOR Gena Weaver, ISSN 1083-8937, Vol. 10 No. 7/8, July/Aug 1998

CAAGS MEETING

July 18, 1998

Martin Luther King, Jr.
United Methodist Church
6625 4th Avenue & 67th St.
Los Angeles, CA 90043

General Schedule
9:00 - 10:30 Class

Beginners - taught by Dorothylou Sands
Intermediate - The Hands on Workshop
will be on the Carolinas,
by Alva Griffith and Marilyn White

10:30 - 11:00 - Business Meeting
11:00 - 11:15 - Break
11:30 - 1:00 - Our Guest Speaker, George
Jenkins, will discuss "Blacks in the Gold Rush
California.

(Schedule is subject to change without notice.)

DISCLAIMER
The Editor nor CAAGS assumes any responsibility
for articles submitted to the Newsletter by its
members.

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QUERIES

The Editor would appreciate any queries you may
have for the Newsletter.

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NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

August 22, 1998 for September 1998 issue
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E-MAIL ADDRESSES AND
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

A listing of e-mail addresses and the membership
application is located at the sign-in table of each
meeting, or you may request the current listing/
application from the Editor.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

How is the hunting going? I hope you are having as
much fun as I am searching for my roots. I found
that by following up phone conversations with a nice
letter asking MORE questions is helpful and cordial.

Have a wonderful summer, for those of you who are
attending family reunions. Takes notes to bring back
to us. You will be called upon at Show & Tell. In
addition, please send or bring your friends to future
meetings.

Thanks to all who assisted at the SCGS Jamboree in
Pasadena. Your help was greatly appreciated.

Please call and e-mail your fellow CAAGS members,
if and when you have any questions. This will keep
our research "in the family". We want our members
to share information, and collaborate on research
topics. This will help us more properly formulate
our state and regional caucuses.

Again, have a wonderful summer.

Your new friend and servant,

Kenneth Kwame Welsh

FOURTH OF JULY
We must treat each man on his worth and merits as a
man. We must see that each is given a square deal,
because he is entitled to no more and should receive
no less.
By Theodore Roosevelt

AUGUST MEETING

THERE WILL BE NO MEETING FOR
THE MONTH OF AUGUST. THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER YOU RECEIVE WILL BE
FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER.

**JULY HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE**

Richard Brown  
Ron Higgins  
Evelyn Ross  
Jeanette Scott  
Joyce Sumbi  
Marilyn White

Please don't forget to bring refreshments for the July meeting.

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**BIRTHDAY WISHES!**

**July**

Eva Allen  
Charlotte Bocage  
Mattie Curtis  
Ashbury Ellis  
Mary Fletcher  
Nellie Slaton

**August**

Doris Casey  
Thalia Clarke  
Mattie Hunt  
Jeanette Kirby  
Charlottee Mathews  
Imani Oshodin  
Llyodine Outten  
Stanley Rodriquez  
William Slaton  
Barbara Thomas

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**NEW MEMBERS – WELCOME!**

Gwendolyn D. Harris  
T. Race Headen  
Dr. Carolyn A. Rosenberg  
Joyce A. Taylor

Gwendolyn Harris is researching Gilbert, Goree, Lee and Rockwell.

T. Headen is researching Beck from Alabama, Jackson and White from Louisiana.

Dr. Carolyn Rosenberg is researching Danner, Goss, Maloney and Walker.

Joyce Taylor is researching Allen, Cunningham, Love, Nash, and Sutton.

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**NEW FEATURE AT MONTHLY MEETINGS**

The Hands on Research Workshop that is held at the same time as the Beginners Class each month is designed to provide an opportunity for members to actually research on site. Members from their personal libraries provide books for use.

Topics will vary from month to month to present as many localities and subjects as possible during the

year. Make sure you drop by the Research Workshop area. Who knows, maybe that one piece of elusive information on Cousin Joe or Jane might be your reward.

Submitted by Marilyn White

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**1998 CAAGS ROSTER**

The 1998 CAAGS Roster is currently on sale for 25 cents at the meetings. The next update will occur in September 1998. If you are unable to attend and would like to obtain a Roster, please mail your payment to the address on the front page, attention Vera Merritt.

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**FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE**

**Raffle**

The winner of the May's 50/50 Opportunity Drawing was Shirley Hairston. We split the pot of \$36 with her. Out of the \$28 she won, she generously donated \$10 back to the Society. Thank you very much Shirley.

Dorie Walker generously donated a book about *Kwaanza*. We will have a drawing for the book at our July general meeting.

The winner of the Kaleidoscope generously donated by Mr. Ray Marshall was Charlotte Bocage. We raised \$26 for the Society. The winner of the Opportunity "Basket" was Selma Gilmore.

The "Basket" sales didn't go well as expected so we lost \$23.47 on that project. But, thankfully, for our other projects and generous donations from ourselves, friends and family the Fundraising Committee has a balance of \$574.50.

We have paid our bills to meet the expenses for our projects and still have a sizable balance for future Society needs. We are going to pay to have a copy machine reconditioned that has been given to the Society by our member Mattie Curtis. Thank you Mattie. With your recycling help, 50/50 Drawing and future projects, we will have added quite a sizable amount for the Society.

We would like to Thank You.

Submitted by Charlotte Bocage

**Six-Month Recycling Thon**

For the month of May we received \$57.75 from recycling. I would like to thank Race Headen for volunteering to help transport our recyclable items and to everyone, for their contribution.

Submitted by Erma Hurse

The Fundraising Committee would like to thank all that participated in our many events.

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***“AFRICAN AMERICANS IN WORLD WAR II: A LEGACY OF PATRIOTISM AND VALOR”***

I would like to congratulate your Society on the presentation of the video *“African Americans in World War II: A Legacy of Patriotism and Valor”*.

Thank you... Anything that will further our people and our Society will be presented at meetings!

Your special guest, James A. Staton, is a long time friend of mine. In the video you will see that Jim was one of the heroes at that time. Jim is a hero in everyone’s eyes, whether it is in the community or in a war. The medals that he received go way beyond any wars that anyone can imagine. If there was a medal for being outstanding in the community, Jim would definitely have it in his collection. Being a retired Fire Chief at Andrews Air Force Base, he has seen more than his share of families being torn apart by tragedies. Presently a volunteer firefighter, he continues his crusades to help others in need. Jim is very active in the church, from sponsoring dances to visiting the elderly.

Thank you for all this wonderful information about a true inspiration in our community, and we look forward to meeting him.

Jim has gone from being a close friend to being a family member. “We are letting you borrow him and we want and need him back”. Before it is all over, you will see why Jim is so needed in Maryland and he will have made an impact on your life that will not be forgotten.

Thanks again... Hope to meet you all in the future...

The Blake Family

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**QUERIES**

**Pat Jackson, Post Office Box 1137, Guasti, CA 91743-1137, sam4pat@juno.com** is seeking information on Simpson, Fred D., born April 4, 1894

Washington. Married Betty Combs. Both died in 1975 Washington. Unknown if children from this union. Brother Alfred Simpson; Sister, Myrtle Jones and Lily Johnson.

Simpson, Luanna, born into slavery December 1856 to Mary Kercherval in Western, Platt County, Missouri. Married John Moody 1880 Leavenworth, Kansas. Divorced 1891 Leavenworth, Kansas. Any help is appreciated.

Jones, Monroe a.k.a. Richard Jones, born 1870 Texas, married Lillie Bell Wilson 1894 Hillsboro, Texas. Three children from this union, Thomas, George and James Jones. Monroe Jones is said to be buried in Oakland, California area about 1943.

**Jennifer M. Elam, 725 West 103<sup>rd</sup> Street, Los Angeles, CA 90044, (213) 777-7464** is seeking information on John Elam, Sr. from New York and Pennsylvania.

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**NEW ADDITIONS TO CAAGS LIBRARY**

**Afro-American Sources in Virginia.** A Guide to Manuscripts by Michael Plunkett.

**Africans in Georgia 1870**

**Forgotten Confederates. An Anthology About Black Southerners.** Compiled by Charles K. Barrow.

**An Index of African Americans Identified in Selected Records of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands** by Jacqueline A. Lawson.

Submitted by Evelyn Ross

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**CAAGS PUBLICATIONS**

**African Americans in Los Angeles and Los Angeles Township: Extracts from U.S. Census, Volume II: 1900, \$12**

**1998 Pedigree Charts, May 29, 1998, (\$15 for members and \$20 for non-members, plus tax).**

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**INFORMATION UPDATE**

**New Area Code:**

(949) 360-2641 General Information

(949) 360-2624 Fax

**Mailing Address: (USPS)**

National Archives and Records Administration  
Pacific Region (Laguna Niguel)  
Post Office Box 6719  
Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-6719

**Shipping Address: (FedEx and UPS)**

National Archives and Records Administration  
Pacific Region (Laguna Niguel)  
24000 Avila Road  
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677-3497

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**ALEX HALEY STATUE UNVEILED**

The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, April 27<sup>th</sup> and is copyright 1998 by Richard W. Eastman and Ancestry, Inc. It is re-published here with the permission of the author.

A 13-foot bronze statue of "Roots" author Alex Haley was dedicated in Knoxville, Tennessee on Friday. "That's him," said Haley's daughter, Lydia Anne Haley, 55, of Beaufort, North Carolina, as she gazed into the face of the statue in the new Haley Heritage Square.

Haley spent his last years in the Knoxville area before his death in 1992. His search for African ancestry led to "Roots," published in 1976, which won the Pulitzer Prize, sold millions of copies, was printed in 37 languages and made into a 12-hour TV mini-series.

The statue is of a bespectacled, serene Haley, seated and dressed casually in a jacket and sweater. His left hand is grasping an open book and his gaze is on the Great Smokey Mountains in the distance.

Submitted by Pat Jackson

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**2000 CENSUS FORM WON'T HAVE  
MULTIRACIAL CATEGORY**

The Federal Government recently decided not to include "multiracial" as a category for race on the next census. But it will allow people of mixed ancestry to list themselves in as many racial categories that apply.

Franklin Raines, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, announced the decision, which came after several years of debate, analysis and hearings.

Traditionally, people have been asked to choose one of the racial categories. But the growth in the number of people of mixed race led to calls for the

multiracial category. The number of children in mixed-race families jumped from fewer than 500,000 in 1970 to 2 million in 1990.

Raines said that the Government prefers individuals to select for themselves which race or races they belong to.

Other changes to the rules include amending the Black category to read "Black or African American."

*Jet*, November 17, 1997. World Report, p. 6

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**AFRICAN-AMERICAN**

Afro-American Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. is building a database of African American names that have been recorded in non-African - American documents. This will be ALABAMA an important resource for those doing African-American research.

Anyone who finds such references within their family documents, (e.g. names of slaves recorded in wills or property related documents) are requested to send the names and source location to: Barbara Walker, P. O. Box 73086, Washington, D.C. 20056-3086.

CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 16, No. 5 (May 1998)

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**NETTING YOUR ANCESTORS:  
GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH ON THE  
INTERNET**

By Cyndi Howells

Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1001 North Calvert Street, Baltimore, MD 21202

*Netting Your Ancestors* is designed not only to show you how to use the Internet in genealogical research but how to take maximum advantage of this extraordinary researches tool. Written by genealogist and computer whiz, Cyndi Howells, creator of the award-winning web site Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet, it is a guide to the most powerful research tool since the advent of the personal computer. This is no hollow claim, for in bringing resources from around the world right into your home, the Internet makes genealogical research possible on a global scale, in record-breaking time. With its clear, no-nonsense approach, *Netting Your Ancestors* answers the most fundamental questions about genealogical research on the Internet: How do I get online? What type of computer hardware and software do I need? What do I do once I'm online? Where do I start? What type of information is

available? The answers to those questions, rendered in plain English, will help you to discover genealogical resources and find aids beyond your wildest dreams, What's more, you'll be able to communicate with researchers around the world, exchanging data that otherwise might take you a lifetime to find.

To help you get the most out of your online research time, *Netting Your Ancestors* focuses on the three most useful components of the Internet, each of which is discussed in a separate chapter: E-mail, Mailing Lists and Newsgroups, and the World Wide Web. Within each chapter, sections are devoted to software requirements, guidelines, and the basic workings of each component, along with tips for researchers who have already been online for a while. The last section in each chapter is devoted to research strategies that will benefit both new and veteran online researchers.

