

Heritage Newsletter

California African-American Genealogical Society



February 2020

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

General Membership Meetings

Third Saturday monthly, 10:00a.m. (dark July & August)
LDS Church, 10625 S. San Pedro, Los Angeles, CA

2020 Board of Directors

Elected Officers

Cartelia Marie Bryant – President
Corrine Hill – First Vice President
Carolyn Conway – Second Vice President/Membership
Ronald Fairley – Corresponding Secretary
Christina Ashe – Recording Secretary
Shirley Hurt – Treasurer
Charles Hurt – Parliamentarian

Committee Chairs/Appointed Officers

Peggy Powell – Books and Acquisitions
Open – Public Relations/Fundraising
Betty Whitson – Librarian
Edna Briggs – Historian
Lanetta Lyons – Newsletter Editor
James Murray – FGS Delegate
Akosua Hobert – Volunteer Chairman

Website – <http://www.caags.org> 📞 (323) 806-5634

DR. CARTER G. WOODSON
December 19, 1875 – April 3, 1950



A historian, author, and journalist, Carter Woodson was one of the first scholars to study African-American history and is called the “father of black history.”

Neither the newsletter editor nor CAAGS guarantees publication of any submission. Submissions are due by the third Saturday of each month.

CARTER WOODSON cont.

In 1926, Woodson pioneered the celebration of *Negro History Week*, designated for the second week in February, to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The observance began as a way of remembering important people and events in the history of the African diaspora. On February 1, 1970, the Black United Students and black educators at Kent State University expanded this idea to include an entire month. In 1976, February was officially designated in the U.S. as Black History Month, also known as African-American History Month. In Canada the month is celebrated in February, while in Ireland, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom it is observed in October.

Woodson was born in Canton, Virginia to former slaves, Anne Eliza (Riddle) and James Henry Woodson who were illiterate. His father was a carpenter and farmhand who helped the Union soldiers during the Civil War. Young Woodson was often unable to regularly attend primary school because he helped on the farm, but through self-instruction he was able to master most school subjects. At the age of seventeen, Woodson followed his brother to Huntington, W. VA hoping to attend the brand new secondary school for blacks, Douglass High School. However, he was able to devote only minimal time to school because he had to work (as a coal miner) to support himself. In 1895, the twenty-year-old Woodson finally entered Douglass High School full-time, and received his diploma in 1897.

From 1897 to 1900, Woodson taught in Winona, W. VA and in 1900 was selected as the principal of Douglass High School. He earned his Bachelor of Literature degree from Berea College in Kentucky in 1903 by taking classes part-time. From 1903 to 1907 Woodson was a school supervisor in the Philippines. He earned graduate degrees at the University of Chicago and in 1912 was the second African American, after W.E.B.DuBois, to obtain a PhD degree from Harvard University. Most of Woodson's academic career was spent at Howard University, where he eventually served as the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Convinced that the role of his own people in American history and in the history of other cultures was being ignored or misrepresented among scholars, Woodson realized the need for research into the neglected past of African Americans. Along with four colleagues, he founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History on September 9, 1915. That was the year Woodson published *The Education of the Negro Prior to 1861*. In January 1916, Woodson began publication of the scholarly Journal of Negro History, which has never missed an issue, despite the Great Depression, loss of support from foundations, and two World Wars. In 2002, it was renamed the *Journal of African American History*, and continues to be published by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carter_G._Woodson

PLUGGED IN

Charlotte Bocage will speak at the February general meeting on *Finding Your Enslaved Ancestors*.

Two donated DVDs, African American Lives & African American Lives 2, will be raffled at the February meeting at a suggested donation cost of \$5.00 each. The DVDs are from *Finding Your Roots*, the PBS Henry Louis Gates, Jr. show.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED on February 8th at 10a.m. at the **Riverside, CA** 41st Annual Black History Parade and Expo. Using Family Search, you can help participants learn to locate ancestors. Contact President Marie Bryant if you can help.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED for the Family History Center
The volunteer can set the hours.

RESEARCH TRIP to Family Search Library in Salt Lake City, UT will be on May 3-9, 2020. Select the round trip airfare package from LAX with 6 nights single and double occupancy at the Salt Lake Plaza Hotel or other available packages.

FamilySearch has formed an African Heritage team focused solely on helping people of African Descent around the world discover their homeland. You can opt-in to the "new" quarterly African Heritage email newsletter at [FamilySearch African Heritage Quarterly Email Opt-In](#). Your personal information will not be shared or sold.

