



The Baobab Tree



Quarterly Journal of the African American Genealogical Society of Northern California, Inc. • www.aagsnc.org • Founded 1996

Love Ancestry.com? Hate Ancestry.com? We feel you. But did you know there are “hidden” ways to find even more information from databases you’ve probably already tried? We show you how ... page 4.



Table of Contents

AAGSNC Member's Birthdays	2	Index of Surnames.....	9
Letter from the Editor.....	2	AAGSNC Genealogy Cruise 2006.....	10
Message from the President	3	Canadian History Television.....	11
“More Fun With Ancestry.com” by Lisa B. Lee	4	Becoming a Professional Genealogist?	11
“Rosenwald Schools,” by Melvyn Gillette.....	6	AAGSNC 2006 Meeting Calendar	Insert
Ahead of Its Time? New Philadelphia, Illinois	8		



Happy Birthday AAGSNC Members



DECEMBER

Cornell A Celestine
Melvyn L. Gillette
Samuel L. Golden
Carole Neal
Ranie Smith
Jackie D. Stewart
Delores Williams

JANUARY

Geoffrey Carter
Jackie Chauhan
Juliet Crutchfield
Sharon Henderson-Nichols
Ronald Higgins
Matha Jones
Naomi Le Doux
Minnette Murphy
Kashan Robinson
Georgia Walker-Adams

FEBRUARY

Havis White Blanchard
Cynthia Grady
Kathleen Murphy
Electra Kimble Price
Cleveland Smith
Kathryn Smith
Robert Stephens
Annamae Louise Tolan

MARCH

Rosemary Antoine
Eldoris C. Cameron
Barbara Dunn
Jeannette Dunn
Robert Harris
Upperton L. Hurts
Bill Melson
Judith Ming
Ted Mungin
Cheryl Smith
Michele Wms-Smith

Letter From the Editor ... a few missed issues

As we welcome the new year, I wanted to take a few minutes to just say "Thank you," to all of my friends at the AAGSNC. I'm delighted to have the opportunity, once again, to take on the responsibility of Editor of our quarterly journal, *The Baobab Tree*. Our former Editor, Loretta Henry, did a phenomenal job.

Having had virtually no formal graphic design training, Loretta taught herself how to use Adobe InDesign, a software program used by most professional designers, and took over as Journal Editor of *The Baobab Tree*. I cannot find words to express my awe of her accomplishment and my sincere appreciation for her hard work.

Thank you, Loretta.

In my second stint as Editor, I decided to try to give *The Baobab* a new look, and I've also decided to reduce the number of pages from 16 down to 12. As the months progress, and our members continue to contribute articles, photos, research reports and other information, I'll be happy to add pages, as needed.

Normally we publish four editions of *The Baobab* each year, but in 2005, we

only published two. In a normal year, we publish editions based on the four seasons: Winter edition = Jan-Mar
Spring edition = Apr-Jun
Summer edition = Jul-Sep
Fall edition = Oct-Dec (plus the Surname Directory, which is no longer published, but is available on our website).

In 2005, we published one edition in January and the other in September. I attempted to publish this issue in December 2005, but since our printer was closed the last two weeks of the year, I couldn't get this issue out until January 2006. Thus, this issue will be known as Volume 11, Issue 1.

Another change you'll see from time to time is our inclusion of articles originally published in other magazines, journals, newsletters or online because of their value in informing our members of little-known history. I hope to provide *The Baobab* as a forum for our members to share their stories with the world. Many of our members have already taken advantage of this and I encourage all AAGSNC members to submit, submit, submit! We want to hear about your research successes, failures, problems and questions. We want

to see your photos of your ancestors, your family home or church, a gravestone, etc.

This is *your* journal. We want to hear more from you.

On a personal note, I finally completed my course work with the National Institute for Genealogical Studies (NIGS), through the University of Toronto, and obtained my Professional Learning Certificate in Genealogical Studies (PLCGS), with a major in Canadian Studies. This process took about two years and required me to complete 40 courses ranging from basic analysis and skills to advanced methodology. I had to learn about copyright issues, genetics, military records, migration patterns, paleography (the study of ancient handwriting), electronic resources, etc. Submitting my assignments online and participating in periodic phone calls with my instructors worked well with my busy schedule. I highly recommend this program: www.genealogicalstudies.com



Lisa B. Lee, PLCGS



Message From the President ... Ms. Melvyn Gillette

AAGSNC 2005 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. 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 as well as our surname directory.

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 2005 was \$8,282.71. Significant income categories for the year include membership dues, donations, and community outreach programs. Significant expenses for the year include community outreach programs and marketing/advertising. The AAGSNC Treasury's ending balance is \$3,215.13.

Included in annual donations is \$133 from our annual "Black Elephant Sale" where members donate items for sale. Wells Fargo Bank partnered with us in our Black History Month program, Rooted in History, and they have committed to working with us on a community outreach event in 2006.

African American Genealogical Society of Northern California Financial Summary

Period Beginning January 1, 2005 and
ending December 31, 2005

Balance from December 31, 2004	8,282.71
INCOME	
Community Outreach Programs	17,879.39
Book & Journal Sales	203.50
Annual Fund Donations	1,098.00
Membership Dues	2,375.00
Other Income	75.00
TOTAL INCOME	21,630.89
EXPENSES	
Marketing/Advertising	3,429.58
Bank Service Charges	487.02
Dues and Subscriptions	90.00
Community Outreach Programs	21,478.07
Journal	257.93
Supplies	115.50
Postage and Delivery	234.40
Telephone	64.75
Website	309.23
Other Expenses	31.99
TOTAL EXPENSES	26,498.47
Ending Balance as of December 31, 2005	3,415.13

AAGSNC 2006 Meeting Calendar

You should find a full-color meeting calendar tucked inside this issue of The Baobab, but in case yours is missing, here's the lineup of meeting topic we have planned for 2006.

