



The BAOBAB TREE

Quarterly Journal of the African American Genealogical Society of Northern California, Inc. Founded 1996

Give the Gift of Heritage



Photo by Henry

Instead of greeting cards, a set of sheets, pet rocks or another toaster share your research with family members. Not only is it a unique, one-of-a-kind gift, but it can be a lot cheaper! ... see page 8

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Don't have time to do
your own research?
We'll do it for you!
See page 11



The African American Genealogical Society of Northern California, Inc. (AAGSNC) was founded in Oakland, CA in 1996, under the leadership of Kathryn Burgess Smith.

AAGSNC FOUNDING MEMBERS:

Charlesetta Braggs-Ford	Electra Kimble Price
Jeanette Braxton Secret	Kathryn Burgess Smith
Charles T. Brown	Ranie G. Smith
Rayford Bullock	

OBJECTIVES of the AAGSNC:

- To promote interest in genealogy, biography and related history among African Americans.
- To supplement and enrich the education of African Americans through the collection, preservation and maintenance of African American genealogical materials.
- To promote the accumulation and preservation of African American genealogical and related historical materials and make such materials available to all.
- To promote and maintain ethical standards in genealogical research and publications.

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	Joyce Summerville-McDaniel	historian@aagsnc.org

JOURNAL

The Baobab Tree is published quarterly (in March, June, September, and December) by the AAGSNC and is provided free to all members. Additional copies and past issues may be purchased for \$10.00 per copy.

- Membership categories are Regular \$25, Youth (16 and younger) \$15, Family \$35, Organization \$45, Life Membership - Individual \$200, Life Membership - Family \$300.
- The AAGSNC accepts no responsibility for statements of fact or opinion made by contributors. Deadlines for submission of material for publication in *The Baobab Tree* are: February 5 for the March issue, May 6 for the June issue, August 6 for the September issue, and November 5 for the December issue.
- Correspondence on editorial matters, submission requests, or permission to reprint articles may be obtained, at no cost, by written request to the editor (journal@aagsnc.org).

This entire document was created on an Apple Titanium 1.33GHz and Apple iBook G3 using Adobe InDesign, Adobe Photoshop, and Appleworks. Thanks to Kay Smith and Lenora Gobert for proofreading. Macs rule!!

Dateline: Gum Springs, Arkansas; Population 194

- August 8, 2004

- Ms. MELVYN L. GILLETTE, AAGSNC PRESIDENT



By the 1870 census, my GILLETTE great-grandfather was established in what came to be known as Gum Springs in Clark County, Arkansas.

Other early settlers included the BROWNING, HALE, HEARN, HELMS, LAWRENCE, LOTHRIDGE, MEADOWS, STOUTENBURG, STROOPE and WHEELER families.

In 1882, great-grandpa Daniel Clayborn Gillette received title to 80 acres he had homesteaded. In ensuing years, he and his heirs sold off about half of it to newcomers to the community. The principal occupation of the residents was farming, whether on their own land or as tenants or sharecroppers. Mortgages to "make a crop" were commonplace, with the crop to be grown, along with the farm animals, serving as collateral.

For the African American portion of Gum Springs, there was an elementary school (two rooms, eight grades in my day), a Masonic Lodge hall and a church. The church I grew up attending, St. Ruth Baptist Church, celebrated its 123rd anniversary today, so it wasn't around until 1881, but there was an AME church there before my time.

In 1904, the local Masonic Lodge held its first annual picnic, on August 2nd. Since nearly everyone worked in farming, they could take a day off as they wanted, and the picnic continued to be held each year on August 2 unless that date fell on a Sunday. It eventually came to be referred to as "The 2nd of August" or "The Second." It was held each year on the grounds of the church and school. This was a "country" celebration and the only "town" folks who came usually were like my aunt and her children, people who had been born or raised in Gum Springs.

While I was growing up "the 2nd of August" ranked right up there with Christmas, Easter and "School Closing," the three highlights of our community calendar. Each featured a "Program" with much use of crepe paper costumes and was held at the church which was across the road from our school. For me "the 2nd" meant a new outfit, ice cream, barbecue, relatives coming to visit, and best of all, running loose with my cohort of friends and cousins.

There was baseball featuring a home team of boys and young men against teams from other nearby rural communities. These "visiting" teams brought their followers and the majority of folks came by wagon. The games generated intense interest from the spectators, as partisan as any major league spectators.

Gum Springs was in a very conservative area; in fact the whole county was "dry," meaning no alcoholic beverages were sold. Well, not legally anyway. Bootleg whiskey and 'homebrew' were available. (Cousin Limon helped out on that score.) Drinking, smoking and card-playing were frowned upon and dancing was questionable. But one family that lived near the picnic site, each year built a dance floor and rented a "Seeburg" (a jukebox) and there was generally a crowd there. Youngsters were not supposed to be anywhere near, but we managed to sneak up there and get a peek.

Gum Springs continued along just fine until 1952 when the folks in the county seat of Arkadelphia wanted to bring an aluminum reduction facility to the county and decided that Gum Springs was the perfect site. This required the removal of about 50 families, two-thirds of whom were black. Options to purchase their land were offered, originally at \$100 per acre.

Both my maternal and paternal families stubbornly resisted the offers for their land and still own it today. But the rest of the community moved about a mile away to a new community, "West Gum Springs," which was laid out with streets, blocks, and lots. Our whole social structure

Continued on back cover



AAGSNC - SOCIETY NEWS

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Guests are always welcome to attend AAGSNC meetings, which are held on the **third Saturday** of the month at the Dimond Branch of the Oakland Public Library (3565 Fruitvale Ave, near I-580).

Starting in September 2004, we will offer a one-hour **BEGINNING GENEALOGY class at noon**, followed by our regular meeting at 1:30 p.m. This class is open to members and visitors alike and will be conducted by experienced, capable researchers who will help you with the basics that you need to get started researching your family.

The basis for the class will be our *Beginning Genealogy Workbook*, so we recommend that you bring your copy with you. You can purchase a copy for \$10.00

Board meetings are held immediately following the general membership meetings. Members and guests are always welcome to attend **all** of our meetings.

REMAINING 2004 MEETINGS:

• September 18th

Braggin' & Lyin'

Here's your chance to share your research and great finds with the group. Each member and guest will have five minutes to tell "What I Did Last Summer." We encourage you to bring photos, documents, and other items you want to share with our group.

• October 16th

West Coast Summit on African American Genealogy

No local meeting this month. We invite you to join us in San Diego for a weekend of of sharing, learning, and tons of fun. See Page 4 for more information.

• November 20th

World War I Records

Over 180,000 black Americans served overseas in WWI and we will show you how to find records to document the lives of your WWI relatives. We will

also discuss the impact of the fire at the St. Louis Records Center and back door ways to learn about your relatives.