CAAGS INTRODUCES THE GENEALOGY NOTEBOOK to keep your research in pristine condition for you, your family and the future. This coil-bound treasure is available with a donation of \$12.50 by members and \$15.00 by nonmembers.

SUPPORT CAAGS
Boost your meals appeal with recipes from the CAAGS cookbook (\$10 donation).

FINDING YOUR ROOTS- HENRY LOUIS GATES
Check local listings for showings of season 6 on PBS.

NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY (NGS) offers two new courses: African American Roots: A Historical Perspective and Federal Land Research. For information, go to <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/>

GENEALOGY MAGAZINE
This You Tube series offers advice and tips for the family historian.
<http://www.genealogymagazine.com/>

**CAAGS FINANCIAL SUMMARY
Month Ending December 31, 2019**

BEGINNING BALANCE.....	\$9,865.35
INCOME.....	795.00
DISBURSEMENTS.....	.00
DESIGNATED FUNDS.....	131.22
ENDING BALANCE.....	\$10,510.35

Shirley Hurt, Treasurer

FOREVER REMEMBERED

CHRIS COTTON

January 16, 1987 - December 11, 2019

Chris Cotton was a comedian who co-starred on Comedy Central's online show "Every Damn Day." The Philadelphia native made many appearances at the city's Raven Lounge as part of Center City Comedy. Last year, he became a co-writer and star of "Every Damn Day" as part of the network's Creators Program. He hosted the red carpet for Comedy Central's roast of Bruce Willis in 2018. His wife, Erica, is expecting their first child in February.

<https://deadline.com/2019/12/chris-cotton-dead-obituary-comedy-central-comic-every-damn-day>

WOODROW PHILLIPS JR.

December 27, 1941 - December 31, 2019

Woodrow Phillips Jr., affectionately known as "Woody," was a longtime Los Angeles businessman and community leader. Born in Keatchie, Louisiana on a farm, he and his siblings worked in the sizzling southern heat where he learned his work ethic. Often left to care for his younger siblings, Woody's love for cooking began with staples like pork chops, greens and cornbread.

After living briefly in Houston, Texas, Woody followed his dream and moved to Los Angeles, California. There, he married the love of his life, Jenetha Peigne, began his family and became a member of Holman Methodist Church.

Although he pursued various entrepreneurial efforts, Woody always had a love for bar-be-cue. Encouraged by his sisters and family, in 1975 he opened Woody's Bar-B-Que. Over the years, with Woody's leadership, the business grew, provided many job opportunities to family and community, and sponsored holiday giveaways and special events.

Courtesy of Jenetha Peigne Phillips and Fran Wilson

EDNA SMITH PRIMUS

June 27, 1944 - November 2019

Born in Yemassee, S.C. the daughter of share-croppers, she was the first black woman to graduate from the University of South Carolina School of Law.

In 1973, Primus offered free ACLU representation to a woman who had been sterilized against her will. The woman filed a complaint, but dropped it when the doctor named in it sued Primus, saying her solicitation violated legal ethics. Primus was given a private reprimand and then a public rebuke by the state Supreme Court. However, the case made its way to the federal Supreme Court which ruled in favor of Primus.

For forty years this case has been taught in every professional responsibility course in the United States. Primus filed the case to protect the rights of people she felt were powerless and had no voice. However, this landmark U.S. Supreme Court case broadened free speech rights for non-profit attorneys and earned Primus a revered spot in legal history.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/12/us/edna-smith-primus-dead.html>

CALENDAR

May 3-9, 2020

Research Trip to Family Search Library in Salt Lake City, UT

May 20 - 23, 2020

National Genealogical Society Conference
Salt Lake City, Utah; www.ngsgenealogy.org

July 7 - 9, 2020

Midwest African American Genealogy Institute (MAAGI) Conference; Allen County Public Library Ft. Wayne, IN; www.maagiinstitute.org

Southern California Genealogical Society

Offers many webinars and user group meetings
<https://www.scqsgenealogy.com>

ON-GOING

February 8, 2020

Writers Group

(monthly, 2nd Saturday)

10a.m. – noon, A.C. Bilbrew Library

150 East El Segundo Blvd; Los Angeles, CA

February 13, 2020

CAAGS Board Meeting (monthly, 3rd Thursday)

7p.m. call-in to 1-712-775-8972, pin 830090

February 15, 2020

CAGGS General Membership Meeting

(monthly, 3rd Saturday)

LDS Church of Jesus Christ

10623 South San Pedro; Los Angeles, CA 90003

February 22, 2020

CAAGS DNA Interest Group 9:00a.m.- 12:00p.m.