- January** - Annual Meeting
- February** - DNA and Genetic Genealogy
- March** - U. S. Census, Population and Mortality Schedules
- April** - Land Records and Land Platting
- May** - Courthouse Records
- June** - Tax Records, Probate Records
- July** - Hiatus (no meeting this month)

- August** - Hiatus (no meeting this month)
- September** - Braggin' & Lyin' ("What I did last Summer")
- October** - 6th Annual West Coast Summit on African American Genealogy, in Las Vegas, Nevada
- October** - 2nd Biennial AAGSNC Genealogy Cruise (see p. 10)
- November** - Native American Genealogy
- December** - Annual Holiday Potluck and "Black Elephant" Sale



More Fun With Ancestry.com

By Lisa B. Lee, PLCGS

Like you, I've heard all the complaints about Ancestry.com and I'm well aware of their seemingly predatory renewal practices and I've heard about at least one class-action suit that has been filed against them. That said, in my humble opinion, pound for pound, Ancestry.com is still the best value for researchers of American genealogy. It's not perfect but I think I can show you some search techniques that will increase the chances of finding your relatives.

PROBLEM #1

You would like to find a married female ancestor but you don't know her husband's name.

SOLUTION:

Try a **NO-NAME SEARCH!**

Lemme 'splain. You're going to do an "Advanced Search," **leave both name fields blank**, then use **ONLY** the keyword field, and perhaps the state, if you desire (below).

Search Records

Ranked Search **Exact Search**

We will only show records that match all of these fields. S

First Name(s) Last Name

When Did They Live?

Year Range to Keyword(s) ragland

Where Did They Live?

Country United States State California

Advanced Options

Record Type All Record Types Name Proximity Adjacent

The results you'll get will include all kinds of databases you'd expect, like the census, SSDI and city directories, but, most importantly, the Ancestry search engine will give you hits on databases you didn't expect to see, where that keyword is found in fields other than the primary name fields, such as:

- a person's middle name (veteran's cemeteries, draft registration cards)
- woman's maiden name (birth or death indices, obituaries)
- the mother's maiden name (birth or death indices, obituaries)
- their friend's name (passenger lists, obituaries)
- a witness (marriage bonds)

To see why this can be a real help in your research, let's take a look at some of the search results (below).

Exact Search Results - California Death Index, 1940-1997
You searched for Ragland in California [Refine your search](#)

All Results 1 2 3 4 5

View Record	Name	Death Date	Death Place	Birth Date	Birthplace	Mother's Maiden
View Record	ACKER, VICTORIA ANNEVA	7 Jan 1955	MERCED	19 Feb 1875	CALIFORNIA	RAGLAND
View Record	AMES, VIOLET J	12 Nov 1984	CONTRA COSTA	25 Jan 1922	VIRGINIA	MCMORE
View Record	ANDERSON, EDWIN JACKSON	11 Aug 1946	SANTA BARBARA	22 Jan 1918	ARKANSAS	RAGLAND
View Record	ANDERSON, LAWRENCE	13 May 1991	MERCED	14 Feb 1916	ARKANSAS	RAGLAND
View Record	ANDERSON, LEONARD OLIVER	29 Aug 1958	VENTURA	5 Apr 1886	KENTUCKY	RAGLAND
View Record	ANDERSON, MARTHA HADDOCK	8 Jul 1981	LOS ANGELES	30 Jan 1888	CALIFORNIA	RAGLAND

From the California Death Index results, most of the results show Ragland as the mother's maiden name, except for Violet J. Ames (second on list). By clicking on the "View Record" link, it reveals that her father's name was Ragland (below).

All California Death Index, 1940-1997 Results

California Death Index, 1940 about VIOLET J AMES

Name:	AMES, VIOLET J
Social Security #:	561464364
Sex:	FEMALE
Birth Date:	25 Jan 1922
Birthplace:	VIRGINIA
Death Date:	12 Nov 1984
Death Place:	CONTRA COSTA
Mother's Maiden Name:	MCMORE
Father's Surname:	RAGLAND

From this search, it would appear that Violet Ragland, born in Virginia in 1922, married a man whose surname was Ames, then died in California in 1984. Of course, much more research would be needed to prove this theory, but can you see how you,

a Ragland researcher, who had no idea who Violet married, nor when or where she died, could find this No-Name Search useful?

Just to drive the point home, if you do a search on Ancestry.com for "Violet Ragland," the California Death Index is not included in the search results. Only by doing a No-Name Search can you find this information.

Let's take a look at another database where this No-Name Search can prove

helpful — Passenger Lists. None of the results (below) appear to have any Ragland connection, until you click on the "View Record" link, which reveals that

Exact Search Results - San Francisco
You searched for Ragland in California [Refine your search](#)

All Results

View Record	Name	Arrival Date
View Record	Barbara Gail Bagwell	18 Aug 1949
View Record	Claudia L Bagwell	18 Aug 1949
View Record	Marilyn Joy Bagwell	18 Aug 1949
View Record	Pl man Bong	01 Jul 1924
View Record	Harvey C W Eills	19 Dec 1949
View Record	Tola Nielson	01 Jul 1924
View Record	Hazel R Pring	27 Oct 1925

the ship's manifest for Hazel Pring (sixth on list) states that her nearest friend or relative was her mother, Mrs. R. W. Ragland of Hollywood, CA.



