



AAHGSNC News

Newsletter of the Afro-American Historical & Genealogical Society of No. CA January 1997

Quarterly Newsletter

AAHGSNC Meeting Notice

January 25, 1997
1:30 - 3:30 PM
Oakland Public Library
Golden Gate Branch
5606 San Pablo Avenue
Oakland, CA

Program

Speaker: William Sturm, Librarian
Oakland History Room
Oakland Public Library. Topic -
Oakland Main Library African
American Genealogical resources
and reference materials

On Line Genealogy Research:

Demonstration and discussion by Ed
Butler, Prodigy Regional
Representative

Happy New Year!!!

CGS's 12th Annual Family History Fair

**"The Golden Gateway to Your
Ancestry"**

**The California Genealogical
Society** will host its 12th Annual
Family History Fair, at San
Francisco's Fort Mason, Friday, April

25, 12 Noon - 8:00 PM; and
Saturday, April 26, 9:00 AM - 5:00
PM, 1997. **Representatives from
AAHGS-NC will be participating
on the AFRI-AMERICAN
RESEARCH ROUND TABLE.**

Additional information will be
forthcoming. The keynote speaker
will be John Colletta, PH.D. Dr.
Colletta is a faculty member of the
National Institute at the National
Archives in Washington, D. C.; the
Institute of Genealogy and Historical
Research, Samford University,
Birmingham, AL; and the Institute of
Genealogical Studies, Dallas, TX.

October 1996 Meeting Highlights

Our guest speaker for the meeting
date was Ron Higgins, President of
the California African American
Genealogical Society from Los
Angeles, CA. His message was one
of commitment and perseverance.
His feeling is that once you have
started doing genealogical research
you can never stop.- "Your
ancestors are depending on you to
pass their stories on the present and
future generations, so that their
deeds, struggles and triumphs will
not be forgotten".

Ron's talk provided an excellent lead

in to Margot and Joseph Dashiell's family slide pictorial. The presentation was entitled: "***In Business For Ourselves-From Slavery to Freedom***". It featured a very concise account of Dashiell family history. The slides included family member photos, and duplicates of 1850 through 1880 Texas census reports.

Meeting Notes

Special thanks to Janet Benson for so graciously volunteering to be our scribe. She took on the minute taking chores for our October 1996 meeting.

Civil War Memorial Freedom Monument

The National Organization for the Descendants of African American Union Soldiers/Sailors and their white officers (Civil War 1861-1865), was founded to recognize descendants of African American Union Soldiers and white officers. In collaboration with the African-American Civil War Memorial Freedom Foundation, a reception will be held October 22, 1997, followed with a parade down Constitution Avenue and unveiling of the Civil War Memorial Freedom Monument.

If you are a descendant with official documentation, or doing Civil War research, you are invited to become a member. Membership is not required to attend the Centennial program being held in Washington, D. C. , October 22-25, 1997. For further information please contact: Jean Douglass Greene (Fredrick Douglass' great grand daughter) or Jeanette Braxton Secret at 2121 Vale Road, Suite 310, San Pablo, CA 94806. E-mail - jbsecret@aol.com.

Television Series - "The Ancestors"

The *Ancestors* is a *ten* part television series scheduled for national release on PBS in January, 1997. The series is an introduction to genealogy and family history, focusing on the impact that connecting with ancestors has on individuals and families. Powerful stories of people who have made the connection to their family's past are followed by practical instruction on how to begin this journey of a lifetime.

Episode One: Getting Started. Dispelled are common misconceptions about genealogy and family history. The pedigree chart is introduced as one of the most important tools used in searching for ancestors. Expert

explanation in the use of pedigree charts is provided by expert Desmond Allen.

Episode Two: Looking At Home. What to look for at home, and how to organized these bits and pieces of your past is explored with expert Antonia Cottrell Martin.

Episode Three: Gathering Family Stories. Expert, Bill Zimmerman focuses on how the novice can successfully interview and document living relatives.

Episode Four: The Paper Trail. This episode will help in understanding how the records that we find are witness to important events in our ancestors lives. Experts share the different types of records that are found in genealogical research.

