

Heritage Newsletter

California African American Genealogical Society

**“Inspiring Family
History Research**



**One Person
At A Time.”**

January 2023

Volume 35 Issue 1

Ten Issues Published Annually

ISSN 1083-8937

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

General Membership Meetings

Third Saturday monthly, 10:00 a.m. (dark July & August)
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 10625 S.
San Pedro, Los Angeles, CA

2023 Board of Directors

Elected Officers

Gloria Wallace – President
Deborah Winston – First Vice President
Norma Bates– Second Vice President/Membership
Cartellia Marie Bryant – Corresponding Secretary
Christina Ashe– Recording Secretary
Shirley Hurt – Treasurer
Renee Cochee – Parliamentarian

Committee Chairs/Appointed Officers

Peggy Powell – Books and Acquisitions Open – Public
Relations/Fundraising
Bettye Whitson – Librarian
Edna Briggs - Historian
Maria Marshall-Lee– Newsletter Editor
James Murray – FGS Delegate
Akosua Hobert – Volunteer Chairman

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

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

Visit us at www.caags.org and follow us on Facebook,
California African American Genealogical Society.

Meet Our New President

Gloria Wallace
Moving Forward



Suggestions on how we can help each other in our
genealogical research, meetings and what you would like
to see in 2023 CAAGS organization. I welcome your
suggestions and input.



Happy New Year! Each new year is a gift of learning,
growth, and hope. May your mind and soul be enriched
with these things and more in the days to come! “Learn
from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.” —
Albert Einstein



Wake Hatter 1856 - 1930

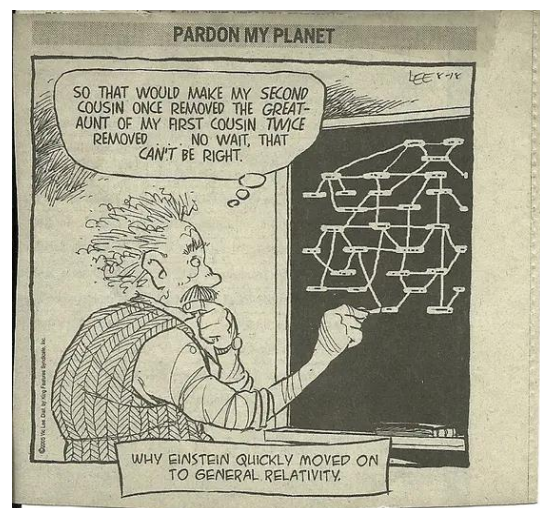
The beginning of my family surname Hatter originated in Virginia with James Hatter. The 1807 law banned the Transatlantic slave trade to the United States in January 1808. That same law that banned the foreign slave trade also regulated the internal transportation of slaves, requiring Masters of vessels carrying slaves in coastal waters to provide a manifest detailing their slave cargo when leaving “outward” or entering “inward” ports. My Great-Great Grandfather James Hatter was transported from Charles Town, Jefferson, Virginia, departing from the Port of Baltimore, Maryland on the ship called Brig Union into the Port of New Orleans, Louisiana on 16 December 1848, which he maintained his surname, Hatter. James is listed on the slave manifest to be sold or labored out and never freed by William Crow of Charles Town, Virginia. The auction block was the Saint Louis Hotel, in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Who purchased James and how he arrived in Claiborne, Louisiana is unknown? How James Hatter and Rebecca Wadkins met is also unknown, but they had a son named Wake (great-grandfather) born in 1857. Through them our legacy begins. John Thomas Tigner with his brother George Wilson Tigner came to Claiborne from Georgia in 1849 and settled in Colquitt. George W. Tigner purchased forty acres in Ward 2, Claiborne, Louisiana which today is known as Homer, Louisiana. Rebecca worked on George W. and John T. Tigner's farm in Ward 2, Claiborne, Louisiana as a cook and Wake as a water boy. It is unclear when he assumed his father's given surname Hatter or if his parents were ever married.

Wake lived with the Tigner's during the Civil War; after the war Rebecca and Wake worked between George W. and John T. Tigner's farm in Claiborne Parish. Ms. Lucy Tigner (John Tigner's wife) taught Wake to read, write

and invest his money while working on the Tigner's farm. Before, Wake started his new life, as a free man, the Tigner's gave Wake 40 acres of land, two mules, a wagon and money for his services during slavery.

On 25 December 1873 Wake Hatter, (16) married Mattie William (14) to this union twelve children were born; Anne, James, John Mack, Cloan, Edmon, Nancy, Arch, Mattie Bell, Amos, Jesse, Wake and Dock. Unfortunately, four died at an early age of consumption (tuberculosis) which were James, Cloan, Edmon and Nancy; the family home was burn and destroyed along with their clothing and everything they owned due to tuberculosis. They had to move to a new location on their land and rebuild a new home. Later in 1892 Wake purchased five hundred acres at \$5.00 an acre (\$2500) from A. Anderson a previous plantation owner. Wake was intelligent, prosperous farmer, an entrepreneur, family-oriented person, minister and pastor of Colquitt Baptist Church, St. Paul Church of Colquitt, and Hatter Chapel Freewill Baptist Church. Sadly, on 27th of October 1895 his wife Mattie William Hatter passed away; Wake wrote “we live together 21 years she was a devoted wife to me”. In 1910 Wake purchased another 320 acres of land from J. E. Meadors for \$1500 and Wake divided the land equally among his living sons and daughters. The youngest son of Wake was my grandfather Dock Richard Gladney Hatter, and my grandfather heirs still own the land. Wake Hatter, Sr. lived on his farm until his death on 21 March 1930 and interred in Colquitt Cemetery. Submitted by Maria Biggs-Marshall



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STAY TUNED

The Los Angeles FamilySearch Library, for **In-Person visits** Monday – Friday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Thursdays 10:00 a.m. 8:00 p.m. and Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. We are now mask free for fully vaccinated (and boosted) people, who show their immunization record, or for those who have a negative COVID test.

Details:http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/docs/HOO/HOO_SaferReturnWorkCommunity.pdf

We will continue to provide 1:1 help with our CAAGS FSL volunteers, via Zoom appointment: Gloria Wallace on Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and Ophelia Sanders on Thursday 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.



Click below to view the full schedule and to register for the sessions that interest you. [Upcoming Webinars - Legacy Family Tree Webinars](#)

YouTube Channel/Blogs

[\(4\) Top Ten "Go To" Family History Records for Genealogy: Walk With Me: 2023 - YouTube](#)

[Genealogy Stories: Some Grave Matters \(genealogybank.com\)](#)

[\(7\) 12 Step Process for Researching Your Family History: Checklist - YouTube](#)

[\(7\) Researching Persons of Color: African American Genealogy - YouTube](#)

[\(7\) Find Genealogy Records on eBay for Family History: Interview with Scott Fisher from Extreme Genes - YouTube](#)

[\(7\) 5 Top Tips for Searching at Newspaper.com - YouTube](#)

[Mental Health In The African American Community | Vertava Health](#)

[\(10\) How to Organize Your Family History Research \(Genealogy Challenge\) - YouTube](#)

[\(10\) Floating Trees on Ancestry: How and Why - YouTube](#)



CAAGS Cookbooks (105+ pages of favorite recipes from the past, along with helpful genealogical/family history research tips) are on sale for \$10.00 (suggested donation), plus \$3.00 postage and handling per book ordered.

CAAGS Spiral Notebook/Pedigree Charts are on sale for \$5.00

Amazon: Make your Amazon purchases through smile.amazon.com. Designate CAAGS as charity and 0.5% of eligible purchases will go to CAAGS.



Volunteers are needed to help organize our **Obituary Project**. We will keep you inform of the venue and dates in our meetings or CAAGS Newsletter.

ONGOING

CAAGS Writers Group (via Zoom), monthly, 2nd Thursday, January 12, 2023, 5:00 p.m. – 7 :00 p.m. Information: 323-806-5634

CAAGS Board Meeting (monthly, 3rd Thursday), January 19, 2023, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

CAAGS General Membership Meeting, January 21, 2023, (3rd Saturday) CAAGS Masks are optional.

2023 CAAGS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES January 2023 -March 2023

Application can be download from CAAGS website and included with CAAGS Newsletter.

[Membership Application & Dues - California African American Genealogical Society \(caags.org\)](#)

SMILE

“Life is an opportunity, benefit from it. Life is beauty, admire it. Life is a dream, realize it.” — *Mother Teresa*

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FINDING YOUR ROOTS CASTING

It is still time. The deadline is January 31, 2023. Calling ALL #FindingYourRoots fans! For the first time in their show's history, they are looking for one of YOU to join their season 10 lineup! They want to hear about your family's genealogical mystery that needs help solving. Go to findingyourrootscasting.com to enter. pic.twitter.com/zHwtOmf46R

OBITUARY



Stephen Laurel "tWitch" Boss
(September 29, 1982 – December 13, 2022)

Stephen was an American freestyle hip hop dancer, choreographer, actor, television producer, and television personality. In 2008, he finished in second place on the American version of *So You Think You Can Dance (SYTYCD)*. From 2014 to May 2022, he was featured on *The Ellen DeGeneres Show* as a co-host and he was also a co-executive producer of the program. He was featured in *Ellen's Game of Games* as a sidekick to DeGeneres. Between 2018 and 2020 he and his wife, Allison Holker, hosted *Disney's Fairy Tale on Freedom* and *Disney+*. On December 10, 2013, Boss and fellow SYTYCD alum Allison Holker married at Nigel Lythgoe's Villa San Juliette Vineyard and Winery in Paso Robles, California. He also adopted Holker's daughter Weslie. Their son Maddox Laurel was born in March 2016, and their daughter Zaia was born in November 2019. The couple had an apparel line of athleisure named "DSG x tWitch + Allison Collection" which was sold by Dick's Sporting Goods. On December 13, 2022, Police received a call about a shooting at the Oak Tree Inn in Encino, California, where Boss was found dead after failing to check out of the motel. His death was ruled a suicide. He was 40 years old. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_Boss

988 SUICIDE and CRISIS LIFELINE HOTLINE: 988

2023 CAAGS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check CAAGS online website for up-to-date information and CAAGS is on Facebook.

Dr. Henry Gates, Jr. returns for FINDING YOUR ROOTS Season 9 new season will premiere January 3, 2023, on PBS and stream on PBS.org and PBS Video app.

March 2-4, 2023, RootsTech 2023, register for free virtual and \$98.00 for in-person experience in the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City. Registration: <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/> is now open. The theme this year for RootsTech 2023 is "Uniting" a three-day global family history event.

African American Family History Seminar is looking for presenters for Monday, March 13, 2023; this will be a virtual seminar. Topics: Reparations, USCT Pension Files, Negro Leagues, Death and Burial Practices, Freedmen's Bureau, Pullman Porters, Oral History, Black Cowboys, Wilmington Massacre, What Happens When DNA Reveals a Secret, Black Towns in Oklahoma, and other places.

CAAGS FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Month Ending, November 30, 2022

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$14,166.24
INCOME	148.44
DISBURSEMENTS	4,816.34
DESIGNATED FUNDS	131.22
ENDING BALANCE	\$ 9,498.34

Shirley Hurt, Treasurer

Resources

The National Archives offers a new Genealogy Series. Watch or participate real time with family historian presenters around the world on YouTube. <https://www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-fair>

To unsubscribe contact newsletter@caags.org.