IS THAT COOL, OR WHAT?

Let's look at another neat search option on Ancestry.

PROBLEM #2

Your ancestor's given name and surname are often misspelled or are difficult to pronounce, making searching difficult.

SOLUTION:

Try a **DOUBLE-WILD-CARD SEARCH!**

All this means is to use a wild card character, "*" in the First Name and Last Name fields (below).

Search for Your Ance

Ranked Search **Exact Search**

We will only show records that match all of these fields

First Name(s) Last Name
 fran* dup*

Country State
 Lived In United States AL

The results return options for the given names Frank, Frances, Francis and Franklin, and surnames Dupree, Duprist, Dupont, Dupuis, Dupark, etc. (below).

Exact Search Results - 1870 United States
 You searched for Fran* Dup* in United States [Refine](#)

[All Census Results](#)

View Record	Name	Home In (City, County)
View Record	Frank Dupree	Township
View Record	Franklin Dupree	Township
View Record	Francis Dupree	Subdivision
View Record	Frances Dupree	Township
View Record	Frank Dupree	Darbys, P
View Record	Frank Duprist	Township AL
View Record	Frank J Dupont	Camp Go
View Record	Francis Dupark	Township

Had you just done a Soundex search for your ancestor Frank Dupree (Soundex code for Dupree is D160), you would have missed the following variations of his surname:

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Soundex Code</u>
Dupuis	D120
Duprist	D162
Dupont	D153
Duppee	D100

Soundex searches are great, but since they only search one Soundex code (the Soundex code of the surname entered), you can very easily miss similar sounding surnames (say *that* five times fast — I dare you!).

And let's not forget that Soundex searches on Ancestry.com only involve the surnames, meaning that you cannot do a Soundex search on the given name.

In our example, by using a wild-card search of "Fran*" for the given name, we receive results that include several variations of Frank, including Francis, Frances, Franklin, Fran, Frannie, etc.

With many Louisiana ancestors, the French influence on the names can make finding variant spellings difficult, and mind-boggling at the same time. My mother-in-law is from Lake Charles, LA, and her surname is Dronet. Conscious of the French influence, I assumed Dronet was pronounced "dro-NAY," and might be spelled Drone, Dronay, Dronais, Drunais, etc., but I was wrong. She was very quick to point out that they pronounce it with a hard "t," as in "draw-NET."

This makes absolutely no sense to me (think: Chevrolet, sorbet, gourmet), but I'm not a French speaker, so if Dronet has a hard "T," that's fine with me. With this in mind, and knowing that the Soundex system also treats T's as hard consonants, in order to find more Dronet kin, I'd suggest doing a wild-card search of "Dron*" in addition to a Soundex search, to make sure you catch all possible variations of that surname.

Oh, and by the way, you cannot do any sort of wild-card searches on Heritage Quest or Genealogy.com.

PROBLEM #3

Your ancestor has a very common name and you want to try to limit the number of search results without missing key information

SOLUTION:

Try a **YEAR RANGE SEARCH!**

Using an Advanced search, simply limit the years *in which your ancestor was born* using the "Year Range" fields (below):

Search Records

Ranked Search **Exact Search**

We will only show records that match all of these fields

First Name(s) Last Name
 Ragland

When Did They Live?
 Year Range Keyword(s)
 1850 to 1885

Where Did They Live?
 Country State
 United States North Carolina

What this search will do is filter all the results to include databases that reflect Ragland ancestors that were **born** between 1850 and 1885. For example, you'll receive census results for 1850-1930, but everyone on the list will be only those Raglands born during the 1850-1885 time range, reducing the number of results you'll need to sift through.

You should use this search option wisely, because if, for some reason, your ancestor's age or date of birth were not included on a particular document, he or she would be excluded from this sort of search. However, with very common names, limiting your results to a more manageable level may make it easier for you to find those for whom you search.

Happy Searching!!



Rosenwald Schools

The Power of Self-Help in Promoting Black Literacy ... by Ms. Melvyn Gillette

Julius Rosenwald, a millionaire Jewish high school dropout, was one of the most significant people in black education in the South. He became president of Sears, Roebuck in 1910, and was a trustee of Tuskegee Institute. He was in close contact with Booker T. Washington and made gifts to Tuskegee on behalf of the rural school movement.

burned down in 1926.

In addition to the main school building, a shop building was built, also in 1929, just to the north of the school. The one-room shop building cost \$2,250 to build, of which \$200 came from black contributions, \$1,800 came from public funding, and the Rosenwald Fund gave a grant of \$250.

By 1960, with increased enrollment, a new Peake High School was built and the old school became an elementary school. All of the rural schools in the district were being closed and more elementary space was needed at Peake, which was accommodated at the old high school. Then integration came to Arkadelphia's schools in the 1969-1970 school year, a new Arkadelphia High

In 1917, Rosenwald established the Julius Rosenwald Fund, which subsequently attracted more money to the benefit of black education than any other philanthropic undertaking to date. The fund first built rural schools, later high schools and colleges, and finally provided grants and fellowships that enabled outstanding blacks and whites to advance their careers.

By the conclusion of the program in 1932, it had produced 4,977 new schools, 217 teachers' homes, and 163 shop buildings in 883 counties of 15 states.

