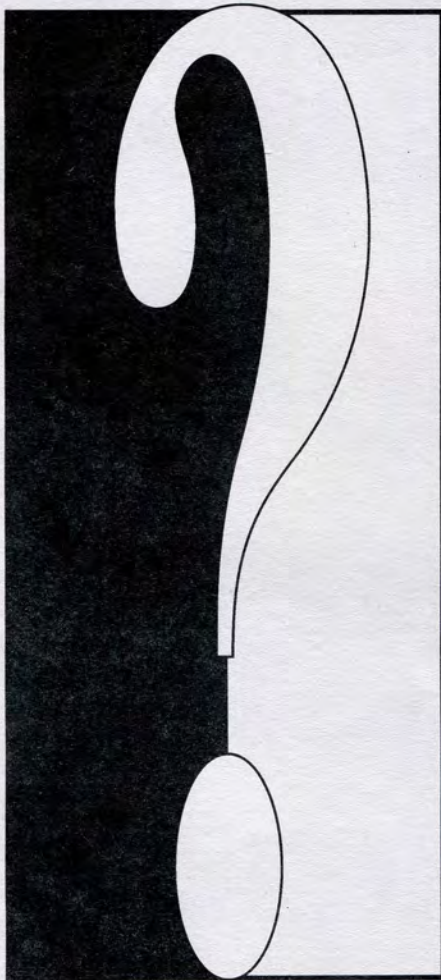




from the **BAOBAB TREE**

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

Confused



About...

- The Freedman's Bank?
- The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands?
- The Freedmen's Bureau?
- The Freedman's Savings and Trust Company?

Which is Which?

So Were We!

(See our article on page 8 for answers)



- Freedman's Bank vs Freedmen's Bureau
- Bethel Cemetery, Carthage, AR
- 1930 Oakland Black Business Directory
- Society News
- De Witt County, TX Marriages of People of Color
- A Thousand Green Leaves
- Hall Cemetery, Bradley, AR
- Member Spotlight: Ira Lott
- 2003 AAGSNC Calendar (insert)



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



What is your objective in pursuing this addiction called genealogy? There are various reasons why one does genealogical research. Some wish to “go back to the last slave,” some want to “go back to the first African,” or even further. Still others just want to know “how am I kin to so-and-so?”

It doesn't matter why one begins this pursuit, once begun we find ourselves enthralled by what we learn about the strengths and struggles of our ancestors and how they endured. We know they endured because we are here!

After you produce stacks of documents, reams of charts and terabytes of data, what will become of it all when you are gone? Will it go into the local landfill? Or into a digital wasteland of storage in a format which is no longer accessible by the latest technology?

One of the rewards of researching your family is sharing what you have learned. This genealogy thing is contagious. The sharing of your research may just “infect” a family member with the desire to learn more, to tear down those brick walls you left standing. Or maybe by learning about their ancestors, they will just learn something about themselves.

I saw an interesting idea* for help in writing memoirs called, “Capturing Memories: Write the Stories Behind Your Photos,” where the author proposes that you use photographs and other artifacts to awaken your memories (or perhaps the memories of the elders you need to interview). I, too, have been guilty of waiting until I have “enough” information to publish. This idea may just get me started! The Society is sponsoring a writing contest for AAGSNC members. Let that “get you going” toward publishing. Check the AAGSNC 2003 Calendar for specifics about the contest (see insert).

Melvyn L. Gillette
AAGSNC President 2003

* See www.capturing memories.com

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This entire document was created on an Apple Titanium 867 using Adobe InDesign, Photoshop, and Excel. Thanks to Kay Smith for proofreading and to Kerry Wong and Cheryl Pacanas for graphic design consultation. -- Ed.



AAGSNC NEWS

1st Annual AAGSNC Writing Contest!!

You've done the research, now it's time to tell your story. AAGSNC members are invited to compete for cash prizes and national recognition by submitting original family histories. The **deadline is November 1, 2003** and details follow:

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

In addition, all three winning entries will be published in the December edition of *From the Baobab Tree*.

REQUIREMENTS:

1) Your genealogy must cover at least three generations but not more than five. Include the progenitor and spouse as the first generation, all of their children with spouse(s) as the second generation, and all grandchildren with their spouse(s) as the third generation. It is not necessary to list the children in the fourth and fifth generations.

2) Your manuscript must be between 4,000 - 15,000 words.

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

ORIGINALITY:

Your genealogy must be your own work based primarily on research you have conducted yourself. Contributions by family members are expected, but these sources must be cited.

WHO MAY PARTICIPATE:

You must be a current AAGSNC member in order to compete. AAGSNC Officers and Board Members are ineligible for prizes.

PEDIGREE CHART:

You must submit a pedigree chart that corresponds to your submission, following standard genealogical naming and numbering conventions.

SUBMISSION:

Your manuscript must be typed or printed and must be Postal mailed to: AAGSNC - Writing Contest
PO Box 27485
Oakland, CA 94602-0985

eMail submissions are not allowed. Please ensure that your name, address, and phone number appear on the title page. Submissions must be postmarked no later than November 1, 2003. We will confirm receipt of all submissions. You may submit multiple entries.

Office Supplies Sale II

Those who attended the February meeting were fortunate to participate in a Surplus Office Supplies Sale due to a sizeable donation from a Silicon Valley company that had recently downsized and wanted to get rid of hundreds of items. Members and guests purchased electric pencil sharpeners, file cabinets, hanging file folders, staplers, bookends, tape dispensers, desk organizers, and all sorts of other barely used office supplies. Except for the file cabinets (which sold for \$10 each), each item sold for only \$1.00! In addition, the company sold over a dozen used Pentium I and Pentium II Dell or IBM computers for \$30 each, including the Windows NT or Windows 2000 software, keyboard, mouse, and 15" or 17" Dell monitor. ALL proceeds went to the AAGSNC and as a result of the sale, we raised over \$500.

But the good news just keeps on coming! Due to the success of the last sale, the company has donated additional surplus supplies and these will be available at the March meeting. Items for sale include: computer chairs, stacking organizers, more file cabinets, tape dispensers, hanging file folders, wheeled file carts, cork boards, envelopes, 3-ring binders (all sizes, types, and colors), and a few surprises. The computer chairs are \$5 each, but everything else is just \$1.00.