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

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Eight Ways to Honor Black History by

Terri E. Givens, CEO and Founder of Brighter Higher Ed

February is Black History Month, where we honor the incredible contributions, the Black community has made throughout U.S. history from civil rights leaders to artists, politicians to inventors. There are plenty of ways that everyone can commemorate the month and every day in celebrating Black heroes from the comfort of home. Here are eight ways you can celebrate Black history — not just this month, but all year round.

1. Support Black-Owned Businesses
2. Learn About Noteworthy Black Figures and their Contributions.
3. Donate to Charities that Support Anti-Racism Equity and Equality
4. Purchase, Read, and Share Books by Black Authors
5. Support and Learn About Black Women
6. Listen to or Read “The 1619 Project” by the New York Times
7. Participate in Online Events
8. Attend Virtual Black History Month Celebrations



LUCY STANTON DAY SESSIONS (1831-1910)

Lucy Stanton Day Sessions, I Shall Have Your Sympathy, If Your Judgment Refuses Me Your Support (1864)

Courtesy Papers of Ellen Lawson and Marlene D. Merrill, Oberlin College Archives

Educator and abolitionist Lucy Stanton Day Sessions is believed to be the first African American woman to graduate from college, completing a Ladies Literary Course from Oberlin College in 1850. For over a century the Ohio college has recognized its early Literary Course program as equivalent to a degreed program even though it did not award graduates with a bachelor's degree. In 1862 Oberlin College formally awarded the first bachelor's degree to an African American woman when Mary Jane Patterson graduated with a B.A.

Lucy Stanton was born as a freed inhabitant of Cleveland, Ohio on October 16, 1831. Her father, Samuel, was a free-born Black barber who died before Lucy was two years old. Her mother, Margaret, later remarried John Brown, a wealthy Black businessman and abolitionist who was active in the Underground Railroad. The family often harbored runaway slaves in their home. At the time, blacks were not allowed to attend public schools in Cleveland, so Brown organized the city's first school for African Americans.

In 1846, Stanton enrolled in Oberlin Collegiate Institute (now Oberlin College), a progressive abolitionist institution. In 1849 she was elected president of the school's Ladies Literary Society, and her commencement speech was a moving appeal for antislavery.

Upon graduation in 1850, she moved to Columbus, Ohio to become principal of a school but two years later returned to Cleveland when she married Oberlin classmate William Howard Day, a librarian who edited an abolitionist newspaper, the *Alienated American*. In 1854, she became the first African American to have a fictional story published

when she wrote a short story on slavery for her husband's newspaper.

Two years later, the couple moved to Buxton, Canada to teach fugitive slaves and in 1858 had a daughter, Florence. However, the following year William Day left on business for England, abandoning his family and requesting a divorce. Lucy returned to Cleveland, finding work as a seamstress to support her daughter but remained active as an abolitionist. In 1866 she was sponsored by the Cleveland Freedman's Association to teach in Georgia and later Mississippi, where she met and married her second husband, Levi Sessions, in 1878.

The couple moved to Tennessee where Lucy Sessions continued her philanthropic work, including serving as president of the local Women's Christian Temperance Union. She and her husband later moved to Los Angeles, California. Lucy Stanton Day Sessions died in Los Angeles in 1910. Posted on November 8, 2010, contributed by CARLA GARNER

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2023, LET'S STAND IN SOLIDARITY FOR BLACK MOVIES AND OBSERVE NATIONAL BLACK MOVIE DAY.

Here is how you can participate:

1. Watch a Black movie in theaters on February 18, 2023.
2. Watch Black movies at home between 6am and midnight on February 18, 2023.
3. Participate in a National Black Movie Day (TM) 2022 Event.
4. Donate to National Black Movie Association to sponsor a student attending a Historically Black College and University majoring in a film profession.
5. Join the social media chat @blackmovieday on Twitter and @nationalblackmovieday on Instagram and Facebook.
6. Host a National Black Movie Day™ event in your home.
7. Purchase National Black Movie Day merchandise and post your picture on social media with hashtags #NationalBlackMovieDay #ISupportBlackFilms [Black Movie Day 2023 – National Black Movie Association](#)

Visit us at www.caags.org and follow us on Facebook, California African American Genealogical Society.

STAY TUNED



AARP members can now join Ancestry with an exclusive 30% off discount on a **World Explorer or All Access** membership for the first year.

Join AARP for \$12.00 and save 25% for your first year as a member and cancel anytime. Call 1-800-514-4645 if you already have a membership.



Tech2go Computer Bundles come equipped with a Chromebook device and an internet hotspot for long-term use. Computer bundles are available to adults with a library card in good standing. All patrons must sign a Mobile Device User Agreement upon checkout at a library location.

Tech2go Computer Bundles can be checked out at any participating library. Visit, call or click the links below to check availability at your preferred location or add yourself to the waiting list. Bundles must be picked up at the designated location and cannot be transferred to another branch for pickup. [Computer Bundles | Los Angeles Public Library \(lapl.org\)](#)

YouTube Channel

[\(6\) THE BEST OF African American History Is AMERICAN History \[PART 1\] - YouTube](#)

[\(6\) THE BEST OF African American History Is AMERICAN History \[PART 2\] - YouTube](#)

[\(6\) SABOTAGE OF BLACK CULTURE PART 1 - YouTube](#)

[\(6\) SABOTAGE OF BLACK CULTURE PART 2 - YouTube](#)

[\(6\) Genealogy Research for African Americans - YouTube](#)

[\(6\) Helping African Americans Trace Slaveholding Ancestors Using DNA - YouTube](#)



ONGOING

CAAGS Writers Group (via Zoom), monthly, 2nd Thursday, February 9, 2023, 5:00 p.m. – 7 :00 p.m. Information: 323-806-5634

CAAGS Board Meeting (monthly, 3rd Thursday), February 16, 2023, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

CAAGS General Membership Meeting, February 18, 2023, (3rd Saturday) 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. In person and via ZOOM, details for ZOOM to follow. (In person) The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints 10623 South San Pedro Bl Los Angeles, CA 90003. Masks are optional.

2023 CAAGS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES January 2023 -March 2023

Application can be download from CAAGS website and included with CAAGS Newsletter. Deadline March 31, 2023. [Membership Application & Dues - California African American Genealogical Society \(caags.org\)](#)

CAAGS Newsletters

To access prior years and current month's CAAGS Newsletters, current members can access by using this link: <https://caags.org/archives/> and contact Norma Bates (310-766-2283) for the passcode.



CAAGS Mugs size 12 oz or 15 oz (both preorder) \$10.00 and personalized mugs (preorder) \$12.00. Contact Norma Bates 310-766-2283 (no shipping/pickup at next in person meeting).

CAAGS Cookbooks are on sale for \$10.00.

Amazon announced that Smile Program will be discontinued on February 23, 2023, due to the program has not grown to create the impact that they had originally hoped.

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**RootsTech welcomes
Jordin Sparks**



Grammy nominated
singer and songwriter
Youngest ever to win
American Idol at age 17
Dancing with the Stars
season 31 contestant

We are excited to announce multi-platinum singer, songwriter, and actress Jordin Sparks will be a general session keynote speaker on March 2 at RootsTech 2023 in Salt Lake City.

Register now and watch as Sparks takes the Main Stage and shares her personal story through song and word. Learn more about Jordin Sparks.

https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/event/rt2023?cid=em-fsp-15290&mkt_tok=NTkwLUJVSy03MjYAAAGJX4WtSFM27yHo1

In Person \$98.00 and Virtually FREE.

In-person: Same as virtual option, plus: 180+ in person class sessions with Q&As, connect with friends and cousins in person, firsthand sponsor demonstrations in the expo hall. **Virtually,** 200+ New on-demand class sessions and classes, main stage presentations and keynote speakers, chat support and online research consultations and connect with cousins using Relatives at RootsTech and messaging.

To unsubscribe contact newsletter@caags.org.

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

2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check CAAGS online website for up-to-date information and CAAGS is on Facebook.

Feb 3 – Feb 5, 2023, Regeneration Summit: A Celebration of Black Cinema (1898 – 1971). Attend three days of workshops, panels, screening, and live entertainment tied to the Academy Museum’s excellent.

Dr. Henry Gates, Jr. FINDING YOUR ROOTS Season 9 on Tuesday at 7:00 pm, on PBS and stream on PBS.org and PBS Video app.

March 2-4, 2023, RootsTech 2023, register for free virtual and \$98.00 for in-person experience in the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City. Registration: <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/> is now open. The theme this year for RootsTech 2023 is “Uniting” a three-day global family history event.

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March 31, 2023 -April 2, 2023, Virtual and In-person 10th Genetic Genealogy Conference. Information on location and registration will be provided later.

The Midwest African American Genealogy Institute (MAAGI) announce registration is open for virtual classes from July 11 - 13, 2023.

**CAAGS FINANCIAL SUMMARY
Month Ending, December 31, 2022**

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 9,498.34
INCOME	1,289.33
DISBURSEMENTS	1,010.03
DESIGNATED FUNDS	131.22
ENDING BALANCE	\$ 9,777.64

Shirley Hurt, Treasurer

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President’s Message

Gloria Wallace

Our common goal first is willing to put in the time and effort to CAAGS. Volunteering, attending meetings in-person or virtual and being an active member this year. Your input is valued, if you have new information on genealogy, share it. Help a new member get organized. Serve on a committee. Recommend pertinent speakers on genealogical and family research. Represent CAAGS at a national or regional conference. Also, recruit one new member.

Our plans this year will involve more genealogy and research. We are planning sessions on organizing your research, writing the family history, cemetery research, church records, trips to special libraries, and research centers in the area.

Let us make this year fun and informative.



Daylight saving time begins Sunday, March 12, 2023

Why Is African American Genealogy Different?

African American genealogical research is different from other ethnic backgrounds. Because slaves were considered property, they were prohibited from reading, writing, attending school, legally marrying, owning land, owning a business, voting, and participating in many other activities that generate records on which much genealogical research is based.



Illustrated depiction of the arrival of freedmen and their families at Baltimore, Maryland in 1865. From the Digital Maryland Collection, Views of African American Life in Maryland.

Citizenship was granted in 1868 to slaves, an action that had an impact on records like letters, diaries, wills, census records, land deeds, voter registrations, and school records.

However, like people of that time, written documents were sometimes segregated. These records might be kept in separate files or listed in the back of record books. Finding aids may also have these complications. For example, many military records of African Americans are indexed separately.

Finally, African American genealogy and history has not been widely researched. When Alex Haley wrote his best-selling book *Roots*, many people began to question their elders about their past and research their own family histories. But this has only occurred in the most recent past. There is a lot of history to try to catch up with!

Gather Oral Histories & Family Records

Try to write your own autobiography. Start with yourself and work backwards, writing everything you know about your parents, grandparents, and so forth. Interviewing the elders in your family is always helpful. Ask them what they can remember about what life like when they were younger, and about the ancestors they remember. Find family papers, records, photos, and souvenirs. Make sure to write on the backs of photos who the people are

on the front, when the photo was taken, and if it is a specific occasion, such as a birthday, graduation, or baptism.