• December 18th

2nd Annual Holiday Potluck, White Elephant Sale and Writing Contest Winners

Bring some food, any gently used castoff items to sell and your checkbook or cashas we will have another fun White Elephant Sale, announce the winners of our 2nd Annual Writing Contest, and award special recognition for AAGSNC members who have gone above and beyond the call of duty -- all while we're stuffing our faces. All proceeds from the White Elephant Sale will go to the AAGSNC.

STUDY GROUPS:

The **Arkansas Study Group** will meet on the first Wednesday of each month from 6:30 - 7:30PM at the Oakland Family History Center (4770 Lincoln). Contact Annette Madden for more information: madden@aagsnc.org.

The **Louisiana Study Group** will meet on September 18th at the Dimond Library, from noon - 1:30 p. m. immediately preceding the regular AAGSNC membership meeting.

GENEALOGY CRUISE

There is still time to join us for the 1st Annual AAGSNC Genealogy Cruise, **Oct. 18-22, 2004**, aboard Royal Caribbean's *Monarch of the Seas*. **The workshops are FREE!** Your only cost is for the course materials (\$25 per workshop).

Call All Cruise Travel at (800) 227-8473 for cruise booking information.

Family History Writing Workshop:

This workshop is intended for those who have completed most of the research and are ready to tell their family's stories. We recommend you concentrate on not more than two branches of your family and come

prepared to start working on your manuscript.

Genealogy Software Workshop:

This intensive workshop will provide you with hours of focused instruction, hands-on training, and even some one-on-one with an experienced researcher. Whether you're a PC or Mac user, we will show you how to get the most out of genealogy software and better ways to keep track of your ever-growing family file(s).

MEMBERS' BIRTHDAYS

September 2004

- Dolores Hill-Newman
- Dorothy Shavies
- 2 Mildred Swift Phillips
- 3 Laura McDonald
- 6 Rita Mae Ballard
- 7 Debbie Herndon
- 13 LaVerne Britt
- 13 Mary Heidelberg
- 15 Barbara Ann Tyson
- 17 Joana Washington
- 27 Joyce O. McDaniel
- 29 Gwendolyn M. Booze

October 2004

- Carol Ann Miller
- 1 Nancy C. Thompson
- 13 Willis E. Hughes, Jr.
- 14 Fred Blanchard
- 15 Rondia White
- 17 Marilyn Elaine Patrice White
- 20 Shirley A. Evans
- 24 Lisa B. Lee
- 28 Monica Hill Blakely
- 28 George Elliott

November 2004

- Thelma L. Frazier
- Linda Kay Smith
- 1 Jamie L. Walker Harris
- 14 Marcheta Allen Mines
- 18 Karim T. Aldridge-Rand
- 18 Archie M. Herndon
- 21 Jim Neal
- 25 Jim Green
- 26 Barbara L. Nelson
- 28 Teri L. Green
- 28 Michelle Hammad-Crowell
- 28 Diane Mitchell



"LOOKING TO THE PAST...TO CREATE THE FUTURE" FOURTH ANNUAL WEST COAST SUMMIT

On Friday, October 15th and Saturday, October 16, 2004 the place to be is in San Diego, California for the Fourth Annual West Coast Summit on African American Genealogy hosted by the San Diego African American Genealogy Research Group.



Dr. William B. Gould, IV

The Keynote Speaker will be **Professor William B. Gould, IV**. Dr. Gould is a law professor at Stanford University and the author of over 50 law

journal articles, nine books and numerous contributions to many major newspapers. One of his books, *Diary of a Contraband: The Civil War Passage of a Black Soldier*, is based on the diary of the author's great grandfather, William Benjamin Gould, an escaped slave who served in the United States Navy from 1862 until the end of the war. Dr. Gould will describe his research and summarize his findings.

SUMMIT WORKSHOPS

- **Chuck Amers**, a professor of African Studies at Mesa and Palomar College in San Diego, will speak on "Eastward Expansion of People of African Descent in the United States (1542)."
- **Linda Bradley** is a member of the AAGSNC. She will speak on "Using Records to Discover Family History."
- **Raymond Carter**, who is the Vice President of the Black Family Genealogy and History Society in Mesa, Arizona, will present a workshop titled, "Genealogy on the Internet."

- **Aaron L. Day** is a member of the Long Beach African American Heritage Society as well as the California African American Genealogical Society (CAAGS). His workshop will be on "Searching for Free African American Ancestors before 1865."

- Genealogist, **Penny Feike**, will discuss "Researching Land Documents."

- Los Angeles genealogist, **Surah Carletha Le Noir-Mfume** will speak on "Miscegenation in the Louisiana Territory (1500) to the Louisiana Purchase (1804)."

- **Joyce McCollum** is the President of the African American Genealogical Group in Phoenix, Arizona. Her topic is "Introduction to Genealogy."

- **Craig J. Patterson** is a professor of History and Genealogist at the Los Angeles Harbor College in Wilmington, California. His topic is "Tracing African American Migratory Patterns in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries."

- A representative from the National Archives at Laguna Niguel will speak on "Federal Resources--Military, Pension and Southern Claims, Commission Records."

- The Closing Session will be a **Genealogy Problem Solving Forum** moderated by **Sharon Gillins**.

Those interested in locating their ancestral roots through DNA testing should stop at the informational table that will be hosted by **africanancestry.com**. This company has a database of over 10,000 people and may be able match you to one of 85 ethnic groups in Africa.

The **Daughters of the Union Veterans** will be recruiting new members. Membership is open to the daughters and female descendants of those who served the Union during the Civil War. Successful applicants must be able to prove lineage and can provide an ancestor's war record.

Following the conference, participants are invited to enjoy a Casino Trip, Wine and Cheese Hospitality Time, AAGSNC sponsored Genealogy Cruise and other activities.

SUMMIT LOCATION

The host hotel is the Holiday Inn located at 3737 Sports Arena Blvd., San Diego. The conference rate is \$85 per night. You must book before Friday, September 17, 2004 to receive this rate. Contact the hotel directly: (619) 881-6110 or 6112.

The conference site is the Captain's Room, Building C in the Marina Village Conference Center located at 1875 Quivira Way, San Diego. Shuttle service will be provided between the hotel and conference center and between the hotel and the cruise terminal in San Pedro, CA.

REGISTRATION

To register for this conference, please contact: Margaret Lewis, conference co-chair at (619) 262-5810 or via email at ibemarti@aol.com. You may also send a check or money order payable to SDAAGRG, P.O.Box 740240, San Diego, CA 92174.

Early registration, postmarked by Sept. 17, 2004 is \$60.00. Late registration after that date is \$75.00. **No on site registration.**

The AAGSNC will have a booth at the Summit. Please stop by and see us. We hope to see you there.

We're not "From" anymore.

As the new Editor of this journal, the title, *The Baobab Tree* really bothered me. "From" just didn't flow, so I got rid of it. My committee of one made an administrative decision and officially changed the title of our quarterly journal to, *The Baobab Tree*. Stay tuned, as there are lots more changes to come. - Ed.