So, if you need to organize your office, there's never been a better time to buy

the things you need, and you will help the AAGSNC at the same time.

Members' Birthdays

JANUARY

- Geoffrey Carter
- Shirley Mann Jones
- 2 Mary V. Davis
- 10 James W. Martinez
- 12 Juliet E. Crutchfield
- 12 Michelle Le Doux
- 19 Gloria Edwards
- 25 Minnette B. Murphy
- 25 Patricia Simmons
- 30 Kashan Robinson

FEBRUARY

- Cleveland Smith
- Annamae L. Tolan
- Richard Wilson
- 2 Cynthia Grady
- 14 Henry P. Raulston
- 17 Kathryn B. Smith
- 18 Kathleen Murphy
- 21 Electra Kimble Price

MARCH

- Joyce Douglas
- Barbara A. Dunn
- Upperton L. Hurts
- Mary B. Mazion
- Cheryl Smith
- 4 Robert L. Harris
- 4 Michele Wms-Smith

APRIL

- 7 Charles T. Brown
- 10 Bette Golden
- 10 Roger L. Hall
- 16 Annette Madden
- 27 Martha Swisher

MAY

- Paula Easton
- Lou W. Robinson
- 4 Dorothy J. Adams
- 8 Nora Tapia
- 12 Vernon Taylor
- 18 Abe Steed
- 23 Thom Allison
- 23 Mildred Taylor
- 26 Loretta Henry
- 27 Ricardo Keppard
- 28 Rhonda Edwards
- 31 Khamisi Mwaniki



A THOUSAND GREEN LEAVES

BY DENA JORDAN



Dena Jordan was born and raised in Pittsburg, CA, where she still resides with her husband James and daughter Letricee. She still considers herself to be a beginner in genealogy and has been doing for a little over 3 years. Dena's research is of Bradley, Arkansas where her father was born and raised as were her father's parents and grand parents. Her goal is to learn as much about the everyday life of her ancestors in Arkansas and, hopefully, to be able to help future Bradley County researchers to find their ancestors. She is now completing her first short story based on her research called, "One Root, Many Branches and a Thousand Green Leaves." Her Arkansas surnames are Green, Childs, Davis, Moman, Belin, Burrell, Harmon, Gill and Calbert. This story is dedicated to her father, Charley Calbert, Sr.

Ms. Jordan may be contacted at: juneirene@aol.com

Why do an "old folk's hobby?" "What made you do this?" "You better watch out ... you may just find something you don't want to find." "Just plain old nosey ... just trying to dig into folks' business that they don't want you to know." These are some of the questions and statements I have heard from family members and friends while in the course of my 3-1/2 years of research for my ancestors.

Answer to number two: My aunt hosted our semi-annual Childs-Green-Davis-Preston family reunion in Oakland, CA, July 2000. She asked me to do a presentation on our family (the Greens) at the banquet. After all, nobody has ever done a story about family relations and connections since the first reunion which took place 15 years ago. I used to go and I never knew a soul except for my immediate family. Then why do we have family reunions? Everybody seems to sit with his or her own group of family, afraid to ask questions. "Who are you and how are we related?" It was time to find out.

Answer to number three: I have found out a lot of family secrets that I wouldn't want a lot of people to know. I guess that's why they kept it a secret. But my mission is not to separate families, rather it's to bring them together. And as far as "digging," well, I must admit, I'm getting better and better.

My Green family arrived in Arkansas sometime around 1857. They came from South Carolina by way of

Mississippi. I found this migration pattern on my first trip to the this past July, when my mother so graciously gave me and my family the trip to our ancestral home. I met a grandson ("Uncle Buddy") of my great-great-grandmother (gggm). Uncle Buddy informed me that my gggm, Easter Green, walked with a limp after taking a fall in a ditch on her way to Arkansas while traveling through Mississippi. She also had a sister who was sold away from her in Mississippi. The sister was never heard from again. They arrived in Arkansas a "family minus one." This family consisted of her mother, Nannie, age 37 or 38, Easter, age 8 or 9, Mike, age 7 or 8, and Puss, age 6 or 7. Drew County was their point of entry and residence for eight or ten years after their arrival. I'm still not sure if they came with their last South Carolina enslavers or if they came with a slave trader to be sold. Whatever the reason, they remained a family.

Per information found by a cousin, Michelle Hood, in 1866 Nannie and her family were employed by a man named W.H. Green.

Puss is Pricilla on future censuses and Victor is Victoria/Victory. I calculate Victoria's age to have been about "one" in 1866 because in 1870 Victoria is still 8 years of age.???

My family arrived in Bradley by the time the 1870 census was taken, and they lived in Clay Township. This young black family, on their own, showed Mike as head of the household, while only 18 years of age. Easter was keeping house and 20, and there was a five year old boy named Peter who, I suspect, was the infant on the 1866 Freedman's Labor Contract records. Puss was 18 and worked as a farm laborer, and Victoria was eight, not attending school. None were able to read or write.

By 1901, Easter was able to purchase 160 acres of land from J.A. Lee and M.A. Lee (his wife) for the sum of \$100, described as follows:

"The East Half of the Southeast quarter of Section Twenty-Two and West Half of the Southwest quarter of section Twenty-Three all in Township Fourteen South of Range Eleven West and containing One hundred acres more or less." In 1914 she divided the land

Freedman's Bureau Labor Contracts of 1866, Field Office Monticello, Drew County, Arkansas, Entry 393:

Employer	Employees	Age	Term of Contract
W. H. Green	Nannie	63	Rations/clothing
	Estes and Infant	15	\$3.00/rations/clothing
	Mike	10	Rations/clothing
	Puss/Victor	8	Rations/clothing
	Perry	23	1/10 of all crop raised on farm except potatoes/2 suits of clothes.

between four of her sons for the sum of \$1.00 and "love and affection."

Her brother, Mike, was also prosperous in land deals. Together, they purchased so much land that the community in which they lived was called Green Town, which included Green Chapel, Green School, and the Green Grocery

Store. In 1910, Easter lived with her son, John Green, his wife Georgia (Crosby) Green and their children, Vance, Minnie, Tempe, Susie (my grandmother), Ada and Harvey. She died in 1925 from malaria and was buried at the Okalone [Oakland?] Cemetery, which is now called "Hall Cemetery." There is no headstone to mark her grave, but she

is buried there along with a lot of her family and siblings.

