

The latest contributions from AAGSNC's wonderful volunteers.

Sharon and Tikvah need some assistance to determine how they are related.

Attending a conference is a great learning opportunity.

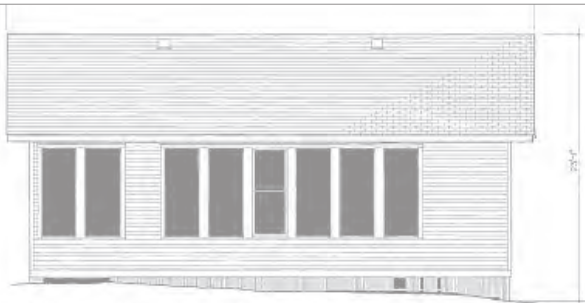
Not content with solving one mystery, Michael Willis continues his research and discovers more about his family.

# the Baobab Tree

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

Fall 2013

ISSN 1543-4125



CADENTOWN ROSENWALD SCHOOL LEFT ELEVATION  
HABS NO. KY-288



CADENTOWN ROSENWALD SCHOOL SECTION B-B  
HABS NO. KY-288

## If You Build It, They Will Learn.

A century ago, when the nation's schools were racially separate, two men worked together to make them equal.



CADENTOWN ROSENWALD SCHOOL RIGHT ELEVATION



CADENTOWN ROSENWALD SCHOOL SECTION A-A

by Daniel De Simone  
Contributor

The year 1912 was a pivotal one for African-American educator Booker T. Washington (1856–1915) and Chicago businessman Julius Rosenwald (1862–1932). The two men were acquainted, with Washington as the founder and principal of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute for the training of black teachers (now Tuskegee University)

and Rosenwald serving as a member of the school's Board of Trustees.

That year, Washington had the idea to build schools for African-American children throughout the rural South. "Separate but equal" was the law of the land, but black children were learning in underfunded and dilapidated buildings across

the South. Why not replicate the success of Tuskegee by providing the necessary academic skills in clean, well lit modern structures for students on the K–12 level? For funding, he turned first to Tuskegee's benefactors.

CONT. ON PAGE 14



### Board of Directors

W. E. "Bill" Melson (01/2016)  
Dr. Lois Freeman (01/2014)  
Lenora Gobert (01/2014)  
Annette Madden (01/2016)  
Carol A. Miller (01/2015)

### Officers

President - M. Howard Edwards  
Vice-President - Carol A. Miller  
Recording Secretary - Dera Williams  
Corresponding Secretary - **Vacant**  
Treasurer - Felicia Addison  
Historian - Jackie Chauhan

### Committee Chairs

Programs - Melvyn Gillette  
Membership - Upperton Hurts  
Fundraising - Marion Owens  
Publicity - Alvis Ward  
Journal - Janice M. Sellers  
Website - Geraldine DeBerry  
Outreach & Education - Alvis Ward

African American Genealogical Society  
of Northern California (AAGSNC)

P.O. Box 27485, OAKLAND, CA 94602  
(877) 884-2843  
[WWW.AAGSNC.ORG](http://WWW.AAGSNC.ORG)

*It's Your History...*

Isn't it time you told **your**  
story?

The African-American Genealogical Society of Northern California (AAGSNC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated in its commitment to national and international African-ancestry family history research. The society provides a unique approach to education, research skills, and support to anyone interested in genealogy.

### Objectives

- To promote interest in genealogy, biography, and related history in African ancestry research
- 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

### Membership and its benefits

Any person interested in furthering the objectives of AAGSNC is eligible for membership upon submission and acceptance of a completed application form and payment of dues.

Membership categories are as follows:

- Regular Membership: Age 17 and Over
- Family Membership
- Youth Membership: Age 16 and Under
- Organization Membership: Association, Library, Society, Non-Profit Group
- Lifetime Regular Membership: Age 17 and Over
- Lifetime Family Membership

Meetings - AAGSNC holds monthly meetings that include guest speakers, workshops, seminars, and networking with other members. Meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month (except July and August) from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Dimond Branch of the Oakland Public Library, 3565 Fruitvale Avenue, Oakland, CA 94602-2326.

Field Trips and Support - Members can attend regularly scheduled trips to the Oakland FamilySearch Library and receive assistance with their research projects. Participation in organized research trips to the Salt Lake City Family History Library and taking part in events with other historical and genealogical organizations are included in our program.

Members Only Section of Our Web Site - Compiled databases, *The Baobab Tree* archive, meeting presentations (PDFs, video, and podcasts), ancestral charts, and more.

To join, please visit [www.aagsnc.org](http://www.aagsnc.org).



# The Branch

Words from the Society President and Journal Editors

## Stunning Volunteer Work—Always



Photo courtesy of M. Howard Edwards

by **M. Howard Edwards**  
President, AAGSNC

At the September meeting, the Website Committee announced the

introduction of a new database of obituaries and funeral programs in the Members Only Section. In a professional, for-profit organization, this would not be greeted as anything special. For a cash-strapped, not-for-profit genealogical society, this was a monumental achievement. I reflected on the fact that we all have our day jobs (or other interests), and this project was pursued by a bunch of avid amateurs and professionally skilled members contributing time and money to the society. They were intent to ensure the project's success in whatever time they could allocate. The results are impressive and a great demonstration of the power volunteers have. We all have skills that we apply at work or in other volunteer endeavors.

Have you thought of sharing those skills with AAGSNC? We certainly could use them and in many places. If we had to pay for the contributions to the success of our society, we would quickly go out of business. Come share your skills.

Have you visited *The Baobab Tree* postings since we have gone digital? They are in living color and are beautiful. To know that they are the work of our members at no cost to the society inspires more than gratitude for the hard work, as does just maintaining the Web site where they reside. Now that you have returned from your summer family visits and research trips you might give some thought to documenting your

findings in *The Baobab Tree* and see your work in living color.

### A Sidelight on the Obituary Project

A large batch of the obituaries were from the estate of Esther Mabry of the famous Esther's Orbit Room of Oakland, California. They were donated courtesy of her nephew, Danny Collier. The collection was of funeral programs of former employees of the railroads, Oakland Naval Supply Center, merchant marines, and restaurant and nightclub industries. Most were immigrants from Southern states, but with a few native Californians listed.

If you are not searching for anyone specific, it still makes compelling reading about those making the history of West Oakland.

### And Speaking of Our Members

I was not entirely surprised to see our own Lisa Lee saying a few words on her family in the opening patter of the *Genealogy Roadshow*, shown on the PBS network, when it was in San Francisco. She was also shown silently in the audience as the experts gave the research results from inquiries submitted.

I was advised that our member Arlene Blanks Polk, who published her second article in *The Baobab Tree*, entitled "Joshua Lyles and the Free Black Settlers of Lyles Station" (Volume 1, Issue 4, Winter 2012), has gone on to even greater fame. An expanded version of her article will be published in the Fall issue of the Indiana Historical Society journal, *Traces*, in November. Our congratulations go out to her. If any of our members have other achievements to report please advise the journal editor; we want to know about them.

# Inside this issue

STUNNING VOLUNTEER WORK— ALWAYS.....	3
GENEALOGY 101.....	5
FINDING FAMILY.....	6
2013 AAHGS NATIONAL CONFERENCE.....	7
FINDING THE STERLINGS: PART TWO .....	8
TRANSCRIPTIONS.....	11
AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGY RECORDS ON THE INTERNET.....	12
BAOBAB WRITER'S GUIDELINES ....	18

December 21  
Annual Holiday Party

For more info on our events and  
and meetings, please visit  
[www.AAGSNC.org](http://www.AAGSNC.org)

# The Leaf

## Updates from the Board of Directors, Officers, Society Committees, and Blog

### AAGSNC Executive Committee Meeting Notes October 19, 2013 and November 16, 2013

#### AAGSNC Executive Meeting - October 19, 2013

*Present: Jackie Chauhan, Howard Edwards, Melvyn Gillette, Upperton Hurts, Dera Williams*

The meeting was opened at 12:30 p.m. by President Edwards.

No minutes were available from the September meeting.

The President reported he is awaiting budget submissions for the 2013–2014 year from the committee chairs. He has received the budget from the Web site chair. There have been changes in some of the committee's make-up; we will need to evaluate committee chair vacancies.

Historian chair Jackie Chauhan stated she needs a budget for supplies.