"ROOTED IN HISTORY"

- BY LISA B. LEE

Mark Your Calendars: Saturday, February 26, 2005

The AAGSNC will present *Rooted in History*, an all-day genealogy seminar, to be held in San Francisco on February 28, 2005 with Dr. Tukufu Zuberi as the keynote speaker.

Dr. Zuberi, known for his excellent work as one of the hosts in the hit PBS series, *History Detectives*, is a Professor of Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania and an expert on the African Disapora populations and the statistical analysis of race. He has written over 35 scholarly works. Two of his publications are *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot: The Mortality Cost of Colonizing Liberia in the 19th Century* released in 1995 and *Thicker than Blood: How Racial Statistics Lie* released in 2001. He is working on the African Census Analysis Project at the University of Pennsylvania.

During *History Detectives*' second season 12 episodes were presented on Monday nights from June 21st through August 25th of 2004. Each program highlighted three mysteries that had been sent in by viewers for the team to solve. The team travels throughout the United States discovering how folklore and legends came into being, untangling family relationships and sorting out the origin of heirlooms. They use many of the same research techniques that genealogists use to discover their family history. Investigations have included: a civil war submarine, an anti-slavery flag, African Americans in Vaudeville and Minstrel shows, the first black ventriloquist, letters from Abolitionist John Brown, and the biography of Robert Smith, a former slave whose magnificent Mississippi home was built in 1850.

In northern California, *History Detectives* is shown on KQED, San Francisco; KVIE, Sacramento; KTEH, San Jose; KCSM, San Mateo; KIXE, Redding and KEET, Eureka. For more information on *The History Detectives*, investigate their website: www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives/index.html. More details will be available in the next

issue of the *Baobab Tree*.

given by October 15. Winning speakers will be required to submit a short synopsis of their workshop, a recent photo (headshot) and any handout materials **no later than December 1, 2004**.

• Compensation:

All speakers will receive \$200 per workshop presented. Speakers are responsible for their own travel arrangements. Speakers will not be required to register for the conference.

• Submission Instructions:

Submissions **MUST** include the following:

a) Abstract – including the name of your workshop, target audience (beg, int, adv), and no more than 500 words describing the topic, research techniques, plus a list of references.

b) Genealogical Resume – Please state your experience in genealogy in general, as well as your experience in the specific topic on which

you propose to lecture, any lectures/workshops you've presented in the past, and any certifications/post-nominals you've earned. Prior public speaking experience is NOT required.

c) Submissions may be made electronically (preferred) or via postal mail. Any computer format is acceptable (Mac, PC, Word, WordPerfect, AppleWorks, ASCII, PDF, etc.).

• SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

All submissions must be received **no later than OCTOBER 1, 2004** and may be submitted online (preferred) or via postal mail. Submissions may be made via email to: proposals@aagsnc.org or via postal mail: AAGSNC • P. O. Box 27485 • Oakland, CA 94602-0985.

Call for Papers

It takes more than having a dynamic keynote speaker to make a successful conference. Speakers are needed to conduct workshops that will teach, explain and demonstrate as many aspects of genealogy as possible. If you are interested in conducting an informational session, please submit a proposal for consideration containing the following details:

• Topics of Interest:

The topics of interest are all aspects and levels of genealogy. The target audience is the general public, with an emphasis on introducing genealogy to people of color.

• Instructions for Speakers:

You may submit as many proposals as you like. Audio/visual equipment will be provided by the Planning Committee. Selections will be made and notifications



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK:

"Go Tell it On the Mountain"



For reasons beyond my comprehension, I was selected to be the new editor of *The Baobab Tree*.

Joining the AAGSNC was one of the best things that has happened

to me. It is such a comfort to share what is becoming an all consuming hobby with others whose eyes do not glaze over when I start talking about dead people.

An absolutely amazing event happened as a result of an article I wrote for last year's Writing Contest. I found another branch of my family tree. *The Baobab Tree* is sent to other black genealogical societies throughout the county. Rosemary Clemmons in Detroit, Michigan read the article and realized that we were related. Our four great-grandparents were brother and sister! Ms. Clemmons also has another connection to the Bay Area. Our former editor, Lisa Lee, a Detroit native, used to work with Lisa Clemmons, Rosemary's daughter. What a small world!

Now it is time to give back. With humble acceptance, I will take over the tasks begun by Thom Allison and so eloquently enhanced by Lisa Lee. Standing on their shoulders causes me some concern. I hope I am up to the challenge.

I would like to encourage each and every reader to become a writer. Preparing the

layout on the following page brought back a joyful memory. This time last year, I decided to enter the AAGSNC's First Writing Contest. But each time I sat down to write old doubts and fears arose. All of my school essays were returned loaded with red marks and corrections. Even though there was something important that I wanted to share, the thought of ridicule and embarrassment made me write in secret. You cannot image my surprise when I learned that it was a prize winner!

I am sure there are many just like me who think that whatever they write will never be good enough. Creating an interesting story is more important than the mechanics of writing. Don't be concerned about making minor mistakes, just do the best you can. Even if you don't win a monetary prize, you will have won knowing that you did a good job.

The stories of the day-to-day lives of ordinary people is the true history of America. How people survive, deal with outside events, overcome problems, while being productive and happy is an amazing tale.

Often we think no one in our family did anything worthy of notice so why should we write about them. No first person on

the moon, no Purple Heart winners, just folks living their lives. No one would want to read about them. Let me tell you a true story. One day my husband was sitting at his desk at UC Berkeley, when an 80-year-old black woman came in with a box. She explained that she had done nothing important, knew no famous people and had spent most of her life in a tiny town in Mississippi where nothing ever happened. The only thing she had done was to save newspaper clippings about African American history. None of her children wanted them. She was going to throw them out, when her neighbor convinced her to take them to the university because the library might want them. To make a long story short, the university didn't want the clippings, but they wanted her memories. Soon, the university sent three historians to her home to interview her about in her life. They understood that she was a living history book; her life story was more valuable than the newspaper clippings.

Black people need to tell our own stories. We need to write our own history and not hope that some scholar will discover the truth. Who understands and appreciates the sacrifices your ancestors made better than you? If you don't write your family history, who will?

Loretta Henry,

Editor

JOIN, RENEW OR GIVE AN AAGSNC GIFT MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

Do it online at www.aagsnc.org

We accept PayPal, American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa.



Second Annual Writing Contest

The AAGSNC proudly announces its Second Annual Writing Contest. The group began sponsoring a contest to encourage its members to write about their research and family histories. Our contest gives the organization an opportunity to recognize those who have compiled outstanding family histories, and the top three will receive monetary prizes:

- 1st place Prize is \$250
- 2nd place Prize is \$100
- 3rd place prize is \$ 50

DEADLINE:

Entry must be received no later than midnight, November 1, 2004.

