



**African-American Genealogical & Historical Society of
Northern California**

Quarterly Newsletter

Established for the education, research, preservation & publication of
African-American Genealogical Histories

Volume I Issue I

PURPOSE AND GOAL

In March of this year a call was sent out to the Bay Area African-American Community of Genealogist and Family Historians. The message was clear, we needed to form a society of Genealogist that would enlighten others to the enrichment of African-American genealogical research. The education, research, preservation, and publication of Genealogical materials specific to the needs of the African-American community does not exist in the Bay Area. It is our intention to establish such an organization. These four goals dictate that we establish a reference library, computer equipment training and networking with other African-American Genealogical Societies throughout the country.

OUR CHALLENGE

Endemic to the African-American is the need for an extensive reference library, particularly slave genealogy. There is extensive information on the Internet, in the National Archives, the Family History Centers of the Church of the Latter Day Saints, etc. Yet, there is no central repository for Genealogical Histories of the African-

American. We intend to change that. African-American's face some challenges obstructing the discovery of their ancestors. As a direct result of slavery in the United States and elsewhere, few records exist that can benefit the African-American genealogical researcher. Those records that exist can be found in many places. Some obtainable, some perhaps not. Our challenge is to locate these documents in the courthouses, private collections and data being sent daily over the Internet.

YOUTH INVOLVEMENT

As a concerned group of genealogist, we feel that the individual is enriched by the knowledge of their ancestors. By promoting the interest in genealogy, children can gain a greater understanding of history when they have something personally at stake in that history. The same children can be exposed to research techniques useful for other educational interest. The use of computers in genealogy is another way of connecting with today's youth, while giving them skills that will be useful for future benefit. Gather your family history and let us help you locate those lost ancestors.

COMMITTEES

The African-American Historical & Genealogical Society of Northern California is still organizing. The organization is intended to be nonprofit. As a non-profit organization, volunteers are needed. We have several committees that can use your expertise. If you feel that you have abilities that can benefit the society please call and enlist your services.

The committees and their acting Chairperson:

Planning: Charlsetta Ford
Membership/Nominating: Donna Thomas
Incorporation: Ray Bullock
Newsletter-Logo/Design: Terry Ligon

NEXT MEETING

The African-American Historical & Genealogical Society of Northern California (AAHGSNC) will have its next meeting on Saturday, May 18, 1996, at 1:30pm. The meeting will take place at the Oakland Public Library, Golden Gate Branch, 5606 San Pablo Avenue. For further information, please contact: Electra Kimble Price (510) 535-0288

CONTEST

The African-American Historical & Genealogical Society of Northern California announces its contest for logo design. Anyone interested in having their work judged for inclusion in the contest should send all entries

to: Terry J. Ligon
P.O. Box 30936
Oakland, CA 94604-3636

QUERIES

As a service to the genealogical research community, the AAHGSNC will be accepting surname queries for publication in the AAHGSNC Quarterly. In submitting your query, please indicate the name(s) you are researching (limit eight) and a self addressed, stamped envelope.

HOW TO GROW YOUR FAMILY TREE

Start with a modicum of patience. (Strong support and good references help here.)
Add a pinch of interest in your roots. (Your pinch will grow almost daily.)
Blend in a handful of time. (Get help when your time is limited.) Stir in a good sense of humor. (We all laugh at our research war stories.)
Sift in a spot of luck. (Knowledgeable friends can help make luck happen.)
Pour in:
Helpful relatives, Good reference material, Support from strong friends.

Stir with a positive attitude, an ample supply of pens and pencils, friendly support, a creative appreciation of human nature and a hint of organization, and a computer. With this blend of personal, friendly, and professional effort, you can ensure that your family tree will be a growing and healthy contributor to your genealogy and will become an heirloom to be passed on too many generations.