The fund did not provide the bulk of the construction money, but its grants did 'attract' funds. The Rosenwald Fund would help a school only if the community, black and white, had raised some of the money itself. To make their matching contribution, school patrons organized themselves into committees to find and buy the land, to cut trees and saw the lumber for the school, and to haul the building materials to the school site, sometimes even to build the school themselves.

Peake High and its shop are both of red brick construction, which in itself was unusual.

I am a graduate of Peake High School. I first attended Peake for 9th grade, having attended school through the 8th grade in a two-room school in the rural community where I lived, five miles from 'town.' All of the communities surrounding Arkadelphia had such grade schools, and the graduates

School was built and the 'new' Peake High School became a middle school. Since integration of southern school systems, many former all black schools have been abandoned or even demolished. By 1984 the old Peake Rosenwald School was being used for a Head Start center. It was vacated after 2001 and later used by the district for storage.

I first heard of Rosenwald schools several years ago when there was a discussion about them on the AfriGeneas mailing list. While I found it interesting, I didn't see any connection to me. Not long afterward, I connected with someone on a mailing list for my 'home' county who told me about old school records that might be kept in the Peake High files. I was interested because my father and two of my maternal uncles completed 10th grade at Peake, which was as far as it went when they were students there. My mother also attended at least one year, and I thought I might be able to get copies of their school records. I searched online and found a website for the school which was listed as "Peake Rosenwald School," — a surprise for me.

By the conclusion of the program in 1932, it had produced 4,977 new schools, 217 teachers' homes, and 163 shop buildings in 883 counties of 15 states. In Arkansas, 338 schools, 19 teachers' homes and 32 shop buildings were constructed. One of those schools was Peake High School, in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, built in 1929. The cost to construct Peake High School was \$25,400. Of that, \$2,000 came from black contributions, \$20,800 came from public funding, and the Rosenwald Fund gave a grant of \$2,600. The land for the school was purchased from Mr. J. Ed Peake. Mr. Peake had been principal of the elementary school for blacks, Sloan School, which had



J. Ed Peake, former principal of black elementary school in Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

of the black elementary schools went on to the 'consolidated' high school, Peake High.

Before Peake High, there had been three schools for black students in Arkadelphia — Sloan School with grades 1-8, and two high school academies, the Presbyterian Academy and the Baptist Academy. They



were all gone before my time, but I had always heard those schools talked about by family members. My sister and cousins on both sides of my family graduated from Peake just ahead of me. Yet I had never heard any mention of “Rosenwald” schools. When I mentioned it to my sister and a cousin, they knew nothing about it either. We had not known that our school was made possible through the philanthropy of the Julius Rosenwald Fund. My father later completed 11th grade at Paul Lawrence Dunbar High School in Little Rock, which was also a Rosenwald School and also built in 1929.



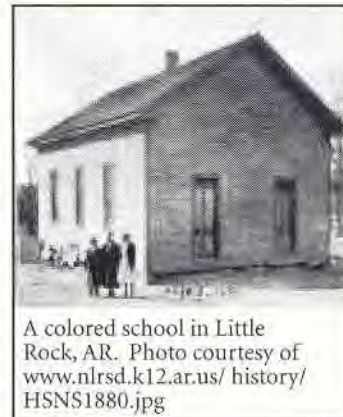
Peake School, Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

By 2002, the school district was considering selling the old Peake High building and some alumni began to organize to try to save it. Coincidentally, that year The National Trust for Historic Preservation put all Rosenwald schools on its list of endangered historic places, and a search to locate any remaining “Rosenwald” buildings began. In January 2003, an article appeared in my hometown newspaper, which mentioned that the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) was searching for Rosenwald schools in Clark County. I mentioned this to some of the California alumni, who contacted the AHPP. The school district also contacted the state. Out of this drive to save the school came the Peake High Alumni Foundation, Inc. Late in 2004, Peake High was nominated for inclusion on the National Register and as of January 2005 was listed. It is the only school remaining of 11 Rosenwald schools built in Clark

County. The school district declined to have the shop building listed.

I’ve learned a lot more about Rosenwald Schools. Nothing was left to chance. Boilerplate plans were made available. Many schools were built in areas where there was no electricity so there were

different plans depending on which direction the building faced, so as to provide a maximum of natural lighting. My school was a modification of Plan 7A, the Seven-Teacher school, South Facing. There were directions for where on the plot the school should be sited, types of window shades, etc. Since schools were often used as community centers, the plans called for an auditorium, or if not enough room, then two adjoining classrooms with a movable partition would serve the purpose. Peake High had an auditorium. The stage had wooden folding doors behind the curtain and doors on each side of the stage. It served as the band classroom when I was in 9th grade.



A colored school in Little Rock, AR. Photo courtesy of www.nlrsd.k12.ar.us/history/HSNS1880.jpg

The directors of the trust were also involved to a certain extent in the direction of the curriculum at all levels of education. Their emphasis was on the educational needs of country children. They maintained that some vocational skills were necessary, as were the ability to do some math, to read and write clearly, to have some understanding of biological processes and farming, and to understand the fundamentals of sanitation and health.

Rosenwald also gave \$1000 grants to the first 100 counties to hire County Extension Agents, helping the U. S. Department of Agriculture launch a program that still shapes rural America today. I benefitted from that too, through the 4-H Club in which I participated, starting in elementary school, continuing through high school. And I have the pin to prove it – in 7th grade, my partner and I won 3rd place in making rolls. On a wood-burning cook stove. But that’s another story.

