

Don't come to Dimond Library between January and June 2017.



Probate provides the final proof, and the benefits of on-site research.



Some AAGSNC members traveled cross-country for this opportunity.



Thanking one of our long-time supporters.

the Baobab Tree

Journal of the African American Genealogical Society of Northern California, Inc. / Vol. 21 No. 4 / Fall 2016 / ISSN 1543-4125



Photos courtesy of Felicia Addison

AAGSNC Honors Founders for 20th Anniversary

Dera Williams
AAGSNC Recording Secretary

On Saturday, September 17, 2016, while the nation waited in anticipation for the grand opening of the new African American History and Culture Museum at the Smithsonian in Washington D.C., the African American Genealogical Society of Northern California (AAGSNC) was paying homage to its founders and original members on a sunny, early fall day in Oakland,

California at the Dimond Branch of the Oakland Public Library, where meetings have been held for 16 years. AAGSNC was started by a small group in the Oakland Bay Area who were interested in preserving, recording, and sharing their family histories.

The group consisted of both native Californians and those who had

migrated from Southern states or other parts of the country and beyond. In September 1995, a few people met for planning and information, spearheaded by Ronald Higgins, who had been studying his family history for several years. Others in attendance were Barbara Shepherd Dunn, Charlesetta Ford, R. Kelly, Carole Neal, and Katherine Smith. Original members in



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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) nonprofit organization dedicated in its commitment to national and international black 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 of 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 material and make such material 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, Nonprofit 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 Oakland Public Library Dimond Branch, 3565 Fruitvale Avenue, Oakland, CA 94602.

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 genealogical and historical organizations are included in our program.

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

To join, please visit <http://www.aagsnc.org/>.

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Genealogy Depends on You



Photo courtesy of M. Howard Edwards

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

the polls we abandon the selection of these individuals and laws governing our records to others, perhaps not sympathetic to our needs. We must protect our own interests and ensure that our voices are heard, and we can do this often by the simple act of voting. Whether we vote directly for the protection of our records or for issues or individuals managing our records, or for the legislators making the laws, we must vote. Public records are too important to our process to ignore by staying home on election day.

Volunteers

Time after time I am humbled and gratified by the quality of the work performed by our volunteers—actually YOUR volunteers. They are working in service to you. Managing a genealogy society takes many skills, and very, very few individuals have them all. Consequently it takes many volunteers to staff a successful society. The organization requires talent in the disciplines of accounting, law, journalism, writing, management, publicity, Web design, Internet operations, communications, and on, and on, and on. Limits in any of these limit what the organization can accomplish, whether a little or a lot. Those who have benefited from their membership must consider paying back or paying forward. Volunteers need not be limited to the areas listed. Come early and help set up the room, help clean up, help distribute flyers, give articles to *The Baobab Tree*. It is all good! To continue to serve everyone at the high standard set by the current volunteers, do your part. Volunteer.

An Internet source indicated that an estimated 46.7% of registered voters did not show up on election day this year. This is a problem for a reason that may not have occurred to you. To be successful in our genealogy research, government records are essential. Our elected officials manage these records, manage access to these records, manage destruction of these records, and establish any costs related to these activities. Privacy demands are a growing concern by the general public and are becoming significant considerations in decisions that govern the management of governmental records. For instance, U.S. census records are released 72 years after a census year, in part on the assumption that most of the individuals will be dead or will no longer care about privacy for some other reason. These decisions are often made at the expense of our family history research desires and needs.

Sometimes our public servants are sympathetic to our concerns but are limited by the dictates of public law—public servants for whom we voted, laws for which we may vote in some jurisdictions, and certainly by legislators for whom we vote. Our vote is influential in our work however one looks at it. If we do not go to

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Library Closure

The Dimond Branch of the Oakland Public Library, where AAGSNC has been holding its meetings for the past 16 years, is scheduled to be closed from January–June 2017 for repairs and remodeling. During this period AAGSNC will meet at the regular time, 1:30–4:00 p.m., but at the Oakland FamilySearch Library, 4766 Lincoln Avenue, Oakland, just up the hill from the Dimond Library.

For more information about the closure, visit <http://oaklandlibrary.org/news/2016/11/dimond-branch-close-temporarily-renovation-project>.

2017 Calendar of Events

Meetings for January–June are scheduled to be held from 1:30–4:00 p.m. at the Oakland FamilySearch Library, 4766 Lincoln Avenue, Oakland while the Dimond Branch on Fruitvale Avenue undergoes remodeling.

January 21

Election and Essential Research Tools I

February 18

Essential Research Tools II

March 18

African American Quilters Guild

April 16

Nicka Smith Webinar

May 20

Erased from South Carolina History

June 17

Planning for a Research Trip

September 16

Braggin' and Lyin' / Brick Walls

October 21

SF Bay Area Black Churches

Meeting program topics are subject to change. For more information and updates on our events and meetings, visit <http://www.AAGSNC.org/>

Solano County

Discussion Group

2017 Calendar

Meetings will take place from 1:00–3:00 p.m. on the second Saturday of the month in January, March–May, and September–November at Solano Community College, Fairfield Campus, Building 400 1st Floor.