Upperton Hurts, Web site Committee member, reported that obituaries are now available on the AAGSNC Web site. There are instructions on how to use this new, long-anticipated feature. Obituaries are still being accepted by Bill Melson. The committee would like to upgrade the Web site software to version 2.5. They are practicing with a free utility program. The updates will be done by the committee.

Upperton, as Membership chair, is working with the Finance chair to reconcile membership with finances. We now have 150 members. A membership drive will begin in November.

The President relayed a message from the Journal chair requesting journal submissions and book reviews. The Vice President is working on a project that

will determine what organizations are eligible for free *Baobab Tree* copies.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

#### AAGSNC Executive Meeting- November 16, 2013

*Present: Jackie Chauhan, Melvyn Gillette, Howard Edwards, Upperton Hurts, Diana Ross, Alvis Ward, Dera Williams.*

President Howard Edward announced that the decision of determining what organizations are to receive a complimentary *Baobab* is still pending.

The fee for an individual making a presentation and representing AAGSNC is \$100.00, which goes back to the society. This was established on January 21, 2012. This applies to public groups and organizations. There is no charge for nonprofit agencies. Alvis made a presentation to the Solano County genealogy group.

As program chair, Melvyn Gillette is responsible for planning the 2014 calendar. The calendar will be ready in December.

AAGSNC is responsible for three goals: the *Baobab* journal, monthly presentations, and the Web site.

There was a discussion about having mobile meetings to remote areas to offer services where a cluster of people could benefit. This will be discussed at a further date.

Membership: Upperton Hurts will start the membership drive the week of November 17.

# Genealogy 101

*Learning the Lingo: Speaking a Genealogist's Language*

by Annette Madden

Board Member, AAGSNC

Every occupation or hobby (or in this case, obsession!) has its own language or jargon. Genealogy is no exception. You will come across many words and phrases that may not be familiar. I hope the next few columns will give beginners some assistance and serve as a refresher for the old-timers.

Let's start with nicknames. Shug is a common name in American black families. In my family I had a great-grand-uncle, Shug Crout. Every census and legal document I found for him showed his name as Shug. It took a lengthy process of elimination of every other male sibling to identify him as Walter Crout. Other nicknames are easier to connect to their corresponding birth names, however. This list is only a sample. If you do a search online for "genealogy nicknames", you will find many more.

As I said, this is only a partial list. You will also come across nicknames unique to your family. Two of my great-uncles, William and Walter Madden, were "Daddy Hood" and "Daddy Wood", respectively. My father's name was Clarence, but he was known as "Joe" all his life. The story is that their grandmother, Classie Crout, nicknamed all her grandchildren and these names stuck.

As always, happy hunting!

Name	Nickname
Adeline	Ada, Edith
Agatha	Addy, Aggie, Agnes
Aileen	Helen
Amanda	Manda, Mandy
Arlene	Lena
Augustus	Gus
Azariah	Az, Aze, Riah
Barbara	Babs, Barby, Bobbie
Beatrice	Bea, Trisha, Trixie
Bridge	Biddy
Calvin	Cal, Vin, Vinny
Cicely	Cilla
Clarissa	Clara, Cissy, Classie
Cynthia	Cindy, Cintha
Dorothy	Dee, Dolly, Dot, Dotha, Dotty
Edith	Dacey, Edie
Edmund, Edward	Ed, Ned, Ted
Elizabeth	Eliza, Bess, Bessie, Beth, Betsy, Betty, Lib, Libby, Liza, Lisa, Liz, Lizzie
Florence	Flo, Flora, Flossy
Frances	Fanny, Fran, Cissy, Frankie, Sis
Gertrude	Gatty, Gertie, Trudy
Gretchen	Margaret
Hannah	Nan, Nanny
Harriet	Hatty
Henrietta	Etta, Hank, Nettie, Retta
Henry	Hal, Hank, Harry
Keziah	Kizza, Kizzie
Lavinia	Viney
Lawrence/Laurence	Larry, Lon, Lonny, Lorne, Lorry
Leticia	Lettie, Lettice, Titia, Tish
Mary	Molly, Polly, Mae, Mamie, Mitzi
Margaret	Maggie, Marge, Meg, Peggy, Daisy
Martha	Marty, Mat, Mattie, Patsy, Patty
Obedience	Biddie, Obed
Penelope	Neppie, Penny
Priscilla	Cilla, Prissy
Rebecca	Reba, Becca, Becky, Beck
Robert	Bob, Rob, Robby, Bobby, Robin, Rupert
Roberta	Bobbie, Robbie, Bert, Bertie or Birdie
Rudolph/Rudolphus	Dolph, Olph, Rolf, Rud
Russell	Russ, Rusty

CONT. ON PAGE 15

# Finding Family

*DNA may give hints, but it can't answer all the questions.*

by Sharon Styles  
Member, AAGSNC

In October 2012 I had my father's DNA tested through 23andMe. Two months later he passed away. It still hurts to think, speak, or write about it. But I still check his Relative Finder/DNA Relatives list on a regular basis. Recently I was going through his list and noticed someone with a birthplace of Fort Worth, Texas. My dad and mom were born and raised in Marlin, Falls County, Texas. Many of their family members moved to Fort Worth. Even though this young lady, Talitha Kolbow, was only .10% with one segment, it could be worth a try. I sent a message to Talitha. She responded by saying she was adopted and had no idea who her parents were or how she could possibly be related to us. I was not expecting that response. I wanted to help her, but I was not sure where to begin. If she could not identify her family, there was no way we were going to figure out how we are related. I decided to write an article and ask for help from the genealogy community. Much of genealogy involves chance: a chance meeting of someone in an airport; a friend mentions a coworker with the surname you are researching. The list is endless. We all have those stories of chance. So I'm taking a chance by writing this article in hopes that someone, somewhere might be able to help. If Talitha can learn more about her birth parents, we might be able to learn how we are related to each other.

\*\*\*

Talitha "Tikvah" Kolbow is trying to find her family, and you may be able to help.

In the early morning hours of May 27, 1983 a beautiful baby girl was born at John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth, Texas. The single mother was already raising two young girls, aged 2



Photos courtesy of Tikvah Kolbow

Left: Tikvah as a baby. Right: Tikvah in high school.

and 4. She made the difficult decision to allow someone else to provide a better life for her third daughter. The 23-year-old mother placed her 5-pound, 5-ounce infant for adoption through Catholic Charities.

Many miles away a Minnesota couple, working with Crossroads Adoption Agency, was searching for a child to adopt. A match was made, and the three-month-old baby left Texas, headed for Minnesota. Her adoptive parents named her Talitha, but she prefers to be called Tikvah.

As Tikvah grew into a young woman she wondered about her roots. Her adoptive parents gave her all the information they had concerning the closed adoption. But Tikvah longed to know more about her birth parents. Contacting Crossroads Adoption Agency for help was the first step in the long journey toward uncovering her history. Crossroads learned that Catholic Charities had closed their adoption section years ago and sent all of the records to the State of Texas. Crossroads suggested Tikvah contact the Texas Department of State Health Services. State Health Services confirmed it was a closed adoption and could not provide any further information.

Her most viable option was to register through the Central Adoption Registry, so she did. The Central Adoption Registry is affiliated with the State of Texas and facilitates the reunification process between an adopted person and the biological family.

In January 2011 the registry sent Tikvah a letter which stated no matches were found in its database. In other words, no one in her birth family was searching for her. This revelation made her extremely sad. "I was devastated when I discovered that no one is looking for me," Tikvah said. "But I eventually regained hope that God would work things out for the best." She started exploring other options and decided to try DNA testing. She submitted a sample to 23andMe and received a list of relatives. Without a first or last name for either parent, however, it is nearly impossible to determine how she is related to anyone on her list.

Recently Tikvah contacted Fort Worth genealogist Gayle W. Hanson of Texas Historical and Ancestry Researchers for assistance. "Adoptions can be difficult when trying to find record sources," Hanson said. "State laws governing adoption restrict the amount of information that can be provided.



Photo of Tikvah in 2011.

Finding a name is a challenging task.” The records obtained from her adoptive parents provided some information on Tikvah’s birth parents. Both of her parents were black. Her Texas-born mother described herself as an outgoing, friendly, even-tempered person who enjoyed playing softball, singing, sewing, skating, and dancing. Her mother had some college and worked in the clerical field. Her mother also had three brothers and one sister ranging from age 26 to 16. The maternal grandmother was born in Texas and worked in the field of education. The maternal grandfather, born in Louisiana, had passed away before Tikvah was born.