Sources for Researching African American Genealogy: Records and Documents

The following sources have records after 1870:

- Cemeteries
- Funeral homes
- Birth and death certifications
- Marriage and divorce records
- Obituaries
- Published biographies and family histories
- Old city directories and telephone directories
- Social security records
- U.S. census records
- African colonization societies

It is more difficult to research prior to 1868, but it doesn't mean there are no records. You will want to try to:

- Identify the last slave owner.
 - Manumissions and Certificates of Freedom
 - Business receipts and contracts
- Research slave owner and slavery history
 - Runaway slave advertisements and legal notices
 - Bounty lists
 - Freedmen's Bureau: Established in the War Department by an act of March 3, 1865, the Bureau supervised all relief and educational activities relating to refugees and freedmen, including issuing rations, clothing, and medicine.
- Explore Canadian and Caribbean transits.
 - Slaves were sent to ports other than those in the United States. Many slaves were sent to the Caribbean first and then to the U.S., some even after a generation or more. *Information from Enoch Pratt Free Library*

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STAY TUNED

YouTube Channel

Documenting the Enslaved in Your Tree

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d8NagY7YrYM>

African Americans Turn to Genealogy for Help with Hidden Family Histories

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iMPaE03LphI>

5 Lies About African American Genealogy and Family History Research

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MDpPnk-QUz8>

(1) Forgotten Genealogy Records You May Have Missed in Your Family History Research - YouTube

[\(1\) Names Roadblocks to Black Genealogy by Tony Burroughs - YouTube](#)

[\(1\) Got Southern Ancestors? You Need to Use These Records - YouTube](#)

[\(1\) African American Genealogy Interviews of our Elders- Questions You Should Ask - YouTube](#)

[AF-102: 10 Tools for Your Genealogy Research That You Never Thought You'd Need | Ancestral Findings - YouTube](#)

[\(7\) How to find old newspapers at Google Books for free! - YouTube](#)

[\(7\) Finding Proof for Your Family History and Genealogy - YouTube](#)



[Cherokee, Choctaw & Chickasaw Freedmen Records and Family Stories - Legacy Family Tree Webinars](#)

[Exploring the Records in a Slave Owning Community - Legacy Family Tree Webinars](#)

Books on African American Genealogy

[African American Genealogy - Enoch Pratt Free Library \(prattlibrary.org\)](#)

Black Indian Genealogy Research: African American Ancestors Among the Five Civilized Tribes, An Expanded Edition (Paperback) by Angela Y. Walton-Raji

Finding Your African American Ancestors: A Beginner's Guide by David T. Thackery

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



ONGOING

CAAGS Writers Group (via Zoom), monthly, 2nd Thursday, March 9, 2023, 5:00 p.m. – 7 :00 p.m. Information: 323-806-5634

CAAGS Board Meeting (monthly, 3rd Thursday), March 16, 2023, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

CAAGS General Membership Meeting, March 18, 2023, (3rd Saturday) 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. In person at **Los Angeles California FamilySearch Center**, Computer Lab. This will be a Research Workshop. Address 1591 E Temple Way, Los Angeles, CA 90024. Masks are optional.

2023 CAAGS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES January 2023 -March 2023

Application can be download from CAAGS website and deadline March 31, 2023.

[Membership Application & Dues - California African American Genealogical Society \(caags.org\)](#)



CAAGS Newsletters

To access current year CAAGS Newsletters, members who are financially current will need to contact Norma Bates (310)766-2283 for the password then use this link: <https://caags.org/newsletters> (members only). The archival CAAGS Newsletters from 2022 and previous years can be accessed by anyone, using <https://caags.org/archives/> (this link is under the Resources tab).



CAAGS Mugs size 12 oz or 15 oz (both preorder) \$10.00 and personalized mugs (preorder) \$12.00. Contact Norma Bates 310-766-2283 (no shipping/pickup at next in person meeting).

CAAGS Cookbooks are on sale for \$10.00.

Visit us at www.caags.org and follow us on Facebook, California African American Genealogical Society.



Let's support one of our CAAGS member Akousa Hobert and purchase **SNAPSHOTS, Personal Narratives of the Community Writers Group of Los Angeles, Vol 8**. Her father is on the cover of the book, and she has written a poem and essay. Akousa Contact information akosua2010@hotmail.com.

NEW MEMBERS - WELCOME!

- Armstrong, Michael Oliver
- Hoffman, Whitney - Surnames Elam, Hightower, Hoffman, Hinds & Thompson. States: MS, OK, TX, AL, TN & VA.
- Tate, Warren – Surnames: Martin, Sharp, Bell, Davis, Rabb, Raynor, Scribner, Young & Moore. States: NC, SC, GA, AR & MO.
- Taylor, Denise – Surnames: Taylor, Doley, & Porter. States: LA, TX & CA.
- Williams, Meshia Russell
- Yap, Janet – Surnames King, and Gamboa. States/Country – CA & WA/Belize

Genealogical Quiz

What is the difference between a family history and a genealogy? Choose the best answer.

- Family histories are just lists of data.
- Genealogies and family histories are the same thing.
- Family history is a narrative, while a genealogy focuses on listing ancestors.
- Family histories only include living family members.

To unsubscribe contact newsletter@caags.org.

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

2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check CAAGS online website for up-to-date information and CAAGS is on Facebook.

Dr. Henry Gates, Jr. **FINDING YOUR ROOTS** Season 9 on Tuesday at 7:00 pm, on PBS and stream on PBS.org and PBS Video app.

March 2-4, 2023, **RootsTech 2023**, register for free virtual and \$98.00 for in-person experience in the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City. Registration: <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/> is now open. The theme this year for RootsTech 2023 is “Uniting” a three-day global family history event.

17TH ANNUAL FAMILY HISTORY SEMINAR/VIRTUAL SEMINAR

MARCH 11, 2023, 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM PST

Keynote Speakers: Richard Diggs & Denise Diggs

Instructions: Zoom Link will be provided to registered attendees via email the 1st week of March, along with login instructions. Register Online at www.aafhs.com or Mail in Registration: CPHF c/o 3260 Ramos Circle, Sacramento, CA 95827. \$10.00 Early Registration – If received by 2/10/2023 and \$15.00 Late Registration

March 31, 2023 -April 2, 2023, Virtual and In-person 10th Genetic Genealogy Conference. Information on location and registration will be provided later.

The Midwest African American Genealogy Institute (MAAGI) announce registration is open for virtual classes from July 11 - 13, 2023.

CAAGS FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Month Ending, January 31, 2023

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 9,777.64
INCOME	903.29
DISBURSEMENTS	1,719.26
DESIGNATED FUNDS	131.22
ENDING BALANCE	\$ 8,961.67

Shirley Hurt, Treasurer

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

Heritage Newsletter

California African American Genealogical Society

“Inspiring Family
History Research



One Person
At A Time.”

April 2023

Volume 35 Issue 4

Ten Issues Published Annually

ISSN 1083-8937

California African American Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 8442 Los Angeles, CA 90008-0442

General Membership Meetings

Third Saturday monthly, 10:00 a.m. (dark July & August)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 10625 S.
San Pedro, Los Angeles, CA

2023 Board of Directors

Elected Officers

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Deborah Winston – First Vice President

Norma Bates– Second Vice President/Membership

Cartellia Marie Bryant – Corresponding Secretary

Christina Ashe– Recording Secretary

Shirley Hurt – Treasurer

Renee Cochee – Parliamentarian

Committee Chairs/Appointed Officers

Peggy Powell – Books and Acquisitions Open – Public
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Edna Briggs - Historian

Maria Marshall-Lee– Newsletter Editor

James Murray – FGS Delegate

Akosua Hobert – Volunteer Chairperson

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publication of any submission. **Submissions are due by
the third Saturday of each month.**

Visit us at www.caags.org and follow us on Facebook,
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Ernest Gaines (January 15, 1933 – November 5, 2019)

Ernest Gaines was born on the Riverlake Plantation in Oscar, Louisiana. He was raised in the former slave quarters that his family had lived in for five generations. For his elementary education, he attended school in the plantation church which served as the one-room schoolhouse during the week. For high school, he relocated to Vallejo, California to join his mother & stepfather because there was no high school for African Americans in his parish. After high school, he completed his education at Vallejo Junior College, San Francisco State & Stanford University. He also served two years in the United States Army.

Some of his well-known works were *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*, *A Lesson Before Dying*, *A Gathering of Old Men*, and *In My Father's House*. The *Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* and *A Lesson Before Dying* were made into mini-series for television. *A Lesson Before Dying* was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and selected for Oprah Winfrey's Book Club. His works have been translated into 17 languages.

At the University of Louisiana at Lafayette on January 23, 2023, the family & friends of Mr. Gaines were present for

Continue Gaines Story

the unveiling of the 46th stamp in the United States Postal Service Black Heritage Series honoring the Pointe Coupee Parish, Louisiana native. The Forever stamps can be purchased at your local post office or online at the Postal store. Forever stamps will always be equal in value to the current First-Class 1-ounce price. Submitted by Michelle Le Doux

SHOULD MY FAMILY TREE BE PRIVATE OR PUBLIC?

There are very good reasons to consider both public and private options. Your decision should be based on your own personal preferences and situation. The good news is, you'll always be able to switch your tree's status from public to private (or vice versa) in the future if you change your mind – but let's take a moment to dive into each of the available options so that you can make the best choice for your tree.

PUBLIC

As you walk through the steps to create a new family tree on Ancestry, the system asks you to check a box next to the statement, "Allow others to view this tree (people marked "living" are hidden)." By default, this box is checked, meaning if you don't uncheck it, your tree will be public. But what does that mean, exactly? Public trees in Ancestry are just that — open to the public for viewing. This means that anyone who logs into Ancestry and comes across your tree can see the deceased individuals you have included, along with all the information you have entered and documents or photos you have attached. As the Ancestry disclaimer says, anyone you've marked as "living" in your tree will be hidden, and their information will not appear in searches. Additionally, anything you've added to an individual's "Notes" section will also be hidden from view.

It's also good to know that if you haven't marked someone as "living" or "deceased" in your tree (for example, if you've uploaded your tree from a GEDCOM file or a software program that doesn't have this setting) and have also not included a death date in the appropriate spot, Ancestry will consider those folks "living" if they are younger than 100 years old. By far, the biggest benefit of having a public tree is the opportunity to find and collaborate with other people who are researching your family.

Do remember though – public trees can help you further your research if they are used correctly. But, as we've shared here before, other people's trees are not valid sources for your own tree. The information in another person's public tree could be inaccurate so simply copying it can endanger the reliability of your own tree. If you are using Ancestry trees in your research, please take the time to learn to use them responsibly.

WHEN SHOULD I STAY PRIVATE?

Although public trees are wonderful for collaboration (especially in AncestryDNA matches!), there are valid reasons some folks choose to keep their trees private. For example, some people, including some professional genealogists, will create Ancestry trees to be works-in-progress, meaning that the information they add to a tree may be a placeholder until further research either proves or disproves the fact. These owners would not want someone to find the tree and copy details that haven't been fully researched.

Others keep their trees private and non-searchable because they don't want other people to save the photos or documents they've uploaded to their tree. Or because they do not want people copying their work in any form. Some Ancestry users have shifted their trees from public to private simply because they don't want to be contacted. Lastly, choose your preferred setting of Public or Private. If you would live for your Private tree to be searchable, click the box in the Private Tree section that says, "Also prevent your tree from being found in searches." Provided by Ancestry.com.

Another ode to the IRS

By Marsha Hood

It's April, I can't stand the tension
Crunching numbers to file an extension
I can't make a dent
Like the top one percent
It's taxing to not have a pension

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Alabama, California, and Georgia storm victims now have until May 15, 2023. Tax extension due date is October 15, 2023.