My name is Dena Green Calbert Jordan, daughter of Charley Calbert, son of Susie Green, daughter of John Green, son of Easter Green, daughter of Nannie

Hall Cemetery, aka Oakland Cemetery

Location: From Banks, take Bradley 1 (Banks-Jersey Road) traveling South approximately six miles. Turn left onto Bradley 5 (LAN ark-Gravel Ridge Road): go approximately three miles to the Oakland AME Church. Turn left onto Bradley 191 (gravel), and travel approximately 1-1/2 miles. Turn right onto gravel road marked only by the Hall Cemetery sign. The cemetery is at the end of the road across from a gravel pit (this is a black cemetery). Easter and her brother Mike Green are buried here. This should be a complete transcription of all legible markers, 2001.

Surname	First	DOB	DOD	Notes
Allison	Paul	1951	1978	
Belin	Beatrice	1913	1959	
Belin	Cleave	1911	1897	
Belin	Donnie	2/1/56	9/17/82	
Belin	Elnora	1918	1979	
Belin	Fannie D.	1900	1989	
Belin	James Jim.	1940	1995	
Belin	Jim	1898	1988	
Belin	Linda	1957	1982	
Belin	Spence	1906	1979	
Collins	Clemmie	1898	1976	
Collins	Ida	1898	1963	
Daniels	A. J.	9/26/09	10/03/70	
Davis	Ben	1914	1982	"PFC US ARMY"
Davis	Dennie Lee	8/06/29	6/12/94	
Davis	Ever	none stated	none stated	Double marker w/Hattie Davis
Davis	Exell	2/24/33	10/05/69	
Davis	Felix	1909	1980	
Davis	Hattie	living	living	Double marker w/Dennis Lee Davis
Davis	Johnnie Wesley	12/18/30	2/24/83	
Davis	Lee	none stated	none stated	Double marker with Ever Davis
Davis	Lee Van	4/12/01	11/13/76	
Davis	Lennie	1901	1976	
Davis	Lula	none stated	9/12/1969	"Age 93"
Davis	Lum	1896	1974	
Davis	Mitchel	1918	1980	
Davis	Samson	Feb 16, 1916	Dec 21, 1969	"Army PFC 987 QM WWII"
Davis	Sylvester	1920	1978	
Green	Avery	none stated	9/1/1906	"Daughter of Mike & Mandy Green age 7"
Green	Fannie	Feb 28, 1880	Mar 12, 1920	"Wife of CG (G?) Green"
Green	Mandy	none stated	Aug 31, 1899	"Wife of Mike Green age 45"
Hampton	Gracie	5/04	12/12/85	
Hampton	Sterling	6/16/14	1/16/74	
Lewis	Mary I.	1888	1828 (1928?)	
McGray (McGray?)	Willie	1884	1955	
Strong	Cofrolus	1928	1975	
Strong	Lena	9/6/06	4/6/83	
Thomas	Effie D.	190?	1982	"Age 93"
Watson	J. L.	Aug 6, 1936	Oct 12, 1972	
Williams	Bessie	1893	1977	



BETHEL CEMETERY - CARTHAGE, AR

... TRANSCRIBED BY JAMILA SLOAN



Located down a gravel road, just off the main road in Carthage, AR, the Bethel Cemetery is the final resting place of the great uncle of AAGSNC member **Jamila Sloan**. Ms. Sloan has been doing her family's genealogy since 1998 and publishes a quarterly newsletter entitled *The Chronicles of the Smith-Sloan Family*.

On a recent trip to her ancestral home in Dallas County, AR, she diligently transcribed the entire Bethel Cemetery. In the Winter 2002 edition of *From the Baobab Tree*, we published the first part of this transcription (surnames A-H). This project will be completed in a future edition of our Journal.

Ms. Sloan may be reached at: sloaja000@yahoo.com

Surname	First	Middle/Maiden	DOB	DOD	Notes
Jacobs	Jack		9-30-1893	1-Jun-1973	DOUBLE HEADSTONE W/ WILMER
Jacobs	Ja' Mario	De'Shaun	19-Sep-2000	4-Oct-2000	Son of Norman Jacobs Sr & Felicia Lowe
Jacobs	Pearl	Juniel	12 APR 1895	1-Mar-1986	
Jacobs	Wilmer		5-Oct-1917	17-Aug-1972	DOUBLE HEADSTONE W/ JACK
James	Ora	Lee	26-Mar-1905	2000	Brown FHM
Jarrett	Josephine		1-Mar-1940	9-Jul-1996	
Johnson	Boster, Sr.		20-Nov-1916	15-Apr-1993	
Johnson	Cora		11-Dec-1911	7-Apr-1976	
Johnson	Ellis	Denoise	5-Nov-1968	6-Nov-1968	Son of Ellis & Dessie
Johnson	Ernest		10-Jan-1913	10-Aug-1996	US ARMY WW II
Johnson	Ethel	E	16 JUN 1884	28-Dec-1970	DOUBLE HEADSTONE W/ WILL
Johnson	Henry	B	3-Nov-1919	20-Dec-1998	US ARMY WWII
Johnson	J.	E.	27 AUG 1933	18-Feb-1951	
Johnson	Wil		20 NOV 1869	25-Oct-1942	DOUBLE HEADSTONE W ETHEL
Johnson	Willie	Mae	2-Oct-1910	18-Sep-1993	
Jones	David	Lamon	10-Mar-1972	19-May-1990	
Letbetter	Anthony	Jerrell	21-Jun-1989	21-Jun-1989	
Letbetter	Bryan	G.	19-Jul-1985	12-Nov-1985	
Letbetter	Christopher	Norman	13-Nov-1973	11-May-1977	
Letbetter	Cleo	Smith	23-Sep-1931	2-Nov-1974	
Letbetter	Curtis		9-Sep-1957	25-Jul-1986	
Letbetter	Michael		12-Dec-1961	14-Nov-1986	
Marsh	Henrietta		18-Oct-1903	27-Jun-1946	
Marshall	Lillian	Danford	1902	1972	DOUBLE HEADSTONE W/ MARK
Marshall	Mark		1872	1962	DOUBLE HEADSTONE W/ LILLIAN
McFadden	J'Quan	Latrell	21-Sep-1999	3-Jan-2001	
Mitchell	Anesha		30-May-1905	2000	FHM
Mitchell	Charles	Edward, Jr.	3-Feb-1972	27-Dec-1996	
Mitchell	Charles	Ray	20-Aug-1966	21-Aug-1985	19
Mitchell	Charlie	Lee	1-Mar-1920	26-Jun-1988	PFC US ARMY WW II
Mitchell	Elnora		18 AUG 1886	19-Sep-1987	
Mitchell	Graham		1928	2001	BRANDON'S FHM
Mitchell	James		1940	1972	
Mitchell	Louella	Sloans	5-Dec-1912	12-Nov-1991	
Mitchell	Mose		1878	1-Jul-1957	
Mitchell	Sidney		1892	21-Jul-1968	
Mitchell	Sue		1892	20-Sep-1912	
Moor	Henretter		16 MAR 1944	16-Mar-1966	
Moore	Eliza	Smith	10-Aug-1909	14-May-1979	
Moore	Henirtta		9-Jan-1943	15-Mar-1966	AGE 23
Moore	Nancy	Jane	11 OCT 1882	28-May-1920	
Murphy	Etter		7-Jul-1943		