The meetings have open discussion and on-site computer research. For more information, contact facilitator Corvin Tademy at tadcor@aol.com.

Race, Religion, and Reading Records

Right: Part 3

Probate provides the final proof, and learning more on site

Lavinia Schwarz

Contributor

Get the Will First

Even as many questions swirled around in my head, I had learned one thing: If there's a will, find it immediately. The Family History Library catalog includes films for New Orleans probate proceedings, which are called successions. Both Pulcherie Cassou and her mother, Laurence LaClotte, left wills. They both confirmed by name and relationship what the sacramental records had revealed.

In 1833, when Martha was 13, her mother, Pulcherie Cassou, died and left an estate. She listed her children as heirs: "All the said Anne Marie Michel Desban, Jeanne Marthe Desban, Marie Louise Desban, Jacques Desban, Louise Josephine Bauduc, Joseph Theodore Bauduc and Marthe Bauduc, being free persons of color and children and heirs each for one seventh of the succession of their said deceased mother Pulcherie Cassou . . ."¹

In 1843, after Martha was married, her grandmother Marie Françoise Laurence LaClotte died and left an estate. She declared her heirs to be her grandchildren, the children of Pulcherie Cassou, her deceased daughter: "Les dits Marie Michel Desban, Jeanne Desban, Marie Louise Desban, Jacques Desbans, Louise Josephine Bauduc, Marthe Bauduc et Joseph Theodore Bauduc, enfant naturels majeurs, de Marie Pulcherie Cassou, decedee fille naturelle de la dite Marie Françoise Laclotte, [heritiers] et legataires de leur grandmere las dite Marie Françoise Laurence Laclotte . . ." (Filed April 29, 1843; pages 2 and 3.)

Her will mentioned Martha and her husband, James W. Cressat [sic]:

Un billet du deux Février 1842. souscrit par Martha Cressat à l'ordre de James W. Cressat qui l'a endossé payable à trois mois de date, pour la somme de Cen[t] Cinquante piastres. 150.

("A note of February 2, 1842 signed by Martha Cressat, payable to James W. Cressat, who endorsed it as payable three months from the date, for the sum of one hundred fifty dollars.")²

Reaching Out Online

My research was done between 1999 and 2005, in the early days of the Internet and before Hurricane Katrina. I reached out first the old-fashioned way, by reading histories of Louisiana and the Caribbean and writing to courthouses. Then I found what I could through the Internet. I joined an online Yahoo *gens de couleur libres* discussion group and asked some questions but mostly listened. I asked for reading recommendations and where to research. I listened to debates about the meaning of the word "creole", the effect of the *code noir*, and the *tignon* law. I heard other people discuss learning that they had creole ancestors. I learned from the discussion group that I had to go to New Orleans to do on-site research and that I should talk to the premier creole archivist, Greg Osborn, at the main public library, which holds the city's archives. There are today many more online sites to learn about *gens de couleur* and New Orleans records. The FamilySearch Wiki for Orleans Parish is a good way to start: https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Orleans_Parish,_Louisiana_Genealogy.

A few of the sites I used ten years ago are still at the forefront, some explosively better.

- The New Orleans Public Library, AKA NUTRIAS, holds the archives for the city of New Orleans. It has

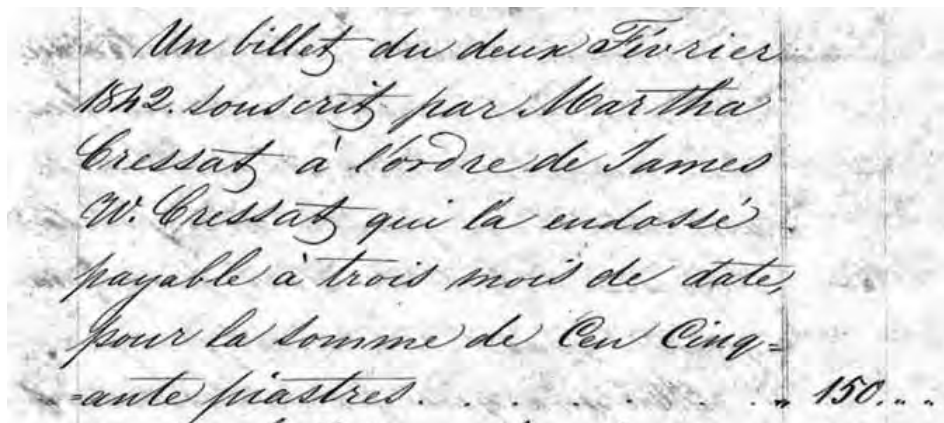


Image courtesy of Lavinia Schwarz

The note in Laurence LaClotte's will that mentions the author's ancestors by name

teaching tools and links to online records. I can't wait to return in person, but in the meantime I use its information and links.
<http://nutrias.org/links/genlinks/genlinks.htm>

- US GenWeb Archives Project Louisiana, Orleans Parish
<http://www.usgwarchives.net/la/orleans.htm>

- FamilySearch for Louisiana is digitizing records like crazy.
<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/location/37?region=United+States+of+America&englishRegion=United+States+of+America>

- Ancestry.com can't be ignored. Use the family trees as clues but with caution. Verify every piece of information by finding original records.