STAY TUNED

YouTube Channel

New DNA for Your Ancestors:

https://www.eogn.com/page-18080/13123045?fbclid=IwAR2XiW2YECDU-TCUDPXnFnYHnOn_MmWK0pKh7F1iNrT_i5olyL1A5RWggbS

AncestryDNA(R) Results: Tutorial - How to Use Ethnicity Estimates, DNA Cousin Matches, & ThruLines

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qU1XbonREo&list=PLiMXWjHlj5RTuO4UJdUB5vKqfYFuQ5qnQ>

[\(36\) Hidden Tools on Ancestry.com - YouTube](#)

[\(36\) How do you know that record belongs to your ancestor? Evidence Analysis and Correlation - YouTube](#)

[\(36\) Ancestor Profile Clean Up on Ancestry.com - YouTube](#)

[\(36\) How to find old newspapers at Google Books for free! - YouTube](#)

4th Annual Genealogy Webinar Marathon



THE 24-HOUR (4TH ANNUAL)
GENEALOGY WEBINAR
MARATHON

April 13-14, 2023



The 4th Annual 24-Hour Genealogy Webinar Marathon is hosted by FamilyTreeWebinars.com and MyHeritage. The marathon will begin on Thursday, April 13, 2023, at 5:00 pm Eastern Standard Time and end Friday, April 14, 2023, at 6:00 pm Eastern Standard.

Visit www.FamilyTreeWebinars.com/24 to register (free!)

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



Festival of Books April 22 – 23, 2023 at USC/Exposition Park. Bibliophiles flock to the USC campus for this *L.A. Times*-curated event, where you can roam stalls from booksellers, catch readings and panels from some of the most recognizable names in literature. Admission to the festival and its seven outdoor stages are free, though indoor talks come with a small fee. Reservations began on April 16, 2023, at 6 am. Event website: events.latimes.com/festivalofbooks/

ONGOING

CAAGS Writers Group (via Zoom), monthly, 2nd Thursday, April 13, 2023, 5:00 p.m. – 7 :00 p.m. Information: 323-806-5634

CAAGS Board Meeting (monthly, 2nd Thursday), April 13, 2023, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

CAAGS General Membership Meeting, April 15, 2023, (3rd Saturday) 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. In person and via ZOOM, details for ZOOM to follow. (In person) The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints 10623 South San Pedro Bl Los Angeles, CA 90003. Masks are optional.

The Los Angeles Family Search Library is open for in-person help via ZOOM. Library hours are Tuesday – Saturday 10:00 am – 6:00 pm and Thursday 10:00 am – 8:00 pm

CAAGS Newsletters



The archival CAAGS Newsletters from 2022 and previous years can be accessed by members, using <https://caags.org/archives/> (this link is under the Resources tab).



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Visit us at www.caags.org and follow us on Facebook, California African American Genealogical Society.

Genealogical Quiz

The most common type of deed, which is used to convey title from a party who has clear title to the property is: Choose the best answer.

- Deed of Trust
- Deed of Gift
- Quit Claim Deed
- Warranty Deed

What is direct-line family history research?

- When someone only directly tracks one line of their family tree at a time
- Adding only very closely related family members to a tree – such as parents and their siblings, grandparents and their siblings, etc.
- An expert method of research that focuses on certain individuals in a tree to increase the chance of finding new lines.
- Adding only someone's ancestors to a tree – such as parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, etc.

About the 1890 U S Census

These records have been extracted from the remaining population schedules for the 1890 Federal Census, which was destroyed by a fire at the Commerce Department in Washington, DC on 10 January 1921. The surviving fragments consists of 1,233 pages or pieces, including enumerations for **Alabama, the District of Columbia, Georgia, Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, South Dakota, and Texas.** The records of only 6,160 of the 62,979,766 people enumerated survived the fire.

The original 1890 U S Census enumerated people differently than the previous census. Each family was enumerated on a separate sheet of paper. 1890 was the only year this was done. Source Information: Ancestry.com and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. **1890 United States Federal Census Fragment** [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2009. Images reproduced by FamilySearch. Original data: Eleventh Census of the United States, 1890; Microfilm Publication M407, 3 rolls; NAID: 2353580; Records of the Bureau of the Census,

Record Group 29; National Archives at Washington, DC. Logbook of Frank Lowell, Special Agent, Alaska District No. 2, 1890 Census; NAID: 202288465; Records of the Bureau of the Census, 1790 - 2007, Record Group 29; National Archives at Washington, DC.

2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check CAAGS online website for up-to-date information and CAAGS is on Facebook.

April 29, 2023, at 7:00 pm Orange County Family Research Center presents two genealogists, one White, one Black, Barbara Renick and Beverly Bevel both with a passion for research and family history, discover they are cousins through a common slaveholder ancestor. Together, forging a powerful research team, they developed a lifetime bond. Barbara Renick is a nationally recognized professional genealogist. She will discuss integrating the knowledge and procedures of the past with the simplified, faster technology of today! 674 S. Yorba, Orange, CA (714) 997-7710 www.ocfamilyhistory.org

May 24 – 28, 2023 National Genealogical Society (NGS) In-person Conference in Sacramento, CA website www.ngsgenealogy.org

June 17, 2023, Juneteenth Celebration

The Midwest African American Genealogy Institute (MAAGI) announce registration is open for virtual classes from July 11 - 13, 2023.

CAAGS FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Month Ending, February 28, 2023

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$8,949.07
INCOME	579.82
DISBURSEMENTS	168.41
DESIGNATED FUNDS	131.22
ENDING BALANCE	\$9,360.48

Shirley Hurt, Treasurer

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

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California African American Genealogical Society.



“Old Map Collections That Every Family Historian Should Know About”

by Bridget M. Sunderlin, CG®

Ask any seasoned genealogist and they will tell you just how important maps are to their research. In fact, they will proclaim that you never truly examine your ancestor’s life unless you add maps to your record toolbox. Maps, especially when correlated with land, probate, and church records, will give your insight into the time and space your ancestors inhabited. Almost no other resource paints a better picture of your ancestor’s world.

Thankfully, several digital map collections are available online to help us better see that past. The following eleven collections will enhance your research, but also take advantage of maps available in your local area by visiting the online collections at historical museums, state archives, libraries, and universities, as well as Google Maps as a digital resource.

1. [David Rumsey Map Collection](#)

David Rumsey, president of Cartography Associates, is the owner of a map collection exceeding 150,000 maps. Over 25 years ago, he built this site to offer public access to his collection. We owe a huge debt

of gratitude for his incredible gift. One nice feature that Rumsey has is his historic road maps from the 1950s, such as this Shell Oil map of Florida. This will help you with recent ancestry. Every visitor should also acquaint themselves with Rumsey's Copyright and Permissions. Best practices should require you to take the same approach with the rest of these resources that follow this collection.

[2. Library of Congress Collections with Maps](#)

Visit the Library of Congress to gain access to their full catalogue of digitized maps. For example, the Civil War Maps collection, with over two thousand maps, is the byproduct of the LOC's collection, plus that of the Library of Virginia and the Virginia Historical Society. It is quite comprehensive, to say the least. If you cannot find what you need here to better visualize this conflict you have not exhausted the collection yet.

The Library of Congress also holds the famed Sanborn Maps, which allow genealogists to see individual homesites.

To get a bird's eye view of things, investigate the Panoramic Maps collection. Such as the Railroad Maps collection, from 1828 to 1900. This would be my first stop when researching family members employed by the railroad.

[3. Old Maps Online](#)

The welcoming page of Old Maps Online will get your heart racing! It is difficult to decide whether to click *Find a Place* or *Browse the Old Maps*. *Browsing the Old Maps* defaults to your current location, and shows you a list of maps across history, just waiting for you to view them. A link redirects you to the map's online location. If you choose *Find a Place*, a search bar allows you to type the location of your choosing. Perhaps the best news of all is that you can download the Old Maps [mobile app](#) for your phone or iPad and carry this resource wherever you go.

[4. The Geacron Project](#)

To identify world borders across history, the Geacron Project may be your best resource. This color-coded atlas can be invaluable to those studying Europe, with its ever-changing borders. Simply type in any date or series of dates and know for certain which sovereign nation ruled your target country.

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

[5. Digital Public Library of America](#)

The [DPLA](#) offers more than 40 million images, texts, videos and sounds, all from the U.S. – including 512,515 maps. As you refine your searches' listed items are displayed from their original source, which consist of separate institutions across America. Let this assist your research further by identifying sources you may not have thought of to use in your genealogical research. For example, the University of Kentucky holds a [1718 map of New Orleans](#). This becomes even more valuable when Kentucky's collection is identified as a potential source for additional records pertaining to the same place and time.

[6. Harvard Map Collection](#)

Harvard boasts two beautiful online collections in addition to maps held within the library itself in Cambridge. Online visitors can browse almost 3,000 items, many of which are entire atlas books. Do keep in mind that this collection extends far beyond the Old Bay State of Massachusetts.

[7. New York Public Library Map Division](#)

It is impossible to describe the sheer volume of maps held on this site. Not limited to all things New York, you will find maps from every kingdom across the globe. To filter your search, type "map," and then the "place" (i.e., map: Georgia).

[8. Old Maps](#)

The ease of locating state maps is what makes Old Maps (different than Old Maps Online listed above) invaluable to the genealogist. Simply go to the website, scroll down the state list on the left side of the home page, and up pops a series of maps for quick view. Their latest series of maps added to the archives is *New York Town Maps*. They also have a collection of nautical maps that are sure to fascinate historians focused on the Atlantic seaboard.

[9. Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center](#)

This invaluable resource includes four fundamental digital collections. They have the [American Revolutionary War-Era Maps](#), the [Boston and New England Maps](#), the [Maritime Charts and Atlases](#) and the Maps. Curated by theme, these offer easy access to the originals located throughout the country. A hand-drawn [Draught of Boston Harbor](#) from the 16th century pops up immediately, and it will amaze you. Navigation through this website is quite seamless and enjoyable. Simply click *Browse the Collection* and you are on your way!

Visit us at www.caags.org and follow us on Facebook, California African American Genealogical Society.

STAY TUNED

[10. Historic Map Works](#)

Two collections are offered by Historic Map Works. The Library Edition can be accessed at public libraries and universities. The subscription-based website includes over 1.5 million images. Start with [Browse](#) and take advantage of the improved interactive browser. Filter by continent, country, and state or province. Once a place is identified, results are listed from oldest to present. The filter does not break it down to city or town, but a search box is available to filter further. Once the map is opened, you can purchase the map or an image license.

[11. Brunan Map Collection at the UCLA Library](#)

If your research is focused on the west coast, specifically California, you may wish to visit the UCLA Library online. Libraries and college libraries are some of the best repositories of maps. Not all colleges have digitized their maps yet, but that should not diminish the importance these records may hold to solving your ancestor's mystery. Such as college library the University of Alabama and its [Historical Maps](#) collection. So many hyperlinked maps are available with just a simple click. Map Image retrieved from:

<https://i.pinimg.com/originals/89/d1/9f/89d19f74c55bf2fe7055112fdaff4fd1.jpg>

YouTube Channel

[\(51\) How to Use Find a Grave + Mobile App - YouTube](#)

[\(51\) My Most Used Ancestry.com Tricks \(SOME YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT\) - YouTube](#)

[\(51\) Avoid mistakes by using my 2nd most important genealogy tip - it is all about timelines - YouTube](#)

[\(51\) Researching Newspapers to Find Genealogy Gold | Ancestry - YouTube](#)

[\(51\) Find your Dead through their Taxes \(Professional Genealogist's Secrets\) - YouTube](#)

[\(51\) When You Can't Find A Death Record | Ancestry - YouTube](#)

[\(51\) Genealogy: Finding Your Unknown Father or Grandfather Through DNA Testing - YouTube](#)

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Raffling Samsonite 3-piece luggage set.