The ability to exchange information on a global scale and to explore vast new databases (as well as obscure factoids lurking at the edges of cyberspace) is what genealogical research on the Internet is all about. And in this book, with the aplomb and assurance of a seasoned Internet navigator, Cyndi Howells starts you out on your Internet journey of exploration and discovery, guiding you confidently toward your goal. It's a trip you never forget, even though you never leave home.

Submitted by Dorie Walker

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### **SO, WHAT IS A MELUNGEON ANYWAY?**

By Bill Fields

We should probably begin with a general overview of who the Melungeons are. Melungeons are a group of dark-featured people who have lived in Appalachia for at least 200 years and probably longer. They are not, at least exclusively, Native Americans, not African American and not the "usual" Caucasian (read: Scott Irish/German) Appalachians. They were reported to have been here when the first "white" settlers came and were living in cabins, speaking broken Elizabeth English and saying they were "portyghee". Right now, the term Melungeon seems to be most strongly associated with the area around Hancock County Tennessee but there are Melungeons and their descendants all over the region, east Tennessee, southeastern Kentucky, western Virginia and western North Carolina. While their darker, rather Mediterranean features once set them apart, intermarriages have taken place over the years and the "look" is probably not as apparent in many families.

Melungeons have over time gotten a lot of media attention, but it has not always been good or useful. The media it seems has always liked to tell things the way they want and Melungeons often come off as a folk tale---another Appalachian mystery---but they are a real people, just one with a lost history. There are lots of theories as to where the Melungeons came from. One is that they descended from the Lost Colony of Roanoke who intermarried with local Native American population. Another says they are the descendants of the Welsh explorer, Madoc who came to North America around 1100 with ten ships filled with colonists. Some believe that they were the descendants of shipwrecked Portuguese sailors. Still others suggest that Melungeons are the lost tribe of Israel, lost Spanish explorers, or simply "tri-racial isolates", meaning a Native American/African American/Caucasian mixture which continued intermarrying.

Personally, I lean very heavily to the theory put forth by Dr. N. Brent Kennedy in his book, "The Melungeons, the Resurrection of a Proud People, A story of Ethnic Cleansing in America" (Mercer University Press 1994). Dr. Kennedy suggests that the Melungeons were stating fact when they said they were "Portyghee". He suggested that Portuguese/Moorish people who were being increasingly attacked during the Spanish Inquisition were a large part of the settlers Spain brought to North America in the 1500s. He has good evidence that these people were, in various ways, abandoned or fled the settlements and that they then intermarried with the local Native Americans. These people then migrated westward in front of the larger settlements and, on the way may have continued to intermarry with other groups including possibly escaped slaves, and English or English/Native American mixed people. This is all a very sketchy overview: I really suggest reading the book, it's fascinating!

Later, when their "white" neighbors caught up with them—and this is the real tragedy of these folks—the census designation of "Free Person of Color" (FPC) and laws associated with it were used to deprive Melungeons of basic legal rights including the right to own land, vote, use of the court system and have their children educated. Being Melungeon was not the best way to get ahead at the time and so many people hid their ancestry with other "covers" that could account for their dark features, claiming to be "Black Dutch", "Black Irish" or to have Native American ancestry. These folks generally were not that different in appearance from their white neighbors and succeeded in "passing", especially if they moved to a new area, like say, from Tennessee to Kentucky. (Interestingly, at one point in time, lots of Melungeons from Virginia came toward "inter-

racial” marriages.) As the Melungeon families were able to hide their ethnic identity, the heritage was lost from the family tradition. Often, because the history was lost or hidden, it is only by surname, vague traditions and “facts” that don’t check out that one can make connections back to Melungeons. Over time, with cross marriages, the physical traits are less apparent. There are folks of Melungeon descent with fair skin and blond hair. But, there are things you can look for. One is “shovel teeth” a curving of the inner surface of the front teeth in a shovel shape. It’s a trait common to Native Americans and shows up in many Melungeons. There are also several genetic diseases that are particular to North Africans and Mediterranean that have shown up in people from Appalachia. It was such a diagnosis that set Dr. Kennedy on his search.

If you suspect a family might be Melungeon, look closely at census designations, not just for the direct ancestor but for siblings, aunts and uncles. Families and even individuals would change from FPC, to white, to Mulatto, to Indian and back again at the whim of census takers. Check if there is a tradition of being Black Dutch, Black Irish or very often in my Kentucky Melungeon families Cherokee. For that reason it can be useful to look at the *Cherokee By Blood* collection for rejected Cherokee land claim applications. And, look for families that seem to have no history or one that just does not seem to “fit”. None of these things alone means that a family is/was Melungeon but several taken together may be good evidence. In many cases, there is no absolute proof. Folks were hiding their history to protect themselves and increase the chances for their kids to have an easier life; they often did a good job of it.

There are several other groups of people similar to the Melungeons...Lumbee, Carmel Indians, Turks, Brass Ankles Wesorts, Jackson Whites and Redbones to name a few. And I have heard the term “Ramps” used interchangeably with Melungeon. I think that all these people are all of a common history and probably have a number of connections.

When it comes to that history, I believe that the central problem with a lot of research in this area is that people are trying to come up with the mixed-ethnic groups in the country. And I don’t think that answer exists. Or if it does, it is certainly not as simple as saying that they are all “tri-racial isolates” and leaving it at that. My personal distaste for that term aside, I think that the origins and answers are varied and complex. I think everyone would agree that you can define these groups fairly easily...Melungeons are dark-featured people from Appalachia who have lived in the region for at least 200 years. The problem comes when you try and get a similar simple definition for the origins.

By and large, I agree with Brent Kennedy’s theories. They make sense to me. But I think there were a lot of things going on in the early years of European settlement. I believe that the refugees from Santa Elena, one of the early Spanish colonies, and soldiers and their families from Juan Pardo’s Forts make up the first core of the Melungeons. I think that some of the genetic evidence is also pretty strong that the story that Sir Franc Drake left captives including Turks, Africans and South American Native Americans on Roanoke Island is probably accurate, and that they formed the second core. I’m not sure to what degree we can say that the two groups joined, but I think it is likely that they had some contact. Just as I think it is likely that they both intermarried with Native Americans. But I think we have to be careful in assuming that it was always a matter of Native people coming to live among the Melungeons (using that term now to talk about both core groups). I think it is equally possible and equally likely that members of these groups would have been integrated into Native American groups as well. So early on, you have Melungeon groups with Native members but also Native groups with Melungeon members. And people being what they are, you quickly have mixed children in both groups...which would have probably taken on the identity of whom they grew up with. Assuming the two cores I mentioned earlier, you would now have people that included Portuguese Moors, Turks, South American Native people, West Africans, North American Native people and Spanish in varying degrees of mixed and non-mixed people. And, you could also have, among the Native Americans in the region, any possible combinations of these folks being assimilated into the tribes. So you have these fairly large groups that would have been capable of maintaining a cultural link back to their origins...whatever those might be.

At the same time, or a little later, there were probably other smaller pockets. The Lost Colony is, I believe one. I don’t think they account for the origins of the Melungeons, but rather are an example of another early mixed group. Best explanation I’ve seen is that the colony split very soon after arrival and that the bulk of the settlers went off the island and settled on the mainland where they survived for several years, again perhaps with intermarriages with the local people. Then, shortly before Jamestown, they were attacked and mostly killed by Powhatan, Pocahontas’ father. Some few, however, survived and the Jamestown people were told that they were living among Native People. Again, another source for mixed genes. Probably only a few people relative to the size of the two core groups but still, mixed-race children, this time Native American/English, very early on. And there were

probably many other incidents before and after up and down the coast. I certainly doubt that Pocahontas' son, Thomas Rolfe was the first mixed child born in North America!

The settlement from Europe increased, there was a pushing back of the Native people from the coast inland at which time they probably came into closer contact with the Melungeon core groups. And the introduction of African slaves added another component to the potential mixing. I've read some interesting arguments that early on, the idea of race was very different and as a result, the first Africans were treated as indentured servants. But very quickly, within 50 years there was a shift in the concept of race that allowed Africans and their children as well to be forever indentured.....slavery. In any case, there were certainly mixed race African/European children born and probably African/Native American as well. But very quickly, as the North American system of slavery developed there was a social division between the free blacks and mixed race people and the whites. Just as there was a social stigma to being mixed race Native/European. That stigma would have made it desirable for these people to get away from the developing European societies on the coast....and the only direction to do that was west, to the fringes of the settlement. And as the settlement moved, so would they have. And along the way, encountering and intermingling with the displace Native people and the Melungeon core group/groups. And learning early on to de-emphasize their mixed heritage with white people and probably passing that along to others. So that when the core groups encountered the English, they called themselves by a Afro-Portuguese term meaning white person..."Mulango". With, as Brent Kennedy discovered, the final vowel pronounced "zhun".

Thus you have people physically and socially on the fringes of the emerging Euro-American society who get pushed west until the migration by the Anglos is so large that they get "discovered". That's why I like the term "Fringe Folks" to refer to all these groups. Seems to me that the early Melungeon/Lumbee/Turk/Guinea groups were probably part of Pardo/Santa Elena core group because they started out just about where Pardo left people. The Santa Elena people would have had knowledge of this and would have known that was a place to go to escape the English. The fact that some of the Melungeons in Tennessee have roots in North Carolina is sometimes used to say that they were not Portuguese...just "tri-racial isolates". Seems to me that it underscores that they probably were descendants of Pardo/Santa Elena. And that they were pushed westward into land that Pardo, and the soldiers with him, had visited.

Because of geography, I suspect Brass Ankles and Redbones may have been more related to the Drake core. I have not really read enough about either of them to know but that would seem to make sense to me. Carmel Indians I believe trace their roots to the southeastern Kentucky Melungeon groups.

Anyway, once "discovered" the Free Persons of Color laws and the resulting discrimination would have been the main factors in influencing how the groups developed. At this point, I really think Brent Kennedy has been great in explaining the "passing" and the loss of history and heritage. I just wonder if even he was/is aware of the degree to which "passing" Melungeons have left their genes in Appalachia and beyond. (Some Melungeons surely went west along with the general migration.) There is certainly a stereotype that we herein Appalachia are all inbred. I don't care much for that but I've done family research in this area and I know that most families are interconnected. And it makes sense that in stable communities that have existed for 200 years, you end up with close ties. And four or five Melungeon families in the early 1800s have, by now, had genetic input into most of us. I think most people who have researched Southeastern Kentucky families know that there are some people which pretty much everyone is going to eventually going to tie into somehow. If, the example, I am correct in my thinking that George All Sizemore and/or Aggy Shepherd were Melungeon, at this point, how many people are descended from them? And all of those would be of Melungeon heritage.

I think this whole search for the origins of these groups has importance beyond genealogy. It is part of the history and the culture of Appalachian in a much more profound way than just an interesting "mystery". To understand this all is to have to redefine the assumptions about the ethnic heritage of Appalachians. Just one very practical and important example. We know, there are genetic diseases and conditions associated with folks of Melungeon descent that are not expected in "Scotch-Irish" Appalachians. And healthcare people in the region need to know that and to be informed as to what to watch for. We all need to know that the explanation of who we are, as a region is not as simple as isolated Scotch-Irish with a dab of Cherokee.

Submitted by Helen Johnson

\*\*\*\*\*

### SURVEY

CAAGS officers and committee chairmen would like your help in discovering ways to improve our Society. They would appreciate your input on the following. Please take time to respond to these few

questions (use extra paper if necessary), and return at the (MONTH) meeting or mail to CAAGS, P. O. Box 8442, Los Angeles, CA 90008-0442.

How can we keep current membership active?

How can we encourage visitors to join our Society?

What method do you find is most helpful in locating your ancestors, letters, internet, books, etc.?

Would you like to have more "social time" in which to talk one on one about your genealogy problems?

What kinds of programs interest you most?

Do you have a particular subject or speaker in mind?

Would you support trips to libraries, seminars, other?

\*\*\*\*\*

**CAAGS CALENDAR**

August 15, 1998 - No meeting will be held.

August 19-22, 1998 - Federation of Genealogical Society (FGS) Conference will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio.

September 19, 1998 - Show & Tell.

October 17, 1998 - Tentative, a videotape of Black Men/Women in the Marines to be presented by Mr. Lee.

October 19, 1998 - The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference for AAHGS will be held in Washington, DC.

November 21, 1998 - Roundtable Discussion and Election of Officers.