REQUIREMENTS:

Your genealogy must cover at least three generations but not more than five. Include the progenitor and his/her spouse as the first generation, all of their children with spouse(s) as the second generation, and all grandchildren with their spouse(s) as the third generation and so on.

The complete manuscript must be between 4,000 and 15,000 words including all titles, text, and footnotes.

The family history must include at least one person of African descent but the family does not have to have lived in the United States. The writer may be included as a member of the third generation, but not earlier.

You must properly cite your sources, including oral interviews. For information on citation standards, refer to *Evidence! Citation and Analysis for the Family Historian* by Elizabeth Shown Mills.

ORIGINALITY:

Your text must be your own work based primarily on research you have conducted yourself. Contributions by family members is expected, but these sources must be cited. Writing published elsewhere is fine for submission to this contest.

RESTRICTIONS:

AAGSNC Officers, Board Members and Committee Chairs are not eligible for prizes, but may submit an entry for consideration of Honorable Mention.

SUBMISSION:

Your manuscript may be printed or typed, but it must be submitted by email. Submissions will be accepted in virtually any format (Mac, PC, word, WordPerfect, PDF, etc).

All entries must be emailed to writing@aagsnc.org no later than midnight of November 1, 2004.

All material (cover letter, document, footnotes, written release for publication) must be submitted at the same time. You may submit multiple entries. However, each must have its own cover letter and written release for publication.

We will confirm receipt of all submissions. Any submission received after the due date will be returned without consideration.

MATERIALS TO BE INCLUDED:

1. Cover Letter addressed to AAGSNC and listing in the following order: Title of Publication, Author's Name, Street Address, City, State, Zip Code, Date Submitted, Telephone Number, and Email Address.
2. Document must include Title, Body, Footnotes, Endnotes and Sources.
3. Pedigree Chart that corresponds to your submission, following standard genealogical naming and numbering conventions must also be included. Do not include photos in your pedigree chart.
4. Publication Release: All winning entries will be published in the AAGSNC journal, *The Baobab Tree*. You must include a Release for Publication Statement, testifying that the document is an original work by you based primarily on research you conducted yourself and that you give the AAGSNC full permission to publish the work in its journal. The author retains copyright but gives the

AAGSNC right to publish.

JUDGING CRITERIA:

The manuscript will be judged on merits as listed below:

- Clarity (1-15 points). No reader should need to read a sentence twice to understand its meaning.
- Lean writing (1-10 points). The use of unnecessary words, repetition, and the overuse of adjectives and adverbs will cause points to be deducted. Points will be given for strong active verbs.
- Style, Sparkle and Presentation (1-30 points). Points will be given for uniqueness, drama, and creativeness in telling the story or reporting the facts.
- Accuracy (1-15 points). Facts must be true. Genealogical and historical errors and/or misleading information will lead to points being deducted. This includes typographical errors and transpositions.
- Language (1-20 points). Poor grammar, and spelling errors, punctuation mistakes, clichés, qualifiers, platitudes and incorrect word usage will lead to points being deducted. Variant name spellings, and non-American spelling will be allowed.
- Overall quality of the entry (1-10 points). Did the storytelling move the reader? How did it affect the reader?
- Research (1-20 points). How much original research was done, were oral histories accepted at face value or was an attempt made to verify some or all of this information, depth of research and range of sources used.

WINNERS ANNOUNCED;

All three winning entries will be announced at the December 2004 AAGSNC general meeting on December 18, 2004 at which time their checks will be presented. In addition, winning entries will be published in a 2005 edition of *The Baobab Tree*, the quarterly journal of the AAGSNC.

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS;

If you have concerns about your project, feel free to contact us via email at baobabtree@aagsnc.org, or call us at (877) 884-2843.



Give the Gift of Heritage

- By Loretta Henry

Many genealogists feel that the ancestors choose them to be the family storyteller. To tell the tale, we spend hours filling notebook after notebook with records. Rooms are filled with file cabinets stuffed with paper and boxes brimming over with photos and artifacts. According to the experts, our paramount goal is to describe our family's history in a formally written document based on years of research. A great deal of time is spent record keeping and organizing the files so each little detail of the research can be verified if the document is questioned.

We become obsessed with acquiring paper. The process of collecting and cataloging becomes so important that rarely do we stop and ask ourselves, "Why am I doing this?" Collecting documents and noting reference materials is necessary if you are planning to write the next *Roots* or *Cane River*. Even if you are going to write the definitive family narrative, you should consider what are you going to do with all the resources you have collected.

Yes, it will be wonderful to have a future historian discover your untold family story in a musty library drawer in 3004. But what about your relatives who may not be alive when you finally complete the research 20 years from now? For you a photograph may be just a piece of evidence, but for an elder relative it may have a strong emotional meaning. Will they know that at the end of slavery great grandpa hopped on a wagon in Tennessee and moved to Kentucky? Will they have the recipe for Auntie's sweet potato pie? It is just as important to share your family history with your family members as with the African American Genealogical Society in Washington, DC.

It does not matter what your genealogy skill level is or how much material you have collected. Even a novice genealogist, who has been working only a few months will have a wealth of knowledge to share with their extended family. It is not necessary to wait and tell the whole

story — you may not live long enough to complete the task.

You can share small portions of the family history anytime. Instead of sending greeting cards during the holidays, send a list of the addresses of all the known family members or a birthday list to extended family members. Celebrate an anniversary by sending a timeline showing the events that happened during a couple's marriage in place of a toaster or another set of towels. It would be a wonderful 60th birthday present to receive photos of one's parents and a copy of their marriage record. If someone lost their home due to a fire or flood, you can help them to replace their valued photos and documents. A family tree showing the ancestral branches of the bride and groom interweaving is a unique one-of-a-kind gift whose value will only increase over the years.

Do not only focus on sharing the past but also create new heirlooms. Send a copy of your life story to your grandchildren as a birthday gift. Based on your culture choose one annual holiday to give your children or grandchildren an ornament, icon or symbol of that day. Each year, until they reach adulthood or as long as you live, give them an additional special token or ornament that is labeled with your name and the year. Explain that they are to keep the objects until they have their own home. Then each year during that holiday, they are to take the items out and while they are arranging the display, tell their own children and grandchildren about you. Each time they look at these love tokens, they will know that you love them and will always be a part of their lives.

When you share the information you have with extended family members, often they may be more inclined to help you with your research and may give you more documents for your files. Yea!

By sharing your findings with your extended family, the ancestors can relax knowing that they choose the right person

to be their storyteller.