Donation of \$10.00. Drawing will be held on May 20, 2023, during our General meeting.

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Saturday, June 10, 2023, "June Jubilee 2023"

Changing Tones Advisory Committee

10 a.m. – 4 p.m./Library opens at 9:30 a.m. Central Library, Taper Auditorium. 630 W. 5th ST., Los Angeles, CA 90071.

Visit us at www.caags.org and follow us on Facebook, California African American Genealogical Society.

Courage in the Face of Oppression



Fannie Hulett-Robinson

Fannie Hulett-Robinson, born 26 Dec 1888 and raised in Lowndes County, Alabama to parents of Hilliard and Irilla Patterson-Hulett, Sr. It was 58 years ago when African Americans could not easily vote. The Voting Rights Act 1965, signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson, banned the use of literacy tests and challenged the use of poll taxes, which had made it difficult to register. For the first time since Reconstruction, they were able to register to vote.

Mrs. Fannie Hulett-Robinson was pictured registering to vote in 1965, the original picture was in the Saturday Evening Post, 1966 and reposted in The New York Times Magazine/June 10, 1984. An artist, Mr. Kenny Vaughn of Texas, displayed his piece of art in the Crenshaw/Baldwin Hill Mall during Black History Month, in Los Angeles. It was "Mama Fannie" Robinson-Hulett, he said "it was the look in her eyes and at her age she was willing to risk her life for the right to vote."

Also, Fannie's nephew, John Hulett, who helped spearhead the initial voter registration attempt and was part of the creation of the SNCC Lowndes County Freedom Organization, was inspired by her courage. Pictured in the above photo are artist Kenny Vaughn and granddaughter Alyce Hardy-Shigg of Fannie Hulett-Robinson.



Upcoming Webinars

Working on the Railroad: Pullman Porters and Maids by Janice Lovelace, PhD on Friday, May 5, 2023, at 11:00 AM PDT. Register for free.

Afro-Louisiana History and Genealogy, 1718 – 1820 by Nicka Smith on Friday, June 2, 2023, at 11:00 AM PDT. Register for free.

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Shirley Hurt, Treasurer

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Peggy Powell – Books and Acquisitions Open – Public
Relations/Fundraising/Librarian

Edna Briggs - Historian

Maria Marshall-Lee– Newsletter Editor

James Murray – FGS Delegate

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

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California African American Genealogical Society.

The Historical Legacy of Juneteenth



Emancipation Day celebration, June 19, 1900, held in "East Woods" on East 24th Street in Austin. Credit: Austin History Center.

On “Freedom’s Eve,” or the eve of January 1, 1863, the first Watch Night services took place. On that night, enslaved and free African Americans gathered in churches and private homes across the country awaiting news that the Emancipation Proclamation had taken effect. At the stroke of midnight, prayers were answered as all enslaved people in Confederate States were declared legally free. Union soldiers, many of whom were black, marched onto plantations and across cities in the south reading small copies of the Emancipation Proclamation spreading the news of freedom in Confederate States. Only through the Thirteenth Amendment did emancipation end slavery throughout the United States.

But not everyone in Confederate territory would immediately be free. Even though the Emancipation Proclamation was made effective in 1863, it could not be implemented in places still under Confederate control. As a result, in the westernmost Confederate state of

Texas, enslaved people would not be free until much later. Freedom finally came on June 19, 1865, when some 2,000 Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas. The army announced that the more than 250,000 enslaved Black people in the state, were free by executive decree. This day came to be known as "Juneteenth," by the newly freed people in Texas.



Publishers throughout the North responded to a demand for copies of Lincoln's proclamation and produced numerous decorative versions, including this engraving by R. A. Dimmick in 1864. National Museum of American History, gift of Ralph E. Becker

The post-emancipation period known as Reconstruction (1865-1877) marked an era of great hope, uncertainty, and struggle for the nation. Formerly enslaved people immediately sought to reunify families, establish schools, run for political office, push radical legislation, and even sue slaveholders for compensation. Given the 200+ years of enslavement, such changes were nothing short of amazing. Not even a generation out of slavery, African Americans were inspired and empowered to transform their lives and their country.

Juneteenth marks our country's second independence day. Although it has long celebrated in the African American community, this monumental event remains unknown to most Americans. The historical legacy of Juneteenth shows the value of never giving up hope in uncertain times. The National Museum of African American History and Culture is a community space where this spirit of hope lives on. A place where historical events like Juneteenth are shared and new stories with equal urgency are told. [The Historical Legacy of Juneteenth | National Museum of African American History and Culture \(si.edu\)](https://www.si.edu/juneteenth)

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Born in Brownsville, Tennessee as Annie Mae Bullock; November 26, 1939, was an American-born and naturalized Swiss singer, songwriter, dancer, actress, and author. Tina Turner became one of the powerhouse voices of soul music throughout the last half of the twentieth century. Widely, referred to as the "Queen of Rock 'n Roll."

She got her big break in 1957 working as a backup vocalist for Ike Turner's touring show, where her undeniable sound helped the band top the charts with the hit "A Fool in Love." Under the name Little Ann, she appeared on her first record, "Boxtop", in 1958. In 1960, she debuted as Tina Turner with the hit duet single "A Fool in Love". The duo Ike & Tina Turner became "one of the most formidable live acts in history". They released hits such as "It's Gonna Work Out Fine", "River Deep – Mountain High", "Proud Mary", and "Nutbush City Limits", before disbanding in 1976.

Her solo career rose through the years and plateaued in the late '80s. In 1984 multi-platinum album *Private Dancer* contained the hit song "What's Love Got to Do With It" which won the Grammy Award for Record of the Year and became her first and only number-one song on the Billboard Hot 100. Aged 44, she was the oldest female solo artist to top the Hot 100. Turner also acted in the films *Tommy* (1975) and *Mad Max: Beyond Thunderdome* (1985). In 1993, *What's Love Got to Do with It*, a biographical film adapted from her autobiography *I, Tina: My Life Story*, was released. In 2009, Turner retired after completing her *Tina! 50th Anniversary Tour*, which is the 15th highest-grossing tour of the 2000s. In 2018, she became the subject of the jukebox musical *Tina*.

Turner was the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award, rightfully earned through her contributions to the soul music scene and has three songs added to the Grammy Hall of Fame. She was also a 2005 recipient of the Kennedy Center Honors and Women of the Year award. Turner died on May 24, 2023, aged 83, following a long illness. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tina_Turner

STAY TUNED

YouTube Channel

- [\(69\) Newspaper Search Tricks to Find Your Family - YouTube](#)
- [\(69\) MyHeritage Updates 2023 - YouTube](#)
- [\(69\) How To Print a Vertical Family Tree in Ancestry - YouTube](#)
- [\(69\) 5 tips for writing a family history book - YouTube](#)
- [\(69\) Start Over or Verify Your Family Tree - YouTube](#)

Ten Places to Find the (Free) Genealogy Printable You Need By Kate Jackson, Associate Editor of Family History Daily

Looking for free printable to aid in your genealogy research? The right printable chart, form, template, or worksheet can do wonders for any family historian hoping to get organized or break down a frustrating brick wall. Whether you need a way to keep track of your census research, create a family tree to place in a family binder or scrapbook, or are putting together a biography of an individual ancestor – family history printable can help you take your research to a new level. Here are free and easy-to-access collections from around the web, so you will always have the right genealogy chart, form, or worksheet right at your fingertips.

Note: All the genealogy printable linked to in this list are completely free. Some sites have made their forms available for immediate download or printing, while other sites will send access to the chart or form to your inbox once you have entered your email address.

1. Ancestry
2. Midwest Genealogy Center
3. Family Search
4. The U.S. National Archives
5. Fuzzy Ink Stationery
6. Family Tree Templates
7. Family Tree Magazine
8. Obituaries Help
9. Cindi's List
10. Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness

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Visit us at www.caags.org and follow us on Facebook, California African American Genealogical Society.



Need (8) eight volunteers for CAAGS booth at the LA Public Library Juneteenth Celebration on Saturday, June 10, 2023. Please contact Akosua Hobert – Volunteer Chairperson.



CAAGS Cookbooks are on sale for \$10.00.



Raffle Winner of the Samsonite 3-piece luggage set, Debbie Winston. Congratulations and thank you CAAGS members for participating in our fundraiser.

ONGOING

CAAGS Writers Group (via Zoom), monthly, 2nd Thursday, June 8, 2023, 5:00 p.m. – 7 :00 p.m. Information: 323-806-5634

CAAGS Board Meeting (monthly 3rd Thursday), June 15, 2023, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

CAAGS General Membership Meeting, Saturday, June 17, 2023, (3rd Saturday) 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. will be held at the home of President Gloria Wallace, 745 W. 109th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90044.

The Los Angeles Family Search Library is open for in-person help via ZOOM. Library hours are Tuesday – Saturday 10:00 am – 6:00 pm and Thursday 10:00 am – 8:00 pm



CAAGS Newsletters

The archival CAAGS Newsletters from 2022 and previous years can be accessed by members, using <https://caags.org/archives/> (this link is under the Resources tab).



Upcoming Webinars

Afro-Louisiana History and Genealogy, 1718 – 1820 by Nicka Smith on Friday, June 2, 2023, at 11:00 AM PDT. Register for free.

8 Brick Wall Busters for Midwest African American Ancestors by LaDonna Garner, M.A. on Friday, July 7, 2023, at 11:00 AM PDT. Register for free.

Summer Reading

Black Indian Genealogy Research: African American Ancestors Among the Five Civilized Tribes, An Expanded Edition Paperback – January 1, 2019, by Angela Y. Walton-Raji (Author)

Black Indians: A Hidden Heritage Paperback – January 3, 2012, by William Loren Katz (Author)

Stitched from the Soul by Gladys-Marie Fry



Steve & Lynette Allen
Christina Ashe
Charlyne D. Moyer
Jamesetta Hammons-Glosson
Corliss Lundy
Lanetta Lyons

Tommie Mallet
C. McIntyre-Michel
Jeanie M. Price
Janet Yap

THANK YOU

Thanking Commissioner Mandla Kayise, CEO of New World Education for speaking to the CAAGS' Members on Reparation. We are grateful for the time and effort you took to share your thoughts and experiences with us on Saturday.

2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check CAAGS online website for up-to-date information and CAAGS is on Facebook.

May 31 – June 3, 2023, National Genealogical Society (NGS) Conference in Richmond, VA. Website www.ngsgenealogy.org.



June 10, 2023, Saturday, *June Jubilee 2023* at Los Angeles Public Library, 630 W. 5th Street, Los Angeles, CA. 90071. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Parking \$1.00 with validation and library card. If not, parking is \$30.00.

June 17, 2023, Juneteenth Celebration will be held at the home of President Gloria Wallace, 745 W. 109th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90044. This will be our last General Meeting before the summer break.

CAAGS FINANCIAL SUMMARY Month Ending, Apr 30, 2023

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$9,299.11
INCOME	104.00
DISBURSEMENTS	468.94
DESIGNATED FUNDS	131.22
ENDING BALANCE	\$8,934.07

Shirley Hurt, Treasurer

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



Have a great summer! Have a great time with your family and friends. Travel to beautiful places, visit relatives, go shopping, enjoy your Summer!

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

Heritage Newsletter

California African American Genealogical Society

“Inspiring Family
History Research



One Person
At A Time.”

