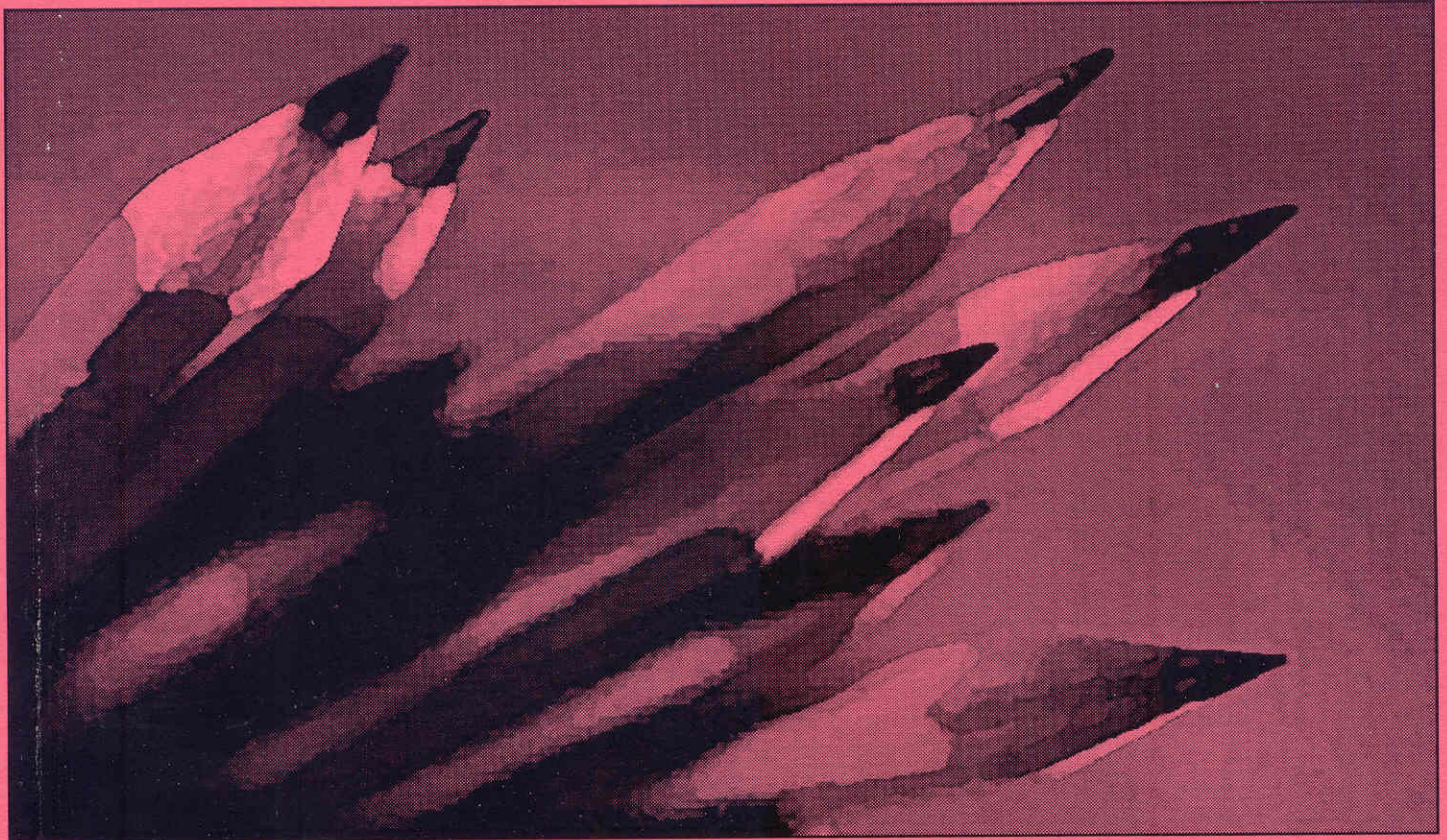




# The BAOBAB TREE

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



## ANNUAL REPORT

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**Ballot included!  
New Bylaws need  
to be approved.  
See Insert**



## Editor's Page: Time for Change



The beginning of a new year is always a good time to make changes. It is a chance to let go of things that do not work and resolve to try new things

that will work. The new year presents an opportunity for the AAGSNC to make two major changes. One deals with the way the organization is managed and the other with how the board will communicate with its members and the public.

In the past, there has been some concern with how the organization is managed. The board of directors of the African American Genealogical Society of Northern California spent several months during 2004 reviewing its policies, procedures, and practices. Several were found to be cumbersome and inefficient. Several modifications were made so the organization could run smoother. Other changes were adopted to it make it easier to raise funds and to apply for grants. These changes required the approval of the general membership at our Annual Meeting on January 15, 2005.

However, before the vote can be taken, the electors need to know what they are voting on. It would be unfair to present the items unannounced at a meeting and not have all the members present. The membership needs to have time to read and evaluate the proposed changes. Concerned members also need to have time to obtain clarification of items that they find unclear. It was decided to publish a special issue of *The Baobab* to inform the members of these changes and to give those who will

not be able to attend an opportunity to vote on the new bylaws. At your leisure, please take time to read over the following articles. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at [journal@aagsnc.net](mailto:journal@aagsnc.net) before January 15, 2005.