- Afro-Louisiana History and Genealogy 1718–1820, records of slave sales
<http://www.ibiblio.org/laslave/introduction.php> <http://www.ibiblio.org/laslave/>

- New Orleans Notarial Archives. Families tended to use the same notaries again and again.
<http://www.orleanscivilclerk.com/history.htm>

- Archdiocese of New Orleans Archives
<http://archives.arch-no.org/sfpc.php>

- Augusta Elmwood's Saint Domingue Project
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~saintdomingue/Big%201-2-3.htm>

Taking My Research on the Road

It became clear to me that while gathering census records, maps, burial information, newspaper articles, mentions of property sales, and more was fruitful, a trip to New Orleans was essential. I headed to the 2005 New Orleans JazzFest with a sister and a brother—one day of great music with them and three days in the archives getting help.

I asked the members of my discussion group where to go during a three-day genealogical trip to New Orleans. They insisted I must seek out creole researcher Greg Osborn in the New Orleans archives at the public library. He really knows the history, they said, and indeed he was an extraordinary guide. Greg was familiar with Pulcherie Cassou because he was gathering information on how free women of color presented themselves to society. Together we found newspaper articles on microfilm, marked maps where people lived, discussed the role the church had played, and talked about how construction of an overpass had destroyed the neighborhood Martha had lived in. He even brought up from the library basement a file containing the 1817 medical and burial records of Michel Desban. This included sales

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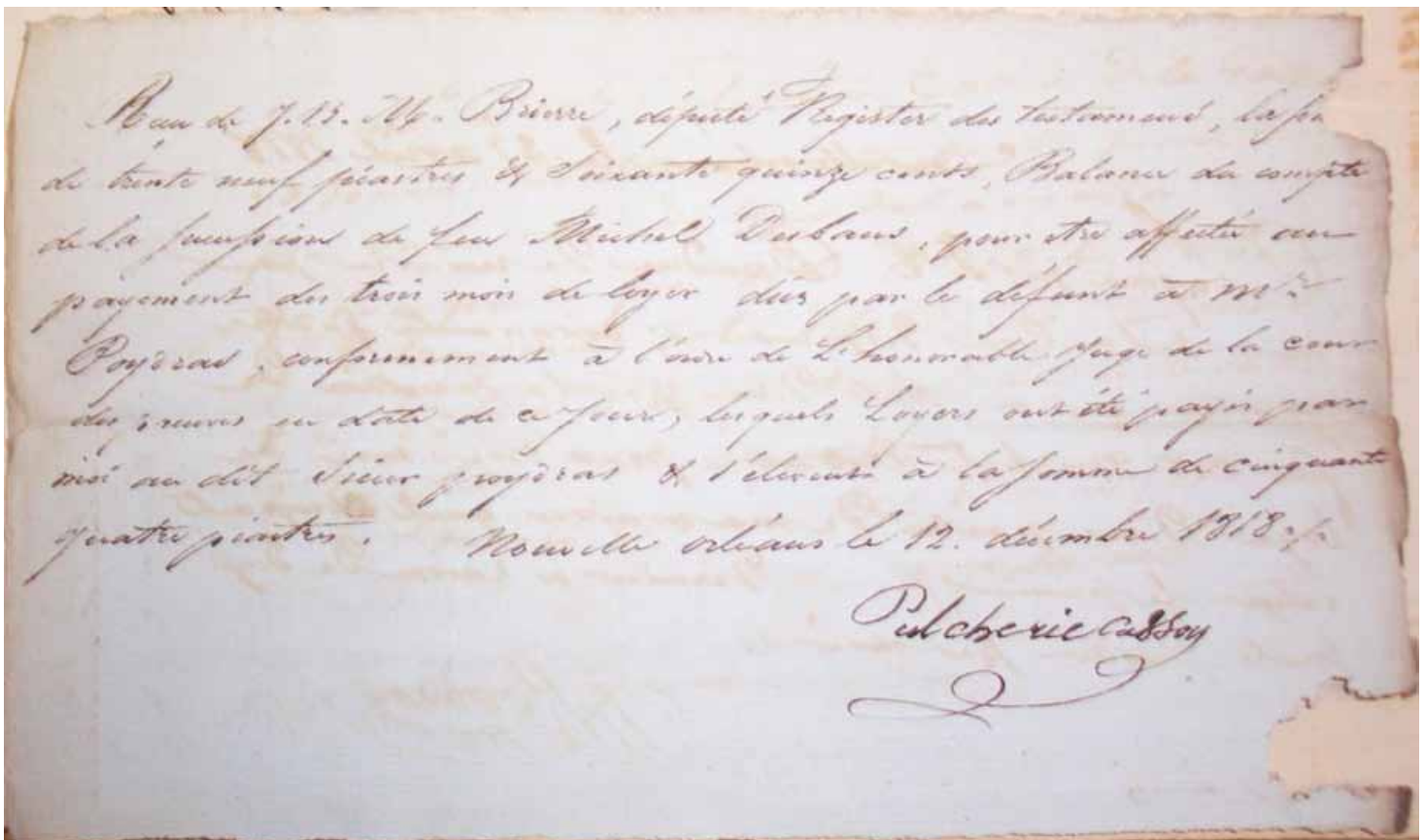
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Final (thirteenth) page from the 1818 succession of Michel Desban (Folio 124, Volume 8)