December 19, 1998 - Christmas Party and Installation of Officers.

January 16, 1999 - Our guest speaker will be Mary Grindall.

\*\*\*\*\*

**COMMITTEES**

If you have any interest in joining one of the following Committees, please contact Kenneth Kwame Welsh, President.

Allensworth	Holiday
Budget	Hospitality
Calendar (1998-2000)	Jamboree
Cemetery/Mortuary/Obituary	Mentor Program
Century Club	Newsletter
Educational Outreach Committee	Public Relations
Fundraising	Surname Directory

\*\*\*\*\*

**MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO THE BOARD MEETINGS, THE FIRST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH, LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED.**

The July Board Meeting will be held at the home of Kwame & Sandra Welsh.

**OFFICERS**

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Charlotte Bocage

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Public Relations

Open

\*\*\*\*\*

**1998 HOSPITALITY CHAIRPERSON**

Sandra Welsh

(213) 766-0677



CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

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

EDITOR Gena Weaver, ISSN 1083-8937, Vol. 10 No. 9, Sept 1998

CAAGS MEETING

September 19, 1998

Martin Luther King, Jr.
United Methodist Church
6625 4th Avenue & 67th St.
Los Angeles, CA 90043

General Schedule
9:00 - 10:30 Classes
Beginners and Intermediate

10:30 - 11:00 - Business Meeting
11:00 - 11:15 - Break
11:30 - 1:00 - Show & Tell.

(Schedule is subject to change without notice.)

DISCLAIMER

The Editor nor CAAGS assumes any responsibility for articles submitted to the Newsletter by its members.

\*\*\*\*\*

QUERIES

The Editor would appreciate any queries you may have for the Newsletter.

\*\*\*\*\*

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

September 22, 1998 for October 1998 issue

\*\*\*\*\*

E-MAIL ADDRESSES AND MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

A listing of e-mail addresses is located at the sign-in table of each meeting, or you may request the current listing from the Editor.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello all! I hope everyone had a fantastic summer! We are looking forward to September's Show & Tell. Please sign up if you haven't already done so. Email or call me or one of the other officers with your information; so you can be signed up for your presentation: What you will be "showing" and "telling."

I'm saddened to announce that Vivian Saunders passed on a few weeks ago. We will miss her.

Members, we need volunteers to conduct the Beginner and Intermediate Classes at each meeting. This is part of our Retaining Phase. We will be having our Region #1 Caucus Genealogy Information Group (GIG for short) in November. This is where you play a part in the Society by joining with others studying and researching in the same geographic region as yourself. This is part of the Retaining Phase. We have a total of six regions at this time.

We now have a CAAGS Website Committee. Our website will be online September 11, 1998. If you have any suggestions, please contact the Board or join the Website Committee. The website will be one of the main points of the Recruiting Phase. Also, Computer/Internet Classes are being offered at the S.O.A.R Center on Friday afternoons, by myself. It is located at 6052 S. Normandie, Los Angeles. Anyone interested, please call me or email me.

We need volunteers for the Family History Conference in San Diego, on September 18th and 19th.

CAAGS membership thanks Mr. Raymond Marshall for his construction and donation of the suggestion box. Members, please use this box, for any suggestions you might have concerning the progression of the Society.

Your friend,

Kenneth Kwame Welsh

LABOR DAY

*The Negro Mother*

Children, I come back today to tell you a story of the long dark way that I had to climb that I had to know in order that the race might live and grow, Look at my face-dark as the night-Yet shining like the sun with love's true light. I am the child they stole from the sand three hundred years ago in Africa's land. I am the dark girl who crossed the wide sea carrying in my body the seed of the free. I am the woman who worked in the field bringing the cotton and the corn to yield. I am the one who labored as a slave beaten and mistreated for the work that I gave--

Children sold away from me, husband sold, too. No safety, no love, no respect was I due. Three hundred years in the deepest south but God put a song and a prayer in my mouth; God put a dream like steel in my soul. Now, through my children, I'm reaching the goal.

Now, through my children, young and free, I realize the blessings denied to me. I couldn't read then. I couldn't write. Sometimes, the valley was filled with tears. But I kept trudging on through the lonely years.

Sometimes, the road was hot with sun, But I had to keep on till my work was done. I had to keep on! No stopping for me--I was the seed of the coming fee. I nourished the dream that nothing could smother.

Deep in my breast--*The Negro Mother*. I had only hope then, but now through you, dark ones today, my dreams must come true. All you dark children in the world out there. Remember my sweat, my pain, my despair, remember my years, heavy with sorrow--and make of those years a torch for tomorrow.

Make of my past a road to the light out of the darkness, the ignorance, the night. Lift high my banner out of the dust, stand like free men supporting my trust. Believe in the right, let none push you back, remember the whip and the slave's track. Remember how the strong in struggle and strife still bar you the way, and deny you life--But march ever forward, breaking down bars. Look ever upward at the sun and the stars--Oh, my dark children, may my dreams and my prayers impel you forever up the great stairs--for I will be with you till no white brother dares keep down the children of *The Negro Mother*.

By Langston Hughes

IN REMEMBRANCE

CAAGS member Vivian Saunders passed on July 1, 1998. Services were held on Friday, July 10, 1998 at 10:30 am at Forest Lawn-Hollywood Hills Cemetery, O North Church.

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SEPTEMBER HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

DorothyLou Sands  
Lyndell Wesley

Please don't forget to bring refreshments for the September meeting.

\*\*\*\*\*

BIRTHDAY WISHES!

Ronald R. Batiste	Johnnie B. Lee
Richard Brown, Jr.	Raymond Marshall
Barbara Butts	Rachelle McMurray
Gwendolyn Champion	Yvonne R. Oby
Colette M. DeVerge'	Barbara Phillips
Renee Dolberry	Vernon Robinson
Caldwell Durham	Hattie Simsisulu
Marjorie Higgins	Edith Sumlin
Ellis Jones	Dorie Walker

\*\*\*\*\*

NEW MEMBERS -- WELCOME!

Ethel LaVerne Jones  
Yvonne R. Oby  
Doris Dudley Rogers

Ethel Jones is researching Butler, Sears and Yates.

Yvonne Oby is researching Oby and Williams.

Doris Rogers is researching Dudley, Peters, Rogers and Sampson.

\*\*\*\*\*

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Nominations are now being taken for First Vice President, Treasurer and Recording Secretary.

\*\*\*\*\*

## 1998 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Bylaws, Article I, Section 3

Membership fees are due and payable in January of each year. Members whose dues have not been paid to the Treasurer by March 1<sup>st</sup> will have their names removed from all the Organization's mailing and membership lists. A member removed for non-payment of dues will be reinstated by paying the delinquent dues.

**NEW MEMBERS** joining in November or December dues shall apply to subsequent year.

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## PICNIC

An interesting History Lesson! Interesting if true.....

Word origin "Picnic". Did you know?

Although not taught in America learning institutions and literature, it is noted in most Black history professional circles and literature, that the origin of the term "picnic" derives from the acts of lynching African-Americans. The word "picnic" is rooted from the whole theme of "Pick a Nigger" This is where White individuals would "pic" a Black person to lynch and make this into a family gathering. There would be food and music and a "picnic"...("nic" being the white slang for "nigger"). Scenes of this were depicted in the movie "Rosewood". We should choose to use the word "barbecue" or "outing" instead of the word "picnic".

By Gregory D. Hall

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## WHILE OTHERS SLEPT

*Modern Maturity*, July-August 1998, p. R.

For more than 100 years, long-distance train journeys were as much a part of American life as air travel is today. Ensnared in the comfort of plush Pullman sleeping cars, passengers were served by uniformed porters who were attentive to their every need. But there's another side to the story. From their first use in 1868, Negro porters staffed Pullman train cars almost entirely. After 12 years of struggle and negotiation, on August 25, 1937, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters became the nation's first union of Negro workers. Union founder A. Philip Randolph led the BSCP to become

the first Negro union admitted to the American Federation of Labor. A year long celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Brotherhood's founding recently commenced at Chicago's A. Philip Randolph/Pullman Porter Museum Gallery, located in Chicago's historic Pullman District. The gallery features photographs, video clips, and railroad memorabilia. In addition, it is compiling a registry of BSCP members and their families. "The response from former porters has been phenomenal," says Lynn Hughes, founder and director of the museum. "The youngest of them is now 88; most thought that this part of history would be forgotten". For additional information about the Pullman Porter Museum Gallery, you can phone (773) 928-3935.

By Lori Erickson

\*\*\*\*\*

## CAAGS WEBSITE PROJECT

The following items have been considered for the CAAGS Website.

### **Title Page**

- Logo
- Mission Statement
- CAAGS Address
- Counter or Hit Device
- Website Engineer

### **Side Bars**

- Newsletter
- List of Officers
- Disclaimer
- Committees
- Regional Caucus
- Projects
- Book List with Order Form
- Old Newsletters
- CAAGS Library
- CAAGS Calendar
- Queries
- Membership Research Information
- Pictures

### **Hyperlinks**

- Comment Section (Guest Book)
- Contact Information
- Other Black Organizations

Check it out at <http://www.members.tripod.com/~CAAGS2000/index.html>

If you have any suggestions or wish to work on the website, please contact Kwame Welsh.

**CAAGS REGIONAL CAUCUS  
BREAKDOWN**

First Region

- **Mid Atlantic States**  
Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia
- **Southeast States**  
Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee
- **West Indies**

Second Region

- **New England States**  
Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont
- **Northeast States**  
New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands

Third Region

- **Great Lakes States**  
Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin
- **Central Plains States**  
Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska

Fourth Region

- **Southwest States**  
Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas
- **Rocky Mountain States**  
Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming and New Mexico

Fifth Region

- **Pacific Southwest States**  
Arizona and Southern California
- **Pacific Sierra States**  
Northern California, Hawaii, Nevada, the Pacific Trust Territories and American Samoa

Sixth Region

- **Pacific Northwest States**  
Idaho, Oregon and Washington
- **Alaska**

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**FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE**

**Six-Month Recycling Thon**

This is the fourth month of our Six-Month Recycling Thon. As of today, we have a total of \$110.25. Do not forget to bring your recyclables -- there are only two general meetings left before the Recycling Thon ends on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Free trash bags are available at the fundraising table. Remember you can transport your own recyclables to a recycling center

and donate the funds. We encourage any suggestions you may have for CAAGS' future fundraising endeavors. Thank you for participating in our Recycling Thon.

Submitted by Erma Hurse

The Fundraising Committee would like to thank all who participated in our many events.

\*\*\*\*\*

**CHURCH OF LATTER DAY SAINTS  
FORTY PERCENT BOOK SALE**

The Church of Latter Day Saints located on Santa Monica Blvd. in Los Angeles, CA is having a 40% discount sale on their inventory of books. For further information, contact Rozella Hall (213) 291-2843.

Rozella also teaches a genealogy class every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at the Church.

\*\*\*\*\*

**THE WEST COAST EDUCATIONAL,  
CULTURAL & WRITERS FESTIVAL**

Will be hosted by The Cameron Eugene Jackson's Library & Malik's Bookstore at the Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza, 3650 West Martin Luther King Blvd., on Saturday, September 19, 1998, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For further information call (323) 779-2411.

West Coast Flyer

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**"FOOTPRINTS ALONG  
THE PAPER TRAILS"**

The Ventura County Genealogical Society will hold its 1998 Seminar on Saturday, October 17, 1998, from 7:30 am to 4:00 p.m., at the First United Methodist Church in Trotter Hall at 1338 East Santa Clara Street, Ventura, CA. The guest speaker will be Fran Carter.

VCGS invites all to bring surname information to post on our surname exchange "Ancestor Honor Roll", to share with fellow researchers. Include ancestors' name, birth, (when & where), death, (when & where). Also include your name, address and phone number and an e-mail address if you would like. Bring as many surnames as you care to.

VCGS Flyer

**FILM TELLS STORY OF 28 ALL-BLACK TOWNS FOUNDED BY EX-SLAVES**

*LA Sentinel*, Thursday, 2/19/98, p, B4

Detroit writer Ann Eskridge has created a film, "Echoes Across the Prairie: The Vanishing Black West," that documents the history of 28 all-Black towns in Oklahoma.

The towns were developed by freed slaves after the Civil War.

"This is our history," Eskridge recently told The Detroit News. "If we are not willing to help, to preserve, to restore, why should we ask anyone else?"