Before You Begin

Before you can begin to share your work with others, you must take time to consider the following:

- The materials you have on hand or can easily obtain. They may include documents, photos, old letters, addresses, and heirlooms.
- Also consider the materials needed to create the project: colored paper, markers, fabric, art supplies or a computer. Can you obtain what you need and are you comfortable working with the media?
- Your skills and style will determine the final project. If you are an artist then you may wish to create a painting, sculpture or film. Writers could create poetry or a short story. Those who can use a glue gun may wish to do craft projects. Computer users may want to scan in items and use software to create attractive documents.
- What do you want the finished project to look like? A birthday register could be a simple one page typed or handwritten list of names and dates. It could also be a colorfully decorated bound calendar with information placed in the appropriate boxes.
- How much time do you have to complete the project?
- How do you plan to deliver it to the recipient(s)? If it is too fragile to go through the mail, then you may need to hand deliver it.



Start by going through the records you have collected to find family treasures.



- If the project is beyond your skill level or time limit, is it possible to have someone else complete either all or part of the project for you?
- How much money can you comfortably spend to complete the project to your satisfaction?

Preparation

Whether you are creating original items or using family heirlooms, you will want to create items that will last a long time. It is best to take time and prepare the materials.

- Make a copy of each item that you share. If it is a document either scan or xerox it. Photos can be duplicated. If the item is an object, take a photo of it. List the source for the item. Work with the copy to avoid damaging the original.
- Collect all the materials you will need to complete the project.
- De-acidify old newspaper clippings, original documents and other valuable materials to preserve them. Archival Mist, Bookkeeper and Wei T'O are products that can be purchased at a craft store to prevent more damage to fragile items.
- Use acid- and lignin-free paper to mount and mat originals and to make copies.
- Purchase frames and glass that will not harm the item.
- Don't forget to include the source information.
- Do not laminate original documents. **Ever!** The heat and the use of poor quality plastics can do more harm than good. After de-acidifying the page store it in acid free, archival safe, mylar sleeve or sheet protector. You may seal the open end of the sleeve if you wish.
- Decide if you are going to send the original document or a copy. If you are going to send an original, make a copy of it for your records. If you are going to send the original decide how you are going to deliver the item.
- Plan how you are going to display the source.

Examples of Ways to Share Your Heritage

Following are ideas for giving gifts. Please feel free to make the projects as elaborate as you wish so that each one is unique and reflects your unique style.

Memory Box or File Folder

Perhaps the first gift can be enclosed in a storage box, which can be a cardboard, metal, or cloth box or an accordion file folder. Try to choose one that is large enough to hold several items and safe for storing materials over a long term. You may decorate the outside with magazine cutouts of historical scenes to personalize it. Create a label and let the recipient know that he/she can use this box to store additional items that you will be sending in the future

Address Book and Calendars

The first bits of information that most people collect are basic facts: names of family members, birthdays and contact information. You may create a simple list containing first and last names, address, city, state, zip code, phone numbers and email address.

You can also create a list of birthdays, wedding dates, dates of death and other

laminated. You may punch a hole at one end and tie a ribbon and/or small bead to it.

Brochure About Hometown

Many family members no longer live in the same town as their grandparents or great-grandparents and have no idea what their lives were like. Write to the local Chamber of Commerce, download information from the Internet and use the library to write a description of the area. You may want to include local history, photos and maps. You can include the address/es and mark them on a map. To help understand the place and times, you may want to describe the jobs the family held, local race relations and the organization and religious groups to which they belonged.

Collage

Old envelopes showing address and postmarks, greeting cards, photos or records can be cut and arranged in a pleasing manner.

Ways to Share Memories

family events. Graphics and borders can enhance a plain list. Many copying and stationary stores can create professional looking customized address books and calendars using information and photos that you provide.

Art-work

For those who are artists, consider painting a picture or modeling a sculpture of someone's home, an heirloom or relatives.

Autograph Book

At family reunions and other large gatherings, have individuals compose a short message to future generations and have them sign their name. You may also wish to include dates and their town and state. These can be duplicated and distributed to family groups so that each branch will have messages from all the limbs on the family tree.

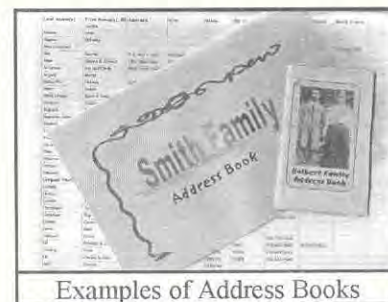
Bookmarks

You may create bookmarks of any length and width from a variety of materials including fabrics. You may add a photo of a family member and/or a brief description about the person. The bookmarks can be

Collections

Collections of old baseball cards, medals, kitchen

utensils, buttons and other items can be mounted and framed. Adding a description of the items and the history of the collection will add historical and emotional value. Collect old books,



Examples of Address Books

magazines, and movies your ancestors might have enjoyed and send them to your relatives so they have clues as to some items that may have enriched their lives.

Crafts

Projects and supplies to create many craft projects with a family theme can be found at craft stores.

Family Bible

Provide either scanned or transcribed copies of the family history section of the Family. If the handwriting is difficult to read send



along a typed version.



Family Migration Maps

Use symbols and different types of line to plot the movement of family members through their known history. You may add text to describe the migration. Use 50states.com to locate and print out blank outline maps of the United States. You will also find maps for individual states there. For blank maps of other countries go to World Atlas and Geography of the World: geography.about.com/library/maps/blindex.htm

Family Tree

The tree does not have to be the whole family. You could create a simple tree for each branch or twig of the extended family.

Family Web Site

Use either free or paid space on the Internet for a family home page. Photos, events, news, biographies, recipes can quickly be shared with many relatives who live far apart.

How Much is That Worth Today?

It may be interesting to compare the relative cost of an item in the past with the cost of the same item today. For example, your ancestor had personal property worth \$500 in 1850 and you want to know how much it is worth in 2002. On the Internet go to this site: www.eh.net/hmit/compare/index.php and use the second equation. In the box "What is the relative value in the year type in 2002." Go to the box of \$. Type in 500.00 and in the last box in the year type 1850. Put a check beside CPI and press Submit. The answer is \$11,400.00. You may want to compute and compare several items or trace someone's financial history.

To compare 1925 prices to 2003 prices try www.becker.k12.mn.us/ourtown/1920's/1920prices.html.

Interviews

Transcribe any oral interviews, print them out and send them to the interviewee and/or family members. Receiving



How would you display your collections?

interview notes may be a comfort on the anniversary of a loved one's death. If the interview was taped on video, you may consider sending a copy of it along with a transcription.

Military Scrapbooks and Collections

Relatives who served in the military may like to have a scrapbook with text and graphics detailing their experiences. Topics could include the history of a particular war, event, branch of service, a regiment or ship, military clothing, or medals and equipment. Information can be discovered in libraries, on the Internet and personal memories.

Other Media

Music/movies, TV shows, books CD, DVDs and other media can be given to help family members recall a particular time in their lives. Couples and individuals like to listen to the songs and watch movies and TV shows that remind them of their younger days. An old book can be like finding an old friend. It is possible to find collections such as Big Band Music or Music of the 30s. There are also videos and DVDs of old TV shows and movies such as the *Cabinet in the Sky* and *Julia*.