The board wants as large a member participation as possible. Those who are able to attend the January meeting at the Diamond Library in Oakland will vote at that time. Those members who will not be able to attend are encouraged to send in the enclosed ballot. Mailed ballots should be postmarked no later than midnight on January 12th.

The second change deals with communication. The board has hired a new webmaster and has been working with her to redesign the website. Over the next few months the look of the website will change, dramatically. Several obsolete pages and links will be eliminated and new ones added. It is hoped that the website will become more efficient and easy to use. One new feature of the website will be the on-line publication of the Surname Directory.

Until a few years ago, members had no way of knowing which members were working on the same surname nor the location of their searches. During the meeting, an opportunity was given to each member present to describe his or her research. Those who did not attend often had no idea that "a long lost cousin" was also a member of the group. Several years ago, the former editor began publishing a yearly list of all the members and the surnames they were working on in a supplement to *The Baobab*. The compilation of this list was very time consuming, not to mention

costly. Members mentioned that they were grateful for the list. However, an informal survey showed that most members just quickly glanced through the surname booklet and never opened it again.

The Surname Directory is a separated issue of the journal. The booklet requires the volunteer editor to put in more time than is needed to compile than a regular issue. The directory also cost the AAGSNC about \$1000 to print and mail the booklet to all of our members.

Learning of the limited use of the printed Surname Directory and the cost of its publication caused the board to seek alternatives. By having the Surname Directory published on-line not only would it be cheaper, but more efficient. Instead of a one-a-year publication, the surnames list would be updated monthly. Access to the list would be available to members and the general public.

The New Year is an exciting time for the African American Genealogical Society of Northern California. We are not only looking towards making more discoveries about the past but also discovering ways to make the organization's future brighter.

*Loretta Henry,*  
Editor

PS: Recently I wished one of my neighbors "Happy New Year!" and his response was "I don't wish anyone a Happy New Year, I wish them a Happy Life." I thought about what he said and I think he is correct. On behalf of the AAGSNC, not only will I wish you a "Happy New Year!" but also more importantly a "Happy, wonderful Life."

Join, renew or give an AAGSNC gift membership today!

Do it online at [www.aagsnc.org](http://www.aagsnc.org)

We accept PayPal, American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa.



# AAGSNC Bulletin Board

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

AAGSNC meetings are held on the **third Saturday** of the month at the Dimond Branch of the Oakland Public Library at 3565 Fruitvale Avenue in Oakland, CA. A Beginning Genealogy workshop, open to all AAGSNC members, begins at noon. The regular general membership meeting begins at 1:30 pm. Executive Board meetings are held directly after the general membership meetings. Members and guests are always welcome to attend.

### • January 15th

#### **Annual Business Meeting and DNA Testing**

The annual business meeting will take place. Members will vote on changing our bylaws. Following that, we will view two short movies on the topic of genetic testing and what it means to genealogists, followed by a panel of members who have had their DNA tested and will share their experiences.

### • February 26th

#### **“Rooted in History”**

#### **Family History Conference**

In lieu of the monthly meeting, members and guests are invited to attend this AAGSNC sponsored event which will be held at the San Francisco Presidio Golden Gate Club from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm. Guest speaker will be Dr. Tukufu Zuberi, host of the hit PBS show, *History Detectives*.

## AFRICAN AMERICAN HEALTH SUMMIT

Kaiser Permanente presents the 2nd *Bay Area African American Health Summit* will be held the weekend of January 28-29, 2005 at the Oakland Marriot City Center Convention Center, 1001 Broadway from 8:00 am – 5:30 pm.

On Saturday, the Bay Area’s largest FREE public nutrition and exercise health fair for African Americans will be offered. The organizers expect over 5,000 to attend and to participate in aerobic classes, healthy cooking demonstrations, yoga

and meditation instruction, fitness games, free food samples, rock climbing, health education classes, health screenings and more healthy activities.

The AAGSNC will have a booth at the *Health Summit* and we’re very pleased to participate because there is a direct tie-in for our society. Health care professionals have known for a long time that common disease — heart disease, cancer and diabetes, and even rare diseases like hemophilia, cystic fibrosis and sickle cell anemia — can run in families. If one generation of a family has high blood pressure, it is not unusual for the next generation to have high blood pressure. Tracing the illnesses suffered by your parents, grandparents and other blood relatives can help your doctor predict the disorders to which you may be at risk and take action to keep you healthy.

To help focus attention on the importance of family health history, U.S. Surgeon General Richard H. Carmona, M.D., M.P.H., in cooperation with other agencies within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has launched a national public health campaign, called the **U.S. Surgeon General’s Family History Initiative**, to encourage all American families to learn more about their family health history. Thanksgiving 2004 was declared to be the first annual National Family History Day. Whenever families gather, the Surgeon General encourages them to talk about, and to write down, the health problems that seem to run in their family. Learning about their family’s health history may help ensure a longer future together.