Tikvah’s birth parents met at a New Year’s party and had known each other just over a year at the time of her birth. Her birth father was described as a 26-year-old friendly yet shy single man from Michigan. He was a college graduate employed in the computer industry and played the guitar. Information obtained from the Central Adoption Registry indicated her two older sisters are married and living in Texas.

These small bits of information are precious to Tikvah. Her friendly but introverted personality is a combination

of her mother and father. Her love of music and dance are also traits of both parents. But she also enjoys traveling, writing, reading, and computer technology.

Tikvah wonders if anyone in her family had blocked tear ducts as a baby or double-jointed knuckles. Could her hyperextended legs be something she shares with her mother? She hopes the crescent-shaped birthmark on the left side of her face near the jaw line will help someone identify her.

Tikvah is not seeking to gain any money from her biological family. She has completed her B.A. in African/African American Studies with a concentration in public policy and development. She is currently working in the legal field while pursuing an M.S. in Mental Health Counseling.

Meeting her birth family would be the answer to her prayers. Tikvah believes her mother must have agonized over the decision to allow someone else to raise her daughter. “Maybe she felt guilty,” Tikvah said. “I want her to know that I do not blame her and just wish we could be reunited.”

Tikvah is hoping someone will read this story and remember something that could help her reach the end of this long journey. It may take a miracle for this young lady to find her family. She believes in miracles. “I am a woman of faith,” Tikvah said.

If you have any information to share, please contact Tikvah at [kolb0060@umn.edu](mailto:kolb0060@umn.edu).



Photo courtesy of Sharon Styles

**Sharon Styles** is a resident of Sacramento, California. She retired from AT&T in March 2010 after 30 years of service. She began researching her roots in 2007. Now that she is retired, Sharon plans to continue researching the Bull Hill Cemetery as well as her own family roots. Fortunately, her parents, four grandparents and great-grandparents all

came from the same little town of Marlin, Falls County, Texas. Sharon is a member of AAGSNC, AAHGS, Central Texas Genealogical Society, and St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church Library Ministry, which hosts a genealogy seminar each year. She researches the surnames of Paul, Sneed, Shaw, Thomas, Broadus, Bailey, Johnson, Mozee, and Curry.

# 2013 AAHGS National Conference

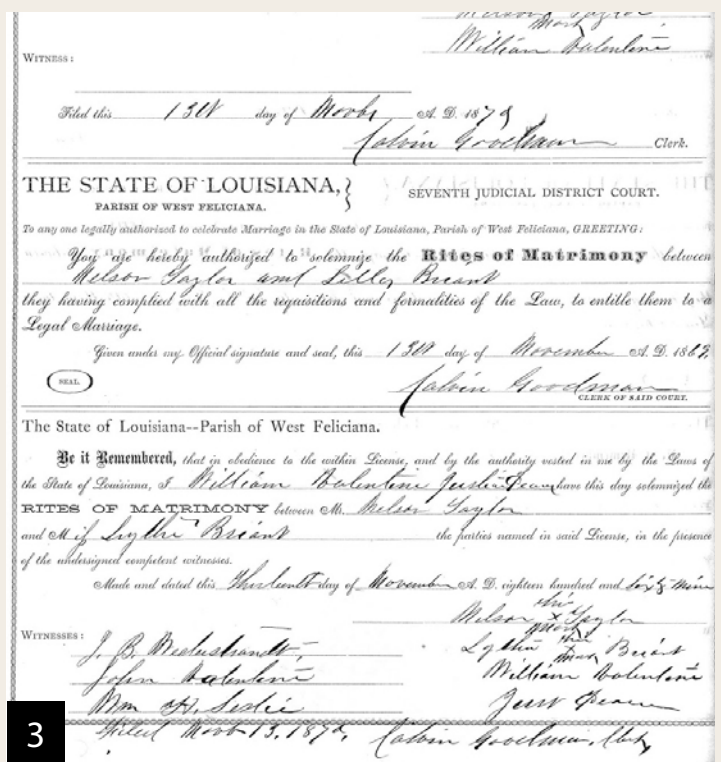
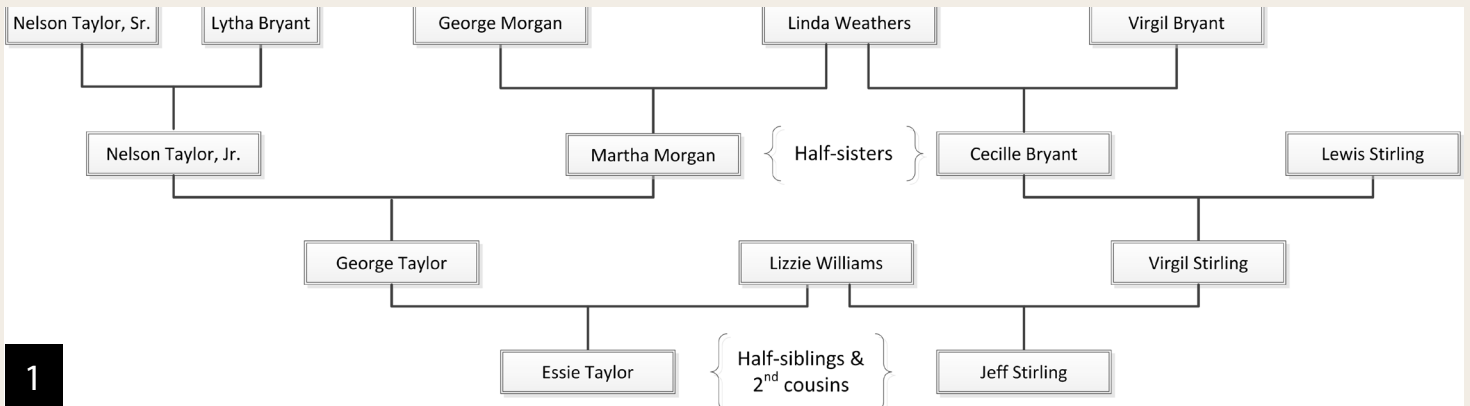
by **Carole Neal**  
Member, AAGSNC

In October I attended the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAHGS) annual conference held in Nashville, Tennessee. The theme of the conference was “150 Sounds of Freedom: Sesquicentennial of the Emancipation Proclamation.” I had attended the AAHGS conference only once before, in 1999 at the Gallaudet University Conference Center in Washington, D.C. Attending such conferences can be beneficial in a number of ways and helps advance one’s research. The experience re-energizes me and I come away with additional insight, new research tips, and other valuable information.

Nashville is the home of Tennessee State University (TSU), an historically black college. My indirect connection to TSU is by way of my sister Patricia, who earned her Master’s in Psychology there. I learned of this institution many years ago when watching *The Wilma Rudolph Story* and how she trained with Coach Ed Temple to be one of the TSU Tigerbelles, the girls’ track team. Rudolph competed in the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome and brought home the gold. A number of TSU professors participated in the conference as speakers. TSU students served as assistants during certain conference activities and introduced session presenters.

Attendees could register for preconference tours: Nashville Black History, Grand Ole Opry, The Hermitage: Andrew Jackson’s Presidential Home, Tennessee State Library Archives/Nashville Public Library, and Wessynton Plantation. I had not signed up for one of the conference tours, but I did want to see Nashville outside of the conference site,

CONT. ON PAGE 16



# Finding the Sterlings: Part Two

by Michael Willis  
Member, AAGSNC

After reuniting with my family, we continued to explore our relationship by comparing stories and research. The connection with the Sterlings had never appeared to me to be more than that of in-laws (*i.e.*, Jeff's father, Virgil, and his relationship with my great-great-grandmother Lizzie Williams), but a fascinating census page seemed to paint a slightly different picture.

I must preface my commentary about this 1880 U.S. census record with the fact that I studied this document MANY times from 2006 to 2011 and never noticed what I am now writing about. When I first interviewed my great-grandmother Essie, she spoke of her father, George Taylor, and his parents, Nelson Jr. and Martha Taylor. Since finding the Sterlings had been such a long shot, I focused on the Taylors during that time. I found this record, and the 1870 census, that showed not only Nelson and Martha, but Nelson Jr.'s parents, Nelson Sr. and Lytha (aka Lifie, Lilly, and Lettie).