slips for the many candles and crepes Pulcherie Cassou bought for his funeral and the doctor's bill for medicines used. Joseph Theodore Bauduc and Pulcherie Cassou signed the papers. Pulcherie was literate and had a fine signature.

At Greg's insistence I went to the notarial archive to look for sales of property by Pulcherie and her mother, Laurence: sales of houses and slaves, and manumissions of other slaves. A family tended to use the same notary again and again, so once you have one document and a name, you look through all of that notary's books for other contracts the family signed. I found a manumission and notes about a family meeting, and I'm sure there's more.

I marked a New Orleans map with addresses where Cresap, Bauduc, and Desban families had lived, and Greg and I drove around the city to see them. We discussed the world I was being introduced to over beignets and coffee and a dinner. I am indebted forever to him, and have so much more to learn.

In my last hours before leaving for the airport, Greg found on microfilm a lawsuit that Laurence LaClotte filed in 1836. He insisted I copy all 138 pages and read it at home. As I plunked quarters into the reader/printer Greg said, "You will learn something." He was right. But that's another story.

Endnotes

1. Inventory and succession June 25, 1835; inventory estate of deceased Pulcherie Cassou July 3, above inventory filed City and Parish of New Orleans; FHL film 414,128; "Louisiana, Orleans Parish Estate Files, 1804-1846", FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:JJZN-R47>, accessed August 31, 2015), Pulcherie Cassou, 1835; citing probate place Orleans Parish, Louisiana, Probate Court, New Orleans City Archives.

2. Probate inventory of Marie Françoise Laurence Laclotte, City and Parish of New Orleans, Louisiana, FHL film 414,163, "L", 1843, about halfway through the film.

Part 1 of this story appeared in *The Baobab Tree*, Volume 21, Number 2, Spring 2016. Part 2 appeared in *The Baobab Tree*, Volume 21, Number 3, Summer 2016.

Photo courtesy of Lavinia Schwarz



A third-generation Californian, **Lavinia "Vinnie" Schwarz** has researched her family history since 1999. She has a BA in English literature from UC Berkeley and an MA in education from Tufts University. A

few years spent as a paralegal has been a great help in her genealogical research. She has done most of her research on ancestors who lived in California, Ohio, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, Louisiana, England, France, and Haiti.

AAGSNC Honors Founders for 20th Anniversary

continued from cover

attendance at the anniversary included Juliette Crutchfield, Lisa Lee, Carole Neal, and Electra Price.

AAGSNC historian Jackie Chahaun gave a short presentation of the society's founding and some of the highlights over the years. "Help provide a missing piece of a puzzle" was the goal and motto at the beginning. A partial list of topics and lectures among dozens over the years included Black-Native American History, Reading Census Records, 1940 Census, Planning Research Trips, Finding the Last Slave Owner, Family Reunion Planning, and Breaking Down Brick Walls.



The esteemed Electra Kimble Price, who started an African American research group at the Church of Latter Day Saints' Family History Center, regaled the audience with some memories. Her father died in 1980 and her mother came to live with her. She had her mother write down her memories of family history from Arkansas and Kansas and was amazed at the number of pages that were produced.

Ronald Higgins has created and cofounded several genealogy organizations specific to African American research. He is affiliated with CAAGS, San Diego AA Research Group, Long Beach AAGS, Pasadena



Area AAGS, North Las Vegas AAGS, Santa Ana AAGS, Corona AAGS, AAGS of Fort Wayne, Indiana, and African American Genealogical Society. He also helped start the West Coast Summit, which had its first gathering in 2001. The organizers wanted all black genealogy groups to meet together. AAGSNC cofounder Katherine Smith obtained names of black visitors to the Salt Lake City Family History Library to build a list to assemble members of the International Black Genealogy Summit. There was a summit in



Washington, D.C. earlier this year in September. Plans are for the next IBGS to take place in Côte d'Ivoire in 2019. AAGSNC President Howard Edwards presented Mr. Higgins with a certificate honoring his more than 30 years of genealogical service.