Because family history is such a powerful screening tool, the Surgeon General created a new tool called “My Family Health Portrait” that can be download from the Internet. This tool will help you organize your family tree and identify common diseases that run in your family. We will be handling out this tool as a brochure at the Health Summit. to find the interactive version go to [www.hhs.gov/familyhistory/](http://www.hhs.gov/familyhistory/).

We encourage everyone to attend.

## RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

The AAGSNC is offering research assistance to aid interested persons in completing their genealogical research.

### • **Mentor Program**

All AAGSNC members living in northern California may request a free mentor—an experience AAGSNC researcher who can help him/her to understand genealogy fundamentals and to develop a research plan. The volunteer mentor will help you to begin, explain how to use libraries, archives and online resources.

### • **Limited Assistance**

A number of qualified AAGSNC members are available to assist you in more intermediate research areas. They will help you develop a research plan and will do some of the research for you. The cost is \$30.00/hour and is available to the public.

### • **Complete Research**

Several of our members have had many years of experience and fully comply with the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) Code of Ethics and are willing to do the research for you. The cost is \$40.00/hour and is available to the public.

## JOURNAL SUBMISSION POLICY

*The Baobab Tree* is a publication of the AAGSNC. It accepts articles and manuscripts focusing on African ancestor genealogy, history, and culture; subjects in the field of genealogy; documents dealing with African ancestor families (ancestry charts, family group sheets, personal family papers); other related African ancestor research and notices of up-coming events and conference. All submitted materials will be evaluated for accuracy and may be edited for clarity and grammar by the Editorial Board. Both original and previously published words may be submitted. Author(s) will retain copyright and other publishing rights. Submit materials by email to: [journal@aagsnc.org](mailto:journal@aagsnc.org).



# Hey! They Stole My Work!

- by Loretta Henry, Editor

A few months ago one of the message boards I use had a lengthy discussion about copyright. Several people stated that the internet is public domain and any information published on it could be used by anyone else. Others wrote that no one had the right to use another person's work without permission. The discussion went on and on. Family members were ready to come to blows because an uncle/cousin/brother/sister had taken the author's work from the author's web site and posted it on another web site as the uncle's/cousin's/brother's/sister's own. People were ready to call in the FBI and have their kinfolk put in federal prison.

It seems as though many people use the Internet as their personal research center. Most people understand that information found in books is protected by copyright and would never think of copying the materials. But these same people find nothing wrong when using material found on-line.

Genealogists are not doing the work to become rich or famous. We want to share our findings with the others and we want recognition for our efforts. We don't want others to use our materials without giving us credit. Discovering our hard work on another site makes us want to circle the wagons and protect our histories.

Before a genealogist writes their family history, displays a photograph or publishes a compiled genealogy on the Internet, he or she must be aware of copyright law. You should know what is protected by copyright and what is not protected. You should be aware of how your work is protected and what you can do if you find someone has taken the story that you worked for decades to research and claimed it as his or her work.

The copyright laws of the United States (Title 17, U. S. Code) provide protection to the creators of original works of authorship, including literary, dramatic, musical artistic, and other intellectual works. This protection covers both published and unpublished works.

Wait a minute! I am a teacher. The last thing I wanted was for a high school student to turn in my work as his or her term paper. And if someone was going to use my work for a book, I wanted my share of the royalties. Lucky for me I understood copyright and was able to put the fear of God into them.

#### It covers:

- The reproduction of the original work.
- Derivative works based on the original.
- The distribution of copies of the original.
- Public performances and public displays of the work

#### Who Can Claim Copyright:

- Copyright protection begins the moment a work is created in a fixed form. In other words as soon as the work is written, painted or made it is protected.
- An idea cannot be copyrighted. Several people in a group may have the same idea for making a blue quilt with red flowers and purple trim, but only the one who actually makes the quilt can claim copyright.
- If an item was created as part of your job then the copyright belongs to the employer. If the work has more than one creator or author then all are co-owners of the copyright.
- The owner of the item does not own the copyright only the author; painter or creator of the work can own the copyright. •Minors may claim copyright over their schoolwork and other materials that they create.
- Unpublished works are protected by U. S. law no matter where the domicile of the author. However, works published in

other countries may also be granted U. S. copyright protection.

#### What Works are Protected?

- Literary works, including computer programs and genealogical compilations
- Musical works
- Dramatic works
- Pantomimes and choreographic works
- Pictorial, graphic, and sculptural works, including maps and plans
- Motion pictures and other audiovisual works
- Sound recordings
- And architectural works

#### What is not Protected?

- Works that are not fixed in a tangible form of expression for example a dance, speech or performances that was not notated, written down or unrecorded.
- Titles, names, short phrases, slogans; familiar symbols or designs, typographic ornamentation, lettering or coloring, lists or ingredients or contents.
- Ideas, procedures, methods, systems, processes, concepts, principles, discoveries, or devices.
- Works consisting entirely of information that is common property, for example, standard calendars, height and weight charts,

#### How long does Copyright protection lasts?

Works created on or after January 1, 1978 are automatically protected from the moment of creation and the copyright endures throughout the author's life plus 70 years following the author's death. As of March 1, 1989, under United States law, all works existing in an tangible fixed medium of expression such as a letter, a book or a website are protected even without the copyright © notice

#### How does This Effect genealogists?

First you must remember that facts cannot be copyrighted. The fact that Great Aunt Esther died on the 6th of June in 1899 cannot be copyrighted. It is part of the general knowledge and exists in public records. What can be copyrighted is your presentation of the facts. Someone could

#### What is copyright?

write the facts about her death, but they cannot copy word for word the paragraph you wrote describing her death in the 99th edition of your family history.