August/September 2023

Volume 35 Issue 7

Ten Issues Published Annually

ISSN 1083-8937

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

General Membership Meetings

Third Saturday monthly, 10:00 a.m. (dark July & August)
Los Angeles Family Search Center, 1591 East Temple
Way, near 10741 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA
90025.

2023 Board of Directors

Elected Officers

Gloria Wallace – President

Deborah Winston – First Vice President

Norma Bates– Second Vice President/Membership

Cartellia Marie Bryant – Corresponding Secretary

Christina Ashe– Recording Secretary

Shirley Hurt – Treasurer

Renee Cochee – Parliamentarian

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Louisiana Civil Rights Trail Marker Unveiled at Friendship
CME Church in Lisbon, Louisiana
by Jacque Murphy



LISBON, LA. – Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser and the Louisiana Office of Tourism today unveiled the 12th marker on the Louisiana Civil Rights Trail on Friday, July 7, 2023, at the Friendship CME Church in Lisbon, Louisiana. “Friendship CME Church is nestled in a small town where one would think not much happens. During the 1960s and early 1970s, plans affecting growth and change in Claiborne Parish were envisioned and strategies developed during sessions of the Claiborne Parish Civic League held at the quiet church,” said Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser. According to Evelyn Lewis, Friendship CME Church was the only church in the parish that opened its doors and welcomed local activists. It was an integral part of the Civil Rights Movement that took place in Claiborne Parish as well as in north Louisiana. It not only served as a meeting place in the parish, but it also was the place where a Deacons for Defense Chapter was created.

Friendship CME Church is on the National Register for Historic Places, joining the prestigious list in 2016. Its

Cont.

period of significance is 1965-1973 which reflects the years that the Friendship CME Church made its major contributions to the civil rights movement in Claiborne Parish, which began with creation of the Claiborne Parish Civic League and ended with the organization's last major battles with desegregation of local government (police jury), law enforcement, school board, schools, public library, and restaurants in the parish. The Louisiana Civil Rights Trail brings together the events of the 1950s and 1960s that placed the state of Louisiana at the center of the national Civil Rights Movement and narrates the compelling stories and experiences of the people who dedicated themselves and their lives to making civil rights real in Louisiana.

The first series of Louisiana Civil Rights Trail markers were installed in 2021 at Little Union Baptist Church in Shreveport, Dooky Chase's Restaurant in New Orleans, and the Louisiana Old State Capitol and A.Z. Young Park in Baton Rouge. Last year, additional markers were installed at McDonogh 19 Elementary School in New Orleans, the Louisiana Maneuvers & Military Museum in Pineville, and the Robert Hicks house in Bogalusa. In January 2023, the eighth marker along the Louisiana Civil Rights Trail was installed at William Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans. This year marker installations took place at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Pillars of Progress, the Kress Department Store Building in Baton Rouge, and Deacons for Defense Park in Jonesboro.

Land Evidence by Shamele Jordan

One important aspect of our ancestors' lives is homeownership, as it provides insight into their economic status, social standing, and connection to a specific place. If you suspect that your ancestor owned land, here are five key places where you can gather invaluable information about their property.

Five Key Sources:

Deeds: Land deeds serve as the cornerstone of property records, typically found at the county level. Land deeds provide a wealth of information, including land descriptions, the names of buyers and sellers, transaction costs, and occasionally, details about the previous owner and the location of the documentation within the county courthouse. To access these records,

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search the FamilySearch catalog and see if the deeds are available online. Keep in mind that certain online deed collections may only be accessible at FamilySearch affiliate libraries, denoted by a lock symbol.



1844 Deed of Jacob C White Sr. to the trustees of the Free Haven School For Colored Children, Snow Hill, NJ

Probate Records: In addition to land deeds, probate records can shed further light on your ancestor's property. Wills, inventories, appraisements, and estate packets are just a few examples of documents that may contain valuable clues about the property. If your ancestor died intestate, without a will, their property would be disposed of through court records rather than an estate packet. Sometimes they're called records of administration.

Tax Records: County tax records are an excellent resource for locating evidence of property ownership. In addition to land, these records often include information about taxable items such as livestock. By exploring tax records, you can gain insights into your ancestor's property holdings and potentially uncover additional details about their economic activities.

Newspapers: A treasure trove of information, they can provide various avenues for exploration. One method is to search for home sales, often conducted through sheriff sales, which may reveal details about your ancestor's property transactions. Additionally, tax liens are frequently published, providing addresses and lot designations for delinquent taxpayers. If your ancestor owned commercial property, newspapers might show notices for applications to sell liquor or retail.

Maps: Does a map exist that depicts your ancestral land? Land ownership maps are invaluable resources for visualizing property boundaries and understanding the spatial context of your ancestor's holdings. Websites like DavidRumsey.com, the Library of Congress, HistoryGeo.com, state universities, libraries, and archives often house land ownership maps dating back to the early 20th century or even earlier. If no such map exists, you can utilize the information from the deeds to plot the land on modern platforms like Google Maps, creating a visual representation of your ancestor's property.

STAY TUNED



CAAGS Newsletters

The archival CAAGS Newsletters from 2022 and previous years can be accessed by members, using <https://caags.org/archives/> (this link is under the Resources tab).

Thank You!



Gloria Wallace, all the CAAGS members would like to say thank you and we had a wonderful time during our Juneteenth Celebration at your home. You were an awesome host!

Resources

Slave Voyages provide free access to records and documents <https://www.slavevoyages.org/>.

[Free African Americans of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Maryland, and Delaware](#) - Listing of free African Americans in the Southeast during the colonial period extracted from primary source materials.

[African American Funeral Programs](#), [Manumissions](#), [Indentures](#), [Bills of Sale](#), [Mapping Maryland's Counties](#), [Slave Documents](#), and [Views of African American Life in MD](#).

[National Archives and Records Administration](#) - Features a guide for genealogy researchers (includes upcoming workshops and events, templates, and research tools), and a guide to records specific to African Americans.

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CAAGS Cookbooks are on sale for \$10.00.

ONGOING

CAAGS Writers Group on Thursday, September 7, 2023 (via Zoom), monthly, 5:00 – 7 :00 p.m.

CAAGS Board Meeting (monthly), Thursday, September 14, 2023, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

CAAGS General Membership Meeting, Saturday, September 16, 2023, (3rd Saturday) 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. will be held in person and via ZOOM, details for ZOOM to follow. (In person) Los Angeles Family History Library, 10741 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90025. Masks are optional.

CAAGS DNA Special Interest Group Meetings will be held on Saturday September 23, 2023, at 2 pm in the LAFSC classroom.

The Los Angeles Family Search Center is open for in-person help via ZOOM. Library hours are Tuesday – Saturday 10:00 am – 6:00 pm and Thursday 10:00 am – 8:00 pm.

LIFE-TIME MEMBER

“Grief is the price we pay for love.” — Queen Elizabeth II



(April 21, 1934 - July 13, 2023)

DorothyLou Sands, a memorial service for Lifetime member of CAAGS was held on August 2, 2023, at Christ the Good Shepard Episcopal Church. She retired from LAUSD after 32 years, 30 of those years in various clerical positions at Susan M. Dorsey High School. She graduated from Ohio University, University of Redlands with a Bachelor of Arts in Management 1953 – 1957.



Free registration for Webinars

Capturing their Stories: Best Practices for Recording Family History Interviews. Fri, Sep 1, 2023: 8:30 AM PDT by Colleen Robledo Greene, MLIS.

Understanding Predicted Relationships at the DNA Testing Sites. Wed, Sep 6, 2023: 11:00 AM PDT by Michelle Leonard.

3-2-1 data backup is great, but first you need to find all of your data. Fri, Sep 8, 2023: 7:15 AM PDT by Thomas MacEntee.

10 Places to Search for An Ancestor's Death Date... Without a Death Certificate. Fri, Sep 8, 2023: 9:45 AM PDT by Elizabeth Swanay O'Neal.

10 More Things To Do Before Leaving a Library or Archives. Fri, Sep 22, 2023: 7:15 AM PDT by Melissa Barker.

YouTube Channel

Ten Tips to Better Genealogy Research to Help You Break Down Family History Brick Walls

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bvv9ZdNe-vQ&pp=ygUSZ2VuZWFSb2d5IHJlc2VhcmNo>

The Truth About Find-A-Grave

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-WvOtsbv-vg&pp=ygUSZ2VuZWFSb2d5IHJlc2VhcmNo>

Research Methods for Uncovering African American Genealogy | Hidden History with Brian Bullock

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tW0zkcI92ls>

40 Acres and a Mule | CBS Reports

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A12Rv68Aa30>

How Black Americans Were Robbed of Their Land

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ldLiR794DsQ>

Uncovering Black cemeteries paved over in Florida | 60 Minutes.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sT9TaQcWcFs>

The last known slave ship | 60 Minutes Archive

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xk7Hnsp6r2k>

2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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**CAAGS FINANCIAL SUMMARY
Month Ending, June 30, 2023**

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$9,223.62
INCOME	128.00
DISBURSEMENTS	2,148.11
DESIGNATED FUNDS	131.22
ENDING BALANCE	\$7,203.51

Shirley Hurt, Treasurer



August 2023

Lonnie Bunkley
Thalia Clarke
El-Amin Nelson
Deborah Hamilton

Lloydine Outten
Barbara H. Thomas

September 2023

Norma Bates
Ronald Batiste
Frankye Charles
Carolyn Connor
Cora Currie

Colette Moncrief DeVerge
Harold Dean James
James A. Murray
Ophelia Robinson Sanders
Marjorie Sholes



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

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October 2023

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California African American Genealogical Society
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Deborah Winston – First Vice President

Norma Bates– Second Vice President/Membership

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Christina Ashe– Recording Secretary

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The African American Barber

Timothy N. Pinnick

Barbering and barbershops are synonymous with African Americans and ingrained in our culture. We shared a version of that with a wider audience through comedy via the Barbershop movies, and the brilliant barbershop scene by Eddie Murphy and others in “Coming to America”.

What is wonderful, however, are the memories so many of us have of the barbershop in our communities. North or South, East or West, wherever we grew up in the country, the experience, I suspect, was pretty similar. Growing up in the Lockport area, a tiny town about 45 miles southwest of Chicago, we had numerous choices since it butted up against the large metropolitan city of Joliet. And although there were several iconic businesses to choose from, the majority of the people in my neighborhood stayed local and frequented Conway’s Barbershop.

Percy, or Mr. Conway as we knew him growing up, started the business in 1966 on Riley Avenue in our ethnic enclave of Fairmont. As I observed the finished product of the establishment in various places and spaces throughout the area, it was on par with the dapper gentlemen I routinely saw gracing the pages of magazines like Jet and Ebony. Percy expanded and kept his hand in the business until his death in 2021 at the age of 90. I believe he donated several items to the Will County Historical Society, including an early barber chair.

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Cont.



Barber shop in Oxford, NC, 1939. Marion Post Wolcott, photographer. Library of Congress Blog https://blogs.loc.gov/inside_adams/2022/02/african-americans-barbering/

When I needed a haircut, I did not follow the crowd to Percy's. Instead, my mother put a couple bucks in my hand and sent me on a 10-12 minute walk to the basement door of my aunt and uncle's home. Her brother-in-law, Walter T. Mitchell, was my personal groomer. W. T. as most folks called him, cut the heads of the Pinnick boys and many others. It was a part-time gig aside from his job at a local gravel and stone plant. He loved the interaction and provided a valuable community service to those trying to cut family expenses wherever they could. I remember W.T. going to hospitals, nursing homes, anywhere he was needed to give haircuts to friends and family with limited mobility.