Bridal Showers and Newlywed Books

Copies of ancestors' marriage records, photos of wedding parties and short histories of long-married couples could accompany notes of best wishes for a long and happy marriage.

Newsletters

Have relatives send you stories, personal histories, articles about special occasions and events in their lives. Publish a quarterly, bi-annual or annual newsletter to let folks in Florida know what is happening to their kin in Washington.

Photos

Scan and catalog all the photos you are able to locate. You can either print the pictures individually or as a group. You can also save each as a .jpg and burn them onto a CD. Anyone with a computer can open the CD and have copies made of the photos they wish. You could also send relatives photos with unknown persons in them to see if they can identify them.

If you know someone who has a vision problem, but can see what is on a TV screen and has a VHS and/or DVD player you could make a movie of your collection for them to view. Take each one out of its frame so the glass will not reflect on the lens. Prop the photo up against a solid background. While the camera zooms in on each individual photo provide a narration telling who is in the photo row-by-row and left to right, the date and the event. Repeat this process until all the photos are complete. You may need to transfer the film to a VHS or DVD format.

Records/Documents

The gift of either the original or a copy of a birth certificate, baptism record, award and certificate of achievement,



union/occupation record, membership, or marriage record is greatly appreciated by family members. They may be sent with accompanying stories and photos to enhance the presentation.

Scrapbook, Memory Books

Memory books of important events to you or family members are easy to create and wonderful ways to share memories and information with others.

Tell Your Grandchildren Your Story

Use the Internet to fill in blanks and print out your life story for a grandchild. You may repeat the process several

times so that each grandchild will have his/her own personalized story. On the Internet go to Family Story Generator: www.ourgrandchild.com/familystory/index.htm.

Timelines

Free timelines ranging from 5 to 140 years are available. Enter name/s, type in a beginning and ending year. Click **Printable Copy**. You can also add events in the following categories: Historical Events, Leadership, Technology, Event Disaster, Personal Historical and Personal Disaster to make it more personalized. Use the Timeline web site

at www.ourtimelines.com/create_tl_2c.html.

T-Shirts, Hats and Bags

Use Iron-On Transfers found in craft and computer stores to place a graphic on fabric.

Wall Hangings and Quilts

In addition to using traditional patterns use iron-on-transfers to add photos to the fabric. Relatives could also use a permanent marker to write a signed short message to a loved one on a piece of cloth. These pictures and/or messages can be sewn together into a very special gift.

NEW!! Research Assistance Options available from the AAGSNC

We know that not everyone has the time to do enough research on their family, so to help you, we now offer RESEARCH ASSISTANCE to our members and guests, as follows:

MENTOR PROGRAM:

All AAGSNC members will be provided with the opportunity to request a mentor — an experienced AAGSNC researcher who can help new (and not-so-new) members grasp the basics and start to develop a research plan. Your mentor will help you to understand how to get started, what resources are available at libraries, archives and even online, and what things to avoid. By using an AAGSNC Mentor, you will be well on your way to finding your ancestors.

Cost: Free

Availability: This program is available **only** to AAGSNC members. Individual Membership is \$25/year.

LIMITED ASSISTANCE:

We have identified a number of qualified AAGSNC members, who are skilled in a variety of subject areas, who will assist you in the more intermediate areas of your research. They will work with you on your research plan, point out additional areas to consider, and will actually do some of your research for you. We will have you complete a *Research Assistance Survey* to help us better determine the type of assistance you will need. We will create a *Research Contract* spelling out the scope, goals, deliverables, schedule and expected cost of the total project. The *Research Contract* will be administered by an officer of the AAGSNC to ensure quality, timeliness and accuracy.

Cost: \$30/hour

Availability: This program is available to anyone.

COMPLETE RESEARCH:

Some of our members are incredibly talented, experienced and skillful genealogists who will be happy to do your research for you. These individuals have had many years of experience and fully comply with the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) Code of Ethics. Once you complete a *Research Assistance Survey*, we will assign one of our qualified members to do your family's research for you. We will create a *Research Contract* spelling out the scope, goals, deliverables, schedule and expected cost of the total project. The *Research Contract* will be administered by an officer of the AAGSNC to ensure quality, timeliness and accuracy.

Cost: \$40/hour

Availability: This program is available to anyone.

To request a Mentor or Research Assistance, please send an email message to: research@aagsnc.org or call us at (877) 884-2843.



A GLOSSARY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN TERMS

Many genealogists have difficulty deciphering new and unusual words. When it comes to African American terms, most are stumped.

This article is the first in a series of genealogical terms

A

- African American history—the study of people residing in America whose distant ancestors were born in Africa.
- African American—Americans of African heritage.
- African—archaic term used to describe African Americans
- Afro-American—American of African descent.
- Agriculture census schedule—census of landowners, renters and sharecropping farmers taken between 1850 and 1890. Provides information on land values, crops, livestock and produce.
- Aliases—other names one has besides his/her legal one. For example: name changes.
- Apprentice—one who works under a skilled professional in order to learn an art, craft or trade and become qualified. Historically a young person who was bound for a certain period received room, board and instruction by a legal agreement.
- Apprenticeship bonds for Freedmen—secured a period of training until child reach a specified age.
- Aunt—a parent's sister or the wife of a parent's brother. Sometimes to denote an elderly women who is a close friend of the family.

B

- Bill of Sale—a formal instrument for the conveyance or transfer or title to property.
- Biracial—one whose ethnic background is made up of two racial groups such as Black/White or Chinese/ Native American.
- Black history—the study of people of African descent, including those born in Africa, those dispersed to North and

- South America and other parts of the world.
- Black—historically a person was at least three-fourths Negro.
- Black Indians—persons of mixed African and Native American ancestry.
- Bondsman—A person usually a relative who acted as surety to provide a financial guarantee for a contract. Also a slave or serf; or one who is bound for another as in a marriage bond.
- Bound—under obligation to serve another in return for payment, passage, or instruction in a trade usually for a set period of time.
- Bounty land warrant (BLW)—the right to obtain bounty land.
- Bounty land: land designated as payment for military service.
- Brass Ankles—a mixed race group living in South Carolina
- “Brick Wall”—a term meaning you can go no farther. Due to slavery, many African American genealogist can only trace



- their heritage back to 1865 when they hit a “brick wall.”
- Buffalo Soldiers—The Ninth and Tenth Cavalry was made up of black troops who were responsible for keeping the West safe. They also fought in the Spanish-American War.
- Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands—Established in 1865. It had programs to assist ex-slaves after the American Civil War. Also called Freedmen's Bureau.