Many people feel that anything published on the Internet is public domain unless there is a copyright notice. This myth has led many people to download music onto their home computer thinking the songs were part of the public domain. However, record companies are taking college students and grandmothers to court for copyright violation.

The discussion that took place on my message board came about because several genealogists had published photos and text about their families on their own websites. To their horror, they noticed that the materials were being displayed on other sites under the names of other individuals with no mention of the original author or original website.

I had a similar situation when I wrote the family history several years ago. My relatives were so excited. Several commented that their children would use the materials to write history papers for school. Someone else was interested in writing a book about the family and was so glad that I had done the research because they did not have the time and resources to collect the materials. Wait a minute! I am a teacher. The last thing I wanted was for a high school student to turn in my work as his or her term paper. And if someone was going to use my work for a book, I wanted my share of the royalties. Lucky for me I understood copyright and was able to put the fear of God into them.

While you don't need to put the fear of God in all living creatures, you do need to know how to protect yourself.

Depending on how you wish to use the

material, it may be wise to contact a copyright lawyer, the publisher, or the Internet provider concerning copyright rules and policies and your rights.

Obtaining a formal copyright may be a long and expensive process. Even if you are unable to afford professional services you can do the following: Include a copyright notice on each web page. A copyright sign will often keep the materials from being used without permission.

Keep good up-to-date records. If the case goes to court, the more evidence you have to support your claim the better of your chance of success.

Send a copy of the materials to yourself. Take the material to the post office and have the clerk stamp the date on the top of the first page of each chapter. Place all the materials inside an envelope, seal it and place the proper postage on the front. Address the envelope to yourself. Put a note in the lower left corner as to the contents. Put the package in the mailbox. When you receive the package do not open it. If someone violates the copyright, and you need to go to court, take the package with you. Only let the judge open the package. The judge will compare the items and will use the postmark to determine which material was created first.

Genealogists are encouraged to print their sources along with their materials. Unless you are sure that agency receiving the data will use it properly, then you may not wish to include a detailed listing of the sources. You should send a detailed list of sources to libraries and journals but may wish to send a less detailed listing when posting to the Internet. For example: Sources used were census records, military records and vital records instead of listing 200 footnotes.

#### **If your work is violated:**

For a copyright to be considered to be violated the creator must sue for damages. Several persons may use your work without your permission, but until you take action, they have not broken the law and nothing will be done. If you find your work has been taken and used without your permission, you may do the following: Notified the individual and request that they remove the material from their site. Contact the person's Internet service provider and request that the material be removed from the site. Be prepared to provide proof of your claim.

If all else fails contact a copyright lawyer.

Remember the golden rule—do unto others, as you would have them do to you. In your own work, try to credit to each source that you use. If the material will be published commercially or online, it is a good idea to write and obtain the author's permission before publishing the materials.

Finally all decisions rest with you. It is your responsibility to understand the medium you are using. Concerns about copyright violations are less when dealing with a reputable genealogy society then posting to the Internet. One should assume that materials posted on the Internet will be "borrowed" and used without your permission. If having your materials used by others without your permission bothers you then do not post on the Internet or only post those facts that you wish to share.

For more information contact:  
The U.S. Copyright Office  
101 Independence Ave. S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20559-6000  
202-707-3000  
or <http://www.copyright.gov/>

### **A Research Tip:**

You may want to look at the records of black insurance companies for information about your ancestors. The African Insurance Company of Philadelphia was the founded in 1810 and the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company was found in 1893 in Durham, North Carolina. It is still the largest black-owned insurance company: (800) 626-1899



# President's Message: The Annual Report



The African American Genealogical Society of Northern California, Inc. was founded in 1966 and is a nonprofit organization qualifying under provisions of Section

501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. AAGSNC was incorporated in the State of California on October 28, 1998. The Society's goals are to preserve and promote the study of genealogical and historical records relating to African American ancestry.

Members have access to information and resources to aid their research. Society

membership is open to all interested researchers. Information and resources are provided through monthly membership meetings, the Society's quarterly journal, and the AAGSNC website at [www.aagsnc.org](http://www.aagsnc.org). Monthly meetings may include guest speakers, workshops, or seminars. These meetings provide an excellent opportunity to network with members and others interested in genealogical research. The journal includes tips for beginners, how-to articles, member success stories, family history information, transcription and extraction of historical documents, and other valuable research sources and information. The AAGSNC website provides a wealth of general resources for anyone with an interest in genealogy.

The detail of financial information presented herein has been prepared on a cash accounting basis. Membership dues are recorded as revenue when received, as are other categories of funds. The AAGSNC treasury's opening balance as of 1 January 2004 was \$6,383.62. Significant income categories for the year include membership dues and donations, our first ever genealogy cruise, and community outreach programs. Significant expenses for the year include community outreach programs, postage, journal expenses, and website expenses. The AAGSNC Treasury's ending balance is \$8,282.71.