The all-Black towns developed as farming communities after the Civil War. Freed slaves restricted by the Jim Crow laws in the South and persecuted by the Ku Klux Klan, migrated west and settled in Oklahoma.

Indians who owned slaves in Oklahoma also were told to free them and gave the newly freed Blacks land in what became Tallahassee, the first all-Black town, said Currie Ballard, historian-in-residence at Langston University in Langston, Oklahoma, one of the Black towns.

Early residents often couldn't read or write, so these towns depended on oral history. Much of that history was lost, though, when residents left during the Great Depression.

Now their story is beginning to emerge.

Besides Ms. Eskridge's film, novelist Toni Morrison's new book, "Paradise," talks about the all-Black Oklahoma towns.

Ms. Eskridge found film shot by a Black minister in 1925, which showed prosperous neighborhoods with banks, stores and a thriving agricultural base. But when the Great Depression hit, residents were forced to move north or west to find jobs.

"The Great Depression... was devastating for the all-Black towns," Ballard said. He estimates perhaps a dozen of the original 28 towns remain, and as few as four are likely to survive beyond 10 more years.

"The other towns, I don't know. They're losing population," Ballard said. Towns like Gibson Station have populations under 150, and no major commerce or businesses to keep the city going.

The town of Greyson, Oklahoma, which has 125 residents and two remaining building, is fighting to keep its history alive. The city has applied to have the town's jail designated a National Historic Landmark and is raising money to restore the two-room elementary school.

Grayson Mayor JoAnn Fox uses Ms. Eskridge's film to help raise awareness of these Black towns.

"I think it's going to be history that's lost if no one records it," Fox said. "This is what I have been wanting to do for a long time."

Submitted by Rozella Hall

\*\*\*\*\*

**VOLUNTEERS**

Two members are needed for the Audit Committee to review the records of the Treasurer for the end of the fiscal year. If you are interested in assisting in this matter, please contact Kwame Welsh, President,

\*\*\*\*\*

**EVENTS IN THE HOOD**

The Afrikan Women's Repertory Co. presents "Unspoken Words", at The Complex-Flight Theatre, 6476 Santa Monica Blvd., Hollywood, CA 90038, September 3 - October 11, 1998. For further information contact Rashida Turner (800) 980-5438.

The Unity Players Ensemble presents "Company Policy" (for mature audiences only), at The Inglewood Playhouse, 740 Warren Avenue, Inglewood, CA in the Edward Vincent Park, formerly Centinela Park. For further information call (213) 860-3208.

\*\*\*\*\*

**AFRICAN-AMERICAN GENEALOGY CRUISE**

If you or someone you may know is interested in taking a Genealogy Cruise with other African-American Genealogist from around the world, please contact the Editor.

**CAAGS CALENDAR**

September 19, 1998 - Show & Tell.

October 17, 1998 – Show & Tell continued and Regional Caucus Groupings.

October 29-November 1, 1998 – The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference for AAHGS will be held in Washington, DC. Deadline for registration is September 15, 1998.

November 21, 1998 - Roundtable Discussion and Election of Officers.

December 19, 1998 - Christmas Party and Installation of Officers.

January 16, 1999 – To be announced.

\*\*\*\*\*

**COMMITTEES**

If you have any interest in joining one of the following Committees, please contact Kenneth Kwame Welsh, President.

**Standing Committees**

Education Outreach  
Finance

• Budget  
Membership Program

• Allensworth  
• Jamboree

Publications

- CAAGS Roster
- Calendar (1998-2000)
- Cemetery/Mortuary/Obituary
- Newsletter
- Surname Directory

**Subcommittees**

Audit  
Nominating

**Adhoc Committees**

Fundraising  
Hospitality  
Mentor Program  
• Century Club  
Public Relations

\*\*\*\*\*

MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO THE BOARD MEETINGS, THE FIRST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH, LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED.

The October Board Meeting will be held at the home of Vera Merritt.

**OFFICERS**

President

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(213) 756-2804

Fundraising Chairperson

Charlotte Bocage  
E-Mail: rubymoon1@juno.com  
(213) 669-1982

Public Relations

Open

\*\*\*\*\*

**1998 HOSPITALITY CHAIRPERSON**

Sandra Welsh  
(213) 766-0677

CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
P. O. Box 8442  
Los Angeles, CA 90008-0442

ATTN: JEANETTE SCOTT

1998 MEMBERSHIP NEW/RENEWAL APPLICATION  
(please circle one)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth (MM/DD) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME: \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Home/Business)

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

SURNAMES AND LOCATIONS YOU ARE RESEARCHING: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL SKILLS: \_\_\_\_\_ OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Organization & Libraries \$30.00     New     Renewal Year \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

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

Website Address: http://www.members.tripod.com/~CAAGS2000/index.html

EDITOR Gena Weaver, ISSN 1083-8937, Vol. 10 No. 10, Oct 1998

CAAGS MEETING

October 17, 1998

Martin Luther King, Jr.
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NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

October 22, 1998 for November 1998 issue

\*\*\*\*\*

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

A listing of e-mail addresses is located at the sign-in
table of each meeting, or you may request the current
listing from the Editor.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Firstly, I want to thank the Board Members and the
appointed Officers of CAAGS for their dedication in
carrying out the business and growth of the Society.
Members please show the leaders of the Society
some respect and honor for their work.

Secondly, I want to thank those who participated in
Show and Tell in September. For those who couldn't
participate, you will get your chance. We will have
Show and Tell (Part Two) in October as well. We
have talked about having it more than once per year.

Members, please share your research tips, ideas and
information with the other members and donate to
our Library as well.

Submit your ideas for: member and guest speakers,
ways to make our meetings run smoother,
information about grants and fundraising, and about
buildings/sites that we might be able to use in the
future as a permanent home.

Remember that November is our election month.
Nominate someone for office, and come ready to
vote. Make sure your membership is paid so that
you can vote.

Members, thank you, for making this your
genealogical society.

Your friend,

Kenneth Kwame Welsh

HALLOWEEN

Go up to your fears and speak to them, and they will
generally fade away.

By A. Maclaren, D.D.



**OCTOBER HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE**

Ron Batiste      Phyllis Stones  
Jan Johnson     I. Walton  
Ethel L. Jones   Marilyn White  
Lloydine Outten Lyndell Wesley

Please don't forget to bring refreshments for the October meeting.

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**BIRTHDAY WISHES!**

Perry Booth                      Antoinette Morehead  
SeElcy Caldwell                William N. Russell  
Mary E. Chin                    Joyce Sumbi  
Timothy Dolberry              Patrick Sumlin  
Gwendolyn Harris             Marilyn White  
T. Race Headen                Bobbie Wright  
Patricia Jackson

\*\*\*\*\*

**NEW MEMBERS – WELCOME!**

Sarah Cooper  
Daniel D. Davis, Jr.  
Hollis R. Hoxie  
Barbara Mosby

Sarah Cooper is researching Cooper.

Daniel Davis is researching Davis and Howze.

Hollis Hoxie is researching Hoxie.

Barbara Mosby is researching Mosby.

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**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Nominations are now being taken for First Vice President, Treasurer and Recording Secretary.

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**1998 MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Bylaws, Article I, Section 3

Membership fees are due and payable in January of each year. Members whose dues have not been paid to the Treasurer by March 1<sup>st</sup> will have their names removed from all the Organization's mailing and membership lists. A member removed for non-

payment of dues will be reinstated after paying the delinquent dues.

**NEW MEMBERS** joining in November or December dues shall apply to subsequent year.

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**AFRICAN-AMERICAN GENEALOGY CRUISE**

A 4-5 day cruise is being planned for the summer of the year 2001 to the Caribbean. If you or someone you may know is interested in taking a Genealogy Cruise with other African-American Genealogists from around the world, please contact the Editor.

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**CENTURY CLUB NEWS**

CAAGS is fortunate to have past President, Ronald Higgins, volunteer to chair "CAAGS Century Club". He requests your help in making this CAAGS undertaking a success.

You are asked to provide names and address of candidates for this elite club. Century Club candidates must be 100 years old or older and a resident of the state of California.

Please forward names of candidates to:

Ronald Higgins  
Century Club  
Post Office Box 8442  
Los Angeles, CA 90008-0442

or provide information at the next CAAGS meeting.

Submitted by Patricia Jackson

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**FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE**

**Six-Month Recycling Thon**

This was the fifth month of our Six-Month Recycling Thon. As of today, we have a total of \$133.17. Do not forget to bring your recyclables -- there is only one month left before the Recycling Thon ends on October 17<sup>th</sup>.

Free trash bags are available at the fundraising table. Remember you can transport your own recyclables to a recycling center and donate the funds. We encourage any suggestions you may have for CAAGS' future fundraising endeavors.

Thank you for participating in our Recycling Thon.

Submitted by Erma Hurse

### African American Greetings

The Fundraising Committee has just what you need for the upcoming holidays. We are offering an exquisite line of "African American Greetings". You will find this line of Christmas Cards, Note Cards, Checkbook Planners, Calendars, Kwanzaa cards and more will meet the approval of the most selective holiday shopper.

Come to our October meeting and see the beauty and quality of this product. You will not be disappointed.

All orders must be placed by October 17, 1998. Orders received will be distributed at the November CAAGS meeting.

Submitted by Pat Jackson

### Holiday Fundraising

CAAGS Fundraising will be selling special holiday shopping tickets for the Fox Hills Mall on Sunday, November 22, 1998 from 7PM - 10PM only. Tickets are \$5.00 to enjoy special small selection discounts, door prizes, celebrity appearances, entertainment, Santa Claus, and a grand prize drawing. If you are interested in this special event, purchase your ticket(s) at the October General Meeting.

Submitted by Charlotte Bocage

The Fundraising Committee wishes to thank all who participated in our many events.

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### YOU MAY NOT HAVE TO WAIT 70 YEARS AFTER ALL—

Contributed by: Kathryn Smith

The Census Bureau will assist researchers in obtaining census records from the 1930-1990 Federal returns for any person for whom you can supply proof of death. "Age Search" will for \$25.00

search any two-census records. The search is limited to the person for whom you are requesting information, but you may ask for other family members to be included for a \$2.00 per person fee. The basic fee includes an official document stating the person's name, age, place of birth, citizenship and relationship to the head of the household. Form DC-600, which is required, may be obtained from any Social Security Office or by writing: Bureau of the Census, "AGE SEARCH", Post Office Box 1545, Jeffersonville, IN 47111, (from the *Odom Family Tree*, June/July 1997 via Sam Karoon Valley GS, July/August 1997)

Submitted by Ronald Higgins

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### THE END

*Genealogy Bulletin* #46, July/August, page 18

Are you prepared for The End? Someday each of us is going to die; we know and accept that fact. Many of us make our wills and feel comfortable that everything pertaining to our death is in order. Everything? As a working genealogist have you given any thought to all the "stuff" and family history that you've collected during all your researching years? I found an old article by John W. Heisey (*Tri-State Trader*, May 30, 1981) addressing this problem. "How about your genealogical papers, files, books, records, notes and all the clutter and unfinished business of a genealogist? What are you going to do about that? Leave it for your survivors to dispose of? If you really think the material is worthwhile, YOU must leave instructions regarding its disposal." Heisey suggested that we make a plan and leave notes telling our survivors these things: (1) what is pure family history and should be kept by the family; (2) what are bonafide reference materials (books, maps, etc.) and should be given to your local historical or genealogical society; and (3) what are your miscellaneous research notes and copies that may be tossed out. I add my voice to his; do get prepared for the end. Now!

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### RECORDS DISCOVERED

"Disabled American Veterans Bulletin", Newsletter April/March 1998

The Veteran's Administration has discovered some 10 million duplicates of 20<sup>th</sup> Century military

records thought to have been destroyed in their 1973 fire. If you have been told the records you need were burned in that fire, you may want to write again:

National Personnel Records  
GSA  
9700 Page Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63132

Advise them -- Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marines -- and they will send you forms to obtain all copies of your active duty records.

*CSGA Newsletter*, Vol. 16, No. 8 (August 1998)

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### EVENTS IN THE HOOD

**16<sup>th</sup> Annual American Cancer Society, Minnie Riperton 5/10K Run & Walk**, Sunday, November 8, 1998 (6:30 AM registration, 7:30 AM Kids Fund Run, 8:00 AM Race & Walk) at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, near the statues of Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. The cost is \$15 in advance and \$20 on the day of the event.