O'Hair	Alice	O	27 OCT 1877	22-Jul-1946	
O'Hara	Johnnie	Mac	7-Jun-1911	9-May-1998	
O'Hara	William	Luther	18-Apr-1941	14-May-1995	
Oakley	Climmer	Jean Johnson	15-Oct-1923	5-May-1993	
Oakley	Georgia	Ann	1882	1941	
Oakley	J.	R.	1876	5-Jun-1942	
Oakley	Leonard	L.	2-Sep-1917	4-Sep-1987	
Oakley	Pearl	Izora Bryant	1894	1-Mar-1968	
Oakley	Thomas	A. Sr.	1892	1954	
Oakley	Thomas	Armstrong, Jr.	1923	2000	Brown FHM
Oliver	Mary	Etta	18 DEC 1889	10-Sep-1937	
Paraham	Landy	Randus	26-Feb-1984	26-Oct-1976	
Paraham	Nellie		14 NOV 1892	20-Dec-1970	
Parham	Arthur		22 SEP 1876	11-Jul-1944	
Parham	Burrel		1873	1933	
Parham	Cutella		1950	5-Aug-1955	
Parham	Daisy		1885	14-Dec-1966	
Parham	Herbert		1914	1977	
Parham	Roy		1906	7-Apr-1952	US ARMY
Parish	Aron		1916	1999	
Parris	John	Henry	1922	22-Jul-1947	
Pattillo	Ben		28 DEC 1887	18-Jun-1958	
Pattillo	Ethel	Green	11 AUG 1891	4-Feb-1985	
Pattillo	Lloyd		1923	1927	
Pattillo	Vinnie	V.	1928	1928	
Pattillo	Virginia		1-Oct-1918		
Phillips	Frank, Sr.		30-Oct-1928	17-Apr-2000	US ARMY KOREA
Phillips	Paulette		1950	2001	
Phillips	Tracey	Lapaker	17-Jun-1974	20-Jun-1974	
Poe	Havis				
Poe	Ruby		29-Jun-1987		
Rainey	Theodore	Marie	24-Mar-1951	5-May-1999	US ARMY WWII
Randall	Theodore		17-Dec-1912	27-Jan-2000	
Ricks	Marcheana		28-Jun-2001	28-Jun-2001	
Ricks	Shareanna		28-Jun-2001	28-Jun-2001	
Roberson	Hersel, Rev.	"Bojack"	11-Jan-1933	19-Jan-2001	
Robinson	Latonia	Brandon Stevenson	12 NOV 1897	5-Jan-1971	
Sloan	Johnnie		08 AUG XXXX	4-Jun-1947	
Sloane	Bobbie L.	Brandon	1-Mar-1917	29-Nov-1997	wife of Henry Sloane
Sloane	Henry	"Duke"	12-Sep-1900	24-Apr-1993	
Smith	Andrew		1897	1955	
Smith	Birda	S.	1898	1883	
Smith	D'Mitre	Marquise		23-May-1995	
Smith	Doris	G.	9 MAY XXXX	20-Dec-1933	
Smith	E.	J.	20 AUG 1870		
Smith	Edna	Walker	6-Dec-1906	11-May-1979	
Smith	Elsie		1904	1953	
Smith	Ethel W.	Johnson	16-Aug-1904	23-May-1993	
Smith	Girtha	Fountain	1897	1968	
Smith	Hance		06 MAY 1867	5-Nov-1953	
Smith	Isaiah		1894	27-Feb-1952	
Smith	James		1943	18-Jan-1947	
Smith	Jannie	Mae	5-Feb-1938	24-Dec-1997	59Y 10M 19D
Smith	Jessie	Pete	6-Jul-1904	15-Aug-1988	
Smith	Judge		28-Mar-1909	17-Apr-2001	
Smith	Kate		1872	18-Jan-1958	
Smith	Latie		29 APR 1876	10-Apr-1956	
Smith	Margaret	E.	1937	1973	



59Y 10M 19D



FREEDMAN'S BANK VS FREEDMEN'S BUREAU

So which is it? The Freedman's Bank, The Freedmen's Bureau, The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, or The Freedman's Savings and Trust Company?

These terms are used interchangeably, unfortunately, and even experienced genealogists often mistake one for the other. So here it is, answers to most, if not all, of your questions regarding all those Freedman terms.

• Which one is The Freedman's Bank?

The official name is The Freedman's Savings and Trust Company, but this institution is often referred to as simply "The Freedman's Bank."

• Which one is The Freedmen's Bureau?

The official term is The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, but this entity is often referred to as simply "The Freedmen's Bureau."

• How come one is spelled with an "E" (Freedmen) and one is spelled with an "A" (Freedman)?

Not quite sure about that one. Both entities were established on the same day (March 3, 1865), but the Freedmen's Bureau was commissioned as a subsidiary of the War Department, and the Freedman's Bank as a private institution.