*Melvyn Gillette*  
AAGSNC President

## African American Genealogical Society of Northern California Financial Summary

Period Beginning January 1, 2004 and ending December 31, 2004

Balance from December 31, 2003	6,383.62
<b>INCOME</b>	
Community Outreach Programs	1,451.80
Book & Journal Sales	442.16
Annual Fund Donations	444.00
Membership Dues	3,500.00
Other Income	455.64
Genealogy Cruise	2,565.43
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>8,859.03</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Marketing/Advertising	2,111.77
Bank Service Charges	47.14
Dues and Subscriptions	100.00
Community Outreach Programs	613.40
General Admin. Misc Exp	255.21
Journal	1,747.02
Supplies	400.82
Postage and Delivery	381.39
Printing and Reproduction	24.55
Professional Fees	100.00
Equipment Repairs	439.54
Telephone	77.70
Website	591.40
Other Expenses	70.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>6,959.94</b>
<b>Ending Balance as of December 31, 2004</b>	<b>8,282.71</b>



# Our New Bylaws



To open the year 2005, the Board of Directors of the African-American Genealogical Society of Northern California has adopted a new set of by-laws essential to the

smooth operation of our organization. During the year the board became increasingly aware that the governing document that came with the founding of the organization needed to be revised. It needed to better express the wishes of the membership in how the society was run. In addition to procedural changes, the board felt that changes in governance should be incorporated in the rewritten document to provide for a larger voice of its membership.

The overriding language and tone of the by-laws were changed to make them less general and more tailored to our organization. Specifically, the following governance changes were made:

- Because of a chronic problem of assembling a quorum, the membership of the Board of Directors was reduced from seven to five.
- A greater division was made between

the officers and the board, making the board a policy organization meeting infrequently. A formal Executive Committee composed of officers was developed. This will be an operating group meeting more frequently.

- Board membership was formerly of an indefinite duration, confirmed annually by the board. Now board members serve three-year terms, staggered so that no more than two seats will be vacant at any one time.
- Formerly the board members replaced vacancies on the board. Now board members will represent and serve at the pleasure of the membership. For consideration at the annual meeting of the membership in January, 2005, the following members will be voted by the membership :
  - Annette Madden for a 1 year term expiring 1/2006
  - Lisa B. Lee, Chairperson, for a 2 year term expiring 1/2007
  - M. Howard Edwards for a 2 year term expiring 1/2007
  - George Geder for a 3 year term expiring 1/2008
  - Thelma Elbert for a 3 year term expiring 1/2008
- A mission statement has been added.
- Objectives were updated.
- Only the board chair or two board

members can convene a special board meeting; no longer can the President call a meeting of the Board of Directors.

- The Historian and his or her list of duties were added to the list of officers (an update of the written history is also required each five years).
- Non-members formerly could serve on the board or as an officer. Now membership is required.
- Standing Committees are now specified and listed. Committee chairs are to be appointed by the President. Standing Committees are listed as:
  - Program Committee
  - Membership Committee
  - Fund Raising Committee
  - Publicity Committee
  - Journal Editor
- For signing checks, the Board Chairperson may substitute for either the absent President or the treasurer (two signatures are required).

These changes and the new by-laws were adopted at the board meeting of November 20, 2004. The complete new by-laws have been posted on the AAGSNC Yahoo Groups forum for your convenience.

*M. Howard Edwards*  
AAGSNC Vice President

## A New Year Tip: Now is a good time to update your address book.

The holidays are a wonderful time to send greetings and newsletters to friends and acquaintances that we don't see often. For many of us the only time we correspond with old friends and family is during the holidays. For a number of reasons individuals and families move during the year. Families with adult children are finding they don't need large homes any more and are moving to smaller homes which require less maintenance.

Genealogists should not throw away the envelopes containing the return addresses until they have taken time to write down the addresses in their address book. Although many people have email addresses, home and business addresses are needed

to locate individuals in the census and in other records. Those planning family reunions will want to begin saving addresses to help them create a mailing list for later use.

You may also wish to note the addresses of the genealogical society to which you belong. Knowing the addresses of county court houses, local and state historical/genealogical societies, churches and libraries will save time when planning research trips.

Resolve to develop the habit of adding new contact information to your files. Having records of both email and snail mail addresses is a valuable asset to any genealogists.



# The Bathrobe Genealogist

## Finally! ... A New Genealogy Software Option for Mac Users!

- By Lisa B. Lee

For those of us with the keen insight to have chosen the superior technology offered by Apple's Macintosh operating system, sadly, our options for genealogy software have been limited to Leister Product's *Reunion*. There are about a gazillion things I hate about *Reunion*, but rather than running a Windows emulation program so I could run a PC genealogy program (such as on my Mac, I've been stuck putting up with the many limitations *Reunion* has to offer.

But maybe not for very much longer.

**Finally ...** a new genealogy software program for Macs that takes full advantage of Apple's latest operating system, Panther (10.3), while providing an elegant and easy-to-use interface.

A German company, **OnlyMac Software**, has loaded *MacFamilyTree* with a bunch of features that all OS X (pronounced Oh-Ess-TEN, okay?) users will just love.