African American singer, Minnie Riperton was a sensational recording artist with a talent not only for entertainment, but for cancer education and awareness as well. In 1979, at the early age of 31, she died after fighting an intense struggle against breast cancer. Prior to her death, Minnie served as an American Cancer Society Volunteer where she participated in a number of special programs.

She continues to be acknowledged as one of America's first entertainers to emphasize the need for education and early detection in the battle against cancer. In celebration of her memory, the American Cancer Society has selected the month of November as Minnie Riperton Cancer Action Month. During this time, the tradition of education is continued through a series of free health education programs and screenings conducted throughout the Central Los Angeles area. These programs are designed to increase public awareness of cancer, focusing on the importance of early detection and the various treatments that are available.

Each year, the Run/Walk is coordinated by long-time American Cancer Society Volunteers, the Renaissance Runners, a local Los Angeles running club.

Come join or sponsor CAAGS member Ellis Jones in this event. For more information call (213) 386-6102. (Flyer)

**South Bay Cities Genealogical Society**, General Meeting, October 21, 1998 at 7:00 PM, Torrance Civic Center Library, Meeting Room, 3301 Torrance Blvd. (*CSGA Newsletter*, Vol. 16, No. 8, August 1998)

**WOFA: Music and Dance from West Africa**, Friday, October 23, 1998 at 8 PM. Chosen from 1000 African companies to tour the world, these percussionists and dancers from the Soussou group of Guinea are a whirlwind of energy and color that's been described as cross between Stomp and The Lion King. WOFA means "come along" in the Soso language. Heed the call. It's quite a trip. For more information, please contact El Camino College, Center for the Arts, 16007 Crenshaw Blvd., Torrance, CA 90506, (310) 660-3700. (*Joy of Music*, Schedule of Classes for the Fall and Spring Semesters, 1998-99).

**"Black Students and the Struggle for Justice: Issues of Crisis, Confrontation & Challenge"**, October 18, 1998 at 3:00 PM, Moderator: Mr. David Love, President, Alliance for Students of African Descent, Panelists: Mr. Emahn Counts, Pres., BSU, Loyola Marymount University; Mr. Kevin Griggs, President, BSU, Los Angeles Southwest College; Ms. Janae Oliver, President, Pan-African Student Union, CSU Dominguez Hills; Ms. Noluthano Williams, Chair, ASU, UCLA. For more information, please contact The Organization US, African American Cultural Center, 2560 West 54<sup>th</sup> Street, Los Angeles, CA 90043, (323) 299-6124. (Flyer)

**"Readings from the Odu Ita: Yoruba Spiritual and Ethical Teachings"**, October 25, 1998 at 3:00 PM, Readings and brief commentaries on the verses from the Odu Ita, the sacred text of Uorubaland concerning issues of life and good living. Lecturer: Dr. Maulana Karenga, Professor and Chair Department of Black Studies. CSULB; chair The Organization Us; creator of Kwanzaa, author of *Kwanzaa: A Celebration of Family, Community and Culture*. For more information, please contact The Organization US, African American Cultural Center, 2560 West 54<sup>th</sup> Street, Los Angeles, CA 90043, (323) 299-6124. (Flyer)

**African Dance: Experience the Energy & Healing of African Rhythms!** Monday, October 26, 1998, 6:30-9:30 PM, Course 103, Section C, Westside, Course fee is \$29. In this fun, high-energy evening, master drummer and dancer Ayo Adeyemi will teach you the basic steps of West African dance, and show you how to use the rhythm of dance for self-healing and rejuvenation. "Where I come from everyone is a

drummer and a dancer," Master Ayo says. "It is a way of life that keeps you alive and well. It is our community ritual, how we celebrate life." You'll experience African-style sacred movement from the inside out, as you move to the beat of live drummers from Yoruba House. Everyone is welcome. This class will free your spine and lift your spirit!

Ayo Adeyemi is a master drummer and dancer from Nigeria, West Africa, and co-director of Yoruba House, a drum and dance school in West Los Angeles. For more information please contact The Learning Annex, 11850 Wilshire Blvd., Suite #100, Los Angeles, CA 90025, Attn: Registrar, (310) 478-6677. (*The Learning Annex, Creativity & Fun, Dance, p. 41*)

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### ***SOUTH CENTRAL LOS ANGELES HISTORY PROJECT***

The Southern California Library for Social Studies and Research is seeking documents for its South Central Los Angeles History Project.

Have you lived in, attended church or school, worked in or belonged to social and civic organizations in the Vermont Square, Goodyear Tract, Furlong Tract, Vermont, Slauson, Crenshaw District, Jefferson Park and other areas of South Central Los Angeles since World War I?

Do you know someone who has?

If your answer is "yes," the Southern California Library for Social Studies and Research would like to talk to you about donating information that reflects the everyday life of the people and the history of social justice, community race relations, civil rights and labor for its South Central History Project.

Prior to this large migration of African Americans from the South in the mid-1940s, many residents of these neighborhoods were of Russian, German, Chinese, Jewish, French, Armenian, Italian,

Mexican and Japanese descent. Information about all these groups will complete the mosaic that has always been South Central. The economic history of the area, including business, manufacturing, and labor, neighborhood development, schools, the impact of the freeways, church histories, fraternal organizations, block clubs, union locals, political groups, cultural groups, and the history of gangs are important themes in this year-long project.

Funded by a grant from the John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation, with additional support from the ARCO and Times Mirror Foundations, the Library is also collecting family histories, photographs and memorabilia.

An archive of published or semi-published organizational histories reports, newsletters and correspondence will be created. A series of interviews will also be conducted to supplement this written documentation.

Do you have pertinent organizational papers, photographs, scrapbooks, or other historical materials? Are you willing to donate them, or loan them to be copied?

If you would like to participate in this monumental project, please contact Sarah Cooper, Director, Southern California Library for Social Studies and Research, 6120 South Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90044, (323) 759-6063 phone or (323) 759-2252 fax

Drawing on the materials collected and loaned, the Library will host an exhibition on the history of South Central Los Angeles in 1999. Your participation will help preserve community history for future generations.

The Library is open to the public, Tuesday-Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (News Release).

Submitted by Rozella Hall

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### ***SCHEDULE OF COLONIAL, TERRITORIAL, AND STATE CENSUS RECORDS***

Alabama: 1801, 1808, 1810, 1818, 1820, 1821, 1823, 1832, 1838, 1840, 1844, 1850, 1855, 1866, 1875.

Alaska: 1870, 1876, 1878, 1880, 1881, 1885, 1887, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907.

Arizona: 1790, 1796, 1864, 1866, 1867, 1869.

Arkansas: 1823, 1829, 1854.

California: 1790, 1798, 1836, 1852, 1855, 1865, 1875, 1885, 1895, 1897, 1905, 1915, 1925, 1935.

(to be continued)

**CAAGS CALENDAR**

October 17, 1998 – Show & Tell continued and Regional Caucus Groupings.

October 29-November 1, 1998 – The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference for AAHGS will be held in Washington, DC. Deadline for registration is September 15, 1998.

November 21, 1998 - Roundtable Discussion and Election of Officers.

December 19, 1998 - Christmas Party and Installation of Officers.

January 16, 1999 – To be announced.

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**COMMITTEES**

If you have any interest in joining one of the following Committees, please contact Kenneth Kwame Welsh, President.

**Standing Committees**

Education Outreach  
Finance

• Budget  
Membership Program

• Allensworth  
• Jamboree

Publications

- CAAGS Roster
- Calendar (1998-2000)
- Cemetery/Mortuary/Obituary
- Newsletter
- Surname Directory

**Subcommittees**

Audit  
Nominating

**Ad-Hoc Committees**

Fundraising  
Hospitality  
Mentor Program  
• Century Club  
Public Relations

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MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO THE BOARD MEETINGS, THE FIRST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH, LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED.

The November Board Meeting location will be announced at the October Meeting.

**OFFICERS**

President

Kenneth Kwame Welsh  
E-Mail: wrelcserv@hotmail.com  
(213) 766-0677

1st Vice President

Erma J. Hurse  
E-Mail: emerald@clubnet.net  
(909) 736-5461

2nd Vice President/Membership

Jeanette Scott  
E-Mail: JSherbs@aol.com  
(213) 299-7641

Recording Secretary/ Parliamentarian

Marjorie Higgins  
E-Mail: mhigg71503@aol.com  
(213) 777-4816

Correspondence Secretary

DorothyLou Sands  
E-Mail: bipsylou@aol.com  
(213) 299-8642

Treasurer

Vera Merritt  
E-Mail: vmerrit@aol.com  
(310) 215-1626

Newsletter Editor

Gena Weaver  
E-Mail: XPAR@worldnet.att.net (or)  
GWeaver001@yahoo.com  
(213) 526-2971 (pager)  
(323) 857-0287 (fax)

Librarian

Evelyn Ross  
E-Mail: Evross358@aol.com  
(213) 299-7740

Historian

Marilyn White  
E-Mail: marol@aol.com  
(213) 756-2804

Fundraising Chairperson

Charlotte Bocage  
E-Mail: rubymoon1@juno.com  
(213) 669-1982

Public Relations

Open

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**1998 HOSPITALITY CHAIRPERSON**

Sandra Welsh  
(213) 766-0677

CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
P. O. Box 8442  
Los Angeles, CA 90008-0442

ATTN: JEANETTE SCOTT

1998 MEMBERSHIP NEW/RENEWAL APPLICATION  
(please circle one)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth (MM/DD) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME: \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Home/Business)

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

SURNAMES AND LOCATIONS YOU ARE RESEARCHING: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL SKILLS: \_\_\_\_\_ OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Organization & Libraries \$30.00     New     Renewal Year \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

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

Website Address: <http://www.members.tripod.com/~CAAGS2000/index.html>

EDITOR R. McMurray, ISSN 1083-8937, Vol. 10 No. 11, Nov 1998

CAAAGS MEETING

November 21, 1998

Martin Luther King, Jr.
United Methodist Church
6625 4th Avenue & 67th St.
Los Angeles, CA 90043

General Schedule
9:00 - 10:30 Classes
Beginners and Intermediate

10:30 - 11:00 - Business Meeting
11:00 - 11:15 - Break
11:30 - 1:00 - Regional Caucus Groupings,
Roundtable Discussion and Election of Officers.

(Schedule is subject to change without notice.)

DISCLAIMER

The Editor nor CAAGS assumes any responsibility
for articles submitted to the Newsletter by its
members.

QUERIES

The Editor would appreciate any queries you may
have for the Newsletter.

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NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

November 22, 1998 for December 1998 issue

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E-MAIL ADDRESSES AND
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

A listing of e-mail addresses and the membership
application is located at the sign-in table of each
meeting, or you may request the current listing/
application from the Editor.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Society Members! I want to thank everyone
who participated in the Show and Tell (part 2) for
the month of October. It was indeed lively and eye
opening. We learned about the lives of some of our
members, and the similarities of our individual
family experiences.

Next year, we plan on having two Show and Tells
again, but probably spaced apart.

Members, please come to the November meeting
ready to nominate and vote for our elected officers. I
want to thank all those who volunteered for other
positions of leadership and service. Please make
sure that your dues are paid so that you are eligible
to vote for your choice(s).

Have a wonderful, fun-filled Thanksgiving Holiday!
And bring your family together with all those stories
and interesting experiences your families have
shared in the past and present.

Take care, and help us with the Society's planning.

Your friend,

Kenneth Kwame Welsh

THANKSGIVING

We cannot erase the sad records from our past.

By A. Maclaren, D.D.

NOVEMBER HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Barbara Mosby
Lloydine Outten
Roberta Reddick
Doris Rogers

Please don't forget to bring refreshments for the
November meeting.

**BIRTHDAY WISHES!**

Hollis R. Hoxie  
Herbert Laffoon, Jr.  
Sally Lakatta  
Betty Lawson  
Daphne Niall  
Jeanette C. Scott

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**NEW MEMBERS – WELCOME!**

Lonnie R. Bunkley  
Thelma Cameron  
Kim E. Clark  
Ruth Teague

Lonnie Bunkley is researching Bunkley.

Thelma Cameron is researching Cameron, Giles, Hart and Snodgrass.

Kim Clark is researching Elston, Jackson and Scott.

Ruth Teague is researching Teague.