To read more about Rosenwald Schools

- <http://www.rosenwaldschools.com/>
- <http://www.rosenwaldplans.org/>
- <http://www.rosenwaldplans.org/history.html>

Melvyn Gillette is a native of a rural community in Arkansas whose path to Grandma’s house led across the local cemetery. This constant exposure to names on the tombstones fostered an interest in the community’s history. She began to write down her family’s history about thirty-five years ago and began serious family research nearly 20 years ago. Her family tree has grown into a “community tree,” and includes all of the families of her

rural community as well as their connected families in nearby communities. Her intent is to make information about all of the early black families available online so that descendants around the country can find it and thereby make connections to their previously unknown ancestors. All four of Melvyn’s grandparents were born in Arkansas, three within the same county as she was, with migrations from AL, MO, NC, TN, and VA to Arkansas.

She can be contacted at: president@aagsnc.org





Ahead of Its Time?

Founded by a freed slave, an Illinois town was a rare example of biracial cooperation before the Civil War

In rural Pike County, Illinois, a solitary highway marker surrounded by mown grass, potted flowers and a small American flag stands by a little-traveled road. "SITE OF NEW PHILADELPHIA," it reads. Beyond the marker stretch cornfields, trees and gentle hills as far as the eye can see. The vista hasn't changed much since "Free Frank" McWorter, a former slave, moved his family here in 1831 and later started the town, the first in America legally founded by a black person.

McWorter dreamed big. New Philadelphia's Main Street and Broadway were some 80 feet wide—broader than many streets in New York City then. By 1865, the village, likely named for the most active urban center for free blacks at the time, had become a minor commercial hub with 104 white and 56 black inhabitants. Rare in frontier America, blacks and whites went to school together and even intermarried.

Today, New Philadelphia isn't even a ghost town. The original buildings have long since been plowed under, and Broadway and Main Street are part of a gravel driveway that leads to a farmhouse. But the western Illinois town is coming back to life. Archaeologists and college students from around the country embarked this past summer on a planned three-year study, combing fields for remnants of the vanished community. "Archaeologists who study African-American history have spent most of their time excavating slave quarters," says Paul Shackel, an anthropologist at the University of Maryland, who is leading the study. "By excavating a free community in which blacks lived before the Civil War, we are breaking into a new genre."

McWorter had been a slave in Kentucky before he bought his freedom in 1819 at age 42 by manufacturing and selling saltpeter. He purchased New Philadelphia from the federal government with profits from farming. It was an investment in his family's freedom. Over the course of 40

Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, arrived in New Philadelphia with nothing but a mule, was given a job by McWorter's son Solomon and, eventually, was able to buy land on the north side of town.

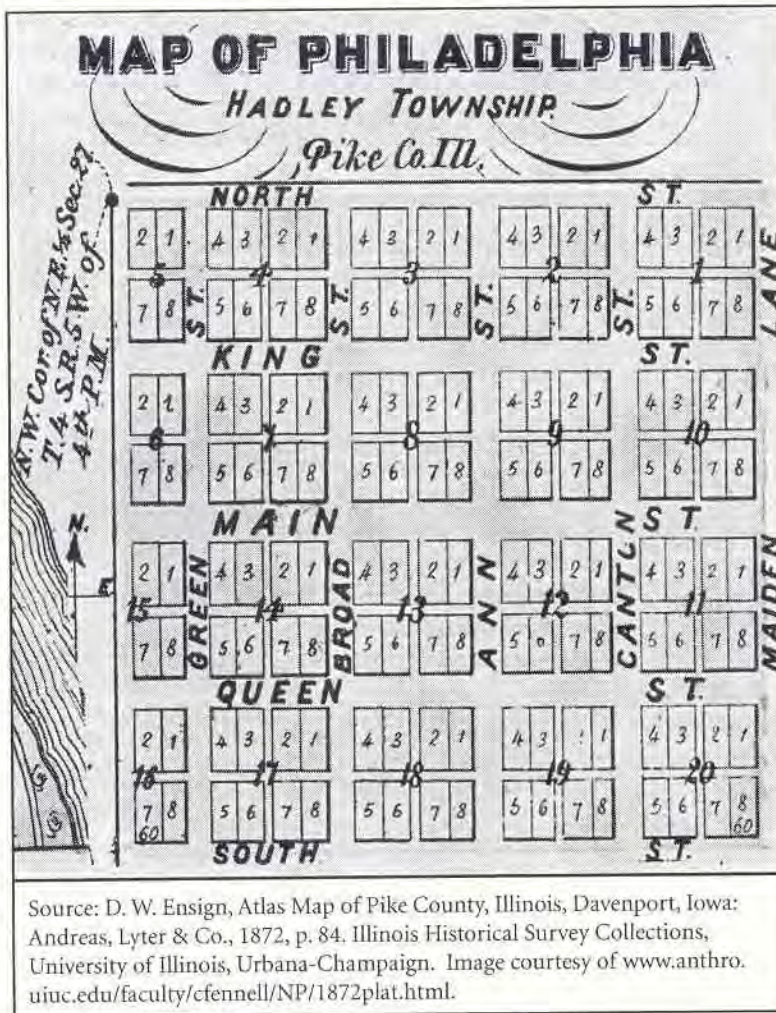
Archaeologists are filling in missing details of how and where the settlers lived. This

past May, Michael Hargrave of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers surveyed part of the 42-acre town site with a device that uses ground-penetrating electrical and magnetic fields to detect buried objects. From the radar-like images, archaeologists pinpointed 19 promising places to dig, including what was most likely a cellar or a garbage pit in the Butler home.