*MacFamilyTree* offers all you would expect from a modern genealogy application, it has been completely re-developed from scratch by using the programming tools from Apple. With *MacFamilyTree* you can create in a fast and elegant manner, a general view of all relations and kinship and show it in impressive, graphical views. Extensive print options are also offered, as well as the option to publish your family tree on the Internet or burn it directly to a CD. *MacFamilyTree* is fully based on the Gedcom-standard for international exchange of genealogical data. All features make full use of the modern, graphic capabilities of Mac OS X.

Simultaneously editing of several trees is no problem, nor is it to connect or merge several family tree files. Photos from *iPhoto* can be imported using Drag-and-Drop and the finished family tree, including the photos, is uploaded to your .mac iDisk on the Internet with one click.

Using *MacFamilyTree* consists of three

fundamental parts: Editing, Browsing and Publishing.

In Editing you create new persons and families, add children to the families and define the relationship of the parents. In three configurable lists with additional information, located below the names, further data can be entered. With the icons next to the person, people are created or removed from the family card, the Information window, or you may go directly to the parents of the person.

The Drawer, containing the list of all persons in the current tree, lets you add or remove persons. In addition to this, the Information window, which contains the general information about events and photos of the selected person, can be opened. At the very bottom of the Drawer you will of course see the usual Mac OS X search field, which makes it easy to find the persons you look for.

From here you can place persons in the Family card by the use of Drag-and-Drop, such as husband, wife or child. Creating relations between people of the same sex is also possible.

### View options of your ancestors

In Browse you'll find multiple and extensive options to view your entered data. The heritage chart, the descendant chart and the genogram (genetic chart) — each of them highly configurable — can be viewed including photos, offering a graphical view of your ancestors, by using the possibilities of Mac OS X to their full extent. Infinitely variable resizing and rotation of the view will show you what possibilities lies in your Mac. A timeline gives you a good overall view, and the age statistics shows you how old the persons in your family tree are and calculates the average. The list of persons shows you all the persons in your tree, well sorted, and the resume shows all data in the current family card. You can edit the resume when viewing it, by choosing that option. All the views can of course be printed, with

additional options at your disposal to optimize the print.

### Publishing your data

What's the most beautiful heritage chart worth, if you can't show it to somebody? *MacFamilyTree* brings you the option to burn your complete tree to a CD, with all information and photos included. This offers you the possibility to easily backup your data, but of course also to create presents for your relatives. Finally, you can export the entire tree as a HTML file, to be published on the Internet. You can configure how it should appear on the Internet and include the appropriate photos. *MacFamilyTree* automatically creates small thumbnails of your photos, to optimize the browsing on the internet. If you have a .mac account, your tree can even be uploaded automatically from *MacFamilyTree* to your internet hard disk — the iDisk — with no effort for you or the need of particular technical know-how.

### Need more information?

Download the Demo Version from the Download page. It is fully functional, but no entries can be saved.

*MacFamilyTree* provides Mac OS X users with much needed alternative in the area of genealogy software. Your personal preferences will determine which you prefer, but when you figure that *MacFamilyTree* only costs \$49 versus \$99 for *Reunion*, it may be worth it to you to give up little-used *Reunion* features for the streamlined interface of *MacFamilyTree*.

<http://www.onlymac.de/html/stammbaum4en.html>



Lisa B. Lee is the President of the California State Genealogical Alliance ([www.csga.com](http://www.csga.com)) and the Board Chair of the AAGSNC. She believes that computers have the unique ability to enhance the study of

family history and she constantly strives to find new ways to make computers work for the budding genealogist.





## Answers to the Black History Month Essay and Quiz

### ESSAY ANSWERS:

- Florence Beatrice Smith Price had a musical work preformed by the Chicago Symphony in 1833.
  - Cleveland Robinson lead the AFL-CIO Labor movement.
  - Thomas F. Blue was the librarian of the segreated branch of the Louisville, Kentucky Branch in 1856.
  - Floyd Calvin hosted the first black talk show on radio in 1927.
  - Lois Tinson was the first black president of the California Teacher's Association.
  - William Norman was the first black president of the Travel Industry of the American in 1994.
  - Martin Robinson Delany was the first black American explorer to Africa in 1859.
  - Electra Price and Kay Smith are pioneers in the field of black genealogy. Together, they founded the African American Genealogical Society of Northern California (in 1996).
- 6) Hiram R. Revels, born free in 1822 in North Carolina, was elected to the U.S. Senate (Mississippi) in January 1870, and served until March 1871. He was also a barber and ordained minister.
  - 7) Joseph H. Rainey, born a slave in 1832 in South Carolina, was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives (South Carolina) in 1869. Though born a slave, he eventually bought his freedom and later moved to Bermuda where he remained until the end of the War.
  - 8) Larry Doby, played for the Cleveland Indians.
  - 9) Robert C. Weaver was appointed in 1966 by President Lyndon Johnson, to serve as the Secretary of H.U.D.
  - 10) Alice Coachman, in the 1948 Olympiad held in London, England. She won her gold medal in the high jump.
  - 11) Ralph Bunche, in 1950, for his work in mediating a series of armistice agreements between the new nation of Israel the four Arab countries of Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. AAGSNC member, Paul Lee, was the primary researcher for the PBS movie, *Ralph Bunche - An American Odyssey*.