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**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Elections will be held at the November meeting for the offices of First Vice President, Treasurer and Recording Secretary. Please come to the meeting and cast your vote.

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**1998 MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Membership fees are due and payable in January of each year. Members whose dues have not been paid to the Treasurer by March 1<sup>st</sup> will have their names removed from all the Organization's mailing and membership lists. A member removed for non-payment of dues will be reinstated after paying the delinquent dues.

NEW MEMBERS joining in November or December dues shall apply to subsequent year.

\*\*\*\*\*

**FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE**

**"The African American Greetings"**

For members who purchased "The African American Greetings", your orders will be available for pick up at the November meeting. Please be on hand to pick up your merchandise. Response to this fundraiser has been wonderful. Thanks to all who participated.

Submitted by Pat Jackson

**Six-Month Recycling Thon**

Members, you still have another chance to bring your recyclable items. Our Six-Month Recycling Thon has been continued to Saturday, November 21, 1998.

Thanks again for your contribution to our recycling fund. We have a total of \$140.82

Submitted by Erma Hurse

**CAAGS' 1999 Conference**

The Fundraising Committee is planning a one-day conference entitled "Shared Heritage," on Saturday, October 16, 1999. We are in the process of creating a committee to help organize the events for the conference, and anyone who would like to participate, please contact Erma Hurse.

Submitted by Erma Hurse

The Fundraising Committee would like to thank all who participated in our many events.

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**CENTURY CLUB NEWS**

The purpose of CAAGS Century Club is to acknowledge African American centurions, who reside in the State of California, and provide them with genealogical information that reflects a part of their life. We would encourage their family member to embrace their history by saving and preserving family treasures.

Members are asked to submit names and addresses of candidates to:

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



or call:

Pat Jackson  
(909) 987-1718

Submitted by Pat Jackson

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CHURCH CHAIR DONATION

If you or someone you know has access to chairs for our Society meetings, please contact Kwame Welsh, President.

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DICK GREGORY: FROM THE FILE

www.carlnelson.com

John Hanson, a "Black" Man and a Moor, was the First President of the United States! 1781-1782A

George Washington was really the 8<sup>th</sup> President of the United States!

George Washington was not the first President of the United States. The first President was John Hanson. Don't go checking the encyclopedia for this guy's name - he is one of those great men who are lost to history. If you're extremely lucky, you may actually find a brief mention of his name.

The new country was actually formed on March 1, 1781, with the adoption of The Articles of Confederation. This document was actually proposed on June 11, 1776, but not agreed upon by Congress until November 15, 1777. Maryland refused to sign this document until Virginia and New York ceded their western lands (Maryland was afraid that these states would gain too much power in the new government from such large amounts of land).

Once the signing took place in 1781, a president was needed to run the country. John Hanson was chosen unanimously by Congress (which included George Washington). In fact, all the other potential candidates refused to run against him, as he was a major player in the Revolution and an extremely influential member of Congress.

As the first President, Hanson had quite the shoes to fill. No one had ever been president and the role was poorly defined. His actions in office would set precedent for all future presidents.

He took office just as the Revolutionary War ended. Almost immediately, the troops demanded to be paid. As would be expected after any long war, there were no funds to meet the salaries. As a result, the soldiers threatened to overthrow the new government and put George Washington on the throne as a monarch.

All the members of Congress ran for their lives, leaving Hanson as the only guy left running the government. He shows how he managed to calm the troops down and hold the country together. If he had failed, the government would have fallen almost immediately and everyone would have been bowing to King Washington. In fact, Hanson sent 800 pounds of sterling silver by his brother Samuel Hanson to George Washington to provide the troops with shoes.

Hanson, as President, ordered all foreign troops off American soil, as well as the removal of all foreign flags. This was quite the fact that so many European countries had a stake in the United States since the days following Columbus.

Hanson established the Great Seal of the United States, which all Presidents have since been required to use on all official documents.

President Hanson also established the first Treasury Department, the first Secretary of War and the first Foreign Affairs Department.

Lastly, he declared that the fourth Thursday of every November was to be Thanksgiving Day, which is still true today.

The Articles of the Confederation only allowed a president to serve a one year term during any three year period, so Hanson actually accomplished quite a bit in such time.

Six other president were elected after him - Elias Boudinot (1783), Thomas Mifflin (1784), Richard Henry Lee (1785), Nathan Gorman (1786), Arthur St. Clair (1787), and Cyrus Griffin (1788) - all prior to Washington taking office.

So what happened?

Why don't we ever hear about the first seven Presidents of the United States?

It's quite simple - The Article of the Confederation didn't work well. The individual states had too much power and nothing could be agreed upon.

A new doctrine needed to be written - something we know as the Constitution.

And that leads us to the end of our story. George Washington was definitely not the first President of the United States. He was the first President of the United States under the Constitution we follow today.

And the first seven Presidents are forgotten in history.

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**FREDERICK DOUGLASS SPEAKS ON  
WILLIE LYNCH**

Frederick Douglass, [www.carlnelson.com](http://www.carlnelson.com)

The following treatise, to the knowledgeable, will be the missing link that has been sought to explain how we were put into the condition that we find ourselves in today. It confirms the fact that the slaveholder tried to leave nothing to chance when it came to his property; his slaves. It demonstrates, how out of necessity, the slave holder had to derive a system for perpetuating his cash crop, the slave, while at the same time insulating himself from retribution by his unique property.

A careful analysis of the following "handbook" will hopefully change the ignorant among our people who say "Why study slavery?" Those narrow minded people will be shown that the condition of our people is due to a scientific and psychological blueprint for the perpetuation of the mental condition that allowed slavery to flourish. The slaveholder was keenly aware of the breeding principles of his livestock and the following treatise demonstrates that he thoroughly used those principles on his human livestock as well, the Afrikan slave, and added a debilitating psychological component as well.

It was the interest and business of slaveholders to study human nature, in particular, with view to practical results, and many of them attained astonishing proficiency in this direction. They had to deal not with earth, wood, and stone, but with men, and by every regard they had, for their own safety and posterity, the need to know the material on which they were to work.

Conscious of the injustice and wrong they were every hour perpetuating, and knowing what they themselves would do if they were the victims of such wrongs. They were constantly looking for the first signs of the dreaded retribution. They watched,

therefore, with skilled and practiced eyes, and learned to read, with great accuracy, the state of mind and heart of the slave, through his stable face. Unusual sobriety, apparent abstraction, sullenness, and indifference, indeed any mood out of the common way, afforded ground for suspicion and inquiry. "Let's Make a Slave" is a study of the scientific process of man breaking and slave making. It describes the rationale and results of the Anglo Saxon's ideas and methods of insuring the master/slave relationship.

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**LET'S MAKE A SLAVE  
BY  
WILLIE LYNCH**

The Origin and Development of a Social Being Called "The Negro".

Let us make a slave. What do we need?

First of all, we need a nigger man, a pregnant nigger woman and her baby nigger boy. Second, we will use the same basic principle that we use in breaking a horse, combined with some more sustaining factors. We reduce them from their natural state in nature; where as nature provides them with the natural capacity to take care of their needs and the needs of their offspring, we break that natural string of independence from them and thereby create a dependency state so that we may be able to get from them useful production for our business and pleasure.

**CARDINAL PRINCIPLE FOR MAKING A NEGRO.** For fear that our future generations may not understand the principle of breaking both horses and men, we lay down the art. For, if we are to sustain our basic economy we must break both of the beasts together, the nigger and the horse. We understand that short range planning in economics results in periodic economic chaos, so that, to avoid turmoil in the economy, it requires us to have breadth and depth in long range comprehensive planning, articulating both skill and sharp perception. We lay down the following principles for long range comprehensive economic planning:

1. Both horse and niggers are no good to the economy in the wild or natural state.
2. Both must be broken and tied together for orderly production.
3. For orderly futures, special and particular

attention must be paid to the female and the youngest offspring.

4. Both must be crossbred to produce a variety and division of labor.
5. Both must be taught to respond to a peculiar new language.
6. Psychological and physical instruction of containment must be created for both.

We hold the above six cardinals as trusts to be self-evident, based upon following discourse concerning the economics of breaking and tying the horse and nigger together...all inclusive of the six principles laid down above. NOTE: Neither principles alone will suffice for good economics. All principles must be employed for the orderly good of the nation. Accordingly, both a wild horse and a wild or natural nigger is dangerous even if captured, for they will have the tendency to seek their customary freedom, and, in doing so, might kill you in your sleep. You cannot rest. They sleep while you are awake and are awake while you are asleep. They are dangerous near the family house and it requires too much labor to watch them away from the house. Above all, you cannot get them to work in this natural state. Hence, both the horse and the nigger must be broken, that is, break them from one form of mental life to another, keep the body and take the mind. In other words, break the will to resist.

Now the breaking process is the same for the horse and the nigger, only slightly varying in degrees. But as we said before, you must keep your eye focused on the female and the offspring of the horse and the nigger. A brief discourse in offspring development will shed light on the key to sound economic principle. Pay little attention to the generation of original breaking but concentrate on future generations. Therefore, if you break the female, she will break the offspring in its early years of development and, when the offspring is old enough to work, she will deliver it up to you. For her normal female protective tendencies will have been lost in the original breaking process. For example, take the case of the wild stud horse, female horse and an already infant horse and compare the breaking process with two captured nigger males in their natural state, a pregnant nigger woman with her infant offspring. Take the stud horse, break him for limited containment. Completely break the female horse until she becomes very gentle whereas you or anybody can ride her in comfort. Then, you can turn the stud to freedom until you need him again. Train the female horse whereby she will eat out of your hand, and she will train the infant horse to eat of your hand, also.

pressure so as to do a completed reversal of the mind. Take the meanest and most restless nigger, strip him of his clothes in front of the remaining niggers, the female, and the nigger infant, tar and feather him, tie each leg to a different horse faced in opposite directions, set him afire and beat both horses to pull him apart in front of the remaining niggers. The next step is to take a bullwhip and beat the remaining nigger male to the point of death in front of the female and the infant. Don't kill him. But put the fear of God in him, for he can be useful for future breeding.

#### **THE BREAKING PROCESS OF THE AFRIKAN WOMAN.**

Take the female and run a series of tests on her to see if she will submit to your desire willingly. Test her in every way, because she is the most important factor for good economics. If she shows any signs of resistance in submitting completely to your will, do not hesitate to use the bullwhip on her to extract the last bit of bitch out of her. Take care not to kill her, for in doing so, you spoil good economics. When in complete submission, she will train her offspring in the early years to submit to labor when they become of age. Understanding is the best thing.

Therefore, we shall go deeper into this area of the subject matter concerning what we have produced here in the breaking of the female nigger. We have reversed the relationship. In her natural uncivilized state she would have a strong dependency on the uncivilized nigger male, and she would have a limited protective dependency toward her independent male offspring and would raise female offspring to be dependent like her. Nature had provided for this type of balance. We reversed nature by burning and dependent like her. We reversed nature by burning and pulling one civilized nigger apart and bullwhipping the other to the point of death--all in her presence. By her being left alone, unprotected, with male image destroyed, the ordeal caused her to move from her psychological dependent state to a frozen independent state. In this frozen psychological state of independence she will raise her male and female offspring in reversed roles. For fear of the young male's life, she will psychologically train him to be mentally weak and dependent, but physically strong. Because she has become psychologically independent, she will train her female offspring to be psychological independent as well. What have you got? You've got the nigger woman out front and the nigger man behind and scared. This is the perfect situation for sound sleep and economics. Before the breaking process, we had to be alert and on guard at all times. Now we can

When it come to breaking the uncivilized nigger, use the same process, but vary the degree and step up the

sleep soundly, for out of frozen, this woman stand guard for us. He cannot get past her early infant slave molding process. He is a good tool, now ready to be tied to the horse at a tender age. By the time a nigger boy reaches the age of sixteen, she is soundly broken in and ready for a long life of sound and efficient work and the reproduction of a unit of good labor force.

Continually, through the breaking of uncivilized savage niggers, by throwing the nigger female savage into a frozen psychological state of independence, by killing the protective male image, and by creating a submissive dependent mind of the nigger male slave, we have created an orbiting cycle that turns on its own axis forever, unless a phenomenon occurs and resists the positions of the male and female savages. We show what we mean by example. We breed two nigger males with two nigger females. Then we take the nigger males away from them and keep them moving and working. Say the nigger female bear a nigger female and the other bears a nigger male. Both nigger females, being without influence of the nigger male image, frozen with an independent psychology, will raise him to be mentally dependent and weak, but physically strong, in other words, body over mind. We will mate and breed them and continue the cycle. That is good, sound, and long range comprehensive planning.