Shortly after this, I found the marriage records for both father and son and discovered Lytha's maiden name was Bryant and Martha's was Morgan. At the time, I suspected there was a connection between Lytha and Cecille Bryant, but I wasn't sure so I focused on what I knew—the Taylors. As my cousin, Shawn, can attest, the Morgans completely overwhelmed me, so I left them up to her.



After finding the Sterlings in August 2011, this census took on a whole new meaning.

This record (West Feliciana Parish, 4th Ward, District 199, page 58) lists many relatives across several families: Morgans, Bryants, Sterlings, Taylors, etc. Lines 3-7 show Cecille Bryant and four of her five children: Carey, Voltaire, Malinda (aka Linda), and Christopher Burke. Though Carey, Voltaire, and Linda are shown as Bryants, they are actually Stirlings but listed

under their mother's maiden name. They were fathered by Lewis Stirling, Jr., son of Wakefield Plantation's owner, as shown on Virgil Stirling's death record (below). All subsequent census records list them as Stirlings, yet their mother maintained her maiden name until her death on December 15, 1920. In a recent conversation with my cousin, Kirk, great-grandson of Virgil, he disclosed that his research suggests that Lewis Stirling never married. Could this be because the nature of Cecille's relationship with Lewis was more than slave

and owner? One can only speculate.

Lines 13-18 show Sarah Ann Lee, sister of Nelson Taylor, Jr. and daughter of Nelson Taylor, Sr. and Lytha, with her children: Rosa, Washington, Louisa, Kitty, and Letty. Next door to Sarah are her parents, Nelson Sr. and Lytha Taylor.

It had caught my attention that Cecille and Lytha had the same maiden name. Were they related? Cecille Bryant's death record states that her father was Virgil Bryant. No death record is available for

Lytha. My suspicion is that she died prior to 1900, when statewide death records were not recorded. Only New Orleans kept records before 1900.

What is known through the collective research of Shawn, Kirk, and my cousin Patricia Bayonne-Johnson (great-great-granddaughter of Nelson and Martha) is that Lewis Sterling kept a register of births for all slaves on Wakefield Plantation, and all these names and more were mentioned. My cousin Patricia wrote a wonderful blog post (<http://>

- 1: Taylor-Bryant-Stirling family tree. 2: Lines 3-7, Cecille Bryant and family; lines 13-18, Sarah Lee and family; lines 40-46, Primus Stirling and family. 3: 1869 marriage license of Nelson Taylor and Lytha Briant [sic]. 4: Death certificate of Virgil Sterling showing his parents as Louis Sterling and Cesale Bryant.

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING.

U.S. No. 1  
-WRITES PLAINLY, WITH UNFADING INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important.

171  
NOV 14 1930

**LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH**  
Bureau of Vital Statistics  
**CERTIFICATE OF DEATH**

1—PLACE OF DEATH  
Parish E B Rge Ward District No. 17-5760 File No. 6641  
Police Jury Ward 2 Ward District No. 17-5760 (1, 2, 3, etc., in the order Certificates are filed.)  
City Wth Baton Rouge Incorporated Town District No. 2 of 2 Registered No. 12823  
or Wth Baton Rouge (Applies only to an incorporated town.) (To be given in Central Bureau.)  
Town Wth Baton Rouge (If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its Name instead of Street and Number.)  
No. 2 of 2 St. 3 Ward West Feliciana par

2—FULL NAME Virgil Sterling  
(a) Residence. No. Waterfield St. Waterfield Ward West Feliciana par  
(Usual place of abode) (If non-resident give city or town and State)  
Length of residence in city or town where death occurred. yrs. mos. ds. How long in U.S.; of foreign birth? yrs. mos. ds.

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS					MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH		
3 SEX <u>Male</u>	4 COLOR OR RACE <u>col</u>	5 Single, Married, Widowed or Divorced (write the word) <u>Married</u>		16 DATE OF DEATH <u>10 / 05 / 30</u> (Month) (Day) (Year)			
5a If married, widowed, or divorced HUSBAND of (or) WIFE of <u>Maria Sterling</u>				17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from <u>10-3</u> 19 <u>30</u> to <u>10-5</u> 19 <u>30</u> that I last saw him alive on <u>10-5</u> 19 <u>30</u> and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at _____ m.			
6 DATE OF BIRTH (month, day, and year)				The CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows: <u>Lobar Pneumonia</u> (write)			
7 AGE Years <u>78</u>	Months	Days	If LESS than 1 day, .... hrs. or .... min.	CONTRIBUTORY Secondary (duration) .... yrs. .... mos. .... ds.			
8 OCCUPATION OF DECEASED (a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work <u>Farmer</u> (b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer) (c) Name of Employer				18 Where was disease contracted if not at place of death? Did an operation precede death? _____ Date of _____			
9 BIRTHPLACE (city or town) (State or country) <u>Waterfield La</u>				Was there an autopsy? <u>Yes</u> What test confirmed diagnosis? (Signed) <u>C. Trahan</u> M. D. (Address) <u>Baton Rouge</u>			
10 NAME OF FATHER <u>Louis Sterling</u>				*State the Disease Causing Death, or in deaths from Violent Causes, state (1) Means and Nature of Injury, and (2) whether Accidental, Suicidal or Homicidal. (See reverse side for additional space.)			
11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (city or town) (State or country) <u>La</u>				19 PLACE OF BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL. DATE OF BURIAL			
12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER <u>Cecile Bryant</u>				<u>Waterfield</u> <u>10 7 19 30</u>			
13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (city or town) (State or country) <u>Waterfield La</u>							
14 Informant <u>Marilyn Lee</u> (Address) <u>Waterfield</u>							

[africanroots-pbj.blogspot.com/2012/06/black-family-in-slavery-and-freedom.html](http://africanroots-pbj.blogspot.com/2012/06/black-family-in-slavery-and-freedom.html)) detailing our family tree from information contained in *The Black Family in Slavery and Freedom, 1750–1925*, a book by Herbert G. Gutman published in 1976. Gutman used the birth register as a source for some of his information. Kirk discovered the same register at the Louisiana State University library among the Stirling Family Papers (<http://africanroots-pbj.blogspot.com/2012/07/record-of-births-of-negroes.html>) in the summer of 2012.

The register reveals that Cecille Bryant, born January 17, 1833, and Martha Morgan, born July 8, 1851, were half-sisters, daughters of Linda Weathers Morgan (born 1815). On line 40, Primus Stirling (born 1834) is listed with his wife Antoinette and their children: Dudley, Duncan, Cora, Henrietta, and Sarah. He is Cecille and Martha's half-brother, and his mother was also Linda.

Martha is my third-great-grandmother, thus Virgil Stirling and his brothers and sisters were Martha's nieces and nephews. My great-grandmother Essie Taylor and her half-brother Jeff were also second cousins!

It was hard to wrap my mind around this for a while, but the evidence was confirmed through DNA research. Utilizing DNA testing through 23andMe, our family discovered genetic

matches between Voltaire Stirling's grandson, Voltaire Sterling, and my cousins Michael Taylor, Shawn Taylor, Patricia Bayonne-Johnson, and Kirk Young. Kirk is the only one who is a direct descendent of the Sterlings. His genetic connection was expected, but the Taylors? The common ancestor is Linda Weathers Morgan, but we are still exploring the possibility of another common ancestor among the Bryants.

On December 3, 2011, my cousin Karen Galloway, third-great-granddaughter of Nelson Taylor, Jr.'s sister, France (Taylor) Irvine, made an incredible discovery in the National Archives Freedmen's Bureau records. She found a labor contract dated January 1, 1867, with sharecroppers (freedmen) on a plantation known as Mulberry Hill. This was less than two years after the Civil War ended. The contract listed several family members:

- Nelson Taylor, Jr.
- Cecille Briant ("Bryant"; Martha's sister)
- Jim Morgan (Martha's brother)
- Luke Morgan (Martha's brother)
- Frances Irving ("Irvine"; Nelson's sister)
- Martha Morgan
- Rosalie Morgan (Martha's sister)

The contract was approved and signed at the bottom of the page by Lewis Stirling.

One last tidbit: In Part 1



Virgil Stirling (center) with his children. Front: Wilson Stirling and Jeanette Sterling-Emery. Rear: Roosevelt Stirling and wife Anna Mae.

of this story ("Finding the Sterlings: Solving a 51-year-old Mystery", *The Baobab Tree*, Summer 2013, page 8) I wrote about meeting Vernadette Taylor, great-granddaughter of Virgil Stirling. She introduced me to Iantha Hutchinson, great-granddaughter of Virgil's brother, Voltaire. Voltaire's son, Voltaire Jr., migrated from Louisiana to Oakland, California. He lived in a house next door to Sacred Heart Elementary School's kindergarten playground and passed away in 1978. I attended Sacred Heart from K–8. I was in kindergarten from 1977–1978.