Twelve students spent five weeks in the field excavating 19 shallow 5-foot by 5-foot exploratory pits in recently plowed (but unplanted) fields covered by high grass. They ate lunches donated by merchants in nearby Barry, Illinois, and stayed in steeply discounted rooms at a nearby hunting lodge. "I've told them that archaeologists never have it so good," says Shackel, a genial, well-tanned 45-year-old who has worked for the National Park Service

at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, and other sites.

Shackel and his team spent another five weeks cataloging their finds, at the Illinois State Museum in Springfield. Every item had to be cleaned, placed in a plastic bag and entered into logbooks. If it was a piece of a bottle, the students would note the kind of glass; if it was a bone, they would



years, he earned enough from farming and selling land to buy 16 family members out of slavery for a total of \$14,000 (more than a quarter of a million dollars in today's currency). Some of his neighbors, such as farmer and fellow property owner John Walker, were also former slaves who purchased their freedom. Others, particularly after the Civil War, had fewer means: William Butler, freed by Abraham



figure out the animal it came from and the body part. If it was a piece of ceramic, they licked it. "If it sticks to your tongue, it's earthenware," explains Charlotte King, a research associate at the University of Maryland who supervised the cataloging. "Earthenware is fired at a lower rate, and so it's very porous. Stoneware is less porous, and porcelain is the least porous because it's fired at a very high temperature."

Among the 3,000 artifacts the team unearthed were shards of glass, pieces of brick, buttons, clay marbles and a dizzying variety of bones—most of them from the Butler residence. A small badge inscribed "Illinois State Fair 1903" probably comes from a long-ago prize ribbon, says King. A fragment of green glass matches a type of bottle manufactured between 1855 and 1873, probably in Louisville—which may establish a date of occupation and a possible travel route. One piece of property, just off Broadway, is recorded as "unimproved" on 1867 tax records, but tests of 40 ceramic fragments suggest that someone lived there before 1860.

So far, the materials dug up by Shackel and co-workers haven't shed any new light on the town's race relations. But documents from McWorter's time show there was plenty of prejudice in this corner of Illinois. In 1871 former Pike County resident John Hay (Abraham Lincoln's personal secretary) wrote a series of poems called the Pike County Ballads. One tells the story of "Banty Tim," who is about to be run out

of town by "The White Man's Committee of Spunky Point." The poem's narrator, Sgt. Tilmon Joy, saves the day by recounting how Banty Tim saved his life at Vicksburg, and continues: "Ef one of you tetches the boy, / He kin check his trunks to a warmer clime / Than he'll find in Illanoy."

Another kind of white man's committee may in fact have doomed New Philadelphia. In 1869, the Hannibal and Naples Railroad, which was planned and paid for by white businessmen, bypassed the town. The railroad connects nearby New Salem and Barry, and a straight line would have taken the train right by New Philadelphia, but instead the track makes an inexplicable bend to the north. There's no documentary evidence that the railroad deliberately avoided New Philadelphia, but by 1872 the detour had "greatly ruined its trade," the Atlas Map of Pike County reported, and in 1885 most of the town legally reverted to farmland. A few families remained well into the 20th century. In 1936, the New Philadelphia schoolhouse finally closed its doors.

Some newspaper reports about the dig have played up the idea of the town as an oasis of racial tolerance. But a descendant of the town's founder disputes that view. The "premise that New Philadelphia was a town where blacks and whites lived in racial harmony ...is just not historic reality, any more than to claim that slaves lived happily on plantations," argues Juliet Walker, a great-great-granddaughter of McWorter

and a historian at the University of Texas at Austin.

Shackel denies any attempt to idealize the past. "While the archaeology will probably not be able to show harmony or disharmony, it can illustrate the way of life for groups of people living in a biracial community," he says. "Archaeology is a way to provide a story of a people who have not been traditionally recorded in history. Our goal is to tell the story of New Philadelphia from the bottom up and provide an inclusive story of the town."

Despite their disagreements, both Walker and Shackel would like to see New Philadelphia commemorated by more than a roadside plaque. Walker envisions rebuilding the town. Shackel, who has the support of the New Philadelphia Association, a local citizens' group, hopes to turn the site into a state or national park. "There's probably 20 years of archaeology to explore and interpret," Shackel says. "We're in the first mile of a marathon."

- by Dana Mackenzie

Smithsonian Magazine, January 2005
Reprinted with permission.

For more information about New Philadelphia:
<http://www.anthro.uiuc.edu/faculty/cfennell/NP/newphilgeog.html>

For more information about ghost towns:
<http://www.ghosttowns.com/>
<http://www.ghosttowngallery.com/>

Index of Surnames in This Issue

Name	Page	Name	Page	Name	Page	Name	Page	Name	Page
Acker	4	Cameron	2	Duppee	5	Henry	2	Melson	2
Adams	2	Carter	2	Dupree	5	Higgins	2	Ming	2
Ames	4	Celestine	2	Duprist	5	Hurts	2, 12	Mungin	2
Anderson	4	Chauhan	2	Dupuis	5	Johnson	12	Murphy	2
Antoine	2, 12	Crutchfield	2	Edwards	12	Jones	2	Neal	2
Bagwell	4	Dronais	5	Elbert	12	Kimble	2, 12	Nichols	2
Bayoonne	12	Dronay	5	Ellis	4	King	9	Nielson	4
Blanchard	2	Drone	5	Gillette	2, 3, 6, 7, 12	Le Doux	2	Peake	6
Bong	4	Dronet	5	Gobert	12	Lee	2, 4, 12	Price	2, 12
Braxton	12	Drunais	5	Golden	2	Lincoln	8, 9	Pring	4
Brown	12	Dunbar	7	Grady	2	Mackenzie	9	Ragland	4
Bullock	12	Dunn	2	Hargrave	8	Madden	12	Robinson	2
Burgess	12	Dupark	5	Harris	2	McDaniel	12	Roebuck	6
Butler	8, 9	Dupont	5	Henderson	2	McWorter	8, 9	Rosenwald	6, 7
								Sears	6
								Secret	12
								Shackel	8, 9
								Sloan	6
								Smith	2, 12
								Stephens	2
								Stewart	2
								Tolan	2
								Walker	2, 8, 9
								Washington	6
								White	2, 12
								Williams	2



AAGSNC Second Annual* Genealogy Cruise 2006

SAVE THE DATES!!