How do our experiences and observations compare with the distant past? I have no one in the trade residing in my ancestral tree as currently constructed. But I would not be surprised to see that change. Just grab a city directory from the early 20th century. Chances are good that the business section will be filled with dozens of barbers; many being of African descent.

You can explore this rich and interesting heritage by securing one or both illuminating books. The first, *Knights of the Razor: Black Barbers in Slavery and Freedom* by Douglas W. Bristol Jr. and published by Johns Hopkins University Press. The other, *Cutting Along the Color Line: Black Barbers and Barber Shops in America* by Quincy T. Mills from the University of Pennsylvania Press.

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Voice of Native American

Choctaw Tribe

The Choctaw coalesced as a people in the 17th century and developed at least three distinct political and geographical divisions: eastern, western, and southern. These different groups sometimes created distinct, independent alliances with nearby European powers. These included the French, based on the Gulf Coast and in Louisiana, the English of the Southeast, and the Spanish of Florida and Louisiana during the colonial era. Most Choctaw allied with the Americans during American Revolution, War of 1812, and the Red Stick War, most notably at the Battle of New Orleans. European Americans considered the Choctaw to be one of the "Five Civilized Tribes" of the Southeast. The Choctaw and the United States agreed to a total of nine treaties. By the last three, the US gained vast land cessions in the Southeast. As part of Indian Removal, despite not having waged war against the United States, the majority of Choctaw were forcibly relocated to Indian Territory from 1831 to 1833. The Choctaw government in Indian Territory had three districts, each with its own chief, who together with the town chiefs sat on their National Council.

Those Choctaw who chose to stay in the state of Mississippi were considered state and U.S. citizens; they were one of the first major non-European ethnic groups to be granted citizenship. Article 14 in the 1830 treaty with the Choctaw stated Choctaws may wish to become citizens of the United States under the 14th Article of the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek on all of the combined lands which were consolidated under Article I from all previous treaties between the United States and the Choctaw.

During the American Civil War, the Choctaw in both Indian Territory and Mississippi mostly sided with the Confederate States of America. Under the late 19th-century Dawes Act and Curtis Acts, the US federal government broke up tribal land holdings and dissolved tribal governments in Indian Territory to extinguish Indian land claims before admission of Oklahoma as a state in 1907. From that period, for several decades the US Bureau of Indian Affairs appointed chiefs of the Choctaw and other tribes in the former Indian Territory.

STAY TUNED

Cont.

During World War I, Choctaw soldiers served in the US military as some of the first Native American code talkers, using the Choctaw language. Since the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, the Choctaw people in three areas have reconstituted their governments and gained federal recognition. The largest is the Choctaw Nation in Oklahoma. Since the 20th century, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians were federally recognized in 1945, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma in 1971, and the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians in 1995.



May be an image of 6 people, people standing and text



CAAGS Newsletters

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Resources

Southern Carolina: Freedmen's Bureau Focus

<https://mailchi.mp/4795c9de6cc9/blackgenex-south-carolina-freedmens-bureau-focus>

The Russell-Matson Family and Descendants: An African American Wisconsin Family History book by Carol Jean Matson Calvin

Discovering Your African American Ancestors guide for genealogists by Franklin Carter Smith and Emily Anne Croom

This YouTube series offers advice and tips for family historians. <https://www.genealogymagazine.com/>



Election. Volunteers for the 2024 Board of Directors, elected officers are needed: President, First-President, Second VP/Membership, Parliamentarian, and Treasurer, as well as Newsletter Editor.



CAAGS Cookbooks are on sale for \$10.00.

Our Annual Stay at Home Tea fundraiser. Please submit donations by October 21, 2023. A gift of \$5.00 will help to reach our monetary goal.

ONGOING

CAAGS Writers Group on Thursday, October 12, 2023 (via Zoom), monthly, 5:00 – 7 :00 p.m.

October 13, 2023, Appreciation Service for Elder Alan Hackney and Sister Leslie Hackney at Family Search Center.

CAAGS Board Meeting (monthly), Thursday, October 19, 2023, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

CAAGS General Membership Meeting, Saturday, October 21, 2023, (3rd Saturday) 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. will be held in person and via ZOOM, details for ZOOM to follow. Los Angeles Family Search Center, 1591 East Temple Way, near 10741 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90025. Masks are optional.

October 21, 2023, Guest Speaker for our CAAGS General meeting will be Elder Bob Hurst, topic *Freeman Bureau and Brick Walls*.

The Los Angeles Family Search Center is open for in-person help via ZOOM. Library hours are Tuesday – Saturday 10:00 am – 6:00 pm and Thursday 10:00 am – 8:00 pm.

To unsubscribe contact newsletter@caags.org.

Website - <http://www.caags.org/> ☎ (323) 806-5634
Visit us at www.caags.org and follow us on Facebook, California African American Genealogical Society.



Free registration for Webinars

Tracing West Indian Ancestors: Strategies & Resources. Fri, Oct 6, 2023: 11:00 AM PDT by Diane Warmsley.

Help! How do I Separate Genealogical Fact from Fiction? Wed, Oct 11, 2023: 5:00 PM PDT by Carol Baxter.

Lineage of Land: Tracing Property Without Recorded Deeds (a 2023 Reisinger Lecture). Fri, Oct 20, 2023: 9:45 AM PDT by Shannon Green, CG.

Are You Missing Important Family History Clues in Your Old Family Photographs? Tue, Oct 24, 2023: 11:00 AM PDT by Lisa Lisson.

YouTube Channel

Secret Trick for Searching Genealogy Records on Ancestry <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=upecTYEcxnw>

Ancestry Updates September 2023 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=no-uyOkSVLw>

My Ancestry DNA results came in Black American Shocking Results of Heritage <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fHXkZ47nEA4>

Uncovering a Unique African American Ancestral Culture <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= GTXpPXam4U>

Former Slave Owner Interview in 1929 (colorized) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Le794ObMGm0>

Underground Tours of Savannah/Journey From Slavery To Freedom/Sistah Patt's Tour <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sIXKNQZrxag>

Whitney Plantation Museum Confronts Painful History of Slavery <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JfC8X2Os2z4>

2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check CAAGS online website for up-to-date information and CAAGS is on Facebook.

**CAAGS FINANCIAL SUMMARY
Month Ending, August 31, 2023**

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$7,203.51
INCOME	125.00
DISBURSEMENTS	0
DESIGNATED FUNDS	131.22
ENDING BALANCE	\$7,066.29

Shirley Hurt, Treasurer



October 2023

SeElcy Caldwell
Peggy Powel
Marilyn White

Lulla Denson
Joyce Rucker
Carolyn Williamson



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



Reminder: Stay-At-Home Tea donations are due by Saturday, October 14, 2023.

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Heritage Newsletter

California African American Genealogical Society

“Inspiring Family
History Research



One Person
At A Time.”

November 2023

Volume 35 Issue 9

Ten Issues Published Annually

ISSN 1083-8937

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

General Membership Meetings

Third Saturday monthly, 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (dark July & August) Los Angeles Family Search Center, 1591 East Temple Way, near 10741 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90025.

2023 Board of Directors

Elected Officers

Gloria Wallace – President

Deborah Winston – First Vice President

Norma Bates– Second Vice President/Membership

Cartellia Marie Bryant – Corresponding Secretary

Christina Ashe– Recording Secretary

Shirley Hurt – Treasurer

Renee Cochee – Parliamentarian

Committee Chairs/Appointed Officers

Peggy Powell – Books and Acquisitions Open – Public Relations/Fundraising/Librarian

Edna Briggs - Historian

Maria Marshall-Lee– Newsletter Editor

James Murray – FGS Delegate

Akosua Hobert – Volunteer Chairperson

Monica Maurasse – Social Media Administrator

Vanessa McBride – Web Administrator

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

Visit us at www.caags.org and follow us on Facebook, California African American Genealogical Society.



As a Black domestic worker in 1850s California, Mary Ellen Pleasant eavesdropped on her wealthy clients so that she could learn how to invest her money wisely. She later used this knowledge to build a real estate empire — which was worth over \$30 million.

Pleasant put her investment profits to good use by purchasing businesses like laundries and boarding houses before building a real-estate portfolio. Before long, she owned shares in other businesses like restaurants, dairies, and a bank. It's believed that her white male business partner helped her acquire numerous investments under his name so that she wouldn't have to encounter as many issues as other aspiring Black businesswomen of the era. Pleasant soon became one of the wealthiest women in America, and she always tried to use her money for good, first by supporting antislavery causes and then later by fighting against racial discrimination. When it came to standing up for what she believed in, she once famously said, "I'd rather be a corpse than a coward."

Discover the forgotten stories of Black Wild West heroes who don't show up in history books:

<https://bit.ly/454Sfib>

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

Black Slave Owners

Despite the popularity of the novel *The Known World* (2003) by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Edward P. Jones, the phenomenon of slaveholding among African Americans, of Black people owning other Black people as slaves, has not received widespread attention. However, historians and other scholars have discovered records of slaveholding among Black people dating from the colonial period through the antebellum era. Such records include wills in which Black slave owners left slave property to family members or friends; deeds of emancipation required when slave owners manumitted their slaves; bills of sale recording the purchase and sale of slaves; court records detailing suits disputing ownership of slave property; and personal papers referring to slave ownership. Some early historians saw free Black slave ownership as positive because it meant that free Black people had the economic and legal ability to own slaves. In general, there were two categories of slaveholding by African Americans: benevolent and commercial.

Benevolent slave ownership among African Americans is characterized by the purchase of relatives or friends. For instance, a free African American woman might purchase her husband in order to remove him from the threat of a cruel master. Or a parent might purchase his or her children for the same reason. Because some state legislatures, such as the 1806 Virginia legislature, required emancipated slaves to leave the state, a woman's continued ownership of her spouse, or a parent's continued ownership of his or her children, was often the only way for a family unit to remain intact within the state. Some free African Americans purchased slaves with the understanding that the enslaved person would then purchase his or her freedom over time in installments. Or a slave might accumulate his or her purchase price through the practice of hiring out and approach a free Black person to buy him or her with that money with the understanding that the slave would live as a free person. Thus, these African American owners were not necessarily enslaving people for their labor, but purchasing relatives or friends to keep families together or to help people move out of slavery.

Scholars of African American history argue about whether commercial slaveholding was more or less
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common than benevolent slaveholding among Black people, but all would agree that there were at least some Black slaveholders who held slaves for precisely the same reason as their white counterparts—to earn money.



William Ellison Jr. (Public domain image)

One of the best documented cases is that of William Ellison, a cotton gin maker from South Carolina. Ellison did not consider himself a Black man but a man of color, a mulatto. At a time when the vast majority of Black people in the South were slaves and almost all free Black people were poor, Ellison was one of the wealthiest free persons of color in the South and wealthier than most whites. Ellison owned a large cotton plantation and more slaves than any other free person of color in the South outside of Louisiana, even more than all but the richest white planters. In 1840 Ellison owned thirty slaves. By 1847 Ellison's property grew to 350 acres and thirty-six slaves. And on the eve of the Civil War, he owned sixty-three slaves. His slaves toiled in fields and were trained to make and repair cotton gins. They were unlikely to describe their owner as benevolent.

Bibliography: Johnson, Michael P., and James Roark. *Black Masters*. New York: W. W. Norton, 1984.



