

# From The Baobab Tree

Volume 2, Issue 1

February 7, 1998

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

### Welcome To New Members

Arthur & Charlene Stewart  
Jim Neal  
Jesse Warr  
Claude Clark  
Lisa Daniels  
Leonard Austin



### Acknowledgment of Life Members

Reverend Adolph Kelly  
Thom Allison  
Shirley Evans



### Membership Dues

1998 membership fees are due. If membership has not been renewed by February 28, 1998, your name will be dropped from the membership roll and from the mailing list. An application is included with this newsletter.



### Get-Well Wishes

A note was received from charter member Kathryn Smith that she has had to miss recent meetings due to surgery which was scheduled in January. We send to Kay our best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery. Her contagious enthusiasm at meetings has been missed!

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

by Carole Neal

If you have not attended recent monthly meetings, you have missed some excellent presentations! This and future issues of the newsletter periodically will contain minutes of the meeting. We encourage your attendance and active participation.

### November 15, 1997

Golden Gate Branch Library,  
5606 San Pablo Avenue,  
Oakland, CA  
24 attendees

Meeting called to order approximately 1:50 p.m. by Electra Price. Attendees were invited to share news of any breakthroughs. Member Jim Neal shared information about an e-mail he received from someone who visited his web site whose ancestors were the slave owner of Neal's ancestors. This individual indicated she has cartons of information and material that's probably valuable to African Americans. Jim is having a problem reaching the person because her e-mail address was incorrect. Member Peggy Woodruff shared she located the will of her grandfather.

Electra Price briefly spoke of the research trip to Salt Lake City November 16-22. Six society members are making the trip: Shirley Evans, Sam Golden, Carole Neal, Juliet Crutchfield, Jim Neal, and Electra Price. An orientation has been arranged for Sunday evening at the hotel. Travel

arrangements were made through our sister organization in Los Angeles (California African American Genealogical Society).

Electra Price introduced the guest speaker, Mrs. Virginia Craft Rose. Mrs. Rose is the widow of Joshua Rose, first Black city councilman of Oakland. Mrs. Rose shared with the group the story of her ancestors, William and Ellen Craft, and their escape from slavery. Their plan to escape from Georgia to Philadelphia included the very fair-skinned Ellen Craft posing as a man and William as her slave. Neither could read or write, so she also was posing as a deaf man with an injured arm so there would be no need to read or write. Mrs. Rose cited several instances of the trials and tribulations the couple faced along the way and how they joined an abolitionist group when they arrived at their destinations; first in Philadelphia, then in Boston. They wanted to be properly married and were married by Reverend Parker. They learned to read, write and lecture.

Slave catchers came to town looking for them (ref.: President Monroe signed the Fugitive Slave Act), but the slave catchers were run out of town. The couple moved from Boston since it no longer was safe there. They made plans to move to England but missed their ship, so traveled to Nova Scotia and eventually moved to England where they lived for 19 years and where their five children were born. William became a lecturer and became associated with other abolitionists. Ellen became a seamstress.

After Emancipation, William and Ellen returned to Macon, Georgia, and opened a school to teach reading, writing, and domestic skills. One of their children remained in England. Financially, the school had problems because it was difficult to borrow money and eventually the farm and school had to be sold at auction. After Williams' death, Ellen went to live with her daughter in Charleston, SC.

Mrs. Rose also spoke of her recent visit to London where she was welcomed to the town where her ancestors lived. Craft Court is a small area built in Hammersmith, England, and named after her great-grandparents. Their story is part of the local folklore. Recently, the Black History Division of the Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley archived some of the Black History material that Mrs. Rose's sister has collected over the years. This information, The Craft-Trotter Collection, also is available via the Internet.

"Running A Thousand Miles" is the book written by William and Ellen Craft of their escape from slavery. It is available from Ayers Publishing, (603) 922-5106. The current print, however, does not include the introduction by Florence Freedman, author of "Two Tickets To Freedom," a book about the Crafts' escape written for children. In addition to the books, Mrs. Rose displayed other artifacts pertaining to the family's story. She also mentioned that William Monroe Trotter was her uncle, her mother's brother.

In 1972 in New York City, a film was made based on "Running A Thousand Miles." Mrs. Rose and her sister eventually had the film transferred to video and she is willing to show it to society members at her residence complex at the Salem Lutheran Homes. Mrs. Rose also mentioned that someone wrote a musical about

the second marriage of William and Ellen Craft which was performed back east. [Their first marriage was like that of many slaves, where they married by jumping the broom. The second was when they were married in Philadelphia by Reverend Parker.]

Mrs. Rose also recommended the book (available at Marcus Books), "Black Foremothers" about Ida B. Wells, Mary Church Terrell, and Ellen Craft.

A Q&A session followed the presentation.

Sam Golden reported for the Nominating Committee the names of persons nominated for office:

- President
- R. G. (Ranie) Smith  
1st VP
- Electra Kimble Price  
2nd VP
- Reverend A. Kelly  
3rd VP
- Barbara Dunn  
Treasurer
- Sam Golden  
Corres. Secretary
- Janet Benson

As there were no nominations to come from the floor, the members accepted the nominations as presented. S. Golden stated the committee was unable to find someone for Recording Secretary. Member Kay Smith voiced concern that it's more important to have a Recording Secretary than a Corresponding Secretary. After a brief discussion, Carole Neal volunteered to serve as Recording Secretary.