The AAGSNC is hosting our 2nd Annual* Genealogy Cruise October 23-27, 2006!!

We had a ball on our first cruise in 2004, even though it rained off and on every single day. Despite that, we're going to try it again.

We listened to your comments and we're making the following changes to this year's cruise:

- 1) We haven't selected our speaker, yet, but it will be a well-known genealogical expert to provide exciting and informative training. We'll let you know as soon as our selection has been made.
- 2) We know you want your free time, so we're only going to have classes on **two** of the days, a morning class one day, and an afternoon class the other day, so you won't miss out on your favorite shore excursions.

CRUISE SPECIFICS:

- *The West Coast Summit on African American Genealogy* will be held in Las Vegas October 20-21, 2006. For more information about Summit '06, contact Ms. Gerri Johnson • gerrijohnson1@yahoo.com
- The cruise begins the following Monday, October 23rd, from San Pedro, CA.
- We'll cruise aboard Royal Caribbean's *Monarch of the Seas*.
- Cruise bookings and payments will be handled via **All Cruise & Travel** (800) 227-8473 or visit their website: www.allcruisetravel.com.
- A \$100 deposit per person is required when you book your cruise, and is **fully refundable** until the final payment

deadline of August 1, 2006. Space is limited, so book your cruise NOW!!

• Your cruise includes the following: Four night accommodations, gourmet meals and snacks in the ship's dining rooms, on-board activities including a fitness center, nightly entertainment, 24-hour room service, plus:

- Rock-climbing wall
- Ben & Jerry's ice cream
- Make-your-own-pizza pizzeria
- Casino Royale
- Two swimming pools
- Adventure Ocean kids facilities
- Open air basketball court
- Day spa

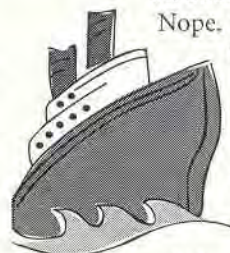
The only things not included in the cruise are your beverages, spa services, on-board tips, transportation to/from the cruise and the genealogy workshop materials.

CRUISE COST:

Inside stateroom:	\$324.60 ¹
Outside w/porthole:	\$364.60 ¹
Outside w/window:	\$379.60 ¹

CRUISE ITINERARY:

Monday, October 23rd:	Depart San Pedro, CA 5:30pm
Tuesday, October 24th:	San Diego, CA 8:00am - 6:00pm
Wednesday, October 25th:	Catalina Island, CA 8:00am - 5:00pm
Thursday, October 26th:	Ensenada, Mexico 8:00am - 5:00pm
Friday, October 27th:	Arrive San Pedro, CA 8:00am



CRUISE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

- What if I don't have a roommate?

When you call All Cruise Travel to book your cruise, tell the agent you will need a roommate. They'll let us know and we'll do all possible to find you a roommate of the same sex. We cannot guarantee success, but on our last cruise, we found a roommate for everyone who needed one. The key is to **BOOK EARLY** so we have time to find you a roommate.

- Do I have to take the genealogy classes on board the ship?

Nope. They're optional, but they're gonna be a lot of fun.

- Should I bring along my kids?

Yes. In fact the Adventure Ocean program on board is a ton of fun and includes a variety of group activities for kids of all ages. Your kids will have a ball and, best of all, you won't have to see them until you want to.

- Can I bring a pet?

Sorry, but pets aren't allowed on board.

- Do I need a passport?

Not yet, but by 2007, a valid U.S. passport will be required for all air and sea travel to and from Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, etc. In the meantime, a picture I.D. and a birth certificate (original, notarized copy or certified copy) will do.

- How much should I plan to bring for the on-board tips?

\$9.75 per day, per person will cover the tips for your room attendant, waiter, assistant waiter and head waiter. A 15% gratuity will be automatically added to your bar bill or wine checks. You can charge the daily tips to your credit card at the end of the cruise. Yes, you can always tip more for great service!

* Well, actually, it's more like biennially, since our first cruise was in 2004, and we didn't host one last year, but there wasn't room to put all this on the first line of the title. You see where we're going with this, don't you?

1 - These prices are per person, double occupancy (and include port charges of \$124.60).



Canadian History Television Needs Stories

Ancestors in the Attic, a new show on Canada's History Television, is looking for stories about Canadian ancestors, similar to the way the PBS series, *History Detectives* unravels mysteries about old family artifacts.

Details, from their website:

History Television is hoping to create an intriguing new series that will help you find your ancestors.

Were your ancestors sheep-thieves or war heroes, saints or sinners, or something quite unexpected? Are there family secrets you'd still like to unlock or legends you've already untangled? Let *Ancestors in the Attic* help you solve your dramatic, personal family mysteries or feature the stories you've already uncovered.