A question was posed to those in attendance at the celebration: What have you found as a benefit of your membership? Answers were many and diverse. Everyone agreed that finding their ancestors among a like-minded community and being able to pass the information on to future generations has been the perfect gift. The event ended with a repast of tasty foods and socializing.



Cover: President Howard Edwards presents plaques of appreciation to Founder Electra Kimble Price (left) and Technical Advisor Ronald Higgins (right)

1. AAGSNC Historian Jacqueline Chauhan
 2. Electra Kimble Price
 3. Ronald Higgins
 4. Attendees at the anniversary celebration
- Photo 1 courtesy of Gerry DeBerry. Photos 2, 3, and 4 courtesy of Felicia Addison.

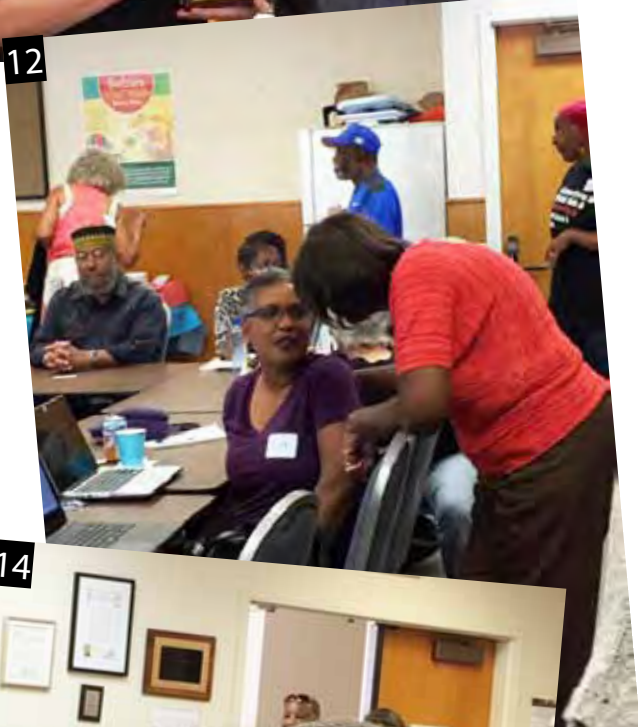




10



11



12



13



14

5, 6. Attendees at the anniversary celebration

7. Historian Jacqueline Chauhan and outgoing Publicity chair Jackie Stewart

8. Donna Hurts helps set up the food

9. The celebratory anniversary cake

10. President Edwards presents a plaque of appreciation to Dimond librarian Sarah Hodgson

11. The AAGSNC anniversary display at Dimond Library

12. Lisa Lee and Jacqueline Chauhan

13. President Edwards, the esteemed Electra Kimble Price, and outgoing Programs chair Annette Madden

14. The famous Miz Bea (Beatrice Moore White) Photos 5, 8, 9, and 10 courtesy of Gerry DeBerry. Photos 6, 7, and 11–14 courtesy of Felicia Addison.

What Have We Learned over Twenty Years?

Some of the topics that have guided the direction of our research

Jackie Chauhan
AAGSNC Historian

In the message from our society's first president, Charlesetta Ford, in the September 1996 *Newsletter of the Afro-American Historical & Genealogical Society of Northern California*, she mentioned that one of the basic needs of a society is research as direction, a way to help provide "missing pieces of the puzzle." She went on to say that our organization offered the best opportunity for not only taking care of our personal research efforts but also to focus on education, research, and publication of African American genealogical histories. She ended by exhorting us to "reaffirm our purpose, harness our talents and move forward."

My historical presentation at the anniversary celebration was based on the monthly programs presented in our general meetings over the past twenty years, as best exemplifying the directions of our research.

AAGSNC Monthly Meeting Topics (a partial list from 20 years)

Archaeological Dig in Your Own House
Family Bibles
Interviewing Skills and Techniques

How to Begin a Family Genealogy Research Project
Genealogy Research Techniques and Ancestral Project Presentation
Researching and Reclaiming Our Ancestral Land by LUNDA

Using the Census
Online Census Research
Breaking 1870 Barriers
The 1910 Census
The 1920 Census
Reviewing the 1940 Census

Beyond the Census: Other State and Federal Resources, and Newspapers
Courthouse Research
Land Records/Land Plotting

Exploring Cemeteries
Using Funeral and Church Records
Researching Probate Records and Practical Application of Probate Record Research

Finding Maiden Names
HERstory: Finding Female Ancestors

People on the Move: Tracing the Migration of Your Ancestors
The Great Migration and Migration Patterns
History of Black Immigration to France

Internet Research
Online Genealogy Research by Prodigy
African American Roots, Self-discovery Online
Internet Tips and Tricks Plus Using Software