Small world.



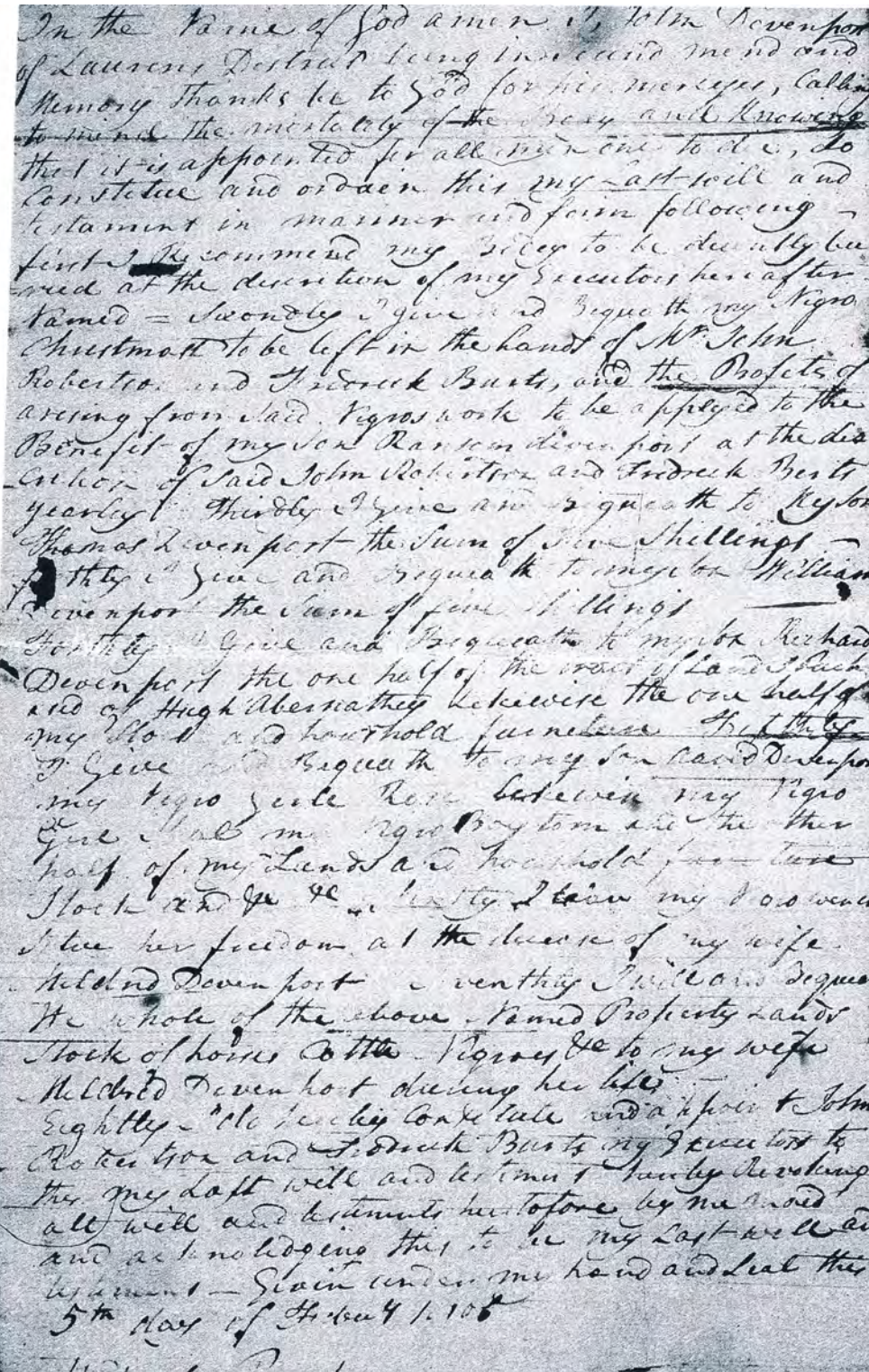
Photo courtesy of Michael Willis

**Michael Willis**, an Oakland native, is an IT Analyst for the State of California with more than 10 years of experience as a genealogist, primarily doing African-American genealogy in Louisiana. In addition to being a member of AAGSNC, Michael belongs to Le Comité des Archives de la Louisiane (a nonprofit genealogical support group for the Louisiana State Archives) and the Terrebonne Genealogical Society.

Photo courtesy of Kirk Young

Have documents that you have transcribed? Submit them to The Baobab Tree to share the info with others.

by Annette Madden  
Board Member, AAGSNC



## The Will of John Davenport/ Devenport

The "Negro girle Rose" is my 3rd great-grandmother

In the Name of God amen I, John Devenport of Laurens District [South Carolina] being in sound mind and memory Thanks be to God for his mercies, Calling to mind the mortality of the Body and Knowing that it is appointed for all men on[c]e to die, do constitute and ordain this my Last will and testament in manner and form following

First I Recommend my Bodey to be decently buried at the discretion of my Executors hereafter named

Secondly I give and Bequeath my Negro Christmas to be left in the hands of Mr. John Robertson and Frederick Burts, and the Profits arising from said Negros work to be applied to the Benefit of my son Ransom davenport at the discretion of said John Robertson and Fredrick Berts yearly

Thirdly I give and Bequeath to my son Thomas Devenport the Sum of Five Shillings

Fourthly I give and Bequeath to my Son William Devenport the Sum of five shillings

Forthly I give and Bequeath to my Son Richard Devenport the one half of the tract of Land I Puch-ased of Hugh Abernathey Likewise the one half of my Stock and household furniture

Fifthly I give and Bequeath to my Son David Devenport my Negro girle Rose Likewise my Ngro girl Seal my Ngro Boy tom and the other half of my Lands and household furniture Stock and etc

CONT. ON PAGE 17

# African American Genealogy Records on the Internet

*A Directory of Some Helpful Genealogy Websites and Databases*

Compiled by Joe Beine  
Contributor

General Listings: Slave Records, Census Records, Bank Records, etc.

## African American Genealogy Collection at Ancestry.com

<http://www.ancestry.com/africanamerican>

(requires payment, or free to use at the Oakland FamilySearch Library) includes:

- U.S., Interviews with Former Slaves, 1936–1938
- U.S. Colored Troops Records, 1861–1865
- U.S. Federal Census Indexes and Images 1790–1940; includes...
- Slave Schedules for 1850 and 1860 (slave schedules generally name the slave owners; slaves are usually listed only by age and gender, but not named)
- Every name census indices 1790–1940 (former slaves were first enumerated by name beginning in 1870)
- 1890 Civil War Widows and Veterans Census
- U.S. Freedmen's Bureau Records, 1865–1878
- African American Newspapers, 1829–1947
- Savannah, Georgia, Coastwise Slave Manifests, 1811–1860
- New Orleans, Louisiana, Slave Manifests, 1807–1860
- Louisiana Slave Records, 1719–1820
- Adams County, Mississippi, Slave Certificates, 1858–1861
- Mississippi, Wilkinson County Newspaper Slave Ads, 1823–1849
- Slave Emancipation Records, 1851–1863 and Slave Owner Petitions, 1862–1863, Washington, D.C.

- Freedman's Bank Records, 1865–1874 (bank depositor records of freed slaves from Alabama, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Missouri, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina)
- And more . . .

## Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936–1938

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/snhtml/snhome.html>

Contains more than 2,300 first-person accounts of slavery with 500 photographs of former slaves

## Digital Library on American Slavery

<http://library.uncg.edu/slavery/>

Database of personal information about slaves, slaveholders, and free people of color

## Free African Americans of Delaware, Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, and South Carolina

<http://www.freeafricanamericans.com/>

18th Century to early 19th Century

## Index to Civil War Slave Compensation Claims in Compiled Military Service Records of U.S. Colored Troops (Union Soldiers)

<http://www.slcl.org/content/civil-war-slave-compensation-claims-compiled-military-service-records-us-colored-troops>

Most records are for Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, and Missouri or neighboring states

## Lowcountry Africana

<http://lowcountryafricana.net/>

“[D]edicated to records that document the family and cultural heritage of African Americans in the historic rice-growing areas of South Carolina, Georgia and extreme northeastern Florida . . .” Also see the South Carolina section below.