Whether you're a historical researcher or a family historian we'd like to hear about the astonishing stories with a Canadian connection that you've already unearthed.

Have you made an unexpected or startling discovery? We'd like to hear about it.

In 500 words or less, tell us your story and briefly outline the evidence you gathered in your research. Send them to: Ancestors.Search@allianceatlantis.com

If your story or family history research is selected, it could appear on *Ancestors in the Attic*.

Are there family mysteries you'd like to solve? Tell us what you know about the person in your family whose story most intrigues you. It can be a distant ancestor, a grandparent, parent, uncle or aunt. Does the mystery involve an heirloom or do you have an artifact that tells a tale you can't decipher? Send us a picture and tell us how it relates to your story.

Do you have a family legend you've always wanted to confirm? A great, great grandfather who might have been a European aristocrat, an ancestor related to a famous politician or world-renowned

musician.

Perhaps you've hit a brick wall in your research or just have a question you'd like answered. Or perhaps you have a relative associated with a famous, infamous or just plain interesting event in Canadian history.

In 500 words or less, tell us your story and send it to: **Ancestors.Search@allianceatlantis.com**.

If it's chosen our team of professional genealogists will help you unearth the answers you've been searching for.

Please ensure that the email address you provide is functioning properly so that we can respond to your submissions. Please also include your return address and phone number.

The Ancestors in the Attic website: <http://www.history.ca/microsites/ancestorssearch/default.asp>

Thinking About Becoming a Professional?

The Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) is an independent organization with more than 1,600 members worldwide whose principal purpose is to support professional genealogists in all phases of their work.

Membership is open to any person or institution willing to support the objectives and the APG code of ethics.

You do *not* need to be certified, accredited, incorporated, sliced or diced to join the APG. Members include family historians, professional researchers, librarians, archivists, writers, editors, consultants, indexers, instructors, lecturers, columnists, booksellers, publishers, computer specialists and geneticists.

APG membership benefits include:

- APG Quarterly, a journal for those interested in articles on communicating with clients, preparing lineage society applications, training research assistants, business record keeping, and home office tax concerns; Articles in associated fields (preparing lecture slides, teaching family history to children, preparing manuscripts for printing).
- APGQ sample articles
- APGQ Writer's Guidelines
- APGQ Advertising Rates
- APG Article Index 1979-2005
- APG Members Only Area
- APG Directory of Members
- Directory, an online publication, available worldwide to members, libraries, societies, and consumers, with: members' biographies, services, research and geographic specialties

- Activities at National Conferences
- APG-sponsored lectures on professional ethics, client billing, business software, vital records access, and other timely topics
- Round Table discussions for members, like time management, advertising, taxes, certification/accreditation
- Luncheons and receptions where members meet and network with colleagues
- Discount on Books
- 15% Discount on book purchases through the Members Only Area

The annual fee for membership in the APG is \$65 per year and includes all of the items listed above, as well as many other benefits. For more information about the APG, see their website: www.apgen.org.



The African American Genealogical Society of Northern California, Inc. (AAGSNC) was founded in Oakland, CA in 1996, under the leadership of Kathryn Burgess Smith.

AAGSNC FOUNDING MEMBERS:

Kathryn Burgess Smith
Ranie G. Smith
Electra Kimble Price
Charles T. Brown

Charletta Braggs-Ford
Jeanette Braxton Secret
Rayford Bullock

OBJECTIVES of the AAGSNC:

- 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 materials available to all.
- To promote and maintain ethical standards in genealogical research and publications.

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

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. The AAGSNC Board of Directors meets immediately following the regular membership meetings (from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm) and members are welcome to attend.

JOURNAL

The Baobab Tree is published quarterly (in March, June, September, and December) by the AAGSNC and is provided free to all members. Additional copies and past issues may be purchased for \$10.00 per copy.

• Membership categories are:

- Regular \$25
- Youth (16 and younger) \$15
- Family \$35
- Organization \$45
- Life Membership - Individual \$200
- Life Membership - Family \$300

• The AAGSNC accepts no responsibility for statements of fact or opinion made by contributors. Deadlines for submission of material for publication in *From the Baobab Tree* are: February 5 for the March issue, May 6 for the June issue, August 6 for the September issue, and November 5 for the December issue.

• 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).

BOARD of DIRECTORS:

Annette Madden, Chairman
M. Howard Edwards
Thelma Elbert
Rhonda Edwards
Rosemary Antoine

madden@aagsnc.org
vicepresident@aagsnc.org
elbert@aagsnc.org
edwards@aagsnc.org
antoine@aagsnc.org

OFFICERS:

President Ms. Melvyn Gillette
1st V.P. Patricia Bayonne-Johnson
2nd V.P. M. Howard Edwards
3rd V.P. Lenora Gobert
Treasurer Lavetta White
Recording Secretary vacancy
Corresponding Secretary vacancy

president@aagsnc.org
programs@aagsnc.org
vicepresident@aagsnc.org
fundraising@aagsnc.org
treasurer@aagsnc.org

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Membership Upperton Hurts
Journal Editor Lisa B. Lee
Webmaster Jim Neal
Historians: Thelma Elbert
and Joyce McDaniel

membership1@aagsnc.org
newsletter@aagsnc.org
webmaster1@aagsnc.org
elbert@aagsnc.org
historian@aagsnc.org

Note: The annual Surname Directory, normally published in December each year, is no longer being published. Instead, please refer to our online surname directory, available at: www.aagsnc.org/surname.htm.

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

Has your membership expired? Renew online at www.aagsnc.org