**WARNING: POSSIBLE INTERLOPPING NEGATIVE.** Earlier, we talked about the non-economic good of the horse and the nigger in their wild or natural state; we talked out the principle of breaking and tying them together for orderly production, furthermore, we talked about paying particular attention to the female savage and her offspring for orderly future planning; then more recently we stated that, by reversing the positions of the male and female savages we had created an orbiting cycle that turns on its own axis forever, unless phenomenon occurred, and resisted the positions of the male and female savages.

Our experts warned us about the possibility of this phenomenon occurring, for they say that the mind has a strong drive to correct and recollect itself over a period of time if it can touch some substantial original historical base; and they advised us that the best way to deal with phenomenon is to shave off the brute's mental history and create a multiplicity of phenomenon or illusions so that each illusion will twirl in its own orbit, something akin to floating balls in a vacuum. This creation of multiplicity of phenomenon or illusions entails the principles of crossbreeding the nigger and the horse as we stated above, the purpose of which is to create a diversified division of labor. The result of which in severance

of the points of original beginning's for each spherical illusion. Since we feel that the subject matter may get more complicated as we proceed in laying down our economic plan concerning the purpose, reason, and effect of crossbreeding horses and niggers, we shall lay down the following definitional terms for future generations.

1. Orbiting cycle means a thing turning in a given pattern.
2. Axis means upon which or around which a body turns.
3. Phenomenon means something beyond ordinary conception and inspires awe and wonder.
4. Multiplicity means a great number.
5. Sphere means a globe.
6. Crossbreeding a horse means taking a horse and breeding it with an ass and you get a dumb backward ass, long headed mule that is not reproductive by itself.
7. Crossbreeding niggers means taking so many drops of pure white blood and putting them into as many nigger women as possible, varying the drops by the various tone that you want, and then letting them breed with each other until the cycle of colors appear as you desire.

What this means is this: Put the niggers and the horse in the breeding pot, mix some asses and some pure white blood and what do you get? You got a multiplicity of colors of ass backwards, unusual niggers, running, tied to backwards ass long headed mules, the one productive of itself, the other sterile. (The one constant, the other dying. We keep nigger constant for we may replace the mule for another tool) both mule and nigger tied to each other, neither productive for itself, nor without each other.

**CONTROLLED LANGUAGE.** Crossbreeding completed, for further severance from their original beginning, we must completely annihilate the mother tongue of both the nigger and the new mule and institute a new language that involves the new life's work of both. You know, language is a peculiar institution. It leads to the heart of people, the more a foreigner knows about the language of another country, the more he is able to move through all levels of that society. Therefore, if the foreigner is an enemy of the country, to the extent that he knows the body of the language, to the extent is the country vulnerable to attack or invasion of foreign culture. For example, you take the slave, if you teach him all about your language, he will know all your secrets, and he is then no more a slave, for you can't fool him any longer and having a fool is one of the basic ingredients of, and incidents to the making of the slavery system.

By *The Black Arcade Liberation Library*, 1970  
(recompiled and reedited by Kenneth T. Spann).

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### HOW TO TRAIN YOUR NIGGER

A Speech by Willie Lynch in 1712

Gentlemen:

"I greet you here on the bank of the James River in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and twelve. First, I shall thank you the gentlemen of the Colony of Virginia for bringing me here. I am here to help you solve some of your problems with slaves. Your invitation reached me on my modest plantation in the West Indies where I have experimented with some of the newest and still the oldest methods for the control of slaves. Ancient Rome would envy us if my program is implemented. As our boat sailed south on the James River, named for our illustrious King, whose version of the Bible we cherish, I saw enough to know that your problem is not unique. While Rome used cords of wood as crosses for standing human bodies along its old highways in great numbers you are here using the tree and the rope on occasion.

I caught a whiff of a dead slave hanging from a tree a couple of miles back. You are not only losing valuable stock by hangings, you are having uprisings, slaves are running away, your crops are sometimes left in the fields too long for maximum profit, you suffer occasional fires, your animals are killed, gentlemen, you know what your problems are; I do not need to elaborate, I am not here to enumerate your problems, I am here to introduce you to a method of solving them.

In my bag here, I have a foolproof method for controlling your Black Slaves. I guarantee everyone of you that if installed correctly, it will control the slaves for at least 300 years. My method is simply, any number of your family or any overseer can use it.

I have outlined a number of differences among the slaves and I take these differences and make them bigger. I use fear, distrust, and envy for control purposes. These methods have worked on my modest plantation in the West Indies and it will work throughout the South. Take this simple little list of differences, and think about them. On top of my list is "Age" but it is there only because it starts with an "A"; the second is "Color" or shade, there is intelligence, size, sex, size of plantations, status on plantations, attitude of owners, whether the slaves live in the valley, on a hill, East, West, North, South,

have fine or coarse hair, or are tall or short. Now that you have a list of differences, I shall give you an outline of action - but, before that I shall assure you that distrust is stronger than trust, and envy is stronger than adulation, respect or admiration.

The Black Slave after receiving this indoctrination, shall carry on and will become self refueling and self generating for hundreds of years, maybe thousands. Don't forget you must pitch the old black vs. the young black male, and the young black male against the old black male. You must use the dark skin slaves vs. the light skin slaves and the light skin slaves vs. the dark skin slaves. You must use the female vs. the male, and the male vs. the female. You must also have your White servants and overseers distrust all Blacks, but it is necessary that your slaves trust and depend on us. They must love, respect, and trust only us.

Gentlemen, these kits are your keys to control, use them. Have your wives and children use them, never miss the opportunity. My plan is guaranteed, and the good thing about this plan is that if used intensely for one year, the slaves themselves will remain perpetually distrustful."

There is no record of this speech in any historical documents from the State of Virginia, or any other propaganda published about African-Americans. Its origin is unknown. There was, however, a William Lynch, a plantation owner from the West Indies, but not during this time period. There is also no shipping manifest that showed he ever came to America.

In addition, there was a William Lynch who actually lived in Virginia, who was known as the lynching judge, in which the word "lynch" was derived. He, too was not from the 17<sup>th</sup> Century as is the language of the speech.

To see more of this type of propaganda, visit the African-American archive section at the University of California, Santa Barbara. There are over 30,000 such statements and pictures about African-Americans with animal tails on file in their library.

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### SCHEDULED OF COLONIAL TERRITORIAL, AND STATE CENSUS RECORDS:

Colorado: 1861, 1866, 1885

Connecticut: 1636, 1756, 1762, 1774, 1798

Delaware: 1776, 1798

District of Columbia: 1798, 1803, 1807, 1818, 1867, 1878, 1885, 1888, 1897, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1912, 1913, 1915, 1919.

(to be continued).

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**CAAGS CALENDAR**

November 21, 1998 - Regional Caucus Groupings, Roundtable Discussion and Election of Officers.

December 19, 1998 - Christmas Party and Installation of Officers.

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**COMMITTEES**

If you have any interest in joining one of the following Committees, please contact Kenneth Kwame Welsh, President.

**Standing Committees**

Education Outreach

Finance

- Budget

Membership Program

- Allensworth
- Jamboree

Publications

- CAAGS Roster
- Calendar (1998-2000)
- Cemetery/Mortuary/Obituary
- Newsletter
- Surname Directory












**Subcommittees**

Audit

Nominating

**Ad-Hoc Committees**

Fundraising

Hospitality

Mentor Program

- Century Club

Public Relations

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MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO THE BOARD MEETINGS, THE FIRST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH, LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED.

The December Board Meeting will be held at the home of Marilyn White, 9605 Sixth Avenue, Inglewood, CA, (213) 756-2804.

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\*\*\*\*\*

**1998 HOSPITALITY CHAIRPERSON**

Sandra Welsh

(213) 766-0677

CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

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

Website Address: <http://www.members.tripod.com/~CAAGS2000/index.html>

EDITOR R. McMurray, ISSN 1083-8937, Vol. 10 No. 12, Dec 1998

CAAAGS MEETING

December 19, 1998

Martin Luther King, Jr.
United Methodist Church
6625 4th Avenue & 67th St.
Los Angeles, CA 90043

General Schedule
9:00 - 10:30 Classes

Beginners-Taught by Marjorie Higgins
Intermediate-Taught by Rozella Hall

10:30 - 11:00 - Business Meeting

11:00 - 11:15 - Break

11:30 - 1:00 - Christmas Party and
Installation of Officers. Eva Allen-Denmark, our
Guest Speaker will discuss "African Ties".

(Schedule is subject to change without notice.)

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

AND

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



DISCLAIMER

The Editor nor CAAGS assumes any responsibility
for articles submitted to the Newsletter by its
members.

KWANZZA

Courage consists not in hazarding without fear, but
in being resolutely minded in a just cause.

By Edward Young

QUERIES

The Editor would appreciate any queries you may
have for the Newsletter.

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NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

December 22, 1998 for January 1999 issue

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E-MAIL ADDRESSES

A listing of e-mail addresses is located at the sign-in
table of each meeting, or you may request the current
listing from the Editor.

DECEMBER HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Richard Brown, Jr.
Kim Clark
Barbara Irving
Lois Johnson
Betty Lawson

Vera Merritt
Lloydine Outten
Edith Sunalin
Joyce Taylor
Gena Weaver

Please don't forget to bring refreshments for the
December meeting.

**BIRTHDAY WISHES!**

Thelma Cameron  
Martha Clark  
Gwen Jones  
Michelle A. LeClair-Allen  
Sarah C. LeNoir-Mfume  
Elizabeth Lewis  
Joyce A. Taylor  
Izetta E. Walton

\*\*\*\*\*

**INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS**

First Vice President - Ronald Batiste  
Recording Secretary - Lloydine Outten  
Treasurer - Vera Merritt

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**1998 MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Membership fees are due and payable in January of each year. Members whose dues have not been paid to the Treasurer by March 1<sup>st</sup> will have their names removed from all the Organization's mailing and membership lists. A member removed for non-payment of dues will be reinstated after paying the delinquent dues.

**NEW MEMBERS** joining in November or December dues shall apply to subsequent year.

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**FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE**

**Six-Month Recycling Thon**

Our (Six-Month Recycling Thon) was a success, although we did not reach our target of \$200, we raised (\$164.19). (Thank you for supporting CAAGS' Fundraising Committee). Your participation and generosity were immensely appreciated. It is the positive, collaborative spirit, which is essential to CAAGS' advancement that brings us closer to realizing our goals and objectives as a Society.

May the Holiday Season and the New Year provide the best of health, spiritual blessings and good fortune, for you and your family.

Submitted by Erma Hurse

The Fundraising Committee would like to THANK all who participated in our many events.

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**HIS STORY TELLS ALL**

*Turning Point*, Nov/Dec/Jan 1998-99

Nearly 90 years after W.E.B. Du Bois proposed the creation of an Encyclopedia Africana, one is on the way. Under the guidance of Harvard professors Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and K. Anthony Appiah, a team of African-American studies scholars are developing a comprehensive history of Africa and people of African descent. The collection will be released by Microsoft, tracing back 2,000 years to the documentation of African peoples who arrived in Great Britain with Julius Caesar's conquering army to poet Alexander Pushkin's African great-grandfather. Look for the collection in February 1999 at your local bookstore.

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**A MULTIRACIAL SAVIOR**

*Africa News Service*

This is to let you know that Jesus was multiracial:

**Three Proofs That Jesus Was Jewish:**

1. He went into his father's business.
2. He lived at home until the age of 33.
3. He was sure his mother was a virgin, and his mother was sure he was God.

**Three Proofs that Jesus Was Irish:**

1. He never got married.
2. He was always telling stories.
3. He loved green pastures.

**Three Proofs That Jesus Was Puerto Rican:**

1. His first name was Jesus.
2. He was bilingual.
3. He was always being harassed by the authorities.

**Three Proofs That Jesus Was Italian:**

1. He talked with his hands.
2. He had wine with every meal.
3. He worked in the building trades.

**Three Proofs That Jesus Was Californian:**

1. He never cut his hair.
2. He walked around barefoot.
3. He invented a new religion.

**Three Proofs That Jesus Was Black:**

1. He called everybody brother.
2. He liked Gospel
3. He couldn't get a fair trial.



## LOVE FOR ANCESTORS

Winner of the National Library of Poetry Award

A child that grows in a woman is an ancestor.