### QUIZ ANSWERS:

- 1) The first Negro Week was celebrated in 1926, initiated by Carter G. Woodson.
  - 2) Approximately 5,000 black soldiers fought in the American Revolutionary War (1775-1783).
  - 3) The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution freed American blacks: "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."
  - 4) Approximately 185,000 black soldiers fought in the Union Army in the Civil War (1861-1865).
  - 5) True. In 1779, this former Haitian built the first permanent settlement just east of the present Michigan Avenue Bridge.
- 12) Freedom's Journal
  - 13) Dorothy Dandridge, for her role in the movie *Carmen Jones*.
  - 14) Moneta Sleet, Jr., photographer for *Ebony* magazine, won the Pulitzer in 1969 for his haunting photo of the grieving Coretta Scott King at her husband's funeral.
  - 15) 1969

### Sources of information:

- Smith, Jesssie Carney, *Black Firsts*, Canton, MI, Visible Ink Press, 1003.
- [members.aol.com/klove01/question.htm](http://members.aol.com/klove01/question.htm)
- [www.galegroup.com/free\\_resources/bhm/quiz/](http://www.galegroup.com/free_resources/bhm/quiz/)



## AAGSNC BIDS FAREWELL TO AN OLD FRIEND ... THE AMAZING LIFE OF GERALD BAXTER

This past October, the AAGSNC hosted our first genealogy cruise. I was delighted to get the opportunity to meet two of our Lifetime Members, Gerald and Lunecia ("Nell") Baxter, who'd actually been members of the society since 1999 but who I'd met. Gerald joined me and a dedicated group of researchers as we spent two days reviewing several different genealogy software programs available for PC users. Neither I nor Gerald or Nell knew of his illness, and as he sat there, overwhelmed with all the gibberish I was ranting about this program versus the other, his smile and his very gentle nature touched me, very deeply. He was such a kind, kind man. It was my honor and

privilege to meet him.

When I heard about his passing last month, my first reaction was, "Thank goodness I had the chance to meet him." Gerald was a delightful man with the most infectious smile. I will miss him.

I invite all of our members to join me at his memorial service, to be held this **Sunday, January 9, 2005**. His obituary, as it appeared in *The Oakland Tribune*, is below.

- Lisa B. Lee, AAGSNC Board Chair

AAGSNC Genealogy Cruise, October 2004.  
Dinner mates Dawn Medura, Nell Baxter and Gerald Baxter.

### GERALD A. BAXTER

SR. April 1, 1923  
~ December 23,  
2004 Passed away  
at Kaiser Hospital  
in Oakland, CA,  
after a brief illness,  
with his immediate  
family at his  
bedside. A native  
of Denver, CO, he  
was the second of  
ten children born  
to Lugene and  
Anna Laura Baxter.  
Gerald attended  
Denver public  
schools.

After graduating from high school, he trained as an aircraft mechanic. In 1943 he was drafted into the United States Army Air Corps. He was stationed during WWII with the 96th Service Group in Italy and was honorably discharged in 1946 settling in the Bay Area. Gerald was employed at the Alameda Naval Air Station for 34 years. He retired in 1980 as supervisor in the Industrial Engineering Department.

In 1952 Gerald met and married his wife, Lunecia "Nell" Carter of Austin, TX. They made their home in Oakland, CA. Two children (sons) were born of this union. Jerry was an avid golfer and delighted



in working with the junior golfers at Galbraith Golf Course in Oakland, as a coach and trainer. His love of the sport brought him in contact with many who grew to love and respect him. Gerald was a devoted family man whose life exemplified love, compassion, commitment and integrity.

He is survived by his loving wife, Nell, of 52 years and his two sons, Gerald Jr. of Oakland, CA and Alan of Buffalo Grove, IL. His family includes his daughters-in-law, Ann and Aretha; two granddaughters, Tamra and Alecia and five grandsons, Christopher, Andrew, Ryan, Alan Jr. and Alexander. He is also survived by twin sisters, Ramona Dawson of Detroit,

Michigan and Winona Ramirez of Wheat Ridge, CO; sister-in-law, Dorothy Baxter of Long Beach, CA and a host of nieces and nephews.

Family and friends are invited to attend a memorial service on Sunday, January 9, 2005, 3:00 p.m. at Taylor Memorial United Methodist Church, 1188 - 12th Street in Oakland, CA, 510-444-6162. Chapel of the Chimes 510-654-0123 "Service of Marked Distinction" [www.chapelofthechimes.com](http://www.chapelofthechimes.com)



# Black History Month

The month of February has traditionally been the time Americans to recognize the accomplishments of African Americans in the United States. Before the mid 1990s, the popular press and media rarely highlighted the contributions of African ancestors people at other times of the year. In recent years, stories about blacks and other minorities are becoming more common. It has been suggested that there is no longer a need for Black History Month.