Tracing Native American Ancestry
Five Civilized Tribes
Native American Research: The Myth of Cherokee Ancestry
Black Native Lineage and the Focus on the "Wholeness of Ourselves"

Analyzing Documents
Organize Your Records
Genealogy Software and Record Keeping

What Records Are Located Where
Planning a Research Trip
Panel Discussions: Reunions and Researching On Site
The Family Reunion Planner's Primer
Framework for Standardized Research Group Procedure
Oklahoma Show and Tell

Military Records
Military and Veterans Records
Buffalo Soldiers
World War I Records
World War II Veterans

DNA Testing
How Does DNA Analysis Help?
Using DNA in Research

DNA and Genetic Genealogy
Genetic Genealogy: Using DNA to Solve Family History Mysteries
Autosomal DNA and Its Usefulness in Genealogy Research
DNA: Communication with Your DNA Relatives

Slave Research: A Case Study
Slave Research and Immigration
Finding the Last Legal Slaveholder
Slavery Facts and Figures
Tax Records

Escape from Slavery, from Georgia to Philadelphia: William and Ellen Craft
Freedmen's Bureau Records
From Slavery to Freedom, in Business for Ourselves

Dimond Library Presentation
Native American Collection in Dimond Library
African American Genealogical Resources and Reference Materials at Oakland Main Library
Trip to Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah

The Importance of Social History
More than Vital Facts: Researching Social History

Brick Wall Workshop
Brick Wall Busting
Practical Brick Wall Busting
Getting Past a Brick Wall Created by Oral History
Breaking Brick Walls: Round Robin Discussion
Problem Solving/Brick Walls

Writing Your Story: Presenting Your Family's History
Heritage Albums
Publish Your Stories
Preserving Your Genealogical Legacy

Congratulations to the African American Genealogical Society of Northern California for constant attention to the African ancestry community during the past twenty years.

Third International Black Genealogy Summit

A few dedicated AAGSNC members traveled cross-country to attend the conference



Janice M. Sellers
Editor, *The Baobab Tree*

The third International Black Genealogy Summit (IBGS) was held in Arlington, Virginia over Labor Day weekend, from September 1–3. A few AAGSNC members made the cross-country trek to attend—Lisa Lee, Janice Sellers, Corvin Tademy, Alexander and Kirsten Underwood—plus Edlin and Larry Stahl from the Solano County Discussion Group, and AAGSNC’s good friend Ron Higgins. Lisa was part of the conference organizing team, and Janice gave a talk on online black historical newspapers.

The conference was a great educational opportunity. The Côte d’Ivoire ambassador to the United States, Daouda Diabaté, attended and was very impressed. Conference chair Algurie Wilson announced that the next IBGS is being planned for 2019 in Côte d’Ivoire. Corvin found time during the conference to take photographs, which he has generously shared with us.



1. Conference registration desk
2. Breakfast on the first day
3. Californians back east: Larry Stahl, Edlin Stahl, Janice Sellers, Kirsten Underwood, Alexander Underwood, Corvin Tademy
4. Conference chair Algurie Wilson (far left), Ambassador Daouda Diabaté (second from left), Ron Higgins (second from right)

The Leaf

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

Board of Directors Annual Meeting and Election of Directors

A portion of the society's January 21, 2017 meeting will be dedicated to the annual meeting of the Board of Directors. The agenda includes the election of new Board members.

The Board of Directors is responsible for the overall operation and direction of the society. It oversees daily operations of the society through the President.

The society has five directors, each holding the position for three years. The expirations of the terms of directors are staggered so that no more than two directors' tenure will end at any one time. The term for two of the current directors ends at the end of this year, and an election will be held to fill those seats.

If you are interested in running for the board or would like to nominate someone for the board, please contact Board Chair Carol Miller, bod@aagsnc.org, no later than **January 14, 2016**.

After the annual meeting and election, Electra Kimble Price and Annette Madden will lead a program on essential research tools and methods (part 1).

It's Time to Renew

Yes, it's that time of year! Your AAGSNC 2017 membership dues are due. You should receive your renewal notice soon, if you haven't already.

Thank you very much for being a member and supporting us during 2015. We hope you will renew your membership for 2017. Please join us for another great year of *The Baobab Tree* (published quarterly), informative

monthly meetings, Black Family History Day, the Web site, and more.

The African American Genealogical Society of Northern California is a nonprofit organization. AAGSNC invites you to join with us to further the objectives and purposes of the society. Your membership is renewable on January 1 and ends on December 31 of each year. Members whose dues are not received by March 1 will be dropped from formal communication.

Membership options:
Regular (age 17 and over), \$30.00
Family, \$50.00
Youth (16 and under), \$20.00
Organization, \$55.00
Lifetime Membership, \$300.00
Lifetime Family Membership, \$500.00

You can renew online at <http://goo.gl/VRH7pl>. If you have any questions about membership, please send a message to membership1@aagsnc.org.