## Slavery Era Insurance Registry

From insurance companies doing business in California with records from various locations: <http://www.insurance.ca.gov/0100-consumers/0300-public-programs/0200-slavery-era-insur/>

From insurance companies doing business in Illinois with records from various locations: <http://insurance.illinois.gov/Consumer/SlaveryInformation/SlaveryReporting.asp>

## Slaves and the Courts, 1740–1860 (Library of Congress)

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/sthtml/>

Includes online page images and transcriptions

## Transatlantic Slave Trade Database

<http://www.slavevoyages.org/>

## Alabama

- Lauderdale County African American Genealogy Indexes <http://www.jdoqocy.com/click-584978-10471554?url=http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~allauder/afr-amer.htm>
- Lee County, Alabama Colored Marriage Database 1867–1875 <http://www.cvlga.org/genealogy/db>

## Georgia

Harris County, Georgia Colored Marriages Database  
[http://www.muscogeegenealogy.com/?page\\_id=22](http://www.muscogeegenealogy.com/?page_id=22)

## Illinois

Illinois Database of Servitude and Emancipation Records (1722–1863)  
<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases/servant.html>

## Louisiana

- Afro-Louisiana History and Genealogy Database, 1718–1820 <http://www.ibiblio.org/laslave/> (100,000 records)
- Archdiocese of New Orleans: Slave and Free People of Color Baptismal Records in the Archives <http://www.archdiocese-no.org/archives/sfpc.php>
- Orleans Parish Court: Index to Slave Emancipation Petitions 1814–1843, <http://nutrias.org/~nopl/inv/vcp/emancip.htm>

## Maryland

Legacy of Slavery in Maryland  
<http://www.mdslavery.net/>  
Includes census slave schedules, runaway ads, and more

## Mississippi

Mississippi Freedmen's Bureau Record Index  
<http://zed.mdah.state.ms.us/>

## Missouri

- African-American Life in St. Louis, 1804–1865 from the Records of St. Louis' Courts <http://www.nps.gov/jeff/historyculture/african-american-life-in-saint-louis-1804-through-1865.htm>
- Missouri Slave Data <http://www.usgennet.org/usa/mo/topic/afro-amer/slaveinfo.html>

## North Carolina

- North Carolina Runaway Slave Advertisements, 1751–1840 <http://libcdm1.uncg.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/RAS>
- Slave Plantations of North Carolina [http://www.jdoqocy.com/click-584978-10471554?url=http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~brownandmeares/nc\\_plantations.htm](http://www.jdoqocy.com/click-584978-10471554?url=http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~brownandmeares/nc_plantations.htm)

## Pennsylvania

Philadelphia African American Census 1847  
<http://www.swarthmore.edu/library/friends/paac1847/main.html>

## South Carolina

- Beaufort, S.C. Slave Manifests (Outbound) and Charleston, S.C. Slave Manifests (Inbound) from the Atlanta National Archives branch <http://www.archives.gov/southeast/finding-aids/slave-manifests/>
- South Carolina Estate Inventories and Bills of Sale 1732–1872 from Fold3 and Lowcountry Africana [http://www.fold3.com/title\\_700/south\\_carolina\\_estate\\_inventories\\_and\\_bills/](http://www.fold3.com/title_700/south_carolina_estate_inventories_and_bills/)

## Texas

Texas Slavery Project  
<http://www.texasslaveryproject.org/>  
(includes some online records)

## Virginia

- Unknown No Longer: A Database of Virginia Slave Names <http://unknownnolonger.vahistorical.org/>
- Virginia Cohabitation Registers of Colored Persons also has Virginia Chancery Records Index [http://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/collections\\_by\\_topic](http://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/collections_by_topic)
- Virginia Runaways: Runaway Slave Advertisements from 18th-Century Virginia Newspapers <http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/subjects/runaways/>
- *Alexandria, Virginia*
  - African-American Voter Registration in Alexandria, Virginia 1902–1954 [http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us/client/home/?rm=ONLINE+INDEXES0%7C%7C%7C1%7C%7C%7C0%7C%7C%7Ctrue&te=ROOM\\_CONTENT](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us/client/home/?rm=ONLINE+INDEXES0%7C%7C%7C1%7C%7C%7C0%7C%7C%7Ctrue&te=ROOM_CONTENT)
  - Alexandria: Friends of Freedmen's Cemetery <http://www.freedmenscemetery.org/> has indices and records relating to Alexandria's African American community in the 18th and 19th centuries; includes a PDF file of Freedmen Cemetery burials

Taken from <http://www.genealogybranches.com/africanamerican.html>. Corrections and additions are made periodically. Used with permission.

**Joe Beine** lives in Denver, Colorado. He likes to draw family trees, write stories, listen to music, and travel. He believes the magic in the world can be found in the faces of the people around you.

# If You Build It, They Will Learn

continued from cover



1



3



2

Image courtesy of the Library of Congress at <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/hec2009002813/>

Image courtesy of the Library of Congress at <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/hec200805882/>

Image courtesy of the Library of Congress at <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/ky9414-photos.210128/>

1: Booker T. Washington, circa 1905-1915 | Harris & Ewing Collection, Prints and Photographs Division.

2: Cadentown Rosenwald School, Lexington, Ky., 2004 | Dean A. Doerrfeld, Historic American Buildings Survey/ Historic American Engineering Record/Historic American Landscapes Survey, Prints and Photographs Division.

3: Julius Rosenwald, 1917 | Harris & Ewing Collection, Prints and Photographs Division.

Cover: Architectural plans for the Cadentown Rosenwald School, Lexington, Ky. | Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record/Historic American Landscapes Survey, Prints and Photographs Division

Rosenwald, the president of Sears, Roebuck and Co., was approaching his 50th birthday and had decided to celebrate by donating funds to various causes. He shared Washington's concern about the lack of educational resources for black children in the South. He had already launched a program to offer matching grants for the construction of African-American YMCAs and was interested in Washington's plans to do the same for schools.

In a letter to Washington dated July 15, 1912, Rosenwald offered to help. "If you had \$25,000 to distribute among institutions which were offshoots of Tuskegee or doing similar works to Tuskegee, how would you divide it?" Washington replied five days later in a long and heartfelt letter.

"I shall be very glad to send you recommendations and opinions regarding the use of \$25,000 in helping institutions. ... Such a sum of money will prove a Godsend to those institutions and can be made to accomplish much more good just now than any one realizes. I think I am not stating it too strongly when I say that

a wise expenditure of such a sum of money will enable these schools to do fifty or one hundred percent better work than they are now doing."

Rosenwald requested from Washington a list of schools that "in your judgment should participate, naming the amount for each and the purpose for which the money is to be used ... and as soon as any school you name has raised an equal amount, I will pay to it such an amount as you have designated."

Both men shared a belief in the importance of self-reliance. So it is not surprising that the plan called for monies from the Rosenwald Fund to be matched by the African-American community. The call was met and exceeded.

Washington pushed the concept further by suggesting that "the people themselves build the [school] houses ...." The design for the Rosenwald Schools was simple: a two-room schoolhouse with plenty of windows to aid in lighting and ventilation. Their modern construction stood as a symbol of black aspiration and potential.

After Washington's death in 1915, Margaret Murray Washington continued to work with Rosenwald in her late husband's stead. At the program's conclusion in 1932, it had produced 4,977 new schools, 217 teachers' homes, and 163 shop buildings. It is estimated that the schools served more than 663,000 students in 883 counties in 15 states.

Following the 1954 Supreme Court decision declaring racial segregation unconstitutional, the Rosenwald Schools became obsolete. Many of the structures were repurposed to serve

other community functions, while others were abandoned. In 2002, the National Trust for Historic Preservation named the Rosenwald Schools to its list of America's Most Endangered Historic Places and declared the building program "one of the most important partnerships to advance African American education in the early 20th century."

**Daniel De Simone** is curator of the Lessing J. Rosenwald Collection in the Library of Congress' Rare Book and Special Collections Division. This article was originally published in *Library of Congress Magazine*, September/October 2013, pages 8-9.