Electra Price announced that December 19 will be the next "just us" meeting at the Family History Center, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

A special thank you went to Charles Robinson for providing coffee for the meeting.

## NOTICE OF MEETING

Saturday,  
February 21, 1998  
1:30 p.m.

Dimond Branch  
Library - Upstairs  
Meeting Room  
3565 Fruitvale Ave.,  
Oakland, California

### PROGRAM TOPIC: "Researching and Reclaiming Our Ancestors' Land"

Presentation by  
David Roach  
of LUNDA.  
Panel presentation by  
AAGSNC members

#### You May Not Have to Wait 70 Years After All - - -

The Census Bureau will assist researchers in obtaining census records from the 1930-1990 Federal returns for any person for whom you can supply proof of death. "Age Search" will, for \$25.00 search any two census records. The search is limited to the person for whom you are requesting information, but you may ask for other family members to be included for a \$2.00 per person fee. The basic fee includes an official document stating the person's name, age, place of birth, citizenship and relationship to the head of the household. Form BC-600, which is required, may be obtained from any Social Security Office or by writing: Bureau of the Census, "AGE SEARCH", PO Box 1545, Jeffersonville, IN 47111. (from the Odom Family Tree, June/July 1997 via San Ramon Valley GS, July/August 1997)

Contributed by: Kathryn Smith

**ORGANIZATION  
MAILING EXPENSE**

“Thank you” to the following members for donating stamps or cash to assist with mailing expense:

*Barbara Shepherd Dunn  
Shirley Evans  
Kathryn Smith  
Charles Robinson  
Charlene Tarver*

The next monthly meeting will be held December 20 at the Dimond Branch Library.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:15 p.m. Members remained and viewed the material brought by the guest speaker, as well as networked and shared information.

**December 20, 1997**

Dimond Branch Library,  
3565 Fruitvale Avenue,  
Oakland, California  
15 attendees

The meeting was called to order at 1:45 p.m. by Electra Price. Minutes of the last meeting were read by Carole Neal. Minutes were approved as read. It was suggested that the minutes be included in the newsletter as a way to increase membership.

Member Charles Robinson brought to the meeting his copy of the September '97 Heritage Book Newsletter which featured information on researching Native American roots. Electra Price briefly recapped information in the newsletter, then passed it around to attendees. The association will provide a copy of its membership list to Heritage Books so members can receive mailings.

The panel presentation on the Salt Lake City trip began with Electra giving an overview of some of the details of the trip such as length of stay and cost. The California African American Genealogy group made the travel arrangements. They arranged for an orientation by Heritage Quest which also was attended by other genealogy groups. Electra talked about the kinds of records, information, and equipment available at the FHL; for

example, she estimated there were 150+ microfilm readers on the 2nd floor of the library; researchers can take up to five films at a time.

Panel members Juliet Crutchfield, Shirley Evans, Sam Golden, Carole Neal, and Jim Neal spoke about their respective research efforts and successes from the trip. Panelists had been asked to answer the following questions as part of their presentations:

- ◆ How long have you been actively searching
- ◆ What was the focus and locality of your search
- ◆ What was your research strategy (how did you go about it?)
- ◆ What did you find
- ◆ What was your impression of the library
- ◆ What's been the effect on your continuing research

The panel presentation was halted after the first presenter so the group could hear the presentation from Pat Haggarty, Dimond Branch librarian.

He gave a presentation on the Dimond Branch's Native American Collection and brought with him a number of books from the collection. Most are reference books. The Dimond Branch has 800 books in the collection. There is information on the intermarriage between African Americans and Native Americans and information on the Black Seminoles.

Some of the books in the collection are:

1. "Black Indians" by William Capp. There are 15 copies of this book in the library system.
2. The "Native American Genealogical Source Book" which came out about two years ago, published by Gale Publishing. There is a reference copy and a check-out copy. Between 1870 and 1900, the US government did census of the different tribes, but the information is erratic as to how they are listed in the Tribal Census Rolls. Tribes that moved from the Southeast to Oklahoma are well documented. The census was done of

tribes that were not at war with the U.S. Sutro Library in San Francisco has the Tribal Census Rolls.

3. "Many Nations" by the Library of Congress lists where to find information and has photos.
4. "Encyclopedia of North American Indians."
5. "Fire In the Spirits" and others about particular tribes.
6. Books on geographical regions
7. The Cherokee Family Records books, a reference book, primarily is about the Bell family.

Following Mr. Haggarty's presentation, there was a question & answer period. One of the attendees mentioned that for the 1910 census only, Indians were listed separately which resulted in their being listed twice in the census.