• What did the Freedman's Bank do?

The Freedman's Bank was chartered by Congress for the benefit of ex-slaves. Many black soldiers were receiving back pay and bounty payments for their service in the Civil War and had no safe place to deposit their money. With little experience in financial matters or in managing their own affairs, many of these soldiers were either squandering their pay or were being victimized by swindlers. Thus the bank was established not only to provide a secure place for the soldiers but also to encourage the greater African American community to begin to save their earnings. Independent black banks had already been established in

various Southern states (i.e. the Military Savings Bank at Beaufort, SC, and the Free Labor Bank in Louisiana) and once the Freedman's Bank was chartered in 1865, the assets of these independent black banks were transferred to the Freedman's Bank, which was then headquartered in New York City.

Between 1865 and 1871 the Freedman's Bank opened 37 branches in 17 states and had bank deposits totalling more than \$57 million. The original bank charter stated that "no loans would be made," and that "all the assets of the Bank were owned by the depositors in proportion to the deposits of each." Too bad it didn't stay like that, though.

In 1870 the Bank's charter was amended with regard to its investment and loan policies and on June 29, 1874, due to problems of mismanagement, overexpansion, abuse and outright fraud, the Bank closed.

This closure devastated the black community where tens of thousands of depositors who had entrusted their hard-earned money into the Bank, where their assets had no federal protection. Eventually about half of the depositors received about three-fifths of the value of their accounts, while others received nothing. Some depositors and their descendants spent more than 30 years petitioning Congress for reimbursement of their losses.

• That's a really sad story, but why is the Freedman's Bank significant to my research?

Well, grasshopper, it's simple, really. If your ancestor lived in or near one of those 37 branches, there's a very good chance that there are extant records that may provide a tremendous amount of genealogical information. The **signature cards** used when the accounts were first opened contain

personal data such as names and ages of depositors, places of birth, residence, occupation, names of parents, spouses, children, siblings, names of former slave owners, etc. A gold mine of information for some. It just depends, but it's a database worth searching.

• Where were those 37 branches?

ALABAMA: Huntsville, Mobile

ARKANSAS: Little Rock

DISTRICT of COLUMBIA: Washington

FLORIDA: Jacksonville, Tallahassee

GEORGIA: Atlanta, Augusta, Savannah

KENTUCKY: Lexington, Louisville

LOUISIANA: New Orleans, Shreveport

MARYLAND: Baltimore

NEW YORK: New York City

NORTH CAROLINA: New Bern, Raleigh, Wilmington

MISSISSIPPI: Columbia, Natchez, Vicksburg

MISSOURI: St. Louis

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia

SOUTH CAROLINA: Beaufort, Barnwell, Charleston

TENNESSEE: Chattanooga, Columbia, Memphis, Nashville

TEXAS: Houston

VIRGINIA: Lynchburg, Norfolk, Richmond

(That's only 34 branches. I don't know where the others were located. Sorry)

• How can I get access to these records?

These signature cards are included in the *Registers of Signatures of Depositors, 1865-1874*, and are available on microfilm at the National Archives (NARA), or on CD. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) released a comprehensive CD in 2001 that contains a searchable database of



all of the surviving records. Be aware that not all records from all branches survived. You can find a copy of the **Freedman's Bank Records** CD at your local Family History Library (FHL) or you can purchase one from them for \$6.50 (www.familysearch.org). This CD only works on PCs (no Macintosh version). The CD uses "Family Explorer" software, an interface which has a very DOS look and feel and in my opinion is not very user-friendly to navigate, but the information is there and serves as a secondary source of information.

Once you find your loved one's information, you should go to the NARA to view the actual microfilmed record, which will function as a primary source of information. Okay?

• Tell me about the Freedmen's Bureau?

The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands was created to address all matters concerning refugees and freedmen within the states that were under reconstruction. In the beginning, the Freedmen's Bureau sold and rented lands in the South that had been confiscated during the Civil War, but President Andrew Johnson undermined this effort and returned all lands to the pre-Civil War owners in 1866. After that point, former slaves lost access to lands and the Bureau lost its primary source of funding.

The Freedmen's Bureau helped the black community by helping to establish schools (i.e. Howard University in 1867), it monitored civil authorities in cases that involved blacks, it acted on the behalf of blacks to negotiate fair contracts for labor and property, it acted as a clearinghouse of information to aide blacks in finding lost relatives, and it assisted black soldiers and sailors in getting back pensions.

Freedmen were not allowed to testify against whites in courts of law all over the country, including some Northern states, and coupled with the fact that violence against freedmen was increasing considerably in the Southern states (freedmen were murdered, their churches and schools were burned, and

two riots in 1866 in Memphis and New Orleans demonstrated to the world the Southern hatred for freemen), so for a while, the Freedmen's Bureau conducted its own court of law where it was illegal for blacks to testify. The Bureau closed in 1872.

• What records exist from the Freedmen's Bureau?

Letters, registers of letters, registers of complaints, labor contracts, transportation documents, contracts of indentures, marriage records (the Bureau would document cohabitation while registering the marriage), etc.

The good news is that the National Archives has been filming these records since 2001 and these films are available NOW at some of the NARA field offices. The records are being filmed alphabetically by state and to date, the following records are available:

- Microfilm ID M742* (7 rolls)
Selected letters of the Commissioner
- M752* (74 rolls)
Registry of letters of the Commissioner
- M1483 (10 rolls)
New Orleans Field Office Records
- M1869* (15 rolls)
Florida Field Office Records
- M1875* (5 rolls)
Marriage Records LA, MS and TN
- M1900 (34 rolls)
Alabama Field Office Records
- M1901 (23 rolls)
Arkansas Field Office Records
- M1902 (21 rolls)
D.C. Field Office Records

Georgia Field Office Records are currently being filmed.

* Films that reside in the NARA Regional facility in San Bruno, CA

When will the rest of the records be available?

Due to the Preservation Act of 2000, the

National Archives received a grant of \$3 million with which to complete the microfilming of the rest of the records, a process that should take five years. As a part of the Preservation Act, the NARA has purchased state-of-the-art microfilm cameras, so the images are far better than prior images, and they have hired a conservator to ensure that the project stays on target and no images are missed.