C

- Carmel Indians—a mixed race group living in southeastern Ohio
- Caucasian—one of European heritage.
- Chattel—personal property may include living and non-living properties.
- Civil rights—privileges that all citizens of a community are supposed to have, for example, the right to vote or to receive fair treatment from the law.
- Civil War—war between the North and South from 1861-1865.
- Cohabitation—living with another person, especially without being formally married.
- Colored Troops—Units of Black soldiers who fought for the Union in the Civil War.
- Colored—an archaic term for Black People.
- Common law—a set of laws that make up the basis of the legal system in many English-speaking countries and is an alternative to civil law.
- Common law marriage—recognized in 15 states and the District of Columbia, a heterosexual couple can become legally married without a license or ceremony. To be valid the couple must live together for a significant period of time, act as a married couple (using the same surname, filing joint tax returns, etc.) and intend to be married. If common law marriage is accepted in the state where the couple resides then the spouses have the same rights and treatment as formally married couples including going through a legal divorce to end the marriage.
- Confederacy—Confederate States of America (CSA), the southern states that seceded from the United States in 1860-61.
- Cousin—relative descended from a common ancestor, but not a brother or sister. Slang term for close friend.

D

- Dawes Commission—Federal special committee used between 1898-1914 to determine who should be included on Native American enrollment rolls. Blacks, whites, mixed race and Native Americans went through an elimination process that included



morning after an evening funeral.
Ditto—abbreviated do, d, or “--means same as what was written before. (The census says John Doe was born in England. His wife Mary was also born in England. Instead of writing “England” again for Mary’s birthplace, the census taker may have used “ditto” or one of its abbreviations).

E

Employment agreements—Owners sometimes hired out slaves to work on other farms, in mills and factories. Often the contract specified a definite length of service, tasks, wages, name of slave, age.

Amancipate—means “to free”—Prior to 1865 it meant to free someone from slavery.

Emancipation Proclamation—Federal directive issued by President Lincoln January 1, 1863 freeing enslaved peoples only in the Confederate States.

Emancipation Records—Documents used by slaveholders to free slaves before the Civil War. Court records can be found in deed books and wills.

Enrollment Cards—Listing of those who proved tribal membership during the Dawes Commission.

Enslaved—to subject a person to a dominating influence that takes away his or her freedom.

F

Family association—an organization devoted to researching a particular family.

Family reunion—a gathering of extended family members.

Five Civilized Tribes—Cherokee, Choctaw, Seminole, Creek, and Chickasaw who embraced “white” culture pre-civil War. Some members were black or mixed blood.

Free person of color—any Native American, non-white, mulatto or black who was not a slave before the Civil War. They could own property and sometimes vote.

Free states—Pre-Civil War states which were free of slavery. They are: California, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, new Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Wisconsin.

Free territories—Areas where slavery was prohibited before the Civil War. They were Colorado, Dakota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma/Indian, Utah and Washington.

Freedman—another term for a free person of color who was not a slave.

Freedmen’s Bureau—Abbreviated name for the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands.

Freedman’s Savings and Trust Company—Established in 1865. It was a bank for ex-slaves.

Friend—member of the Religious Society of Friends; a Quaker.

Can someone be enslaved but not be a slave?

What is An Importation Declaration Paper ?

Is it better to be emancipated or to be manumited?

Can a person be chattel?

Can you describe the call of a Jim Crow?

G

Grandfather clause—a law giving entitlement to persons who could prove their forebears owned a specific property. They were given certain rights such as voting.

Grave goods—items placed upon a grave in a cemetery, such as dishes, clocks, beds, and lamps, to appease or ward off evil spirits.

Guiden Enrollement Cards—a listing of all persons who filed for membership in Native American tribes during the Dawes Commission.

Guineas—slang term for tri-racials of West Virginia (Melungeons).

H

Haliwas—a tri-racial group.

Home funeral—a funeral service held in the home of the deceased rather than a funeral home. Someone in the family cleans and prepares the body.

Homestead--to obtain title to public land under the Homestead Act of 1862. This act allowed the head of a family to obtain title to 160 acres after clearing and improving it, and living on it for five years.

I

Indian Freedmen—Freed blacks who lived in Indian territory before the Civil War, usually they were mixed race tribal members.

Importation Declarations—Documentation for all new slaves entering a state. It may have included ID number, name, gender, age and last owner.

Indentured servant—one bound into the service of another person for a specified number of years, often in return for transportation to this country; a redemptioner.

Integration—the process of opening a group, community, place or organization to all regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, or social class.

Isolates—groups, usually mixed raced people, who lived in mountain, swamps and other undesirable lands to escape harassment from their neighbors.

J

Jim Crow—a period of segregation in the United States marked by laws and practices of dividing people, institutions, and facilities by race. There are several stories of the origin of the name; one refers to a tune and dance called “Jump Jim Crow,” performed at minstrel shows.

Jumping the Broom—Blacks were prevented from legally marrying in some states. During a ceremony, usually held at home or in a black church, when the bride and groom jumped over the handle of a broomstick they were considered to be married.

Juneteenth—Blacks in Texas did not hear that Lincoln had freed the slaves until June 17, 1863. The date is often celebrated as a Black Independence Day.

L

Lumbrees—a tri-racial group found in North Carolina.

M

Manumission Papers or Records—documents such as wills, county records and petitions which legally freed slaves from their slaveholders.

Manumit— means “to free”; Prior to 1865 meant to free someone from slavery.

Mark—a written substitute for a signature;



used by an illiterate person.

Master—term used to identify the person who owned a particular slave.

Melungeons—a group of dark skinned people with European features who were living in the mountains of Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina and West Virginia as early as the mid-1600s.

Current research suggests they are the descendants of Spanish and Portuguese settlers who arrived in the Colonies in the late 16th century. They mingled with Native Americans and the survivors of Moorish and Turkish slaves of Jamestown.

miscegenation—the mixing of the races usually by marriage or cohabitation between a white and a person of another race. From Latin “miscere” to mix and “genus” race.

Mistress—term used to identify the wife of the person who owned a particular slave.

mixed-race—those with heritage from more than one racial group such as White/Japanese or Black/White.

Mulatto—historically used to describe someone three-eighths black to five-eighths black or having any perceptible trace of African blood. A person with interracial parents. In early times referred to someone of white and Native American parents.

muster— to gather soldiers for military service. To “muster in” is to enlist; to “muster out” is to discharge.

Muster Rolls—a list of soldiers who served in a military unit.

N

Negress—term referring to a female Negro

Negro—an term referring to people of African heritage.

O

Octoroon—historically describes someone who is one-eighth black or has any trace of Negro ancestry. One ancestor of African descent and seven white great-grandparents.

one-drop rule—anyone with at least one drop of black blood or who had one black ancestor was, by law, black in certain states.

oral history—the story of a person’s life and perhaps the person’s family and ancestors, as told to another person,

which may or may not be recorded.

Usually based on memory.

oral tradition—stories that have been verbally handed down from generation to generation.

P

passing—a very light skinned Afro-American whose coloring and facial features allow him/her to be mistaken as being white. For various reasons, many people allowed others to think they were of European heritage.

person/people of Color—any person or group not defined as white. In pre-Civil War America, the term referred to Mulattoes, Indians, mixed races and free blacks.