The Continued Search for AAGSNC History

The AAGSNC Historian collects archival items and documents to preserve the society's history. This person assembles files of the society's activities, events, and in-house records (yearly program calendars, Board and Executive Committee's monthly meeting minutes, etc.) and maintains surplus copies of the society's journal, *The Baobab Tree*.

How you can help:

- Contribute meeting notices, membership applications, programs, etc.
- Donate copies of photographs of members and events
- Contribute items that help maintain society memory
- Furnish memorabilia that relate to or mention the society

- Share articles about yourself and the society

If you have documents or information to contribute, please contact the AAGSNC historian, Jackie Chauhan, at historian@aagsnc.org.

AAGSNC Executive Committee Meeting Notes October 15 and November 19, 2016

October 15, 2016

Present: President Howard Edwards, Jackie Chauhan, Gerry DeBerry, Annette Madden, Carol Miller, Jackie Stewart, Dera Williams, speaker Electra Price (guest)

The meeting was called to order at 12:25 p.m.

Reports

Vice President: Carol Miller

The Fundraising Committee chair and Corresponding Secretary positions have been vacant for years. Motions were made and passed to abolish the Corresponding Secretary position and Fundraising Committee. President Edwards and Diana Ross have been taking care of corresponding secretary work. Fundraising functions will revert to the Executive Committee, which has handled what we have done.

Recording Secretary: Dera Williams

Dera will do a write-up on the 20th anniversary for the Fall *Baobab*.

Dera is missing some minutes from 2016. She will look into it and send what minutes she has.

Programs: Annette Madden

Annette is resigning as Programs chair as of the end of the year but will put the 2017 program together as much as possible. She is looking for recommendations. Ideas: family history quilts, Ora Clay, AA Quilters Guild; South Carolina, Mae Gentry, mixed-race family research; Oakland Public Library, resources within the library system.

The December meeting will be at Dimond. Construction on the library has been delayed. We will have our regular potluck and black elephant sale.

Treasurer: Gerry DeBerry

The account balance is \$6,834.

Amazon Smile will automatically go through the Web site. Howard will set up Amazon Smile. It will be announced to the membership.

Storage fees have increased from \$87/month to \$100/month, so now \$1,200 yearly. It is the second biggest budget item after *Baobab*. Contents in storage are items for sale, back issues of journal, display stands, etc. We will retain the storage space.

Howard reported that expenditures for the 20th anniversary were \$725.52.

Journal: Janice M. Sellers (report delivered by President Edwards)

The Summer *Baobab* issue was distributed at the anniversary meeting in September.

The next issue will have highlights of the 20th anniversary event and a write-up of the event by Dera.

Outreach and Education: Alvis Ward (not present)

The San Francisco History Days event will take place March 4, 5, and 6, 2017. We will not participate.

The next Sacramento Black Family History Seminar will be March 11, 2017.

On December 10 we will be making a presentation at the San Francisco Public Library, for which we will be paid.

We want to participate in the Sacramento events.

Publicity: Jackie Stewart

Jackie has resigned effective at the end of the year. She is also on the Program and other committees.

Announcement

Aurelia McNeil is available for hire to write memoirs, journal, life story.

2017 Budget

The Web site is currently on an old software version; the suggestion was made to move to an updated version for security reasons. We have no protection. Gerry is checking costs. It has to be done by an outside company.

November 19, 2016

Present: President Howard Edwards, Upperton Hurts, Annette Madden, Carol Miller, Diana Ross, Janice M. Sellers, Dera Williams

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m.

Reports

Recording Secretary: Dera Williams

The October 2016 minutes were approved as is.

The Secretary has accounted for all of the missing 2016 minutes to present except for April, when she was absent. Howard presented the April 2016 minutes taken by Jackie Stewart. All minutes are now accounted for.

Treasurer: Gerry DeBerry (report delivered by President Edwards)

There is a balance of \$6,727.00 in the AAGSNC account.

Correspondence:

Mr. Ranie G. Smith sent a very nice thank you note for the plaque he received as a founding member of AAGSNC.

Someone wrote requesting help for family research. Discussion ensued regarding our offering of family research services. We have mentors and there are those who might be willing to look up information. We agreed that those seeking information from a genealogical society want free help. Some of our members already do research for a fee. We will throw it out to the general membership since there are familiar surnames to see who might want to help. The person requesting information wants an obituary from Hudson Funeral Home. It was suggested we ask Bill Melson, since he is in charge of the obituary project.

Programs: Annette Madden

Annette will remain as committee chair until she can get the program for next year fairly tightened up.

Michael Willis is sick today but is determined to present.

Membership: Upperton Hurts

There are currently 147 members. He and Gerry have not done their reconciliation.

Journal: Janice M. Sellers

Janice hopes to get the Fall issue out by the end of the month. She has one story for the Winter journal.

The guidelines for *The Baobab Tree* are on the Web site and in the journal. Deadlines were discussed.