Additionally, a private foundation granted them \$9,000 which will help fund the creation of a mass index of ALL the records, making the searching of information even easier. The NARA is hoping to work with Howard University to create the index.

But it gets better!! These microfilms are available for rental through the Microfilm Rental Program.

• Tell me about the Microfilm Rental Program?

Fees are based on the number of rolls you rent at one time:

RENTAL FEE	
1-4 rolls	\$3.50 each
5-9 rolls	\$3.00 each
10 + rolls	\$2.50 each

SHIPPING COSTS	
1-9 rolls	\$4.00 per order
10-24 rolls	\$7.00 per order
25 + rolls	\$10.00 per order

You can use the film 30 days and return by mail. If you need to keep it longer, you must notify the NARA and pay \$3.25 per roll for an additional 30-day period.

For more info, call (301) 604-3699 or visit their website: www.archives.gov

Are there websites that I can visit for additional information?

www.freedmensbureau.com
www.archives.gov

Many thanks to the NARA's Reginald Washington for background information on the Freedmen's Bureau and 2000 Preservation Act project.



MARRIAGES OF PEOPLE OF COLOR DE WITT COUNTY, TX • 1847-1883

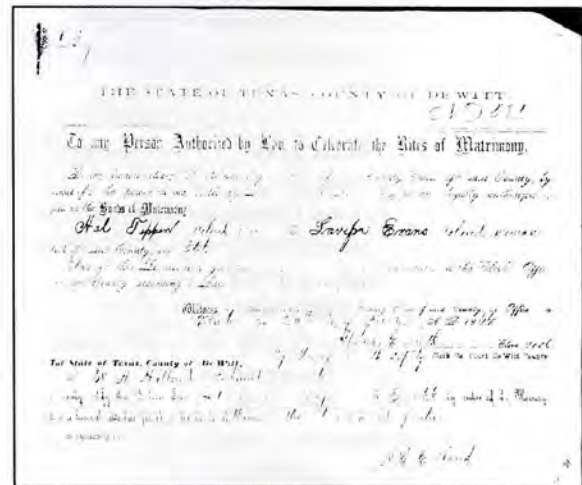


While researching her own family's history, Barbara Shepherd Dunn decided to extract all of the marriages of free people of color from the counties of De Witt, Gonzales, and Lavaca, TX. Ms. Dunn realized that the names of the witnesses were as important as the names of the brides and grooms and rather than going back over the microfilm again and again, it made more sense for her to extract ALL of the information for the licenses of black folks and keep them for future reference. She has extracted over 1,000 records and is considering writing the local history of the area, in concert with a local Texas historian. Her family comes from TX, GA, and LA and she has been researching her genealogy for over thirty years.

Ms. Dunn may be reached at: bshepdunn@aol.com

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the seventh and last installment of Barbara Shepherd Dunn's transcription of the De Witt County, TX marriages of people of color. Rather than publishing the rest of the transcription in our Journal over the next few issues, we have decided to publish her entire work in a pamphlet that will be available for sale on our website (www.aagsnc.org).

Bride	License	Page	Groom
Gifford, Annette	2060	348	Sam Houston
Glass, Fannie	1800	261	Mack Brown
Gold, Elizie	1219	71	Caldwell Sanders
Grant, Jennie	1967	317	Henry Tippin
Green, Patsy	1283	92	Andres Jackson
Groom			
Galoway, Cornelius	526	144	Catherins Edmon
Garrett, Henry	1581	194	Margaret Morgan
Gilham, Harry	893	327	Ailsie Chamblin
Glover, Wilson	1196	63	Jane Welton
Goodson, Steven	1485	161	Caroline Earls
Grant, Charley	777	270	Jenny Jackson
Grant, Squire	603	182	Jane Tippin
Gray, Morris	1164	53	Lizzie Smith
Green, Henry	1923	302	Matilda Hollan
Green, Isam	1227	74	Isabella Lewis
Green, John	818	289	Lucinda Nance
Green, Manuel	541	151	Mahaley Coppidge
Green, William	1424	141	Ella Edward
Griffin, Thornton	1793	260	Vickey Langam



Marriage license from De Witt County, TX, for "Hal Tippin, colored man and Lavipa Evans, colored woman." This marriage license was issued June 20th, 1866 and signed by Thomas Smith, clerk. Their marriage took place the following day and was officiated by W. H. Holland, ordained minister.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: IRA LOTT



Ira Lott is a native of Austin, TX, where he attended secondary school and college, graduating from the University of Texas with a Bachelor's degree in Architecture. He retired from civil service five years ago and spent two years traveling in Southern Africa. He is now a volunteer in the San Antonio Central

Library Texana/Genealogy Department. An active member of the African American Genealogical and Historical Society - San Antonio (AAGHS), he has served in numerous leadership positions, and is presently President of the organization.

Ira has been researching his family history for 30 years. His first inspiration was a short history written by his uncle about the community of Cologne, TX, a settlement founded by former slaves after emancipation, where his father was born and raised. Studying the history, he realized that his uncle, who wrote from memory without the help of computers or easy access to primary documents, had, in fact, put together the only recorded document of the social life of black people who lived

in Goliad county just after slavery. The memoir was published by Texas Southern University Press in 1972. It became and remains the source of much of the research work that Ira has done regarding his father's people.

Ira is also interested in the story of settlement communities of ex-slaves in Texas and Mexico. He enjoys listening to and recording the stories and oral history of the elderly Texans, having discovered in his own research how important these are. With assistance from descendants of former slave holders and elders on both sides of his family, Ira continues the work of researching his ancestral lineage. Recently discovered information has led him to investigate a possible Seminole native American blood line and history of the Underground Railroad activity from Texas to Mexico. He realizes how difficult this will be since there doesn't seem to have been an organized abolitionist movement to aid runaway slaves in the Southwest. However, he feels that the challenge of piecing together information that does exist is important if any of us are to know who we are as individuals and as a people.