Episode Five: Libraries and Archive. This episode features a tour of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. You will be introduced to different places to find genealogical records after exhausting home resources, including city, state and national repositories most commonly used in genealogy.

Episode Six: Military and Census records. Expert, Curt Witcher

introduces two major American record sources commonly used in genealogy searches, Census and military records and what you can find in them.

Episode Seven: African American Families. This episode profiles the genealogical research activities of **Collette De Verge and the members of the *California African American Genealogical Society***. This episode focuses on the distinct challenge of researching African American records. Expert, Tony Burroughs, will dispel myths about African American records and will introduce new information to help begin a successful search in this area.

Episode Eight: Your Medical Heritage. This episode explores creating medical pedigrees. Expert direction is provided to help your learn to begin building your own medical pedigree.

Episode Nine: High Tech Help. This episode features prison inmates who do genealogical research with the aid of computers and microfiche. High tech help can be fun.

Episode Ten: Leaving A Legacy tells the stories of three different legacies left by families. One family held family reunions every five

years. Since 1915 each family reunion was preserved on film.

Moving On

Ron Higgins has resigned his post as President of the California African American Genealogical Society. We understand that he is moving to the Mid West. His enthusiasm, knowledge and support for our efforts in Northern California will be sorely missed. But, we also now that he will be as close as a telephone or computer link up.

New Members - Welcome!!!

Joseph Dashiell, Jr.
Margot Dashiell
Thomas Bradshaw
Mary Bradshaw
Thordie Ashley
Donald Brown
Anita Debro
Velma Finch
Jennifer M. Groebe
Charlene Tarver
Carole E. Neal

Articles Wanted

Articles and general information are needed for our newsletter. Please submit any information to the Editor, that may be of interest to our membership. Direct information to the Editor at address shown herein.

State of Arkansas Research

Arkansas Death Records, Index, 1914 - 1923, 572 pp. \$49.50.

Arkansas Death Records, Index, 1934 - 1940, 475 pp. \$49.50.

Death Records Index 1923 - 1933.

Order from: Arkansas Research, P. O. Box 303, Conway, AR 72033.
Credit Card Orders 1-800-361-1484

The above indices list deceased person's name, county from which the death was reported and the date of death. All deaths may not be included as only deaths reported to the state are referenced.

Beginning Genealogy

The National Archives and Records Administration offers a free genealogy packet. Write to: National Archives and Records Administration, Publications Distribution, Room G9, Dept. P, Seventh St. and Pennsylvania Ave., N. W., Washington, D. C. 20408; or call the toll-free phone number 1-800-234-8861. The National Archives' Web site is www.nara.gov.

Queries

Morris Lawrence Elam. Resided at 1621 Blake Street, Berkeley, CA.

Died 18 July 1988. Death certificate indicates that he was widowed. Also requesting information on his deceased wife. Direct reply to Kay Smith, 275 - 28th Street, Oakland, CA 94611

Books



Black History: A Guide to Civilian Records in the National Archives. Newman, 1984, 379 pp., soft bound. Local Sources for African-American Family Historians Using County Court Records and Census Returns. Peters. 1993, 128 pp.

Bibliographic Checklist of African American Newspapers. Henritze. 1995, 206 pp. (Comprehensive checklist of every newspaper serving African Americans since 1827)

Above books are available through Frontier Press. 1-800-772-7559

Beginner's Guide to Family History Research. Desmond Valls Allen and Carolyn Earle Billingsley

*On the Altar of Freedom
A Black Soldier's Civil War Letters
From The Front.* Corporal James Henry Gooding . Edited by Virginia M. Adams



Newsletter

Due to increasing publication and mailing cost, only dues paying members will be receiving copies of the newsletter.

AAHGSNC Officers

(Interim)

President

Charlesetta Bragg Ford

1st Vice President

Electra Price

2nd Vice President

Donna Thomas

3rd Vice President

Sam Golden

Treasurer

Open

Recording Secretary

Parliamentarian

Ray Ballard

Corresponding Secretary

Terry Ligon

Elections

Elections for organization officers will be upcoming soon. The Nominating Committee will be going through the rooster and soliciting nominees for all open positions.

"If there is not struggle there is no progress"

Fredrick Douglass