History: Jackie Chauhan

Chair Jackie Chauhan e-mailed notes from the History Committee. There are 98 additional issues of *Baobab* for storage. Many copies were received from Sharon Henderson Nichols and Ranie Smith.

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 is best.
- Write one to three pages. We always need some one-page stories; more than three pages is too long.
- We will 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 JPG 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 JPG 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 credits 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.

Presentation to the Oakland FamilySearch Library

Thanking one of our best supporters



Presented to the
FamilySearch Library
Oakland, California
On Our 20th Anniversary
For Supporting Us Every Step of the Way

On Tuesday, October 11, 2016, AAGSNC President Howard Edwards presented a plaque of appreciation to Ralph Severson, director of the Oakland FamilySearch Library.

The FamilySearch Library has graciously allowed us to use its facilities for every one of our Black Family History Days. From January–June 2017, AAGSNC will hold its regular society meetings in the FamilySearch Library while the Dimond Library undergoes repair and remodeling.

The Leaf

continued from page 13

Janice will check with Jackie about journals for the years 2005, 2006, and 2009 which are missing online.

Outreach & Education: Alvis Ward (not present)

O&E is giving a presentation on December 10 at the Park branch of the San Francisco Public Library. Alvis will present on DNA. Someone will check to see if he needs help.

Black Family History Day

We need to decide what day in February we will have BFHD during

Black History Month. Janice will check with the FamilySearch Library about February 5 or 12, 2017.

Announcements

Dimond Library is closing for renovations in the coming year. December is our last month. Construction begins in January. It should take five months but anticipate we will return in September 2017.

Family Tree DNA is selling DNA kits for \$59.00.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Web Notes

Events, resources, and stories found while wandering the Web

Janice M. Sellers

Editor, *The Baobab Tree*

Note: All URLs are valid as of the date of publication.

Wonders of the African World

<http://www.pbs.org/wonders/index.html>

Online archive documenting the first 100 years of black Africans in the Americas

<https://www.ccny.cuny.edu/news/ccny-based-dsi-launches-unique-site-early-blacks-americas>

Rutgers University publishes book about its history with slavery

<https://www.tapinto.net/towns/piscataway/articles/rutgers-tackles-untold-stories-of-slavery-1>

“The Proslavery Origins of the Electoral College” (PDF)

<http://heinonline.org/HeinDocs/proslaveryorigins.pdf>

“Pension Files of African Americans in the War of 1812” (Podcast)

<http://www.blogtalkradio.com/bernicebennett/2016/07/08/pension-files-of-african-americans-in-the-war-of-1812--sharon-batiste-gillins>

1857 book, *Twenty-two Years a Slave, and Forty Years a Freeman* (PDF)

<https://goo.gl/w6ib2l>

Photo commemorating establishment of Bureau of United States Colored Troops in 1863

<http://www.geneabloggers.com/genealogy-blogging-beat-sunday-22-may-2016/>

Photos of identified USCT soldiers that were donated to National Museum of African American History and Culture

<http://www.npr.org/2016/09/21/494734329/family-heirloom-national-treasure-rare-photos-show-black-civil-war-soldiers>

What Civil War recipes reveal about slavery

<http://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2015/06/02/411518221/slavery-famine-and-the-politics-of-pie-what-civil-war-recipes-reveal>

Registry of insurance policies from slavery era

<http://www.insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/150-other-prog/10-seir/index.cfm>

Now Dig This!: Art and Black Los Angeles, 1960–1980 digital archive

<https://hammer.ucla.edu/now-dig-this/>

2016 movie about black Caribbean/San Francisco street poet

<http://www.tabletmag.com/jewish-arts-and-culture/204871/street-poet-bob-kaufman>

Digitized documents from a slave-owning family in Columbus, Georgia

<http://finding-aids.lib.unc.edu/00169/>

Digitized probate documents of New York slave owner who died in 1749

<http://archives.nypl.org/mss/2412>

1912 quasi-autobiographical account of black servant life

<http://usslave.blogspot.com/2013/02/we-are-literally-slaves-early-twentieth.html>

In 2000 census, 90% of people named Washington were black

<http://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/washington-the-blackest-name-in-america/>

Personal essay about the *Negro Motorist Green Book*

<http://the-toast.net/2016/06/29/the-negro-motorist-green-book/>

Woman discovers she unknowingly named her daughter after a slave-trading town

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/07/17/opinion/sunday/i-named-my-mixed-race-daughter-for-a-slave-trading-town.html>

Thanks to Gerald Gordon for posting one of these links.

The Baobab Tree is published four times each year and is provided to all members of the African American Genealogical Society of Northern California (AAGSNC) as a benefit of membership. 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 March 15 for the Spring issue, June 15 for the Summer, September 15 for the Fall, and December 15 for the Winter.

Correspondence on editorial matters, story submissions, and requests for permission to reprint articles may be sent to journal@aagsnc.org.

Articles and manuscripts suitable for publication include:

Manuscripts/Articles:

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

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



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