Mr. Lott may be reached at: iralott73@hotmail.com

Tracing Black Ancestry is Rewarding, Not Easy

By Karisa King, San Antonio Express-News, 2/9/03

A great-great-grandmother was raped by her white slave master. A great-great-aunt was enslaved and brought from Alabama to Texas. A great-great-grandfather married an American Indian from Louisiana. These were among the forgotten stories that drew a small group to the Central Library on Saturday for an informal workshop on tracing black ancestry. A generation ago some believed that the lost histories of black families were things best left forgotten. On Saturday, for those who assembled at the workshop with only snippets of their families' past lives, finding and remembering those roots was a point of pride.

"In my mother's generation, that was something we didn't talk about – something you didn't want anything to do with," said **Ira Lott**, a volunteer at the library's genealogy section who led the workshop by giving tips on how to negotiate the difficulties of tracing black family histories. Fragmented by slavery and excluded from the public records,

the ancestry of African Americans can be among the most difficult to investigate, he warned.

"It's not going to be laid out in an easy way," Lott said. "There will be many, many blind alleys. But you're learning as you go." He knows from experience. Lott's greatest and most challenging investigation into his family lineage began about 15 years ago when he read a narrative of a freed slave woman who mentioned a familiar name. In the woman's account, she talked about a relative named Martha Patton, who was a slave brought from Alabama to Goliad, where Lott knew some of his ancestors had lived. Ever since, he has sought to fill in the blank spaces in the sparse public records of Patton, who was the daughter of a white slave master in Goliad and who turned out to be his great-great-aunt.

Lott's search has led him to quiet Texas towns, overgrown cemeteries and the homes of strangers. Although public libraries provide rich troves of census

lists, voting records and newspaper clips, he urged the group to turn first to human sources and family memorabilia. "For African Americans in particular, those kinds of things that are in shoeboxes and scrapbooks – those are the core of what you may be gathering," he said. "You can go to libraries and public documents, but the heart of who we really are is in that type of interaction."

Lott's account offered inspiration for the five souls who attended the workshop. Vivial Little, 43, brought her daughter to the seminar, said she came because she fears her family history is fading. "The only people alive are my mother and my father," she said. "I always wanted to do it but I never knew where to start." Lott said his research has taught him that the history of black Americans is interwoven with Anglo families. "White Americans are realizing that their stories are integrally related to ours."



1930 EAST BAY COLORED BUSINESS DIRECTORY

OAKLAND, CA ... TRANSCRIBED BY LISA B. LEE

Published by W.J.D.Thompson and Kelly Williams, this directory contains local black businesses, ministers, and individuals in the East Bay cities of Oakland, Berkeley, and Richmond, California. We published those businesses from A-L in the Winter 2002 edition of *From the Baobab Tree* and here provide you with the rest of the listings.

Surname	First	Company	Address	Phone
Maples	F.A.	Real Estate	1505 Ashby Ave.	BERkeley 8633
Martin		Express	1272 - 7th St.	HIghgate 3720
Martin	G. C.	Real Estate	810 - 27th St.	OAKland 0053
Marsh	Mrs. Vivian O.	Secty, Women's Fed. Clubs, No. Cal.	2838 Grant St.	BERkeley 9195
Matthews	L. C.	Plumber	2843 McGee Ave.	THornwall 5088
Matthews	Mrs. R.	Dressmaker	3031 Dohr St.	BERkeley 2170
Maurice	Jay	Attorney	517-1/2 Wood St.	OAKland 0590
Maxwell	Mrs. Beulah	Pres. I. Art Club	893 - 38th St.	HUMboldt 2127
Mayse	Andrew	Barber	3009 Sacramento St.	BERkeley 4450
McCall		Barber	741 Center St.	LAKeside 8491
McFarlin	O. H.	Novelty and Newsdealer	1658 - 7th St.	LAKeside 4349
McFarland	W.	Organizer DCCAWU	1767 - 7th St.	HOLLiday 9997
Middlebrooks	E. L.	Grocer	733 Center St.	LAKeside 8491
Mitchell	E. E.	Moving	1721 - 7th St.	LAKeside 1888
Montgomery	W. M.	Pharmacist	2987 Sacramento St.	BERkeley 5650
Moody	J. B.	Real Estate	3611 San Pablo	PIEdmont 6257
Moore	Mrs. Isabel	Pres. Oakland Young M. C. Club	992 - 35th St.	PIEdmont 1647
Moore	Jas. E.	Minister	2921 Acton St.	BERkeley 8992
Moore	Matilda	Dressmaker	1029 Wood St.	LAKeside 0594
Moore	S. C.	Tailor	3601 Market St.	PIEdmont 8609
Morgan	Mrs. L.	Music Teacher	3000 Ellis St.	BERkeley 6413
Muckleroy	R. L.	Cleaning and Pressing	2983 Sacramento St.	BERkeley 4247
Nelson	F. M.	Physician	1368 - 8th St.	OAKland 1276
Newman	A. O.	Dentist	700 - 21st St.	HOLLiday 6039
Northern	A. J.	Auto Mech.	547 Union St.	LAKeside 3439
Nurse	A. D.	Insurance	3850 West St.	LAKeside 6566
Orviss	V.W.	Dentist	790 - 8th St.	LAKeside 6121
Pierce	Howell	Mfg. Arch Supports	733 Myrtle St.	OAKland 4208
Pittman	Mrs. Tarea	Pres. Phyllis W. Club	2930 Grove St.	BERkeley 5992
Palmer	O. F.	Real Estate	529 Chester St.	LAKeside 5179
Pankey	Mrs. Elmer J.	Music	1676A - 7th St.	LAKeside 0684
Purnell	W.W.	Physician	810 - 27th St.	LAKeside 4334
Porter	Miss. LaVergne	Music Teacher	934 - 28th St.	LAKeside 1896
Purnell	Lee	Elec. Eng.	1600 Woolsey St.	BERkeley 2163
Ramey		Photographer	1370 - 8th St.	OAKland 1276
Ramirez	Mrs. M.	Pres. E. P. Club	1926 - 83rd Ave.	PIEdmont 0986
Razdell	Mrs. Lottie	Cosmetician	3312 Market St.	PIEdmont 0986
Richardson	H. L.	Attorney	1722 -1/2 - 7th St.	LAKeside 5998
Richey	Gus	Cleaning & Dyeing	1753 - 7th St.	LAKeside 9173
Rickmond	A. E.	Physician	3004 Market St.	LAKeside 7467
Ridgeway	P.W.	Real Estate	721 West St.	LAKeside 2832
Rivers	E. R.	Plasterer	973 - 10th St.	LAKeside 3119
Rose	Wm.	News Dealer	326 - 14th St.	LAKeside 1481
Ross	J. R.	Junk	2030 Chestnut St.	LAKeside 8713
Ruffin	Mrs. O. M.	Welfare League	321 Thayer Bldg.	