Poll—list or record of persons, especially for taxing or voting; one “head” or taxable person. All free males from either 16 or 18 but usually 21 to 50 or 60 were included.

Poll tax—tax paid by all free men in an area.

Planation—a large farm, usually found in the South, where labor was supplied by slaves.

Planation Records—management records kept to describe how the farm was managed such as inventory and financial. Some included list of slaves usually by age, sex and color.

Probate-- originally, the proving of a will; now, describes the settling of an estate.

Probate Court Records--In some states, records dealing with blacks were kept in a separate section of the book or in an entirely different book.

Purchase Documents—records/bill of sale detailing when and where a slave was sold

Q

Quadroon—historically describes a person who is one-fourth black. Three white grandparents and one black.

R

Reconstruction Period—the period following the Civil War lasting until 1900. Term refers to the rebuilding of the South. Blacks made economic and educational strides.

Red Bones—mixed race people found in Louisiana who once lived in the Carolinas.

S

Segregation—separation of people based on race, religion, ethnic or national origin.

Sharecrop—a farming method by which the owner of the land and the person who worked the land divided the profits from the sale of crops grown on the land.

Sharecropper—the person who usually lived on land and raised the crops. However, he/she did not own the land and received a portion of the profits from the sale of crops she/she grew on the land.

Slave census schedules—Pre-Civil War, slaves were counted under the name of the slaveholder, by gender, age, and color. Only those 10 years of age and older were listed by name.

Slave Manifests—a list of the slave passengers and cargo that the ship’s captain had to turn into the Collector of Customs at U.S. ports. List origin of voyage, cargo and port of entry.

Slave Narratives—an oral history project by members of the Works Project Administration (WPA) during the 1930s. This collection of stories and biographies of former slaves can provide genealogical material.

Slave name—a name given to a slave usually by his/her owner. Most times was only a single name. Post-Civil War, some slaves used the same surname as their former owners.

Slave—one who is forced to work for another person for no payment and was regarded as the property of the person he/she worked for. Not all were in the South.

Slaveholder/owner—one who owns and has control over the lives of others.

Slavery—the state of being completely dominated by another person; a system based on using enforced labor; historically the condition of being forced to work for someone else.

Slave sales—Bills of Sale for the purchase of enslaved persons. Records may still exist in some states.

Slave ship— an ocean-going vessel that brought enslaved persons from Western Africa to the Western Hemisphere.

Succession records—estate records are called this in Louisiana

succession—especially in Louisiana, the process of determining a will’s validity.



identifying heirs, ordering inventory of the estate, ordering family meetings to determine the best interest of minor heirs, putting heirs in possession of the estate. Probate is the same process; term used in most states. Succession as a legal term in other states is the transfer of property to legal heirs on an intestate estate. The right to inherit and to what degree is determined by the state's laws of descent and distribution.

T

Tri-Racials—those with white, black and Native American heritage.
Turks—a tri-racial group found in the Midwest.

U

Underground Railroad—Between 1830 and 1860 about 50,000 slaves escaped the South through a network of hiding places from the South to the North and

Canada. Documents listing the names of many of the slaves can be found in various locations.

Union—the United States; also the North during the Civil War; the states that did not secede.

U.S. Colored Troops (USCT)—Military units made up of over 230,000 soldiers of African descent who served in during the Civil War. They were considered volunteers and not part of the regular army.

W

Wench—term used to describe female Blacks.

Abbreviations found in documents and census records

- *--denotes colored
- ap—apprentice
- B, b—black, Negro

- B Boy—bound boy
- B Girl—Bound girl
- c—colored
- col, col'd, cold—colored, black Negro
- CSA—Confederate States of America, the associations of southern states that seceded from the United States between 1860-61.
- Dom—domestic
- Ed-colored
- E—Emancipated
- Fmc—free man of color
- Fwc—free woman of color
- Fpc, F.P.C.—free person of color
- Mu—Mulatto, person of mixed ancestry (Caucasian and Negro)
- n—Negro
- OT—all Others (race)
- S—Slave
- W—white, Caucasian

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moved: neighbors, church, school. Finally my family moved though we still kept the land. Living in this new community required quite an adjustment. Whereas before you may not have been able to see even ONE house from your door, now you had neighbors, close up and personal.

The land for the Gum Springs cemetery was donated by my great-grandfather, and is surrounded by our land. The cemetery was scheduled to have been moved too, but since 'we' did not sell, it did not become necessary to move the cemetery. It is still in use today on the original site, surrounded by a forest of trees mostly grown up since we moved away.

With increased automation in farming, the need for farm workers declined and gradually people started working on "public jobs," meaning non-farm jobs, many at the new aluminum plant. This made it difficult for people to attend the 2nd of August picnic on weekdays and eventually it was moved to the first Saturday in August. Folks like me who moved away (out of town, out of state) tended to plan trips back home around the

picnic. "Are you coming for the Second? You know that's when everybody comes home." Even the townies who never attended as children started to come home then. So family and class reunions began to be scheduled for the week before, the week after, etc. Finally, a 'school' reunion for the defunct black high school was planned for the weekend of the 2nd.

Now "the 2nd" is critically ill. Yesterday, August 7, 2004, was the centennial celebration and what a sad shadow that was of what we enjoyed as children. Of course the fact that there is endless entertainment available all day, every day, has reduced the importance of the picnic to children and young people, and you can buy barbecue any day of the year. I am certainly happy that this event made it to 100!!

Discussion of the 2nd with a "townie" cousin who is 10 years older than I am elicited the following: "Why we looked forward to the Gum Springs picnic! You may be too young to remember this and things had changed by your time. Mr. Dago (sp?) Scott who lived on Cottage

Hill used to take folks to Gum Springs by the truckload on his billet truck. (A truck designed to haul 'billets' which are small logs.) He would nail benches to the truck and ran it back and forth from town (5 miles from Gum Springs) all day."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Howard Edwards is now the Membership Chairperson.
- Our new webmaster as of Aug 1st is Ms. Forrest Johnson.
- We have two new board members, George Geder and Fred Blanchard.

I want to take this opportunity to better thank Lisa for the awesome job she did as editor of our journal, transitioning it from a newsletter to a journal of which we can all be proud. Again, thanks. Lisa!

Melvyn Gillette

AAGSNC President – 2004

Next AAGSNC Meeting:

Saturday, September 18, 2004 Oakland Public Library - Dimond Branch 3565 Fruitvale Avenue

12:00 noon - Beginning Genealogy

1:30 p.m. - Regular meeting topic: "Braggin' & Lyin"

4:00 p.m. - AAGSNC Board Meeting

Members and guests are welcome to attend all of our meetings.

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IT'S YOUR HISTORY ... ISN'T IT TIME YOU TOLD YOUR STORY?