## Genealogy 101

continued from page 5

Name	Nickname
Sarah	Sally, Sadie
Solomon	Sal, Salmon, Saul, Sol, Solly, Zolly
Sophonra	Frona, Fronia, Sophia
Susannah	Hannah, Sue, Sukey, Susie
Theresa	Tess, Tessie, Ticy
Veronica	Franky, Frony, Ron, Ronnie, Ronna, Vonnie
Virginia	Ginger, Ginny, Jane, Jennie, Virgie
Walter	Walt, Wat
Wilhelmina	Mina, Minnie, Willie, Wilma



Photo courtesy of Annette Madden

**Annette Madden** has been researching her family history since 2000 with great success. She has traced her history back to the late 1700s, has met many cousins she never knew she had, and was instrumental in organizing a reunion of parts of her family that had not been together since the 1880s. Email her at [amadden45@hotmail.com](mailto:amadden45@hotmail.com).



**Be the most stylish genealogist you know!**

Get your own AAGSNC t-shirt!

Available in sizes small to

3XL

\$25 per shirt

Pick up your shirt at the next monthly AAGSNC meeting!

# 2013 AAGHGS National Conference

continued from page 7



Left: Carole Neal (left) and Nicka Smith (right) following Nicka Smith's presentation. Right: Carrie Gentry and her son Howard Gentry, Jr. at the closing bell luncheon.

so I went on a four-hour “Discover Nashville” tour. The two stops were Ryman Auditorium (the original home of the Grand Ole Opry) and the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum. The wall exhibits on the second level of the Ryman displayed information about those who had performed there. In addition to the many well known mainstream country performers, over the years a number of African Americans appeared at the Ryman, including the Fisk Jubilee Singers, gospel great Mahalia Jackson, the great tenor Roland Hayes, and trumpeter Louis Armstrong.

Nashville is known as the “home of country music”, and the topic for the plenary session was “Music Calls Us Home.” The speaker gave a thought-provoking presentation on country music in black history. Charley Pride is the name that pops up for most people when thinking of country music and African Americans. Through the presentation, however, I learned about relative newcomer to country music Darius Rucker when the speaker played a brief video of him singing his rendition of “Wagon Wheel.” It got a number of people in the audience

rocking to the music. The speaker engaged the audience in an open discussion about the instruments played within our own families, which led to a more broad-based picture of country music in the lives of black Americans. As pointed out, the banjo came from Africa. Audience members mentioned other instruments played in their families, such as the harmonica and fiddle; someone even brought up the washboard and how it was used to make music.

The conference schedule was well planned. Sessions covered a range of topics across the genealogy spectrum. AAGSNC member Nicka Smith presented two sessions: “More Than 3/5: Myths and Truths about Slavery in the U.S.” and “I’ve Done My DNA, Now What?” Conference materials included the syllabus, a handy reference and resource particularly in providing information on sessions I was unable to attend. Often more than one session during a given time period was of interest to me.

Chris Haley was the speaker at the Friday luncheon. He is the nephew of Roots author Alex Haley and the

director of Study of the Legacy of Slavery in Maryland at the Maryland State Archives research department. One of my follow-up action items is to check out information at the Web site he mentioned, <http://www.mdslavery.net/>.

The speaker at the Friday dinner was Dr. Learotha Williams, Professor of African American and Public History at TSU. Dr. Williams spoke on “Slave Grandchildren Remembered”, an oral history project to capture details and memories for historical discussion and analysis. Those interviewed are from the last generation to personally know family members who were enslaved. During the presentation, he played a brief video of one of the interviews.

At the Saturday morning general session, a panel discussed getting family stories published and broadcast. Saturday luncheon’s keynote speaker was Dr. William S. Pretzer, Senior Curator of History at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, scheduled to open in November 2015. Dr. Pretzer’s presentation was very informative and comprehensive. The vision of the



museum was developed by Director Lonnie Bunch, Deputy Director Kinshasha Holman Conwill, and the museum's leadership council: "The National Museum of African American History and Culture will give voice to the centrality of the African American experience and will make it possible for all people to understand the depth, complexity and promise of the American experience. The museum will serve as a national fixture for collaboration with educational and cultural institutions in the continuing quest for freedom, truth and human dignity." <http://www.nmaahc.si.edu/>

The Saturday evening event was "Nashville's African American Music History Dinner and Awards Presentation." The keynote speaker was Thomas Cain, Senior Director of Writer/Publisher Relations at BMI Nashville. Cain wrote the theme and composed the music score for the CMT/MTV Network documentary *Waiting in the Wings: African Americans in Country Music*. He gave an entertaining presentation on Nashville's black music scene over the decades.

Following her Sunday morning session I spoke with Carrie M. Gentry, who presented on her late husband's life and contributions to the athletic legacy at TSU. The university's athletic building complex, the Howard C. Gentry Health, Physical Education, Athletic and Convocation Center, was named for him. Mrs. Gentry is the author of the book *A Life Worth Living: A Biography of Howard Gentry, Sr.* One of the reasons she wrote the book was to respond to people who did not know her husband and his accomplishments and who asked why the complex had been named for him. The book documents his achievements despite the obstacles of segregation and inequalities that he faced. He played a pivotal role in TSU's 1986 entry into the predominantly white Ohio Valley Conference. Howard Jr. attended the conference with his mother. He is the first African American vice mayor of Nashville and spoke words of welcome at the plenary session. During our chat Mrs. Gentry shared that the next day would be her 89th birthday. Later at the luncheon, one of the organizers announced her birthday and we sang a rousing "Happy Birthday." I think it made her day.

The keynote speaker for Sunday's closing bell luncheon was Ashley Bouknight, Assistant Curator at The Hermitage, home of President Andrew Jackson. She discussed the ways in which The Hermitage documents and interprets the lives of the African Americans who worked the land there for more than 90 years in order to incorporate the stories of the enslaved community into the property's larger historical narrative.

Before I left Nashville I made my list of action items. Attending this conference was rewarding and enjoyable, and provided an opportunity to make new contacts in the genealogy community as attendees came from locales all across the United States.

**Carole Neal** has been researching her family history since 1997. She is an AAGSNC Life Member as well as a past officer and past Membership Chair (two terms). She is also a member of the National Genealogical Society, California Genealogical Society, Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association, Louisiana Genealogical Society, and Le Comité des Archives de la Louisiane. Several of her articles have been published in genealogy journals. She is family historian for both her paternal and maternal sides and has planned family reunions for both. She may be reached at [FamilyRoots@att.net](mailto:FamilyRoots@att.net).

## Transcriptions

continued from page 11

Sixt[h]ly I \_\_\_ my Ngro wench S\_\_\_  
her freedom at the decease of my wife  
Mildred Devenport

Seventhly I will and Bequeath the whole  
of the above Named Property Lands  
Stock of horses cattle Nigroes etc to  
my wife Mildred Devenport during her  
life —

Eight[h]ly I do hereby con[s]titute and  
appoint John Robertson and Frederick  
Burts my Executors to this my Last will  
and testament hereby Revoking all will  
and testaments heretofore by me \_\_\_ed  
and acknowledging this to be my Last  
will and testament

Given under my hand and Seal this 5th  
day of Feb[r]u[ar]y 1806\*

### Bill of Sale

South Carolina  
Laurens District

Febraary [sic] 8th day 1810. Know all  
men by these presents that I David  
Davenport do bargain and Sell unto  
Richard Davenport two negroe Girls,  
one named Rose the other Seal, which  
was Wiled to him by his Father John  
Davenport for in(?) and consideration  
of the sum of Four hundred dollars good  
and lawful money: I do grant, bargain and  
Sell unto Richard Davenport all my title  
and clame [sic] to said Negroes named  
Rose and Seal for in the consideration  
of the sum of four hundred good &  
lawful money to him in hand paid by  
Richard Davenport. I do bind my myself  
my ares, Executors, my ares and assigns  
administrators to Richard Davenport  
forever. I do hear unto set my hand Seal.  
David Davenport

Jno (his mark) Varill  
David Whiteford

South Carolina  
Laurens District

Personally came John Verrell before me  
who being sworn in due form of Law  
on his oath saith that he saw David

**Baobab Writer's Guidelines**

Interested in submitting your work to *The Baobab Tree*? You don't have to be a professional writer! Just tell your story the best you can and be willing to work with the editors to polish it for publication.