Santico	Em. J.	Radios	1506A - 7th St.	Lakeside 2787
Saunders	Mme	Cosmetician	711 Center St.	
Scott	T. D.	Minister	823 - 15th St.	Lakeside 4176
Seals	L. E.	Moving	552 Chester St.	Lakeside 4455
Sephus	Mrs. S. D.	Art	1442 - 10th St.	Highgate 1658
Sexias	J. G.	Musician	3011 Dohn St.	THornwall 5027
Shelton	B.	Clothes Cleaners	1777 - 7th St.	Lakeside 1733
Shevenry	J. S.	Cleaning and Pressing	1655 - 7th St.	HOLLiday 8659
Sims	Mrs. B. C.	Music Teacher	1532 - 12th Ave.	FRuitvale 2850
Simpson	H. B.	Jeweler	1137 - 7th St.	
Sims	Sylvester	Restaurant	1719 - 7th St.	HOLLiday 9687
Sledge	Mrs. L.	Pres. A & I Club	2320 - E. 23rd St.	FRuitvale 3058
Sledge	Lawrence	Attorney	1027 Broadway	GLencourt 5625
Smith	A. M.	Real Estate	820 - 19th St.	Lakeside 1397
Smith	Leroy	Insurance	790 - 8th St.	Lakeside 6566
Stubblefield	Mrs. M. J.	Rooms	1473 - 8th St.	OAKland 3748
Tappan	Mrs. M.	Secty. E. P. Club	1011 - 85th Ave	
Taylor	C. E.	Elec. Eng.	2605 Market St.	Lakeside 4307
Taylor	E.	Carpenter and Contractor	968 - 61st St.	Olympic 6815
Taylor	W. J.	Painter	713 - 35th St.	HUMboldt 7247
Tate	M. R.	Barber	2985 Sacramento St.	BERkeley 4669
Terry	Mrs. S.	Hairdresser	1421 - 67th St.	THornwall 2736
Thomas	Mrs. A.	Hotel	1693 - 7th St.	
Thomas	Henry	Barber	701-1/2 Broadway	Olympic 6178
Thompson	W. J. D.	Confectionery	1530 - 7th St.	Lakeside 8333
Tilghman	Chas.	Printer		THornwall 3643
Tilghman	Mrs. H. B.	Secty. E. J. Coppin Club	1654 Ashby Ave.	BERkeley 2968
Troy	Owen A.	Minister	2790 Grant St.	BERkeley 9080J
Turner	Myrtle C.	Cosmetician	3228 Adeline St.	HUMboldt 9031
Vassel	D. E.	Furniture	747 - 7th St.	Lakeside 10458
Wall	Mrs. Fannie	Fannie Wall Home	815 Linden St.	HOLLiday 6093
Wallace	D. R.	Minister	604 - 27th St.	Lakeside 5076
Ward	A. M.	Minister	907 Linden St.	Hlgate 1639
Ward	Mrs. Lydia S.	Secty. M. C. Terrell Club	907 Linden St.	Highgate 1639
Washington	E. C.	Cleaner	1564 - 8th St.	Lakeside 2424
Watkins	W. E.	Attorney	683 - 35th St.	HUMboldt 6329
Watkins	William E.	Secty. YMCA	804 Filbert St.	Lakeside 3096
West	Ellis	Real Estate	1219 Carrison St.	BERkeley 6960
Whitten	M. B.	Real Estate	822 - 36th	Piedmont 4499
Wilkerson	Mrs. Lillie	Secty. A & I Club	883 - 37th St.	Piedmong 8291
Williams	Kelly	Pub. Directory	547 - 33rd St.	HUMboldt 3627
Williams	R. L.	Director PPBAA	404 Willow St.	Lakeside 1758
Williams	R. C.	Barber	1733 - 7th St.	
Williams	Mrs. Virginia	Midge Studio	3028 Harper St.	THornwall 7083
Wilson	Mrs. E. G.	Music Teacher	1128 - 8th St.	Lakeside 2559
Wilson	J.	Contractor	921 - 5th St.	OAKland 6994
Wilson	Mrs. M.A.	Cosmetician	1028 - 36th St.	HUMboldt 7322
Winfield	Presley S.	Real Estate	529 Chester St.	OAKland 5038
Woods	W.	Pres. UNIA	1838 Goss St.	Hlgate 2325
Woods	W. E.	Plasterer	2156 Lincoln Ave.	ALameda 5241J
Wright	Frank	Barber	524 Campbell St.	HOLLiday 9572
Wyands		Tailor	2069 Allston Way	BERkeley 6024
York	Mrs. B.	Cosmetics	1530 Russell St.	BERkeley 6960
Young	Frank	Paperhanging and Plastering	1308 - 8th St.	Lakeside 5763



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OBJECTIVES of the African American Genealogical Society of Northern California:

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

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MEETINGS

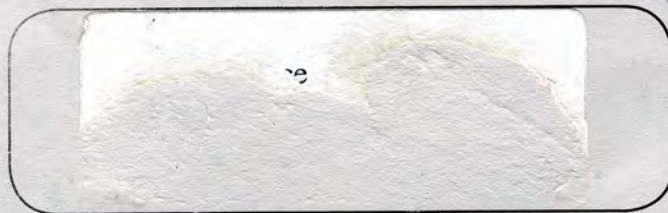
Meetings are held the third Saturday of every month, at 1:30 pm, at the Oakland Public Library, Dimond branch, located at 3565 Fruitvale Ave, Oakland, Ca. There are no meetings during the Summer hiatus (July and August). Guests and visitors are always welcome to attend these open meetings. From 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm, following the general meeting, we provide one-on-one genealogical training and assistance to members only.

JOURNAL

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- Correspondence on editorial matters, submission requests, or permission to reprint articles may be obtained at no cost by written request to the editor (newsletter@aagsnc.org).

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