Torment soul, jagged hands and feet, weary  
tears when it collides with dirt and dust.

Toil bear rigor mortis, from a tree by young and old  
ancestors.

Love for ancestors, to encounter the spirit of their  
touch in a dream.

Knock from a shadow at the door ancestors' pierce.

From the deserts of Egypt to the southern wind you  
can hear hymn.

Submitted by Lloydine Outten

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## YOUR TAKING GENEALOGY TOO SERIOUSLY - IF:

Forwarded by Gary Lundquist

- You are the only person to show up at the cemetery research party with a shovel.
- To put the "final touches" on your genealogical research, you've asked all of your closest relatives to provide DNA samples.
- You were instrumental in having "non-genealogical use of the genealogy room copy machine" classified as a federal hate crime.
- Your house leans slightly toward the side where your genealogical records are stored.
- You decided to take a two-week break from genealogy, and the U.S Postal Office immediately laid off 1,500 employees.
- Out of respect for your best friend's unquestioned reputation for honesty and integrity, you turned off that noisy surveillance camera while she reviews your 57 genealogical research notebooks in your home. The armed security guard, however, will remain.
- During an ice storm and power outage, you ignore the pleas of your shivering spouse and place your last quilt around that 1886 photograph of dear Uncle George.
- The most recent document in your "Missing Ancestors" file is a 36-page contract between you and Johnson Billboard Advertising Company.

- Ed McMahon, several t.v. cameras and an envelope from Publishers Clearing House arrive at your front door on Super Bowl Sunday, and the first thing you say is, "Are you related to the McMahons of Ohio?"
- "A Loving Family" and "Financial Security" have moved up to second and third, respectively, on your list of life's goals, but still lag far behind "Owning My Own Microfilm Reader."
- A magical genie appears and agrees to grant you any one wish, and you ask that the 1890 census be restored.

Submitted by Ron Higgins

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## TWENTY WAYS TO AVOID GENEALOGICAL GRIEF

<http://www.rootsweb.com/roots-1/20ways.html>

Here are some suggestions to help beginners prevent misfortune when learning how to do genealogical research. Many of these tips are "old hat" to experienced genealogists, but it is always worthwhile to remind ourselves of the basics of sound research.

1. Always note the source of information that you record or photocopy, and date it too. If the material is from a book, write the name, author, publisher, year of publication, ISBN or ISSN (if it has one), and also the library where you found it (or else photocopy the title page).
2. Occasionally you'll find that you need to refer to a book again, or go back to great aunt Matilda to clarify something she told you.
3. Talk to all your older-generation relatives (before they're all gone and you're the older generation!) Even a distant relative can be a gold mine of information about your ancestors.
4. Make photocopies or keep backups of all letters and e-mail messages you send. This will save you from wondering which of your correspondents' questions you've already answered, and which of your questions they have or haven't answered.
5. Don't procrastinate in responding to letters or messages you receive. If you don't have time to write a detailed reply, send your correspondent a quick message or postcard to acknowledge receipt and tell her/him approximately when you'll send them a more complete reply. They'll be sure to write back as you've promised.
6. Make frequent backups of your computer disks. Store your backups and photocopies of your

- irreplaceable documents where you work or at someone else's home.
7. When searching for relatives in records, don't pass over entries that are almost (but not quite) what you're looking for. For example, if you're searching for the marriage of John Brown and Mary Jones in 1850, make a note of the marriage of John Brown and Nancy Smith in 1847: this could be a previous marriage in which the wife died shortly after.
  8. When writing to libraries or to genealogical or historical societies in your areas of interest, ask them for the names and addresses of out-of-print booksellers in the area. Write to the booksellers and ask if they have any old local histories or family histories pertaining to the area.
  9. Remember that just because information is on computer or in print, it ain't necessarily fact! Information in recent family histories is often based on that from older published works. If the older books are incorrect, the wrong information simply gets repeated and further disseminated.
  10. The earlier the time period in which you're researching, the less consistent our ancestors were about the spelling of their surnames. Also, some of them were illiterate and couldn't tell a record keeper how their names should be spelled.
  11. Family traditions of close connections to famous people are usually false, but there may be a more obscure relationship involved. For example, perhaps the famous person spent a night at your ancestor's inn instead of (as the legend goes) marrying into the family.
  12. Try not to let your research get behind. Establish a filing system for your papers (using file folders or 3-ring binders) and file each page of notes, document, photocopy, etc. as you acquire it. There are few things more disheartening than contemplating a foot-high stack of unfilled papers, wondering if the birth certificate you desperately need to refer to is buried somewhere in it.
  13. Double-check all dates to make sure they are reasonable, for example, a woman born in 1790 could not become a mother in 1800.
  14. Be on the lookout for nicknames. A request for a birth certificate for Sadie White may be rejected by a record office if the name in their files is Sarah White.
  15. Beware of mail-order promotions offering what might purport to be a personalized genealogy of your surname with a title like *The Amazing Story of the BLANK Family*, *BLANKs Since the Civil War* or *Burke's Peerage World Book of BLANKs*. These books are not properly researched and documented genealogies; instead they are often little more than lists of names from phone directories or other readily available sources. Notify the Better Business Bureau, postal authorities and consumer advocate agencies if you receive one of these. For more about these, see the ROOTS-L FAQ file [FAQ SCAMS](#).
  16. Don't assume modern meanings for terms used to describe relationships. For example, in the 17<sup>th</sup> century a stepchild was often called a "son-in-law" or "daughter-in-law," and a "cousin" could refer to almost any relative except a sibling or child.
  17. Remember that indexes to books rarely include the names of all persons mentioned in the book and, in addition, occasionally contain errors. If it appears that a book is likely to have valuable information, spend some time skimming its contents rather than returning it to the library shelf after a quick glance at the index.
  18. Be precise when making notes and especially when sharing information with others. Write dates using an unambiguous format: Americans interpret 5/6/1881 as 6 May 1881, but in many other countries it would be read as 5 June 1881. Always capitalize or underline surnames, some of which can be mistaken for given names, e.g., HENRY, HOWARD. Note place names in full, including parish or township, county, state or province, and country.
  19. You'll often encounter conflicting information, for example, you might discover that your paternal grandmother's birth date on her gravestone is different than her birth date as told to you by your father. Note the source for each piece of information, but don't feel you have to decide immediately which date is the correct one. In fact, both of them may be wrong! Further research may reveal a more credible birth date, for example, the one on her birth certificate.
  20. Boundaries and place names change constantly over the years. Always verify them in historical atlases or genealogical texts pertaining to the area. For example, the boundaries of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania has changed four times since it was first colonized.
  21. Whenever you can, advertise the surnames you're researching by posting them electronically (for example, on the [ROOTS-L Surname List](#)) and submitting them to genealogical directories and surnames lists published by genealogical societies to which you belong to. This will put you in touch with others who are researching the same surnames--possibly for a much longer time--and save you from reinventing the wheel. After all, the most rewarding genealogical research is the kind that no one else has already done!

**OF HEROES AND MEN:  
RETHINKING JEFFERSON**

AARP Bulletin, December 1998, Vol. 39, No. 11

Thomas Jefferson, says award-winning biographer Joseph J. Ellis, was great-and deeply flawed.

The habit of many Americans to mythologize Thomas Jefferson is not news to historian Joseph J. Ellis. The author of an award-winning book on the enigmatic third president, Ellis recalls being dressed down not long ago by a devoted Jeffersonian who felt the historian had done Jefferson wrong. "She told me," Ellis recalls, "You are a mere pigeon on the statue of Thomas Jefferson'."

So when Ellis, 55, a historian at Mount Holyoke College, was approached this fall with DNA evidence that proved nearly conclusively that Jefferson fathered a child with his slave Sally Hemings, he knew controversy would erupt.

It did, with him and other Jefferson scholars at the center of a media storm. "The Today Show," "Fox News," The New York Times--everyone wanted Ellis' opinion.

One lesson from all this, Ellis tells the Bulletin, is that "People have too much invested in Jefferson."

The deification of Jefferson--and, at times, the misinformation about him--is deep, say Ellis, but, "The historical Jefferson is different from the mythical Jefferson." The real Jefferson, according to Ellis, is a man of nearly unfathomable contradictions--the "American Sphinx," as he called his book (Knopf, 1997), which won last year's National Book Award for nonfiction. Here is a man who could write the most "magic" words of American history, "We hold these truths to be self-evident..." yet own more than 200 slaves, Ellis says.

"Now," he says, "[the contradictions] deepen," because the man who believed that African Americans were biologically inferior--and who feared racial mixing--is known to have been involved in a long-term relationship with a slave.

"It's time that we adopt more sensible and less inflated criteria for our heroes," Ellis says.

It's like he told the woman who called him a pigeon: "Madame, I know I'm not a pigeon. But even more than that, you need to know that Thomas Jefferson is not a statue."

By Leah K. Glasheen

**SCHEDULED OF COLONIAL  
TERRITORIAL, AND  
STATE CENSUS RECORDS**

Florida: 1790, 1825, 1837, 1845, 1855, 1865, 1875, 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915, 1925, 1935, 1945, 1955.

Georgia: 1738, 1740, 1750, 1753, 1756, 1810, 1817, 1824, 1829, 1831, 1838, 1845, 1852, 1859.

(to be continued).

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**EVENTS IN THE HOOD**

**AMERICAN GUERRILLA: AGAINST THE WIND THROUGH DEC. 20<sup>TH</sup>** (An authentic Black Panther tragedy. This intense, action packed original play chronicles the rise, fall and legacy of a besieged chapter of the BPP) at the Inglewood Playhouse, 740 Warren Lane, Inglewood. All performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. For information call (213) 860-3208 or (310) 412-5451.

**THROUGH DEC. 27 - "PAUL ROBESON: ARTIST AND CITIZEN"** : This multi-media traveling exhibition marks the centennial of Paul Robeson's birth and celebrates the life of one of America's most important politically-engaged performing artists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. California African American Museum, 600 State Drive, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, (213) 744-7432, free, Tue-Sun, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

**DEC. 31 - "AN EVENING IN AFRICA: KWANZAA KARAMU"**: The Organization Us will host an evening of music, poetry, drama, narratives, dancing, feasting, and celebrating, the African family, community and culture. DWP Auditorium, 111 N. Hope St., Los Angeles, (323) 299-6124, 6-9 p.m.

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**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Hi Fellow Members,

I need speakers for the Pacific Bell African Marketplace. The first date is Friday, February 19, 1999 and the second date is Monday, February 22, 1999. I need someone to give a 15-20 minute talk about beginning genealogy.

Please contact Charlotte Bocage at (323) 669-1982. Thanks you.

**CAAGS CALENDAR**

December 19, 1998 - Christmas Party and Installation of Officers. Eva Allen-Denmark, our Guest Speaker will discuss "African Ties".

January 16, 1999 - Our Guest Speaker, Mary Grindall, will discuss "Native Americans".

February 20, 1999 - Black History Month

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**COMMITTEES**

If you have any interest in joining one of the following Committees, please contact Kenneth Kwame Welsh, President.

**Standing Committees**

Education Outreach

Finance

• Budget  
Membership  
Programs

Publications

- Cemetery/Mortuary/Obituary
- Newsletter
- Surname Directory

**Subcommittees**

Audit

Nominating

**Ad-Hoc Committees**

Fundraising

Hospitality

Mentor Program

- Century Club

Public Relations

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MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO THE BOARD MEETINGS, THE FIRST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH, LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED.

The January Board Meeting will be held at the home of Dorothylou Sands, 3441 West 58<sup>th</sup> Place, Los Angeles, CA, (213) 299-8642.

**OFFICERS**

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**1998 HOSPITALITY CHAIRPERSON**

Sandra Welsh

(213) 766-0677

CALIFORNIA AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
P. O. Box 8442  
Los Angeles, CA 90008-0442

ATTN: JEANETTE SCOTT

1998 MEMBERSHIP NEW/RENEWAL APPLICATION  
(please circle one)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth (MM/DD) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME: \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Home/Business)

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

SURNAMES AND LOCATIONS YOU ARE RESEARCHING: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL SKILLS: \_\_\_\_\_ OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Organization & Libraries \$30.00     New     Renewal Year \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_