Here are some helpful hints when preparing your submissions:

- Type all submissions. Times New Roman font, 12-point size is best.
- Write one to three pages. We always need some one-page stories; more than three pages is too long.
- We may edit. All submissions are subject to review by our journal committee and editors, and may be edited for clarity and to fit the space available.
- Send your bio along with your story; include your contact e-mail and phone number(s). Bio should be in narrative form if possible, not a resume; we will still edit as needed.
- Send your portrait. E-mail a JPEG photo of yourself along with your story or article. A good clear head-and-shoulders shot of you is best, in front of a solid color background that contrasts with your hair and skin tone. If you only have a shot of yourself with other people, we may be able to crop it (i.e., cut out the other folks).
- Photos, documents, and other graphics are always welcome, in JPEG format. Make sure pictures are at least 300 dpi (dots per inch), sharp, and clear and have enough contrast to show up well in black and white. All photos and documents must have credit and captions submitted in a separate document.
- Respect the deadlines you're given for submissions and corrections. If your material is late, it might have to be held for the next issue or drastically altered to fit the space.

E-mail us at [journal@aagsnc.org](mailto:journal@aagsnc.org).

Devenport assign Seal and deliver the within Bill of Sale to Richard Devenport for the purposes within mentioned and tht he saw David Whiteford subscribe his name as a witness with himself to the same. Sworn to and Subscribed before me this 28th October 1816.

John Verell

Wm Dendy J.P.

A true Record of the Original November 5th, 1816.

John Garlington, R.M.C. Duncan

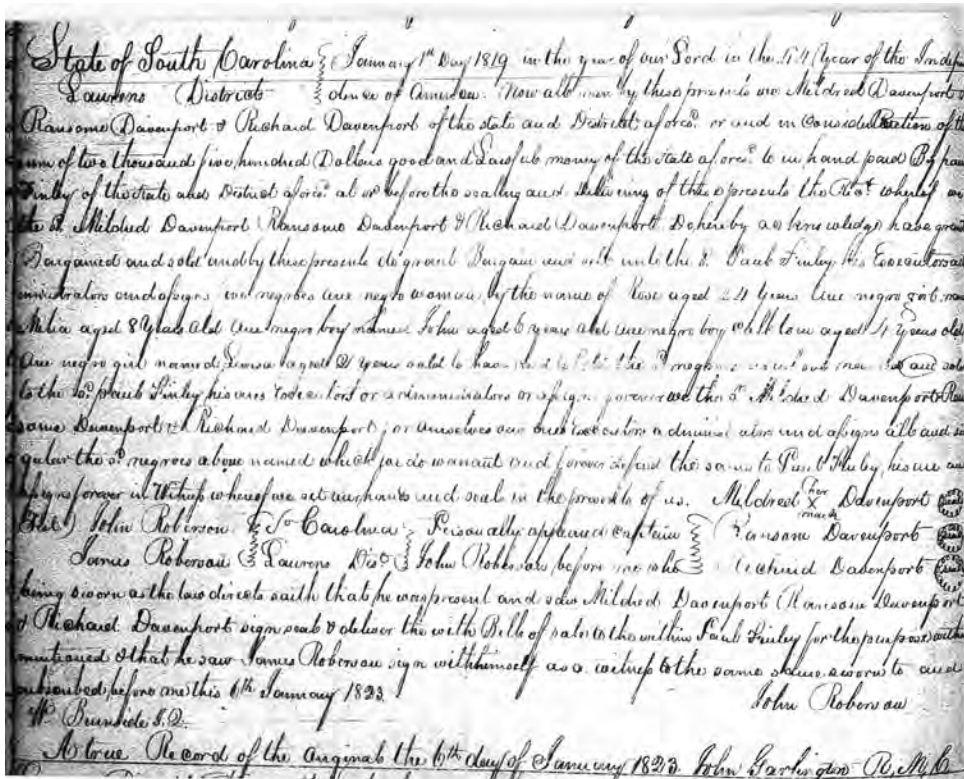


Image courtesy of Annette Madden.

**Bill of Sale**

State of South Carolina  
 Laurens District  
 January 1th Day 1819 in the year of our Lord in the \_\_\_ Year of the Independence of America

Now all men by these presents we Mildred Davenport & Ransome Davenport & Richard Davenport of the state and District aforesd or and in Consideration of the sum of two thousand five hundred Dollars good and Lawful money of the State aforesd to in hand paid By paul Finley of the state and District aforesd at or before the sealing and Delivering of these presents the Rect whereof we the sd Mildred Davenport Ransome Davenport & Richard Davenport Do hereby acknowledge have granted Bargained and sold and by these presents do grant Bargain and sell unto the sd Paul Finley his Executors and [ad]ministrators and assigns five negroes one negro woman by the name of Rose aged 24 years One

negro girl name[d] Melia aged 8 years old one negro boy named John aged 6 years and one negro boy call tom aged 4 years old One negro girl named Lewisa aged 2 years old to have and to hold the sd negroes as above named are sold to the sd paul Finley his ares, Executors or administrators or assigns forever we the sd Mildred Davenport Ransome Davenport & Richard Davenport for ourselves our ones(?) Executors administrators and assigns all and singular the sd negroes above named which we do warrant and forever defend the same to Paul Finley his are and assigns forever in Witness whereof we set our hands and seals in the presents of us.

Mildred (her mark) Davenport  
Ransom Davenport  
Richard Davenport

\_\_\_ John Roberson      So Carolina  
James Roberson      Laurens Dist

Personally appeared Captain John Roberson before me who being sworn as the law directs saith that he was present and saw Mildred Davenport Ransom Davenport & Richard Davenport sign seal & deliver the with Bill of sale to the within Paul Finley for the purpose within mentioned & that he saw James Roberson sign with himself as a witness to the same same sworn to and subscribed before me this 6th January 1823

John Roberson  
M. Burnside J.Q.(?)

A true Record of the original the 6th day of January 1823  
John Garlington, R.M.C.

**Annette Madden** has been researching her family history since 2000 with great success. She has traced her history back to the late 1700s, has met many cousins she never knew she had, and was instrumental in organizing a reunion of parts of her family that had not been together since the 1880s. Email her at [amadden45@hotmail.com](mailto:amadden45@hotmail.com).

## The Leaf

continued from page 4

The About Us page on the Web site needs to be updated. The Web site committee is working on getting the bugs out of the obituary component.

The Fall 2013 journal story list was approved.

Jackie Chauhan as historian is collecting documents which include a recap from all committees of the year's activity, board minutes, general and executive meeting minutes, etc. She will also review guidelines for changes.

The Outreach & Education committee needs volunteers for helping youth with their research at the Weekend Training Academy (WETA) sessions at the FamilySearch Library. The outreach list needs to be updated.

The treasurer will present a budget soon.

The December meeting will be a potluck and black elephant sale coordinated by the program chair.

Adjourned 1:35 p.m.

Dera Williams, Secretary

**The Baobab Tree is published four times a year and is provided free to all members of the African American Genealogical Society of Northern California (AAGSNC). Additional copies and past issues may be purchased for \$5.00 per copy.**

All articles and manuscripts submitted for publication are evaluated and may be edited. Authors retain copyright. AAGSNC does not assume responsibility for errors of fact or interpretation.

Deadlines for submission of material for publication in *The Baobab Tree* are: Mar. 15 for the Spring issue, June 15 for the Summer issue, Sep. 15 for the Fall issue, and Dec. 15 for the Winter issue.

Correspondence on editorial matters, story submissions, and requests for permission to reprint articles may be sent to [journal@aagsnc.org](mailto:journal@aagsnc.org).

Articles and manuscripts acceptable for publication include:

### Manuscripts/Articles:

- African and African-American genealogy, cultural traditions, and philosophy
- Church histories
- Documentation of African oral traditions and African writings
- Documentation of African-American families
- Ancestry charts, family group records, personal family papers
- Miscellaneous topics of interest in researching African ancestors
- Resources and methods of research in Africa

### Abstracts:

- Census transcriptions (federal, state, city, and county)
- Church records (baptisms, burials, marriages, etc.)
- Court records
- Manumission and freedom certificates
- Missionary and benevolent society records
- Military and pension records
- Newspaper transcriptions
- Plantation family papers relating to slaves
- Tax lists naming free blacks or slaves
- Voter registration lists



African American Genealogical Society of  
Northern California (AAGSNC)

P.O. Box 27485, OAKLAND, CA 94602-0985

### **Call Us**

(877) 884-2843

### **Email Us**

journal@aagsnc.org

### **Visit Our Website**

www.AAGSNC.org

### **Visit Our Blog**

www.AAGSNC.org/blog

### **Become a Fan on Facebook**

www.facebook.com/AAGSNC