Other information that came out of the question and answer period:

- ◆ The library receives various Native American newspapers
- ◆ There is a local Black Native American group. Some of the members are Bonita Sizemore, Zenobia Embry-Zimmer, Don Davenport (Little Cloud) who is Seminole & Choctaw. Davenport helped organize the group.
- ◆ Haggarty said the best way to learn more about Native American history is to go to a Pow-Wow. One is held in June at the Kaiser Arena or Convention Center. The Silver Star Pow-Wow lasts two days. There is a local Native American preschool, Carl Munck School, which was having a Native American event until 6:00 p.m. that day. There's a Pow-Wow on Mother's Day at Stanford where they set up teepees and about 2,000 persons attend.
- ◆ In answer to a question about what information the Anthropology Society at Berkeley has, Haggarty said the Loew Museum primarily has information on California tribes.
- ◆ Book sales are a good source for genealogy

**1ST QUARTER BIRTHDAYS**



*"BIRTHDAY GREETINGS"  
to AAGSNC members:*

**February**

- 9 - Lee Loche
- 9 - Jennifer Duhon
- 17 - Kathryn Smith
- 21 - Electra Price

**March**

- 28 - Claude Clark

- books and out-of-print books.
- ◆ The FHL in Salt Lake City has information on the five civilized tribes - an index book gives the identification number which points you to the other books for the detail about the tribe member.
- ◆ The 1888 Dawes Roll was mentioned. Haggarty offered to give a brief tour of the library after the meeting. After his presentation, the report-back from the panel about the FHL trip resumed.

Panel members' research focused on Arkansas, Mississippi, Florida, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, and Louisiana. All reported success in locating information from marriage, military, land, and census and Soundex records.

Suggested tips for researching:

- ◆ It's important to listen to the oral history
- ◆ If researching at the FHL, gather your data there but do your analysis after you get back home.
- ◆ At the local FHC print out or make copies of the records (microfilm numbers) you want to search in SLC.
- ◆ Form an outline to follow.
- ◆ Check the atlas for maps of the county you're interested in
- ◆ The Goodspeed publications can be helpful
- ◆ The FHL has binders with plantation records (Kenneth Stamp) - good idea to review these
- ◆ Attend some of the classes that are offered daily at the FHL. The class on understanding the similarities and differences of the computer catalog vs. the microfiche is very helpful.

The URL for the "University Publications of America" Home Page was shared [<http://www.upapubs.com/guide>]. UPA is the publisher of scholarly research collections in microfilm, print, and electronic formats.

Chuck Robinson commented that the information from the panel could be a major contribution to the local community and suggested looking into having a series of articles appear in the Oakland Tribune newspaper under the auspices of AAGSNC. Could

potentially get more people involved in the organization. Grant money may be available to do an educational series.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m. Members remained for refreshments (provided by Electra Price and Chuck Robinson) and networking.

records they have microfilmed.

**COMPUTER**

Surname  
Locality  
Locality Browse

**MICROFICHE**

Surname  
Locality  
Author/Title  
Subject

Film/Fiche Computer Number

**1998 NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION SCHEDULE**

<u>Quarter</u>	<u>Deadline for Articles</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>
1 <sup>st</sup>	January 26	February 7
2 <sup>nd</sup>	April 27	May 2
3 <sup>rd</sup>	July 27	August 1
4 <sup>th</sup>	October 26	November 7

If you wish to submit articles for the newsletters your information must be submitted prior to the deadline date either by e-mail; [baobabtree@rocketmail.com](mailto:baobabtree@rocketmail.com), or to AAGSNC, Attention: Newsletter Editor, PO Box 27485, Oakland, CA 94602-0985

**HELPFUL WEBSITES**

Contributed by Carole Neal

Genealogy Dictionary

<http://www.electriciti.com/~dotts/diction.html#DICT>

Deciphering Old Handwriting

<http://www.firstct.com/fv/oldhand.html>

National Genealogical Society's Suggestions for Beginners

<http://www.genealogy.org/~ngs/sugbeg.html>

20 Ways To Avoid Genealogical Grief

<http://www.rootsweb.Com/roots-l/20ways.html>

**FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG:  
COMPUTER VS. MICROFICHE**

by Carole Neal

During the research trip to the Family History Library (FHL) in Salt Lake City, I attended the class on understanding the difference between the computer catalog and the microfiche catalog. Prior to the Class, I'd always found trying to use the FHL computer catalog very frustrating -- I never seemed to be able to locate what I needed. The class was very helpful, particularly in terms of understanding what is available or not available from each, and I wanted to share notes from the class with AAGSNC members. The FHL catalog, of course, lists the kinds of

“So, a most important difference between the two is that you cannot do an author/title or a subject search with the computer catalog. It should be noted that every topic is listed under “author/title.”

**Points to remember:**

- with the computer version of the catalog, every record has a computer number
- use the Locality Browser when unsure of spelling
- with a Locality search, the information goes from general to specific, i.e., country, county, parish, city or town
- Cataloging of the records is subjective based on whoever is doing the cataloging so records may not be listed where you might think
- browsing is *much* easier using the microfiche
- check Land & Property records to search marriage settlements
- the horizontal arrows (on microfiche) indicate “see reference.” The arrow refers you to another possibility and tells you how to get the info you want in the Library catalog. These “see reference” arrows may also appear in the “Subject” catalog.