Sunday, Nov 5, 2023

STAY TUNED



CAAGS Newsletters

The archival CAAGS Newsletters from 2022 and previous years can be accessed by members, using <https://caags.org/archives/> (this link is under the Resources tab).

Resources

This YouTube series offers advice and tips for family historians. <https://www.genealogymagazine.com/>

Cherokee-White Intermarriages: Citizenship by Intermarriage in the Cherokee Nation. Despite being labeled “marriages,” these records do not always give an exact marriage date or even the maiden’s name of the bride. The type of data found in applications varies greatly. Actual birth dates are rarely given, but ages were always recorded. Applicants were required to state their address, marital status, whether or not he or she was a citizen by blood or intermarriage, the spouse’s citizenship status, and the names of others included in the application for enrollment. (FREE)



Free registration for Webinars

Friends of Friends: Quakers and African American Communities. Fri, Nov 3, 2023: 11:00 AM PST speaker Ari Wilkins.

New Updates on Your MyHeritage Family Tree. Tue, Nov 14, 2023: 11:00 AM PST speaker URI Gonen.

Why Standards Are for Everyone. Tue, Nov 21, 2023: 5:00 PM PST speaker LaBrenda Garrett-Nelson, JD, LLM, CG, CGL, FASG.

The Good News About Historical Newspapers. Tue, Nov 28, 2023: 11:00 AM PST speaker Tal Erlichman

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Election. Volunteers for the 2024 Board of Directors, elected officers are needed: President, First-President, Second VP/Membership, Parliamentarian, and Treasurer, as well as Newsletter Editor. Contact person Carolyn Connor (310) 435-8411.



CAAGS Cookbooks are on sale for \$10.00.

Our Annual Stay at Home Tea fundraiser was a success. Thank you for all that participated in the fundraiser.

ONGOING

CAAGS Writers Group on Thursday, November 09, 2023 (via Zoom), monthly, 5:00 – 7 :00 p.m.

CAAGS Board Meeting (monthly), Thursday, November 16, 2023, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

CAAGS General Membership Meeting, Saturday, November 18, 2023, (3rd Saturday) 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. will be held in person and via ZOOM, details for ZOOM to follow. Los Angeles Family Search Center, 1591 East Temple Way, near 10741 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90025. Masks are optional.

Saturday, November 18, 2023, CAAGS General Membership Meeting will have two guest speakers, James Downs on *Final Rest Preparations* and Lynn Hanks on *Cremations* from Inglewood Park Cemetery.

Thank you to our special guest Speakers Elder Bob Hurst, he spoke on *Using the Freeman Bureau and Probate* and Julie Huffman on *Plantations Records*.

The Los Angeles California Family Search Center is open for in-person help via ZOOM. Library Zoom hours are Tuesday – Saturday 10:00 am – 6:00 pm and Thursday 10:00 am – 8:00 pm. Sunday 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm (No Zoom available).

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YouTube Channel

Dating & Identifying Old Photos with Photo Detective
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZCxSljUTO1Y>

Two Former Slaves Born in 1842 & 1852 Talk About the 1850s
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kUz3CvEtfvU>

Born into Slavery
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B3s9FCI5XGo>

Did Slavery Affect Your Family? Africans' vs African Americans/Middle Ground
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tbGjJn-XHXo>

13 Black Americans who Relocated to Africa talk about living in the US vs Africa
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=esUsylQGJAE>



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VOLUNTEERS

Mark your calendar our Holiday Celebration will be held at Dulan's Soul Food Kitchen on December 16, 2023. We need 3 to 4 volunteers (games, prizes and decorations) for this event. Please contact Akosua Hobert – Volunteer Chairperson akosua2010@hotmail.com or Gloria Wallace – President wallaceimshi@aol.com.

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

2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check CAAGS online website for up-to-date information and CAAGS is on Facebook.

CAAGS FINANCIAL SUMMARY Month Ending, September 30, 2023

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$7,066.29
INCOME	270.00
DISBURSEMENTS	399.90
DESIGNATED FUNDS	131.22
ENDING BALANCE	\$6,936.39

Shirley Hurt, Treasurer

RootsTech 2024

Registration is now open for RootsTech 2024 at <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/>. The conference will be held February 29 – March 2, 2024, both in-person at Salt Lake City Utah and online. Salt Lake City registration \$99.00 US 3-Day Pass and \$69.00 US 1-Day Pass and Online register now for FREE. There will be over 200 new online sessions, you can join keynote sessions live, chat online with other attendees and get digital syllabi and class handouts for free! It's an invaluable learning opportunity for genealogists.



Thursday, Nov 23, 2023

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

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Capturing Your Family’s Oral History



“When an elder dies, a library burns to the ground”.
African proverb

Oral History, or the practice of recording and preserving memories and experiences, enables us to capture the wisdom of our living libraries before they pass away and “burn to the ground.” Unlike other methods of record keeping, oral histories provide a personal account of pivotal events from individuals who experienced them first hand.

This field of study evolved from the long African American oral tradition and from the Works Progress Administration (WPA) interviews, which were part of President Franklin Roosevelt’s, New Deal during the integration of the armed services prior to our interview. I also spent time with members of Mr. Taylor’s family to gain more insight before developing interview questions. This forethought and planning allowed me to create a powerful moment we were fortunate enough to capture on film.

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Cont.

Great Depression. Thanks to the artists and writers employed through this program, readers today can relive the experiences of the last surviving individuals enslaved prior to the Civil War. Recently, oral historians have documented the memories of African Americans who experienced Jim Crow, racial violence, and the Civil Rights era.

Having these recorded accounts provides an important perspective and context which enriches our understanding of African American history and culture. However, you don't have to work at the Smithsonian to preserve history.

Consider the following:

- Can you identify everyone in your family photo albums?
- Do you know how your grandparents met?
- Did your parents or grandparents participate in the Great Migration?
- How do members of your family feel about living through the inauguration of the first African American President, the Black Lives Matter movement, and the coronavirus pandemic?
- If you don't know the answer to any of these questions, performing an oral history is a great way to learn and preserve your family's experiences for future generations.

To begin, you must first understand that oral history is about relationships. Take time to plan the details of your oral history, so that during your recording you can build rapport with the individuals you plan to interview. One way to do this is to conduct a preliminary interview as part of your research. Use this time not only to discuss logistics, but to have a conversation about the timeline of the narrator's life and prepare them for questions you'd like to ask. If you can, examine family photos and other artifacts.

A good deal of preparation went into the oral history for veteran Edward Theodore Taylor, excerpted below. I researched the Korean War and learned about the We use the video player Able Player to provide captions and audio descriptions. Able Player performs best using web browsers Google Chrome, Firefox, and Edge. If you are using Safari as your browser, use the play button to continue the video after each audio description. We apologize for the inconvenience.

During your recording session, always remember that the oral history interview is a sacred space, based upon trust and a mutual understanding. Your narrator (in this case, your elder or family member) is an authority on their own life. Your role is to engage with them and get clarity into their experience.

<https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/stories/capturing-your-familys-oral-history>

Oral History at Home

Smithsonian Institution Archives historian Hannah Byrne runs through five easy steps to help you get started doing oral history at home. Oral history is a technique for generating and preserving original, historically interesting information—primary source material—from personal recollections through planned recorded interviews.

For more tips about what questions to ask and how to ask them, head to our website. [.si.edu/OralHistoryGuide](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pxrkKhLExxw&t=21s)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pxrkKhLExxw&t=21s>

Books

Those Who Saw the Sun: African American Oral Histories from the Jim Crow South Hardcover – July 11, 2023
by Jaha Nailah Avery (Author).

Out of the Mouths of Slaves: African American Oral History by Carole Marsh (Author).

The Family Tree Historical Maps Book: A State-By-State Atlas of U.S. History, 1790-1900 by Family Tree Magazine.

Listed below BlackPast.org site are African American and General genealogy websites that may be useful for those seeking to research personal or family history.

[BlackPast.org: The Genealogy Page](https://blackpast.org/the-genealogy-page) •

Visit us at www.caags.org and follow us on Facebook, California African American Genealogical Society.

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

Family

In every conceivable manner, the family is a link to our past, bridge to our future.”

— Alex Haley

Resources

This YouTube series offers advice and tips for family historians. <https://www.genealogymagazine.com/>

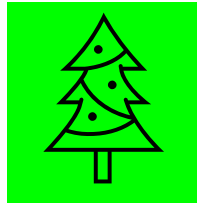


Free registration for Webinars

5 Tips for Deciphering Handwritten Documents, speaker Bryna O’Sullivan. Wednesday, December 6, 2023: 11:00 AM PST.

Where Did Your U.S. Ancestors Go to Church? 5 Ways to Find Out, speaker Sunny Morton. Wednesday, December 13, 2023: 5:00 PM PST.

Christmas Party



Dulan’s Soul Food Restaurant

The cost of the meal is \$25.00 per person which include tax and gratuities. Deadline for our celebration luncheon is December 01, 2023. Asking each person to bring a wrapped gift between \$20.00 - \$25.00 in value for the gift exchange.

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Election. Volunteers for the 2024 Board of Directors, elected officers are needed: 1st President and Parliamentarian, as well as Newsletter Editor. Contact person Carolyn Connor (310) 435-8411 Nominating Committee.



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ONGOING

CAAGS Writers Group on Thursday, December 7, 2023 (via Zoom), monthly, 5:00 – 7 :00 p.m.

CAAGS Board Meeting (monthly), Thursday, December 14, 2023, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

CAAGS General Membership Meeting, Saturday, December 16, 2023, (3rd Saturday) 12:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. will be held in person at Dulan’s Soul Food Restaurant, 202 E. Manchester Blvd, Inglewood, CA 90301, (310) 671-3345. Masks are optional.

Thank you to our two special guest speakers, Jason Downs on *Final Rest Preparations* and Lynn Hanks on *Cremations* from Inglewood Park Cemetery.

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YouTube Channel

Finding Enslaved Ancestors & Build an African American Family Tree

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=12gmfLSWs70>

Tracing Your African American Ancestors Records of Slaving Owning families

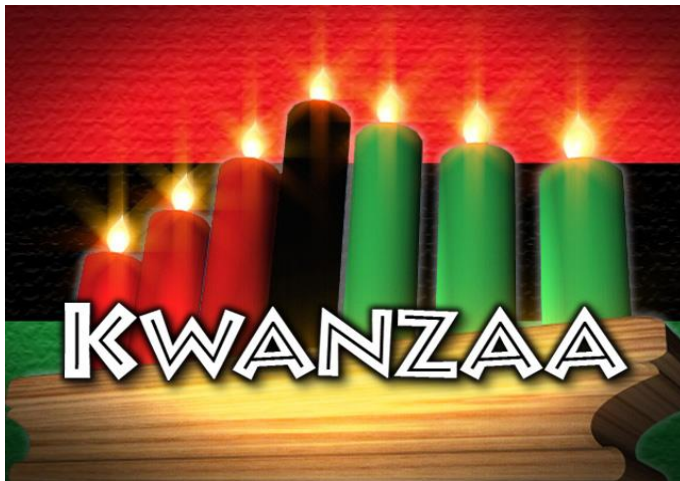
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H6A7Yi0pwJM>

U.S. Census 1790-1950 for Genealogy Research: Grow Your Family Tree Using Census Records

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A-VLDyZbuto>

The Real Reason Black People love Sweet Potato Pie

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IP8YMNwyzA>



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December 2023

Velma Anderson
Ronald Failey

Dolores Coleman
Linda Rush

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Shirley Hurt, Treasurer

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