Most people know the stories of Martin Luther King, George Washington Carver, Marian Anderson and Ralph Bunche. But do you know the stories of Deborah Stewart Kent, the first black woman to manage an assembly plant for the Ford Motor Company, or the story of E. Melvin Porter the first black elected to the Oklahoma senate in 1964?

What about B. A. Boseman and Francis I. Cardozo who were elected to the board of trustees at the University of South Carolina in 1868? Would you like to know more about Sylvia Rhone, the first black woman vice president of a major record company? Ruth Carol Taylor became the first black flight attendant in 1958 on Mohawk Airlines.

Can you name the first women to have a musical work performed by a major orchestra? Who was the first black officer of the AFL-CIO? Who was the

Where was the first public library to provide service to blacks and who was the librarian?

Floyd Joseph Calvin a journalist was an important journalist. What was his achievement in radio? Do you know why Lois Tinson of Baldwin Park, California should be honored or why we should consider William S. Norman an important historical figure?

What was the name of the first American black explorer to Africa?

Why are Electra Price and Kay Smith important figures in the field of genealogy? What organization did they found?

More importantly, who are your ancestors? How far back can you trace your heritage? Can you describe their life's work? Take time during February to discover information about African ancestors peoples in the United States. Talk to your children and other family members about your ancestors' roll in the development of this county.

Until more people can answer the questions raised in this short essay, there will be a need for Black History Month.

A few more questions to test your black history knowledge:

- 1) The first Negro Week was celebrated when?
  - a) 1915
  - b) 1926
  - c) 1960
- 2) How many black soldiers fought in the American Revolutionary War?
  - a) none
  - b) 1,000
  - c) 5,000
- 3) Which act freed blacks in America?
  - a) The 13th Amendment
  - b) The Second Confiscation Act of 1862
  - c) The Emancipation Proclamation
- 4) How many black soldiers fought in the Union Army in the Civil War?
  - a) none
  - b) 10,000
  - c) 185,000
- 5) A free black man named Jean Baptiste Pointe duSable founded Chicago, IL.
  - a) True
  - b) False
- 6) Who was the first black U.S. Senator?
  - a) Hiram R. Revels
  - b) Blanche Kelso Bruce
  - c) P.B.S. Pinchback
- 7) Who was the first black in the U.S. House of Representatives?
  - a) Joseph H. Rainey, South Carolina
  - b) William Dawson, Illinois

- c) Adam Calyton Powell, New York
- 8) Who was the first black player in the American League?
  - a) Dan Bankhead
  - b) Satchel Paige
  - c) Larry Doby
- 9) The first black named to the cabinet of a U.S. president was:
  - a) Ronald H. Brown
  - b) Robert C. Weaver
  - c) William Coleman
- 10) The first black woman to win a gold medal in the Olympic was:
  - a) Vivian Hart
  - b) Alice Coachman
  - c) Amanda Jones
- 11) The first black awarded the Nobel Peace Prize was:
  - a) Martin Luther King, Jr.
  - b) Nelson Mandela
  - c) Ralph Bunche
- 12) The first black newspaper published in the U.S. was:
  - a) Freedom's Journal
  - b) The Pittsburgh Courier
  - c) The Atlanta Daily World
- 13) The first black woman nominated for an Academy Award for best actress was:
  - a) Whoopi Goldberg
  - b) Dorothy Dandridge
  - c) Hattie McDaniel
- 14) The first black man to receive a Pulitzer Prize was:
  - a) Moneta Sleet, Jr.
  - b) Alex Haley
  - c) Ralph Ellison
- 15) When did the Supreme Court rule that racial segregation in schools had to end at once and that unitary school systems were required?
  - a) 1969
  - b) 1958
  - c) 1973

ANSWERS: See page 9



# “Rooted in History” Family History Conference

Saturday, February 26th, 2005

## *Volunteers Needed!*

The AAGSNC needs help with all aspects of the upcoming conference. Many, many volunteers are needed for many different committees. Following are a few of the way you can help.

- **Set-up committee:** Early birds are needed to help work with the onsite staff to prepare the venue.
- **Vendor associates committee:** This committee will assist the vendors.
- **Workshop committee:** Society members who can manage individual workshop rooms.
- **Greeting/payments committee:** Members who can help with

registration, pass out the information packets, and take credit card and cash payments for memberships or other merchandise.

- **General volunteer committee:** Society members who will act as floaters and be utilized as needed.
- **Clean up Committee:** No explanation is needed.

**Posters and flyers need to be distributed around the Bay Area.** Five flyers were inserted into each edition of the December journal. If you have not done so, please pass them out to your friends and post them in public places so we can use the

full power of the organization to saturate the market. If you need additional copies, please call Lisa Lee (510) 333-6933 or email her at [lee@aagsnc.org](mailto:lee@aagsnc.org).

It is up to us to let everyone in the bay Area know about this fantastic opportunity to them to learn about basic genealogy, and more about researching their family history, why this is important to them from a personal standpoint, how their family connects to the history of this country and how their families helped to make this nation great.

Contact Lenora Gobert if you can volunteer: [gobert@aagsnc.org](mailto:gobert@aagsnc.org)

African American Genealogical Society  
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PO Box 27485  
Oakland, California 94602-0985  
(877) 884-2843



It's Your History...Isn't it Time You Told Your Story?