LAFHL, 10741 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles

Bring your account username and password

*The calendar is subject to change without notice.
Please check our website for current information.*

<http://www.caags.org> ☎ (323) 806-5634

GENEALOGY BASICS

Cemetery Research Advice for Beginners

Cemetery research is a basic part of genealogy research. Doing genealogy properly and thoroughly means cemetery research goes hand in hand with it. You will want to know where your ancestors are buried, not only so you can go there and pay your respects in person and see the area where your ancestor lived (since most people are buried close to their usual place of residence), but because of all of the additional genealogy information you can get from this type of research. Cemetery research is about more than just finding where your ancestors are buried. It can also reveal a lot of previously unknown information on your ancestor and his or her family. Here's how to get started and get the most possible information out of it.

How to Find the Cemetery Where Your Ancestor is Buried

The first step is locating the cemetery where your ancestor was buried. If you don't already know (or don't know a relative who knows), there are a number of ways to find out. Among the best methods are:

Death Certificates:

Most death certificates include the name of the cemetery, if the person was, in fact, buried (there are exceptions, such as cremation or burial at sea or if there was no body recovered to bury). If the person was buried, the name of the cemetery is usually recorded near the "disposal" section. Since the death certificate also tells you the city, county, and state of death, you can look up the name of the cemetery online using this information and get its location so you can make an in-person visit if you choose to do so (and you should).

Obituaries:

If you don't have a copy of the death certificate or don't know how to get one, obituaries often tell you where a person was buried. This information can be found in obituaries going back into the mid-19th century, and sometimes earlier. It isn't always there, but it's exciting when it is. Go online to one of the many websites that have [searchable old newspapers](#) and start looking for your ancestor's obituary (if you have even the most general idea of the date and location of death).

Websites With Lists of County Cemeteries and the People Buried in Them:

There are plenty of independent genealogy websites that have records of burials in local cemeteries. The U.S. GenWeb project is the best-known of these, but there are lots of others. A Google search may help you find your ancestor's final resting place.

FindAGrave.com:

This is the most famous cemetery website online. It has over 100 million burials listed across the United States and the world. Some of them even include photos and obituaries. This website is updated and maintained by volunteers who upload new burial information as a courtesy to others. Go there and use the search feature to find your

ancestor. If he or she is not on the site, you can contact a volunteer who researches cemeteries in the area where your ancestor lived, and request that they do a lookup for you and post it on the site.

What to Do if the Grave is Not Marked

If you've found the cemetery, but discover the grave is not marked, that can be disappointing. You want a photo of a headstone for your family history records. At the very least, you want to know where the grave is located, so you can pay your respects (and maybe put a marker up there yourself... lots of genealogists do this).

If the grave isn't marked, all is not lost. You can still potentially discover the location of the grave. The easiest way is if the cemetery has an office. Not all of them do, but if the one you're exploring does, you can go to the office and request a map of burials. The office will have information on all burials there and where they are located, even the unmarked ones.

If there is no office, try going to the city hall. Ask around for the department that oversees the cemeteries. It is different in each city and town. Once you've found the appropriate department, ask if they have a map of burials in the cemetery. Many of them do. Other potential sources of finding the exact site of an unmarked burial include local historical societies and historians, and books of burials in a certain cemetery.

If you can't find any information, such as for a very ancient cemetery, you can often make a good guess as to where an unmarked ancestor is buried based on the headstones of other family members who are buried there. There is a good chance your ancestor is buried near them. In very old cemeteries, you can often even see the outline of unmarked graves, because the coffins under the ground disintegrate over the years (wooden ones, especially), and cause the ground above to fall in over them, creating depressions in the ground that indicate the spot of a burial. There's a good chance that depression in the ground is where your ancestor is buried, especially if it is near that ancestor's relatives.

Knowing the final resting place of an ancestor puts a concluding page to their life in your family history. You know where they are and who is buried around them, which gives you an idea of their family relationships and their life in general. If they are buried in the town in which they lived and you visit that place, you can get an idea of how they lived and what life was like for them. You'll also be in a place where you can access local historical records to find out things about them you may never have otherwise known. Start researching the cemetery records of your ancestors today. You'll be surprised how rewarding it is, and how much new information you discover as you go. <https://ancestralfindings.com/genealogy-basics-cemetery-research-advice-for-beginners/>

To Unsubscribe, contact ljslyons@gmail.com